

## Hunting season opens Saturday

By Karen Krien

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Pheasant hunting season opens with the sunrise on Saturday. Hunting licenses can be purchased at K-Store and Majestic Service on U.S. 36 and the county clerk's office in the courthouse in St. Francis. The courthouse will be closed on Saturday and Sunday.

The weekend weather is predicted to be in the high 50s and with no snow, making it easier for pheasants to elude the hunter and dog.

### Numbers in the area

Randy Rogers, small game biologist with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Hays, expects the pheasant numbers to be up around 32 percent in northwest Kansas. In Cheyenne and Sherman counties, he said, there are still some lingering effects from the big snowstorm two winters ago, so although the numbers might be up, there won't be as many birds as in other counties.

Looking back, he said, pheasant numbers are definitely up compared to five years ago. From 2001 to 2003, the numbers were low and northwest Kansas was in bad shape as far as pheasants go, he said. The drought and

weather hurt the numbers.

### Quail

Quail, Mr. Rogers said, were hurt during the blizzard two years ago and the population is still in pretty rough shape. The quail in the region are bouncing back but, he said, it is going to take some time.

### Bag limit

The daily bag limit for pheasants will be four (roosters only), and the daily bag limit for quail will be eight. Possession limits for pheasant and quail will be four times the daily bag.

### Walk-in acres

In addition to more than 90,000 acres of state and federal land, more than 425,000 acres of Walk-In Hunter Access (WIHA) land will be available to Region 1 hunters.

### More information

The Fall Hunting Guide, published by Nor'West Newspapers, can be found in restaurants, motels, places where hunting licenses are sold as well as *The Saint Francis Herald* office. There is also a more detailed Kansas Upland Bird Forecast, including a regional map, which is available online at [www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us) and at most offices of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.



WITH NO EVIDENCE of the three inches of snow that fell last Thursday, harvest crew for Adam Deeds were in the fields on Monday to get the crop to the storage bins.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Snowfall slows down harvest



By Linda Schneider

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Depending on the location, northwest Kansas received 1 to 4 inches of snow last Thursday during the first snowfall of the season.

For the week, Bird City received 3 inches of snow, .71 inches of moisture and experienced gusts of wind up to 50 miles an hour in some areas. Information was provided by Troy Burr, Bird City.

"It was difficult to get an accurate moisture measurement during the snowfall because of

the wind blowing," said Mr. Burr.

While the much needed moisture was a welcome sight for newly planted wheat, it delayed corn harvest even longer. It's already much later than usual fall harvest. The extent of the damage done to the sunflower harvest was not known at the time of this report. This is because farmers have not been able to get into their fields due to the mud.

Several local farmers reported that until they can get into the cornfields, the condition of

the crop is a mystery. Enough snowfall can cause corn stalks to lie over; when this happens, it is difficult to harvest, even impossible.

Dee Bursch, south of Bird City, said that her grandson, Clint Bursch, tried to get in the corn field over the weekend and had to back out after about 200 feet because of the muddy condition.

With no more rain during the weekend, tractors moved cautiously back into the fields on Monday.

"We were just getting started

with the corn and sunflower harvest when the snow storm hit," said Tim Burr, Frontier Ag manager.

Mr. Burr reported that typically, corn harvest starts the first week in October, but weather wise it has been an unusual year and this caused the harvest to push back a few weeks.

As for his thoughts on how it will affect the market, Mr. Burr commented with the way the economy has been the last few months, it is highly unlikely the market will change because of this delay in the corn harvest.

## Time to turn back the clocks

With the first snowfall of the season over and winter just around the corner, Daylight Saving Time will come to an end shortly.

The clocks will turn back an hour on Sunday, which means the evenings will seem even longer throughout the winter, as the sun seems to set earlier.

Under the new federal law, daylight time ends at 2 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 2. The law will add two to three weeks in the spring and one in the fall, specifically so trick-or treating will have some daylight.

Clocks need to be turned back at 2 a.m. that morning, but most people will either set the clocks back Saturday night before going to bed, or when they get up. Just don't forget, or you'll miss that extra hour of sleep.

## Burn workshop scheduled Nov. 6

Fire safety will be the topic of the Prescribed Burning Workshops scheduled in western Kansas this fall. The closest workshop for those in Cheyenne County will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, at the American

Carol Blocksme, a member of the grassland water quality extension staff at Kansas State University, said that the idea for the workshops came after she attended a meeting where conservation reserve program grass burning in western Kansas was discussed. Producers needed and wanted more information and education on the subject, she said.

Producers may want to burn both native and conservation grassland to improve vegetative quality, control weeds, or fulfill contracts.

"I would encourage any producer who is thinking of burning grassland in western Kansas to attend one of these workshops," she said.

Similar prescribed burning workshops are being held at several locations, so producers can attend the most convenient.

The is a \$10 registration fee, which covers the cost of handouts and a notebook. Lunch will be served. Reservations must be made one week before each workshop. deadline is a week prior to the workshop date.

Agenda topics include conservation reserve program maintenance and management; why and when to burn; burn notification and local regulations; a producer panel; using a contractor; terminology and fire behavior including smoke manage-

ment, eddy currents, fire guards and burning techniques; planning and conducting a burn; and burn equipment.

Presenters will include representatives from Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas State University, as well as local fire and emergency management staff and local people with burn experience.

The workshops are sponsored by local conservation districts, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency, Kansas Water Plan funds and local businesses.

Workshops in northwest Kansas will be held on:

Tuesday, Oct. 28 in Colby.  
Friday, Oct. 31 in Russell.  
Monday, Nov. 3 in Hill City.  
Wednesday, Nov. 5 in Sharon Springs.

Thursday, Nov. 6 in Bird City.  
Monday, Nov. 17 in Norton.  
Thursday, Nov. 20 in Oakley.

This information is also available on the web at: [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov).

For information, please call (785) 462-7671 or (785) 460-4582 in Colby or (785) 672-4861 or (785) 671-3245 in Oakley.

St. Francis call 785-332-2183 or 785-332-3171

Norton call 785-877-5156 or 785-877-5755

## Working 26 years as child psychologist

By Linda Schneider

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On Mondays, teachers and parents of Cheylin students can find Melonie Ress sitting at her computer in the kindergarten classroom. It is quiet because the classroom is empty of students on Monday and that makes it the perfect atmosphere for what she does. Mrs. Ress is Cheylin School's Child Psychologist.

Cheylin contracts her services through the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center in Colby and she has made the one-way trip of nearly 60 miles from her home in Colby for the past 26 years, weather permitting. In addition to Cheylin, Mrs. Ress is the child psychologist for Weskan, Tri-Plains and Oakley.

Originally from Nebraska, there was nothing in Mrs. Ress' upbringing that would cause her choose working with children specifically, her grandmother, Ida Stearley, was a kindergarten teacher in a small country school in Gering, Neb. However, her father, Don Stearley, was a District Conservationist in Curtis, Neb. and her mother, Violet, was a stay at home mother. Her brother Mike is 20-year retired Army Major and presently a ROTC instructor.

Mrs. Ress' mother was an inspiration to her; Mrs. Stearley grew up in the Depression and taught her children the importance of getting an education. She died while Melonie was attending college.

"My brother and I were average students, but we knew we were going to go to college," said Mrs. Ress.

Mrs. Ress started attending Kearney State College, now called the University of Nebraska at Kearney, as a history major and ended graduating with two majors, one in home economics and the other in criminal justice.

Upon graduation, she pursued a career as a probation officer; however, due to lack of opportunities, she found a position in a state funded agency assisting people to find jobs. In 1978, she moved to the position of social worker with the state welfare program and it was during that time she went back to college and received a master in counseling and a special degree in school psychology.

Soft spoken, Mrs. Ress describes her job as intervention on students' behalf. Teachers and parents can come to her with a concern and to-



CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST, Melonie Ress believes every student should experience success in school.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

gether they will form a Student Intervention Team (SIT).

Trying to determine if the student has a learning disability, health disorder or some other reason why the student is struggling in class is part of the procedure of pinpointing the problem. Sometimes it is easily assessed through an eye or ear examination. Other times, teachers and parents met with her to discuss implementing a plan during classroom time to help search for answers. Once an assessment has been made, then Mrs. Ress can make recommendations on how the

student can succeed in school. She says that it should not be painful to go to school.

"Cheylin and the Bird City community bend over backwards to help these students succeed," said Mrs. Ress. "It has been great working with everyone."

Mrs. Ress has been married to Rick Ress, District Magistrate in Colby for 22 years. They have a daughter, Courtney, who is presently attending Kansas State and majoring in psychology then going on to law school.



NEW FACE AT THE POST OFFICE. Pamela Stevens is the new Postmaster Relief. Locals are encouraged to stop by and say hello.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Advance voting booths will close on Monday

By Karen Krien

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The general election will be held on Tuesday and many people have already voted.

Terry Miller, election officer, as of Tuesday morning, said 375 people had voted in the advanced voting booth located in the clerk's office at the courthouse. The election officer also mailed out 150 ballots.

People can cast advanced votes until noon on Monday when that booth will be taken away.

When the registration books closed, Officer Miller said there were 1,985 registered voters in Cheyenne County and the last count of population in the county was 2,801 people.

That leaves 816 people who are not registered and many of them are children.

"I figure we have most of the adults in the county registered," he said.

There is computerized voting available at the polls. Officer Miller said the ballots are printed on both sides. People may either put them

into the computer and vote or they can make their marks with a pen.

This (computerized machine) is a 'ballot marking' machine and does not tally the votes," Officer Miller said, adding that he and the staff will still hand count votes as in the past.

### Election sites

Election sites will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. In Bird City, all people from the Bird City Township will vote at the American Legion Hall. All other township residents will vote at Peace Lutheran Church.

### On the ballot

Those county candidates listed on the ballot will be:

Commissioner District 2: Ray Lee; Dale Patton.

Commissioner District 3: Andy Beikman.

County clerk: Terry Miller.  
County treasurer: Dolores Jenik.

Register of deeds: Mary M. Morrow.

County attorney: Kari Milliken Gilliland.

Sheriff: Craig Van Allen

