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Louisville involved in alleged basketball scheme

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In one of the biggest crackdowns on the corrupting role of money in college basketball, 10 men — including a top Adidas executive and four assistant coaches — were charged Tuesday with using hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to influence star athletes' choice of schools,

shoe sponsors, agents, even tailors.

Some of the most explosive allegations appeared to involve Louisville, one of college basketball's biggest powerhouses, which is already on NCAA probation over a sex scandal.

Federal prosecutors said at least three top high school

recruits were promised payments of as much as \$150,000, using money supplied by Adidas, to attend two universities sponsored by the athletic shoe company. Court papers didn't name the schools but contained enough details to identify them as Louisville and Miami.

"The picture of college bas-

ketball painted by the charges is not a pretty one," said acting U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim, adding that the defendants were "circling blue-chip prospects like coyotes" and exploited them to enrich themselves.

Prosecutors said that while some of the bribe money went to athletes and their families, some went to coaches, to get

them to use their influence over their potentially NBA-bound players.

The coaches charged are Chuck Person of Auburn, Emanuel Richardson of Arizona, Tony Bland of Southern California and Lamont Evans of Oklahoma State. Person and

Please see **SCHEME** | 12A



Trump, GOP

at the Paducah business he founded in 1965.

That's when Paducah Mayor Brandi Harless and McCracken County Judge-Executive Bob Leeper peeled back a curtain, revealing a new monument proclaiming CSI's Technology Park as Williams Park.

The monument, which in-

the city's largest employer. Williams, now CSI's chairman emeritus, has served as the company's executive director, president, CEO and board chairman throughout his 52-year career.

"Had I known what the real subject was, I might have prepared some longer remarks, but I'm going to bring them to

CSI, headquartered at 3901 Technology Drive, employs more than 1,100 people in 10 states. It opened its \$11 million Paducah location on 42 acres in 1997.

CEO Steve Powless said he kept Tuesday's event a secret

Please see **PARK** | 11A

college education in building a strong workforce throughout the state in his remarks Tuesday at Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

The university's 12th president said on average people with a college degree fare much better financially than

million dollars more in earnings in their lifetime," Capilouto said.

He stated that the likelihood of being unemployed is cut in half for those with a college degree, and the vast

Please see **UK** | 12A

Economic value of the arts touted by UNESCO panel

BY MASON BLANFORD

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The arts sector's economic value and Lower Town's revitalization were key topics for panelists Tuesday at the UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art meeting at the Luther F. Carson Center.

The 2017 Arts & Economic Prosperity Study by Americans for the Arts attributed 991 local jobs and

more than \$600,000 in city revenue to the arts in Paducah.

During Tuesday's panel, speaker and Paducah Bank CEO Joe Framp-tom recounted a conversation from 17 years ago with then-Mayor Bill Paxton.

"What? You want us to finance run-down, dilapidated buildings in

Please see **ARTS** | 11A



On Tuesday, UNESCO delegates enjoyed "Pride of Place" — a crafts exhibit featuring work from other UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art — at the Paducah School of Art & Design. Pictured at left is Byung-Don Cho, mayor of Icheon, South Korea; Jaehoan Oh, Icheon city hall creative city and exchange team leader; and Dr. Hu Yijia, cultural ambassador from Hangzhou, China, and deputy director of the Technology & Creation Center of the China Academy of Art.

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LOCAL

SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES IN PADUCAH

One commissioner and several liquor store owners took exception to Paducah's adoption of amendments related to alcoholic beverages, including one that will allow all license types to sell alcohol on Sundays.

2A



NATION

TRUMP TARGETS N. KOREA BANKS

President Donald Trump vowed to "fix the mess" over North Korea's nuclear program but warned any U.S. military attack would be "devastating."

5A

Forecast

Today



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Lower Town?" Framptom said in mock incredulity. "You want us to sell them to artists from across the country?"

The revitalized, 26-block neighborhood — once addled with crime and drugs — is now an arts showhorse for Paducah.

It was also a model to document the economic strengths of the arts. Framptom said \$14.40 is currently being returned to the local economy for every dollar Paducah Bank invested in Lower Town loans.

Other speakers Tuesday were Randy Cohen, vice president of research and public policy for Americans for the Arts; Don Parkinson, secretary for the Commonwealth of Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet; and Michael Cochran, executive director of Market House Theatre.

Vendeline von Bre-dow, Midwest correspondent for "The Economist," moderated the discussion.

Framptom admitted there were doubts initially about Lower Town's potential.

"The neighborhood had long been ignored; many buildings were in terrible state," he said. "I asked, 'Could artists sell their work here? Would they be successful? Should the bank take this risk?'"

"The program was not universally accepted, and it would be difficult to replicate it in today's climate," he said, citing regulation changes after the 2008 recession that affected loans.

"Today it's a safe and friendly neighborhood, and I think it's a significant reason why we're here today," he said, referring to Paducah's UNESCO status. "It was a vision that took a larger view of our community and improved



MASON BLANFORD | THE SUN

Paducah Bank CEO and panel speaker Joe Framptom (right) answers a question Tuesday from Jaehoan Oh, city hall creative city and exchange team leader in Icheon, South Korea. The UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art meeting addressed the economic benefits of arts and culture.

upon it."

Cochran discussed Market House Theatre's Next Stage Campaign and the waves it's stirred in the city's economic tides.

The \$5 million project is repurposing several downtown structures into a 10-building, comprehensive performing arts campus.

Cochran said further growth would continue to help the theater's educational outreach flourish.

Parkinson said roughly 100,000 people are employed statewide in the arts.

"Paducah has always fought way above its weight, and I think most agree creativity and art is an economic driver," Parkinson said. "The arts are also a big part of the (Kentucky) cabinet and a big part of tourism, and we're committed to growing it."

Nationwide, the value of arts and culture was evident in the Arts & Economic Prosperity Study, spurring Cohen to remark, "It doesn't matter where you go — communities from 1,400 to 4 million people — the arts are good for the local economy. These arts organizations hire not only musicians and performers, but accountants, auditors, plumb-

ers and electricians."

Arts and culture amount to a \$730 billion national industry, Cohen said, and 4.2 percent of the nation's gross domestic product — more than agriculture, tourism or transportation.

"So arts spending does send ripples," Cohen said. "And it's not just food for the soul, but food for 4.6 million households in this country."

UNESCO meetings continued later in the day, including a 4 p.m. opening reception of "Pride of Place" — a crafts art exhibit from other UNESCO Creative Cities of Craft and Folk Art — at the Paducah School of Art & Design.

There, local artist, calligrapher and interior designer Bill Ford was honored in the Bill Ford Gallery named after him. Ford had earlier signed and given copies of his book, "From Paducah With Love," to all of the UNESCO visitors.

"I've seen Paducah's Lower Town grow," Ford said. "We've got so many artists who have relocated here, and achievements like PSAD also draw people here for school, tourism, even international recognition with UNESCO."

thing that you've done." Williams' name carries significance throughout the region and state.

"Over the years, if you check his bio, he's received a number of awards and there are a few people in the world

Williams is or people who, receives an a name) adds the award, an a number of the credit."

The judge a longtime for legislator, als

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