

New lawsuit brings problems for Legislature

The state has new problems with new litigation announced this week by House of Representatives Speaker Michael O'Neal saying he would be representing 18 trade associations whose members paid into worker's comp accounts that were cleared out when the Legislature was trying to balance their budget at the end of the 2009 session.

In an article in *The Topeka Capital-Journal*, O'Neal said it was private money, for a specific purpose that was used for public funding.

The new lawsuit brings counties into the equation. *The Hutchinson News* reported \$2 million was swept from the "special county mineral production tax fund of the department of revenue."

An estimated 70 counties received a letter encouraging them to get involved with the litigation.

This is not the first time this year a lawsuit against the state has made news—Schools for Fair Funding is threatening to sue the state over funding cuts.

Counties have seen a decrease in funds for years, just like schools have, but this lawsuit officially brings them into the problem of suing the state for more money.

Critics of Schools for Fair Funding, including Speaker O'Neal, say the state shouldn't be sued over finances, especially when the state is cash-strapped. O'Neal was among the biggest critics of the school lawsuit.

O'Neal is taking a lot of criticism over it being a conflict of interest for him to be lead counsel in litigation against the Legislature, where he serves as speaker of the house.

O'Neal did vote against the sweep, even filing a formal complaint.

While O'Neal's involvement in the Legislature could be considered a conflict of interest, it is not the biggest issue. The state does not have funds to cover its many needs, including multiple lawsuits. However, they cannot continue to sweep funds from private organizations, and they cannot continue to cut services.

Perhaps it will take litigation to make everyone realize state finances are in serious trouble, and more than moving funds and cutting services will have to be done to solve the problem.

—Erica Bradley



Calving season upon us

Spring calving season has arrived. It is an exciting time filled with stress and hazards. Below are a few tips that will make calving season easier on all involved.

Prior to calving, it is very important that the cows receive adequate nutrition. When cattle have a body condition score of five out of nine, they are better prepared to feed the calf in the coming months.

Vaccinations are of vital importance, including a scour vaccination, a respiratory anti-abortive vaccination and a 7-way vaccination. The cow passes antibodies on to her calf keeping the cattle herd healthier and more profitable for the producer.

Anti-parasitic treatment is also incredibly important. These parasites strain the already weakened immune system.

Most cattle go through the calving season uneventfully. But, even the most well managed herd is bound to have problems.

All cattle producers should have these obstetrical supplies on hand: a means of restraint (head catch and halter), a bucket for warm water and disinfectant, lubricant, obstetrical chains and handles, obstetrical sleeves, strong iodine, clean towels, calf esophageal feeder and feeder bottle and frozen colostrums and electrolytes.

Consult your veterinarian prior to calving on specific medications you may need for your herd.

It is very important that adequate shelter is available for cattle during calving. A good shelter provides protection from the elements.

The maternity pens should be comfortable and contain clean bedding and sufficient lighting. There should also be an area available for warming chilled

Vet tips Dr. Aaron White



calves.

Professional help is always the best during a dystocia. The sooner your veterinarian can aid the cow, the greater the chance that a live healthy calf will be delivered.

The veterinarian should be called immediately: when hard labor has not progressed after 30 minutes, for any abnormal presentation (normal presentation is nose, 2 front feet, and right side up), and for any unusual behavior (labor starts but does not progress). Early intervention is vital to saving both the calf and cow! As always, handle cows gently and with as little stress as possible.

The more stress, the more likely you will have problems with cow-calf bonding.

After calving, check the udder for adequate colostrums, the single most important factor in calf survival after birth!

Strip a few drops of colostrums from each teat to check for mastitis and to make it easier for the calf to nurse. The calf should nurse multiple times well during the first eight hours of life. If the calf is weak consult your veterinarian immediately!

After birth, dip the calf's naval in strong iodine to help prevent naval ill (infection).

Follow these guidelines and your calving season should be a great success! And as always, when in doubt, call your veterinarian!

Defining a Godly nation

I recently received an e-mail asking readers to pray for a return to a "Godly nation." I wondered how to define "godly." Merriam Webster defines it as 'divine, pious or devout.' Divine is defined as "supremely good." When dealing with humans, supremely good is a rare commodity. And generally if one thinks they are supremely good, the opposite is more likely to be true. As we look at our peppered history I wonder if we really want to return to this 'godly' status.

Throughout the years, as a nation, we have accomplished much, but we are not without blemishes on our record. In 1798, President John Adams feared the country was in danger from outside agents wanting to overthrow the government and introduced the Alien and Sedition Acts. The Alien Act gave the president the power to deport anyone he thought a threat without a hearing or a reason. The Sedition Act did not allow anything to be said which was false, scandalous or malicious against the president, congress or the U.S. government in general.

In 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant decided blacks and whites could not live together peaceably and the Klan's actions

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



were 'understandable.' His solution was to acquire Santa Domingo and use it to relocate the almost four million freed Blacks.

The day after Pearl Harbor then governor of California, Culbert Olson, and State Attorney General Earl Warren, later to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, dismissed first generation Japanese Americans and their U.S. born children from civil service positions, froze their bank accounts, revoked medical and law licenses and began the process of relocating them to areas away from the west coast. Just as fear of the Japanese dictated actions after Pearl Harbor, fear of Middle Easterners dictated actions after 9/11 giving rise to the Patriot Acts of George W. Bush's presidency.

Which of these times would you like to return to? On the other hand, in

1990 President George H.W. Bush sent \$20,000, tax free, to each of the 60,000 survivors of the Japanese internment camps. In doing so he issued this apology:

"A monetary sum and words alone cannot restore lost years or erase painful memories, neither can they fully convey the Nation's resolve to rectify injustice and to uphold the rights of individuals. We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans during World War II."

Twenty years ago we sent an apology for past actions; today we are the leading nation providing relief in Haiti; tomorrow we want to provide quality education, careers not jobs for our children and sustainable energy sources.

Carl Sandburg, biographer and poet, (1878-1967) reflecting on our great country said, "I see America, not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us, I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of will and vision."

Remembering a great teacher

We heard the news: David Stuewe, long time, respected Norton Community High School Band Director, has passed.

Elizabeth got her start as a flutist with Mr. Stuewe. We selected her first flute on the basis of the salesperson's claim "This is the kind of flute Mr. Stuewe's daughter plays." Mr. Stuewe was only her teacher for 5th and 6th grade band but 10 years later when she became a teacher he would give her advice and counsel at contest and professional meetings.

Some of what she has attempted to do as a teacher is a direct result of his mentoring. The results may not be as either hoped; still we are grateful for Mr. Stuewe and all the people in her life who have encouraged her.

As I think of the encouragers that are in my life and the lives of my children it occurs to me they are nearly all teachers.

I love teachers. My mom was a teacher. Two of my kids are.

A lot of vocal people out there don't like teachers much. I have a couple of friends who never miss a chance to bad mouth teachers. I don't know what it says but both have teaching certificates (though neither has a current teaching license).

Certainly they were not suited for the profession and probably the reason they chose it is because at the time women my age were in college, we were funneled to education or nursing.

One once told me the only thing Teacher Ed does is give kids 4 or 5 years

Back Home Nancy Hagman



to grow up! A point you could argue!

One thinks teachers are vastly overpaid because they are not required to be on site 40 hours per week and only work 180 or so contract days a year. The other thinks it is a terrible career choice because you will never get rich! I agree you'll never get rich though am not sure you should pick your life's work based purely on financial considerations.

Eldest daughter, Kate, attended an in-service where the speaker who told them the average person's obituary is read a dozen or so times. (I'm thinking they did this survey in a city or else I'm weird because I read a lot of obituaries.) In contrast the average teacher's obituary is read 80 times. The point, no matter how it seems at the time, teachers have influence!

When Kate gets discouraged she thinks about that. I don't have the heart to tell her maybe the reason former students read teacher's obits is because they just want to be sure the old bat that gave them so much trouble in Government is really dead!

Teaching can be a very difficult job. A young lady we know who is struggling with a possible career change after try-

ing it as a teacher says, "I love the idea of education, but in practice I can't make it work." She's a very sweet and special person. I keep thinking she should be such a wonderful teacher. What tremendous skill it takes to balance it all.

Compounded with the current economic climate it's a wonder anyone stays in the profession. Teachers are under contract, yet the money to pay them is not being forwarded to school districts. Many got no raises last year and this year doesn't look any more promising. The hubby has been on a school board so I've seen all sides and don't have any answers.

We also just learned of the death of Phil Ramer, former pastor at the United Parish Church in Lenora. He was a wonderful pastor, how lucky I feel to have known him. It's hardly amazing that preachers and teachers are admired, even revered. It's how it should be.

I still have a note from a classmate telling me how my mother influenced his life! And I was so very touched when another former student told me the stories mom read each morning to her fifth grade class remained some of her favorites and because of mom she read to her children every night.

We've all seen this thing, "If you can read this thank a teacher!" I'd add NOW!!! And expanding on the theme—thank everyone who helps you, NOW! If you missed the opportunity, write or tell a family member. And believe they will know!