9/02/2008 This Week in Congress This Week in Congress September 02, 2008 Dear Friend. Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you find this newsletter useful. Talking to Senior Citizens about Improvements to Medicare On Friday, I visited the Senior Center in Hays to talk to senior citizens about passage of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, H.R. 6331. This legislation, which passed the House in June and has since become law, eliminated scheduled reductions in Medicare physician payments, extended physical therapy caps and delayed

I was joined at the Senior Center by David Wilson, president of AARP Kansas; Dr. Michael Machen of Quinter, president of the Kansas Society of Health System Pharmacists; Jim Rorstrom of Hays; Fred Lucky, with the Kansas Hospital Association; and Dave Sanderson of Salina, with the Kansas Physical Therapy Association. These experts were able to explain to folks how the legislation affected their profession and answered questions about what the new law means for Medicare recipients. Also discussed during the event was the AARP "Divided We Fail Pledge." This is a congressional pledge asking the nation's leaders to commit to working in a bipartisan way to provide Americans with actions and answers on health and long-term financial security. This is a pledge I strongly support and have signed my name to.

reductions in pharmacy reimbursement rates. Passage of this legislation was critical for Kansans as it allows hospitals, doctors, physical therapists and pharmacists to continue serving the more than 114,000 Medicare recipients in the First

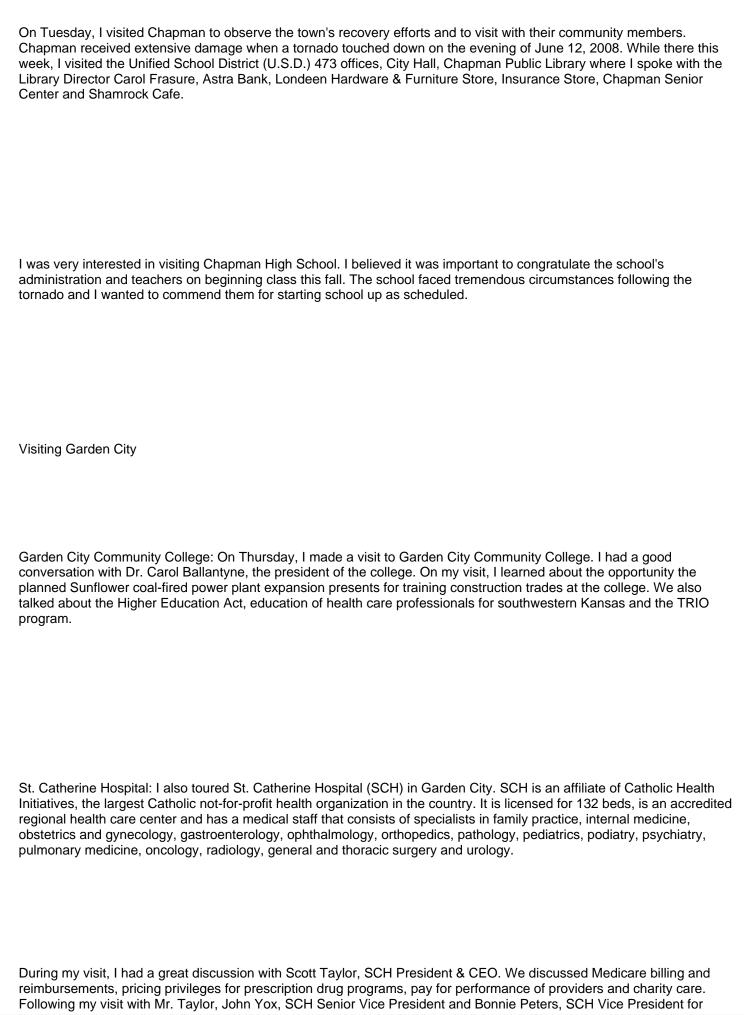
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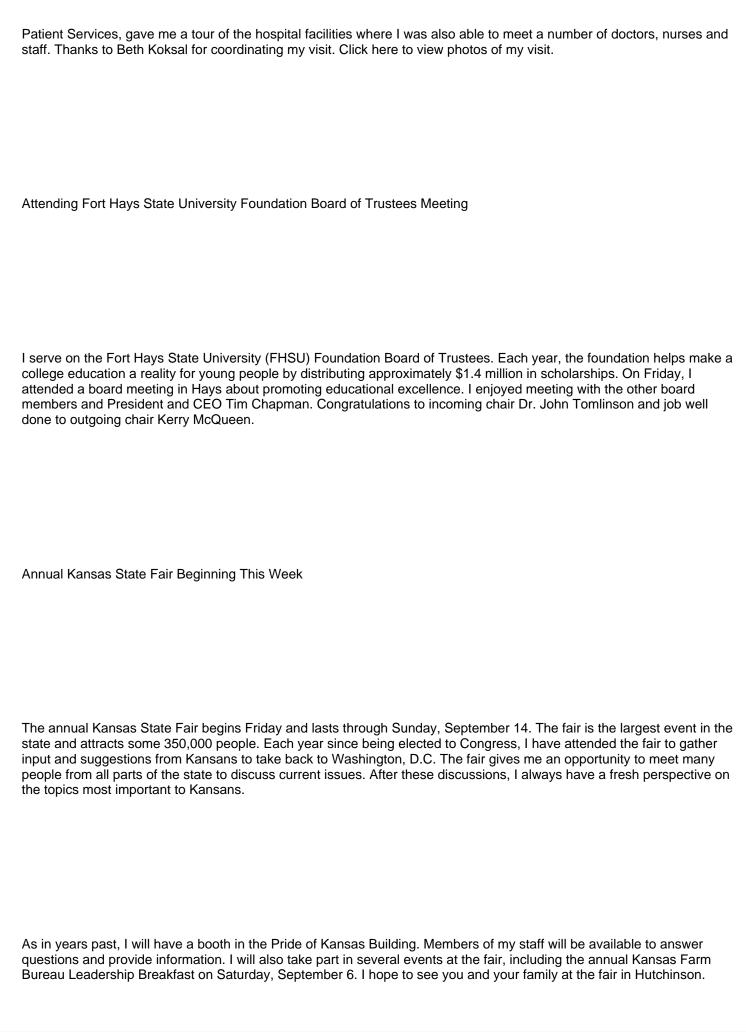
I enjoyed speaking to many of the seniors gathered for lunch, as well as Ernie Kutzley of Topeka, AARP Kansas; Mary Tritsch of Topeka, AARP Kansas; Gerald and Dianna Schmitt of Wichita, AARP volunteers; Alberta Klaus of Hays, president of AARP chapter in Hays; and Dan Morin with the Kansas Medical Society. Special thanks to Alice Herman, director of the Meal Site, for hosting the forum. Click here to view photos from the event.
Visiting North Central Kansas
On Monday, I visited several communities in north central Kansas. While in Blue Rapids, I visited the State Bank, Yungeberg Drug, the Post Office, Napa Auto Parts and several city offices. After my visit in Blue Rapids, I traveled to Marysville to attend the Rotary Club meeting. Thanks to Marysville Rotary president, Kate Manley.
Also while I was in Marysville, I made a trip into the Marysville Advocate, a 122 year-old community newspaper. There, I saw Sarah Kessinger, the new editor for the Marysville Advocate. She recently took over the paper from her parents, Howard and Sharon. I commend her and the Kessinger family for working hard to keep this local publication serving their community.
I also visited Hanover to talk with community members. There I visited with employees at Citizens State Bank, Hanover Professional Pharmacy, the Post Office, Hanover Hospital, Andy's Hardware and Lumber, Crome's Market, Blue Valley Insurance and Rural Water District #1.

In my visits with local residents, I was again reminded of my belief that Congress must immediately take up a comprehensive energy plan to assist those families who are struggling with gas prices.
Learning about Cancer Prevention and Treatment with the American Cancer Society in Alma
On Monday, I met with Tonia Carlson of Paxico and Lisa Benlon of Overland Park to discuss ways in which Congress can help increase cancer screening and prevention treatments. Ms. Carlson is the grassroots leader of the First Congressional District for the American Cancer Society. Ms. Benlon is a former State Representative who is now with the American Cancer Society
One of the issues we talked about was colon cancer. This disease is one of the leading preventable causes of death in the United States, with a five-year survival rate of nearly 90 percent when detected early. I am a sponsor of the Colorectal Cancer Early Detection, Prevention and Treatment Act, which would help those most likely at risk of colon cancer to receive screenings and treatment at an earlier age.
Speaking to Farm Bureau Members in Wabaunsee and Osage Counties
This week, I spoke at the Wabaunsee County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Alma and at the Osage County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Carbondale. I spoke to members about the 2008 Farm Bill and the need for Congress to pass comprehensive energy legislation. Attending Farm Bureau meetings across our state allows me to learn more about

issues important to farmers and ranchers.

Observing Chapman Rebuilding and Recovering





Attending Labor Day Events	
To celebrate Labor Day this year, I attended the 112th Annual Labor Day Celebration in Hoisington. Thanks to Brian Harrison for participating with me in this year's parade.	
I also attended the City of Chapman Labor Day Parade. It was encouraging to see the city's recovery efforts and their commitment to continuing this parade which was first celebrated in 1909. Thanks to Phil Weishaar for organizing my participation in the parade.	
In the Office	
Alan and Phyllis Shurts of Beloit, Sydney and Mary Holmes of Hutchinson and Zack and Gavin Lake of Emporia came the office this week for a tour of the U.S. Capitol.	by
Very truly yours,	

Jerry