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STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Sen.-elect Jerry Moran addressed a crowd at a Hoxie Rotary Club meeting Tuesday at Trish's Steakhouse. Moran was in western Kansas for his annual listening tour before heading back to Washington next week.

Senator-elect speaks in Hoxie

By Kevin Bottrell and Steve Haynes

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In his last tour as a U.S. representative after 14 years, Sen.-elect Jerry Moran stopped by the Hoxie Rotary Club on Tuesday to continue his annual listening tour of the 1st District.

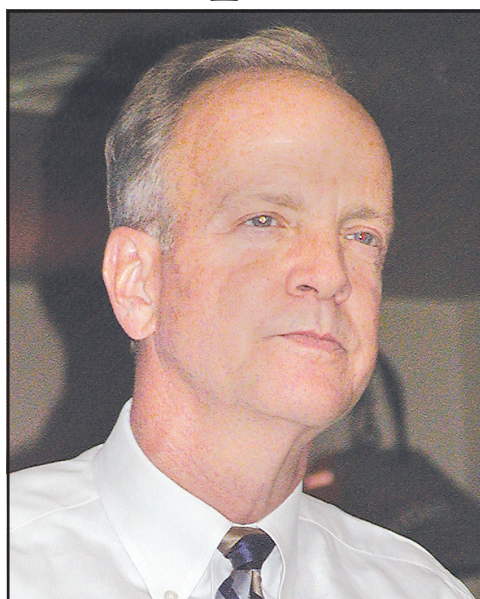
Moran said he is heading back to Washington early next week to be sworn in to the Senate, but because of how offices are chosen, he and his staff may be working out of a few desks in the basement until April.

The veteran legislator took questions from the Rotarians, many of whom he knew by name. Including several citizens who arrived after lunch, about 32 people jammed the back room at Trish's Steakhouse.

Banker Harry Joe Pratt asked Moran what he thought about term limits.

"I don't want to sound hypocritical about this," Moran replied. "I voted for 12-year term limits, but I've been in the House 14 years."

A bigger problem, perhaps, he said, is that



many members serve their terms trying to avoid offending anyone who might hire or support them as a lobbyist after they "retire."

When he retires, he added, it'll be to Kansas. Coming home to his family in Kansas

each week, rather than living in Washington, gives him "a dose of reality," the senator-elect said.

People in Kansas are more polite, he said, but what he hears when he goes to the store or the post office or his church in Hays is, "What on earth are you idiots in Washington doing?"

Feedlot manager Scott Foote asked the congressman about the role of government in business, using subsidies that help companies build broadband Internet systems in rural areas as an example.

Foote said the subsidies, which come from a tax levied on all land-line and mobile phone bills, may promote competition, which will be good for people out here. Moran said he had supported that law, noting that it originally was intended to help build systems which lacked high-speed Internet service. Now, he said, it's being used to subsidize competition for existing systems.

The problem, Foote said, is that government often limits competition. Laws favor bigger businesses and ant-trust regulations

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New Year's may be white in Colby area

By Kevin Bottrell

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Thomas County students may get a good snow on the last weekend of the holiday break. The National Weather service is predicting snow Thursday night and Friday, but clear skies and temperatures in the 20s and 30s over the weekend.

Colby, Brewster and Golden Plains schools, as well as Colby Community College, will be back in session Monday. Sacred Heart Catholic School and Heartland Christian School will reopen Tuesday.

The Colby Free Press office will be closed Friday and there will be

no paper that day. The advertising deadline for the Monday paper and for the Country Advocate will be noon Thursday.

City Hall and other city offices will be closed Friday. City sanitation crews will not be working Friday or Saturday. Anyone on the Friday residential route will have their trash picked up Thursday. Have tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m.

Most Thomas County offices will be open on New Year's Eve, but will have Monday off. The Thomas County Landfill will be open Friday but closed Saturday. It will open again Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. and close Monday along

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Larry Havel stoked the fire Monday in one of the pot-bellied stoves at his new antique store at 820 S. Franklin in Colby. Havel says he has been doing nickel and chrome plating since 1985 and has a special love for old stoves. He said it takes only an armload of wood to keep the 1,600-square-foot showroom warm for several hours.

New antique shop keeps fires burning

By Vera Sloan

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Nothing warms a room on a cold winter day like a good fire in a pot-bellied stove. And if you don't agree with that, just ask Larry Havel of Colby.

Havel opened the doors of Gizmo's to the public Dec. 23, at 820 S. Franklin Ave. in the former Butterfield Convenience Store, to sell beautifully restored stoves from "the good old days" and other antiques.

"The stoves date back as far as the 1880s," Havel said, "and there's about any size and shape you'd want."

Havel, is originally from Atwood, said he remembers an especially tall stove his dad would

fire up to heat the farm shop, but didn't give a second thought that the old stove would some day be a valuable antique.

"I guess I've restored over 500 for myself to sell and between 300 and 400 for other people," he said. "People who live in the mountains love them. I'd haul eight to 10 at a time to a friend in Idaho Springs (Colo.), and in about two months, he'd have them all sold."

Havel said he moved to Kentucky on a whim in the early 1970s for about 15 years to work for Sears doing kitchen construction. He moved back to Colby in 1985 to buy the old Hess Lumber Yard building across from the Co-op elevator, where he set up a chrome shop.

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Twenty area students chosen for leadership class

Twenty sophomores from Thomas County high schools have been chosen for the Leadership Thomas County 2011 youth class.

Class members were recommended by their superintendents and principals, said Leilani Thomas, who teaches the class along with Cindy Black of High Plain Printing.

Each year, Thomas said, the group asks administrators to recommend students who have leadership potential and would benefit from some training.

The first of four class sessions

will be Wednesday, Jan. 12, at the Colby Fire Department. The group will do a service project.

Thomas said the class includes hands-on training in areas like cooperation, teaching and facilitating discussions. The students even teach a classroom session at Colby Community College at the end of the course.

Students selected include: **Brewster High:** William Allen, Amber Barrie, Dan Brown and Michael Schmidt.

Heartland Christian School: Alexi Regier, Codey Schmeiser

and Jeni Wood.

Colby High School: Rockell Bedore, Lauren Bell, Gabrielle Browne, Matthew Dickman, Alex Juennemann, Cameron McLaughlin, Tomi Miller, Dustin Reed and Zane Winger.

Golden Plains High School: Jose Bermudez, Andrew Luna, Angela Ritter and Morgan Walz. Students attend the class on a scholarship from the Kansas Health Foundation, which has also provided training for the teachers.

Thomas said she is hoping to get an adult leadership class together

in the spring. There hasn't been an adult Leadership Thomas County class for several years, she said. The class is open to any county resident. Thomas said people can nominate themselves or others.

"It's not just for people who want to run for city council," she said. "If someone wants to be a den mother or a little-league coach, that's leadership too."

Dates and times haven't been set, she said, but the six-session class would likely run from March to May. Anyone interested should call Thomas at 460-3401.

Briefly

Blood drives here next week

The American Red Cross will be collecting blood from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday and 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. next Wednesday at the Colby Community Building. Go to redcrossblood.org or call (800) 733-2767 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome. The agency needs volunteers to help at the Colby drives. For information, call coordinator Bev Vaughn at 462-3861 or 443-1467.

Head Start looking for kids

Head Start, a tuition-free preschool, is accepting applications for its 2011-2012 school year. The school accepts applications all year long for kids aged 3 and 4. For information, or to get an application, call 460-6067.

Courthouse elevator work delayed

The elevator at the Thomas County Courthouse will be out of service Friday so a new motor starter can be installed. The work had been scheduled for Tuesday and today. For information, call County Clerk Shelly Harms at 460-4500.

Hill City artist featured at museum

Works by Hill City artist and teacher David Chalfant are on exhibit at the Prairie Museum of Art and History through the end of the week. His sculptures and paintings have been shown in regional and national shows. For information, contact the museum at 460-4590 or museumed@st-tel.net.

Youth league to meet Wednesday

A parent-player meeting for Youth League Basket-

ball will begin at 8 p.m. next Wednesday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Coach Matt Ludwig said the cost is \$20 per player, and games will begin the following weekend. For information, call the church at 462-2761.

College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool will be open for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. this week. Director Kip Nelson said the pool will be closed Friday and remain closed until Tuesday, Jan. 11, due to a lack of life guards. He suggested checking the website www.colbycc.edu to see if the schedule has changed, or calling (785) 460-5476.

Group does private well testing

The Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group in Colby tests private wells for bacteria and other contamination. For questions, call (785) 462-8636 or stop by the office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 4, Colby. Call the Thomas County Health Department, 460-4596 to set up an appointment.



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