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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Gov. Sam Brownback (above) auctioned off a print of the shot that won Tom Watson his first U.S. Open at the Ringneck Classic banquet Friday at the Logan County 4-H Building in Oakley.

Watson and former Kansas City Royal George Brett (right) each brought items for the auction. Tom McMillan brought a bat that Brett had broken in a game to put up for auction.



Off to a good beginning

Inaugural pheasant hunt a big success for Oakley

By Kevin Bottrell

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A crowd of 200 or more celebrities, hunters, businessmen and local citizens packed into the Logan County 4-H Building in Oakley on Friday for the kickoff banquet of the Governor's Ringneck Classic.

The pheasant hunt was all day Saturday in various locations around Logan County. Organizer Raelene Keller said there were 68 hunters on 17 teams. Gov. Sam Brownback floated between the teams.

"It was fabulous," Keller said. "It was an amazing weekend."

Journalists from as far away as Kansas

City covered the event, along with several television crews.

Friday evening began with a social hour and a barbecue dinner.

Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Robin Jennison spoke about how the hunt got its start. The hunt was Brownback's idea, and while Jennison suggested it be held in southwest Kansas, the governor insisted on a venue in the northwest. This turned out to be a fortunate decision, as this year's northwest bird population declined the least in comparison to the rest of the state.

Brownback then spoke, saying he hoped the hunt, along with other new programs he has put in place, will start bringing business and people back to rural



Alongside the live and silent auction was a drawing for several prizes. Contestants each bought a balloon, which they popped after the banquet to see if a prize card was inside.

He introduced several guests and recognized the guides, landowners

and hunting teams. Hunters were varied, from a National

Rifle Association lobbyist to a group of soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley. The soldiers, 1st Lt. Josh Willis and Sergeants Christopher Dean, Justin Hillman and Brad Slickers, had recently returned from Iraq. When Brownback recognized the soldiers at the banquet, they got a standing ovation.

Several celebrities also joined the hunt including golfer Tom Watson and former Kansas City Royal George Brett. Each brought something to auction. Watson brought a print of the shot that won him his first U.S. Open, which went for \$7,000, while Brett brought a reproduction jersey, which he autographed for the winner. Brownback, who has auctioneer training, auctioned those items.

Tom McMillan, host of the Tom's Wild Life television show, brought a bat that Brett had broken in a game in the 1970s years earlier that he put up for auction. It sold for \$4,000. Brett joked that he'd like

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DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Colby Community College freshman Stephanie Reichert from Grant, Neb., selected an angel from the tree in the student union. Each angel represents a resident at the Deseret Care Center.

Students sponsor angel tree for care center

The Colby Community College student government is asking for help from the community to provide holiday gifts for residents of Deseret Care Center.

For the sixth year, the student group is sponsoring an "Angel Tree" for the long-term care center. The tree is located in the cafeteria area of the student union.

Participants may select an angel from the tree

and register at the campus bookstore to receive a resident's wish list. After purchasing a gift, participants return the angel and item to the bookstore. Student government members will wrap and deliver the items. Gifts must be received at the bookstore by Friday, Dec. 2.

Admissions counselor Aaron Keiser is the sponsor for the student government group. For information, call Keiser at 460-5506.

Selden to hold Winterfest

By Judy Rogers

Selden Public Library

The lights and decorations are up, the weather is turning colder and hot cocoa is ready for drinking, so it must be time for the Winterfest celebration in Selden.

This year's Winterfest will begin at 5 p.m. Friday on Main Street in Selden. Businesses will host an open house. Visitors can register for a drawing at each of the participating businesses and enjoy seeing what each locale has to offer for the holiday season.

The Selden Community Building will be open for fellowship and will be serving hot cocoa, hot dogs and chili dogs beginning at 6 p.m. Santa will arrive at 7 p.m. with treats for the kids.

After Santa has seen all the children, a drawing will be held from all the registrations for \$600 worth

of Selden Greenbucks. Selden Greenbucks, issued in \$5 increments, can be redeemed at any Selden area business. This year's drawing will include one \$100 prize, six \$50 prizes, and eight \$25 prizes.

The Greenbucks drawing is sponsored by the City of Selden and the Selden Community Foundation. The snacks at the community building and the treats from Santa are sponsored by the Community Foundation and the Selden Senior Citizens.

"This is the third year Selden has hosted Winterfest along with the Sheridan County Winterfest," said Mayor Jacque Boultinghouse. "I would encourage everyone to come to Selden to enjoy the evening and see what our community has to offer for the holiday season. We appreciate the city council, the senior citizens, local businesses, and the community foundation for supporting this annual event."

Kansas transportation secretary warns against shifting highway money

TOPEKA (AP) – A pattern of using state transportation funds for other budget priorities could jeopardize Kansas' ability to meet its obligations under a new 10-year highway improvement plan, according to the outgoing transportation secretary.

Kansas lawmakers have withdrawn \$1.4 billion earmarked for transportation improvements since 2000, and used the money for such things as operations for the Kansas Highway Patrol, subsidized airline tickets in Wichita and state Medicaid programs, *The Topeka Capital-Journal* reported. For the current fiscal year, the

state has diverted \$238 million in transportation funds – a nearly \$50 million increase from the previous fiscal year.

"This is over," transportation department Secretary Deb Miller said. "It is just not possible to take more from this program and then go back and credibly say to the public we're still going to do what was promised."

Miller, who is leaving the post in December after working for three governors, said the department was able to improve transportation infrastructure in the past decade despite raids on its funding because it had large reserves and

refinanced bond debt for the work. The Kansas Department of Transportation also made extensive use of federal stimulus dollars for state highways, she said.

In the 2010 fiscal year, the department was required by the Legislature and then-Gov. Mark Parkinson to surrender \$189 million. Losses from the state highway fund in fiscal year 2011, which ended in June, were \$190 million.

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