

JARED DOUTHIT, above, is the owner of Corner Post Hunting Lodge and land, had many questions to ask. Left, Bob Mathews, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks directed one of the audience to a Wildlife and Parks officer.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Infected deer found; the hunt begins

By Karen Krien

On Thursday, between 90 and 100 people met at the fairgrounds in St. Francis to hear more about what Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks officials' plans were for the taking, testing and disposing of diseased deer. The meeting came after discovering that a white-tail doe, shot northeast of St. Francis during the hunting sea-

son, was tested positive for chronic wasting disease.

Cheyenne County, set along the Republican River bottom, is noted for its great deer hunting. Three of the state's top 20 trophy mule deer were taken in the county. Deer hunting also pumps thousands of dollars into the area.

People left the Thursday meeting with the knowledge

that, while nothing can be done about the disease, the officials will be killing about 50 white-tail and mule deer from an area along the river.

There was concern from several landowners including Jared Douthit, who owns Corner Post, a hunting lodge, that the sampling of the deer could affect the community's economy. He wanted to make sure that the

sampling would be spread out throughout the county, not just concentrated in certain areas.

There was also a concern that the disease could spread to cattle and, that when the officials were hunting, they might tear up crops.

Steve Price, Regional Fisheries and Wildlife supervisor, said that the sampling of deer will be

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What is this disease?

Chronic wasting disease is a contagious neurological disease affecting deer and elk. It causes a characteristic spongy degeneration of the brains of infected animals resulting in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of

bodily functions and death.

Only four species of the deer family, elk, mule deer, whitetailed deer and moose, are naturally susceptible to the disease. Other animals appear to be

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Games end on Friday

Friday is the last day to bring the best poker hand into The Saint Francis Herald office.

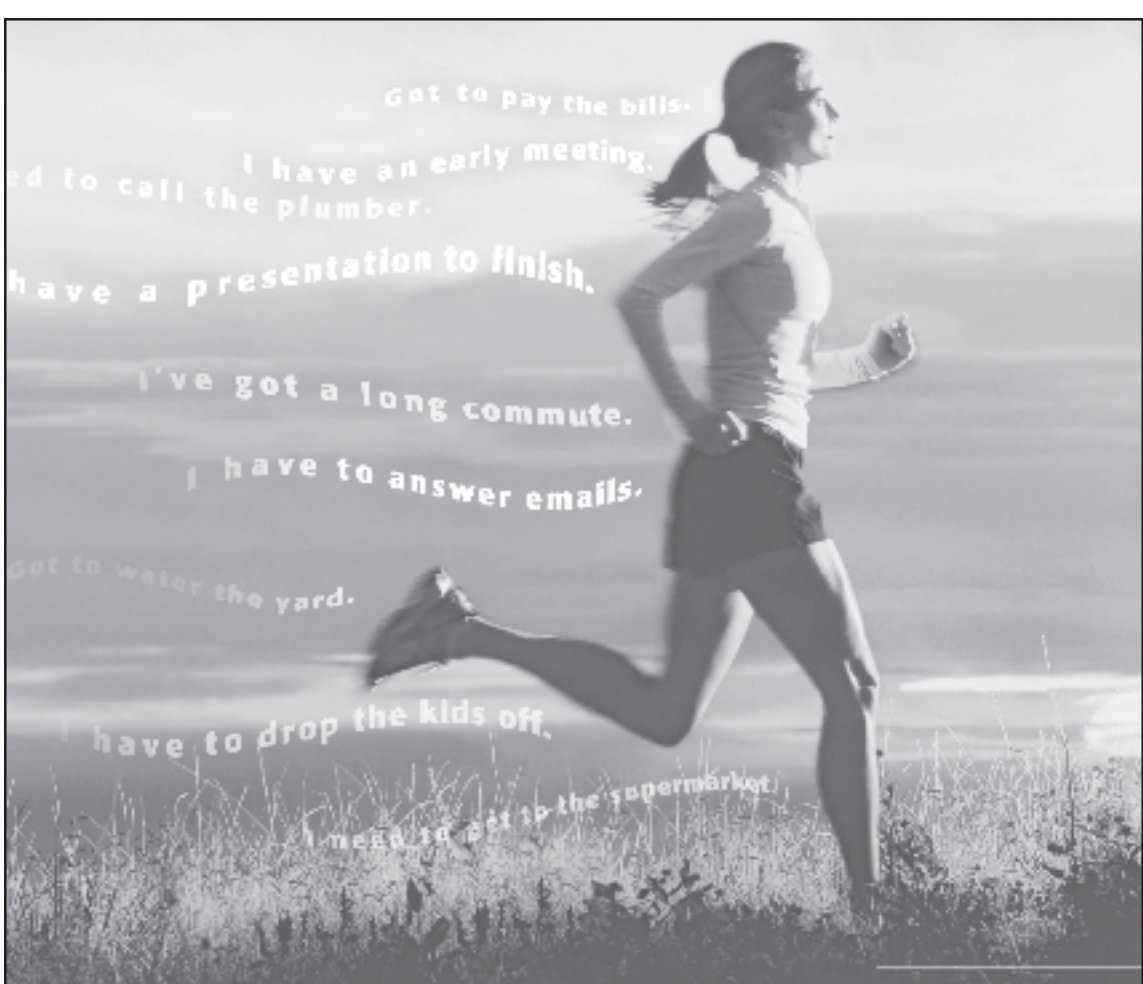
Fortwo weeks, 10 businesses have held decks of cards for the "Don't Gamble With Love" game. Each time a customer visits one of the businesses and makes a transaction, they are entitled to randomly pick a playing card. The object is to collect the cards, then people are to pick their best natural poker hand and bring it into *The Saint Francis Herald* office, 310 W. Washington, by noon on Friday.

If there are more than two people with winning hands, there will be a draw off with the highest number/suit being the winner.

Two winners will take home a Valentine bouquet supplied by Goodell Greenhouse and Floral.

Businesses participating are: Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, Owens True Value, Stuart's Jewelry, P & L Ideal Meat Market, Krien Pharmacy, Schultz's, Donna's Gift Palace, Burr Liquor, Tangles and Video Connection.

Check out the businesses and the specials they are offering for Valentine's Day. The special ad and information is located on Page 10A of this issue.



KELLI GARTLAND was featured in an ad for EAS, a sports nutrition company.

It may be who you know!!

By Karen Krien

Two young women from St. Francis, who has been friends through the years, made connections which resulted in one fulfilling a job requirement and the other finding an experience which was great.

Jessica (Raile) Reimer graduated from St. Francis Community High School in 1999. Kelli (Schultz) Gartland graduated in 1991. Through the years they had kept in contact, communicating occasionally. Ms. Gartland had helped Mrs.

Reimer when she was looking for a job. When she and her husband Jarrod moved to Denver, she helped answer questions when the Reimers decided to purchase a loft.

Both have completely different

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Meeting scheduled to help irrigators with limited water

Irrigation strategies for producers with limited water will be the topic of a meeting set for 10 a.m. on Friday at the Cheyenne County Fair building in St. Francis. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Alan Schlegel, Kansas State University agronomist, will talking about research done at the center in Tribune which dealt with crops and

limited irrigation.

John Murray, pioneer agronomist will present the best management practices in a limited water situation.

Jeff Tichota, Monsanto technician, will talk about population studies in crops and farming practices comparison.

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Winners honored at 55th meeting

By Karen Krien

The 55th Cheyenne County Conservation District meeting and supper will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday in the St. Francis Community High School cafeteria.

Honored this year will be Dave and Deb Flemming, Bankers Award winners; and Lynn and Candy Glasco, Windbreak Award winners. Others recognized at the meeting will be the winners of the poster contests.

The meeting is held each year to honor the men and women of the county who nurture, tend and care

for our most priceless resources — the land and wildlife habitats.

During the business meeting, there will be a report of finances and activities from the supervisors of the county's conservation district. The terms of board members, Roger Orth and Randy Rueb, will be expiring and an election will be held.

The meal is free but people planning to attend are asked to contact the conservation office, 785-332-2183 by Friday.

Check the special Cheyenne County Conservation issue inserted

See WINNERS on Page 8A

County to work with conservation district to save money

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Conservation District Board, director and road and bridge supervisor at the Jan. 31 commissioners' meeting, had a plan to help save the county money. A letter will be sent by the commissioners letting landowners who might have specific problems know they are behind the plan.

Herman Antholz, chairman of the Conservation District Board, said Dave Flemming, county road and bridge supervisor, had come to a meeting and told about areas in the county, when after a rain, the soil washes into the ditches and, as more rain falls, it washes onto the road. The county crew then needs to clean off the soil and re-gravel the road.

Most of these areas are re-occurring drainage problems but, in many cases, the problem can be solved. The Conservation District has programs which are "cost-shared" and can save the landowner money and keep the land from washing.

The board members present besides Mr. Antholz were Roger Orth, Lynn Query, Randy Rueb and Spencer Schlepp, agreed

that they would accompany Mr. Flemming to talk to the landowners but they asked that the commissioners support the idea. They suggested a letter of support be sent to the landowners before they called on them. They noted that the visits would be mostly informative.

Joan Gienger, Cheyenne County District Conservationist, said the problem areas

have been identifies and we have put some information together. She said there will be some areas where there are as many as five different combinations of landowners and operators and not all of them are going to see this as a "problem."

She said the concern is that the problem is addressed and less silt is in the ditches.

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