

## State tourney brings in big winners



By Karen Krien

The Kansas State Pheasant Championship tournament will be held this weekend at Ringneck Country, located 13 miles south of Wheeler on the Cheyenne-Sherman county line, then 3 miles west.

Rex and Sandi Murray, operators of Ringneck Country, have a controlled shooting area and four years ago, hosted the first state champion tournament with 100 teams. The tournament has increased to 160 two-people teams. This year, there

will be a youth division and, as of Friday, 15 youth had entered.

"This tournament has just exploded and we are very excited," Mrs. Murray said.

The competition consists of two divisions: flusher and pointer. Teams are made up of two hunters and one dog. The dog is allowed to run twice and many teams brought two or more dogs.

The time limit for each run was 30 minutes. Each hunter is allowed six

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## Questions asked about a merger

By Karen Krien

The first of two informational meetings for merging the St. Francis Equity and Frontier Equity was held Thursday, Feb. 2, at the fairgrounds in St. Francis. A second meeting is planned for 1:30 p.m. mountain time on Feb. 21 in Haigler at the American Legion hall and, that evening at

7 p.m. at the St. Francis Equity meeting room.

Three other meetings were held following the Feb. 2 meeting with one held in Goodland that evening, and on Friday, in Brewster and Bird City.

After the information meetings,

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## Wrestlers compete at Regional tourney

By Betty Jean Winston

The time is at hand for the Sainty wrestlers to be ready to take all of the skills they have learned and make their final push for the right to attend the 3-2-1A State Tournament in Hays. The Indians have worked hard all season preparing for the

duals and tournaments which took place during the time between the St. Francis Invitational in December and the Rawlins County dual last Friday. Now the schedule is down to Regionals and State.

The first event, the Regional tour-

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## Officers harvest 50 deer

By Karen Krien

The hunt for 50 deer began Monday in Cheyenne County. The sampling of the deer was determined necessary after a whitetail deer shot during the December season tested positive for chronic wasting 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.

A team of 25 hunters arrived on Monday to begin hunting deer. They were divided into three teams and worked through the day and, using spotlights, hunted all night.

Lloyd Fox, Big Game Project Leader with Wildlife and Parks, said Tuesday morning, that there had been 25 deer brought to the Cheyenne County Gun Clubhouse — 24 had been shot and the other one had been hit by a vehicle. The brain stem and lymph nodes had been removed and were bottled for shipping to the Kansas State University lab for testing.

Bob Mathews, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, reported landowners have been very cooperative. About 85 percent of landowners contacted in Cheyenne County have allowed access to their properties for the operation.

"We very much appreciate the involvement and cooperation of landowners in Cheyenne County," Mr. Mathews said.

Mr. Fox said the hunters have computers with them which have a Global Positioning System and a map. The map is color-coded showing areas where hunters have given permission to hunt. The Global Positioning System tracks where they are and where they have been.



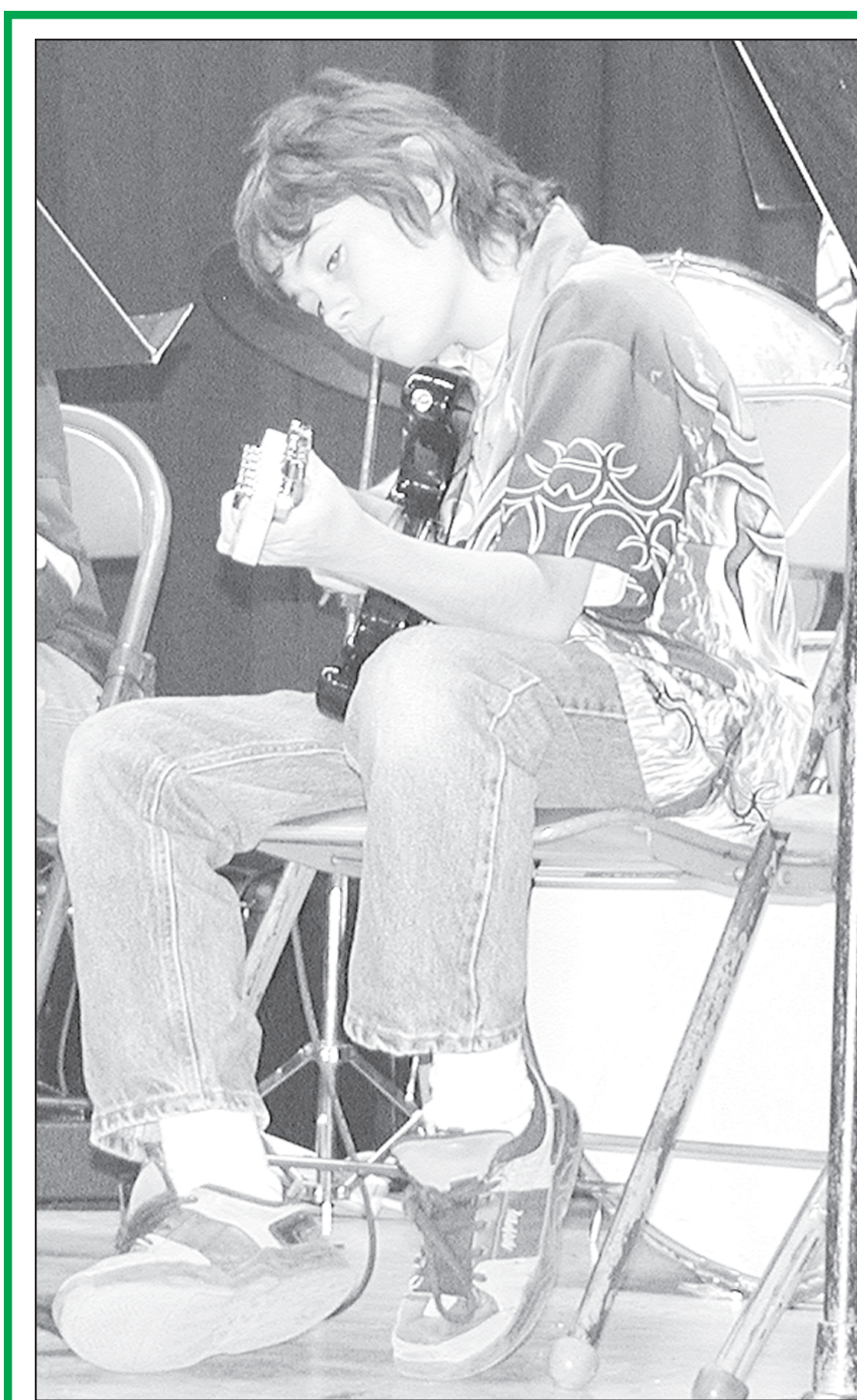
LLOYD FOX, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, prepares jars containing deer brain stems for shipping to be tested.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

"Most of these people have never been to Cheyenne County and they rely on the GPS and the map," Mr. Fox said.

Mr. Fox said that the department wants as little disruption to the county as possible and this equipment will help keep them on the right course.

The hunters were planning to be



FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE band program was held Friday. Keegan Sherlock, fifth grade, played with the band.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

## English teacher retires

By Karen Krien

Colleen Gardner, high school English and advanced composition teacher, had a letter of resignations for the St. Francis Board of Education at the Feb. 6 meeting. The board expressed regrets in accepting the resignation.

Mrs. Gardner had taught in the St. Francis schools for 29 years. Two years ago, she retired and then signed a contract to teach part-time for the St. Francis schools. She also taught public speaking for the Colby Community College and, this year, she monitored a satellite Spanish class.

"Where else could anyone teach English for 29 years and, in the last year be given the opportunity to learn the rudiments of a new language?" Mrs. Gardner said in her letter of resignation. "Small schools provide a wonderful opportunity not only for students but also teachers."

High school principal Scott Carmichael said, "she (Mrs. Gardner) is truly a teacher."

The board briefly discussed how Mrs. Gardner's position would be filled, possibly from within the staff, without overloading teachers. No decision was made.

Salary adjustments

The board had a list of the present teachers and other school staff which they reviewed before discussing paying a salary adjustment (with the exception of those who have retired and have supplementary assignments only).

The school employees received a salary adjustment of approximately \$600 last year, depending on if the employee was part-time or full-time.

Superintendent Carl Werner said it appeared that there would be enough money to give this one-time payment but it would probably be

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## Illegal traps found at river

By Karen Krien

Colleen Shannon, St. Francis, was walking her two dogs along the River Walk on Monday when one of the dogs was suddenly caught in a trap which immediately started to strangle the dog.

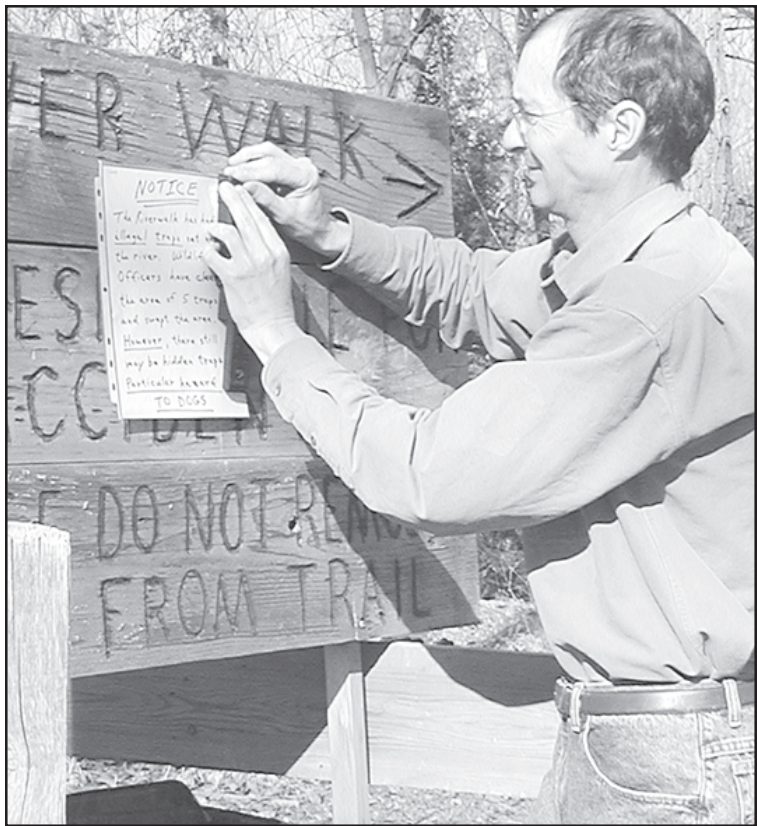
Ms. Shannon rushed to the rescue of the dog and was able to release it in time. She got her husband Bob Bixler to come check the area to make sure there was no poison bait that the dogs might have eaten. Instead of bait, he found an illegal trap.

He also found two men, armed with guns. Mr. Bixler said he was furious and made a private person arrest, then turned the men over to a law officer.

According to the supreme court, (K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 22-2403) a private person may make an arrest when any crime, other than a traffic infraction or a cigarette or tobacco infraction, has been committed in front of the person.

"I just want everyone who might be in that area to know there was and could still be a trap," Mr. Bixler said.

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POSTING WARNING SIGN — Bob Bixler posts a sign warning people that there may be a hidden trap on the walk.

## Spraying basics told

Farmers are encouraged to attend a Farm Sprayer Basics meeting starting at 9 a.m. on March 1 at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds 4-H building. The meeting will last approximately three hours.

Featured speakers will be Bob Wolf, Kansas State University, who will be talking about application technology. Topics include sprayer calibration and nozzle selection.

Everyone attending needs to bring a calculator.

"We must have a minimum of 12 people registering to hold the program," said Tye Faulkender, Extension director.

Call the Extension office, 785-332-3171, by Feb. 27.

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Celebrate Working Women