

## Law enforcement wrong on prescriptions

Law enforcement groups are pressing the Kansas Legislature to require a prescription for purchase of the common drug pseudoephedrine, used by allergy sufferers to stop a runny nose, but also a key ingredient in making the illegal drug methamphetamine.

This is not a good idea. It amounts to punishing the state's pharmacists and allergy patients in the name of a problem that's largely solved.

Kansas already restricts sale of pseudoephedrine, often known by the brand name Sudafed. Stores are required to keep it behind the counter and buyers must sign a log.

Someone with the sniffles can buy 3.6 grams, more than 100 pills, at one time, or up to 9 grams a month. That's enough for most patients, but getting even that is cumbersome and unwieldy.

Though many law-enforcement officials say the problem of meth labs in Kansas has been largely solved, some groups still are pushing for tighter laws. Drug dealers will send out teams of people to buy Sudafed, a practice known as "smurfing."

Pharmacists and clerks often spot these efforts and many will call police. It's already

illegal, but still, the dealers are bound to try.

The fact is, the number of meth labs in the state today — once a rampant problem — has dropped to almost nothing. In Salina, for instance, police says the city once has more than 100 illegal meth operations and now has only a handful.

Why, then, do we need to further inconvenience allergy patients and druggists?

The price of this "progress," by the way, has been a takeover of the meth trade by Mexican cartels, resulting in violence across that once-peaceful country and upwards of 30,000 deaths. Meth-making, once a cottage industry, has become a big money-maker for organized crime.

Putting these important allergy drugs on the prescription list will drive up the cost to legitimate users and drug stores alike, reducing availability and legal use, while having almost no benefit to society.

This bill is a turkey, and the Legislature needs to say "no."

Not everything that might sound like a good idea turns out to be one, and this bill is a good example.

— Steve Haynes



## Wine starts communion talk

While visiting with friends over a glass of wine, the conversation turned to communion.

We had three or four Christian faiths represented, so we traded our favorite memory of the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. More specifically, we talked about wine.

Cheryl, who is Methodist, told us of visiting a Lutheran church when her boys were preteens. The family was invited to partake in communion and accepted.

As the 9-year-old left the communion area, he punched his younger brother with the whispered comment, "Hey, this is the real stuff."

Yes, she said, the Lutherans use real wine, not the grape juice my First Christian grandmother always complained about. She just wondered how her son would know that the communion wine was "the real stuff."

While the First Christian Church my grandmother attended only had communion about once a month, and my grandmother didn't drink, she complained every month about their use of grape juice instead of "the real stuff."

I wouldn't have known the difference. Even though the Catholic Church always used wine, in those days only the priest partook of that part of communion. The people got the bread but no wine. Some Catho-



## Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes  
c.haynes@nwkansas.com

lic churches still do not provide the second half of the sacrament to parishioners, although nearly all of them around here do.

After a wedding Steve and I attended at a fancy hotel in downtown Denver, the officiating priest realized he had consecrated a lot more wine than the mixed-church-background congregation needed. He wasn't quite sure what to do about the chalice-full of sacramental drink. You can't just pour the Blood of Christ down the drain.

He said that it had to be drunk. If that wasn't possible, it could be poured onto the ground and allowed to soak back into the earth.

Since there wasn't a spot of earth for blocks, several people passed the cup until it was dry.

The next wedding I went to was at the Baptist Church. You don't get those kinds of problems there.

Steve was born into the Episcopalian church, and they welcome "all

baptized Christians" to the communion table, unlike us Catholics, some Lutherans and probably lots of others, who require membership in their church to partake.

So when our Jewish son-in-law was taking photos for the Topeka Capitol Journal at an Episcopal church many years ago, he talked to the priest before he started to shoot so that he would not disrupt her. He told her that he was Cuban but Jewish.

She apparently didn't get the disconnect between baptized and Jewish, because when it came time for communion, she issued him a special invitation to partake with all baptized Christians.

He smiled, shook his head and replied, "Still Jewish."

Well, I'm pretty sure he's not going to get any of that extra wine at the next wedding he attends.

## Sister-in-law getting kitchen

I can keep a secret, but my sister-in-law, Donna, can't.

A kitchen remodel has been on Donna's radar screen for a long, long time. The original idea was to complete the project before Christmas and surprise her kids when they came home for the holiday. But, as is want to happen, things didn't go as planned and the new kitchen didn't materialize.

Plans were put on hold until after the first of the year. I guess Donna was about to burst with her news, because she ended up telling her kids, grandkids, sisters and friends that a new kitchen was in her future.

Well, the future is here. At this very moment, Jim is demoing Donna's old kitchen.

The cabinets her father built almost 65 years ago are gone. Perhaps they will find further use in one of my brother Dick's workshops, but they don't owe Donna anything. They served her and, her mother before that, well over the years.

Her only request is she wants to watch when Jim pulls out the old sink and counter. She is convinced a pair of prized scissors (and who knows what else) slipped through the crack between the countertop and wall.

A remodel turns a household on its ear. Donna's kitchen has been relocated to the dining room, hallway and back porch and is encroaching on the living room.



## Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
quality-pro@webtv.net

Donna has always been a good sport and she will manage to improvise. Even if it means using the microwave on top of the piano and washing dishes in the bathroom

—ob—

My oldest daughter Halley is changing jobs next week. She's not changing careers, because she will still be involved in real estate but, she will be working on the other end of the business. I don't totally understand it, but I think she will be working with foreclosures and matching them up with real estate agents.

More importantly, though, is the fact that she has a week between jobs and she is coming for a short visit. I can hardly wait to see her. We will have so much fun, and I'll recruit her to help with a couple little projects I've started, mainly moving furniture.

It all started when Jim said, "I think I'd like my recliner over there." Something about glare on the television screen. "Over there" was the space occupied by the love

seat. I jumped at the chance to move furniture. You see, when Jim designed the living room and built the entertainment center, he had one thought in mind — make it so furniture placement could only be one way.

Did I mention Jim hates change. I thought the room was a little crowded with the sofa and love seat, so the sofa is gone. Anyway, his recliner is moved and he seems to like it there.

—ob—

Our church supplies little offering envelopes on the back of the seat in front of you. The envelope has a space for name, address and amount. We reached for one and saw it already had a name on it. Little Katie had filled it out and written \$100,000 on the amount line. I know she would have gladly given it if she had it.

Oh, that we all could have the giving heart of a child.

## Do we need to fight war over?

By RUDY TAYLOR

Taylor Newspapers

Many legislators use "local control" to hammer down requirements that benefit the general population. We're seeing that cry from Kansas lawmakers who think local officials should decide where to make their legal information available to the public.

Abill introduced this week in the Kansas Legislature would allow cities, counties and school boards to stop publishing their legal notices. Instead, these would be posted on some government-controlled website.

What a joke.

Do we really think our local city council members, school board

## Opinion

members and county commissioners will fight the battle for transparency in government? Hardly.

The problem is, this "local control" cry sounds good. But the sound of "states' rights" reverberates in my ears when I hear it. Sometimes I think today's conservatives want to fight the Civil War all over again.

Kansas newspapers know how to handle information in legal notices, print or post it accurately, keep good records, provide affidavits to prove that public notice took place, and we don't care whose ox is gored in the notices we print.

Most elected officials would just as soon NOT publish budgets that show increases in levies or tax percentages. They would prefer NOT to make public bids that might include their friends or family members. They think the names of delinquent taxpayers are nobody's business.

While a few of them might use the internet every day, they wouldn't know up from down about how to get information gathered, formatted and posted accurately. That has always been the job of the local newspaper, and it should remain so.

## Readers praise doctor

To the Editor:

I've had quite a few medical problems and have been seen by many doctors. There were few who were as kind, caring and good as Dr. Elizabeth Sliter. I feel it would be a great loss to our community if she left. I'm writing you this letter on her behalf because I don't want to lose her as ever leave.

Krystal A. Hollars, Dresden

To the Editor:

Never have I met a more intelligent doctor than Dr. Elizabeth Sliter. I feel it would be a great loss to our community if she left. I'm writing you this letter on her behalf because I don't want to lose her as my doctor.

Robert Hollars, Dresden

## From the Bible

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2

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Phone: (785) 475-2206 Fax (785) 475-2800  
E-mail: oberlin.herald@nwkansas.com

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STAFF

Steve Haynes ..... editor  
Kimberly Davis ..... managing editor  
Mary Lou Olson ..... society editor  
Nancy Robinson ..... proofreader  
Carolyn Kelley-Plotts ..... columnist  
Joan Betts ..... historian  
Cynthia Haynes ..... business manager  
Pat Cozad ..... want ads/circulation  
Tim Davis ..... advertising representative  
Anita Ketterl ..... advertising makeup

Steve and Cynthia Haynes, publishers  
Kimberly Davis, assistant publisher

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## Reader says pets need our support

To the Editor:

Once again, thousands of dogs and cats in Kansas need our help immediately.

The governing powers in our state are once more seeking to bury the Kansas Animal Health Department within the vast nether regions of the Agriculture Department.

Within this past year, many thousands of animals were rescued from deplorable conditions by Animal Health. These actions are never taken lightly, and only when animals are in need of immediate attention due to adverse conditions.

The inspectors oversee breeding and kennel licenses for people who run breeding kennels, animal

## Letters to the Editor

shelters and other related facilities across our state. They conduct regular inspections to ensure a minimum quality of care. When facilities do not meet minimum standards, they work with the owners.

Without such oversight, what will happen to the animals that live in the really awful places? This "melding" of departments will surely slow down response time, and protocols could be compromised. There are "good" breeders out there, but concern for animals in horrendous conditions should be paramount.

No living creature should have to

endure living in filth, existing without love and compassion, being cold or hungry or isolated. Please don't let this happen. Please contact your representative as soon as possible. Let them know that you do not want animals to suffer with no hope that they will be helped by someone.

If this department "goes away" into a gigantic agency, it will mean that thousands may suffer and die alone. Let them continue to help those with no voice. They need your support right now, today!

Aliease D. Dougherty,  
Great Bend

## Parent protests school lice policy

To the Editor:

In December, I went to the school board meeting to ask that steps be taken to implement a new policy on lice, and to ask that the board review information on the same issue that had been sent to them by another parent.

Attempts had been made previously by other parents requesting the same changes, to no avail. After reading the article in the Jan. 26 edition of the paper, it still doesn't appear to me that any changes have been made.

From what I understand, what was outlined in the paper is the same

policy the school already had. Lice have been close to out of control at Oberlin Elementary School for the past year and a half. Maybe it is time to revisit the current policy and implement more proactive measures and a stricter policy.

The information that was sent to the school board outlines several examples of area schools who have strict and successful lice policies, as well as other measures they take beyond the policies. There is so much more our schools could do.

I only have the best interests of my child and the other children at that

school at heart. My intentions are, and always have been, to see if we could improve things for their health and well being. I believe the administration should do the same.

It is the district's job to educate the children, yes. But shouldn't it also be the district's job to see that they have the best environment possible to learn in?

It doesn't seem as if they realize how head lice, if left unchecked, can affect not only the children, but those at home, in daycare, at work and in the whole community.

Iris Mastin, Oberlin