



Despite governors' trip, pink slime still a dodo

A high-powered delegation of Midwestern governors gathered in South Sioux City, Neb., last week to try to save some jobs and buck up the price of beef.

While their hearts may have been in the right place, we think the governors are wasting their time, and their taxpayers' money.

No matter what they say, even if the governors did eat hamburgers made with the stuff, consumers are just not going to embrace an ingredient called "pink slime."

This stuff is nothing you wouldn't expect in your average hot dog. It's beef scraps that have been ground, had the fat cooked out at low temperature, and made ready to add to ground beef and other foods.

One objection to the product, known in the industry as "lean, finely textured beef," from left-wing groups had been that it's treated with ammonia to kill bacteria. There's no showing that the ammonia is harmful, but it is a harsh chemical.

If you had to choose between bad bacteria and ammonia treatment, though, which would you prefer? The stuff won't hurt you. Whether it makes for a fresh, wholesome and tasty burger is quite another thing.

But somehow, the opposition got ahold of that name "pink slime," and the manufacturer, Beef Products Inc., has had to shut all but one of its plants. That one, in South Sioux City, is on life support.

So there were the governors, munching on pink-slime infused burgers and making a show of how safe and tasty they were. It's a high-powered group, including two former conservative presidential candidates, our own Sam Brownback and Rick Perry of Texas. Others were Lt. Gov. Matt Michels of South Dakota, standing in for his governor, who was out of the country on a trade mission; Nebraska's Dave Heineman; and Terry Branstad of Iowa.

They put on a good show. They showed fealty to both the beef industry and to the cause of scarce jobs in their states. But we can't say they won many consumers over.

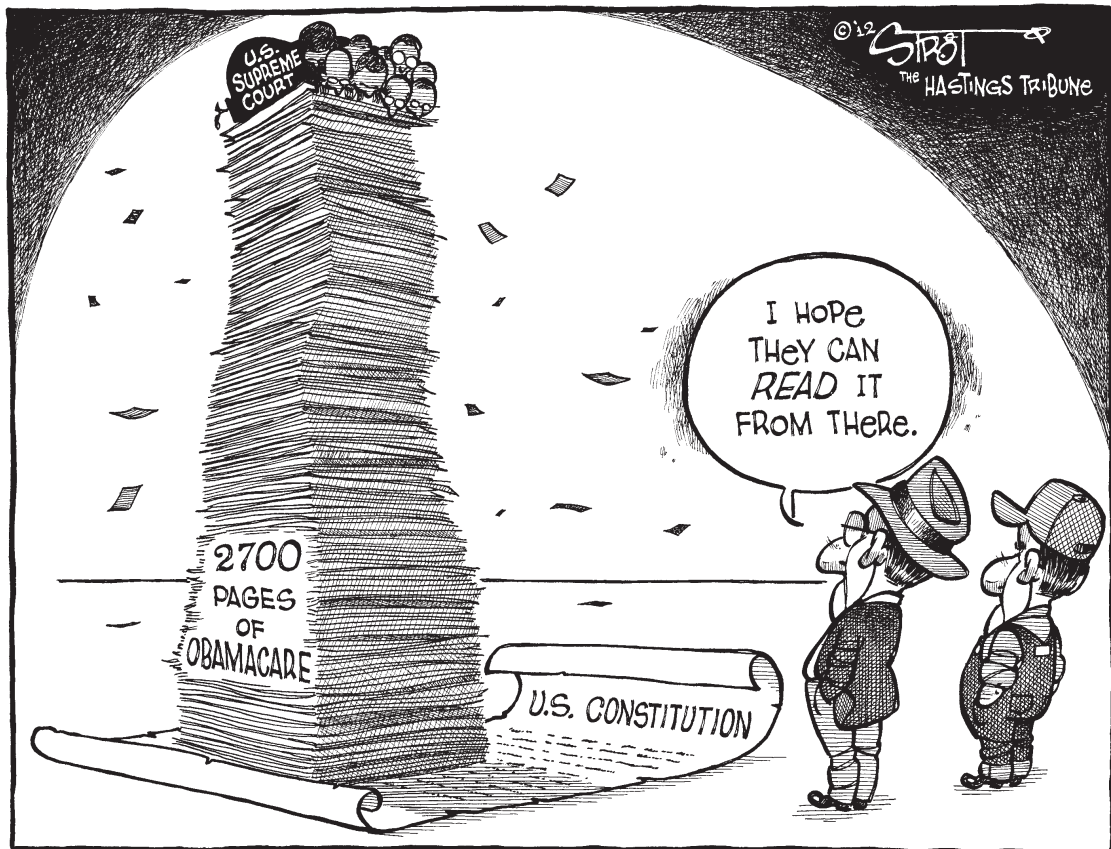
Though this type of processed beef has been on the market for 20 years without a fuss, the current scare likely has killed it for a while. Some will continue to eat it, but most supermarket chains and fast-food outlets dropped it like a hot rock.

And why not, when people will be demanding "real" beef.

Many of us might prefer store-ground beef with a better texture and maybe even some flavor, of course. Many restaurants serve that, and most stores sell it. But patties made with this processed stuff can be cheaper and hold together better. Some may prefer them.

Regardless, it'll be a few years before the market for pink - er, lean, finely textured beef - returns to normal. Simply put, the damage has been done.

- Steve Haynes



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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I try to bring variety to the subjects that are presented in each week's space under my name. But I had to touch once more on what was happening five years ago in my world.

An acute case of pancreatitis landed me in the ICU of a Denver hospital. In my life-and-death struggle I was not alone, as mentioned last week.

But it wasn't until I opened the Dr. Scholl's shoe box that lays stored in our basement that I realized the army behind me when I was down.

It took me two attempts to read the cards and letters that

have been saved from that time. Some were from loved ones who have gone beyond while I have remained. My dear Aunt Sissy, Gene Young and Gus and Martha Zweygardt were more worried about me than themselves.

In all, there are close to 100 pieces of mail from family and friends. Posts came from McDonald, Bird City and St. Francis and as far away as Washington state. Each encouraged me to heal and know that warm thoughts were directed to me and prayers were being sent to God on my behalf.

The thing is, that box could be

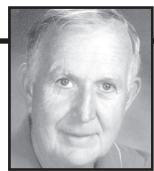
empty but the sentiments would remain. Like the old saying of "quantity versus quality." The caring hearts of all those who took time to send out support was of the highest quality.

Not that I will forget these people and their words, but I plan to dust off that box every five years and spend a few moments realizing how very blessed I am.

And I promise to write about something else next week!

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

March 31, the Legislature adjourned for its annual break and will return to Topeka on April 25 for what is called "veto session." This break allows research and revenue staff time to review and assemble economic and tax collection data needed to make informed decisions on the budget when we return.

I have to return for an April 19 and 20 "omnibus session" in Appropriations. We will finalize the budget to be presented to the House at that time. We will also receive the information from the Attorney General as to how much money was actually sent to Kansas this year from the tobacco companies lawsuit. For the past four years, we have received \$58 million, and the Governor's budget projected that only \$38 million would be received this year. There are many good programs that received major funding cuts, and

hopefully we can adjust their budgets if more revenue arrives.

During the 2011 session, much debate ensued regarding the future of the Kansas Arts Commission. As a result, HB 2766 was introduced to create the Creative Arts Industry Commission in the Department of Commerce and absolve the Kansas Arts Commission and the Kansas Film Commission. The Creative Arts Commission would be the official state program for the arts and tasked with promoting, supporting, coordinating, developing, and measuring the outcomes of the arts in Kansas. I voted for the bill, and it is now being discussed in the Senate.

A very important bill, which I supported, is the Grandparents Rights Bill (SB 262). This bill requires grandparents to be considered when evaluating what custody, visitation, or residency arrangements are in the

best interest of a child who has been removed from custody of their parent.

If the court decides it is in the child's best interest to be placed in SRS custody, the bill allows the grandparents who request custody of the child to still have preference in the placement evaluation.

The House passed a bill (HB 2764) that mandates private health insurance companies to cover Autism. There was also an amendment that states an insurance company cannot deny coverage to a child because of a pre-existing condition, when the bill goes into effect. I voted yes to help autistic children and their families.

Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

Fang

By James Patterson

Fang Will Be The First To Die... Maximum Ride is used to living desperately on the run from evil forces sabotaging her quest to save the world...but nothing has

ever come as close to destroying her as this horrifying message. Fang is Max's best friend, her soul mate, her partner in the leadership of her flock of winged children. A life without Fang is a life unimaginable.

But There Will Be Another... When a newly created winged boy, the magnificent Dylan, is intro-

duced into the flock, their world is upended yet again. Raised in a lab like the others, Dylan exists for only one reason: he was designed to be Max's perfect other half.

To Replace Fang... Thus unfolds a battle of perfection versus passion that terrifies, twists and turns... and meanwhile, The Apocalypse Is Coming.

matriarch of the Whitcombe family refuses to bless Miranda and Ian's relationship. How can Miranda ever find a place to belong in this cheery corner of the world? When family secrets threaten all her relationships in unanticipated ways, Miranda is certain all is lost.

And yet...as Miranda searches for love, she finds the promise of so much more in the arms of a certain Father Christmas. Perhaps this holiday has special gifts in store for her after all.

But Miranda's high hopes for a jolly Christmas are toppled when Ian's father is hospitalized and the

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Gilbert Ochsner, St. Francis; Dale Hill, St. Francis; Nick Raile, St. Francis; Terry Bandel, St. Francis; Jake Trembly, Cozad, Neb.; G.L. Pershal, Yukon, Okla.; Harold Mitchell, Burlington, Colo.; Laure Wallace, Columbia, Mo.; Dorothy Fires-tone, Topeka; Jennifer Tieg, St. Francis; Delores Wiley, St. Francis; Norris Anderson, St. Francis;

Book review from St. Francis Public Library

Engaging Father Christmas

By Robin Jones Gunn

Miranda Carson can't wait to return to England to spend Christmas with her boyfriend, Ian. She has spent a lifetime yearning for a place to call home, and she's sure Carlton Heath will be it, especially when hints of engagement fill the air.

But Miranda's high hopes for a jolly Christmas are toppled when Ian's father is hospitalized and the

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Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



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Age Counts

The other day I was visiting with a lady and she was telling me how great it was to go into a store to purchase some wine and they carded her. She went on about being so proud of this as she is 30-plus years old.

It brought back a time to when I was younger and how great I felt when people would ask me if my grand kids were mine. I would tell them I was the grandmother and they would go through all the apologies, but lifted my spirits to think I looked so young.

Let me tell you - enjoy it while you can! How it ever went from thinking I was the mother instead of the grandmother to thinking I was my husband's mother I don't know, but it happened. I might add it happened more than once so the insult became the injury.

Now I have the great-grandchildren and once again I am in heaven. Babies are so special and it is so fun to watch them as they grow. One day I was in the eye doctor's

office holding little Carson and gloating because the people in the room were focused on how adorable he is.

Not once did it bother me when people asked if he was a grandson, but then another light bulb went off in my head. I proudly announced he was my great-grandson and sure enough someone said, "Oh my you don't look old enough to be a great-grandmother."

It was a good feeling until a little later when I announced this to

another person and she just looked at me and said, "I figured that, I am a great grandmother also."

I am fine with being older it gives one lots of excuses like holding the babies while they sleep and not feeling like I have to get up and do some work.

It gives us more time to reflect on the past and to appreciate the present.

GOD SAYS
Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewithin. A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.
Proverbs 14:16-18

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Randy Nelson
Church 332-2928
Parsonage 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

St. Francis
Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.

United Methodist Church
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Warren Cico
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

St. Francis Equity

St. Francis Herald

Praise the Lord