

SOAR Launches Eastern Kentucky Runway Program to Restore Economic Mobility and Reverse Population Loss in Eastern Kentucky

Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) today announced the launch of the Eastern Kentucky Runway Program, a \$50+ million, region-wide initiative to close the prime-age employment gap, address deep-rooted barriers to work, and make the American Dream accessible to every Eastern Kentuckian. Funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) through its inaugural Recompete Pilot Program, the EKY Runway Program positions Eastern Kentucky as a national model for rural workforce transformation. One of just 22 projects selected nationwide, SOAR’s plan offers a bold, long-term strategy to rebuild economic mobility in some of the most distressed communities in America. This initiative is working to help every Eastern Kentuckian find purpose through meaningful employment and restoring, not just

jobs, but a sense of pride and purpose. Addressing a Generational Workforce Crisis The Eastern Kentucky Runway Program targets 12 counties—Bell, Floyd, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Perry, and Pike—where the Prime-Age Employment Gap (ages 25–54) averages 35%, far above the national threshold of 5% required for Recompete funding. That translates to 33,680 adults missing from the workforce—nearly one in three prime-age residents. Additional regional challenges include: Per capita income of \$21,855 — only 53% of the national average Child care cost burden: Families spend 47% of income on child-care (vs. 19% nationally) 8,491 job postings in-region last year — 77% low-wage or entry-level — compared to 35,000+ potential jobseekers, making accessing good-paying em-

ployment locally a challenge “The EKY Runway Program is designed by and for our community, ensuring that every person has access to the resources, skills, and support they need to thrive,” said Will Warren, Program Officer for the EKY Runway Program. “By closing the prime-age employment gap, we’re not just filling jobs - we’re building stronger families, resilient communities, and a future where every Kentuckian can achieve their full potential.” A Personalized, Region-Driven Solution With a personalized approach, the Eastern Kentucky Runway Program is not just about finding any job; it’s about finding the right career for each Eastern Kentuckian. The program offers one-on-one support through the EKY Workforce Training and Support Network to develop essential skills needed for the 21st-century workforce, relying on the SOAR EKY Talent Net-

work’s firm foundation to connect job seekers with meaningful employment opportunities. Every resident placed in a competitive job brings the region one step closer to economic recovery. Through SOAR, this approach has already changed lives in the region. The EKY Talent Network reports participants securing jobs with average salaries reaching \$52,000 a year. This critical metric stands as a beacon of hope to all Eastern Kentuckians. A Turning Point for Eastern Kentucky SOAR sees the EKY Runway Program as a pivotal investment in the region’s future — one that can stop the trend of outmigration, rebuild economic infrastructure, and prove that rural America is worth investing in. “This isn’t just another project—it’s a lifeline for our people and a turning point for Eastern Kentucky.” SOAR Executive Director Colby Hall stated. “It’s about giving every person the chance to find purpose through meaningful work, without having to leave the communities they love.” SOAR, through the Eastern Kentucky Runway Program, is now better equipped and ready to join regional partners in the pursuit of tackling EKY’s workforce decline. Everyone deserves a chance at the American Dream: fulfilling, meaningful work that allows them to provide for their families. The Eastern Kentucky Runway Program believes Eastern Kentucky will rise again—one job at a time.

Beyond Bourbon: Craft Your Perfect Kentucky Adventure With Beer, Wine, Moonshine

(StatePoint) With more than 100 distilleries throughout the commonwealth and an entire trail dedicated to sharing the stories behind “America’s Native Spirit,” Kentucky is a bourbon lover’s paradise. But where does that leave folks who want something other than bourbon? Fear not. There are many options for libations in every region of Kentucky, which is home to more than 90 craft breweries and an abundance of wineries and vineyards, with multiple ways to taste and experience them all. Several brewery trails also feature passports designed to help you organize and plan your “beercation.”

The Kentucky Brewgrass Trail features breweries in and around the greater Lexington area including regional powerhouses Country Boy Brewing, West Sixth Brewing Company and Ethereal Brewing. Don’t forget to check out establishments outside of Lexington, including Maiden City Brewing in Cynthiana, Sig Luscher Brewery in Frankfort and Abettor Brewing in Winchester. The Louisville Ale Trail highlights nearly 30 breweries in the Derby City. Against the Grain, one of Kentucky’s original craft breweries, operates from Louisville Slugger Field in the heart of downtown, and Atrium Brewing, located in the Germantown neighborhood, has gained a reputation for pushing the boundaries of beer with a rotating selection of experimental sours, IPAs, stouts and lagers. The West Kentucky Brewery Hop is comprised of a group of 13 breweries in western Kentucky, many of which are located in historic and repurposed facilities. Paducah Beer Werks is housed in the former Paducah Greyhound bus terminal, and the Henderson Brewing Company in downtown Henderson, resides in a century-old bar formerly known as the Bright Spot Tavern. In addition to beer, Kentucky has been producing and selling wine since the 18th century. First Vineyard Winery

in Nicholasville, founded in 1799, was the first commercial winery in the United States. What’s better than an excellent glass of wine? An excellent glass of wine with a gorgeous view of the Kentucky countryside. Since 2000, more than 70 wineries and vineyards have sprung up across the Bluegrass State, offering not only a wide variety of wine styles, but unforgettable experiences in the way of tours and tastings. Many Kentucky wine producers, such as Talon Winery in Lexington, Equus Winery in Midway, and Naimoli Estate in Hopkinsville, are



located in some of the most gorgeous parts of the commonwealth. And don’t forget to grab a passport while visiting the Western Kentucky Wine Trail. For those traveling through eastern Kentucky, be sure to explore the Moonshine Trail, which features 10 moonshine distilleries and historical sites that celebrate Kentucky’s “untamed spirit.” Learn about moonshine history at the Backwoods Moonshine

Museum in Beatyville and enjoy the breathtaking Appalachian scenery as you travel from distillery to distillery, immersing yourself in one of eastern Kentucky’s oldest traditions. To plan your trip, visit www.kentuckytourism.com for more information. Regardless of what you like to drink and where you happen to be, Kentucky has something that will perfectly suit you.

Classifieds

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“PSC”) will conduct a hearing on April 17, 2025, beginning at 9 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, and continuing until called from the bench by the presiding officer, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40602 for the purposes of cross-examination of witnesses of Delta Natural Gas Company, Inc. (“Delta”) and intervenors in Case No. 2024-00346 regarding Delta’s application for an adjustment of its rates. This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov. Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
LESLIE CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS
P.O. BOX 1750
HYDEN, KY 41749
PROBATE CASE NO. 25-P-00027

NOTICE OF PROBATE

IN RE: ESTATE OF Debra Rinker
ADDRESS 3353 Lockhead St.
Burbín, MI 48529
EXECUTOR: David Rinker
ADDRESS: 3353 Lockhead St.
Burbín, MI 48529

ALL CREDITORS MUST FILE CLAIM, (6) SIX MONTHS FROM DATE OF APPOINTMENT.
APPOINTMENT DATE: 3-25-25
ATTORNEY OF RECORD:
Melissa Rodden Mays
1939 Goldsin Lane, Ste 152
Louisville, KY 40218

BEECHWOOD APARTMENTS

Beechwood Apartments is currently accepting applications for immediate openings for one bedroom and efficiency units. You must be 55 or older to qualify. Some utilities included and rent is based on income. Visit Kim at 259 Hickory Street, Hyden, KY or call 606-672-3938 on Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

CROSSWORD

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CROSSWORD
THEME: DESERTS
ACROSS
1. Like some champagnes
5. Undergarment
8. Dashboard acronym
11. Poison ivy woe
12. Took to court
13. Milan’s La ____
15. Afresh
16. Globes and such
17. SNL’s fortÈ
18. *Ladyfingers+coffee liqueur
20. Grammy of sports
21. Jeweler’s unit
22. *Like walnuts on ice cream
23. *Thin Mint or Carmel deLite
26. *Apple dip
30. Nelson Mandela’s org.
31. Profoundness, pl.
34. Frost-covered
35. Ticket leftovers
37. Pathet ____
38. Lazybones
39. Samoan money
40. A in AU, Alabama
42. Heidi Samuel ____ Klum
43. Contaminating punch
45. Flammable anesthetics

47. a.k.a. acid
48. Military group
50. Jezebel’s deity
52. *Espresso+gelato
56. Forgo
57. Palo ____, CA
58. Sacred image
59. Southern cuisine pods
60. Show the guns
61. Small stream
62. “The Star-Spangled Banner” author
63. Toni Morrison’s “____ Baby”
64. Adeline or Addison, for short
DOWN
1. Troublesome child
2. Jasmine of “Aladdin,” e.g.
3. Olympic cast-out
4. Smack
5. Anatomical sac
6. Overthrow by argument
7. Marketing creations
8. Wild onion
9. Clever tactic
10. Spanish sea
12. Evening party
13. See-through
14. *Eggs+milk+-sugar
19. Old ____, or unpopped pop-

corn kernels
22. Be, singular past tense
23. Uses a fishing reel
24. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
25. Round openings
26. Cabbage, in France
27. “The House at Pooh Corner” author
28. African chieftain
29. Ancient Greeks’ harps
32. Socket counterpart
33. Bar bill
36. *Filo
38. Book opener
40. Uniting conjunction
41. Robin Hood in Disney’s “Robin Hood” (2 words)
44. Keys
46. Mecca to Medina exodus
48. Type of lily
49. Happily ever when?
50. *Make Alaska
51. Gossamer
53. Vinegar or lemon juice, to a chef
54. Communicated
55. James Bond’s “For Your Eyes ____”
56. Asian cuisine pan
57. Astern