

\$7.4 million to benefit 581 fire department associations

Cheyenne County fire departments will receive a total of \$9,859.69 through the Firefighters Relief Fund this year.

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger announced that more than \$7.4 million dollars is being distributed to the Firefighters Relief Fund this year, representing an increase of more than a million dollars over last year's allotment.

"This fund is crucial to assist firefighters and their families when an accident happens in the line of duty," Commissioner Praeger said. "Kansas firefighters put their lives on the line every time they respond to an emergency. I am proud to administer this important benefit."

The Bird City Fire Department will receive \$3,007.55; St. Francis Fire Department will receive \$4,782.32 and the Cheyenne County Rural Fire Department will

receive \$2,069.82.

The Firefighters Relief Fund is generated by a 2-percent tax on fire and lightning insurance premiums paid in Kansas for the previous calendar year. The annual fund is administered by the Kansas Insurance Department. Money from the Firefighters Relief Fund supports the families and firefighters who are injured, disabled or killed on the job.

"This fund includes an educational component that helps provide important training programs which in turn translates into better service to every Kansan," Commissioner Praeger said. This year more than \$225,000 has been allotted to the Kansas State Firefighters' Association and is earmarked specifically for educational purposes and research on fire prevention and extinguishments.

Last year, one Kansas firefighter was killed in the line of duty, while 144 firefighters were injured as a result of a fire and 84 firefighters were injured in other job-related accidents. A total of 151,000 fire alarms were sounded in Kansas in 2002.

"I am proud to play a small role in providing these well-deserved benefits to Firefighters Relief Associations throughout the state," the commissioner said. "This fund represents financial security to the thousands of active and retired Kansas firefighters and their families want to commend the efforts of the 581 firefighters associations in Kansas and thank them for their dedication to public safety."



Duck population up due to improved breeding grounds

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has released the breeding duck population and May pond numbers from its 2003 survey, conducted each year in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service. Numbers of birds have improved greatly over what was observed in 2002. Overall duck numbers are at 36.2 million birds, up from the 31.2 million birds estimated in 2002. The index for breeding habitat conditions stood at 5.2 million ponds, 91 percent above the 2.7 million counted last year.

"These results pretty well confirm what our staff and others in the breeding areas have been observing this spring," says Dr. Bruce Batt, Ducks Unlimited's (DU) chief biologist. "The extraordinary snow and rains that started in April have provided much-needed moisture that will benefit waterfowl and the farming community. That precipitation, along with habitat put in place by Ducks Unlimited and other groups, and vital federal habitat programs like Conservation Reserve Program, are combining to produce an effective recipe for duck production."

As always, hunting success in any given location is very much affected by regional and local weather. For ducks to remain in a given area during open seasons, there must be adequate rainfall to

fill waterholes, and temperatures must be cool enough to keep waterfowl around but warm enough to keep them from migrating farther south.

Numbers for each of the 10 most common species of duck is up from last year. Mallards are at 7.9 million birds compared to 7.5 million in 2002.

Pintail numbers have also made a surprising and welcome jump from several down years, climbing 43 percent from 1.8 million to 2.6 million. Pintails remain of concern to biologists because they are still 39 percent below their long-term average. Nevertheless, this is a relief from recent trends.

Waterfowl managers have adopted the population goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan to measure the progress of management efforts across the continent. Of the 10 most common duck species, only the pintail and scaup are seriously below the plan's goals, by 54 percent and 40 percent, respectively. Wigeon are up by 9 percent but are still 14 percent below the plan's goal. All

others, including mallards, are above or very near the goals in 2003.

Gadwall numbers are up 14 percent over last year and continue to be well above the goal, and green-winged teal are up by 15 percent. Northern shovelers showed a very large increase - 3.6 million birds, which is 82 percent above the goal. Relative to last year, the other two common diving ducks, canvasbacks and redheads, are up by 15 percent and 13 percent, respectively - a welcome change from steady declines during the previous two years.

Blue-winged teal total 5.5 million birds - a number that will be welcomed by hunters who participate in the September teal season. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may recommend a longer season if the population is above 4.7 million birds.

For more information on duck numbers or Ducks Unlimited in Kansas, contact Tim Kiernon, Kansas regional director for Ducks Unlimited, (316) 945-9037 or visit www.ducks.org.



LAURA BRUNK cuddles one of the Holland Miniature Lop rabbits given away to county 4-H'er by Terri Orth, rabbit leader. The Grow and Show rabbit division is fairly new to Cheyenne County.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

4-H'ers compete in Grow and Show project for fair

By Karen Krien

The Grow and Show rabbit division is fairly new to county 4-H'ers and is gaining popularity each year.

Two 4-H'ers are selected to receive two Holland Miniature Lop rabbits each. This year, Grady Brunk and Caitlin Northrup each received two rabbits which they will be responsible for feeding, taking care of, keeping a record book and showing them at the Cheyenne County Fair on Aug. 6. They will also be on display with the other livestock.

The rabbit project is designed to be 4-H friendly, fun and a great learning experience as well as being affordable. Another plus of the projects is the fact that rabbits can be kept wherever the 4-H'er lives, whether it be the country or within the city limits.

The 4-H'ers needed to fill out an essay application and the two re-

ipients were chosen from the applications.

Terri Orth, St. Francis, is the county-wide rabbit leader, and will be helping Grady and Caitlin with their rabbits which were given to them in June.

"When the kids are given their rabbits, they are cautioned not to pick them up by the ears, feed them an ounce of food per pound of rabbit, make sure they have water and to keep them cool as rabbits do not sweat," Mrs. Orth said.

She said that 4-H'ers are advised that, unless the rabbits are kept in an air conditioned area, they should keep a 2-liter water bottle that has been frozen in the cage. Rabbits lay their ears over the bottle to keep cool.

During the fair, there is not an adequately cooled space to keep the rabbits so once again, the frozen water bottles are once again put to

work.

The county Rabbit Committee comprised of Ted Partch, Doug Ross, Nick Ketzner and Mrs. Orth are working toward purchasing new rabbit cages for the fair. If plans work out, the rabbits will be housed in style during the stay at the fair.

Two years ago, there were only one or two rabbits at the fair but last year, there were 21 rabbits. So many, that parents were called to bring in cages so there would be enough.

The rabbits are judged by how easy they are handled.

"We tell the kids they should play with their rabbit like any pet and the more they are played with, the easier it is to handle them and this will show well during the time when they are judged," Mrs. Orth said.

The Holland Miniature Lop rabbits are selected because they have an easy disposition, they can be trained to use a litter box and put on a leash for a walk.

"The Show and Grow division has turned out to be a really good project and people seem to enjoy seeing the rabbits at the fair," she concluded.

Fun Facts

- In the 60s people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a barbecue?
- Doctors can be frustrating. You wait a month-and-a-half for an appointment, and he says, "I wish you'd come to me sooner."
- You read about all these terrorists, most of them came here legally, but they hang around on these expired visas, some for as long as 10-15 years. Now, compare that to Blockbuster; you are two days late with a video and these people are all over you. Let's put Blockbuster in charge of immigration!

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Thur., July 24

Atwood - A.M.

Colby - P.M.

CSMC, 175 S. Range

462-3332

CMC, 100 E. College Dr.

462-7511

Fri., July 25

Atwood - All Day

Musical scheduled to run this weekend

The Cliff Dwellers Acting and Singing Society of Wray will be presenting an entertaining musical adaptation of E.B. White's Charlotte's Web on Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, July 20 at 2 p.m. at Kitzmiller auditorium in Wray, Colo.

From the author of Stuart Little, this is a story of unconditional

friendship presented with humor and warmth. The 32 member multigenerational cast includes Nick Wisdom as Templeton the pack rat, Amanda Loyd as Charlotte the matronly spider, Alanna Brueggeman as Wilbur the runt pig and Tonya Baker as the farm girl Fern.

Tickets are available by calling (970) 332-5454, (970) 332-4220 or at the door.

Golf results given from one-man tournament

Forty golfers braved the heat and competition to participate in the Riverside Recreation's One Man Scramble golf tournament on Sunday, July 13. Brad Leiker, St. Francis, had the low score of the event with a 12 under par 58. The players were placed into four classes.

Results:

Championship Flight: Brad Leiker (first), Rich Grace (second),

Dale Crabtree and Gerald Lauer (tied for third).

First Flight: Terry Rieger, Roger Lauer and J. County (tied for first).

Second Flight: Steve Golden (first), Chris Bracelin (second), Tyler Lampe and Dennis Schiel (tied for third).

Third Flight: Wayne Adolf (first), Steve Orth and Melvin Confer (tied for second).

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Looking For Heartburn Relief?

WASHINGTON — Research indicates that a new type of chewable tablet containing an extract of deglychirized licorice (DGL) may actually strengthen the body's reaction to acid naturally. Medical experts say that GI problems are not the result of excess acid, but the body's inability to deal with it. This chewable tablet is available over the counter and is called Cidaban DGL™.

Cidaban DGL not only works on stomach acid immediately but also addresses the underlying causes of digestive problems. Studies appearing in a British medical journal have shown that DGL works effectively like Zantac®, Tagamet® and/or antacids without all the side effects.

The problem with antacids is that they actually disrupt or interfere with normal digestions. Cidaban DGL is a natural alternative to antacids or acid blockers and is available at pharmacies and nutrition stores without a prescription or call 1-800-729-8446.

Available locally at:

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