

## March

### CenterNET2 sponsors Read Across America

Nine-hundred and sixty-two classrooms participated in Read Across America (RAA) via videoconference in March. Students in Southern and Eastern Kentucky were given the opportunity to take part in the two-way video event that connected classrooms around the United States allowing students to read to each other.

The goal of RAA was to motivate students to read and to collaborate with others in different parts of the US. It was open to all K-12 students in public and private schools with access to videoconferencing equipment. Access was made available statewide through the CenterNET2 network, a resource made possible through The Center for Rural Development.

RAA is sponsored by Two-Way Interactive Conferencing in Education (TWICE). There are nine other organizations that have partnered to make this annual event possible. They are: The Center for Rural Development; College of Education, Wichita State University in Kansas; Merit Network, Inc. in Michigan; Cooperating School Districts in Missouri; Mohawk Regional Center in New York; Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association in Ohio; MAGPI in Pennsylvania; Texas Education Telecommunications Network in Texas; and Kenosha Unified School District in Washington.

### Nancy students learn outside of classroom

Approximately 65 Nancy Elementary students visited The Center for Rural Development on Wednesday, March 29 to participate in a videoconference with Louisville Science Center, learn video production techniques and talk with Center affiliates on programs such as PRIDE, UNITE and Tourism.

"It was amazing to be on TV with a virtual background and have the chance to learn so much about science," said fourth-grader Tyler Blair. "It was a great experience and opportunity."

The videoconference, entitled "The Force is Right," used hands-on models to enable students to learn about the physics of building bridges, skyscrapers, houses and sculptures.

The Louisville Science Center aims to "educate and inspire, while keeping you entertained and engaged with one of the most unique experiences you will ever have."

To learn more about virtual field trips offered by The Center, contact Robyn Phillips at 606-677-6000 or rphillips@centertech.com.

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Volume 7, Issue 4

### MONTHLY MINIS

- Lake Cumberland Performing Arts, in partnership with The Center, presented two Center Stage performances in March. *The Trip to Bountiful* told the story of how a widow, living with her son and daughter-in-law longed to go to her hometown of Bountiful just once more.

*Dance of Desire* also came to The Center in March. Based on the Celtic legends of Erin, this folk tale told of a love that defied time.

- During March, Taylor County first responder vehicles received equipment and software installations made possible by The Center's Public Safety Program. This equipment allows first responders to communicate with others across jurisdictional barriers. And, for the first time, first responders can communicate with each other through mobile laptops. This program is serving as a national model that may benefit other public safety programs across the United States.
- Over 500 elementary students participated in Kentucky Chautauqua performances in March. The performances, made possible through a partnership between The Center and the KY Humanities Council, portrayed the life and times of Grandpa Jones and Lily May Ledford.



*For Rural Development*

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# Review a look ahead... Preview

## April

### Rogers Explores application deadline is 4-19

The Center for Rural Development, in partnership with The University of The Cumberlands, has developed an intensive three-day, two-night pilot program focusing on increasing skills in mathematics, science, engineering and community service. Students from Bell, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski and Whitley Counties are encouraged to apply during their eighth-grade year. Participants are selected through a competitive process and attend the program in Williamsburg during the summer before their ninth-grade year. Dates for this summer's program are June 7-9. All lodging, meals, and program expenses (with the exception of transportation to and from the program) are free to the student. Explorers are able to participate in college-level courses, fine tune leadership skills and develop a network of friends and resources throughout Southern and Eastern Kentucky. The application deadline for qualifying students is April 19. For more information, contact Jessica Melton at 606-677-6000 or [jmelton@centertech.com](mailto:jmelton@centertech.com).

### Last two Center Stage performances of season

The 2005-2006 Center Stage season, presented by Lake Cumberland Performing Arts in partnership with The Center, comes to a close with performances of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *Piano 4*.

*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* comes to The Center on Tuesday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. This zany musical follows the mad-cap adventures of chorus girl, Lorelei Lee, a role made famous on Broadway by Carol Channing in 1949 and on screen by Marilyn Monroe in the 1950s. Set in the roaring twenties, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* tells the story of the fun-loving gold-digger as she sails to France with her chum, Dorothy Shaw. Tickets are \$30.

*Piano 4* is presented at The Center on Thursday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. The four-piano quartet will dazzle the audience with virtuosity and style. Thunderous octaves and scintillating finger-work create a dynamic atmosphere you can feel. Novelty pieces and a colorful production make for a truly memorable experience. Tickets are \$20.

The following discounts are offered based on availability: Fifty percent off all students (preschool through college) and \$5 off groups of 10 or more. Call 606-677-6000 or visit The Center box office to purchase tickets.

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- The last performance of the Children's Prime Time Theatre, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, is scheduled for Friday, April 28 at 7 p.m.

This classic musical follows a toy rabbit as he tries to become real. On his way, the rabbit must deal with Sherwood, the butler who rules the nursery with an iron hand, and the other more arrogant toys. The story moves between the worlds of the toy closet and the nursery and is full of songs which bring responses both happy and sad. The message is a strong one—the power of love can do anything!

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets, visit The Center box office or call 606-677-6000.

- The Pulaski Emergency Relief Ministries (PERM) was selected as the beneficiary of the next Rogers Scholars Ambassador's meeting on April 8. PERM assists qualifying families in the areas of rent or rent deposits, utility or utility deposits, and limited prescription needs. Personal care items are also supplied if available. Clients are given referrals to other agencies for assistance if needed.

Ambassadors select a charity for each meeting and accept donations until three business days prior to the meeting. For more information, contact Jessica Melton at 606-677-6000 or [jmelton@centertech.com](mailto:jmelton@centertech.com).