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MEMBER FDIC

Woman shoots trophy mule deer

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Barb Disney, a police dispatcher in Goodland, shot a trophy mule deer in Cheyenne County in December 2005. While that's an impressive accomplishment, what is even more astounding is that the former hairdresser never used a gun until 16 years ago.

Disney since has hunted many animals, including bear, moose, elk, antelope, turkey and whitetail and mule deer. She said waiting in a tree stand for a bear was the biggest adrenaline rush. To stay in shape for future hunts, she said, she walks two miles a day.

A Chiras moose Disney shot in the southwest corner of Wyoming hangs on her wall. She estimated the moose weighed 250 pounds, "a beautiful specimen." Disney described her office as "a mini-Cabela's."

She said she first learned to hunt while watching her boyfriend, Mike Hopper, the state game warden for Cheyenne, Wallace and Sherman counties. During this period, she was a newly divorced woman living in Salina and Hopper was a police officer.

Disney said she would help him on his hunting excursions by doing things like taping duck hunts and helping set up tree stands. She eventually decided she wanted to try the sport herself.

On the day Disney shot the trophy mule deer, she said, the weather was below zero. She said LeAnn Taylor, the municipal-court judge in Goodland, also shot a big mule deer that year that looked like her deer's twin brother. Disney said her deer ended up being a little bigger.

The dispatcher said she has no problem braving the elements. She said she has hunted in cold weather in Wyoming, where she had to walk through timber and deep snow.

Disney said she enjoys hunting in Wyoming, a state she lived in for awhile. She said she has

a lot of good friends there. She said one day while she was hunting in Wyoming, she found herself next to a tree with bear claw marks near wolf scat.

Disney said she always asks landowners for permission to hunt when she sees good deer land. She said she has never been turned down.

She often uses her passion for hunting for a good cause, shares some of the meat from deer she shoots with needy people in Goodland. Disney helps with hunter education classes and encourages girls to get involved with the sport.

She said her favorite part about hunting is the camaraderie. She talked about sitting next to the bonfire talking to her friends after a day of hunting. Disney said she likes to challenge herself, and hunting helps her do that. She added that hunting allows her to see things other people will never get to see.

Julie Crow of Goodland said she enjoys hunting because it allows her to be out in nature and to spend time with her family.

Crow's husband, Melvin, a dog trainer in Goodland, and her two sons Jarek, 5, and Manten, 8, regularly hunt together. She said Manten recently shot his first turkey.

Crow said she prefers to hunt with dogs because she loves to watch them work. She said sometimes she doesn't even hunt, she just takes pictures of the dogs.

Crow said the dogs her family usually hunts with are German shorthaired pointers and Brittany spaniels. She said her husband prefers shorthairs and she is a lab person, but she added the two dogs are a good combination.

Crow hunts for upland birds such as pheasant, quail and prairie chicken and geese. She said her family hunts in northwest Kansas, eastern Colorado and Nebraska.

Crow said she first got her first hunting license when she was in junior high. She said she hunted with her Dad for pheasants, antelope and deer when she was younger.

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Barb Disney, a police dispatcher in Goodland, with a turkey she shot in 2010.

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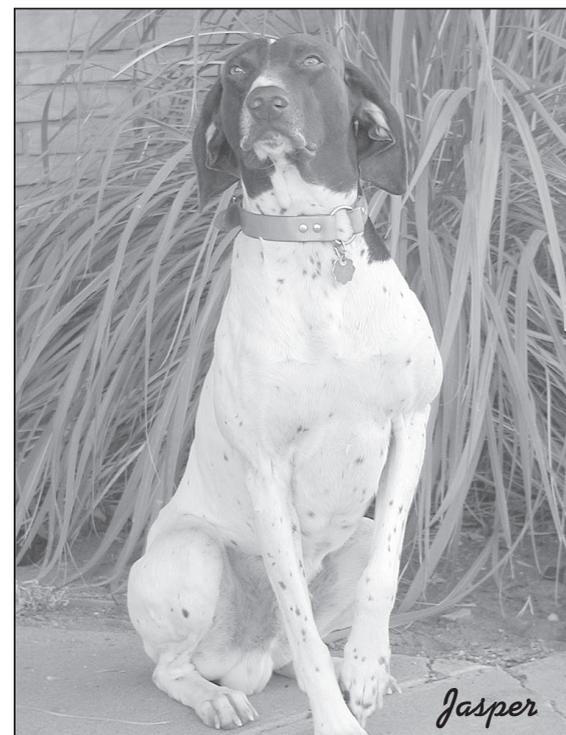
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