



COLBY FREE PRESS

‘Hunters’ by the hundreds to flock to Colby College

By TOM (TD) DREILING
Free Press Publisher

There is one hunting season currently underway in Kansas that doesn't require a license.

The 'hunted' are few in number.

And there are lots of 'hunters' out there trying to bag their limit of one before the season ends on Nov. 5.

A bunch of 'hunters' — hundreds, perhaps even more — will converge on Colby Sunday to look the field over.

The season, in this case, is the fall campaign for the office of governor of the state of Kansas. Four candidates will be featured in a forum, or debate, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center's Frahm Theater on the campus

of Colby Community College at 7 p.m. Sunday. And because of the anticipated large crowd — the theater holds 538 — two additional rooms in the building will be pressed into service to accommodate those not able to find seating in the main auditorium, said Tom Moorhous, Colby Community College instructor who is overseeing the gubernatorial debate.

Moorhous said members of the college's Student Senate will usher attendees to the chorus and band rooms if an overflow crowd materializes. He said those two rooms combined can seat an additional 150 people and has closed-circuit capability.

The forum, or debate, gets underway

at 7 p.m. sharp. Doors will open at 6:15, Moorhous said. Upon entering, the audience will be provided with a form on which to submit a written question to the candidates.

The format will involve just the audience and the candidates. The candidates will not be allowed to question one another.

The forum, or debate, is sponsored by the Kansas League of Women Voters and the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series.

Moderating the evening will be Ann Havenhill, of Emporia State University. She is also president of the League.

The candidates are:

- Democrat — Kathleen Sebelius, current state insurance commissioner.
 - Republican — Tim Shallenburger, current state treasurer.
 - Libertarian — Dennis Hawver, of Ozawkie, an attorney.
 - Reform — Ted Pettibone, of St. Marys, a self-employed retailer.
- Each candidate will be given three minutes at the outset for an opening statement.

They will be given one minute to respond to questions. Following the question/answer exchange, each candidate will give a closing statement.

The actual debate, or forum, is expected to last 45 minutes to one hour. There is no admission charge.

Parties plan receptions

Both the Republican and Democrat parties of Thomas County will be hosting receptions for their gubernatorial candidates in conjunction with Sunday evening's debate at Colby Community College.

The Republicans will hold a fundraising reception from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Little Theater in the Colby Community Building for Tim

Shallenburger.

The Democrats will hold a reception for Kathleen Sebelius at the Comfort Inn Convention Center. The convention center will be open before the debate to accommodate those who might not be attending the debate, and it will remain open after the debate to allow those on hand to meet Sebelius.

Sebelius issues apology for insensitive remark

By JOHN HANNA
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Sebelius has apologized for remarking that driving on Missouri roads was "much more terrifying to me than the attacks on the World Trade Center."

"I take full responsibility for what was an insensitive comment," she told The Associated Press on Thursday. "I'm very sorry I made an insensitive comment."

She also issued a written apology, which she repeated at a candidate forum in Wichita, to "the people of Kansas and the memories of those who lost their lives on September 11th and their families and loved ones."

"I take responsibility for my comments," her statement said.

"I regret them and hope we can move forward."

Her remark had upset the father of a victim of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

"I think there's something mentally wrong with her," said Bob Hemenway, of Shawnee.

His son, Ronald John Hemenway, was a U.S. Navy technician who moved from Shawnee to Washington and died at the Pentagon.

"I'd be afraid of having somebody like that for governor. It's insensitive," Bob Hemenway said.

Republican nominee Tim Shallenburger acknowledged Sebelius' apology but added, "Clearly, my opponent does not understand the gravity of the situation or the level of commitment needed to fight the current war on terrorism."

Sebelius made the remark Wednesday during a candidate forum in Overland Park sponsored by Johnson County chambers of commerce.

Both she and Shallenburger pledged to protect the state's 10-year, \$13.6

billion transportation program from cuts.

In response to a question, Sebelius said she was stranded in Ohio when the nation's airports were closed after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

She rented a car and drove by herself on Interstate 70 through Missouri to Kansas.

She cited what she saw as the poor condition of Missouri roads as a reason to keep funding projects in Kansas.

"The roads in Missouri were much more terrifying to me than the attacks on the World Trade Center, because I really did think my life was far more at risk," she said.

Hemenway said he can't believe anyone would compare the terrorist attacks to driving on bad highways, though he said he's far more concerned about how Congress is handling issues related to terrorism and potential military action against Iraq.

As for Sebelius' comments, he said, "Some idiot running down the highway, saying something ridiculous like that, I take with a grain of salt."

Sebelius noted that she lost a friend in the attack on the World Trade Center, Neil D. Levin, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the former New York state insurance commissioner. Sebelius is Kansas insurance commissioner.

"The last thing I want to do is minimize the tragedy," she said.

In Missouri, the reaction to Sebelius' comments from Gov. Bob Holden, a fellow Democrat, was muted.

"She's talking about the condition of Missouri roads compared to what they've done in Kansas. We need improvement and I've said that all along," he told The AP.

"I think she would be a good governor to work with because she had been a leader in Kansas."

Kansans supporting President

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's appeal for authority to use force against Iraq has strong support from Kansans in Congress, including the delegation's lone Democrat, Rep. Dennis Moore.

Only Republican Rep. Jerry Moran remains undeclared, although he has expressed support for the administration's goals.

"No one wants to go to war; we want peace and stability, not war and death," said Moran, who visited Afghanistan a month ago. While Moran said he believes the United States must protect itself, he argues that U.S. military action needs support from other nations.

"World opinion and world leaders seem to be coming to our side," Moran said. "It's important for the president to have widespread support because it creates greater pressure on Hussein."

Moore signed off on the president's efforts earlier in the week, saying that a series of administration briefings convinced him the need for action is urgent. At one such meeting, former U.N. weapons inspectors described the probable capability of Saddam Hussein to deliver weapons of mass destruction.

"I don't know anybody who relishes doing it," Moore said of the coming vote to empower Bush. "But this is our job, and it is the most important responsibility Congress and the president have."

The other Kansans work on defense issues in Congress and have readily backed the White House. Republican Sen. Sam Brownback, who serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met this week with Iraqi opposition leaders.

Brownback said the dissidents "did a very nice job of articulating a post-Saddam Iraq, in terms of what could Iraq look like without the thugs running the place."

"If you don't do this now, your war on terrorism dwindles into an intelligence operation," Brownback said in an interview Friday. "If you do this now, you send a very clear signal to state sponsors of terrorism that we're serious about this, and knock it off."

Brownback's fellow Republican, Sen. Pat Roberts, said he remains troubled about the use of force but has realized that no amount of intelligence briefings will answer all his concerns.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Wednesday's high, 58
Low this morning, 39
Year ago today, 60 and 45
Temperature at 11 a.m. today, 54
Colby's 24-hr. rainfall, 0.34
Total for October, 0.97
Records for Oct. 4, 95 in 1967, 30 in 1903

The forecast
Tonight, partly cloudy, lows in the upper 30s, southwest winds up to 15 mph. Saturday, partly sunny, highs near 70, southwest winds up to 15 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy, slight chance for showers, windy, lows in the upper 30s. Sunday and Monday, partly cloudy, lows in the 30s and highs around 60.

Colby Water Usage
• Oct. 3 = 1.219 million gallons

Underground experts



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

MASTEC workers filled a hole in 5th Street this morning as work continued on the S&T Communications project which calls for wiring the city of Colby for fiber-optic capabilities. MASTEC district manager Connie Nickelson said the project is coming along just fine. "We're very pleased with the cooperation we've received from the city of Colby and also the citizens," he said. "Everyone's been really enthusiastic about the project." MASTEC will work as long as the weather holds up this year, and expects to finish the job sometime next summer.

Held on Jones farm north of Colby

Outdoor Skills Day attracts 38 kids

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS
Colby Free Press

During the second annual Youth Outdoor Skills Day, held recently on the Jones farm north of Colby, 38 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 15 participated in many activities to develop hunting safety skills and awareness, said Leonard Hopper, District Biologist for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

This, he said, was slightly smaller than the enrollment of 50 at last year's event.

The Youth Outdoor Skills Day takes place on the properties of Tom and Maxine Jones and Pat Jones. Anyone under the age of 16 can participate, but are required to have a hunter education card.

"This day gives participants the opportunity to practice outdoor skills needed to make a successful hunting trip," said Hopper.

Hopper said the day started off at 9 a.m. with an orientation where the kids were assigned to groups and were given safety instructions for the day.

For the next two hours, they had the opportunity to participate in different sessions which included a wobble thrower and muzzle loading demonstration, archery, tracking blood trails, game calling, and compass and map reading.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife organizes the event and invites instructors for each segment to come in and work with the children. Hopper said each group leader has the opportunity to manage their demonstration as they wish.

Briefly

Celebrant Singers perform tonight

Trinity Lutheran Church will host the Celebrant Singers in Concert tonight. There is no admission, but a free will offering will be taken. The Celebrant Singers provide contemporary Christian music, praise and worship, personal testimony and ministry. The group features 10 singers and a 12-piece orchestra. "Celebrants are not just another music group. Our objective is to share the love of Christ," said founder Jon Stenkoski.

College board meets Monday

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Colby Community College will be held on Monday at 5 p.m. in the board room of the Thomas Hall administration building.

Items of business on the agenda include: approval of the sale of obsolete items, approval of the purchase of library periodicals, approval of contracts and agreements, the Thomas County tuition grant, and cafeteria equipment. The meeting is open to the public.

County commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will be having a regular meeting on Monday at 9 a.m. in the commissioners room of the Thomas County Courthouse. Scheduled on the agenda are Patrick Ostmeyer to talk about health insurance and Larry Jumper and Chris Miller to give an update on the landfill. The meeting is open to the public.

Seniors to hold 'Potato Bar'

The Senior Progress Center is holding a "fund-raising" Potato Bar, at the center on Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be a selection of toppings for the potatoes, plus cake, coffee and tea. The free-will donation will be used to help with daily expenses. Senior art will be on display in conjunction with the Potato Bar event. Everyone is invited to attend.

Booster cards now available

The *Music Booster Cards* are now available. Call 465-5300 or 465-5200 for additional information.

Law, Elders Week activity set

National Elders and Law Week will be Oct. 7-11. There will be a presentation for all seniors about the court system on the third floor of the Thomas County Courthouse on Wednesday, Oct. 9 from 9 to 10 a.m.

Singles dance scheduled for tonight

The Colby Singles Group is sponsoring its monthly dance on Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight. Entertainment will be provided by the band Montana. The event is open to all single people, alumni and guests. For information, call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

Beims benefit at Atwood Oct. 20

A benefit for Braden Scott Beims, infant son of Mitch and Cortney Beims, Colby, will be held in Atwood at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20. Chicken noodle soup, chili, desserts and soft drinks will be available. This will be a free-will offering.

