

Annual Championship hunt held

By Casey McCormick
The third annual Kansas State Pheasant Championship was held, Saturday and Sunday, on the southern border of Cheyenne County. The two-day event was attended by 160 teams.

The championship was hosted by Ringneck County which is owned and operated by Rex and Sandi Murray. The total prize money awarded was \$8,920 and trophies were also handed out.

The competition consists of two divisions: flusher and pointer. Teams are made up of two hunters and one dog. The dog is allowed to run twice and many teams brought two or more dogs.

The time limit for each run was 30 minutes. Each hunter is allowed six shells and must shoot once on a full bag limit.

As the team enters the field they are accompanied by a judge. His job is to score the team, monitor time and identify boundaries.

The top three winners of each division were:

Pointing Division

First: Jim Hicks and Brad Alexander, Leoti; second: Eddie Anderson, Goodland, and Mark Leitner, Awood; third: Darrel Jones and Jeremy Jones, Laramie, Wyo.

Flusher Division

First: Shawn Loos and Russ Babcock, Sterling, Colo.; second: Rich Cathcart and Dan



OPAL, the dog, retrieved several birds for her owner, Roy Kirmer during the pheasant hunt hosted by Ringneck County.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Cathcart, Carpenter, Wyo.; third: Rich Cathcart and Dan

Youth Division (12-16 year-old)

First: Mat Zilla, Scott City; second: Drew Raile, Goodland; third: Cameron Wright, Rifle, Colo.

MATT WHITMORE was one of few students that received an Advanced Music medal.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Music students compete in Colby

The St. Francis Junior High Music Department took part in the Northwest Kansas League Middle School Music Festival on Wednesday, Feb. 16. There were approximately 600 students from the Northwest Kansas League schools performing at the festival, which took place at Colby Community College.

Earning an Advanced Performance rating and medal was Matt Whitmore, guitar soloist. To earn this rating, the solo must be memorized and be a flawless and entertaining performance.

"There were only 12 Advanced Performance medals awarded through the entire day of the festival," stated Festival manager Debbie Fiala. "Matt has a lot of talent and worked hard to achieve this honor."

Earning I ratings were Cara Hunt, Jacob Riedel, Amber Smull and Kim Voeller, vocal solos; Kim Voeller and Matt Whitmore, piano solos; Sarah Guthmiller, Cara Hunt, Marvin Miller and Jacob Riedel, instrumental solos; Girl's Trio (Cara Hunt, Sarah Guthmiller, Jeri Merchant); and the Mixed Vocal Ensemble (Kim Church, Scott Ford, Sarah Guthmiller, Cara Hunt, Joni Pevler, Jacob Riedel, Kim Voeller, Matt Whitmore, Brittany Henderson, Jeri Merchant, Emily Mullins, T.J Perry, Amber Smull and Kaycee Williams).

Receiving II ratings were Sarah Guthmiller, Brittany Henderson and Jeri Merchant - vocal solos; and Jeff Meyer, Taylor Spike, Kim Voeller, Matt Whitmore and Drew Zweygardt - instrumental solos.

Legislators plan visit to St. Francis

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. John Fabor will be in St. Francis from 8 to 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 5, at the Dusty Farmer Restaurant. The legislators will be seeking ideas on matters being addressed in the Kansas Legislature.

Following the meeting in St. Francis, they will be in Atwood from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.; Oberlin, 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Norton, 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

Among the items they plan to discuss are: insurance for the Kansas

National Guard members on federal duty in a combat area; campaign finance measures; the proposed transfers of medical service such as Medicaid, MediKan and HealthWave from Social Rehabilitation Services to the division of Health Policy and Finance within the Department of Administration; and wind energy projects such as wind farms.

Their schedule began in Goodland on Saturday, Feb. 19. On Saturday, they will start the day in Oakley.

School Schedule

Thursday: junior high girls, Northwest Kansas League, second round, seventh grade at Atwood, 3 p.m.; eighth grade at Goodland, 3 p.m.; basketball/wrestling pep rally, first hour
Friday - Saturday: 3-2-1A State

Wrestling, Hays
Monday: high school boys basketball, Sub-State, St. Francis at Quinter or Syracuse
Tuesday: high school girls basketball, Sub-State, St. Francis possibly at Hoxie

Bleacher bids to soon be submitted

By Karen Krien

Improvement projects for the schools, including the proposal for new bleachers on the west side of the football field, were discussed when the St. Francis Board of Education met on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

The board has been discussing the addition of new bleachers for the football field for several months. At the present time, the home-side bleachers are on the east side of the football field. This presents several disadvantages as the fans are facing the sun during football games much of the season, and rest rooms and concessions are on the west side of the field.

The west side has two sets of portable bleachers. Superintendent Carl Werner pointed out that a complete set of bleachers with the platform for the press box could be purchased or that bleachers compatible with the old portable bleachers could be purchased. The new and old bleachers would be used to make one unit. The portable bleachers would be anchored down.

The proposed bleachers would take less room behind the high school than a stadium. Also, if the bleachers would need to be moved, the job could be done but with a stadium, it would be almost impossible.

After discussion, the board agreed to send out the drawings and specifications for the bleachers to request bids on the project. The bids will be due by March 9 and will be acted on at the March 10 meeting. If the board accepts one of the bids at that meeting, it

is possible that the bleachers can be worked on this summer and be installed in time for the first football game of the season.

The board also looked at several other construction projects including: 1) new seats and new heating/air conditioning in the high school auditorium; 2) new windows in the grade school cafeteria and in four grade school classrooms (Lanette Nolan's, Bruce Swihart's, Cindy Wiley's and Julie Wolter's classrooms); and 3) a new walk-in refrigerator/freezer in the high school cafeteria kitchen. No decision was made and the board will continue to review these projects.

Board terms

There are three board members whose terms will be up this year. The terms up for election are Bruce Feikert, District 1, position 4; Gene Dodd, District 2, position 5; Pete Raile, District 3, position 6.

Both Mr. Feikert and Mr. Raile will be running again and will appear on the ballot as "unopposed." Mr. Dodd will not be running and two candidates filed for this seat: Kelly Gienger and Steve Douthit.

Since there is no need for a primary election (three or more running for one position), the members will be voted on in the general election on April 5. They will take over on July 1.

Salary adjustments

The first discussion was held on paying a "salary adjustment" to all contracted personnel in the school system with the exception of those who have retired and those who have supplementary assignments

only. Superintendent Werner said that this adjustment would be a one-time, non-accumulative payment for the 2004-2005 contract only.

He said that he thought the adjustment should be considered because there has not been any actual raise in salaries in the last two years. Many employees have received an increase due to movement on the salary schedule and/or increases in the amount that the school pays toward the Blue Cross-Blue Shield premiums but a number of employees have not received an increase of any kind.

The consensus of the board was to pay such a salary adjustment but to wait until month or so to approve it to be sure it is clearly affordable.

Personnel discussed

As the enrollment of students continues to decrease, the board needed to begin discussing ways of keeping the budget within the money received. The board, the principal and the clerk went into executive session to discuss personnel with no decision being made. The board also went into executive session to protect the

privacy rights of students and, again, no decision was made.

In other business

In other business:
• The board approved the Quit Claim Deed to clear the title encumbrance on about two acres of land which was formerly a part of School District 62 located southwest of St. Francis.

• The board approved the gift offer to the school from the Michael Penn Memorial. The request was that these funds be used to purchase science videos for the grade school.

• The board was asked to change the graduation commencement program this year by adding a slide show in order to highlight each graduating senior. The board agreed that the senior class should discuss more what they wanted to do, work out the details with principal Scott Carmichael and class sponsor Steve Jenkins. Then, at a later board meeting, make sure that the proposed changes are acceptable to the board.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the board has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, in the board room at the high school.

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