



8 pages

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U.S. Congressman visits Logan County

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
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Thirteen years ago, U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran promised a Winona resident he would hold a town hall meeting in his hometown, and the congressman kept that promise on Wednesday, visiting the tiny Logan County town.

About 15 people came to the Winona fire station to talk with the congressman and hear his comments about issues facing rural America, as well as the rest of the country.

"This is my 51st town hall meeting this year," Moran said, "and I appreciate being able to get my dose of Kansas common sense when I meet with the people of western Kansas."

The congressman touched on the so-called "Cap in Trade" plan that is making its way through Congress. He said it is not encouraging nuclear power, which he said could cause climate change, and more warming. He said Cap and Trade needs to be defeated.

It is all about carbon dioxide being used or produced more by some industries and less than others, Moran said. The bill would

give some the ability to produce what some one else isn't, and lets an industry that produces less sell its quota to some one who has used its quota up.

"It's not good for the home owner," he said, adding that it could increase a family's electric bill by as much as \$1,100 a year. Moran said 44 Democrats and eight Republicans voted no on the bill.

He also talked about Food and Drug Administration regulations for the Food Safety Act.

"We don't want the FDA coming to the farm, where we have 'FDA to fork' regulations," he said.

Moran said he had been opposed to the bail-outs and didn't believe the \$600 billion stimulus was a good idea, because it was borrowed money. He said to keep borrowing money for our grandkids to pay off was morally troublesome to him.

He said he had introduced a bill in Congress to get the government out of its ownership of General Motors and AIG, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae in one year, and he and others are trying to force

the issue.

He answered questions on a proposed "hate crime" bill, saying he thinks it should be more like a freedom of fairness doctrine. He said what didn't make sense to him is that if a murder was committed because of hate, then the penalty would be enhanced. He said his idea is that murder is murder, and questioned whether society can determine if hate was involved.

He said when people speak out on their moral beliefs it might now be taken as offensive and create a "hate" attitude, and could stifle freedom of speech.

"It's a common-sense issue," he said.

Moran also questioned a Department of Homeland Security attempt at trying to redefine what a pocket knife is. The proposed rule would class most "assisted-opening" knives as "switchblades," making illegal under federal law many hunting and utility knives.

"How else are you going to clean your fingernails?" he asked. "Just where is the common sense

See "MORAN," Page 3



Jerry Moran

Hotel owner's descendants hold reunion in Rexford

By Vera Sloan

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Forty-five relatives descendants of early Thomas County settler Kizer Corder retraced their roots Saturday when they got together at the Lonesome Dove Hotel, originally the Commercial hotel, in Rexford.

Cordell Corder, a great great grandson of Kizer Corder, who built the original Rexford hotel, is the only direct descendant of the original Corder family still living. He said his great-great-great-grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War.

He met distant cousins from Arizona, New Hampshire, Alabama, Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, West Virginia and Oklahoma.

Corder, 71, said he had never met any of the family before. He said he lives near Grants Pass, Ore., and rode his motorcycle for 3 1/2 days to get to the family reunion.

Kizer Corder moved his family from Macon County, Mo., to Thomas County in 1886 when Kansas opened land up to homesteading.

"I think there was just too many trees to farm around in Missouri," Corder said, "and they were giving away free land in Kansas that was flat, with no trees to farm around."

Family history records indicate the family moved to a homestead six miles northwest of what is now Rexford, where they built a sod house, and "proved up" the land.

Together with neighbors,



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Members of the extended Corder family laid out all their family photos Saturday during their family reunion. The Corder family owned the Lonesome Dove Hotel in Rexford in the 1880s, a building that still stands today.

they built a school, calling it the Georgetown School because there were four families there named George. A second school was built near the Corder homestead, called Nichol school. Since the school term was only four months, the children would leave one school when it ended and attended the other so that they could get eight

months of school each year.

In 1889, the family moved into Rexford, because the railroad had located there. Kizer Corder bought a building, remodeled it and built onto it and made it into the Commercial Hotel, with a huge dining room. Soon all the train crews and

See "REUNION," Page 3

Weather brings out picnic crowd



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

About 100 people took advantage of the sunny weather to attend this week's Picnic in the Park on Wednesday at Fike Park. The entertainment was Scott Cameron, Jeff Wagoner and Amy Kendrick. Next week's entertainment will be Lenay Marteney.

I-70 on ramp to reopen today

The I-70 on ramp at the Country Club Drive interchange in Colby will reopen today as planned, but it might not be until late in the evening.

Eric Oelschlager, area engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said from the work site that, as of noon, all the materials had arrived and the work crews had nine more loads of asphalt left to dump. The paving will likely be done this evening, he said, with the ramp opened up after it has been allowed to cool for a few hours.

What started out as a simple patch-and-repaving

assignment turned into a week-long project after work crews found soft spots and poorly-compacted dirt under the on ramp. The 1980s construction had not held up to the increase in truck traffic on the ramp, officials said.

The crews rebuilt the base by working in a layer of fly ash and a layer of dirt mixed with asphalt millings. These compacted layers should strengthen the road and reduce wear, Oelschlager said. Top-grade asphalt is being put down over these layers.

Two new traffic laws in effect

By Kevin Bottrell

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Drivers heading through Kansas on the freeway had better keep right if they don't want a visit from the Highway Patrol.

New laws that went into effect Wednesday require drivers to stay on the right side of the road unless passing or avoiding a hazard, and to move off the road if they have a minor accident, the Kansas Highway Patrol says.

The first law, dubbed the "Right

Lane Law," requires drivers on any highway with two or more lanes in one direction to stay out of the left lane most of the time. Drivers can only enter to left lane to pass, to make a left turn, as directed by traffic signs or to make room for emergency vehicles.

Technical Trooper Edna Buttler, the highway patrol's state public information officer, said the law applies to all traffic, including commercial trucks, except for emergency and law enforcement vehicles, as well as those from the Kansas Turnpike Authority and

Kansas Department of Transportation doing maintenance work.

The law does not apply within city limits.

The second law, called the "Move It Law," requires anyone who has been in a minor accident to move their vehicle, if it can still be driven, off the highway to the nearest safe spot, such as an exit or shoulder. According to the patrol, this law is intended to keep accident victims out of traffic.

Vehicles transporting hazard-

See "LAWS," Page 3

Help needed to assemble rides

The Thomas County Amusement Association needs your help to set up rides for this year's fair. Volunteers will be working on the rides at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, at the fairgrounds. The more people who come to help, the faster it gets done. For information, call Melinda Morton at 462-7329.

County van to take a holiday

The Thomas County transportation van will not run Friday or Monday because of the Fourth of July holiday. It will not be running next Thursday for driver training or on Thursday, July 16, because the driver will be at a mandatory meeting. Please make other travel arrangements. For information, call the county clerk's office at 460-4500.

Sheriff can check vehicles

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office is now check-

ing vehicle identification numbers for cars, light trucks and motorcycles. The office is open 8 a.m., to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Sheriff Rod Taylor for information or to set up an appointment at 460-4570. Taylor said requests for inspection of trailers still have to go through the Kansas Highway Patrol office in Hays. The fee for an inspection is \$10.

No trash pickup on Friday

Colby city trash trucks will not run on Friday because of the Fourth of July holiday. Friday residential route will be picked up on Monday, said Public Works Director Chirs Bieker. Please have your tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. The commercial sanitation truck will run on Saturday as usual, Bieker said. For information, call 460 4420.

Singles, couples dance Friday

There will be a Singles and Couples Dance from

7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Friday at the Community Building. Entertainment will be provided by Granny Z. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 855-2341.

Nursing home plans dog show

The Colby Care Center will hold a doggie fashion show at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 11. Dress up your dogs and bring them by, along with a \$5 donation for the Residents Activity Fund. Veterinarian Tammy Swarts will judge the entries and award prizes, and give some free advice for dog owners. For information, call Amanda Hillis at 462-6721.

Groups offer free shoot

The Colby Trap Hunting Heritage Group and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will hold another free shooting program for youths and inexperienced shooters at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 19. Shooters will learn weapons handling and range safety.

Shotguns and shells will be provided at the Colby Trap Club at County Road R (West College Drive) and County Road 14, one mile south of U.S. 24 west of Colby. For information, call Wildlife Conservation Officer Benny Young at 462-7602.

College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Open swimming is 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cost for general admission is \$3. Monthly and yearly passes are available. Call Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.



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