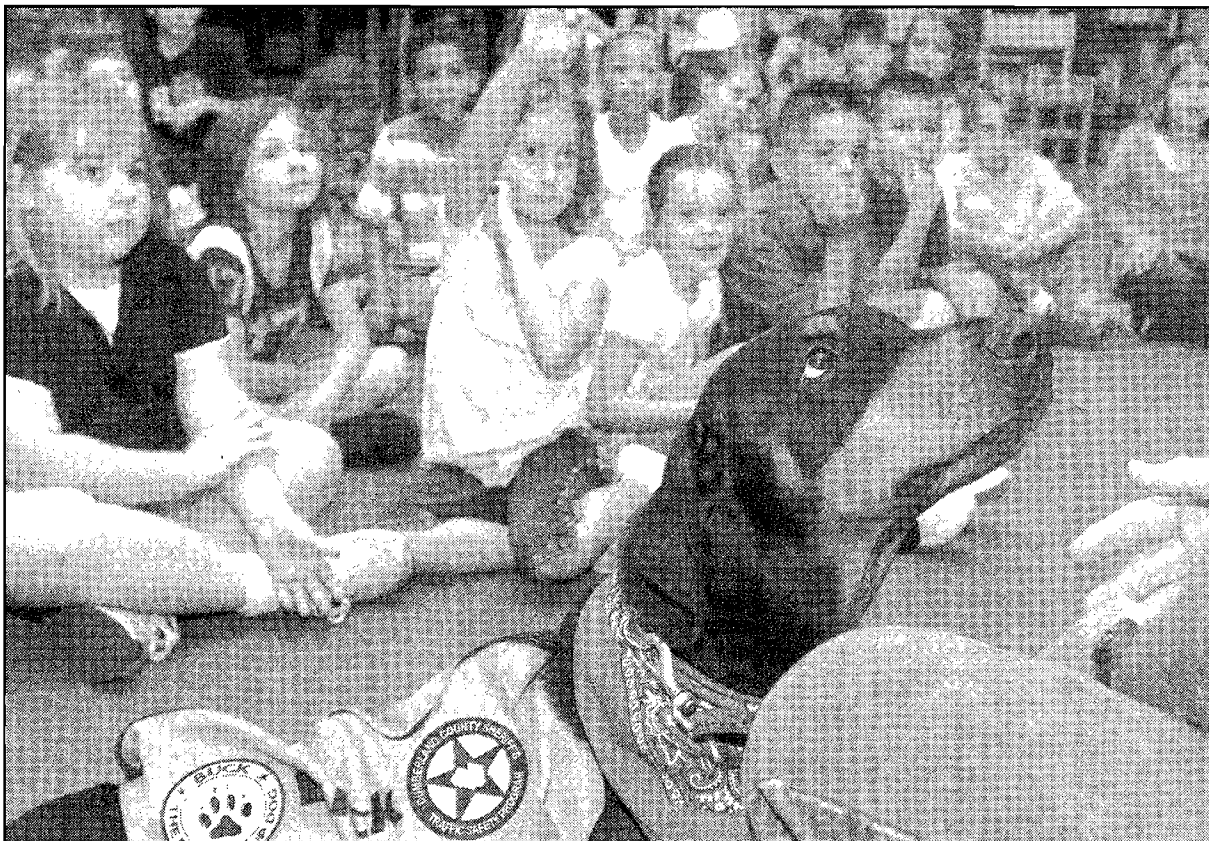


HOUNDING KIDS TO BE SAFE

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Staff photos/Charles J. Olson

Brooke Shaw, 7, a second-grader at Rieck Avenue Elementary School in Millville (background, center), raises her hand to ask a question about Buck the Buckle-Up Dog during his visit to the school Wednesday.

Lifesaving lesson arrives on 4 paws

By **DEBORAH M. MARKO**
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MILLVILLE — Buck, the Cumberland County canine hero, remains doggedly determined in his mission to keep area youngsters safe on the road.

The coloring book star is now taking his message to an older audience.

Buck and his crew visited Rieck Avenue Elementary School on Wednesday to unveil his new book, "Ethan Conquers His Fear," to second-graders.

County Traffic Safety Coordinator Bill Garrison commissioned the safety tale. He's learned it's easier to teach youngsters when the lesson is disguised as fun.



Dominick Wolf, 7, a student at the school, greets Buck.

And most youngsters learned their basic safety tips while in school, he said.

Retired Millville Senior High School teacher Judi Brett wrote the story about friends named Logan and Ethan. The safety message

was woven throughout the text.

Graphic artist Diane Roberts developed the 28 drawings to illustrate the story.

About 1,000 editions of the 24-page book were printed, Garrison said.

SAFETY TIPS

Buck says ...

- Buckle your seat belt.
- Wear your bike helmet.
- Walk facing traffic. Ride your bike with traffic.
- Cross at intersections.
- Be safe, be seen.

They will be available at all elementary school libraries throughout the county.

The project was funded through an \$8,000 grant from the Cumberland County Sheriff's Traffic Safety Program.

After the book reading, Buck met with his adoring fans.

Like most celebrities, he seemed to enjoy basking in a semicircle of affection.