

The Lane Report

KENTUCKY'S BUSINESS NEWS SOURCE FOR 32 YEARS

JANUARY 2017

\$4.50

KENTUCKY BUSINESS LIKES WHAT IT SEES FOR 2017

Manufacturing and construction
upswing, automotive sector's second
record year, and a new, positive political
environment are raising expectations

Page 18



PAID
Permit #327
Lebanon Junction
KY 40150
PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE

201 E. Main St. Ste. 1402, Lexington KY 40507
ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

lanereport.com

IN 2015, TOURISTS SPENT
MORE THAN JUST TIME IN KENTUCKY.

THEY SPENT \$13.7 BILLION.



Tourism is the third largest revenue generator in our state, making it a vital part of Kentucky's economy, culture and quality of life. Tourism also supports 186,204 jobs in Kentucky – up 6,241 good-paying jobs since 2014.

It's clear – tourism works for Kentucky.



kentuckytourism.com

Our energies go to:

powering
businesses
and
empowering
growth.

Producing safe, reliable power for the companies that depend on us is only part of our job at LG&E and KU. We also power Kentucky with some of the lowest rates in the nation to attract new business and help existing ones expand.

Our energies go to serving you.



PPL companies

lge-ku.com

18 COVER STORY KENTUCKY BUSINESS LIKES WHAT IT SEES FOR 2017

Manufacturing and construction upswing, automotive sector's second record year, and a new, positive political environment are raising expectations

27 EARTHQUAKE AND AFTERSHOCK

Democrats sift the rubble as Republicans stand ready to take up big issues

30 STEVE POE'S PARTNER: FINANCIAL PRACTICALITY

Louisville hotel and apartment developer's winning vision always focused by the market condition prism



On the Cover

Kentucky business leaders are distinctly optimistic about economic prospects for 2017. Agribusiness and coal country especially will face challenges but construction, logistics and manufacturing like what they see. Unified Republican control of political policymaking in Frankfort and Washington is viewed very positively. Photo illustration by Paul Blodgett.

Departments

4 Perspective

6 Fast Lane

14 Interstate Lane

15 Kentucky Intelligencer

16 Corporate Moves

17 On the Boards

34 Opinion

35 Viewpoint

36 Emerging Lane

38 Lane List

39 Spotlight on the Arts

40 Exploring Kentucky

42 Passing Lane

44 Kentucky People



lanereport.com

Kentucky Business News Online

Read up-to-the-minute Kentucky business news stories, current and archived copies of *The Lane Report*, *Market Review*, *BG – A way of life*, *Next – Your Future After High School in Kentucky*, *Health Kentucky*, *Research Kentucky* special reports, white papers and community profiles.

Faster Lane

Email news bulletin

Three or more times a week, the editors of *The Lane Report* publish Faster Lane – email bulletins of fast breaking and important Kentucky business and economic news.

Visit lanereport.com to sign-up for this free, must-have, at-your-fingertips news service.

Wealth Management
Financial Planning
Trust Services
Insurance Services
Investment Banking
Lending
Cash Management
Personal Investing



What do we have to do to get you to look at us differently?

Today, Hilliard Lyons is larger than ever and offers more diversified services than ever.

We are a full-service wealth management firm providing a wide range of advice and products - from estate planning to investment banking, from lending to insurance services. Yes, Hilliard Lyons is more than a traditional investment brokerage.

It's everything you need in your pursuit of financial success. **888-403-8317**

HILLIARD LYONS

Ashland | Bowling Green | Danville | Elizabethtown | Ft. Mitchell | Glasgow | Henderson
Hopkinsville | Kevil | Lexington | Louisville | Madisonville | Murray | Owensboro | Paducah

Securities are offered through J.J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, LLC | Member NYSE, FINRA, & SIPC
Trust services are offered through Hilliard Lyons Trust Company, LLC, an affiliate of J.J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, LLC.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR/VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Green

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Karen Baird

DIGITAL EDITOR

Jonathan Miller

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Jessica Merriman

CREATIVE SERVICES

Stone Advisory

Paul Blodgett

CORRESPONDENTS

Katherine Tandy Brown; Chris Clair;
Shannon Clinton; Anne Charles Doolin;
Kevin Gibson; Frank Goad; Robert Hadley;
Lorie Hailey; Debra Gibson Isaacs; Kara Keeton;
Meredith Lane; Abby Laub; Tim Mandell;
Esther Marr; Greg Paeth; Robin Roenker;
Josh Shepherd; Sean Slone; Katheran Wasson;
Gary Wollenhaupt; Dawn Yankeelov

PUBLISHER/CEO

Dick Kelly

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Donna Hodsdon

Melissa McGarry

BUSINESS DIRECTOR

Nicole Conyers

MARKETING CONSULTANT

Curtiss Smith

CIRCULATION/IT

Josiah White



FOUNDER

Ed Lane

SYNDICATED COLUMNS

Creators Syndicate

PRINTING & CIRCULATION SERVICES

Publishers Printing Co.

WEB MARKETING & PUBLISHING

Software Masters

IT SERVICES

NetGain Technologies

INTERNET SERVICES

QX.net

Lane Communications Group
is a member of

THE ALLIANCE

OF AREA BUSINESS PUBLICATIONS

The Lane Report is published monthly by:
Lane Communications Group
201 East Main Street 14th Floor
Lexington, KY 40507-2003
editorial@lanereport.com
For more information and
advertising rates contact:
PHONE: 859-244-3500

The annual subscription rate is \$29.
(Kentucky residents add \$1.74 sales tax.)
Newsstand price is \$4.50.

Send check or money order to:
Circulation Manager
THE LANE REPORT
201 East Main Street 14th Floor
Lexington, Kentucky 40507-2003
or go to lanereport.com/subscribe

THE LANE REPORT corrects all significant errors that
are brought to the editors' attention.

© 2017 Lane Communications Group

All editorial material is fully protected and must not be
reproduced in any manner without prior permission.



PERSPECTIVE

MOVING KENTUCKY FORWARD

Changing political landscape creates new opportunities

BY DAVE ADKISSON

A new chapter in Kentucky's history is being written this year in Frankfort as the Republican Party holds the governor's office and a majority in both chambers of the General Assembly. This changing political landscape offers new opportunities, and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce is optimistic that the 2017 session will bring passage of some common-sense legislation that will create jobs across the commonwealth.

There are, of course, a couple of headline issues – pensions and tax reform – that deserve serious consideration and will require more time to address than that allowed in a short session. Those are perhaps best left to a special session later this year, an approach that many of Kentucky's elected leaders seem to favor.

But significant progress is possible in a so-called short session – 30 days of legislative meetings instead of 60. Here are the Kentucky Chamber's four key priorities:

Right to Work. It's time to make Kentucky a right-to-work state and allow employees to make a personal decision on whether to pay dues to a union. States with right-to-work laws report faster per capita income growth, faster growth in manufacturing and non-agricultural jobs, greater capital expenditures, lower unemployment and fewer work stoppages. As Kentucky has struggled to recruit and retain business, not being a right-to-work state has cost us jobs. Kentucky is the only Southern state not to have enacted right-to-work legislation. With Indiana, Michigan and West Virginia's new right-to-work laws, our state is a conspicuous outlier in this much-needed area of reform.

Prevailing Wage. It is time for Kentucky to repeal its prevailing wage law. An independent study determined that prevailing wage inflates construction costs by 10 to 16 percent, and that means public construction projects like schools and libraries have to be scaled

back. In addition, spending on higher-cost public works projects means less money to shore up Kentucky's ailing pension system – a problem that national credit agencies are watching closely – and less money for education and economic development programs.

Charter Schools. On the education front, Kentucky is one of only seven states that do not allow charter schools, which the Chamber has long advocated. Charter schools are helping other states close achievement gaps, empower parents, and discover innovative ways to help students and teachers succeed in the classroom. They should be included in Kentucky's education toolbox.

Legal Reform. Finally, the increasing cost of civil litigation, whether through legal fees, higher liability



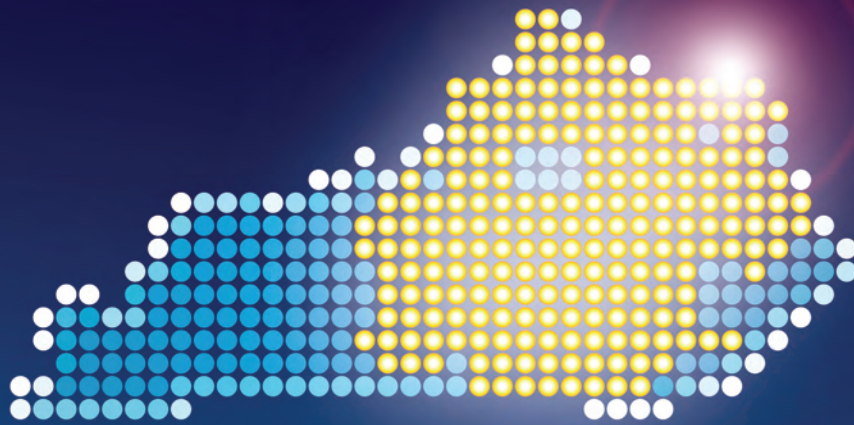
Gov. Matt Bevin congratulates House Speaker Jeff Hoover, R-Jamestown, on the floor of the House on Jan. 3.

insurance premiums, defensive business practices or simply reduced investment opportunities, is a significant burden for Kentucky's employers. These costs are hurting businesses, their employees and consumers as they are passed on in the form of higher prices and fewer choices. Because of this the Chamber has long advocated for legal liability reforms.

Progress on these four items will make the 2017 legislative session a great success. We hope you will join the Kentucky Chamber in encouraging our state representatives and senators to support these measures to move Kentucky forward. ■



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



Powering Kentucky

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives provide safe, affordable, reliable energy to more than 1 million Kentucky residents and businesses across 87 counties.

We are member-owned, not-for-profit cooperatives based in Kentucky and serving the Bluegrass State.

And we're committed to boosting the economies of the communities we serve, helping to generate jobs and investment that benefit everyone.

Homes, hospitals, factories, offices, shopping centers – they all depend on us to keep the power flowing.

Kentucky's Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives 

Big Sandy RECC Blue Grass Energy Clark Energy Cumberland Valley Electric Farmers RECC
Fleming-Mason Energy Grayson RECC Inter-County Energy Jackson Energy Licking Valley RECC Nolin RECC
Owen Electric Salt River Electric Shelby Energy South Kentucky RECC Taylor County RECC

POWERED BY  EAST KENTUCKY POWER COOPERATIVE

FAST LANE

A compilation of economic news from across Kentucky

LOUISVILLE: FINAL PIECE OF \$2.3B LOUISVILLE-SOUTHERN INDIANA OHIO RIVER BRIDGES PROJECT OPEN TO TRAFFIC



The newly opened Lewis and Clark Bridge connects the eastern edge of suburban Louisville and an area just east of Jeffersonville, Ind.

AFTER more than three years of construction, the long-awaited Ohio River bridge connecting Louisville and Southern Indiana opened to traffic on Dec. 18.

The East End crossing – newly named the **Lewis and Clark Bridge** – is the final major piece of the \$2.3 billion **Louisville–Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges Project** to open to traffic. The project also includes the new six-lane, I-65 North **Abraham Lincoln Bridge** and an improved six-lane, I-65 South **Kennedy Bridge** in downtown Louisville.

“Southern Indiana and the Louisville area have needed this new bridge for years,” said Deputy Federal Highway Administrator David Kim. “By reducing congestion, the East End Crossing and its massive partner downtown will improve traffic safety, reduce traffic congestion and dramatically increase the region’s role in the nation’s freight economy.”

All three bridges are tolled via **RiverLink**, an all-electronic tolling system that promises no stopping, no slowing, no lines and no coin machines. The bridges are equipped with sensors and video cameras that recognize a transponder placed on the vehicle’s windshield. Drivers can either obtain a free sticker that works on the Lincoln, Kennedy and Lewis and Clark bridges or purchase a RiverLink **E-ZPass** transponder that costs \$15 and will work in other states that use the E-ZPass system. (More information on the transponders is available at riverlink.com or by calling 855-RIV-LINK.) If a transponder is not in place, cameras take a picture of the vehicle license plate. If a pre-paid account has been established, the toll will be deducted automatically; otherwise, a bill for the toll will be sent in the mail.

Tolls for passenger vehicles range from \$2 to \$4; medium vehicles (three to four axles and more than 7.5 feet high) are \$5 to \$7; and large vehicles (five axles or more) are \$10 to \$12 per trip.

The **Sherman Minton Bridge** (I-64) and the **Clark Memorial Bridge** between downtown Louisville and Jeffersonville, Ind., will not be tolled.

Construction of the East End Crossing began in June 2013. A study commissioned by the **Indiana Finance Authority** estimated the Ohio River Bridges project – which also included construction of the Lincoln Bridge – would support 15,000 new jobs over the next 30 years and generate an additional \$87 billion for the regional economy.

PAINTSVILLE: AMERICAN METAL WORKS MANUFACTURING SITE PLANNED AT BIG SANDY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AMERICAN Metal Works has announced plans to open a manufacturing site at an incubator space on the Mayo campus of **Big Sandy Community and Technical College** (BSCTC).

The company will use state-of-the-art computer numerical control (CNC) machining to provide services to industries, including automotive, aerospace, medical device and general manufacturing.

Pikeville natives James Glass and Dennis Rohrer established American Metal Works in 2016 after suffering the same economic downturn in the oil and gas industry that the coal industry suffered.

“Our goal is to try and keep the talented, well trained, hardworking people from leaving eastern Kentucky,” Rohrer said. “We have seen too many families reluctantly leave because of the lack of good paying jobs.”



Officials with American Metal Works signed an agreement with Big Sandy Community and Technical College to utilize space on the Mayo campus. Pictured here, left to right, are: (front) Dennis Rohrer, managing member of American Metal Works; Devin Stephenson, BSCTC president; James Glass, managing member of American Metal Works; and Kelli Hall, dean of career education and workforce development. (Back) Mark Smith, quality manager for American Metal Works; John William, plant manager for American Metal Works; and Danny Tomkin, BSCTC director of business and industry.

STATE: LABOR CABINET FORMS NEW DIVISION FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

THE Kentucky Labor Cabinet has formed a new **Division of Apprenticeship**, designed to provide technical and marketing expertise toward growing the role that registered apprenticeships play in Kentucky’s economic landscape.

There are currently about 1,100 employers across Kentucky with registered apprenticeship programs that employ nearly 3,000 apprentices in various industries. In addition to addressing a skills and age gap facing many businesses, state leaders hope the new division will become a key tool for recruiting new employers to the commonwealth.

“In speaking with business owners across Kentucky, they all need a pipeline of employees who are trained with industry-specific skills,” said Josh Benton, executive director of workforce development at the **Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development**. “They see – as do we – the connection between workforce skill and business success.”



Josh Benton, Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

The Division of Apprenticeship features coordinators who work closely with businesses from across the state on all things related to registered apprenticeships, from consulting with businesses looking to begin a registered apprenticeship to helping existing participant-companies administer and market their program. It will also manage a \$896,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor that will help increase the number of registered apprentices in Kentucky by 1,300 by diversifying the occupational sectors currently being served and providing greater outreach to underserved populations in Kentucky.



We want to know what’s going on at your company!

If you have news to share with Kentucky’s business community, please forward your press releases and photos/logos/graphics to editorial@lanereport.com. In order to reproduce well, images must be large enough to publish in high resolution (300 dpi).



THE NEW YEAR IS A GREAT TIME TO SET FINANCIAL GOALS AND REPRIORITIZE YOUR CURRENT ONES.

1. Identify financial goals
2. Monitor your overall financial plan
3. Adjust your plan, if needed

LET US HELP YOU SET YOUR NEW YEAR'S FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS IN MOTION.

Kentucky Bank's lenders and wealth management professionals* can help you develop a plan that can help you reach your goals. Give us a call to get started making 2017 a financial success.



LOUIS PRICHARD
President and CEO

JIM ELLIOTT
SVP, Director of Wealth
Management

DARRYL TERRY
Central Kentucky Regional
Market President

 **Kentucky Bank**

800-467-1939 | KYBANK.COM

*NO BANK GUARANTEE | NOT A DEPOSIT | NOT FDIC INSURED | NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY | MAY LOSE VALUE

BUSINESS BRIEFS



Performance Feeds photo

BOWLING GREEN

■ **Performance Feeds LLC**, a Tennessee-based manufacturer of nutritional feed products for cattle, has announced plans to move its primary production facility from Tennessee to Bowling Green. Company owner and founder Tony Ferguson said his decision to expand operations into southern Kentucky was based on “the diverse

workforce, infrastructure and vast cattle numbers in the region.” The company is investing nearly \$2.3 million to open a state-of-the-art feed and mineral production facility, grain elevator and storage facility that will create 30 full-time jobs.

■ Despite efforts to adjust flight frequency to better meet demand, **commercial air service** between Bowling Green and Atlanta ended effective Jan. 8, just over four months after launching the service. **Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport** Manager Rob Barnett told *The (Bowling Green) Daily News* that feedback regarding the carrier – Tennessee-based **Contour Airlines** – had been 99 percent positive, but that demand had simply not materialized to the level that had been projected. Barnett said the airport and city would continue to look at other routes and opportunities.

CAVE CITY

■ **Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park**, a popular RV/campground in Cave City, is undergoing a \$10.7 million expansion that will include the addition of 200 campsites, 31 rental cabins, water slides and a 2.3-acre splash beach that will include a floating sports park designed to accommodate up to 100 people. The expansion will also include five additional playground areas, five more bathhouses, a pedal cart track and day-use pet kennel. Jellystone Park co-owner Bill Pott said the park – which last year was named by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of “The 8 coolest Campgrounds for Families – has been at near-capacity in recent years due to its proximity to a number of popular tourist sites such as **Mammoth Cave**, Lincoln’s birthplace and the **Kentucky Bourbon Trail**. The expansion is expected to add 26 new jobs to the existing 55-member workforce during peak summer camping seasons.

ERLANGER

■ **Southwest Airlines** has announced plans to begin flight service out of the **Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport** (CVG), beginning June 4. The discount carrier will offer eight daily flights out of CVG, five of which will go to Chicago’s **Midway Airport** with the remaining three going to Baltimore. Southwest has been flying out of the nearby **Dayton International Airport**, but will discontinue service there as it shifts flights to CVG. Landing Southwest is a major coup for CVG, which a decade ago had the unfavorable distinction of having some of the nation’s highest airline fares. In recent years, however, CVG management has been aggressive – and successful – in bringing in more low-cost carriers such as Frontier and Allegiant to create a better balance.

FORT WRIGHT

■ **VonLehman & Co.**, one of the largest accounting firms in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area, has moved its headquarters from Fort Mitchell to new office space in Fort Wright. Founded in 1946, the firm has offices in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana, and is growing its business. The company recently moved up 20 positions – from 156 to 176 – in *Inside Public Accounting’s* sixth annual ranking of the nation’s top 200 accounting firms list – the “IPA 200” – which is regarded as the benchmarking gold standard within the industry.



FRANKFORT

■ **Central Kentucky Ag Credit** has opened a new branch office in Frankfort. Ag Credit provides financial services in 17 central Kentucky counties and operates offices in Richmond, Lexington, Paris, Danville, Stanford and Lebanon.

DAWSON SPRINGS: WINK EQUIPMENT TO HIRE 50 FOR MANUFACTURING PLANT

WINK Equipment is investing more than \$1.5 million to locate an aluminum trailer manufacturing plant in Dawson Springs that will create 50 full-time positions.

The company is setting up operations in a 69,000-s.f. building, where it plans to construct 400 to 600 aluminum side-dump trailers per year.

Side-dump trailers are in high demand in a variety of industries, especially for use in regions where narrow mountain roads and high winds threaten the usability of traditional 50-foot frameless dump trailers. By manufacturing in high-strength aluminum, Wink claims its trailers weigh up to 2 tons less than their steel counterparts, offering truckers better fuel economy.

Production is expected to begin later this year.



Wink Equipment’s new plant in Dawson Springs will produce aluminum side-dump trailers.

EASTERN KY: BROADBAND PLAN MOVES FORWARD; HAZARD NOW A ‘GIG CITY’

The Southeastern Kentucky Final Mile (SKY FM) broadband fiber planning project has released its broadband action plan, the first step in expanding high-speed broadband across Clay, Knott, Leslie, Letcher and Perry counties. A goal of the SKY FM project is to enable public-private partnerships that expand high-speed fiber broadband access to homes, schools, hospitals, businesses, public buildings, industrial parks and other critical structures in rural southeastern Kentucky.

The plan, authored by Kentucky-based **Connected Nation Exchange** (CNX), was presented in Hazard before a diverse group of interested public and private-sector representatives from across the five-county area.

“I want to commend the leaders of southeastern Kentucky for this insightful and important plan to expand high-speed and high-capacity broadband to the mountains,” said U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers. “We have lost more than 11,000 coal mining jobs in our region since 2009, so this broadband network is key to diversifying our economy and revitalizing our communities.”

In connection with the new plan, **Thacker-Grigsby Communications/TVS Cable**, announced that Hazard is now considered a “gig city,” meaning it has gigabit fiber connectivity available to all locations in Hazard. David Thacker, technical operations manager for Thacker-Grigsby, said the company has made network upgrades that have allowed it to increase download speeds to 50 meg for many Perry County customers.

Participants in the SKY FM project say these steps will lead to the expansion and construction of additional fiber networks across the five-county area and serve as a working model for use across the commonwealth.

CNX CEO Brian Mefford said Kentucky’s investment in a high-capacity fiber backbone that will provide connection points in all 120 Kentucky counties “means broadband can expand in places that previously were too costly for a private-sector business case. In true public-private partnership fashion, KentuckyWired is creating a better business case for broadband investment statewide.”



STATE: KENTUCKY LOOKS TO PRIVATIZE SEVERAL STATE PARK GOLF COURSES

THE Kentucky State

Park system is soliciting requests for proposals (RFP) for three of its nine-hole golf courses as the state seeks to find ways of improving efficiencies and reducing costs.

The state park system is looking for a private concessionaire to operate the courses at **Carter Caves State Resort Park** in Olive Hill and **Kincaid Lake State Park** near Falmouth. A request for information (RFI) is being issued for the course at **General Butler State Resort Park** in Carrollton as part of the state's efforts to gather ideas for other uses of that course.

Citing decreasing attendance and rising maintenance costs, state officials say the park system is no longer able to maintain the courses at the three parks.

"We hope that these requests will generate proposals and ideas that better serve the needs of Kentuckians and our guests," said Don Parkinson, secretary of the Cabinet of Tourism, Arts and Heritage.

The state park system currently operates 12 18-hole courses and four nine-hole courses across the state. A statement announcing the RFP/RFI said a decision would not affect employment at the parks.



Ky. Department of Parks photo

MILLERSBURG: COMMUNITY VENTURES ACQUIRES FORMER MILITARY INSTITUTE

LEXINGTON-based **Community Ventures** has purchased the former **Millersburg Military Institute** in northeast Bourbon County with the goal of turning the site into a destination that will help generate jobs, create new businesses and drive tourism into Millersburg.

Until it closed in 2006, the military institute was a constant in Millersburg for more than 100 years, in spite of an ever-changing economic landscape. After MMI closed, the community took another hit when its largest employer, Stamler Corp., closed its operations there in 2013.

Community Ventures President/CEO Kevin Smith said the organization is currently in the process of organizing meetings to gather feedback from area residents "for what this site (MMI) could potentially become."

The MMI campus features five multi-use buildings, including the historic Allen House as well as a gym, dormitory, mess hall and classroom building. Recognizing the historical significance of the site, Community Ventures is looking to retain and restore the original structures. Current plans call for the organization to move administrative offices to the campus and transform the Allen House into a community event space. The campus also offers 14 acres of land that could provide green space for festivals, concerts and other large-scale events.

"Our goal is not solely focused on restoring and preserving this historical site," said Smith, "but to develop this campus into a tool that can be used and supported by the people of Millersburg while helping to provide the community with financial stability, jobs and a sense of place."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GRAVES COUNTY

■ **Precision Tooling Products** has completed a \$450,000 expansion of its Graves County machine shop that includes new equipment to increase production of suppressors for pistols and rifles. The expansion, which will create 10 full-time jobs, will enable the company to move from one shift of six employees to two to three shifts with 16 or more employees. Precision Tooling opened in 2006 as a contract machine shop offering CNC machining, grinding, honing and assembly services. In 2013, the company shifted to production of their own product, developing five lines of silencers/suppressors and establishing the PTP Tactical line in 2014. The company's Chief .30-caliber suppressor recently received a U.S. patent. Precision Tooling Products now supplies more than 200 gun dealers in 25-plus states.

LEXINGTON

■ The **Lexington Center Corp.** and the **University of Kentucky** have agreed to a new 15-year lease that will keep UK's men's basketball team playing at **Rupp Arena** through the 2033 season. The current lease expires at the end of the 2018 season. The letter of intent calls for LCC to make approximately \$15 million in improvements at the arena such as more chair-back seats and new hospitality areas. Recent improvements that have already been completed include a new center-hung scoreboard, technology improvements and a ribbon board.



■ Linda Van Eldik, director of the **University of Kentucky Sanders-Brown Center on Aging**, has been awarded a \$1 million translational research grant from the **Alzheimer's Association**. The two-year grant will fund early clinical trials for a promising new treatment for Alzheimer's, a disease that currently affects more than 5 million Americans and is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States.

■ Lexington's **Cork & Barrel Wine & Bourbon Bar** has announced plans to open a retail bourbon store at Lexington's **Blue Grass Airport** this spring. Located beyond the security checkpoint, the location will allow travelers to purchase bourbon products – one of Kentucky's signature products – to take with them in their carry-on bags. The exterior of the store will include an actual barrel rick (a wood structure used to hold bourbon barrels during the aging process), built using timbers from a historic distillery in Frankfort. It will also include more than a dozen full-size bourbon barrels from various Kentucky distilleries, providing the ideal background for travelers' photos.



■ Lexington-based mattress company **Tempur Sealy International** has announced plans move its Los Angeles operations to a new site that will include a larger manufacturing facility as well as a new distribution center. The company has also announced the purchase of additional land adjacent to its existing Sealy manufacturing plant in Toluca, Mexico, for an expansion that will allow for increased capacity and improved productivity.

LOUISVILLE

■ Louisville-based **21c Museum Hotels** has announced that its next project will be located in Miami. The hotel/contemporary art museum will serve as a focal point for **HELM Miami**, a mixed-used development product in the city's Design District that will include a sculpture garden and more than 325,000-s.f. of shops, restaurants and collaborative workspace for those working in the art, fashion, design and other creative industries.

■ **EnterpriseCorp**, the entrepreneurial arm of **Greater Louisville Inc.** – the Metro Chamber of Commerce, has launched a mentoring program that will match first-time entrepreneurs with successful business leaders in the community. The Mentor Louisville program will match entrepreneurs with a personally selected mentor, subject-matter expert, or service provider offering experience launching, growing, scaling and/or investing in a business.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

LOUISVILLE

■ **Spalding University** has launched a major capital campaign, the largest in the school's history. The campaign will raise \$30 million to revitalize the Spalding campus by building a new athletic complex, expanding campus green space and renovating the university's historic first property, the Tompkins-Buchanan-Rankin Mansion.



Spalding University photo

■ **Amteck of Kentucky Inc.**, an electrical design-build-service contracting firm, has relocated their Louisville office to the former Donan Engineering site in the **Bluegrass Industrial Park**, a building that gives the company six times more square footage than its previous location. The expansion could allow the company to add more jobs to its Louisville staff, which currently consists of 15 office staff members and more than 80 field technicians. Amteck has recently completed major projects at Amazon, Humana, Jim Beam, Brown-Forman, Angel's Envy, Diageo Bulleit Distillery, Eurofins headquarters and Challenger Lifts.

■ The Brandeis School of Law at the **University of Louisville** has formed a new **Estate Planning and Elder Law Program**. The program is expected to be a significant resource for legal professionals, community members and law students.

■ The **Louisville International Airport** has completed a three-year terminal improvement project that includes more than \$9.5 million in aesthetic improvements aimed at enhancing travelers' experiences. Enhancements include new flooring/carpeting, four new escalators connecting baggage claim to ticketing, a meditation room, a new light-ing system and new wall treatments.



■ **Where Opportunity Knox**, a regional initiative to connect transitioning veterans and/or military spouses to jobs in the Greater Louisville region, has added office hours at the **University of Louisville** and office space at **GLI – Greater Louisville Inc.** to better serve transitioning veterans and their families in the Louisville area. The organization will work with more than 900 veteran students in the university's career development center.

■ The University of Louisville's **Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research** is studying the use of Kentucky-grown industrial hemp for developing chemicals and fuels, working in conjunction with farmers and processors to understand the challenges of large-scale implementation of hemp as a crop within Kentucky. The center is undertaking research on the plant for its potential applications, including solid and liquid fuels; a sustainable resource for chemicals; and as construction material for transportation and buildings. Conn Center board member and benefactor Hank Conn said, "This research will give these farmers and processors a fighting chance in the marketplace once industrial hemp is legalized."

■ **Almost Family Inc.**, a Louisville company that is a leading provider of home health nursing services, has acquired a controlling interest in the home health and hospice assets of Tennessee-based **Community Health Systems Inc.** CHS Home Health currently operates 74 home health and 15 hospice branch locations in 22 states. With the completion of the \$128 million transaction, Almost Family now operates 340 branches across 26 states and its annual net revenue run rate is expected to exceed the \$800 million mark. The acquisition adds 2,800 employees to the Almost Family workforce and creates the largest public hospital-home health joint venture in the country.



STATE: BEVIN REORGANIZES KY BOARDS TO CUT COSTS, IMPROVE EFFICIENCIES

AS part of his **Red Tape Reduction Initiative**, Gov. Matt Bevin has reorganized eight boards under the **Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction** into a single advisory committee representing all sectors of the industry.



Gov. Matt Bevin

The committee will be comprised of 17 members and mandates the appointment of seven citizen members with experience in the diverse cross-sections of the building industry. Those members will include at least one architect, one engineer, one mobile or manufactured home retailer or certified installer, and one expert from each of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning; plumbing; elevator; and electrical trades. The commissioner of the Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction will serve as the chairman of the board, and the state fire marshal and the director of building code enforcement will also be members.

The reorganization is expected to generate approximately \$114,600 in administrative savings, including staff time and department resources. That figure is in addition to the \$15,000 in expected savings generated in board member per diems and reimbursement expenses. Combined, the former boards had 81 members.

Bevin has also altered the **Office of Occupations and Professions** to form the **Department of Professional Licensing** and establish the **Kentucky Real Estate Authority**. The order modifies the structure of the Real Estate Commission, the Real Estate Appraisers Board, the Board of Auctioneers and the Kentucky Board of Home Inspectors. The newly formed Kentucky Real Estate Authority will be comprised of five members, including one member each from the four reorganized boards and the executive director of the authority.

The reorganization cuts the number of members for each board to three and will centralize board resources, including space and staff functions. The new structure is expected to result in cost savings by reducing board member salaries and consolidating resources.

ROBARDS: TYSON EXPANSION TO BRING 66 MORE JOBS TO HENDERSON COUNTY

TYSON Chicken Inc. is investing \$13.5 million to expand its operations in Henderson County, a project that will create 66 new jobs.

The company plans to double its thigh-deboning capacity and will add 24 trimming stations, creating the need for new employees. Company executives say the positions will include packers, mechanics, supervisors and quality assurance technicians, among others.

The project will also involve replacing a freezer on the production line.

The investment follows an \$8.2 million, 91-job project announced in June 2015 that also addressed processing stations and freezer space. Tyson Chicken has been part of the Robards community since 1995 and produces quick-frozen chicken products. The facility currently employs 1,200.

The company is part of Arkansas-based Tyson Foods, one of the world's largest processors and marketers of chicken, beef and pork.



Ashland KENTUCKY



BIRTHPLACE OF THE JUDDS
AND BILLY RAY CYRUS



"SMALL TOWN - BIG FUN"
on the U.S. 23 Country Music Highway
www.visitashlandky.com
606-329-1007 or 800-377-6249

Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT



BUSINESS BRIEFS

LOUISVILLE

■ Under the terms of a recently announcement agreement, **KentuckyOne Health** will no longer manage the **University of Louisville Hospital** and the **James Graham Brown Cancer Center**, ending a joint operating agreement that has been in place since 2012. Effective July 1, 2017, **University Medical Center** will assume management of the two entities. UofL and KentuckyOne Health will continue their academic affiliation, which includes decades-long agreements with **Jewish Hospital** and **Frazier Rehab Institute**.

■ Louisville-based **Porter Bancorp Inc.** implemented a one-for-five reverse stock split of the company's issued and outstanding common shares and non-voting common shares, effective Dec. 16, 2016. A statement released by the company said the split is intended to increase the trading price per share, make the common shares a more attractive and cost-effective investment and enhance liquidity for shareholders. Following the split, there are now 4,631,400 common shares of stock and 1,591,600 non-voting common shares.

■ **MainSource Financial Group**, a Greensburg, Ind.-based company that operates 90 banking branches throughout Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio, has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Louisville-based **FCB Bancorp Inc.** in a transaction valued at \$56.9 million. FCB is the holding company for The First Capital Bank of Kentucky, which operates seven full-service branches in the Louisville area. As of Sept. 30, 2016, FCB had approximately \$523.6 million in assets, \$428.9 million in loans, \$390.1 million in deposits and \$30.7 million of total equity. Following the merger, it is anticipated that First Capital Bank will operate as a separate subsidiary of MainSource for a short period of time, after which it will merge with and into MainSource Bank.

PADUCAH

■ **Dippin' Dots**, the Paducah-based company that produces flash-frozen ice cream treats, is continuing to see increased interest in its co-branded locations with sister company **Doc Popcorn** and plans to move forward with that strategy in 2017, Dippin' Dots President and CEO Scott Fischer said at the companies' first-ever co-branded annual franchisee conference. There are currently 16 co-branded locations in the U.S. and the companies plan to open 10 to 15 new co-branded locations in 2017.



SOMERSET

■ **Somerset Community College** has been named as a recipient of a \$2.4 million competitive federal grant to assist farm workers in attaining a high school education. SCC's Project BEAM, which stands for Bringing Education and Achievement to Migrants, is housed in Somerset, but is focused on residents in several counties, including Pulaski, Casey, Russell, Clinton, Wayne and Fayette, with additional outreach in McCreary and Adair counties. To qualify for the grant, enrollees must have worked 75 days on a farm that they did not own in the past two years.

■ A new **Courtyard by Marriott** hotel has opened adjacent to the **Center for Rural Development** in Somerset. The hotel features 105 guest rooms as well as a restaurant and lounge, indoor pool and fitness center, and a business center. The hotel's grand opening coincided with the 20th anniversary celebration for the Center for Rural Development.

WESTERN KENTUCKY

■ The **Delta Regional Authority** has announced \$13 million in new investments aimed at strengthening Kentucky's infrastructure, workforce and economy. The resources will be used to rehab a riverport crane in Henderson, strengthen water infrastructure in Cadiz and Paducah, purchase a facility in Fulton for use as a medical clinic, and renovate the Merryman House in Paducah to accommodate a new 36-bed domestic crisis center. The Delta Regional Authority is a federal-state partnership created by Congress in 2000 to help create jobs, build communities and improve lives through strategic investments in economic development in eight states.

CENTRAL KY: LOUISVILLE AND LEXINGTON MAYORS UNVEIL GLOBAL TRADE PLAN

LOUISVILLE Mayor Greg Fischer and Lexington Mayor Jim Gray have unveiled the **Bluegrass Economic Advancement Movement** (BEAM) region's Global Trade and Investment Plan, outlining key findings on foreign direct investment (FDI) in the region.

The plan proposes strategies and actions to further cultivate foreign investment, which can in turn foster industry clusters and high-quality jobs.

The plan notes that Kentucky has had five straight years of record-breaking export growth, with 2015 exports totaling more than \$28 billion. Foreign firms employ about 5 percent of the private sector in large metropolitan areas. Yet, they account for 7 percent of compensation, 12 percent of productivity growth, nearly 19 percent of corporate research and development and over 20 percent of exports.

International companies are part of the BEAM region's most important sectors: automotive, chemicals, business services, life sciences and bourbon. Companies like Clariant (Swiss), Flex Films (Indian), Hogan Lovells (United Kingdom), Midea (China) and Linak (Denmark) represent just a part of the FDI in Louisville and surrounding counties, with Lexington and its surrounding counties being home to companies like Toyota (Japan), Birtley (China), Sumitomo (Japan) and Coldstream Laboratories (India).

The BEAM Global Trade and Investment Plan is the second plan released in collaboration with the Brookings Global Cities Initiative. BEAM was selected to develop these plans to increase the region's international engagement in support of its broad economic development goals. The BEAM Regional Export Plan was released in 2013.

In addition to announcing the release of the plan, Fischer and Gray accepted a \$220,000 grant from JPMorgan Chase, Brookings' partner in the Global Cities Initiative, which will support the region's global engagement efforts. Funds will be used to provide export grants to businesses, assist metropolitan-level efforts to build relationships in and recruit FDI from best prospect markets, and bring thought leadership on international trade and investment to the BEAM region.



Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer



Lexington Mayor Jim Gray

ERLANGER: TOYOTA MOVES FORWARD ON PLAN TO CLOSE ERLANGER FACILITY

TOYOTA's plan to close its North American headquarters facility in Erlanger and open a consolidated headquarters facility in Texas – originally announced in April 2014 – took another step forward as the company formally filed a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) with the state on Dec. 12, 2016, indicating that it would permanently cease operations in Erlanger.

Toyota's workforce reduction in Erlanger officially began Jan. 3, 2017, and will continue through the end of 2018, affecting some 648 employees. When the company initially announced its plans, the automaker expected approximately 1,000 jobs to be moved, with around 300 of those positions relocated to Toyota's manufacturing facility in Georgetown.

To ease the impact of its departure, Toyota has pledged to provide continued funding for local nonprofits and community organizations in the Northern Kentucky region for five years, beginning this year, over and above its existing commitments.

HENDERSON: BIG RIVERS ELECTRIC GETS APPROVAL TO EXPAND CUSTOMER BASE

THE Kentucky Public Service Commission has approved a contract under which Henderson-based **Big Rivers Electric Corp.** potentially will provide wholesale electric power to as many as nine Kentucky cities – good news for a company that lost two of its major customers several years ago.

The new agreement is with the Kentucky Municipal Energy Agency, which represents Barbourville, Bardwell, Benham, Corbin, Falmouth, Frankfort, Madisonville, Paris and Providence. The PSC said selling power to third parties will benefit both Big Rivers and its current customers.

In 2013 and 2014, Century Aluminum smelters in Hawesville and Sebree – which at one time accounted for about two-thirds of Big Rivers' load and revenue – stopped purchasing power from the company, leaving Big Rivers with excess generating capacity. That, in turn, necessitated rate increases in order for the utility to maintain financial stability and resulted in one power plant being shuttered.

Big Rivers is owned by three distribution cooperatives – Jackson Purchase Energy Corp., Kenergy Corp. and Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corp. – and serves about 112,000 customers in 26 western Kentucky counties.

In addition, Big Rivers is one of three companies selected by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc. to implement, own and operate the Duff-Coleman EHV 345 kV Competitive Transmission Project, which will be located in Indiana and Kentucky. The project, which will also involve LS Power and Hoosier Energy, is designed to improve the reliability and efficiency of the area's power grid.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

WINCHESTER

■ Citing the changing landscape of the lighting industry, **Osram Sylvania** has announced plans to close its LEDVANCE plant in Winchester by September 2017. In a statement announcing the closing, company officials noted the “greater demand for LED products and diminished demand for the halogen capsules made at the Winchester facility.” The closure will eliminate approximately 95 positions, while 10 nonmanufacturing employees will be relocated to Versailles.



STATE

■ The **World Trade Center Kentucky** has launched an online resource guide for entrepreneurs and start-ups looking to sell in foreign markets or source component products from abroad. The center's Trade Academy offers free, online training guides specific to importing, exporting and government regulations, as well as resources specific to agriculture. For information, visit wtcky.org.

■ The board of regents of the **Kentucky Community and Technical College System** has approved three new programs. **Hopkinsville Community College** has received approval to offer a surgical technology program, while **Bluegrass Community and Technical College** has been granted approval for an emergency medical services program and a supply chain management program.

■ Nine colleges in the **Kentucky Community and Technical College System** are among 50 U.S. institutions selected to participate in a loan counseling experiment program through the U.S. Department of Education. The colleges participating in the program include Big Sandy (Prestonsburg), Elizabethtown, Gateway (Florence), Hopkinsville, Jefferson (Louisville), Madisonville, Somerset, Southcentral Kentucky (Bowling Green) and Southeast Kentucky (Cumberland).

KPR

KENTUCKY PUBLIC RADIO

ASSOCIATION OF KY PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS

Kentucky Public Radio's network of stations reaches ALL 120 Kentucky counties, with a weekly audience of almost 500,000 people.

KPR Sponsorship

Reginald Glass

rglass@KentuckyPublicRadio.org

502.814.6544

KentuckyPublicRadio.org

PROVEN ENGAGEMENT, POWERFUL MARKETING RESULTS FOR QUALITY BRANDS

The “Halo Effect” of KPR

78%

Prefer to buy products or
services from KPR sponsors

WKYU-FM
Bowling Green

WEKF-FM
Corbin

WKUE-FM
Elizabethtown

WEKH-FM
Hazard

WKPB-FM
Henderson/
Owensboro

WUKY-FM
Lexington

WFPK-FM
Louisville

WFPL-FM
Louisville

WUOL-FM
Louisville

WMKY-FM
Morehead

WKMS-FM
Murray

WNKU-FM
Northern KY

WEKP-FM
Pineville

WEKU-FM
Richmond

WDCL-FM
Somerset

Sources: NPR Digital Attitude Survey, NPR Listeners Panel, July 2012; Lightspeed Research, NPR Sponsorship Survey, November 2014 Percentages based on respondents who agreed with each statement, where “agree”=7-10 on a 0-10 point scale.

INTERSTATE LANE

Business news from Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia

BUSINESS BRIEFS

INDIANA

■ **ELSA Corp.** is investing \$111 million and adding 114 new jobs to increase production of automotive parts at its Elwood, Ind., plant. The expansion will support growth of **Subaru of Indiana Automotive**, Subaru's only U.S. manufacturing facility. SIA produces the Legacy and Outback models and just last year began manufacturing the Impreza model, which was previously built in Japan. ELSA's multiphase expansion will take place over three years and will add two production lines to produce fuel tanks, exhaust systems, air cleaners and air ducts.



Subaru photo

■ **McKesson Specialty Health** is opening a new office in Evansville, Ind., to house its expanded revenue cycle services operations. McKesson's reimbursement and revenue cycle management group provides practice management solutions to help medical groups and physician offices improve financial performance and efficiency. The Evansville office will ultimately employ more than 100 people.

OHIO

■ **Morgan Stanley**, a leading global financial services firm, is expanding its operations in Columbus, Ohio, with as many as 300 new jobs anticipated over the next five years. The expansion will bring the company's Columbus workforce to more than 800 people.

■ The national accounting and consulting firm of **BDO USA** is opening new business service center in Columbus that will perform transaction services for BDO's assurance, tax and business services and outsourcing practices. The company plans to have more than 400 specialists and supervisory personnel in place by the end of 2021.

OHIO/TENNESSEE

■ **Parker Hannifin Corp.** has announced an agreement to acquire **Clarcor Inc.** in a \$4.3 billion cash transaction. Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, Parker Hannifin is a diversified manufacturer of motion and control technologies, with operations in 50 countries around the world. Clarcor, based in Franklin, Tenn., is a marketer and manufacturer of filtration products. Once the transaction is complete, Clarcor will be combined with Parker's Filtration Group to form a diverse global filtration business.



TENNESSEE

■ **Huber Engineered Woods** has announced plans to reopen its manufacturing facility in Spring City, Tenn., near Chattanooga. The plant, which originally opened in 1997 but halted production during the housing market downturn in 2011, is currently undergoing upgrades in preparation of manufacturing specialty panel lines that include **AdvanTech** sub-flooring and **ZIP System** sheathing products. Production is expected to begin in April 2018.

■ Memphis-based **Fred's Inc.** has signed an agreement with **Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc.** and **Rite Aid Corp.** to purchase 865 Rite Aid stores for \$950 million in cash. Walgreens Boots Alliance signed a deal in 2015 to acquire Rite Aid for \$9.4 billion, but before the transaction can be completed, federal regulations require that the companies must sell or divest up to 1,000 stores. If Fred's acquisition of the Rite Aid stores is approved by the **Federal Trade Commission**, it will position Fred's Pharmacy as the third-largest drugstore chain in the U.S.

WEST VIRGINIA

■ **NBV Investments Inc.**, a subsidiary of **Pernod Ricard North America**, has signed an agreement to take a majority stake in **Smooth Ambler Spirits Co.**, a West Virginia distiller and producer of **Smooth Ambler Contradiction Bourbon**, **Old Scout Single Barrel Bourbon** and other high-end spirits. Pernod Ricard Chairman and CEO Alexandre Ricard said the investment illustrates the company's "strategy of partnering with rising entrepreneurs sharing the same passion for authentic, high-quality brands."

OHIO: PAYCOR TO ADD MORE THAN 1,000 JOBS IN GREATER CINCINNATI

PAYCOR, a Cincinnati-based company that provides human resources and payroll solutions to small and medium-sized businesses, has announced plans for further expansion in the Cincinnati area.



In early December, the **Ohio Tax Credit Authority** approved state incentives for Paycor that will support the company's plan to make a capital investment of \$8 million, retain 731 jobs in Ohio and add an additional 1,064 jobs.

Paycor estimates that the new jobs will have an average salary of \$72,000.

Founded in 1990, Paycor now has more than 31,000 customers across all 50 states. The last few years, in particular, have brought tremendous growth. In December 2015, the company acquired San Francisco-based **Newton Software** to complement its HR solutions business. In July 2016, the company announced that it was in the process of hiring nearly 250 employees in Cincinnati and by the end of 2016 was having to lease additional office space, having already outgrown its 136,000-s.f. headquarters in Norwood, Ohio, that is just over two years old.

"I think Paycor is part of the story of Cincinnati becoming more of a technology hub," said Paycor President Stacey Browning. "There is a lot of entrepreneurial and startup activity here. We're proud to be a great success story for Ohio."

TENNESSEE: GROWTH OF HEALTHCARE TECH COMPANY CREATES 260 JOBS

HEALTHCARE information technology company **myNEXUS** is investing \$1 million to expand its operations in Brentwood, Tenn., just outside of Nashville, creating some 260 new jobs.

myNEXUS, which specializes in post-acute technology and home-based services, partners with insurer clients to reduce the risks and costs associated with home-based healthcare services,

ensuring members get the right care at the right time. Founded in 2014, the company uses a clinical model

to help patients recuperate at home and avoid costly readmissions to healthcare facilities. Recognized by **The Brookings Institution** in 2015 for transforming healthcare through innovative care delivery models, the company now manages care for nearly 600,000 individuals.

myNEXUS' expansion is being driven by both new contracts and expanding business with current clients. As part of the expansion, myNEXUS will hire additional staff for the company's corporate office, including IT support, clinical operations and quality control. The majority of hires will be administrative support staff that will manage service delivery to members across the country.

"The Nashville region is a hub for healthcare companies and in Middle Tennessee the healthcare industry supports more than 250,000 jobs and generates nearly \$39 billion in economic activity," said Tennessee Economic and Community Development Commissioner Randy Boyd. "As the healthcare industry evolves, innovation from companies such as myNEXUS will be important for the continued growth of this vital sector for Tennessee's economy."

COMPARING TAXES

In addition to topping the charts in terms of beautiful scenery, bourbon and basketball, it turns out that Kentucky also ranks as one of the more tax-friendly states in the country. Kiplinger looked at state taxes and rules on income, ordinary purchases, gas, tobacco and alcohol, property and more to create a state-by-state comparison of taxes.



WHAT WORRIES THE WORLD

With the recent presidential election bringing many of the United States' concerns to the forefront of discussion, a recent study asked adults around the world what worried them the most.

Top global issues

- 1) Unemployment (38%)
- 2) Financial/Political Corruption (34%)
- 3) Poverty/Social Inequality (33%)
- 4) Crime & Violence (31%)
- 5) Healthcare (22%)

Top U.S. Issues

- 1) Terrorism (35%)
- 2) Crime and Violence (33%)
- 3) Healthcare (29%)
- 4) Unemployment (23%)
- 5) Immigration control (22%)

Source: Ipsos

KY COLLEGE GRADUATION RATES CONTINUE TO RISE

Kentucky's public and independent colleges and universities conferred a record 65,829 degrees and credentials during the 2015-16 year, representing a 2.7 percent increase from the previous year and a 32.5 percent gain over 10 years.

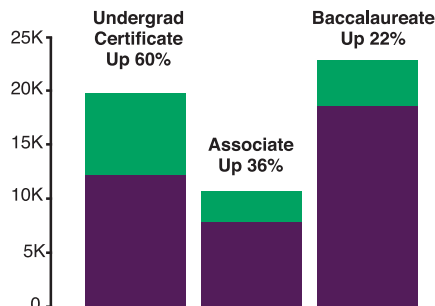
CREDENTIALS, DEGREES UP 32.5% OVER DECADE

Kentucky Public and Independent Colleges, Universities



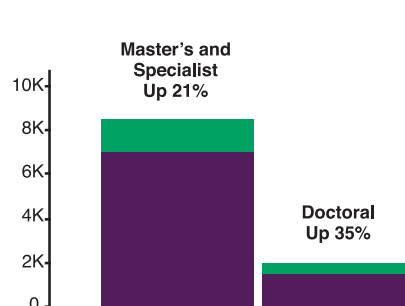
UNDERGRADUATE CREDENTIAL & DEGREE GROWTH

Kentucky Public and Independent Colleges, Universities, 2006-07 – 2015-16



GRADUATE DEGREE GROWTH

Kentucky Public and Independent Colleges, Universities, 2006-07 – 2015-16



Source: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

CORPORATE MOVES

New leadership for Kentucky businesses

ARCHITECTURE/ ENGINEERING

■ **Joel L. Wallace** has rejoined TEG Architects as a principal.



Joel
Wallace

BANKING

■ First Southern National Bank has promoted **Tyler Cain** to community president in Richmond. Cain succeeds **Bob Alford**, who is now vice president, credit services at the bank's headquarters in Stanford.



Tyler
Cain

CONSTRUCTION

■ **Josh Branscum** has been named executive vice president of Russell Springs-based Branscum Construction Co. **Jonathan Smith** has been promoted to vice president of operations for the company.



Josh
Branscum



Jonathan
Smith

■ **James Davis** has been named president of Denham-Blythe Co., a Lexington-based construction and design firm.



James
Davis

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

■ **Iris Wilbur** has joined Greater Louisville Inc. as director of government affairs and public policy.

EDUCATION

■ **Sean Fay** has been named system director of operations and emergency services for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Fay comes to KCTCS from the University of Miami, where he served as emergency management coordinator for training and exercises.



Sean
Fay

■ **Gabe Harris** has been named executive director of the University of Kentucky Center for Clinical and Translational Science.



Todd
Mooradian

■ **Todd Mooradian** has been named dean of the University of Louisville College of Business.

EQUINE

■ **Holly Short** has joined the National Thoroughbred Racing Association as digital marketing manager.



Ali
Edelstein

FOOD/SPIRITS/ HOSPITALITY

■ **Ali Edelstein** has been named director of social responsibility for The Kentucky Distillers Association.

■ **Denise Tempco** has been named area director of operations for Covington-based Commonwealth Hotels.

GOVERNMENT

■ **Lydia Bailey Brown** has been named executive director of the Kentucky Arts Council.

■ **Kenneth W. Warden** has been appointed executive director of the newly created Kentucky Real Estate Authority.

■ **Dr. Gil Liu** has been appointed as the new medical director for the Kentucky Department of Medicaid Services.



Gil
Liu

■ **Terry R. Gill Jr.** has been appointed secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.

■ **John W. McCauley** has been named director of agriculture policy for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

■ **L. Christopher Hunt** has been named general counsel for the Kentucky auditor of public accounts. Hunt succeeds **Sara Beth Gregory**, who has been promoted to chief of staff for the auditor's office.



Christopher
Hunt

LEGAL

■ **Leila G. O'Carra** has joined the Lexington office of Littler as special counsel.

MANUFACTURING

■ **Melissa Burgess-Taylor** has been named as the new chairman and chief executive officer of Bowling Green-based Fruit of the Loom Inc. Burgess-Taylor succeeds **Rick Medlin**, who passed away unexpectedly in late November.



Melissa
Burgess-Taylor

NONPROFIT

■ **Michael J. Halligan** has been named chief executive officer of God's Pantry Food Bank in Lexington. Halligan, who previously served as senior director at ConAgra Foods, succeeds **Marian F. Guinn**, who has launched her own consulting company after 19 years of leadership at God's Pantry.

REAL ESTATE

■ **Claire Alagia** has been named general manager of Wakefield Reutlinger Realtors in Louisville.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

■ **Kyle Keeney** has been named as the first executive director for Lexington-based Exomedicine Institute. Keeney will work with national and global healthcare leaders to explore new opportunities for creating new patient treatment options and medical products.

DEPARTURES

■ **Neville G. Pinto**, who has served as the acting president at the University of Louisville since July 2016, has been named president of the University of Cincinnati, effective February 2017.

TECHNOLOGY

■ **Jim Webb** has been named president and chief executive officer of Corrisoft, a Lexington-based technology company that serves the corrections industry. Webb succeeds **Bill Johnson**, who has served as president and CEO since January 2014.

UTILITIES

■ **Matthew J. Satterwhite** has been named president and chief operating officer of Kentucky Power. **Jacob Colley** has been named external affairs manager for the company.



Matthew
Satterwhite

■ **David Freibert** has been promoted to vice president of external affairs for LG&E and KU Energy. Freibert succeeds **George Siemens**, who is retiring on Jan. 20, 2017, after 35 years with the company. **Angie Evans** has been promoted to director of corporate responsibility and community affairs for the company. Evans succeeds **Laura Douglas**, who is retiring on Jan. 20. **Scott Straight** has been named vice president of project engineering. **John Voyles** has announced plans to retire as vice president of transmission and generation services in March 2017.



Angie
Evans



Laura
Douglas



Scott
Straight



John
Voyles

OTHER

■ **Chad Buecker** has been named president of Seed Strategy, a Crestview Hills-based strategy and new product innovation agency.



Chad
Buecker

■ **Ashlee Foltz** has been promoted to chief compliance officer for Cintas Corp.



Ashlee
Foltz

■ **Jimmy D. Staton** has been appointed president and chief executive officer of Owensboro-based Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline Inc. Staton succeeds **Jerry L. Morris**, who is retiring in early 2017.

ON THE BOARDS

Kentuckians named to organizational leadership roles

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

■ **Paul Hornback**, of Hodgenville, has been elected to the national board of directors of The Alzheimer's Association.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY

■ **Eleanor D. Lederer** has been elected president of the American Society of Nephrology. Lederer is the chief of the division of nephrology and hypertension, associate training program director and associate ombudsman for the University of Louisville School of Medicine. She also serves as director of the UofL Physicians Metabolic Stone Clinic as well as the associate chief of staff for research and development at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center.



Eleanor Lederer

ASSOCIATION OF ONCOLOGY SOCIAL WORK

■ **Tara Schapmire** has been elected president-elect of the Association of Oncology Social Work. Schapmire is an assistant professor at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in the division of general internal medicine, palliative care and medical education of the Department of Medicine. She also is on the faculty of the Kent School of Social Work.

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS OF DERMATOLOGY

■ **Jeffrey P. Callen** has been elected president of the Association of Professors of Dermatology. Callen is chief of the Division of Dermatology at the University of Louisville School of Medicine.



Jeffrey Callen

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF KENTUCKIANA

■ **Rhonda Petr** and **Maria L. Bouvette** have been elected to the board of directors of Boys & Girls Clubs of Kentuckiana. Petr is director of marketing for Medicaid for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Bouvette is chief financial officer of the Louisville and Jefferson County Riverport International Authority.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY

■ **Richard Brown**, **Rod Kuegel** and **John Moore** have been elected to the board of directors of Brescia University in Owensboro.

FOUNDATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING INC.

■ **Ted Tudor** has been appointed chairman of the board of directors for Foundation for Affordable Housing Inc., a Lexington nonprofit organization. **Bill Burke** has been appointed to the organization's board of directors.



Ted Tudor



Bill Burke

FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY KENTUCKY

■ The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky has announced the following officers, board members and committee members: Chair – **Charles Ross**; Vice Chair – **Mark Carter**; Secretary – **Allen Montgomery**; and Treasurer – **Brent Wright**. New board members include **Clifford T. Maesaka Jr.** and **Janice Burdette Blythe**. Officers for the foundation's community action committee for the coming year include: Chair – **Robert Slaton**; Vice Chair – **LeChrista Finn**; and Secretary – **Tim Marcum**. **Angela Carman**, **Roger Crittenden**, **Keith Knapp** and **Charity Fuson** have been named to serve on the community advisory committee for the foundation.

HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY

■ The Home Builders Association of Northern Kentucky has announced its leadership for 2017: President – **Bill Cullen**, Cullen Brothers; Immediate Past President – **Tom Spille**, Spille Builders and Developers; Vice President – **John Curtin**, Paul Hemmer Co.; Secretary/Treasurer – **Tom Withorn**, Craftsmen by Design; Associate President – **Pat Parshall**, Northwest Tile; and Associate Vice President – **Watson Jones**, C. K. Ash Insurance.



Bill Cullen



Tom Spille



John Curtin



Tom Withorn



Pat Parshall



Watson Jones

INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT

■ **Anne Kilcoyne**, senior property manager with NAI Isaac Commercial Properties in Lexington, has been installed as vice president of the Kentucky-West Virginia Chapter #104 of the Institute of Real Estate Management.

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

■ The Kentucky Association of Counties has announced its new leadership for 2017: President – Henderson County Magistrate **Bruce Todd**; President-Elect – Union County Judge-Executive **Jody Jenkins**; First Vice President – Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk **David Nicholson**; Second Vice President – Caldwell County Magistrate **Elbert Bennett**; and Immediate Past President – Simpson County Judge-Executive **Jim Henderson**.

KENTUCKY LEAGUE OF CITIES

■ The Kentucky League of Cities has elected its 2016-2017 officers and board: President – Mayor **Claude Christensen**, City of Sadi-ville; First Vice President – Mayor **Jim Barnes**, City of Richmond; Second Vice President – Mayor **Teresa Rochetti-Cantrell**, City of Mayfield; Immediate Past President – Mayor **Roddy Harrison**, City of Williamsburg; Board members: KLC Executive Director/CEO **Jonathan Steiner**; Mayor **Steve Austin**, City of Henderson; Mayor **Daniel Bell**, City of Taylor Mill; Mayor **Chuck Charles**, City of Ashland; City Attorney **William Crabtree**, City of Franklin; Mayor **Bill Dieruf**, City of Jeffersonton; Councilmember **Marty Fulkerson**, City of Elizabethtown; Mayor **Edward Girdler**, City of Somerset; Mayor **David Jackson**, City of Madisonville; Mayor **Bill Kelley**, City of Middlesboro; Mayor **Troy Rudder**, City of London; Commissioner **Pamela Smith-Wright**, City of Owensboro; Mayor **Brian Traugott**, City of Versailles; and City Administrator **Tim Williams**, City of Crestview Hills.



Claude Christensen

KENTUCKY LOTTERY CORP.

■ **Ray Anthony Barker**, of Louisville, and **Cynthia Doyle Rogers**, of Somerset, have been appointed to the board of directors of the Kentucky Lottery Corp.

KENTUCKY REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE

■ **Thomas O'Brien III** has been appointed to the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance. O'Brien, of Louisville, is an attorney with Frost Brown Todd.

KENTUCKY PERSONNEL BOARD

■ **William Joseph Byrley** has been appointed to the Kentucky Personnel Board. Byrley, of Louisville, is a retired human resources manager for UPS.

LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORP.

■ **Jerry Rickett**, president and chief executive officer of Kentucky Highlands Investment Corp., has been elected to the board of directors of the Local Initiatives Support Corp., a national organization that supports community revitalization projects.



Jerry Rickett

SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD

■ **Mardi Montgomery** and **Alesa G. Johnson** have been appointed to the Southern Regional Education Board. Montgomery, of Somerset, is the director of policy and legislation at the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. Johnson, of Somerset, is the associate dean at Somerset Community and Technical College.



Kentucky Business Likes What It Sees for 2017

Manufacturing and construction upswing, automotive sector's second record year, and a new, positive political environment are raising expectations

KENTUCKY business leaders have their highest expectations in nearly a decade as 2017 opens. They liked a lot of what they saw in 2016, especially in manufacturing growth, construction and continued strong performance in the U.S. automotive sector, where Kentucky is the No. 3 producer. Logistics remains a cornerstone. The commonwealth's airports are seeing more action, especially in Northern Kentucky where Southwest Airlines is about to join a growing lineup of carriers. Agribusiness and healthcare do face challenges from cyclical and ongoing structural change, but change in the political landscape in Frankfort and in Washington, D.C., is viewed as a significant boost to business prospects. And should plans to reform federal and state tax structures be successful, the outlook would have to be considered absolutely bright.



Matt Bevin
Kentucky Governor

"My vision for Kentucky has always been that we become the engineering and manufacturing hub of excellence in North America. The seeds of economic progress are being planted and in 2017 will take root and begin to flourish like never before seen in the history of our commonwealth. Kentucky already has the geography, temperate seasons, cost of living advantages, quality of life, logistical experience, natural resources, highways, railroads and river ways to make this vision a reality. In addition, Kentucky is making major advances in workforce development. Through private/public partnerships, some already underway and others now being developed, we are ensuring that Kentuckians will be trained in the skills manufacturers need. After the historic election in

2016, Kentucky has the first Republican legislature in place since 1920. Its focus on significant pro-business legislation together with meaningful tax reform, pension reform, labor reform, education and tort reform heralds a new, brighter day for Kentucky. Buckle up!"



Candace S. McGraw
CEO, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport

"CVG experienced a record year in 2016, and we expect the trends in increased passenger and cargo growth to continue into 2017. Since 2013, local passenger volume has grown more than 38 percent, making CVG the third-fastest growing airport in the United States – and our 2017 projections see even greater improvement. In 2016, cargo volume hit an all-time high, making CVG the eighth-largest cargo airport in North America – and this was prior to the completion of DHL's recent \$108 million ramp expansion. CVG's economic impact increased more than 22 percent over the past 36 months, accounting for more than 8,500 direct jobs and supporting more than 31,000 jobs. Land development at CVG is very strong, with four deals completed in 2016 and several currently in negotiation for finalization in 2017. We feel very positive about the outlook for 2017."



Victor Staffieri
Chairman/CEO/President, LG&E-KU

"At Louisville Gas and Electric Co. and Kentucky Utilities Co., we're committed to advancing technologies and meeting customers' needs. Our dedicated team works with state and local economic development personnel, attracting new and expanding businesses to Kentucky. Our economic development rate, coupled with our sustainable offerings, incentivize business growth and development. This includes helping businesses install solar at their facilities, offering a subscription-based Solar Share Program, and energizing state roadways with new publicly accessible and customer-hosted electric-vehicle charging stations. LG&E and KU have been named seven times as one of the top 10 utilities in the country for economic development by international economic development magazine *Site Selection*. We anticipate these programs, along with our continued low rates, will help advance Kentucky's economy."



Wil James
President,
Toyota Motor
Manufacturing
Kentucky

"The auto industry experienced another record year in 2016 while consumers established the Toyota Camry as the No. 1 selling sedan for the 15th consecutive year. Coming off our 30th anniversary in Kentucky, we are now investing in new technology at our Georgetown plant, which has us poised to bring even better cars to the market and optimistic for a healthy 2017."



Dave Tatman
Executive
Director,
Kentucky
Automotive
Industry
Association

"Kentucky is setting a blistering pace in automotive production and support, charging ahead as the third-highest producer of cars and light trucks in the country. Given continued low gas prices and fairly stable economic growth, we anticipate another very strong year for our automotive industry, particularly in trucks, SUVs and crossover vehicles. But to keep our pedal to the floor, our industry needs more skilled workers. In 2017, KAIA will support efforts across the state to enhance workforce development, particularly for advanced manufacturing. Our industry employs about 90,000 in Kentucky, and we have plenty of room to grow. We're mindful of proposed fuel efficiency standards that could strangle the industry's growth – we will continue to advocate for fair and thoughtful approaches to federal regulations."



Ruth W. Brinkley
President/CEO,
KentuckyOne
Health

"Healthcare has experienced tremendous change the past decade and is poised for even more transformation. With the new administration in Washington, D.C., we can expect further evolution of the structure of payments, reimbursement and insurance, which will impact patients, providers and payers across the country. Here in Kentucky, the ongoing evolution of Medicaid programs will play a role in the economics of our industry. As the largest health system in the commonwealth, KentuckyOne Health remains committed to helping patients and physicians navigate the changes and ensure access to care for all."



Bill Butler
President/CEO,
Corporex

"I expect 2017 to be a year of improved activity for the commercial real estate businesses, with the profits to be manifested beginning in 2018. Both the USA and the Commonwealth of Kentucky have a huge opportunity to take a giant step toward sustainable growth as a result of their new leadership at the CEO level as well as the legislative segments. One need only review the first six years of the Reagan administration to glimpse the economic future."



Dr. Eli Capilouto
President,
University
of Kentucky

"The University of Kentucky continues to make progress on its priorities as the commonwealth's indispensable institution, providing a more than 12-fold economic return on the taxpayers' investment in their flagship university. We continue to confer a record number of degrees annually to students who leave our campus ready to contribute to Kentucky's economy. Our success is undergirded by the state's investment in us, which is critically important to our teaching, research and healthcare missions. After receiving our second \$19.8 million Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health, the recent passage of the 21st Century Cures Act and the construction of a \$265 million research building, UK is positioned to compete for top external grants and contracts as a leading national research university."



Charles "Skip" Miller
Executive
Director,
Louisville
Regional
Airport
Authority

"2017 will be a year of opportunity for Louisville's airports. The aviation industry has stabilized from years of turmoil, and airlines are looking to invest in products and services. They will remain very conservative when considering service to new markets, particularly between those previously unserved. However, they express interest in seizing opportunities when presented if they know they have the support of the business community. Airlines expect communities pursuing new flights to clearly demonstrate regional demand for service. With the completion of major airfield projects

like Taxiway Alpha and our significant Terminal Enhancement Project, Louisville International is positioned to aggressively compete for new and improved air service. As the world's seventh-busiest cargo airport, SDF will continue to play a significant role in national and global economic activity. The future for air cargo and logistics in the region is bright, and we expect continued success in this segment of our business."



Dan Tobergte
President/CEO,
Northern
Kentucky
Tri-ED

"It's 'full speed ahead' for Northern Kentucky in 2017. Southwest Airlines will begin flying from CVG in mid-2017, adding to an already-thriving business climate in Northern Kentucky. We have dedicated significant resources to business retention, workforce development, entrepreneurship, attraction and land development. We will build upon our successes in 2016, led by Safran Landing Systems, Nexigen, and CTI Clinical Trial and Consulting Services. We are expecting a legislative session that accomplishes important, positive changes for Kentucky – such as right-to-work – that will give our state and region an even greater edge as a global business location of choice."



Kent Oyler
President/CEO,
Greater
Louisville Inc.

"2017 is going to be growth-focused for not just our organization but our region as well. Dozens of projects are underway with completion dates in the next couple of years, and we expect more now that the new Ohio River bridges are complete. It is a time to focus on the future and drive the workforce and economic growth we want. There are opportunities to pass business-friendly legislation in Frankfort that have not existed for a generation; opportunities to increase the net migration of skilled workers into our region; opportunities to start, expand and attract business and jobs. Growth and prosperity in Louisville benefits the entire state. GLI remains focused on making Greater Louisville the best place to work, live and do business in the country. 2017 will be a good year for growing Greater Louisville and Kentucky."

COVER STORY

The opening of the Lewis and Clark Bridge in Prospect, Ky., marked the end of the three-year \$2.3 billion Ohio River Bridges Project. It generated thousands of construction jobs and is now expected to lead to creation of thousands more jobs in the region.



Greg Fischer
Mayor,
Louisville
Metro

“Louisville’s economy is booming with \$9 billion in capital investments and 23 hotels either announced, completed or under construction. Unemployment remains low, at 3.9 percent, and we’re seeing record numbers of tourists, drawn by Bourbonism – the marriage of bourbon tourism and our world-renowned local restaurant scene. Our 2017 focus is to build on our prosperity and ensure everyone is along for the ride – a mission greatly enhanced by a \$29.5 million federal grant to redevelop a public housing complex and historic neighborhood adjacent to downtown. We continue to attract global companies, including a \$32 million investment from Australia’s Computershare to create 1,100 new jobs, and 250 new jobs at Hogan Lovells’ (Great Britain) \$8.9 million global support center. We’re investing in our foreign-born population with the Global Louisville Action Plan, which identifies strategies to jumpstart immigrant entrepreneurship, assist job-seekers and celebrate cultures.”



Eric Summe
President/CEO,
meetNKY

“For 2017, hospitality industry forecasts continue to be moderate for our region as additional supply is added in Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky. With the opening of three new properties, Northern Kentucky will offer 6,700 hotel rooms daily. With this added supply, we project a 2.2 percent increase in Northern Kentucky occupancy to 69.17 percent. Planning efforts continue for a Northern Kentucky Convention Center expansion, and the announcement that the IRS facility in Covington will close in 2019 presents additional avenues to explore. Several development initiatives will begin along the riverfront this year, including the Covington Riverfront revitalization and continued expansion of Newport on the Levee. The opening of the Ark Encounter in neighboring Grant County along with the planned expansion of the Creation Museum in Petersburg will continue to increase our market for faith-based groups.”



Ryan Quarles
Commissioner
of Agriculture,
Commonwealth
of Kentucky

“Kentucky farmers reached a record \$6.5 billion in cash receipts in 2014. Since then, receipts have declined 17 percent, leading to challenges in 2017 as farmers look for commodity prices to rebound. But, in most cases, with new challenges come new opportunities. We have a great deal of growth potential in international markets, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture is ramping up efforts to boost trade for Kentucky farm products. Kentucky has a strong local food movement, and Kentucky Proud helps provide fresh local foods while supporting farm families. In an effort to reduce Kentucky’s chronic hunger problem, the KDA launched the Kentucky Hunger Initiative in June 2016, and it will continue its work in 2017.”



Carl Howard
CEO, Fazoli’s

“Fazoli’s continues to be extremely, if not ‘over-the-top’ optimistic about the economy of Lexington and the overall business environment in the state. In my brief 10 years in the Bluegrass state, I have never seen economic development so robust. I believe that with continued low unemployment and a significant change in our presidential leadership, we will only see Kentucky’s economic environment continue to thrive in 2017. Fazoli’s has enjoyed record success with over 14 quarters of consecutive same-store sales growth, and we are again growing locations nationally and hiring more team members to join our growing brand. It is

with honor that we are headquartered in Lexington, and we appreciate all of the support of our local communities in Kentucky. Without this support we would be just another brand.”



Mark Gillming
Senior Vice
President,
Messer
Construction
Co.

“With major construction projects throughout the state in healthcare, distilling, industrial and hospitality sectors – a shortlist of the businesses booming in Kentucky – Messer predicts another robust year in 2017. Significant construction is underway in every corner of the state. Financing is readily available and markets appear stable, so clients are moving forward with ambitious and exciting projects. Because of plentiful private-sector financing and a drop in government funding for infrastructure, we expect more public entities to explore public-private partnerships for needed public projects. The counterweight to the good news is that skilled labor is at a premium, so the construction business will have to be nimble and innovative to maintain quality – we predict off-site prefabrication will become more common to improve efficiency.”



Mary Quinn Ramer
President,
VisitLEX

“2017 promises to be a year of exciting tourism projects and growth. We eagerly anticipate the opening of the James E. Pepper Distillery in the historic Lexington Distillery District; in addition, Castle & Key (formerly Old Taylor) will open in early summer in neighboring Woodford County. The Summit at Fritz Farm debuts in the spring with new shopping



Old National's Lexington Commercial Team, pictured left-right: **Wesley Barringer**, Commercial Relationship Manager; **Kim Martin**, Commercial Loan Assistant; **John Douglas**, Commercial Relationship Manager and **Scott Cvengros**, Central Kentucky Market President.

Your Bank. For Business.

When searching for a financial partner for your business, turn to the bank that's been helping companies grow since 1834. Our Lexington commercial experts will provide cost-effective, individualized solutions, from quick cash for new business activities to financing long-term goals.

Stop by our Lexington or Louisville locations, or visit oldnational.com and discover why Old National should be *your bank for business*.



Lexington 249 E Main St, Suite 101 859-825-6072

Louisville 333 E Main St 502-540-7300 • 4201 Shelbyville Rd 502-259-7360
400 N Hurstbourne Pkwy 502-329-2100 • 9708 Brownsboro Rd 502-423-5000

COVER STORY

and dining opportunities as well as a boutique hotel. The anticipated expansion of the Lexington Convention Center, with work commencing in earnest in late 2017, will allow future growth in the convention market. The average daily rate at area hotels held steady throughout 2016 at \$101, and we expect a similar trend for 2017. We expect a solid occupancy rate of 65 percent."



Dave Adkisson
President/CEO,
Kentucky
Chamber of
Commerce

"Businesses are hopeful that with a new environment in Washington and in Frankfort, our elected leaders will be especially determined to create a strong pro-growth agenda in 2017. We are very optimistic that key economic development legislation will be enacted by the 2017 Kentucky General Assembly and that it will fuel additional growth in the commonwealth. Kentucky has the opportunity to hang an "Open for Business" sign on its front door during the opening months of the new year."



David Beck
Executive
Director,
Kentucky Farm
Bureau
Federation

"Investments made in the state's agriculture industry over the past several years by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund have diversified and strengthened the ag sector, enabling it to weather a couple of years of market volatility. While net farm income has declined, Kentucky farm cash receipts remain over the \$5 billion mark, solidifying agribusiness as a major economic engine in the commonwealth. One thing that could help stabilize net farm income in 2017 is a vibrant export market. Kentucky is one of the most ag trade-dependent states, and exports have more than doubled since 2000. Continued progress on trade agreements is a key component in keeping Kentucky's agriculture industry moving forward and growing."



Bob Quick
President/CEO,
Commerce
Lexington Inc.

"While the national economy could experience uncertainty with a change in presidential administration, central Kentucky and specifically Fayette County have seen positive economic trends throughout 2016. Because of its diverse economy, educated workforce, expanding labor force, strong job market, entrepreneurial culture and exceptional quality of life, the Bluegrass is an attrac-

tive place to live, work and play. Fayette County's unemployment rate was the third-lowest in Kentucky, while its population grew a steady 1.2 percent in 2016. These positive trends will continue throughout 2017, with national sources recognizing Lexington as a great place for business. Commerce Lexington's economic development partnership with the City of Lexington and University of Kentucky is a national model that will keep paying dividends for central Kentucky."



Bob Davies
President,
Murray State
University

"The 2017 economic outlook is positive, particularly for western Kentucky. Murray State University is an economic catalyst for our region, providing career opportunities, economic development and professional development opportunities. Part of our strategic plan is to continue focusing on experiential opportunities that provide students real-world learning that both contributes to their personal educational experience and assists our regional industry partners with solving problems. We're proud to be one of the state's educational leaders, committed to increasing the college-going rate and educational attainment of our communities. As Murray State continues to advance, so does our region and the commonwealth. It is a symbiotic relationship."



Jim Gray
Mayor,
Lexington

"Lexington continues to enjoy a strong economy, fueled by public and private investment, and job growth. Our quality of life and highly educated workforce are attracting top employers and good jobs."



Nick Rowe
President,
Kentucky
American
Water

"Kentucky American Water is the largest investor-owned water utility in the commonwealth, providing quality water and/or wastewater services to customers in portions of 12 counties, and investing in water system infrastructure remains a priority. It's estimated over the coming decades that more than \$1 trillion in capital will be needed to upgrade U.S. water infrastructure. We invested nearly \$400 million in Kentucky in the past decade, and plan to invest more than \$25 million in 2017 to continue providing quality service to our customers. We will also remain focused on controlling operational expenses and providing a fair return to investors."



Steve Sigg
President/CEO,
SIS

"The pace in which technology is being consumed in the business world will have a pronounced impact on executive teams. I don't believe there has been a time in the past when the C-level executives of a company needed to be more engaged in the adoption of technology and its impact on their company's future. The enablement of information technology, from the data captured through sensors on the edge to the analytics that are understood at a deeper level to improve business outcomes, has never been more relevant than it is today. The impact of this phenomenon on product management to provide differentiated solutions to the market is creating a very exciting opportunity in 2017 to set our companies apart in the markets we serve."



Karen Williams
President/CEO,
Greater
Louisville
Convention and
Visitors Bureau

"I expect our leisure business continue to increase in 2017. Visits to Louisville rose 4 percent to 24.2 million person trips, according to our latest research. These are among the findings of a newly released impact study by Longwoods International of Louisville's domestic tourism business in 2015. 2016's impact will be released in 2017. The report provides an overview of what Louisville travelers look like and how they differ from the average U.S. traveler. This report validates that Louisville is increasingly becoming the hot spot for travel. With its unique mix of attractions, events, bourbon and food, and its accessibility and affordability, the city is the perfect meetings and getaway destination."



Hal B. Goode
President/CEO,
Kentucky
Association for
Economic
Development

"Economic developers are bullish on Kentucky in 2017. Long pent-up policy reforms that site selectors have been clamoring for, like right-to-work and repeal of prevailing wage, look to happen soon with the change of control in Frankfort. These reforms will sharpen our competitive edge against surrounding states and could immediately bring new jobs to the commonwealth. The governor and General Assembly have a real opportunity to tackle tax reform in a special session. A shift toward taxing consumption instead of productivity would be a plus for everyone from the "solopre-

Tuesday, February 7, 2017
 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 Lexington Convention Center



Featuring a talk from **Ben Chandler**

*former U.S. Congressman,
 Ky 6th District
 President and CEO,
 Foundation for a
 Healthy Kentucky*

**"Kentucky Health:
 Moving the Needle"**



Gatton College of
 Business and Economics

For more information about the
 event, call 859.257.8746 or
 1.800.284.6407 or
 register online at
Gatton.uky.edu/economic-outlook

What's Next for Kentucky in the Global Economy?

The 2017 Economic Outlook Conference

Come learn about the future of Kentucky businesses with more than 250 experts who attend each year to address the outlook for the local, state, and national economies.

Hear from expert sources including:

- » Mark E. Schweitzer, *Senior Vice President of External Outreach and Regional Analytics, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland*
- » Christopher R. Bollinger, *Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and Endowed Professor of Economics, Gatton College of Business and Economics*
- » Ana María Herrera, *Professor of Economics, Gatton College of Business and Economics*

Presenting Sponsors

- » Commerce Lexington, Inc.
- » The Lane Report
- » Center for Business & Economic Research
- » Don and Cathy Jacobs Executive Education Center

Partner Sponsor

- » Lexington-Bluegrass Association of REALTORS

COVER STORY

neur” to the Fortune 500. With so many different types of communities in Kentucky, offering more local autonomy also makes sense.”



Ron Bunch
President/CEO,
Bowling Green
Area Chamber
of Commerce

“After a record-breaking 2015, Bowling Green again announced the largest capital investment project in the state in 2016 and was recognized No. 1 in the commonwealth for inward investment. We have the 10th largest job-creation project in the state. With repeatedly strong economic development results in southcentral Kentucky, we continue to generate best practice initiatives to ensure our companies have the talent they need. We look forward to the passage of landmark legislation including right-to-work and the repeal of prevailing wage during the 2017 legislative session. We are fortunate to have outstanding collaboration and support from state and local officials and look forward to another prosperous year in 2017.”



Dr. Michael Benson
President,
Eastern
Kentucky
University

“In an era of reduced state appropriations and soon-to-come performance-based funding for higher education, Eastern Kentucky University will continue to prosper because of how it anticipated and responded to the challenges of this new financial reality. Ever mindful that “business as usual” is no longer an option and of the need to be responsible stewards of both the public trust and our own high standards of performance, Eastern has positioned itself well for continued growth and success because it has tightened its budget without sacrificing academic quality. We also have kept our focus on a bold, long-range vision that includes an aggressive campus revitalization totaling over \$220 million in capital projects.”



Garren Colvin
CEO,
St. Elizabeth
Healthcare

“Like many healthcare systems, St. Elizabeth Healthcare faces challenges in 2017 related to payment reform, implementing new technologies and data analytics, and finding innovative ways to meet the needs of our patients and community. We need to make investments in these areas while in an environment where reimbursement is decreasing and we

need to reduce costs while continuing to provide the highest quality of care for our patients. As a system, we are also taking steps to be prepared for any changes to the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion. The objectives of our strategic plan address these issues while maintaining the financial discipline to continue to reinvest in the healthcare needs of our community and our patients.”



Matt Sawyers
Executive
Director,
Kentucky Oil &
Gas Association

“Domestic natural gas consumption is expected to increase slightly in 2017, particularly for electricity production. With increased liquefied natural gas exports, higher exports to Mexico and only a modest increase in production, most forecasters project a small increase in price in 2017. Oil prices have been on an uptick with decreased domestic production and a strengthening global economy. Unless the paradigm shifts for an unforeseen reason, that trend is likely to remain stable. With overall prices still relatively low, we are unlikely to see a substantial increase in new wells drilled in Kentucky. We will focus on advocating for rollback of increasingly onerous and overreaching federal regulation, educating government officials, business leaders and the public on the industry’s importance, and strengthening partnerships for future opportunities.”



Jack Moreland
President,
Southbank
Partners

“2017 presents a brand new approach to the economy at the state and federal government levels with specific emphasis on job creation. Fewer and more relaxed regulations should help the coal industry. Right-to-work and prevailing wage laws will emerge from the new Kentucky General Assembly and quickly be signed by Gov. Bevin. Since those rules are prevalent in surrounding states, it will help level the playing field for courting new business to Kentucky. If tax reform is accomplished in a special legislature session later this year, without question Kentucky will become a much more business-friendly state. At the national level, laws like Dodd-Frank for the banking industry will become more friendly with the understanding that more regulation makes reporting difficult for large banks and nearly impossible for small ones. The stalemate in Congress will be less

apparent, but don’t expect quick complete agreement on many issues. The deteriorating infrastructure of our highways, bridges and ports will hopefully be addressed and improved. Trade deals with other world economies will be scrutinized with an attempt to leverage in our favor. With these big, ambitious agendas, I am optimistic and hopeful that those changes will stabilize and grow the economy.”



Greg Higdon
President/CEO,
Kentucky
Association of
Manufacturers

“Kentucky continued growing the manufacturing sector in 2016 and we expect more in 2017. The automotive industry has been a huge catalyst, dating back to when Toyota opened its Georgetown facility. With expansion of the Kentucky Truck Plant and continued growth of the Louisville Assembly Plant, Ford Motor Co. should inch above 12,000 employees in Jefferson County alone in 2017. Kentucky is No. 3 in the nation in automotive production, with 500 companies employing over 95,000 workers in automotive-related jobs. Our geographic location has always been an economic development tool and with the opening of the Louisville bridges, we look for Kentucky to be a stronger magnet for manufacturers and distributors. Our state administration is bullish on manufacturing jobs and focused on improving workforce development and training and investing in needed infrastructure.”



Gary A. Ransdell
President,
Western
Kentucky
University

“2017 promises significant positive change to Kentucky economic with the executive and legislative arms of both state and federal government working together. Revenue-generating tax reform in Kentucky has great potential if the incremental revenue is used to address pension pressures and pressing needs in public and higher education. For the first time ever, higher education and the governor are in sync in performance funding model for the distribution of higher-ed appropriations. That model needs authorization from the 2017 General Assembly, and a path to enhanced funding in the next biennium. If that happens, then higher ed in Kentucky can provide solutions to many of the economic, health and social challenges our commonwealth faces.”

The Lane Report's *Faster Lane*

**BUSINESS NEWS &
DAILY LEGISLATIVE
ACTION UPDATES
IN THE PALM
OF YOUR HAND!**



Free email blast – Sign up at lanereport.com





**Anthony
"Tony"
Campbell**
*President/CEO,
East Kentucky
Power
Cooperative*

"Some regions of Kentucky, particularly the Golden Triangle, are seeing healthy economic growth. Others, notably Eastern Kentucky and some more rural areas, continue to struggle. Led by our 16 owner-member cooperatives, EKPC is focused on keeping energy affordable and reliable to help the economy. Our co-ops serve 87

Kentucky counties and we are working hard to assist the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet in marketing those communities to site selectors to draw new jobs and investment, strengthening our commonwealth's economic engine."



**Spencer
Bruce**
*President/CEO,
Louisville Water
Co.*

"Louisville Water Co. will expand its regional footprint in 2017 with new wholesale customers in Hardin County and progress towards a water line extension to Shelbyville. With national attention on infrastructure needs, Louisville Water will spend over \$40 million in 2017 to maintain a 4,200-mile

water-main network. Louisville's economy is strong, and we see an increase in the number of service applications. A high-quality and affordable supply of water is critical to economic growth. Louisville Water rates are among the lowest in the region with drinking water costing less than a penny a gallon."



**Jared
Arnett**
*Executive
Director,
Shaping Our
Appalachian
Region Inc.*

"In 2017, Appalachia Kentucky will continue its historic economic turnaround through strategic and proactive collaboration with hundreds of organizations that care about the future of the region. With adoption of SOAR's regional blueprint, we will see the most widespread, connected and cohesive action to address this economic crisis in the history of the coalfields.

Increasing broadband connectivity throughout the region will capitalize on the economic opportunities this connectivity brings – including further development of training in skill sets for the digital economy, specific sectors for industrial development, small business expansion through e-commerce and export, telemedicine and more. The 2017 SOAR summit will showcase the

innovative approaches our partners and communities are taking to help accomplish our regional goals and build on our momentum to create Appalachian Kentucky's vibrant future."



**Steve
Eggers**
*Managing
Principal, K.
Norman Berry
Associates
Architects*

"2016 was a great year for the construction industry and architectural firms. Our firm grew to its largest size in our history, opening a Lexington office to support growth in the area. One leading economic indicator of construction activity is the American Institute of Architects' monthly Architects Billing Index survey. The ABI reflects the approximate nine- to 12-month lead-time between architecture billings and construction spending. The most recent results show our area of the country flashing a positive outlook for 2017. Architects are among the first to encounter new construction projects, so with the positive trend our firm is hopeful growth will continue this year."



**Geoffrey
Mearns**
*President,
Northern
Kentucky
University*

"The future is bright for Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions. We expect Gov. Bevin and the General Assembly to adopt an outcomes-based funding model for appropriating nearly \$1 billion our commonwealth invests in higher education each year, joining nearly 40 other states who have recognized the need for a rational, strategic funding method. For Kentucky's economy this means state dollars will be tied to universities' and colleges' abilities to meet the demands of the workforce. Institutions will be rewarded for their ability to produce in key areas such as healthcare, technology, advanced manufacturing and other metrics. This funding model will position our commonwealth to be a national leader in attracting, creating and retaining jobs."



**Edwin
Webb**
*CEO, World
Trade Center
Kentucky*

"World Trade Center Kentucky forecasts continued positive growth in Kentucky exports in 2017. Data provided by the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development reports that as of December 2016 export activity was \$29.1 billion, up over the previous year. Total U.S exports fell 5 percent during the same period. WTCKY has noted from its clients a shift toward

growing business investment. The latter – along with the recent facilities expansion and investment in the commonwealth by UPS, FedEx and DHL, three of world's largest package delivery companies and leading global providers of specialized transportation and logistics services – indicate support of the Center's forecast."



**Trey
Grayson**
*President/CEO,
Northern
Kentucky
Chamber of
Commerce*

"2017 should be a great year for Northern Kentucky and our friends across the river in Cincinnati. Our airport is on a roll with more carriers to more destinations with more affordable fares; Southwest's plans to begin service will accelerate that trend. Our advanced manufacturers are taking the lead in addressing our talent

pipeline shortage, which should help them find the employees to meet their growth plans. Our urban core should see continued growth as CTI moves its 500 employees into RiverCenter, Innovation Alley becomes a destination for the region's start-up community, Hotel Covington completes its first year of operation, and more residential units are brought online in Covington and Newport. Tourism continues to be a strong regional draw, bolstered by last year's addition of the Ark Encounter in Williamstown and the FC Cincinnati soccer team."



**Jennifer
Willis**
*Kentucky
Market Vice
President,
Humana Inc.*

"Humana is committed to help improve the health of the communities we serve 20 percent by 2020 because we believe good health is good for everyone. Our nation is in a health crisis, which is why we are working with local government, business and community leaders to find solutions to

chronic conditions and improve individual mental and physical healthy days. In Louisville, we are focused on increasing people's awareness of the health resources available to them and decreasing the number of deaths caused by suicide. We hope by removing these barriers to health, we'll see the rates of diabetes decline and improvements in both mental and lung health. In 2017, we'll continue to rely on the 40-plus partnerships we've forged because only through cooperation and collaboration will we succeed." ■



House Minority Leader Rocky Adkins, D-Sandy Hook, speaks on the floor of the Kentucky House.

Earthquake and Aftershock

Democrats sift the rubble as Republicans stand ready to take up big issues

BY BOB BABBAGE & JULIE BABBAGE

IRONY or premonition? Workers making repairs placed scaffolding on the front of the State Capitol just prior to the Nov. 8 election. Did they sense something coming?

Many predictions indicated major movement in the works for Frankfort's political structure. Cracks in the Democrat's hold on state government were exposed when the Republicans took the majority in the Kentucky Senate in 2000 and in 2003 when Ernie Fletcher took the governor's seat.

But Gov. Fletcher got caught in his own rock slide. Democrats nailed down the House.

Like the New Madrid Fault Line in western Kentucky, any breaks lay dormant, largely ignored.

But U. S. Senate Leader **Mitch McConnell** beat the margin predictions in 2014, winning some traditional

Democratic hotspots. Then **Matt Bevin** caused tremors when he won the governor's seat in 2015. The walls shook and some law books fell off the shelves.

And in 2016, Trump jammed the Richter Scale, the entire state reeled and the GOP erupted into a 91-47 overall GOP edge in the legislature.

Tremors are obvious under the Frankfort dome as Republicans have supermajorities in both chambers of the state legislature. Democrats are sorting through the rubble as Republicans stand ready to take up big issues, often vetted, but never voted.



Sen. Mitch McConnell



Gov. Matt Bevin

Speaker **Jeff Hoover** of Russell County heads up the House, well prepared by years of study from the minority leader's seat.

A veteran in the Senate front chair, President **Robert Stivers** of Clay County carefully conducts the upper chamber.

The rural flavor is clear. The combined population of the home counties of Hoover and Stivers is just shy of 39,000 according to the U.S. Census. Both majority leaders also have contrasting roots in their political geography.

Sen. **Damon Thayer** directs action on the floor of the Senate with a strong voice and pinpoint precision. His district covers I-75 territory from Scott to Kenton counties.

Rep. **Jonathan Shell**, the new House majority floor leader, brings a unique combination of youth and experience. He turns 30 this year. This time last year, Shell was shrewdly recruiting a cadre of candidates to topple the 95-year reign of Democrats. Lancaster is home for him.

The quake shook Democrats, notably Rep. **Rocky Adkins**, who joined the House the year Shell was born in 1987.

Adkins worked hand-in-hand with the now absent **Greg Stumbo** for most of those years in his post as floor leader, now heading the new Democratic caucus, which faces extensive rebuilding.

How important is all this? Leader McConnell often explains his role as offensive coordinator, looking for scoring, while the minority leadership runs the defensive side.

Leaders in the House will be ably assisted by a fresh roster including



Jeff Hoover



Robert Stivers



Damon Thayer



Jonathan Shell



Rocky Adkins



Greg Stumbo

2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY



David
Osborne



David
Meade



Kevin
Bratcher



Dennis
Keene



Wilson
Stone



Jody
Richards

House Speaker Pro-Tem **David Osborne**, Majority Caucus Chair **David Meade** and Majority Whip **Kevin Bratcher**. Bratcher, from Jefferson County, will bring an urban perspective to the otherwise decidedly rural flavor.

The united Republican front looks to move economic issues over social concerns, passing right-to-work, repealing the prevailing wage law, approving charter schools, and allowing medical review panels as a step toward tort reform.

Count on a vigorous shake and quake from those not in favor. Labor leaders flooded the rotunda with a roar when right-to-work came up over a decade ago. AFL-CIO President **Bill Londrigan** will lead the push-back.

Sen. **Ray Jones**, another Eastern Kentuckian, again guides the 11 Senate Democrats. Joining Jones in leadership is former Gov. **Julian Carroll**. Sen. **Dorsey Ridley** was added, taking the post by defeating Sen. **Gerald Neal**.



Julian
Carroll



Dorsey
Ridley



Gerald
Neal

The Senate GOP management team also includes highly experienced members. Sen. **David Givens** fills the president's seat when Stivers himself takes to the floor or related business.

Sen. **Dan Seum** chairs the 27-member majority when they meet before afternoon sessions. Sen. **Jimmy Higdon** keeps a close count on the consensus in his role as whip.

In the minority for the first time since 1921, Rep.



Bill
Londrigan



Ray
Jones



David
Givens



Dan
Seum

Dennis Keene of Campbell County and Rep. **Wilson Stone**, an Allen County farmer, took top roles to lead the Democrats. Keene chairs the caucus while Stone is the whip. A former Speaker, well-known **Jody Richards**, did not seek a top role this time.

Rep. **Sannie Overly** made history as a woman in leadership. She chose not to run again, but continues as chair of the Kentucky Democratic Party. In all of Senate and House leadership, there are no women or minorities.

Mac Brown, a lynchpin in the takeover, was re-elected to head the Republican Party of Kentucky.

Both party chairs must give frequent consideration to the 2018 House campaign line-up. Point of note: About four of every five states have more women elected to legislatures than Kentucky.

Even though the two-year state budget is a 2018 priority, the Appropriations chairs, Sen. **Chris McDaniel** and Rep. **Steven Rudy**, play a continuously active role.

Sen. McDaniel, a member since 2013, got his first budget on the books last winter. He is keenly focused on the pension debt, a cavernous problem for the state budget.

Rep. Rudy, the new House chair, will pay close attention to the balance sheet. He served on the group that reviews school and college budgets in previous years.

Health issues are always prominent as are the two women who chair these panels.

New to the House role is Rep. **Addia Wuchner** of Northern Kentucky. She has been a highly active member of the Health Committee, drawing on her professional experience in healthcare.



Sannie
Overly



Mac
Brown



Chris
McDaniel



Steven
Rudy



Addia
Wuchner

Sen. **Julie Raque Adams** has a steady hand on the Senate health agenda, known for her calm presiding style.

The Judiciary Committee fosters strong discussion, producing recent significant reforms for prisons and criminal justice. Additionally, right-to-life and pro-choice advocates square off here.

The Senate chair is **Whitney Westerfield**, who lost the 2015 attorney general race by a razor thin margin. Westerfield hails from Hopkinsville. His old neighbor **John Tilley** teamed with Westerfield to get consensus for change when Tilley was in the House. Tilley now serves in the Bevin Administration as Justice secretary, so the seasoned team members remain tied together – and prominent.

Rep. **Joe Fischer** of Northern Kentucky heads the House Judiciary Committee for the first time. He has often pushed major topics to the forefront.

Perhaps nowhere will the new terrain be more noticeable than in House Committee rooms, where Republicans will gavel the agenda for all meetings.

A teacher will chair House Education, Rep. **John “Bam” Carney**. Sen. **Mike Wilson**, now in his second term, convenes the same committee for the Senate.

Licensing and Occupations often lands fascinating subjects concerning various professions. A new House chair, Rep. **Adam Koenig**, is joined with Sen. **John Schickel**, who has made a mark in the main seat for Senate L&O. Both are Northern Kentuckians.

Labels matter. The House dropped Labor and Industry from its lexicon, naming the committee Small Business and Information Technology, putting



Julie Raque
Adams



Whitney
Westerfield



John
Tilley



Joe
Fischer



John “Bam”
Carney



Mike
Wilson



Adam
Koenig



John
Schickel

Rep. **Diane St. Onge** in the chair.

Lt. Gov. **Jenean Hampton** also gives special attention to small-business growth.

The old L&I panel was dominated by labor and labor issues. These topics now come under the economic development and workforce framework.

Rep. **Jim DeCesare**, who recently was the minority whip, will chair these twin subjects. Five-term Sen. **Alice Forgy Kerr** continues to chair the Senate counterpart.

Banking and insurance matters always loom large, like federal health programs undergoing redesign with major aftershocks to the Bluegrass. Rep. **Bart Rowland** is the new House chair, while Sen. **Tom Buford** heads the sister committee.

Back on top for the Energy Committee is Rep. **Jim Gooch**. Rep. **Kim Moser**, an entering member, heads Medicaid Review. On the major subject of Kentucky's ailing pensions, look for Rep. **Brian Linder** as a key voice, heading two committees that focus on retirement system problems.



Jim Gooch



Kim Moser



Brian Linder

Other GOP House members who are first-time chairs include Reps. **Bart Rowland**, **Kenny Imes**, **Michael Lee Meredith**, **Jerry T. Miller**, **Richard Health**, **Marie Rader** and **Donna Mayfield**.

Budget subcommittees actively review state spending, shaping priorities for the next budget. New House Republicans in chairing roles are Reps. **Jill York**, **Suzanne Miles**, **Tommy Turner**, **Jason Nemes**, **Regina Bunch**, **James Tipton**, **Sal Santoro**, **Russell Webber**, **Phil Mofett**, **Myron Dossett**, **Stan Lee**, **Ken**



Diane St. Onge



Jenean Hampton

Upchurch, **Lynn Bechler**, **Daniel Elliott**, **Tim Couch**, **Matt Castlen**, **Danny Bentley**, **John Blanton** and **Brandon Reed**.

Four leaders on the landscape will also bring ideas to reform and improve. These are Attorney General **Andy Beshear**, Agriculture Commissioner **Ryan Quarles**, Secretary of State **Alison Lundergan Grimes** and State Auditor **Mike Harmon**.

More rumbles will be felt as the 2017 short session unfolds.

Top leaders speculate on a special autumn meeting of the General Assem-

bly to reform the stale, aged tax code, plus dealing decisively with the state pension mega-debt.

With another dash of irony, these hot considerations could come shortly after the total eclipse of the sun, all of this giving a whole new meaning to climate change. ■



Bob Babbage and Julie Babbage are with Babbage Cofounder, a leading government relations firm.



New Faces, Great Spaces... and all of Paducah's Creative Places!

Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center

With over 90,000 square feet of flexible meeting space under one roof and a globally celebrated creative culture, Paducah's amenities make it a memorable destination for meetings and your next convention or trade show.

Become one of our coming attractions.
Book Paducah today!



Chuck Tate, Director of Operations
Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center
ctate@paducahconventions.com
270.559.7385



Michelle Campbell, Director of Sales & Marketing
Paducah-McCracken County Convention & Expo Center
mcampbell@paducahconventions.com
270.519.9458



Becky Straley, Director of Convention Sales
Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau
becky@paducah.travel
217.553.4568

PADUCAH
City of Crafts & Folk Art
UNESCO CREATIVE CITY

www.paducah.travel/meetings



The eight-story 175-room \$23 million Aloft Hotel at First and Main in downtown Louisville opened in 2015. It is one of more than a dozen successful hotel projects by longtime Louisville developer Steve Poe.

Steve Poe's Partner: Financial Practicality

Louisville hotel and apartment developer's winning vision always focused by the market condition prism

BY ROBERT HADLEY

STEVE Poe, developer of two of downtown Louisville's top hotels – the new 175-room Aloft Hotel at First and Main and the business community's go-to event site, the 17-story 591-room Marriott Louisville Downtown on Jefferson Street – is noted for his vision, which includes the ability to see what will maximize the return on investment on a specific piece of land.

Besides sizing up job-growth projections as a harbinger of a property's success, he lists two additional secret ingredients.

"With hotels, you're specifically looking at what brands are available," he said. "Brand is super important, and, more importantly, you've got to have the right location with the right brand."



Steve Poe

Poe lauds efforts by the Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau to rebrand the city as a convention and tourist attraction – with an emphasis on bourbon.

According to Mayor Greg Fischer, who likes to tout the success of "bourbonism," Louisville is booming with 23 hotels either announced, completed or under construction among a total of \$9 billion in recent capital investment.

"I think (CVB CEO) Karen Williams is very aggressive and up to date," Poe said. "I think she and the CVB are very excited about having new hotel rooms and the new convention center (an \$180 million renovation is underway), and certainly having a real, authentic local food scene – and a real, authentic local Urban Bourbon Trail with investment from all the distilleries. I think they've got a lot of good things to sell here, and I feel confident that they'll do a good job with that."

Although Poe has succeeded by adding nearly 800 hotel rooms to the downtown corridor, he hasn't confined his efforts to hotels. As a developer noted for his canny sense of what should go where, he has backed the famed RiverPark Place along Louisville's Waterfront. The multi-use complex offers 2,500 luxury apartments, eight restaurants and some 250,000 s.f. of office space.

Large apartment developments are a major component of the Poe Cos. portfolio, including The Woods at Lexington Road, Blankenbaker Crossings and Fenwick Place, all in Louisville, the Reserves of Thomas Glen in Shepherdsville, and Fairway Knoll in Round Rock, Texas.

Poe foresees major trends among baby boomers and millennials ensuring ongoing demand for apartment living. Aging baby boomers and millennials alike prefer a low-maintenance, almost nomadic lifestyle, for different reasons. For millennials, the threat of mortgage problems and foreclosures has instilled a fear of homeownership. Baby boomers have a different set of circumstances.

"We're also seeing that same thing in the 55-plus crowd that says, 'I don't need this big home anymore, and I may want to live in Louisville nine months a year and be in Florida three months a year,'" Poe said. They ask, " 'Why don't I sell my house and invest that and live off the proceeds and rent?' There's just a lot of different things going on demographically that I think are driving more people towards the upscale rental. Job creation always drives that, and we've got strong job creation now."



The front desk of the Aloft Hotel Louisville is stylish, but Steve Poe requires that his project designs above all fit the financial parameters that make it buildable.

Success was not overnight

Today he certainly must be considered one of the top developers in Kentucky's top economic center, but Poe got there methodically, step by step, in a process that included some bumps.

Nearly 40 years ago, fresh from Purdue University where he was still a few hours short of a pair of degrees, Poe went to work in an entry-level position at his father Robert's construction company. But soon came a dismaying conclusion: He was not cut out for the construction business – a role he'd been preparing for from age 10 when he'd started shadowing his dad on building sites.

"I looked around at some of the people I was working for; I was driving a pickup truck and they were driving a lot nicer vehicle than that," Poe recalls from his one-story office building on River Road, a half mile from his RiverPark Place apartment complex. "I had a college education, and I thought there's something wrong with this picture. I need to be on the other side of this equation."

The other side turned out to be launching Poe Cos., which today is a

Poe Companies is building a 31-story Aloft-Element Hotel with 422 rooms in Austin, Texas, in partnership with REI Real Estate Services.

diversified real estate, development, management and investment firm that has helped to spark a renaissance in the Louisville commercial construction market. The company is behind a dozen hotels in Louisville – a \$23 million Homewood Suites extended-stay hotel later this year will join Aloft and the Louisville Marriott Downtown in the business district – plus others in cities such as Austin and Denver.

Poe Cos. has developed and manages more than two dozen Louisville-area office buildings and apartment complexes.

Poe's property development and management expertise prompted him to launch a real estate syndicate in 2012. Syndicates allow investors to put their money into a group of commercial properties that Poe and his team ensure are well managed, minimizing risk while sharing rewards among investors.

Success in the business world has earned Poe seats on several Louisville-area boards, such as chairman of the Home of the Innocents Capital Campaign, Louisville Collegiate School and the Louisville Free Public Library. As a member of Leadership Louisville's Bingham Fellows 2014 class, he along with more than 40 other community leaders started OneWest, an organization billed as an incubator for prosperity in West Louisville.

It is a lengthy record of achievement, but the 30-year journey had modest beginnings.



The Woods at Lexington Road in Louisville was an 4.5-acre urban infill project with 72 apartment units by Poe Companies.



"When my wife and I got married, we had no money," Poe said. "We both worked. (It wasn't) an overnight success. To get where I am today took a bunch of small individual steps; I learned you just keep your head down and keep moving."

Education continued after college

Poe's change of heart from construction to development early on in his career wasn't the first dilemma he faced in charting his professional course. With input from his father, owner of Poe



**Do you find your
intelligence shrinking?
Get your daily boost at
WUKY, 91.3 FM.**

*Listen to WUKY and be enlightened,
inspired and entertained!*

WUKY
NPR ROCKS @ 91.3

91.3 FM | wuky.org

The 17-story Marriott Louisville Downtown has become a one of the most popular sites in the city for major business gatherings since it opened in 2002.



Steve Poe Career Timeline

1977

Poe leaves Purdue University six hours short of a degree and joins family lumber business

1985

Poe launches his own company, builds first residential subdivision

1990

Branches out to develop commercial and multifamily properties

1998

Co-develops his first Louisville hotel with White Lodging

1999

Co-develops first Austin, Texas, hotels with White Lodging

2002

Co-develops Downtown Louisville Marriott Hotel with White Lodging and REI

2004

Is awarded development rights to RiverPark Place from Waterfront Development

2007

Develops projects in Phoenix, Salt Lake, Austin and Louisville

2011

Builds Marina at RiverPark Place

2014

Co-developing \$250 million in hotel projects in Louisville, Denver and Austin with White Lodging and REI. Developing multiple apartment projects in Louisville

Lumber Co. in Marengo, Ind., Poe had dreamed of studying either engineering at Purdue or architecture at Ball State.

"My dad wanted his son to be an architect or an engineer, because that's always what he had worked with," Poe said.

Initially leaning toward engineering, Poe completed his freshman and sophomore years at Purdue before having to formally declare a major. The freshman and sophomore classes allow the school to weed out students who didn't meet the engineering major's demanding academic requirements. But another change of heart took hold, prompting Poe to opt for a major in business and minor in civil engineering.

"I remember coming home and telling my dad, 'I've got good news and I've got bad news,'" Poe recalled. "The good news is I made the cut (for engineering school). The bad news is I can't walk around with a slide rule in my pocket for the rest of my life."

In those days, engineering was largely a hand-drawn, pencil-and-paper enterprise.

"You did your calculations by slide rule and I just didn't see myself in that role, so I switched to the business school."

There was only one catch, which became obvious around the time Poe left Purdue in 1977. Although he had switched majors from engineering to business, not all of the credits transferred. By the time advisors caught the discrepancy, Poe had already completed upper-level calculus and other advanced coursework. To have to fulfill courses in freshman English and math to earn

both degrees seemed redundant. As a result, he never finished either the engineering or business degrees.

"I wish I had done it," he confessed.

Poe's busy schedule in his father's company left him little time to lament the decision, at least initially. But during those early years, the seeds were planted for the next direction of his career. Since the family firm was handling subcontracting work on several apartment buildings, Poe decided to launch his development firm in residential real estate.

No animosity or conflict resulted from his decision to part ways with his father's business, as might have ensued in similar situations with some families. In fact, Poe refers to his father frequently as an astute advisor and observer of his son's career.

For example, his father surmised that his son "... had made all the money in apartments as he could afford to make" when Poe tried in the early 1990s to boost his residential homebuilding from 10 to 15 units a year to 70 to 80 and found it operationally too difficult to pursue. He shifted then to developing commercial property.

Poe's own rearview-mirror assessment today of the reasoning behind his switch from residential to commercial real estate is less cryptic.

"I've been doing this for 30 years," he observed, "but you can't take on more than your capital allows you to do, no matter how good the idea is."

Ironically, it was car-envy that inspired him initially to change careers. Once he hit his first big suc-

cess, a new vehicle for himself was not what he indulged on.

"We built some apartments and sold them," Poe recalled, "and actually I splurged and bought my wife a new Jaguar."

Vision derived from the bottom line

Though he may now regret the decisions to forgo degrees or change majors, it all makes sense nearly 40 years later. The combined disciplines of business and engineering may be responsible for helping him blend dreams with an awareness of the bottom line.

"I tell architects all the time, 'We can either design a building that's a very pretty picture that we can all sign and say we designed a pretty picture, or we can design a building that we can really build,'" Poe said.

Even more than practicality, though, is the ability to sense what is good or appropriate. It's the "vision" prominently mentioned on Poe Cos.' website as a competitive advantage.

"I think the fact that I grew up on the construction side and was totally involved in that my entire life gives me the ability to sort of see the big picture," Poe said. "My wife says I can take a look at a piece of dirt and sort of visualize what should go there, and yet at the same time I understand the constraints of what really can go there."

Now, sitting in a brass, glass and wood-themed office decorated with family photos (he and his wife Merry-Kay have adopted two girls and a boy), Poe presides over a desk refreshingly free of multiple computer monitors and the other expected high-tech trappings of a real estate mogul. He has a large JBL Bluetooth speaker and admits to

being an iPhone user. Otherwise, he claims not to be a tech junkie.

He may be selling himself short. His purchase of an early-model Texas Instruments personal computer after college qualifies him at least as an early adopter.

"I'm an Excel (and) Microsoft guy," Poe said. "I was at the first wave of those who used spreadsheets, and they've been helpful. But as with many things in technology, I think it probably moves a lot faster than people."

An avowed lover of travel, both international and domestic, Poe spends more time seeing the world for recreation than accumulating technological toys.

His journeys have taken him as far as the Arctic Circle by way of Barrow, Alaska, and he counts Brisbane, Australia; New York City; and Paris among his favorites.

"I loved Paris because of the greatness of the city and the architecture of Europe," he said. "As for Brisbane, I loved the people. The Aussies are great."

"I love New York City just because I'm always in awe and marvel at how the city works – just how it runs. It's just so big and so much going on and yet it all just seems to hum right along."

With an eye seasoned by international travel and hotels going up in other U.S. cities, the native of northern Indiana is ideally positioned to judge the Louisville market. Poe characterizes



WaterSide at RiverPark Place, one of many Poe Companies residential developments, is slated to eventually include more than 2,500 apartments and condominiums and exceed \$1 billion in investment.

it as a steady environment where he has never lost money, but he laments the lack of a local-option sales tax that communities elsewhere have used to fund expansion.

Whether LOST will be on the ballot one day, or whether it could be used to help fund the beleaguered Yum! Center, Poe refused to predict.

"I'll leave that to the politicians," he said. "People would have to vote to increase their own taxes for a building that's already been built. In most of the cities where local option (sales tax) has worked, such as Oklahoma City, they're proposing new projects the public wants." ■

Robert Hadley is a correspondent for The Lane Report. He can be reached at editorial@lanereport.com.



Julie Torzewski, MSBC, CFRE
Baptist Health Foundation
Alumna, Spalding University

Real World Application

Master's Degree in Business Communication

Concentrations in:

- Organizational Leadership
- Accounting
- Healthcare Management
- Nonprofit Administration



www.spalding.edu

Online option available



100-YEAR U.S. TREASURY BONDS?

There could be \$1 trillion savings on budget-interest expense

BY LAWRENCE KUDLOW

If President-elect Donald Trump's economic growth plan – slashing business and personal marginal tax rates, and rolling back costly business regulations – is achieved next year, the economy could break out with 4 to 5 percent growth. And that means much higher interest rates.

This rate rise will be growth-induced – a good thing. Higher real capital returns will drive up real interest rates. And inflation will likely remain minimal, around 2 percent, with more money chasing even more goods alongside a reliably stable dollar exchange rate.

We're already seeing some of this with the big post-election Trump stock rally occurring alongside a largely real-interest-rate increase in bonds.

However, looking ahead, 4 percent real growth plus 2 percent inflation could imply 6 percent bond yields in the coming years. That's a big jump from the 2 percent average of most of the past 10 years.

And what that says is, the time to act is now.

The average duration of marketable Treasury bonds held by the public has been five years for quite some time. Almost incredibly, Treasury Department debt managers have not substantially lengthened the duration of bonds to take advantage of generationally low interest rates. It's hard to figure.

Treasuries held in public hands have moved up from 32 percent of gross domestic product back in 2008 to nearly 77 percent today. Interest expense for the 2016 fiscal year is nearly \$250 billion. So if Treasury debt managers had significantly lengthened their bond maturities, they would have saved taxpayers a bundle.

Now, with new economic growth policies poised to drive up average Treasury rates to, perhaps, 6 percent, the Treasury folks better get moving fast to capture today's historically low yields. Up until now they've been sleeping at the switch.

The key point is to start issuing longer bond maturities – much longer. If possible, the U.S. should experiment with 50-year debt issuance, and maybe as long as a 100-year issuance.

And this better happen fast.

According to economist Conrad Dequadt, other countries have been smarter than us. Ireland and Belgium issued 100-year debt. Austria issued 70-year debt. Italy, France and Spain issued 50-year debt. Japan pushed out a 40-year maturity, and there are rumors that it's considering 50 years.

And Mexico, incredibly enough, has done three 100-year issues since 2010. The sizes were small, and the bonds were sold in foreign currencies. But it can be done.

Britain is probably the best benchmark. HM Treasury has issued 40- to 50-year bonds seven times. The latest auction occurred in Oct. 2015, with the issuance of 50-year debt with a coupon of 2.5 percent.

Dequadt says the Congressional Budget Office estimates that interest costs over the next 10 years will total \$4.8 trillion, and the debt will rise from the current \$14 trillion to \$23.1 trillion by 2026. Additionally, it expects the 10-year Treasury rate to average 3.3 percent and the rate on all debt to average 2.6 percent.

Now, with some very rough back-of-the-envelope calculations, under Trump's growth program, suppose 10-year Treasury rates rise to average 5 percent over the next 10 years, rather than the CBO's 3.3 percent guess. The average interest rate for all debt would increase to 4 percent over that period, rather than CBO's estimated 2.6 percent. The total interest rate expense would be around \$7 trillion, rather than the CBO's \$5 trillion baseline.

However, if the U.S. issued 50-year debt with the same rate as Britain's 2.5 percent, by front-loading some longer-term issuance to hold the average interest rate to 3.5 percent, there would be a \$1 trillion savings on budget-interest expense over the 10-year horizon.

That's not chump change.

Skeptics will ask who would buy 50-year U.S. paper. It's a good question. But remember, insurance companies and pension funds need long-dated liabilities to match long-duration assets. And foreign institutions might also be interested in ultralong U.S. Treasuries, provided the U.S. dollar is reliably stable.

This is entirely new ground for U.S. debt management. But since a lot of foreign countries have successfully sold 50-year paper, we know it can be done.

And for the U.S. it must be done.

If we sell out a bunch of 50-year offerings, why not try a 100-year paper? The budget savings would be incalculable. And under new policies, if the U.S. returns to its long-term annual growth trend of 3.5 percent – which prevailed in the prior century – America's debt-to-GDP ratio could plunge to 30 or 40 percent, instead of skyrocketing to 150 percent or more.

Stronger growth and much longer bond-maturity issuance will snatch fiscal victory from the jaws of defeat. ■



Lawrence Kudlow is CEO of Kudlow & Co., an economic and investment research firm in New York City.



'REPEAL AND REPLACE' OBAMACARE

Free market can unshackle healthcare, reduce costs for everyone

BY LARRY ELDER

ONE of President-elect Donald Trump's major campaign promises is to "repeal and replace" Obamacare.

Vice President Joe Biden recently dared him to do so. Biden knows that 20 million Americans have health insurance that didn't before Obamacare, and they represent 20 million stories on CNN, MSNBC and The New York Times – in the entire "healthcare is a right" crowd – when and if Trump follows through.

Sure, despite President Barack Obama's promises to the contrary, some people lost their healthcare coverage and some people lost their doctors. And no, the average family did not save \$2,500 per year as Obama insisted would be the case. And yes, health insurance premiums, copays and deductibles are going up even though Obama promised that his plan would "bend the cost curve" down.

All that matters to the anti-Trump media is that there is now an entire class of people to exert pressure against the repeal of Obamacare. Many Republicans say they want to keep "the good parts of Obamacare," specifically the prohibition against denying insurance based on a pre-existing condition and forcing insurance carriers to keep a "child" on his or her parents' policy until the child is 26. Republicans promised to not only repeal but to

"replace" Obamacare. How can they do this – and replace it with what?

Republicans, despite their unanimous opposition against Obamacare, bought into at least two premises that its proponents argued. The first is that health care is a right – or, if not a right, at least something whose costs the federal government should reduce. The second is that, having made the decision to intervene in health care, the federal government possesses the knowledge, wisdom and judgment to reduce its costs to make it "affordable." The feds, promised Obamacare advocates, can even make healthcare affordable without reducing quality.

For Obamacare to "work," it is particularly important for young people to "buy in," because while they are forced to *spend* on health care insurance they are unlikely to *consume* health care services. Obamacare transfers money from the pockets of young people (with a net worth smaller than that of seniors, by the way) into the pockets of older, health care consuming Americans.

If the goal were truly to make health care more affordable, Obamacare would be as laughably wrongheaded as other Obama boondoggles like "cash for caulkers" or "cash for clunkers." No, the real goal is taxpayer-paid healthcare. Both ex-DNC chair Howard Dean and ex-Senate leader Harry Reid said so.

To reduce costs in healthcare, or, for that matter, in *any* commodity, is to unleash the free market. Healthcare is particularly shackled by restrictions and regulations too numerous to mention. Here is just one example.

In the biographical movie "Hacksaw Ridge," a World War II medic, Private Desmond Doss, a pacifist, refused to carry a rifle. In the midst of the carnage, during the Battle of Okinawa, Doss carried wounded soldiers and rappelled them down a cliff face to safety then treated them alongside the medics. He was awarded a Medal of Honor for saving scores of lives.

If, however, after the war, Pvt. Doss had opened an office with a shingle saying "Doss' trauma unit," authorities would have thrown him in jail for practicing medicine without a license. His skills were good enough for the soldiers on the battlefield, but not good enough for civilians when Doss returned stateside.

On a question-and-answer website, this question was recently posed: How do Marines feel about Navy corpsmen?

Here are some of the responses: "Personal experience – I had my middle finger sewn back on by an E-5 corpsman. When a real doctor first saw it, he shouted, 'Who did this?!' I asked why and the Doc said that it was the best he had ever seen. I have full use and feeling in that finger and that was 40 years ago."

"Personal experience – I was shot in the leg. An E-4 corpsman, assisted by an E-5, treated me. No doctor could have done any better than they did."

"History: Beginning in WWII, most ships the size of destroyers and smaller had enlisted men – corpsmen – as their only medical expert. Usually it was a Chief Petty Officer, but often was an E-6 and some had only an E-5.

"Then, as now, they did everything – surgery included. In WWII and every war since then, U.S. soldiers have had a higher survival rate than any other country's military (enemy or allies) and most of that medical triage and vital systems treatment was by enlisted corpsmen.

"Outside the service, enlisted corpsmen are by far the preferable hire for civilian EMT and rescue jobs."

If congressional Republicans were serious about making healthcare affordable, they should sell the voters on the free market. Where's the slogan for that? ■



Larry Elder is a best-selling author and nationally syndicated radio talk-show host.

EMERGING LANE

Kentucky's young professionals and creatives



Andrew Fore is the owner of a unique hydrodipping concept in Nicholasville.

Nicholasville Artist Launches New Concept

Hydrodipping facility utilizes water transfer printing to create endless products

WATER and color for art might make you think of watercolor painting, but Andrew Fore of Deluge Concepts in Nicholasville utilizes the artistic mediums in a new way.

At his production shop in Nicholasville, Fore uses his creative abilities and mechanical skills to decorate items with a film of liquid in a big tank. The process is called hydrodipping, or water transfer printing. He added the Deluge Concepts venture to his versatile business portfolio in June last year.

Fore is still employed at Adcolor, the commercial printing company in Lexington he joined in 2003, and he continues to operate Andrew Fore Photography,

which he started in 2006. He also is a photographer and Arctic ambassador for Polar Bears International.

Having the freedom to build a new business is "worth the risks, long hours, stressful times, great times and everything else that goes along with starting something brand new," he said. "But the most important thing I lean on is to make sure that at the end of the day things are kept in perspective and everyone around the business is having fun."

The hydrographics industry itself is fairly new. Fore was intrigued by the concept enough to start his own business and have the opportunity to serve just about any industry imaginable. He has thou-

sands of hydrographic patterns available that can be changed even more by painting an object in another color as a base coat under the hydrographic film.

"Most film patterns have a transparent component to them, which is where the base coat color comes in," he said. The film can also be custom-printed with a design brought in by an individual or company.

The dipping tank at Deluge Concepts is 10 feet by 4 feet and can hold multiple items at the same time being submerged through the film liquid, with no two coming out identical. From tumblers to golf clubs, car wheels to firearms, commercial orders to one-off custom pieces, Fore can dip pretty much any solid object (no clothing at this point yet).

After the design is ready to go, the next step is an intensive prep of the item, followed by "activating" the hydro film to liquefy it properly in the tank, then dipping the item, rinsing and drying it. The final step is applying a durable clear coat in either a high gloss or matte finish.

"The options for how the item can look are literally limitless and everything that comes out of our tank is a unique, unable to be exactly duplicated item," Fore said.

Born in Louisville, Fore has lived in Central Kentucky since childhood. He earned a degree in integrated strategic communication from University of Kentucky, with a double minor in marketing and psychology.

"I am fortunate to have been brought up in a household that encouraged me to dream big and then go after those dreams," he said. "That mindset, along with my faith, has brought me through several personal challenges and has taught me persistence, patience, discernment, joy and not to give up."

For more information, visit deluge-concepts.com. — Kathie Stamps



UK Expands Online Master's Degree Offerings

In December 2016, the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment announced it will launch its first online master's degree program in retailing and tourism management in the fall of this year.

"In many cases, in order to advance in these fields you need an advanced degree," Scarlett Wesley, director of graduate studies for the department, said in a news release. "This is an opportunity to reach those professionals

already working in the industry who want to take that next step with their careers but can't quit their jobs and come to campus."

Each online class will have an identical platform to keep classes within one course consistent and create a familiarity for students. Students in the online program will have an opportunity to complete an internship instead of a thesis to graduate.

3rd Turn Brewing to Open New Location and Farm



The 3rd Turn Brewing in Louisville recently decided to open a farm.

space for beer gardens, grow some of our own ingredients for beer and introduce the county to our locally and on-premise-brewed ales.”

The 4,000-s.f. facility is situated on a 4-acre plot at 6300 Old LaGrange Road, next door to Kentucky Artisan Distillery, which is a stop on the increasingly popular Bourbon Trail. Yew Dell Botanical Gardens is just down the street, and the addition of the brewery is expected to help create a destination spot for Oldham County.

The 3rd Turn ownership team – comprising Hayden, brothers Ben and Dale Shinkle, and Brian Minrath – announced the project on Dec. 19. The brewhouse will be a three- to seven-barrel system, and brewing will focus on locally sourced ingredients, with a barrel-aging program. The taproom will have 20 taps.

Citing an initial \$500,000 investment, 3rd Turn will drastically renovate the existing structures using reclaimed products, with an emphasis on bringing out the natural beauty already associated with the space. A greenhouse area behind the main structure will become a beer garden with an outdoor bar. Behind this area will be the brewery’s “farm.”

3rd Turn follows Lexington’s West Sixth in opening a Kentucky farm to source for beer ingredients; West Sixth announced in October it had purchased a 120-acre farm in Franklin County where it plans to grow hops and barley for brewing, apples for making cider, and other crops.

For the 3rd Turn owners, the thinking was a bit different. They knew they wanted to expand but decided statewide distribution wasn’t how they wanted to do it. Rather, they chose to focus on serving a specific community, and Oldham County was the choice.

“Serving beer in-house is going to be our focus,” Hayden said. The primary emphasis, he added, will be “educating people on craft beer and investing in the community there.”

Hayden said 3rd Turn will hire two or three employees to assist with the start-up and to staff the brewhouse and taproom; more jobs will be added as necessary.

The announcement came at the end of a year of growth for brewing in Kentucky, with 11 new breweries either opening or being near opening to help punctuate a five-year growth rate of more than 600 percent, according to Kentucky Guild of Brewers figures.

“3rd Turn Brewing is adding another dimension to Kentucky’s craft beer scene,” Derek Selznick, executive director of the Kentucky Guild of Brewers, said, “by growing and incorporating their own ingredients for the beer. Adding a brewery to Oldham county demonstrates how Kentucky craft beer is growing and maturing.” — Kevin Gibson

SOME breweries buy bigger brewing equipment or open new facilities to increase production. The four owners of 3rd Turn Brewing in Louisville decided to open a farm.

Well, actually, it will be a farm and another small brewery. But the farm aspect will be used to grow ingredients for brewing, while the rest of the space will include a taproom, event space, beer garden and more. And 3rd Turn part two – the original location opened in Jeffersonton in September 2015 – will also be Oldham County’s first-ever craft brewery.

“When we were looking at opening a second location,” co-owner Greg Hayden said, “Oldham County was at the very top of our list. We cannot wait to have more outdoor



The 4,000-s.f. facility is situated on a 4-acre plot at 6300 Old LaGrange Road, next door to Kentucky Artisan Distillery, which is a stop on the increasingly popular Bourbon Trail.



The Cryo House owner Tami Breitner takes a “dip” in the cryo tank.

Get Yourself Frozen

Opening in late 2016, The Cryo House in Lexington lets you willingly chill out. The health spa utilizes Whole Body Cryotherapy, which was first used in Japan in the early 1970s by doctors to treat rheumatoid arthritis. Studies have established the frozen method as a powerful source for treatment of inflammatory disorders and injuries.

During WBC, the body is exposed to ultra-low temperatures – as low as -150 degrees celsius – cooling the skin’s surface temporarily and triggering a systemic anti-inflammatory response that activates organs, muscles, joints and skin to naturally heal and repair themselves.

Cryotherapy is popular among athletes who use it to decrease recovery times, increase athletic performance and boost the body’s metabolic rate.

Danville’s Stylish New Health Center

Since opening in June 2016, Plank on Main continues to deliver quality food, classes and apparel in Danville. Wendy White, who owns Plank on Main with her husband, Chris, said the business has taken off and is growing quickly. Plank on Main is a healthy social center for nourishing the body and enriching the mind through phenomenal fitness, fun events, and fabulous food and drink

The fitness studio offers hot yoga, barre and pilates. Plank also recently opened a state-of-the-art cycling studio. The studio’s menu started out focused on making fresh-pressed, nutrient dense juices, smoothies and nutritious snacks, and it’s recently added other items like soups and salads. It focuses on natural, local, nutritious and fair trade offerings.

In the spirit of supporting other local businesses, Plank on Main also sells Kentucky-inspired T-shirts and locally roasted coffee in addition to premium yoga and athleisure apparel, and other health and fitness accessories.

The Whites, who have two daughters, opened the serene, welcoming and stylish space with decor including reclaimed cork flooring, continuous aromatherapy and custom acoustics.



THE LANE LIST



KENTUCKY AGRICULTURE CASH RECEIPTS

KENTUCKY farm receipts declined 10 percent in 2015 from the record \$6.5 billion level achieved in 2014, due mostly to shifts in national and international markets. However, the \$5.83 billion that commonwealth farming operations collected in 2015 was still more than 21 percent above 2012's total of \$4.8 billion and is up 44 percent from 2010.

Broiler chickens remain Kentucky's top agriculture product, generating \$960 million for farmers, followed closely by the \$927 million that cattle and calves produced. All categories declined from 2014 to 2015 after high returns spurred increased production and a strengthening U.S. dollar decreased export demand.



Values by \$1,000s in current dollars

Animals and Products

KENTUCKY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total animals and products	2,138,811	2,229,095	2,365,124	3,357,384	3,654,312	3,339,376
Meat animals	722,595	751,048	761,267	947,826	1,163,318	1,035,301
<i>Cattle and calves</i>	615,317	630,324	649,038	825,432	1,031,164	927,210
<i>Hogs</i>	107,278	120,724	112,229	122,394	132,154	108,091
Dairy products, Milk	204,239	233,496	219,582	227,900	256,194	200,596
Poultry and eggs	931,329	923,904	1,011,408	1,170,461	1,279,488	1,179,061
<i>Broilers</i>	806,338	782,595	866,600	1,014,479	1,098,698	960,169
Miscellaneous animals and products	280,648	320,647	372,866	1,011,197	955,312	924,418

Crops

KENTUCKY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total crops	1,901,351	2,159,563	2,432,544	2,818,183	2,840,720	2,489,828
Food grains	83,191	154,052	207,738	252,386	239,237	163,441
<i>Wheat</i>	83,191	154,052	207,738	252,386	239,237	163,441
Feed crops	722,607	949,942	982,829	944,058	1,071,713	997,810
<i>Corn</i>	600,035	820,465	838,463	751,986	889,888	782,176
Tobacco	340,221	323,176	376,858	406,024	429,884	371,981
Oil crops	601,135	576,433	706,579	1,047,940	932,109	788,808
All other crops	154,197	155,959	158,540	167,775	167,777	167,788

All Commodities

KENTUCKY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
All commodities	\$4,040,162	\$4,388,658	\$4,797,668	\$6,175,567	\$6,495,031	\$5,829,204

Source: USDA Economic Research Service



SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS



*New Kentucky Arts Council Executive Director
Lydia Bailey Brown.*

in the operation of the state that we aren't simply sustained, but that we grow in importance and impact. Specifically, we need to find ways to increase arts education programming, accessibility to diverse audiences and efficient and relevant professional development opportunities for working artists. We also need to increase cultural tourism and better the quality of life for Kentuckians.

To do this, I recognize we need to be creative business developers in our agency, and we'll have to find new revenue streams alongside our state and federal support. Also, we need to move forward collaboratively with other state agencies to better utilize our resources and talents.

I'm thrilled to be working with such a committed, seasoned staff of arts professionals at the arts council. As we explore what new strategies will be required of us, we are working to determine the best way to utilize the team's gifts.

A New Director for the Ky. Arts Scene

New arts council director hopes to intertwine business and the arts

LYDIA Bailey Brown was appointed executive director of the Kentucky Arts Council on Dec. 5. She comes to the agency with more than three decades of experience as an arts administrator and business leader, including positions as executive director of The Cultural Alliance in Norfolk, Va.; director of sales and marketing for Chicago Scenic Studios; director of education for the Yorktown Arts Foundation & Galleries in Yorktown, Va.; assistant officer at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Va.; and director of marketing and public relations for the Williamsburg Symphonia in Williamsburg, Va. Bailey Brown also held the development director role of New York-based global business and economic think-tank, The Conference Board.

Bailey Brown discussed her background in the arts and her plans for the state arts agency with Tom Musgrave, arts council communications director.

Tom Musgrave: What motivated you to be an arts administrator?

Lydia Bailey Brown: From a very early age, I planned for my career in the arts. Walking home from ballet class at age 4, I found myself wondering "how am I going to work in dance, visual art, music, the-

ater." I knew those were the things that were home inside me, but I didn't know they had the commonality of being "the arts." I looked at my skills and interests in high school and then college, and recognized I was both left- and right-brained. I had talents in business and a passion for both making and managing art, so it made sense to me when I learned there was such a thing as a career in arts administration.

TM: How does that connection as an artist help you as an administrator?

LBB: I think that I first experience a show or view a piece with the mindset of a peer rather than a manager in the arts. I still identify as an artist too. I feel a kinship to artists and personally understand their concerns and passions for what's happening in our communities, state and country, as well as in their careers. Some of their challenges have been some of my challenges.

TM: What goals do you have for the Kentucky Arts Council?

LBB: I am an idealist. I do not apologize for having huge goals. I am driven by a sincere passion for the arts in Kentucky, and in that light my overarching goal is that we as an agency become so integral

TM: What role can business leaders have in the arts?

LBB: The arts community is more than just artists. It's made up of advocates, patrons, audience members and Kentuckians whose lives are enriched daily by the arts. Employers benefit from attracting creative thinkers and can increase the creative culture of their communities by encouraging employees to participate in the arts. It is imperative to have engaged corporations, municipal leaders and organizations as strong partners in the placement of public art, encouraging arts education in school budgets and helping define the creative cultures of their regions. Business leaders must serve on arts organization boards, commission Kentucky artwork for their workplaces, sponsor arts festivals, performances or events to invigorate the cultural climate of their neighborhoods. Conversely, artists are valuable to business leaders and should be included in service on corporate boards, lending their creative insight to the business environment. Creativity training within the workplace has proven to help companies innovate. In healthy business environments, there's a synergistic relationship between the arts and business communities. When both are collaborating, all succeed with greater outcome and enjoy the journey more. ■

*Tom Musgrave is communications director
of the Kentucky Arts Council.*



If you're planning a trip to Western Kentucky for the eclipse, Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park in Dawson Springs offers numerous activities.

The Great American Eclipse 101 **eclipseville.com**

Hopkinsville's eclipse-specific website, with local scheduled events, attractions, accommodations, public viewing areas, scientific info, and eclipse merchandise, such as \$5 solar viewing glasses, plus tips on photographing the eclipse and on throwing an eclipse party.

visithopkinsville.com

Everything else you want to know about Hoptown. (800) 842-9959

kentuckytourism.com/eclipse

Kentucky Travel and Tourism's terrific website includes links to communities in the path, related events, overnights, eating spots and maps of the eclipse path.

Here Comes the Sun

Hopkinsville will offer the world's longest viewing of upcoming eclipse

BY KATHERINE TANDY BROWN

IN August, a number of my childhood friends and I will travel from wherever life has led us through the years back to our hometown of Hopkinsville to witness "the most exciting 2 minutes, 41 seconds in astronomy." We've been planning this rendezvous since the news broke that our little town – current population, around 33,000 – would provide the longest opportunity of anywhere in the world to view the 2017 total solar eclipse.

To give you an idea of the magnitude of this event, a total eclipse of the sun has not graced this nation with such widespread visibility from sea to shining sea since 1918, when my mother – who grew up on Hoptown's Main Street and left this earth before the last millennium – was 5 years old. On average, a total eclipse appears somewhere on our planet around every year-and-a-half but never cuts such a wide swath across the U.S.

"Because of its path from the Pacific to Atlantic oceans, they're calling it the Great American Eclipse," says Cheryl Cook, executive director of the Hopkinsville/

Christian County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It's one of those phenomena that we'll probably never have another chance to see in our lifetime."

During the brief period that the sun disappears there at 1:24:41 p.m. on Aug. 21, day will become night and the sun's majestic corona (its ethereal outer atmosphere) will become visible when the moon comes between the earth and the sun, casting its moon shadow, or umbra, on the earth. In the commonwealth, folks from the far west in Paducah (2 minutes, 19 seconds), southeast through Princeton, Madisonville, Bowling Green (1 minute, 2 seconds), Russellville, Franklin, Fort Campbell and Western Kentucky's lakes area and lands in between will get a great view, but none for as long as Hopkinsville. Brief is the operative word here, as the sun will enter Kentucky at 1:21 p.m. CDT and exit at 1:30 p.m. CDT. So be sure to make your sighting plans ahead of time.

To help with that process, Hoptown has plenty to keep visitors busy during their stay. The following is but a partial array of things to do.



Nearby Kelly, a tiny western Kentucky village, became famous in 1955 when reports emerged of an extraterrestrial sighting. The town continues to celebrate the eerie story with the annual Kelly Little Green Men Days Festival, a four-day event that is now in its sixth year. If you go, expect to ogle a 38-foot replica of a flying saucer, listen to live music and decide for yourself what really happened on Aug. 21, 62 years ago – the same day as the eclipse. Coincidence? What do you think?

Cook quips, "We like to say they were looking for their eclipse-viewing seats early."

Hopkinsville's annual Little River Festival has been rebranded this year into Summer Salute, three days of downtown fun to coincide with the eclipse, complete with headliner musicians. "We'll have what will probably be the world's largest food court," Cook says with a laugh. "It's going to take a lot of food to feed 50,000-to-100,000 extra people."

To coincide with the celestial event, on Aug. 19-20 the city will host a Comic Con, a comic-book-themed event with nods to sci-fi and pop culture icons, aptly named EclipseCon 2017. Not-yet-named guest stars will include comic book authors and super heroes, such as Batman.

"Nerds," says Cook, "are in."

As is bourbon. And local craft distilleries have planned crowd-drawing events.

In nearby Pembroke, MB Roland will host a Kentucky Bourbon Masharee, a toast to Kentucky's officially-sanctioned American Spirit and its distillers. With at least 14 other distilleries participating, the Aug. 18-19 festivities include live music, food, libations and a ticketed VIP dinner and meet-and-greet with the distillers. Casey Jones Distillery, a Hop-

kinsville craft distillery named for a legendary Kentucky still-builder, will offer a special-edition 100-proof Total Eclipse Moonshine, which the business has named the "Official Spirit of the 2017 Eclipse." Check online for related events.

Other Hoptown happenings include a festival at Jefferson Davis State Historic Site in Fairview, a western-themed eclipse-watching party at Copper Canyon Ranch, live gospel music at Christian Way Farm, and a Bluegrass music "bash" with Kentucky Proud vendors and food trucks at Burdoc Farms.

One public viewing site, 34-acre Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, is on a portion of the campgrounds Cherokee Indians used on their infamous trek west, and you can learn their poignant history at its heritage center.

While in town, be sure to visit the Don F. Pratt Memorial Museum at Fort Campbell, which tells the story of the 101st Airborne Division's "Screaming Eagles"; the gravesite of America's greatest 20th-century psychic, native son Edgar



Edgar Cayce,
"The Sleeping
Prophet"

The Trail of Tears Commemorative Park in Hopkinsville is one of the few documented sites of actual trail camps used during the forced removal of Cherokees to "Indian Territory" in the 1800s.

Cayce, a.k.a. "The Sleeping Prophet"; and Hopkinsville's downtown history museums.

Although a few members of the scientific community and "eclipse chasers" began booking rooms here at the epicenter a few years ago, overnight accommodations in the area are still available, including hotel and motel rooms, corporate getaways, rooms in private houses, and camping and RV parking. Cook advises reserving hotel rooms directly with local properties and not on corporate websites, where you're likely to get a "sorry, we're full." Find info on Hopkinsville's eclipse-specific website.

Many West Kentucky businesses are customizing solar viewing glasses for their customers, so be sure to snap up a pair to protect your eyes. Happy eclipsing! ■

Katherine Tandy Brown is a correspondent for The Lane Report. She can be reached at editorial@lanereport.com.



Stay on top

The Lane Report, Kentucky's monthly business news magazine, serves people across the commonwealth who are passionate about leading our economic resurgence. People with a single-minded focus on winning strategy and flawless execution. *The Lane Report* can help you "stay on top" in a dynamic new economy.

Visit lanereport.com/subscribe to sign up.

The Lane Report®

Where the news is made by the readers. lanereport.com



WaterStep's Portable Bleach Maker Wins 2016 New Product of Year

ACCORDING to a study by the World Health Organization and UNICEF, one in 10 people on the planet do not have access to safe water. To put it in perspective, that equates to 748 million people – more than twice the population of the United States.

WaterStep, a Louisville-based company, has made it their mission to address the problem by training people in developing countries to use safe water solutions like water purification, health education and well repair to keep their communities healthy.

WaterStep's efforts were recently recognized when Environmental Protection, an online resource for environmental professionals, announced that WaterStep was the winner of its New Product of the Year contest in the Health and Safety/Cleanup category for its portable bleach maker.

The critical need for a simple and portable bleach maker became increasingly apparent when WaterStep received

a request from organization Project Hope during the Ebola outbreak in 2014. The concept was further developed at Hack2o 2014, a hack-a-thon hosted by WaterStep and FirstBuild to create solutions to the world water crisis. WaterStep volunteers Frank Diebold, David Mekus and Joe Jacobi



led a group of others from UofL, Louisville Water Co. and General Electric's First Build Innovation Center, who worked together to develop a powerful disinfectant tool.

It ended up taking two years to develop the portable bleach maker, a handheld device that can generate powerful disinfectant on demand. Using water, salt and a 12-volt car battery, the

bleach maker uses a process called electrolysis to create sodium hypochlorite, more commonly known as chlorine bleach. Bleach is used to sanitize hospitals and medical clinics and to disinfect cooking areas, cooking equipment and clothing. The device was field-tested in numerous countries, including Kenya, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Uganda and in Ecuador following a devastating earthquake last April. Most recently, the bleach makers were used in Haitian medical clinics and hospitals to treat displaced refugees following Hurricane Matthew. Since its founding in 1995, WaterStep has worked in more than 33 countries to bring safe water to areas in desperate need.

"The team at WaterStep couldn't be more thankful to end 2016 by being recognized by Environmental Protection," said Mark Hogg, founder and CEO of WaterStep. "We do not take this honor lightly, and it inspires our hope to see the day no child suffers from waterborne illness."

Kentucky State Police: Tips for Winter Driving Safety



KENTUCKY has already seen its first taste of winter weather for 2017 and the Kentucky State Police say that the best way drivers can deal with winter weather is by being prepared.

KSP spokesman Josh Brashears said the agency does its best to get information out to travelers about road conditions when precipitous weather is affecting the Bluegrass State and relies heavily on social media platforms to spread the word.

"We have had great success using Twitter, Facebook and the KSP Mobile App to share winter weather updates," notes Brashears. "We encourage drivers to download the app so they will have real time traffic updates when planning winter travel."

Travelers can also check road and weather conditions by visiting goky.ky.gov, an online traffic, roadway information and weather portal operated by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The user-friendly site offers real-time information and is updated every two minutes. Travelers should refrain from calling KSP posts or 911 for road or weather conditions, due to high call volume.

In addition to common-sense measures such as reducing speed and increasing distance between vehicles, other tips include using an anti-ice solution in your windshield washer fluid; avoiding the use of cruise control, which can cause a vehicle's wheels to continue turning on a slippery surface when speed needs to be decreased; ensuring your vehicle has a full tank of gas in the event you are stranded for an extended time; and keeping your cell phone charged. Always dress warmly and keep a blanket in the car as well.

Consider putting together a winter survival kit that includes items such as a first-aid kit, a can and waterproof matches (to melt snow for water), windshield scraper, booster cables, road maps, tool kit, bag of sand or cat litter (to pour on ice or snow for added traction), collapsible shovel, flashlight and extra batteries.

The state police encourage travelers to look out for each other and contact them by calling (800) 222-5555 if you observe a stranded motorist.

IRS Mileage Rates Drop for Business, Medical and Moving

THE standard mileage rates used to calculate deductible costs of operating a vehicle for business will be lower in 2017, according to a statement issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

Effective Jan. 1, 2017, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck dropped to 53.5 cents per business mile driven, down from the 2016 rate of 54 cents.

The rates have also been lowered to 17 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down from 19 cents in 2016.

The 14 cents per mile driven allowed for travel for charitable organizations remains unchanged for 2017.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

The IRS reminds, however, that taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

State Launches Tool to Help Citizens Locate Lost Life Insurance Policies

THE Kentucky Department of Insurance has announced a national service that provides consumers with the capability to search online for lost life insurance policies and annuities.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioner's (NAIC) life insurance policy locator tool provides a search capability for individuals looking to find lost policies. The tool is now available to Kentuckians on the DOI website, insurance.ky.gov.

"As a part of our continued efforts to respond to the needs of consumers, we were in the early stages of developing an online search feature for Kentuckians," said Brian Maynard, commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Insurance. "We were fortunate that the NAIC also saw the need and stepped forward with plans for a nationwide policy locator system. Having them take the lead represents a real savings to the commonwealth in staff time and expenses, both for the initial design and to maintain the system going forward."

An estimated \$1 billion in benefits from life insurance policies are unclaimed nationwide, according to *Consumer Reports*. The new locator will give Kentuckians the tools they need to search for and claim benefits from a lost policy or annuity.

"Many family members don't know where to turn when they are searching for a relative's lost life insurance policy or annuity," said Matt Lockett, director of the Health and Life Division at the Kentucky Department of Insurance. "We receive calls from people all across Kentucky who are searching for a lost or misplaced life insurance policy and this new service, located on the department's website, simplifies the search for the consumer and the insurance company."

Search requests received through the online tool are encrypted and secured to maintain confidentiality. The requests are then forwarded to hundreds of participating insurers nationwide to compare the information with available policyholder data. All matches are then reported to DOI through the locator tool, and insurance companies will contact beneficiaries or their authorized representative if a match is found.

According to the NAIC, insurance companies paid more than \$74 billion in insurance policy benefits to consumers nationwide in 2015. Beginning in 2010, state insurance regulators across the country have investigated unclaimed life insurance benefits. To date, nearly 23 regulatory actions have resulted in returning more than \$6.75 billion life insurance proceeds to U.S. consumers.

Kentucky Artisan Center Accepting Submissions for New Exhibit

THE Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is accepting submissions for its new exhibit, "225: Artists Celebrate Kentucky's History." The exhibit will be held from March 25 to Sept. 23 in the center's main gallery and will feature two and three-dimensional works that record, capture, embrace and celebrate a facet or subject from Kentucky's 225-year history. The entry deadline is March 1.

Kentucky history should be an integral part of each creation as conveyed by choice of subject or it may connect style-wise to a historic Kentucky creative tradition such as the Shakers. Works submitted can be functional or non-functional with no dimension exceeding 4 feet.

As part of the exhibit, artists will be asked to write about the particular Kentucky history that inspired their work and give some background and insight into their creative processes.

Information about the exhibit and an entry form are available by contacting the center. Entry forms also are available by mail: Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, Attn: "225", 200 Artisan Way, Berea, KY 40403 or by calling (859) 985-5448.



THE 143RD RUNNING OF THE KENTUCKY DERBY
CHURCHILL DOWNS • COVINGTON, KENTUCKY • MAY 6, 2017

Cantrell Becomes 1st Kentuckian to Create Official Derby Art

CHURCHILL Downs has released the 2017 "Official Art of the Kentucky Derby," a watercolor painting by award-winning Kentucky artist Jim Cantrell.

Cantrell is the first Kentucky artist to create the Derby's officially licensed artwork since the tradition began in 1997.

"The one sporting event I remember my father enjoying took place every year on the first Saturday of May, the Kentucky Derby horse race," said Cantrell. "Living in Nebraska he could only listen to it on the radio. His love for horses meant owning one and thus riding a horse was a part of my life growing up. Now, after living and working in Kentucky for the past 46 years, I feel a real sense of honor in being selected for this prestigious commission, and I know my father would be proud as well."

Known for his ability to paint the figure, Cantrell was Berea College's first potter-in-residence in 1970. Since then the former high school art teacher and associate professor of art in Nebraska has enjoyed a successful career as an independent studio artist. His paintings are in the permanent collections of 14 art museums in the U.S., including Kentucky's Speed Museum and the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art. His work is in numerous private collections around the world and has been exhibited in the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia, as part of the Art in Embassies program. Cantrell is the recipient of two Al Smith Fellowships from the Kentucky Arts Council and one from the Southern Arts Federation. He has been awarded Alumni of the Year for Creative Achievement from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he received his BFA in Fine Art Education, and from the University of Northern Colorado, where he received his Masters of Art degree.

The Official Art of the Kentucky Derby is featured on posters for the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks as well as on tickets, souvenir racing programs, ornaments, t-shirts, bags, post cards and invitations in select retail outlets and at KentuckyDerbyStore.com.

KENTUCKY PEOPLE

LEXINGTON: CENTRAL KENTUCKY BUSINESSES HONORED FOR ROLE IN WORKING TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY



Bullhorn Creative, Good Foods Co-op, Habitat for Humanity, Lexmark, RossTarrant Architects and Trane were recently recognized for their role in piloting Lexington's new Green Check program. The Green Check business certification, which is a city program managed by Bluegrass GreenSource, promotes businesses' efforts to increase sustainable practices within their facilities and operations. Example initiatives from the pilot businesses include parking lot renovations with permeable pavers, installation of rain gardens, upgrades to energy-efficient lighting, office compost programs and promotion of alternative transportation. Pictured here are (front row, left to right) John Gagel, Lexmark; Rachel Childress, Habitat for Humanity; Suzette Exum, Trane; Amy Sohner, Bluegrass GreenSource; and Rob Gates, Bluegrass GreenSource. Back row, left to right: Bridget Abernathy, Bluegrass GreenSource; Sheryl Gray, Good Foods Co-Op; Dowell Hoskins-Squier, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government commissioner of Environmental Quality and Public Works; Lexington Vice Mayor Steve Kay; Brad Flowers, Bullhorn Creative; and Brian Buckner, Ross Tarrant Architects.

MURRAY: MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY NAMES NEW SCIENCE RESOURCE FACILITY FOR FORMER DEAN



Murray State University has named its new science resource center after respected scholar and administrator Gary Boggess. Boggess joined the MSU faculty in 1966 as a member of the chemistry department and worked his way up through the ranks to become dean of the College of Science. During his 20 years at the helm, Boggess actively sought supplemental funding for the college and raised over \$3.1 million in grant money. Pictured here is Boggess (right) with his lifelong friend and fellow alumnus Jesse D. Jones, who made a generous donation in Boggess' honor to the MSU Foundation.

LEXINGTON: 3 KY NONPROFIT LEADERS RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS FOR LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION



The Kentucky Nonprofit Network, the state association for nonprofit organizations, honored the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning and two of the state's nonprofit leaders – all from Lexington – at the 13th annual Kentucky Nonprofit Leadership Forum in November. Pictured here, from left to right, are Kentucky Nonprofit Network Board Chair Marian Guinn; recipients Neil Chethik, executive director of the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning; Kathy Plomin, active community member and former nonprofit executive; and Richard Seckel, executive director of the Kentucky Equal Justice Center; with Kentucky Nonprofit Network Executive Director and CEO Danielle Clore.

EDGEWOOD: NORTHERN KY HOMEBUILDERS GROUP PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS

The Home Builders Association of Northern Kentucky presented its annual awards on Dec. 1 at Summit Hills Country Club in Edgewood. Pictured here (top photo) is 2017 Association President Bill Cullen (right) presenting Brian Jones, of C.K. Ash Insurance, with the Donald M. Wiedeman Lifetime Achievement Award. In the middle picture, 2016 Association President Tom Spille (left) presents Tim Burks with the 2016 Builder of the Year Award. In the bottom photo, 2016 Associate Home Builders President Jim Frey presents the 2016 Associate of the Year Award to Nick Smith, of Keller Williams Realty.





KET LEGISLATIVE COVERAGE

LIVE CHAMBER SESSIONS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

KET KY, the Kentucky Channel (statewide broadcast)

Frankfort Plant Board Cable System

Capitol In-House TV System

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nightly report with host Renee Shaw (@ReneeKET)

KET Weeknights • 11/10 pm

KENTUCKY TONIGHT

Legislators and guests discuss policy

KET Mondays • 8/7 pm

COMMENT ON KENTUCKY

Host Bill Bryant and journalists explore the week's top stories

KET Fridays • 8/7 pm

LIVE AND ARCHIVED

KET.org/legislature

KET Legislative Coverage App





Which of these products is Kentucky-made?

Spoiler Alert: they all are.

The menu of food and beverage items grown or made in Kentucky is impressive. Regardless of the meal being eaten, there's a good chance some of it came from Kentucky.

Our thriving food and beverage industry is just one reason why Kentucky has become the center of manufacturing in the U.S. and the headquarters for some of the world's most popular brands.

We also are the logistics center of the eastern U.S., perfect for getting fresh products to market for just-in-time delivery.

Add to that our extremely low cost of living and a quality of life that make Kentucky a great place to work AND live, and it's easy to see why our manufacturing growth has greatly surpassed the national average for years.

Kentucky makes quality products. What can we make for you?

(800) 626-2930 • ThinkKentucky.com



Making Business Strong. Making Life Exceptional.

THINK KENTUCKY
Cabinet for Economic Development