

## XBS OFFICE SOLUTIONS RIBBON CUTTING



SOMERSET-PULASKI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## SPEDA: Carlton is named executive assistant, CAO

SPECIAL TO THE CJ

SPEDA President & CEO, Chris Girdler is excited to announce that Jessica Carlton has joined the groundbreaking and innovative economic development organization. Girdler has named Jessica Carlton as the entity's new Executive Assistant & Chief Accounting Officer (CAO).

Somerset Pulaski Economic Development Authority also known as SPEDA serves as the primary economic development and marketing agency for Somerset and Pulaski County. It's mission is to enhance the business climate in and foster cooperation among various government entities and private sector organizations. SPEDA is the first point of contact for businesses locating in or expanding to



Jessica Carlton

the community as well as assisting existing companies in their efforts and the region's workforce development efforts.

"Jessica brings a wealth of financial and accounting experience to the organization along with a heart for community service," stated Chris Girdler. "Her energetic personality, love of our community as well as her extensive financial background will prove

to be an incredible asset for SPEDA and the community as a whole."

Girdler continued, "having had the opportunity to witness first hand Jessica's diligence, great work ethic, and her love of all things Somerset & Pulaski County at the Chamber of Commerce over the years, we knew she would make an immediate and positive impact on our efforts"

Jessica is a graduate of Pulaski County High School and also attended Eastern Kentucky University. She worked in the banking industry for over a decade, an office manager for several years and later serving as Finance Director at the Somerset Pulaski Chamber of Commerce for five years.

Jessica is a board member of United Way and serves as Co-Chair

of Lake Cumberland Area Heart Walk. She and her husband, Nathan live in the Shopville community where they own and operate a cattle farm and have two children; son, Hunter and daughter, Taylor.

"At SPEDA, I will continue to be a part of the community and be able to contribute to the growth and progress of Somerset and Pulaski County, which is very important to me," stated Jessica. "I'm very excited to be a part of the SPEDA team and optimistic about our future as a whole."

SPEDA very recently just completed the transition from the old Foundation to the new organization and are now operating out of their new office space which is located on the 3rd floor of the Somerset Energy Center.

## CNB welcomes Amy Hansford as Waitsboro Branch Manager

SPECIAL TO THE CJ

Citizens National Bank is excited to announce Amy Hansford as the Waitsboro Branch Manager. She brings with her fifteen years of banking experience at both the deposit and lending levels. She has held various banking positions, including head teller, loan processor, and Branch Manager/Lender.

Amy is a graduate of Pulaski County High School and Somerset Community College. She served as Board Chair of this year's March for Babies campaign to raise money for the March of Dimes. Amy also serves on the Board of Directors for the Pulaski County Imagination Library. She is a 2017 graduate of Lake Cumberland Leadership, and a 2016 graduate from KBA Banking School. Amy is a member of Pulaski Baptist Church. Amy has one daughter - Kaylee Mize.

"We feel very fortunate to have Amy join our bank family. Her various banking roles have given her a wealth



Amy Hansford

of knowledge and experience, which will help her to effectively serve her customers at the Waitsboro Branch. She will be a great asset to Citizens National Bank," comments Donald E. Bloomer, President & CEO.

Citizens National Bank is a locally owned, community-oriented bank headquartered in Somerset, Kentucky. It opened for business in 1920 and has ten locations: seven in Pulaski County, as well as in Wayne County, Russell County and Jessamine County. The employees of Citizens National Bank are dedicated to providing the highest quality, personalized service to its customers.

## KCTCS announces new vice chancellor

SPECIAL TO THE CJ

VERSAILLES, Ky. - The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) has named Shannon Gilkey vice chancellor of Academics and Workforce Development.

Gilkey will be supporting the 16 KCTCS colleges in economic development initiatives and workforce development in credit, non-credit and customized training offerings.

KCTCS Chancellor Kris Williams said, "Shannon Gilkey brings a national perspective on higher education—and the development of a skilled workforce—to the



Shannon Gilkey

Chancellor's Office at KCTCS. He'll bring additional expertise as we work with our education and government partners to develop stronger apprenticeships, dual credit offerings, flexible academic programs and more."

Gilkey most recently served as the director of Education Strategy Group (ESG), where he led efforts across the country to increase postsecondary attainment.

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