

## Change taking root in Kansas Republicans

Change has taken root in the Kansas Republican party, and you can hear the wailing across the state.

Whether the change will make the party stronger or weaker or better, we can't say, but things will be different.

One of the sounds you hear is the lifeboats being lowered as some of the staunchest of the party's former moderate leaders jump ship, led by the three Republican members of the so-called "Gang of Six" formed to support the campaign of Democrat Paul Davis for governor.

The three - state Insurance Commissioner Sandy Prager, former U.S. Sen. Sheila Frahm of Colby and former Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services Rochelle Chronister - are all former state legislators who've grown uncomfortable with the party under Gov. Sam Brownback.

The difference could not be more clear, for as governor, Mr. Brownback has curbed state spending, cut the budget and attacked the income tax. Many Kansans would say he is on the right track.

The more liberal wing of the party, however, had a hand in building up state government and genuinely feels they were doing the right thing. After decades in control, however, this wing of the party is out of power. Backing a Democrat whom they agree with may seem to be their only choice.

There should be no mistake here: At this point, there is a difference between the two parties.

Those who believe a bigger state, spending more, believe they are right, and so do those who want to see a smaller government footprint.

Voters have seldom had as clear a choice in this state. We're not prepared to make a prediction, but despite all the criticism heaped on him the last couple of years, Sam Brownback has not lost a statewide race dating back to 1996, when he defeated Mrs. Frahm for the U.S. Senate. He trounced former Gov. John Carlin in a 1994 House race.

A great deal hinges on who does win this fall, so there will be a lot of money spent, both Kansas money and money from national groups, liberal and conservative, who see Kansas as a battleground for issues - such as school spending - that may be decided here.

The more interesting questions, however, revolve around whether those scuttling over the side will become permanent Democrats or return to the GOP once the election is over. A lot may depend on which side prevails, but many former Republicans may well stay in the other party.

It's been said for many years that to get elected in this state, you had to be a Republican - unless your name was Docking. We suspect many who once thought that have become less than comfortable in today's GOP. Change may become permanent and the two parties may be more competitive.

This is going to be one interesting election. - Steve Haynes



## The Gardener

### Radishes are first true taste of spring

By Kay Melia [vkmelia@yahoo.com](mailto:vkmelia@yahoo.com)

Peter Garnham operates a 60 acre garden-farm near Amagansett, N.Y. in the Hamptons, toward the north end of Long Island, with easy access to Louse Lake and Wood Tick Road. Mr. Garnham's farm is nestled in between lush golf courses and beautiful old New York homes, and he finds time to write garden articles regularly for Horticulture Magazine. He is a Master Gardener.

And he writes very well, thank you! In the July-August edition of last summer he wrote lovingly about radishes. That may be about the only thing Peter Garnham and I have in common. We both really enjoy radishes. But he has a 60 acre garden and mine is about 70 feet by 60 feet. But we both like radishes because they are one of the earliest and easiest garden vegetables to grow, and offer one of the most unique flavors of all the things we grow.

The radish is a member of the brassica {cabbage} family, and is often dismissed as mere decoration. However, they offer decent quantities of potassium, folate, vitamin C and fiber, and the leaves when picked early and cooked as a green vegetable are delicious and even more nutritious.

Mr. Garnham says the range of shapes and colors of radishes are just amazing---red, pink, purple, white, yellow, red and white, and even black. The Chinese red meat radish is green on the outside and red on the inside, like a tiny watermelon. Then, there is the rat-tail radish, and despite it's name, Mr. Garnham says it is delicious. I'll take his word for it.

As Peter Garnham says, there are not many vegetables that are so easily successful in the garden and the kitchen as radishes. He grows many, many long rows of just about all the radishes you might see in your average garden catalog. He is also a member of the Seed Saver's Exchange, and as such, he has access to many old and unusual varieties that we never see. Mr. Garnham says the market for radishes is very good right now and they seem to be in great demand.

Peter Garnham says we all may be missing the most important flavor and healthful aspects of radishes by throwing out the tops. When picked young, he enjoys the leaves sliced into green salads. Indeed, the spicy flavor can add a different essence to a spring salad. He also cooks the young tops for a

unique flavor of greens not found in spinach and chard.

Radishes are also fast growing and can be used to mark a row of carrots which are notoriously slow to germinate. Most of the radishes will be harvested by the time the carrots are emerging.

You must keep an eye out for those miserable little hopping flea beetles. I dispatch them at first sight with a pyrethrum compound called 5% Sevin Dust. Mr. Garnham, an organic gardener, admits to using Sevin as a last resort to save his radish crop, although he calls it "an extreme measure." I call it extremely effective.

My favorite variety of radish is an oldie called German Giant, a dependably large red globe with true radish flavor. It is never hot, never pithy, always productive. Another excellent choice is Fire 'n Ice from Burpee, a 3 to 4 inch long radish that is red on top and white on the bottom.

Radishes, to me, are the first true taste of spring. Anyone can grow them successfully, and you'll be enjoying them only 30 days after planting. Do it!!

## Legislative News

### Appreciate citizen's input

By Ward Cassidy [wardcassidy@kslegislature.org](mailto:wardcassidy@kslegislature.org)

120th State Representative

I really appreciate those of you that contacted me about my vote on the Religious Freedom Act. My specific question was: does this bill discriminate against anyone, in any way? I was assured that all this bill did was to focus on a very narrow set of circumstances where an individual could not be sanctioned, because of strongly held religious beliefs, to provide marriage services for a same-sex wedding. I do not condone discrimination. After seeing how the bill was going to possibly be interpreted

I wrote a letter of rebuttal and gave it to the Speaker the next day. I made a mistake and apologize for it. Again, thank you to those who asked before posting on facebook.

The past two weeks, I have been working on state budgets. It is wonderful to have a two-year budget in place, as we have more time to study and delve into areas that are being inefficient. My biggest concern has been the rise in tuition costs for our Board of Regents colleges.

I have 17 agency budgets to hear in committee. We then make adjustments, pass them out of committee, and present the budgets to the full appropriations committee. K-12 Education and the Board of Regents are the two biggest budgets. The Board of Healing Arts, the State Library, the Historical Society, the School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Board of Science regulatory board all have to present their core functions and how they are measuring their effectiveness.

The six major college Presi-

dents all present to our committee what their universities are promoting. Then my committee has the chance to question any budget line items the universities work with. I have been on this committee for four years and the past two as chairman. I am definitely learning, but it is almost overwhelming at times. I don't get home in February, as the weekends are tied up working with legislative aides to be prepared for the following week.

The past two years, most agencies have really worked at finding inefficiencies and cost savings yet still maintain service to those needed. There are 99 agencies that go through this process. I now understand why we have an All Funds state budget in the \$14B range. What a fine line it is to provide services with taxpayer dollars.

I will schedule my own town hall meetings in April as I cannot attend with Senator Ostmeier on March 1

### Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Edwin Raile, Bird City; Althea Lebow, St. Francis; Emma Brunswig, Haigler, Neb; Jean Ann Confer, St. Francis; Marsha Magley, St. Francis; Mark Roesener, McDonald; Karen Sutter, Junction City; Harvey Neitzel, St. Francis; Rowland Roelfs, St. Francis; Les Lacy, St. Francis; Sheree Wingo, Golden, Colo.; Derek Ross, St. Francis; Bill Keller, Pratt; Jerry and Colleen Renk, Hoisington; Taylor Rahe, St. Francis; Mark and Barb Brown, St. Francis; Howard Clark, St. Francis; John Knodel, St. Francis; Doug Ross, St. Francis; Fred Stasser, St. Francis; Virginia Miley, St. Francis; Dale and Sherry Chaffin, Hays; Terri Novacek, Lawrence; Daryl Loyd, St. Francis; Dale Hill, St. Francis; Edna Schiltz, Selden; Ron Krien, St. Francis; Bill Wilson Accounting, St. Francis.

GOD SAYS But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Romans 14:10-12

## Casey's Comments

### The Dirty Word Cancer

By Casey McCormick [mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com](mailto:mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com)

Cancer is that dirty six letter word. Sad thing is, there aren't too many people around who have not had a loved one touched by the nasty stuff.

My best pal from high school is fighting it for the second time around. Wayne Falsetto beat throat cancer several years ago. Unfortunately, his old foe has showed up for another round. But I know my old Italian buddy will put up the best fight imaginable. Wayne lives in Petaluma,

California these days with his sweet wife, Carol. They just became "empty nesters", with their daughter Leah attending Cal State Davis where her older brother, Michael, just graduated from. The guy has a lot to live for, as do all of us.

I don't know which I hate more, the disease, or not being able to do much to help out my friend.

If laughter is good medicine, then our phone call last weekend should help. We reminisced about

fun times at Wheat Ridge High college days, and travels together.

After that, the most aid I can send is a word to the Man upstairs. I know I have plenty of great friends here in my adoptive home of Cheyenne County. If you could remember Wayne, along with others who need help in your prayers, it would be appreciated. Thanks for your help on this one.

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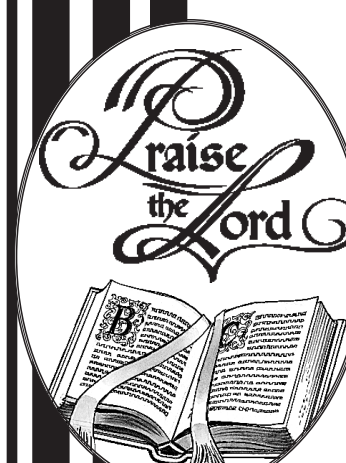
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