



All eyes turn to Tuesday's election

Will Democrats hold on to their majority in Congress? Will the Republicans make a clean sweep of Kansas offices? These questions and more will be answered when voters head to the polls Tuesday.

Area Candidates

Republican Jim Morrison is running unopposed for the 121st District of the Kansas House of Representatives, covering Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and Graham counties. Morrison beat Brenda McCants of Goodland in the August primary election, where he received 63 percent of



the vote.

In an interview in June, Morrison said this would be his last race. The veteran legislator said he was encouraged to run by the Republican leadership because of

his seniority. With 18 years in the House, he is one of the five longest-serving members.

At the county level, there are no contests.

Republican Byron Sowers is running unopposed for commissioner from District 1. The district includes Rovohl, Wendell, Lacey, Smith, Menlo, North Randall and South Randall townships and half of Morgan Township.

Republican Lora Volk is running unopposed for register of deeds.

Nine candidates are running for town-

ship clerk positions: Republicans Pat Tinkham, Barrett; Dave Bowman, West Hale; Don Cranston, Kingery; Dee Olson, Summers; Loren Guill, Menlo; Travis Elias, North Randall; and Shawn Fromholtz, Morgan; and Democrats Pete Ziegelmeier, Lacey; and Gary Ostmeyer, South Randall.

All of the clerk candidates are running unopposed in their townships, although one was contested in the primary. Republican Marshall Rhea was narrowly defeated by Dee Olson for the Summers Township nomination.

There are no candidates in Wendell, East Hale, Rovohl and Smith townships.

State Offices

Some of the big races this year are at the state level, where Republicans are hoping for a clean sweep of the state's elected offices.

Republican Sam Brownback, a two-term U.S. senator, is expected to win the governorship over Democrat Tom Holland, a veteran state senator. When Brownback last ran for re-election to the

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Sales tax hike opponents expect wins in election

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA - Kansas Republicans who opposed this year's sales tax increase hope Tuesday's election boosts their numbers in the Legislature, with races also likely to influence how much help the new governor gets as he pursues his agenda.

Republicans aren't in danger of losing their majority in the Kansas House, even though all 125 seats are on the ballot. Only two of the GOP-controlled Senate's 40 seats are on the ballot because of mid-term vacancies.

Instead, both parties are watching to see how much the election hurts the coalition of Democrats and dissident "moderate" Republicans who pushed the sales tax increase through the House over the objections

of its GOP leaders. The result has implications for the governor voters choose, whether it's Republican Sam Brownback or Democrat Tom Holland.

"I'm trying to be realistic, but we're going to pick up some seats," said House Speaker Mike O'Neal, a Hutchinson Republican who opposed the tax increase. "There's going to be Democrat seats going Republican. We just don't know how many."

Republicans at all levels across the nation anticipate a surge in their political fortunes, fueled by voters' anger over the economy and frustration with President Barack Obama and fellow Democrats who control Congress.

In GOP-leaning Kansas, Brownback, a two-term U.S. senator, is favored to win the governor's race

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Vandals were busy before dark on Halloween, when someone sprayed black paint on the white public restrooms and a nearby tree in Fike Park either late in the afternoon or early in the evening on Sunday. City employee Robert Taylor used a graffiti spray to cover some of the damage.

Vandals paint tree, building at Fike Park on Halloween

Vandals apparently struck twice at Colby parks on Halloween. Police received reports of vandalism Sunday in Fike and Phillips parks.

Police Chief Randy Jones said the shelter house and a nearby tree in Fike Park were damaged by spray paint.

The vandals scrawled initials

on the tree, along with several unidentifiable words and lewd images on the south and west walls of the building. The paint damage was detected and reported fairly early in the evening, Jones said.

Police were out early Monday morning to take pictures of the paint and city employee Robert Taylor had already repainted some

of the building.

There was also damage reported to the shelter house and a picnic table in Phillips Park on west Fourth Street earlier Sunday. Taylor said city employees drove through the park but didn't notice any damage. Jones said he hadn't been out to look at Phillips Park yet.

Colby grad picked for internship

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press vsloan@nwkansas.com

Collin Bielser, 2004 Colby High School graduate, is one of 23 public administration graduate students at the University of Kansas to be chosen for internships in government and public service offices throughout the United States. He completed a masters of urban planning in May, 2010, and began

working at the Mid-America Regional Council in Kansas City, Mo., as a transportation intern.

Bielser, son of Roy and Shelli Bielser of Colby, is a first-year student doing a part-time management internship with Douglas County.

"My goal is to be a community development director, or city manager of a small community like Colby," Bielser said. "I'm the only one out of the

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SHELBY PULKRABEK/Colby Free Press

Thrills but no chills on warm Halloween

The weather was warm and clear this weekend, making for a pleasant Halloween for area kids. Students from the Puddle Duck Preschool (above) went trick-or-treating around downtown Colby, picking up some M&Ms from the Colby Free Press on Friday morning. The American Youth Soccer Organization opened its annual haunted house Thursday at Griffin Plumbing. This headstone (left) was part of the decorations, which included a giant inflatable black cat.



Briefly

Hospital plans diabetes class

Citizens Medical Center will be holding a class for patients with diabetes, "Journey for Control: Let's Talk About Diabetes and Healthy Eating," from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday in the new conference room at the hospital, 100 E. College Drive. This class will focus in on the importance of nutrition; the relationships among blood glucose, insulin, and food; how food affects your blood glucose; and strategies for healthy eating. Courtney McCarty and Jeanene Brown are teaching the class, which is limited in size. Register by calling Brown at (785) 460-4850.

Accountants to have After 5

Colby accounting firm Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball will hold a Business After 5 reception at 5 p.m. Wednesday at the firm's office, 505 N. Franklin Ave. Business After 5 receptions are sponsored monthly by

the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce. For information, call the Chamber at 460-3401.

City powering town for 100 years

The City of Colby will mark 100 years of municipal public power with cake and coffee at 7 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall, just before the regular meeting of the City Council at 7:30 p.m. For information, call Jo Strange at 460-4400.

Red Cross to collect blood twice

The American Red Cross will have blood drives, from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Colby Community Building and from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the student union at Colby Community College. Schedule an appointment online at redcrossblood.org or call Trudy Wildeman in the college Health Science Building at (785) 460-4797. Walk-ins are welcome.

Brewster church to serve turkey

The Brewster United Methodist Church will hold its annual turkey supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the church, 202 Nebraska Ave. Donations will be accepted for mission projects. For information, call the church at (785) 694-2463.

Driver's license office to close

The state driver's license office in Colby, along with all offices in the western half of the state, will be closed for a training session Thursday. All license offices will close for the session, with offices in the eastern half of the state closing Wednesday. For information, call (785) 296-3041.

Heartland banquet will be Friday

Heartland Christian School will hold the "Partners for the Future" endowment banquet at 6:30 p.m.

Friday at the school. Tickets are \$15 each from the school office. Sandra Aldrich will speak. For information, call the office at 460-6419.

Diplomats' fall luncheon Nov. 17

The Colby Diplomats would like to invite the women of Thomas County to their annual Fall Luncheon from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, at the United Methodist Church. The theme this year is "Say Yes to the Dress." Admission is \$12 per person; reservations should be mailed to Peg Tole, 610 W. Webster, no later than next Monday.

