

SPEDA sponsors SOAR Summit reception

SPECIAL TO THE CJ

SPEDA was honored to sponsor the SOAR Summit reception Sept. 5 at Dueling Barrels Distillery in Pikeville. Pulaski County Judge-Executive Steve Kelley and Somerset Mayor Alan Keck joined SPEDA President and CEO Chris Girdler at the event, where Mayor Keck delivered a welcome message to attendees focused on cooperation and collaboration in southern and eastern Kentucky.

“It was great to see so many in the

region and state come together to help promote and support the SOAR Summit.” SPEDA President and CEO Chris Girdler said. “Much appreciation to Congressman Hal Rogers and Governor Matt Bevin for their continued hard work and assistance to so many communities in southern and eastern Kentucky. SPEDA was honored to play a small part and help promote a regionalism approach to help move us all forward together.”



SUBMITTED

Somerset Mayor Alan Keck delivers the welcome message at the reception.

ARTS: Kentucky Arts Council impressed with Somerset’s talent

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of the Kentucky Arts Council. “The commitment to making the community an arts center (stood out). There doesn’t seem to be the competitiveness that you sometimes see. It’s just a real sense of, ‘Everyone who has an interest, we want to help you grow, we want to help you develop, we want to be part of your success, and we all want to do it together.’”

The state’s preeminent organization dedicated to supporting and promoting the arts, the Kentucky Arts Council brings together creators and patrons of the arts from the business community, including a number of influential figures in their circles. Members of the council include University of Kentucky Opera Theatre director and founder of the American Spiritual Ensemble Dr. Everett McCorvey; accomplished composer and president of Melodia Music Angela Rice; William H. Ford Government Education Center director Elizabeth Griffith; and visual artist Sallie Lanham.

The Kentucky Arts Council is publicly funded by the Kentucky General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. Its aim is to be “responsible for developing and promoting support for the arts in Kentucky,” according to its website, artscouncil.ky.gov.

Janice Turpen of Somerset is a member of the council, appointed in 2016, and she was eager to bring the council to her hometown. The council visits numerous communities across the commonwealth to see what they offer in terms of the arts, but hadn’t gone to Somerset at any point in memory.

That changed in a big way this week. Thursday night featured a reception at the home of Congressman Hal Rogers and a vocal performance by Amanda Balltrip, a local classically trained operatic performer. The group also went to the home of teenage recording artist Will Muse, who has already put out singles and music videos in his young career, and had dinner at the home of Jan-

ice and husband Bill, the local Republican Party chairperson.

On Friday, the group visited local arts organizations, including the Carnegie Community Arts Center, Flashback Theater Co., McNeil Music Center, Wandering Elm Photography, and Jarfly Brewing Co., learned about features like the Master Musicians Festival, and visited arts patron Cornelia Dozier Cooper’s home to see her collection of her own paintings.

“(The visit) has gone beyond my expectations,” said Turpen. “It has been great. They are in love with our community, and they all want to come back. They all want to bring their families and enjoy. They just can’t believe what we have to offer here. We have showcased many more artists than other communities have. They said they’re just so excited about the thriving arts community.”

Turpen echoed Louisville’s Corbett, saying that the council hadn’t seen a community with such a “team effort” when it comes to promoting the arts.

Exposure to the council could lead to numerous opportunities. Executive Director Chris Cathers talked about the practical side of things, encouraging artists to pursue grants and talked about how the council looked at the ways in which the arts intersected with the economic lifeblood of Pulaski County.

The council held its business meeting in the Somerset City Council chambers Friday, where they invited the public to attend. Numerous individuals from the arts, education and business communities showed up, and Somerset Mayor Alan Keck spoke to the council and highlighted some of the attractions Somerset has to offer, as well as showing footage from the recent trip to Louisville to participate in an arts exchange event between the two cities.

Keck noted that the love of art is “what brings people together.” He said that the best leaders know when to step up, and when to get out of the way and let “creative genius” lead the way, and that’s what he seeks to do as mayor.

“I have challenged folks, and I’m not going to

apologize for it either — I think that we need to do more as a state (to focus on the idea) ‘What Kentucky story are we telling?’” said Keck. “Are we going to focus so much on drugs and poverty and health issues — while very important — but if we’re going to if we’re going to transform and fix those things, then we need to talk about all the things that we’re doing well.”

Added Keck, “There so much to be proud of, and now, what we want to take the lead on here in Somerset is art and entertainment. That’s why we launched the “sister cities” program (with Louisville), and really, it was birthed from our artists. I was focused on sister cities abroad and they said, ‘Why not right here in Kentucky?’”

Also, young performers Madison Harmon and Chase Cimala showcased their talents, including performing a scene from the Somerset High School production of “Newsies” that they had been in. The two sang earlier for the council along with Balltrip, and according to Corbett, gave the group “cold chills.”

To a person, everyone on the council said at the meeting how they’d never received a welcome before like they did in Somerset — Corbett noted that the community “rolled out the red carpet” — and how impressed they were with what they found here.

“I don’t know that any of us know a community with more passion and commitment to advancing all the arts, the artistic community, and the overall cultural landscape of your community,” said Corbett in the meeting. “... We’ve learned so much. I was talking with someone earlier and he asked, ‘How will this benefit Somerset when you go back to your communities?’ It’s because we’re going to challenge them to be more like Somerset.”

She added to the Commonwealth Journal, “When the staff goes back and starts working with other communities and they can say, ‘This (Somerset) model works well. Don’t work independently. Find the partners throughout the community, and then you get a groundswell of support.’”

HONEYBEES: McAlpin, White trying to relocate hive stuck in building cavity

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of Dr. Barry White, family medicine specialist in Somerset), is an apiarist (beekeeper). McAlpin sought her assistance in moving the bees to a better location.

They built a scaffold high enough to place an empty hive near the dryer vent opening where the bees enter and leave. The plan is to entice the queen bee to enter the empty hive and the worker bees will follow.

There are three types of honeybees in a hive — workers (no gender), drones (male) and queen (female).

Worker bees are workaholics, they simply work themselves to death gathering pollen, making honey and caring for the queen. Drones mate with the queen during a mating flight and the queen bee’s role is production.

The queen bee is normally the only reproduc-

tive female in the colony. Egg laying begins in early spring, initiated when the first fresh pollen is brought home by the workers. Egg production will continue until fall, or as long as pollen is available.

At the height of her productivity, the queen could lay as many as 2000 eggs each day. A queen bee can live up to five years, but her period of usefulness rarely exceeds two or three years. Younger queens produce many more eggs, and older ones may produce excessive drones.

A worker bee’s ability to fly far and fast has greatly contributed to the success of bees. They can forage up to three miles from their hives, and reach speeds of 15 miles per hour.

In recent years, numbers of honeybees, necessary for pollinating many crops, have reduced because of an external parasitic mite that attacks and feeds on the honeybees.

Called varroa mites, the mites attack both honeybees and brood. The mites suck blood from

both the adults and developing brood, especially drone brood. This weakens and shortens the bee’s life. Untreated infestations of varroa mites will increase and may kill colonies.

Healthy honeybees swarm in early spring and create new hives. If swarming bees are not corralled by a beekeeper, the relocating insects could become a wild swarm and set up honey making in a hollow tree. Often, before swarming, excess bees will cling together and hang outside the hive.

Key to catching the swarming honeybees is to get the swirling bees to settle, possibly on a tree limb. Often, the flying queen will be induced to lite by tossing dirt or making a banging noises. When she lites, for her protection, swarming worker bees will gather around her in an oblong ball.

Then, as McAlpin and White are trying to do, get the queen bee to enter a new hive, and the workers and drones will follow.

GRAND JURY: No True Bill in animal torture case

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was amended up a few weeks later to Torture of a Dog or Cat with Serious Physical Injury and/or Death.

It was this charge which was presented to the Pulaski County Grand Jury, starting last month. For both defendants, grand jurors ultimately returned a “No True Bill” finding that there wasn’t

enough evidence presented to support further prosecution of the torture charge.

Upon further review in Pulaski District Court, the case against Mr. Brison was dismissed on August 7. With the charge against Mrs. Brison dismissed last Wednesday, the case appears to have officially come to a close.

The Brisons were defended by Somerset attorney Alison Hunley.

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