



10 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Senate seat tops the ballot Tuesday

### Moran makes last visit here

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press  
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The roar of the race cars at the Thomas County Fair on Saturday didn't seem to discourage Rep. Jerry Moran as he shook hands with fairgoers during his last stop in western Kansas before Tuesday's Senate election.

The western Kansas congressman is one of two major candidates for the Republican nomination to the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Sam Brownback. A former state senator from Hays, he has represented the Big First District since 1997, seven terms.

"I didn't want my friends in Thomas County to think I had forgotten them," he said after a long day, which included a stop at the Finney County Fair in Garden City before heading to Colby.

Moran was accompanied by his daughter's boyfriend, Brandon Harder, a student at Kansas State University. He said Harder had been a real trooper and had stuck with him over the many miles they



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Congressman Jerry Moran said he was glad to see teenagers interested enough in a politician to want to come up and shake hands. Case Rundel (center) and a friend

were a little hesitant, but decided they wanted to meet the Senate candidates when he made an appearance at the Thomas County Fair on Saturday.

### Candidates trade charges

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Kansas Reps. Jerry Moran and Todd Tiahrt are returning to character issues they've long raised about each other as the end nears in their bitter race for the Republican nomination for an open U.S. Senate seat.

In the final poll by Wichita television station KWCH, released today, Moran maintained a commanding lead among likely voters, 49 percent to 39 percent for Tiahrt.

Moran's campaign is reminding voters about a past U.S. House ethics investigation of Tiahrt, though the results left Tiahrt saying he was exonerated. A recent Moran mailer ties Tiahrt to "the culture of Washington" and asks, "Can Kansans still trust Todd Tiahrt?"

But Tiahrt's campaign is asking much the same thing, targeting the key GOP right, questioning whether Moran is a true conservative despite strong ratings from national groups. A former Moran campaign manager — described by the can-

See "SENATE," Page 3

## Veteran hopes to keep his job in House race

By Andy Heintz

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Republican voters will have a rare choice Tuesday on who will represent them in the Kansas Legislature, either the incumbent, Rep. Jim Morrison of Colby, who has held the 121st District House position since 1992, or challenger Brenda McCants of Goodland.

Both took part in a scheduled "meet and greet" campaign event on Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. While only a couple of voters showed up — it was fair week, after all — both candidates talked to a reporter.

The district covers Sherman, Graham, Sheridan and Thomas counties.

Morrison said the most important issue facing people in northwest Kansas is what he perceives as the most important issue facing the rest of the country: the economy.

"We're not as bad here, but people are still being affected (by the recession)," he said.

He said the state needs to give tax incentives to help small businesses. Tax cuts were one idea he put forth. Asked what should be cut in the budget to offset the cuts, he said he didn't know yet.

McCants said the issue she's most passionate about is education. She said if elected, she would take a serious look at the state

## ELECTION 2010

### Vote here Tuesday

The Kansas primary election comes down to the wire Tuesday, when all voters in Thomas County will cast their vote at the Colby Community Building.

Advance voting ended at noon today. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

The big race here is for state representative of the 121st District between incumbent Jim Morrison of Colby and newcomer Brenda McCants of Goodland.

Rep. Jerry Moran was 10 points ahead of Rep. Todd Tiahrt in a poll today, and seemed to hold a commanding lead for the U.S. Senate.

budget to make sure it works for Colby Community College and the Northwest Kansas Technical

See "HOUSE," Page 3

### Hanging on to the horn



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Zoe, an 8-year-old donkey, patiently gave rides to this girl on Saturday and other admirers during the Thomas County Fair. She accompanied two miniature donkeys, an alpaca, several

miniature goats and a miniature Brahman calf to the fair with their owner, a teacher from Holton, Kan.

## Briefly

### County plans budget session

The Thomas County commissioners will have a special budget meeting at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the commissioner's meeting room on the main floor of the courthouse.

### Dance Saturday at golf club

A dance is planned at the Meadow Lake Golf Club, 1085 E. Golf Club Dr., from 6:30-10:30 Saturday, with music by Jim Christensen. For questions, call Lue Duffey in Rexford at (785) 269-7057.

### Walkers needed for Relay

Relay for Life, an annual fund raiser for the American Cancer Society, needs teams and team captains for the walking relay at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Fike Park. For information or to sign up, call Denise Stupka at 462-2122.

### Farm Service to explain reserve

The U.S. Farm Service Agency will have an information meeting on the Conservation Reserve Program at 1 p.m. Thursday in room 2 of the Colby Community Building. The meeting will cover the program's sign-up period, from Monday to Friday, Aug. 27, and who is eligible. For information, call Phyllis Tholen at 462-7671.

### Museum plans '125' quilt show

A special quilt show celebrating Thomas County's 125th Birthday will be held at the Prairie Museum of History and Art from Oct. 7 to 31. Quilts of any size, pattern or age with a Thomas County connection should be entered at the museum from Sept. 1 to 24. Call (785) 460-4590 for information.

### Commodities here next Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will

be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. next Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Anyone who's eligible may get commodities first-come, first-served. Items will include vegetable soup, apricots, beans, instant milk, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce and rotini. For information, call the volunteer office at 462-6744.

### Army has fans to beat heat

The Salvation Army has fans available for anyone who needs them. Call Kathy Ryan at the Thomas County Health Department, 460-4596.

### Signups open for kids' football

Signups are open at the Sports Shoppe for Little League Football for kids in third to sixth grades. A \$100 fee covers equipment rent and other materials. For information, call Travis Branum at 462-8342.

### Sign up for soccer this week

The American Youth Soccer Organization fall season will start in September. Registration is \$45 until Saturday and \$50 after. For information or to set up an account to register, call Emily Griffin at 460-0647.

### Chronic disease focus of class

Citizens Medical Center will offer a six-week chronic-disease support class Mondays from Sept. 13 to Oct. 18 for people with arthritis, diabetes, heart or lung disease, asthma or the effects of a stroke. The free program was developed by Stanford University. For questions, call Courtney McCarty at 460-4849.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 8 9 8 3



Weather Corner



National Weather Service  
**Tonight:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Tuesday:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 92. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Tuesday Night:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. Northeast wind around 10 mph.  
**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 88. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.  
**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.  
**Thursday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 88.  
**Thursday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.  
Friday: High, 92; Low 69  
Saturday: High, 89; Low 67  
Sunday: High, 93; Low 66  
Precip: Friday 0.00 inches  
Saturday 0.22 inches  
Sunday 0.00 inches  
Month: 0.22 inches  
Year: 14.61 inches  
Normal: 16.41 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)

Moran stops in Colby at last minute

From “MORAN,” Page 1

had traveled.  
Moran said he loves the people of Kansas and appreciates the way people in Kansas think.  
“They care about the long term,” he said. “They care about what will happen to their parents and about what will happen to their grandkids, when it seems like to so many in Washington think long term means next November.”  
When asked what he thought the government could do that would be good for America, he answered that he thought the primary goal was to defend the country, which also meant to defend its borders.  
“We have to pass on our constitutional liberties and privileges,” he said, “do something about the tax code and get away from what seems like almost an anti-business atmosphere in Washington.”  
Asked how he felt the polls were going, Moran noted has been a double-digit favorite for quite a while, but the really important poll is the one on Tuesday. He said that when he first sat down with his opponent to discuss running for the same office, the conversation turned negative. The campaign has become so negative, he said, that it appears that after listening to the negative attacks on him, the truth didn’t seem to even count with his opponent.  
“Kansans are real concerned about the future of the country,” he said, “and rightfully so. On a lot of the issues, like health care and many others, it appears that my opponent wants to pursue his own ideas.”  
He said he was headed for home in Hays after his stop here. He said



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press  
Rep. Jerry Moran said he liked talking with Kansans, and that includes Chloe and Parker Todd, who were on their way to the races at the Thomas County Fairgrounds on Saturday. Pastor Steve and Stephanie Todd, the kids’ parents, said the two didn’t have a clue what a U.S. senator is supposed to do.

he lost his grandmother last week and after church on Sunday, would spend a little time to cheer up his 95-year-old grandfather, then go on to Topeka for more campaigning.  
After Topeka, he said, he’ll be in Overland Park on Monday, where he would help with a Catholic Charities benefit.  
“I’ll be going back home Monday night, so I can vote on Tuesday,” he said, “but before I leave Colby tonight, I’ve got to stop by the Colby Kiwanis Club booth because Sheila Krehbiel told me I have to have one of those good Kiwanis hamburgers.”  
**Police canine bites a dog, gets time off**  
SUN VALLEY, Idaho (AP) — A police dog in the central Idaho resort town of Sun Valley is back on duty after serving a “suspension” for an unprovoked attack on a schnauzer.  
Sun Valley Police Chief Cameron Daggett says the 5-year-old German shepherd named Dax took a few weeks off the job after the incident. The dog will receive training to prevent a reoccurrence of what Daggett says was an unfortunate situation.  
Dax, a four-year veteran of the force, is trained to find illegal drugs, missing people and evidence at crime scenes.  
On June 26, authorities say Dax attacked a schnauzer named Max. Max’s owner says the city is paying the \$600 veterinarian bill.

Veteran legislator, challenger vie for state House seat

From “HOUSE,” Page 1

College in Goodland, where she is director of development.  
McCants said one subject she and her opponent disagree on is the 1 percent increase in the sales tax that went into effect on July 1. She said she would have supported the increase, because much of the money from the increase went to schools coping with budget cuts. She added that the increase is only scheduled to last for three years.  
Morrison, who was an optometrist before he retired in 2009, said he opposed the measure because he was on a committee that had an alternative plan. He said inefficient parts of state government could be cut to make up the difference. He said selling property the government doesn’t need could make up for the shortfall in the education budget without raising taxes.  
McCants said keeping the two colleges and the four hospitals in the district was key to stopping the population decline in the area. She said she would support efforts to protect the Critical Access status of hospitals in the district. Critical Access Hospitals are paid

more for Medicare and Medicaid patients under federal programs, McCants said. She said status, which limits the number of beds a hospital can have, is intended to improve financial performance. This is a good thing for rural areas, McCants said.  
Morrison said he also is an avid supporter of protecting the hospitals’ critical access status. He added that he supported bills to provide more money to Kansas medical schools in Salina and Wichita. He said the students in these schools tend to come work in rural Kansas after they graduate. He said the extra money will allow more people to be trained as doctors, which should lead to more medical people coming to work in northwest Kansas.  
Morrison said he is also in favor of more emergency treatment centers setting up shop in northwest Kansas. He said these clinics offer care at lower prices than hospitals. They could handle routine medical practices, such as giving shots and treating infections, burns, bruises and fevers, Morrison said.  
McCants said making sure the area’s roads are well-maintained

is important to northwest Kansas. She said having good roads are a big part of economic development.  
“If the roads are not maintained, how will people get to the communities?” she asked.  
Morrison said Kansas has the best roads in America. He said the state government has wisely invested in roads, and it needs to make sure the federal government continues to give us enough money to maintain them.  
McCants said she supports the Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act, which banned smoking in most public places. She said the law helps protect people from the dangers of secondhand smoke. McCants also said the law ought to bring down tobacco-related health care cost. She said she would have voted for the smoking ban, which Morrison opposed on Feb. 25.  
The ban, which went into effect July 1, makes it illegal to smoke in public places, taxicabs and limousines and common areas in public and private buildings, condominiums and other multiple-residential facilities. But critics point to the fact that state-owned casinos are

exempted.  
Morrison said thought it was hypocritical that the state exempted itself from rules everyone else would have to follow. He said voted for a similar bill on Feb. 18 that didn’t include any exemptions.  
McCants said she thinks Morrison is a nice man and she honors

his years of service to the state. But, she said, she feels northwest Kansas needs a new voice and new energy. She said her experience working in education and health care makes her ready for the job.  
Morrison said he has spent his career in health career. He added

that he has passed laws that have brought technology into northwest Kansas schools. He said this technology has allowed schools to communicate with each other. He said he is the go-to-guy on technology in Kansas.

Moran holds lead in final poll of race

From “SENATE,” Page 1

candidate as disgruntled – released an internal e-mail from Moran’s Blackberry in March, asking, “What about significantly reducing the use of the word ‘conservative?’”  
The tone of the campaign ahead of Tuesday’s primary bothers some Republicans, because they’ve long viewed either candidate as a strong nominee.  
Tiahrt has represented the 4th Congressional District of south-central Kansas since 1995, and Moran the 1st District of western and central Kansas since 1997. Tom Little, a Mound City accountant, also is campaigning for the

Republican nomination. The GOP nominee will be heavily favored to win because Kansas hasn’t elected a Democrat to the Senate since 1932.  
The recent Moran mailing focused on a U.S. House investigation of Tiahrt over his office’s handling of budget earmarks and their potential ties to campaign contributions. Tiahrt is a longtime member of the House Appropriations Committee.  
The House Ethics Committee concluded in February that there was no evidence of wrongdoing. But its Office of Congressional Ethics forwarded information about defense contractors linked to the case to the U.S. Justice Department in May – something the mailing noted.

In response, Tiahrt’s campaign has pointed to an ethics inquiry of whether Moran accepted an improper gift in the form of below-market rent on a Washington house on C Street there. The Office of Congressional Ethics concluded in June there was no probable cause to believe so.  
Moran’s campaign argues the case involving Tiahrt is far more serious. And Scott Howell, Moran’s media consultant, said in an e-mail to the Associated Press that spending and earmarks “got Republicans in trouble” before they lost their House majority in 2006, and Tiahrt is “one of the worst.”



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# MORRISON

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 **State Representative - Dist. 121**






Dear Neighbor:

I’ve considered it an honor to represent you for the past 18 years in the Kansas House of Representatives. Throughout those years, we Kansans have faced some tough times - none tougher than right now.

As we deal with the issues and challenges facing our State. I will continue to value your thoughts, input and suggestions, just as I always have. I will greatly appreciate your vote of support in the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Republican primary.

Sincerely,



**TESTED. TRUSTED. A PROVEN LEADER.**

Paid for by Jim Morrison for State Representative, William V. Adams, Treasurer.