



10 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Senate seat tops the ballot Tuesday

### Moran makes last visit here

By Vera Sloan  
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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 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

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## 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 north-west 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 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 brahma 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 a time 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.



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## 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:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 89.  
**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.  
**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 94.  
**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 66.  
**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 93.

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)

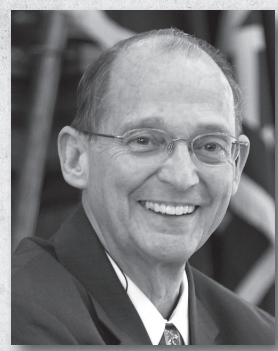
**Sunrise and Sunset**  
 Tuesday 6:46 a.m. 8:54 p.m.  
 Wednesday 6:47 a.m. 8:53 p.m.  
 (U.S. Naval Observatory)

**Colby Water Use**  
 Friday - Sunday 2,670,000 gal. average use  
 (Colby Public Works)

Dr. Jim  
**MORRISON**

“TESTED. TRUSTED. A PROVEN LEADER.”


 **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.



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