

NOVEMBER

UNITE program unveiled: Drug dealers who have made Eastern Kentucky a goldmine for those seeking illegal prescription drugs will soon meet a **new adversary**. "Abuse of prescription pills and other drugs has caused a tide of addiction and death in our region," said Congressman Hal Rogers. Rogers began putting **UNITE** together and fighting to secure \$8 million from Congress to finance his plans after reading that Eastern Kentucky leads the nation in the amount of painkillers per capita that reach legal outlets, increasing the potential for illegal activity.

According to **Karen Engle**, director of UNITE, more than half of the \$8 million will go towards **hiring detectives and additional law enforcement** officers for undercover investigations of not only street-level offenders but doctors who overprescribe pills and **Medicaid/Medicare** fraud.

As the program name indicates, Unlawful Narcotics Investigation, Treatment and Education, has three main components: Increased investigation, treatment for addicts, and expanded education to prevent abuse. **Operation UNITE** will target drug abuse in 29 counties in Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

Professional development trip is eye-opening experience: Staff development is very important to ensuring The Center realizes its mission. Therefore, on November 19, nine members of The Center staff from various departments traveled to **Clinton County** and spent the morning touring **Cagle's Keystone Food Plant**, had lunch and a tour at the **Foothills Academy** for troubled young men, and ended the day at the **Clinton County Learning Center** checking out its **CenterNET** site. The goal of the mini-retreat, and those to come, is to help staff members understand the **difficult circumstances** that persons in our 42 counties face so that we may better address their needs and problems. Because of the incredible staff response from the Clinton County mini-retreat, the Community & Business Education staff is busy planning **additional trips** to other sites in The Center's service area.

CenterStage's Big Band Cavalcade is huge success: Hundreds of **big band enthusiasts** turned out on November 14 to **dine and dance** the night away with **Rick Schalk and his Big Band orchestra**. The orchestra performed top hits of the most famous names in Big Band history-- names like Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, and even **Duke Ellington**. Unforgettable hits such as "In the Mood," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," and "Stardust" punctuated the evening's performance. Even after enjoying an hour and a half of their big band sound, the audience begged for more.

December 1, 2003
Volume 5, Issue 12

MONTHLY MINIS

- In November, SEKTDA was represented at the **National Tour Association (NTA)** in Charlotte, N.C. This great opportunity to meet and greet tour operators from all over the United States and 7 foreign countries boasted attendance of more than **3000** people.
- In addition to **CenterStage** performances, **events** held at The Center included the **Sheltowee Artisans** Holiday open house, Lake Cumberland Classic Power Tumbling Meet, and a variety of business meetings, weddings, and receptions.
- The second installment of the **OSHA 101** series was a big success! The Center is partnering with **Southeast Community College** to offer this three-part series. Utilizing **CenterNET** sites, the program has trained a total of 22 students in Laurel, Pike, Pulaski, and Taylor counties.
- **C-TRAIN grants awarded:** During the month of November, The Center awarded **two regional businesses** a total of nearly **\$19,204** in C-TRAIN Phase II grants to provide technological training for three of their employees. To date, nearly \$429,000 has been awarded in the second phase of the grant program, benefiting 379 employees in nine counties.

DECEMBER

Santa's Helpers Needed!: So many girls and boys have been good this year that Santa needs help making sure there are enough toys to go around. Here's how you can help: Bring an unwrapped new or gently used toy to The Center's ***Spirit of Giving* community holiday celebration** on **Saturday, December 6 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** In keeping with special holiday tradition, The Center is partnering with **Boy Scout Troop 79**, who will be assisting Santa in distributing the toys to less fortunate children in Pulaski County. The Bell Elementary ***Bell Tones***, an extraordinary singing group of 75 second and third graders, will perform enchanting holiday selections for the enjoyment of all. **Mooseltoe**, who dreams of flying with Santa's reindeer, will make a guest appearance at the celebration prior to the evening's **CenterStage** show.

The ***Spirit of Giving* community holiday celebration** is **free** and open to anyone wishing to spread holiday cheer. Children will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa, win doorprizes, and enjoy delicious holiday treats. Every child will receive a holiday goody bag filled with surprises. For more information, please contact Jamie Ennis at 606-677-6000.

Mooseltoe: A New Moosical is an enchanting holiday adventure: At one time or another, we have all asked or been asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Well, **Mooseltoe, the magical moose**, wants to be a tried and true Santa Sleigh navigator extraordinaire! But, as Mooseltoe finds out, often the hard part is not determining what you want to be, but figuring out exactly what path to take to get there. On Saturday, **December 6 at 7:30 p.m.**, Mooseltoe will try to discover just that when he leaves his Moose family's icy home to travel strange, **enchanting lands** in a quest to find out how to make his dream of flying with Santa's reindeer come true. Tickets, \$20 and \$15, can be purchased by visiting The Center's Box Office or calling 606-677-6000.

Special Performance: *The Lettermen Christmas Show*: The holiday season is important to the Lettermen, and their Christmas selections show this. In addition to the upbeat, secular **holiday songs** that they **croon** so well, the Lettermen also cherish the traditional carols. This concert will bring back a flood of memories and overflow your heart with holiday cheer. *The Letterman Christmas Show* is not included in the season ticket subscription. Tickets (\$30 and \$25; all seats reserved) can be purchased at The Center Box Office or by calling 606-677-6000.

December 1, 2003
Volume 5, Issue 12

MONTHLY MINI_s

- **SEKTDA's Annual Caucus** will be held Monday, December 8 at The Center. Congressman Rogers will be placing the **first 5-1-1 call** to the new **Tourism Call Center**, developed to ensure first-hand tourism information is available to the public on the many tourist attractions in our 42-county service area.
- **ATTENTION New Managers: "Change doesn't have to be hard"** -- That is the message of the **First Time and Developing Managers program** hosted by The Center on **December 11**. In this energetic, interactive session, new managers, or current managers who want to sharpen their skills, will learn techniques for **communicating, delegating, motivating**, and carrying out disciplinary measures. Space is limited, so call 606-677-6000 today!
- **One Appalachian Christmas**, will be performed for two **sold out** School Time Theater audiences on December 11. Tickets for the evening **Children's PrimeTime Theater** performance are still on sale and can be purchased at The Center box office or by calling 606-677-6000.
- December computer classes are: **PowerPoint Intro**, December 6, **Word 2000**, December 8 & 11, and **PowerPoint Adv**, December 12.