

Deer rifle season begins Saturday

BY BLAISE HART-SCHMIDT
Staff Reporter

Kirkville residents are gearing up and heading out for the start of firearm deer season, beginning Saturday, Nov. 15, and ending Tuesday, Nov. 25. Hunters with proper permits can hunt whitetail deer during this time.

Junior George Koch said he has been hunting since he was young and plans to leave Friday to go hunting in his hometown of Washington, Mo.

"I hunt everything," Koch said. "I go deer hunting, I go turkey hunting and squirrel hunting. ... I do whatever. It also just depends on the situation."

Koch said he enjoys every part of the sport.

"I guess just being in the outdoors, getting out," Koch said. "It's relaxing. At the same time it's an adrenaline rush, too, when you actually get a deer. It's all pretty much a good time, unless you miss a deer, but even then it's still neat because you got to see one."

Koch said he wishes more people would accept hunting. "It seems like a lot of peo-

ple think it's more of a negative thing," Koch said. "A lot of people give you trouble because you're killing animals, but it's actually good because it helps control the deer population. If there weren't hunters, there would be deer all over the place, getting hit by cars."

More than 260,000 deer were harvested during the 2007 firearm season, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation.

This year, more Missouri counties have adopted the four-point rule, in which a deer must have four points on one side of the antlers in order to be harvested. Adair County, which has six State Conservation Areas, also has this rule.

Another benefit of hunting is the boost in the economy, said Benny Pryor, District Supervisor of the Law Enforcement Division at the Missouri Department of Conservation. Pryor said Missouri ranks first in the surrounding states of the amount of people who come to the state to hunt.

"Deer hunters, 16 years and older spent \$690 million in Missouri in 2006," Pryor said. "Deer

hunting in Missouri creates \$1.1 billion in business activity and supports 11,000 jobs annually."

Pryor said that many industries benefit from hunting, like sporting goods stores, hotels, gas stations and companies that process deer meat.

Darrel Nagel, Manager of D & C Gun Co. LLC in Kirkville, said his business gets busier during hunting season and that the economy benefits.

"It brings millions and millions of dollars to the state," Nagel said. "Another benefit is it has to be done to manage the deer herd, or else the deer population would be totally out of control."

Nagel advised hunters to be cautious during firearm deer season.

"Never treat a gun as if it were unloaded — every gun is always loaded," Nagel said. "Always be sure of your target, don't trespass, be considerate of others."

Nagel said that non-hunters also should be careful.

"If they go out in fields and stuff it's a good idea to wear blaze orange, that way people don't mistake them for deer," Nagel said.



Krista Goodman/Index
D & C Gun Company LLC. Owner Darrel Nagel fixes a gun at his shop earlier this week. Nagel said the beginning of hunting season is a busy time for his shop.

Hunting Harvest

Sources: mdc.mo.gov/hunt
Designed by Rose Runser/ Index

This season alone, Adair County hunters have harvested 625 deer during Bow season.

Of those 625 deer, 287 were does, 81 were button bucks, and 257 were antlered bucks.

This season, hunters were limited to two turkeys and two deer. The sex of the deer does not matter as long as only one of the antlered deer is harvested before Nov. 15th.

If the county permits, hunters are allowed to take as many antlerless deer as they want.

There are only two hunting methods allowed in Missouri: archery and firearms.

If hunters are unsure of what to do with the leftover meat from a deer, they should consider Share the Harvest, an organization that provides meat for hungry Missourians.



City adds cell phones to notification system

BY AMANDA GOESER
Staff Reporter

The City of Kirkville is improving its technology base by providing residents with the option of having emergency notifications sent to cell phones in addition to landlines.

The Automated Telephone Notification System, in use since February 2007, has contacted Kirkville and Adair County residents in times of emergency. The ATNS system can reach every home in Adair County within 15 minutes.

The city originally bought the system through a grant and then made it available to all Adair County residents. Any landline in the county is automatically signed up for the service. The expansion of the program now allows residents to also register their cell phone numbers.

Interested Adair County residents are encouraged to register their cell phones through either the Police or Fire Departments. Callers will be asked their name, current address, landline number, cell phone number(s) and whether they would like the number linked to a second address.

Randy Behrens, Emergency Management Director for the City of Kirkville, said that by expanding the program, the city is hoping to reach more people who might either rely more heavily on their cell phones or not have a landline.

"[County residents] were automatically on the list because we are

using the 911 system," Behrens said. "We have an enhanced E911 in Adair County and those numbers were automatically put into an address."

Depending upon the type of emergency—whether it is weather-related or otherwise—the Dispatch Center could target certain areas where the concern is greatest. Even in Kirkville, certain areas could be notified while unaffected areas would receive no message.

"The primary things that we are looking to use that for are things like weather, hazardous materials, possibly a man hunt, or you could be looking at boil orders," said Ray Jagger, Rural Fire Representative

for the County 911 Board. "Any time that we need to reach all of the people in a selected area, this is a way that we have to do that now."

For Jagger, one of the most promising aspects of the system expansion is the new technology it offers.

"I am just excited that it is possible to identify the people in a certain area on a map and call them," Jagger said. "This is pretty neat technology to me."

The addition of cell phones makes the service available to many students who otherwise would not have been notified via landline about concerns in the county.

"I would think it would be very nice to know that you are in a tornado warning or if you had a hazardous material leak approaching campus, or you could be looking at things like gunmen," Jagger said. "DPS has a text messaging service, but I would

think that the added benefit of being able to do that with the county would be a good thing, too."

Behrens said that if students never called to be removed from the list, they would continue to receive messages from the system, even after they moved out of Kirkville.

For county residents, the goal of adding cell phones to the service is to increase the likelihood of getting information out. Kirkville resident Jessie Cragg said she and her husband plan to register their cell phones.

"We have an emergency weather radio and we pay a lot of attention to it, too," Cragg said. "It goes off in the middle of the night and it really does notify you. Since I've got that, I probably wouldn't depend on the phone as much, because I probably wouldn't be able to hear it as easily. I still think it's a good idea."

"This is a pretty neat technology to me."

Ray Jagger

Rural Fire Representative for the County 911 Board

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