

DECEMBER

Congressman Rogers launches 5-1-1 tourism call center: On Monday, December 8, Congressman Rogers made the **first 5-1-1 call** to the new Tourism Call Center. The Congressman obtained the funding for the expansion of the 5-1-1 travel information to include live operators with **abundant information** regarding the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association's (SEKTDA) 42-county service area. The goal of the effort is **to enhance tourism in the region** by making residents and visitors alike aware of the many attractions of this beautiful region and consequently **bolster the regional economy**.

The first 5-1-1 call by Congressman Rogers was part of SEKTDA's **Annual Caucus**. The event was a great success with more than **250 persons from around the service region visiting The Center** to participate in the day-long activities.

Spirit of Giving community holiday celebration fills hundreds of hearts with holiday cheer: On Saturday, December 6, The Center staff teamed up with Boy Scout Troop 79 to help Santa **provide gifts for less fortunate children** in Pulaski County. Hundreds of youngsters came to fill Santa's sleigh until it was overflowing with toys, have their photo taken with the Jolly Ol' Elf himself, see Mooseltoe before the evening's CenterStage performance, and hear **the joyful melodies** of the 75 second and third graders that comprise the Wayne County Elementary BellTones.

Those attending also had the opportunity to meet favorite local radio personality John Alexander from **ClearChannel Communications** and enjoy tasty Christmas cookies, candy, and punch. Each child in attendance received **a holiday gift** from The Center. Thank you to all that assisted in ensuring a happy holiday season for less fortunate children of Pulaski County.

Governor Ernie Fletcher is greeted by hundreds at The Center: The large exhibition hall at The Center overflowed with over 800 well-wishers on December 6 when newly elected Republican **Governor Ernie Fletcher** and Lt. Governor Steve Pence came to Somerset as a part of their three-stop official **inaugural extravaganza**. The event was set up at the request of the new Governor as a way of **thanking the people** of Southern and Eastern Kentucky. Also in attendance was Congressman Rogers who said of the 5th district's effort in electing Fletcher, "You turned out and you worked hard and you worked together, you have now got a **home in Frankfort**." Several other local and state officials attended the event, including Kentucky Senate President David Williams, Kentucky First Lady Glenna Fletcher, Ruth Ann Cox, wife of Steve Pence, and Cynthia Rogers, wife of Hal Rogers.

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MONTHLY MINI's

- **Staff development at The Center continues:** On December 11, nine employees traveled to the newly constructed **McCreary County Federal Prison** for a walking tour around the **three-mile** compound. Afterwards the group had lunch and an hour-long train ride aboard the **Scenic Railroad** in Stearns, made possible by full board member J.C. Egnew and the McCreary County Heritage Foundation.
- **"Change doesn't have to be hard" --** That was the message of the **First Time and Developing Managers program** hosted by The Center on December 11. This class, the **first program of its kind** offered at The Center, received glowing reviews!
- During the month of December, The Center awarded three regional businesses a total of **\$45,175.52 in C-TRAIN Phase II** grants to provide technology **training for 118** of their employees. Businesses receiving grants were: **Cumberland Valley National Bank and Trust** (Laurel County), **Clay County Medical Center** (Clay County), and **Citizens National Bank** (Pulaski County).

JANUARY

SEKTDA to 'sell' service area at Motorcoach Workshops: On January 7 at Jenny Wiley State Park and on January 8 at Lindsey Wilson College, SEKTDA will attempt to 'sell' the many tourist attractions in our 42-county service area to Motorcoach and other tour operators from the **American Bus Marketplace Association**. During each of the 35 seven-minute appointments, SEKTDA will strive to convince the Motorcoach representatives to **design tours not just through our service area, but to a specific tour destination** in hopes that an increase in hotel lodging and restaurant visits will improve the local economies.

Also this month, SEKTDA will be attending the American Bus Marketplace Association convention in **New York City** with 3000 others, making it a **primetime networking opportunity** that could greatly benefit our region.

Nationally known Appalachian artist Jeff Chapman-Crane showcases work at The Center: From late November through the month of February, The Center is proudly displaying the artistry of Jeff Chapman-Crane. A native of **Appalachian Tennessee** and current resident of the eastern Kentucky coalfields, Chapman-Crane works to capture **the essence of daily living** in Appalachia through his realistic landscape and figure paintings. Through his art, he strives to counteract the negative stereotypical "Ma and Pa Kettle" images of this region and replace them with depictions of **dignity and respect**. His paintings portraying life in Appalachia have been displayed in California, Washington, DC, throughout the south and east coasts, and most recently at the J.N. Bartfield Gallery in New York City.

PRIDE hits the ground running in 2004: The month of January will be a busy one for the folks at PRIDE: On January 13, PRIDE will begin reviewing applications for the **PRIDE SuperGrant program**, a grant that makes cities and counties eligible to receive up to \$1 million to clean up **massive illegal** dumps. On January 28, a review will begin of applications received for the **PRIDE-Corps of Engineers Section 531** program, designed for cities, counties and public utilities that seek funds for up to 75% of the cost of a variety of much-needed sewer projects. Lastly, they will be gearing up for their **annual Full Board meeting** to be held at The Center on January 30, at which time they will be presenting awards earned during their very successful **October Roadside PRIDE competition**.

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- Has the "**new car**" bug bitten you? If so, you're in luck! **The Lake Cumberland New Car & Truck Show** will be held the weekend of **January 9-11, 2004** at The Center. For one weekend only you don't have to walk numerous car lots in the blustery winter wind and cold- Somerset's best dealers will be displaying 2004 models all **under one roof**. Dealers will be offering special weekend show prices, making the show a car and truck shoppers' **dream location** for mega savings of both time and money. Admission is **free** so bring your whole family to pick out the new car or truck of your dreams!
- **ATTENTION:** Rogers Scholars 2004 applications are due **January 31, 2004**. If you know a current **high school sophomore** with interests in technology and entrepreneurship who would enjoy having "**the best week of their life,**" tell them to call 606-677-6000 or visit www.rogersscholars.com for more information.
- January computer classes are: **Windows XP**, January 6, **Using Word as a Tool for Letter Writing**, January 13, **Computers and Applications**, January 15 & 17, and **QuickBooks Intro**, January 22 & 24.