



## Other Viewpoints

### Make your choices in primary Tuesday

As the voter registration books slammed to a close for tomorrow's primary elections, Secretary of State Chris Biggs took advantage of the occasion to encourage eligible Kansas voters to now act on their right to cast a ballot, either in advance or by going to the polls on Tuesday.

We have no trouble endorsing his sentiment, but would add that voters affiliated with either major political party have plenty of incentive to cast a ballot this year without any additional encouragement.

Five of the state's six congressional seats — two in the Senate and four in the House — are on the ballot and there's only one incumbent in the field, Rep. Lynn Jenkins in northeast Kansas. Sen. Pat Roberts is the only member of the delegation whose seat isn't up for election this year...

Although the battle between conservative Reps. Todd Tiahrt and Jerry Moran for the Republican nomination to the Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Sam Brownback has become the noisiest and most contentious primary fight, there will be four names on the GOP ballot come Aug. 3. Five Democrats will be on their party's ballot.

In the four House races, only Democrat Alan Jilka has no primary opposition. He is seeking the 1st Congressional District seat being vacated by Moran. Six Republicans are seeking the GOP nod...

Jenkins has drawn a primary opponent in the 2nd Congressional District, and three Democrats are vying for the right to oppose her in the November general election. Five Republicans and two Democrats are seeking the 4th Congressional District seat being vacated by Tiahrt.

The retirement of Democrat Dennis Moore prompted nine Republicans to file for his 3rd Congressional District seat. Two Democrats, including Moore's wife, Stephene, are trying to keep the seat in Democrats' hands.

In all, 39 candidates filed for their party's nomination in the five primaries for federal office, which should guarantee a good turnout.

Statewide offices, where four incumbents are seeking re-election, didn't draw nearly as much primary attention, although two Democrats, including Biggs, and three Republicans entered the race for secretary of state. That is the most crowded field on the state ballot.

Brownback has an opponent in the GOP gubernatorial primary, but he is the clear favorite there to advance and face Democrat Tom Holland in November. Gov. Mark Parkinson isn't seeking re-election, and Holland is unopposed.

There is no primary in the state treasurer's race, where only one candidate in each party filed, and two Republicans will battle in the primary to be commissioner of insurance. No Democrat filed for the office.

Kansas Attorney General Steve Six, a Democrat, has no primary opposition for his re-election bid, but two Republicans are seeking their party's nomination.

Obviously, the congressional primaries are the most heavily contested and likely will drive the turnout. But there's enough interest up and down the ballot to make Kansans of both parties want to go to the polls on election day.

— *The Topeka Capital-Journal, via the Associated Press*



### Afghanistan needs 'impartial spectators'

The United States of America is engaged in a war in Afghanistan that has its supporters and detractors.

Both sides have plenty of solid reasons to support their opinions, but conversations about our role in the Asian country will go more smoothly if people on both sides of issue would take an unbiased perspective to the views of their opponents. No matter how passionate our views are about the war in Afghanistan, we should all try to be "impartial spectators" when listening to arguments that challenge our viewpoints.

The term "impartial spectator" was coined by Scottish moral philosopher Adam Smith. Most people know Smith as the author of "Wealth of All Nations." Many have called him the father of modern economics because of his views are still so influential today, but a lesser-known book Smith wrote, "Theory of Moral Sentiments," is where he talks about the role of the impartial spectator.

Smith believed people's roles as spectators were bound to be biased because of limited knowledge of a speaker's situation and lack of knowledge about his or her true sentiments. He said this problem could be solved by imagining how someone more impartial than you yourself would act. In other words, Smith wanted people to observe situations while remaining cognizant of their own biases.

The impartial spectator would certainly be an important tool to use when looking at the situation in Afghanistan. The people who are against President Barack Obama's planned



**Andy Heintz**

#### • Wildcat Ramblings

withdrawal of troops in 2011 would better understand those who want us to get out of the country as soon as possible. They would learn that the death of American soldiers at the hands of the Taliban and civilian deaths caused by U.S. air strikes have caused many people in this country to conclude the war is no longer worth fighting. Other critics believe many Afghans are fighting us because they just don't like being occupied by a foreign power.

Matthew Hoh, a former Foreign Service Officer and Marine Corps captain who became the first U.S. official to resign in protest over the war said, "Upon arriving in Afghanistan and serving in both the East and South (and particularly speaking with local Afghans), I found that the majority of those who were fighting us and the Afghan central government were fighting us because they felt occupied."

Likewise, the critics of the war would be forced to look at the likely consequences of America and our North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies withdrawing from the country. While the return of the Taliban would be bad for the whole country, it would be especially bad for women, who were treated like slaves

by the medieval regime.

*Time* magazine's cover in late July features an Afghan girl named Aisha, 18, whose nose has been cut off. The Taliban had sentenced her to have her nose and ears cut off after they caught her running away from an abusive husband. The incident didn't take place 10 years ago when the Taliban was in power, but in 2009.

Thankfully, Aisha is now protected by armed guards and is sponsored by the non-governmental organization Women for Afghan Women, Richard Stengel, managing editor of *Time* said. While it's great that Aisha has escaped her awful life, her hellish experience should remind people that women would have to endure similar experiences much more frequently if the Taliban returns to power.

That being said, there are women in Afghanistan, like democracy and human rights activist Malalai Joya, who oppose not only the Taliban, but also the U.S.-led NATO occupation and the Afghan government because of the warlords and drug lords aligned with it. There are many reasons to oppose or support this war. We should be mindful of all of them, even if we are forced to admit that our solutions, whatever they may be, may not solve all of Afghanistan's problems.

*Andy Heintz, a K-State journalism graduate, is sports reporter for the Colby Free Press. He says he loves K-State athletics and fishing, sports and opinion writing.*

### Handle anhydrous ammonia with care

After the white vapor cloud cleared, the man picked himself off the ground. The blast had knocked him 20 feet back from where he stood.

His blue denim shirt had been crystallized on his chest. A pack of cigarettes suffered the same fate; the letters "WINSTON" were burned into his chest.

Fortunately, he was wearing gloves and goggles. His eyes were spared, and the flesh burns were confined to his arms.

Lucky?

Absolutely. This man applying anhydrous ammonia escaped with his life and his health. He would have a second chance to handle this fertilizer — this time with care.

While anhydrous ammonia remains one of the most affordable farm fertilizers, the properties of this chemical make it one of the most dangerous used in agriculture.

In an attempt to hammer home this message, farm safety pioneer Lynn Buerki demonstrated the proper application of anhydrous ammonia to emergency medical personnel on his Sedgewick County farm earlier this summer.

The overriding message when handling anhydrous ammonia could be condensed into four words — caution: handle with care.

Anhydrous means without water. This means this chemical will seek out moisture, and most of the human body is made up of water.

The liquid or gas that contacts the body tissue — especially the eyes, skin and respiratory tract — will cause dehydration, cell destruction and severe chemical burns.

Anyone who handles anhydrous must keep focused on the task at hand at all times. Never think of other things — it's too dangerous.



**John Schlageck**

#### • Insights

Kansas Farm Bureau

When applying anhydrous in the field, some of the key accident situations include:

- Filling the tank more than 85 percent full.
- Leaky valves and deteriorated or out-of-date hoses.
- Handling hoses by valve handles.
- Not using protective equipment — gloves, goggles and long-sleeved clothing.
- Not bleeding anhydrous from the hose before connecting or disconnecting.
- Lack of water to flush burns in case of an accident.
- Tipping over an applicator tank by pulling at an excessive speed. Never pull a tank more than 25 mph. They aren't designed for high-speed road travel.

No one should ever handle anhydrous ammonia without proper, well-fitted goggles and rubber gloves — with the cuffs turned back so anhydrous doesn't run down your sleeve when you raise your arms. Heavy-duty, long-sleeved shirts are recommended.

Regular glasses do not provide adequate protection. The vapor will simply swirl around the lens and seek out the eye. Never wear contact lenses when working with anhydrous.

When it comes to first aid, the only suitable recourse is water, water and more water. Water must be available for flushing the eyes and

skin in case of exposure.

Should ammonia touch the skin or eyes, tissue damage occurs rapidly. Carry a five-gallon bucket in every vehicle used to handle anhydrous ammonia. Anyone handling anhydrous should carry an 8-ounce squeeze bottle of water in his or her shirt pocket for rapid emergency flushing.

Time is everything. Flush water onto the exposed skin areas or eyes immediately. Flush for at least 15 minutes.

After the victim has been flushed thoroughly, remove contaminated clothing carefully. Thaw clothing frozen to the skin by running water over it first. Never apply oils, salves or other treatment. Use water only for the first 24 hours and go to a doctor right away.

When handled safely, anhydrous ammonia remains one of the most economical sources of nitrogen available for crops. With low commodity prices, farmers need it to keep production costs in check.

Remember, don't get in a hurry. Focus on the task at hand. Don't worry about how much work you have to do. Worry about safety.

Think. Use common sense, and don't forget these tips.

*John Schlageck of the Kansas Farm Bureau is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. He grew up on a diversified farm near Seguin, and his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.*



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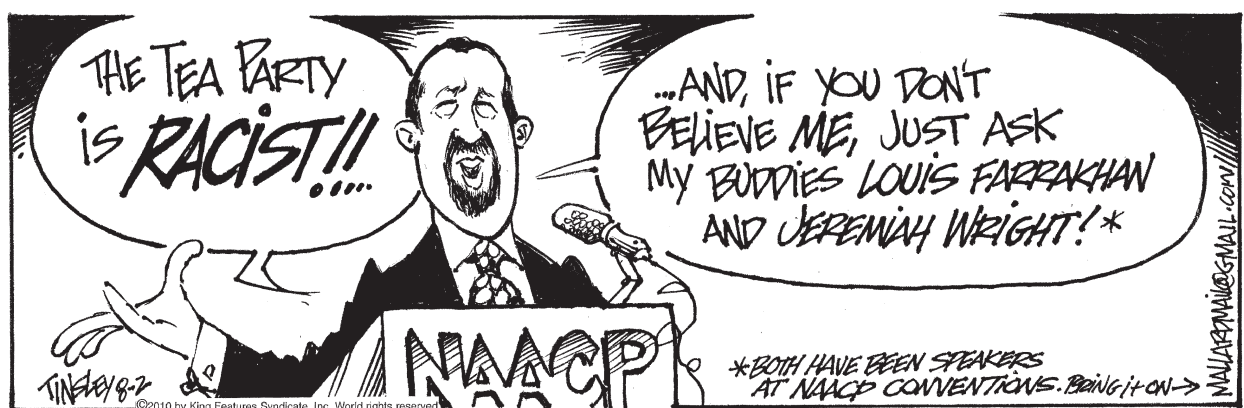
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### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley



\*BOTH HAVE BEEN SPEAKERS AT NAACP CONVENTIONS. BRING IT ON! →