

Passing Lane

Commentary on Life in Kentucky

Swiping More, Costing Less

“**C**OST-effective medicine is also a better quality of medicine,” Gov. Ernie Fletcher said during his announcement about new insurance membership cards for Medicaid recipients.

The new plastic benefit cards have a magnetic strip, which medical providers can swipe through a card reader to verify a patient’s eligibility. The new system eliminates the cost of mailing paper documents to recipients monthly, accelerates data retrieval by medical providers, and reduces direct costs for Medicaid by \$1.3 million.

Hey, Nice Logo!



THE Lane Report’s 20th celebration logo was designed by Barbara Hinkle of Hinkle Studio. We like it – thanks, Barbara!

Boomer Counties

KENTUCKY’S population growth is robust in urban counties according to the most recent population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. The fastest-growing Kentucky counties for the period 2000-2004 were: Boone – 16.5%; Scott – 13.8%; Shelby – 10.9%; Oldham – 10.8%; Trimble – 10.7%; Garrard – 8.6%; Bullitt – 8.1%; Jessamine – 7.9%; and Grant – 7.8%.

Kentucky’s population will increase to 4.15 million in 2005, according to recent demographic forecasts.



Toyota photo

Green Products Get Green Incentives

THE Fletcher administration’s tax modernization plan includes incentives for companies who develop “environmentally friendly” products and services in Kentucky. Although not specifically targeted to the automotive industry, green incentives would be available and attractive to Ford Motor Company and Toyota Motor Manufacturing NA – two companies perceived to be the leaders in hybrid (gasoline- and battery-powered) automobiles and already building cars, trucks and SUVs in Kentucky.

The proposed incentives will hopefully help attract a broad range of technology and innovation companies to Kentucky.



“I know that Thompson is a terrible employee, but if I fire him, I’ll have to admit that I made a mistake.”

Kentucky - Fewer Prisoners Per Capita

ACCORDING to recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Justice, 2.1 million people are prisoners in U.S. jails and prisons. One person is incarcerated for every 138 U.S. residents. During 2004, the number of prisoners increased 48,000, or 2.3 percent.

Kentucky has 17,763 prisoners or one for every 233 residents in the state. Kentucky prisoners increased about 1,380 in 2004, or 8.5 percent.

Seeking \$1M for Academic Achievement

THE Fayette Education Foundation (FEF) has initiated a plan to boost Fayette County Public Schools.

The FEF will recognize best practices, raise funds for innovative research-based educational opportunities, be a champion for adequate resources for Fayette County Public Schools, and highlight successes of students and schools.



The FEF’s board of directors is highly diversified and represents a cross section of Lexington’s professional and business leaders. Two Fayette elementary schools – James Lane Allen and Veteran’s Park – recently received \$5,000 awards because of their excellent results on the state accountability and testing system, widely known as CATS. FEF plans to raise \$1 million by mid-2006.