

## October

**Youth Leadership Summit held at The Center:** On October 20, The Center hosted a **youth leadership conference** for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade high school students in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. **360 students** were in attendance from **17 schools** in **10 different counties**; **43 school officials** also participated.

**James Malinchak** was the first speaker, who energized the audience with both activities and a lively presentation including stories from the well-known **Chicken Soup for the Soul** series to which he has been a contributing author and editor. Rebecca Cummins from Rockcastle County High School, who described the presentation as “**energetic**,” said “It was neat to see how everyday life can **motivate** us.”

**Dr. William H. Crouch, Jr.**, president of Georgetown College, was the second speaker. His **life story** illustrated the struggles which young people may face, but with the **right attitude**, can overcome in order to be **successful leaders**. “It was interesting how he talked about overcoming failure to be a leader. We need to hear more about learning to fail,” said Terra Keith of Pulaski County High School. Dr. Crouch is credited with facilitating the construction of the Athletic and Conference Center Complex on the Georgetown campus that is home to the **NFL Cincinnati Bengals** football team’s annual summer camp.

**Public Safety/Law Enforcement Technology Program has deployed 20 CAD systems:** By the end of October, The Center’s **LET program** had deployed new or upgraded **Computer Aided Dispatch systems** to **20** out of 25 dispatch centers that have enhanced 911 service. **Monroe** and **Lawrence** counties were the **newest additions** and **two more installations** are **scheduled** for November.

**Terry Burkhart named new COO at The Center:** On October 1, Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center, named **Terry Burkhart** new **Chief Operating Officer**. Burkhart’s appointment concluded a several-month long search and recruiting process.

“Terry’s **leadership experience** will benefit the organization tremendously as it works to sustain and improve the programs that are **transforming the quality of life** for our 42 counties,” said Lawson.

With **30 years of economic development experience**, Burkhart will continue to build on The Center’s eight years of success.

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- Three **CenterStage** shows came to **The Center** in October. Those included “**Keep on the Sunny Side—Songs and Story of the Carter Family**,” **Stoll Vaughan**, and **The Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra**. In addition, **Children’s Prime Time** and **School Time Theatre** presented **The Little Red Hen**. Center Stage, Children’s Prime Time and School Time Theatre are all presented by **Lake Cumberland Performing Arts**.
- In October, The Center awarded over **\$101,000** in **C-TRAIN grants** to **seven businesses** to provide **training** for **70 employees**. To date, over **\$1,025,000** has been awarded in Phase II C-TRAIN grants, benefiting **1,081 employees** in Southern and Eastern Kentucky.
- **SEKTDA** hosted the **Wilderness Heritage National Scenic Byway** sign unveiling at the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame in Renfro Valley. The goal is to bring **more tourism** to Southern and Eastern Kentucky. There are only **three National Scenic Byways** in the Commonwealth.
- **PRIDE** awarded **Wastewater Construction grants** totaling **\$4.5 million** to expand sewer service to **700 homes** in **six counties**.

## November

**The Center's Network Operations Support Center opens at Valley Oak Technology complex:** November 1 marked the opening day for **The Center's Network Operations Support Center**--another phase in the highly successful **Law Enforcement Technology** (LET) program.

"This operations center will ensure that our law enforcement agency subscribers will have the **support** they need to most effectively **serve** and **protect** their communities," said Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center. Staffed 24/7/365, the facility will not only provide **expert hardware & software support** to police officers and dispatch centers in The Center's 42-county region, but also **monitor the wireless communication network** that will provide 90% coverage in each county. In addition, this strictly controlled, extremely secure center will offer commercial services such as off-site **data backup, storage** and possibly **disaster recovery services**.

"The LET program tackles (communications problems) and is one of the **most ambitious multi-jurisdictional law enforcement initiatives** ever undertaken in Kentucky," commented U.S Congressman **Hal Rogers** (KY-05). "With the addition of this new operations center, we are taking the program to the next level."

**Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and Governor Ernie Fletcher to address conference:** **U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge** and **Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher** will be at The Center for the **Southern & Eastern Kentucky Summit of the Tennessee Valley Corridor** on November 4 and 5 to focus on **homeland security** and **economic development** issues. The summit will be hosted by Kentucky **Fifth District Congressman Hal Rogers**.

The theme for the two-day event is "**Technology: Linking Homeland Security and Hometown Prosperity**." The theme reflects the capability to link development resources in the region to homeland security needs as a means of growing a technology-based sector of the economy.

During the summit, Congressman Rogers will announce the formation of **The National Institute for Homeland Security** and **The Kentucky Homeland Security University Consortium**—two **new organizations** that will enhance the Fifth District and Kentucky's position in the Tennessee Valley Corridor. The National Institute for Homeland Security will be based at **The Center** in Somerset.

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- The hilarious comedy mix of **Williams & Ree** plus **Etta May**, presented by Lake Cumberland Performing Arts, will be at The Center on **November 11** at 7:30 pm.

Although Williams and Ree bill themselves as "**The Indian and the White Guy**," their hilarious pointed jabs tend to poke fun at just about everyone. Adding to the fun will be **Etta May**, the reigning **Queen of Southern Sass**. The only way to describe **HER** is "Minnie Pearl with a migraine." **Tickets**, \$25 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and under are available at The Center box office or by phone at 606-677-6000.

- The **Sheltopee Art Fair** will be at The Center on Friday, **November 12**, 5-8 pm, Saturday, **November 13**, 10-6 pm and Sunday, **November 14**, 12-5 pm. Admission is free.
- **God's Food Pantry Benefit and Auction** will take place Thursday **November 18** at The Center. Social time is 6 pm and dinner is at 6:30 pm. **Tickets** are available at First Southern National Bank and First & Farmers, Grand Central Branch, both on S. 27 in Somerset. All proceeds will benefit God's Food Pantry.