New technical college president welcomes visitors

ber of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, dent Ken Clouse gave him a tour was among the dignitaries who of the departments and told him stopped by recently to greet Dr. Ed Mills, new president of the education. Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland.

They discussed issues with the latest state funding formula and the importance of higher education in rural Kansas.

Colby Community College, also over ideas for a collaboration between the two schools and how to improve educational opportunities in northwest Kansas.

Sen. Sam Brownback stopped campus, Mills said.

Sheila Frahm of Colby, a mem- by on his "105 Kansas Counties Tour." Dr. Mills and former Presiabout budget problems for higher

College Board Chairman Rob Loftin and long-time board member Bruce Buck traveled to Stephens Restaurant in Sharon Springs, where U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran was finishing up his Wal-Dr. Lynn Kreider, president of lace County visit as a part of his 2009 "Big First" Listening Tour. met with Dr. Mills. They went Moran emphasized his support for education and western Kansas.

The technical college welcomes visitors and encourages everyone to check out improvements on the



Pictured are (from left) Ken Clouse, former president of North- McCants and Dr. Ed Mills, new president of the college. west Kansas Technical College, Sen. Sam Brownback, Larry

TIFFINI OVERSTREET/ Northwest Kansas Technical College

End of pea season welcome

I must report to you today that I'm not a bit unhappy that the pea

pulled more weeds this spring than the previous two or three springs combined, and while I'm pleased with the crop, the weeds continue to take most of an old gardener's

pick the peas, you must shell them in order to release those little round nuggets of intense flavor. Not to mention the fact that they must be blanched, packaged and frozen for those wonderful winter meals to come. Fortunately, the peas were ready this spring at the same time as the creamy, smooth new potatoes, and as a result, there was much feasting at our house again this year.

ally productive this spring, as have the spinach, lettuce, radishes and green onions. And now, many of us await the growth and maturity of the warm-season crops, such as tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers, cantaloupe, okra and any number of others that enjoy the warm days of July and August.

cals' active ingredients come from

things already found in nature.

they weren't poisons," said Ward

Upham, Kansas State University

Research and Extension horticul-

its EPA certification in the 1990s,

yet many gardening books and

Web sites still list it as a botani-

cal alternative for homeowners,

One hazardous "organic" lost

Kay Melia

> • The Gardener

review a bit with you today. It was about the first of March when I wrote that the plant breeders had developed the first seedless tomato and the Burpee Seed Co. was offering packets of seed for Sweet Seedless tomatoes. Incidentally, someone asked me how they could produce a seed for a seedless tomato. I had no answer, other than check it out with a friend with a degree in biology.

Anyway, I spent \$4.95, plus postage and handling, for a packet of 10 Sweet Seedless tomato seed. I always grow most of my own tomato plants, so at the proper time, I stuffed them into the starting soil and waited.

Of the 10 seeds, only six emerged. One of the new plants didn't make it past the transplant process, so I ended with just five healthy plants. At planting time, I gave a couple to son Marty so they might be tried in a different atmo-Speaking of tomatoes, let me sphere than mine. I then set out the

Use caution with 'organic' insecticide

ture. Botanical insecticides have stay healthy, though, people still which reduces the risk for non-

for example, avoiding skin con-

tact and wearing a mask when ap-

the market, most botanicals aren't

very toxic to plants, either, he add-

ed. Reading label directions is the

best way to learn that insecticidal

soaps can harm some ornamen-

plying rotenone or sabadilla."

OLATHE - A persistent myth 1900s. Despite its popularity and out a lake's fish.

in gardening circles is that "or- effectiveness, however, nicotine

ganic" insecticides are safe to use, sulfate proved to be in excess of

especially compared to using the four times more toxic to mammals

commonly available synthetic than the widely used synthetic

both advantages and disadvan- need to follow the products' label

tages. But, they wouldn't work if directions exactly. This includes,

Upham said. Nicotine sulfate had tal plants and that several natural

been on the market since the early products can harm birds or wipe

pesticides. After all, the botani- pesticide known as Sevin.

other three Sweet Seedless in my garden, along with 30 other plants on Saturday, May 9.

I fertilized them all about the 25th of June and all of the plants are looking good, as they are setting fruit and growing steadily high into their five-foot cages. The Sweet Seedless, listed as a 68-day tomato, are loaded with little fruit. We'll see about that seedless stuff in about a month.

Among the many tomato plants in my garden are two Fourth of July plants, both of which are at the top of the cage already and loaded with fruit. We picked the first ripe one day before yesterday, which proves they are not correctly named. Only once in the last 10 years have I picked a ripe Fourth of July on the Fourth of July. But anyone who has grown them seems to agree that they are a wonderful development.

And which variety is the best looking at this point in the season? No question about it ... the Northern Exposure. More blooms and fruit, healthier-looking vines. None of the others look bad, thought, and no blight - yet!

There are other benefits and

drawbacks with botanical insecti-

ment," he said. "This may also be

why target insects haven't devel-

little, if any, residual control. So,

users must aim for precise timing

and/or frequent applications, Up-

ham said, "which could get a little

expensive, given that botanicals

tend to cost more and be less easily available than the synthetics."

The flip side, however, is that

cides, Upham said.

oped any resistance.'

Since nicotine sulfate went off these products tend to provide

National group selects president

American Association of Community Colleges, representing about 1,200 twoyear institutions with more than 11 million students.

"This is a very challenging time for

community colleges, and service as a commissioner can benefit not only the national association, but also your fellow institutions," said Mary Spade, association board chair. "I want to thank you for your commitment and leadership.'

The commission is an advisory group for the organization's board. The group has six commissions, each with a specific focus. These meet two times each year, in November and prior to the annual conference in April.

Dr. Kreider has been active in state and national

Colby Community College President Lynn groups. He was selected last year as one of 15 Kreider has been named to a three-year term community college presidents to participate in a on the Commission on Global Education of the dialogue with other rural community college leaders during a one-day meeting in Wash-

ington organized by the U.S. Department

of Education. "It is important that we continue to represent the interests of rural commu-

nity colleges on the national level," said Dr. Kreider. "Colby Community College plays an essential role in increasing educational options and economic growth in

"Our geographic location presents many challenges and we have several

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Health Sciences Bldg, #804

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programs of study and opportunities that distinguish us from schools in urban settings. It's an honor to be chosen to serve on this commission, and I look forward to representing our interests."

Colby Community College

Therapeutic Massage Therapy

Open House/Informational Session

Program Director/Instructor Debra Waites

will be available to answer questions and help

with application procedures.

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begins August 17, 2009.

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hours (Monday-Friday).

Questions: Call Debra Waites at 460-4797 or

email debra.waites@colbycc.edu

rated for yields in publication

sistance is the most effective and economical means of reducing the risk of yield losses resulting from disease and insect pests in Kansas, according to Kansas State University scientist Erick DeWolf.

tension specialists at K-State summarize the reactions of the most common wheat varieties to 12 diseases, including leaf rust and stripe rust, which are among the most damaging disease problems in the state," said DeWolf, who is a plant pathologist with K-State

learn how those wheat varieties performed in various places throughout the state, K-State recently posted the electronic version of the Wheat Variety Disease and Insect Ratings, 2009 on the Web, at: www.plantpath.ksu.edu/ DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=49.

The printed version will be dis-

Wheat disease

"Each year researchers and Ex-

tributed to county offices shortly.

MANHATTAN - Genetic re-

To help producers and others

"For one thing, these products tend to rapidly stop insect feeding "Fortunately, the majority of - although the insects may take long-known botanicals aren't that hours or even days to die. Botani-Research and Extension. "Nothing is that simple, even in toxic to mammals," he said. "To cals usually degrade quickly, too, target organisms and the environ-

MOVIE

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passes. (Passes must be used within 7 days.)



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Flea and tick products affect humans, too From the Editors of E/The Enchemicals might affect children or safer formulations contain chemi-

vironmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: Are there any flea and tick products out there that don't contain toxic chemicals?

Harmful pesticides in mainstream flea and tick products are indeed hazardous to more than insects. The active substance in marks for low-toxicity, while tabs most of these is likely one of seven common organophosphate insecticides, which work by interfering with nerve signals in the brains and nervous systems of not just insects-most of whom die on the spot-but to a lesser degree and Ultra Guard) for cats and kitin pets and humans as well. While tens. These products rely on insect it would certainly take an awful lot of exposure to the chemicals to affect a full-grown healthy hu- young fleas, rather than pesticides man adult, no one is sure how the to simply kill them. Even these

One Hour Seminar!

those with pre-existing nerve disorders.

Fortunately, several non-toxic alternatives to chemical-laden --Ewan Locke, Madison, WI flea and tick control products are now available. Stripe-On formulations from Adams, Breakthru, Demize and Scratchex get high (pills) from Comfortis, Program and Sentinel also make the safety grade. Hartz, which uses the chemicals in most of its product line, also offers some safer formulations (Spot-On, Advanced Care growth regulators, which arrest the growth and development of

Wednesday,

July 15th

CLIP OUT & BRING TO SEMINAR AT 7 PM

cals, and all such products should be used with caution.

One way to treat your pet but avoid chemicals altogether is to go the essential oil route. Oils from cedarwood, lemongrass, peppermint, rosemary or thyme have all been shown to be effective, when used sparingly, to keep fleas and ticks away from pets and their favorite haunts.







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season is finally over. I've picked more peas and

An then, of course, after you

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