

from our viewpoint...

GOP try to unite after the primary

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 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 it’s 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.

Moran and 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.

Others will be trying to figure out what happened. – Steve Haynes

The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
National Newspaper Association
e-mail: star.news@nwkansas.com

Steve Haynes, President
Tom Betz, Editor
Pat Schiefen, Society Editor



Jessica Corbin, Josh Harenberg, Anne Selfridge
Advertising Department

Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Nor’west Press

Richard Westfahl, General Manager
Jim Bowker, Betty Morris, James Jackson,
Lana Westfahl, Kris McCool, Stacy Brashear, Tracy Traxel,
Gary Meyer, Judy McKnight



nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services
(nt.betz@nwkansas.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkansas.com)

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: star-news@nwkansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkansas.com

The Goodland Star-News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

Incorporating:

The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

The Sherman County Herald

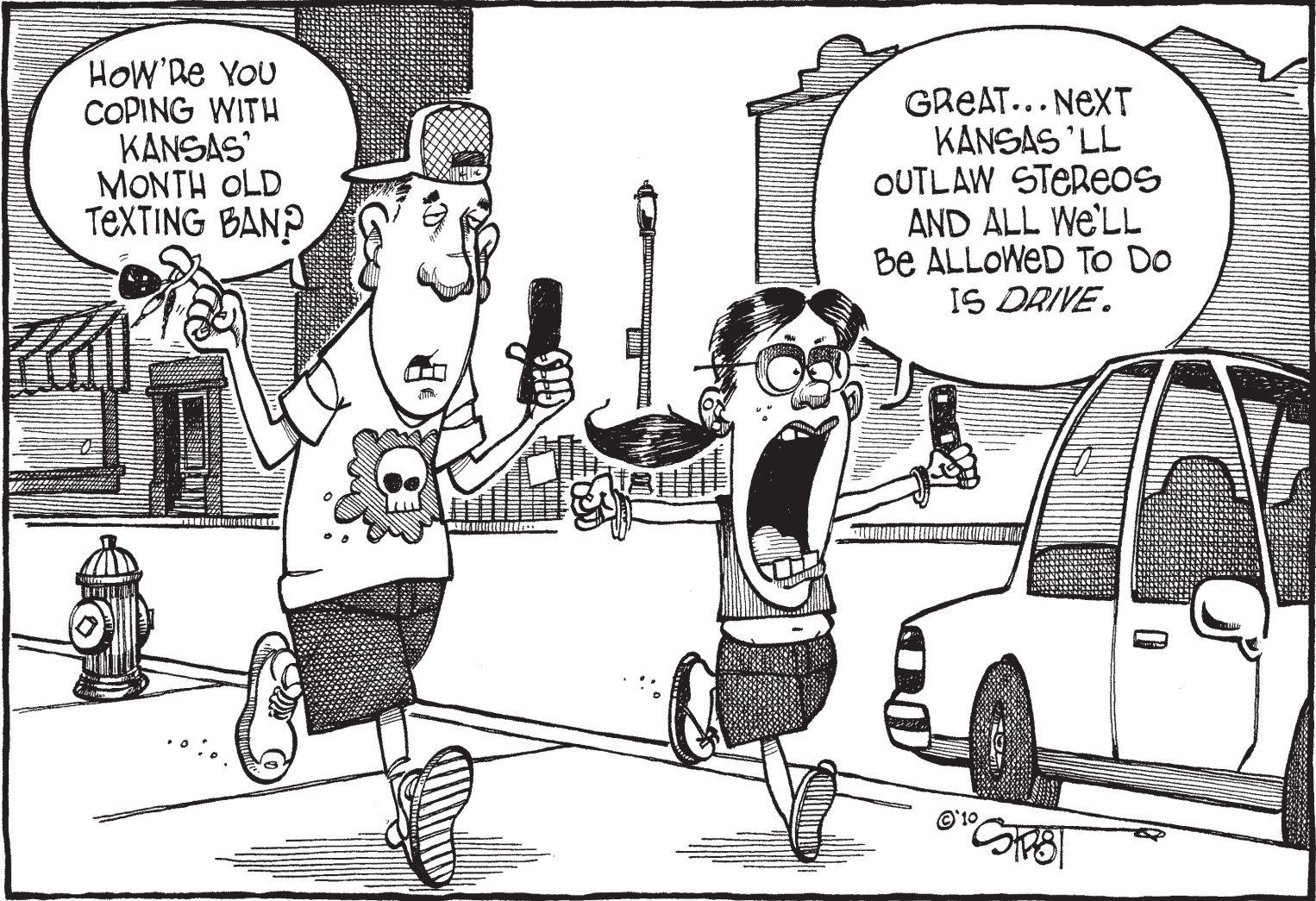
Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR

Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor’West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company

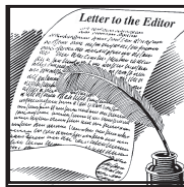


Thank you to the college for ‘green’ house

To the Editor:

I wanted to heartily commend Dr. Ed Mills and his hardworking students from the Northwest Technical College, and you for your idea, to rebuild the house at 1219 Center Ave., here in Goodland. I can’t fail to mention Dennis Saint for his very generous donation of the land and the building.

It is really inspiring to see our community come together to accomplish something tangible and of real value. What an innovative way



from our readers

- to the editor

to accomplish some true economic development without the use of taxpayer dollars!

It is my sincere desire that the house sells quickly and the folks who buy it tell all their

friends and family what a great place Goodland is to live and work in.

Will you please notify the lucky buyers that once they are settled in and their freezer is good and cold The Buffalo Guys will be delivering a house-warming gift of some of our tasty buffalo meat that is raised right here in Sherman County

Keep up the good work!

Ken Klemm
Goodland

Looking into infant mortality in Kansas

Why is the infant mortality problem in Kansas so bad, and why isn’t it getting better?

Why have deaths in Kansas among babies less than one year of age increased by 16 percent since 2000, pushing our state’s rank to number 40 among the 50 states, according to Kids Count, a report released in late July by the Annie E. Casey Foundation?

Why does the black infant mortality rate in Kansas remain at double the white rate? Why does a black baby born in Kansas today have less chance of surviving to its first birthday than a baby born in the refugee camps of the Palestinian territories in the Middle East?

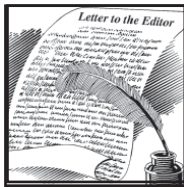
And finally, why can’t the good people living in the heartland of the richest nation on earth solve this problem and do better for our littlest, most vulnerable citizens?

These are tough questions, questions that weigh heavily on the minds of compassionate people from all walks of life who have mobilized in recent years to fight infant mortality all around our state.

Many of these dedicated people serve on the state’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality. The panel was convened last year by the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, after discussion with the governor’s office.

For panel members, these are the questions that keep them up at night.

In one sense, the answers to such questions



from other pens

- commentary

are obvious. Infants are dying in Kansas because too many of their mothers today have been marginalized in lives of poverty.

Undervalued by the larger society, sometimes stigmatized by racism, and often unloved by their own families, many young women whose babies are dying have arrived at their pregnancies ill-prepared for the responsibilities of motherhood.

Lacking the social support every young person needs, these women are more likely while pregnant to smoke tobacco, drink alcohol, use drugs, eat an inadequate diet, suffer from domestic violence and miss out on obtaining needed prenatal care.

The result too often is a baby who is born too small, or is delivered too young, or has congenital defects that cannot be overcome.

So the social factors at the root of our state’s infant mortality problem aren’t really a mystery. What’s difficult to figure out is how to fix the problem, when there are no easy answers.

How do we make it easier for every woman in our state to get the social support she needs to face the challenges of pregnancy success-

fully?

How do we strengthen her to find good foods to eat, to avoid tobacco, alcohol and other drugs – before, during and after pregnancy – and to escape from abusive living situations?

How do we remove the barriers for her to access early and regular prenatal care as a fundamental right of all mothers-to-be?

These are the really tough questions. They ask us to place a higher value on the health, safety and well-being of young women than we have been doing lately in our culture.

They ask us to look beyond ourselves and open our hearts to our neighbors in need.

Improving the lot of poor young women in our state will be expensive, though not as costly as ignoring the problem. Currently at the department of health we are applying for federal aid to establish a home visiting program in our neediest communities, where nurses and other professionals will offer support to women and young children at highest risk.

Such programs are a start. But our state’s infant mortality problem won’t go away until we all get serious about the social conditions behind it.

Dr. Eberhart-Phillips is the Kansas State Health Officer and Director of Health in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He can be reached at jeberhart-philips@kdheks.gov.

Dole great speaker, remarkable man

Five years ago, I had the great good fortune to spend an hour and a half with Bob Dole, the former Kansas senator and Republican presidential candidate.

Folks in western Kansas know Bob, of course, because he was their congressman for eight years before he was elected to represent the whole state in the U.S. Senate in 1968. I first remember meeting the former war hero in my folks’ living room when he was campaigning, and Dad was the Republican county chairman.

He and Dad had been county attorneys about the same time, though Dad only served two terms, in Lyon County, Bob four in Russell.

With others from the KU College Republican Club, I hit the primary circuit that summer. Dole rallies, I remember, were tame by college standards; some candidates had drinks, but Dole served pineapple juice.

Bob became a fixture in the Senate, ran for vice president, then president, serving twice as majority leader. In 1974, he offered me a job, asking me to come to Washington as his press aide.

I loved my job in Kansas City, we had a new baby and Cynthia and I had just bought a house. We had no plans to move to Washington, and I told the senator so. There would be days later when I wondered how life would have been different, but I never had any ambition to be anything but a newspaper man.

That day in 2005, Senator Dole was speaking to our group in Washington, and it’s customary to assign someone who knows each speaker to greet and escort him or her. I was primed to go up and look for him about 11 o’clock, but



steve haynes

- along the sappa

about 9:30, someone tugged my sleeve and said, “Bob Dole is here.”

They had shown him to a holding room, a small side chamber where speakers can wait for their time on stage. It had a table and a few comfortable chairs, blonde wood and red upholstery as I remember. He had one young man with him.

We sat and chatted. Bob asked about my mother, who had been gone several years by then. They both had been born in 1923.

We talked a little about the old times in Kansas. Bob has a talent for summing things up in few words, often marked with a biting humor.

He wanted to know who he was following on the dais. I told him Tom Tancredo, the former congressman from Colorado, who was on all the talk shows that year and later ran, briefly, for president.

“Ah, the immigration guy,” Dole said. “No bullets.”

It was terse, on target, typically Dole. I asked him what he thought of the guy then holding his old seat in Congress, Rep. Jerry Moran of Hays.

“He’s doing a good job,” the senator said. “We’ve got to find a way to get him into the Senate.”

That was two to three years before Jerry himself admitted it might be a good idea. For years he maintained that he was happy just to be in Congress. He later said he came to realize that he could do more as a senator, and when Sam Brownback honored his campaign promise and stepped down after two terms, there was his chance.

Jerry Moran lacks the war-hero aura that preceded Bob Dole, but the two have a lot in common. Both have the knack for appealing to the entire Republican party. Both are solid fiscal conservatives. Neither was afraid to buck the party leadership when it suited them, though of course, as national chairman and later Senate majority leader, Dole became the party leadership.

His speech that day was a riot, from his opening gambit:

“I know you’re all hoping I brought some free samples,” he said with a grin, knowing the audience was more than familiar with his Viagra commercials on television. But he switched clients on them.

“It’s hard to carry a lot of Pepsi in your pockets,” he teased.

That was the Bob Dole I remembered from those days on the campaign trail. I always wished they’d let that Bob Dole run for president. He might have won.

Anyway, it looks like Jerry Moran will wind up in the Senate now. He’s a good man, he has the best interests of Kansas at heart, and he’ll do well.

So, Bob, I guess we can cross that one off our lists. I suspect you had more to do with it than I did anyway.