

West Monroe girls' soccer Amy Avant fundraiser



Photos by Toni Bacon

PHOTOS FROM the West Monroe girls' varsity soccer match against Airline on Saturday. This match was part of a double header fundraiser by the West Monroe Soccer Boosters for Amy Avant who is battling breast cancer. West Monroe Lady Rebels wore pink shirts in honor of Amy Avant.

If you can't shoot deer, pepper squirrels

While rifle season is over for deer hunting this year, you can still hunt the mammal members of the family Cervidae with a muzzleloader or a bow. If you've already hung up your deer gear this season, don't forget you can still squirrel hunt from your deer stand.

Squirrel hunting is a great opportunity to introduce youth to hunting, reinforcing their discipline by requiring them to sit still and stay undetected by squirrels. Give a child a chance to watch and listen for a squirrel's activities. Maybe they will see a squirrel, too.

As I deer hunted this year, there were at least six or seven squirrels visiting the feeders

at every stand. We have fed them all since well before season started so why not go harvest those bushy-tailed critters that fattened up on our dime.

Acorns are not there anymore so they are still going to eat our corn. If they were cattle, we would be heading to the packinghouse, as much as these heifers have eaten.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has our squirrel season running

from October 5- February 28.

You can still hunt with dogs but hey, you know these squirrels are on your feeders because you have watched them all this time. You have a bag limit of eight per day and a possession limit of six-teen.

They are needed for the best dumplings. In May, squirrel season opens again on May 3 through the May 25 with a daily bag limit of three.

Most of our squirrels are the eastern gray squirrel. Hunters know them as the "cat squirrel" because of the cat-like call they make. The fox squirrel is rust colored, particularly on the under parts.

If you spend much time in the woods, you will see both. In addition, melanistic

(black) color phases can occur in each species but it is rare.

The harvest survey estimated for 2012-2013 of the 50,700 hunters there were 872,100 squirrels harvested. This is good because squirrels have two litters (of 2-7) per year both spring and summer. Their numbers are not in any danger because squirrel hunting has gone down in popularity in the fall and is almost no hunting is done in May.

Over the years as many people have grown fast food savvy and refer to them a tree rats and no one seem to be eager to bring into their kitchens to prepare a meal that they have no idea how to start.

There are still a few of us who know how to cook them, so for us this is a real treat.

I would like to encourage you to give a second thought about going squirrel hunting here at the season end and challenge you to enjoy the meals they can supply. You only need three for dumplings.



RENE HATTEN
STORIES FROM
THE OUTDOORS



Photos by Rene Hatten

OUTDOORS COLUMNIST Rene Hatten takes photos of squirrels near her deer stand from where she continues to hunt, setting her sights on the bushy-tailed rodents after the conclusion of rifle-deer season.



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THEME: SUPER BOWL

ACROSS

- What John Wilkes Booth did
- *Montana used it to throw 11 Super Bowl TDs
- Manufactured
- With ample space
- Waikiki garland
- Policeman's shocker
- Spritelike
- Egg cells
- Shamu and such
- *The coldest Super Bowl venue to-date
- *2014 Super Bowl stadium name holder
- Australian runner
- Fries, e.g.
- Actor's domain
- Trans-Siberian Railroad city
- *Last year's power _____
- Younger sister to Katniss
- Larger-than-life
- Tolerate
- Milano moolah
- India bigwig
- Network of nerves
- Like a lemon
- Cough syrup balsam
- Inevitable occurrence
- Tip of lion's tail
- Shipping hazard
- Bell and Barker
- Swerves
- Orinoco or Grande
- *Type of Super Bowl venue
- Kool & the Gang's 1983 hit
- Boston hockey player
- 34th pres.
- Haley to Manny on "Modern Family"
- Moved like Argo
- *It's raised for field goals
- Mauritanian village, Boeir
- The Benevolent and Protective Order of _____
- Fossil fuel
- Sound like Wilbur

DOWN

- "_____ we there yet?"
- *Manning in 2006
- Soybean curd
- Novelist _____ Zola
- Go-getter
- Medicinal succulent
- R in rpm
- *Frequent Super Bowl host, but not this year
- Lime-rich soil
- American Society for Clinical Investigation
- Like Beethoven
- Gaelic
- Come up with a sum
- Divine presence
- Tokyo, once
- Bicycles on skis
- Water balloon sound
- *All My Children's vixen
- Firestone ware, pl.
- Quarrel
- *It's artificial at this year's Super Bowl
- Elite military unit
- _____percha tree
- The Three Musketeers' swords
- *Halftime entertainer
- His was a merry old soul
- Donkey in Latin America
- *Above and _____
- ____ Tzu of "Tao Te Ching" fame
- *They play at host venue
- Between wash and dry
- Tear jerker
- Double reed woodwind
- Europe/Asia mountain divide
- Ottoman man
- *Tomorrow Never _____
- *They also play at host venue
- Infamous Roman
- Maple, to a botanist
- New Zealander parrot
- *Super Bowl begins at 6:25 pm in this zone

See Answers on Page 2A

Advance Tickets \$5 available through 1/16 at Louisiana Land Bank in Monroe

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