

Local

Seniors enjoy 'Super Bowl'

Security matters among topics discussed at mall

✎ By Don Wilkins Messenger-Inquirer

🕒 09.23.16

An estimated 800 senior citizens converged on Towne Square Mall on Thursday for the 17th annual Senior Day Out.

The day began with breakfast and then opened up to informational booths, entertainment and guest speakers.

Corey King, Kentucky State Police Post 16 public information officer, acted as the emcee for the event that draws seniors from the seven-county Green River Area Development District.

King, who is also the chairman of the Green River Regional TRIAD/Elder Justice Coalition, said Senior Day Out is important because it brings groups such as law enforcement, health providers, government agencies and senior services together under one roof.

"TRIAD meets once a quarter to discuss scams and other issues impacting seniors," King said. "So this is really our Super Bowl of events. It's a way for us to tell the seniors what we've learned about the scams."

Many of the seniors came to hear the representative of the Kentucky Attorney General's Office speak about the latest scams.

According to Gerina Whethers, executive director of the state's Office of Senior Protection, the IRS and computer scams are still prevalent in Kentucky.

"The biggest payments we've had are for the iTunes cards," Whethers said. "We just saw one for \$8,000 in iTunes cards. The (fake) IRS person tells the victim they're behind on taxes and they could be arrested if they don't buy the iTunes cards. The scammer then tells the victim, 'Now that you've purchased the card, scratch off the back for the number and read it to me.' We don't know if they're selling it on the black market or where they're making their profit."

Seniors were able to tour vendor booths, receive giveaways and load their complimentary bags with goodies.

Among the exhibitors was Property Valuation Administrator Rachel Pence Foster.

She was there sharing information about the state's Homestead Exemption, which allows property owners 65 or older or people of any age who are 100 percent disabled to remove \$36,900 from their assessments.

"There are some who don't know, but most either forget about it or they haven't had the chance to apply," Foster said. "... Even if I only get one application, it's worth it."

Clara Moss of Beaver Dam said she attempts to come every year to Senior Day Out.

"I look forward to it because you learn a lot, especially about crime prevention," Moss said. "Plus, I got my flu shot."

JoAnne Alvey, a retired Owensboro resident, said she was there seeking help for the coverage gap in her husband's Medicare Drug Plan.

"My husband has Type II diabetes, and he's in the doughnut hole," Alvey said. "His prescriptions are so high that we don't know if we can pay the utility bills or buy the medicines."

A mobile stage was set up for the entertainment provided by Buddy Holly and Elvis impersonators.

King said Senior Day Out has always been designed to be educational and entertaining.

"It's kind of a one-stop shop for all their needs," King said.

Don Wilkins, dwilkins@messenger-inquirer.com, 270-691-7299, Twitter: @DonWilkinsMI



Alan Warren

Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer/awarren@messenger-inquirer.com

Wanda Troutman, left and Tori Bailey, right, of Redbank Senior Apartments of Henderson, dance to the music of Elvis Tribute Artist, Brad McCrady during the 17th Annual Senior Day Out on Thursday at Towne Square Mall.



Alan Warren

Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer/awarren@messenger-inquirer.com

Elvis Tribute Artist, Brad McCrady sings during the 17th Annual Senior Day Out on Thursday at Towne Square Mall.

