



Appraiser's office gets new pickup

By Heather Alwin
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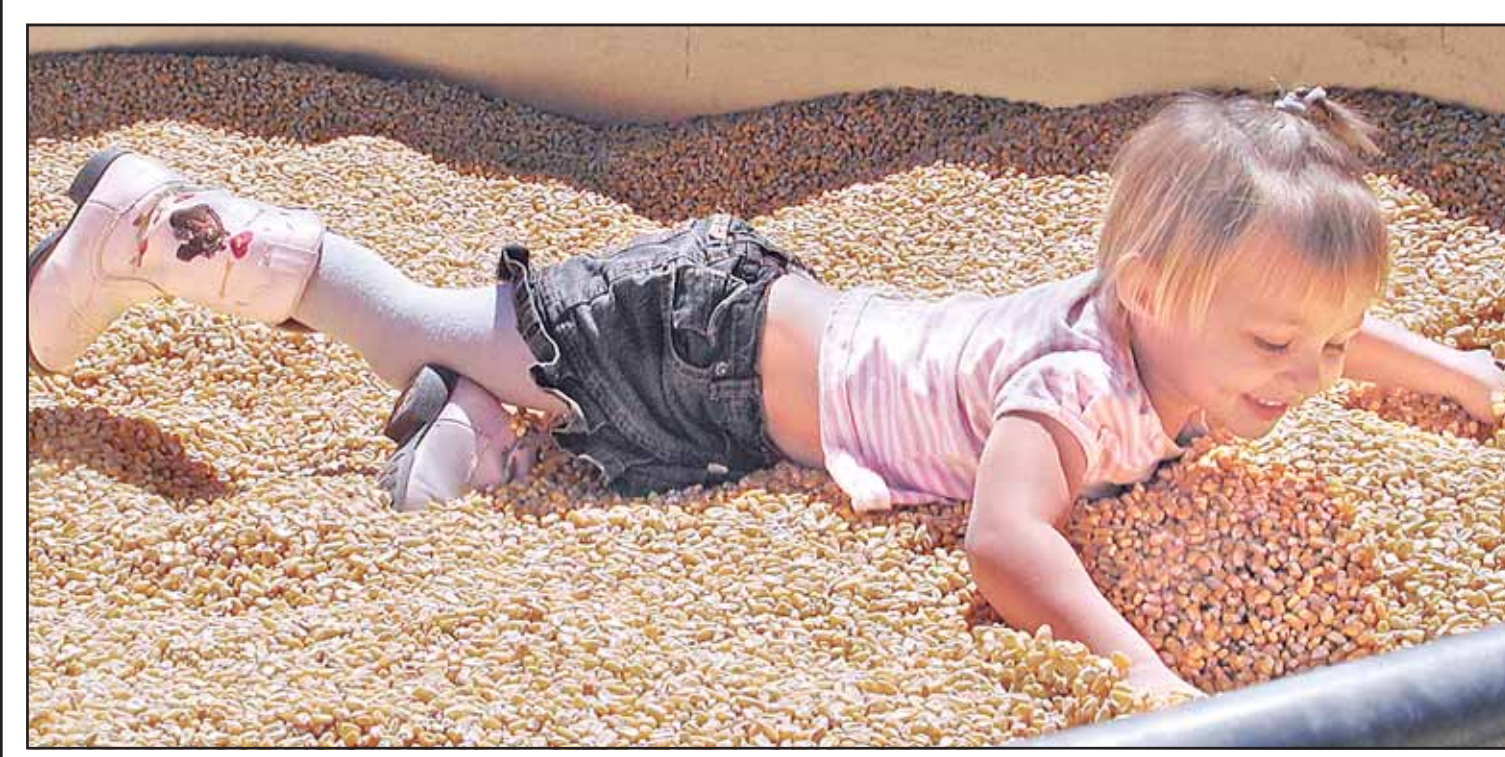
The Thomas County Commissioners approved the purchase of a new pickup for the County Appraiser's office at the commission's Friday meeting. The vehicle, a 2013 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4, replaces the county's 1994 Ford Ranger, purchased in 1994. Tubbs and Sons Ford Sales won the purchase contract with a bid of \$23,575.60 over Colby Dodge's bid of \$24,973 for a 2013 Ram 1500 Quad Cab. Prices from both bidders included special gov-

ernment discounts. The appraiser's office will use the pickup for data collection, said Kathy Cunningham. The commissioners also approved the addition of unpaid noxious weed bills to the tax rolls for five properties. According to weed supervisor Clair Schrock, property owners Victor and Brenda Mazanec owe \$2371.99 on two properties; Chuck and Julie Saddler owe \$703; Stephen and Tracy Shull owe \$103.50; and Marvin Urban owes \$121.75. If the debts are not paid by June 15, the county will add a 10 percent penalty to each unpaid bill and place a lien on the properties.

In other business, the commissioners:
• Instructed the sheriff's department to ignore the city fire marshal's request for an annual load test on the generator at the jail since the generator's load is already tested regularly as part of a maintenance agreement.
• Interviewed Kathy Kennedy, a candidate for the open appraiser position. Kennedy lives in Oakley and previously worked in Thomas County as a district appraiser. The commission is scheduled to make a hiring decision at its Monday, meeting.
• Held an executive session with road supervisor Clair Schrock, attorney Kevin Berens and members

of the South Randall Township Board to discuss potential litigation surrounding alleged road interference from Troy Sporer. John Bird, attorney for adjoining landowners Melvin and Gail Eberle, claims the South Randall Township Board has refused to repair the section line road between Section 15-10-32 and Section 22-10-32. In his view, the county is legally obligated to step in to reset the road at the boundary established in 1895.
• Heard a request from Ben Hoeting to allow the Thomas County Extension Service to place a carport

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Selden streets rumble with cars and tractors

By Judy Rogers

Everyone was a winner at the 20th annual Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show Sunday in Selden. There were drawing winners, best-of-show winners and pedal tractor winners. Everyone won with beautiful weather and outstanding exhibits.

The show was started in 1994 by the Selden American Legion. The Selden Community Foundation has been the sponsor for the past five years.

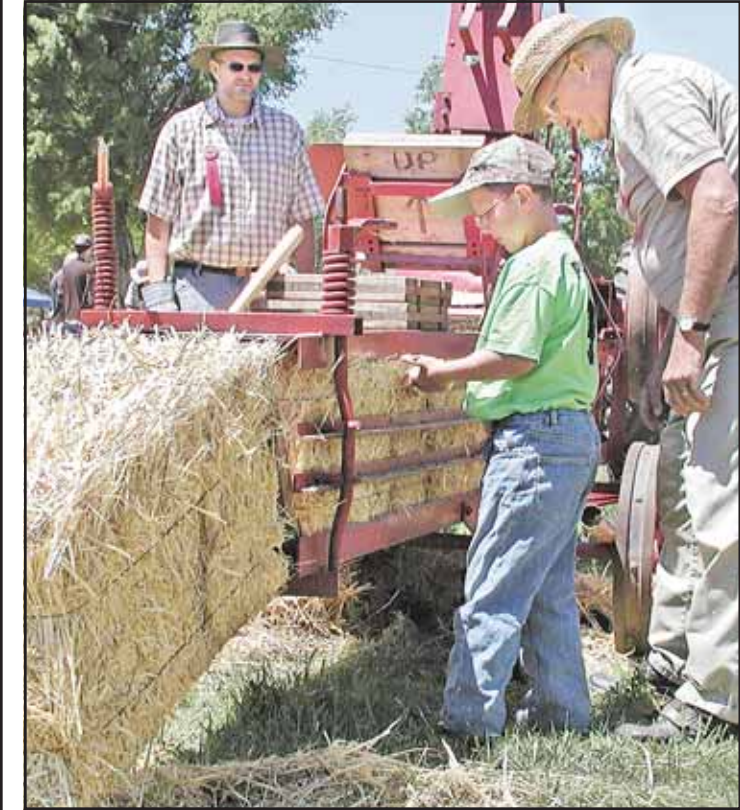
This year's show had a number of exhibits - cars and tractors, small engines and specialty items. Plaque recipients for cars included a 1932 Ford five-window coupe owned by Wes Bencken of Rexford, a 1973 Plymouth Barracuda owned by Dennis Schwarz of Oakley, a 1961 Cushman golf cart owned by Harry Bearley of Atwood, a 1972 Ford Cobra Jet Mustang owned by Tom Ashenbrenner of Brewster and a 1958 Chevy Pickup Fleetwood owned by Evan and Judy Goltl of Hill City.

Tractor plaque winners were a



CYNTHIA HAYNES/SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Wrangler Allen, 2, played in the corn tank (top) Sunday at Selden's antique tractor show. Dan Baalman of Colby went down the street (above) in his strange-looking machine: a half-size replica of a 1911 tractor he built with scrap metal out of a junkyard. Tyler Ellis, 8, learned what it was like to make hay bales (bottom left) with a stationary baler from 1941. Classic cars were also on display, such as this two-door 1949 Mercury sedan owned by Ross Rodenbeck (below).



Teacher development plan passed

By Sam Dieter
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The Colby school board approved a plan to keep its teachers properly educated at its monthly meeting Monday.

Curriculum Director Diana Wieland told the board she met with the state and made sure the plan matches the state standards. She said later the district comes up with a new plan every five years. She suspects the state might come up with new standards in about a year, which the school district might incorporate in the plan before coming up with a new one.

"We really didn't change anything," she said.

The plan includes a Professional Development Council consisting of two teachers and one administrator from each building, Wieland and a nonvoting secretary.

Under the plan, teachers must renew their licenses with a combination of "points" and college credit hours, each of which counts for 20 points. Wieland said the points can be earned in different ways, such as writing a class curriculum, going to a teacher's workshop or learning to incorpo-

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New vice president to begin work July 1

Colby Community College President Stephen Vacik has announced the selection of Gregory Nichols as the vice president of academic affairs. Nichols will replace Joyce Washburn who retired this year after working at the college since 1980.

Nichols has served as the associate dean of instruction at Cowley Community College in Arkansas City since July 2011. He began his career at Cowley as a math instructor in August 1999. He has also taught at Emporia State University, Southwestern College and Butler Community College.

He has received a number of honors and awards for teaching excellence. In 2010, Nichols received the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Master Teacher Award. He was selected in 2009-10 for the Paul Stirnaman Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence and was named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 2002, 2004 and 2006.

Nichols is also involved in community organizations. He served as a board member of the Arkansas City Christian Academy from

2008 to '12, currently is a board member of the Salvation Army, served as a Boy Scout leader from 2003 to '08 and was the Cowley

College Academic Bowl Team Advisor from 2006 to '11. He also served for a number of years as a coach for the Arkansas City Recreation Commission and Arkansas City Christian Academy.

Nichols received his undergraduate degree from the University of Oklahoma, a master's degree from Emporia State University, and has completed graduate studies at Southwestern College, St. Thomas University and Portland State University. He is completing work on a doctorate in education from Grand Canyon University, which he anticipates completing in 2014.

"We feel very fortunate to have someone with the professional and personal attributes of Greg joining the college," said Vacik. "He and his family are excited about moving to town and I know they will be a welcomed addition to our community."

He will begin his duties at the college on Monday, July 1.



G. Nichols

Highways to be sealed

Two bids approved for state highway maintenance projects by the Kansas Department of Transportation May 22 in Topeka will have an impact on our area.

The first, in Thomas County, is to seal 11.5 miles of U.S. 83 from the Nine Mile Corner north to the Sheridan County line. The contract was awarded to Blevins Asphalt Construction Company of Mt. Vernon, Mo., for \$330,882.67.

The second project is to seal 11.4 miles of K-25 in Logan County, from mile marker 145.8 east to the city limits of Russell Springs. That contract also went to Blevins, for \$261,404.50.

According to Kristen Brands of the department's Norton office, both projects are expected to be done late this summer.

