

# College fund raiser campaigning for office

**By Kevin Bottrell**  
Colby Free Press  
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Challenging Rep. Jim Morrison in the Republican primary is Northwest Technical College at Goodland's fund raiser Brenda McCants.



McCants

McCants announced her entry into the race at a series of events in each of the four counties in April. She said she had been thinking about running for about a year. She said she didn't want to run against Morrison, but she spoke to him and he encouraged her to run.

as a fund raiser for Goodland Regional Medical Center and is currently director of development at Northwest Kansas Technical College.

She said, although she respects Morrison's commitment and his years of service, northwest Kansas needs a new voice. If elected, she wants to focus on areas including veterans benefits, health care, education and seniors.

Her work at the Goodland hospital has given her an inside look at how health care works in Kansas, she said.

One idea she would champion is establishing more clinics for veterans around the state.

"That way they wouldn't have to drive so far," McCants said.

Taking care of veterans and their families, she said, is the least the country can do to honor their service. McCants described herself as a "military brat" whose father was in the Army for 30 years.

Education is another concern. Two school superintendents attended her announcement meeting

in Hoxie, she said, both concerned about keeping schools open.

Finding a way to increase the area's population, she said, would allow smaller schools to remain open.

McCants said she particularly wants to protect the community and technical colleges, which are essential for workforce development.

"They serve some students very well," she said. "We need skilled laborers."

The state budget was the big issue in the Legislature this year. McCants said creating a budget is a challenge and she would take a common-sense approach.

"What would I do if I was short of money?" she asked.

McCants said she would cut until only essential budget items were left. Beyond that, she said, she wants to find out what the needs of district are.

"I'm not afraid to go out and ask," she said. "It's easy to say what they need based on your perspective. We see that now in the education cuts."

McCants said she has enjoyed campaigning so far, especially getting out and meeting people.

"It's a new journey for sure," she said.

"It's made me become more

aware of where I stand on the issues."

Those include abortion, which she opposes.

"I have two adopted children," she said. "I'm so grateful to the mother who chose that option."

She said she favors the death penalty, but it should not be a decision made lightly.

McCants said she is always available to answer any questions her constituents have.

"It says a lot when you can pick up the phone and call your legislator," she said.

# Representative's last campaign

**By Kevin Bottrell**  
Colby Free Press  
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State Rep. Jim Morrison is running what he calls his "last campaign."



Morrison

Morrison, a Colby native, has served in the Kansas House of Representatives for 18 years. He took over for the last few months of a term and then ran in the 1992 election. He said the extra few months allowed him to get a lot more one-on-one training as a lawmaker, rather than in a class with other freshmen legislators.

The House leadership encouraged him run again this year, he said, because his seniority will come in handy when the legislature reapportions the House districts next session. Morrison said because the 2010 census shows a drop in the population of western Kansas, the Legislature will have to draw new

boundaries and may eliminate as many as two representatives and one senator west of Hays.

The worst-case scenario, he said, is that the 121st District, which includes Thomas, Sherman, Sheridan and Graham counties, may be split and combined with the 120th to the north and 118th to the south.

With fewer legislators representing western Kansas, he said, it would be harder to get laws passed that benefit the region. The whole region could be steamrolled by a single area like Kansas City that has more representation.

"We're small by circumstance, not by choice," he said.

Because of his seniority - Morrison is one of the five longest-serving representatives - he said he would likely be on the committee that would handle redrawing the districts.

The state budget, especially the 1 percent sales tax, was the big issue during the last session. Morrison said he voted against the budget bill because too many things - such as the sales tax - would hurt people in western Kansas. That tax, he said, is enough of an increase that area businesses are no longer competitive with Burlington, Colo., or McCook, Neb. He said he has already heard of people going across the border to buy high-priced items like recreational vehicles because the sales tax is less.

"It's even worse in Kansas City," he said. "Missouri has very low taxes."

Morrison said the state could save a lot of money by decentralizing its agencies, placing more offices in towns around the state, dismantling some of the Topeka offices and selling the buildings.

Morrison said the state could sell off assets it uses little or maintains at a loss. For example, it could sell or lease the right-of-way around

highway overpasses to farmers. The state could sell the fiber optic cables that are currently used for running highway hazard signs to Internet providers.

Sometimes, he said, he votes the way his constituents want instead of how he himself wants. Morrison said he believes he is supposed to work for his constituents and do what the majority of them want.

"The leadership doesn't like that," he said, "but they know I'll do that."

Morrison said while he doesn't come back to the district more than a few times during each session, he spends a lot of time on the phone with his constituents.

"People here have brilliant ideas," he said, "and they work in most instances - with a little baling wire."

Morrison said he gets quite a few angry calls, but many are angry at the state rather than at him.

"Most people dislike politics," he said. "I don't blame them."

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## Director of Admissions/Grant Writer

Northwest Tech is seeking an individual with excellent communication, writing, people, and sales skills to lead the college's recruiting efforts as well as grant writing initiatives. This individual is responsible for enrollment management and supervision of recruiting staff with additional responsibilities of researching and writing federal, state and agency grants. Position requires travel, some evening and weekend work. Bachelor degree in Marketing or Communications highly preferred. Experience in recruiting is desirable. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Interviews are being conducted now. Position open until filled.

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Dr. Guy E. Mills, President, NWKTC  
1209 Harrison, PO Box 668  
Goodland, KS 67735  
or via email ed.mills@nwktc.edu.



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## Solicitation of Contractors

Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) is soliciting contractors for its Kansas Multi-Family Weatherization (Program). The types of work to be considered will be air sealing, attic, wall, and foundation insulation, door and window repair/replacement, refrigerator replacement and HVAC repair/replacement. The Program will run through March 31, 2012 and is anticipated to weatherize approximately 2000 apartment units statewide. If you are interested in contracting for the Program please contact Marcia Banks at KHRC (785) 296-2065 or mbanks@kshousingcorp.org to be added to our list of contractors. All bid opportunities are posted on the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation website www.kshousingcorp.org. KHRC is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will not do business with any firm or individual that in any way, directly or indirectly, discriminates against any person because of age, race, color, handicap, sex, national origin or religious creed. Small Businesses, Minorities and Women Owned Businesses are encouraged to participate. All contractors and subcontractors engaged under the Program must comply with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276 and be a licensed renovation firm with Kansas Department of Health and Environment

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## Business moves, builds new building



Keith Bowman of Bowman's Heating and A/C worked on the forms for the cement floor of the new shop and office building for his business that recently moved to 577 W. 31st St.

Photo by Josh Harenburg  
The Goodland Star-News

## matters of record

The following real estate transactions have been reported by the Sherman County register of deeds:

James L. Hayden and Judith Hayden convey and warrant to Brent W. Linin and Ginny A. Linin, Trustess of the Brent W. Linin Trust UTD 12/13/2001 as to an undivided 1/2 interest and Brent W. Linin and Ginny A. Linin, Trustess of the Ginny A. Linin Turst UTD 12/13/2001 as to an undivided 1/2 interest of the E/2 of E/2 of SE/4 of Sec.1, T9S, R40W, consisting of 11.21 acres, save and except a tract in E/2 of E/2 of SE/4 of Sec.1, T9S, R40W.

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State of Kansas City 2011

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of City of Kanorado will meet on August 2, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Hall and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**  
Proposed Budget 2011 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2010 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2011 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2009		Current Year Estimate for 2010		Proposed Budget for 2011		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2010 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimate Tax Rate*
General	86,506	52.801	75,250	53.991	107,678	29,415	54.399
Debt Service	4,342	14.089	6,867	12.540	10,763	5.129	9.485
Employee Benefits	6,115	10.005	6,015	10.035	19,138	5.397	9.981
Special Highway	7,108		6,000		23,848		
Capital Improvements Fund					40,024		
Utility Fund	66,711		70,067		100,296		
Non-Budgeted Funds	19,006						
Totals	189,788	76.895	164,199	76.566	301,747	39,941	73.865
Less: Transfers	5,000		5,000		5,000		
Net Expenditure	184,788		159,199		296,747		
Total Tax Levied	41,480		41,215		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation	539,438		538,440		540,727		
Outstanding Indebtedness:							
January 1,	2008		2009		2010		
G.O. Bonds	0		313,900		313,900		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	0		313,900		313,900		

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills

*Norman Korbelik*  
City Official Title Mayor