

Weather  
Corner

National Weather Service

**Tonight:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. East wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Tuesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 86. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. East wind around 15 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 89. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.

**Thursday:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 88.

**Thursday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 93.

**Friday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.

**Saturday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87.

Friday: High, 80; Low 55  
Saturday: High, 82; Low 58  
Sunday: High, 92; Low 62  
Precip: Friday 0.12 inches  
Saturday 0.00 inches  
Sunday 0.07 inches  
Month: 3.00 inches  
Year: 16.04 inches  
Normal: 13.76 inches  
(K-State Experiment Station)

**Sunrise and Sunset**

Tuesday 6:35 a.m. 9:06 p.m.  
Wednesday 6:36 a.m. 9:05 p.m.  
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

**Colby Water Use**

Friday – Sunday 1,593,000 gal.  
(Colby Public Works)

# Republican Senate candidates compete for vital conservative vote

From “SENATE,” Page 1

is leaving Washington, as promised, after two terms. He is running for governor.

Tiahrt has represented the 4th Congressional District in south-central Kansas, centered around Wichita, since 1995. Moran has held the seat for the sprawling, rural 1st District, which includes all of western Kansas, since 1997.

Both are critical of President Barack Obama’s fiscal, energy and health care policies, and both have anti-abortion voting records. Both express concern about the burgeoning federal deficit.

“What are you going to say? I’m more against Obama than you are?” said Republican strategist Rich Galen, who suggested that the candidates try to identify themselves with Brownback to woo primary voters.

Moran’s campaign has been portraying him as the leading candidate, with broad support within the party and across the state. They’ve highlighted his endorsements from GOP senators such as Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Mike Johanns of Nebraska.

And then there’s Moran’s impressive campaign account balance. He reported having \$3.1 million in cash on hand at the end of June, compared with Tiahrt’s \$1.4 million.

Moran has transferred \$2.4 million from his House campaign account into his Senate account.

Tiahrt has transferred just \$1 million.

Moran’s money accumulated because he hasn’t faced a serious challenge in the 1st District since his first GOP primary in 1996. Moran and his allies argue that he’s worked hard for those contests, with regular tours of all 69 counties in the district and trips home nearly every weekend for more than 13 years.

“It isn’t that there’s something about the district that makes it an easy race,” he said.

Tiahrt’s races have been tougher, though. He contends his campaign already is more prepared than Moran’s — and that he needs less money than his opponent.

“I have been forced to do things like develop infrastructure,” Tiahrt said. “I have an infrastructure in place that is time-tested and proven.”

But something else lies behind Tiahrt’s confidence: Many social conservatives appear to have a higher regard for him.

Tiahrt has been endorsed by the anti-abortion group Kansans for Life, as well as the Traditional Values Coalition and Family Research Council. Kansans for Life described Tiahrt as a leader in the House on its issues, most notably for efforts to prevent international family planning aid from being used for abortions.

“Moran is certainly acceptable,” said Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political scientist who

once served on former Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius’ staff. “But he’s not one of them, and Tiahrt clearly is.”

And Moran still faces questions about whether he’s a fighter. He considered but avoided potentially tough runs for governor in 2002 and 2006. Many Republicans had thought he could unify the GOP and prevent Sebelius from winning a first, then a second, term.

Moran and his aides contend the image is undeserved because he was willing to take on Sebelius for the Senate. She resigned as governor in April to become U.S. secretary of health and human services, costing Democrats their best potential candidate.

“I think Jerry will be considered a little softer on lots of things, because he’s known as slow to make a decision,” said Tim Shallenburger, a former state treasurer and former Kansas GOP chairman.

Moran has time and enough money to establish an image with voters who don’t know him. He’s also shown he can appeal to both moderate and conservative Republicans.

But Tiahrt can expect more passionate support from social conservatives, and they’ve shown repeatedly since the 1990s that they’re willing to work hard to get like-minded candidates elected. They’re a key part of the GOP base, and the contest for its votes is where the real Senate race will be.

# Big hail storm Friday pelts fields east of Colby

From “DAMAGE,” Page 1

damage was west of Menlo.

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network reported hail as big as a half dollar at weather stations in northwest Kansas and as far south as Garden City. Reports during the storm indicated golf-ball-sized stones. Milliman said, though, that he hadn’t heard any damage reports south of Oakley.

The agent said some of the corn may be a total loss, depending on how close the field was to the center of the storm, and some may recover.

Brian Olson, area agronomist with Kansas State Research and Extension, said hail can strip off the leaves and damage tassels,

resulting in yield loss later in the year. It can also damage the stalks and leave corn vulnerable to rot.

Milliman said some soybean field also had been damaged by the hail. There was still some wheat left in the path of the storm, he said, but the main danger to it at this point was the rain. Moisture has been preventing harvest of some fields, lowering test weights and affecting quality. Olson said some of the wheat has laid down and is rotting, and may not be harvested at all.

A second storm Friday, passing west of Colby, did not produce much hail over Thomas County and did little, if any, crop damage.

# County fair events begin

From “FAIR,” Page 1

and Tuesday starting at 8 p.m. at the fairgrounds. The riders this year will be from the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association, rather than the national association.

The Thomas County Home-Owned Carnival opens next Tuesday, July 28, from 7 to 11 p.m. It will run through Saturday.

The fair parade will start at

5:30 p.m. next Tuesday at Eighth Street and Franklin Avenue and go through downtown, then turn west to the fairgrounds on Cedar Street.

If you would like to have an entry in the parade, call or stop by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce office at 350 S. Range, 460-3401, for an entry form. These must be returned to the Chamber by 5 p.m. Friday.

# Cronkite earns high praise from politicians, media

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama praised broadcasting icon Walter Cronkite as a newsman who “never let us down.”

The 92-year-old retired CBS News anchorman died Friday night at his Manhattan home after a long illness. In a statement, Obama described Cronkite as a trusted voice who calmly guided America through wars and riots, marches and milestones.

“His rich baritone reached millions of living rooms every night, and in an industry of icons, Walter set the standard by which all others have been judged,” Obama said. “But Walter was always more than just an anchor. He was family. He invited us to believe in him, and he never let us down.”

“Through it all, he never lost the integ-

egrity he gained growing up in the heartland,” Obama said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, on a diplomatic mission in India, said she and former President Bill Clinton became friends with Cronkite in the early 1990s and found him to be a man filled with “energy and life.”

“It’s a great time to look back and think about someone who played such a major role in explaining what was going on and did it in a calm, fact-based way without embellishments that too often get in the way of really understanding what’s going on,” she said.

Cronkite’s death also brought praise from Washington lawmakers.

“I’m saddened to learn of the passing of

Walter Cronkite, one of the most influential newsmen of our time,” said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. “I will never forget our memorable visit together to Hanoi on the 10th anniversary of the fall of Saigon.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Cronkite “was the face and voice of American journalism for generations.” The California Democrat said “he set the standard for news even today: fair and thorough.”

“From the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, to the war in Vietnam, to the landing on the moon 40 years ago next week, Walter Cronkite delivered the news and provided trusted commentary on the events that shaped our history,” she said.

Pelosi said Cronkite should be honored “by remembering the essential role that a

free press plays in our democracy, and by protecting the right of journalists to report the news.”

House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio said Cronkite “was a giant in his field and a welcome guest in American families’ homes for decades.”

“From the Kennedy assassination to the moon landing and beyond, he was always there to inform and educate us, with the high standards and rigorous commitment to the truth that Edward R. Murrow set at CBS News.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., called Cronkite “One of the most iconic news reporters of the 20th century.”

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