

I am not vain! I am not vain! I am not vain! Okay, maybe I'm a little vain. Five days after surgery, and still not allowed to wear make-up, has brought out the "vanity monster" in me. Wednesday the stitches will be removed so I can bring out the eye shadow and mascara.

**Out Back**  
*Carolyn Plotts*



have two fine rows of stitches. One where the growth was; the other where he made a cut to give him a little more "leeway" to close the first incision.

The surgical staff was wonderful. Very kind and considerate. I think they must go to school to learn how to treat people. When the nurse asked me to remove all my jewelry I told her I never take my wedding rings off. She never missed a beat, nor acted as though she thought I was "batty". Instead, she said, "No problem." And, taped over the rings right on my finger.

The anesthesiologist was named Tony Piccone (Pick-own-ee). Honest. I couldn't make that up. When he and the doctor were rolling me into the surgical suite, the doctor asked, "Are you ready

for this?" I told them Jim had already prayed for me and had prayed for them, too, so I was "good to go". They put me in what they called a "twilight". I was aware of what was happening, but didn't feel a thing.

For the trip home, I took some kind of high-powered drug and slept all the way. Probably the most peaceful drive Jim has ever made. I never complained about his driving, even once.

I was kind of like George Carlin's character, the hippy-dippy weatherman. Hey! Que pasa?

What a difference a few days makes. Wheat fields are suddenly starting to ripen. The color is changing and in a few days will be golden. Now is the time nerves wear thin and farmers watch the sky as much as they watch the fields.

Listening to the radio, I heard the late Adrian Rodgers say, "A man can have intelligence. But, wisdom is knowing how to use that intelligence."

**Big challenge faces farmers**

It's hard to believe one billion people — almost 20 percent of the world's population is hungry. I'm not talking about people who miss a meal a day, but those who are chronically malnourished.

At the same time, the world's population is exploding. Some say the greatest growth in the history of our world is underway.

It's estimated 3 billion more people will be born during the next 40 years. This would increase the world's population to 9 billion. Most of these people will be born in the hungry parts of the world.

As a result, pressure on the world's economic and natural resources for food will become intense. Such demand for food will mean opportunity for farming and ranching. It will also become critical for public/private enterprise to ramp up food production.

While some would label technology as the No. 1 environmental enemy, food producers, including farmers and ranchers, view technology as the application of knowledge.

As humans, we survive by adapting the environment to our needs. Take away technology and humans would be just like other primates — confined to tropical regions and subject to extinction due to environmental changes. To survive, mankind has changed the environment while conserving resources and continually creating new ones.

Resources are made not born. Land, ores, petroleum, etc. — the raw materials of our planet — are not inherent resources. They do not inherently further human purposes.

Man determines what is useful and how to use it. Topsoil becomes

**Insight**  
*John Schlageck*

a resource when a farmer tills the soil and plants wheat seed, for example. Ores become resources when metals are extracted from them.

During the past two centuries, technology has been creating resources more rapidly than humans have been consuming them. By every measure of price and availability, resources have become more abundant.

Without science and technology, today's farmers and ranchers would be unable to feed the masses outside of our agricultural industry. Farmers use technology responsibly. They constantly use new farming methods and practices by attending training sessions and courses.

But new farm technology is expensive. It is in the best interest of farmers to use it carefully and sparingly. Misuse would add to the cost of production, which would result in an even lower return on their investment.

When new advances in biotechnology are discovered, farmers must abide by stringent testing and monitoring practices that ensure only safe products in the marketplace.

The idea that "we're tinkering with nature" goes back at least 50 years. It's the same argument that surrounded the adoption of hybrid seeds. Genetic selection in seeds has been occurring since the beginning of time. Tens of thousands of genes have been bred into or out of plants. By definition, agriculture is man affecting the

natural order to produce better and more food.

Hybrid seeds have allowed for greater cereal crop production. Without such advancements, it's estimated that an area the size of Western Europe would have to be added to crop production.

Without new science and new technology, where is the new grain going to come from? Are we going to farm more land? Are we going to take down Salina, Manhattan, Wichita or Kansas City? Where is this additional land going to come from?

There won't be more farmable land. Additional food to feed the world's hungry mouths will come from greater productivity per acre.

Farmers, ranchers and agriculture live for such opportunities. It's why they farm and ranch.

So, whether you're a producer from Kansas or anywhere else, that means you will be able to bring tremendous value to the table, no pun intended.

Today's farmers must be ready to produce more than they ever have before. They must be ready to make the right decisions. They must be ready to sell their crops at the best time to make the most profit.

There will be a bright future for some in agriculture. It will boil down to circumstances and opportunities. Those with vision, who seize these opportunities and see a future, will flourish.

(John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.)

**Farm Service Agency nominations now underway, deadline set Aug. 3**

Jack Salava, Acting State Executive Director for USDA's Kansas Farm Service Agency, said today farmer and rancher candidate nominations are now underway for local FSA county committees. The nomination period continues through Aug. 3, 2009. Elections take place this fall.

"I encourage all producers to participate in the county committee election process by nominating candidates by the August 3 deadline," said Salava. "We are counting on as much participation as possible, because county committees are an important link between the agriculture commu-

nity and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We have seen a trend in recent years of increased nominations of minority and women producers and we hope that trend will continue."

To be eligible to serve on a FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area (LAA) in which the person is a candidate.

Producers may also nominate themselves, and organizations representing minority and women can nominate candidates. To be-

come a nominee, eligible individuals must sign form FSA-669A. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on Newsroom, then County Committee Elections. Form FSA-669A can also be obtained at the local FSA county office. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

Farm Service Agency county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Committee members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

Farm Service Agency will mail ballots to producers beginning Nov. 6. The voted ballots are due back to the local county office either via mail or in person by Dec. 7. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office Jan. 1, 2010.

**Airport**

(Continued from Page 1) Lawson were out of town, Mrs. Applegate had a previous commitment and she wasn't sure why Mr. Graham was not in attendance. "He is a farmer in Alma and he could have had a farm emergency," she said.

Items on the agenda included a bonds recall update by Mrs. Griffiths, funds distributed, election of officers and the approval of bills.

**Lenora**

(Continued from Page 1) Colfax Cowboys June 20: 7-11 a.m. — Community Wide Garage Sales 7:30 a.m. — Second annual charity three- to five-mile run 11 a.m. — Parade

The items were tabled until the next meeting.

"This situation is very rare; it only happens twice a year at the most," Mrs. Smith said.

She said having to table the agenda does not cause any problems.

The next airport board meeting will be held on July 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Norton City Building basement.

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**(785)**  
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Noon — Balloon Buffoon  
1 p.m. — Y102 Sanctioned Pedal Pull, Wobble Trap Shoot, Bingo  
3 p.m. — Balloon Buffoon  
4 p.m. — Creature Races  
5-9 p.m. — Inflatable Carnival  
8 p.m. — Concerts, Blaine Younger Band, RiverBilly

**Library**

(Continued from Page 1) The quilt was a friendship quilt — each square was made by a different person. The blocks were made by 28 different people including Viola Holcomb, who made her block in 1928, Lura Greenwood made her block in 1938 and Mary Gate Grace made her block in 1959. Mrs. Mary Luehrs, library director, believes the quilt was put together in the '50s. She said it was donated to the library several years ago.

A \$1 donation was required for the giveaway. Mrs. Luehrs said Mrs. Conover asked that proceeds of the quilt be put towards large print books.

The quilt give away was not the only event on the agenda for Thursday.

The celebration began at 10 a.m. and lasted until almost 9 p.m. Events included the Norton Postmaster's Special Norton Public Library pictorial cancel; at 2 p.m. young children could enjoy Richard Holmgren's Flying Debris Show; the Marc Baker Show began at 4 p.m., when birthday cake was also served. A luau was held for teen fun night, from 7-9 p.m.

Several community organizations participated in the event by

setting up informational displays in the library — the Norton County Museum, Friends of the Library, the Genealogy Society, Northwest Kansas Library System, the Norton Public Library/Library Foundation, and Tim and Gary Adrian displayed some of their Native American artifacts.

Library staff wanted an activity for every age range, said Kathy McConney, children's librarian.

The staff put in a 10 hour day but had fun all day, Mrs. McConney said.

Mrs. Luehrs said six staff members and three volunteers worked during the day.

"I just can't get over it. The community support has been wonderful, I want to thank the Norton Public Library Board, staff and the community for their support," she said.

**First Church of God**  
**Vacation Bible School**

**June 23- thru June 26, 2009**

**9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

**For More Information Please Contact the Church Office at 877-2181 or Becky Williams at 877-3576. Thank You!**

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