

Debates over, election nears the home stretch

My wife Ava and I are in Georgia, and Monday our absentee ballots arrived from Goodland. We got them filled out and back in the mail on Tuesday to get our votes back to be counted.

The presidential debates are over and both candidates are in the home stretch with the election coming down to the wire. The election will be determined in several swing states, but Kansas is not one of those.

We heard people say they were not going to vote because they did not like either of the candidates at the top of the ballot. We have heard that before, but the old adage is "all elections are local."

For those in northwest Kansas there are some important local races, and it is the best way to be involved in the political process.

Who can forget the national election of 2000 when the "hanging" and "dimpled" chads in Florida ended up with the Supreme Court giving the election to George Bush despite the popular vote being won by Al Gore.

As the election nears the pundits begin to make predictions about who will reach the magical 270 in the constitutionally established electoral vote. This year the pundits can see a scenario where neither candidate gets the needed 270, and both finish with 269 electoral votes.

In such a case the constitution (Article II) has a means for determining the winner or sort of anyway. The original version was tested in 1796 and again in 1800 when Thomas Jefferson defeated Aaron Burr on the 36th ballot in the House of Representatives. The method of selecting the President and Vice President was changed by the Twelfth Amendment ratified in 1804.

The last time it was used was about 1824 when John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson tied in the electoral votes. The elections

of 1912, 1924 and 1968 came close. The election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and John F. Kennedy in 1960 came within 30,000 votes of requiring a decision by the House.

The Twenty-Third Amendment was passed in 1960 and ratified in 1961 giving the District of Columbia a right to elect members of the Electoral College with the district limited to having the same number as the smallest state being three - the same number as Wyoming.

The election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 brought out more discussion about the electoral process, and a renewed question about changing the constitution. Each close election brings calls for this change, and it is expected such a call will come again after this election process.

In case of a tie the president is selected by the outgoing House of Representatives with each state getting one vote. Based on the current make up of the House the winner would likely be Mitt Romney. The vice president would be selected by the outgoing Senate with each state getting one vote. In case of a tie the deciding vote would be the sitting vice president.

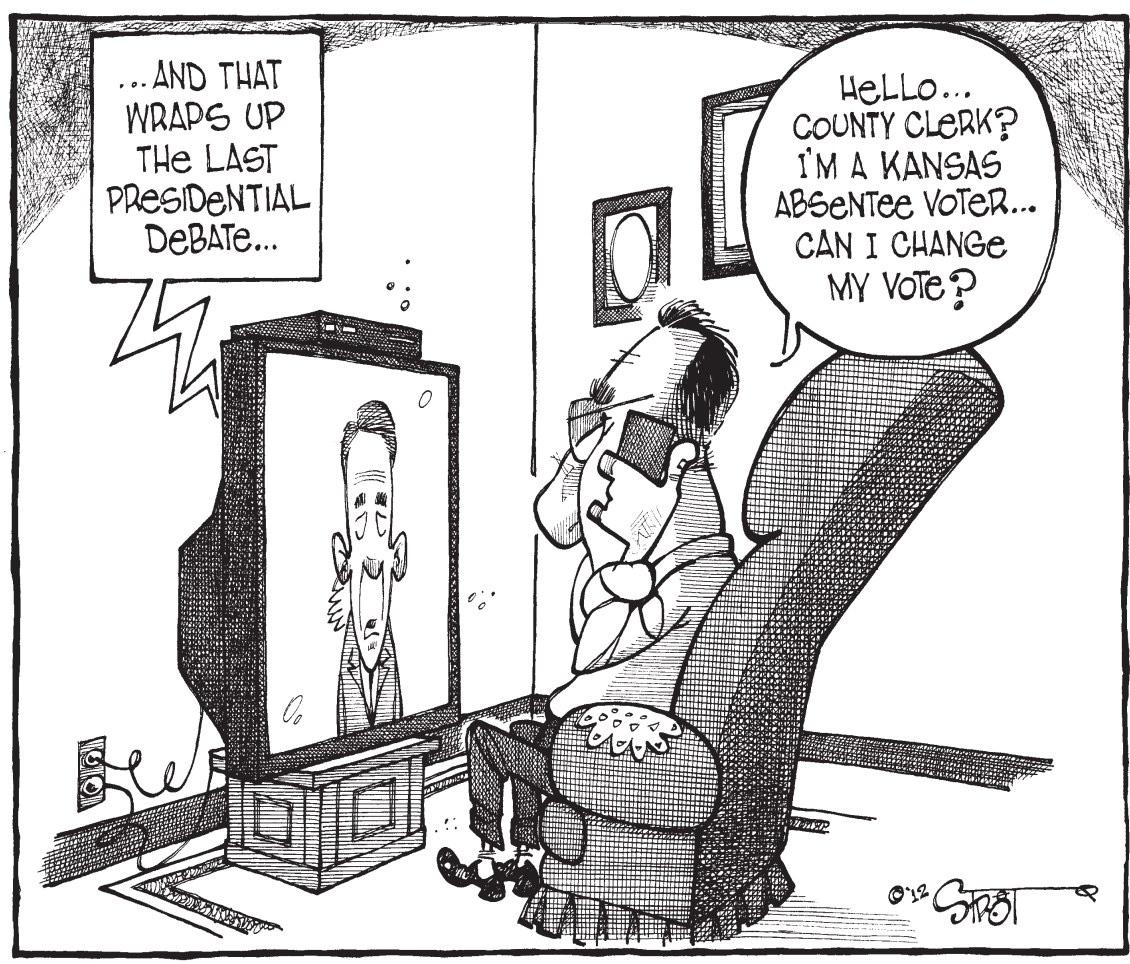
Part of the fun of politics is watching the candidates as they head into the final days, and what all the options might be in a narrow race.

The more important results will be those affecting the people living in Cheyenne County and northwest Kansas. It will be those local votes that are the real reason to mark your ballot in this election. I hope people look beyond the top race, and if you truly do not like the choices leave that section blank and make your decisions count in the more local races.

Having put my ballot in the mail I will now sit back and watch the show unfold.

I hope you vote.

— Tom Betz, Goodland Star News



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Life is constantly changing. Thank goodness we have some memory to hold on to what used to be.

When I was a kid, my family was lucky to have season tickets to the Denver Broncos. Although we got them in the mid-1960s, my twin brother and I had to hound our dad for a few years before we got to go.

Our first game was in 1968 when the Broncos got a rare victory over the Cincinnati Bengals. The score was 10 to 7 and I still have the orange ticket stub and felt pennant from that day with our father. In fact the field was

still primarily a baseball park and had the name of Bears Stadium.

Those games at the old Mile High site are filled with the experience of wooden bleachers in the east stands, mustarded Top Dog wieners and Floyd Little running the ball.

One of the now extinct sounds from that era came from the band that played in an alcove at the bottom of the south stands. They were called the Denver Bronco Jazz Ensemble.

We had a nice connection with the group as one of the trombone players was a classmate of my sister. Dick McGee would give us

a wave as we walked by coming into the stadium. In those days you entered by the chain link fence that separated the playing field from the stands as you went up to your section, rather than down these days.

If you ever attended those games in the the 60s to 80s you probably remember those tunes along with the rumble of feet when the fans wanted to make additional noise.

Hangin' With Marge

Going to NASCAR Race

By Margaret Bucholtz



Kurt loves NASCAR racing and for several years I wasn't too happy about spending every weekend hearing the racing of engines and a man standing on the TV saying, "I would like to thank my sponsors and my crew chief and blah blah." Or he would stand there and say if that so and so wouldn't have wrecked me I would have won. Duh, that's like saying if everyone would block for my son, the quarterback, he could get a touchdown.

However after several years I thought a lot about it and came to the conclusion that Kurt and I could watch it together and it would be quantity time.

Not only was I right about the

quantity time, but I even started getting involved and now we both enjoy it.

One year a couple of grandchildren got Kurt a great gift. It was a ride around in a NASCAR down at Kansas City. I thought that was the most fun gift that he could have gotten and really wished I could have ridden in that car also.

Knowing that I could never climb in that little window because I don't think they would have let me use a ladder and, on top of that, the windows look just a little small. Nor could I image what that many Gs' would be there be at 180 miles an hour and what that would do with all the dangle I have under my arms and face.

Next best thing would be for him to take me to a real NASCAR race. I finally got to go to one and I won't say I didn't like it, but I

will say it wasn't like I expected. At football games I have been to, the people yell, use some pretty bad language but there is the excitement of watching the fans and also watching the big screen above to know who has the ball.

At NASCAR you go and as the people file in they have coolers, stadium seats and a few of them visit until the race starts. Then you put the ear plugs in and the cars come around to the start line. After that you are pretty much out of luck. The cars are going so fast you can't read the number, so how could I tell where Tony Stewart was in that race. Finally I did see a number 10 and I tapped Kurt on the shoulder to ask who was in number 10, but he couldn't hear me nor could I hear him.

It was just like watching a silent movie in fast motion. From now on it is in front of the TV for me.

Honor Roll

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GOD SAYS Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Matthew 7:12

Writer shares another opinion on her political views with readers

To the Editor, President Obama learned to play politics the "Chicago Way." Just look at how he muscled through Obama Care over the objectives of the American people; twisting arms and offering bribes behind closed doors. By-passing congress, he worked on it for 2 years; the big government take over of our health care. I didn't believe that President Obama ever intended to create jobs and reduce unemployment in America. The 90 billion dollars he put into green energy companies that went belly-up, went to his core supporters that poured money into this election campaign. This money should have been used for the future of our children and grandchildren.

Letter to the Editor

Mr. Obama claims to be for the middle class but he was against the Keystone Pipeline, shutting down our gulf oil rigs, not pursuing drilling for gas, oil, or oil shell, drastically cutting military expenditures and troops; which didn't create jobs, but put Americans in the unemployment line. Most grievous of all was the EPA initially ordering the shut down of 25 coal-fired plants, which has beRn delayed till after the 2012 election. This adversely affects miners, railroads, and the cost of electricity.

The Obama democrats opted to leave God out of their convention platform. When the issue received news coverage, they voted God

back in. It took 3 votes amidst the "boos" from some of the members. The Obama administration still wants nothing more than to erase Christian values and severely restrict our religious freedom.

The election of 2012 is the most important election in American history. Romney's dream is creating jobs, putting Americans back to work, standing up for our freedoms, making our country strong and safe. Obama's dream is to fundamentally change America into a European-style, weak, socialist, welfare, country at any price.

Pray for our nation and get to the polls

Marilyn Frisbie McDonald, Ks

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