

from our viewpoint...

Rain gauge says the Drought is Out!

If you look at the smiles, it is a good feeling to believe we are on the waning edge of the drought that has drained reservoirs and dropped the ground water level over the past few years.

The drought may not be completely over, but we've had three times the moisture through the first five months of this year than last. We're more than a half inch above normal, and it sure looks like the dry spell is over.

We're not claiming to be clairvoyant, but based on the recent rains and the weather pattern, there are many signs of a return to more normal moisture.

I am not sure when the officials declared we were in a drought. I am sure they made the decision sometime after it was really underway, and many people had already been speaking the terrible "d" word long before it became official.

It is like the current economic situation, which has been described as a slowdown, recession and even a depression, depending on who you happen to hear reporting. It took months before people in Topeka, let alone Washington, wanted to be quoted as saying it was anything more than a bump in the road.

There is some hope the rebuilding of Iraq will open some markets for American agriculture and bring some improved prosperity to farmers.

Any improvement in the agriculture sector will be a boon for this area, and other efforts at economic development should receive a boost.

We salute the Sherman County Economic Development Council and the Micro Loan Committee for their efforts to assist a local business — Reynaldo's — in qualifying for a loan to help with their new business location.

This is a type of progress we should be shouting from the rooftops, because it is the local people who are working to assist a business in its expansion and development effort. This is part of a pot of money — \$100,000 — that was received a year ago from the state to start a revolving loan fund.

It took a year to get the first loan approved, and the credit for this should be shared by Carolyn Applegate, the new economic development director, and the Sherman County commissioners. They worked diligently to help get this loan approved, and there is every expectation they will have more this year. We hope so, because the money has to be given out by October.

For their part, Reynaldo's had to jump through paperwork hoops that go with a public loan program, but they did what had to be done.

Anytime local businesses can be helped create jobs, it helps the business climate. The effort shows that economic development in Sherman County is not solely based on chasing after big businesses, but it is a total project able to help those in business now as well as those who may want to come and be part of our success.

The council is working on an incentive package that will be another part of that program, and will help new businesses as well as those already here.

It is things like the micro loan program along with the welcome rains that make us believe it is time to say: The Drought is Out! And next, the recession? — *Tom Betz*



You can make perfect omelet in 40 seconds

They say you should learn something every day, and I expected to learn a lot of things at the Kansas Press Association meeting earlier this month in Topeka.

I didn't expect to learn how to make an omelet in 40 seconds.

The omelet was part of our bloopers program.

Each year on Saturday morning, there is a slide show of our mistakes. These can be mildly humorous — *The Salina Journal* put a one-half page ad for Krispy Kreme donuts on the same page as a story on dieting, and *The Norton Telegram* had a buzzard sounding at the end of a basketball game.

Some can be very embarrassing for those who forget to put all the letters in common words such as public and count. Spell check will not catch these mistakes, but the readers sure do.

The winner this year was, which quoted Barbara Bush as saying that she had lived through wars, presidents and three breast sizes.

What she had said was dress sizes. Mrs. Bush wrote a nice letter to the *Eagle* saying that her family had had quite a laugh over the mistake. At the end of the typed letter she wrote by hand, "I just had to get this off my chest."

Before we got into this tantalizing bit of teas-



cynthia haynes
• open season

ing of each other, however, we had breakfast, and this year that was a program by the American Egg Board.

I guess I wasn't aware that we had an Egg Board. We not only have one, but it has a spokesman, Howard Helmer, who is the world's fastest omelet maker and knows more about eggs than most hens.

He had each of us make our own omelet with a press association past presidents helping out. That meant that Steve was a helper. For this, he received an apron and a miniature whisk with a plastic egg on top. He also became real good at making omelets.

The trick is using a hot 10-inch non-stick skillet. Each omelet contains two eggs and two tablespoons of water. If you are making lots, you still make them one at a time, but you can mix them all up and use a soup ladle, which just holds two eggs and two tablespoons of water, to spoon the well-stirred mixture into the hot

skillet. You start by putting in a pat of butter or margarine or a little oil. Allow it to melt or heat for a couple of seconds and add your beaten egg mixture.

After you have the egg mixture in the skillet, you move it from the sides to the middle with a spatula, tilting the pan to allow uncooked egg to run into the holes you create until the egg is just set, but not done. You then grab handfuls of whatever you want in your omelet — onion, green pepper, ham, cheese, mushrooms — on the left half of the eggs. You then use your spatula to flip the egg over the goodies and then turn the skillet over onto a plate, which allows the omelet to hit the plate upside down. This makes a perfect omelet in about 40 seconds.

We tried it at home, and it works. The skillet handle should always be turned towards you, you need to have all your ingredients ready to go and most importantly, you need the stove to be really hot.

If you are making scrambled eggs, Helmer said, you use milk, but only water for an omelet. That's what makes them fluffy, the steam from the water.

Well, you learn something every day. And some lessons are edible.

What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us?

By dying, Jesus gave us the opportunity to have our sins forgiven, but what is the importance of his resurrection?

Acts 17:31 says, "He has set a day in which he purposes to judge the inhabited earth in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and he has furnished a guarantee to all men in that he has resurrected him from the dead."

Jesus' resurrection is a guarantee. Of what? John 11:25 says, "Jesus said to her: 'I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life.'"

Jesus told Lazarus' sister Martha that those exercising faith in him would be resurrected if they died. Martha knew he was referring to a time in the future, but he then showed his power to resurrect by raising her brother who had died four days before.

Other resurrections are recorded in the Bible. Hebrews 11:35 says, "Women received their dead by resurrection."

Elijah resurrected a widow's only son, and Jesus did the same for the widow of Nain. Those resurrected were resurrected to earth to be with their loved ones who had been grieving. That shows that such resurrections are possible, and Jesus' resurrection is further proof of that.

Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages sin pays is death, but the gift God gives is everlasting life by Christ Jesus our Lord."

Because of Adam's sin, all of mankind are sinful and needed Christ's sacrificial death to have everlasting life. In the past, those who were resurrected eventually died again. Jesus, however, has continued to live since his resurrection.

Hebrews 10:12, 13 says of Jesus, "For this



sharon corcoran
• use it or lose it

man offered one sacrifice for sins perpetually and sat down at the right hand of God, from then on awaiting until his enemies should be placed as a stool for his feet."

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to many of his disciples on earth; then, he went to heaven to be at his Father's right hand. He has received everlasting life. But what about others who died?

Revelation 20:4, 5 says, "And I saw thrones, and there were those who sat down on them, and power of judging was given them. . . . And they came to life and ruled as kings with the Christ for a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection."

The Bible foretells a time when people will

live long lives, do satisfying work and enjoy the fruits of their labor rather than toiling for someone else.

Isaiah 33:24 says of that time: "And no resident will say: 'I am sick.' The people that are dwelling in the land will be those pardoned for their error."

Why can we believe this?

Isaiah 55:10, 11 says, "For just as the pouring rain descends, and the snow, from the heavens and does not return to that place, unless it actually saturates the earth and makes it produce and sprout, and seed is actually given to the sower and bread to the eater, so my word that goes forth from my mouth will prove to be. It will not return to me without results, but it will certainly do that in which I have delighted, and it will have certain success in that for which I have sent it."

When God promises something, it is as certain to succeed as the ground is to get wet in a heavy rainfall. When He says He will resurrect our loved ones who have died and that we can live forever on earth with them, it is a certainty. And Jesus' resurrection is the guarantee.

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