Opinion



Other **Viewpoints**

Kansas women rely on family planning

Family planning is one of the most effective ways to prevent unplanned pregnancies. Preventing unplanned pregnancies, in turn, is a key component in reducing the number of abortions in Kansas and across the country.

For that reason, it's hard to understand why some Kansas legislators want to reduce access to family planning services for low-income men and women.

The current target of this effort is Planned Parenthood, which receives federal Title X grants to help offset the cost of providing health and family planning services. Although some Planned Parenthood clinics offer abortion services, it is against the law to use Title X money for those. Nonetheless, Planned Parenthood has been targeted by members of Congress who want to cut off all money for the group.

That battle has also spread to Kansas, where members of the Kansas House have passed a budget that includes a proviso saying that, even if it is approved by the federal government, no Title X money will be allowed to go to any Planned Parenthood clinic in the state. The budget passed by the state Senate doesn't include that proviso.

Planned Parenthood operates three clinics in Kansas, in Wichita, Hays and Overland Park, but only the ones in Wichita and Hays receive federal money. Title X funds money also goes to about 80 county or city/county health departments in Kansas. All of those clinics provide family planning along with other life-saving health services such as HIV testing, Pap smears, cancer screenings and breast exams.

The federal money is used to help pay for patients who are uninsured and would be unable to pay for their services. Low and moderate-income patients are charged on a sliding scale, based on their income.

Opponents of Title X funding for Planned Parenthood say they don't want federal money to be used for abortions. But the Planned Parenthood clinics in Wichita and Hays don't do abortions. Although the clinic in Overland Park does, it does

Cutting off federal money from family planning clinics operated by Planned Parenthood or anyone else will have no impact on abortions. Unfortunately, it could have a devastating impact on thousands of low-income women and families who

Why would legislators want to risk the health of Kansas women by denying money to clinics that provide the very family planning services that would reduce unplanned pregnancies and abortions? Abortion opponents apparently are trying

- The Lawrence Journal-World, via the Associated Press

The issue is particularly important to the clinic in Hays, the only facility in Ellis County that provides health and family planning services for low-income women. Of the eight adjacent counties, only four provide any Title X services. In one of those, services are available only one day per month.

not receive Title X money.

depend on federal programs.

to make a point, but their wrath seems misplaced.

Write us

The Colby Free Press encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters.

Colby Free Press

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> **ADVERTISING** colby.ads @ nwkansas.com

Andrea Bowers, Kathryn Ballard **Advertising Representatives**

Kylee Hunter - Graphic Design khunter @ nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Robin Tubbs - Office Manager rtubbs @ nwkansas.com

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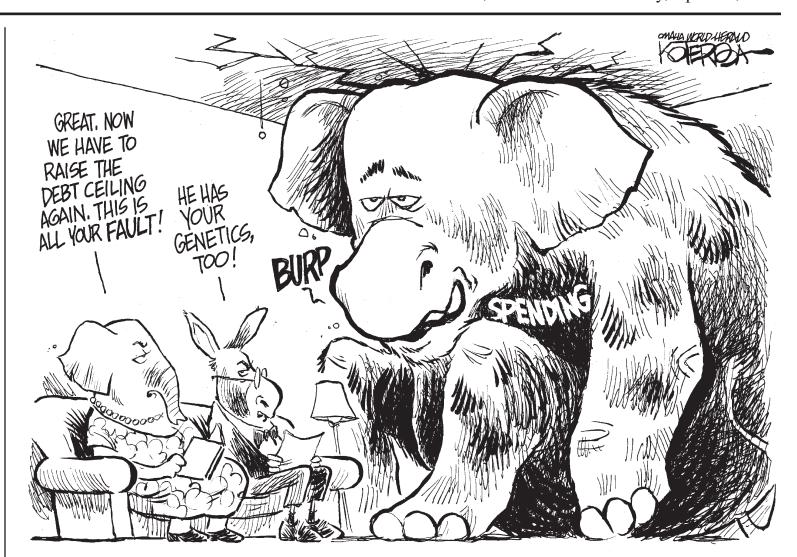
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Robin returns, gets new name

Steve

Haynes

Sappa

Along the

The robin is back.

We're pretty sure it's the same one. He looks like the one who was harvesting all our meal worms, at least. He shows the same kinds of intelligence.

But how do we know? Well, you can't know. Robins don't wear name tags, and they all pretty much look alike, you know: orange breast, grey wings and head, skinny legs.

and on that basis, this looks like the same robin fork.

The meal worms are gone, of course. Cynthia finally washed the ones the robin left into the grass where, I suppose, they either died, pupated or were eaten. That's nature's way.

This time he was following the rototiller as we turned over the garden, picking out the worms we exposed.

Since he seems to be able to adapt to what-

ever food circumstances confront him, we started calling him "Darwin" after the noted and sometimes controversial English biolo-Picking worms off of deck chairs or out of

the freshly tilled garden are not normal robin dining behavior, after all. Food usually is a lot harder to find. But this guy seems to have figured out that,

when presented with a target of opportunity,

you need to respond. Maybe he carries a picnic

They do come in different sizes and shapes, kit around with him, complete with napkin and Anyway, I was plowing the south forty,

muscling around a big rototiller rented from (free plug) Stanley Hardware when I first noticed the bird behind me, pulling on a worm. He kept the garden in sight the rest of the af-

I've seen hawks doing this, watching a field as a farmer moved through it with a mower, a disk, a plow or a combine, then jumping on the mice, rabbits or snakes driven out by the equipment. Hawks are pretty attuned to that kind of opportunity.

But I've never heard of a robin staking claim to a garden plot as it was tilled. That's a pretty smart robin, I'd say. Not your average bird

Last seen, Darwin was on the fence, keeping an eye out for one more worm. And for the cats, who spend a lot of the time Sunday

- when not sleeping, lounging in the sun, or

catnapping – out in the yard.

I could imagine the cats watching the bird watching for worms, sort of like those cartoons of a little fish being followed by a big fish, followed by an even bigger fish, and so on.

But as far as I know, Darwin made it through the afternoon. He's a pretty smart robin, after

Just as the swallows return to Capistrano each spring, the vultures return to Oberlin early each April. This year, the flock seems to have doubled. There's hardly space for all of them on the railing around the water tower. Especially when the wind blows them off one side or the other.

Still, the big birds seem to like it up there, even if some of them have to roost in the trees. Their arrival is punctual each spring.

Now, what I'd like to know is, when do the swallows come back to Oberlin? Anybody venture a guess?

(It's said they return to the mission of San Juan Capistrano on St. Joseph's Day, March 19, each year, but California is warmer. A lot

Steve Haynes is editor and publisher of The Colby Free Press and president of Nor'West Newspapers. When he has the time, he'd rather be reading a good book or casting a fly.

Planned Parenthood not what it seems

To the Editor:

I am appalled at the liberal media's constant barrage of news stating that Planned Parenthood basically supplies women's health services. Many of us in Colby subscribe to the Salina Journal. On April 9, an article, "Shutdown/Disagreements aplenty" on page A6 states, "Federal funds may not be used to pay for abortions except in strictly regulated cases, but supporters of the ban said cutting off government funds for the organization – currently about \$330 million a year - would make it harder for it to use its own money for the same purpose.'

Sen. Patty Murray, Democratic senator from Washington, said, "We'll not allow them to use women as pawns."

I urge everybody to read Abby Johnson's book, "Unplanned."

Abby had worked and volunteered at Planned Parenthood for eight years, thinking she was doing all of these wonderful things for women. She was director of the clinic in Bryan-College Station, Texas, and was honored as employee of the year in 2008.

The last year, she wrote, she was constantly being harassed to increase the number of abortions because that was where the money was. When Abby witnessed an abortion and saw the baby trying to avoid the destructive tools, she became violently ill and realized she could no longer work there.

Read her story and find out what finally caused her to quit her job and join the Pro-life cause. You will find that Planned Parenthood uses much more than 3 percent, as they claim,

A woman caller working undercover for Live Action called nine Planned Parenthood clinics asking for a mammogram. All of them replied that they did not offer mammograms. Mammograms are not a woman's health issue? According to Father Frank Pavone, "The facts



Free Press **Letter Drop**

• Our readers sound off

show that, for 2008 and 2009, Planned Parenthood performed more than 650,000 abortions!" (No numbers are available for 2010 as of now.)

President Obama has promised that there would be no cutting of Planned Parenthood's money during his watch. Could it have something to do with the over a million dollars the organization donates to Democratic candidates every year? Those are my tax dollars!

I write this trying to bring to light another of the lies the liberal media is constantly relaying

Joan Albers, Colby

Watch for scams

To the Editor:

Lately, I have received quite a few calls from senior citizens who have fallen victim to e-mail or telephone scams.

These schemes are getting increasingly more complex, creative - and devastating when successful. Some use personal information gleaned from the Internet to manipulate seniors. They prey off your compassion and may even claim to be a family member or friend in need of urgent assistance. Almost always they ask for some kind of payment or identifying information that they can then use to access your personal accounts.

Remember, if it seems odd or raises red flags, please think carefully before responding. If you have any qualms about sending information or money to a stranger, please call

Our FBI office in Kansas City stands ready to help. If you have any questions or are afraid you've been scammed, call (816) 512-8200. You can also visit the FBI's website at www. fbi.gov and click on the "scams and safety" link to find resources and tips on staying safe.

This site also has a list of common scams that should be your first stop before you think about cooperating with the requests of a stranger on the internet or the other end of the phone.

Pat Roberts, U.S. Senator, Washington

Where to write, call

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774 roberts.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, 300 SW10th St., Room 225-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 ralph.ostmeyer@ senate.state.ks.us

State Rep. Rick Billinger, Docking Building, Room 754, Topeka Kan., 66612, (785) 296-7659 rick. billinger@house.ks.gov

Mallard **Fillmore**

Bruce Tinsley



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