

Young hunters learn, experience aspects of sport

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talked about the dangers of mixing alcohol with hunting and used the "drunk" goggles to show each person what the effects of alcohol were on their ability to function.

The fifth station was a live bird hunt using dogs and an area where a number of birds had been planted to ensure the hunters had a good hunting experience. The hunting dogs were provided by Jason Artzer, Bill Gann and Jim Schweitzer. Betty Anderson helped transport the hunters to the start and picked them up at the end.

The birds were planted for each hunt by Ethan Black, T.J. Felzien, Brett Gann and Steven Bourgeois.

Hopper said the event was made possible by Brent Flanders at the Kuhrt Ranch, and Diane Flanders and Barb Disney helped with the meals.

"I could not do this without the help of the many sponsors," Hoppersaid. "I have a great group of business and individual sponsors who make this possible."

He said seven or eight sponsors wanted to remain anonymous, but he wanted them to know how much he appreciates their support.

Sponsors of the youth hunt and hunter education include: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; High Plains Roosters of Goodland; Hoxie chapter of Pheasants Forever; Oberlin chapter of Pheasants Forever; Sherman County, Wallace County and Cheyenne County Attorney's Offices; Kansas Highway Patrol; Sherman County and Wallace County Sheriff's offices; S&T Communications; The Goodland Star-News; Bill's Shootin Shop; Great Outdoor Gun Store of Atwood; Bubba's Meat Locker; Kear's Party Mix; Marvin Seamen; Chuck Bohme; Shapes Ranch; The Buffalo Guys; Scheopner's Culligan Water Service; Fontanelle Seed; Walmart; Kansas Wildlife Officers Association; Orscheln; Alex Repair; Northern Sun; ADM; Presto, Tractor Supply of Wichita; Country Canvas of Rifton, N.Y.; NAPA of Goodland; Cheyenne County Wildlife Association; Majestic Services of St. Francis; Goodland Gun Club; State Farm Insurance; Shores Bumper to Bumper; Farmer's Insurance; Bill Jenkins; KKCI, KLOE, KWGB; and Bob's Wildlife Taxidermy.



Trooper Perry Frey (above right) showed a group of adults and young people the proper way to clean a shot gun barrel. The final station of the hunter education day was the actual hunt. A group of hunters (below) prepared to begin the hunt with two dogs and three adults to supervise and help the hunters enjoy the experience.



Sherman, western counties show continued population declines

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change the number of Congressional representatives for the state, but will cause the size of the existing districts to shift, and means the Big First Congressional district is likely to get bigger. Currently the Big First covers 69 of the 105 Kansas counties.

Redistricting will be done for the state legislature representative and senate districts and Rep. Rick

Billinger and Ward Cassidy plus Sen. Ralph Ostmyer will be in the thick of the redistricting process.

On a national basis the number of people in a district represented by a Congressman has risen from 210,328 in 1910 to 710,767 in 2010. For Kansas the number in the representative district has risen from 211,369 in 1910 to 715,953 in 2010. In the 100 years Kansas has lost three representatives going from a high of seven down to four,

and the 6.1 percent increase in the state population is not enough for the state to gain a seat, but it enough to maintain the four seats the state has.

In looking at redistricting the Big First Congressional will have to grow by 42,497 to balance out at the 715,953. There are other factors beyond the population numbers that will be considered in the redistricting including the effects of a rising Hispanic population.

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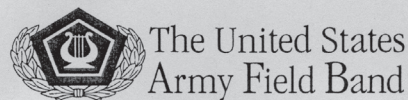
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