

Education and Workforce Development Cabinet
DeaFestival-Kentucky 2010 to be held at Horse Cave Labor Day weekend

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FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 30, 2010) - The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) is sponsoring its ninth DeaFestival-Kentucky Sept. 4 in downtown Horse Cave. The accessible one-day event celebrates the language, culture and diversity of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

DeaFestival 2010 continues the tradition of offering free admission to the public thanks to the generous sponsors and community supporters.

"DeaFestival is a great way to educate those attending about the diversity of the deaf and hard of hearing community," said Governor Steve Beshear. "With more than 8,000 visitors expected to attend, DeaFestival generates economic opportunities for local businesses as well as wonderful place to showcase performers and artists."

DeaFestival 2010 will be a family-friendly event with three primary components: SpotLights, which features prominent theatrical performers and comedians; a children's program featuring American Sign Language (ASL) in Wonderland and the evolution of communication from cave drawings to wireless technology; and the Jam Tent, which features hip-hop and rock-and-roll dancers and musicians. In addition, a Visual Artist Venue that includes paintings, sculpture, pottery, stained glass, literary works and more will be featured.

Exhibitors and craft/hobbyists will have items for sale. All performances are presented in ASL with interpretation into spoken English provided by highly qualified interpreters for those who are not fluent in ASL.

"Hearing loss is growing at an alarming rate and DeaFestival encourages those individuals to have a positive outlook on their future and not feel the loss so much," said Virginia L. Moore, KCDHH executive director.

"Horse Cave gives us the small-town feel for a big-town event. We pull together the whole community to educate and establish role models for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families, while encouraging an attitude of can do, rather than can't do for everyone involved," said Moore.

In addition, on both Friday, Sept. 3, and Saturday, Sept. 4 at 8 p. m. the movie "See What I'm Saying," Deaf Entertainers Documentary (rated PG 13), will premier at the Kentucky Repertory Theater in Horse Cave. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased in advance by contacting the theater at 270-786-2177 or 800-342-2177 or tickets@kentuckyrep.org.

Central Kentucky area attractions such as Mammoth Cave, Kentucky Down Under, Hidden River Cave and Lost River Cave are also offering special discounted tours during the weekend with interpreters provided.

"Good educators know that learning is not limited to the confines of a classroom. Immersion into a new culture and a diverse language is a valuable educational tool. DeaFestival provides a wonderful way to develop sensitivity within the general public and an appreciation for the talents of the deaf and hard of hearing community," said Joseph U. Meyer, secretary of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

The schedule of events, accommodations and directions are available online at www.kcdhh.ky.gov.

The KCDHH has spent more than a quarter of a century providing effective and efficient leadership, education, advocacy and programs to eliminate barriers and to meet the social, economic, cultural and intellectual needs of deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.

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