

# New Palestine Reporter

Also serving Cumberland



## Eyes turn to another title

New Palestine plays for regional championship against Cathedral **Page 12**

FRIDAY,

November 13, 2009

[www.newpalestinereporter.com](http://www.newpalestinereporter.com)

# JUMPING AT THE CHANCE

## Unwanted dogs soar with local teen

By **KRISTY DEER**

[kdeer@newpalestinereporter.com](mailto:kdeer@newpalestinereporter.com)

**C**handler Curtis and his mom, Christina, have always had a soft spot for dogs.

When Curtis was just 8 years old, Christina started taking her son to shelters. They would volunteer their time to care for strays.

Now at age 15, Chandler has turned his love for dogs into a legitimate worldwide talent.

He's a Frisbee champion who has taken his interest in animals to a whole new level by training his dogs to compete in national competitions.

"It's a repetitive process, and you have to keep on working on it," the New Palestine High School freshman said.

That's just what he does every day with his two dogs, Fury and Loco, mixed mutts who have become quite successful with Chandler as their owner and trainer.

"He probably didn't have a choice but to love animals," Christina said with a laugh.

She and her family have rescued more than 400 animals, a couple at a time, including many energetic puppies.

Fury and Loco are two of seven stray dogs the Curtis family has taken into their permanent home.

"We had all these small dogs that had all this energy and we thought, 'What can we do to deal with all this energy as a family?'" Christina said.

"We just take them and train them and



Photos provided

**'This will probably be a career':** Chandler Curtis trained dogs Fury (above) and Loco (at left) for Frisbee competition.



► SEE **DOGS**, PAGE 10

## ► Dogs

Continued From Page 1

adopt them out, and if they're Frisbee dogs it's much easier," she said.

Their Good Samaritan efforts have turned into more than helping dogs find homes.

"This will probably be a career eventually," Chandler said.

In many ways, it already is.

At age 13, Chandler, along with Loco, was the youngest to qualify in the Skyhoundz World Championships. He's also a two-time International Disc Dog Handler Association World Champion and a three-time Skyhoundz World Qualifier.

He did such a good job during a recent competition in St. Louis, he and the dogs were moved into the adult category, where he finished third.

"It's pretty exciting. It's just a lot of practice," Chandler said. "We've been to Georgia, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Texas. We travel quite a bit."

On a recent local trip to Brandywine Elementary School, he shared a demonstration of his skills with the students.



Photo provided

**'He's found his niche':** Chandler Curtis and his mother, Christina, prepare to practice Frisbee catches with Loco.

"What he tries to instill in the kids in school is if they want something bad enough they need to go out do it on their own," Christina said.

While she introduced the dogs into her son's life, she credits him with the hard work in becoming a champion.

"Chandler has excelled by him-

self; he's found his niche," she said.

He and his mom are hoping to use his and the dogs' talents to find other stray animals good homes.

"There are so many dogs out there that need homes, just like his dogs did. They were unwanted dogs, and (now) look at them," she said.