



PUTTING DIFFERENT SHAPED pattern blocks together to make a picture looks like fun for Sharon Hendricks kindergarten students, Briana Vandike, Andrew Shields

and Joseph Augusta, but under Mrs. Hendricks' watchful eye they are learning basic "math manipulations."

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Dove hunting season opens on Monday

By Karen Krien

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Dove season will open Monday in Kansas. It is a split season with the first opening on Monday through Oct. 14; then it will close for a couple of weeks and reopen Nov. 1 through 16.

Hunters can buy licenses at the clerk's office in the courthouse, at K-Store, U.S. 36 and Majestic Service, all in St. Francis. The licenses can also be bought online at www.kdwp.state.ks.us.

Mourning doves are migratory game birds and are federally regulated. Rules require that shotguns be plugged to hold no more than three shells and the daily bag limit is 15. No more than 30 can be possessed.

A Kansas hunting license and Harvest Information Stamp are required to hunt doves except for those Kansas residents younger than 16 or older than 65.

Dove banding

Hunters are asked to look for leg bands on the mourning doves they shoot. The purpose of banding is to estimate annual survival rates, harvest rates and distribution of the harvest, as well as to refine techniques for a future dove-banding program. This data is necessary for un-

derstanding population trends and managing dove harvests.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks officials report that hunters are a critical link in the banding study. By checking all harvested doves for bands and reporting the banded doves, hunters help biologists manage this important migratory game bird.

Because dove bands are small, hunters can easily overlook them so they are asked to carefully check all doves bagged. If they find a band, call 1-800-327-2263 or go to www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/. Hunters can keep the bands and will be provided with a certificate identifying the age, sex, date and location the bird was banded.

Baiting

It should be noted that baiting doves by placing grain out to intentionally attract birds is illegal for any migratory bird hunting.

More information

For more information about hunting places in Kansas and regulations, stop by the county clerk's office in the courthouse in St. Francis.

Upcoming hunting seasons

Other fall hunting seasons coming up include:

Fall Turkey season: Oct. 1-Dec. 2; Dec. 15-31; and Jan. 5-31.

Deer season: Youth and disability, Sept. 13-21; Early muzzleloader, Sept. 22-Oct. 5; Archery, Sept. 22-Dec. 31; regular firearm, Dec. 3-Dec. 14.

Pheasant season: Nov. 1-Jan. 31.

Quail season: Nov. 8-Jan. 31.



What to do when a skunk moves in



By Linda Schneider
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There was a song a few decades ago, that went something like this, "There's a dead skunk in the middle of the road and it stinks to..." It never made the 10 top list, but it was fun to listen to and played often on the radio.

The talk in town lately has been about the skunks and their families that are moving around the community. Brad Schneider, city maintenance, received a call on Sunday from Dean Knapp that he had trapped not one, but two live skunks in his yard near Fifth Street and South Bird Ave.

Often called "pole cats," skunks are territorial and unafraid of any living creature. It has been said that a skunk will even stand its ground against bears and large ferocious mountain lions, and for good reason. One whiff of the noxious scent they spray will send the most intimidating creature running in the opposite direction.

Folk lore is that a skunk will even stand up against an automobile in defiance, that is why they are the most found road kill on our highways and byways, next to frogs. Moreover, the skunk carcass can be cleaned up and the smell will mark the area for many hours.

What is not folk lore is that skunks are a nuisance and no respecter of person or home. They are bold enough to walk into a home and eat the pet food. Moreover, once a pair moves in it is difficult to get rid of them.

If the home is outside of the city limits, the property owner can dispose of the vermin in the manner of their choice. However, in town it is different.

Mayor Troy Burr says that the property owner in town can do several things that would make environment around their home and property unappealing to skunks. One suggestion is to make sure the house foundation has no holes that a skunk can enter and set up residence under the bedroom floor.

Another is cleaning up debris on the property, to a skunk a pile of wood can be a castle to raise up a family. In addition, with summer and home gardens, there can be a virtual smorgasbord of food debris on the property. A simple reminder not to create an environment appealing to skunks — keep it clean.

Something else to keep in mind is the family pet and their food. Skunks and cats get along well, will share food, and it has been known that cats have run off with a skunk never to be seen again. For the family dog, a skunk will tolerate and share the pet food, but will spray at the least provocation. A good idea may be to bring the pet food into the garage or house until the skunk is disposed.

There is a just a few ideas of how to get rid of a skunk in town once it takes up residence. What some people might want to do is shoot them. However, Sheriff Craig Van Allen says that shooting any firearm within the city limits is not permitted.



APPROACHING A LIVE SKUNK must be done with care, Brad Schneider and Damon Carmichael get close enough to the trapped live skunks without disrupting them and getting sprayed. They were able to dispose of the skunks humanely.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

The most common practice is to set a trap, catch the skunk live and dispose in a humane way. But keep in mind also, if let loose outside the city limits, the creature may find its way back to the house where it was first trapped and bring the wife

and kids with him!

Mayor Burr says the property owner is responsible for disposing of any live skunk that is caught on his or her own property. However, if the property owner is elderly and has no way to remove the skunk, Craig White and Brad

Schneider, city maintenance, will assist in disposing of the vermin.

One more thing, do not approach a skunk and attempt to catch it by its tail and lift its feet off the ground thinking that it will not spray; no one informed the skunk about this trick!

Benefit set for Sept. 7

The Cheyenne County Hospital will be sponsoring the sixth annual "Swing Fore Your Health" benefit golf tournament. The tournament will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7, at Riverside Recreation Golf Course in St. Francis.

The proceeds from the tournament will benefit the hospital's major appliances needed for the future kitchen remodeling. The kitchen area has not been remodeled since the construction of the hospital 56 years ago. The kitchen and its appliances must stay in compliance with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's state regulations to serve patients and their family members while staying in the hospital.

The public is welcome to attend the "free will" luncheon prior to the start of the tournament at Riverside dining room. The luncheon will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. roast beef, cheesy potatoes, vegetable, rolls and dessert will be served.

People do not have to be a member of the golf course or have to be on a golf team to attend the luncheon.

"Your support of dining out and supporting the Cheyenne County Hospital's Major Appliances will be greatly appreciated," said Les Lacy, hospital administrator.

People are urged to come out and wish their local community members good luck as they tee off for the sixth annual tournament.

For more information regarding the luncheon, contact Mila Bandel, 332-2149, or the actual golf tournament, Heidi Tice or Shawna Blanka, 332-2104.