

# Tractor show June 5

Mark your calendars for the 18th annual Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show, which starts at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 5, in downtown Selden.

Events throughout the day include horseshoe pitching, an antique baler demonstration, a kiddie tractor pull, barrel-roll competition, washer drop, children's raffle and a coin tank, capped by the big parade.

Cars, trucks and antique engines will be on display on Main Street all day. The parade starts at 3:30 p.m., with awards given to the top five tractors and cars and top two small engines.

There will be live entertainment in the park after lunch, barrel train rides and food sold all day.

There's no fee to enter an exhibit or to get into the show, which is sponsored by the Selden Community Foundation.



**TALKING BEFORE DINNER** at the Norton County Chamber of Commerce annual banquet were former Gov. Mike Hayden (left) and Doug Sebelius, a member of the state Wildlife and Parks Commission. Mr. Hayden served nine years as secretary of wildlife and parks.

— Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

## People should recognize public servants

By STEVE HAYNES  
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Former Gov. Mike Hayden says he thinks people should take time to recognize public servants and the value of what they do.

Speaking to about 116 people last Monday at the annual banquet of the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Hayden said people today seem to denigrate public employees and elected officeholders. He noted that he'd spent 32 years in public service, as a state representative and speaker of the Kansas House, governor, assistant secretary of the interior in Washington, and most recently, secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

"I'm very proud of those years," he told the Chamber crowd as they dined on prime rib and baked potatoes.

The ex-governor noted that public service runs deep in his family: his dad was a city commissioner and county commissioner in Atwood when he was growing up, including time as mayor, and many relatives

served on school boards.

He said that he's one of only three men from western Kansas to be elected governor.

"Unfortunately," he said, "the others are deceased."

"As the population changes (to urban areas), it's harder and harder for people in western Kansas to get elected."

So how did he do it in 1986?

He recounted talking with Bob Creighton, an Atwood lawyer who was his campaign manager for years, and Dr. Ed Flentje, a Wichita State University political science professor who had been an advisor to former Gov. Bob Bennett, among other things. They pointed out that there were 90 counties in the state then with populations under 10,000.

"If we carry all 90 counties, Bob said, we can't lose," Mr. Hayden recalled. "We carried 89."

In an interview before the dinner, the former governor talked about his time at Wildlife and Parks and his new job. Though he had served under three governors, he was not

retained by incoming Gov. Sam Brownback after nearly nine years in office. The two come from different wings of the state Republican party.

Mr. Hayden said he will be executive director of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes, a group which represents the interests of state governments and Native Americans in the world's third-largest river basin. Board members of the seven states are their chief water engineers and top wildlife executives, so he's familiar with the group.

He'll be replacing David Pope, former Kansas water engineer. The office will move from Topeka to his current hometown, Lawrence.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said. "It involves a lot of preservation of natural resources."

One thing he was able to do while at Wildlife and Parks was negotiate a "minimum pool" agreement for Sebelius Reservoir near Norton with the Almena Irrigation District. That guaranteed that farmers would not drain the reservoir in dry years,

eliminating both the fish and the business they bring in, in return for state payments.

"If we hadn't had that agreement," he said, "we'd be 15 feet (of reservoir level) below where we're at now."

His biggest accomplishment in his final state job? Adding more acres to public hunting, fishing and recreation areas.

"I'm a very strong supporter of public land," he said, "and Kansas has the smallest proportion of public land in the country."

"It's gonna be hard to get people to come here and recreate if we don't have public land."

He said that his replacement, Secretary Robin Jennison, another former speaker of the House, does not have a professional degree in wildlife, as most former wildlife executives have had. (Mr. Hayden holds a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University and a master's from Fort Hays State, both in biology and wildlife, a lifelong passion.)

## Rotary learns about program in Ethiopia

Col. Gordon Kuntz of the Kansas National Guard, who was instrumental in collecting shoes for the needy children of Ethiopia, in east Africa, presented the program at the May 17 meeting of the Oberlin Rotary Club at The Gateway.

He was introduced by his father-in-law, Doyle Brown of Jennings, program chair for the week.

Col. Kuntz said that the area has a population of 72 million, with 80 different ethnic groups. Eighty percent of the population lives in rural areas. The area has poor, rocky soil, it's dry and most homes do not have running water.

The area has a blending of eastern and western cultures. There is little industry and the items produced are usually manufactured by hand, which includes sewing and arts and craft-like items. The people of the area are very poor and very patient, he said.

Col. Kuntz collected 204 pairs of shoes from Oberlin and Decatur County to send to the children there. A business contributed shoes in adult sizes. The children and adults appreciated the shoes and proudly displayed them, he said, regardless of the color or the style of shoe.

The club received a citation for its efforts for Polio Plus, Rotary International's campaign to wipe out the disease around the world.

The club welcomed visiting Rotarian Janice Shobe of the Atwood club and Brown, Jody Betts and Kara Kuntz as guests.

Program Chair Ralph Unger spoke about the upcoming Relay for Life event and its importance to the area at the May 10 meeting.

The event focuses on the awareness of cancer, its treatment and the importance of early detection and diagnosis, he said. He spoke about healthy lifestyles and how lifestyles have changed, pointing out that smoking has decreased and along with treatments, while survival rates have increased.

He noted that nine Rotarians are cancer survivors, including himself. Most families have been

affected by some form of cancer, he said, and one out of three persons will have cancer in their lifetime. He said that three-fourths of the dollars raised by Relay for Life goes for cancer research.

Relay for Life volunteers, cancer survivors, family members and friends give much needed support to those with cancer. In Decatur County, the event raised about \$13,000 in 2010. The Rotary Club contributes \$150 each year.

Teams are being formed for the Relay Walk-a-thon, which will take place the evening of Friday, June 17, at The Gateway. Volunteers are always needed.

Norma Unger and Sandy Rush were guests.

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