

from our viewpoint...

# Some feel we need to go back in time

Mixed in with the hype and hysteria about global warming is a group of people who, deep in their hearts, hopes the recession will last, the seas will rise, the next drought or hurricane will prove them right.

These people want to see modern agriculture turned out to pasture and return us to the days when everyone had to grow all or part of their own food, scratching out a meager existence on a small plots of land.

They see production agriculture as evil, an enemy of the land, and corn as the devil's tool, ruining the environment and our health. They believe, with the fervor of an old-time revival preacher, that the world will be a better place if we give up air conditioning, cars, oil, jet airplanes and coal-fired power plants.

And there is a fine line between this bunch and reality.

We'd all be better off if we grew some of our own food, and it's not that hard to do in your backyard. One 30-something we know says you start being more healthy when you graze on the "outer ring" of the grocery, fresh produce, fresh meat, fresh dairy products, and stay away from the canned, the preserved and the prepared, anything that's white and anything containing high-fructose corn syrup.

It makes sense to clean up our environment, including those coal-fired power plants; turn up the air-conditioning; and turn down the furnace. Walking more and driving less would be good for us, as individuals and for the obesity epidemic.

It makes sense to worry about endangered species and polluted rivers, but not to spend billions and billions of dollars to get another 1 or 2 percent of the contaminants out of drinking water. Heck, 10 to 20 years ago, science couldn't even measure some of the amounts the dogooders want to ban today.

Much of the fuzzy thinking on these issues gets done at the Land Institute, an ultraliberal think tank outside of Salina, where an author is to discuss his new book, "The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality," on Sunday.

Richard Heinberg, a "senior fellow" at something called the Post Carbon Institute in Santa Rosa, Calif., told a reporter he advocates measuring our economy not by the gross domestic product, but on something he calls "Gross National Happiness." He says the idea was developed in Nepal.

"If we plan, we can have an economy that is dynamic and supports people," he said. "It can be like an ecosystem ... some services would do better than others, we'd still have innovations, just like we have now."

Whatever. The key phrase there is, "if we plan," as in planned economy. As if the Soviets hadn't proved the case against that.

But without modern agriculture, how will we feed a big and growing world? Without continued exploration and development of resources, how will we make it run?

And when the planners miss the mark, who will pick up the pieces? Government? Sure, the government is efficient and knows exactly how to make things work. We all know that.

The real question is, do we get to make up our own minds about what we eat and how it's grown, or do Mr. Heinberg and the Post Carbon Institute do that for us? Do we get to eat meat or tofu? Grow hybrid tomatoes or heirloom? Eat fresh food or stuff doused with corn syrup.

For the Gross National Happiness would be a lot higher, we suspect, if people get to make up their own minds about these things and not have someone do it for them. But that's just a guess. — *Steve Haynes*

## The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association  
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association  
National Newspaper Association  
e-mail: [star.news@nwkansan.com](mailto:star.news@nwkansan.com)

Steve Haynes, President  
Tom Betz, Editor  
Pat Schiefen, Society Editor  
Advertising Department  
Jessica Corbin, Lisa McNeely and Jeff Dreiling  
Sheila Smith, Circulation Manager

**Nor'west Press**  
Richard Westfahl, General Manager  
Jim Bowker, James Jackson,  
Lana Westfahl, Kris McCool, Stacy Brashear, Tracy Traxel,  
Gary Meyer, Judy McKnight

 **nwkansas.com**  
N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services  
([nt.betz@nwkansan.com](mailto:nt.betz@nwkansan.com))  
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.([support@nwkansan.com](mailto:support@nwkansan.com))

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: [star-news@nwkansan.com](mailto:star-news@nwkansan.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodlandads@nwkansan.com](mailto:goodlandads@nwkansan.com)

**The Goodland Star-News** assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

**Incorporating:**  
**The Goodland Daily News**  
1932-2003

**The Sherman County Herald**  
Founded by Thomas McCants  
1935-1989

**THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR**  
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey  
1994-2001

**Nor'West Newspapers**  
Haynes Publishing Company



# Our Arkansas travel adventure

My sister and I decided we needed to see relatives in Arkansas. We do this in the fall every year or two.

Mom died in June, and Uncle Jeff, Aunt Frances and cousins Judy and George came from Arkansas to be with us.

Jeff is mother's last living sibling, a brother just a year younger and a fit 85.

We decided we needed to go see Jeff and Frances and on the way, we would visit with as many of our other cousins as we could find.

Now I can't find my way around the block without getting lost, and my sister isn't a whole lot better, but we had a Garmin global positioning system. How could we get lost driving the roads we'd gone on with our mother dozens of times?


Let me count the ways.

We got off to a good start in my sister's car with her driving. We didn't even get the Garmin out of the trunk. We just headed south from Concordia to Wichita.

Since we couldn't leave until after she got off work on Wednesday, we were a little late getting going and little sister doesn't like to drive at night. I took over and guided us on to Tulsa. All was going well, if you didn't count the 20-mph off ramp I didn't see any too soon and took at 50 on about 2 1/2 wheels.

After that we decided to stop at Sand Springs, a Tulsa suburb, and find a motel. The next morning, she said I could drive again. Sneaky little thing. She didn't want to drive through the city. But, hey, we got the Garmin out of the trunk to guide us through the tricky spots.

The first problem occurred when we ran into road construction. The Garmin's couldn't re-configure our trip fast enough. Just as it said to



**cynthia haynes**  
• open season

turn at Exit 34A, we looked over to see that the exit was two lanes over.

Miraculously, we got through Tulsa with only two wrong turns, enduring two miles of four-lane-traffic backed up due to an accident on a one-lane bridge that was under construction. We figured we were lucky we weren't heading for work.

The rest of the trip was a piece of cake, except we found we were headed for the wrong town. Our uncle wanted to meet us at Cousin George's house at Clinton and we were headed for the old home place at Dardanelle. Well, they are only about 40 miles from each other as the crow flies. We didn't have a crow, and it's two hours as the mountain roads curve, so we just kept driving. This time, it was Marie who took a couple of wrong turns, but we eventually got there.

We had a good visit with the relatives, but we still hadn't seen the old home place or visited our grandparents' graves, so we headed back to Dardanelle.

As we left, George asked if we knew the way. We assured him we did, drove out of his yard and turned the wrong way as he stood there with his hand in the air in a final goodbye. He was probably wondering how we would ever find our way back to Kansas.

In Dardanelle, Cousin Judy took us around so we couldn't get lost, fed us and sent us on

our way.

We were doing fine as we crossed in Oklahoma, but worried how we would get back through Tulsa.

As I navigated the first curve into the city, and noticed I was driving through Tulsa again, I came up behind a school bus for the Sandites. A quick check of the sides proved that it was a Sand Springs School District bus.

I tailed that bus like a stalker and prayed it would lead us through the maze.

It twisted and turned, changed lanes, took off ramps and on ramps that said everything but Sand Springs, but led us across the city and straight home.

If it hadn't been for that school bus, we might still be trying to get out of Tulsa.

We did pretty good from there until we got to Wichita. We got off and spent the night and the next morning couldn't figure out how to get home.

My sister swore we weren't supposed to get back on the Kansas Turnpike but Garmin kept sending us there. We came up to the toll booth three times before I told her that as we had tried the other three directions, we might as well go through and see where it got us. By that point, I figured we had spent more in gas and frustration than the toll would cost.

The next sign said I-135 North. That was our road.

Now where was a school bus when you needed one?

Our husbands just shook their heads. They know better than to try to give us directions. But I think I did hear one of them laugh.

# EPA never said hay is a pollutant


A Kansas feedlot operator is trying to make hay by falsely claiming that EPA defined hay as a water pollutant.

The owner of the Callicrate Feeding Company has been spinning a "hay-as-pollutant" myth through the blogosphere for a couple of weeks now. While the company is certainly entitled to its own opinions about EPA, the company is not entitled to its own set of facts.

Here are the facts. On Aug. 15, EPA's Region 7, which includes Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and nine tribal nations, took action to correct several serious environmental violations at the Callicrate Feeding Company in St. Francis. EPA found water permit violations at Callicrate's operation that needed to be addressed. The compliance order was not based on hay. Nor would EPA have issued such an action based on hay.

To be clear: The order had nothing to do with hay. At no place in the 11-page order is the word "hay" mentioned. Nor is there mention of alfalfa or grass.

EPA cited the Callicrate operation for failure



**from other pens**  
• commentary

to control harmful runoff, maintain adequate manure storage capacity, keep adequate operation records, and meet the state and federal requirements of its nutrient management plan.

EPA inspectors observed silage, and dried distillers grains within the uncontrolled feedstock storage area.

When stored inappropriately, the silage and grains can turn into a liquid material that contains contaminants detrimental to water quality. EPA inspectors also observed slaughter wastes being stored outside in an uncontrolled area. The EPA order was based on those contaminants and the other violations mentioned above.

The Callicrate facility is permitted by the State of Kansas for a capacity of 12,000 head

of beef cattle and had 3,200 head at the time of the inspection. Under EPA definitions, 1,000 head of beef is considered a large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). This is not a small operation. The permitted capacity puts the company in the top five percent of the largest animal feeding operations in Region 7.

This action by EPA was issued to correct problems. Less than two weeks after the order was issued, Callicrate's attorney informed us the company had already taken action to address the problems identified in EPA's order.

We have some indication of how other producers have perceived this fracas in a feedlot. Region 7's offer to meet with Kansas cattle producers to discuss CAFO enforcement was warmly received and we will be meeting within days. Drover/Cattle Network published an article debunking the "hay-as-pollutant" myth.

As that article concludes: "But as the industry confronts and negotiates these genuine regulatory issues, R-CALF's claim that 'EPA declares hay a pollutant to antagonize small and mid-sized U.S. cattle feeders' is unnecessary, inflammatory hyperbole."

Karl Brooks is administrator for U.S. EPA Region 7 that includes Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and nine tribal nations.

## where to write

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; E-mail address — <http://roberts.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=EmailPat>

**U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, Russell Senate Office Building, Courtyard 4, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521; Fax (202) 228-6966. E-mail address — <http://moran.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-jerry>

**U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp**, 1st Congressional District, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington D.C., 20575-1601. (202-225-2715) E-mail address — <https://huel>

[skamp.house.gov/contact-me/email-me](http://skamp.house.gov/contact-me/email-me)

**State Rep. Rick Billinger**, Docking State Office Building Rm 724, Topeka, KS 66612. Phone (785) 296-7659, cell (785) 899-4770, home (785) 899-5824. E-mail [rick.billinger@house.ks.gov](mailto:rick.billinger@house.ks.gov).

**State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Rm. 225-E, 300 SW 10th, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785-296-7399; e-mail address — [ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us](mailto:ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us)

**Kansas Attorney General**, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767

## Letter Policy

The Goodland Star-News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters and letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive will be rejected. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with address and phone numbers, by e-mail to: [star.news@nw-kansas.com](mailto:star.news@nw-kansas.com).