



Team Taylor County

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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December 2011

Campbellsville Amazon.com Workamper's Featured on NBC Nightly News

NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams recently featured the Workampers at the Campbellsville Amazon.com facility.

Camping season is long over in Campbellsville, Ky., but motorhomes and camper vans still fill its parking lots and motel rooms are booked for months.

When Amazon.com announced it was hiring for thousands of temporary positions at its Kentucky fulfillment centers for the holiday season, people from across the country converged upon the town of 10,000 in a rush to fill them.

"It's like quick money for Christmas," Rita DeMichiel of Florida, one of the temporary workers, said. "We get in, we get out."

DeMichiel is part of a growing number of mobile job hunters who travel to Campbellsville during the holiday season with their entire families to work for \$10 an hour, packing and shipping Amazon orders during 8-12 hour shifts.

"The pay is really good, it's above

minimum wage," DeMichiel said. "They pay overtime, so financially for us it was a way to make quick money and then be on our way to the next destination."

The camper vans filled with families, retirees or hard-up job seekers are becoming a holiday season staple in Campbellsville.

Ron McMahan, executive director of the Campbellsville-Taylor County Economic Development Authority, says these seasonal workers are adding dollars to local businesses.

"It's like a three- to four-month convention," McMahan said.

"These people are here eating in restaurants, they need medical services, they are shopping in retail stores, they need camper repair."

For most of the workers, hopping around the country for a paycheck is a lifestyle. When their work is done in Kentucky, they'll drive their vans to the next job. Texas, Wyoming, Michigan are a few of the popular destinations for itinerant workers. Most of them hear about available jobs online or

by word of mouth from other workers.

Debra and Mark Pinson traded in a three-bedroom house and a mortgage for life on the road. Their first time living in a work camp was this spring in Michigan. They now travel from job to job across the country in their RV, staying in work campgrounds rent-free.

"Well, the mortgage was \$1,800 and we pay zero here," Debra Pinson said. "There are jobs out there. You just have to go out and look for them."

The news video is available on the link:

<http://dailynightly.msnbc.msn.com/news/2011/12/09/9332987-mobile-workers-travel-the-country-for-a-paycheck>

NBC Nightly News

Local Company Makes Official State Ornament

Campbellsville-based K&M Crafts of Kentucky was selected to produce this year's limited edition official state Christmas ornament. The project was an offshoot of K&M's work on the custom ornaments Gov. Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear gave to various dignitaries from around the world during the Alltech World Equestrian Games in Lexington last year.

Jordan Stapp, who operates K&M with his father, Morgan Stapp, said state officials asked for a governor's mansion ornament. The ornament is crafted from Kentucky maple and cherry wood. "They said they really wanted to see the mansion," he said. "Those are the two signature buildings of Kentucky, the capitol and the mansion." K&M had previously crafted a capitol ornament.

The ornament can be hung from its ribbon or the hook can be removed to display as a paperweight or desk object. Each piece measures four and three-quarter inches by two and quarter inches and stands three inches high. The ornaments are available in limited quantities, each individually signed and numbered by the artist. The three-dimensional ornament also features the signatures of Gov. and First Lady Beshear and the Commonwealth seal. An included brochure gives a brief history of the historic mansion.

Stapp said K&M would like to produce a series of ornaments featuring Kentucky's historic buildings.

Stapp said the profits the state makes off the sale of the ornaments go toward upkeep of the mansion and other historic properties. "As a company, we feel good that our state is looking to do business with Kentucky companies when they can," Stapp said. "It is always a challenge working on these projects, but it is rewarding because a lot of people will see your work."

The Stapp's started work on the ornament in August. Morgan Stapp hand carves the ornament. The oversized piece is then scanned into a computer, shrunk and carved by laser.

K&M began in the mid-1980s when Morgan Stapp was building a house for a friend. Morgan's wife, Kathleen, had gone to a craft show and came back with some ideas. "She said, 'We can do some of those things,'" Kathleen suggested making some ornaments out of cedar. "I made some and they were just gone," Morgan Stapp said. "I couldn't make them fast enough."

The company's products have been sold through Land's End, QVC, Museum of Fine Arts-Boston, Buffalo Trace Distillers, Ansel Adams Galleries and numerous "mom and pop" stores. They have created customized ornaments for various organizations and events such as all branches of the mili-

tary and Kentucky's Centennial celebration.

Jordan Stapp literally grew up with the business, sweeping sawdust with a broom taller than he was. Now he negotiates sales of K&M's items. Still a two-man operation, though friends and family do pitch in, the Stapp's have been burning the midnight oil to keep up with demand this Christmas season. "We are going about 15 to 18 hours a day," Jordan Stapp said. The carving machine was down for about a week, Stapp said, which put them behind schedule. Business was slow through the summer tourism season, Stapp said, but the Christmas orders are rolling in. Trade shows in January and February, he said, will help him and his father decide if an expansion is necessary.

The governor's mansion ornaments cost \$25 each and may be viewed and purchased online in the Division of Historic Properties' online store at historicproperties.ky.gov. For more information, or to order by phone, call (502) 564-5500 or (502) 564-3449.

James Roberts, CKNJ



Kentucky Jumps 6 Spots to No. 25 on Forbes' 2011 Best States for Business List

In just one year, Kentucky has climbed six places to No. 25 on Forbes' annual Best States for Business list, released last week. Kentucky's ranking ties only one other state for the largest increase over a 4-year period, jumping 19 spots since 2008.

"I have dedicated my administration to creating a pro-business climate in which economic development opportunities can flourish," Gov. Beshear said. "I am pleased to see the Forbes' Best States for

Business list reflect our efforts. Not only are we working hard to bring exciting new industries to the state, but we are also partnering with our existing business community like never before to create jobs for all Kentuckians. I am proud of these accomplishments and look forward to even more in the future."

The annual ranking takes into account a variety of factors, including business costs, growth prospects, labor supply, regulatory

environment, current economic climate and quality of life measures. Kentucky placed highest in the business cost category, ranking 12th among all 50 states.

For more information on the Forbes Best States for Business ranking, visit www.forbes.com/special-report/2011/best-states-11-land.html.

Office of the Governor news release

YMCA Plans Move Forward

About 70 percent of Taylor and surrounding county residents would use the Campbellsville YMCA. The results of a market study were unveiled at Taylor Regional Hospital on Friday, which said that demand is high for a local YMCA, particularly one with an aquatic center.

In May, various city and county officials and business leaders met with YMCA of Greater Louisville President Steve Tarver and Lockett & Farley Architects Senior Project Manager Aric Andrew to discuss establishing a local YMCA. TRH CEO Jane Wheatley said the hospital would provide five acres of land across the street from TRH. In return, TRH would have a spot at the YMCA for a therapy facility. Lori Swann of Daxko T2 Consulting said that 809 people were interviewed by telephone for the study.

About 93 percent of those interviewed were Taylor County residents, she said. Some surrounding counties were also included. Daxko officials asked residents if they would use a YMCA, and, if so, what services would they want most.

Of those surveyed, 49.2 percent say they would use a pool/aquatic center often, 39 percent would use family exercise facilities often, 36.6 percent would use senior programming and 34.7 percent said they would use health education programs. More specifically, of those who would use the YMCA for exercise, 61.8 percent want indoor pool facilities, 57 percent want cardiovascular equipment and 52.5 percent want women's-only exercise options. Based on those surveyed, families and senior citizens would comprise the majority of the mem-

bership at 40 percent and 44 percent, respectively.

Swann said Taylor County has strong demographics for a YMCA, however, there are negatives. There are fewer than 10,000 households, the population isn't growing and incomes are low. The key to success, she said, is to find the right balance between operating costs and membership fees. Exact membership fees were not discussed. Tarver said fees would be based on a number of factors, including whether the YMCA can partner with local governments and schools for programs. He said seeking out those partnerships would be the next step. Tarver said work on that would begin in January.

James Roberts, CKNJ

CU honors 95 Graduates at Technology Training Center Allied Health Ceremony

Ninety-five graduates from five allied health programs offered through Campbellsville University Technology Training Center were honored in a ceremony, Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at Ransdell Chapel on the campus of Campbellsville University. The graduates are from the following programs of study: advanced nursing assistant-patient care technician; medical transcription; clinical medical assistant; pharmacy technician; and phlebotomy technician.

CUTTC Allied Health Facilitator Christie Glasscock awarded graduates with pins from the advanced nurse aid/patient care technicians programs. Upon completing their 75-hour course, Glasscock said these graduates will be on the front lines of the health care field, and they "truly have a passion for their work and want to increase their knowledge to improve the care they offer to their patients."

CUTTC Allied Health Instructor Buffy Ryan awarded graduates with pins from the medical transcription program. She said students had to learn many different skills, a few of which are medical terminology, how to format medical documents and how to transcribe a physician's dictated notes. After completing at least 100 hours of learning, they will be working behind the scenes in the health field.

Ryan awarded graduates from the clinical medical assistant program with pins. These graduates completed over 320 hours of training and clinical practice. Ryan said, "They are well rounded and can perform many tasks such as drawing blood, preparing medication, taking dictation and caring for patients."

Glasscock awarded pins to graduates from the pharmacy technician program. These graduates completed a 150-hour course in which they learned many things such as medical abbreviations, pharmacy operations, dosage calculations and over 200 top drugs. Upon graduating, they are able to assist a pharmacist in filling prescriptions.

CUTTC Phlebotomy Instructor Debbie Glasscock awarded graduates of the phlebotomy technician program with pins. "This program is the largest of the five allied health programs," she said. These students have completed at least 125 hours of training that included at least 100 hours of clinical experience and performing over 100 venipunctures during their training.

Columbia Magazine



Campbellsville University Tech Training Center provides training for area business and industry and enhanced technology facilities for the academic community. The Tech Center is furnished with state-of-the-art computers, CAT lab and training facilities. It also houses the Office of Information Technology.

Photo from Campbellsville University

Greater Campbellsville United Marks 10 year Anniversary



Some of the supporters of Greater Campbellsville United gathered in this group photo at their recent celebration marking a decade of service.

From left, standing, are: Mayor Tony Young, Rhonda Parker, Carolyn Compton, Dr. Tetyana Oliynyk, Rev. James Washington, Rev. William Herndon, Rev. Melvin Mills, Rev. Michael Caldwell, Ron McMahan, Rev. James Buford, Michael Hardin. Seated in front are: Juan Pena, Wanda Washington, Yvette Haskins and Pamela Buford. (Campbellsville University photo by Linda Waggener)

"Looking back over the past decade, we are amazed at the positive impact that Greater Campbellsville United has had in promoting positive relations and progress in our community and region," said John Chowning, one of the original founders and GCU board co-chair with Yvette Haskins.

He said that the GCU model has been commended by state and federal officials, and by other similar groups, as a good example of the work that can be done at the grassroots level in enhancing equity and empowerment across racial and ethnic lines that have historically divided our people.

Greater Campbellsville United recently celebrated its first decade with a special reception at the Taylor County Extension Offices. As supporters stopped by and fellowshiped together, they were able to review the many accomplishments by the group. Empow-

erment endeavors and support, at a glance, demonstrate some of the group's results: training scholarships in the amount of \$17,350; seminars \$4,000; senior citizens affair \$750; black history celebration \$1,620; minority business empowerment \$5,350; community outreach \$1,900; entrepreneurship \$2,000; donations to community programs \$7,500; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. events \$2,650; Hispanic outreach \$1,180; diversity/heritage festivals \$16,500; driving tours \$750; scholarships \$12,700.

Chowning, who is vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president at Campbellsville University, said, "GCU is dedicated to advancing our community and region as a whole and appreciates the support given by city and county leaders, Campbellsville University, local school systems, state agencies, Community Ventures Corporation, and a host of

other businesses, churches and individuals."

GCU was one of the positive results from the efforts of renewal and revitalization that took place in Taylor County after the employer Fruit of the Loom closed its doors and forced several thousand people out of jobs. It is a non-profit organization that accepts, acknowledges, respects and encourages diversity across all cultures. GCU promotes equal opportunity, equity, and positive relationships among all racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, religious, gender, and political entities in this community and throughout the region.

"We look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead as we work together to build a stronger community and region, Chowning said.

Linda Waggener, GCU board member

Taylor County Farm Receipts Hit Record High

Taylor County's economy could get a serious boost if estimates for 2012 farm receipts ring true.

Farm economists predict that, for the first time, Kentucky farm cash receipts will exceed \$5 billion. Last year's receipts totaled \$4.4 billion. Actual numbers aren't available, but the predictions bode well for Taylor County, says Pat Hardesty, Taylor County extension agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources. "This has been a record year as far as receipts," Hardesty said.

Though he cautions that this is an educated guess, Hardesty predicts Taylor County's farm receipts will top \$30 million. The average is about \$27 million, he said. And that has a big impact on the local economy. Economists say farm dollars will turn over six to eight times in the local economy, Hardesty said. If Hardesty's guess is on the mark, that could mean \$180 million to \$240 million for the Taylor County economy.

According to a USDA report, national farm receipts will reach a record high of \$104 billion, a 31-percent increase over last year. In Kentucky, returns are up for corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle, horses, hogs and dairy. Hardesty said the grain crops will

have the biggest impact on receipts. About 40 percent of the grain usage was for ethanol this year, Hardesty said, and export numbers are up.

"Also, we haven't had a great number of carryover stocks from one year to the next," Hardesty said.

That equates to more sales at better prices this year.

"It's just sheer supply and demand," Hardesty said.

Grain production is becoming the most common type of venture for local farmers.

"Grain production has really increased," Hardesty told the Central Kentucky News-Journal earlier this year. "We've had several getting out of beef cattle because grain prices are so high."

Farming is a business, and when faced with the reality that there is more revenue in leasing out their land at \$230 an acre for row crops such as corn and soybean, Hardesty said the choice is an easy one. If one were to drive through Taylor County today, Hardesty said, they'd see fewer head of cattle than a few years ago and more rows of corn and soybeans.

"We also have a lot of first-time corn and soy producers in the county right now," Hardesty said.

According to the annual Kentucky Agriculture Statistics Report for 2010, there were 11,000 acres of corn in Taylor County, up from 9,500 in 2008. Also in 2010, there were 8,300 acres of soybeans, up from 6,500 in 2008.

In 2010, there were 24,500 head of cattle in the county. In 2008, there were 31,900.

Dairy prices are up this year too, Hardesty said, clocking in at more than \$20 per 100 gallons. Just two years ago, the going rate was \$12 per 100 gallons.

"A lot of dairy farms were living on equity," Hardesty said.

With production costs also on the rise, Hardesty said a lot of farmers are playing catch up. While this season's strong sales may not make all farmers richer, it will help them overcome a few tough years.

"They could be richer, but they are also trying to catch up from previous years," Hardesty said.

Either way, farming has been a blessing during a tough economy.

"Farming is a silver lining for the economy this year," Hardesty said.

"I don't think people realize how much it will help."

James Roberts, CKNJ

Ron McMahan, Executive Director

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