



JAN KATZ ACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Tucker Baalman, 1, and his mom, Lola Baalman of Menlo, on Thursday watched a crane destroy a garage on property and her husband, Mitchell, purchased to build a new home to allow Tucker more freedom to move about in his wheelchair. The Baalman's have two other sons, Aidan, 4, and Miles, 2.

Senator is ready

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Pat Roberts has more than \$1.2 million in the bank ahead of next year's re-election bid, his campaign staff said Thursday, a signal that the Kansas Republican will mount an aggressive campaign though his seat is not considered vulnerable.

Roberts, who intends to seek a third Senate term, raised about \$628,300 during the first three months of the year, according to documents filed with the Federal Election Commission.

While no Democrat has emerged yet to challenge him, Roberts said he is wary of the force of outside political groups, which funneled nearly \$300 million to influence the

outcome of elections in 2006. "The outside groups could dump in money for attack ads, which has been more and more the modus operandi today in politics, which I think is most unfortunate," Roberts said.

Roberts did not face a Democratic opponent in 2002 and was re-elected with 83 percent of the vote.

"I've never taken anything lightly," Roberts said. "We will wage a very aggressive campaign. We're not going to spend one dime more than is necessary, but we will spend campaign-wise certainly an adequate amount to tell our story, the positive story of what we think our accomplishments are."

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Loretta Seeberger Hayden wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the many friends and family for all the visits, cards, flowers, food, the mass, memorial contributions, kind words and prayers. Words are not enough to express the gratitude for Jeannie Solko and Father Dana Clark of Sacred Heart Church for their support, comfort, and prayers. Sincere appreciation is extended to the nursing staff at Citizens Medical Center, Andy Rose, and Dr. Slavins for the care of Loretta during her illness. A special thank you to the ladies at Fairview Estates for their continued assistance, Pauls Funeral Home of Selden, and the ladies of the Selden Sacred Heart Church for the lunch following the service.

The celebration of Loretta's life was a heart warming occasion for all that had the opportunity to be touched by her loving spirit, kind heart and fortunate enough to be a part of her life. May God bless you all.

Ag chief worried

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Ignoring the World Trade Organization when writing a farm bill amounts to letting the WTO set U.S. agriculture policies and could shut the country out of foreign markets, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said.

The farm bill, which is recast every six years as the underlying legislation that guides all U.S. government farm programs, comes up for review this year. Johanns is drafting the administration's farm-policy proposals.

Johanns told the National Agricultural Law Center at the University of Arkansas School of Law on Thursday that the WTO recently struck down U.S. programs on cotton, declaring them an unfair subsidy, and is reviewing U.S. corn and rice policies.

"It makes no sense to write farm policy that paints a bulls-eye on the back of our farmers," he said.

Scrutiny by the organization is a fact of life in international trade, and ignoring it in the ongoing revision of farming legislation is not wise, Johanns said.

"We're either going to write our

policies in the U.S. with this in mind, or we're going to let the WTO do that" by striking out portions of U.S. farm policy it does not approve, he said.

The secretary also said recent estimates of crop acreage show that U.S. farmers expect to plant 15 percent more corn this year than last.

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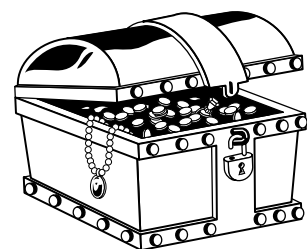
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to everyone who attended and purchased items at this year's auction. Also a big thanks to **F&R Realty** for conducting the auction and **City Limits** for providing us with your facility and to everyone listed below who donated items for the auction:

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