

## February

Larry Combs named Director of Business Services: Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center for Rural Development in Somerset, has announced that **Larry R. Combs** has been named **Director of Business Services** of the non-profit economic development organization, effective February 1.

According to Lawson, Combs will be responsible for the **development, marketing, and sales** of all **technology related business services**, including but not limited to web development, CenterNET, broadband, KEAN, Internet products, video production and technology training programs. Combs brings over **20 years of experience in technology** to The Center. As the **former business development specialist** for **Southern Kentucky Economic Development Corp. (SKED)**, an affiliate of The Center, he was charged with **providing site location information** to businesses interested in locating in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. "As a former employee of one of our affiliate organizations, it is a pleasure to welcome Larry to The Center team," said Lawson. "He already has a **strong working relationship** with many of the organizations he will be dealing with, which is a **great advantage** to us and them."

C-TRAIN grants awarded to seven regional businesses: The During the month of **February**, The Center awarded **ten regional businesses** a total of **over \$108,000** in **C-TRAIN Phase II grants** to provide **technology training** for **72 of their employees**.

The **deadline** to take advantage of the C-TRAIN grant program is rapidly approaching. Interested businesses are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. **Applications** will be accepted through **May 31, 2005**. All **training** must be **completed by July 31, 2005** and reimbursement **paper work** must be submitted by **August 31, 2005**.

To date, **over \$1.5 million** has been awarded in Phase II C-TRAIN grants, **benefiting 1,815 employees** in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. Since the program's inception in 2002, nearly **\$3 million** in grants has been awarded in the region, benefiting **over 3,000 employees** in **37 counties**.

Cub scout troop 274 took Center tour: On February 10, the Tiger Cubs of **troop 274, pack seven** took a tour of The Center to fulfill the requirement to receive a **Tiger Cub rank badge**. The **group of nine** experienced all the **excitement of live TV** and how it is produced.

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- February 25-27, **The Center** hosted **The 2005 South Kentucky Sport Boat and Fishing Show**. Along with the latest summer must-haves, the **Kachunga Alligator Show** entertained the **2,000 people** who attended throughout the weekend.
- **UNITE** utilized nine **CenterNET** sites to broadcast the first session of an **intensive training program** as a part of the **Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America**. The sites were located in **Breathitt, Pike, Hazard, Clay, Pulaski, and McCreary Counties** as well as **Paintsville** and **London**.
- The Center in partnership with **Lake Cumberland Performing Arts** presented **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** on February 24. It was a rip-roaring stage version of the **popular movie musical** that was bursting with **rambunctious energy** that **captivated the audience**.
- **Dine and Dance with Big Band Cavalcade** provided a romantic evening of entertainment for the perfect **Valentine date** on **February 11**. A delicious **dinner** was served and then the guests **danced** the night away to the **swing tunes** performed by **Big Band Cavalcade**.



*For Rural Development*

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# Review a look ahead... Preview

## March

Susan Garrett named Director of Business and Finance: On March 1, The Center welcomed **Susan Garrett** to the team as **Director of Business and Finance**.

Garrett will serve as the liaison between The Center finance staff and affiliates while overseeing budgets and grant compliance.

Before coming to The Center, Garrett worked for Lifeline for a year and a half as their Assistant Chief Financial Officer. She has a total of **over 17 years experience**.

"I'm looking forward to helping The Center enhance the lives of those in Southern and Eastern Kentucky through grant programs," commented Garrett. "The Center is an excellent resource for people living in the region."

Rogers Scholars "In the news": For one intense week during the summer before their junior year of high school, 60 students have the opportunity to experience technology, leadership, entrepreneurship, and community service from a different perspective.

It is amazing to see how that one week affects lives of each student, so The Center will be featuring Rogers Scholars through "**Rogers Scholars in the News**." So far, in March, we took a look at **2004 Scholar, Whitney Sallee**, a junior at Taylor County High School who attended the Presidential Inaugural Program in Washington, D.C.

In addition, **Michelle Combs**, also a **2004 Scholar**, put her love of reading and community service to good use by collecting more than 60 books to send to sailors serving on the USS Harry Truman.

The Spencers and Dueling Pianos come to The Center: In March, The Center, along with Lake Cumberland Performing Arts presents two CenterStage performances. On Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. The **Spencers—Theatre of Illusion** comes to The Center. It's a powerful experience combining music, lighting, special effects, audience interaction and cutting-edge illusions.

On Thursday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m., **Dueling Pianos—Owen Lovell & Immin Chung** bring their dazzling two-piano virtuosity and a variety of styles from 18<sup>th</sup> century classical music to The Center.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 677-6000 or by stopping by The Center box office.

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- Children's Prime Time and School Time Theatre presented by **The Center** in partnership with **Lake Cumberland Performing Arts** presents Charlotte's Web on Monday March 28. This is the heartwarming story of a friendship between a runty pig and a heroic spider, based on E.B. White's much-loved book. Tickets are
- **The Center** will be the place to be for Brides-to-Be as the Somerset Junior Women's club presents a **Bridal Show** on March 19 beginning at 10:00 AM. Brides are sure to enjoy this informative and exciting event that will help them prepare for their "Big Day."
- The magic, the excitement, the wonder of **Peter Pan** comes to life through the **Lake Cumberland Children's Theatre**. Don't miss this spellbinding fantasy coming to the **Center** beginning March 25, 2005. Tickets available at the Center (606) 677-6000.
- As of March 4, 2005 the help desk telephone numbers for both **Law Enforcement Technology (LET)** and **CenterNET** have changed. The **CenterNET** help desk can now be reached at **866-508-NET2** (6382) while the **LET** help desk will be available at **877-623-6837**.