



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

As with the first few days of the season, the final firearm deer season numbers in the area stayed ahead of last year's total.

Early in the season, deer kill success was running ahead of 2008. When the season closed Sunday, the increase over last year held strong.

Ron Schoenberger, who owns Laker's at Enders, also operates a deer check-in station there.

He reported a total of 403 deer were checked in during the nine-day season, Nov. 14-22.

Hunters had until 1 p.m. MT Monday to check in their deer.

The 403 total compares to 374 deer taken in the 2008 firearm season, or a 7.7 percent increase.

Schoenberger said, of the total, 229 were mule deer and 174 were whitetail. Fifty-five checked in were does, while the vast majority, 348, were bucks, he noted.

While the firearm season is now over for another year, deer hunters still have several options.

Those with an archery permit have until Dec. 31 to bag their prey, while the season's choice license allows hunting until Jan. 15, 2010.

The statewide muzzleloader deer season runs Dec. 1 to 31.