

The Center Review/Preview

... a look backward



AUGUST

PRIDE welcomes new Executive Director: The PRIDE Executive Committee named **Richard Thomas** as the organization's new Executive Director. Thomas served on PRIDE's Executive Committee in his former position as Principal Assistant to the late General James Bickford, former Secretary of the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet. Bickford co-founded PRIDE in 1997 with Congressman Hal Rogers. During his 5 ½ years at the Cabinet, Thomas' primary responsibility was the Open Dump Initiative, an ongoing effort to rid Kentucky of illegal dumps and identify those responsible for dumping. Prior to his work in state government, Thomas served 26 ½ years in the U.S. Army.

C-TRAIN grants awarded: Four businesses in four counties were awarded a total of just over \$55,000 for **technology training** during August. Fifty-three employees in Pulaski, Laurel, Jessamine and Knox Counties from diverse businesses ranging from manufacturing to distribution, will be trained. To date, over \$256,700 has been awarded in the second phase of the grant program. Receiving a **C-TRAIN** grant involves a competitive application process. Grants are awarded based on uniform criteria that support the program's primary objective of technical skills development. Grant recipients are eligible for reimbursement of up to 80% of the cost of approved courses, up to an annual maximum of \$20,000. The program is funded through a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration. For an application and complete information, contact The Center at (606) 677-6000 or online at www.centertech.com/C-TRAIN.

Community & Business Education has an impact: In the month of August alone, The Center's Community & Business Education department (formerly Training), **provided classes to more than 104 individuals**. Courses range from introductory and advanced computer application classes to full Microsoft certification programs to workshops that are approved by the Department of Local Government for continuing education credit. New classes start almost every week, so call The Center at (606) 677-600 for details and to register.

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MONTHLY MINIS

- **PRIDE** announced the recipients of 2003 **PRIDE Community Grants** on August 7. Fifty-six grants totaling over \$2 million were awarded to counties, cities and non-profits throughout the PRIDE service area. The grant funds will be used primarily for community cleanups, white goods buybacks, recycling programs and illegal dump removals. For a recipient list, visit www.kypride.org.
- **The Merle Haggard and Marty Stuart** concert was a huge success, playing to a sell-out crowd on August 24. Response was also great to our first promotion with our Gray Kentucky Television partners—350 folks registered for ticket giveaways on the first day alone on WBKO's web site and WYMT's switchboard jammed because of the call-in volume!
- **Light Office Skills**, a program geared toward dislocated workers, continued in August. Designed to prepare participants for work in an office environment, this month's classes included *Publisher*, *PowerPoint*, customer service and telephone etiquette.
- In addition to the sellout concert, **events** held at The Center included a gospel concert and a variety of business meetings, weddings, and receptions.

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SEPTEMBER

NEW Certification Classes: The Center is partnering with the Department of Community & Economic Development at Somerset Community College, and New Horizons Computer Learning Centers to offer an entire series of **MCSA (Microsoft Certified Systems Analyst) certification classes** beginning October 6. All classes will meet at SCC-South Campus. Businesses interested in this program are encouraged to apply for a C-TRAIN grant as soon as possible in order to receive approval in time. MCSA certification classes also begin September 22 at the Pikeville College Community Technology Center. For more information about these series at either location or the C-TRAIN program, call (606) 677-6000.

A Tribute to Patsy Cline: The CenterStage season opens on September 25 with a Family Series show—*A Tribute to Patsy Cline, starring Logan Wells*. Cline, one of the pioneers of the **country-pop Nashville sound**, put passion and pizzaz into the music and changed the way country music was recorded and performed. Logan Wells' voice has an uncanny resemblance to Cline's, noted for her sentimental touches to classics like "**Crazy**," "**I Fall to Pieces**" and "**Sweet Dreams (of You)**." Call The Center box office at (606) 677-6000 for Series tickets, on sale September 5, or individual show tickets, on sale September 16.

September computer classes: Advanced **Excel** will be offered on September 8 and 11, **FrontPage** on September 16 and 18, **Photoshop** on September 23 and 25 and **Internet Explorer** on September 30. For more information about these classes, or to register, call The Center at (606) 677-6000.

Watercolors and hooked rugs: A new exhibit featuring two artists' work is on display in The Center's first and second floor galleries. **Rhonda Wiford**, a self-taught artist who recently moved to Somerset, displays her **watercolors**, which demonstrate a freedom with the flow of the paint as well as the most intricate detail. Rug designer and colorist **Pat Moyer** exhibits a collection of beautifully colored, traditionally **hooked rugs**, created with wool she dyed herself. This exhibit will be up through November.

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- September 3 is the application deadline for the 2003 **PRIDE Wastewater Construction Grants**. Cities, counties and utilities are eligible for this program, which awards 100% of the cost to extend sewer lines to unserved communities.
- This year's **School Time Theater** season will open on September 11 with the nearly sold-out *Ananse*. Space is still available for *The Jungle Book* on October 23, but teachers are urged to reserve soon.
- The popular **Kenny Woods Gun Show** returns to The Center on September 6-7.
- "Southern Rock" is coming to The Center October 17 with **.38 Special** and the **Georgia Satellites** in concert. Tickets go on sale September 9.
- The National Association of Development Organizations is presenting **PRIDE** with a **NADO Innovations Award**. Executive Director Richard Thomas will accept the award at the NADO annual conference in Minneapolis on September 15-16.