

from our viewpoint...

Canadian pipeline brings oil, jobs

Environmental protesters today are trying to block construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, designed to carry oil imported from vast Canadian tar-sands fields to the central U.S.

And while the protestors claim a leak could foul the great Ogallala aquifer as it crosses Nebraska's Sand Hills, that is no more likely than any other of the dozens of pipelines crisscrossing the nation.

This battle is not about leaks – that talk basically is just fear mongering – but about making oil more expensive, harder to get and less useful – and oddly enough, keeping the U.S. dependent on Arab suppliers.

The decision will be made, by the U.S. Department of State, not the Interior Department or the Environmental Protection Agency, which deal routinely with such issues.

The State Department held a hearing in Lincoln, Neb., last month where supporters and opponents jeered each other. Environmentalists claimed a leak could devastate the Ogallala, ignoring the fact pipelines are a reasonably safe means of transporting oil. They shut down automatically when a leak crops up, for one thing.

Supporters said the line would bring jobs and badly needed, dependable supplies of oil.

Perhaps the real agenda slipped from one environmentalist: opponents don't like the open-pit mining process used to recover the sands, or the cooking it takes to extract the oil.

"We cannot afford to spill this toxic tar sands oil into our soil or groundwater," one declared.

But the Canadians have already developed the fields, and someone will burn this oil. Why shouldn't the U.S. have a steady, dependable supply that doesn't have to move in supertankers? And come to think of it, which is worse: an unseen pipeline across the midlands, safe from most hazards, from terrorism to storms, or a tanker floating on the seas and passing through jihadist-infested waters off war-torn nations?

Indications are the \$7 billion project will be approved, though that's far from certain. The builders claim it'll meet and exceed environmental and safety standards. The environmentalists are just against it.

Anyone interested in keeping the economy afloat on the High Plains, or in having a steady, dependable and reasonably priced supply of oil, might want to come down on the side of the builders. We need the oil, and we sure need the jobs. – *Steve Haynes*



Time to upgrade kitchen cabinets

We've been talking about updating our kitchen for about 10 years.

We've been doing a lot more talking this year. We've talked to the bank. We've talked to the cabinet maker. We've talked to the flooring guy.

The bank said yes. The cabinet maker and flooring guy showed us samples and we're ready to go.

But first there's a little matter of the old cabinets.

I'm not worried about what to do with the old cabinets. They can be moved to the garage or basement and put to use holding leftovers, spares, parts and assorted junk - the second half of a two-light bulb pack, unused garden seeds, garden fertilizer, bug spray, charcoal, and all the other debris that clutters up every flat surface.

What I have to do now is clean them out – before the cabinet guys get here.

And if you've ever moved, you know that that's an incredible job.

I've lived in this house about 18 years now, but I haven't forgotten the incredible amount of junk that can be hiding in the kitchen cabinets.

Since the cabinets are still being made, I should have a month or so to clean everything out. I think.



cynthia haynes

• open season

I've started at the top. Above the cabinets, I had my antique Pyrex bowl sets, just like the ones my mother got as wedding presents 65 years ago. You know the ones, nesting bowls, yellow, green, red and blue. Most of the sets had been sitting up there undisturbed for at least 10 years.

Do you know how much dust, grime, grease and filth can collect on anything that isn't moved or touched for 10 years?

Each bowl had to be hand washed and dried, wrapped in newspaper and placed in a box. It took about a week just to clear the tops of the cabinets.

Then I started on the top rows – the ones that neither Steve nor I can reach without a step stool or small ladder. These shelves contain large pieces of Corningware used once a year at Thanksgiving, plastic glasses, ceramic mugs and unused glassware.

Since these things had been in the cabinets and actually used once in every blue moon, they just needed to be wrapped and packed.

Next, I went on to the food odds-and-ends shelves. This is where I put the cider spice mix, tea bags, ultrafancy mustard and bags of this and that.

Most of the tea was so old it could apply for Social Security. I found things in there with labels that weren't even in English. I mean really, I don't know what language it was – Japanese maybe?

These treasures filled a trash bag, but at least nothing crawled out of any of the ancient foodstuffs.

So far, I have 10 boxes all neatly taped and labeled in the basement. But I still haven't touched the stuff we use every week. The plates, silverware, knives and utensils, pots and pans, plastic tubs for leftovers, cups, bowls and food we actually use, including condiments, flour, sugar, coffee and cereal.

I know that I'm going to get that call – "We'll be there tomorrow," and panic. Everythin will get dumped into whatever boxes, bags or baskets I have left and dragged to the basement. I'll end up with 10 to 15 neatly labeled boxes of stuff I never use and won't be able to find a skillet, plate and fork to make a scrambled egg.

I guess Steve will just have to take me out to eat for a week or so.

Gee, that would be so bad, would it?

Letter Policy

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Perioperative nurses celebrated

To the Editor:

What is a perioperative RN?

Perioperative nursing is a specialized area of nursing practice. The perioperative registered nurse works in collaboration with other healthcare professionals which may include the surgeon, anesthesia provider, surgical assistant, and other assistive personnel. The perioperative nurse provides nursing care to surgical patients, preoperatively, intraoperatively and postoperatively, often in the role of circulating registered nurse.

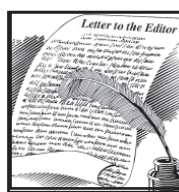
Why is perioperative nursing important?

Perioperative nursing requires a unique and highly specialized skill set gained from dedicated training and education. As a perioperative nurse, I am responsible for planning and directing all nursing care for patients about to undergo invasive surgical procedures, and I serve as the patient's advocate while they are unable to make their own decisions.

If you or someone you love has had a surgical procedure, the perioperative RN was directly responsible for you or your loved one's well-being throughout the operation. While all other well-qualified medical professionals in the room are focused on their specific duty, the perioperative nurse focuses on the patient. By employing their critical thinking, assessment, diagnosing, outcome identification, planning, and evaluation skills, the RN circulator directs the nursing care and coordinates activities of the surgical team for the benefit of the patient.

History of Operating Registered Nurse Day/Week

In 1979, the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses House of Delegates approved a resolution designating a day each year to promote consumer education and enhance public knowledge regarding the role of the perioperative nurse. Nov. 14, 1979, was designated as OR Nurse Day. In 1990, OR Nurse Day became a week-long celebration which focused on educating the public about the role of preoperative nurses. OR Nurse Day is still celebrated on Nov. 14, and has been incorporated into the week. In 2000, OR Nurse Week was changed to Perioperative Nurse Week to reflect the broad spectrum of patient care services provided to surgical patients by perioperative nurses.



from our readers

• to the editor

What is happening this year?

Perioperative nurses want to come from behind the masks and closed doors to let you know that our nurses are dedicated to working hard to protect you, our patients, when you are

most vulnerable. We are your advocate.

This year, in addition to providing superior patient care, we are supporting the role of the perioperative nurse in each of the key recommendations of the Institute of Medicine's recent report, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health. Join us in celebrating the perioperative nurse in your life during Perioperative Nurse Week.

Mardalla Gustafson

Goodland

