

# Dragons football family continues to grow

## Little league program improves, expands

By ANGELINA ALCOTT  
R-H SPORTS

There has been a steady decrease in little league sport participation over the years, but the Dragon athletic base has continued to build a solid foundation year after year. With an increase in little league basketball, the addition of girl's little league basketball program, and a strong showing during the summer and fall months in the park, little league football looked for ways to evolve the already

long-standing program. Under the guidance of first year head coach Jeremy Whitlow, a committee was formed to over-see the program as it followed Whitlow's deep commitment to teamwork and community. Monica Shuffett was appointed as director chair, Fallon Milby as High School football liaison, and a number of other parent volunteers, coaches, and those who have experience with the program were voted onto the committee. The committee's goal

early was to ensure a safe, fun environment for the athletes to grow. A number of policies were set, background checks for all potential coaches, forms created to ensure equipment return, and policies and guidelines for parents and players were put in place. One of the committee's goals was to increase the number of athletes. Social media platforms were used, members visited the schools, called players from past years, and asked everyone to help

spread the word. Once sign-ups concluded, the final number had doubled from the season prior. A total of 101 future Dragons were ready to gear up for the 2019 season. Athletes were split into leagues, K-2, 3-4, and 5-6. For many years the program has offered this opportunity free of charge. Through the years, with limited funds, equipment became a concern. Equipment was replaced each year, but with the staggering number of kids who passed through the pro-

gram, league directors struggled to keep up with needed replacements. This season one of the goals was to begin raising money to replace all outdated equipment. A large goal was set in an effort to purchase a large number of helmets, a single helmet has a \$150 price tag. The league held a number of fundraisers that included: coke sales, bingo, and t-shirt sponsors. The league hosted games Cow Days weekend and many people from the community showed up

to support and watch the future Dragons. More than \$4,000 was raised by the end of the season recently. A number of helmets will be purchased for the little league program. Shuffett was pleased with the program's season— from the volunteer coaches, workers during the home game, fundraising efforts, and the many hours volunteered behind the scenes. Anyone who is interested in donating toward the helmet fund may contact Monica Shuffett.

# Modern gun season for deer opens Saturday

## Season to close Nov. 16

THE LAKE NEWS

One of the favorite times of the year for tens of thousands of Kentuckians begins Saturday, Nov. 9 as modern gun deer season opens statewide. The 16-day season closes Nov. 24.

The season sits squarely in the rut, when male deer are most actively pursuing does to breed.

“Our modern gun season this year starts very early in November,” said Gabe Jenkins, deer and elk program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. “The timing is perfect. We should have pre-rut, the peak of the rut and the post-rut all within the 16 days of the season. It should be a great modern gun season.”

Around 300,000 people hunt deer in Kentucky each year.

The upcoming modern gun deer season did not look rosy a month ago, as a debilitating drought gripped Kentucky. The month of September was the driest month on record in the state, with an average total rainfall of less than a quarter inch.

“We finally had rain in October, which triggered regrowth and the

green-up of plants that will provide a flush of nutrients on the landscape,” Jenkins said. “This will help winter survival for deer, especially in a year with a poor mast crop.” Dry, hot weather early in the season has affected this year's initial deer harvest. “We had a good opening weekend for archery season and a banner youth hunt weekend,” Jenkins said. “However, we are still below the 10-year average for harvest at this time of the season, which is directly related to heat and drought.”

Deer hunters have reported more than 21,500 deer harvested so far this season.

Kentucky's spotty 2019 crop of mast, primarily tree nuts favored by deer such as beechnuts and acorns, may help hunters by keeping deer on the move for food during modern gun season. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's annual mast survey shows low production of white oak acorns and hickory nuts.

Red oaks show better acorn production with beech trees producing the most nuts. Red oak acorns hold more tannins than white oak acorns and do not taste as good to deer.

“Red oak stands will be really good toward the end of the modern gun season and into the late muzzleloader season,” Jenkins said.

“The tannins leach out of the red oak acorns overtime, making them

more palatable to deer. There's not a lot of groceries on the landscape this year, they will eat the red oak acorns as the season progresses.”

The lack of acorns should produce more deer movement. “Do not give up after the first weekend of the modern gun season,” Jenkins said. “There is better chase activity with younger bucks early, but the second weekend should be the prime weekend.”

Jenkins said his favorite time to hunt during modern gun season is toward the end, when the initial deer breeding season is winding down. “I like hunting post-rut because of that last-ditch effort by the big bucks trying to find that last doe,” he said.

Hunters must check current regulations to ensure they are following all the legal requirements before going afield. Some general regulations and tips for this season include:

- Kentucky's statewide limit is one buck per season. Harvest limits for does vary within the state's four deer hunting zones.

- Zone 1 counties have the highest concentrations of deer; concentrations are lowest in Zone 4. The zone system allows hunters to help manage the deer herd.

- The statewide deer permit allows the harvest of up to four deer.

- Hunters may take an unlimited number of deer in Zone 1 counties with the purchase

of additional deer permits. Each additional deer permit allows for the take of two deer.

- Hunters in Zone 4 counties may only take two deer. Only one may be antlerless.

- Hunters must have proper licenses, permits and hunter education certification, if required. Go online to fw.ky.gov for details.

- Hunters may not bring whole carcasses of deer, elk, moose or caribou into Kentucky from another state. Brain or spinal material of the animal is prohibited as well. This is designed to help prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease into Kentucky.

- Residents hunting out of state who wish to have their animal mounted should cape it and skull cap it – or have it done by a local processor or taxidermist in that state – before bringing it into Kentucky.

- Hunters pursuing any species during the modern gun deer season must wear unbroken hunter orange visible from all sides on the head, chest and back at all times while in the field.

- Licenses or permits may be purchased at any time by calling 1-800-598-2401, or visiting the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife web-

site at fw.ky.gov. Licenses are also available at hundreds of locations where sporting goods are sold.

Finally, the recent cold snap has all but put an end to a minor outbreak of hemorrhagic disease in deer this year. The disease, which is transmitted by midges, concludes when a hard freeze kills the insect carriers.

Biologists have not detected the presence of tuberculosis in Kentucky's deer, or

chronic wasting disease in its deer and elk. “The Lower Peninsula of Michigan is the only place tuberculosis in deer can be found,” Jenkins said. “We do not have tuberculosis in Kentucky.”

For more information on deer hunting, visit the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife webpage at fw.ky.gov or consult the Kentucky Hunting and Trapping Guide, available free wherever they sell hunting licenses.

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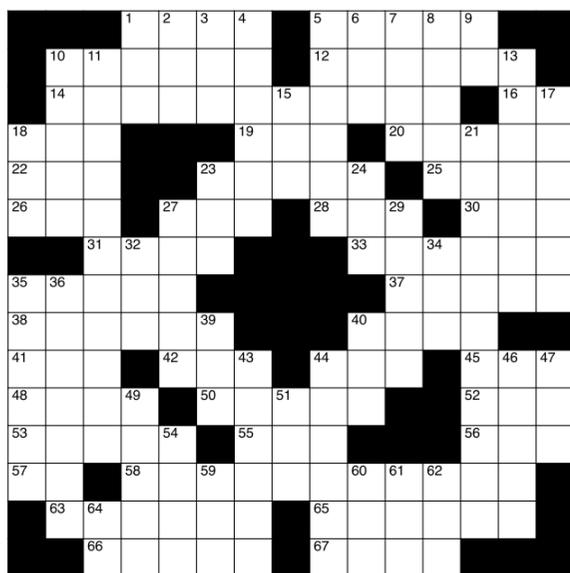
## Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

1. Flat-topped hill
5. Fire usually accompanies it
10. Talked
12. Skillset
14. Unembarrassed
16. Where teens spend their days
18. Boxing's GOAT
19. Used to anoint
20. Rust fungi
22. Panthers' signal caller
23. Forests have lots of them
25. Lentils
26. One's self-esteem
27. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
28. High school test
30. Large, flightless bird
31. Expectorated
33. Some practice it
35. Prickly shrub
37. French river
38. Told on
40. Steep hillside
41. Peyton's little brother
42. Soviet Socialist Republic
44. Welsh river
45. Witness
48. Brews
50. Orange-brown
52. Separates DNA and RNA
53. Mexican agave
55. Self-contained aircraft unit
56. Encourage
57. Atomic #52 (abbr.)
58. About latitude
63. Trivial gadget
65. Film a scene again
66. Small blisters
67. Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

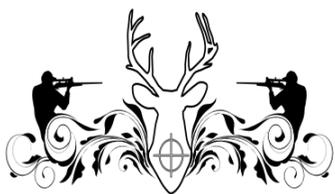
1. Advanced degree
2. Goes with flow
3. The Caspian is one
4. Accumulate on the surface of
5. Vascular systems or plants
6. A popular kids magazine
7. \_\_\_ podrida: spicy Spanish stew
8. Vandalized a car
9. Prefix meaning "within"
10. Soviet labor camp system
11. Strong hostilities
13. B complex vitamin
15. Go quickly



17. Toast
18. A team's best pitcher
21. A Philly culinary special
23. Small child
24. Unhappy
27. Trims by cutting
29. Weepee
32. It might be on the back
34. Spy organization
35. Female body part
36. Came back from behind
39. Fall back or spring forward
40. Famed traveling journalist
43. Where the current is fast
44. Withstand
46. A Philly football player
47. Records brain activity
49. Aromatic powder
51. Circular pipe
54. Ship as cargo
59. Bar bill
60. Adult female
61. OJ trial judge
62. One's grandmother
64. Hot, massive star

Answers found on page 19A

# ATTENTION DEER



# HUNTERS

Send us your photos of the one that didn't get away during this year's deer season!

news2@record-herald.com

or drop off photos at 102 West Court Street  
Please include hunter's name, age, date, county/area deer was killed

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