

# OUR TOWNS Hartington

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## Extension Archery Program On The Mark

Local Club Gears Up For Second Year

BY LORETTA SORENSEN  
P&D Correspondent

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Hartington 4-H members will soon be aiming for fun as they begin the second year of the new Cedar County 4-H Archery Club.

The club was organized in 2009 after Hartington resident Colin Kathol accepted the request from the Cedar County Extension office to serve as the group's instructor.

"I was in my late teens when I started to shoot," Kathol said. "I took all my own kids through the steps to learn archery, so I was glad to be able to help youth in our community take up the sport."

Although he has a strong background in archery, Kathol was required to complete a two-day certification process before he could officially serve as the club's instructor. Last year, he worked under the supervision of certified instructor Cabe Sohler of Laurel.

"We wanted to start our club with about 12 members because we had enough equipment to accommodate about that many kids," Kathol said. "We actually ended up with about 14 members because there's such a strong interest in archery."

Kathol, who was introduced to archery when he observed an adult using a bow and arrow, has often employed his archery skills as a hunter. However, he understands the satisfaction of shooting indoors just for sport or in competition.

"Youth today have many more opportunities to take up archery," he said. "You didn't see as many kids getting involved when I was younger. I think one of the things kids like about the sport is the immediate gratification. When you aim an arrow, you know right away what kind of score you've accomplished. Kids that are able to develop a consistent, successful shooting

method can do very well." Whether archers are youth or adults, Kathol said one of the attractive elements of the sport is the fact that anyone of any age can participate and determine the level of skill they want to develop.

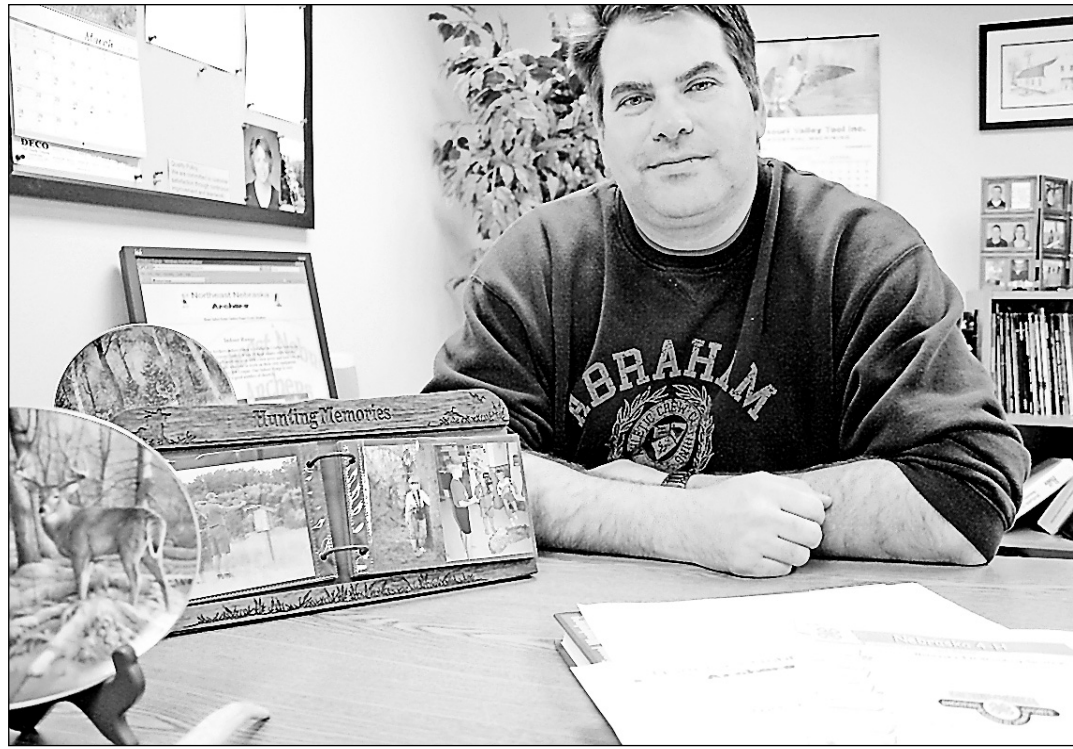
"You don't have to be fast on your feet or be exceptionally strong," he said. "If you're confined to a wheelchair, you can still develop strong archery skills."

The Nebraska 4-H Shooting Program, which includes use of firearms and archery, developed the Shooting Sports Program to give youth an opportunity to learn to safely and responsibly use firearms and archery equipment; find out about wildlife conservation and habitat improvement; learn life-long recreational activities; and develop self-concept, character and personal growth. Kathol notes that the discipline the sport involves seems to be an aspect of Cedar County's club the members enjoy.

"Believe it or not, kids do appreciate discipline," Kathol said. "We use whistles to indicate when it's time to step up to the mark, when to shoot and when it's time to retrieve arrows. Our members have learned a lot over the past year."

The Cedar County club has been using Hartington's outdoor archery range for some of their bi-monthly training sessions. They also make use of the indoor range available at Crofton. Meetings are held during spring, summer and fall. Most of the club members are called Cubbies and will progress to the Youth and Young Adult category by the time they graduate from high school.

"When they get into competition, there are quite a few different categories, depending on the size and makeup of the group," Kathol said. "We have about four girls in our club. Some competitions have boys and girls shooting together. Others have separate categories for girls and



Longtime archery buff Colin Kathol is serving as a certified instructor for Hartington's Cedar County 4-H archery club. The group was organized in 2009 in response to requests from local youth for opportunities to develop archery skills. Events for 2010 will kick off with a March 28 afternoon shooting event.

boys. I hope that some of our members have enough interest in the sport to go on to Nebraska's state and national 4-H archery competition in the years ahead."

The Cedar County 4-H Council provided funds last year to purchase archery equipment for the club. Youth who may have their own equipment are welcome to use it, but the members don't need to purchase anything to start learning about archery.

"There are all kinds of different bows you can use," Kathol said. "There are some adults who prefer to use what we call stick bows or equipment they make themselves. There are also sighted bows you can purchase. It all depends on the preference of the archer."

Among the things young archers learn in the Cedar County club is how to hold their bow, locate anchor points that allow them to fine tune their aim and diligence to keep working at

developing accurate shooting skills.

"It's critical to learn how to hold your bow," Kathol said. "You can use your eyes, your nose and many other points on your body to find a pose that takes that arrow to the heart of a target. Any archer who shoots their arrow exactly the same every time will become very skilled with a bow and arrow."

From his own personal experience, Kathol knows that some of the Cedar County club members will go on to improve their skills as adults. Others will enjoy the sport for a time and then move on to other activities.

"I enjoy seeing someone learn about archery and improve their skills," he said. "I have a variety of bows around the house that my kids used when they were growing up. I use that equipment to help other kids get started in archery. I think adults have a responsibility to see to it that

these kinds of skills aren't lost."

Cedar County youth who want to become members of the Cedar County archery club should contact either the Cedar County Extension Office at 402-254-6821 or call Kathol at 402-254-6987.

"I enjoy seeing someone who's been struggling to learn the sport start sharpening their skills and enjoying the sport," Kathol said. "When I can share what I've learned about archery over the years and I see kids listen and begin to practice what they're learning, that's my reward."

"More information about the Cedar County 4-H Shooting Sports Program is available at <http://4h.unl.edu/programs/environment/shootingsports/>. A public archery club is also open to northeast Nebraska residents. Information about the group is available at [www.nenarchers.com](http://www.nenarchers.com).

## BUDGET

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governor's budget office, said the economy appears to have started to bounce back, but neither South Dakota nor the nation has seen much job growth.

Global Insight, the state's economic consultant, expects the nation's economy to grow by about 3 percent next year, but there's also a chance it could grow even faster or falter again in a second recession, he said.

"There's just a lot of uncertainty in the economy right now," Terwilliger said. "The worst should be behind us, but the economic recovery is expected to be slow."

Terwilliger said preliminary reports indicate that South Dakota's nonfarm income in 2009 dropped by about 0.2 percent, the first time since 1939 that the state's nonfarm income fell from year to year.

That drop in personal income explains why collections from the sales tax, the state's largest revenue source, have failed to meet expectations, Terwilliger said.

For the first eight months of this year, sales tax collections were down nearly 4 percent from the same period a year earlier, Terwilliger said. However, sales tax receipts appear to be recovering and should finish the year down only about 1.8 percent, he said.

Terwilliger predicted sales tax revenue will grow by about 2.9 percent next year.

Aaron Olson, a fiscal analyst for the Legislature, predicted state revenue would be slightly higher than Terwilliger's projections for the rest of the current budget year and next year.

"We believe that South Dakota is beginning to turn the corner on the recent recession," Olson said.

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