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Precautions could save homes from fire

People who build permanent or seasonal homes in or near Kentucky's 40,4 square miles of forestland are putting their property at risk. The mix of wildlands and homes creates a potential fire disaster. But precautions can minimize the effects of a wildland fire, said Carroll Fackler, UK forester.

Fackler said three major factors affect fire danger: fuels, topography and weather. Fuels include grasses, heavy brush and trees. The danger that these fuels present is directly proportionate to the moisture level in the fuels. Even with a recent rainfall, the moisture content in fuels is extremely low. The topography factor dictates the steeper the grade, the greater the danger. Fire will move quickly uphill and may ignite houses on ridges and hills. Weather is the factor over which there is no control. Droughts will dry out and preheat fuel. High winds will increase the speed at which fire moves and the intensity with which it burns. Under these conditions, a small fire can become a disaster in a matter of minutes.

To reduce the possibility of fire damage, Fackler suggests attention to the following before the arrival of fall, historically one of the two foremost wildfire seasons:

Create a defensible space, an area around a structure where material capable of causing fire has been cleared, reduced or changed, to act as a barrier between an advancing fire and the structure. This procedure involves the clearing of flammable vegetation to a minimum of 30 feet around the structure and additional clearing to include at least 100 feet from the structure. This clearing severely limits the amount of fuel that a fire needs to sustain itself.

Favor plants that grow close to the ground, have a low sap or resin content, grow without accumulating dead branches, needles or leaves, are easily maintained and pruned and are drought-tolerant. Vary the height of plants and provide adequate spacing. The taller the plant, the wider apart they need to be spaced. For trees over 18 feet tall, prune limbs within six feet of the ground to prevent ground fires from spreading upward into trees. Remove dead limbs overhanging your roof including any limb within 10 feet of your chimney. Work with neighbors to clear common areas between houses, and prune areas of heavy vegetation that are a fire threat to both properties. Avoid planting trees under or near electrical lines. They may grow into, or make contact with overhead lines under windy conditions, causing a fire.

Remove some of the trees to decrease tree density, which will also decrease the fire hazard. Improve growing conditions by removing dead, weak, diseased trees and those with an obvious lean, leaving a healthy mixture of older and younger trees. Properly dispose of all cut vegetation by an approved method. Open burning may require a burning permit. Contact your fire department for local requirements. Stack firewood and scrap wood piles at least 30 feet from any structure. Clear away any flammable vegetation within 10 feet of these woodpiles. Many homes have "survived" as a fire moved past it, only to burn later from a woodpile that ignited after the firefighters had moved on to protect other homes. Clear pine needles, leaves or other debris from the roof of your house and any other buildings on your property. Check and clean your roof gutters several times during the spring, summer and fall to remove debris that can easily ignite from a spark.

Another important factor, Fackler said, is the identification of a nearby water source that can be used by firefighters. "Often, firefighters find themselves at risk trying to tank water to the site. Many of these homes and cabins are on narrow roads and are poorly accessible." If no natural water source is available, he said, the homeowner might consider constructing a pond near their structure. This would enable the use of a so-called dry hydrant, which is made from PVC pipe placed in the pond, enabling firefighters to draft water from the pond into their trucks.

Fackler added one more word of advice: "Make friends of your neighbors."

USDA modifies program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that it has modified the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for the 2001 crop year.

Due to statutory changes for the 2001 and subsequent crop years, NAP assistance will be based only on individual producer crop losses, rather than on geographic area crop losses for multiple producers.

This will speed up program delivery and give producers a better chance of obtaining NAP coverage, thereby making the program more accessible.

Producers must apply for coverage of eligible crops by the application closing date established by Farm Service Agency State Committees.

At the time of the application, producers must pay a service fee of $100 per crop, not to exceed $300 per county. Three-hundred dollars per county would cover all crops eligible under the NAP program.

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Booklet to help obtain gov money available

The Free Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC has just published a new booklet, "The 100 Most Popular Government Giveaway Programs". The booklet includes information on how and where to take advantage of the most popular government giveaway programs.

There is a catch for consumers to get these government giveaways. They have to know where to go and they have to ask for it. That is what this new booklet is all about. There are listings of names, addresses and phone numbers of where can take advantage of the top 100 government giveaway programs.

"Politicians have always known that the best way to get Americans to vote is to promise to cut taxes. That's why they always talk about the government wasting your money. What they never talk about is the things that the government stands ready to give you, or to help you buy at bargain basement prices," said Gary Gibbons, a researcher at the institute.

The most popular listings in the booklet are:

- Loans for entrepreneurs with no money.
- Money for college students ($2,500) for summer travel.
- Free help getting the best deal on a new car.
- Find a federal job with a phone call.
- Receive $20,000 to write a novel.
- Get paid to travel and talk.
- Free medications direct from drug companies.
- Money for seniors to fix up their homes.
- Seniors turn homes into cash machines.
- Students— let your congressman show you millions.

Consumers can receive a copy of the booklet by sending $5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Free Enterprise Institute - 100 Government Giveaways - Dept. 100GG-0620 - P.O. Box 96071, Washington, DC 20090-6071. Consumers can also get more information about the booklet by calling (202) 747-7401, or visit the organization's web site www.FreeEnterpriseInstitute.org.

Classrooms adapt for visually impaired students

Some adaptations that may benefit a student with vision impairments include changing the lighting in the room or placing the student with his back to the window to avoid glare;

background color for these materials; using enlarged or bold print on written materials, to name a few.

Other solutions for students with vision impairments include various types of Assistive Technology. Assistive Technology may be something as simple as a handheld magnifier that a student uses to read printed material at his desk; or something more sophisticated such as a computer program that provides speech reading of information on the computer screen, or software that enlarges the print on the screen and also has the capability to change the contrast and background color of printed material.

If a student could benefit from some of the adaptations discussed above, or from some type of Assistive Technology, contact the local Director of Special Education or call toll-free 1-888-499-9398.

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Kentucky Afield: Caring for the wildlife around us

Staff report

Virtually every Kentuckian enjoys watching wildlife on the water, in the fields, and around the woodlands of the state.

Some Kentuckians have the opportunity to see wildlife in their backyards. While having wild animals close to home is often desirable, putting out food for animals other than songbirds is not a good idea.

It causes problems for the animals and people alike.

Ducks and geese, white-tailed deer, racoons, foxes, opossums, skunks and squirrels are popular critters, and are often the targets of direct feeding to lure them within close viewing range.

Common food items people set out in feeders or on the ground include corn or other grains, pet food or table scraps.

Wildlife that find such handouts near homes quickly learn to associate people or human dwellings with easily obtained food.

"People who feed wildlife are usually well-meaning animal lovers," said Brian Clark, a wildlife biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). "What they may not realize however, is that direct feeding creates a number of problems.

"For example," he continued, "many people feed bread crumbs to geese in city parks. The geese concentrate in access areas, creating a mess with their defecation and an ideal opportunity for the spread of diseases between the animals.

"The bread they are fed may transmit a fungal disease to them. Geese can also become aggressive. None of us want a child to be intimidated or harmed by a wild animal, but this can happen when wildlife are fed directly," he said.

Experience and research have shown that songbirds, such as northern cardinals and American goldfinches, are the only kind of wildlife that can be directly fed the appropriate seeds with little risk of negative repercussions.

But even birdfeeders can be sources of disease, and should be periodically scrubbed clean with a brush and mild soapy water and disinfected with bleach water.

Feeders can also be moved every few months so that a buildup of feces does not present a problem.

Those who wish to help wildlife should focus their efforts on habitat conservation and improvement, rather than feeding.

"In reality, food is rarely a limiting factor for the most commonly fed wild animals," Clark explained. "Suitable cover to accommodate these animals' travel, escape, resting and nesting productive needs is far more in demand than food".

Kentuckians can be good neighbors to wildlife not only by providing the right habitat, but in other ways too.

One is by exercising care when disposing of trash. Trash should be secured in containers that keep wildlife out.

This may simply mean placing a bungee cord across a trash can lid and fastening it to the container's handles.

Another neighborly practice is being a responsible pet owner. Pets should be fed at regular times and inside a home or garage so that food is not left outside for wildlife to exploit.

In addition, pets should not be allowed to roam freely in urban areas. Pets such as cats, small breed dogs and their young may be easy prey to predators such as coyotes, and may encourage the predators to frequent residential areas.

Domestic house cats and stray cats also kill millions of songbirds, amphibians and other animals each year.

A final step people can take to help wildlife is not attempting to rescue young or injured animals.

"Usually, young birds or mammals that people see alone are still being cared for by their parents," Clark explained, "even if they are not in sight; only in rare instances where parent animal(s) are known to be dead, such as from vehicles striking them, should people intervene.

"People concerned about orphaned or injured animals should first contact their local Animal Control office to determine if there is a wildlife rehabilitator in their area who is permitted and capable of caring for the animal(s).

"Untrained people often put themselves and the animals they want to help at risk by trying to approach them," Clark said.

The best way to help wildlife is habitat improvement. For more information, call 1-800-858-1549, or visit the KDFWR web site at www.kdfwr.state.ky.us.

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Local Car Dealer Stuns Community And blows away the competition "WE'RE SELLING CARS FOR $99.00"

Area Shoppers Express Disbelief but Local Dealer Remains Optimistic as Saturday, September 22nd Sale Date Approaches

Flemingsburg, Ky., Fleming County Chrysler announced plans today for a one-day sales event that will feature over 150 cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles - some for as low as $99.00. The event, named the super ***Slasher Sale***™ will literally be slashing prices on used cars right before buyers' eyes this Saturday, September 22nd, 2001, Rain or Shine.

Fleming County Chrysler offers a simple explanation for this unprecedented sale: "We are overstocked with trade-ins, off-lease and programmed vehicles so we are making available our entire inventory of over 150 cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles. It's that simple." Shane Stanley adds: "During the sales event, we will offer unbelievable values on our used inventory and some vehicles will sell for as low as $99.00! Expect retail prices to be slashed by $3,500 to $8,000 if not more."

Shane Stanley also points out that these prices will be "As low or lower than vehicles sold at wholesale auctions in many cases. The problem with auctions is that the bidding often leads to inflated prices thereby eliminating savings." During the super ***Slasher Sale,*** every vehicle will be on sale. Sales are on a first come, first serve basis and there will be no bidding thus affording buyers the perfect opportunity to purchase a quality used car at the lowest possible price. There will be cars as low as $99.00; yes that's right, ninety-nine dollars. This is not a mistake. Some valued as high as $3,500-$5,000 for as little as $99.00. *There will be a tremendous selection of vehicles on hand.*

All vehicles will be on display at Fleming County Chrysler with pre-registration beginning today. On Saturday, September 22nd, registration begins at 9:30 A.M. By 11:30 A.M. prospective buyers will have been given a personalized pass allowing them to inspect the vehicles that interest them. At 12:30 P.M. the slashing begins. The ***Slasher*** will then begin slashing posted prices on the vehicles. Whoever is sitting behind the wheel of the vehicle when the price is slashed will be given the first opportunity to purchase the vehicle at that price. *"We believe that people will not only enjoy getting a great deal but they will also have fun doing it,"* says Shane Stanley. Local bank representatives or business managers will be on hand to arrange low cost financing on the spot.

"Most of all we've got over two million dollars worth of inventory - that's over 150 cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles to choose from. *"It couldn't get any better for the serious buyer."*

Shane Stanley reminds prospective buyers to act quickly if they want to take advantage of these incredible savings. *"I can't stress enough that this is a one-day only sales event."* Once our inventory is reduced, the slashed prices come off and it's back to business as usual. It's also first come, first serve, so it's critical to come early to have the best chance of getting the vehicle of your choice.

> "Today's automotive consumer wants more than a good deal — they want a great deal!! With cars as low as $99.00 it doesn't get any better for the serious car buyer."

Of course, there is more to this sale that just reducing inventory, Shane Stanley explains: *"We are always looking for ways to give back to the community that has given so much to us."* They felt that giving their friends and neighbors in the area a chance to save on these vehicles was far more desirable than taking them to auction and selling them to total strangers.

Those wishing to beat the rush should get pre-registered beginning today at Fleming County Chrysler, Morehead Rd., Rt. 32, Flemingsburg, KY.

For further information on this amazing sales event please call 606-845-2711 OR 800-798-6789. Bad Credit - No Problem!

Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

TEACHER I
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Qualifications: Associate of Arts degree in childhood education or childhood development or Bachelor's degree in early childhood education or child development or a related field with a minimum of six courses in early childhood development is required. (Must provide an official copy of college transcript). Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Certification. Experience in early childhood classroom management, planning daily curriculum and record keeping is preferred. Must have experience working with low-income families. Experience with special needs children highly desirable. Must have reliable transportation, a valid Kentucky driver's license and provide proof of insurability. Must agree to a child abuse criminal records check as required by state law. Must obtain a TB skin test and a food handlers permit as well as any other screening, physicals and testing required by the funding source, licensing, and/or regulations.
Salary:
• Associate's degree: $10.56 per hour (Plus excellent benefits)
• Bachelor's degree: $12.67 per hour (Plus excellent benefits)
Closing Date: Open Until Filled

HOME VISITOR
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The Home Visitor is responsible for the overall development and implementation of the program for the children assigned to the Home Visitor. The Home Visitor is responsible for assisting, encouraging, and supporting parents as they carry out their parenting and family responsibilities. The Home Visitor will visit assigned families for at least 90 minutes per week per assigned child, and will conduct home socialization activities per month. The Home Visitor is responsible for ensuring that all records are maintained in an accurate and up-to-date manner.
Qualifications: Associate of Arts degree in childhood education or childhood development or Bachelor's degree in early childhood education or child development or a related field with a minimum of six courses in early childhood development is required (Must provide an official copy of college transcript.) Experience in early childhood classroom management, planning daily curriculum and record keeping is preferred. Must have experience working with low-income families, and experience in working with children with special needs is highly desired. Must have reliable transportation, a valid Kentucky driver's license and proof of insurability. Must agree to a child abuse criminal records check as required by state law. Must obtain a food handler's permit and a T.B. Skin test, as well as any other screening, physicals and testing required by the funding source, licensing, and/or regulations. Ability to lift a child weighing 40 pounds.
Salary:
• Associate's degree: $10.56 per hour (Plus excellent benefits)
• Bachelor's degree: $12.67 per hour (Plus excellent benefits)
Closing Date: Open Until Filled
In order to improve the Council's capacity to provide services to Spanish-speaking persons and the hearing impaired, a hiring preference will be granted to persons who are bilingual in English and Spanish or who can sign.
Applications: May be obtained at any agency office or by writing or calling: Community Action Council, P.O. Box 11610, Lexington, Kentucky 40578; (859) 233-4600 or 1-800-244-2275.
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