



THE CENTER

For Rural Development

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Review a look ahead... Preview

February

New educational opportunity in region

U. S. Rep. Hal Rogers, Morehead State University President Wayne D. Andrews and Center for Rural Development President and CEO Lonnie Lawson have announced a partnership to provide new financial aid opportunities to some of Southern and Eastern Kentucky's top high school students. MSU is partnering with The Center to provide 15 full tuition scholarships each year for graduates of the Rogers Scholars program who earn a score of 20 or better on the ACT and have an admission index of 600. In addition, those students with an ACT of 28 or higher combined with a high school GPA of 3.75 will receive both full tuition and on-campus housing. Congressman Rogers said the Morehead State scholarships represent a significant investment by the university in the future leaders of the region.

The Center welcomes Stephanie Marsh

Stephanie Marsh of Paintsville joined The Center for Rural Development team on February 6 as their newest community liaison representing Eastern Kentucky.

"I love this region and the people in it," said Marsh. "I'm excited to work with an organization that provides tools to be more successful in business, improved public safety, increased arts and culture opportunities, and advancements in leadership training."

As a community liaison, Marsh will be a primary contact between The Center and local government officials, civic, community and business leaders and business interests in her region. She will also be responsible for promoting Center programs and services that will benefit the communities she represents. Included in Marsh's service area are these counties: Lee, Breathitt, Bath, Rowan, Menifee, Morgan, Wolfe, Magoffin, Lawrence, Johnson, Floyd, Martin and Pike. She will join The Center's other two existing community liaisons in their efforts to better represent and see first-hand the needs of The Center's 42-county service area.

2006 Boat Show a huge success

Thousands across Southern and Eastern Kentucky escaped the winter chill by attending the 2006 South Kentucky Sport, Boat and Fishing Show the weekend of February 24-26 at The Center in Somerset. Attendees saw all the latest must-haves for summer and were entertained by the live shark show and the rock climbing wall.

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- Connie Hunt of Rockcastle County has been selected to fulfill the term of Mr. Paul Gearhart through June 2008 as a member of The Center for Rural Development's Executive Committee. Hunt currently holds the position of Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Renfro Valley Entertainment Center.

"I am so excited about the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee," said Hunt. "I take pride in the fact that I can now have a more hands-on role of enhancing the lives of citizens in Southern and Eastern Kentucky."

- On February 23-24, Morehead State University's Little Company Theatre entertained and educated approximately 1,000 elementary and middle school students in Pulaski County with the lively performance, "How Can I Keep From Singing?" Participating schools included Eubank Elementary, Shopville Elementary, Woodstock Elementary and Southern Middle. In addition to the performance, Little Company Theatre taught supplemental workshops to more than 90 students at each school teaching about performing art and the basics of theatre. The Center for Rural Development sponsored each event.
- Branson's Ozark Jubilee came to The Center on February 17. This musical variety show was in an original family-friendly country music format, which included traditional country, southern gospel and bluegrass. Presented by Lake Cumberland Performing Arts in partnership with The Center, Branson's Ozark Jubilee sure entertainment for all.



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Former Rogers Scholars selected PS candidates

Richard Mason of Bell County and Michelle Combs of Laurel County have been selected as U.S. Presidential Scholar candidates for the summer of 2006. The program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts. Each year, up to 141 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Mason and Combs will be notified via mail if accepted to the program to represent Kentucky.

Both former Rogers Scholars were invited to apply to the program based on their SAT and/or ACT scores. The next step includes a more extensive process consisting of several written essays and teacher and counselor recommendations along with school transcripts.

If selected as U.S. Presidential Scholars, Mason and Combs will receive an all-expense-paid week-long trip to Washington, D.C. to join other scholars as they meet distinguished politicians, scientists and artists. In addition, they will be recognized for their outstanding achievement at a ceremony sponsored by the White House where they would receive a medallion.

Students experience Chautauqua presentations

For elementary students across Southern and Eastern Kentucky, Chautauqua means learning without books, calculators or pencils.

The Kentucky Chautauqua presentations incorporate drama, music, historical and cultural context, social studies, history, and society through a live performance by a Chautauqua presenter. All of these components are included in the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) testing process.

Each participating school will receive study guides for every teacher which includes pre-show and post-show questions and what to tell the students to pay close attention to during the performance. The study guides also outline each area of the state's core content testing guidelines relative to each individual Chautauqua presentation.

Children will participate in the presentations and learn history told from the experiences of Grandpa Jones and Lily May Ledford played respectively by David Hurt and Sandy Harmon.

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- March 1-3, The Center presents "Read Across America." These videoconferences allow students to connect with a class in a different part of the country to present skits, plays, raps and songs. The videoconferences are open to all K-12 students in public and private schools.
- On Saturday, March 4, the second Rogers Scholars Ambassadors meeting will be held at The Center. The agenda includes planning for the upcoming Rogers Scholars Reunion the first Saturday in August.
- Based on the power and passion of the Celtic legends of Erin, *Dance of Desire* is a folk tale about a love that defied time and it's coming to The Center for Rural Development on Tuesday, March 7 at 7:30 pm.

The story is told through stirring Irish step dancing that features world-champion Irish dancers and performers, well-known throughout the British Isles and Europe.

Don't miss this exciting performance presented by Lake Cumberland Performing Arts and The Center.

Tickets are \$30 for adults. Students, preschool through college, receive a 50 percent discount. Groups of ten or more receive \$5 off ticket prices. To purchase tickets, visit The Center box office or call 606-677-6000. Center Stage events are presented in part by Kentucky Arts Council. Visit www.centertech.com for more Center event information.