



Gov. Sam Brownback had a quiet moment during a busy day Tuesday as he talked on his cell phone and snapped a few pictures outside of the horse barn at the college farm.

No long face for governor

Waiting for signing to start, leader chats some, takes a ride

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press
kcornett@nwksas.com

Gov. Sam Brownback was a social butterfly Tuesday, wandering around the college farm east of Colby, talking to staff and students, city officials and people as he waited on a signing ceremony for a water conservation bill with roots in Thomas County. Brownback stopped and talked with Sharon Friedlander, publisher of the *Colby Free Press*, about the 97 tornadoes that hit Kansas on Saturday and how blessed the state had been to get enough warning that no one was killed. He also told her how he rode his motorcycle, a Big Dog made in Wichita, to catch his plane to Colby.

Overall, the governor seemed to be enjoying himself, saying during his speech how lovely the weather has been in Colby each time he's been here. "I've gotta keep coming back to Colby," Brownback said. "It's wet out here; it's beautiful. Look at the sky. I mean this is like every day, every time I'm out here." He also enjoyed the company of the students, many of them members of the Colby Community College equestrian team, and talking with the riders about their horses. He even accepted an offer to take a short ride in the college ring with the help of Head Coach Shanda Mattix. Friedlander said Brownback seemed to be a friendly person, and unlike many politicians, not all that impressed with himself.



Gov. Sam Brownback (above) talked with Colby Community College riders Tuesday before he talked about a water conservation bill at the college farm. Brownback (below) stepped off a state plane in Colby and made his way to the farm with his staff at around 12:45 p.m. After the ceremonial signing of Senate Bill 310, Brownback (right) rode one of the equestrian team's horses around the ring before heading to Goodland and the Northwest Kansas Technical College.



Colby Free Press photos
by Sharon Friedlander and Evan Barnum