

# commentary

from other pens...

## Meth lab fire shows hazards of illegal drug

**The Pittsburg Morning Sun on methamphetamine:**

Local law officers were lucky Wednesday morning. Next time, they may not be so fortunate.

The business of fighting methamphetamine is a dangerous one. It's a war that claims many lives every year. A good example of this sad fact occurred early Wednesday after local officers tried to execute a search warrant ... for what they believed was an operating meth lab. However ... a fire broke out and before the smoke settled three officers and one of the suspects went to the hospital with injuries.

That's bad — but it could have been much worse.

Methamphetamine ... is made using over-the-counter ingredients, many of which are hazardous and quite flammable.

According to the Center for Disease Control, those ingredients are often corrosive, explosive, flammable and toxic. ...

The CDC also notes that police officers and EMTs have the greatest number of injuries as a result of meth because ... the uniforms they wear provide little or no chemical or respiratory protection. ...

Meth is, the official noted, "a scourge on this entire region."

Those are strong words. But meth is a powerful drug and both its manufacture and its usage ruins lives.

We hear a lot about methamphetamine in southeast Kansas and southwest Missouri. It's in the news and much on the minds of local public health officials. ...

Although many citizens have never laid eyes on meth, it effects us all and this incident proves the need for everyone to maintain a close watch for those making meth in our community and to report such incidents to authorities.

Those who make and use meth are selfish in their production and consumption of the drug. Let's be selfish in protecting our community from the "scourge" they have brought on our community.

**The Salina Journal on legacy of Attorney General Carla Stovall:**

Carla Stovall sure will be remembered for her time in Kansas politics. But some of those memories are not a fair representation of her term as attorney general.

Consider the way she leaves the political scene. Here she was, the Republicans' top candidate for the governor's race, and she dropped out of contention, got engaged and appears ready to live a more normal and less public life as the wife of a radio personality.

Stovall also will be remembered for her brush with scandal. Kansans will not forget the stink raised after Stovall awarded a \$27 million tobacco lawsuit contract to a law firm that formerly employed her on a part-time basis. ...

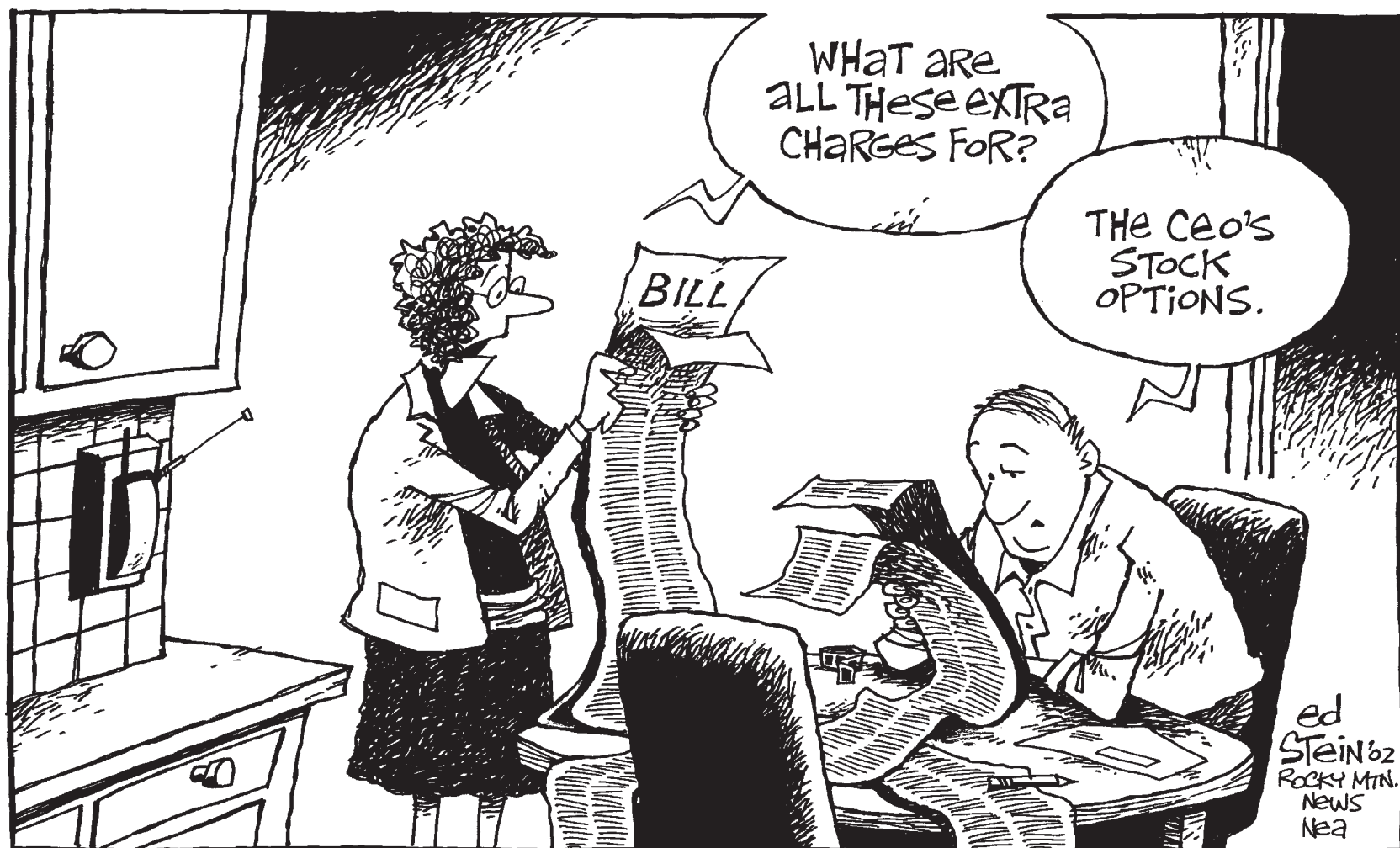
But it would be regrettable if Stovall's legacy was limited to those events. We should not overlook her notable accomplishments while in office, including her work on behalf of crime victims.

Two recent legislative successes provide good examples of those efforts. One is a bill that makes it easier to get a protection order to prevent harassment or contact from another person. It is designed to offer better protections for victims of stalking.

The other bill is similar in that it simplifies conditions for a "protection from abuse" order in cases of domestic violence. Current law says two parties have to live together or have a child together to get such protections from the court. This new legislation allows protective orders even if two have been just dating.

Both bills have gone to Gov. Bill Graves for his signature.

It is likely both will be signed into law, giving Stovall a pair of legislative victories for victims' rights — and giving us two more reasons to give credit where credit is due: Stovall's tenure was more than titillating headlines and brushes with scandal. It should be remembered as such.



## Some special hints for buying that used car

Dear Kansas Consumers:

This is the time of year when many people use their tax refunds as a down payment to purchase a car. I would like to provide a few car buying tips which should help in making that major decision.

1. Ask friends and family for their opinions when selecting a reputable dealership.
2. Get all promises and representations in writing.
3. Do not buy on impulse or in response to high pressure sales. Take time to go home and discuss the purchase with family members. Be sure to get the car you want, not the car the salesperson wants you to have.
4. Ask the dealer for a vehicle history, title history, Carfax, or report from e-autohistory.com.
5. Carefully inspect the vehicle for prior damage, both by yourself and by a trusted auto me-



**carla j. stovall**

• consumer corner

chanic. If the dealer has a problem with you doing this, it should raise a red flag.

6. Carefully examine extended warranties. Remember they are optional, not mandatory.

7. Keep in mind that the three-day right to cancel does not apply to car purchases made at a dealer's place of business. Be sure to purchase the car you want and can afford.

It is also important to remember that the Kansas Lemon Law only applies to new vehicles (leased

or purchased), not used or pre-owned, and there are certain criteria a new vehicle must meet before being designated as a "lemon." Any consumers who wish to receive a brochure on the Kansas Lemon Law may contact my Consumer Protection Division at (785) 296-3751 or 800-432-2310.

Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry with the receptionist and your call will be returned promptly.

## Everyone should read Bible account of creation

While reading the Bible one day, I began to think of some of the things that make the Bible a truly amazing book — actually a collection of 66 books. Those thoughts inspired a top 10 list that I don't believe has already been done — the top 10 reasons everyone should read the Bible.

I would like to discuss each of these reasons in its own column over the next 10 weeks. And, as is tradition, I will start at 10 and work my way up to the number one reason.

Reason no. 10 that everyone should read the Bible is its account of earth's creation. Many people have had theories of how life began and why we are here, but scientists have not been able to prove any of those theories. Meanwhile, the Bible's account of creation, the oldest "theory" of them all, has not been disproved by science despite diligent efforts by some who do not want to believe in God.

Genesis 1:1, 2 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth proved to be formless and waste and there was darkness upon the surface of the watery deep; and God's active force was moving to and fro over the surface of the waters."

This account takes us back to the beginning of the earth's creation, a time period so long ago no one is sure exactly when it was. Some would argue that the age of some rock formations on earth mean earth could not have been created 6,000 years ago, the time period that has occurred since mankind was created.

But notice this doesn't say it happened 6,000 years ago. The earth was created sometime before Adam was, exactly how long before, no human knows.

Some have debated whether the earth could have been created in six days, as in six 24-hour periods. But the account does not say God counted time in 24-hour increments.

2 Peter 3:8 says, "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

God has existed for all eternity and will continue to exist for all eternity. It is reasonable to think he counts time much differently than humans who live for roughly 80 years. The Bible does not say exactly how long the creative days were, but they were six equal time periods.

Verse two describes God's active force moving over the surface of the earth. How, exactly, God was able to create the earth is beyond human comprehension. We have no way of creating the complex ecosystems on earth from non living matter. But



**sharon corcoran**

• use it or lose it

that is one thing that makes God so high above us.

Revelation 4:11 says, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

God's power is amazing, and we are privileged to have the opportunity to learn about his acts, including earth's creation.

Genesis 1: 3-5 describes the forming of day and night. Verses 6-8 describe the formation of the sky above the earth, and verses 9 and 10 describe the formation of land and seas.

Verses 11-13 describe the creation of vegetation, and verses 14-19 describe the formation of the sun, moon, stars and seasons. Verses 20-22 describe the creation of birds, fish and other marine life.

Verse 24 says, "And God went on to say: 'Let the earth put forth living souls according to their kinds, domestic animal and moving animal and wild beast of the earth according to its kind.' And it came to be so."

Verses 26 and 27 describe the creation of mankind, "And God went on to say: 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and the domestic animals and all the earth and every moving animal that is moving upon the earth.' And God proceeded to create the man in his image, in God's image he created him; male and female he created them."

When God said, "Let us make man in our image," who was he talking to? Proverbs chapter eight provides the answer. Verse 22 says, "God himself produced me as the beginning of his way, the earliest of his achievements of long ago."

Verses 23-30 describe someone being with God during the process of creation. That person was the one referred to in the Bible as "his only-begotten son," the one who came to earth as Jesus Christ.

All of these details concerning the creation of the earth are available for everyone to learn by reading the Bible. No other book provides this information. Scientific theories about life beginning spontaneously then evolving into higher life forms are not proven, and they leave far more questions than they would answer if they were true.

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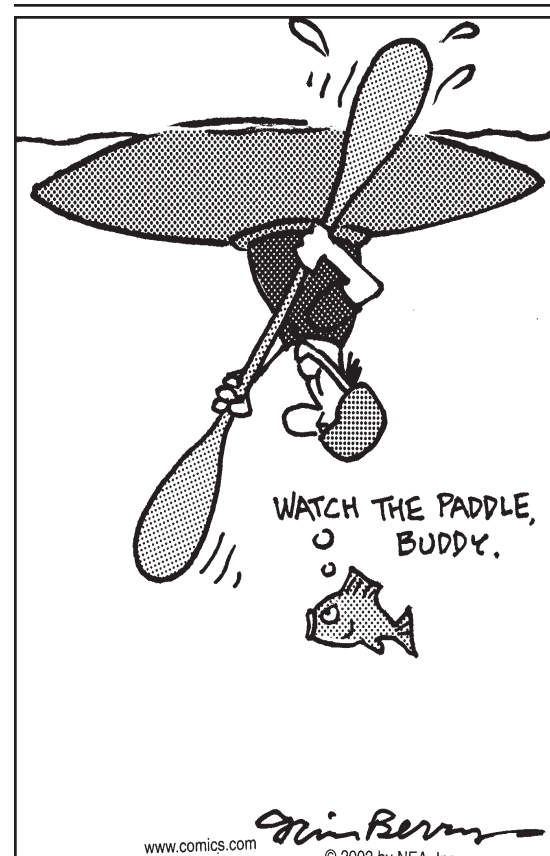
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