

# Tainted goods

**Marty Trillhaase/Lewiston Tribune**

JEERS ... to South Fork Industries of Dalton Gardens. That company is marketing a bullet coated in pork-infused paint.

South Fork Industries calls its product "Jihawg Ammo" and says any Muslim shot with this bullet won't get into heaven.

"With Jihawg Ammo, you don't just kill an Islamist terrorist, you also send him to hell," the company says in a press release.

OK, assume that's correct. What about the innocent 5-year-old Muslim child who is struck by one of these ricocheting bullets?

Is she denied salvation?

Thankfully, no.

But neither, it turns out, is the intended target.

"There is no penalty for coming into contact with pork given by the Quran," Gonzaga University assistant professor of religious studies Shannon Dunn told Religious News Service. "To my knowledge, Muslims, especially unknowingly, would not be banned from heaven from eating or getting hit by pork."

Before the week was out, the story made it to New York and London. So here we go again, reinforcing Idaho's unfortunate image as a haven for bigots and nitwits. For that, you can credit the company's president and secretary, Julie C. Hill of Dalton Gardens, and its registered agent, Guy Wilson of Kamiah.

CHEERS ... to Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist. At the behest of Idaho agricultural and business interests, the blue chip conservative came to Boise this week to promote comprehensive immigration reform.

That puts Norquist at odds with his base, most notably the Heritage Foundation.

Norquist argued immigration is good for the economy.

"We're going to dominate the future ... because we're a country that does immigration well," Norquist told the City Club of Boise Tuesday.

Moreover, he challenged the idea of punishing 11 million people who entered the U.S. illegally.

"Those people who tell me, 'You know, I'm for this rule of law thing,' I wonder where they were when we had a 55 mph speed limit," Norquist said. "We had that into the '80s. ... As a result, there was a great deal of illegal driving going on. And I don't remember anyone saying, 'First thing we do is arrest everybody who's been illegally driving, and then we'll have a conversation about what a normal, reasonable speed limit is.' "

Norquist provided cover for Idaho's all-Republican congressional delegation. Nonetheless, Idaho Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch lined up against the immigration bill Thursday.

JEERS ... to Washington state Sen. Don Benton, R-Vancouver. He says Sen. Ann Rivers, R-LaCenter, wounded his dignity when she called him a "piece of s\*\*t" during an April 19 confrontation.

Benton filed a complaint with the Senate leadership and then went public with it.

"Nothing Sen. Rivers can say could justify her profane and uncontrollable behavior demonstrated in the Senate chamber in front of guests and 15-year-old pages," Benton asserted.

Uh-huh.

Are we to believe that Benton, who has at least 100 pounds on Rivers, was in some way intimidated?

Or that the otherwise potty-mouthed Benton was somehow offended? Piped up former Republican Sen. Cheryl Pflug: Benton was cursing at her last year over the same-sex marriage vote.

"He put his face up against mine and yelled, 'F\*\*\* you. F\*\*\* you!' " Pflug told Steve Mathieu of the Columbian.

An unnamed lobbyist told Mathieu he also witnessed that exchange and said Benton used the F-bomb "as a verb, and as a noun, and an adverb, and an adjective."

Or that Benton - whose \$100,000 a year job as Clark County's director of environmental services smacks of cronyism - has a capacity for moral indignation?

Really?

CHEERS ... to the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee. Until this week, it was poised to censure four northern Idaho lawmakers who voted to create a state-based health insurance exchange as part of Obamacare.

Many of Idaho's GOP rank-and-file saw that as a vote in favor of the president's health care reform act.

Lawmakers, such as Sen. John Goedde, R-Coeur d'Alene, and state Reps. Frank Henderson, R-Post Falls, Luke Malek, R-Coeur d'Alene, and Ed Morse, R-Hayden, agreed with Gov. C.L. (Butch) Otter that the state was better off with its own exchange than answering to a federal agency.

Local party activists rebuking their elected officials is nothing new.

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Two years ago, the Bonneville County GOP Central Committee reprimanded Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis, R-Idaho Falls, Sen. Brent Hill, R-Rexburg, and Attorney General Lawrence Wasden for standing against the unconstitutional strategy of nullification.

Earlier this year, Canyon County's Legislative District 12 Committee members censured Sen. Todd Lakey, R-Nampa, for supporting the state-based exchange. The same panel also has Rep. Rick Youngblood, R-Nampa, in its crosshairs.

But Tuesday, Kootenai County Republicans came to their collective senses.

For one thing, the panel lacks the authority to censure anyone who isn't already on the central committee, said Committeeman Luke Sommer, an expert in parliamentary procedure.

That would be news to Republicans in Idaho Falls and Nampa.

Plus, argued Committeeman Jim Pierce, these lawmakers answer to the people who elected them.

"They are accountable to the people - not the party," Pierce said.

That would be news to Republicans throughout the state.

Added Committeewoman Kellie Palm, the censure vote would make the GOP look "foolish."

Yep. - M.T.