

## 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 a hold 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

## After two houses, time to rest

Whew!

That was a sigh of relief.

We are on the next-to-the-last leg of this marathon mission trip. By the time you read this, we should be in our own home, sweet home.

What a trip this has been. A one house built in Juarez, Mexico, the other in Acuna. We worked with two amazing teams; one from Wichita; the other from Colorado Springs. There were teachers, firemen, analysts, painters, students and business people. The one thing we all had in common, though, was the desire, (compulsion, really) to help those who couldn't help themselves. And to have fun while we did it.

Jim warned our teammates before we started, "This will be the hardest work you'll ever love." It is hard work, but at the moment we hand over the keys to this nice little home to the recipient, it'll all be worth it.

Jim never misses an opportunity to have some fun with the more gullible of our teammates, usually a high school girl who hasn't heard all his jokes yet. His favorite is to pick up a rock and ask her, "Have you ever seen Leaverite? This is a genuine piece of Leaverite."

The girl will usually reply something like, "No. I never have."

Here comes the punchline... Jim will throw the rock on the ground and say, "Yup! You leave'er right there."

Dumb, but it gets a laugh every time.

To say we are exhausted would be a gross understatement. Jim was recounting how every bone and muscle in his body hurt. He said, "Even my hair hurts." Now, that's sore.



### Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
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We are both in agreement that two builds back-to-back is too much for us. From now on, we'll leave that to the younger bunch.

-ob-

The way this trip was planned, we were able to spend two weekends with Jennifer and her girls, Alex and Ani, in San Antonio. Turns out they live about a half hour's drive from Oak Hills Church, where Max Lucado preaches.

If you get the chance to hear him in person, take it. He preaches just like he writes, in a simple, easy-to-understand way. This is what I would call a "mega-church." Thousands attend the multiple services offered each week.

I'm not sure how comfortable I would feel attending all the time, but

we sure enjoyed it as visitors.

-ob-

It's also the last few weeks of her junior year for our granddaughter Alexandria. That means prom and prom means a formal gown. She showed us a picture of the dress she wants, and all I can say is, "El-a-gant!"

It is beautiful. It's a black gown with a twisted silver band going over one shoulder and crossing the bodice. Hard to believe she was just a freckle-faced little girl a few years ago. She is such a lovely young woman today.

### Write

The Oberlin Herald encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

Mail letters to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan., 67749, or by e-mail to oberlin.herald@nwkansas.com.

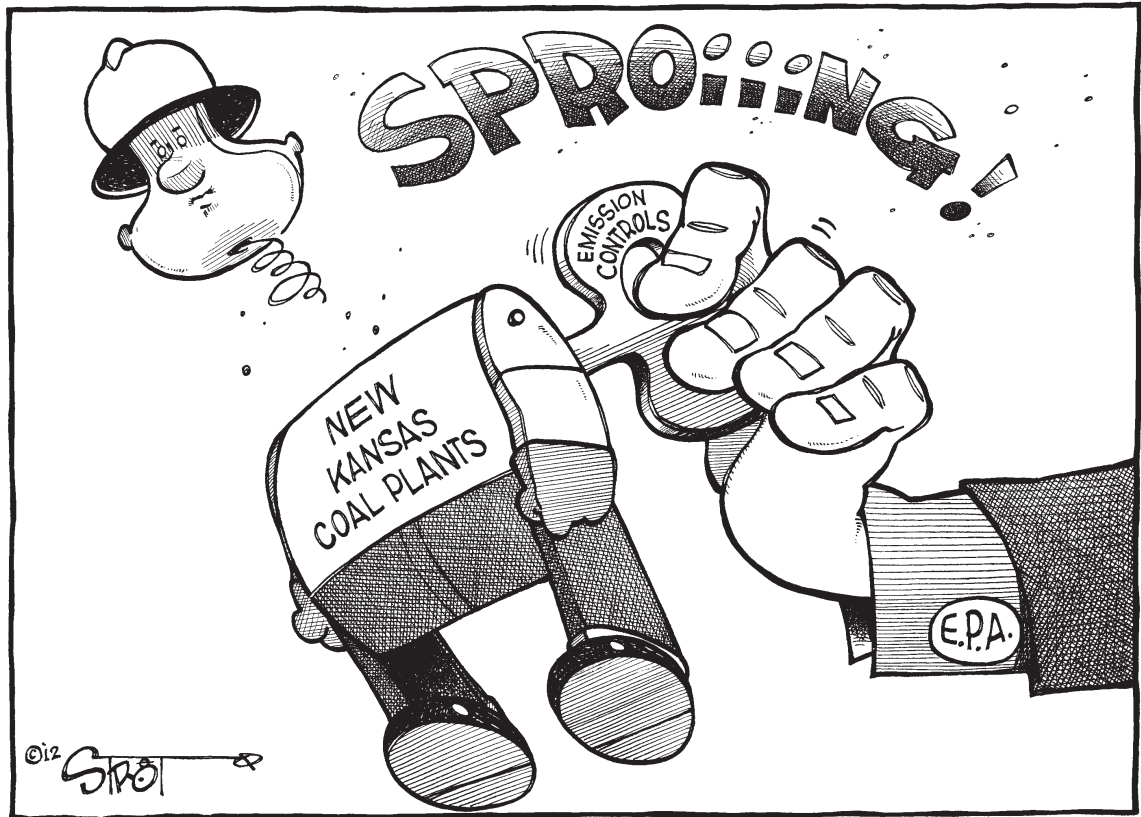
We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area.

### From the Bible

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, "Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me."

—Hebrews 10: 4-5



## She's mean, but kids can sew

A couple of things came up recently that got me thinking about teenagers.

The first was a young woman from China. An exchange student at Fort Hays State, she gave a program to our Rotary Club.

During the question-and-answer period, she admitted that she couldn't boil water before she went off to school. She also didn't know how to do her own laundry or clean.

My mind went back to my childhood, where my sister and I learned to cook from our mother and grandmother. Every Saturday, the whole family got into the act and cleaned house. My job was dust mopping the hard floors.

My own children were figuring out the basics of cooking by the time they were 5, and by 6, every one of them had some job around the house — folding clothes, rinsing dishes and emptying the dishwasher. When they were older, they did the laundry and mowed the lawn.

This girl said that her parents felt it was her job to study, but they ended up sending her out into the world with a head full of knowledge and few skills to cope with life.

She's a smart girl and she soon learned the basics of living, but it was a hard lesson for the first few weeks in a strange country.

I remember the bellyaching that



### Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes  
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went on in our house as our little slaves labored over the dishes and laundry. But when my children left home, they all could cook, clean and do laundry and minor clothing repairs.

The other thing that I overheard was a couple of friends bemoaning the feeling of entitlement of teenagers today.

This is nothing new, my friends. OK, kids don't so much feel entitled as they're scammers.

They'll talk you out of anything. They whine. All their friends have new outfits, those \$200 tennis shoes, don't have curfew and don't have any chores around the house.

Bull. Their friends are saying the same things to their parents.

My daughters thought it was awful that we didn't buy them new clothes. If they wanted something, they had to save their money and buy it themselves. They had jobs by the time they were 16.

We didn't pay them for the work they did at home. That was the dues they paid for living in the household.

When they turned 16, though, they had the opportunity to buy a car.

Their friends all had fancier vehicles bought by their parents, we were told.

That's nice, we said. Too bad you were born in this family. We don't do things that way.

Today, as adults, our three children know how to handle their money because they've always had to be accountable to themselves for what they spent.

It may be hard to listen to the whimpering from your little kids and the griping as they get older, but stay tough. These are lessons they need to learn, and like all lessons, they just get harder as you get older.

## House ready to tackle budget



### Letter from Topeka

By State Rep. Ward Cassidy  
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Saturday, the Legislature adjourned for its annual break. We'll return to Topeka on Wednesday, April 25, for what is called the "veto session."

This break allows legislative 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" meeting in Appropriations. We will finish the budget to be presented to the House and receive information from the attorney general on how much money actually came to Kansas this year from the tobacco-company lawsuit.

For the past four years, we have received \$58 million, but the governor's budget projected only \$38 million this year. Many good programs took major funding cuts because of this, and hopefully we can restore their budgets if more money comes in.

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 dissolve the Kansas Arts Commission and the Kansas Film Commission.

The Creative Arts Commission would be the official state program for the arts, 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.

An important bill, which I supported, is the Grandparents Rights Bill (SB 262). It would require 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 or parents.

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

The House passed a bill (HB 2764) that requires private health insurance companies to cover autism. An amendment says an insurance company cannot deny coverage to a child because of a preexisting condition after the bill goes into effect. I voted yes to help autistic children and their families.

## 'Owner's sister' says she was gone

To the Editor:

This is an answer to Audrey Johnson's letters to the editor on March 21 and the correction on March 28.

As a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, I applaud you for taking up for your daughter. However, the fact is, I wasn't in the state, county, city or diner in Kansas when this took place.

Wanda Hardman  
Sister to the diner owner  
Colorado Springs

### Letter to the Editor

## Mayor gives husband credit

To the Editor:

Thanks to *The Oberlin Herald* and my friends for giving my irritating habits and highlighting my better qualities in order to nominate me as a "Hometown Hero." I appreciate it very much.

If the truth were known, my hus-

band, Daryl is more deserving of the distinction than I. Without him and our "guys" and my sister, Dorothy, and all the willing workers in the Jennings community, I would have accomplished nothing. This is a great place to live. Thanks again.

Marge Hartzog, Jennings

## Photo Policy

The Oberlin Herald wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or news happening that we should attend, please call 475-2206.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can arrange to be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may

not be able to get to every event, but we will try.

Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots

with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks.

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