

## Pipeline oil will be used someplace if not here

The administration has put off any decision on the embattled Keystone XL pipeline, which would deliver oil from Canada to the U.S. distribution system at Cushing, Okla., helping ease our imports of expensive, undependable Mid-east crude.

The project is beset by an odd combine of supposedly conservative Nebraska farmers and ranchers worried about the disruption of their land, and environmentalists, who never saw a barrel of oil they liked.

These groups tend to talk out of both sides of their mouths. Environmentalists decry our huge imports of oil, but when offered an alternative, criticize production of any oil from the tar sands of the far north. Or anywhere else on this continent. Some, we're sure would be happy if we all went back to the horse and buggy.

Like they were going to give up their iPads and lattes.

Many ranchers became environmentalists when they heard the pipeline would cross their land. They say they fear an oil spill would compromise the groundwater under the Sand Hills of Nebraska they depend on for irrigation and domestic water. The safety record of existing pipelines doesn't phase them.

Not in My Back Yard, they cry.

But the Canadian oil will be sold somewhere, likely to foreign competitors rather than to the U.S., if we don't approve the pipeline. Or it will be shipped south in solid trainloads of oil, much more susceptible to spills and explosions than a pipeline.

Across the country, groups have tried to stop

or slow other advances in domestic energy production, which together have eliminated the threat that we will run out of oil or gas any century soon.

There are, to be sure, questions about new production methods, including water flooding and hydraulic fracturing, both of which are sometimes blamed for the increase in earthquakes in Oklahoma, Kansas and elsewhere in the "oil patch."

It's hard to realize that a nation which once thought of itself as basically out of the game in oil and gas production now leads the world in energy reserves, or that cheap natural gas now competes with coal to produce our electricity – and makes far less carbon pollution to boot.

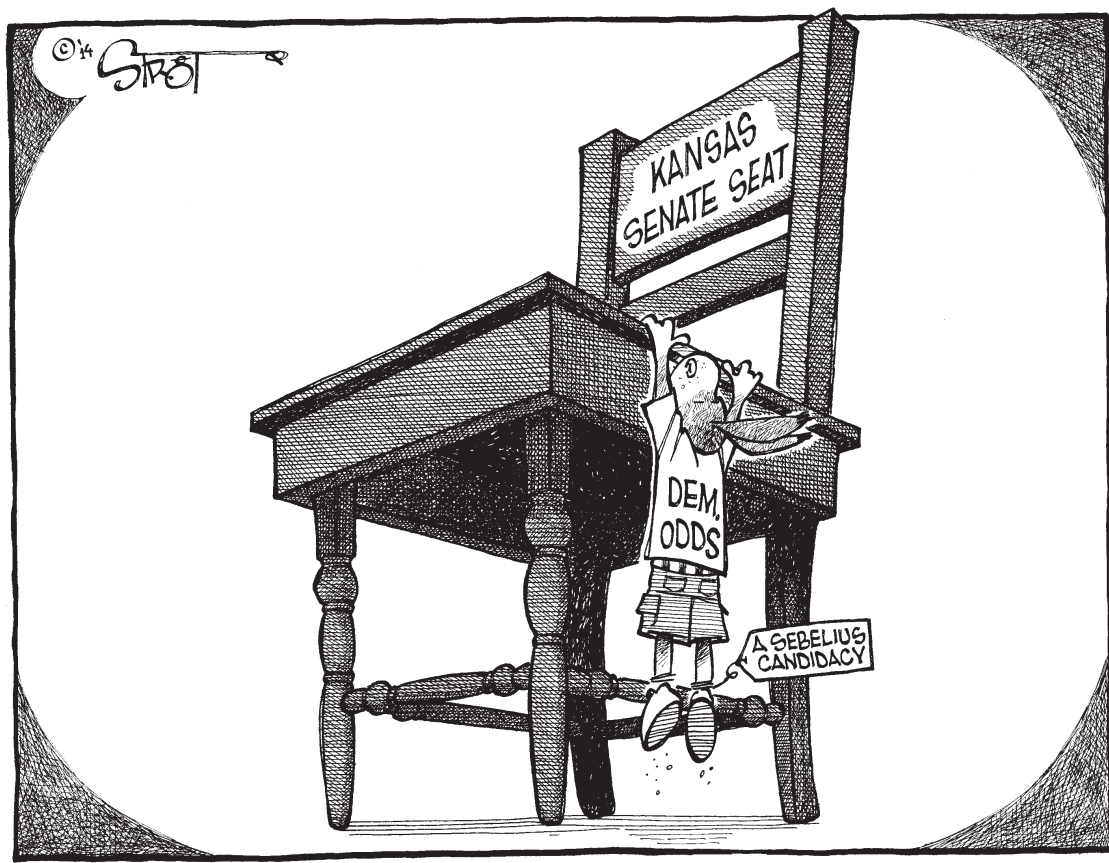
But that's where we are today.

You can argue about what's best in terms of global warming. We think the nation as a whole will continue to use less energy and release less carbon, where possible, but it seems unlikely that we will revert to the pre-industrial era any time soon.

We will need energy to run our gizmos and light our houses, and it's far better to use what we can produce here than to import from unstable countries in this hemisphere or the other.

It's a cowardly political move to delay approval of the pipeline until after the elections, but it will eventually be built because we need the Canadian oil, just as we need more domestic production.

Meantime, it's politics as usual in Washington, where getting re-elected usually trumps everything else. – Steve Haynes



## Student requests information

Dear Readers,

Good morning. My name is Brecken V. I am a fifth grade student at Harlan Intermediate School in Harlan, IA. My class is studying the geography and history of the United States. I am looking forward to learning about the beautiful state of Kansas. I would appreciate it if you would send me a souvenir, postcard, and some information about

## Letter to Editor

the unique state of Kansas.

My S.S. Teacher, Mrs. Newlin would appreciate a car license plate for a school project, if possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,  
Brecken V.

Mrs. Newlin's S.S. Class  
Harlan Intermediate School  
1401 19th St.  
Harlan, IA 51537

## Across the County

### Scours in Beef Calves Prevalent this Spring

By  
Marty  
Fear



County Extension Agent

Although many beef producers experienced more than the usual number of hypothermia cases in calves born this year due to several days of sub-zero temperatures, scours is still the number one neonatal calf disease producers will fight year after year, according to K-State veterinarian Gregg Hanzlicek.

It is a disease caused by bacteria, viruses or protozoans, which leads to diarrhea and dehydration in calves. Scours is considered a management disease, because beef producers must understand the disease and do their part to prevent it through colostrum protection in their calves and environmental sanitation practices. If scours is present in the herd, producers should identify and treat the problem to prevent calf, and financial, loss.

The two bacteria involved in causing scours are E. coli and salmonella. Two viruses, rotavirus and coronavirus, and two protozoans, cryptosporidium (crypto) and coccidium, also can cause the disease. Hanzlicek said it might be a good idea for producers to obtain a manure sample and send it to a lab to find out what organism or organisms are causing the scours. "Two of those organisms, salmonella and crypto, are zoonotic, meaning humans can pick them up from the calves," he said.

Diagnosing the disease and getting electrolyte fluids in the calves quickly is important to keep calves from becoming dehydrated. Fluid treatment is necessary, regardless of what

organism is causing the scours. Checking on calves at least once per day, if not multiple times per day, finding sick calves and intervening with fluids in the initial stages of scours will help save calves and benefit producers in the long run. When we're talking about scours in calves, what kills the calf is dehydration," he said. "It does take the organism to initiate the scours, but what really kills the calf is that they become dehydrated, and multiple organs start to shut down."

Sometimes it might be hard to recognize calves that need help, Hanzlicek said, but if producers find a calf that is slow and lethargic, they can do an easy test by pulling the skin off the neck and then counting how many seconds it takes for the skin to flatten.

The skin should snap back flat within about a second, he said. If it is closer to two, three, four seconds or more, the calf is mildly to moderately dehydrated. Even for mild cases of dehydration, the calves are going to need two quarts of an appropriate electrolyte solution at least twice a day. Producers should make sure not to over-drench the calf, though, by giving the calf too much volume of the solution at one time. Producers should ask their veterinarian about what electrolyte product to use, as there are many commercial products available.

"We used to think the milk nourished the bacteria, viruses and protozoans," he said. "We found that it doesn't. Taking the

calf off the cow makes the calf weak, because our electrolyte solutions are low in energy. Those calves need their mother's milk."

Colostrum protection is important for calf health for many reasons, including preventing scours, Hanzlicek said. Colostrum is the first milk produced by the cow that contains essential nutrients. Calves are born with an immune system, but no immunities, or protection from environmental factors. It is important that they consume colostrum from their mother in that first two to six hours after birth to be protected from a lot of diseases.

But, regardless of how well that calf is protected with colostrum, Hanzlicek said, if the environment is dirty and contains any of the organisms that cause scours, the calf can still get scours. Producers should keep the calving area as clean and free from manure as possible.

Another option is following the Sandhills Calving System, which originated in Nebraska.

A scours prevention vaccine, given to cows prior to calving, is only beneficial if the producer is practicing environmental sanitation and making sure the calves are consuming colostrum, he said. For additional information contact the extension office at 785-332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu. Till next week - Marty

## Casey's Comments

By  
Casey  
McCormick



mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

### Family gets more than they bargain for

By Casey McCormick  
mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

Things are anything but dull in "Jolly Old England" for Helen Clements and her two kids.

Earlier this month, Helen decided to take the young ones on an adventure. They decided to

visit the Longleat Safari and Adventure Park at Wiltshire in the southern part of England.

This zoo allows people a chance to drive their vehicles through the grounds as wild animals wander around. Opened in 1966, it was the first park of its kind to allow the wildlife to go free while the people were in cages, or cars, so to speak.

After motoring into the lion's area, Helen got more excitement than she bargained for. What she thought was steam rising from under her van "bonnet" soon was recognized as smoke from a fire.

With frightened children in the

back seat, Helen began sounding her car horn to alert help. Rangers arrived in less than a minute, and the Clements family was safely transferred to a park vehicle, while the family wagon turned to ash.

With a stiff upper lip, Helen told reporters she would not have a problem returning to the zoo, since they did not get a chance to see the lions. However, looking back on the experience, she did have to wonder, "Why did it have to be in the lion enclosure, of all places?"

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**GOD SAYS**  
For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows I Timothy 6:10

## The Saint Francis Herald

(USPS 475-960)

A Century of Service to Cheyenne County

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices.

Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050



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Monday - Friday

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