

Deer hunting down in Bureau, La Salle, Putnam counties on first weekend

Hunting up in Marshall County from previous year

By **DEREK BARICHELLO**
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Hunters in Illinois garnered 54,661 deer during the first weekend of the Illinois firearm deer season between Nov. 22-24.

Comparatively, hunters took 53,348 and 52,354 deer during the first firearm weekends in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

While hunting numbers were up across the state, deer taken in La Salle, Bureau and Putnam counties was lower than the previous year. There were 628 deer hunted in Bureau County, 392 in La Salle County, 229 in Putnam County and 462 in Marshall

County. Those totals are 107 less in La Salle County than the previous year, 67 less in Bureau County and 15 less in Putnam County. There were 33 more deer taken in Marshall County than the previous year.

Illinois' seven-day firearm deer season will conclude Dec. 5-8.

Remaining 2024-25 deer hunting opportunities in Illinois include: muzzleloader-only deer season Dec. 13-15; late-winter antlerless-only and chronic wasting disease deer seasons in select counties only, Dec. 26-29 and Jan. 17-19; archery deer season continues through Jan. 19. Archery deer hunting is closed Dec. 5-8 in counties open for firearm deer season.

For information, visit dnr.illinois.gov/hunting.



Mark Busch

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Putnam County libraries to host holiday programs, from baking tips to the life of Charles Dickens

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The Putnam County Library District will host a pair of special programs the week of Dec. 9.

Bake Your Way through the Holidays is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10. The Rev. Father Dominic Garramone, will present "Bake Your Way Through the Holidays." In this program, Dominic will present recipes for three holidays, including Hanukkah jelly doughnuts, fruited sweet potato bread for Kwanzaa, and a variety of show-stopping breads for the Christmas buffet. Register at <https://2ly.link/20lap>.

A Novelist's Christmas Carol: The Life of Charles Dickens will be presented 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Standard branch, 128 First St. Bring the magic of "A Christmas Carol" alive. During the holiday season, one can make the choice to either embrace the holiday spirit of kindness and giving or to say "bah humbug" and be what others call, "a Scrooge." The greedy Ebenezer Scrooge and the kind-hearted Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim, all provide life lessons during the holiday season. These lessons originated in the novella, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, has been passed down from generation to generation. Dickens has been said by many to be one of the greatest writers of the Victorian Era. In addition to



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"A Christmas Carol," Dickens is most well-known for his fiction novels, "Oliver Twist," "A Tale of Two Cities," "Great Expectations" and more.

Travel through time on a theatrical journey with the Ghost of Christmas Past, portrayed by historical presenter, Michelle Gibbons.