



**Current FACts**  
FAC News to Use  
July 31, 2014

**FAC Spotlight:**  
**Governor Touts Progress in Kentucky, SOARing High**

Last week Gov. Steve Beshear gave a keynote address at the White House Rural Council's Rural Opportunity Investment Conference, where he discussed economic opportunities in Kentucky with investors, rural business leaders and government officials and highlighted the Shaping Our Appalachian Region or SOAR initiative.

"We encourage you to 'Think Kentucky,'" Gov. Beshear said. "Check out the many opportunities to invest in Kentucky's rural areas. We have a lot to offer, and opportunities are arising every day."

The Governor outlined Kentucky's publicized success as a national leader in education, economic development and health care, saying the state has gotten aggressive about confronting historic challenges.

"Why this whirlwind of activity?" he said. "Because as Kentucky struggled to survive the recession, we decided that mere survival wasn't enough – we didn't want to emerge shell-shocked and shattered but able and ambitious."

The governor touted Kentucky's efforts to create a stronger, more educated and healthier workforce, saying it has inspired investors and companies to take a closer look at the state.

The Governor in particular singled out SOAR as a "game-changing effort to rejuvenate eastern Kentucky."

"It's the brainchild of Kentucky Congressman Hal Rogers and myself and provides the structure for investment and the support systems to assist growing enterprises, as well as strong state and local leadership to encourage aspiring entrepreneurs," Gov. Beshear said. "People who invest money, time and energy into the SOAR region should be reassured that their investment will be treated not like a handout but as a catalyst for economic development, jobs and capital."

The Governor emphasized numerous SOAR initiatives, including the Finance led \$100+ million plan to expand high-speed broadband service in the state, beginning in eastern Kentucky, as well as the \$382 million investment to four-lane the Mountain Parkway to bring commerce to and from the region.

Success in those efforts and others have come because the state has engaged the local region, nurtured many public-private partnerships, and has taken advantage of resources at all levels of government, Gov. Beshear said.

**Get Involved: SOAR Listening Sessions**

*Citizen input key to initiative*

The 10 SOAR working groups are responsible for content development and public outreach including 'listening sessions' held throughout eastern Kentucky. As a citizen, you are encouraged to attend and participate in listening sessions or other working group meetings. Following are several listening sessions. For more detail, go to <http://www.soar-ky.org/>.



**5 p.m., Aug. 5:** Tourism, Arts and Heritage Listening Session @ PINE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK.

**5 p.m., Aug. 7:** Leadership Development and Youth Engagement Listening Session @ Wolfe County Extension Office, North Washington Street, CAMPTON, KY.

**6 p.m., Aug. 14:** Business Incubation Listening Session, Southeast Community &

Technical College, 1300 Chichester Avenue, MIDDLESBORO, KY.

**Wish Her the Luck of the Irish**

*Revenue's Claire Curran competes for Ireland's Rose of Tralee*



What Miss America is to this country, the Rose of Tralee is to Ireland. And for the first time in the competition's 55-year-history, a Kentuckian is a finalist for the crown. Claire Curran works in the Dept. of Revenue's Sales and Use Tax Division.

Curran spent four days in Ireland in May competing against more than 60 young women of Irish descent from Ireland and as far away as New Zealand and Dubai. She heads back next week. The 23 finalists will make appearances around Ireland and

take part in festival activities for two weeks before this year's Rose is chosen during two televised broadcasts from Tralee's Festival Dome, Aug. 18-19.

Cont'd on Pg. 2

Luck of the Irish—cont'd from pg. 1

McCarthy's Irish Bar was packed Saturday night as the Lexington Celtic Association threw a sendoff "hooley" for Claire Curran, complete with traditional Irish musicians and the McTeggart step dancers.



For Liza Hendley Betz, a Dublin native who owns Failte, The Irish Shop in Lexington said, "As a kid in Ireland, watching the Rose of Tralee on television was a family tradition. Now to think that our Kentucky Rose could win it all."

The Rose of Tralee began in 1959 as a local pageant in County Kerry, taking its name from a 19th century love ballad. It soon went national, and in 1967 opened to young women of Irish descent everywhere.

More than 10 percent of Kentucky residents are of Irish descent. Early Irish stone masons built many of Central Kentucky's iconic limestone fences. The horse industry has lured hundreds of recent immigrants, who say Central Kentucky reminds them of home because of its lush green meadows and stone fences.

In 2012, several Irish immigrants started a Kentucky Rose organizing committee, called a centre. It joined a dozen other U.S. centres, as well as eight in Britain, four in Canada, two in continental Europe, seven in Australia and New Zealand and four in the Middle East. All 32 Irish counties have them.

Curran was chosen from among eight contestants March 22 at the second annual Rose Ball at Saints Peter and Paul School. Everyone is thrilled that a Kentucky girl made the finals this quickly.

The Rose of Tralee International Festival says it is not a beauty pageant. There is no swimsuit competition, and while contestants perform, their talent is not judged. The winner is selected based on her personality and ability to be a "confident, hardworking, intelligent role model" and goodwill ambassador.

Curran impressed the judges with her wit and humor. During her talent performance, she dramatically unrolled a long scroll to read a funny poem she had written.

"Being Irish has always been an important part of our family," Curran said. "If my grandparents were still alive they would be beside themselves about this."

Lexington's Irish community raised several thousand dollars to help pay for Curran's festival expenses.

- Excerpted from Lexington Herald-Leader

## Plan to Attend KECC Kickoff

Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join Gov. Steve Beshear on Wednesday, Aug. 6 as he kicks off the 2014 Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign (KECC). The event is from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Frankfort Convention Center.

Learn about the eight KECC charities that represent more than 1,100 charitable programs and agencies that work to make a significant difference in the lives of our families, friends, and neighbors throughout the Commonwealth.



Employees will receive an additional 30 minutes added to their lunch break in order to attend. Box lunches are available for \$7.

## Win an iPad From KHEAA

Answer a question about college

Kentucky residents can win a new iPad from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) in a sweepstakes being held through Facebook in August. The contest runs from 12 a.m. on Aug. 1 through 12 a.m. on Sept. 1.



To enter, you must click on the orange graduate icon on the KHEAA Facebook page, answer one question about college, and "like" KHEAA on Facebook. KHEAA will not share or sell any personal information to a third party.

Only Kentucky residents are eligible. Prior winners are not eligible. Employees of KHEAA or its sister agency, the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC), and their immediate family members are not eligible.

The drawing will be held in early September, and the winner will be notified by email. The winner must respond by email within three calendar days to receive the iPad. If no response is received within three days, another winner will be drawn.

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, go to [www.gotocollege.ky.gov](http://www.gotocollege.ky.gov). For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com); write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7372.

## Sign Up for Humana Vitality Health Screenings on Aug. 13 at COT

Earn up to 4,000 Vitality bucks  
Details on Pg. 3

**Please note:**

**This is open to all Finance employees, not just COT as the flyer below indicates.**

Humana Vitality rewards you for getting your Vitality Check – **2,000 Vitality Bucks** just for completing the assessment and up to 2,000 Vitality Bucks for results in healthy ranges. Please see instructions below to schedule your appointment for August 13.

**APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED** for these Checks. Please do not arrive more than 5-10 minutes prior to your appointment and appointments should last approximately 12 minutes each.

You will need to sign in at COT, so please plan your arrival accordingly.

**EMPLOYEE HEALTH SCREENINGS** *Humana Vitality*

Commonwealth Office of Technology  
**COT Employees ONLY**  
101 Cold Harbor Drive  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
1st Floor Training Room

**August 13, 2014**  
8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Register today to reserve your appointment. By appointment only, no walk-ins.

Tests include: Full Lipid Panel (Cholesterol, HDL, LDL, Triglycerides), Fasting Glucose, Blood Pressure, Height, Weight, Waist Circumference and BMI.

eHealthScreenings  
screenings made simple

**REGISTRATION IS SIMPLE. JUST FOLLOW THESE STEPS.**

1. Go to [www.livingwell.ky.gov](http://www.livingwell.ky.gov).
2. Click on the [free health screenings](#) link to sign up.
3. Within the **New User** section on the left hand side, enter your assigned default username and password. For your assigned default username and password use the following format:  
**USERNAME:** First Initial + Last Initial + DOB (MMDDYYYY) (example: John Smith born 4/23/1975 is JS04231975)  
**PASSWORD:** LastName + last 4 SSN (example: John Smith social 123456789 is Smith6789)
4. Enter the Screening Key: **HWS04** and click on [Log In](#).
5. In the **Update Login** section, enter a New Username and Password and answer two security questions, click [Register](#).
6. Select the **County** where you would like to complete your screening.
7. Find the location and date that fits best in your schedule. Use the drop down function to choose your desired time, check the corresponding box, and click [Continue](#).
8. Accept each of the two EHS consent forms [Health Screening Consent](#) and [HIPAA Authorization](#). Please acknowledge both forms by checking the "I agree" box located at the bottom of each consent. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to the [Signature](#) section. Enter first & last name and date. Click [Submit](#) on the right hand side.

Once you have completed the sign-up process, a confirmation page will be generated for you to print for your records. You will also receive a confirmation email with the same information just after scheduling your appointment and 24 hours before your appointment time.

**REMEMBER:** You must fast (no food) for 9 hours before your appointment. [Please drink plenty of water](#). Continue to take any prescription medications. If you are diabetic, please consult your physician before fasting.

**Having trouble registering? Please call eHealthScreenings customer service Mon-Fri 7am - 6pm CST at 888-708-8807, ext 1.**

**HumanaVitality®** rewards you for getting your Vitality Check. You receive 2,000 Vitality Bucks just for completing and up to an additional 2,000 Vitality Bucks for results in healthy ranges. Visit [Livingwell.ky.gov](http://Livingwell.ky.gov) and click on "HumanaVitality Login" to redeem your Vitality Bucks 30-45 days following your screening.