

HUNTING GUIDE 2023

Shots Fired: Sporting stores struggle post-Ammunition Registration Act



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

Dick Gifford, owner of Gifford's Sport Supply on Stockton Avenue, Walton.

By Lillian Browne

WALTON - In September 2022 New York legislators passed the Ammunition Registration Act, a law aimed at enhancing accountability and safety in the sale of ammunition. While its intentions were noble, the law has had consequences for rural sporting stores and gun retailers.

Dick Gifford, owner of Gifford's Sporting Store on Stockton Avenue in Walton, says his business has been negatively impacted by the law.

The Ammunition Registration Act mandates that all ammunition transactions be registered with the state. Buyers must undergo background checks before purchasing ammunition, and all sales records are digitally stored and monitored.

Delaware County is known for hunting and many residents rely

on hunting for recreation and food.

However, the Ammunition Registration Act has thrown a wrench into the workings of sporting stores and gun retailers, including Gifford's. According to owner Dick Gifford, the market hadn't recovered from supply chain shortages that arose during the Covid pandemic when the new law went into effect.

First, he said, he was dealing with a shortage of ammunition, something experienced nationwide. Now, he said, he is plagued by the wait period required for customers to purchase ammunition. The background checks are not instantaneous, Gifford said; though they are usually completed the same day.

"There are very few instances of an 'instant proceed,'" he said.

However, he continued, that doesn't help when customers live outside the area are coming

to Delaware County to hunt and hoping to purchase ammunition here. He also has customers, he said, that live in Chenango and Sullivan counties - which have an hour drive-time each way, another clog in commerce. The additional paperwork, background checks, and registration processes have deterred some customers from making ammunition purchases, Gifford said.

He understands why the law was enacted - in order to prevent gun crimes. However, he said, criminals who commit gun crimes are typically not obeying gun or ammunition laws; and, he said, they are not using .22s shot shells - among his top sellers.

"How many terrorist are using .22 rounds?" he asks.

His other top sellers, he said are .30-30, .243 and .30-06 caliber ammunition, used almost exclusively for big game hunting.

Gifford also sells handgun ammunition - 9 mm is a leading seller.

Ammunition sales account for a large part of his business, and the new law requiring a background check is costly. He, like all other dealers, has passed the expense onto the customer. A box of ammunition that costs \$8.95 will have a \$2.50 fee added on the for background check, Gifford said.

He is fearful, he said, that the "government" is trying to get rid of businesses like his. If that happens, he said, people will lose hunting and sporting license vendors - another large part of Gifford's day-to-day operation is selling hunting and fishing licenses.

"We do thousands," he said.

In addition to the licenses, he also sells camping, archery and outdoor recreation equipment and accessories.

"It all goes when we go," Gifford said.

There are added problems

with the background checks, Gifford said. It's hard for his store and others to be totally compliant. The new law requires retailers that sell ammunition to keep all video footage from their store and sales, for two years.

"There is not a system large enough to store it," he said.

Gifford, like other business owners, have no ill-will toward the New York State Police who are tasked with ensuring compliance of the regulations, he said. "We understand they are just doing their jobs. The problem is with the higher-ups," he said, referring to state legislators, including the governor.

He has lost and continues to lose customers to the state of Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Vermont that don't have the strict gun and ammunition laws

that New York does. The competitive disadvantage has further squeezed Gifford's profit margin. It's a problem that imperils a decades-old business.

The long-term impact of the Ammunition Registration Act has left many gun and ammunition dealers like Gifford with an uncertain future. The law, enacted to enhance public safety and accountability in ammunition sales, fails to strike a balance between these goals and the livelihoods of rural sporting stores and gun retailers. Gifford is calling on state law makers to find ways to streamline the process for responsible buyers while maintaining effective oversight, and rural businesses to thrive without compromising safety.

Gifford's Sport Store is located at 133 Stockton Avenue, Walton.



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

.22 caliber shot shell is a big seller, Gifford said, and not once has it been reported that it was used in a mass shooting.



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

Background checks for ammunition sales account for a lot of Dick Gifford's time.



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Education and Advocacy: DelCo's sportsman senator aims to educate Albany

By Lillian Browne

DELHI - On the heels of a father-son hunting excursion, New York State Senator Peter Oberacker, representing the state's 51st Senate District which includes Delaware County, talked about legislation he has authored with an eye toward protecting New York's outdoor sporting traditions for generations to come.

The bills include:
S.870 - which would add a new article to the state constitution to ensure that the time-honored and respected pastimes of hunting, fishing, and trapping are recognized as rights of the people.

Oberacker is a longtime hunter and considers himself both an outdoorsman and sportsman. He started hunting with his grandfather when he was eight years old and began taking his own son hunting when he was eight, continuing the tradition. He now has a grandson, who is two years old. "A sportsman in training!" he laughed.

He loves the challenge of bow hunting for big game, like deer, he said.

"You have to get them (animal) within 30 yards. It's a whole new ball of wax," he said of bow hunting.

Oberacker also hunts rabbit and turkey. He gets out on the river for angling any time he can, he said.

"It's therapy."
He continues a hunting tradition he has participated in since his youth, which includes a potluck dinner at a hunting camp he belongs to in Schenevus. The night before big game opening season he and fellow hunting club members bring a dish to pass - his is white chili; and during dinner, they sit and talk about previous hunts and experiences

and what they are looking forward to on opening day.

There are also rites-of-passage among club members that Oberacker himself participated in.

"When you miss a shot you cut a piece of your shirt tail and tack it to the wall," he said good-naturedly.

Generally speaking, he believes people have a negative impression of hunting and outdoorsmanship. It's something he personally endeavors to rectify by educating people about the whole experience, not just the five-second harvest. It's an exploration and understanding of nature, different species of trees and underbrush; identification of buck-rubs or scrapes and deer-runs (paths deer frequently travel).

"It's a whole process," Oberacker said, "and there is respect for the animal. You don't haphazardly take a shot."

A proficient shot with a gun or a bow gives respect to the animal that just gave up its life for sustenance, he said.

S.7674 - which would exempt individuals with a pistol permit from the new ammunition background check and the fees involved.

"The intent was good, the result was negative."
NYS SENATOR PETER OBERACKER SAID OF THE STATE'S AMMUNITION BACKGROUND CHECKS

"These individuals have already undergone a significant background check and should not be required to endure this duplicative process," Oberacker said.

"When my colleagues across the aisle started to debate the new gun laws coming out, this was one of these pieces I was ex-



contributed photo

New York Senator Peter Oberacker is an avid outdoorsman and sportsman.

tremely concerned about," Oberacker said. He doesn't believe the new law accomplishes what fellow legislators hoped it would, he said.

"They don't understand our way of life up here in the rural area I represent." He does not

and in order to keep the license there are training and recertification requirements.

"Why do we have to go through other steps?" he asked. "I would like us (state legislature) to go back and address this," Oberacker said.

He doesn't know why state lawmakers continue to make the same mistakes, he said.

Much like the SAFE (Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement) Act of 2013 which banned magazines (clips) with capacities of more than 10 rounds (making state police officers criminals) before an amendment to the law was introduced, the Ammunition Registration Act was not well thought out and didn't include input from industry stakeholders - sportsmen and sporting good stores and police who are tasked with enforcing provisions of the law without infrastructure or personnel in place.

"It's created havoc," Oberacker said.

He knows of many hunters and shooting sport participants who have been delayed in the purchase of ammunition.

"It's totally unacceptable. The end does not justify the means," he said.

His legislation, S.7674, would exempt those who have a concealed carry pistol permit from

a background check to purchase ammunition. Oberacker has been a licensed pistol owner since 1986.

S.73 - which would allow for the use of a crossbow during seasons when conventional bows are used. That legislation, Oberacker said, is supported by many older hunters who still want to enjoy bow hunting but struggle with a classic bow due to physical limitations.

He is also concerned about the viability of local businesses.

"I've had local sports shops reach out to me and express their extreme frustration," he said.

Business owners, especially those like Marino's Outdoor World in Hancock which borders Pennsylvania - a state which does not have stringent gun or ammunition laws - are losing customers to New York border states. The intent, Oberacker said, was if ammunition was controlled, gun violence would be controlled.

"It doesn't work that way," he said. "People will go where they can to get what they want and the only ones who are getting hurt are local businesses."

His goal is to educate his colleagues in Albany. His draft bills are his priority for the new legislative session that begins in January 2024, he said. The bills must first make it through committee.

"This is where the real work begins," he said. "Sportsmen and sportswomen contribute in significant ways to our communities and our economy, as well as to the health of our fish and game populations. I will continue to advocate for policies that help grow hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities," Oberacker said.



contributed photo

New York Senator Peter Oberacker on a recent hunt.

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Leftover deer permits available

Leftover Deer Management Permits (DMPs), or antlerless deer tags, become available for certain Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) beginning Nov. 1. This year, leftover DMPs are available for the following WMUs:

1C, 3M, 3R, 3S, 4J, 4T, 6G, 6P, 7F, 7H, 7J, 7R, 8A, 8C, 8E, 8G, 8H, 8J, 8M, 8N, 8R, 8S, 9A, 9E, & 9G

You can apply for and receive up to two additional leftover DMPs through your local hunting license issuing outlet. DEC will not accept applications over the phone, by mail, or online. Leftover DMPs are issued on

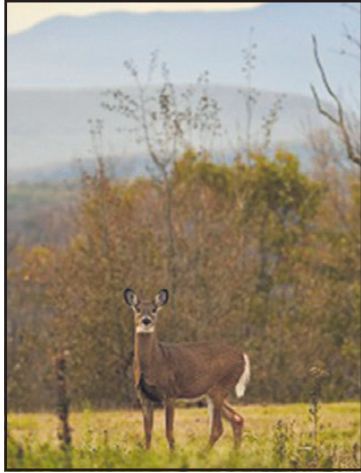


photo courtesy of John Lehmann

a first-come / first-serve basis. If you apply for leftover DMPs it will not affect your preference points.

DEC adjusts the number of DMPs available to hunters in each wildlife management unit to ensure deer populations remain in balance with available habitat and do not exceed levels of public acceptance that can lead to increased crop damage, deer-vehicle collisions, and other deer-related impacts. Do your part to steward New York's deer herd by filling at least one DMP this season.

Pan-Seared Venison Steak with Red Wine Sauce

Ingredients

For the Venison Steak:

- 2 venison steaks (loin or backstrap)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

For the Red Wine Sauce:

- ½ cup red wine (such as Merlot or Cabernet Sauvignon)
- ½ cup beef broth
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves (or 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Instructions:

Prep the Venison Steak: Take the venison steaks out of the refrigerator and let them come to room temperature for about 30 minutes. This helps ensure even cooking.

Season the steaks generously with salt and freshly ground black pepper on both sides.

Make the Red Wine Sauce: In a saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the minced garlic and chopped shallot and sauté for a few minutes until they are soft and fragrant.

Pour in the red wine and beef broth, and bring the mixture to a simmer. Let it simmer for about 10-15 minutes, or un-

til it reduces and thickens. Stir occasionally.

Add the fresh thyme leaves (or dried thyme) and season the sauce with salt and pepper to taste. Keep it warm on low heat while you cook the venison steaks.

Pan-Sear the Venison Steaks: Heat the olive oil in a skillet or frying pan over medium-high heat until it's hot but not smoking.

Place the venison steaks in the hot skillet and sear for 2-3 minutes on each side for me-

dium-rare, or adjust the time to your desired level of doneness. Keep in mind that venison cooks quickly and is best when not overcooked.

Rest the Steaks: Remove the venison steaks from the pan and let them rest for a few minutes on a cutting board. This allows the juices to redistribute and keeps the meat tender.

Serve: Slice the venison steaks against the grain and arrange them on plates. Drizzle the red wine sauce over the top.

This recipe showcases the rich, earthy flavors of venison and pairs them beautifully with a red wine sauce. You can serve the venison steaks with your choice of side dishes, such as roasted vegetables, mashed potatoes, or a green salad. Enjoy your venison prepared with this classic and delicious method!



Heavy-horned buck



contributed photo

Zachary McNeilly shot this 9-point, heavy-horned buck in Franklin, with a crossbow Sept. 22. He grunted it in to 20 yards after he saw him chasing a doe.

How old is that deer?

Antlered bucks – yearling or older

By passing up shots on yearling bucks, hunters improve their odds of seeing older-age, larger bucks in the years to come. Though antlers can be helpful to distinguish young bucks, sometimes antlers can be misleading. Body characteristics are also important. Here are some ways to distinguish between yearling bucks and adult bucks:

	Yearling Buck	Older Buck
Body Size	similar to adult doe	larger than adult doe
Legs	appear long and skinny	appear stockier due to deeper chest
Muscles	often not clearly defined	well defined in shoulders and thighs
Body Shape	slender, belly tucks up	belly flat or even sagging
Antlers	thin, spread narrower than ear tips	spread almost as wide as ear tips on 2.5-year-olds, wider if older

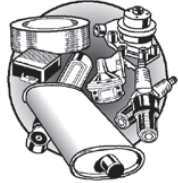
Antlerless deer – doe or fawn

It can be difficult to distinguish adult does from fawn deer, particularly late in the season or anytime if the deer are alone. Though fawns provide excellent table fare, some hunters prefer to target adult deer. Taking adult female deer contributes to management objectives, and passing buck fawns may allow some of them to be available later as antlered bucks. By learning the differences between does and fawns, hunters can make more informed harvest choices.

	Adult Doe	Fawn
Body	longer than tall (rectangle)	body about as long as tall (square)
Long neck and elongated nose		short neck and compact nose/head
Hunting Tips		eyes look large for head
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wait until several antlerless deer are present before making a harvest decision. Harvest antlerless deer early in the season when differences are most noticeable. 	Doe fawns have a more rounded head shape between their ears Buck fawns' heads appear flattened and may have visible antler nubs or "buttons"



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Venison Kabobs

Venison kabobs are a delicious and savory way to enjoy lean and tender venison meat. Here's a recipe to make venison kabobs with a flavorful marinade:

Ingredients:

For the Marinade:

- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary (or 1 tablespoon fresh, chopped)
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme (or 1 tablespoon fresh, chopped)
- ½ teaspoon black pepper

For the Kabobs:

- 1.5 pounds of venison, cut into 1-inch cubes
- Bell peppers, onions, and other vegetables of your choice, cut into 1-inch pieces

Wooden or metal skewers (if using wooden skewers, soak them in water for about 30 minutes before using to prevent burning)

Instructions:

Marinate the Venison: In a bowl, whisk together the olive oil, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, red wine vinegar, minced garlic, rosemary, thyme, and black pepper. This will be your marinade.

Prepare the Venison: Place the cubed venison in a resealable plastic bag or a shallow dish. Pour the marinade over the venison, ensuring it's well-coated. Seal the bag or cover the dish and refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or ideally overnight for the best flavor.

Prepare the Vegetables: While the venison is marinating, cut the bell peppers, onions, and any other vegetables you prefer into 1-inch pieces. You can use a variety of colorful vegetables to add flavor and vibrancy to your kabobs.

Assemble the Kabobs: Pre-heat your grill to medium-high heat. If you're using wooden skewers, make sure to soak them in water for about 30 minutes before assembling your kabobs to prevent them from burning on the grill.

Thread the marinated venison cubes and the prepared vegetables alternately onto the skewers, leaving a little space between each piece to ensure even cooking.

Grill the Kabobs: Place the



kabobs on the preheated grill and cook for about 8-10 minutes, turning occasionally to ensure all sides are cooked evenly. The exact cooking time may vary depending on the thickness of the venison and your preferred level of doneness. Venison is best when cooked to medium-rare or medium to maintain its tenderness.

Serve and Enjoy: Once the venison is cooked to your liking and the vegetables are tender with a slight char, remove the kabobs from the grill. Serve them hot with your choice of side dishes, such as rice, a fresh salad, or a dipping sauce.

These venison kabobs are not only delicious but also a healthy and protein-rich option. The marinade adds a flavorful touch to the lean venison meat, making it a delightful dish for any outdoor gathering or family meal.

Where to purchase a hunting license

The following is a listing of local license issuing agents and their locations as provided by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation website.

Town of Andes

115 Delaware Ave., Andes
845-676-4791

Town of Davenport

11790 St. Hwy 23, Davenport Center
607-278-5600

Town of Delhi

5 Elm Street, Delhi
607-746-3737

Town of Franklin

554 Main Street, Franklin
607-829-3440

Town of Hamden

20 Covert Hollow Road, Hamden
607-746-6660

Town of Harpersfield

25399 State Highway 23, Harpersfield
607-652-5060

Town of Kortright

State Route 10 Box D-6, Bloomville
607-538-9313

Town of Masonville

1890 St Hwy 206, Masonville
607-265-3537

Town of Otego

3526 State Highway 7, Otego
607-988-2698

Town of Roxbury

56 Hillcrest Drive, Roxbury
607-326-7641

Town of Sidney

44 Grand Street, Suite 1, Sidney
607-561-2334

Town of Stamford

101 Maple Avenue, Hobart
607-538-9421

Town of Walton

129 North Street, Walton
607-865-5766

Laurel Bank Motel

1 Oak Street, Deposit
607-467-2427

Town of Sanford

91 Second Street, Deposit
607-467-3214

Al's Sport Shop

6964 River Road, Downsville
607-363-7740

Ray's Sport Shop

46046 State Highway 28, Fleischmanns
845-706-3804

George's Gun Shop

1368 Jump Brook Road, Grand Gorge
607-588-7653

Joe's Sports Center Inc.

34603 State Hwy 23, Grand Gorge
607-652-3459

Marino Firearms Inc.

95 East Front Street, Hancock
607-637-3573

Nu-Way Concrete Equipment Sales Inc.

150 Faulkner Road, Hancock
607-467-5525

Northhill Outdoors

916 Main St, Margaretville
845-586-3006

Dick's Sporting Goods #1085

5006 State Highway 23 Suite 1c, Oneonta
607-432-0203

Sportsman Adventures

114 Southside Drive, Oneonta
607-432-0678

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. 002157

5054 State Highway 23, Oneonta
607-431-9557

Brothers In Arms - GIV

48 Stewart Avenue, Roscoe
607-290-4227

Gifford's Sports Supply, Inc.

133 Stockton Avenue, Walton
607-865-4427

Environmentally friendly hunting

Fall is here and that means hunting and trapping seasons are open for deer, turkey and other game. Whether you are in the field or your kitchen, here are some tips to hunt, cook and eat sustainably from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Seasons

Hunters help to reduce the number of over-abundant deer in New York state. Make sure you know the hunting and trapping seasons and regulations in your area. This will promote an eco-system balance and safety in your game food acquisition. Remember, seasons and regulations are set for a reason - keeping our environment in mind. Find information on hunting seasons and regulations at dec.ny.gov/outdoor/65231.html or dec.ny.gov/outdoor/28182.html and trapping by visiting dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45551.html

Cooking

By choosing to eat wild game meat, you make the healthy

choice to eat meat from an animal that was free range, consumed a natural diet, and was never treated with hormones or antibiotics. You are also taking an active role in acknowledging where your food comes from.

To make the most of your game harvests, learn a variety of recipes from jerky to meatballs to crock pot stews. Check for fall hunting sustainable recipes at dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/1glfallgamerecipes.pdf

Consider marinating your game meat to further promote tenderness and reduce "gamey" flavor. Properly prepared deer, turkey, and other game are both good to eat and good for you. These protein sources are low in fat and can be an integral part of a healthy diet.

Compost

Make compostable items part of your menu, including vegetables like carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, and more. Composting organic materials such as yard trimmings and food scraps

reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfills or combustion facilities. Preventing organics from landfills reduces the production of methane, a power greenhouse gas. For good composting, the bacteria and fungi that do most of the work must have four things to thrive, which are captured in this simple rhyme: "making compost takes some care; add greens, browns, water and air." Learn more about home composting in your yard or an indoor environment at dec.ny.gov/chemical/8799.html


Fill your freezer

Hunt to fill your freezer to save money on meat and reduce worry about supply chain shortages at the grocery store. This will also result in little or no packaging waste.


Donate

If you have too much meat, there are ways to share with those in need. DEC partners with the Venison Donation Coalition and Feeding New York State (feeding-nys.org) to help provide food for those in need. Through a cooperative relationship involving the New York State Department of Health, non-profit organizations like Feeding New York State's regional food banks and deer processors, hunters contribute nearly 40 tons of venison each year to needy families across the state. Learn about venison donation programs in your area at dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8351.html

For extra tips on how to be a friend of the environment visit dec.ny.gov/public/337.html



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Bacon-wrapped venison tenderloin with garlic cream sauce

Ingredients

- 6 thick slices bacon
- 2 (¾ pound) venison tenderloin roasts
- 2 teaspoons olive oil, divided
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder, divided
- kosher salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 (8 ounce) package sliced cremini mushrooms
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tablespoon chopped green onion, or more to taste
- ½ cup heavy whipping cream, or more to taste

Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Arrange bacon slices on a slotted baking pan. Bake bacon in the preheated oven until partially cooked but still flexible, 6 to 8 minutes. Brush venison tenderloins with olive oil and season with onion powder, salt, and black pepper. Place tenderloin roasts side by side and

wrap them together in strips of partially cooked bacon. Place into a roasting pan.

Roast in the preheated oven until bacon is browned and an instant-read meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of a tenderloin reads at least 145 degrees, about one hour.

Heat butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add mushrooms and garlic; cook and stir until mushrooms are soft, 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in green onion. Stir in cream and cook, stirring often, until heated through. Serve sauce with tenderloins.

Treestand Tale of Two Hunters

Two deer hunters climbed into their tree stands this fall.

One of the hunters was wearing a full-body harness and had a tether strap that attached their harness to the tree. While adjusting their position, this hunter slipped and fell out of the stand. The harness and strap held, and this hunter suffered only minor injuries. The proper use of a full-body harness and staying connected to the tree at all times likely prevented major injuries or death.

The second hunter was also wearing a full-body harness but was not attached to a lifeline while climbing into their stand. This hunter slipped on metal steps while ascending and fell 15 feet to the ground. This hunter is lucky to be alive but suffered major injuries including broken and fractured bones.

Moral of the story:

Wear and properly use a fall-arrest system (FAS). A FAS will keep you attached to the tree from the time you leave the ground until you get back down. A harness alone does not protect you if it isn't attached to the tree the entire time you are off the ground.

Let someone know where your



contributed
Hunter in tree stand with fall-arrest system and all other safety tools equipped

stand is located and when you plan to be home.

Use a haul line to raise your unloaded gun, cocked crossbow, or bow with quiver up to the stand. Never tie the haul line to the trigger guard.

Carry emergency equipment, such as a knife, cell phone, flashlight, and whistle in your pockets at all times - not in your pack hanging in the tree.

Share the woods safely this season

Be seen, stay safe, and show respect during fall and winter hunting seasons

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) encourages outdoor enthusiasts to respectfully share the woods and follow safety precautions this fall and winter. Hikers, nature photographers, leaf peepers, and mountain bikers are encouraged to follow safety measures while hunters and trappers are afield. Regular big game hunting season in the Northern Zone began Oct. 21 and closes Dec. 3. Bowhunting season for deer and bear is ongoing in the Southern Zone and ends at the beginning of the regular firearms season - Nov. 18.

Tips for hikers and hunters venturing afield this fall include:

- Tell someone intended destinations and return times. If plans change, notify them;
- Dress for the weather; account for both location and elevation changes;
- Become familiar with planned hiking trails or hunting areas;
- Wear bright clothing; blaze orange or blaze pink. Bright colors allow hikers and hunters to be seen more easily and from farther away; and,
- Pack the 10 Essentials, especially a light source, map, and first aid kit.

For more tips on sharing the woods this fall, check out this DEC video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEndeX0p1KU

While hunting-related shooting incidents involving non-hunters are extremely rare, DEC encourages all outdoor adventurers to be aware of the presence of others enjoying New York's natural resources. Hikers should be aware they may meet hunters bearing firearms or archery equipment while hiking on trails. Hunters are follow outdoor recreationists and hunting is permitted on Forest Preserve and Conservation Easement



lands. Hunters should likewise recognize they may encounter hikers and others enjoying the outdoors.

Hunting is among the most popular forms of wildlife recreation in the state, drawing an estimated 600,000 New Yorkers. Hunting is safe and economically important, helping to manage wildlife populations and promote family traditions while fostering an understanding and respect for the environment.

Hunters looking for solitude can minimize the disturbance associated with other forms of recreation by following a few tips. Before a season opens, when hunters are scouting for the perfect spot or stand location, take the time to check if the planned location is a popular one. Avoid crowding other hunters and recognize that if a hunting location is near a popular hiking spot, noise can be a factor. If a preferred hunting spot is too crowded, identify an alternative location ahead of time.

When adventuring with a pet, make sure to keep them on

a leash. Loose pets can cause problems with other recreators and can get into trouble with wild animals. Also, to make pets more identifiable in the woods, give them a brightly colored collar, leash or other covering.

DEC maintains hiking trails and permits hunting in many areas of forest preserve lands in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, as well as in state forests, wildlife management areas, and unique areas. Find a place by visiting www.dec.ny.gov, checking out DECinfo Locator, or downloading the HuntFishNY Wildlife App. Many trails are also accessible to people with disabilities.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Hunters are critical to protecting New York deer and moose from Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD is an untreatable, fatal disease of the brain and nervous system disease caused by a misfolded protein called a prion that is spread in deer tissues, saliva, urine, and feces. Hunters can bring CWD prions into to New York without realizing it. To protect deer, do not bring hunter-killed deer, elk, moose, or caribou carcasses into New York from other states and do not use deer urine-based lures.

DEC reminds hunters of the importance of reporting their harvest. Harvest reporting is critical to wildlife management, and hunters are required to report their harvest of deer, bear, and turkey within seven days of taking the animal. Hunters may still use the phone report system, but the online and mobile systems are fast, convenient, and easy for hunters to accurately enter information.

For more information on harvest reporting: www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html

For more information on CWD: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7191.html

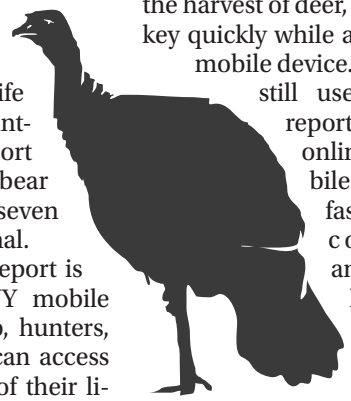
Take it, tag it, report it!

DEC reminds New York hunters of the importance of reporting their harvest. Harvest reporting is critical to wildlife management, and hunters are required to report their harvest of deer, bear and turkey within seven days of taking the animal.

The easiest way to report is via DEC's HuntFishNY mobile app. Through this app, hunters, anglers and trappers can access an electronic version of their li-

censes and privileges, and report the harvest of deer, bear, and turkey quickly while afield on their mobile device. Hunters may still use the phone

report system, but online and mobile systems are faster, more convenient, and easier for hunters to accurately enter information.



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Elevated view: deer stands as art

By Lillian Browne

SIDNEY CENTER - In her thought-provoking, meditative art, Jody Isaacson of Sidney Center exhibits her artist vision through a deep connection with nature. As part of a recent solo show, "Shhh," at KIPNZ Art Gallery in Walton, Isaacson showcased deer stands, something near and dear to her - and big game, deer and bear, hunters, too.

Tree stands - commonly referred to as "deer stands," are open or closed platforms, se-



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

Her son put a tree/deer stand up for her, Jody Isaacson said, which she uses meditatively, and for inspiration.

cured to trees to elevate the hunter and give them a better vantage point. Isaacson is on a continual hunt for a better vantage point, too; and uses the stand her son Turner put up for her in a similar, yet different, way than big game hunters use them.

Like hunters, she seeks clarity and a different perspective. She gets those things from atop her platform in an aged Douglas fir which stands sentinel, devoid of its greenery, an outlier in a mature grove on her forested property.



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

Deer stands are a focal point of Jody Isaacson's art.



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

She is inspired to create ceramics, sculpture and other expressions of art by the nature around her, Jody Isaacson said.

"When I climb up here, I think 'seek beauty, be still,'" Isaacson said.

Something hunters also strive for.

Quietness and stillness are required while hunting. The same applies to Isaacson's deer stand meditations, which in turn fuel her art.

She spends a lot of time in the woods and has been photographing deer stands as part of a series of 15 she is working on. Though there are new high-tech models available, many of the stands she sees are unused with frayed and ragged tarps. She loves the spooky views.

"They're creepy and gothic," she said.

In addition to ceramics, photographs, wood sculpture and wax work - Isaacson is a printmaker, and works with long scrolls. It was from that skill set that she prints the images of the deer stands and reassembles them into true-to-size one dimensional art pieces.

She had never seen a deer stand before moving to Delaware County from Seattle, she said.

Her work is infused with the materials and textures of nature and quietly insists on the hand of humans. Through her work, she continually poses the question, "How does a human - with all of their suffering, humor, weakness - integrate with the natural world without overcoming it, or being overcome?"

Through patterning and repetition, she seeks to "trace the marks of the lives among us - ones who have come before and the energies we inherit in the trails they've left."

While sitting in her deer stand, she contemplates what she might be resisting and getting a different perspective. It's an invitation to open herself up to whatever happens next, without resistance. Her deer stand has helped her cope with a huge loss - that of her son and other losses.

"My work has been about loss for many, many years," she said.

Hunting is about life and

continued on page 35



Lillian Browne/The Reporter

Nature informs her art, Jody Isaacson said, at her home in Sidney Center.

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continued from page 34

death, she said. "The death, life, death cycle - however you want to view it," Isaacson said. Her art, she said, is honest and the art project has reminded her that there is joy in death because there is something that comes

after. Isaacson encourages viewers to perceive the stands as more than hunting equipment; she invites them to explore the dual nature of our relationship with the wilderness. For more about Isaacson and her art visit jodyisaacson.com



Lillian Brown/The Reporter
Jody Isaacson next to 'Deer Stand 1' exhibited as part of her solo show at KIPNZ Art Gallery in Walton, earlier this month.

Stats: 2022 deer harvest

New York hunters harvested more than 231,000 deer



Hunters in New York harvested an estimated 231,961 deer during the 2022 hunting seasons, a 10% increase from 2021, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced. The 2022-23 estimated deer take included 116,425 antlered bucks and 115,536 antlerless deer. Statewide, this represents a 5% increase in antlered buck harvest and a 15% increase in antlerless deer harvest from last season. Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) affected areas of the Hudson Valley and eastern shores of Lake Ontario in 2020 and 2021, resulting in reduced deer hunting success in these areas. Increases in buck harvest, which DEC tracks as an index of deer population abundance during the 2022-23 seasons indicate that deer populations in affected areas are recovering. Hunters also took greater advantage of several new deer hunting opportunities established in 2021. More than 2,000 antlerless deer were taken during the mid-September antlerless-only season. This is a 9% increase from 2021. This season was established to increase harvest of antlerless deer in wildlife manage-

ment units (WMUs) where deer populations need to be reduced based on DEC's deer population objectives. Nearly 2,300 deer, a 38% increase from 2021, were harvested by youth hunters during the Youth Hunt Weekend. The increase was due in part to increased success of 12- and 13-year old hunters participating in the second year of a pilot program established by the state legislature that allows hunters aged 12 to 13 to hunt deer with a firearm. Lastly, Southern Zone hunters expanded their participation in the Holiday Deer Hunt, a second portion of the late bow and muzzleloader season that spans from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, designed to provide additional hunting opportunity when students are on school break and families are gathered for the holidays. Nearly 4,000 deer, representing an 11% increase from 2021, were harvested during the 2021-22 Holiday Hunt. Young hunters also reported taking more deer during the traditional portion of the late bow and muzzleloader season. Across the state, hunters continued to voluntarily pass up young bucks, and about 64%

of the antlered bucks harvested were 2.5 years old or older. DEC's Let Young Bucks Go and Watch Them Grow educational campaign promotes individual choice and voluntary restraint to shift the age composition of bucks harvested in New York state towards older age classes, while still providing hunters the freedom to harvest any buck they desire. Since the campaign's implementation, DEC has documented a steady increase in the proportion of bucks harvested by hunters that are 2.5 years old or older.

Notable Numbers

- 16.6 and 0.6 - number of deer taken per square mile in the units with the highest (WMU 8R) and lowest (WMU 5F) harvest density.
- 64% - portion of the adult buck harvest that was 2.5 years or older statewide, up from 45% a decade ago, and 30% in the 1990s.
- 46.4% - portion of successful deer hunters that reported harvest as required by law. This is below the five-year average of 49.3%.
- 13,568 - number of hunter-harvested deer checked by DEC staff in 2022 to determine hunter reporting rate and collect biological data (e.g., age, sex, antler characteristics).
- 2,727 - deer tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in 2022-23; none tested positive. DEC has tested 63,012 deer for CWD since 2002.

Deer harvest data are gathered from two main sources - harvest reports required of all successful hunters, and DEC's examination of harvested deer at meat processors and check stations across the state. Harvest estimates are made by cross-referencing these two data sources and calculating the total harvest from the reporting rate for each zone and tag type.

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Winter is coming - what are bears up to?

Late in the fall months, bears are in the final stretch of hyperphagia or excessive eating, to ensure they have enough fat stored for the fast-approaching winter months. Some bears will search

for food up to 20 hours a day. In years where food sources are less abundant bears have been known to den-up as early as late October. During especially mild winters, bears may not for-

mally den and will remain active throughout the winter if food sources like acorns or beechnuts are available. Typically bears will begin denning starting in November and through December.

Bear dens can be as simple as a depression on the forest floor, but typically are small cavities in trees or under brush piles. In New York, bears have been known to den under residential porches or

other outbuildings. Den sites are typically dry and afford protection from the elements during the long winter season.

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<p>2023 HYUNDAI SONATA N-LINE White, 11,400 miles, 4 cyl., auto., loaded, AW, back-up cam., PS, HS, NAV, rem. start, sat. radio, snrf., 1 owner! WAS \$32,975 NOW \$31,975 \$535 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2023 SUBARU IMPREZA Blue, 4,000 miles, 4 cyl., auto., loaded, AWD, back-up cam., HS, sat. radio, 1 owner! WAS \$27,975 NOW \$27,975 \$468 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2022 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE Red, 12,400 miles, 4 cyl., auto., AWD, loaded, AW, back-up cam., PS, HS, HM, back-up cam., sat. radio, 1 owner! WAS \$34,975 NOW \$32,975 \$551 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 SUBARU LEGACY LTD White, 49,500 miles, 4 cyl., auto., loaded, AWD, AW, back-up cam., lthr., HM, HS, HSW, NAV., sat. radio, snrf. WAS \$28,975 NOW \$27,975 \$478 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2016 DODGE CHARGER Charcoal, 24,200 miles, 6 cyl., auto., loaded, AWD, HS, rem. start, NAV., 1 owner! WAS \$25,975 NOW \$25,975 \$497 /60 mos.</p>	<p>2021 CHEVY EXPRESS 2500 CARGO VAN White, 48,700 miles, 6 cyl., auto., loaded, Extended Length. WAS \$39,975 NOW \$39,975 \$683 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2023 SUBARU CROSSTREK LTD Blue, 10,700 miles, 4 cyl., auto., AWD, loaded, AW, back-up cam., PS, lthr., HS, HM, sat. radio, snrf., 1 owner! WAS \$37,975 NOW \$33,975 \$568 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2022 RAM 2500 BIG HORN 4X4 White, 46,700 miles, 8 cyl., auto., loaded, back-up cam., tow pkg., 1 owner! Rental. *Recall WAS \$49,975 NOW \$48,975 \$819 /72 mos.</p>
<p>2022 RAM 1500 4X4 White, 13,000 miles, 6 cyl., auto., loaded, Reg. Cab, 8ft. Box, Tommy Gate lift gate. WAS \$34,975 NOW \$34,975 \$585 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2022 HYUNDAI SANTA CRUZ Tan, 27,500 miles, 4 cyl., auto., AWD, loaded, back-up cam., lthr., HS, HSW, HM, NAV., rem. start, snrf., 1 owner! *Recall WAS \$37,975 NOW \$34,975 \$585 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2022 RAM 1500 BIG HORN 4X4 White, 15,100 miles, 8 cyl., auto., loaded, back-up cam., HM, HS, rem. start, 1 owner! *Recall WAS \$45,975 NOW \$43,475 \$744 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2022 RAM 3500 4X4 White, 21,600 miles, 8 cyl., auto., Reg. Cab, back-up cam., HM, sat. radio, tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$46,975 NOW \$46,975 \$786 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2022 GMC SIERRA AT4 4X4 Black, 11,300 miles, 8 (6.2L), auto., Full Crew, lthr., PS, HS, HM, HSW, NAV., rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$63,975 NOW \$63,975 \$1,071 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2022 CHEVROLET SILVERADO Z71 Gray, 10,900 miles, 8 (6.2L), 4x4, auto., loaded, back-up cam., PS, HS, HSW, HM, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$54,975 NOW \$54,975 \$919 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2022 NISSAN MURANO Black, 27,300 miles, 6 cyl., auto., AWD, loaded, back-up cam., PS, HS, HM, lthr., rem. start, sat. radio. WAS \$31,975 NOW \$31,975 \$535 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2021 SUBARU CROSSTREK Red, 29,100 miles, 4 cyl., auto., loaded, AWD, back-up cam., 1 owner! WAS \$25,975 NOW \$23,975 \$409 /72 mos.</p>
<p>2021 RAM 1500 4X4 Blue, 12,900 miles, 8 cyl., auto., loaded, HS, HSW, back-up cam., tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$49,975 NOW \$49,975 \$854 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2021 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT Blue, 25,300 miles, 4 cyl., auto., 4x4, loaded, back-up cam., PS, HS, sat. radio, 1 owner! WAS \$38,975 NOW \$37,975 \$649 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2021 CHEVROLET BLAZER AWD Red, 48,200 miles, 4 cyl., auto., loaded, AW, back-up cam., PS, rem. start, sat. radio, 1 owner! WAS \$28,975 NOW \$27,975 \$478 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2021 ACURA RDX AWD Gray, 12,800 miles, 4 cyl., auto., loaded, AW, back-up cam., lthr., HS, PS, HM, HSW, NAV., sat. radio, snrf., 1 owner! WAS \$42,975 NOW \$41,975 \$717 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2021 RAM 1500 REBEL 4X4 Black, 48,100 miles, 8 cyl., auto., loaded, back-up cam., PS, HM, lthr., sat. radio, tow pkg., 1 owner! *Recall WAS \$49,975 NOW \$48,975 \$837 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2021 CHEVROLET SILVERADO Z71 White, 31,200 miles, 8 cyl., auto., 4x4, loaded, AW, back-up cam., PS, HS, HSW, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg., plow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$48,975 NOW \$47,975 \$820 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2021 CHEVROLET RST 4X4 Blue, 19,700 miles, 3.0 Diesel, auto., loaded, back-up cam., PS, HS, HSW, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$47,975 NOW \$47,975 \$820 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 FORD F-150 XLT SPORT 4X4 White, 26,700 miles, 6 cyl., auto., loaded, back-up cam., HS, HM, NAV., sat. radio, snrf., tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$46,975 NOW \$42,975 \$734 /72 mos.</p>
<p>2020 GMC SIERRA 4X4 White, 38,500 miles, 4 cyl., auto., Elevation, loaded, back-up cam., PS, HS, HSW, rem. start, tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$42,975 NOW \$39,975 \$683 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 GMC TERRAIN Blue, 19,500 miles, 4 cyl., auto., loaded, AWD, back-up cam., HS, rem. start WAS \$26,975 NOW \$26,975 \$461 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 SUBARU OUTBACK Green, 19,800 miles, 4 cyl., auto., loaded, AWD, HS, HSW, RS, back-up cam., sunroof WAS \$35,975 NOW \$35,975 \$614 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 RAM 1500 BIG HORN 4X4 Red, 29,800 miles, 8 cyl., auto., loaded, AW, back-up cam., PS, HS, HSW, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$44,975 NOW \$43,975 \$752 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 GMC SIERRA 1500 4X4 Red, 62,400 miles, 8 cyl., auto., Elevation, loaded, back-up cam., PS, lthr., HS, HSW, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$41,975 NOW \$40,975 \$699 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT Silver, 60,500 miles, 4 cyl., auto., 4x4, loaded, AW, back-up cam., PS, lthr., HS, HSW, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$34,975 NOW \$33,975 \$581 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT Red, 34,900 miles, 4 cyl., auto., AWD, loaded, AW, back-up cam., PS, HS, rem. start, sat. radio, 1 owner! WAS \$25,975 NOW \$24,975 \$427 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 JEEP COMPASS 4X4 Black, 57,600 miles, 4 cyl., auto., Trailhawk, loaded, back-up cam., HM, sat. radio, 1 owner! Rental. WAS \$25,975 NOW \$22,975 \$393 /72 mos.</p>
<p>2020 CHEVROLET SILVERADO RST White, 73,100 miles, 8 cyl., auto., 4x4, loaded, AW, back-up cam., PS, HS, HM, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$38,975 NOW \$37,975 \$649 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 FORD ECOSPORT SE Silver, 7,500 miles, 4 cyl., auto., loaded, back-up cam., HS, sat. radio WAS \$24,975 NOW \$24,975 \$427 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 CHEVROLET SILVERADO Blue, 45,700 miles, 8 cyl., Diesel, 4x4, auto., loaded, HS, HSW, back-up cam., rem. start, sat. radio WAS \$43,975 NOW \$43,975 \$752 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 CHEVROLET SILVERADO Red, 38,500 miles, 4 cyl., auto., 4x4, Trailboss, loaded, AW, back-up cam., PS, HS, HSW, HM, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$48,975 NOW \$47,975 \$820 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 RAM 1500 BIG HORN 4X4 Gray, 39,900 miles, 8 cyl., auto., back-up cam., PS, HS, HSW, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$39,975 NOW \$39,975 \$683 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 RAM 1500 BIG HORN 4X4 Black, 86,100 miles, 8 cyl., auto., 4x4, loaded, AW, back-up cam., lthr., PS, HS, HSW, NAV., rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$39,975 NOW \$39,975 \$683 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 FORD RANGER STX Silver, 76,200 miles, 4 cyl., auto., 4x4, Extra Cab, loaded, back-up cam., tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$28,975 NOW \$28,975 \$495 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 CADILLAC XT4 AWD Black, 37,500 miles, 4 cyl., auto., loaded, AW, back-up cam., lthr., PS, HS, HSW, HM, rem. start, sat. radio, snrf. WAS \$33,975 NOW \$33,975 \$581 /72 mos.</p>
<p>2020 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 Red, 37,700 miles, 4 cyl., auto., 4x4, loaded, AW, back-up cam., tow pkg. WAS \$37,975 NOW \$37,975 \$649 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 RAM 1500 WARLOCK 4X4 Gray, 44,500 miles, 8 cyl., auto., loaded, AW, sat. radio, tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$35,975 NOW \$35,975 \$614 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2020 RAM 1500 CLASSIC 4X4 Red, 43,400 miles, 6 cyl., auto., loaded, back-up cam., HM, sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$35,975 NOW \$32,975 \$563 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2019 TOYOTA TACOMA SPORT Gray, 90,400 miles, 6 cyl., auto., 4x4, Trailboss, loaded, back-up cam., sat. radio, tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$29,975 NOW \$28,975 \$495 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2019 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 4X4 Blue, 75,800 miles, 8 cyl., auto., Trailboss, loaded, back-up cam., rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg., 1 owner! WAS \$36,975 NOW \$35,975 \$615 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2018 GMC CANYON DENALI Black, 86,100 miles, 6 cyl., auto., 4x4, loaded, AW, back-up cam., lthr., PS, HS, HSW, NAV., rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$34,975 NOW \$33,975 \$590 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2018 NISSAN FRONTIER Black, 77,200 miles, 6 cyl., auto., 4x4, loaded, back-up cam., HS, tow pkg. WAS \$24,975 NOW \$24,975 \$434 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO Blue, 60,800 miles, 8 cyl., auto., loaded, 4x4, back-up cam., HS, rem. start, sat. radio WAS \$35,975 NOW \$35,975 \$625 /72 mos.</p>
<p>2018 RAM 1500 4X4 Black, 55,700 miles, 8 cyl., auto., loaded, back-up cam., sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$29,975 NOW \$29,975 \$521 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT Gray, 69,900 miles, 4 cyl., auto., AWD, loaded, back-up cam., AW, PS, rem. start, sat. radio WAS \$20,975 NOW \$20,975 \$365 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2018 SUBARU FORESTER BASE Charcoal, 61,500 miles, 4 cyl., auto., AWD, back-up cam., RS, 1 owner! WAS \$21,975 NOW \$21,975 \$381 /72 mos.</p>	<p>2017 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT Red, 32,700 miles, 8 cyl., auto., 4x4, loaded, back-up cam., HS, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$34,975 NOW \$33,975 \$650 /66 mos.</p>	<p>2016 FORD F-150 4X4 Blue, 88,000 miles, 6 cyl., auto., loaded, back-up cam., PS, HS, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$26,975 NOW \$26,975 \$516 /66 mos.</p>	<p>2016 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500 Gray, 41,200 miles, 8 cyl., auto., loaded, 4x4, Fib. Cap, tow pkg. WAS \$43,975 NOW \$42,975 \$823 /66 mos.</p>	<p>2016 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT Blue, 92,400 miles, 8 cyl., auto., loaded, 4x4, back-up cam., PS, HS, rem. start, sat. radio, tow pkg. WAS \$29,475 NOW \$29,475 \$564 /66 mos.</p>	<p>2016 FORD F-150 XLT Silver, 122,100 miles, 6 cyl., auto., loaded, 4x4, back-up cam., PS, HS, lthr., rem. start, tow pkg. WAS \$25,975 NOW \$25,975 \$497 /66 mos.</p>

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