

from our viewpoint...

Moran's choice benefits our district

Jerry Moran's decision to, at this time, seek another term in the U.S. House of Representative and bypass a shot at the governor's office next year, was probably in his and his district's best interest.

Rep. Moran, a member of Congress since 1997, is probably the best known of all politicians in the state. After all his district — the huge First district — includes 69 of the state's 105 counties.

The Moran name is a household word.

His decision to stay put is somewhat of a blow to the Republican's hopes of unseating current Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. With Moran out of the race there is certain to be a flurry of filings for that job and when that happens — like it happened in our last gubernatorial race — the GOP beat itself up so badly that Sebelius was able to waltz into office.

Had Moran moved toward a stab at the governor's chair, there would have been no primary battle. No bloodshed.

Rep. Moran is a respected and influential member of the U.S. House. He is one of those politicians that few people — Democrat as well as Republican — take issue with. He's got a way with those he represents. And despite having one of the largest district's in the entire country, Rep. Moran still gets around to see "the folks."

It is our belief that Moran's decision to seek another term as our representative is being made for another reason: the U.S. Senate. One of these days — a few sort years — Sen. Pat Roberts will go into retirement and who could slip into his shoes better than Rep. Moran?

Something to think about. — *Tom Dreiling*

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Congratulations to the graduates

Our congratulations to Goodland High School seniors, who received their diplomas Saturday, and to the Technical College graduates, who got theirs Friday.

They have reached a milestone in life, and head into the future with the idealism of youth and the promise of unlimited possibilities.

The future is as bright today as it was 38 years ago when we sat in a hot community building wishing the high school graduation speaker would be quick.

There was a war going on across the Pacific, and we had just registered for the draft.

Going to college was our first choice, and we chose to stay a home and attend the local community college for the first two years. A four-year stint in the U.S. Navy came next, with trips to the west and east coasts, and 13 months at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The one constant was our plan to return to the hometown to work in the family newspaper business. After returning to college for two years, we did return to the home county, and — with the help of our family — became newspaper owners.

Plans don't always work out. People change,



tom betz

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circumstances change and suddenly what appeared to be the lifelong dream took a radical turn. Through all the changes and turmoil, working in journalism continues to be the career of choice.

Looking back, there are a few choices that might have been different, but there are few regrets for how the years have gone. Talking to some classmates, most would not change the paths of their lives since high school. Many returned to the hometown to raise families, and become members of the business community.

Today's students don't have to worry about a draft, despite the fact the country has troops fighting in foreign lands. Military service continues to be an option, and with the increased technology, there are plenty of educational opportunities in the different branches of the service.

For those graduating from high school, there is the opportunity to stay close to home and attend the Technical College or Colby Community College.

Those who go onto college will find it an expanding experience, and they may change their minds about what they want to do more than once before completing the journey to get their degree.

Coming back to the hometown is an option graduates ought to consider. There are opportunities to be explored, and despite what many believe, there are many good jobs here.

The opening of the Adronics/Elrob plant last week is great news for Goodland, and a step forward in the employment picture. Plans to continue expansion of the production lines through the summer will bring more jobs and hopefully start a trend of bringing families to the city.

We wish the best to all the graduates as they begin their next journey, whether it is into higher education or into the work force.

As you travel down life's path, look around you, for opportunity may be closer to home than you think.

Cooking for that special family picnic

COLUMBIA, S.C. — For Mother's Day, I got to do something I love and don't often get to do — cook, and feed my children.

I enjoy trying new recipes and making the old standbys, but since I've been on a diet this last year, with just Steve and me at home I seldom get the chance to do more than warm up leftovers.

Sunday, however, we were in South Carolina visiting our youngest daughter, a graduate student at the university there.

When she was home for Christmas, I fixed everyone fried chicken, and when we were planning our trip to the South, she said she wanted me to make fried chicken so we all, including her new boy friend, could go on a picnic.

What did I need?

Well, I said, it doesn't take much — chicken, flour, oil and a frying pan. At home I use an electric skillet, I told her, but any frying pan will do.

Oops. There was no frying pan. She didn't have one. Her boyfriend didn't have one. Even her sister, who is married and only lives an hour away in Augusta, Ga., didn't have one.

Brad, the boyfriend, must have really wanted that fried chicken. He went out and bought a new electric skillet.

The rest of the menu was potato salad, bread-and-butter sandwiches and carrot and celery strips.

We stopped by the store after church and picked up the chicken, potatoes, bread, celery and carrots. We were ready to cook.

The potatoes were small so I figured I'd boil them whole, because they say that is better for you. Since I usually figure on 20 to 30 minutes for potato chunk, I estimated an hour to boil the potatoes, then another 30 minutes to let them cool and put the potato salad together.

The chicken takes an hour, so I put the potatoes on while Brad screwed the legs in the new skillet and put the lid together.

I added oil and got my chicken pieces out and ready to go into the flour.

Then I checked the potatoes.



cynthia haynes

open season

Good grief. They were almost done. They'd been on for less than 20 minutes.

I quickly moved them off the heat and started frying chicken like my life depended on it.

I soon had the chicken ready, plus the potato salad and even mashed potatoes and gravy, as I found out that Brad doesn't like mayonnaise but loves mashed potatoes.

The rest of the crew buttered the bread and

slapped the slices together for the sandwiches and packed up the picnic.

We were off.

In the park, I confessed to the too-quickly done potatoes and youngest daughter assured me that it took her a month to learn to cook at nearly sea level. She said after her cooking stuff arrived, she burned everything for a month.

What about before her stuff arrived, I asked. Oh, she said. It took most of a month for the moving van to get from Kansas to South Carolina and she slept on the floor in a sleeping bag and ate ramen noodles out of the cup.

Now, I know why I have this urge to feed my children.



garfield

