Events for the family held at Expocentre

By Emily Fredrix

Associated Press Writer TOPEKA — Levi Kickhaefer needed mom's help to write his name with a marker on the big "Kansas Is Cool" banner, but the red-haired 2-year-old picked out a blue star to go with it all by himself Sunday.

The banner will hang at the Kansas Expocentre for a dinner and dance celebrating the inauguration of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Levi and hundreds of other children played games, heard stories and learned about all things Kansas at the inaugural's Family Festival.

Sebelius and her supporters planned four days of inaugural events, ending with Monday night's black-tie-optional events.

The made the third day for families — the first time anyone could recall an inaugural event designed to include children. Admission was the Expocentre, at the old Free Fair held hamsters and chickens.

Inaugural dinner by the numbers

By The Associated Press

- Kansas inaugural by the numbers
- Tables at the inaugural dinner: 206.
- Guests for the dinner: 2,060.
- Cost of tickets: \$65.
- Total pounds of meat: 800.
- Pounds of buffalo: 400.
- Hours needed to prepare the meat: 12.
- Hours to cook it: 1.5.
- Number of dinner rolls: 3,000. • Gallons of specially-made salad dressing: 32.
- Gallons of honey in dressing: 8.
- Pounds of onions: 150.
- Pounds of celery: 50.
- Pounds of vegetables: 200.

grounds, for the festival. Before he wrote on the banner, Levi played basketball and touched free. Around 8,000 people came to a rabbit in a row of cages that also • Pounds of starch: 600

- Number of people to put food on plates: 42.
- Number of assembly teams to do it: 6.
- Minutes needed to put food on plates: 60.
- Gallons of coffee if every guest has one cup: 95.
- Number of wine bottles at each table: 2. • Total number of wine bottles: 412.
- Gallons of water served at dinner: Between 130 and 140.
- Number of servers to clean up: 85.
- Number of minutes expected for cleanup: 90.
- Estimated cost of inaugural festivities: Between \$320,000 and \$350,000.

Sources: Capitol Plaza Hotel and Sebelius Inaugural Committee.

listened to stories and music and mingled with mascots and cheerleaders from state universities.

Members of Kansas State University's cheerleading squad stood on stilts that made them 12 feet tall.

"I tell the kids to drink milk and eat their vegetables and they'll grow tall like us," said Mark Dilts, 20, of Sedgwick, one of nine squad members on stilts.

exhibition hall before taking up her storytelling duties.

The governor-elect returned to Topeka for the event after crisscrossing the state Friday and Saturday to attend regional celebrations fans a poster he designed for in Hays, Garden City, Wichita, Salina, Pittsburg and Kansas City.

Rosemary Weishapl and three friends drove more than 400 miles "We don't know what we'll do perimeter of the Expocentre's exhifrom the northwest Kansas town of bition hall allowed children to touch animals, make their own fossils and Atwood.

She had Sebelius autograph a T-They also played miniature golf, shirt, which she plans to frame.

"It's important for children," the 66-year-old said. "They need to see Kansas for their own little eyes and who it is that's in charge."

When she came to the banner that will hang at the inaugural dinner and ball, 8-year-old Erin Funk, of Topeka, drew a sunflower.

"Because it's a Kansas thing," she said.

Erin's mother, Sue Ann Funk, who works at the Stone Nature Cen-Sebelius greeted people in the ter in Topeka, showed children owls, snakes and the official state reptile — the ornate box turtle.

Broadcaster Bill Kurtis signed copies of his book "Forever Kansas" and artist Stan Herd showed Sebelius' inauguration.

Children's choirs, dance groups and American-Indian groups performed throughout the day as well. In nearby Heritage Hall, guests sampled Kansas cuisine such as apple pie, fried chicken and frieddough tacos.

Sebelius sworn in as 44th governor of Kansas

GOVERNOR, from Page 1

Lt. Gov. John Moore. Kansas Chief Justice Kay McFarland administered the oath of office.

Subsidized lunches on increase

LAWRENCE (AP) — Though enrollment in Kansas public schools has declined by 16,000 students in the past three years, the number of children getting free or reduced-price lunches rose by 12.000.

Statewide, 36 percent of the roughly 484,000 students in public schools are enrolled in the federal program, according to a state report. Nationally, the program serves meals to 27 million children each school day. It is operated in nearly 100,000 public and nonprofit private schools, with about one-third of all students taking part.

Under the program, free meals are provided to children in families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level. Families with incomes of up to 185 percent of poverty level are eligible for reduced-price lunches. For a family of four, the 2002 poverty level was \$18,100. Peggy McAdoo, who administers the program at the Kansas Department of Education, attributed the increased participation to a bad economy and new restrictions on welfare programs. There is a great disparity in freeand-reduced-lunch enrollment among Kansas school districts. At one end of the spectrum is Blue Valley school district, which has 2.1 percent enrollment rate, while at the other is Chetopa, where 74.4 percent of the students are in the program. "There are no jobs here for young people," said Harold Canady, Chetopa's school superintendent. "Some of the kids are so poor, if not for the free-and-reducted program, they wouldn't be eating very good."

ney General Phill Kline; Insurance north of the Statehouse. Commissioner Sandy Praeger; State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins; Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh; judges of the Kansas Court of Ap-

peals.

Also sworn in today were Attor- sumption Catholic Church, just abortion activists, because the mutual contempt, a shared precari- tives will play out within executive

next," said his mother, Glynis

Kickhaefer, a first-grade teacher

Tables and exhibits around the

from Alma.

Sebelius is Catholic and a parishioner there.

The service drew a few anti-aborfive state Board of Education mem- tion protesters, one of whom held a bers; three Supreme Court justices, sign with a picture of an aborted feincluding McFarland; and seven tus. There was one abortion rights supporter.

Sebelius supports abortion rights. Today's events began with an and her decision to hold the service ecumenical prayer service at As- at Assumption upset some anti-

Catholic Church opposes abortion.

even go on a virtual bird hunt.

About 500 people attended the service, which began with a proces-

sion that included Sebelius and her

family. "We pray for the welfare of the state and those who give their lives for the welfare of the public," said Rabbi Mark Levin of Congregation Beth Torah of Overland Park. "Grant us mutual concern to replace

ous position of being human."

Activities later in the day were to feature open houses at government ested in working on early on, offices, with the inaugural dinner at frankly, can be done within the 7 p.m. and a ball at the Expocentre. framework on the new Cabinet and

While Sebelius had said before her address that she hoped to convey a sense that state government will change, she didn't plan a long list of proposals for legislators. She said most of her early initia-

branch departments.

"A lot of the issues that I'm interdon't take a lot of legislative effort," Sebelius said.

On the Net: Sebelius office: http:// /www.ksgovernor.org

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