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Lights! Camera! Action!

Colby family hosts candidate for governor, TV tapes event

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS
Colby Free Press

Have you ever wanted to have a politician over for dinner to “grill” them on the issues that you feel are important? And have thousands of people in 52 counties look on?

A Colby couple, Eric and Vanessa Eicher, had that opportunity as they hosted Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim Shallenburger and his wife Linda in their home as a part of a one and a half hour special produced by Smoky Hills Public Television. The end result can be seen Sunday.

Called “Political Grill” it is based off an idea which originated in Seattle, Wash. and was adapted in this area to allow families to host one of the four gubernatorial candidates in their home for dinner.

“The idea is to let residents from our service area ask the questions

that they really want to know about from the candidates,” said Tim McQuade, Smoky Hills Public Television’s director of news and production. “The program is shaping up to be very interesting.”

People from all over the 52-county viewing area wrote essays making their case to be one of the four families chosen to participate. The Eichers were one of the four.

The candidates were paired at random with the families and were not based upon party affiliation of the hosts.

To date, three of the candidates, Shallenburger (Republican), Dennis Hawver (Libertarian) and Ted Pettibone (Reform), have taped their section of the program. Representatives from the television station said today that they anticipate Kathleen Sebelius (Democrat) will have her “grill session” this week.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim Shallenburger, top left, his wife, Linda, and Kenneth Eicher, visited over dinner at the home of Eric Eicher, right, of Colby, while out of camera range were crews from Smoky Hills

The Eichers had several other family members and friends join them for their one-on-one session with Shallenburger, and had an hour to

question him over his position on the issues.

Shallenburger was in Colby for the gubernatorial debate that was held at

Public Television recording the event for broadcast later this week. The telecast will be seen in all 52 counties served by SHPTV. Kenneth Eicher is Eric's uncle.

Colby Community College. The television station was able to coordinate efforts to allow the Eicher’s portion of the program to be taped on the same

day. The first airing will be Sunday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. and then is scheduled for re-broadcast Nov. 3, at 6 p.m. It will be on Ch. 3.

Facilities discussion one of many items on tonight’s school board agenda

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

A facilities discussion is one of many items on the agenda tonight when the Colby Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. in the administration building, 210 S. Range Ave.

For the past couple of years, the board has been considering costs and how much square footage it would take to bring the vocational-agriculture program to Colby High School, an admin-

istrative official said today. Currently, that facility is located in the Nickel Building near the City of Colby power plant facility.

In addition, the board will also be discussing costs to bring the woods program, which is located at Colby Middle School, also out to the high school campus. One other item within the facility talks will include the administration building as well and whether or not to consider purchasing

or moving closer to the high school as well, school officials said.

The financial audit report for the fiscal year 2001-02 is scheduled for review and instructors and librarians Joyce Mahin, Jayme Pfeifer and Carol Robison, along with paraprofessional, Arlene Scartozzi, will offer a curriculum presentation regarding the public school’s library.

Other items on the agenda include principal reports from Don Barta at

Colby High School, Robb Ross, the middle school, and Terrell Harrison at the grade school.

Colby Superintendent Kirk Nielsen and Tracy Rogers, board member, who also serves as a director with the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley, will also be offering reports.

The board plans to review and is expected to take action on some unfinished business regarding an equipment

lease purchase contract.

Tentative registration and delegate selection from among the seven board members will also be discussed for the upcoming Kansas Association of School Boards 2002 annual convention.

Action on the first reading of the new and revised board policies, along with discussion and action on an updated educational technology plan, which will be presented by Phil DeYoung,

technology coordinator, is also scheduled.

As with all board meetings, visitors are recognized at the start, along with discussing any correspondence.

In personnel matters, the board will also be looking at employment recommendations, resignations and supplemental contracts.

All school board meetings are open to the public and input is always appreciated..

Judge throws out Norton County livestock rules

NORTON (AP) — Norton County cannot adopt rules on mega-hog farms and other confined feeding operations that are stricter than state regulations, a judge has ruled.

Norton County commissioners voted in February to adopt laws requiring a top on waste lagoons to control odor and protect groundwater, more deep soil testing, and a distance of three miles between confined feeding operations.

The Kansas Livestock Association and three Norton County producers filed a lawsuit, claiming the rules violated state law. Commissioners had agreed to wait for the court’s decision before the rules would go into effect.

But District Judge Michael Barbara declared the new regulations null and void in a ruling Thursday.

“We are extremely pleased the judge has concluded our position supporting uniform regulations across the state is

correct,” Robert Clydesdale, the Kansas Livestock Association’s North County director, said Friday. “As producers, we are proud of KLA for taking a stand to protect its members.”

It is not known yet whether county commissioners intend to appeal the decision. Commissioner John Miller said he had not had time to review the ruling. The plaintiffs had argued that House Bill 2950, enacted by the Kansas Legislature in 1998, barred coun-

ties from changing the statutory provisions governing confined feeding operations. The plaintiffs claimed the law was meant to assure the uniform statewide regulation of the facilities.

Norton County commissioners contended that the one-size-fit-all state regulations do not address the local environmental concerns in their county, which has a closer groundwater table and a concentration of animal feeding facilities.

School officials in the Ashland and Richmond areas of Virginia decided to close Monday, keeping more than 200,000 public students out of class “based on the volume of parent and community concern.”

In Ashland, Randolph-Macon College also announced it would cancel classes today.

Sniper strikes again, but this time a message is left behind

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP)—Schools closed across a swath of Virginia on today after a message to authorities and a cryptic police response suggested that the elusive Washington-area sniper had expanded his terror spree farther south.

In a brief but dramatic news conference late Sunday, police issued a direct

plea to whomever left a note at the scene of a shooting Saturday outside a Ponderosa restaurant in Ashland, Va., that left a man critically wounded.

“We do want to talk to you,” Charles Moose, police chief of Maryland’s Montgomery County and a leader in the sniper investigation.

It was the closest link yet that the

Saturday shooting was related to the sniper attacks on 11 people, nine fatally, in the Washington area since Oct. 2.

A law enforcement source close to the investigation told The Associated Press that investigators believe the person who left the message is probably the sniper.

Briefly

‘Recognition Night’ reminder issued

A reminder was issued today to all parents of seniors who participated in football, volleyball, cross country, girls’ golf, girls’ tennis, marching band, drill team, managers and athletic trainers, that Friday, Oct. 25 has been designated “Senior/Parent Recognition Night.” As in the past the ceremony will be held prior to the football game at 7 p.m. Parents are asked to meet at the east end of the football field at 6:45 P.M. Football players will be honored first, followed by band, drill team, golf, tennis, volleyball, cross country and managers and athletic trainers.

Hospice Auction approaching

The annual Hospice fund-raising auction will be held at the Comfort Inn Convention Center on Saturday, Oct. 26. Those wishing to contribute to the auction or would like tickets can contact the organization at 462-6710 or 1-800-315-5122. Keep an eye on the Free Press for more information. Proceeds from the auction ensure that Hospice support is available to terminally ill individuals and their family members.

New health care group to meet

The Area Citizens for Health Care will hold an open meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 23 in the Little Theater in the Colby Community Building. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. The public is invite and urged to attend.

Shallenburger to Colby

Republican gubernatorial hopeful Tim Shallenburger will be in Colby on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. to meet the voters. He will be on board the *Sunflower Special*, his “Victory 2002 Bus Tour.” Other candidates are expected to appear with him. The bus will be at the Thomas County Courthouse

EMTB Course reminder

Kathi Wright, Thomas County EMS director, said today that an EMTB (basic) Course is currently underway, and is being held on Mondays and Wednesdays. The course will continue through April and additional information is available by calling Director Wright at 462-4585.

Vocal departments to perform

The Colby Middle School and High School vocal departments will present their fall Concert starting at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium on Tuesday. (Note: this is a change from the school calendar). A reception sponsored by the Music Boosters will be held in the Commons Area after the concert’s conclusion.

Boy Scouts taking popcorn orders

Boy Scouts are going door-to-door in the Colby area taking popcorn orders as part of their annual fund raising effort. Delivery will be in November around Thanksgiving. Call 694-2599 for additional information.

Tuition grant program slated

Colby Community College will be hosting an informational meeting on the Thomas County Tuition Grant program for all Colby High School seniors and their parents on Tuesday at 9 a.m. in the high school auditorium. Call Joni Clark-Leiker at the high school for more information.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Sunday’s high, 69
Low this morning, 24
Year ago today, 66 and 35
Temperature at 11:15 today, 50
Records for Oct. 21, 93 in 1921, 13 in 1905
The forecast
Possibly snow and much colder temperatures are this week’s weather story. Look for lows to be in the upper 20 to around 30, with highs in the 40s, dropping into the 30s by Wednesday. Rain/snow chances are rated at around 30-40 percent for Tuesday and Wednesday.
Colby Water Usage
• Oct. 19-20-21 = (not available)

