

from our viewpoint...

Primary elections define voter choices

Today is a primary election day, and those who have declared themselves Republican or Democrat can go to the polls to decide who will carry their party’s designation on the ballot in November.

This is when the majority of voters who list themselves as belonging to a political party decide who will be on the ballot when the other voter, who consider themselves as independent or “no party affiliation,” will decide which party wins the election.

Only those who are registered as a Democrat or Republican can vote in the primary. Voters not affiliated with a party do not vote, unless they are willing to declare a party at the polling place. Declaring a party does not mean the voter cannot change their registration back to independent after the primary is over.

There are two Republican women vying for their party’s nomination for the District 5 state Board of Education position. Sally Cauble of Liberal is trying to unseat Connie Morris of St. Francis. Morris has been under fire for her stands on evolution and teaching illegal immigrants, and was reprimanded for an extravagant trip to Miami that was charged to the state.

One of these two women will face Democrat Tim Cruz of Garden City in November.

Republican races include seven candidates running for the honor of facing Democrat Kathleen Sebelius in the governor’s race.

There are four Republicans vying for the District 1 Sherman County commissioner seat held by Chuck Thomas, a farmer from Edson. Running against him are Curtis Hurd, a retired contractor and former city commissioner; Larry Enfield, who farms north of Ruleton; and Darin Neufeld, an engineer and owner of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates with an office in Goodland.

Republicans who live in the district will decide which one of the four will be on the November ballot to face Conrad Pettijohn, owner of PJ’s Home Improvement, who is running as an independent.

Eliminating the commissioner districts or allowing all Sherman County citizens to vote for all commissioners came up at a candidate forum on Tuesday. All four agreed it would be a good idea to let the entire county vote for the commissioners.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure looked into the matter and found that under state law, counties can change the number of commissioners and increase the number of districts, but apparently cannot vote on an at-large basis.

He said Greeley County had asked the Kansas Association of Counties to request a change in the law to.

Rasure said he will pursue the option to allow counties to decide by a vote of the citizens to either eliminate all commissioner districts and have them all elected at-large, or to allow all citizens to vote on the commissioners while leaving the districts intact.

Whatever the results are from today’s primary, those who participate, Democrat or Republican, have made the decisions that will carry into the general election in November.

Have you voted? — *Tom Betz*

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He got the best funeral you could ask for

It wasn’t the biggest funeral; the church was just more than half full. But at nearly 89, Charlie Corcoran has outlived most of his contemporaries.

It was about the best funeral you could ask for.

Father Jim Hoover and Sister Marilyn Wall, a much beloved team when they served the Catholic churches here, came back for the service, to say goodbye to their friend.

There were some tears among the relatives and friends hesitating to let go.

As Father Jim said, Charlie would not have wanted that.

He knew his time here was up and he was ready for death. Friends said he went home from the hospital, complaining that they would not let him die.

Charlie had nothing to regret. He’d lived a full life.

We should have the grace to accept what God gives us, now and at the end, if for no other reason than, if you believe as Charlie believed, then there will be no end. Only an end to suffering.



steve haynes

● along the sappa

It was Charlie himself who compiled a list of his accomplishments: Business owner, funeral director, ambulance attendant, cook, volunteer, church leader, soldier, veteran, benefactor.

Charlie always said Oberlin had been good to him, and he wanted to return the favor.

He was, the priest said, “A man for all seasons.”

Jim Hoover turned to the casket:

“Charlie, I know you always said Oberlin was good to you. But you’ve been good for Oberlin.”

The service ended with dedication of a granite plaque which read, “Charles W. Corcoran, because of him, many believed.” It will be mounted at Sacred Heart Church, where he

attended most of his life.

After a song, members of two groups Charlie believed in — the Oberlin Rotary Club, where he never missed a meeting until he got sick, and the Knights of Columbus — formed up an honor guard outside the church.

They rolled Charlie out, followed by his family. Charlie had outlived most of his relatives, too, all four brothers, his wife, one step-son, a grandson. Some of the women were sobbing, which is only natural.

Father Jim lamented that Charlie never had children, speculating on what a father he would have been.

But he left a large family behind, one that will miss him for many years.

“His care for those in need knew no limits,” the notes on the back of the funeral folder said. “The number of people he helped is known only by God.”

Charlie Corcoran was a heck of a good guy, any way you slice it, and you can’t say that about most of us.

There is nothing sad about that.

Friends of Israel cannot let Dems take power

Ten years ago, on April 18, 1996, Israel attacked Hezbollah in Lebanon for 16 days in an operation called “Grapes of Wrath.” The global condemnation of Israel was fierce, especially when it bombed a U.N. refugee camp, killing 107 people, an attack that Tel Aviv said was a mistake.

At the time, the United States did nothing to stop the tide from turning against Israel and President Clinton said, “I think it is important that we do everything we can to bring an end to the violence.”

In private, Clinton seethed at the Israeli attack, saying he had discussed with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres the possibility of concluding a military defense treaty with his nation, pledging U.S. aid in the event of an attack.

“They really want this guarantee from us,” Clinton told me. “I would have given them the commitment, too, but now I can’t because of the uproar over the refugee camp bombing.”

No treaty was ever signed.

Clinton’s willingness to use American power to force a cease-fire on Israel before it had fully eradicated Hezbollah stands in stark and sharp contrast to George Bush’s insistence on letting Israel proceed with its attacks until the terrorist group is neutralized.

In a nutshell, this illustrates the difference between the Democratic and Republican approaches to Israeli security.

Bush and his administration clearly see the Israeli attack as an opportunity to clean out terrorist cells that have come to be pivotal in Lebanon. With Hezbollah’s power extending into the cabinet in Beirut, it is clear that Israeli military action is necessary to forestall the creation of a terrorist state on its northern border.



dick morris

● commentary

While Clinton said he embraced the need for Israeli security, when the going got rough, he bowed to world opinion and called for a cease-fire. When the United States asks Israel to stop fighting, it is like a boxer’s manager throwing in the towel. The bottom line is that true friends of Israel cannot afford to let the Democrats take power in Washington.

But American Jews have voted Democrat in the past and will continue to do so. It is really the Christian evangelical right that stands up for Israel.

The reason Israel has to fight in Lebanon today is that the United States did not permit it to finish the job of destroying Hezbollah in the ’90s. Now, fortunately for Israel’s true friends, the White House is letting Tel Aviv win without reining her in.

Nothing so illustrates the generic anti-Semitism of the global community than its current obsession with proportionality in judging Israel’s response to the kidnapping of its soldiers and the rocket bombing of its cities. The Vatican, the European Union and Russia have said nothing about the almost daily bombardment of Israel’s northern border by Hezbollah or the constant attacks from Gaza after Israel magnanimously vacated the strip. But now that the Jewish state is defending itself, the global community is outraged at the “disproportionate” Israeli response. Only Jewish lives have

to be dealt with proportionately.

Israel’s defensive barrier has succeeded in sharply curtailing the once daily suicide/homicide bombing of civilian Israeli targets. Now the Israeli invasion will push back the frontiers from which the terrorists can work their mayhem through missiles.

Bush and the Republican administration realize that Israel is only acting in self-defense. It is obvious that she would not be attacking Lebanon if the terrorists had not made a habit of using it as a base for attacks on Jewish cities.

The global condemnation of Israel simply illustrates the low esteem attached to Jewish blood in a world where anti-Semitism comes disguised as morality and a commitment to peace.

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garfield

