

from our viewpoint...

Support funding for public television

Funding for the Public Broadcasting always finds itself as a bit of a partisan football, getting thrown back and forth between parties.

The latest round came last week. During the Oct. 3 presidential debate, Republican candidate Mitt Romney said: "I'm going to stop the subsidy to PBS." He went on to say that although he likes PBS, "I'm not going to keep on spending money on things to borrow money from China to pay for."

Democrats, reeling from the president's lackluster performance, seized on this and ran with it, telling anyone who would listen that Romney wants to "fire Big Bird."

The subsidy Romney was referencing was \$445 million that has been appropriated for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for fiscal year 2013. It is among several subsidies Romney would cut if elected, including the National Endowment for the Arts and Amtrak.

The government isn't the only funding source for PBS - about 60 percent of its funding is from donations.

As it turns out, Sesame Street itself, since it is produced by a private company, doesn't receive much of that funding. So the "fire Big Bird" argument loses its clout a bit. However, PBS is the distributor of Sesame Street, and it might be difficult to have one without the other. Sherrie Westin, vice president of that company, said Sesame Street would not exist without PBS.

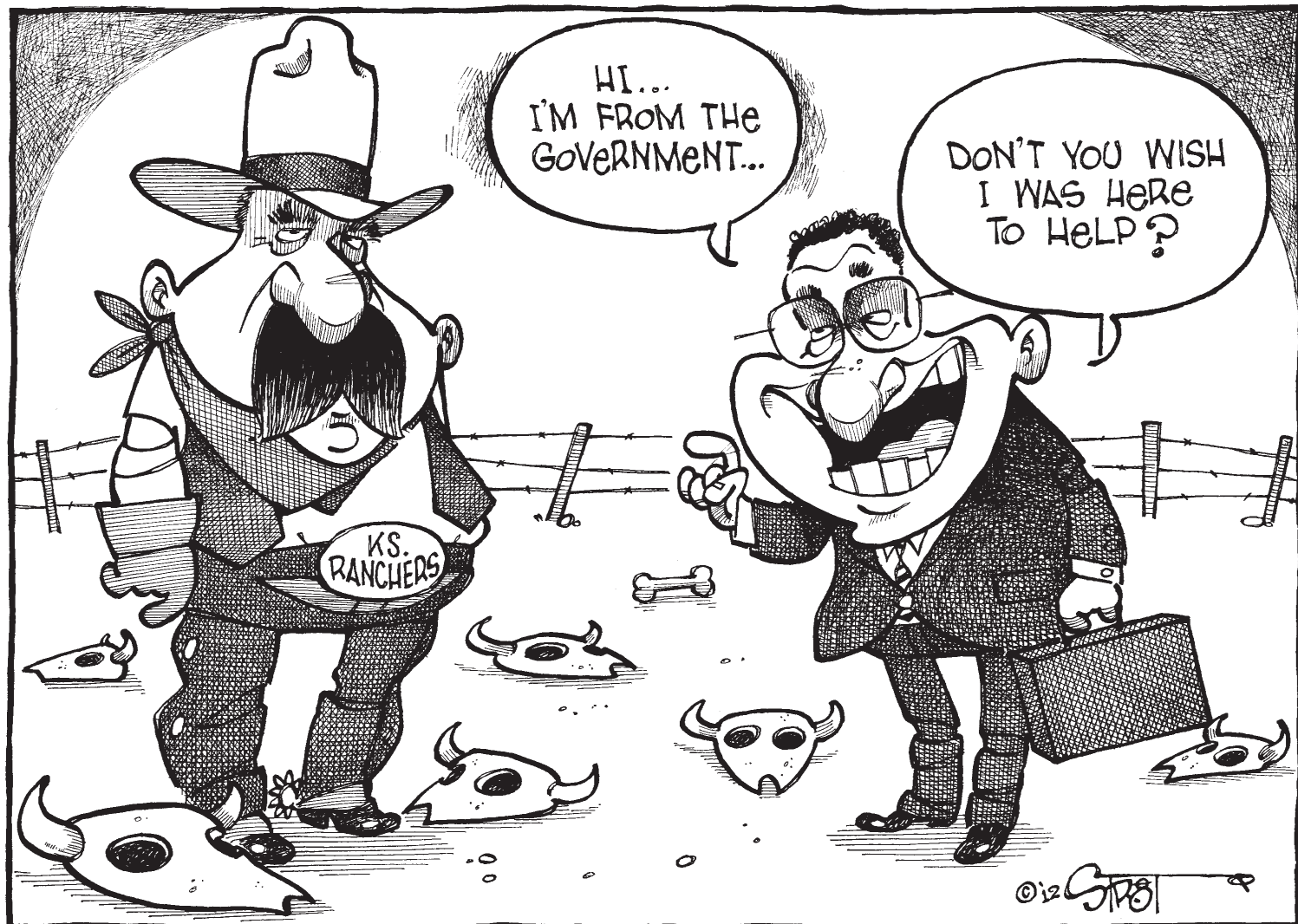
Can we imagine a world without Sesame Street? Most adults in the United States today grew up watching it. Would it survive if PBS was no more. It could conceivably end up on another network, but would it be able to stay what it is today?

Regardless, the budget for PBS amounts to 0.014 percent of the federal budget. That is a small price to make sure that quality educational programming is available.

Back in September, 2011, a study came out in the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics saying that fast-paced shows like Spongebob Squarepants are actually harmful to the attention spans and comprehension levels of children. Private television stations are always going to go with what sells, and right now it is those fast-pace entertainment cartoons. Given that similar shows are shown on most other networks, it is more imperative than ever that we do anything we can to ensure that quality children's education shows remain on the air.

We must continue to support Public Broadcasting, and not just PBS and Sesame Street, but National Public Radio as well. We live in an area where there are few radio stations, and if NPR were to lose its funding, our source of national news programming, classical music and more would be lost. Granted, those are not universally popular, but they are important nonetheless.

Democrats, Republicans, independents, anyone who believes that education does not stop at the schoolhouse doors, should all remain in favor of Public Broadcasting, especially at a time when Americans are rightly concerned about the dumbing down of entertainment. -Kevin Bottrell



Disappointed in community

To the Editor:

We have just finished a week of citywide clean-up and it is disheartening to see and know that there are so many disrespectful and inconsiderate people in this community.

I commend the city employees on their effort to clean-up the city, a community we all can be proud of. However, no sooner do the city employees clean up a pile of trash or junk items and someone drives by and throws out their trash from McDonald's, Dairy Queen, Taco John's, etc. Do they not have a trash can at home or can they not drive down an alley and put the trash into an appropriate dumpster? It all comes down to respect for others, other's property and the community, but then, I guess respect has to start with respect of self first. It is impossible to expect anyone to respect others when they have no respect for themselves and their own property.

In the same light, you drive around town and see many people who display yard ornaments, decorations and flags in support of local youth with the Booster Club Flags. Others show their support for their favorite college team, whether it be K-State, KU, CU or NU, and their favorite



from our readers

to the editor

professional team, being the Broncos, Chiefs, Steelers, etc. Again it is very disheartening to know that any time you display support for your favorite team, you are placing yourself at risk for some disrespectful and inconsiderate person or persons to come along and destroy, or in our case, steal your flag (and pole) or ornament.

It is pretty sad that property owners try to do things to show support for the local kids by having a flag flying school colors, only to have it stolen right out of your front yard. Again it comes down to respect of self and respect of others. It sure is sad we "just can't have nice things in this community" without risk of having it stolen or destroyed. I suppose it would be too much to think that the flag thief would be considerate enough to return our Booster Club Flag and pole back to its rightful place

prior to Friday for the Football game. If not, I hope you at least feel a bit guilty each time you look at our flag at your place and know it was not obtained in a rightful manner.

Kathy Russell
Goodland

Thanks for helping when son injured

To the Editor:

We would like to give our thanks and appreciation to all those individuals that provided immediate care to our son No. 5 Christopher Pounds last Friday. Christopher went unconscious after a tackle on the kick off. We are so appreciative of everyone's quick response and supportive words during this very scary time. We are happy to report that he is doing well and is looking towards a full recovery.

Again thank-you and good luck to the rest of your season.

Jeff and Karen Pounds
Scott City

Adventures in cat medicine

She sits stoically by as I lay out my instruments of torture.

There's the machine, the strip and the needle, all placed on a fresh paper towel.

And there's Molly, sitting on the counter, waiting.

Each morning and evening, we pick her up, lay out the equipment and try to get blood out of a cat's ear. That's somewhat easier than making a silk purse out of a sow's ear, but only somewhat.

The strip goes into the blood-testing machine and we grab an ear. Molly flinches, pulling her ears close to her head. She's been through this before, and she's developed a profound dislike for this part.

Sometimes we can get a good drop of blood in one try. Sometimes, it takes two or even three pokes to get anything out of her poor scarred ears. Then there are the days when the needle goes all the way through and you get blood coming out the top and the bottom. Some days, she shakes her head and blood scatters on the wind.

After the ear starts to bleed, we put the metered strip up to the blood spot and hope that there's enough for a successful test. If not, you have to do it all over again.



cynthia haynes

open season

Most of the time, we're successful and the meter registers her blood sugar, which can run anywhere from 57 to over 600. She's supposed to be below 100, but that number is seldom seen.

Next comes the shot. For sugar levels of 500 or more, she gets four to five units of Lantus insulin. If it's in the 300 to 400 range, we go down to two to three units. Under 200 is a one-unit shot and that's a tough one to pull up into the syringe. It's sort of like putting 1/32nd of a teaspoon of something in the pot.

If the reading is less than 100, she doesn't get a shot and we know that she will be high the next time around. But we know low blood sugar will kill her faster than high.

If the reading is less than 50, she gets a drop of honey and a can of wet food. The vet says that stuff is sort of like a candy bar for her.

While the insulin is supposed to be a once-

a-day formulation, we've found that Molly needs two shots a day to keep her even halfway stable.

That means that in about 12 hours, we get to go through the whole rigamarole again. No wonder Molly is getting a little tired of it all.

The shot is the easy part. She doesn't mind it at all and probably doesn't even feel it, because cats and dogs have very few nerve endings in their skin.

I'm told that you can do a blood test using a cat or dog's paw pads. Just don't prick the largest one, I'm told.

That sounds so simple when I read the "how to test your pet's blood glucose levels" on a web site.

However, no matter how much Molly puts her ears down it's nothing compared to the fight I would have if I tried to get blood out of her paw. She doesn't even like me to pick up her paw and fights any attempt to do so.

I'm guessing that both of us would be a bloody mess if I tried that. As it is, Steve has a tendency to get both the cat's ear and his finger when he does the check.

I suppose a two-for-one might be efficient, but I doubt that either his doctor or Molly's is going to buy that.

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To the Editor:

I'll get straight to the point: if you care at all about the future of this nation, I'm asking you to get engaged in this, the most important election of our lifetimes. I am deeply concerned that if we do not reverse course in this election, the America we have known may be lost forever.

Reversing course includes taking back the White House from a man whose vision of America is, in my opinion, frighteningly out of touch with the American mainstream. If President Obama is given another four years, I shudder to think what America will become. It is essential that every freedom-loving American unite behind Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan.

But it also includes returning control of the United States Senate to Republicans - not for the party's sake, but because Republicans are the only bulwark still standing in defense of liberty, fiscal sanity, free markets and the values that made America the greatest nation on earth.

Currently, Republicans are just four seats



jerry moran

in Congress

short of a majority in the Senate. Frankly, we've had some setbacks that make winning those four seats more challenging. But we've also received some good news: the Senate races in Ohio, Montana and Virginia are now neck and neck and Republicans are leading in Nebraska, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

I've committed the full resources of my political action committee, FreeState PAC, so I can, in turn, target critically needed resources to help Republicans win back the Senate. We need more senators who are committed, as I am, to defending freedom and our way of Life.

Should we fail to reverse course and save America in this year's elections, the cost to future generations will be incalculable. Please

join me today in fighting for liberty.

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, Hays

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