

Kanorado rancher recognized for his idea

By Pat Schiefen
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A Kanorado rancher and farmer Arnold Graybill was rewarded recently for an idea that helps ranchers to work with young calves more safely. His idea was sent in to the magazine “Successful Farming” in the spring. The magazine picks an idea of the month. The winner received \$2,500 Firestone in-store credit. Graybill said he requested his credit to be at Frontier Ag where he buys tractor tires. His idea was picked for the August issue. His idea was to build a calf cage to attach on a four-wheeler. The



Graybill

cage has three spring-loaded gates and is attached to a center-mounted snowplow on an all terrain vehicle. One gate is for entry to the four wheeler on the left side. The other two on the catcher section lock open. Releasing a lever by the driver’s right hand makes the gates snap and lock closed. The cage is center mounted on a snowplow which gives an added support wheel to keep both cages level and more solid. Also smoothing out the bumps is a walking beam tandem axle. For the catcher cage’s tandem wheels, Graybill took an axle from a small trailer he had on hand. He

cut the spindles off each end and welded them at right angles back onto a piece of axle. He said he spent about \$375 for steel, 20-foot wire livestock panes, support wheel and spindle and paint. The rest of the materials came from things sitting around. Graybill also incorporated a top slide mechanism that lets the outside cage go up and down, absorbing uneven terrain independently from the all terrain vehicle. “The two cages are hinged at the bottom where they connect, and at the top they are connected with the slide mechanism,” he explained. He even has a tote carrier that clips on the wire of the cage to hold syringes, taggers, iodine bottles and other supplies.

The cage surrounding the four-wheeler is 9 feet long , 62 inches wide and 50 inches high. The side cage is the same except it is only 52 inches wide. Entry gates for the vehicle and the side gate are 2 1/2 feet wide. The double gates open to four feet wide for calf catching. Graybill said that most of the framework is made from one inch square metal tubing. Graybill said he came up with the idea after a protective mother cow dented his pickup. His cage protects the vehicle and driver from damage. “We had a family member who was hospitalized by a protective mama cow. My father-in-law has been helping with tagging. This gives us all more security. And if I

had to, I could do the job by myself,” said Graybill. Graybill said he has 1,250 acres of which half are pasture and half irrigation. He grows wheat and raises black Angus cattle. He said they sell the steer calves in the fall and keep the heifers to build up the herd. He has around 66 cows. He was a former heavy truck mechanic and likes to make things. He and his wife Lori lived in Minnesota and moved to the farm in 2005. Graybill said the farm had been his grandfather’s and uncle’s. When his uncle died the couple made the decision to move. Lori worked with the disabled in Minnesota. Here she has worked at the Goodland Learning Center and now at Goodland High School in the at-

risk programs. The Graybills have three children, Jeremy (Mendi) of Denver, Nathan (Julie) of Atlanta, Ga. and Lyda (Brian) McMurray of Kansas City. They have five grandchildren. Jeremy had a son this summer and Lyda a daughter. Graybill said that he previously had lived in Goodland but that his family moved when he was in the third grade. Lori’s parents, Roland and Shirley Schrunk, live in their own home on the farm. Graybill said his father-in-law likes to do chores and keep busy. “We are glad to be here,” said Graybill.



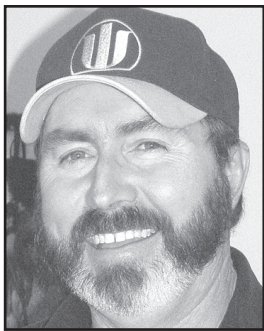
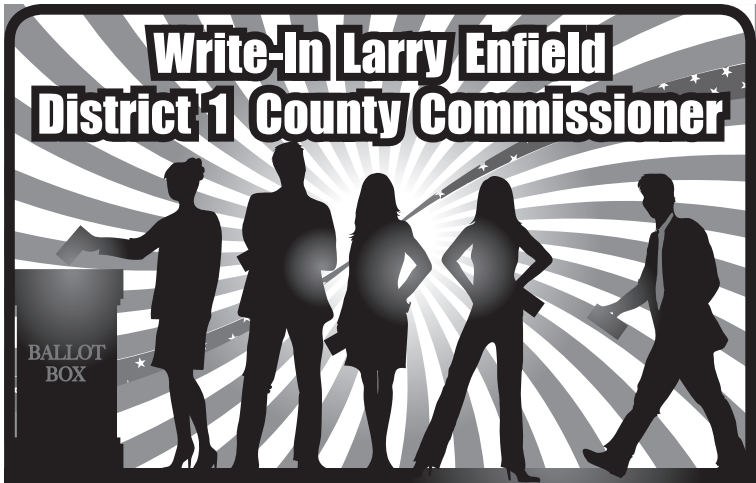
Golden Dragon Acrobats

Acrobats at Colby Sunday

Amazing acrobatic feats will greet the audience for the Western Plains Arts Association presentation of the Golden Dragon Acrobats at 2 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Sunday at the Colby High School auditorium. The acrobatic show is part of the 41st season of the Western Plains Arts Association and Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency. The Golden Dragon Acrobats represent the best of a time-honored tradition that began more than 27 centuries ago. Direct from Hebei, China, the acrobatic company has traveled around the world, to all 50 states and to over 65 countries on five continents. With performers trained in the rigorous art of acrobatics since early youth, the troupe has garnered international acclaim.

The company is proud to have been presented with several major awards over its history including the National Association of Campus Activities Entertainer of the Year Award and the Campus Activities Today’s Performer of the Year Award. The Golden Dragon Acrobats are under the casting direction of Asian Artists Productions located

in Plano, Texas. AAPI chooses its talented performers directly from the People’s Republic of China and maintains a team of theatrical technicians and touring managers in the United States whom are responsible for the safe travel and execution of the touring show. Admission is with WPAA Season ticket or at the door, Adults, \$15, Students K-12, \$7.



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Sherman County Voters:

By writing my name on the ballot on November 2, together we can make a difference for Sherman County.

Paid for by Larry Enfield, candidate for County Commissioner

matters of record

The following real estate transactions have been reported by the Sherman County register of deeds: Northwest Kansas Technical College, Inc. quit claims to Maverick Holdings, LLC, a tract of land in SW/4 of Sec.19, T8S, R39W. Larry S. Wiggins and Barbara M. Wiggins convey and warrant to Casey Henderson, the SE/4 of Sec.16, T10S, R41W. Barbara M. Wiggins quit claims to Jeff Henderson and Anita Henderson, the E/2 of Sec.6, T10S, R41W. Jeff Soper to Dale Schaffer and Tasha Schaffer: all of Lots 11 and 12, Block 17, Second Addition to the City of Goodland.

By Tom Betz
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City commissioners have been looking at putting up entrance signs on the I-70 exits and the entrance points on K-27 to welcome travelers to town. City Manager Doug Gerber said he has talked to Jeff Mills and Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates about the signs. Gerber said he knew the commissioners had asked about the signs several months ago, but the item got buried under the other projects. Jeff said he had talked to Commercial Sign of Colby about a similar sign as the one at Pioneer Park and had an estimate of \$7,625. He said the signs would be similar, but in smaller planters than at Pioneer Park, and to put lights on it would bring it up to about \$10,000. He said he was asked about an electronic sign similar to the one installed by Northwest Technical College at the intersection of K-27 and Business U.S. 24, and said it would cost about \$14,400, and the Tech sign is 3 foot by 8 foot. Neufeld said there might be state Department of Transportation restrictions on electronic signs near the Interstate, but felt it was a proximity thing and was sure there is

some type that could be used if that is the city decision. Commissioner John Garcia asked if the city sign being suggested was smaller than some he has seen along the Interstate. Neufeld said the sign Garcia is talking about a about 30 feet across, and feel the sign is about 12 to 15 feet high. He said it is a similar size to the one at Pioneer Park, but with a smaller planter. A question was asked about doing the sign with out a planter and if that would save money. Neufeld said it might save \$3,000 a sign. He said this is an update on the sign cost from a couple of years ago. Garcia asked if the easements have been granted by the state. Depending on the location, Neufeld said. Both the Exit 19 (east exit) and Exit 17 (west exit) are on state right of way except for on the north side of the on ramp at Exit 17. Daniels said he felt the city needs one coming from the east and one from the west. Neufeld said the city has access near the Super 8, Holiday Inn Express and Comfort Inn. Gerber said one of the things the city looked are the electronic signs,

and felt there might be some posts out by I-70 that could be used. Neufeld said with the electronic sign the version the Northwest Tech has is not going to cut it along I-70. He said the ones along I-70 are more like 30 feet by 15 to 20 feet high. Commissioner Annette Fairbanks asked if the signs would roll across. Neufeld said that is optional on newer signs. Garcia asked about a bigger LED sign. Neufeld said one about 20 feet by 8 feet would cost \$96,000. Garcia said that was more expensive than he wanted to get into and felt it would be good to go back to the other signs and cut back on the planters. Mayor Josh Dechant said the city could pursue a couple of signs. He asked Neufeld if he could take photos of the locations and put a sign in so the commissioners could see what they would look like. Neufeld said his office can do that and asked what locations. Garcia said at the two I-70 exits. Neufeld said they would get those done and bring them back to the commission.

Clean up rescheduled

The annual fall cleanup done by Goodland High School students has been rescheduled to Wednesday, Nov. 10. Hours are from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a community service project done mainly for the elderly by the students. Students will rake and clean up yards and haul off waste. They cannot pick up tires, large ap-

pliances, household hazardous waste and tree limbs longer than four feet in length. The City of Goodland work crews, the Sherman County Landfill and the Sherman County Commissioners are assisting students in their efforts. To be included call (785) 890-5656.

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