

Tuesday's Snippets

Last week a Snippet'er said: "I've heard that 6 of the 9 U.S. Supreme Court justices are Catholic. Is this legal?" I researched the topic and learned that 6 of the 9 U.S. Supreme Court justices are not Catholic, but 5 of the 9 are.

And in case anyone is wondering who is what on the big bench, jot this down:

The Catholics are Chief Justice John Roberts, Anthony M. Kennedy, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

The Jewish are Stephen G. Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. David H. Souter is Episcopalian.

John Paul Stevens is Protestant.

As to the other part of your question — "Is this legal?" — is puzzling. Why should it not be?

• "Hey, fella. You're way off base on the pay for professional athletes. Their employment span is short and they need those coins to keep going when their careers are over."

• "You're right: it's stupid to pay that kind of money, and just as stupid for people to pay that kind of money to watch a bunch of kids play."

• "You might be on to something. There are bailout funds to keep those who can't manage their financial affairs... to keep managing."

• "Who would head the Department of Overpaid Professional Sports Brats?"

• "Professional sports is like any other business. As an employee (athlete) get all you can. I envy them, don't criticize them."

• "Why should talented athletes sell themselves for nothing while bringing in crowds to watch them play and in the process stuffing money into the pockets of owners?"

• "What's a million here or there. Or even a billion here or there. Or how about a trillion here or there?"

• "Why shouldn't the owners of professional sports be obligated to kick into college and university athletic departments? After all, the colleges are nothing more than farm clubs for the professionals."

• "I disagree. If Notre Dame wants to invite the president to speak at their university, I think that is one thing, but to give him an honorary degree would be to say that he subscribes to the ideals of Notre Dame, of which, he clearly does not."

• "Notre Dame does what Notre Dame does. No big deal. He may not be in tune with what the catholic church teaches, but remember he's not a catholic."

• "Selecting the president to talk at their graduation is just an extension of their recruiting program."

• "The president in a pro choice crazy. I would expect a cool reception when he's introduced at the Notre Dame graduation."

• "She's gone! She's gone!"

• "Picking our former governor as HHS secretary speaks well for our state. Secretary Kathleen Sebelius will get the job done."

• "I don't know... Gov. Mark Parkinson, a Democrat, used to be head of the state's Republican Party. I bet a lot of the GOP legislators remember his switch and won't pave the legislative road with his material."

• "I don't know much about Sen. Specter, but I bet Russell will quickly remove his name from their I-70 billboard boasting Russell as home of Senators Bob Dole and Arlen Specter."

• "Free country. Free switch. Good luck to the Pennsylvania senator."

• "Sen. Specter will find riding a donkey a bit more of a challenge than riding an elephant..."

• "Hail to the 2009 graduating class of Norton Community High School!! That's worth a snippet or two!"

(To join in the conversation, simply e-mail tom.d@nwkans.com, fax 877-3732, write 215 S. Kansas Ave., or drop by the office. No signature necessary. We reserve the right to discard submissions of questionable taste.)



To... the Norton County Arts Council, for bringing in the Magician and his wife! It was great family entertainment! I only wish more people had attended. Thanks Carol. (e-mail)

To... the Tri-States Motor Sports As-

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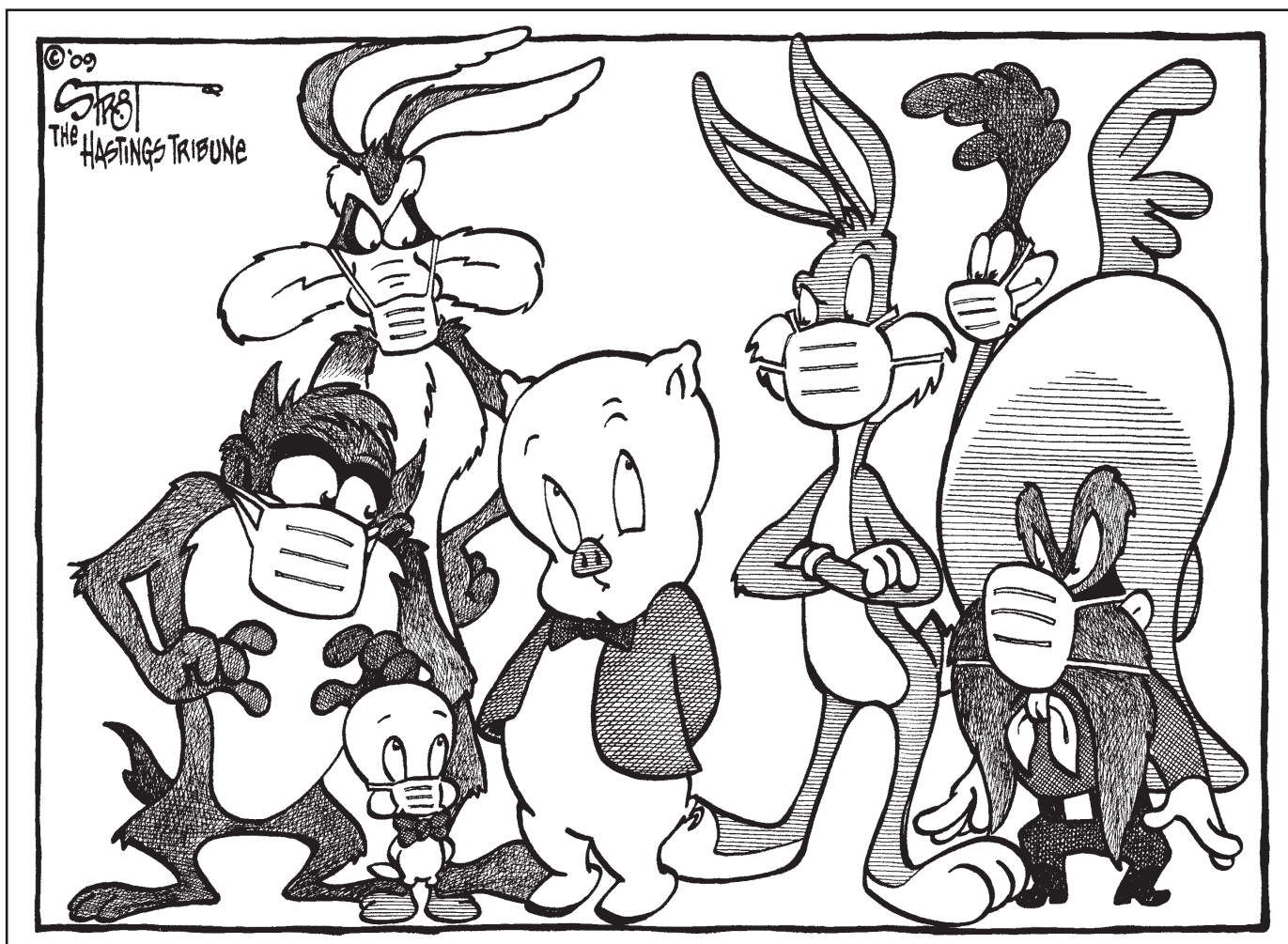
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Stop Look Listen

Tom Dreiling



How much rain was in your gauge?

Recently, conversations everywhere in this part of the country have started with, "So, how much rain did you get?" Answers vary from twenty-hundredths to an inch-forty. Doesn't seem to matter. Everyone is pleased with the slow, soaking rains that have saturated the ground.

Trees love it; grass loves it; flowers love it; and weeds adore it. Even though the rains have brought on weeds by the bushel, it also makes them easier to pull. And, that's how I've pulled them — by the bushel.

The chickens love them. When I throw an armload of weeds over the fence, the old hens get right in the middle of them, scratching and pecking to their hearts' content. The young chicks like the weeds too, although, they still prefer chick mash.

Speaking of the chicks, they are growing so fast, they will soon have to be moved into their new "digs". Which, by the way, is presently occupied by the three calves I am still bottle-feeding. As soon as we can have the calves pen across the alley ready, we'll move them into it.

Jim will replace a side panel on the calves shelter, remove the covering over the in/out door for the chicks and

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



they can move into their new home.

I was working in the back yard over the weekend and heard an awful sound coming from the chicks' brooder house. It sounded like one of them was being strangled. Upon inspection, I observed all was well — it was just a "teenage" rooster trying out his crowing technique.

His "voice" is changing.

Much is being said about the economy. We're advised to cut back on our life-style and simplify our lives. An insurance company even has an ad on television reminding us that a family picnic is better than a gourmet meal at a restaurant and that their coverage is affordable, will protect your family and make you good looking.

Well, maybe not the good looking part.

My question is: How do you cut

back on your life-style when there's not much style in your life in the first place?

Our big extravagance is groceries. Granted, we have more food on our pantry shelves than most stores but, hey, I like to be prepared.

When you don't have a store down the street, you have to keep a supply of everything. We don't take fancy vacations — we go see our kids and hope they'll feed us.

We don't buy fancy clothes. I'm a thrift store shopper and Jim keeps it simple with khaki pants and knit shirts.

I guess what irks me is people who complain they can't afford to buy their kids Christmas/birthday/Easter/Bar Mitzvah or whatever presents. Your time doesn't cost a thing. Give them a coupon you made yourself, good for a special outing. How much does it cost to spend the day with your child? That's what they really want anyway — your time.

Homemade clay is a simple recipe that takes about 50 cents worth of salt and flour. Make a quilt with old blue jeans, decorate a T-shirt, make a picture frame from scrap wood, paint a rock, make a scrapbook, the possibilities are endless.

Your child will be better for it and so will you.

Latest update from our state senator

Senate Doings

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer



Senate Bill 311 — State General Fund and Special Revenue Fund Expenditures: SB 311 amends existing law by reversing the current allotment process used by the Governor to reduce the approved State General Fund Budget when the projected ending balance is less than zero.

If the projected SGF ending balance is deemed insufficient to cover the authorized expenditures and demand transfers by the Director of the Budget and the Director of Legislative Research, the bill authorizes the Governor to seek State Finance Council approval for across the board reductions in all State General Fund accounts with the exception of debt service payments, KPERS school employer contributions, and School District Capital Improvement Fund payments.

The bill allows the Governor to issue an executive order to make targeted reductions to authorized State General Fund expenditures and demand transfers if the projected State General Fund ending balance will be above zero but less than 3.5 percent of total authorized expenditures and demand transfers. Again, the reductions could not be made against debt service payments, KPERS school employer contributions, and the School District Capital Improvement Fund. SB 311 passed 24 to

16 on Friday, May 1.

Senate Bill 336 — Legislation Reconciliation: SB 336 is the Revisor's reconciliation bill for the 2009 session. SB 336 passed 40 to 0 on Friday, May 1.

House Bill 2099 — Kansas Open Records Act: HB 2099 adds to an existing exception in the Kansas Open Records Act that a public agency is not required to disclose the name, address, or other contact information of an alleged victim of stalking, domestic violence, or sexual assault. HB 2099 passed 40 to 0 on Friday, May 1.

House Bill 2195 — State Records: HB 2195 directs the State Archivist to prepare and present recommendations to the State Records Board for preserving and maintaining the authenticity of electronic records; provide that electronic records are maintained in accordance to the preservation process and certified with the State Archivists signature; and allow for reasonable fees to be charged for retrieving electronic

copies. The bill also amends several statutes to include an option for document transmittal via e-mail and other electronic means. HB 2195 passed 40 to 0 on Friday, May 1.

Consideration of Appointments: On Friday, May 1, the Senate approved the following appointments: Colonel Alexander Duckworth to Brigadier General, Kansas National Guard; Jeffrey E. Lewis to the Kansas Human Rights Commission; Michael Braude to the Kansas Public Employees' Retirement Board of Trustees; Rachel Reiber to the Kansas Public Employees' Retirement Board of Trustees.

Conference Committee Report for HB 2060: On Friday, May 1, the Senate did not approve the conference committee report for HB 2060. The bill contains several changes to crime and criminal procedure statutes and remains in the conference committee for further work.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. I can be reached by writing to Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th Street, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612 or call (785) 296-7399. My e-mail address is ralph.ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov.

Ralph Ostmeyer, Senator, 40th District

Something bugging you? Write us.

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