



HONORING VETERANS on Monday will be the sixth grade students. Pictured, left to right, are Matt Leibbrandt, Emileigh Dinkel, Tate Busse, Reagan Beims, Dalton Straub, Hanna Bracelin, Trayton Doyle, Madison Tice, Luke Lampe and Martin Beikman.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Grade school students salute vets

The fourth, fifth and sixth grade music students will present their annual Veterans Day program on Monday. The program, entitled "This is America," begins at 7 p.m. and will be

held in the grade school gymnasium. The program will honor our country, our flag and great American way of life, said Jean Ann Confer, music teacher.

All veterans are urged to attend. There will be a dress rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. on Monday morning. Everyone is welcome to attend the dress rehearsal as well

as the program that evening. **Veterans Day** On Friday, the public is welcome to join St. Francis Grade School students in honoring soldiers past and present at 8:30

a.m. The ceremony will be held at the flag poles in front of the grade school. It has become a custom to have a veteran speak to the children on the day. This year, Rob-

ert Gross, a veteran of the Korean War. Taps will be played by Logan Whitmore. The ceremony is organized by Mary Beikman, art instructor.

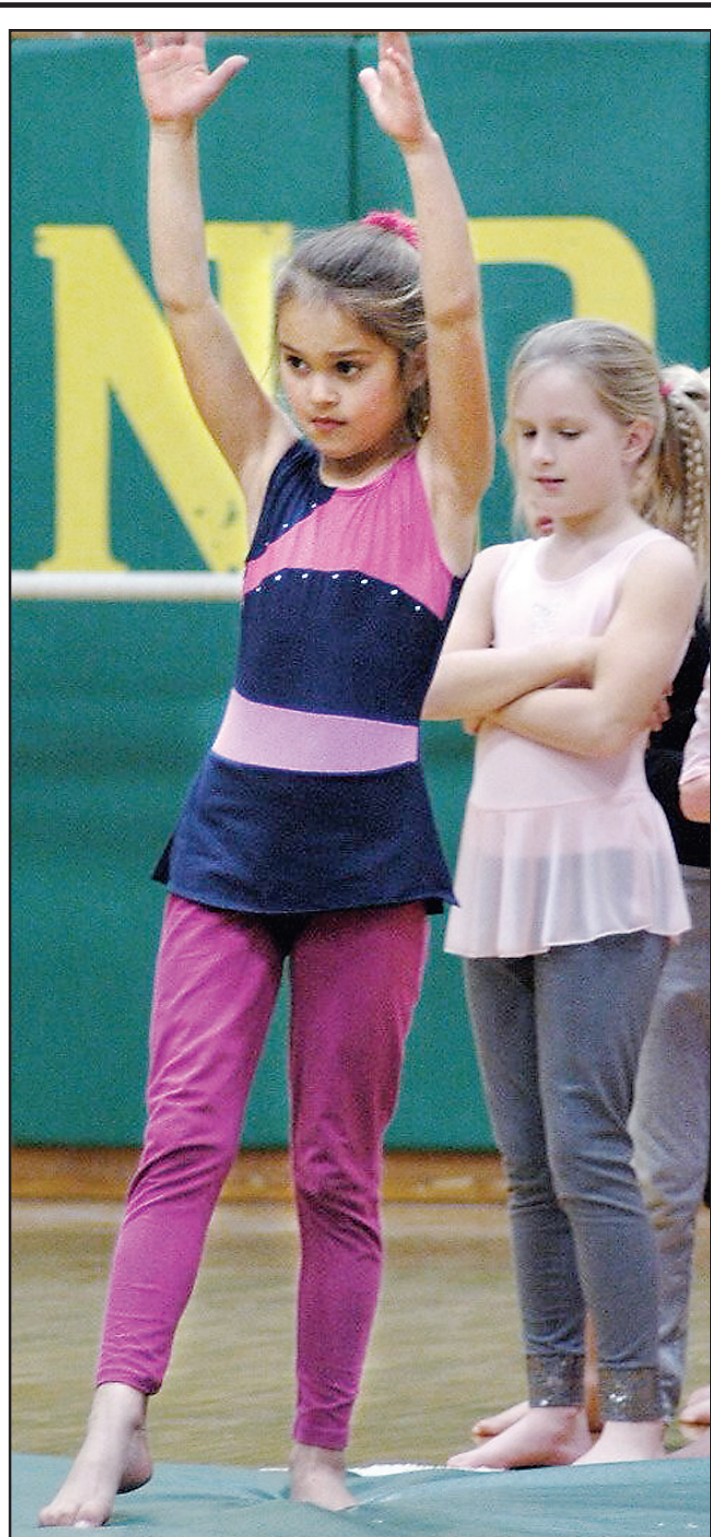
Plenty of birds predicted for start of season

Pheasant hunters will be rolling into the county starting Friday so they will be ready for the first day of hunting season. The weather is expected to be warmer with little to no chance of rain or snow which makes better pheasant hunting conditions. Wildlife officials are saying the population is a little smaller than last year's pheasant crop, but still better than most years, and the northwest corner is better hunting than in most of the state.

percent in northwest Kansas. Last fall, Kansas recorded 892,000 birds harvested, the most since 1982. In northwest Kansas alone, said Mr. Pitman, hunters took 230,000 birds. Even with a decrease in the population, he said, hunters still should find plenty of birds to hunt. Keep in mind, he said, that a lot of the Conservation Reserve Program grassland was open to emergency haying and grazing this year because of the drought in other areas. Some of those areas are also leased for walk-in public hunting. Those areas won't make the best habitat this fall. In the long run, though, said Mr. Pitman, the disturbance on that ground might be a good thing for the birds, as the grass grows back.

Jim Pitman, small game coordinator with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, said there's a lot of variation from county to county. Some areas will have more birds than others, depending on the weather in June and July when the chicks were hatching. For six weeks in the summer, from the middle of July to the middle of August, all Wildlife and Parks employees and rural mail carriers are asked to keep track of the number of pheasant and quail they see during working hours, said Mr. Pitman. Each week, those numbers are turned in to him, and at the end of the survey, the numbers are compiled. The figures are standardized, he said, then compared to what was seen the previous day. The employees also count the number of young per hen. This year, he said, the brood survey shows a decrease of 25

Pheasant hunting, said Mr. Pitman, is a huge boon to the economy in western Kansas. The season attracts 150,000 hunters each year, half of those from out of state. Hunters buy food in the towns, fill up with fuel and rent hotel rooms, he said. The state estimates the total spent is a little over \$85 million. Even with the decrease in bird numbers, hunting in the northwest still will be substantially better than almost anywhere else in the state. "There is still some good hunting in northwest Kansas," said Mr. Pitman.



POISED AND READY was Amanda Neitzel as she performed at the gymnastic show on Sunday. Waiting her turn is Mia Morrow. *Herald photo by Talley Morrow*

Students win chance to hunt with governor

Two St. Francis eighth graders, Jude Faulkender and Payton Beims, have won an essay contest sponsored by the Governor's Ring-neck Classic. By winning the essay contest, Jude and Payton have earned the opportunity to hunt with Governor Brownback and other celebrities. Their 250-word essays included information about themselves, what hunting meant to them, and why they wanted to participate in this hunt. The Kansas Governor's Ring-neck Classic will be held near Oakley. The Classic has been established to showcase the Kansas wildlife industry to sportsman in-

side and outside the state. The town of Oakley and the surrounding community will host the hunt on Friday through Sunday, Nov. 18-20. The event will feature a variety of celebrities including Gov. Brownback. Some of the celebrities include Jeff Colver, Lt. Governor of Kansas; members of the band, Riccochet, country music award winners; George Brett and Ed Hearn, former Royals baseball players; Don Hineman, Kansas state representative; Tom Watson, professional golfer; and many more. The weekend starts with a Governor's reception on Friday. The **See HUNT on Page 7**

Preschool auction scheduled Friday

The ABC Preschool Auction is set for 7 p.m. on Friday at the St. Francis high school cafeteria. This is the main money-making event for the preschool and everyone is encouraged to attend. Besides the auction, there will be a chili, hot dog and nacho feed which will start at 5:30 p.m. Some of the items up for auction are gift baskets filled with a variety of "theme" items,

toys, jewelry, makeup, Oakley sunglasses, and gift certificates from many of the businesses. Parents of the students are also donating items. It is a great way to purchase Christmas gifts while helping out the school, said Jessica Matthews. The money raised is used to help pay teachers, expenses and supplies. It also helps keep the cost of tuition down.

Welcome pheasant hunters!

