

### Here's a pile of wheat we're glad to see go

**K**yle Railroad workers have been busy scooping up the 150,000 bushels of wheat that ended up on property in the southeast part of town as the result of a train derailment several weeks ago. (See photo Page 2). They are also finishing up on other necessary repairs as they put together what one of their trains ripped apart. A television crew from Wichita visited the site earlier and their report appeared this week. Some of the people featured on the television report were concerned because the wheat, having been rained on for quite a while, started attracting flies and bugs and other strange things and also began to smell. Their message seemed to indicate fear of a health hazard. Hopefully all the wheat in question will soon be gone, the flies and bugs and other strange things will die and the smell will be replaced with something....well, different!

**Let's Chat**  
Tom Dreiling



**My phone rang at 8:45 p.m.** Tuesday. Some guy wanted to speak to the man of the house. I told him I was the man of the house. He introduced himself and told me he represents a company that has an unbelievable bargain on windows.

"You would like to see new windows in your place, wouldn't you?" he asked.  
"Well, it all depends," I said.  
He asked how many windows I have.  
"In the neighborhood of 50," I replied.  
"50? You must have a pretty big place," he said breathing excitedly. I'm sure he saw \$ signs dancing in his head.  
"Yes I have," I told him.  
"Wow, I bet you have a lot of bedrooms," he said.  
"Sure do, 20," I answered.  
"Mind if I ask how many kids you have living at home?" he asked.  
"None. I'm single. Live alone," I said.  
He hung up!  
Everything I told him was pretty much true.

I always challenge telemarketers, that's why I'm not on the no-call list. While I think they are intruding most of the time, I also acknowledge the fact it's a job, and many times those jobs are being held by kids in college trying to make a few dollars to help with the expenses.

So, while I generally give them the runaround, I still keep them on someone's payroll.

**I watched with interest** two health care town hall meetings on C-SPAN earlier this week. The first one featured Rep. Jim Moran, Virginia Democrat, and the other featured Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Alaska Republican.

What a difference!  
Rep. Moran, for most part, was far from articulate when trying to answer questions, and at times even handed those questions off to his guest, Democrat Howard Dean, a former governor and National Democratic Party chair. This disturbed some in the audience, and rightfully so. "We elected you to represent us, not Howard Dean," one man yelled out.

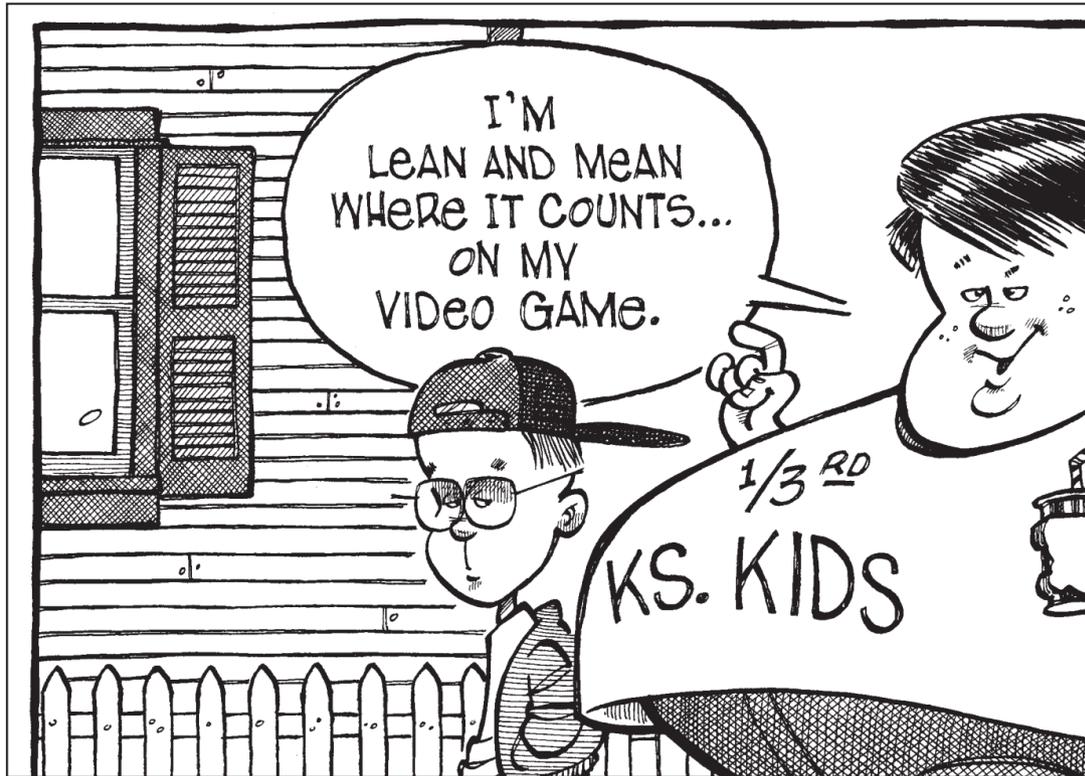
The more I watched this back and forth the more convinced I was that this guy might face a real fight to retain his seat in next year's elections. I couldn't understand what he was trying to convey to the large crowd with some of his answers. I came away less than impressed.

Sen. Murkowski, on the other hand, was in control of her town hall meeting in Anchorage. She was articulate, had a pleasing personality and in charge. It was a day and night comparison with her presentation and the one hosted by the Virginia congressman.

C-SPAN's coverage of these events is head and shoulders above what we see on the commercial television news channels. They give us just snippets of those meetings and they are usually focused on the unruly folks in attendance. Many of these meetings have an occasional outburst, but the way the three pointless channels (you know who they are) present it, you'd think they are all knock down-drag outs. They're not. If C-SPAN is not part of your viewing habit, give it a try, channel 15 on Norton's Nex-Tech cable.

**The 'routine' should pretty much** be established by now. Routine, as in getting the kids up and ready for school! A new school year's start always brings mixed feelings. Excitement for the kids, some relief for the households where Mom also holds down a job, and Mom and Dad figuring out how to handle situations that might need the presence of a parent at school. But, like most things in life, it all eventually comes together. Have a great new school year!

**Have a good evening!** And as you go to the church of your choice this weekend, make it a family affair. Perhaps maybe a 'weekly routine'.



### Thanks for all your support



Thank you for all of your support with this year's Summer Reading Program. Because of your generosity, we were able to get weekly updates and upcoming events out to the public and around the Norton community.

It is through the wonderful community support we receive from businesses, such as yours, that the Summer Reading Program is able to remain so successful.

We look forward to next year's Summer Reading Program and your continued support.

*Kathy McConney  
Children's Librarian*

### Please call it what it really is: H1N1

**F**our months after the outbreak of H1N1, you'd think the media would get it right. They haven't. Turn on the radio or television, check out blogs, tweets and Facebook. Everyone is still calling the latest influenza, "swine flu."

That's wrong. Inaccurate. **This disease is H1N1.**

While this influenza can be found in swine, as well as birds, humans and other animals, it's a lot easier name to use for millions of people than H1N1, or North American Flu or Hybrid influenza. All three are more accurate.

This flu nickname attached to swine production is the last thing hog farmers needed.

Because of the unfortunate name choice, exports of U.S. pork have dropped, eliminating a key market rally that is typically seen each summer. This summer's rally was especially crucial; hog farmers have lost money since September, 2007.

Hog farmers have lost more than half of their accumulated equity since September, 2007. Hog farmers desperately needed a summer rally to return profit to their farms.

Yes, this false image associating this latest flu bug associated with swine has hit pork producers deep in the pocketbook. Since September, 2007, pork producers have lost an average of more than \$21 on each hog marketed, and current hog futures show losses well into next year.

Ron Plain, University of Missouri Extension economist, anticipates losses of \$400 million during the last four months due to the market impact of the H1N1 hysteria.

Douglas County farmer Loren Baldwin has raised hogs on his family farm since 1997. Until recently, the young hog producer ran a 40-head sow opera-

### Insight John Schlageck

tion raising pigs.

"It's sad to say but the recent tag of 'swine flu' is probably going to finish off the family hog business," Baldwin says. "Coupled with the high input prices, linking this influenza with our swine production will be the straw that breaks our backs."

The Douglas County hog producer recently sold all but two of his sows. He keeps the sows to raise pigs so he can process them and eat pork on his family's diversified farm.

Baldwin is worried about producers who raise safe pork. They are good, hard-working multi-generational farmers, but they're fighting an uphill battle.

The cruel irony about this whole H1N1 scenario is that Kansans and other Americans should all be eating plenty of pork, beef and other protein sources to fight off the flu virus this coming season. Nutritionists believe and will tell you that minerals and vitamins, especially Vitamin B, once again found in protein like pork, strengthen the body's immune system.

"Pork is a healthy, nutritious food," Baldwin says. "It tastes wonderful and it's good for you. You cannot get the flu from eating pork."

H1N1 influenza is not a food-borne illness. The safety of pork and pork products has been affirmed by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health, the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has said U.S. pork is safe to eat.

His statement is supported by recent research conducted by the National Animal Disease Center and international researchers.

Influenza is a respiratory disease and the virus is not found in the blood or meat of healthy pigs or in pigs that have recovered from the illness. Of course, sick pigs are never allowed to enter the food supply. Hog farmers have protocols established for caring for animals that develop illness. Ill pigs are not sent to market. Just like humans, pigs can get ill, but like humans, they recover.

**Call this latest influenza by its correct name. It's H1N1.**

If the six and seven year old sons and daughters of thousands of swine farms across the United States know and can say H1N1, the media and those in public forums can surely do the same.

These dedicated family farmers eat the same food as other Americans. They eat the same bacon, ham and pork chops we do. They are just as concerned about and want to ensure their families have a safe food supply raised here in the United States.

The best way to help ensure the safety and security of our domestic food supply is to support the U.S. hog industry. Buy and enjoy U.S. pork and encourage your lawmakers to support trade agreements to open export markets. U.S. pork is safe and nutritious, and hog farming contributes needed jobs in the United States.

Think about the hog industry and the hog farmers the next time you talk about this influenza and the upcoming flu season. **Get it right. Call it H1N1.**

*(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.)*

**To... the City of Norton guys,** who get called out at all hours to fix water problems, remove tree limbs after the last bad storm, and all kinds of other things. You do a great job! Thanks! (email)

**To... the city and rural weather spotters,** who stayed out when asked to help clean up tree branches and debris from the last storm. Thanks to you! (email)

**To... the high school boys,** who knocked on my door and asked if they could clear my yard of branches and other trash the storm deposited. They knew I would be unable to do that. Great kids we have! (regular mail)

**To... Valley Hope,** for a wonderful Alkathon. And the sea of yellow balloons was breath-taking. (by telephone)

(To render a salute, email tom.d@nwkansas.com, call 877-6908 or 877-3361, fax to 877-3732, regular mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or stop by the office. Thanks for your continuing input. - td)



## THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654

Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

**Nor'West Newspapers**  
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002

Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



**Office hours:**  
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
Phone: (785) 877-3361  
Fax: (785) 877-3732  
E-mail:  
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

### STAFF

Tom Dreiling..... editor and publisher  
Dana Paxton..... advertising director  
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jays sports  
Erica Bradley..... news editor  
Sherry Hickman..... bookkeeping/circulation  
Vicki Henderson..... computer production