

IKEs Kids Fishing Day sees good attendance despite weather

By **SHERI HINK-WAGNER**
THE WAUNETA BREEZE

The Southwest Nebraska Chapter Izaak Walton League (IKEs) group saw good attendance Saturday for the annual Ron Berry Memorial Kids Fishing Day, despite the cold and rainy weather.

The young fishermen and women were not deterred by temperatures in the 40s accompanied by mist, rain and wind.

Well over 40 kids participated in the day, IKEs Secretary-Treasurer Tom Elder said the attendance was not quite as high as last year, but it was still the second best attendance the group has seen at its Kids Fishing Day.

The group counted over 40 kids fishing at Champion Lake. Children age eight to 13 were eligible for prizes at the event. Twenty-eight eligible children signed up for prizes.

Prize-eligible or not, IKEs members are there to help all young fishermen and women by loaning a pole, giving out worms or offering advice.

The group served the chilled fishermen and women a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans and chips.



Participants in the IKEs annual Ron Berry Memorial Kids Fishing Day broke out their winter gear to stay warm at the event held in Champion last Saturday. (Johnson Publications photo)

Elder feels the good attendance at the event may be related to the lifetime hunt/fish licenses given away at the event.

The lifetime hunt/fish licenses were won by Cole Hamilton and Dominic Harris, both of Wauneta.

The lifetime licenses were

made possible thanks to Nebraska Game and Parks and a grant from the Logan Bauman Memorial Fund.

IKEs holds fundraisers throughout the year and the funds are used to purchase other prizes for the event. All eligible fishermen and women were able to go home with a

prize.

The event is intended to teach children fishing skills and help foster their love for the sport.

Nebraska Game and Parks loaned the IKEs group one of its family fishing trailers, which had rods, reels and tackle that could be checked out for the event.