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## HOME AUTOMATION GETS SMART

Wireless technology makes fingertip  
control for utility and security  
systems affordable and popular

Page 21



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**LANE ONE-ON-ONE:**  
**LINDA J. VAN ELDIK**  
Director, University of Kentucky  
Sanders-Brown Center On Aging



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## 21 COVER STORY HOME AUTOMATION GETS SMART

Wireless technology makes fingertip control for utility and security systems affordable and popular

## 26 AN ECONOMIC ENGINE REFUELS

Indications are Lake Cumberland visitor numbers rising with water levels after a six-year dam repair

## 30 WORTHY OF NOTE

Women who are making a difference in the commercial and public life of Kentucky

## 34 BUILDING TIES WITH DUBAI

Delegation visits Persian Gulf emirate described as gateway to Middle East, west Asian and African business



### Departments

4 Perspective

6 Fast Lane

12 Interstate Lane

13 Kentucky Intelligencer

14 Corporate Moves

15 On the Boards

16 Lane One-on-One:  
Linda J. Van Eldik

Director of the University of Ky.  
Sanders-Brown Center on Aging



36 Viewpoint

37 The Lane List

38 Viewpoint

39 Spotlight on the Arts

40 Exploring Kentucky

42 Passing Lane

44 Kentucky People

### On the Cover

Wireless technology that's come on the market in the past several years with smart phones and tablets has dramatically dropped the cost of home automation control systems and made them much more popular with new home buyers.



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## PERSPECTIVE

### BUDGET SESSION SETS KY AGENDA

Focus on innovative programs,  
stronger business climate

BY DAVE ADKISSON

WHEN the General Assembly convenes in January, it's a sure bet the state budget will have a prominent place on the agenda. The spending plan is always the subject of lengthy deliberations and debate, and that is as it should be since the budget establishes the state's priorities for its projects and programs.

The Kentucky Chamber's interest in the budget stems from our review of state spending over the past few years and our findings that appropriations of Kentuckians' tax dollars have been moving away from education and economic development and toward such unsustainable areas as corrections, Medicaid and public employee health benefits.

That's why the chamber's legislative agenda includes attention to the budget deliberations with an emphasis on prioritized spending on areas that will build a stronger business climate – meaning education and economic development.

We also will advocate that lawmakers maintain sustainable debt levels and adhere to spending principles that limit spending to 6 percent of the state economy, eliminate the ongoing structural deficit and ensure an adequate "rainy day fund" for emergencies.

Although the budget always commands attention, the chamber will focus also on key areas that our policy councils believe offer an opportunity to move Kentucky forward.

#### Education

- Kentucky's adoption of tougher academic standards was an important step toward ensuring students are prepared to succeed in college and career. We will continue our strong support for the implementation of the standards in the state's classrooms.

- We will support the enactment of a charter school law to give all children access to the best education possible.

- Our agenda also includes support for early childhood education and for protecting school funding.

#### Public-private partnerships

- We will push for a comprehensive plan to encourage the creation of part-

nerships between private companies and government to save tax dollars while providing needed projects and services.

#### Health & wellness

- We will continue to support the creation of incentives for workplace-based wellness programs and enactment of a statewide smoke-free law.

- Improving the medical liability climate also is a priority item.

#### Energy

- Supporting the infrastructure of Kentucky's signature coal industry has long been a priority for the chamber and that will continue in the 2014 session.

- We will work to maintain Kentucky's low-cost utility rates by opposing proposals that would change the make-up of Kentucky's non-partisan Public Service Commission.

Talk about tax reform continues around the Capitol, although most observers are skeptical about whether anything meaningful can be accomplished in a year when all House seats and half of those in the Senate will be on the ballot.

The Kentucky Chamber is on record supporting comprehensive tax reform to ensure a competitive climate that will promote long-term economic development and job growth. Since taxes have a significant impact on business decisions that lead to such growth, the chamber believes any reform should adhere to the following principles: support growth and competitiveness, reduce the cost of capital, simplify the tax code, promote fairness and continue to focus on state spending to ensure investment in such future-build areas as education.

To improve competitiveness, the chamber will also support giving local governments, with voter approval, the option to temporarily increase the sales tax for targeted economic development projects.

Clearly, our agenda is a full one, and we know that additional issues will emerge as the session progresses. As always, we look forward to the opportunity to represent the interests of Kentucky's employers as we work together to build a stronger future for our commonwealth.

Download the Kentucky Chamber's 2014 Legislative Agenda at [kychamber.com/2014agenda](http://kychamber.com/2014agenda). ■



Dave Adkisson is president and CEO  
of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce



# Exploring

key economic issues facing Kentuckians today.

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and Local Economies: Recent  
Developments and Implications  
for 2014"*

**Dr. David E. Altig**  
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**The Lane Report**



# FAST LANE

A compilation of economic news from across Kentucky

## LOUISVILLE: FORD'S NEW LOUISVILLE ASSEMBLY PLANT TO BEGIN PRODUCING NEW SMALL LUXURY LINCOLN SUV



*The new Lincoln MKC SUV will greet owners with an exclusive approach detection that senses when an owner is near and responds by illuminating "welcome mats" on the ground next to both front doors.*

continue its move toward targeting a younger, more diverse customer. MKC will be the first Lincoln to have always-on built-in connectivity, allowing owners to utilize a smartphone app to control the vehicle.

Ford has not yet announced any details regarding additional jobs that might be created at the Louisville plant, which went through a \$600 million total rebuild several years ago and went from one to three shifts to produce the Ford Escape SUV. The plant currently employs 4,500.

## LOUISVILLE: UofL MEDICAL RESEARCHER SIGNS GLOBAL LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR STEM-CELL TECHNOLOGY

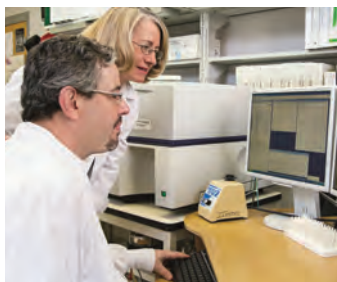
UNIVERSITY of Louisville researcher Dr. Suzanne Ildstad, representing **Regenerex LLC**, has entered into a license and research collaboration agreement with **Novartis** to provide access to stem-cell technology that has the potential to help transplant patients avoid taking anti-rejection medicine for life and could serve as a platform for treatment of other diseases.

UofL said the research agreement will significantly enhance the ability of the university's **Institute for Cellular Therapeutics** to carry out cutting-edge research related to a novel cell discovered by Ildstad, who serves as professor of surgery and director of the institute, as well as being CEO of Regenerex.

The collaboration provides for investments in research, as well as milestones and royalty payments from Regenerex to the University of Louisville in connection with commercialization of the technology. The collaboration also involves a sponsored research agreement to support a multiyear collaboration between Regenerex, UofL and the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research to pioneer new applications of the technology.

"Being a transplant recipient is not easy," said Ildstad. "In order to prevent rejection, current transplant recipients must take multiple pills a day for the rest of their lives. These immunosuppressive medications come with serious side effects with prolonged use including high blood pressure, diabetes, infection, heart disease and cancer, as well as direct damaging effects to the organ transplant. This new approach would potentially offer a better quality of life and fewer health risks for transplant recipients."

"In 1997, the University of Louisville was given a mandate to become a premier metropolitan research university that transforms the lives of the people of Kentucky and beyond," said UofL President James Ramsey. "Dr. Ildstad was one of the first faculty members hired utilizing seed funds from the state to help us attract highly talented researchers through the Bucks for Brains program. Regenerex demonstrates the potential for that vision to be realized bringing new jobs to the city, adding to the revenue from the Tax Increment Financing district and providing funding to UofL in support of our academic mission."



*UofL researcher Dr. Suzanne Ildstad works with research coordinator Thomas Miller in her lab at the University of Louisville's Institute for Cellular Therapeutics.*

## STATE: KENTUCKY PROUD'S 'HOMEGROWN BY HEROES' PROGRAM GOES NATIONAL

A Kentucky initiative to identify farm products produced by veterans will become a national brand, Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner James Comer announced on Veterans Day at the Frazier History Museum in Louisville.

The **Farmer Veteran Coalition**, a California-based organization that helps veterans develop careers in agriculture, will administer Kentucky's **Homegrown by Heroes** program on the national level. The **Farm Credit System** has announced a \$250,000 commitment to fund the national program.

"From the day we started Homegrown by Heroes, it was my intention to take it national so it can benefit veterans from every state," Comer said. "This is something we in agriculture can do to show our respect and appreciation for our military veteran farmers across the United States."

"Many of the men

and women who serve

proudly in our mili-

tary come from

America's rural

areas and small

towns," said Everett

M. Dobrinski,

board chairman for

**CoBank** and direc-

tor for the **Farm**

**Credit Council** board.

"The Farm Credit System has a mission to serve rural America. By supporting the expansion of the Homegrown by Heroes effort, we hope to increase economic opportunity for those veterans who choose to return to agriculture and, in doing so, help our rural communities thrive."

Comer launched Homegrown by Heroes in January as a brand that identifies agricultural products produced by Kentucky military veterans, providing an incentive for consumers to buy those products and for retailers to stock them on their store shelves.

"With this partnership, we are ensuring that Homegrown by Heroes extends beyond the borders of Kentucky and beyond my time as agriculture commissioner," Comer said. "Farmer/veterans from Maine to California, and from this day forward, will be able to use this brand to tell consumers that someone who served in defense of our country made that product. And consumers can say 'Thank you for your service' by buying that product and helping that veteran make a living on the farm."





## STATE: KENTUCKY'S BUSINESS CLIMATE RANKS AMONG TOP 10 IN THE NATION

**S**ITE Selection magazine has ranked Kentucky's business climate among the top 10 in the nation in its 2013 Top State Business Climates ranking. Jumping two spots from 2012, the commonwealth ranked ninth overall in this year's annual survey.

The ranking is based 50 percent on a survey of corporate site selectors and 50 percent on a set of criteria that include the states' competitiveness rank as published in *Site Selection's* May issue; qualified projects so far in 2013 and on a per capita basis; and state tax burdens on new and mature

firms as compiled by the **Tax Foundation** and **KPMG Location Matters** analysis.

Kentucky scored particularly well in project activity categories, including first

place for number of qualified projects on a per capita basis in 2012; second place for number of qualified projects on a per capita basis for the first eight months of 2013; and an overall 10th place finish for project activity in 2012, taking population out of consideration.

"States that rank this prominently are taking the steps necessary to attract capital investment, and our readers will pay close attention to these efforts in the year ahead," said Mark Arend, editor-in-chief of *Site Selection*, which has nearly 49,000 subscribers. "My colleagues and I salute Gov. Beshear and his economic development team for their commitment to improving Kentucky's business climate."

### Site Selection's 2013 Top State Business Climates

Georgia	Louisiana
North Carolina	South Carolina
Texas	Virginia
Ohio	<b>Kentucky</b>
Tennessee	Indiana

## LOUISVILLE: XPO LOGISTICS INVESTS \$2.7M IN TRANSPORTATION SERVICE CENTER

**X**PO Logistics Inc. is investing \$2.7 million to establish a new logistics center in downtown Louisville.

Since being founded in 1989, the Connecticut-based company has become one of the fastest-growing providers of transportation logistics services in North America, quadrupling in size in the last two years alone. The company offers truckload and less-than-truckload

**XPO Logistics**

brokerage, last-mile logistics, ground/air expedited transportation and freight forwarding services to more than 8,600 customers in the manufacturing, industrial, retail, food and beverage, commercial, life sciences and government sectors. The company has operations in 89 locations in the United States and Canada.

XPO is relatively new to the Louisville area, having acquired a small logistics operation there earlier this year. The company currently employs a staff of 14 and anticipates adding 120 new jobs as a result of its Louisville expansion.

XPO Chief Operating Officer Sean Fernandez said the Greater Louisville operation is an important milestone in the rapid growth of the company's customer service network and said hiring in sales and operations is already underway.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### BARDSTOWN

■ **Bardstown Warehousing** is adding a second facility in the Bardstown Industrial Park to help meet increased need for warehouse space in the area, according to a report by *The Kentucky Standard*. The 100,000-s.f. facility will be used as a distribution, warehouse and logistics center with possible manufacturing or assembly capabilities. The facility will employ a staff of five to 10.

### BOWLING GREEN

■ **Alpla**, an Austria-based company that specializes in customized plastic packaging, held an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 11 for its new 108,000-s.f. manufacturing facility in the **Kentucky Transpark** business and industrial park. The new plant, which represents a \$22.4 million investment, is currently producing detergent containers for **Sun Products'** Bowling Green facility. Alpla is currently producing 2 million containers per month and expects that number to rise to 3 million per month once the plant's production lines are fully operational. As of early November, Alpla had hired 59 people and plans to bring that number to 72 by the second quarter of 2014.

■ A company that produces flat rolled-steel products plans to open a new facility in Bowling Green that will create 30 new jobs. **Horizon Steel** will be the exclusive processor of all steel products for **Bilstein Group**, a German company that is also locating in Warren County, bringing 90 new jobs to the community. U.S.-based Horizon Steel carries a full line of carbon-based products and is also considered an expert in the advanced high-strength steel market. Horizon will operate out of the Bilstein plant in Bowling Green's Kentucky Transpark. Horizon will occupy 98,000 s.f. of the 150,000-s.f. facility, which will begin construction in the spring of 2015.

■ **Minit Mart**, a Bowling Green-based chain of 34 convenience stores, has signed a letter of intent to sell the company to **Travel Centers of America** for \$67 million. Founded in 1967, Minit Mart currently has some 550 employees in Kentucky and Tennessee. Travel Centers of America Vice President of Marketing Tom Liutkus told *The (Bowling Green) Daily News* that operations-level employees with Minit Mart will see "little if any change at all in personnel." Ohio-based Travel Centers of America operates in 42 states and has nearly 12,000 employees.



### COVINGTON

■ **UpTech**, a business informatics accelerator launched last year by a group of Northern Kentucky community investors, unveiled its new Covington headquarters on Nov. 22. The new headquarters space features an open co-working hall, breakout rooms to inspire creativity, multipurpose conference rooms, a retreat

lounge and hospitality area, and a **Northern Kentucky University** satellite library that will offer literary resources as well as assistance with patents, licensing, trademarks and copyrights. UpTech guides participant start-up companies through areas of business development that range from marketing and fundraising to market research and pitching the company to both investors and clients.

### FLORENCE

■ **Gateway Community and Technical College** has launched an initiative designed to promote manufacturing careers to women, a demographic that currently holds only 10 percent of the region's manufacturing jobs. The training portion formally kicks off in January when a group of 10 to 15 women will take the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council's Certified Production Technician class. Beginning in March 2014, women may enroll in the Mechatronics and Machining Career Pathways to be employment ready by May 15, 2014. One company has already asked to interview all of the candidates for its apprenticeship program, which provides full-time employment and full tuition benefit for those wanting to pursue an associate degree.

Toyota photo



# FAST LANE

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### FRANKFORT

■ **Kentucky State University** held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late October for a floating science laboratory that will be used for aquatic research. The Kentucky River Thorobred adds another dimension to the university's acclaimed aquaculture program and will also be used to teach Kentucky schoolchildren about the Kentucky River's history and ecology. Construction of the 52-foot-long vessel was funded by the **U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture**.

### HEBRON

■ **Groupon** has opened a new distribution warehouse in Boone County that will create 115 new jobs. Groupon has become a leader in commerce by offering discounted products and services through its online marketplace. The Hebron warehouse will serve as the primary fulfillment center for the company's growing Groupon Goods business.



### HENDERSON

■ The Kentucky Public Service Commission has approved **Big Rivers Electric Corp.**'s request to adjust its rates to reflect the departure of the Henderson-based utility's largest customer, the **Century** aluminum smelter in Hawesville. Century stopped purchasing power from Big Rivers on Aug. 20, the effective date of a contract allowing it to buy power on the open market. The Hawesville smelter consumed

about 40 percent of the power generated by Big Rivers and represented a slightly larger share of total revenue. The PSC has authorized Big Rivers to receive an additional \$54.2 million annually from its remaining customers – some \$20 million less than the amount sought by Big Rivers. According to *The (Henderson) Gleaner*, the rate increase will result in a 16.3 percent increase for the typical residential customer.

## LOUISVILLE: ALMOST FAMILY ACQUIRES 75 LOCATIONS IN NINE STATES FOR \$75.5M

**A**LMOST Family Inc., a Louisville-based provider of home health nursing services, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the stock of **SunCrest Health-Care** for \$75.5 million.

SunCrest, a Tennessee-based provider of skilled home health and personal care services, generated over \$150 million in revenue in 2012 and currently operates more than 75 branch locations in nine states.



The company is one of the largest home health provider chains in Tennessee, with 27 branches generating more than \$60 million in annual revenues. In addition, SunCrest is a major provider in Florida with annual revenues over \$43 million and adds the Florida panhandle to Almost Family's service territory. Combined, the companies service the entire state of Florida with the exception of Miami-Dade County and the Keys.

With this acquisition – the largest in the company's history – Almost Family will operate more than 240 branches across 14 states and its annual net revenue run rate is expected to approach the \$500 million mark.

Almost Family Chairman and CEO William B. Yarmuth said, "The SunCrest brands have long-standing franchise value and we intend to continue our practice of maintaining acquired brands in the local markets. We believe this transaction is an outstanding fit consistent with our long-stated development goals of building strong brand presence with tight geographic density and operational span of control."

ENROLL NOW





## STATE: KENTUCKYONE HEALTH UNVEILS 24/7 VIRTUAL URGENT CARE SERVICES

**K**ENTUCKYONE Health has become one of the first hospital systems in the country to offer a 24/7 virtual urgent care service.

The Anywhere Care program allows new or established patients to consult with board-certified family practice providers via a phone or video chat call. Patients request the service by either visiting the KentuckyOne Anywhere Care website (KentuckyOneAnywhereCare.org) or by calling a toll-free number (855-356-8054). Within 30 minutes, they will receive a phone or video chat call from a provider, who can then prescribe treatment, prescription or over-the-counter medications or home care options. (Providers do not prescribe or refill prescriptions for controlled substances such as narcotic pain relievers.)

KentuckyOne Anywhere Care costs \$35 per visit and is paid by patients, whether or not they are covered by insurance. The cost is less than typical urgent care and a fraction of the cost of a normal emergency room visit. If an in-person visit is needed to reach a diagnosis, then the fee will be refunded.

Anywhere Care is offered through a partnership with Seattle-based **Carena Inc.**, a telemedicine company that serves 4.5 million people in five states.

Prior to launching the service publicly, KentuckyOne made the service available to its employees and their families. Concerns treated included sinus infections, upper respiratory infections, urinary tract infections and minor injuries. KentuckyOne Health said the service has received excellent feedback.



## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### LEXINGTON

■ **Keeneland** concluded its 2013 fall race meet with record attendance and all-sources wagering. The fall meet also featured two other historic events: Jockey Rosie Napravnik won 17 races to become the first female to capture the leading rider title at Keeneland, and Ken and Sarah Ramsey earned their 13th leading owner title after winning 17 races, a fall meet record. Keeneland's **November Breeding Stock Sale** also had a strong showing, with a 38 percent increase in total sales. Strong demand from an internationally diverse clientele drove double-digit gains in gross, average and median, and produced 14 million-dollar-plus horses, double the number sold in 2012.



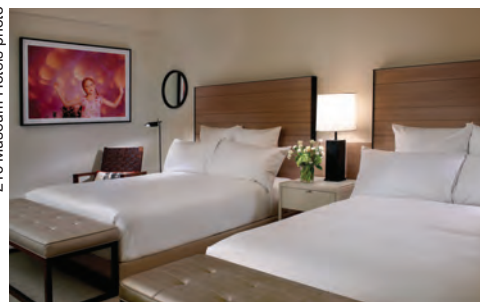
public affairs services in Frost Brown Todd's five-state footprint.

■ **Frost Brown Todd** has formed a new public affairs company that will serve to further strengthen its government-relations services. **CivicPoint** will provide lobbying, government relations and

### LOUISVILLE

■ After being recognized this fall by *Inc.* magazine as one of the country's top job creators, Louisville-based **21c Museum Hotels** has seen its Cincinnati hotel named as the best hotel in the United States in the *Condé Nast Traveler's* annual Readers Choice Awards. The hotel was also ranked 11th best worldwide on the *Condé Nast* list.

21c Museum Hotels photo



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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### LOUISVILLE

■ **U.S. Bank** has closed on more than \$59 million in financing for the redevelopment of the **Hilliard Lyons Center** into **Le Centre on Fourth**, a 340,000-s.f. mixed-use development that will preserve the historic façade and appeal of a building built at the turn of the 20th century while also providing a spark to the downtown district. Built in 1907 and formerly home to **Stewart's** department store, the building will be redeveloped into a 270-room **Embassy Suites** hotel, 100,000 s.f. of Class A commercial office space and 18,000 s.f. of retail space. Once completed in fall 2014, the project is expected to create more than 200 jobs, in addition to up to 200 construction jobs.



■ **MCM LLP**, one of Kentucky's largest accounting firms, has moved its accounting services team from Louisville to Southern Indiana. The move adds 20 employees to MCM's growing Jeffersonville office, bringing the total staff there to 70. Diane Medley, MCM's co-managing partner, said, "We strongly believe that Southern Indiana is poised for significant economic growth, especially in the small to mid-size business market, so we're devoting more resources to enhance that growth."



■ Developer Steve Poe has announced plans to build a new \$22 million **Aloft** hotel in downtown Louisville. The 175-room boutique hotel will be located across from historic **Whiskey Row** and adjacent to the **KFC Yum! Center** arena. Construction is expected to be complete in time for the 2015 Kentucky Derby.

■ The **University of Louisville** has adopted a "living wage" program that increases its minimum salary for regular staff employees to \$10 per hour. UofL is paying for the program with savings incurred through its health insurance program. The university is self-insured and offers a wellness program, **Get Healthy Now**, that promotes physical and mental fitness among its employees. "Through strong management of our resources and thanks in part to the success of **Get Healthy Now**, we have been able to reallocate savings from our health insurance program to this important initiative – without raising insurance rates or cutting back on our employees' health benefit," said UofL President James Ramsey. The increase went into effect Nov. 1.

■ **Kindred Healthcare** has signed two definitive agreements that will expand its holdings. The Louisville-based company is investing \$95 million to acquire **Senior Home Care Inc.**, which operates 47 locations in Florida and Louisiana and currently generates revenues of approximately \$143 million. Kindred is also spending \$83 million to acquire the real estate associated with nine nursing centers in five states – including one in Mayfield, Ky. – that it currently leases from **HCP Inc.** Kindred CEO Paul Diaz said, "Purchasing the real estate of these nursing centers is an important step as we continue to reduce our lease obligations, our most expensive debt, and advance our repositioning plan."



■ **Louisville Metro Government** has issued a request for information to companies and organizations as it moves forward in its effort to build an ultra-high-speed gigabit network in Louisville. "We're throwing open the doors and asking the world to bring us their ideas to connect our city with very high-speed fiber," said Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer. "Availability of and access to a high-speed broadband network has quickly become viewed as critical urban infrastructure, similar to electricity, water and roadways. Today's current network speeds do not provide an adequate foundation to propel the city forward in a technology-based economy."

## STATE: CHAMBER STUDY TOUTS TOURISM POTENTIAL OF EAST KENTUCKY REGION

EASTERN Kentucky can become an appealing regional destination for visitors from Kentucky and surrounding states, but making that happen will require long-term commitments from the private and public sectors to develop the tourism attractions that would be necessary, according to a recent study by the **Kentucky Chamber Foundation**.



*A report released by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce notes that creating a destination attraction that capitalizes on the scenic beauty of Eastern Kentucky could draw more tourism to the region and offset the economic problems created by the loss of coal jobs.*

The chamber commissioned the study in an effort to find a way to offset the significant loss of coal jobs in the region. The purpose of the study was "to take a serious look at the tourism potential of Eastern Kentucky and to create a dialogue about how to develop an underdeveloped region of the state," said Dave Addisson, president and CEO of the chamber.

Conducted by international consulting firm **AECOM**, the study analyzed national and state trends such as how far people are willing to travel for personal recreation, what types of recreation draw what types of visitors, the current mix of attractions in the region, the availability of broadband and various restrictions on alcohol sales. The study also looked at other regions of the country, including Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge, Tenn.; Branson, Mo.; Wisconsin Dells, Wis; and Bentonville, Ark.

The chamber acknowledged that it commissioned the study with a limited agenda. Rather than tackling the host of issues facing Eastern Kentucky and other rural areas (such as education attainment, healthcare, drug abuse, the "brain drain," etc.), the chamber decided to build on the region's natural beauty, relatively good highway access and central location relative to more than two-thirds of the nation's population and to focus on tourism as a possible area of development and job creation.

The study is available for download at [kychamber.com/ekytourism](http://kychamber.com/ekytourism).

## PIKEVILLE: EAST KENTUCKY LAUNCHES DAILY FLIGHT SERVICE TO NASHVILLE

GOV. Steve Beshear and U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers announced on Nov. 6 that **Appalachian Air** will begin offering daily round-trip flight service between Pikeville and Nashville beginning March 3, 2014.

The new flights will utilize the 19-seat **British Aerospace** BAE Jetstream J32 turboprop aircraft and will be operated as regularly scheduled public charter flights by two companies: **Corporate Flight Management**, of Smyrna, Tenn., will be responsible for all aspects of the new service related to flying, including providing the aircraft, flight crew and aircraft maintenance. **Public Charters Inc.**, of Avoca, Penn., will handle ground handling of passengers and baggage, ticketing and ticket sales.

"Scheduled passenger air service will open new opportunities for much of Eastern Kentucky," said Beshear. "What has historically been one of the more difficult regions of the commonwealth to reach will now be less than an hour and a half flying time from connecting to the global air system in Nashville."



## STATE: RETAIL SECTOR REMAINS SOMBER; SEES STAGNANT SALES & JOBS GROWTH

ACCORDING to the **Kentucky Retail Federation's** latest fall economic survey results, nearly 72 percent of respondents believe their businesses are in either the same or worse financial shape than at the same time in 2012. Only 24 percent responded that their business was in better shape financially.

Forty percent of respondents projected this spring that their year-to-date sales would decrease, compared to 51 percent of respondents this fall who reported an actual decrease in sales.

Healthcare costs continue to be the No. 1 factor hindering retail business growth. Tax policies and government regulations were also top concerns on retailers' ability to grow their business. Consumer confidence also was mentioned by many.

As a result, job creation in Kentucky's retail sector remains dismal as well. Only 8 percent reported creation of new full-time positions this fall, while 13 percent said they had reduced hours for full-time staff and 15 percent had eliminated positions. Part-time positions were affected as well, with 17 percent of retailers eliminating part-time jobs and 10 percent reducing hours.

"Planning for healthcare reform implementation has been one of the biggest business concerns this year and probably the one we hear most from employers," said Tod Griffin, president of the Kentucky Retail Federation. "There are simply too many unknowns at this point and employers are hesitant to make significant investments in their business until they can figure out how the costs of the new healthcare law will affect their bottom line."

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### LOUISVILLE

■ **Heaven Hill Distilleries** held grand opening festivities last month for its new **Evan Williams Bourbon Experience**, an attraction that features an artisanal distillery, tours and bourbon tastings. Located on Louisville's historic Whiskey Row in downtown Louisville, the Bourbon Experience becomes the eighth stop on the **Kentucky Bourbon Trail** and the first in Louisville.

### PIKEVILLE

■ More than 1,100 citizens from southern and eastern Kentucky attended a summit on Dec. 9 to share new ideas about how to help the region move forward economically. Hosted by Gov. Steve Beshear and U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers, the **"Shaping Our Appalachian Region"** (SOAR) summit was open to anyone with an interest in the region and drew attendees representing education, business, nonprofits, arts, finance, tourism and local government. Among the topics addressed were job creation, entrepreneurship, tourism, lifelong learning and leadership development. The recent recession hit the region particularly hard and its top industry – coal – has seen more than 6,000 miners laid off in the last two years.

### RICHMOND

■ **Eastern Kentucky University** has announced plans to build a new \$83 million complex that will accommodate both its **College of Education** and the **Model Laboratory School**. "Our roots as an institution are in teacher education," said EKU President Michael Benson. "Model Lab is the last of its kind in the state and one of the few remaining in the country and continues to be an example of what can be accomplished. This new complex will allow us to prepare the next generation for the rapid changes in the field of education."



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# INTERSTATE LANE

Business news from Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### INDIANA

■ **One Southern Indiana**, a chamber of commerce and economic development organization that serves the Southern Indiana/Louisville metro area, has partnered with **Conexus Indiana**, the state's advanced manufacturing and logistics initiative, to form the **Southeast Regional Logistics Council**. The newly formed council is an industry-led initiative that will identify and advance local infrastructure projects, public policies and workforce development needs to strengthen the region's logistics sector. SERLC comprises more than 15 advanced manufacturing and logistics industry representatives from Southeast Indiana and Louisville.

■ **Micropulse Inc.**, a medical device manufacturer for the orthopedic and cardiovascular industries, is expanding its operations in Columbia City, Ind., creating up to 100 new jobs by 2016. Founded in Indiana in 1988, the company currently employs more than 240 full-time employees. Micropulse houses and incubates orthopedic startups through its Orthovation Center and also develops innovative orthopedic implants that are available for licensing to other companies.

### OHIO

■ Columbus, Ohio-based **Huntington Bancshares Inc.** has acquired **Camco Financial**, the parent company of Cambridge, Ohio-based **Advantage Bank**, in a deal valued at \$97 million. The acquisition adds 22 former Camco banking offices throughout eastern and southern Ohio to Huntington's network of 700 branches in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, West Virginia and Kentucky.



### TENNESSEE

■ Tennessee-based furniture manufacturer **England Inc.** is investing \$17.5 million to expand its New Tazewell, Tenn., manufacturing plant. The expansion will accommodate new product lines and add 300 employees over the next five years. England, which has been in operation in Tennessee for 50 years, is one of the largest employers in Claiborne County, employing a staff of 1,050.

### Knoxville Locomotive Works

plans to establish an assembly and fabrication plant in Knoxville to satisfy new EPA emission requirements for trains. Recent EPA mandates require all term-out locomotives be replaced by new engines to meet updated emission standards. In response to the requirements, KLR has designed and engineered a patented gear box and materials process to assemble rebuilt locomotives using new and used parts that exceed EPA standards. KLR will assemble and sell both kits and rebuilt locomotives to its domestic and international customers. The \$6.1 million project will create 203 new jobs over the next three years.



### WEST VIRGINIA

■ **Analabs Inc.**, a West Virginia-based company that provides drug testing and lab work for corporations, has broken ground on a 7,000-s.f. expansion of its facility in Crab Orchard. The \$1.5 million expansion will add more lab space and a clean room.

■ **TLK Group**, a call center services provider, has opened a new call center in Huntington, W. Va., to handle incoming calls for a Fortune 100 company. The company plans to employ a staff of approximately 500 by the fall of next year.

■ **Unilin** is adding a second shift at its wood-floor manufacturing plant in Holden, W. Va., to help meet increased product demand. The company is adding 50 to 80 new positions to staff the additional shift.

## TENNESSEE: SCHWAN COSMETICS USA TO BUILD \$38M PLANT IN MURFREESBORO

**S**CHWAN Cosmetics USA is building a new facility in Murfreesboro, Tenn., that will bring its United States operations under one roof.

The project will merge Schwan's **Cosmolab** facility in Lewisburg, Tenn., and its Schwan Cosmetics USA facility in Piscataway, N.J.

The announcement represents an investment of \$38 million that will create 250 new jobs over the next five years. Total employment at the Middle Tennessee plant will reach 450 as more than 200 jobs will transfer from the Lewisburg facility. The 173,000-s.f. Murfreesboro plant is expected to open during the first half of 2015.

Headquartered in Germany, Schwan is a leading private-label manufacturer of cosmetic pencils and products worldwide.



Schwan Cosmetics is a private-label manufacturer of cosmetic pencils.

## WEST VIRGINIA: EXPANSION AT SOGEFI GP AUTO PARTS PLANT CREATES 250 JOBS

**I**TALY'S Sogefi Group is adding at least 250 new jobs to support the expansion of its auto parts plant in Prichard, W. Va.

Sogefi's Wayne County plant, which opened in 2004, manufactures parts for automobile engines, including fuel pumps, fuel filters, and oil filters. Parts from the company's West Virginia plant are used by global automotive giants including **Toyota, Ford, Fiat, Chrysler, BMW, Nissan, Mazda, Hyundai** and **Kia**. With the \$20 million expansion, Sogefi will begin producing engine intake manifolds for **General Motors**, adding yet another major auto producer to the plant's customer list.

Plant modifications, which include repurposing the plant's existing 215,000-s.f. production, warehouse and office areas, are scheduled to begin in January 2014 and be finished by May. The company will be hiring engineers, quality staff, supervisor and maintenance technicians as well as production positions.

## INDIANA: PRO-BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT LURES ILLINOIS COMPANY TO INDIANA

**T**EC Air Inc., a company that designs and manufactures fans and blowers for HVAC original equipment manufacturers, is moving its headquarters from Illinois to Munster, Ind., creating up to 258 new jobs by 2016.

The \$15 million facility, which will be complete next spring, will house corporate offices, labs, manufacturing, warehousing and distribution.

"Outgrowing our current location and Indiana's pro-business environment solidified our decision to not only expand into Indiana but to relocate our entire operation from Illinois," said Tec Air President Bob McMurtry.

Tec Air will transfer approximately 150 jobs from its Illinois facility and plans to begin hiring new employees at the beginning of the new year.

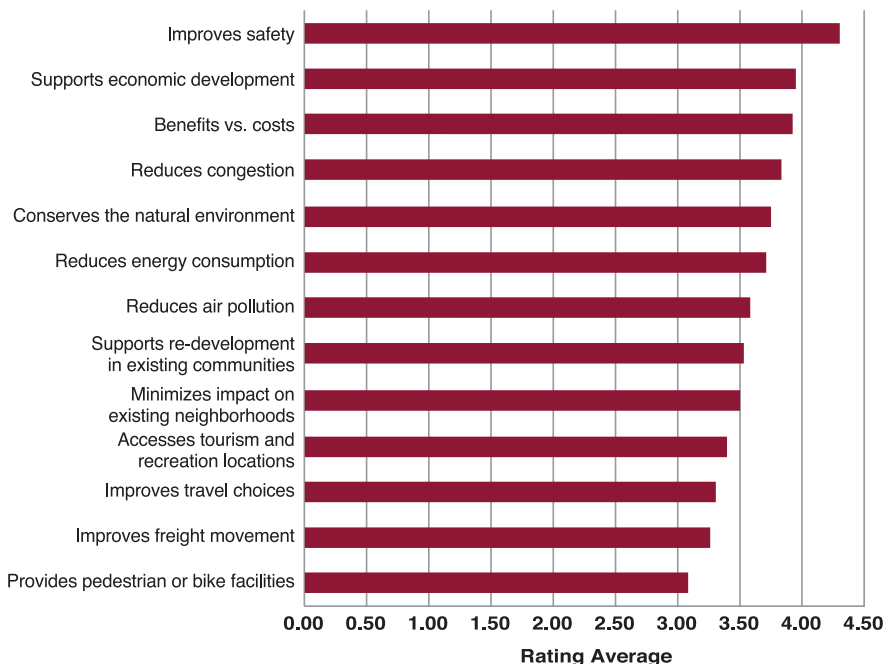
Tec Air is the fourth company in the span of one month to announce plans to move operations from Illinois to Indiana: **RACO** is relocating a distribution center, **Land O'Frost** is moving its headquarters and **MAC Medical** is relocating warehouse and shipping operations.

## TRAVELING THE BLUEGRASS

### Kentucky releases results of statewide transportation survey

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet conducted a survey to help develop its long-range transportation plan. More than 16,000 people participated in the survey, with responses received from every county in the state. Those surveyed were asked:

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN SELECTING TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS?

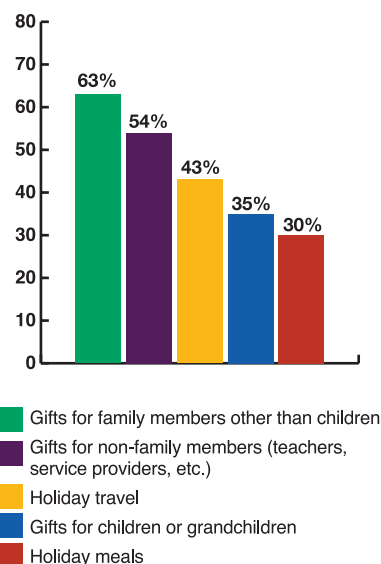


Source: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

## NOT-SO-JOLLY HOLIDAY?

### This year's holiday lists include fewer gifts

The continuing economic slump has nearly half of all Americans tightening their purse strings this holiday season as consumers focus more on basic spending and curtailing "non-essential costs." Americans cutting holiday costs this year say they are spending less in the following categories:



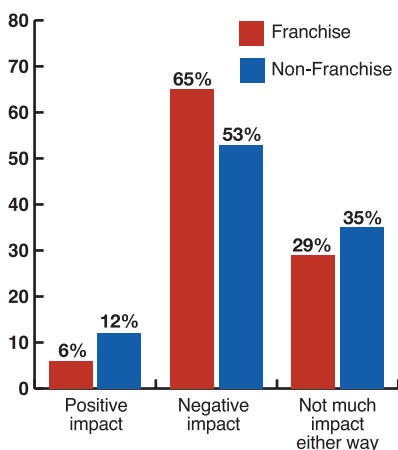
Source: CashNetUSA/Harris Interactive

## A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW

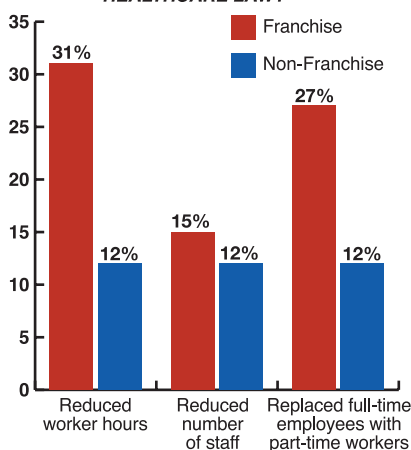
### Company decision makers say ACA is having a negative impact on business

A survey conducted this fall by the International Franchise Association and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce asked 208 decision makers in franchise-owned businesses and 206 decision makers in non-franchise businesses with 40-500 employees about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on their businesses. Combined, the group represents more than 42 million jobs, which is more than 25 percent of all employed Americans.

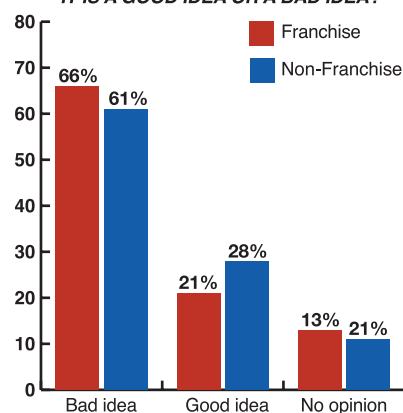
#### WHAT IMPACT IS THE NEW HEALTHCARE LAW HAVING ON YOUR BUSINESS?



#### WHAT ACTIONS HAVE YOU TAKEN IN THE PAST YEAR BECAUSE OF THE HEALTHCARE LAW?



#### FROM WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE HEALTHCARE LAW, DO YOU THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA OR A BAD IDEA?



Source: International Franchise Association/U.S. Chamber of Commerce



# CORPORATE MOVES

*New leadership for Kentucky businesses*

## ARCHITECTURE/ ENGINEERING

■ Lexington-based integrity/Architecture PLLC has named Senior Manager **Aaron Bivens** as its third principal and owner.



*Aaron  
Bivens*

## ARTS

■ **Teddy Abrams** has been named music director designate of The Louisville Orchestra.

## BANKING

■ **Tom Schirmann** has joined Burlington-based Heritage Bank as vice president of consumer lending.



*Tom  
Schirmann*

■ **John T. Taylor** has been named chief executive officer of Louisville-based Porter Bancorp and chairman of the board of PBI Bank.



*John  
Taylor*

## CONSTRUCTION

■ **John Megibben** has been promoted to vice president and region leader for Messer Construction Co.'s Louisville region.



*John  
Megibben*

## EDUCATION

■ **Thomas F. Davisson** has been promoted to senior vice president and chief operating officer of the Sullivan University system.



*Sue Ott  
Rowlands*

■ **Sue Ott Rowlands** has been named vice president for academic affairs and provost at Northern Kentucky University.

■ **Jay S. Allen** has been named president of Hopkinsville Community College.

■ **Eduardo Nino-Moreno** has been named executive director of The Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship, a partnership between Transylvania University, the University of Kentucky and the center's board that promotes compromise as a way of solving the nation's problems.



*Eduardo  
Nino-Moreno*

## EQUINE

■ **Bob Heleringer** has been named executive director of the Kentucky Equine Education Project (KEEP), an organization formed to increase awareness of the importance of the equine industry to Kentucky.

## FOOD/SPIRITS/HOSPITALITY

■ **Brian Scantland** has been named vice president of planning and performance improvement for Louisville-based Long John Silver's.

## GOVERNMENT

■ **Brian C. Thomas** has been named general counsel of the Kentucky Retirement Systems.

■ **Rodney Kuhl** has been named commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Vehicle Regulation.



*Rodney  
Kuhl*

## HEALTHCARE

■ **Philip A. Patterson** has begun his tenure as president and chief executive officer of Owensboro Health. Patterson succeeds **Jeff Barber**, who has retired as president and CEO.

■ **Christopher M. Hickey** has been named executive vice president and chief executive officer of The Lexington Medical Society.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

■ **Leslie Gannon** has been named executive director of the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council.

## DEPARTURES

■ **Richard E. Chapman**, executive vice president and chief administrative and information officer at Kindred Healthcare Inc., has announced that he will retire from the Louisville-based company at the end of the year. Chapman will continue working part-time as a senior adviser.

■ **Michael McCall**, founding president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, has announced plans to retire in January.



*Michael  
McCall*

■ Louisville Ballet Artistic Director **Bruce Simpson** has announced that he will retire when his contract expires in July 2014.

## LEGAL

■ **Brooke Parker** has been named vice president of CivicPoint LLC, a new Lexington-based public affairs company formed by the law firm of Frost Brown Todd.

## NONPROFIT

■ **Kristen Svarczkopf** has been named executive director of International Book Project, a Lexington-based organization that promotes literacy and education.

## PHARMACEUTICAL

■ **Christopher Schaefer** has been named senior vice president of corporate development at Louisville-based PharMerica Corp.

## OTHER

■ **Harold J. Palmer** has been named president of The Jockey Club Technology Services Inc. He succeeds **Robert A. (Bobby) Burch**, who is retiring at the end of the year.



*Harold  
Palmer*



*Bobby  
Burch*

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# ON THE BOARDS

Kentuckians named to organizational leadership roles

## CENTRE COLLEGE

■ The Centre College board of trustees has elected new officers: Chairman – **Randal B. Kell**; Vice Chairman – **Mark E. Nunnally**; and Secretary – **James D. Rouse**. All are Centre graduates.



Randal Kell

## FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY KENTUCKY

■ **Allen K. Montgomery Jr.** has been named to the board of directors of Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. Montgomery, of Louisville, is senior vice president of community health and advocacy at KentuckyOne Health.

## GOVERNOR'S SCHOLAR PROGRAM

■ **Bennie Lee Ivory** has been appointed to the board of directors of the Governor's Scholar Program. Ivory, of Louisville, is a retired editor.

## HAZARD COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

■ **Stephen D. Bowling** and **Shawn B. Harley** have been appointed to the board of directors of Hazard Community and Technical College. Bowling, of Jackson, is the director at Breathitt County Public Library. Harley, also of Jackson, is a meteorologist for the National Weather Service.

## KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL FINANCE CORP.

■ **Linda L. Rumpke** has been appointed to serve on the board of directors of the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. Rumpke, of Bardstown, is president and chief executive officer of Town & Country Bank and Trust Co.

## KENTUCKY BOARD OF HOUSING, BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION

■ **David Dean** has been named to the Kentucky Board of Housing, Buildings and Construction. Dean is president and general contractor at Dean Builds and represents the Associated General Contractors of Kentucky.



David Dean

## KENTUCKY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

■ **C. Robert Smith** and **Jeff Bibb** have been appointed to the Kentucky Emergency Response Commission. Smith, of Prospect, is vice president at UPS Airline Security. Bibb, of Frankfort, is director of the division of incident management for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

## KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

■ The Kentucky Historical Society has elected its new officers for the coming year: President – **Brian Mefford**, Connected Nation Inc.; First Vice President – **Renee Shaw**, KET; Second Vice President – **J. McCauley Brown**, Brown-Forman; Third Vice President – **Michael J. Hammons**, Kentucky Philanthropy Initiative. Newly elected committee members include: **Chris Black**, Ray Black &



Brian Mefford

Son Inc.; **Jennifer P. Brown**, Kentucky New Era; **Betty Sue Griffin**, The Griffin Group; **Laureen Laumeier**, Hardin County School System; and **Jim Wallace**, Trigg County Schools (retired).

## KENTUCKY HOUSING CORP.

■ **Horace Alton Cunningham** and **Ann D. McDonald** have been appointed to serve on the board of directors of the Kentucky Housing Corp. Cunningham, of Benton, works at International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 91. He represents the interests of the Kentucky State Building Trades Council. McDonald, of Winchester, is a real estate broker.

## KENTUCKY REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS

■ **Thomas W. Oliver** has been appointed to the Kentucky Real Estate Appraisers Board. Oliver, of Bowling Green, is an executive with South Central Bancshares of Kentucky Inc.

## KENTUCKY STATE ARCHIVES AND RECORDS COMMISSION

■ **Roger Hamperian** has been appointed to the State Archives and Records Commission. Hamperian, of Lexington, is a records management analyst for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County government.

## LEXARTS

■ LexArts has elected four new members to its board of directors: **John Cioci**, senior vice president, PNC Bank; **David O'Neill**, administrator, Fayette County Property Valuation; **Mae Suramek**, executive director, The Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center; and **L. Tracee Whitley**, chief operating officer, Bingham, McCutchen LLP. **John Long**, chief executive officer of the United States Equestrian Federation, has been elected as chair of the board. Other members of the executive committee include: Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair – **John Cioci**, PNC Bank; Facilities Committee Chair – **Stephen L. Grossman**, Hilliard Lyons; Development Committee Chair – **Becky Reinhold**, Bluegrass Sotheby's; Grants Committee Chair – **J. David Smith Jr.**, Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC; Nominating Committee Chair – **Virginia Underwood**, private practice attorney and consultant; and **James M. Clark**, president and CEO, LexArts.



David O'Neill

## LOUISVILLE ARENA AUTHORITY

■ **James O. King Jr.** and **Raymond K Guillaume** have been appointed to the Louisville Arena Authority. King, of Louisville, is president of King Southern Bank/King & Co. PSC. Guillaume, also of Louisville, is a retired banker.



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# LANE ONE-ON-ONE

Kentucky's leaders express their opinions



## Linda J. Van Eldik

Linda J. Van Eldik is director of the University of Kentucky's Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and the Alzheimer's Disease Center. Van Eldik holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Calvin College and completed her doctorate in microbiology and immunology at Duke University, which is where she became interested in neuroscience. Her research primarily focuses on inflammation, which normally fights off infection and injury to protect the body, but in the case of acute injuries or chronic diseases like Alzheimer's, can produce detrimental effects. After a postdoctoral fellowship at Rockefeller University in New York, Van Eldik served on the faculty of Vanderbilt University and Northwestern University before joining UK in 2010. In addition to her research and administrative work, she has also been a mentor to students and has worked with more than 27 postdoctoral scientists and seven predoctoral trainees.

## 'DEMENTIA INCREASING IN PREVALENCE... IT'S GOING TO BANKRUPT OUR COUNTRY'

UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging Director Linda Van Eldik discusses research to reduce Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases

BY ED LANE

**Ed Lane:** How long have you been affiliated with the University of Kentucky and when did you become director of the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging?

**Linda Van Eldik:** On Feb. 1, 2010, I was hired to be the director of the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging (SBCoA). I had been associate director of the Alzheimer's Disease Center at Northwestern University for about 16 years before I moved to UK.

**EL:** What inspired you to enter this particular field – studying aging and neurodegenerative diseases?

**LVE:** I started to become really interested in biology when I was in college. I was a biology major, but I wasn't studying anything related to the brain. My Ph.D. was actually in immunology and virology – studying viruses and how they affect the immune system. When I became a faculty member, I became interested in the brain because a protein I was studying that affected the immune system was also found in high levels in the brain. I was wondering what it was doing there, so I went to California to learn neuroscience. I did a six-month sabbatical and fell in love with neuroscience, and I have been studying the brain ever since.

**EL:** How long has Sanders-Brown been researching Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders?

**LVE:** The center was established in 1978. In 1985, it became one of the first 10 National Institutes of Health-funded Alzheimer's disease centers in the country. Our team has been working on neurodegenerative disorders for more than 30 years.

**EL:** What is the center's major source of research funding at this time?

**LVE:** It's primarily from NIH, as all biomedical science is, which makes research funding more difficult in these challenging economic times. NIH funds only a very small percentage of the grant proposals it receives, so SBCoA has to rely a lot more on other funding sources.

**EL:** How important are private gifts to the center in continuing its research initiatives? What percentage of the center's funding is through gifting versus the NIH?

**LVE:** Gift funding is very important. SBCoA currently receives about 70 percent of its funding from NIH or other granting agencies, with the other funding coming from the university, state government, private donations, endowments and philanthropic gifts. Because NIH funding is declining and it is much

more difficult to get research grants, gift funding will become significantly more important in the future. Also, high-risk ideas almost never receive funding from the government, although cures and treatments almost always come from creative and novel ideas and discoveries. Gift funding helps continue the center's cutting-edge research.

**EL:** Dr. William Markesbery served as Sanders-Brown's director for more than 30 years until his death in 2010. Research conducted under Markesbery's leadership included the Nun Study, PREADVISE study and the brain study. Which of those studies are ongoing at this time, and which have been concluded?

**LVE:** The PREADVISE study of antioxidants was one of the first clinical trials in which Bill Markesbery was involved. The trial began in 2002 as an addition to an existing trial that was examining the use of vitamin E and selenium for preventing prostate cancer. The purpose of the study is to determine if reducing oxidative stress by taking antioxidants can prevent Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Oxidative stress is kind of like rust in the brain, like the rust you get on metal from too much oxygen. That occurs as people age, and it's thought to be an early (disease) event that happens in the brain. Bill Markesbery had shown that oxidative stress could contribute to Alzheimer's pathology in the brain. This study is in its last year right now, and so we'll soon be analyzing the data. PREADVISE has been a huge bonus because its findings have also generated additional grants.

The brain study is also still ongoing; it involves following a cohort of normal volunteers who agree to come in every year for memory tests and donate their brains upon death. This study has been a tremendous resource for research because SBCoA can follow what happens to people before they have memory problems. We can then determine what changes are occurring in the brain decades before symptoms begin. That's really important now, because it's become clear that disease-relevant changes in the brain are occurring 10 to 15 years before memory problems are evident. Early intervention is essential.

The Nun Study used to be here. SBCoA has the data from the study, and those data are being used in new studies. It followed a group of sisters over the age of 75 years from the School Sisters of Notre Dame and looked at the autobiographical essays they wrote when they entered their order in their late teens and early 20s. Researchers examined whether the nuns' early literary skills, such as including many ideas and thoughts into their sentences, correlated

with whether they developed dementia in their 70s and 80s. In general these nuns were very healthy, but there were interesting correlations. Researchers found that the sisters who had strong language and writing skills early in life were less likely to develop dementia many decades later. And that created a lot of publicity many years ago. The Nun Study also showed that nuns who expressed more positive emotions in their autobiographies lived significantly longer than those nuns who expressed fewer positive emotions, suggesting that a positive emotional outlook early in life can help people live longer. All these longitudinal studies are providing important new knowledge about dementia risk factors and the complex relationship between pathological changes in the brain and cognitive impairment.

**EL: Was there ever a study of professors, scientists, mathematicians, people who use their brains extensively during their daily lives?**

**LVE:** It is known that a higher educational level correlates with a lower risk of developing dementia, but I don't believe there's been a specific study just on, for example, professors. There have been a variety of studies suggesting that regular use of your brain and activities that require complex

mental activity, such as playing a musical instrument, doing crossword puzzles, learning something new, reading or other ways to stay mentally active, can reduce a person's risk for AD.

**EL: As the study and research of AD continues to expand and progress, how has the scope of research changed at SBCoA?**

**LVE:** SBCoA was an early pioneer in studying normal individuals, which is where the field of research is now going, so we are ahead of the curve. Our center has about 500 people in what used to be called the Brains Cohort, a group of volunteers that the center follows every year. We also have about 200 additional people who have transitioned into some kind of impairment. Our researchers are trying to develop biomarkers – ways to determine if a person has an enhanced risk of developing or is on the way to developing AD or if the person will remain normal.

How do you determine if a normal individual who has no memory problems is going to develop AD? There's imaging, actually taking pictures of the brain in a living person, to detect changes that are consistent with AD. There are biomarkers in cerebrospinal fluid that researchers are interested in defining and determining if they correlate with transitions into demen-

tia or not. We're also conducting risk-factor research.

**EL: With regard to the brain study, SBCoA follows individuals for years before their death, and then immediately upon death researchers autopsy the brain. Can you explain the value of the autopsy?**

**LVE:** The autopsy is the gold standard for diagnosing the cause of death. Did this person really have AD or did they have something else that was causing their dementia? Alzheimer's is just one type of dementia, and an individual can have very similar memory problems but actually have a different disease. So it's very important to know what disease the person had, especially once effective medications for different neurodegenerative diseases are developed. A medication for Alzheimer's may not be effective in a person with vascular dementia or hippocampal sclerosis, which is very prevalent in people who are very elderly, age 90 or above. In the very elderly, hippocampal sclerosis is almost as prevalent as Alzheimer's disease, but clinical symptoms look the same. So you need an autopsy to determine what caused that person to have their clinical symptoms.

Also, researchers may think a particular protein or gene is a factor in the disease process, and autopsy allows them to



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## LANE ONE-ON-ONE

*Among the neuroscience researchers at the UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging are, from left, Danielle Goulding; Adam Bachstetter; Bob Sompol; Linda Van Eldik; Ed Dimayuga; and Bin Xing.*

use human brain samples to directly test their ideas. A very short postmortem interval, from the time of death until the brain is removed, is needed because high-quality samples of the brain are very important for the research. SBCoA has one of the shortest postmortem intervals, averaging two to four hours, of all 27 Alzheimer's centers in the country. Other research centers sometimes have up to 24-hour intervals. Our rapid autopsies are possible because SBCoA has very highly dedicated volunteers who call immediately when their family member dies. Also, because the Lexington area is relatively small, there is not a long delay in arriving here for autopsy. And we have a 24/7 on-call autopsy service that's run by two of our faculty. They're available to perform autopsies 365 days a year.

**EL: How do you archive the autopsy information so researchers can refer to it in the future?**

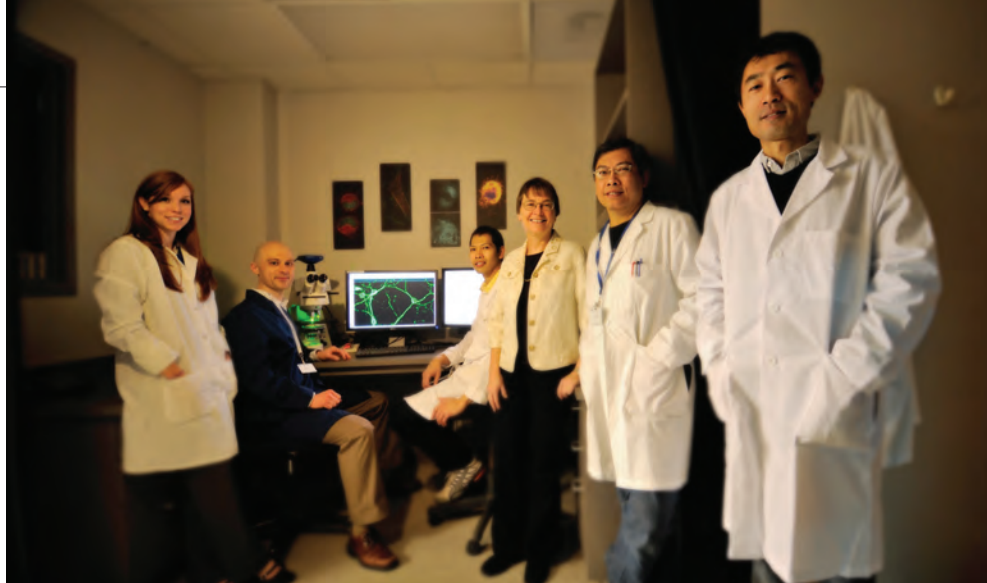
**LVE:** We take part of the brain and fix it, section it and then actually look at final details under the microscope. A portion of the brain is immediately frozen at minus-80 degrees, for use by researchers who may want to analyze samples of tissue. The samples, databases and a biostatistical core are managed by Dr. Richard Kryscio. We have wonderful statisticians, and all data are uploaded to a national coordinating center. Because the network of Alzheimer's centers throughout the country can share information, they are able to make better statements about whether something is cause-and-effect and whether something looks like it is part of the disease.

**EL: How many professionals and staff members are employed by the center?**

**LVE:** SBCoA has over 100 people, including faculty, staff and students, all working together. That includes basic scientists and clinical scientists. It's a very interactive and collaborative group.

**EL: How well coordinated is research produced by NIH-funded AD centers? Are the centers generally collaborative or competitive?**

**LVE:** In terms of the 27 centers that NIH funds, they all interact and collaborate, especially through data-sharing initiatives. For example, SBCoA makes all of its tissue, brain and blood samples available to other researchers. Each center has to renew its NIH grant every five years. In 2010, SBCoA was doing that, compiling information, and we realized that our center had sent out over 14,000



specimens all over the world in that previous five-year period. SBCoA is one of the top-performing neuropathology groups, based originally on Bill Markesbery's expertise. Now Dr. Peter Nelson, an outstanding neuropathologist, is the neuropathology core leader of our Alzheimer Center, and he's building on Bill's legacy. SBCoA freely makes its samples available; some other centers charge for samples, but we don't. SBCoA has an Aperio ScanScope, a wonderful high-quality microscope that automatically scans images. This allows researchers to obtain high-resolution images and get very precise and quantitative information about brain changes.

**EL: What are the major areas of research now being conducted by Sanders-Brown?**

**LVE:** The center not only studies AD, it also has programs on Down Syndrome – a risk for later development of dementia; on stroke; on vascular dementia; and on risk factors, what's important in terms of prevention or what might increase risk. We also have an active clinical trials program that's testing new potential drugs.

**EL: In addition to managing the entire center, you lead one of the research teams. So you're pulled between research and management duties. How much time do you spend on each?**

**LVE:** I'm supposed to spend about 20 percent of my effort on directing Sanders-Brown. In reality, I can divide my 80 hours of time per week (smiles) anyway I want. I delegate to people and let them take care of areas they need to manage. For example, I have an outstanding research laboratory manager who supervises the day-to-day activities of the lab. If I didn't have him doing that, I would have to spend a lot more time on the nitty-gritty there. I have a weekly meeting where the entire lab team reviews the experiments we conducted in the prior week and talks about plans for the next week. Those are short-term goals, but we also keep in mind our mid-term and longer-term agendas.

In terms of managing the whole center, we have a wonderful group of scientists at Sanders-Brown, and I don't try to micro-manage them. We have a monthly faculty meeting where we serve lunch and talk about issues of importance to the center, and then we also have project-specific meetings. For instance, we're preparing a new grant proposal on vascular dementia; so, we're meeting every other week as a group to plan. We also have an executive committee meeting of the Alzheimer's center every two weeks. That's a complex endeavor, so we meet regularly to discuss issues and make decisions.

In terms of the frequency and the composition of meetings, it depends on what the issues are. We try to make meetings productive by developing an agenda ahead of time, making decisions and establishing action items at the meeting.

**EL: What are the missions of the Alzheimer's center?**

**LVE:** Our Alzheimer's center is a research center whose mission is to catalyze innovative research, outreach, education and clinical programs. If a person has a memory problem or wants to be seen medically, we refer them to the memory disorders clinic in neurology. But, of course, the same physicians who work in our Alzheimer's center also see patients in the memory disorders clinic. Patients evaluated for memory problems will likely see Dr. Greg Jicha or Dr. Charlie Smith, or our newest faculty member, Dr. Ronan Murphy, who started in November. Other doctors in neurology see other kinds of complaints. I should also say that our Alzheimer's center clinic conducts free memory screens every month. If a person wants to be tested, they can call and find out when the next screening is happening.

**EL: What are some new or expanded programs you have initiated since becoming executive director?**

**LVE:** Memory Café has been really successful. It's a program to bring together people with dementia or other cognitive impairment and their families or care-



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## LANE ONE-ON-ONE

givers in a social situation. Memory Café does fun things such as engaging in music or art or other activities where participants can interact in a social environment, without stigma.

We also conduct a number of educational events; for example, we initiated an annual Markesbery Symposium, named in honor of Bill, that includes both a scientific session and a community session. We also started a program to educate medical students who often are never exposed to geriatrics. The students are able to talk with elderly people and understand the issues they face.



*Research scientist Bin Xing uses a Nikon inverted microscope to examine brain cells in culture.*

**EL: Certain minority groups have a higher incidence of neurodegenerative diseases, and SBCoA has a special outreach program. How does that work?**

**LVE:** Dr. Deborah Danner is the center's director of education and outreach. She has spent a lot of time developing relationships with the African-American community in the Lexington area. We started something called AADOP, which is African-American Dementia Outreach Partnership, to increase awareness of AD and the importance of research, and provide support and guidance to families within the African-American community who are affected by memory loss and dementia. We've developed trust within the community, and we've been very successful at recruiting African-American individuals into our volunteer cohort. It's important that African-Americans get involved in research, because they're at a much higher risk of developing dementia than are Caucasians.

**EL: Some doctors think that Alzheimer's tends to onset earlier and that other forms of dementia onset later.**

**LVE:** There's a genetic form of Alzheimer's that is a result of gene mutations that will cause the disease, and that's a very

early-onset form but very rare. If you inherit that mutation from your mother or father, you will get Alzheimer's. Most people who develop AD do so later in life, and it's not caused by a genetic mutation but by a whole group of genetic risk factors that you inherit, environmental issues and lifestyle. It's a combination of causes. You can also detect subtle differences between some kinds of dementia using very sensitive psychological tests. For example, frontotemporal dementia tends to affect the front part of the brain, and so it affects executive function, like judgment and decision-making. There's also vascular dementia; sometimes you can get an idea, at least, of whether a person's dementia might have a vascular component. Especially here in Kentucky, we're at a very high risk of vascular complications. Problems with the blood vessels in the brain, such as mini-strokes or changes in blood flow through the brain, can occur as a complication of diabetes or obesity or cardiovascular problems. We have a lot of those medical issues in Kentucky, so when we study the brains of people who have come to autopsy, it's very common for the brain to show evidence of vascular co-morbidities. It's actually more common than someone with only Alzheimer's disease pathology in the brain.

**EL: What can individuals do to reduce the chance of being a victim of Alzheimer's disease or dementia in general?**

**LVE:** What's good for your heart is also good for your brain. Trying to control your weight, blood pressure and blood sugar, as well as getting regular exercise and eating a healthy diet, are good health goals. There's a lot of evidence that staying engaged socially and mentally reduces your risk as well.

**EL: What about smoking?**

**LVE:** Smoking is bad for you on several levels. It causes an increased risk of dying from cancer and cardiovascular disease. It also appears to contribute to damage of brain blood vessels and increases the risk of Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia.

**EL: If a benefactor said, "We'd like to fund SBCoA completely for every project you'd like to have," what would be your top priorities in expanding your research?**

**LVE:** If we had more funding, the center would be able to serve a much larger number of people. We could pursue more clinical trials and try new potential drugs. More people could enter into our biomarker studies, so we could potentially improve our diagnostic ability long before people become clinically

impaired. We could integrate more in terms of having all the personnel that we need. Dementia is increasing in prevalence because everybody's living longer; it's going to bankrupt our country. It's already the only disease in the Top 10 without an effective treatment. So we could really focus on our therapeutic efforts as well as trying to earlier identify the people we will need to treat. It's a two-pronged strategy: We need to develop effective medications and identify the right people to treat.

**EL: What percentage of the people upon whom the center conducts a brain autopsy actually had Alzheimer's disease?**

**LVE:** Our neurologists are very good at diagnosing AD because they are dementia specialists, and so they have quite a high accuracy rate. If they think a person has AD, almost always the brain will show it. They are probably around 90 percent accurate. For doctors who don't have as much experience looking at dementia, it's a much lower percentage than that.

**EL: When do you think there will be a cure or some successful treatment for Alzheimer's?**

**LVE:** There's a lot of hope on the horizon right now. In the past, some researchers have been too exuberant and promised things that didn't pan out. The national Alzheimer's plan that has now been accepted by the government is targeting for an effective treatment by 2025. I hope it's sooner than that, but it's hard to know unless we get a much bigger infusion of research dollars.

**EL: Do you have a closing comment you'd like to make?**

**LVE:** Contribute! Help Sanders-Brown conduct its neurodegenerative research. And it's not just dollars. It's also the people who participate in our studies. Talk about Sanders-Brown with your neighbor. One of the big things I'm trying to do is get our name out there more. People all over the nation know the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging; I knew it in Chicago. But when I came here, I'd walk around town and people would say, "What do you do?" and I would say, "I work at the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging," and they would say, "What's that?" So talk to your friends; talk us up. All of that helps – Sanders-Brown Center on Aging gets its name out there and more people start to appreciate the world-class, cutting-edge research we're doing. ■



*Ed Lane (edlane@lanereport.com) is chief executive of Lane Consultants, Inc. and publisher of The Lane Report.*



*Wireless technology that's come on the market in the past several years with smart phones and tablets has dramatically dropped the cost of home automation control systems.*

tion systems wasn't what originally prompted the Ruffins to build a new home. But, because they are approaching retirement age, they knew they "wanted some amenities that would make our new home comfortable," John Ruffin said. "We wanted to make it a place where our children and grandchildren would enjoy being."

Now, with an easy-to-use app on his smart phone, Ruffin can call up his favorite country or jazz tunes from his subscription service and play them through his integrated sound system anywhere in the house, or even outside. From his work computer, he can remotely pull up his home's exterior cameras to make sure everything is all right at home. When the doorbell rings, a camera view of the person at the door pops up on the wall-panel tablets stationed throughout the home. The home's six TVs share three central cable boxes, three Apple boxes, and two Blu-ray players – and anything playing on those devices can be directed to a single TV or multiple ones throughout the home. And downstairs, in the home theater, Ruffin delights his grandkids by dimming the lights, turning on the projector, and lowering the window shades all with the touch of one button.

It's the smart home everyone has been predicting for some time now, and it's finally becoming more mainstream.



**John Ruffin,**  
CEO, AMR  
Management  
Services

# Home Automation Gets Smart

Wireless technology makes fingertip control for utility and security systems affordable and popular

BY ROBIN ROENKER

**J**OHN Ruffin never has to walk into a dark house again.

With the push of a button on his smart phone, he can alert his home of his impending arrival from his car. The systems in his home spring to action, opening the garage door, disarming the home security system and turning on the programmed "pathway lighting" from his back door, through his entry hallway, into his kitchen.

"The combination of those things really makes it convenient, especially when we're bringing in groceries, or we have our hands full," said Ruffin, CEO of AMR Management Services in Lexington, who with his wife, Shirley, moved into their new, Jimmy Nash-built home in Lexington's Patchen Wilkes neighborhood last summer.

The dazzling array of capabilities available now through today's so-called "smart" or "connected" home automa-

### Increasingly affordable

Telecom research firm Berg Insight estimates that just 3.2 percent of North American homes currently have a smart home system – meaning a fully integrated, comprehensive automation system that combines security, energy conservation and home electronics management capabilities. But by 2017, the number of North American homes with smart systems is expected to jump to 16.6 percent.

That might be optimistic, but several major players have had roll-outs of new home system products in the past couple of months.

A quiet boom has been taking place just in the last two to three years, say industry insiders, like Cooper Stofer, owner and CEO of Lexington's Lava



## COVER STORY

Systems and Lava Security Solutions, which have been installing smart systems in Lexington homes for the past eight years.



**Cooper Stofer,**  
Owner/CEO,  
Lava Systems

“The real game changer in all of this has been the iPad and mobile technology,” Stofer said. “Everyone today manages their smart home systems with their mobile technology: their iPads or other tablets, and their smart phones. For the cost of an iPad – for \$300 or \$400 or \$500 – you can now control everything in these home automation systems. System controls used to require proprietary touchscreen tablets that cost \$5,000 to \$10,000 just for the tablet alone.”



**Jimmy Nash,**  
President/  
CEO, Jimmy  
Nash Homes

Lexington builder Jimmy Nash agreed. His firm has been installing very high-end, hard-wired custom home automation systems in collaboration with audio-video provider Barney Miller’s in Lexington for more than 20 years. However, he said the recent availability of wireless technology and the capability to control systems remotely via homeowners’ smart phones and tablets have combined to drastically lower the entry-level price point for systems.

“The big difference is, 15 years ago these systems had a lot of in-the-walls hard-wiring that went into them. The process was very labor intensive,” Nash said. “So a system then may have cost \$30,000 or \$40,000. But today, because it’s wireless, you skip a lot of the labor. So you’re looking at less than \$10,000 to do the same thing.”



**Barney Miller,**  
President/  
CEO, Barney  
Miller’s

Some systems are available for even less. Stofer offers an entry-level home security automation system for just \$2,000 to \$3,000.

Moreover, many popular home automation systems, like Control4 and Cestron, favored by Barney Miller’s, are modular, and allow homeowners to buy only those components that they want and will use, adding to their affordability. “I would say that home automation can start very small,” said Barney Miller, whose Lexington business, founded by his grandfather in 1922, also regularly installs systems in Louisville. “With Control4, we’ve got processors that can do some automation in your home for as

little as \$750, and you could add on from there.”

As prices for the systems continue to drop, more and more homeowners are looking to make their homes “connected.”

In 2013, the number of new smart home installations in North America was predicted to reach 2.3 million, a 66 percent increase over 2012, according to estimates released by Berg Insight and cited by FierceSmartGrid. The industry expects new home installations to grow to 12.8 million by 2017. With that projected increase, the value of the home automation system market is expected to rise from an estimated \$3.6 billion in 2012 to \$16.4 billion by 2019.

**Systems components customizable** Miller and Stofer both came into the smart home business via expertise in custom consumer electronics systems, but plenty of other sectors are vying for a piece of the projected multibillion-dollar home automation growth market.

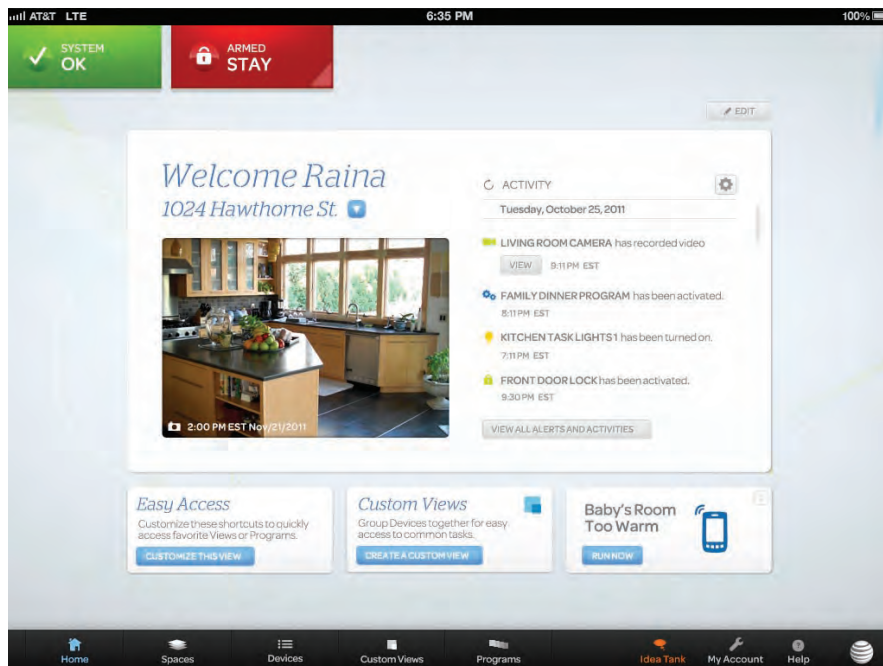
Big box stores, cable and phone companies, and home security companies all are eager and have been rolling out their own brands of “smart” home systems, taking advantage of wireless technology’s increasing accessibility and affordability for home automation customers.

Lowe’s has Iris, its own brand of smart home system. ADT Security has its

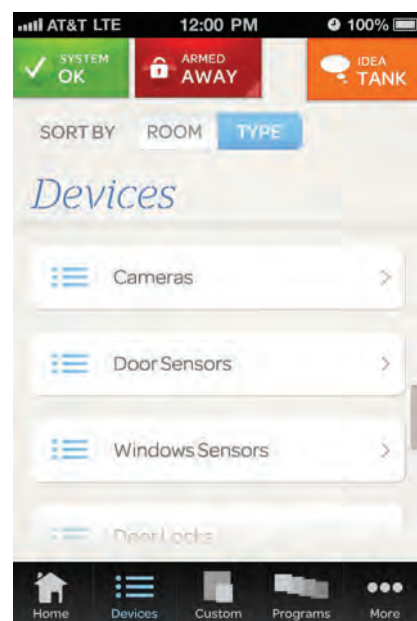
Pulse system. In late October, AT&T launched its Digital Life home automation service in many Kentucky cities. Time Warner Cable launched its IntelligentHome system in Louisville, Bowling Green and Covington in November. And they have plenty of company.

Automation companies like Nexia and others also market themselves to DIYers, stocking modular system products on the shelves of Home Depot, Lowe’s and other big-box stores.

Most offer generally the same basic capabilities, making it possible for customers to remotely control home temperature and lighting, see interior or



*Above and right: Example screens for AT&T Digital Life, which allows customers to manage their homes from anywhere using smartphones, tablets or PCs, are shown on a tablet (above) and a mobile phone (right).*



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Most offer generally the same basic capabilities, making it possible for customers to remotely control home temperature and lighting, see interior or

exterior camera views of their home, and lock or unlock the front door for guests via their smart phones or tablets.

AT&T's Digital Life system comes with two plans. Simple Security, the basic home security package, includes 24/7 home monitoring and starts at \$29.99 a month plus \$149.99 for equipment. An upgrade to the Smart Security level, at \$39.99 a month plus \$249.99 for equipment, provides enhanced security features that include a camera package to view real-time video inside and outside the home; a door package for front and garage door control; and a water detection and control package allows a homeowner to shut off their main water source remotely if a leak is detected.

"With our water detection system you can detect if you have a leak, but with the water control package we take that one step further and offer the capability to remotely turn off your water main if a leak occurs," said Cathy Lewandowski with AT&T Corporate Communications. "Then there's no reason to come back early from your vacation. You won't have to face standing in 3 feet of water."

The ability to turn off the water main



isn't proprietary to AT&T's Digital Life system, though. Stofer said he has included that capability in many of his clients' homes.

"To tell you the truth," he said, "If you just put a water bug (a sensor that detects a leak) in, by the time anyone gets there the water damage is done. We help our clients take that one step further and connect the water bug so that if it detects a leak then it trips a shutoff valve to the water for the entire house. That's when these systems really start to

*The percentage of new residences with home automation systems is expected to increase from slightly more than 3 percent today to more than 16 percent by 2017.*

show their worth. That's when it changes things."

Potential uses for systems really are endless and completely customizable for each client's specific needs. Whether for security, convenience, peace of mind or all three, the systems help make cli-



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## COVER STORY

*Custom designed applications for tablet computers and smart phones are popular as home automation control systems. Wireless technology has cut the cost of systems by tens of thousands of dollars.*

ents lives “easier, better, and more fun,” Barney Miller likes to tell his customers.

Some clients actively use the remote front door unlock and/or the ability to assign temporary front door entry key-codes to allow delivery people, housekeepers, service technicians or pet sitters into their home while they are away.

Many, like Ruffin, enjoy that they can set a lighting “scene” for various areas of their home and automatically dim the lights to low when they turn on the TV.

Others like that they can receive text or email notifications when their middle- or high-school children enter the home after school. Then, while still at work, the client can pull up real-time video of the kids at home to make sure they’re OK.

Miller and Stofer have had clients opt to install window-type security detectors on gun cabinets and liquor cabinets. If a child or intruder tries to open them, the homeowner is alerted immediately with a text or email on their smart phones.

Nash has had clients install system sump pump sensors that alert them when water levels become too low for operation. Stofer has installed temperature control systems in home wine cellars, so that should a cooling system fail, the homeowner is alerted before wines they’ve invested in spoil.

The combinations and capabilities are nearly as limitless as clients’ imaginations and willingness to pay.

“A homeowner today might spend \$4,000 or \$6,000 or they can spend \$15,000” (on a professionally installed system),” Nash said. “It used to be, when the systems were wired, you had to pay \$40,000 to \$60,000 up front, and you were either all-in or not. But now you can start with a simple system, and you can keep adding to it as you have the need or the desire to do so.”

### Cutting-edge today, expected tomorrow

While the market for home automation systems is growing and awareness of products is becoming more mainstream, they are still in many respects a very “new” and “cool” technology. That’s why, in their Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati-area market, Drees Homes wanted to be on the forefront of making smart systems standard in their town homes and patio homes.

“We wanted to be cutting edge,” said Mike Conklin, Drees Homes division president for town homes and patio homes. “While everyone was dabbling in it and



offering options, I wanted to make the smart systems standard. It was a great fit for our demographic, which tends to be young professionals who are very tech savvy, as well as older, active adults in our patio homes, who many times are ‘snow birds’ and enjoy that connectivity to their homes here while they are in Florida” in the winter season.

Drees partnered with Nexia to provide smart home systems to buyers of their town homes and patio homes without standard monthly service fees for the first 12 months.

“I really wanted our clients to use this, and not judge the service because there was a fee they would have to pay,” Conklin said.

Since Drees made smart systems – including a front door camera and lock, lighting automation and thermostat control – standard in their town and patio homes in spring 2012, they have sold and closed on 100 units in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky market, Conklin said.

Drees offers installation of either ADT Pulse, Nexia or Tuxedo, another automation system, as an option in their single-family homes. Right now, about one in three of their single-family builds opt to install systems.

“People ask me, ‘Are people buying your homes right now because you have this?’” Conklin said. “And I have to be honest and say, right now, that I really don’t think so. I don’t think enough people know that much about it yet.



*Mike Conklin,  
Division  
President  
Towne Homes  
and Patio  
Homes, Drees  
Homes*

“But now that the cable and phone companies are coming out with systems, and big box stores are stocking the systems, that awareness level will rise, and people will start to expect it,” he said. “And then it becomes a selling value for the home, because I think we all realize that where we’re heading with this is that more and more people will be putting these systems in.”

As the industry continues to grow and capabilities become even more high-tech, it won’t be unheard of for a smart room to “recognize” which family member has entered (via radio-frequency identification technology in their personal smart phone) and automatically adjust the temperature, music and lighting to their personal preferences – no push of a button required. Apple is already working on perfecting a patent for just this technology.

### An aid to aging in place

Stofer sees huge potential for growth as baby boomers opt to age in place. Adult children will be able to install smart systems in their senior parents’ homes for the peace of mind to be able to access real-time video at any time to check that a fragile mom or dad hasn’t suffered an injury or fall – regardless of how far away they may live from them.

“The aging-in-place assisted capabilities of these systems is really what you’re going to see changing and expanding in the next several years,” Stofer said. “It will start with the video capabilities and go from there. Things in that field are going to get very interesting.” ■

*Robin Roenker is a correspondent for The Lane Report. She can be reached at markgreen@lanereport.com.*

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# An Economic Engine Refuels



*An aerial view of Wolf Creek Dam taken in November 2009.*

USACE photo

## Indications are Lake Cumberland visitor numbers rising with water levels after a six-year dam repair

BY ANNE CHARLES DOOLIN

**S** EVEN years after the water level in Lake Cumberland was lowered drastically so that the massive Wolf Creek Dam could be reinforced, the water is gradually returning to normal levels and economic barometers are rising along with it.

The largest lake by volume east of the Mississippi River, Lake Cumberland is a massive economic engine for the entire south-central Kentucky region. Straddling Clinton, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell and Wayne counties, it has a jagged 1,255-mile shoreline – longer than the Florida peninsula – and is known as the Houseboat Capital of the World.

Visits fell almost 14 percent from 4.4 million in 2007 to 3.8 million after the lake was lowered 43 feet to lessen stress on the dam during repairs. That undertaking is at last in its final phase, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is raising the water level in stages from 680 feet above sea level back to 723 feet.

After the project commenced, some of the marinas fringing the lake had to reposition boat slips as the water level dropped. Others were left high and dry and had to relocate entirely. A couple went out of business.

There were other adverse business factors at play: On the heels of the draw-down came a nationwide recession in 2008 and an all-time-high spike in gasoline prices.

The state Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet annual economic impact study for the region for 2013 won't be available until next year, but trends indicate financial metrics are improving as lake elevations have risen nearly 20 feet.

The Army Corps of Engineers estimates how many people visit the region annually. Its numbers for 2013 aren't available, but previous federal fiscal figures per year peaked at more than 4.4 million in FY 2007 (through Sept. 30, 2007). That has ranged from 3.8 million to just over 4 million in the years since.

The state measures the lake's economic impact, which in 2007 was \$118.43 million including related industries and services. That dropped to \$114.12 million for 2008, but the dollar amounts have been slowly rising since even before water levels did. By 2012, the economic impact was reported at \$132.24 million.

"We look at the economic impact in four counties (Clinton, Pulaski, Russell and Wayne) bordering the lake," said Gil Lawson, executive director of the state cabinet's communications office. "There was a drop (in lake recreation-related activity) from 2007 to 2008, but it's gone up every year since. That timeframe was also the beginning of the recession. You can't point to one thing that caused the drop.

We feel like it's rebounded well. I think people who visit there, as well as the local population, have gotten the word out well about what a great body of water it is."

"By and large, the numbers there (in the lake region) have pretty much mirrored the numbers for the entire state," Lawson said.

In 2008, marina owners and local marketing bodies had to battle misconceptions fueled by rival out-of-state recreation venues that Lake Cumberland was "dry," that it had been completely emptied.

Carolyn Mounce, executive director of the Somerset-Pulaski Convention and Visitors Bureau, said that the general feeling after this summer was that things were getting back to normal.



*Gil Lawson, Executive Director of Communications, Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet*



*Visitors venture to Lake Cumberland for houseboating, skiing, fishing and relaxing each summer. The lake's half-dozen marinas rent houseboats, ski boats, water scooters and other water recreation equipment.*



*This is Wolf Creek Dam July 7, 2011, and the work platform where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District is currently working on a foundation remediation project.*

"I think the numbers will be up from what we saw and heard around the marinas this summer," Mounce said.

A transient tax on hotel rooms and cabins (not campsites or houseboats) for the high season of July, August and September was up 11.4 percent in 2013 over 2012, she said.

#### **Tide rising after years of survival mode**

While business is returning for most, there were casualties.

"Seven of the marinas went down, and one is operating at 50 percent and in the red," said J.D. Hamilton, president and owner of Lee's Ford Marina in Nancy. "A lot of it depended on your location on the lake. Those that did go down have gone or are going through some kind of bankruptcy restructuring, and a couple aren't in business any more.



*Carolyn Mounce, Executive Director, Somerset-Pulaski Convention and Visitors Bureau*



"When the Corps declared the dam was in imminent risk of failure, the SBA (Small Business Administration) came in and declared this an economic disaster area. The only authority they have is to loan you money," Hamilton said. "It's helpful, but that is designed more for disasters like tornados. It doesn't work the same for a seven-year disaster."

Lee's Ford had to relocate all its boat slips to access deep water after the drawdown.

"It cost me close to three-quarters of a million dollars to do that, and it's

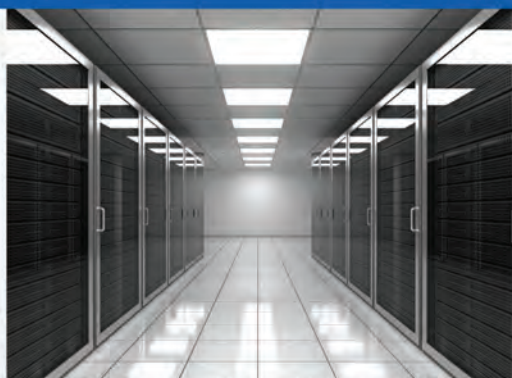
going to cost about the same to move them back," Hamilton said. "I had to change my way of thinking through all this. I'm used to running successful businesses. In this situation, I had to change my definition of success to 'just surviving.'"

One of the bigger marinas, Wolf Creek Marina, also had to relocate and then sold out to Lake Cumberland State Dock in Jamestown three seasons ago.



*J.D. Hamilton, President/Owner, Lee's Ford Marina*

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## TOURISM & RECREATION

Construction workers place concrete in the last pile to complete the barrier wall at Wolf Creek Dam in Jamestown, Ky., March 6, 2013. It is the last of 1,197 piles that are approximately 4 feet in diameter and extend 275 feet into bedrock below the foundation of the 4,000-foot long embankment. The completion makes it possible to begin the process of raising the Lake Cumberland pool level.



**Bill Jasper,**  
President, Lake  
Cumberland  
Marina  
Association

"A lot of folks had to spend a whole lot of money to relocate," said Bill Jasper, president and one of the owners of Lake Cumberland State Dock. "We had the draw-down one year, the next year gas was \$5 a gallon, and the recession took hold the year after that. It hurt the communities

and businesses in the area – hotels, restaurants, they had a tough time of it too. The entire region felt it."



USACE photo by Lee Roberts

Jasper said the tide does appear to be turning, though.

"The tourists really are coming back. We can sure tell a difference in boat rentals – whether it's the water level going up, the economy improving or a combination, who knows," he said. "We're doing well at both facilities, and we built a big restaurant that looks like a Tiki Hut at Wolf Creek. It's become a destination point around here."

The adversity did produce a new spirit of cooperation among marina operators, and the Lake Cumberland Marina Association was formed. "The situation caused us to get organized," said Hamilton.

Jasper is the association's current president.

"We formed the group more as a

marketing tool than anything to combat the misconceptions about the draw-down," he said. "We've joined together to put on some events that are getting bigger than the holidays. We held a Raft Up that set a Guinness book record of 1,651 boats all tied together (in 2010). We've held (nationally televised) boat races, and we do a poker run that's a huge draw."

The water level is expected to return to its former 723-foot level next spring.

"We're finalizing the work at Wolf Creek now," said Tom Hale, operations manager for the Corps' Eastern Kentucky Area. The Corps designed and built Wolf Creek Dam beginning in 1938 and since completion in 1952 has managed and operated it. The massive lake produces hydroelectric power and



*Lake Cumberland State Dock in Jamestown survived the six-year drawdown of the lake and bought out a competitor.*

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Houseboating is one of Lake Cumberland's biggest claims to fame, with the lake's many tranquil coves and inlets providing great places to anchor.

#### Lake Cumberland visitors

2005	4,536,521
2006	4,412,135
2007	3,958,714
2008	3,965,993
2009	4,029,762
2010	3,870,312
2011	3,855,418

Source: U S Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Cumberland Office, Nashville District

is a key element in a multistate water navigation system.

"Because it stores such a massive amount of water, Lake Cumberland has provided water during times of drought to assist river navigation as far south as the Mississippi River," Hale said. "We also let water out to improve aquatic situations below the dam, especially during the really hot months.

"Recreation and tourism is a major part of the lake. From what we saw this summer, attendance is improving," he said. "We collect user fees for the camping areas, and those are up between 12

and 15 percent over last year. One area that lost lake access with the drawdown is up 50 percent."

Hale confirmed that the Corps expects a return to the normal summer pool level of 723 feet next spring.

"This has been an arduous journey," said Hamilton. "But the dam is

fixed, and my focus is on trying to recover, and put people back to work. One thing I've learned in my life is there's no value in looking backwards. We're focusing on the future." ■

Anne Charles Doolin is a correspondent for The Lane Report. She can be reached at [markgreen@lanereport.com](mailto:markgreen@lanereport.com).



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# Worthy of Note

Women who are making a difference in the commercial and public life of Kentucky

**O**UR occasional feature, Top Women in Business, highlights some of the women around Kentucky who are making an impact in business, the professions, politics and economic development. The intent is to recognize not the household names, but those in key roles whose work ethic and body of work are making important contributions to commerce in the commonwealth.

The six women in this issue are among the many such women The Lane Report editorial board has identified. We welcome your suggestions for others around Kentucky who also are deserving of recognition for their efforts to boost Kentucky's economy. Send your recommendations to [editorial@lanereport.com](mailto:editorial@lanereport.com).



*Audrey Tayse Haynes is a native of Tennessee who lives in Frankfort.*

### Audrey Tayse Haynes

**Title/Company:** Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

**How long at company/position:** Since April 16, 2012

**Previous jobs/positions:** Senior vice president and chief government affairs officer, YMCA of the USA, Washington,

D.C.; executive director, Kentucky Literacy Commission; member, Kentucky Board for Elementary and Secondary Education; deputy secretary, Cabinet for Health Services.

**Top accomplishment:** I have worked for four Kentucky governors (Wilkinson, Jones, Patton and Beshear); a U.S. president (Clinton); and a U.S. vice president and his wife (Al and Tipper Gore). Witnessing the transformation of healthcare for Kentuckians and implementation of the Affordable Care Act is another big moment.

**Education:** Master's degree in social work, University of Kentucky; bachelor's degree in social work, Spalding University.

**Person(s) who most influenced or mentored me:** The person most influential in shaping my work ethic and core values was my grandmother, my dad's mom, who lived her entire life on my family's farm in middle Tennessee. She was the person I never wanted to disappoint and the person I could always count on.

**What inspires/drives me:** I love politics, policy and the intersection of the two. I like seeing that my work can make a difference in the lives of others. I love building a management team that can drive change. Public policy is made at the local, state and federal levels through the lens of politics, so it is important to respect the politics of policymaking.

**Hobby/interests/volunteer work:** I love to travel and spend time with my family and friends. My husband is my best friend and partner. We have owned a lot of homes and condos in our 24 years of marriage and I have enjoyed completely remodeling all of them.

**Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended:** We still have Kennedy Center season tickets so we try to fly in for six to eight performances each year and visit friends in D.C. I'm anxious to read Mark Halperin's "Double Down," and I enjoy a good action thriller by David Balducci.

**My biggest challenge and how I overcame it:** My greatest challenge

was accepting my first position in Washington, D.C., in 1993 as interim CEO of Business and Professional Women USA, the BPW Foundation and the BPW PAC. The largest place I had lived was Lexington, so D.C. was a bit overwhelming. But with the support of my husband and a couple of great mentors, the experience was challenging and rewarding. I overcame fears of a large job in a large city, grew exponentially, and the position led to my White House appointment! Since then, I have always been more confident about new and challenging situations.



*Johnna Reeder is a native of Union City, Tenn., who resides in Fort Mitchell.*

### Johnna Reeder

**Title/company:** Vice president, community relations and economic development, Duke Energy Ohio and Duke Energy Kentucky

**How long:** 4 years

**Previous jobs/positions:** Senior manager, corporate communications, Duke Energy; national manager, labor communications, Kroger Co.; vice president, communications and public relations, Citi Corp.; manager, government affairs, United Way Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

**Top accomplishment:** On the Kentucky Community and Technical College Board of Regents from 2005 to 2011, I assisted in the passage of HB160 in 2010 allowing easy transfer of credits from KCTCS colleges to four-year public universities. This will enable long-term change in the cycle of poverty for families and workforce development for our state.

**Education:** Master's degree in business administration, Thomas More College;

bachelor's degree in communications, University of Memphis.

**Person(s) who most influenced or mentored me:** Gregg Morton of Citi taught me about servant leadership. Margaret Hulbert of United Way taught giving back to one's community. Julie Janson of Duke Energy taught patience and timing. John Williams, former CEO of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber, taught me real leaders have to make tough and sometimes unpopular decisions. My dad emphasized the importance of one's reputation and the power of never giving up.

**What inspires/drives me:** Being told "we tried that before" or "that will never work" ... I like being a game-changer and part of a dynamic team. People with passion for a project who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get things done energize me.

**Hobby/interests/volunteer work:** I started a "bucket list" this year. Losing my dad to cancer and celebrating a milestone birthday while maintaining a demanding workload and chairing the Brent Spence Bridge Coalition working group taught me to stop and enjoy life rather than postponing fun until "one day." I skydived, performed in front of an audience, did meditation, hiked a mountain and tried to paint. The joy is in the journey.

**Currently reading and recent play attended:** I recently read Sheryl Sandberg's "Lean In" and attended "Fly," a play about the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II. Both were inspirational.

**My biggest challenge and how I overcame it:** About five years ago, I became a stepparent. I am now more

understanding if a parent is occasionally late to an 8 a.m. meeting or needs to leave for a football game. A woman can have it all, but not all at the same time. Being a parent added stress and compromise but taught me lessons I wouldn't trade. There is nothing like getting your first homemade jewelry box – at least I think that's what it was.



*Tierra Kavanaugh Turner is a native of Danville and resides in Louisville.*

## Tierra Kavanaugh Turner

**Title/company:** CEO/founder of TKT & Associates Inc.

**Previous jobs/positions:** Management in corporations such as BellSouth Mobility, now known as AT&T, and American Express; executive director, Governor's Office of Minority Empowerment.

**Top accomplishment:** Raising and nurturing of my daughter Tristan. In business, I've grown and adapted through good times and bad, remaining mindful of my responsibility to staff, clients and the community.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in economics, University of Louisville. Currently pursuing an MBA at McKendree University.

**Person(s) who most influenced or mentored me:** My parents, Chester and Sheila Kavanaugh.

**What inspires/drives me:** My parents were entrepreneurs and always encouraged me to be all I can, face every challenge with faith and fortitude, and maintain my values in everything I do. I'm driven to show my daughter and other girls they can overcome failures and accomplish their dreams.

**Hobby/interests/volunteer work:** Volunteer at Bates Memorial Baptist Church, my daughter's school and several youth-focused organizations.

**Currently reading and recent movie attended:** I watched "12 Years a Slave" and I'm recently read "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova.

**My biggest challenge and how I overcame it:** With TKT, my challenge has been how to grow and diversify our services, for sustainability, without losing our core focus. After lengthy prayers and research, we expanded our talent acquisition services by acquiring Nectir and creating the TKT-nectir Global Staffing full-service agency.

**My advice to younger women in business:** Keep pushing forward. Don't be afraid to ask for help, advice or business.



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## TOP WOMEN IN BUSINESS



*Sandra Wilson is a native of Calloway County who resides in Paducah.*

### Sandra Wilson

**Title/Company:** President of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce, and Paducah city commissioner.

**How long at company/position:** Began at the chamber on June 1, 2013, elected to city commission November 2012.

**Previous jobs/positions:** Public affairs manager, NewPage (formerly Westvaco, MeadWestvaco). Employed at the manufacturing facility from December 1986 through May 2013.

**Top accomplishment:** I served as the first woman chair of the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce board in 1996. I served as the first woman chair of Paducah Economic Development board in 2009-10. I served as board chair of the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, Murray State University

**Person(s) who most influenced or mentored me:** My dad inspired me to have a very competitive spirit. On our family dairy farm, we raised Registered Holstein dairy cattle. We shared a lot of wonderful time showing cattle at competitions in Kentucky and Tennessee and judging 4-H competitions. My mother is my No. 1 cheerleader. She balanced the “drive for winning” with grace and humbleness.

**What inspires/drives me:** Rather than being satisfied with “the ways things have always been done,” I find ways to improve and bring new ideas to whatever I am involved in. Change brings challenges and sometimes struggles, but to be better you must look for ways to improve.

**Hobby/interests/volunteer work:** I serve on the boards of the Market House Theatre and Carson Center. In 2011, I auditioned and was selected for the part of Lexie in the “Dixie Swim Club” at our community theater. It was some of the most fun I have ever had.

**Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended:** A few years ago some friends and I formed a book club. We range in age from early 50s to mid-80s. We have so much fun that sometimes we almost forget to discuss the book at our monthly meeting. Our last book was “Orphan Train,” and I highly recommend it.

**My advice to younger women:** Work hard and find a balance with your home and professional life. Don’t be afraid to ask for help because you are going to need it! It’s important to have a strong network of women to support you and offer advice.



*Elizabeth McCoy is a native of London, Ky., who resides in Hopkinsville.*

### Elizabeth McCoy

**Title/company:** President/CEO of Planters Bank

**How long at company/position:** 13 years

**Previous jobs/positions:** Regional president, Western Kentucky and Northern Tennessee, Star Bank/Firststar/US Bank; senior vice president, commercial lending officer, Bank One; Thurman, Campbell & Co. CPAs.

**Top accomplishment:** Current chair of Kentucky Chamber of Commerce board of directors; Kentucky Bankers Association board; Hopkinsville Industrial Foundation board; Hopkinsville/

Christian County Economic Development Council board; Gatton College Business Partnership Foundation board; Murray State board of regents.

**Education:** Bachelor’s degree in accounting, University of Kentucky (1981); Master of Business Administration (1983).

**Person who most influenced or mentored me:** My father, who passed away a year ago, influenced me in indescribable ways. He assured me I could accomplish anything with hard work and said “take all the luck you can get.”

**Hobby/interests/volunteer work:** I love to travel and recently returned from Dubai with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. I love to cook and shop.

**Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended:** I travel often to New York City, and theater is a passion. I’ve recently seen Wynton Marsalis’ “After Midnight” and “Betrayal” with Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz, among others.



*Elizabeth Burton is a native of Harrodsburg who resides in Somerset.*

### Elizabeth Grugin Burton

**Title/Company:** Director of business development and public relations, The Center for Rural Development, Somerset.

**How long at company/position:** 4 months

**Previous jobs/positions:** CEO, PrimePoint LLC, an organizational development consulting and training company; director of sales administration, U.S. Polycom Inc.; national director of grant and e-rate assistance program, Polycom Inc.; associate, University of Missouri-Columbia; commu-

nity development program coordinator, State of Missouri.

**Top accomplishment:** I created the first trademarked grant assistance program in the telecommunications industry for a global manufacturing company. It helps government, education and healthcare organizations find funding to purchase equipment and technologies for projects incorporating distance and interactive learning for schools, telemedicine for rural clinics, and video arraignment in corrections.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in political science from Transylvania University (1992); master's degree in business administration from University of Missouri-Columbia (2002); certified by the National Development Council as an economic development finance professional; certified trainer, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Assessment; certified trainer, LeadershipPlenty, Pew Partnership for Civic Change.

**Person(s) who most influenced or mentored me:** My grandfather Charlie Hughes taught important values, including honesty, respect, integrity and humility. Dr. Don Thomas Dugi at Transylvania helped me develop the ability

to think critically. Dr. Michael Diamond, Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri, taught classes on organizational analysis and change that form the basis for how I consult with organizations today on change issues.

**What inspires/drives me:** Nothing causes me to dig my heels in more than someone telling me "it can't be done." My son Eli has instilled in me a drive to teach and help others, and to leave people and things better than I found them.

**Hobby/interests/volunteer work:** I volunteer with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Senior Services to review grant applications that focus on technology. I enjoy traveling, music and the arts, snow skiing, snorkeling, attending UK basketball games, Cincinnati Bengals football games and Cincinnati Reds baseball games.

**Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended:** I am reading "The Leadership Challenge: How to Make Extraordinary Things Happen in Organizations" by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner.

**My biggest challenge and how I overcame it:** I managed a team that was completely home-based and communicated with each other using telepresence solutions. Although we had high-quality video-conferencing, it was difficult to create the camaraderie that comes in an on-site office setting. I tried to ensure that we had periodic on-site meetings that allowed staff to talk with each other in person and create a rapport that underscored that we were all in it together.

**My advice to younger women in business:** Take every opportunity to learn. Create a culture of inquiry for yourself and others. Encourage those that you work with to share information, ask questions and promote diversity of ideas. Develop professional relationships with those who will actively work with you to break down barriers to advancement. Collaborate across industries to create powerful support networks where you are constantly adding value. Find a mentor. Don't be afraid of failure. In today's rapidly changing environment, ideas and career paths are constantly changing – and your first idea or your first job may not always work for you. Learn from it and move on to bigger and better things. ■

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*Above: The Kentucky delegation received a briefing on economic opportunities in the United Arab Emirates in the Dubai Chamber boardroom.*

*Left: Kentucky delegates get a glimpse of the Jumeirah skyline from a water cruise during a trade mission to Dubai.*

## Building Ties with Dubai

Delegation visits Persian Gulf emirate described as gateway to Middle East, west Asian and African business

BY CLAUDE HAMMOND

**T**O strengthen growing trade ties with the Arab emirate of Dubai, a Kentucky Chamber of Commerce delegation of 40 business and public economic development officials, led by Gov. Steve Beshear, visited the visually stunning city state on the Persian Gulf in November.

Dubai, on the Arabian Peninsula, is a gateway to emerging markets in the Middle East, western Asia and Africa. The visit was a signal that businesspeople in the Bluegrass State are excited about the opportunities the emirate offers.

"Last year, we exported \$140 million to Dubai," Beshear said in a formal meeting Nov. 20 at the Dubai Chamber of Commerce. "Most of that was horse or horse power: There were \$59 million in Kentucky horses and \$85 million in Kentucky-made autos and trucks sold in

Dubai. We are constantly finding areas in which to invest."

Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the billionaire monarch of Dubai, is an active horseman whose holdings include Darley, a leading Thoroughbred breeding and racing operation with an American base at Jonabell Farm in Fayette County, and the Fasig-Tipton Thoroughbred auction company headquartered in Lexington.

"Kentucky and Dubai have had a very long relationship, and it's been excellent," Beshear said. "Decades ago, Dubai's royal family started investing in Kentucky Thoroughbred horses. Then in 2010, the relationship deepened when the World Equestrian Games came to Lexington."

Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, the sheikh's wife, is president of the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), which oversees WEG. In connection

with the 2010 games at the Kentucky Horse Park, Jane Beshear, the governor's wife and an active horsewoman also, developed strong ties with the princess, who hosted a reception for the delegation at the Armani Hotel in the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building.

"We're here to continue building on that relationship," Gov. Beshear said. "Business is business, but relationships bring success to that business. As we build friendships and relationships, we'll see business grow."

The delegation of business and public economic development officials, some accompanied by spouses, left the state Nov. 16 and returned Nov. 22. The goal, Kentucky Chamber Executive Director Dave Adkisson said, was to build relationships that lead to further profits for Kentucky business in the developing markets in the Middle East, Africa and West Asia.

The agenda included an economic briefing by His Excellency Hamad Bammim, director general of the Dubai Chamber. There were tours of the \$1.3 billion Maydan Racecourse; the Burj Khalifa; the



*Nasif Kayed, managing director of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Cultural Understanding, speaks to Kentucky leaders.*



souks (markets) in Old Dubai; and the Dubai World Port and Financial District with a briefing on regional exporting practices. Beshear was accompanied by Larry Hayes, secretary of the state Cabinet for Economic Development, and called on companies in the UAE that have expressed interest in Kentucky.

"This is the hub for emerging economies in Africa and the Middle East. It is a tremendous opportunity for Kentucky businesses working through Dubai," Adkisson said. "We need to be prominently engaged with Dubai as the gateway."

Kentucky Chamber board chair Elizabeth McCoy, who is CEO of Planters Bank in Hopkinsville, stressed the importance of the Dubai market to Kentucky businesses.

"I posted a few photos of the reception (at the Burj Kahlifa) on my Facebook page, and within minutes I received an email from the CEO of the Comefri Fan Company, which has a plant in Hopkinsville, saying, 'Our fans are installed in the building you're in now,'" McCoy said.

"There is a much more open society than what I thought there would be," she said. "People in Dubai want a peaceful world and are trying to raise their families and run profitable businesses. They have very little crime and are



*Above: The delegates visited the Jumeirah Mosque in Dubai City. Top right: Kentucky Horse Park Executive Director John Nicholson, attorney Laura D'Angelo and Commerce Lexington Executive Director Bob Quick chat during a private reception hosted by HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein at the Armani Hotel. Bottom right: Paula Hanson of Dean Dorton Allen Ford and Kentucky Chamber Board Chair Elizabeth McCoy visit the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.*



doing a great job. These are the kind of people we like to do business with. They do banking in a very similar way to the way we do in Kentucky."

Wil James, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky and chair-elect of the chamber, was part of the delegation and noted that approximately 50 percent of all vehicles in Dubai are Toyotas.

"One thing has been very interesting to me," James said, "which is the size of the emirate, the high speed of its growth and the high expectations they have of themselves. If their projection of growth meets that perspective, there's substantial opportunity for Kentucky business."

Dubai Chamber Secretary General Buamim also cited a desire to build relationships and stressed that emirate enterprises are interested in doing business with smaller Kentucky companies. The Dubai Chamber is opening offices in 20 countries to offer services to those wishing to partner with businesses there.

"The big players like Boeing know what to do," Buamim told the visiting delegation. "But the smaller companies need to be encouraged. This is what we can do together."

The Kentucky Chamber has been working with Dubai and other foreign countries to increase foreign trade the past several years, Adkisson said, and has a strategic partnership with the World Trade Center of Kentucky, which can help commonwealth businesses generate contacts in Dubai and other foreign locations. ■

*Claude Hammond, former editor of The Lane Report, lives in the United Arab Emirates with his wife, Dr. Chris Baker, DMD.*



*Gov. Steve Beshear, Kentucky Chamber Board Chair Elizabeth McCoy, Chamber President Dave Adkisson and other Kentucky leaders meet H.E. Hamad Buamim, director general of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.*

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Gov. Steve Beshear visits the Kynect call center in Lexington on Nov. 8.

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Kynect helping to create the healthier population critical to our future

BY JERRY ABRAMSON

**B**USINESS owners know that big problems require big solutions. When the problem is a damaging one that has persisted for decades despite attempts to combat it, that big solution must be pursued aggressively.

That, in a nutshell, is the reasoning behind Gov. Steve Beshear's and my decision to use a new federal health-care program to make affordable coverage available for the first time to every Kentuckian.

Since Oct. 1, a thousand Kentuckians a day have enrolled to receive health coverage through "kynect" – Kentucky's marketplace for the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). Nearly 500 small businesses began applying for coverage in the first month.

Some 640,000 Kentuckians are currently without health insurance, a gap that has had horrible consequences for our collective health. This poor health has led to increased healthcare costs for all our citizens, to decreased worker productivity, lowered quality of life and depressed school attendance.

Kynect's potential to create a healthier population is critical to our future.

Some outsiders are puzzled that a so-called "red state" in the South is embracing the ACA.

For those of us working in the trenches to improve Kentucky's health landscape, it's no surprise. It's another opportunity to build on our successes, like our move from a fee-based system to a Medicaid managed-care system, or our efforts to find, enroll and keep eligible children in the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP).

That's why we're exasperated by those Kentucky leaders so disconnected from the needs of Kentuckians who actively work against the new healthcare system.

They continue to suggest that Kentuckians aren't buying into "Obamacare" despite the numbers. I would label that statement as misinformation.

When we launched our exchange, I traveled to 12 different cities. From Somerset to Hazard to Covington to Mayfield, I saw firsthand the true need and desire of Kentuckians for affordable, comprehensive healthcare.

I spoke to an attentive audience at the Kentucky League of Cities' annual meeting about the ACA, and met a mayor of a small central Kentucky city who shopped the exchange and lowered his monthly premium by \$200.

I also spoke to many Kentuckians suffering a genuine level of fear because of the rampant misinformation.

Nowhere has this misinformation thrived more than around the small business guidelines of the ACA. I've spoken directly to business groups who clearly share this fear and are reluctant to contact Kentucky's health benefit exchange about rates and plans.

It all comes down to the facts.

Although businesses with 50 or fewer employees do not have to provide insurance to their workers, if they choose to do so, they can purchase insurance through kynect. Kynect is assisting small group employers in enrolling their employees in health plans through the Small Business Health Options Program.

The good news is that many small businesses will be eligible for tax credits if they meet three requirements: The employer must have fewer than 25 full-time employees; the employer must pay at least 50 percent of the premium for each employee; and the employer must have a group average annual wage less than \$50,000.

And the health coverage is better than much of what exists today:

- No one can be denied coverage for any reason, even pre-existing conditions.
- Insurance companies are prohibited from charging women more than men.
- There is no cap or lifetime limit on benefits.
- Children can remain on their parents insurance until age 26.
- Mental healthcare and substance abuse treatment are covered.

Plus, the expansion is forecast to create nearly 17,000 new jobs and have a \$15.6 billion positive impact on our state economy between 2014 and 2020.

Now, it's true that the federal rollout has had significant problems. In fact, Kentucky will comply with President Obama's request to allow Kentucky's insurers the option of determining whether to extend existing health insurance policies to current policyholders for one more year.

I would remind everyone, however, that this process is a marathon, not a sprint. This effort has the potential to be transformational for the future of Kentucky and our nation. The impact on individual families will be just as significant.

But see for yourself by calling 855-4kynect or visit [kynect.ky.gov](http://kynect.ky.gov). ■



Jerry Abramson is lieutenant governor of Kentucky.

# THE LANE LIST

## KENTUCKY COAL PRODUCTION RANKED BY COUNTY, 2012

COUNTY	TONS	1-YEAR CHANGE	PERCENTAGE
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,407,310</b>	<b>-16.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Union</b>	13,474,900	9.3%	14.7%
<b>Pike</b>	12,931,200	-17.9%	14.1%
<b>Perry</b>	9,231,478	-30.1%	10.1%
<b>Hopkins</b>	8,945,605	1.8%	9.8%
<b>Ohio</b>	7,231,326	30.5%	7.9%
<b>Harlan</b>	7,034,754	-28.1%	7.7%
<b>Webster</b>	5,550,427	-3.1%	6.1%
<b>Muhlenberg</b>	4,887,921	-14.9%	5.3%
<b>Martin</b>	3,587,476	-36.0%	3.9%
<b>Leslie</b>	3,008,930	-30.7%	3.3%
<b>Letcher</b>	2,979,510	-36.1%	3.3%
<b>Knott</b>	2,641,000	-45.1%	2.9%
<b>Floyd</b>	2,382,712	-18.1%	2.6%
<b>Magoffin</b>	2,015,308	-31.9%	2.2%
<b>Henderson</b>	1,558,006	-36.9%	1.7%
<b>Bell</b>	1,161,442	-26.0%	1.3%
<b>Knox</b>	643,887	65.7%	0.6%
<b>Daviess</b>	395,164	-2.5%	0.4%
<b>Johnson</b>	327,683	41.2%	0.4%
<b>Clay</b>	293,829	-23.0%	0.3%
<b>Breathitt</b>	287,783	-65.5%	0.3%
<b>Whitley</b>	263,881	-50.2%	0.3%
<b>Lawrence</b>	234,628	189.6%	0.3%
<b>Wolfe</b>	39,315	N/A	<0.1%
<b>McCreary</b>	31,744	N/A	<0.1%
<b>Owsley</b>	26,647	-61.3%	<0.1%
<b>Laurel</b>	12,627	N/A	<0.1%
<b>Rockcastle</b>	4,930	N/A	<0.1%
<b>Elliott</b>	2,396	-94.9%	<0.1%

Source: Kentucky Coal Facts, 13th Edition

## Kentucky Coal Production in 2012 at Lowest Level Since 1965

**K**ENTUCKY coal production decreased by 16 percent to 91.4 million tons in 2012, the lowest level of annual production recorded since 1965. Although Pike County remained the largest coal-producing county in the eastern portion of the state, Union County in Western Kentucky supplanted Pike County as the leading coal producing county in 2012.

Eastern Kentucky has, on average, represented 75 percent of annual coal production in the state over the past 35 years. During 2012, however, the region represented 54 percent of statewide production, according to Kentucky Coal Facts. Underground mine operations accounted for 64 percent of total production; surface mines accounted for the remaining 36 percent.

With 9 percent of national production, Kentucky was the third largest producer of coal in the United States last year. (Wyoming and West Virginia are No. 1 and 2, respectively.) Peak coal production was reached in 1990 when the commonwealth mined 179.4 million tons. Since then, Kentucky coal production has been in decline.

Approximately 9,500 people were directly employed by Eastern Kentucky mines in 2012, while 4,500 were directly employed by coal mines in the western portion of the state.

U.S. coal production in 2012 was just over 1 billion tons, a decrease of 7.1 percent from 2011.







## LEADERSHIP, PAY, GOOD CONDITIONS

The Legislative Research Commission deserves real reform

BY JOHN DAVID DYCHE

KENTUCKY'S Legislative Research Commission has been in the news lately because of its handling of sex harassment charges against a former state representative and document shredding and suspicious raises by its former director. Despite this bad publicity, there are a lot of really outstanding public servants in the LRC doing good and important work for Kentucky.

One example is LRC Informational Bulletin No. 242 titled "Issues Confronting the 2014 General Assembly." It is the latest in a long series of these handy, comprehensive guides to key issues facing the commonwealth that the LRC publishes shortly before a legislative session begins.

The 108-page primer is available online at [lrc.ky.gov/lrcpubs/IB242.pdf](http://lrc.ky.gov/lrcpubs/IB242.pdf), and is a great resource for interested citizens who would like to become better informed about state government. The LRC attempts to "present these issues objectively and concisely, given the complex nature of the subjects" and usually succeeds.

Broad topical sections are arranged alphabetically. Within them the specific subjects run the gamut from "bedbugs," the first one in the agriculture section,

to "residential fire safety standards," the last one in veterans' affairs, military affairs and public protection.

This is the place to go if you want an unbiased presentation of the question, "Should the General Assembly regulate the treatment of bedbug infestations in residential rental properties?" Among the many other interesting but obscure discussions are ones about drones, the classification of hard cider, and Asian carp.

"Issues Confronting the 2014 General Assembly" is extremely educational. For example, did you know the rate of heroin overdose deaths in Kentucky per year is on pace to rise from about five before 2010 to 174 this year? Or that in 2011 Kentucky had 730 cases of neonatal abstinence syndrome in which a baby is born addicted to drugs?

Taxes are always a hot topic. This year's guide contains articles about Kentucky's limited liability entity tax, local occupational license taxes, property taxes on older motor vehicles, angel investor tax credits and local option sales taxes.

There is no entry for comprehensive tax reform, however, perhaps because it appears dead before the session has

even begun. Gov. Steve Beshear has done less than nothing to act on the recommendations of his much-ballyhooed tax reform task force, and Speaker of the House Greg Stumbo, another Democrat, says it is too late.

Some of the other bigger and better-known issues, like expanded gambling, public pensions and Medicaid, are not included either, but many of them are the subjects of prior years' bulletins or separate LRC publications. Given the scope of publicly available LRC resources, any citizen with a computer and Internet access who wants to be well informed can be.

Another great resource for citizens is LRC e-news. By signing up for these short, well-written email updates on legislative activity, Kentuckians can keep abreast of just about everything the legislature is doing (at least in public).

The issues report and email alerts are valuable reminders of the great breadth of the subject matter Kentucky's legislature addresses. No one can be an expert on all of it, and that is why it is so vital to have and retain top-flight personnel at the LRC.

This requires quality leadership, decent compensation and good working conditions. Recent revelations reveal that each of these things has been lacking to some extent, and some of them have been lacking to a very great extent.

Leadership must begin with the 16 legislators who actually comprise the commission and are ultimately responsible for its operation. A truly professional director is also essential. Bringing in the capable and respected Marcia Ford Seiler as acting director is a first step in the right direction.

Appropriately, legislative leaders have promised a performance audit of the LRC. Unfortunately, some now appear tempted to do it on the cheap instead of hiring real experts who might truly help reform the troubled agency.

It is not easy for busy folks to follow the state legislature on a day-to-day basis, but we would have better government if more did. Although the media fulfills an important function by helping citizens keep an eye on their government, there sometimes is simply no substitute for direct personal involvement.

So check out some LRC publications. And make sure your legislators actually follow through on their promises to reform the LRC. ■



*John David Dyche is a Louisville attorney and political commentator for WDRB.com.*

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

### Economic Impact of Kentucky Crafted: The Market Exceeds \$2 Million

**K**ENTUCKY Crafted program artists and other exhibitors who showcased work at Kentucky Crafted: The Market this year generated economic activity in Lexington surpassing \$2 million, according to an analysis compiled by the Kentucky Arts Council.

The Market is an annual springtime event that features Kentucky arts, crafts, literature, music and food. Most exhibitors are visual and craft artists, adjudicated participants of the arts council's Kentucky Crafted Program. A small number of out-of-state artists are invited to the show, as well as publishers and food producers.

Total sales during the three-day event topped \$1 million, and included wholesale orders, retail buyer purchases and artist commissions received.

More than 10,000 people attended this year and the 2013 Market saw a 14-percent increase in exhibitors, a 25-percent year-over-year increase in gross receipts and record-setting attendance.

Next year's Kentucky Crafted: The Market is set for March 7-9 at the Lexington Convention Center. The first day is open to wholesale buyers; the next two days are open to the public.

### 21 Artists Added to Kentucky Crafted Program Roster



*Aluminum can artist Robert Love, among 21 additions to the Kentucky Crafted roster, created this image of a classic Corvette.*

**T**WENTY-one artists have been accepted into the Kentucky Crafted Program, the Kentucky Arts Council's marketing assistance program that supports artisans by providing opportunities to expand their professional careers and market reach. Artists are adjudicated into the program based on artistic excellence and market readiness as determined by an independent panel of art and craft industry professionals.

The new artists are: Rod Austin, Calhoun; Paul Ballard, Versailles; Leslie Bowers, Louisville; Katie Burke, Louisville; Katie Clark, Lexington; Julie Conn, Lexington; Kathy Conroy, Pleasureville; Richard Douglas Jr., Campbellsville; Seth Green, Morehead; Rick Griebenow, McKee; Sarah Havens, Louisville; Dean Hill, West Liberty; Debra Klopp, Corbin; Robert Love, Lexington; Chris Plummer, Alexandria; Walter Roycraft, Nicholasville; Alexey Stiop, Georgetown; Diana Thomas, Georgetown; Susan Vanstone, Richmond; Fritz Wolff, Nicholasville; and Jennifer Heller Zurick, Berea

In addition to marketing assistance, the Kentucky Crafted Program provides business training and exhibit opportunities to its members.

### Arts Events Around the State

#### **Celtic Woman**

River Park Center, Owensboro  
7 p.m., Dec. 21  
riverparkcenter.com  
270-687-2770

#### **Uncommon Wealth Exhibit**

Lyric Theatre and Cultural Arts Center,  
Lexington  
Through Jan. 11, 2014  
lexingtonlyric.com  
859-280-2218

#### **Classic Christmas Crooners Tour**

Ashland Youth Ballet  
Paramount Arts Center, Ashland  
7 p.m., Dec. 20  
paramountartscenter.com  
606-324-3175

#### **KEM presents What Christmas Means Tour 2013**

Brown Theatre  
The Kentucky Center for the Performing  
Arts, Louisville  
8 p.m., Dec. 21  
kentuckycenter.org  
502-562-0100

#### **30 Quilts for 30 Years:**

**Caryl Bryer Fallert**  
National Quilt Museum, Paducah  
Through March 11, 2014  
quiltmuseum.org  
270-442-8856

#### **Capturing the Art of Sport: Works by Kentucky Artisans**

Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea  
Through Feb. 22, 2014  
kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov  
859-985-5448



*This space-themed work is among the extensive display at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah.*

### UNESCO Names Paducah Creative City of Folk Art

**T**HE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated Paducah as the world's seventh City of Crafts and Folk Art, making the city a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

"Receiving the UNESCO Creative City Designation will put Paducah in a position to share cultural assets on a global scale," said Paducah Mayor Gayle Kaler. "Paducah is poised for cultural and economic sustainability by creating partnerships locally and with other cities."

Paducah joins Santa Fe, Aswan, Kanazawa, Icheon, Hangzhou and Fabriano as UNESCO Cities of Crafts and Folk Arts. The network includes 41 cities from all regions of the world recognized as cultural centers in the creative industry fields of crafts and folk arts, literature, film, music, design, media arts and gastronomy.

The Paducah Visitors Bureau pursued the application as an opportunity to showcase Paducah's cultural pedigree, exchange know-how and develop local creative industries on a global platform. Known as Quilt City USA, Paducah is recognized worldwide as a mecca for quilters and fiber artists.



*Lori Meadows is executive director of the Kentucky Arts Council.*





## Sure Cure for Cabin Fever

Winter Adventure Weekend offers something for the entire family

BY KATHERINE TANDY BROWN

**S**OON the holidays will be history. And though the days will gradually lengthen, winter cold will indeed settle in, making exercise and staying fit an effort, at least until spring sunshine begins to warm the earth. But before you start bouncing off the walls while itching for activity, sign up for the Winter Adventure Weekend at Carter Caves State Resort Park. Mark your calendar for Jan. 24 – 26, and you and/or your whole family can look forward to this amazing midwinter carrot-on-a-stick.

Hold on to your long johns for an unbelievable lineup of activities, or “trips.” During this single weekend, you can choose from rappelling, rock climbing, rope climbing, knot climbing, tree

climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, fire building, winter survival, campfire cooking, knot tying, land navigation (orienteering), camping in a cave, archaeology walks, adventure presentations and Photoshop.

Taught by the glow of carbide lamps, a class on mine lighting is a cave tour with a focus on different types of underground lighting. Slacklining, which can be indoors or outdoors, offers the opportunity to walk a two-inch nylon cord – think balance beam – stretched between trees or stands. And the pièce de résistance is a high line, or zip line, rigged with ropes, not cables, and controlled by people, not gravity. Even dogs can take a ride.



*Participants in the Winter Adventure Weekend at Carter Caves State Resort Park can choose from many outdoor activities, including, rappelling, rock climbing, rope climbing, knot climbing, tree climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, fire building, winter survival, campfire cooking, knot tying, land navigation, camping in a cave, archaeology walks, adventure presentations and Photoshop.*

To raise a few dollars for the park, the Friends of Carter Caves conduct a kid-friendly Chinese auction, in which a bidder uses tickets instead of cash to purchase intriguing items.

In addition, live music rocks the rafters each night, and after a day of outdoor fun, participants can compare stories of war and glory while feasting on s’mores by a campfire.

Unfortunately, last year’s well-attended shooting trip will not be offered due to a scheduling conflict with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife’s hunter educators.

“Many of our trips are introductory weekends,” said Coy Ainsley, park naturalist. “If you think you might be interested in a particular activity, you can come and try it out here before spending money on equipment.”

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<b>Pennyrile Polar Express</b>	<b>PAC Classic Films</b>
<b>Christmas at the Bend</b>	<b>It's a Wonderful Life</b>
<b>Christmas Parade &amp;</b>	<b>Peter Mayer's</b>
<b>Downtown Tree Lighting</b>	<b>Stars and Promises Concert</b>
<b>Santa visits Pennyrile Forest</b>	<b>Route 66:</b>
<b>State Park</b>	<b>Finding Nat King Cole</b>
<b>Junior Auxiliary Charity Ball</b>	<i>and much more!</i>

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*Carter Caves State Resort Park covers 2,000 acres of wooded hills rife with flora, fauna and geologic formations on the surface and underground. It offers year-round guided tours of some of its dozen-plus caves.*

Participants age six and up can register for one trip on Friday afternoon, three on Saturday and one on Sunday. In addition, folks can join a number of “drop-in” trips, such as presentations, at certain times throughout the three days.

If you’re averse to cold weather, you can stay warm participating in indoor trips. The Squeeze Box is about 11 inches high and 9 feet long, simulating some of the crazy, tiny places cavers must crawl through. Squeeze Box competitors are separated by age, gender and weight. A complex, multilayered maze of cardboard boxes, some mirrored, the Corrugated Cave is a popular holdover from Crawlathon days; 90 percent is negotiated on your hands and knees.

For years, Carter Caves held an annual winter Crawlathon – attended by some 700 cave enthusiasts – that focused primarily on wild cave tours. But in late 2008 bats in the northeastern United States began



dying from White Nose Syndrome (WNS), and for fear of introducing the fungus into Kentucky, the park cancelled the event. Wanting to continue some sort of winter experience, enthusiastic volunteers came up with activities that didn’t involve wild caving, and Winter Adventure Weekend was created.

Attendance has since increased from around 100 the first year to more than 400 in 2013. Ainsley expects that number to grow in 2014 at the fifth annual occurrence. As WNS is now actively in Eastern Kentucky, this year’s weekend will reintroduce multiple wild cave trips.

The perfect spot for an outdoor weekend, the resort park covers 2,000 acres of wooded hills rife with flora, fauna and geologic formations on the surface and underground. Carter Caves offers year-round guided tours of some of its dozen-plus caves, while above ground, 30 miles of trails pass natural bridges, arches, caves, sinkholes, cliffs and a box canyon. Hikers, bikers and horseback riders share 15 miles of multi-use trails.

Wintertime can be especially beautiful, especially with a dusting of snow. No guarantees there, but this weekend

chock full of exciting things to do is sure to offer learning, laughter and pure fun to beat those too-many-days-indoors blues.

“I don’t know of anything else quite like this event in the U.S.,” said Ainsley. “Instead of being 90 percent caving, Winter Adventure Weekend offers a nice mesh and variety of activities. It’s really made us think outside the box.”

If you’re staying for the weekend, onsite overnights include a 28-room field-stone lodge, 11 two-bedroom cottages and for the winter-hardy, a campground with RV sites, tent sites and bunkhouses. Should those be full, the website below lists nearby accommodations.

Seating 100, the park’s restaurant, Tierney’s Cavern, offers Kentucky Proud meats and produce whenever possible. Specials include Kentucky Hot Browns and catfish fillets to warm your insides when it’s cold on the outside.

To check out the vast array of options Winter Adventure Weekend offers, visit [winteradventureweekend.com](http://winteradventureweekend.com) or call the park at 606-286-4411. ■

*Katherine Tandy Brown is a correspondent for The Lane Report. She can be reached at [editorial@lanereport.com](mailto:editorial@lanereport.com).*



*Attendance of the Winter Adventure Weekend has since increased from approximately 100 the first year to more than 400 in 2013.*



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## Louisville, Lexington Need Skilled Workforce to Grow Jobs

**T**HE 22 counties that form the Bluegrass Economic Advancement Movement region, with Louisville and Lexington as its anchors, have the capacity to grow significant jobs in advanced manufacturing, but the region needs a much more skilled engineering and technical workforce, according to a new study.

The study – “Seizing the Manufacturing Moment: An Economic Growth Plan for the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky” – concludes that with America experiencing a resurgence in manufacturing, the Louisville-Lexington region is uniquely poised to take advantage of the economic trend. However, the region must focus more intently on innovation, research and development, and improve the workforce so people have the right skills for these jobs.

The report was released by Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and Lexington Mayor Jim Gray in partnership with the Brookings Institution of Washington, D.C. It is the culmination of a two-year effort by the mayors through the BEAM project, an idea the two created in January 2011 during a UK/UofL basketball game.

The report recommends six key strategies. The first is solidifying the partnership between the two cities to grow more jobs and collaborate on growth strategies. It also recommends that the region develop a skilled workforce equipped to meet the demands of a 21st century industry, and develop an integrated ecosystem of support for advanced manufacturing centered on innovation and technology.

Beyond manufacturing, the region should invest in targeted regional assets to diversify the economy into technology-based firms and knowledge industries, and strengthen the region’s competitive position by enhancing its metropolitan areas as attractive places to live, work and do business, the report suggested.

Another strategy is to increase global demand for made-in-Kentucky products by helping BEAM manufacturers tap new and expanding export markets.

The study details a plan of action that includes doubling the number of engineering graduates from Kentucky universities, developing more “earn and learn” programs to help cre-



Staff photo

*Lexington Mayor Jim Gray, right, and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer answer questions about the Bluegrass Economic Advancement Movement during a press conference at Clark Material Handling in Lexington.*

ate a pipeline of workers with advanced manufacturing skills, and creating advanced manufacturing training centers in Georgetown and Louisville.

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System plans to build an 80,000 s.f. advanced manufacturing training facility in Georgetown that will assist in BEAM’s goals and support the training needs of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, which earlier this year announced a \$531 million expansion to begin building the Lexus ES 350. Of all of KCTCS’s capital projects, the center is its highest priority, according to KCTCS President Michael McCall, a member of the BEAM board of directors.

## Aviation Lifting STEM Education in Kentucky

**I**T’S not often mentioned, but aviation is one of Kentucky’s biggest industries – so big that we hardly notice it. There is an aviation underpinning to many other businesses around the state, most prominently the air freight hubs operated by UPS at Louisville International Airport (SDF) and by DHL at Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) in Hebron.

Aviation means more than \$10 billion annually to the commonwealth’s economy and includes 100,000 jobs, according to Robert Riggs, board member of the Aviation Museum of Kentucky in Lexington and for the Institute for Aerospace Education (formerly Kentucky Institute for Aerospace Education).

The museum is calling attention to the fact that more than 5,000 state students have now passed through its education programs. In fact, Kentucky is a



*Among the dozens of aircraft at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky in Lexington is a former U.S. Marine Corps F-4S Phantom II jet.*

leader in aviation education: 23 high schools around the state have aviation science programs. Eastern Kentucky University’s aviation program offers three a bachelor’s degree in three concentration areas and has been named the best in the nation.

The programs are important to Kentucky’s efforts to upgrade science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) educational achievement, which are considered keys to providing uplift to the state’s economy.

Students aiming even higher can shoot for a spot in the Kentucky Space program (the subject of a Lane Report article in December 2012) at Morehead State University and the University of Kentucky. Kentucky Space conducts cutting edge work in nanosatellites and has regular access to the International Space Station. It was part of two successful launches last month.

There’s a lot more online at [aviationky.org](http://aviationky.org) or better yet in person at the museum in Lexington adjoining Blue Grass Airport at 4029 Airport Road; it’s packed with interesting aircraft and information.

## Commerce Lexington Delegation Visits 4 Western Kentucky Cities on Annual Tour

A Bluegrass delegation of more than 40 people visited key features in the far western portion of the state during Commerce Lexington's 2013 Kentucky Regional Tour. The two-day bus tour included stops in Bowling Green, Hopkinsville, Fort Campbell and Paducah.



*Above: The Bluegrass delegation is greeted by "Big Red" upon arrival at Western Kentucky University's new Augenstein Alumni Center.*

*Left: Christian County Judge/Executive Steve Tribble, right, and Christian County Chamber President Carter Hendricks give an overview of the Hopkinsville area during a visit to Commonwealth Agri-Energy.*



*Above: Billie Dollins of Community Trust Bank reloads her gun during a shooting simulation at Fort Campbell on the first day of the Kentucky Regional Tour.*

*Right: Bowling Green Mayor Bruce Wilkerson speaks to the delegation during a stop at the National Corvette Museum.*



## More Public High School Graduates Headed to College

ABOUT three out of every five of Kentucky's public high school Class of 2011 enrolled in college for the 2011-2012 academic year, exceeding the previous year's enrollment, according to the 2013 Kentucky High School Feedback Report by the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS).

The report revealed that of the 44,853 Kentucky public high school graduates in 2011, 60.2 percent (27,014) enrolled in some form of higher education compared to 61.4 percent of those who graduated in 2010, a total of 26,858 students. Even though more students attended college, the actual college-going rate dropped marginally in part because of the increasing number of high school graduates, said Charles McGrew, Ph.D., executive director of KCEWS.

Although 61 percent of the previous year's high school graduates went to college, 52 percent of them attended both the fall and spring semesters, and only 46 percent of those high school graduates from 2010 completed their first year and returned for the second, according to the report.

"Even though more than 90 percent of the 2010 graduating high school class that attended one of our in-state public schools entered as full-time students, only 15 percent actually earned a full year of college-level course hours (30 college credit hours) during their first year," McGrew said. "... By the end of the first year, 85 percent who attended college from this class of graduates were already off track to graduate from college on time."

The report also illustrates the importance of preparing high school graduates for success in college. The high school students who graduated in 2010 who were not ready for college-level coursework were only about half as likely to attend college (43 percent compared to 88 percent) as those who were assessed as college ready. College readiness is based on meeting all the English, math and reading benchmarks during the statewide junior year ACT assessment.

The statewide college-going rate for African-Americans in the Class of 2011 is 55.7 percent. The college-going rate for females in the class is 67 percent while the rate for males is 53.5 percent.

## Corrections

- A photo in our November issue was incorrectly identified as Timothy Burcham, vice president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, in a story about the Automotive Manufacturing Technical Education Collaborative.

- The November cover story, "High Tech Tools, Old-Fashioned Touch," incorrectly listed the corporate name of Louisville-based company Trinity Video Communications in the initial reference.



*Timothy Burcham*



# KENTUCKY PEOPLE

## LEXINGTON: REPUBLIC BANK JOINS UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY'S ANNUAL BIG BLUE DENIM DRIVE



Republic Bank joined in to support the University of Kentucky's annual "Big Blue Goes Green" denim drive this fall by taking donations of denim apparel at its five Lexington banking centers. The used denim is converted into cotton fiber insulation to use in the construction of new homes or renovations within communities in need. Pictured here are (left to right) Jennifer Scott, banking center manager – Chevy Chase; Wes Reynolds – regional manager of retail banking; and Bo Henry, market president for Republic.

## LOUISVILLE: WATERSTEP FOUNDER HONORED FOR HUMANITARIAN WORK



WaterStep photo

Mark Hogg (left), founder and CEO of Louisville-based WaterStep, was awarded the 2013 Muhammad Ali Kentucky Humanitarian Award at the inaugural event this fall. Hogg, pictured here with Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, was honored for his work to bring safe water to developing countries and providing water for disaster relief in local communities.

## GEORGETOWN: NAPRAVNIK KICKS OFF 'HATS OFF TO THE HORSES' FUNDRAISER



Sean Avey/EquiSport Photos photo

Jockey Rosie Napravnik threw off her helmet this fall to don a one-of-a-kind Kentucky Derby chapeau to launch the 5th annual "Hats Off to the Horses: The Road to the Derby," an online auction that raises money for Old Friends, a Thoroughbred retirement facility in Georgetown. Napravnik, one of racing's most successful female jockeys and an avid supporter of Old Friends, posed for photographers of EquiSport Photos wearing each of the six hat designs that will be auctioned, one per month, leading up to the 2014 running of the Kentucky Derby.

## SOMERSET: CAMPBELLVILLE UNIVERSITY OPENS EDUCATION CENTER



Linda Waggener photo

Larry Noe, with his wife, Beverly (in background), addressed the crowd in attendance for the dedication of Campbellsville University's new location in Somerset, which is named in their honor. Larry Noe is a graduate of Campbellsville University and has served on the university's board of trustees since 1993. He has been involved in numerous real estate-related businesses and is president of Saver Group Inc., which owns 47 Save-A-Lot retail stores in five states. The Larry and Beverly Noe Somerset Education Center will enable the university to expand on its current partnership with Somerset Community College and offer additional classes and academic programs in the future.

## DALLAS: UofL'S BOLLI WINS AMERICAN HEART ASSOC. 2013 RESEARCH AWARD



The American Heart Association presented its 2013 Research Achievement Award last month to Dr. Roberto Bolli for his "extraordinary contributions to cardiovascular research." Bolli is professor of medicine, physics and biophysics; chief of the division of cardiovascular medicine and director of the Institute of Molecular Cardiology at the University of Louisville. He received the award during the opening of the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2013 at the Dallas Convention Center.



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MY BOYS HAVE A FATHER  
BECAUSE THE UNIVERSITY  
HOSPITAL TRAUMA TEAM  
SAVED MY LIFE.

- Chris Speagle,  
Trauma Patient



When a car collided with Chris' motorcycle at 50 mph, his injuries were catastrophic. He was losing blood quickly, and his life span was being measured in minutes. Miraculously, a University of Louisville Hospital nurse was at the scene and rushed to his aid. Using his daughter's blanket, the nurse tied a tourniquet around Chris' leg to stem the bleeding and save his life. Chris was taken to the University Hospital Trauma Center, where he immediately underwent three surgeries to fix his broken femur, pelvis, internal bleeding and a severed vein. For four days, he remained unconscious, fighting for his life with the support of his wife Christa, and his team of nurses and doctors. Today, thanks to the prompt action and specialized care of the Trauma Team at University of Louisville Hospital, Chris is back after a long period of recovery to his active lifestyle as loving husband and father of two boys.

Visit [KentuckyOneHealth.org](http://KentuckyOneHealth.org)



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