



# COLBY FREE PRESS



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Gubernatorial candidates (from right to left) Kathleen Sebelius, Dennis Hawver, and Tim Shallenburger listened to the repose of Ted Pettibone during Sunday night's debate which was held at Colby Community College.

## Candidates are quizzed by curious audience

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS  
Colby Free Press

Nearly 400 people interested in the "issues" came to listen to the gubernatorial candidates at Colby Community College on Sunday night. As a part of the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series, and co-sponsored by the Kansas League of Women Voters, Kathleen Sebelius (Democrat), Tim Shallenburger (Republican), Dennis Hawver (Libertarian) and Ted Pettibone (Reform) were peppered with written questions from the audience.

Each of the candidates gave an opening statement and then the questions were posed by Ann Havenhill, of Emporia State University, president of the League.

Sebelius said she was glad to be in Colby, the place where she announced her candidacy. She is the state's insurance commissioner and she reiterated her stance on not taking campaign contributions from those governed by her office and told the audience her vision for governor has been managed the same way.

"We have some real challenges facing this state," she said.

She plans to focus her administration on education, affordable healthcare, and good jobs and economic opportunities in each community in Kansas.

Hawver, an attorney from Ozawie, said that Kansas government has been controlled by the Republicans and Democrats since 1861, and it has created bureaucracy. He said the budget

deficit was \$806 million and "I don't call that good leadership."

The Libertarian said that if elected, he plans to cut the size of government by one third in the first two years.

"If you want a change, it can be done, but it isn't going to be pretty," said Hawver over the need to balance the needs of the state versus it's wants.

Tim Shallenburger, state treasurer, said his concern is over the educational system in Kansas. "The educational system should be the best in the country. To do that we have to cut spending in other areas."

Ted Pettibone, a self-employed retailer from St. Marys said the priorities must be aligned so everyone is pulling in the same direction.

He said that he feels "we must distinguish between the needs and wants in Kansas and establish common goals." He said he would push for a no exception pro-life policy.

Gubernatorial candidates were questioned over the topics of funding for special education, healthcare and insurance, enhanced gaming as a source of state revenue, protection of the Ogallala Aquifer, agendas concerning farmers, pollution of Kansas waters, packer ownership of cattle prior to slaughter and the balancing of the needs of state agencies.

Candidates were limited to one-minute to respond to questions and admitted that wasn't really enough time to go into details. There was time for only eight questions during the actual 45 minutes of debating.

Adams, Commander.

## Hearing Thursday on hospital motion

By TOM (TD) DREILING  
Free Press Publisher

The telephone lines will again be pressed into service as the Hildyard/Hospital (Dr. Victor/Citizens Medical Center) matter goes back before the judge.

Hutchinson attorney Michael O'Neal, legal counsel for Dr. Hildyard, said this morning that a phone hearing will be held Thursday at 9 a.m. (CDT), 8 a.m. (MDT) in the offices of District Judge Jack Burr at Goodland.

The hearing, said O'Neal, deals with the hospital's motion filed several weeks ago seeking to dissolve the judge's order that lifted a temporary restraining order barring Dr.

Hildyard's privileges at the hospital. If the hospital prevails, Dr. Hildyard could again be turned away at the front door.

The hearing will also deal with the question of whether the hospital's by-laws and medical staff bylaws constitute a contract or not. The hospital contends the bylaws are not a contract, Dr. Hildyard contends they are.

O'Neal said whatever the outcome on Thursday, the administrative process will continue.

He indicated the hospital board's complaints are baseless.

There was no comment from the hospital board on Thursday's phone hearing.

## Air Force Band concert scheduled here Tuesday

By TOM (TD) DREILING  
Free Press Publisher

The place to be Tuesday night is the Colby Community Building.

At 7:30 p.m., the United States Air Force Concert Band and the Singing Sergeants, of Washington, D. C., will fill the auditorium with music to satisfy all tastes.

The concert is free, although tickets are required for admittance. As of this morning, Pat Ziegelmeier, executive director of the Western Plains Arts Association, said somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,100 tickets have been claimed by people in Colby and surrounding communities.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association and the Colby Free Press.

Mayor Warren Hixson added a special touch to the appearance of these internationally-acclaimed performers by signing a proclamation designating today as "The United States Air Force Band Day in the City of Colby."

Those holding tickets are asked to be seated by 7:15 p.m.

The doors to the community building will open around 6:30.

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker, of Springfield, Ill., is Conductor. Captain Chad A. Steffy, of Ponca City, Okla., is Director of the Singing Sergeants.

The Color Team is provided by the United States Air Force Honor Guard, Washington, D.C., Major Elizabeth F.

Adams, Commander.

**The Program**  
**Die Meistersinger Overture**, Richard Wagner, arr. Frank Winterbottom

**Stars and Bars March**, Robert E. Jager

**Concertino for Three Brass**, CMSgt (Ret.) Floyd E. Werle, Former Member, The United States Air Force Band

**I. Vintage Foxtrot**

**II. Lullaby**

**III. Greek Dance**

MSgt Andrew Wilson, trumpet, SMSgt Lindsey Smith, trombone, and MSgt Christopher Quade, tuba.

**Serenade, Op. 22c**, Derek Bourgeois

**Selections from Man of La Mancha**, Mitch Leigh

**I. Don Quixote**, arr. MSgt Robert Thurston, Member, The United States Air Force Band

**The Impossible Dream**, arr: SMSgt Larry MacTaggart, Member, The United States Air Force Band

**TSgt Matthew Irish, vocal soloist**

**Fantasy Variations on a Theme by Niccolò Paganini**, James Barnes.

**Intermission**

**That 70s Medley**, arr. MSgt Robert Thurston, Member, The United States Air Force Band

**God Bless America**, Irving Berlin, arr. CMSgt (Ret.) Michael Davis, Former Member, The United States Air Force Band, arr. Carmen Dragon.

## Drugs missing following break-in of downtown store

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS  
Colby Free Press

Colby Police are investigating a break-in at Palace Drug store during the early morning hours of Sunday, said Colby Police Department investigator Gary Shull.

The owner of the drug store called

police shortly after 8 a.m. on Sunday when she arrived and found the glass from the back door had been broken out.

Shull said the security gate had also been damaged.

On Saturday night, one of the pharmacists had gone in to the drug store

shortly before 10 p.m. to fill a late prescription. Officers are called for security reasons when one of the pharmacists has to go in after normal business hours, Shull said.

When the officer and employee left, the door was secure, he said.

Inventory was taken of the phar-

macy and the store, and over 15 different types of drugs were reported missing, according to Shull.

No arrests have been made at this time.

"Some evidence was recovered at the scene and we are pursuing leads," said Shull.

## Comments guarantee a contentious budget debate

By JOHN HANNA  
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Voters won't choose the next governor for a month, and the major party candidates have not yet assembled all of the details about how they'll deal with the state's financial problems.

Yet a contentious debate about the budget — and a long, difficult 2003 Legislature marked by conflict between its leaders and the governor — already seems likely.

Legislators who most often deal with the budget criticize both Democrat Kathleen Sebelius and Republican Tim Shallenburger, saying the two gubernatorial candidates' rhetoric on taxes and spending is unrealistic.

"The sooner they look at these numbers and accept reality — we're not talking perceptions here, but reality — the better off we'll be," House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing, said last week.

Meanwhile, Sebelius and Shallenburger argue legislators need to change how they think about the budget and state government because the times demand it.

"I don't think they grasp it, but I don't blame them for not grasping it, because their world is different," Shallenburger said.

The latest cause for legislators' angst was a report last week from their staff, which outlined a worst-case budget scenario. The staff report projected a \$103 million budget deficit on June 30 and an \$809 million shortfall for the following 12 months, with current spending of \$4.4 billion.

But legislators reviewing the numbers said the situation may be even worse, suggesting the projected shortfall could be more than \$900 million.

And what really irritates them are the statements they're hearing from Sebelius and Shallenburger.

Shallenburger has promised not to

increase taxes, and while Sebelius has not taken a no-tax pledge, she's also turned down every opportunity she's had to declare that higher taxes are an option.

Shallenburger has backed away from a previous statement — he said it has been taken out of context — that public schools could stand a budget cut of up to 3 percent. He has said he doesn't intend to cut education spending.

Sebelius has gone even further, suggesting that the state needs to increase teacher salaries and praising as a "good model" a May report that suggested the state needed to spend another \$390 million a year to provide a suitable education.

Both also committed publicly last week to preserving the state's 10-year, \$13.6 billion transportation program, started in 1999.

Meanwhile, tax collections continue to lag behind expectations — by about

\$48 million from July 1 through Sept. 30.

Shallenburger pledges to make government more efficient. Sebelius has promised a top-to-bottom review to find savings.

Legislative leaders are skeptical. They see as much as \$5 billion in spending commitments set by Kansas and federal law for the state's 2004 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2003, and as little as \$4.1 billion in revenues to pay for them.

The gap is larger than the entire budget for the higher education system, or all spending on social services for the poor and elderly.

To legislative leaders, it's a bit beyond a search for efficiencies or a top-to-bottom review of government.

"This hole is so large, it will take massive cuts, elimination of whole departments, or a revenue enhancement," said Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson.

## Briefly

### College board meets today

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Colby Community College will be held today 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.

### Seniors to hold 'Potato Bar'

The Senior Progress Center is holding a "fund-raising" Potato Bar, at the center on Wednesday 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 from 9 to 10 a.m.

### 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. Everyone in the area is invited to attend.

### Medicine meeting Tuesday

Area businesses can learn to protect their employees' physical health at an Occupational Medicine meeting on Tuesday from 9-

10:30 a.m. at the Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby. Call (785) 462-1214, Citizens Foundation, for more information.

### Tootsie Roll Drive dates set

On October 11, 12 and 13, the Colby Council of the Knights of Columbus will be handing out specially marked Tootsie Tolls while seeking donations for the mentally challenged. The members of the Knights will be at several locations in Colby, so look for these friendly gentlemen in their bright yellow and red aprons and please — be generous. Donations may also be sent to the local Knights of Columbus Council in care of Dick Parnell, Tootsie Roll Chairman, at 2820 N. Range in Colby. Make checks payable to "Tootsie Roll Program Fund" and remember that your donations are tax deductible.

### School carnival needs help

The Colby Grade School Parent Teacher Organization is seeking donations from area businesses for the raffle which will be held during the PTO Carnival on Oct. 26. Donations can either be mailed in or the PTO will pick them up.

## WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

### The numbers

Sunday's high, 65  
Low this morning, 39  
Year ago today, 79 and 29  
Temperature at 11:30 a.m., 61  
Colby's 24-hr. rainfall, 0.00  
Oakley's 24-hr. rainfall, 0.00  
Records for Oct. 7, 95 in 1916, 20 in 1952

### The forecast

Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 40s. Tuesday, sunny, highs in the lower 70s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy, lows near 40. Wednesday, partly sunny, highs in the upper 60s. No precipitation mentioned.

### Colby Water Usage

• Oct. 4-5-6 = 1.12 million gallons per day

