



THERE ARE MORE AND MORE deer spotted in the county. This herd of deer in a field near Bird City were interested in what the person taking the photo was doing.

Motorists warned to watch for wildlife

By Norma Martinez
bc.times@nwkans.com

This is the time of the year the Kansas Highway Patrol, and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks are raising awareness towards motorists colliding with a deer. It is the "rut," or mating season and the time they are moving to different locations due to the harvest and leaves falling from the trees and shrubs leaving less protection for them. The time change also leaves a longer period of dusk when they move the most.

With the dry summers and lack of crops to feed on, this time of the year is also when these herds are more apt to venture into farmers yards.

Watching these deer, as they grow during the summer months is entertainment for some of the rural residents; but the deer populations have increased in some areas and the larger herds have become a problem and can do a great deal of damage. This damage is espe-

cially prevalent to newly planted seedlings and established trees. Nipping or browsing the trees can cause multiple stemmed trees, and browsing can reduce the growth rate. Bucks like to rub their antlers on the trees and that can kill the entire tree.

After looking into various factors, using the problems of damage as their primary factors, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks have set deer permit quotas for each deer management unit. They also hold the legal framework for harvest. Since the public holds the attitudes about hunting, it is up to the landowners to control hunter access, and the key to regulating local deer herds. As for controlling the herd's ability to destroy landowner's plants, trees and shrubs there are several different methods available.

The method advertised as the most effect method is fencing the tree off. Fencing is expensive and if not properly done the

deer can learn to jump over them. Dick Bursch, said electric fencing worked for him last year, but this year did not deter them.

Tree tubes made out of translucent polyethylene cylinders can be effectively used on deciduous trees, but not shrubs or evergreen seedlings. Plastic meshing can be used but needs to be 4-5 feet high to protect trees from the deer.

Establishing "cages" can be created using heavy screening and metal fence posts or zip tying them to posts, but can be expensive if you have several trees. These cages need to be removed after growth or the tree will become girdled and die from growing into the cage.

Repellents used to place unpleasant odors or tastes around the trees tend to keep the deer away. These methods are far less expensive than the cages or tubes. Repellents can be; human hair, bars of soap, mothballs, commercial sprays or hot sauce. For effec-



LAST WEEK those deer were beautiful to watch. Ray Martinez was ready to shoot them if it was hunting season for destroying his tree.

Times staff photos by Norma Martinez

tiveness repeated applications are needed. When the deer are hungry enough they will avoid the taste or odor of the repellants.

Scare devices such as strobe lights, dogs, and loud noises can be used. "Firing gun shots over their heads works for awhile," Mr. Bursch said. Once they discover they will not get hurt by these de-

VICES they move back to the area. "People think it is crazy but I found hanging plastic bags from tree limbs works," said Diane Stasser. The bags must be placed where the wind will blow them, and when they move back and forth they cause a rustling sound. The sound, she said, drives them away. People are always asking

me, "What's all that stuff hanging in your trees?" she said. "Once they get all tangled or shredded you have to change them, but it works!"

In Kansas it blows enough that she has not had a problem with any of her trees, plants, or shrubs since she has started doing this.

Christmas promotion begins

The Christmas On Us promotion has begun and with it is the excitement that builds each week as people accumulate tickets, hoping they have the lucky number to win \$1,000 in scrip.

There are eight St. Francis businesses participating in the Christmas On Us promotion: Bier's Home-town Store, Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts, Uptown Market, Owens True Value, Republican Valley Auto Parts, Schultz's Limited, The Saint Francis Herald and the United Methodist Thrift Store.

With every \$10 spent in these businesses, the customer receives a

ticket. However, it is not necessary to make a purchase in The Herald office as once a week, people can come in and get a free ticket.

Each week, in the B section of The Herald and Times, numbers will be listed. The numbers without a "*" will receive \$50 in scrip.

Some numbers will have an "*" and these numbers mean the lucky person will receive a gift in one of the businesses. When matching the * numbers, cards will be drawn at The Herald office and the winner and a photographer from The Herald will go to the business where they will be photographed receiving

the prize.

The first drawing for tickets will be Monday and the numbers will appear in the Nov. 24 issue. There will be a drawing for four weeks. The big drawing for \$1,000 and \$100 scrip, along with any leftover \$50 and gift prizes will be held on Monday, Dec. 17. The winners of the Christmas Coloring Contest and the Christmas Lighting Contest will be announced and prizes will be awarded.

Everyone is urged to collect their tickets and mark Dec. 17 on their calendar. Plan to attend and win!



REECE LEONARD is exercising a Freedom Service Dog.

Youth council group travels to Colorado for mission project

On Oct. 6, the Immanuel United Methodist Youth Council of Bird City traveled to Englewood, Colo., for a mission project with Freedom Service Dogs. The nine youth and adult sponsors from Bird City cleaned kennels and exercised the dogs.

Those on the trip included Walker and Jordan Janicke, Reese Leonard, Cheyenne Hewitt, Dominique Johnston, Laurie Leonard, Pastor Tom Bailey and church youth direc-

tors Jill and Drew Paugh.

The highly intelligent dogs enhance the lives of people with disabilities. The dogs are custom trained for individual client needs. All their dogs are rescued from shelters in the Colorado Front Range.

Custom training expense is \$20,000-\$25,000 per dog but clients are not charged for the service. The dogs are donated to disabled people throughout the community to help promote independence in their dif-

ficult daily lives.

The dogs are trained to pick up dropped keys or a pen, open a door, turn on a light, get the remote control, provide balance to assist with transfer to and from a wheelchair, locating and acquiring the phone in an emergency, pull clients up from a reclining position, assist in pulling wheelchairs, provide balance walking or going up and down stairs and detect medical emergencies.



Every year, the FFA holds a hog roast money maker. The school cafeteria was full. The students served 155 people. Gary Brubaker was the lucky recipient of the prize but, even those who didn't win said it was an excellent meal of barbecued pork and beans and was lots of fun. Above, (l to r) Josh Keltz, Allie Frisbie and Keenan Reeh were selling tickets; right, Shawn Pochop and Jessie Smith were dishing up food.



Times staff photos by Tim Burr