

THE CENTER

For Rural Development

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Review a look ahead... Preview

December

Former Rogers Scholar gives back to community

Jon Preneta, a junior at East Jessamine High School, chose Jessamine County's Make a Difference Day as the focus of his **community service** efforts after completing the **Rogers Scholars** program this past summer. Scholars are required to propose and complete a hometown community service project as part of the program.

"After thinking about making a difference in Jessamine County, I thought about safety," said Preneta. "The idea of a **Safety Fair** came to mind because I believe there is no better way to provide community service than to help save lives."

Over 100 children, in addition to parents, participated in the Safety Fair, which included exhibits by the Bluegrass Emergency Response Team, Jessamine County Fire Dept., Kentucky State Police, Department of Transportation, Rail Road Safety's Operation Life Savers, Small Boat Safety, Jessamine County EMS, Nicholasville Police Dept., Dr. Evans Chiropractic, Upward Bound Basketball, and Boy Scout Disaster Preparedness. There were also games, food, a clown, and a booth designated for signing a banner to be sent to our troops overseas.

After receiving approval by Jessamine County Judge Executive Neal Cassity, Preneta spent three months planning the project. He worked with local and area public safety officials to coordinate the fair.

Rogers Scholars hold first Ambassador meeting

On December 21, **10 former Rogers Scholars** met to discuss new, creative ideas for the program. During the Rogers Scholar reunion in August of 2005, these 10 individuals were selected to serve as ambassadors representing the program.

"It's a great opportunity to be selected as an ambassador for such a group of talented students," said Michael Oghia of Breathitt County.

The ambassadors are responsible for maintaining contact with former scholars in order to help plan an **annual reunion**. In addition, they offer ideas and suggestions on future **majors** and **curriculum agendas** for upcoming classes.

"Keeping in touch with other scholars is important as they continue to succeed after the program," said Danielle Williams of Taylor County.

The group is scheduled to meet at least six times per year.

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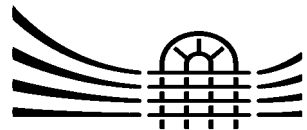
- The **Annual Nutcracker Ball** was held at The Center on December 2 to raise funds for Lake Cumberland Performing Arts (LCPA). LCPA partners with The Center to present Center Stage, Children's Prime Time Theatre and School Time Theatre performances. The event included a **live and silent auction**, a **live band** and a special performance of a scene from **The Nutcracker Ballet**. **Dinner** was catered and featured a salad, baked fish, beef, grilled vegetables, bread and dessert.
- The Center, in partnership with Lake Cumberland Performing Arts, presented two **Center Stage** performances for the holiday season.

The first performance was **The Nutcracker Ballet** on December 1 by The Kentucky Ballet Theatre. The classic ballet, first performed in 1892, has become an annual holiday tradition in communities large and small. The cast of characters, including Clara, Sugar Plum Fairy, the Mouse King and Nutcracker Prince, came to life in this classic ballet.

On December 15, **The Louisville Orchestra**, now in its 67th season, delivered a heart-warming holiday performance. As the only full-time Orchestra in the Commonwealth, the group delivered a repertoire of holiday-themed classical music that was enjoyed by all who attended.

- School Time Theatre and Children's Prime Time Theatre delivered a holiday performance entitled, **Beatrix Potter's The Tailor of Gloucester** on **December 8**.

Children of all ages experienced the journey of Simpkin, a pet cat, as he worked to complete a Christmas coat for a poppy-cock mayor. All enjoyed the **happy Christmas ending** as natural enemies became steadfast friends.



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Renfro joins The Center Homeland Security team

Bryan Renfro was welcomed by The Center for Rural Development on January 3 as the **director of Homeland Security Training Programs**. This new position was created to oversee training efforts for first responders across the nation. All who complete the training program will receive a certificate in **Homeland Security preparedness**.

Renfro is the former director of the Criminal Justice program at NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) where he initiated a Forensic Science program. While there, he also co-authored a grant submitted to **The Department of Homeland Security Office for Domestic Preparedness** that allowed NWACC to create its Institute of Corporate and Public Safety (ICPS).

Renfro began his studies in Anthropology and Biology at the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, and graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Then in 1999, he completed his Master's degree in Forensic Anthropology from the University of Arkansas.

"I'm extremely excited about this opportunity at The Center," said Renfro. "In working with Homeland Security programs, I became familiar with The Center and the great things they are doing."

Free arts development workshop in Leslie Co.

On **January 12**, (snow date January 19) from **5:30-8:30 p.m.** the Leslie County Extension office in Hyden will host "**The Business Side of Music**," a workshop for professional and would-be professional musicians, **free of charge**. Information, tips and contact info will be provided about the "business" of making music. Specific topics of discussion will include: working with agents, negotiating contracts, marketing music and recordings, working with record labels, and more.

The workshop will be conducted by **Pat Bradley, Arts and Culture Outreach Cord**, for The Center, and formerly of June Appal Records, Turquoise Records and The Association for Independent Music. The guest speaker for the event will be Charles Edmonds, a blues musician. There is no fee but pre-registration is encouraged. To register and receive directions, call Judy Sizemore at 606-364-5831 or e-mail at circuit@prtcnet.org.

This workshop is sponsored by the **National Endowment for the Arts** "because a great nation deserves great art."

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- On Saturday, **January 21**, Danny Bray exhibits **Indian artifacts** at The Center. For more information, call 606-677-6000.
- **The Lake Cumberland UK Alumni Association** will meet at The Center from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, **January 19**. **The featured speaker will be Jeff Sheppard**. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m.
- **Lake Cumberland Children's Prime Time Theatre** will present **Little Women** at The Center on Friday, **January 27** at 7 p.m. and on Saturday, **January 28** at 7 p.m. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call 606-678-6555.
- **The Kenny Woods Gun and Knife Show** returns to The Center on Friday, **January 27** and Saturday, **January 28** from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door.
- The Center is currently accepting **applications** for the upcoming 2006 class of **Rogers Scholars** to take place this summer. The program is for rising high school sophomores with an interest in technology, leadership, entrepreneurship and community service. The deadline for applications is January 31. Anyone interested in applying should contact their school guidance counselor or visit www.rogerscholars.com.
- MMA presents "**Showdown in Somerset**" at The Center on Saturday, **January 7** at 8 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. General admission tickets are \$15, front row is \$20 and a VIP table of four is \$100. For more information, call 606-521-6810 or visit www.warriorfc.com.
- **The Somerset/Pulaski County Chamber** will host its banquet on Friday, **January 20** at The Center at 6 p.m.