



PHOTO BY SAMUEL SCHMITT

Ammunition prices and permit requests remain high.

CONTINUED DEMAND

Requests for gun permits stay high into 2021 as students at shooting ranges diversify

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A surge in demand for new firearm permits-to-carry that began in 2020 continued through the first half of 2021 in Scott County, according to law enforcement officials.

The highest permit-to-carry requests were in the first three months of the year, with 807 new requests for permits and 507

renewals, according to Sheryl Schmitt, administrative services supervisor with the Scott County Sheriff's Office. For comparison, there were 360 new permit requests and 146 renewals in the first quarter of 2017, the year after the previous presidential election. (Data does not include permit-to-purchase requests, some of which are handled separately by local police departments.)

There were 1,844 new permit-to-carry requests in Scott County in the second

half of 2020, compared to 598 the first half of the year. Demand always rises in election years, and civil unrest in Minnesota – including protests around police brutality in Minneapolis – may have contributed to the long-lived surge, said Scott County Sheriff Luke Hennen. The high permit numbers in the first three months of 2021 is likely an “extension” of the election-year surge, he added.

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