

from our viewpoint...

# One week left to primary election

One week from today the political rhetoric and attacks witnessed in Kansas for the Primary Election will come to the end with the counting of the ballots and declaration of winners.

For Republicans and Democrats the election results will reduce the number of candidates for each office down to the one who will be on the General Election in November.

Republicans are deciding who will be the state representative candidate between Jim Morrison of Colby, who has held the seat for 19 years and said this is his final campaign, and Brenda McCants of Goodland, who is running to be a new strong voice for northwest Kansas in Topeka.

At the state level Republicans are choosing between Sen. Sam Brownback who wants to be the next governor and Joan Heffington of Derby who was in Goodland to visit and said she wants to give the state Republicans a choice.

Democrats will be voting for Tom Holland as their governor candidate. Many people of both parties are disappointed Gov. Mark Parkinson is not running and feel he has done a good job since Kathleen Sebelius moved to Washington to be secretary of Health and Human Services.

On the Senate race the Republicans are choosing between two Congressmen who want to move up to the higher house. The two are Todd Tiahrt of Goddard and Jerry Moran of Hays, who has been the representative for the Big First District. This race has turned negative in recent weeks with Tiahrt attacking Moran and mostly well developed rebuttals from Moran.

On the Democratic side five people are vying for the senate nomination including Robert A. Conroy of Shawnee, David Haley of Kansas City, Lisa Johnson of Overland Park, Charles Schlenberger of Prairie Village and Patrick Wiesner of Lawrence.

The race of interest to western Kansas is the six Republicans who are seeking to fill the Congressional seat in the Big First District. Five of the six Republicans have been to town to talk to supporters and hope to gather enough votes to come out the winner.

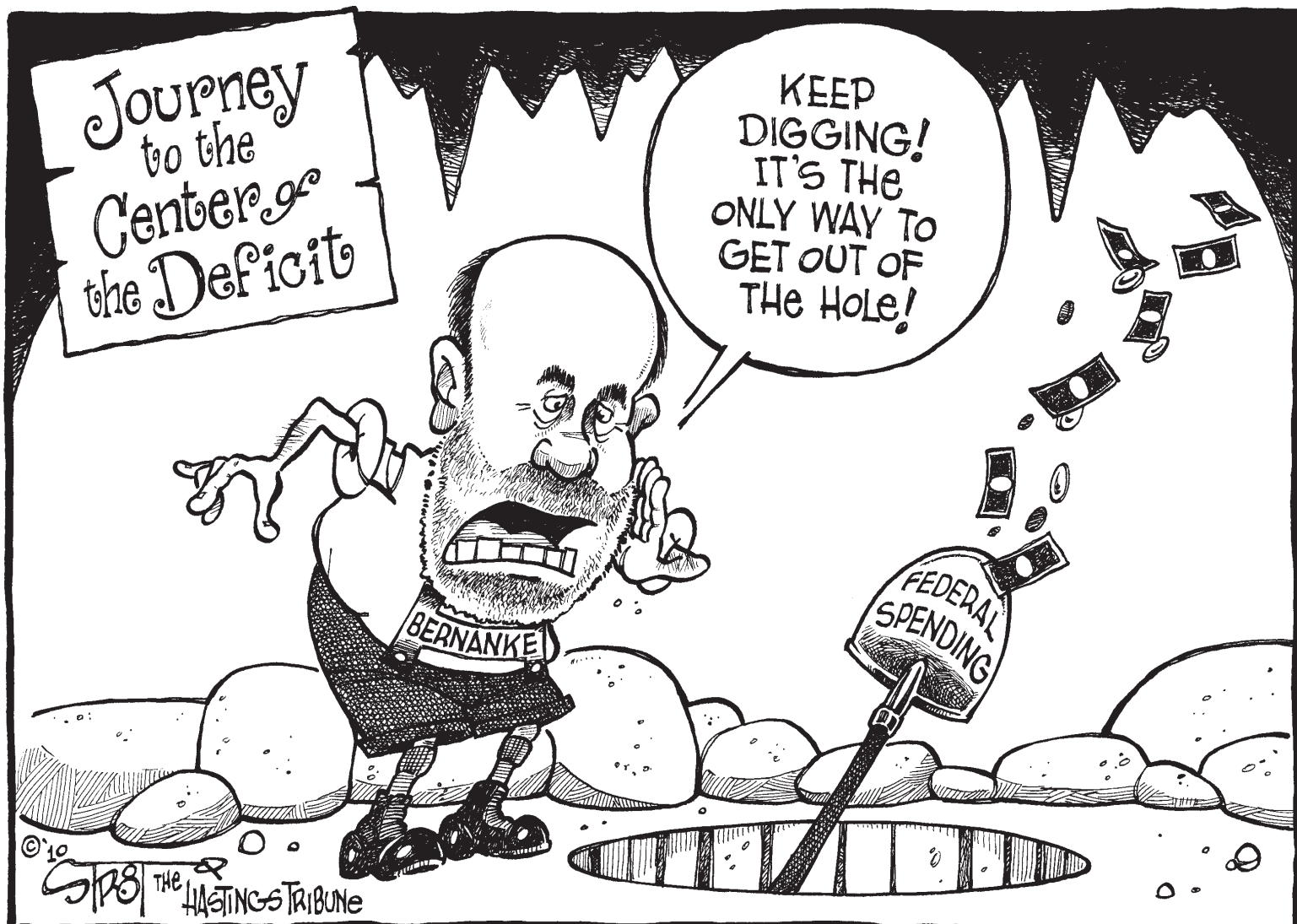
Four of the six are considered the leaders in the race. (Sen. Tim Huelskamp of Fowler, Sen. Dr. Jim Barnett of Emporia, Tracey Mann of Salina, and Rob Wasinger of Cottonwood Falls), but are nearly tied in the polls to make it a close race. In this race the winner may have less than 30 percent of the total vote. Marck Cobb of Galva hopes to be the surprising spoiler.

Democrats have a single candidate in this race, Alan Jilka of Salina, and he will be on the ballot in November facing the Republican winner. Jilka has made a couple of visits to Goodland.

For Sherman County voters this primary election is different because there is a county wide issue with the county asking to establish a 2 mill property tax levy to fund the economic development program. Currently the Sherman County Economic Development Council is funded by money from the city and the county. The mill levy would replace that money.

The citizen petitions put this on the ballot, and we agree it is something the people ought to decide. We encourage people to vote, and ask for support of the economic development mill levy.

As to the Republican races we hope McCants become the new voice for this district, and think Mann is the best choice for the Big First. — Tom Betz



# I didn't plan to learn how to give shots

I became a pharmacist, so those long year ago, because I didn't want to spend the many years in school required to be a doctor, nor did I want to carry bedpans and give shots like a nurse.

So what was I doing last week at an injection class?

I normally work two days a month or so at the Dillon's Pharmacy in Colby. Mr. Dillon pays well, and I enjoy the people I work with.

Then several months ago I was told that I needed to learn how to give injections. Mr. Dillon had decided that all Kroger stores nationwide (Dillons is a Kroger affiliate) should offer immunizations.

My first inclination was to tell them to shove it. I didn't need the job that badly, and although I enjoyed the work. I wasn't going to give shots. No way. No how.

Two things changed my mind. I would get 20 hours of continuing education credit. I need 30 hours every two years, and that would put me two-thirds of the way to what I needed for the next time it was license renewal time.

And Dillons would pay not only for the class, but for my time to take the class. And to read the book. Plus expenses.

Well, why not learn to give shots? You need to learn something new every day. You see, I'm really good at talking myself into things if you dangle enough carrots in front of me.

The first part was a scary 100-page book



**cynthia haynes**

• open season

entitled, "Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery, a National Certificate Program for Pharmacists."

Reading this and taking a self-test at the end was to take the first 12 hours I'd get paid for.

I'm not sure how many hours it actually took, but I became more and more aware that I'm not a very good student any more.

I read and reread the parts about live and inactive vaccines, intramuscular versus subcutaneous injections and who should get which, when and for how many shots of each vaccine.

If I couldn't even remember what ages and which kind of the four different types of tetanus and diphtheria shots you're supposed to get, how could I ever pass the live section of the class?

Finally, I finished the book work and headed for Salina to take the eight-hour live class.

The morning and early afternoon was mostly review of the book, and I remembered an amazing amount of what I had been trying to cram into my head for the last week or so.

In mid-afternoon, we started the real scary part of the course — giving shots.

We were each given a vial of normal saline solution (salt water), three syringes and needles, three Snoopy Band-Aids, three cotton balls and some alcohol wipes.

We learned how to attach the needles to the syringes, what angle to hold the needle to the arm and what to do if our victims (er patient) fainted.

Then we paired off and took turns practicing.

This was the part I dreaded. Though I give blood regularly, I hate needles. I didn't want to get a shot and I certainly didn't want to give one.

What if I did it wrong? What if it was really painful for me or the other person?

When it was our turn, I got my shots first — an intramuscular one in each arm and a subcutaneous one on the back of my left arm. My partner did a superb job and my reward was three Snoopy bandages.

Then I did it.

The needles slid in smoothly. The saline went in easily and the patient held the cotton ball while I put Snoopy bandages on her war wounds.

The worst was over. We took another test (I got 98 percent on both of mine) and we were certified to give injections to anyone 18 or over in the state of Kansas.

Now all I need to do is practice. Anyone need a shot?

# U.S. Chamber doesn't represent everyone

The South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce and small business organizations and owners across this country want Wall Street Reform. But you wouldn't know that from the attention the media gives to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which is the mouthpiece for the big financial institutions that oppose reform.

The U.S. Chamber purports to represent small businesses. However, the reality is quite different. The July/August edition of the Washington Monthly features an eye-opening story on Tom Donohue, the CEO of the U.S. Chamber, who has a plaque on his desk that reads, "Show me the money." In 2008, a third of the Chamber's revenues came from just 19 big companies.

When big oil, insurance and other companies are out of favor because of their greed, they turn to the U.S. Chamber to convince Congress and the public that the needed reforms are bad for business in general and small business in particular. This is exactly what is going on regarding Wall Street reform.

It's clear the U.S. Chamber does not represent the interests of small businesses that have suffered because of the irresponsible actions of the nation's biggest banks. The greed of these financial institutions collapsed our economy and shut down loans and credit lines to our small businesses. We hear macro and micro stories every day about small businesses not



**from other pens**

• commentary

getting access to the money they need. And every economist acknowledges that small businesses must hire the employees we need to lead us out of this recession just as they have in the last three economic recoveries.

But ironically, the only business sector that's apparently hiring is Wall Street, as the New York Times explains in a recent piece. Greed is still alive and well on Wall Street. And we all know that without Wall Street reform, greed will bring our economy down again and tear apart our small businesses — if we can ever get them back on their feet.

Yet, the U.S. Chamber still wants Congress and the public to be afraid — very afraid. Wall Street reform will dry up loans to small business, the U.S. Chamber warns. That's wrong. Their big bank donors are doing pretty well right now and they aren't doing that by making small business loans and investing in our communities. They're making money gambling on Wall Street.

The U.S. Chamber pretends to be a friend to Main Street worried that Sam the Butcher, Joe the Orthodontist and your local car dealer will be regulated out of business. That's not in the Wall Street reform proposal.

What the butcher, orthodontist and car dealer want are customers — the customers who lost their jobs because of Wall Street greed.

Small business supports this reform because it will restore balance between Wall Street and Main Street through fair and commonsense policies and create a stable, transparent financial environment in which community banks and credit unions can once again feel secure in making loans.

We at the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce have been strong supporters of a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to better protect consumers, which includes small businesses. We're not afraid of good regulation that keeps our customers and us safe from financial predators.

We're in favor of making banks be banks and not gambling houses. We have been strong supporters of the "Volcker Rule" to put the brakes on proprietary trading by banks — the practice that largely is responsible for bringing us to the brink of another Great Depression.

Congress should just say no to the U.S. Chamber. The financial health of our country and our small businesses depends on it.

Frank Knappm Jr. is president and CEO of The South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

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