



Janet Vaughn is shown above reading a Christmas story to the children taking part in the Community Mission Team's Love In A Box last Saturday in Livingston. The Mission Team will be at the Mt. Vernon Elementary this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are invited.

Kentucky Afield Outdoors

Wet spring means productive fall waterfowl hunting season

The wet spring earlier this year left abundant food for waterfowl to eat this fall. This should make for productive hunting for both duck and goose hunting seasons which opened Thanksgiving Day.

"The waterfowl foods that grow in moist soils did excellent in late summer and came on strong," said Rocky Pritchert, migratory bird coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "We have really lush growth. It looks like it is going to be a productive waterfowl season across the state."

Pritchert said waterfowl habitat conditions are good overall across Kentucky, but some areas are better than others. "Because of the wet spring, we were not able to get some of our food crops sown on some of the wildlife management areas (WMAs) until late this year," he explained.

Waterfowl hunters need to remember that Cedar Creek Lake and Dix River WMAs in Lincoln County along with J.C. Williams WMA in Nelson County now have earlier closures for the upcoming waterfowl seasons. Hunters must cease hunting and be off these areas by 2 p.m. and may not enter them until 4 a.m.

Current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service population studies show about 45.6 million ducks in their annual survey area. Mallards are the most numerous ducks at 10.3 million birds.

Migration reports show many mallard ducks just to the north of Kentucky. "We had a good hatch this year and anticipation is high," he said. "The northern breeding duck numbers look really good, a big improvement over last year when drought limited duck reproduction somewhat."

Kentucky deer hunters, including Pritchert, report seeing many wood ducks this year while hunting. "Their plumage is looking good this year," Pritchert said. "The wood ducks are really colorful. They are common in central and west Kentucky."

Eastern Kentucky is home to many black ducks which find Kentucky's habitat and climate hospitable. "We are the second largest harvest state in the Mississippi Flyway for black ducks," Pritchert said. "They are more common in eastern Kentucky than other parts of the state."

Resident Canada goose numbers in Kentucky remain stable after good reproduction this

past spring. Hunters can find them from the Mississippi River in the west to Pike County's Breaks Canyon in the east.

Smaller waters such as farm ponds, rivers and large creeks offer excellent Canada goose hunting opportunities.

"You've got to go and hunt," Pritchert said. "You can't hunt waterfowl from behind a desk."

Duck season closes Jan. 26 while goose seasons including Canada goose, white-fronted goose, brant and snow goose close Jan. 31. Hunters must have a valid Kentucky hunting license, Kentucky waterfowl permit and Federal waterfowl permit, commonly called a duck stamp, to hunt waterfowl.

For more information on waterfowl hunting, pick up a copy of the 2013-2014 Kentucky Hunting Guide for Waterfowl available wherever hunting licenses are sold. You may also download a printable version from the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov.

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"Christmas"
(Cont. from front)

ementary School. First, second and third place awards will be presented to the best floats.

At Quail: Western Rockcastle Fire Department will be holding their annual Christmas Tree Lighting and community potluck this Saturday at the WRFD firehouse at 6 p.m.

"Love"
(Cont. from front)

The RAKB Community Mission team will also read the Christmas Story and give out shoebox gifts at Mt. Vernon Elementary School this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. However, Pope said any child in the county can come to the event as it is not designed specifically for Mt. Vernon children only.

Pope went on to say that she is glad to serve with the Community Mission Team as they are a group of loving and compassionate individuals who want to minister to people outside the walls of churches.

"We want to show the unconditional love of Jesus by meeting the physical and spiritual needs of folks in need," Pope said. "We are thankful and privileged to be able to make a small difference in a child's life or their family member's life during Christmas. That is what it's all about for us."

For those interested in sending a monetary donation or packing your own shoebox gift, con-

tact Pope at 606-308-3099. For more information about Samaritan's Purse or Operation Christmas Child, visit their website at <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

"Woman"
(Cont. from front)

noticed that Prater had slurred speech and constricted pupils. He also noticed that Prater appeared to be intoxicated while performing field sobriety tests.

After searching Prater's vehicle, Moore found an unlabeled pill bottle inside her purse that contained 20 Alprazolam (Xanax) pills.

Prater was charged with possession of a controlled substance, careless driving and DUI. She was lodged in the Rockcastle County Detention Center and later released on a \$2,000 unsecured bond.

"Meth"
(Cont. from front)

the watch that contained an unknown white substance, which was believed by officers to be methamphetamine.

After removing the small bag of suspected meth from the pocket watch, Jones tried to put the bag inside his dog's mouth. Officers then attempted to apprehend Jones and while resisting arrest, he dropped the bag of suspected meth on the ground and tried to crush it with his foot. Once Jones was placed under arrest, officers were able to retrieve the bag of suspected meth for evidence.

Jones was charged with first degree possession of a controlled substance, tampering with physical evidence and resisting arrest. He was lodged at the Rockcastle County Detention Center and later released on a \$7,500 unsecured bond.

COME TO OUR

BOOK FAIR!

Dates/Times/Place

MVES Library Media Center

December 2 - 6

7:30 - 3:00 p.m.

All Purchases Benefit Our School!

SCHOLASTIC
Read Every Day. Lead a Better Life.

"Winter Wonderland"

Mt. Vernon's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

December 6th

Tree Lighting 6:00 pm

Triangle Park

Free Coffee & Hot Chocolate

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club

PARADE

December 7th

2:00 PM

Bittersweet Cloggers

Line-Up at 1:00 pm at Elementary School

Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place best entries

Trolley Cafe will be open 12:00 Noon -2:30 pm

Special

Chili or Chicken Noodle Soup, Cookie & choice of small drink

\$4.00

Kids visit SANTA in town following the Parade on the porch of the Old Tea Cup Cafe.

Santa will be in town on Saturday December 14th and 21st from 9-12

For more information call

606-256-3437