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ONLINE EDITION

Average Kentucky manufacturing worker salary now at \$45,094

Kentucky manufacturing workers make a lot more money than the average Kentucky wage-earner and get a full array of lucrative benefits, according to the newly released 2007 Kentucky Association of Manufacturers (KAM) Wage and Benefits Survey.

The annual base salary for the average Kentucky manufacturing employee is now \$45,094 - up 3.7 percent compared to the year before - and \$15,375 more than the per capita income of \$29,719 for all Kentuckians.

Nearly 200 Kentucky manufacturers representing all regions of the state took part in the survey, which was conducted on-line by IQS Research of Louisville www.iqsresearch.com. KAM has administered the Wage and Benefits Survey since 1911.

Other findings of the 145-page report included:

€ The 40-hour workweek is still the most frequently indicated standard among the respondents, with 63.3 percent indicating this as the norm.

€ Nearly one-third of the responding manufacturers reported they work three shifts. Almost 40 percent award bonuses or incentive compensation. Among these companies, nearly 72% linked the bonus award to the company's performance.

€ Most of the respondents said they provide some form of health insurance, dental coverage and a prescription drug plan for their employees.

€ Of the companies who indicated they experienced increased health insurance costs over the previous year, nearly 55 percent indicated increases ranging between 6 and 20 percent.

€ More than half said they offer a 401(k) savings plan for their employees.

€ Nearly 26 percent of the respondents say the per-employee cost of benefits is at least 25-34 percent of base salary.

“The Annual Wage and Benefits Survey is valuable because it helps Kentucky manufacturers compensate their employees fairly and competitively with peer companies,” says Jim LeMaster, president and CEO of KAM.

The Kentucky manufacturing industry is, by more than a two-to-one margin, the number one contributor to the state gross product, producing \$27 billion in goods and accounting for 97 percent of Kentucky's exports. The industry employs about 260,000 workers.

For the first time in the survey's history, KAM partnered with a number of chambers of commerce and economic development offices on the survey: Barren River Area Development District, Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, IDEA, LEAD, Greater Louisville, Inc., Greater Louisville Manufacturing Network, Greater Louisville Logistics Network and One Southern Indiana.

For information about how to obtain a copy of the newly released 2007 KAM Wage and Benefits Survey, visit www.kamanufacturers.com and click on the link on the home page.

Magistrates tell Scott Waste no again; Fuel surcharge will not be added to garbage bills

The Logan County Fiscal Court once again turned down a request from Scott Waste Management for additional money by way of a fuel surcharge on the county's garbage bills.

Olmstead firefighters train

On Saturday, Feb. 23, the Olmstead Volunteer Fire Department had an all day training class using a house acquired by the department.

LCHS principal Nylin to retire

Bob Nylin loves his job as principal of Logan County High School. “I tell people it's the best,” he said.

WM landfill stops taking ‘Metro Sludge’

Recent complaints about the odor surrounding the local landfill may have made a difference, but the jury is still out says Barry Smotherman a resident from the landfill area who began a crusade recently against landfill owners Waste Management, Inc.

Three arrested on drug charges

On Wednesday, February 20, Logan County Sheriff's Deputy Rodney McMillin conducted a traffic stop on a 1986 Chevy van for speeding on Highland Lick Road. While checking the occupants for warrants, one of the occupants, Timothy E. Case got out of the van and ran. McMillin

arrested Case after a short foot pursuit. A search of the vehicle uncovered two propane tanks with altered valves commonly used in the theft of anhydrous ammonia. Driver Christopher J. Borders of Lewisburg was charged with speeding, rear license plate no illuminated and knowingly possessing anhydrous ammonia in other than approved container with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, first offense. Delmer W. Case, another occupant of the van, was charged with knowingly possessing anhydrous ammonia in other than approved container with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, first offense. Timothy E. Case was charged with fleeing or evading police, first degree (on foot), resisting arrest, possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia possession first offense and knowingly possessing anhydrous ammonia in other than approved container with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, first offense.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a danger that can be avoided

The recent outbreak of severe weather prompted residents in affected areas to cope with the resulting power outages. The State Fire Marshal's Office reminds citizens to be cautious as they turn to supplemental heating sources or operate generators to maintain power.

Absentee ballot applications now available via email

The Kentucky House of Representatives recently passed legislation that would give voters greater access to the voting process in Kentucky. House Bill 479, sponsored by Chairman of the House Elections, Constitutional Amendments, and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee Darryl Owens (D-Louisville), modernizes Kentucky election law by allowing voters to request an absentee ballot application via email. The bill further modernizes Kentucky's elections by allowing voters to return unvoted absentee ballots and still be eligible to vote on Election Day as well as addressing a host of other important legislative changes.

Home school academic fair set for April 19

The 3rd Annual Home School Academic Fair will be Saturday, April 19 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Crittenden Drive Church of Christ in Russellville.

Kentucky to host presidential debate

The Libertarian Party of Kentucky will be hosting a presidential debate on March 1, 2008 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Frankfort, from 7 to 9 p.m. The debate, which is open to the public, will be in conjunction with the Libertarian Party of Kentucky's annual State Convention.

Audit reveals problems

Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts Crit Luallen has released the first part of the annual statewide audit of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for fiscal year ending June 30, 2007.

Boy Scouts collecting books

Boy Scout Troop 303 from Russellville is working on "My Very Own Book" literacy project for an Eagle Leadership Service Project. The troop is collecting books to be given to children to keep.

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The Red Cross needs your help

Esther Richards, of San Francisco, was the first American Red Cross woman killed on the European Continent in World War II. Richards was one of millions of women, at home and overseas, who served as nurses, canteen workers and recreation providers at the side of the military.

Artist Deneen Coleman-Ruff visits Logan County

If you've been to the Logan County Public Library lately, you may have noticed the wonderful art on display there. The works are the creation of artist Deneen Coleman-Ruff of Nashville. She is involved in the arts in many ways and is currently working with the Minnie Pearl Foundation on various projects. The pieces of art at the library are few in number as it relates to the number of pieces in her entire collection.

Using cell phone while driving is dangerous

Talking on the phone while driving is dangerous for anyone. It is especially dangerous for young, inexperienced drivers who might easily lose focus and get distracted. Almost all new cell phone plans now offer text messaging, or "texting." A January 2007 survey by the insurer Nationwide found that 19 percent of motorists say they text message while driving. Teens Today survey conducted by the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety and Students Against Destructive Decisions showed that teens considered sending text messages via cell phones to be their biggest distraction while driving.

Book Fest adds children's events

The partners of the Southern Kentucky Book Fest will present several

children's events in connection with their 10th anniversary.

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