

## Congressman asks it be called H1N1

In a Thursday press release, Kansas Rep. Jerry Moran implored newspapers and broadcasters to give up the use of the misnomer "swine flu" when referring to the H1N1 flu virus now plaguing the world.

Unfortunately the congressman is a little late to the party in several ways. The first is that, with a few exemptions, the media has already stopped calling it the swine flu. The big three of cable news, CNN, Fox News and MSNBC, no longer call it that. A quick survey of Kansas papers reveals that almost none of them — aside from the Lawrence Journal-World — refer to H1N1 as the swine flu any more.

For a while, it was this paper's policy to refer to it as the swine flu because of the overriding popularity of the term. We try to use common spoken language whenever possible. However the increasing swing toward calling it H1N1 took hold here, too. So if we're already on board with the name change, why is Moran still advocating acting. It's because while the media has caught on, the people haven't.

This strain became known as the swine flu because when information was first released, that's what everyone — doctors, "experts" and government officials — called it. Back in midsummer, the information coming from the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and even our own Kansas Department of Health and the Environment all named it the swine flu. This is because of the virus' apparent similarity to flu viruses found among pigs. It was later found that the H1N1 virus contained some similar DNA, but also DNA from several other flu strains.

In situations like this, we do reach for simple catch phrases or labels that they can use over and over again. If you're skimming the Fox News web site or flipping past their channel and you see a headline that says, "swine flu," you immediately know what it's about. The media is good at this process. Think how quickly after events such as Watergate, 9/11 or "balloon boy" the labels caught on. And swine flu caught on because it came first. People are slower to change a label like that to something more scientific.

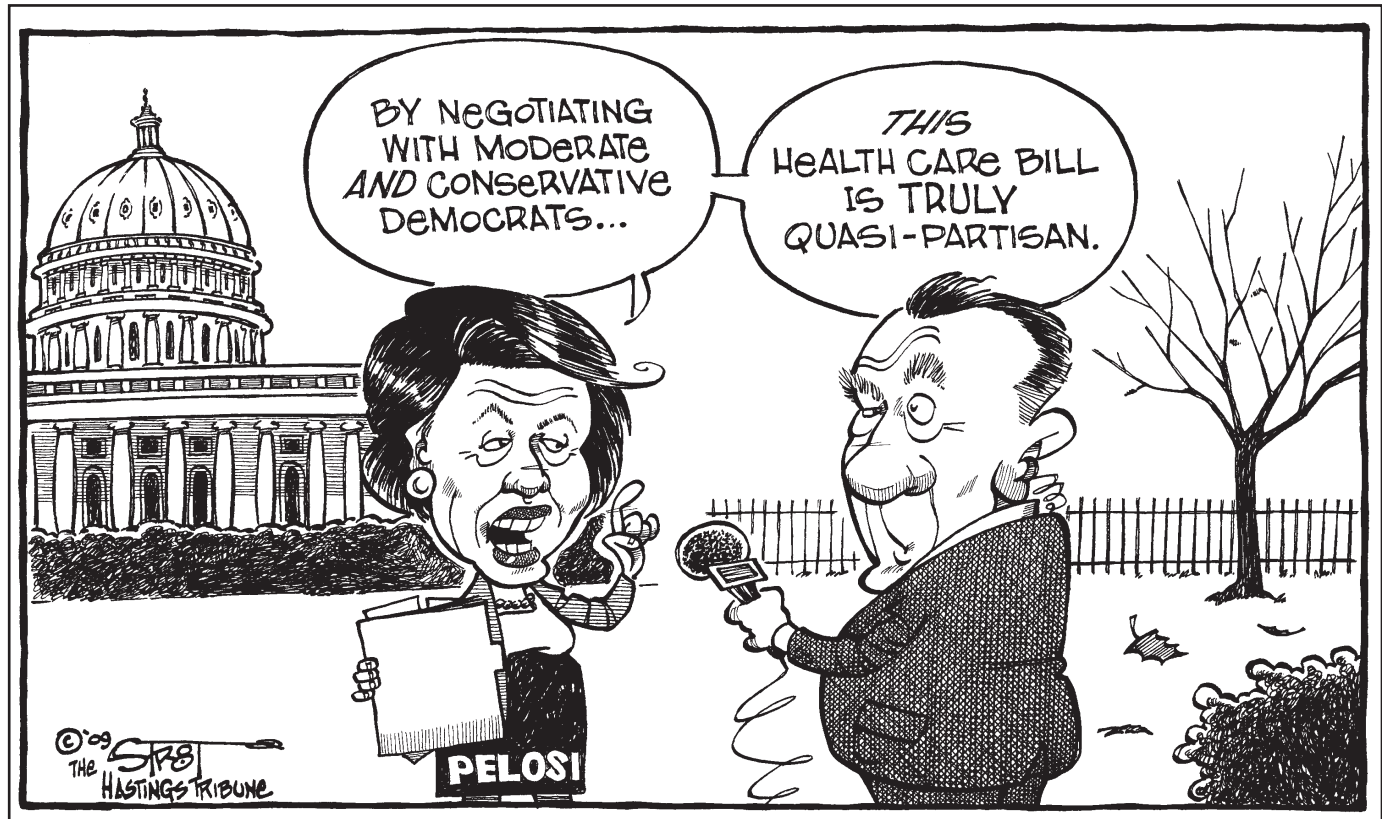
Officials changed their tune after pig farmers complained. And Moran's concern is for the pig farmers out there. There are a lot of stories claiming that the label is bad for the pork industry, and many producers are right here in Kansas.

However, what most of these stories report is a drop in the price of pork futures and an industry that is already being hurt by high feed prices. The actual impact of the mis-named virus is very hard to gauge. Corporations, governments and political groups are often quick to assume that the public easily gets the wrong impression.

In any case, the farmers and packers have been at the forefront of renaming the virus since the beginning, even though the health agencies have also been saying all along that you can't get the virus from eating pork. The term swine flu isn't going away now. It's ingrained into the public awareness. But the major news outlets have already given it up, and maybe in the end that will sway the public.

Moran is a bit behind the times, but even if he is late to the party, let's just be glad he showed up at all.

— Kevin Bottrell



## While we wait for the H1N1 vaccine

### H1N1 News

Dr. Jason

Eberhart-Phillips

spread of the flu and keep yourself safe. It's called social distancing.

Social distancing is the idea that simply by reducing the frequency, proximity and duration of contact between yourself and others the chances of spreading the disease can be reduced. With a little vigilance wherever you go, such as in schools and childcare facilities, at work and in the community, you can dramatically cut your risk of catching the flu.

- Start at home by monitoring yourself and your family members every day for symptoms of influenza. Remain home at the first sign of illness. Try to limit the interaction between family members who are ill and those who are well. Remember that individuals with symptoms of influenza should stay isolated and not return to school or work for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone without taking fever-reducing medicine.

- Check to see if the schools and childcare facilities where your children attend

monitor for illness and immediately isolate symptomatic children until they can be picked up. Are concerts or athletic events postponed or altered when there are high levels of influenza-like-illness among students and staff?

- At work, try to create as much space as possible between yourself and your coworkers, and always model good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Are you knowledgeable about your employer's policies for sick leave, and do you know when you will be allowed to return to work? If illness is prevalent, is there any way you can work remotely from home? No one likes to wait, and all of us — including me and my family — now find ourselves cooling our heels as we await ever-increasing amounts of vaccine to be produced and distributed. In the meantime, we can all be active participants in the fight against this virus by implementing preventive measures of good hygiene and other proven strategies to avoid exposure to the flu and stay well.

Until there is enough vaccine to put an end to this pandemic once and for all in Kansas, please join me in doing what we can to reduce the spread of H1N1 flu, protecting our families and ourselves.



To....Local sound technician Larry Henderson for fixing the sound problem at the movie theatre. (emailed)

To.....Ms. Cochran and the junior and senior high vocal students for their concert Tuesday night. (emailed)

To....the junior and senior high school and vocal instructor for the beautiful music at Tuesday's concert. (called in)

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## The toughest job you'll ever love

The toughest job you'll ever love is used by many to describe being a parent. Do you ever have days that you want to just quit? I think most of us do if we are truly honest with ourselves. Don't get me wrong I love my children dearly, I would gladly die for them and never take even a million dollars for any of them but I can say I wouldn't give a penny for another one.

Being a parent can be the most glorious thing in your life but it can also drive you nuts. Remember when they were born, so sweet and so cute, so lovable. Then it happens, they start to grow up. God help us all if they ever do half of what we did. They start walking, getting into everything then even worse, they start talking and never shut up until they become a teenager. Once a teenager they refuse to be seen with you and hold everything inside leaving you feeling helpless. If you are like me you find it very hard

Open Doors  
Dana Paxton



to believe how totally different children can be yet have the same parents, same genes, same childhood experiences. Hard to believe that the sweet precious little toddler you once bounced on your knee, the one who called you their hero now hates you, sneaks out, drinks, smokes, does poorly in school, hangs out with all the wrong people and doesn't care at all about you or what you think. It is mind boggling to me. One may even begin to wonder if you will ever like your kid again.

Parenthood, especially being a single parent is the hardest job we will ever have. We may not always love it, we may even want to give up but a good parent never gives up. We are always here to pick up the pieces and love them no matter what. We hope and pray our precious little angel will return to us, hoping that some day as they get older they will look at us and think that we seem smarter, that maybe we did know what we were talking about.

Parenting is the toughest job ever but it doesn't mean you have to love it, it's okay to hate it once in a while but then pull yourself together and do what you have to. My hat is off to every parent out there. I swear, I have been put through every test they can throw at me and I survived. I love being a mom, it's so extremely hard especially, as they age, but I wouldn't trade it for anything on this earth!

## Excuses ranged for lost plane

The recent Northwest Airline flight 188 is reported to have overshoot their destination by 150 miles and was out of radio contact for what now appears to be 91 minutes rather than the previously stated 78. NORAD had fighter jets on the ground in two locations to intercept what was feared to be a hijacked airliner. During this time, numerous attempts to contact the pilots failed as well as various methods.

When contact was finally made and the pilots responded to varied requests for maneuvers to assure those on the ground they were in control of the plane, the questions began. The two veteran pilots with a combined three decades and 30,000 plus hours of experience were faced with having to explain the lost time. Upon landing, they both agreed to alcohol testing which was negative. No mention of drug testing

Phase II  
Mary Kay Woodyard



was made. The excuses ranged from "lost track of time," "heated discussion over company policy," "going over company scheduling" and finally "distracted by their laptops."

The final verdict was the pilots' use of laptops had caused a major distraction. The use of laptops as well as other technical devices and reading material in the cockpit is banned by most major airlines. One former NTSB investigator spoke to the lulling effect of the autopilot on long

flights and the need to be disciplined. But perhaps the statement which spoke most pointedly to the situation was this by John Labeur formerly with the NTSB. He said it boils down to professionalism (on the job).

It seems that a lack of professionalism extends far beyond the cockpit in today's world. We see it on the playing field, in the board room, on Wall Street and in government. The dire effects of these pilots' actions go without saying, but a lack of professionalism infiltrates all of society. Whether it is the irate parent at their child's ballgame or the loud-mouthed congressman, it all serves to degrade us as a whole. We each fall prey to irrational behavior at times in our lives, but a conscious effort to behave in both a professional and a civil manner will benefit all. mkwoodyard@ruralnet.net