

Will the Republican party heal by November election

Kansas Republicans are making noises about trying to make peace after some bloody primary battles.

While we expect the party to pull together this fall, some of the wounds will take longer to heal than others.

Perhaps the nastiest fight was between Rep. Jerry Moran of Hays and Rep. Todd Tiahrt of Goddard for the open U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sam Brownback, the GOP candidate for governor.

This one degenerated into bitter name-calling before it was over, with each candidate's staff issuing blistering attacks on the other guy. Mr. Tiahrt's campaign tried to use ancient votes from Mr. Moran's days in the state Senate more than 15 years ago to prove he was not a "true conservative."

Dedicated groups including Kansas Right to Life backed Mr. Tiahrt despite the fact that both had sterling records on the group's issues. You'd think the group would have done its cause more good by sitting this one out, and in the general election, you'd have to believe its leaders will back Mr. Moran over a Democrat.

Alliances among right-wing "social conservatives" such as Mr. Brownback, Right to Life, Mr. Tiahrt and others are strong, apparently, and Mr. Moran is seen as too independent, not "one of them."

Still, when the shouting dies down and he's the new senator, who will they have to turn to in Washington? Even the new governor will have to go hat in hand when he wants help in the Capital. And Mr. Moran is a conservative, though more in the mold of Bob Dole than Mr. Brownback.

So Sen. Moran should survive with little damage. Our bet is that Mr. Tiahrt will stay in Washington and become a highly paid lobbyist for conservative causes or maybe the aerospace companies he was so fond of in Wichita.

He'll live, and live well.

And the governor? Maybe he can trade a few tips for a hearing with the freshman senator. He did spend 14 years in the Senate.

Out West, the six-way campaign for the House seat Mr. Moran left to run for the Senate generated its own heat. Candidates tried to outdo each other at calling themselves conservative. State Sen. Tim Huelskamp won handily, maybe because he'd proven over the years that he was the most conservative. Unlike many of the candidates, he had a voting record to prove it.

Sen. Jim Barnett has his Emporia-based Senate seat to keep him warm next winter. Other candidates did not fare so well.

Tracy Mann, a young businessman who lives in Salina but made much of his roots in Quinter, took the brunt of the last-minute attacks. Trouble was, in his case, the charges stuck.

Mann stood accused of being a carpetbagger, having moved back to the district only last year from Johnson County, and being on record as having given \$500 to the Senate campaign of former Rep. Jim Slattery, a liberal Democrat, against Republican Pat Roberts just two years ago.

There's nothing illegal about either thing, of course, but if you're going to run in a Republican primary, those are things that count against you. We'd be willing to bet that's why he lost.

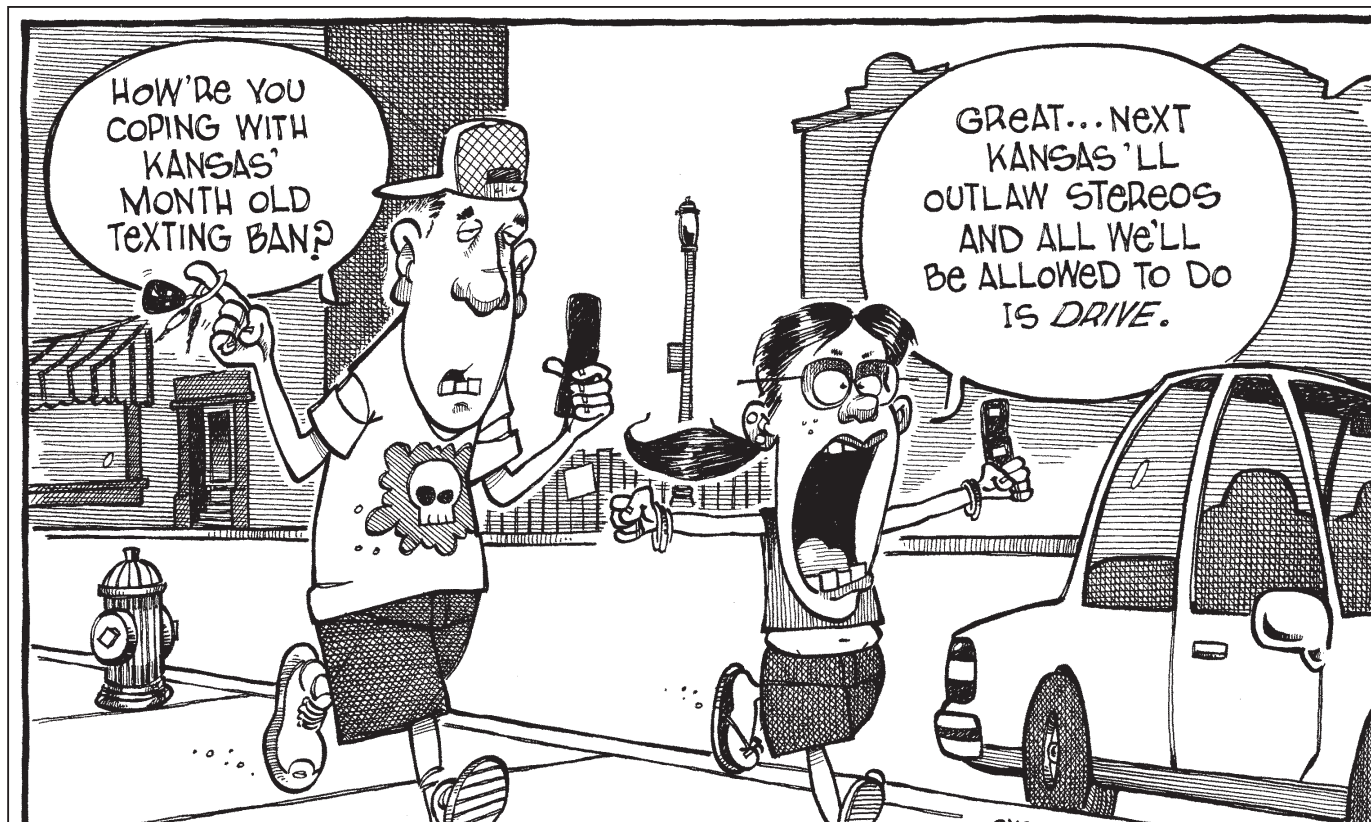
Many other races involved smaller fights, some mostly clean, others not so. The Kansas Republican party generally survives these. It will this year, too.

Mr. Moran and Mr. Brownback, leading the ticket, both have proven they can win elections and appeal to a large spectrum of voters. Both should win handily in November.

Their positions to the right and farther to the right will not hurt them. Voters will see them as good men trying to do the right thing for the state.

Some of the others will be trying to figure out what happened for years.

Steve Haynes



Democracy, appealing but can be disgusting

First and foremost we must remember things will not always go our way which is what makes democracy such an appealing and disgusting form of government at the same time.

Previously, I alluded to my position on the assisted suicide ruling when we lived in Oregon. Oregon's assisted suicide law was initially passed in 1994 with 51% of the voters in favor. Enactment, however, was delayed by a legal injunction. In 1997 voters were asked to repeal the Death with Dignity Act; it was rejected by a 60%-40% margin. In 2001, Attorney General John Ashcroft "issued a new interpretation of the Controlled Substances Act, which would prohibit doctors from prescribing controlled substances for use under the Death with Dignity Act." After legal maneuvering which resulted in the Supreme Court upholding the lower court's decision it is in effect, although still very controversial.

I supported the idea of assisted suicide, I did not vote for the proposed law in 1994.

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



most recent vote represents the majority of the people of California? No, but the ones who cared enough to vote had their say. The people of California have been of two minds in recent elections so who makes the call now?

Up to now the U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear arguments regarding gay marriage. The recent activities in California will probably change that. The U.S. Supreme Court is the interpreter of our laws. Our founding fathers not only had knowledge of how a country should be governed, but perhaps even more importantly they had a pretty good understanding of human behavior. William Gladstone, former British Prime Minister once said, "Justice delayed, is justice denied." Upon this we probably all agree, once again at issue is from which side we approach.

I felt it needed some fine tuning, but I was extremely disheartened when, although it had passed with the voters, a single judge stopped it from going into effect.

Now there is a similar development in California. I support gay marriage. I believe when people love each other they want something which signifies their love i.e. marriage. I don't believe being gay is a choice, but if it is all those who disagree have made the choice to be heterosexual so maybe there are, in fact, more homosexuals out there than we realize, but back to the law. I, once again, feel a judge does have an obligation to uphold the decision of the voters. Do I believe this

We country bumpkin voters surprised everyone

The recent Republican senatorial primary outcome surprised me somewhat. Not that Moran won but how he won.

The Wichita Eagle, August 5, had a rather in-depth story about the race. The relatively more conservative Tiahrt won the two most urban areas of Kansas: Johnson and Sedgwick counties.

I read the Eagle on-line. After the stories there is a place to leave comments. I read a few of those after I read the article. One reader referred to those who voted for Moran as "Country Bumpkins".

The Kansas primary garnered some national attention, at least on Fox News. Their news break noted that Tiahrt was defeated even though he had the backing of the Tea Party, Focus on the Family and some other widely recognized conservative action groups.

First, I gotta say I don't really know why Tiahrt was considered the more conservative candidate. Who knows what Moran really believes but his campaign propaganda hardly seemed moderate. But is very interesting Moran won because of "Country Bumpkins", who are perceived as unsophisticated and the most conservative of all voters.

You would expect Tiahrt to win Sedgwick County. I think even people who dis-

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Hagman



lot there really aren't a lot of choices.

Moran kind of fell into my "do not vote" category but in the end he's "our guy"! It feels so good to be relevant! The hinterlands got the vote out and "our guy" won! Take that Wichita and Overland Park! (Just like political candidates, I admit I like a little power and sometimes identify with God!)

There was a negative campaign issue to this race. Even there I feel rural voters come out looking good! Instead of falling for the nonsense we saw through it. Where were those savvy urban voters?

Negative ads are a matter of concern but the size of Moran's war chest should also give us pause! Who is he going to be behold to?

Although I did hope Moran would win, it is regrettable this race means Kansas lost the representation of both men in the house. Both districts will now have Freshmen Congressmen!

Despite the fact more conservative groups were backing Tiahrt, they will probably find much to love in Moran.

For today I'm pretty proud of rural Kansas! The big media and conventional wisdom think they have us all figured out.

Think again!

If tomorrow never comes, will you have said it all

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for my husband. What began as a routine surgery, turned into Joe bursting some external stitches and needing to have the area re-stitched. I was in Kearney for an appointment when I received a call from Joe. I could hear the panic in his voice when he asked me how quick could I get to him. I told him I would make some calls since it would take me at least the hour and a half drive back to Norton. Then to top it off, this was when highway 183 was being resurfaced and one had to take the longer route through Arapahoe. To make a long story short, I called Sandy at work, who said she would go check on Joe. Within two minutes, she was calling me back saying they were on the way to the hospital. Again, a re-stitching should be routine, right? Not this time. When I got back to Norton, there



were plans being made to fly Joe to Hays Medical Center as he would not breathe on his own when the intubation tube was being removed. Joe spent several days in the ICU in Hays and it was touch and go for awhile. Which leads me to this point, have you ever heard the English proverb, don't put off to tomorrow what you can do today? Then there is the quote - "if you love someone tell them...before it is too late" have you heard that one, too? That is what it was like for me. I told Joe that I

loved him, explained he would be flown to Hays and I said good bye to him as he laid on the table waiting for the air flight to come. In nursing school, I was trained that the last sense to go is the hearing. I know that Joe heard me utter those words but that he probably would not remember them. I keep re-running the events of that evening and those that followed, in my head, as he slowly made progress in the ICU. One did not know from one day to the next if, or when, Joe would beat the severe pneumonia that was wracking his lungs. It was with the prayers that were offered that I truly believe brought him home. I am truly appreciative of all the prayers and concerns. But if you get nothing else from this, please don't put off telling someone that you love them. Do this everyday, for YOU do not know what tomorrow will bring.

Sarah Durham, Norton

THUMBS UP!
Remember to send Thumbs Up to: norton-telegram@nwkansan.com, call 877-3361 or mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. There is no charge for rendering a Thumbs Up. Thumbs Up are meant to give recognition for a positive person or event in the community.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM
ISSN 1063-701X
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654
Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

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Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002

Kansas Press Association