

## Decrease In Number Of Deer Checked In

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's initial deer harvesting check-in numbers show a 12% decrease in statewide harvest compared to 2020.

Last year, hunters harvested 42,078 deer during the nine-day season. While in 2021, hunters only harvested 37,053 deer. NGPC says the overall statewide trend has decreased compared to previous years.

While the overall statewide trend was down compared to previous years, regions of the state varied. Deer harvest in southeastern Nebraska was even with 2020, while southwestern Nebraska was down 19%. The northwestern district was down 8%, and the northeastern district was down 15% from 2020.

Mule deer buck harvest decreased 10%, with 5,385 taken, compared to 5,994 in 2020. Whitetail buck harvest was down 13%, with 20,783 taken compared to 23,835 in 2020.

Antlerless mule deer harvest was down 12%, while antlerless white-tailed deer harvest decreased 16% compared to 2020.

Several factors contributed to the decline in deer harvest.

"Considering the increases in antlerless harvest in the southwest due to depredation management, it's not surprising harvest numbers would trend downward as those



COURTESY

LaVerne Schroder of Stapleton, was one of the successful hunters this year and checked his deer in at the local Big Game Check Station.

deer populations decline," said Luke Meduna, big game program manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. "Epizootic hemorrhagic disease reports also were up this fall, particularly in northern Nebraska, and that likely had an impact on white-tail populations.

The Big Game Check Station at Stapleton reported a total of 138 deer

checked in by Sean Carson.

Firearm deer season ran from November 13 through 21; archery from September 1 through December 31; and muzzleloader from December 1 through December 31. Antlerless late season runs from January 1 through January 16, and late river antlerless from January 1 through January 31.

## Stapleton Graduate Killed In Motorcycle Accident

Laramie Fowler, 24, of northeast El Paso, Texas, and former Stapleton resident, was killed on Christmas Day in a hit-and-run crash in east El Paso.

Authorities report the deadly accident happened around 4:45 p.m., December 25, at the intersection of George Dieter and Rexter.

In a report on the crash, police wrote Fowler was speeding in the moments leading up to his death, but added they believed the motorcyclist tried to avoid a car when the car turned in front of him by laying down the bike. The unknown vehicle struck the motorcyclist as he was sliding on the roadway.

The female driver exited her vehicle, walked around her car, and then fled the location.

An investigation is underway and the woman was wearing a green sweater and driving a dark-colored vehicle.

Fowler was a 2015 graduate of Stapleton High School.

The deadly hit-and-run was the 75th El Paso traf-

fic fatality of the year compared to 68 deaths a year ago at this same time.

## Red Cross Blood Drive Coming To Stapleton

Area residents will have an opportunity to give blood in January as the American Red Cross blood drive is coming to the Stapleton Community Center, Tuesday, January 18. The bloodmobile will run from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

You may call Bea Gaites at 308-636-2241 to make an appointment.

The American Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. The dangerously low blood supply levels have forced some hospitals to defer patients from major surgery, including organ transplants. Your donation is desperately needed this holiday season.

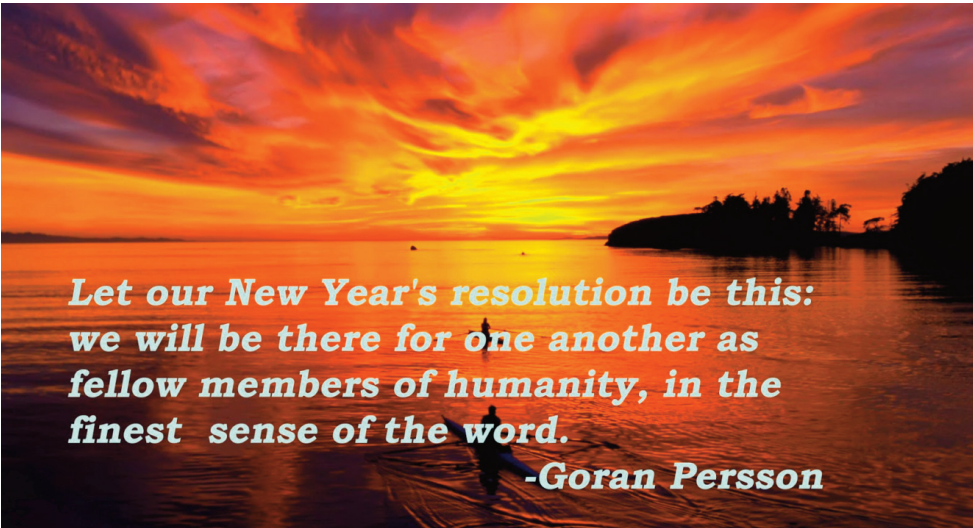
You don't need a special reason to give blood. You just need your own reason.

- Some of us give blood because we were asked by a friend.
- Some know that a family member or a friend might need blood some day.
- Some believe it is the right thing to do.
- Some do it for the free cookies and juice.

Everyone enjoys the great feeling of helping save lives.

General guidelines for blood donation:

- Be in good general health and feeling well.
- Be at least 17 years old in most states (16 years old with parental consent in some states).
- Weigh at least 110 pounds. Additional weight requirements apply for donors 18 years old and younger and all high school donors.
- Have not donated blood in the last 56 days.



Let our New Year's resolution be this:  
we will be there for one another as  
fellow members of humanity, in the  
finest sense of the word.

-Goran Persson

## Arrest made after break-in at Reed's Food Center

An arrest was made after the break-in and vandalism of Reed's Food Center in Arnold on Wednesday, December 15. Owner, John Reed said he was fortunate to get the store up and running by 10:00 a.m. Thursday morning after the break-in occurred between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. the night before.

Michael Larreau, 25, of Arnold was arrested for burglary and criminal mischief and remains in the Custer County jail after surveillance cameras in the store identified him as the suspect.

Entrance to the store was gained by smashing

out the front door. The suspect also attempted to break out the front window with what appeared to be a survival shovel. A pop cooler, power ball machine, two scanning systems and monitors were destroyed.

Reed said he was notified of the break-in that night and went to the store where he called 911.

"The loss of the scanning systems and cash register monitors were a concern, but we called the 24-hour hotline and we were able to get everything up and going again," Reed said.

He estimated damage to the store to be between

\$5,000 and \$6,000.

Custer County Sergeant Gibbons was the responding officer and he was assisted by Deputy Bellinger and Deputy Edelman. The arrest of Larreau was made after a search warrant of the suspect's apartment found product taken from the store, along with the item used to break into the building.

Other vandalism around Arnold was reported that same night.

Tanner Bower of Arnold has also been arrested for two burglaries and jailed after entering two houses without the owner's permission.

## Gov. Rickett's New Year Statement

Last week, Governor Pete Ricketts issued a statement in observance of New Year's Day, which was celebrated on January 1, 2022.

"As we enter a new year, Nebraska is in a strong position due to the grit and character of our people."

"Our state stands out nationally for our pandemic recovery and rapid job

growth. Earlier this month, Politico named Nebraska as the top state in the nation for our pandemic response. We currently have the lowest unemployment rate of any state in history at 1.8%. We also had a historic Legislative session in 2021, which will deliver more than \$2 billion of tax relief to Nebraskans over the next two years."

"More important, the family, friends, and neighbors that make up this great state continue to selflessly help one another. There is no better

example of this than Nebraska's health care workers. This past year, doctors and nurses across our state have given excellent care to patients. Their dedication and skill have helped Nebraska power through the pandemic with positive health outcomes relative to other states. Thank you to all of our men and women in health care for your ongoing care to Nebraskans."

"Susanne, the kids, and I wish every Nebraskan a happy and healthy New Year."

## Logan County Court News

Two Logan County cases were finalized in Logan County court, Tuesday, December 14.

Austin J. Schell, Stapleton, was charged with possession of a firearm by a prohibited person, first offense, and cited for burglary. The Logan County attorney did not file the burglary charge. Schell pled guilty to criminal trespass and fined \$500.00.

Joshua G. Schiltz, Stapleton, pled guilty to first offense DUI and fined \$500.00.

### Senior Meals Now Served At Cafe

Stapleton senior meals are now being served at the Hen House Cafe. Hours will be 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the menu will continue being published in the newspaper on page 3.

### -- News Briefs --

#### Chamber Plans Annual Meeting

The Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding their annual meeting and membership drive, Monday, January 31, at the Hen House Cafe.

Membership dues are \$40.00 and are payable by mailing a check to Stapleton Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 232, Stapleton, NE 69163.

Please mark your calendar and join us for the annual meeting.

#### Maverick Sports Schedule

The SVM boys wrestling team will be competing at Hyannis, January 6.

Girls and boys basketball teams will travel to play Creek Valley at Chappell, Friday, January 7.

Sports on Saturday, January 8 will include boys wrestling at Franklin at 10:00 a.m.; girls wrestling at Oshkosh at 10:00 a.m.; junior high basketball vs. Cody-Kilgore at Stapleton, and girls and boys basketball vs. Cody-Kilgore at 3:00 p.m.

#### Weather

| DATE | HI | LOW | MT. |
|------|----|-----|-----|
| 24   | 56 | 28  | 0   |
| 25   | 54 | 18  | 0   |
| 26   | 58 | 19  | 0   |
| 27   | 47 | 17  | 0   |
| 28   | 40 | 15  | 0   |
| 29   | 33 | 7   | 0   |
| 30   | 33 | 9   | 0   |

#### Observations

Wind chill was recorded at -3 degrees @ 7:23 a.m. and 0 degrees at 7:00 a.m. on December 29. Wind chill was also recorded at 0 degrees at 5:15 a.m. on December 30

#### Obituaries

- Dr. Gerald F. Bailey, DVM
- Kathleen D. Kramer
- Susie Detering Wiezorek
- Richard Sisson
- Laramie Fowler

### McPherson Co. News



- Over The Hills
- Graphic Files
- Snow For Alfalfa

### Notices

- McPherson County Commissioners
- Public Notice
- Logan County Public Hearing & Planning Board Public Notice
- Logan County Real Estate Notice

Read The Notices!  
Be Informed On  
What's Going On In  
Your Community.

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