

Deer numerous enough for challenging hunting

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deer like they used to," said Fox.

Although the numbers have been going down, Fox said, the population is still pretty large.

Some staff at the department recommended keeping up pressure on the herds, he said, but hunters, who have gotten used to easy pickings, pushed for population growth.

"There has been a decline in hunting opportunity," he said, "but there is still outstanding hunting to be had."

Rick Pohlman, Winona, who says he has hunted deer in Sherman County for over 10 years, said he thinks there seem to be fewer deer around lately.

"A couple of years ago, there were more deer out in this country than a person could want to shake a stick at," he said. "Either there is less of them now, or they're just hiding because they don't like me."

Pohlman said there is still good hunting, but it isn't as easy as it used to be.

Statewide, the number of accidents involving cars hitting deer had gone down 13 percent in 2001 from 2000, said Wanda Meier, statistician at the Kansas Department of Transportation.

In the past four years, accidents have gone down about 15 percent, she said.

Doug Whitson, Sherman County Sheriff, said he doesn't have any num-

bers, but said there seem to be less deer accidents this year than there have been in previous years.

There have been fewer complaints from farmers, said Keith Sexton, assistant secretary for operations in Pratt. That is about the only way to gauge crop damage, he said. The commission is trying to make hunters, motorists and environmentalists all happy, Sexton said.

The first deer seasons in the state were started in 1965, Sexton said, and permits have been increasing since then. Since 1990, the state has issued antlerless-only permits. Hunters can get a chance to go after bucks, he said, but those licenses are issued on a preference point system. Not every hunter will get a tag each year for any particular kind of deer.

The commission also made a change in rules for the early muzzle hunting season, said Mike Hopper, conservation officer for the department in Goodland. This year hunters will be allowed to use fiberoptic sights on the old-time guns.

A tentative date for early muzzle loading season to start is Sept. 14, said Hopper. Hunting for youths and persons with disabilities should be start Sept. 28, and archery season may run Oct. 1 through Dec. 3 and Dec. 16-31. Firearms season will be Dec. 4-13.

Business closes doors after eight years in operation

By Doug Stephens

The Goodland Daily News

After eight years of selling trucks and trailers, making small repairs, and meeting a lot of people, Mike and Marla Harrison have closed the doors at M&M Sales.

Business was down, they say, and it was getting harder to make ends meet.

"It wasn't just one thing," said Mike Harrison. "Everything has been kind of tough these past few years."

Harrison lists high fuel prices, a struggling farm economy and road construction as factors in declining business.

The business' entryway on K-27 has been blocked off for about three weeks, and customers have to detour through Market Road, behind Wal-Mart.

"Road construction hurt us last year," Harrison said. "This year it cut us off."

"This is the third year in a row there has been construction on (K-27)," Marla said.

The Harrisons say many area trucking firms have bypassed the roads in Goodland, instead using U.S.-83, which goes through Oakley, Oberlin and McCook, Neb.

"We didn't realize how much we relied on drive-by business," Harrison said.

"I guess it's 'out of sight, out of mind,'" Marla added.

The business relied heavily on local trucking, Harrison said. They didn't get too much business from interstate drivers, even though they did do some minor repairs, such as tire and brake work.

The business used to be a good location, Harrison said.

"It still will, when the construction is finished," he added.

The Harrisons say they aren't bitter about the construction.

"It may have done us a favor," Harrison said. "It made us sit back and



Mike Harrison



Marla Harrison

really look at our operation. It was just the straw that broke the camel's back."

"It made us open our eyes," Marla said, "and see things like they really were."

Harrison said the business had some extremely good years and they have met some interesting people. They have sold trucks to people in 25 states and Canada and Mexico.

"We've had people come in," Harrison said, laughing, "who had already bought their truck and didn't have hardly enough money for a bus trip out of town."

"We knew that was a sure sale. He needed some way out of town."

"There are a lot of good stories," Marla said. "We've met people from all over."

The business' paint shop, run by Jason Finley, is going strong, Harrison said, and they are still running M&M Gravel, which right now is selling crushed concrete off of the interstate.

They will hold an auction on Saturday, June 8, to sell shop equipment and tools they won't need for farming, Harrison said.

The couple, who have been married and living in Goodland for 25 years, say they plan to slow down a little. They will work on some farmland they own, and spend some more time at home.

"I'm going to find my house again," Marla said. "Maybe get it organized."

Kansas man from Derby killed in explosion in Afghanistan

WICHITA (AP) — A Derby maamong at least four American soldiers who were killed Monday in Afghanistan as they were attempting to dispose of old rockets.

Family members confirmed late Monday that Jamie Maugans, 27, an ordnance disposal specialist stationed in San Diego, was killed while disposing of explosives near Kandahar.

His grandmother, Shirley Maugans of Wichita, said the family had been looking forward to Jamie Maugans returning home because he'd been overseas since November. He was not married and had no children, she said.

"He was a gentle man, from the time he was born," she said. "He was very sweet and kind."

Family members had grown worried Monday morning when they heard news reports that the soldiers killed were ordnance officers.

"That was what he did, so we were waiting all day for him to get in touch and tell us he was all right," said Mary Maugans of Bel Aire, Jaime's stepmother.

Jamie Maugans' father, Bryce and his mother, Kathy Wurdeman, learned of their son's death through a military officer who visited the family Monday afternoon, Mary Maugans said.

"He was a fine young man," she said. "He was very, very good at what he did and everyone was very proud of him."

Jamie Maugans had graduated from Derby High School.

Pickin' and grinnin'



Credibility Gap members Max Hannum, dobro; Jeff Meyer, bass; and Terry Cox, mandolin, entertained a Western Plains Arts Association concert goers Sunday at the Goodland High School Auditorium. The band specializes in "oddball" Bluegrass, which members defined as "without banjo."

Photo by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

Germans arrest suspected terrorist ap news capsules

By the Associated Press

BERLIN — German police have arrested a person they suspect of acting as a contact in the explosion of a truck at a synagogue in Tunisia that killed 15 people, including 10 German tourists, federal prosecutors said today.

Meanwhile, two Arab newspapers reported that a group with the same name as one linked to Osama bin Laden's terror network has claimed responsibility for the blast.

The suspect was taken into custody in the western city of Duisburg on a tip about a telephone call from Tunisia to Germany before the explosion, said Frauke Scheuten, a spokeswoman for federal prosecutors.

According to a report in news magazine Stern, German police eavesdropped on a phone conversation shortly before Thursday's explosion of a gas-laden truck at the Ghriba synagogue on the resort island of Djerba. Either the driver or a passenger traveling in the truck spoke with a contact in Germany who police believe has links to radical Islamist circles, the magazine reported.

CARACAS, Venezuela — After a

week of political tumult, President Hugo Chavez and the man who tried to replace him called for reconciliation as Venezuela struggles to regain stability.

During a marathon news conference yesterday, Chavez suggested he might free from prison the men who toppled him on Friday only to be overthrown themselves two days later. That would leave them under house arrest as they fight coup-related charges.

A few hours later, a weary-looking Pedro Carmona, who had claimed the title of president for less than two days, walked out of a courthouse and told reporters, "I have received a dignified treatment." He was being allowed to go home, he said.

About 400 people waited outside Carmona's house, chanting "He's going! He's going!" — referring to Chavez — as Carmona was completing a lengthy series of legal procedures carried out a plot to kill Pulaski County Sheriff Sam Catron, who was assassinated in a sniper-style shooting at a political rally over the weekend.

City officials tired of hearing trash talk

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Rich."

The commissioners will appoint the other two members at their next meeting.

An upset man approached the commissioners and complained about the dumpster behind his house being removed.

"Someone has been putting yard waste in my dumpster," he said, "and Mr. Wolak took my dumpster away."

"Is it our responsibility to be the dumpster police for the city of Goodland?"

Pickman told the man that he had ordered the dumpster removed, but that there were still three in the alley, which was enough. Since it has been gone, he said, the problems in the alley have faded away.

"We are being punished because someone is doing this," the man said. "It's not fair."

"Everyone is the city is being punished," Mayor Tom Rohr said.

Wolak said the city has a tough job,

and is trying to be as fair as it can.

"We try to work with everyone as best we can," he said. "If there's a problem, we have to take it seriously."

Pickman said he was tired of dealing with trash.

"I can tell you right now we haven't fixed anything," he said. "I'd say 99 percent of my day is spent dealing with people calling and complaining about trash. I can't get anything done, and I'm way behind."

"Our city employees aren't going to keep going through trash, and I don't blame them. The commission needs to take some kind of action."

"The city employees see individual roll-outs a the only way to get this fixed. It is a great expense, but we need to do something. It's not fun coming to work for those people who have to deal with it. We need to get past this, and deal with something besides trash."

In other business the commission:

- Re-appointed Rohr as mayor and Billinger as vice-mayor for one-year terms.
- Appointed Blume to serve as on the board of the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, and Lutters as an alternate. Lutters served the last two-year term.
- Discussed the recycling bins around the city. The two new paper bins have been filling up quickly, and Pickman said 14 tons of paper were collected just in March.
- Re-appointed David Branda, Jerry Fairbanks and Don McKenzie to terms on the museum board.
- Repealed an article of the old solid waste code. When the new solid waste ordinance was implemented, Pickman said, the old code was never repealed.
- Adopted the 2002 edition of the National Electric Code.
- Received the schedule for a course on ethics at the Municipal Leadership Academy from Pickman, who will be one of the instructors. The course will be Friday in WaKeeney.

News tips!
899-2338



Internet switch complete!

Attention!
nwkansas.com
customers

Our switch to the Southwest Bell Internet Service has been completed, and we thank our customers for their support and patience as we went through this process. As happens, there were some things that were unanticipated, such as the delay in receiving our email.

With the switch, we are hearing that some customers are enjoying better and faster service, but there may be some areas where have not seen much change. While we expect improvement, it will depend on the existing phone lines in your home and community. If you find

your connections are slower than 19200kb please let us and your local phone company know.

We are working in partnership with Southwestern Bell Internet to provide the best possible service in Northwest Kansas.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 27

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