



Effort made to provide wildlife feed

By Karen Krien

Two winter snow storms back to back have left northwest Kansas snow covered. In some snowstorms, the winds drift the snow, leaving some open spots where pheasants, quail and turkey can get to food. However, in the last snowfall which started Friday, the snow was heavy and covered almost everything.

Bob Bixler, St. Francis, was concerned about the wild birds so he contacted Jim Pitman, small game coordinator for Wildlife and Parks. Mr. Pitman confirmed Mr. Bixler's concern that the loss of pheasants could be great and recommended a supplemental feeding of corn and milo to help the birds through the winter.

Mr. Bixler talked to Dale Weeks, manager of the Wheeler Equity, who donated some corn. Mr. Bixler then spread the grain in areas he thought might help the birds but soon realized that this project was much too big for him to do by himself.

That is when he organized the "Wildlife For Pheasant Relief Effort." He talked to Hal Sager, Bird City, who donated 1,000 pounds of mixed grain. Tuesday, Matt Smull

went to Bird City with a flatbed trailer and brought back 12 barrels of grain.

The grain was unloaded at the old Equity hardware building, just south of the Equity office. Three barrels with a scoop have been placed outside and people who are willing to take grain to the pheasants are urged to stop by and get what they need. (Bring a container.) The seed can also be used to feed the wildbirds in backyards.

There is additional grain in Bird City for those people wanting to help in that area. Call Mr. Sager at 785-734-2630.

"The pheasants and other birds are having a hard winter and carrying over the bird population is important for next fall's hunting season," Mr. Bixler said. "The feeding needs to be continued until there is bare ground where they can find feed."

"This has been a group effort and we need as many people as possible out feeding the birds."

Mr. Bixler is a member of the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization. Other members helping are Chris Bracelin, Tim Stimbirt and Lance Long.

See FEED on Page 7



BIRD SEED was unloaded at the St. Francis Equity Tuesday afternoon. Don Keeker, right, and Matt Smull help unload the barrels onto a skidloader driven by Brian Holzwarth.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

More snow on top of snow

By Karen Krien

Snow started early Friday and by 9 a.m., U.S. 36 was closed to the west and travel was risky going east, north and south. It was the second snowstorm within a week to hit the tri-state area. There was still a foot of snow on the ground from the first storm and more where the snow had collected into drifts.

The new storm added another 11.5 inches along with winds that blew up to 35 miles per hour putting a halt to most activities.

School was out for the Christmas break but most church services and New Year's activities were canceled. The grocery stores were open and Hilltop General Store was even delivering to customers unable to get out.

After six years of drought, the storms have found many people unprepared. However, city, state and county crews were out early and worked overtime trying to keep the roads and highways passable. Ron Schlittenhardt, Grace Flying Service, worked many hours on Friday and Saturday to get the airport runway cleared.

Mike Antholz, county grader operator, said drifts were as high as his grader blade and there was a thick coat of ice under the drifts. The big drifts were typical throughout the county and crews spent their holiday time out on the graders.

Dave Flemming, county road and bridge superintendent, said his crew came out on Sunday and cleared roads but by later on in the afternoon, the wind had blown drifts across some of the roads again.

See SNOW on Page 7



SNOW GATHERED everywhere. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

No parking on storm routes

People are still asked to not park on emergency snow routes. Signs have been posted but, for those who might not have noticed, the emergency snow routes are:

- College Street from U.S. 36 to North Street.
- Benton Street from U.S. 36 to North Street.
- River Street from U.S. 36 to Jackson Street.
- First Street from Quincy

- Street to Adams Street.
- Quincy Street from U.S. 36 to Washington Street.
- Adams Street from First Street to Spencer Street.

The only exception is the one-half block for hospital parking at Quincy and First street.

Washington Street is also considered a "snow route" but, as of Wednesday, the street was exempt until the next storm.

The contest roster filled up by



AERIAL PHOTO of the airport showed a clean runway.

Photo courtesy of Robert Grace



SNOW DRIFTS were almost as high as the road grader.

Photo courtesy of Mike Antholz

Coyote calling contest held this weekend in Sainty

By Karen Krien

The 10th FoxPro's Midwest Coyote Calling Contest will be held Saturday and Sunday in St. Francis.

Hunters will be arriving by 6 p.m. on Friday for the rules meeting that evening. Callers are urged to come early and check out sponsors' booths and products, meet each

other and swap calling techniques.

The contest starts on Saturday and Sunday 1/2 hour before sunrise. No night hunting is allowed. The coyotes will be brought in on or before 3 p.m. on Sunday. Interested people are urged to stop by and talk with the hunters, sponsors and other people on Sunday afternoon.

The contest is the biggest in the nation. There is a limit of 115 two-man teams participating; 65 Midwest teams and 50 Sportsman's teams. There will also be a Coyote Caller Of The Year contest limited to six callers who will perform four different calls.

The contest roster filled up by

Dec. 15 which shows the interest in the sport, especially in St. Francis.

"Coyote calling is the fastest growing shooting sport in the nation," said Brent Rueb, coordinator. "Everyone wants to be a part of this contest because they know this event is one of the best-run events — everyone can compete and know

they are being treated fair."

The Midwest teams are made up of the more experienced hunters while the Sportsman division is the novice hunters.

New this year will be the name change of the Midwest class

"The Midwest class will now be called the Predator Extreme class,

named after Predator Extreme Magazine," Mr. Rueb said. "The magazine is the number one publication for predator hunting."

He said that the Predator Extreme Magazine executives wanted to get more involved with the event. Renaming the Midwest team to Predator Extreme

See CONTEST on Page 7

WELCOME COYOTE CALLERS