

Corey Craig named Market President of Community Trust Bank

Mark Gooch, President and CEO of Community Trust Bank, N.A., is pleased to announce the promotion of Corey Craig as Market President of the Mt. Vernon Market.

Craig was Branch Manager of the Bank of Mt. Vernon's Main Office at the time Community Trust Bank acquired The Bank of Mt. Vernon in January 2001.

He holds a degree in Business Administration from Berea College and is currently attending the prestigious L.S.U. Graduate School of Banking.

Craig is very active in civic and charitable organizations. He is president of the Rockcastle Kiwanis Club, he currently serves on the Rockcastle Economic Development Board, Kentucky Music Hall of Fame Board, Rockcastle County Public Library Board and Cumberland Valley Area Development District Board. Craig is the assistant coach for the Rockcastle County High School

Boys Basketball team.

Community Trust Bancorp., Inc., with assets of \$2.5 billion, is headquartered in Pikeville and has 70 banking locations across eastern and central Kentucky, and five banking locations in West Virginia.



Corey Craig

Rogers announces projects for area

U.S. Representative Harold "Hal" Rogers announced last week new tourism projects to be funded through Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association's (SEKTA) Community Development Fund Program. The Community Development Fund Program is not a grant program, nor is it a loan. It is an investment program that allows corridor teams the opportunity to submit tourism-related projects to SEKTA for funding, and then, to form a partnership to jointly implement the projects. Rogers announced the first round of funding last Friday.

Rockcastle will be one of the county's that will benefit from the funding.

SEKTA assisted corridor teams in identifying the resources needed within their communities that would boost tourism. These needs were developed into strategies for regional improvement, enhancement and promotion. Corridor teams have taken these strategies and developed work plans. The Community Development Fund Program will assist corridor teams in achieving the objectives of their work plans.

Rogers announced, "SEKTA has been working throughout its 40-county service area in southern and eastern Kentucky to promote the 'Company's Coming' tourism plan. \$1.5 million was set aside for the Community Development Funds by SEKTA's Board to assist each corridor with their multi-county projects." Rogers further stated, "SEKTA has developed eight corridor teams throughout southern and eastern Kentucky. The teams are comprised of volunteers, such as

county and city officials, tourism professionals, chamber of commerce, historical societies representatives and local business people."

Rogers has supported cultural heritage and outdoor recreation projects in an effort to attract more visitors to the 40-county region and to create new tourism-related job opportunities for the region. The federal-state "Company's Coming" partnership, unveiled in September of 2000 by Congress Rogers and Kentucky Tourism Secretary Ann Letta, identified seven district programs. One of the programs was to provide support for projects of regional importance.

"If we expect to build on region's tourism economy, we must provide funding to these important corridor teams and support the special projects they have identified in their local communities," Rogers said.

"SEKTA is working to strengthen and to unify a diverse region by providing the tourism offerings in a new and positive way."

The Southern E-K Region Corridor includes Rockcastle, Laurel, Jackson and Whitley counties. An educational video consisting of the corridor's diverse historical, cultural and outdoor recreation attractions will be produced (\$13,775). The video will be used not only to increase visitations to tourist attractions, but will also be used to educate people working in the tourism industry as to the major points of interest available in the four-county corridor.

"Crash"

(Cont. from front)

A half-dozen paramedics and EMTs swarmed around Davidson, starting IVs and preparing him to be flown to the University of Tennessee Medical Center. The southbound lanes of Interstate 75 were shut down for nearly an hour while Careflight's helicopter landed at the scene to pick up Davidson.

Knox County EMS Capt. John Eldridge said Davidson had a fractured femur and head trauma from the crash. Davidson was conscious the entire time, he said.

Davidson's passenger, 31-year-old Lisa Bustle of Mt. Vernon, was treated and released from Baptist Regional Medical Center with leg injuries. Kentucky State Police Trooper David Lantier said.

Witnesses said the Blazer flipped over about five times, shattering every window inside, smashing the roof and scattering debris everywhere.

The Blazer left skidmarks and several deep gouges, some up to a half-inch deep, in the asphalt.

Lantier said it appeared the vehicle made a panic stop and started skidding and fishtailing. The driver then oversteered and started skidding sideways, he said. As it skidded,

vehicle's wheels dug into the pavement and started the vehicle flipping into the grassy median.

Drugs and alcohol are not suspected as factors in the crash, Lantier said. No other vehicles were involved.

"Lambert"

(Cont. from front)

The Chief Justice, as executive head of the statewide court system, oversees the Administrative Office of the Courts and 3300 employees of the Court of Justice, and submits a biennial budget to the Kentucky General Assembly.

On being re-elected by his colleagues, Chief Justice Lambert said, "It is truly an honor to have been elected for another four-year term as Kentucky's Chief Justice. Our court system has made significant strides in the last four years in responsiveness, improvement of public trust and confidence, and better understandings of racial and ethnic differences, and I look forward to our continued work."

During Lambert's first term as Chief Justice, he oversaw the planning and construction of twenty-three new courthouse facilities and the creation and implementation of twenty-two new judgeships, including fourteen new family courts. In addition, Chief Justice Lambert achieved passage of the Senior Status Judges-Act which uses retired judges to fight backlog and delay in Kentucky's courts, and he created special commissions on racial fairness and the courts which empowered change to ensure fair treatment for all of Kentucky's citizens. Lambert has also overseen a rapid expansion in these of computer technology in Kentucky's courts, using the Internet and statewide networks to improve efficiency and accuracy in the work of the courts. Lambert also worked with the Kentucky General Assembly to place on the November 5, 2002, election ballot the Family Court Constitutional Amendment which will remove all legal doubts about his specialty court, designed to protect the families and children of Kentucky.

Chief Justice Lambert lives in Mt. Vernon with his wife, Debra and two sons, Joseph and John.

"Landmark"

(Cont. from front)

method of production, and mentions several other saltpeter caves in the region. His paper was read before the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia in 1806, and described the cave.

The general level of the cave is about 80 feet above the creek. The average height of the arch is ten feet, though in many places it rises to fifty

or sixty. The breadth of the passage is generally about forty feet, in some places it is seventy or eighty feet. The floor has the appearance of a large public road, which has been much frequented. The ceiling is in most places smooth, with but few incrustations or stalactites. In some of the chambers however, there are appearances of Gothic rudeness and irregularity which are truly sublime. When these vast chambers are sufficiently illuminated by the torches and lamps of workmen, they present scenes so uncommon and romantic, that the most stupid beholder cannot contemplate them without expressions of the greatest astonishment.

Production at the cave went from 1,000 pounds per week to over 1,000 pounds per day.

Unfortunately, Brown was caught up in scandal; his family had been involved in Aaron Burr's plot to overthrow the United States government. Brown was forced to leave Kentucky and abandon his several enterprises, including the cave. In other hands, the cave produced saltpeter during the War of 1812, with as many as 60 to 70 workers employed in the operation. With the end of the war in January, 1815, the bottom dropped out of the saltpeter market and Great Saltpeter Cave was never again mined on large scale. During the Mexican War and later the Civil War, only small-scale mining was conducted in the cave.

About 1860, according to traditions of the Mullins family, the cave property was purchased by Callaway Mullins for \$50 and a rifle. For a long time following the Civil War, little use was made of the cave except for occasional picnics and dances. About 1919 John Lair and Dr. Walker Owens purchased the South entrance

tract. The Rendell Valley "A. Lamar" was begun, with an opening night broadcast made from the cave on CBS radio. The two men attempted to open the cave for commercial tours, and built a lodge for guests. Only two days after it was finished, though, the lodge was burned to ground by persons unknown. The cave was closed to the public.

Lair again opened the cave for public tours in 1966. In 1970, Richard Mullins became the resident caretaker of the property.

The remote location of the cave, however, was its downfall as a commercial enterprise. By 1974, most of the cave were self-guided. In 1985, the cave property was auctioned off to Stanley and Jeanette Rein of Pine Hill and the cave closed to the public. In that same year, John Lair passed away at the age of 91 and Richard Mullins moved off the property. During the next year, the cave property was again put on the market.

Great Saltpeter Cave was purchased in 1989 by a private historical foundation, who subsequently turned the management of the cave over to two regional chapters of the National Speleological Society, those of Cincinnati and Lexington. The goals of the present cave management are to preserve and to protect the cave and the land about it. Every year, an open house is held at the cave to allow the residents of Rockcastle County to visit and learn more about an important part of the county's heritage.

Directions to the cave are: I-75 to exit 59 (Mt. Vernon/Livingston) East on Route 25, turn left on Route 1004, continue on 1004 till it comes to a 'T' (at tracks), turn right and continue to Great Saltpeter Cave Preserve.



Kentucky Fried Chicken founder, Col. Harlan Sanders, far left, Hank Cochran, John Lair and Hal Smith, helped Lair celebrate his 75th birthday. Part of the celebration was held at the Cave.

Reward offered

A reward is being offered for the arrest and conviction of those involved in a theft at Dogwood Gifts and Crafts.

Owner Joyce Gabbard said that someone stole a roto-tiller from her property last week.

Mrs. Gabbard said that she knew that one of the thieves was named Bobby, because a neighbor heard his name called as the roto-tiller was being loaded onto a truck.

Anyone with information should contact Joyce or her husband Don at (606) 256-3067.

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