

Tuesday Evenings with an Entrepreneur

This incredible seven-week entrepreneurial development program offers aspiring business owners the opportunity to interact with and learn from five of our region's most inspiring entrepreneurs. Presented by The Center for Rural Development through a partnership with Eastern Kentucky University and Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation, the unique program will begin with an explanation of the concept of entrepreneurship and the introduction of our five distinguished entrepreneurs/presenters.

The five weeks that follow will each feature an entrepreneur presenting a topic of his particular expertise. The topics are: Evaluating Business Ideas, Choosing the Right One, Start-

ing a Business, Blazing a Trail to Success, Financing, Fueling the Business Engine; Marketing, Opening Doors to Growth and Employment and Legal Issues.

The final week will serve as a wrap up of the previous six weeks and allow for questions that may not have been addressed to that point.

Tuesday Evening with an Entrepreneur is unique, free-of-charge, program that no would-be entrepreneurs should miss!

For more information or to register for Tuesday Evening with an Entrepreneur, call the Rockcastle County Courthouse at 256-8007 or project manager, Tony McCracken at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset at 1-888-248-9438.

USDA to provide \$100 million in rural rental housing loans

Agriculture Under Secretary Jill Long Thompson announced that the United States Department of Agriculture will provide nearly \$100 million in guaranteed loan funds to construct approximately 2,900 rural rental housing units.

"We have a moral obligation to ensure that our citizens can access adequate housing," said Long Thompson. "It is particularly important that we continue to be the beacon of light for those older Americans and lower income working families who are struggling to find decent, safe and affordable housing."

Under the Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program, USDA provides loan guarantees to lenders, who in turn provide loans for the construction of multi-family housing complexes in rural areas. USDA will

guarantee the lender's loan, up to 90 percent of the total development cost.

"Housing cost in many rural areas remain high, with few options for lower income residents," said Long Thompson. "This partnership offer between USDA, financial institutions and local and state housing authorities will help to ensure that housing remains affordable for many rural Americans."

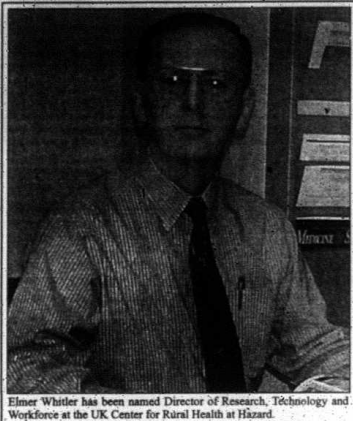
Interested lenders will be allowed to submit applications each third Thursday of the month through August 16, 2001 or until funds are exhausted. Further information on application process and deadlines can be obtained by visiting the USDA Rural Development web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov or calling (202)720-4323.

Citizens Bank new IOLTA partner

IOLTA Chair Margo L. Grubbs takes pleasure in announcing that Citizens Bank of Broadhead and Citizens Bank of McKee, have enrolled as valued partners in the Kentucky Bar Foundation's Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Fund (IOLTA). The participation of Kentucky banks is vital to the IOLTA Fund since attorneys cannot participate without their support. Currently 429 Kentucky banks voluntarily support this successful program. Other IOLTA area financial institutions are: All-

ance Bank, Community Trust Bank, Cumberland Valley National Bank, First & Farmers Bank, First National Bank of Jackson, First Bank & Trust, First Southern National Bank, and National City Bank.

IOLTA was established in 1987 by the Kentucky Supreme Court. This voluntary, charitable partnership of banks and law firms, with the \$652,125 awarded for the year 2000, has returned approximately \$5 million to Kentuckians for law-related endeavors.



Elmer Whittier has been named Director of Research, Technology and Workforce at the UK Center for Rural Health at Hazard.

Elmer Whittier named Director of Research, Technology and Workforce

A veteran administrator from the University of Kentucky has joined the staff of the UK Center for Rural Health at Hazard. Elmer Whittier has signed on as director of research, technology and workforce, a newly defined position that will allow the center to expand its ability to collect and analyze data.

"His depth and breadth of knowledge concerning rural health, computers and workforce planning make him the ideal person to meet our needs at this time," said Karen Main, deputy director of the center.

Whittier will help the center's facility design and conduct research, especially on workforce needs and resources in the health care field in rural areas. Whittier said his goal is to "build a system that will provide data, and information that can be used far into the future to help identify and solve health problems confronting rural communities."

Whittier's former administrative positions at UK, East Kentucky Health Systems Agency and Cumberland River Regional Comprehensive Care prepared him for the new position, said Loyd Kephre, director of the center. His most recent job was as transplant services director

of the Chandler Medical Center at UK. Whittier said it was his interest in rural health care that brought him to the Center. "While there has been great improvement, the need for more effective health services is as great as it was 25 years ago when I was doing rural health research. Things improve, but we continue to discover new needs - great unsolved problems," he said.

Herbert Reid, Ph.D., director of the Appalachian Center at UK, has known Whittier both as a student and a co-worker. He described Whittier as "one of the most able, thoughtful and humane persons I know." He added, "Elmer combined in some remarkable ways the best virtues of reflection and compassion in his endeavors for a better society."

Whittier said that his interest in rural health care "stems in part from observing the hardships and triumphs of family members who are sharecroppers in Ohio County." This common heritage, along with the research Whittier has done, gives him special insight into rural communities and their health care needs.

Whittier lives in Clinch with his wife, June, whose maiden name was Mullins. She teaches health ethics at Eastern Kentucky University.

Free Videoconference

Free videoconference for grandparents raising grandchildren will be held on Tuesday, February 27 from 1:30-4:30 p.m. EST.

Raising a child is never easy, but the task may prove more challenging when the primary caregiver is actually the grandparent, many years removed from childbearing, but for one reason or another, doing it again. One in ten grandparents have been the primary support of a grandchild at sometime in their lives, and currently six percent of children live in a grandparent headed household. While this situation can be a blessing for many, challenges abound.

Through this national videoconference, grandparents raising grandchildren and the professionals who serve them will come together at local sites to share concerns, explore options, and discuss potential local or state action. The program will include on-site activities, panel discussions and pre-recorded videos. Topics to be discussed include the similarities and differences among various forms of custodial care, a

review of the ways in which legal and policy issues affect grandparents raising grandchildren, and strategies for effective working relationships between grandparents and professionals and community resources.

Participants will explore the implications of various forms of informal and formal custody arrangements, understand how laws and public policies impact custodial caregivers, improve skills for interaction between grandparents and professionals and organizations, and learn to design and implement changes in legislation at the state level.

While this informative teleconference is free, spaces are limited, so call the site you wish to attend to reserve your seat. In Rockcastle County, the teleconference will be held in the Rockcastle County Courthouse. For more information call (606)256-8007. The site will be located at The Center for Rural Development in Pulaski. For more information call (606)677-6008 or visit www.ukwv.org.

New Occupational Therapist joins Rockcastle Hospital staff, another earns advanced degree

Amy Abbot has joined the Occupational Therapy staff at Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. Abbot, a London native, earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University and has five years experience.

Mandy Burch, who joined the OT staff a little over a year ago, recently earned a master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University. She is originally from Muhlenberg County.

"Because of outstanding staff members like Amy and Mandy, our patients receive a very high level of care," said Cheryl Mullins, OTR/L, director of Occupational Therapy Services. "Sometimes people think they have to leave this community for healthcare services. But we have a top-notch group providing the same kinds of therapy that are found in larger cities."

Occupational Therapy helps improve the quality of life for children and adults through various means of therapeutic activities. Those who benefit from OT include people who suffer from neurodegenerative diseases, cerebral palsy, autism, arthritis, orthopedic injuries, stroke, carpal

tunnel syndrome, developmental delays, sensory impairments and learning disabilities. For more information on Occupational Therapy Services at RHRC, contact Mullins at 256-2195.

Rockcastle Hospital and Respiratory Care Center, Inc. is a not-for-profit community hospital, which is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. It operates inpatient and outpatient acute care programs, 60 long-term beds for ventilator-dependent patients, and a home health care service. The hospital was established in 1956 and treats patients from across Kentucky, Tennessee and several other states.



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Bill Sowder, of Mt. Vernon, is now affiliated with First Southern National Bank as our Branch Manager and Loan Officer in Crab Orchard.

Bill invites all Rockcastle Countians to stop by his office for all your financial needs and enjoy a cup of coffee.

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