

U.S. Sen. Marshall points to ‘Trump derangement syndrome’ in shutdown

By TIM CARPENTER
KansasReflector.com

TOPEKA — U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall diagnosed the ongoing shutdown of the federal government as a malignancy infecting Democratic lawmakers.

The Kansas Republican, who was a physician in an obstetrics practice before elected to Congress, said Democrats at the Capitol were infected with “Trump derangement syndrome.”

“They have a hatred for President Trump that I’ve never seen,” Marshall said on a speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Marshall, who was among lawmakers skeptical of President Joe Biden’s victory over Trump in 2020, said an underlying issue was Democrats had yet to accept outcome of 2024 elections that placed Republicans in control of the House, Senate and White House.

“If you want to continue your liberal socialist policies, Democrats, win an election,” Marshall said.

He accused Democrats of using the shutdown that began Oct. 1 to play hypocritical games with U.S. health care policy. The most “failed system” and “biggest waste of money” is the Medicaid system that has enrolled about 400,000 Kansans, he said. The senator said Democrats were complicit in creating financial challenges

that threaten rural hospitals in Kansas and other states.

The six-person Kansas congressional delegation — five Republicans, one Democrat — have shared views on the week-long shutdown tied to failure to pass a short-term funding bill to finance government operations. Democrats conditioned support for a bill on extension of health subsidies that lowered the consumer cost of Affordable Care Act plans. Republicans say the shutdown must end before working on the tax credits for health insurance.

The House adopted a temporary funding bill, but the Senate hasn’t voted for a comparable bill allowing the government to function until Nov. 21.

“This is not a shutdown that makes any sense at all,” said U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kansas. “The American people — Kansans — deserve something different from the U.S. Senate. Every city council or commission, every school board, every local government office in my state passes a budget and then lives within that budget every year. Every local unit of government can figure this out, and the U.S. Senate is failing one more time.”

Moran, who has voted with Marshall to break the Senate’s deadlock, said the federal government shutdown “means uncertainty. A shutdown means dysfunction.”

U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids,

the lone Democrat in the delegation, said Democrats in Congress were fighting to extend availability of ACA tax credits to keep health care affordable. More than 160,000 Kansans relied last year on tax credits the 3rd District representative said should be made permanent.

“Because congressional Republicans have refused to extend them, premiums could rise by \$700 next year, putting thousands of Kansans at risk of paying more or losing coverage,” Davids said.

She said the shutdown would harm hardworking Kansans and the moment called for Republicans and Democrats to work together on a solution.

U.S. Rep. Derek Schmidt, a Republican serving the 2nd District in eastern Kansas, said the Senate ought to get behind the House-passed bipartisan bill. The approach would get the wheels of government moving and create time for the House and Senate to work on full-year appropriations bills, he said.

“Regrettably,” Schmidt said, “Senate Democrats are insisting on the inclusion of a \$1.5 trillion wish list of additional reckless spending instead of passing the House’s continuing resolution. This shutdown is entirely the result of those unreasonable demands.”

U.S. Rep. Tracey Mann, a Republican in the mostly rural 1st District, said the shutdown

was triggered by Democrats who wanted taxpayers to “pay for health care for illegal immigrants and authorize trillions of new dollars in federal spending.”

He complained Democrats would rather see Trump fail than work in a bipartisan manner to operate government.

“I understand that some in Washington prefer to grandstand and try to score political points rather than do what’s best for the country, but it is time to stop the political theater and work together to get our fiscal house in order,” Mann said.

U.S. Rep. Ron Estes, the 4th District congressman serving the Wichita area, said he had his congressional pay withheld due to the shutdown. He blamed U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-New York, and his allies for the impasse.

“Republicans have done our job,” Estes said. “I hope my Democrat colleagues will put Americans first and end this shutdown soon.”

Editor’s note: *Tim Carpenter has reported on Kansas for 39 years. He covered the Capitol for 16 years at the Topeka Capital-Journal and previously worked for the Lawrence Journal-World and United Press International.*

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SHERIFF’S REPORT

Weekly Deputy Activity Report

09/29 Traffic stop; K47 Hwy. east from Queen Rd., Erie. Cited the driver, Hunter Freeman, 23, Erie, for expired vehicle registration.

09/29 Trailer fire report; U169 Hwy. and K47 Hwy., Thayer.

09/29 Protection from abuse violation report; 103 E. 35th, Chanute.

09/29 Two vehicle injury accident report; U169 Hwy. and 70th, Thayer.

09/30 Two vehicle non-injury accident report; K47 Hwy. and Scott, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Olivia Bass, 28, Greensboro NC, for following too close.

09/30 Incident report; 320 S. Grant, Stark.

09/30 Car/deer accident report; K47 Hwy. .2 mile west from Front St., St. Paul.

09/30 Incident report; 402 E. State, Erie.

10/01 Traffic stop; U169 Hwy. and Neosho, Thayer. Cited the driver, Ashkelyria, 34, Minneapolis MN, for illegal passing.

10/01 Car/donkey accident report; U59 Hwy. .1 mile north from 10th Rd., Parsons.

10/01 Breach of privacy report; 24280 220th Rd., Walnut.

10/03 Non-injury rollover accident report; Douglas Rd. .3 mile north from 225th Rd., Chanute.

10/03 Car/deer accident report; Queen Rd. .1 mile north from 140th, Erie.

10/03 Possession of methamphetamine report; 3631 U59 Hwy., Parsons.

10/03 Traffic stop; K47 Hwy. and 1st, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Max Moody, 20, Overland Park, for speeding and no proof of insurance.

10/03 Traffic stop; K47 Hwy. and 1st, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Larry Isom, 78, Stark, for speeding and driving while suspended.

10/03 Traffic stop; U59 Hwy. and 140th Rd., Erie. Cited the driver, Jason Hunt, 23, Carl Junction MO, for driving with no vehicle registration.

10/03 Traffic stop; U169 Hwy. and Chetopa, Thayer. Cited the driver, Julie Reid, 52, Skiatook OK, for speeding and expired vehicle registration.

10/04 Single vehicle injury accident report; U59 Hwy. .1 mile south from 100th Rd., Erie.

10/04 Battery report; 7015 Kingman Rd., Galesburg.

10/05 Traffic stop; U59 Hwy. and 70th, Erie. Cited the driver, Briana Williams, 40, Lexington KY, for speeding and no proof of insurance.

Board

FROM FRONT PAGE

The district will obviously be using last year’s numbers for school finances.

The high school is hosting a District FFA Competition at the high school Dec. 10, and with the 500 students expected to participate, it will be difficult to conduct classes that day, so the students and teachers not participating in the event will be taking an incentive (field) trip to Joplin.

Palser also would like for the district to alter its current “facility use request form.” Palser indicated he would like to authorize the form without board approval except in cases where financial considerations are involved. This, too, will likely be addressed with a motion and action at the November meeting.

The superintendent’s discussion included current security at all buildings.

“We are a true fish bowl at the high school,” Palser noted, indicating that a person entering the building cannot without being allowed in at the front desk, which has a clear line of sight.

“Galesburg is an entirely different animal,” Palser shared. He went on to discuss the current situation, highlighting part of the issue is newer technology

with older buildings.

Discussion also included the Erie High School Wellness Community Card, which was a part of the community agreement when bonds were passed for the new high school building. The district’s official policy is that no one under the age of 18 was to use the facilities with the “community wellness card,” but Palser shared that the card “is used a lot by our kiddos.”

“I think it is better for the students to be in the gym or the weight room than simply out running around,” he added. “The supervision of this is the issue.”

While the high school has a custodian that works late each evening, he wasn’t hired to monitor students.

Board member Carla Rush asked, “What liability do we face?” which was followed by Board President Brad DeMeritt stating, “I think we need to change that.”

Palser stated there are limits to times that the cards will work, adding that the high school has cameras nearly everywhere.

In the first item under Action Items, the district accepted a pair of Timpani Drums from Oswego Public Schools. The district there no longer had use of them and former USD #101 band instructor Blake Long is currently employed there.

Parents

FROM FRONT PAGE

“I am writing to inform you that Erie High School Principal Mr. Robert Schneeberger will be away from Erie High School for a period of time. During this time, the district is ensuring that all school operations, activities, and support for students continue without interruption.

“Until further notice, any questions or concerns regarding Erie High School should be directed to my office. Please contact me at (620) 244-3264 or spalser@usd101.com, and I will ensure that your inquiry is addressed promptly.

“We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to maintain a stable and supportive learning environment for all students. Thank you for your continued partnership with USD 101.”

The parents created a Facebook page, “Erie High School Parents for Accountability,” and as of Wednesday afternoon, has 190 followers. In a post dated a day after Monday’s board meeting, they have five demands following the insistence of Schneeberger’s resignation. The demands are:

- An apology to the students who were mocked
- An investigation into this failure
- Full retraining for all staff regarding emergency procedures
- Transparent notification protocols for future threats
- Protection from retaliation for students who report concerns

By state law, district officials are very limited in what they can share as it pertains to employee performance, student matters and certain safety procedures.

Monday’s board meeting included a pair of executive sessions on personnel matters, one lasting 30 minutes and the other 15 minutes. Upon return to open session, the only personnel matters approved by the board were the following:

- Accepted the resignations of Levi Anderson, Erie High custodian; Sondra Hall, Galesburg Middle School assistant track coach; and Jody Brown, Erie High HOSA sponsor (half supplemental).
- Hired Tyler Kennedy, EHS custodian; and Quinten Heady, EHS assistant boys wrestling coach.

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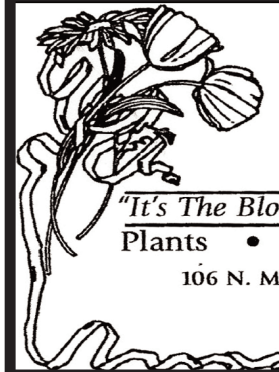
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CENTERVILLE TOWNSHIP MEETING

Centerville Township has scheduled a meeting for Monday, Oct. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Galesburg Community Center. Centerville Township is also seeking to fill a position for Township Clerk. Please contact Dustie Elsworth (Trustee) 620-432-4563 or Dale Jeffrey (Treasurer) 620-778-0031.

GET YOUR FLU SHOT



THE NEOSHO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS SCHEDULED A WALK-IN FLU SHOT CLINIC IN ERIE FOR THURSDAY, OCT. 16, FROM 9:30 A.M. UNTIL 4 P.M.