

THE CENTER

For Rural Development

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Review a look ahead... Preview

January

Former Rogers Scholar serves as KYA Governor

Seth Dixon of Casey County has been selected to serve as **East Senior Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA) Governor** and on the YMCA Board of Directors (non-voting member). The KYA is a program administered by Kentucky YMCA and is a hands-on program where students conduct state government for three days. It is the nation's largest "youth in government" program.

"Having the opportunity to serve as Governor and on the Board of Directors means a lot to me because so many people put their faith in me to do a good job," said Dixon. "Just like the real Governor of Kentucky works for the people of the Commonwealth, I will be working for the people who attend the East KYA."

Responsibilities of the KYA Governor include serving on the YMCA Board of Directors and attending as many KY YMCA events as possible. The largest event, the General Assembly, will take place this summer. Participants will serve on a variety of delegations and propose bills that will pass through the House of Representatives and Senate. Dixon will return to run the General Assembly later this year. This three-day event gives students hands-on experience dealing with government issues.

Dixon was **nominated** as a KYA Governor candidate by Casey County's Student YMCA. As a part of the selection process, Dixon was required to speak on four core issues that affected the state, two of which were education and the environment, and two of his choosing: economy and prison reform. **State Representative Jimmy Higdon** worked with Dixon to help him prepare for the speech. Dixon was elected by current members of the Student YMCAs from Eastern Kentucky.

When asked what spurred his interest in government, Dixon credited **the Rogers Scholars** program as a primary reason.

"Being a Rogers Scholar helped me to step outside my comfort zone and meet new people, which is very important in campaigning," said Dixon. "It also gave me insight to some of the state issues I chose to speak about during my campaign." **Rogers Scholars** is a youth leadership program developed and administered by The Center for Rural Development, headquartered in Somerset. The senior KYA group consists of grades 9-12 and is divided into two state regions-East and West. Casey County attends the East regional conference.

Dixon is the son of James and Susan Dixon of Hustonville.

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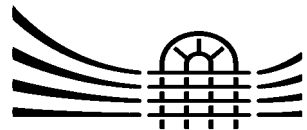
- **Pat Bradley**, Arts and Culture Outreach Coordinator for The Center, will be taking on additional duties as **acting development director** beginning **January 20**.

Bradley will be responsible for overseeing **fundraising** efforts and **grant applications** while continuing her responsibilities as arts and culture outreach coordinator.

"I welcome the opportunity to serve as acting development director for The Center," said Bradley. "I have a true passion for Southern and Eastern Kentucky and this is just another way in which I can contribute to the region in which we live."

- The **application deadline** for this year's class of **Roger Scholars** was **January 31**. All applications postmarked by this date will be considered for the program. A **selection committee** will anonymously review all applications and select participants for this year.
- **Local middle school students** came to The Center theatre to enjoy the **Lake Cumberland Children's Theatre** performance of **Little Women**.

The Lake Cumberland Children's Theatre's mission is to **inspire** and foster, in all segments of the Lake Cumberland Region, **a love of theatre** through educational and performance programs.



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Annual Dine and Dance comes to The Center

Treat your special Valentine to an evening of entertainment at the 2nd Annual Dine and Dance. Presented by Lake Cumberland Performing Arts in partnership with The Center, this fantastic dinner and music show comes to The Center on Friday, February 10. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. and the Big Band Cavalcade show begins at 7:30 p.m. Dancing is optional.

Music will be provided by Rick Schalk and his orchestra. They are seasoned professionals and have played with the best including Bob Hope and Bob Newhart.

Enjoy an evening of great food including a dessert and coffee bar.

The event is a dinner and show package only and tickets are \$45 per person. A table of eight may be reserved, if tickets are purchased together. Table location preference can be noted but not guaranteed. To purchase tickets, visit The Center box office or call 606-677-6000.

Make your reservations for this Valentine's celebration at the 2nd Annual Dine and Dance at The Center. Your Valentine will be glad you did!

Don't miss the 2006 South KY Boat Show

Escape the winter chill by attending the South Kentucky Sport, Boat and Fishing Show the weekend of February 24-26 at The Center for Rural Development in Somerset. Show times are Friday, February 24, from 4-9 p.m., Saturday, February 25 from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday, February 26 from 12-5 p.m.

Welcome thoughts of warm weather as you browse through boats of all kinds, fishing equipment, all-terrain vehicles and other outdoor gear. If you're looking for adventure, come and witness the live dive with the sharks, sure to excite those of all ages. You may even want to take a try at the rock climbing wall. So, whether you want to see the latest must-haves for summer fun on the water, or be entertained by sharks and fun activities, don't miss the 2006 South Kentucky Sport, Boat and Fishing Show.

Admission is \$5, and children 12 and under get in free.

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- Coming to The Center for Rural Development, direct from Branson, Missouri is **Branson's Ozark Jubilee** on **February 17 at 7:30 p.m.** This **musical variety show** is in an original family-friendly country music format, including traditional country, southern gospel and bluegrass. Presented by **Lake Cumberland Performing Arts** in partnership with **The Center**, Branson's Ozark Jubilee is humorous, fun and sure entertainment for everyone!

Tickets are **\$20** for adults and **\$10** for children 12 and under. For 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.

- **School Time Theatre** presents **Harriett Tubman and the Underground Railroad** on **February 15 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.** This stirring drama presented by **Lake Cumberland Performing Arts** in partnership with **The Center** is a classic tribute to a great American who freed herself and hundreds of others from the bonds of slavery. Her **courage** helped to change the world. Share her adventurous life in this accurate and deeply moving musical history lesson.
- Throughout **February**, **The Center's President and CEO, Lonnie Lawson, and Jessica Melton, The Center's Youth Leadership Program Manager**, are traveling throughout the Commonwealth speaking with **Kentucky colleges** about following in the steps of **Lindsay Wilson College**, by offering **Rogers Scholars alumni scholarships**.