

SEPTEMBER

ANANSE charms children near and far: School Time Theatre's season opened September 11 with two sold-out performances of the puppet production *ANANSE*. As part of an **outreach program** designed to increase cultural participation, the show also traveled to Lee County, entertaining a total of 450 elementary school students in grades K-5. The show was a really exciting experience for the children, about 50% of whom said they had never seen a **live theatrical performance** before.

C-TRAIN grants awarded: During September, The Center awarded eight businesses in seven counties a total of nearly \$84,000 in C-TRAIN Phase II grants to provide **technology training** for 46 of their employees. To date, nearly \$341,000 has been awarded in the second phase of the grant program, benefiting 318 employees in nine counties.

PRIDE Environmental Education Grants: PRIDE announced recipients of the 2003 Environmental Education grants on September 12, awarding **87 grants totaling \$361,553**. The program awards up to \$5,000 to schools and nonprofit organizations to pursue projects that help young people understand the importance of a clean environment, promoting personal responsibility and community pride. Since 1997, PRIDE has invested over \$2 million in environmental education, reaching more than 346,000 students across the region.

CenterStage and visual arts: The season opened on September 25 with "A Tribute to Patsy Cline—starring Logan Wells," and the performance was a huge success with the audience. The show was preceded with a reception for artists Rhonda Wilford and Pat Moyer, whose works are currently on exhibit. Rhonda's paintings and Pat's traditionally hooked rugs will be on display through November.

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- On September 29, Congressman Hal Rogers honored Burnside's Girl Scout Troop 102 as the first recipients of the **PRIDE Environmental Action Award** patch. The scouts earned the patch by taking part in an environmental education outing at Buck Creek and volunteering in a cleanup event. The patches are available to all Boy and Girl Scouts in the PRIDE service area.
- In addition to School Time Theatre and CenterStage openers, **events** held at The Center included a Blue Apple Players performance, a Kentucky Bar Association conference for new lawyers, the Kentucky Baptist Marriage Fest and a variety of business meetings, weddings, and receptions.
- The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) presented PRIDE with a **2003 Innovations Award** on September 16. The award recognizes Southern and Eastern Kentucky as a role model for other parts of the nation that want to clean up their environment to spur economic development.

OCTOBER

Another concert rocks **The Center**: Classic rock-and-roll band **38 Special** ("Rockin' Into the Night," "Hold On Loosely"), with special guests **The Georgia Satellites** ("Keep Your Hands to Yourself") will rock The Center at a concert on Friday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m. All seats are reserved and tickets, priced at \$30 and \$25, are on sale now at The Center box office or by calling (606) 677-6000.

The Jungle Book: On October 23 at 7:00 p.m., the curtain will rise on *The Jungle Book*, the first performance of **Children's Prime Time Theatre**, a new series designed for family audiences. The season opener is a musical version of Rudyard Kipling's classic that will delight both the young and young at heart. Tickets, affordably priced for family budgets at \$5 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under, are on sale now at The Center or by phone at (606) 677-6000.

October is Roadside PRIDE month: The new Roadside PRIDE program uses friendly competition among the region's communities to **clean up roadside litter**. Cities and counties will compete to turn out the most volunteers and collect the most trash. To ensure a level playing field, cities and counties will be divided into classes based on population. PRIDE will **award trophies** to the winners in each class in January 2004. PRIDE will provide clean up supplies, such as trash bags, and also pay to dispose trash collected, up to \$2,000 for a county and \$1,000 for a city.

New Entrepreneur Program debuts: Building on the success of its two previous entrepreneurial education programs, The Center is introducing **Growing Entrepreneurial Businesses**, an informative, interactive continuing series for both new and established businesses. This **7-session series** will be offered via videoconference once a month on a convenient schedule for both aspiring and existing entrepreneurs, as well as their key employees. The first session, **Financial Strategies for Business**, is **October 15** from 9 a.m. to noon at CenterNET sites in Bell, Clinton, Johnson, Laurel, Menifee, Monroe, Owsley, Pike, Pulaski and Taylor counties. Topics covered will include significance of business planning, using the plan to effectively manage finances, sources of capital, investment strategies and exit strategies. Cost in \$50 per individual or \$90 per business for up to 5 people. Subsequent sessions in the series will be November 19, January 22, February 18, March 17, April 21 and May 19. For more information and to register, contact the Community & Business Education department at The Center at (606) 677-6000.

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- The Center's board of directors will make a major announcement in October about the next stage in the **Law Enforcement Technology (LET)** program. A contract will be awarded to create a wireless communications infrastructure that will "connect" the mobile computers that have been installed in law enforcement vehicles throughout our 42-county service area. This project will significantly improve access to critical information and communication across multiple jurisdictions.
- The second performance of the CenterStage season, **Singin' in the Rain**, is October 14, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are still available at The Center box office or at (606) 677-6000.
- October computer classes are: **Publisher 2000**, October 7 & 9; advanced **FrontPage 2000**, October 14 & 16 and **Windows 98**, October 28.
- Country music icon **Trace Adkins** and Nashville Star winner **Buddy Jewell** will perform in concert at The Center on November 20. Tickets go on sale October 14.
- October 22 & 23 are **Project Clean Streams** water sampling dates. Students will collect samples near their schools and PRIDE staff & volunteers will deliver them to labs for analysis. This program involves students in monitoring the level of fecal coliform bacteria, found in raw sewage, in the region's waterways.