

# \*Money goes to youth

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started selling all over the place for upwards of \$500. I had one sell for \$1,500 in Kansas. And all at once, it went from a small fund raiser to over \$100,000 raised in one year. And now, because our chapters are so excited about the project, they want to do something like it next year, too. We don't know how we're going to follow it up, but we're brainstorming what to do next."

Already, 300 of the 500 prints have sold, he said, but no one seems to know who the mystery donor is. "The real truth of the matter," Mrs. Shaw said, "is that in the past, I did the painting for Spring Creek Castings, based here in Oberlin. They said they wanted me to do a picture about hunting, and I said I really wanted to do one about the bond between a man and his son. So I painted it and they loved it."

"There was big money behind the company, and I can't remember the guy's name, but he liked it so much he bought the copyright to have prints made, and I got a nice big check with a number of prints and they got the copyright."

That guy, she said - Mr. McCleneghan - is the real hero of the story.

"Nothing was ever said about the person who actually donated the prints, but they're the real hero - they deserve the attention. I painted the picture and did it from my heart, yes, but I wasn't the one who donated them."

"So Pheasants Forever wants to make me as a hero, but really I'm not. If it had been mine to donate, I would have taken the credit, but I'm at a loss for words because I'm not the one who did the good thing."

"It's just such a great story," Mr. Linquist said, "and such a wonderful tribute to Isaac, and it really pulls the heartstrings. It's all about getting kids out there and keeping the tradition alive forever.... I don't think I dreamt in a million years it would do so well."

# Forensics program will start in August

Northwest Kansas Technical College at Goodland achieved another first when the Kansas Board of Regents approved a Crime Scene Investigation Technology program to begin in August.

The program is the first of its kind in Kansas, with the only other forensic-science program a bachelor's degree at Wichita State University.

The program will be "hands on and high tech," the school says. The curriculum will include training in areas such as fingerprinting, blood spatter, cyber security, drug identification and presenting evidence, among others. Graduates may continue on to a law-enforcement career, pursue entry-level jobs in the field or continue their education.

This program offers an alternative to those pursuing a traditional law-enforcement career. The Kansas Law Enforcement Academy requires students to be at least 21 to attend. The primary option for high-school graduates has been a traditional criminal justice degree, where much of the material will be re-taught in the academy. The Northwest Tech program aims to extend their knowledge beyond what the academy teaches and give graduates an advantage when seeking jobs.

For details, go to [www.nwktc.edu](http://www.nwktc.edu).

## Ready, set, race!



IT WAS A FINE day at the Decatur County Speedway for the year's first races on Saturday, April 27. Driver Reed Chick took a quick look around him before exiting his car (above). The cars came in all shapes and sizes, including No. 6 (below), a part of promoter Rick Salem's United Rebel Sprint Series.

-Photos provided by Rick Salem



THIS PICTURE OF AN Oberlin water main was taken by Miller and Associates, the engineering firm out of McCook, that's working on the water wells project for the city. The thick stuff around the inside of the pipe is manganese, said Chris Miller, and the reason why the firm proposed building a manganese treatment plant for well No. 11.

# \*Project design is underway

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ful levels of arsenic and uranium, over 20 years, the cost would total over \$5 million. Add into that the \$100,000-a-year cost of disposing of the uranium that the treatment plant would have filtered out, and you're adding another \$2 million onto that. With the new wells, the price over that same amount of time would be only about \$3.8 million, he said.

"We're hoping to get 30 percent

(of the money needed) from grants," Mr. Miller said, "and should know what we qualify for in the next couple weeks. We've applied to several sources - the state Revolving Loan Fund through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant fund and state Community Development Block Grants as well. Hopefully, we'll have it all resolved before we go out to bid."

# \*Students ready for commencement

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thon Rorick, Darbi Rouse, Cassidy Shields, Cheyenne Soderlund, A.J. Stoll and Cody Wurm.

## GOLDEN PLAINS

Seven seniors received their high school diplomas during commencement exercises Sunday afternoon at Golden Plains High School in Rexford.

Andrew Luna gave the students prayer, after which Superintendent Mary Ellen Welshon gave the welcome. Speeches followed from Morgan Walz, salutatorian, and Angela Ritter, valedictorian. Flowers were presented by the Class of 2013, followed by the song, "Don't Forget

to Remember Me." Other members of the class are Jose Bermudez, Haydyn Best, Jesus Garcia and Camron Spresser. Paul Bruggeman, a school board member, awarded the diplomas. Janell Antholz was pianist and honor guards were Jordan Christensen, Hailee Spresser, Grant Spresser and Tristan Schwarz.

Class motto is "We design our lives through the power of choices"; class song, "It's Time"; class colors, white, red and black; and class flower, calla lily. A group reception followed in the little gym, sponsored by the Golden Plains Boosters Club.

# \*Tax act would simplify

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mortar vendors are required to collect by law. These online vendors - companies like eBay, Cabela's, The Gap and others - are only required to include the customer's local tax if the vendor has an actual, physical presence in that customer's state.

"Consumers are supposed to pay the appropriate sales tax when they file their annual federal and state income taxes," the story says, "but almost no one does.... The Marketplace Fairness Act.... would close this loophole. The legislation

would allow states to require out-of-state vendors to collect sales taxes just like the physical stores at the customer's location ... and would exempt vendors that make less than \$1 million a year in revenue."

It would also make states simplify their sales tax laws.

There are two ways to do this, the organization says. The first option is to join with 24 other states that have adopted the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement. If a state would rather not sign on to the agreement, then they can meet five key points

- Notify retailers in advance of any rate changes within the state.
- Designate a single state organization to handle sales tax registrations, filings, and audits.
- Establish a sales tax database.
- Use destination sourcing to determine sales tax rates for out-of-state purchases.
- Provide software and/or services for managing sales-tax compliance, and hold retailers harmless for any errors that result from relying on state-provided systems and data.

# \*Sales tax incorrect in rural areas

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who actually read his complaint, instead of generating an automatic response. It was many days and even more e-mails before the problem was solved.

"If the federal government passes the Marketplace Fairness Act," Mr. Brunkan said, "it will require all Internet sales over a certain dollar amount to include the tax, so for a period of time it will get more complicated, but eventually, hopefully, everyone will switch over to the address-based system."

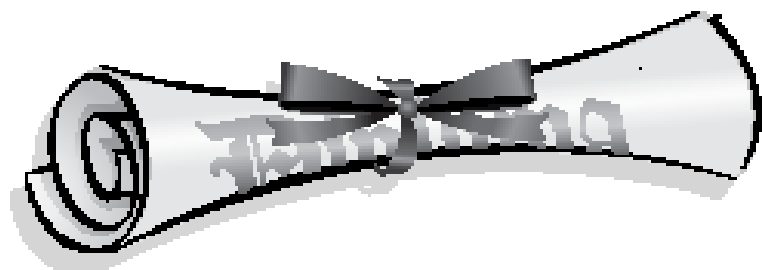
"It's been on the burner for years.... It's a part of the "Streamlined Sales-Tax" agreement. There's

probably 15 states so far that are members, that have adopted a common set of procedures to facilitate the collection of tax on remote sales. It's been a partnership to simplify the problem between retailers and states."

Actually, according to the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board, 24 states and taxing districts (as of 2011), including Washington,

D.C., participate in the Streamlined Sale and Use Tax Agreement. This simplifies the tax code and would make it easier for the Marketplace Fairness Act to be implemented, should Congress pass it.

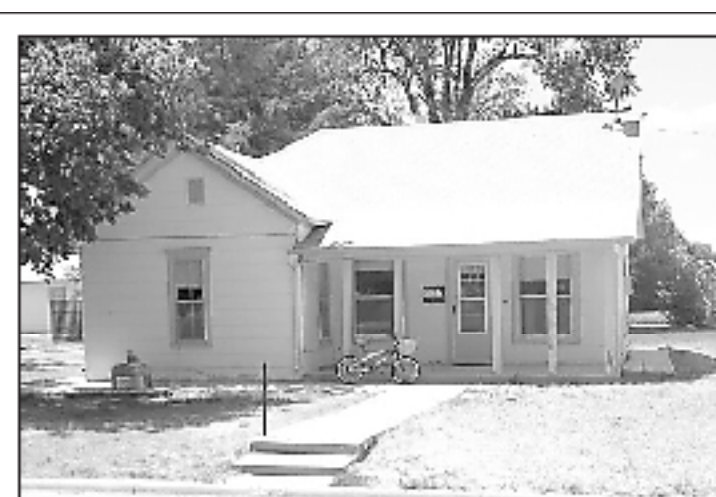
But until the issue is decided on one way or another, Decatur County residents apparently are going to have to wrestle with the problem the old-fashioned way: with a customer



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