

I-70 area offers fowl opportunities

By Andy Heintz

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Northwest Kansas offers several hunting attractions along Interstate 70.

These areas offer hunting opportunities for a variety of animals including turkey, deer, pheasants, upland birds, waterfowl, bobcat and even prairie dogs.

Thomas, Logan, Rawlins, Cheyenne and Sherman County all have several controlled shooting areas where people can hunt.

Thomas County visitors and citizens can come hunt Melvin J. Eberle's property in Oakley.

Eberle said people can hunt for quail and pheasant at his lodge. The cost to hunt is about \$150 per person, Eberle said. People can hunt for a full day or a half a day on his property. He said he has a little lodge that people could stay in if they want. But if people decided to stay overnight it would cost them more money, he said. For more information on Eberle's operation dial 785-672-4729.

People who want to hunt in Rawlins County can hunt at Beaver Creek Gamebirds and Beaver Creek Ranch. For more information on Beaver Creek Gamebirds contact Brad and Mandy Leitner at 785-626-8001. For more information on Beaver Creek Ranch you can contact Jeff Hill at 785-533-2363.

Michael and Deanne Weber have land in



The I-70 area has many private and public lands open to hunting. Bird hunting in particular is popular along the area's many streams and rivers.

Oakley that they allow people to hunt on. People can hunt pheasant, chuckers and quail at the hunting area, Michael said. The price to hunt in the area is \$200 per day. Hunters can take 16 pheasants or 20 chuckers and 32 quails, Shad said. He said he has been raising pheasants for 8 or 9 years.

Kuhrt Ranch Ringneck in Edson and Upland Dog Haven in Goodland are two hunting areas people can visit in Sherman County. For more information on The Ranch Ringneck contact Brent and Diana Flaunders at 785-899-5772. For more information on M.J.'s

Upland Dog Haven contact Jeff C. Hunter at 785-846-7785.

Shaps Beaver Ranch is another place in Goodland where people can hunt. Shad and Penny Sheldon started the ranch three years ago. The animals most commonly hunted for at the ranch were deer, turkeys and prairie dogs, Shad said. For more information about the Ranch establishment call (785) 821-2666.

The spring turkey season started on April 8 and runs through Sunday, May 31. The upland birds season (pheasant, quail, prairie chicken) lasts from Nov. 14 through Jan. 31. Hunting season for furbearing animals such as the bobcat and red fox lasts from November until March 2010. Hunters must apply for an any season permit for deer by Dec. 30.

Park built on former lake bed

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the area now known as Fike Park would fill up with water and transform into a lake. The locals dubbed it Carp Lake. While the area was dry for much of the year, when it was full of water the townspeople would go boating on the lake. Unfortunately for the boaters, the lake didn't always smell very good. When the area was dry it was used as a dumping ground for manure that came from the livery stables

in town, said Taylor. An article in the Colby Free Press in the early 1900's reported that lovers continued to go boating in the lake in spite of the smell.

Some people in the community decided they were tired of Carp Lake and that they wanted the area to be transformed into a park. Their wish was eventually granted and the park was built. It was named after the Mayor of the park J. N. Fike, said Taylor.

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