



Chase Brasher (left) provides UNESCO Creative Cities participant John James of Kansas City and delegate Jaehoan Oh of Icheon, South Korea, with a tour of Paducah's River Discovery Center. Wednesday marked the final day of the UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art meeting.

UNESCO panelists highlight impact of creativity, innovation

BY LAUREL BLACK

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For some, the term "creative cities" may call to mind artist colonies filled with people weaving baskets and trading beads.

The final panel session of this week's UNESCO Creative Cities of Crafts & Folk Art meeting dispelled that notion, with panelists highlighting how the fields of education, engineering, sustainability and economic de-

velopment rely on a culture of creativity and innovation.

"There is very much a creative side to what is going on in the world of products," said Rafael Ortega, a Paducah native who is now a global product line manager at Nike. "Art finds its way there."

The panel featured Donald Shively, superintendent of Paducah Public Schools; Dr. Jeffrey Seay, associate professor at the University of Kentucky College of Engi-

neering's Paducah Campus; Jason Albritton, director of Climate and Energy Policy at the Nature Conservancy; and Charles Fluharty, president and CEO of the Rural Policy Research Institute.

Each panelist offered insight into how creative culture helps drive their efforts.

Shively gave background on the Paducah Public School System before discussing the

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Basketball scandal

BY GARY B. GRAVES

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE — Rick Pitino couldn't survive another scandal, as an angry interim Louisville president Wednesday placed the head men's college basketball coach and his boss on administrative leave amid a nationwide federal bribery investigation that has rocked the sport.

President Greg Postel's decision comes after the school acknowledged on Tuesday that the men's program is part of a federal investigation into alleged bribery of recruits. The 65-year-old coach was not named in the indictment that resulted in the arrest of 10 people including four assistant coaches at other schools and an Adidas executive.

Postel didn't stop with Pitino, he also sidelined athletic director Tom Jurich, putting him on



Pitino



Jurich

paid administrative leave. And though Pitino isn't officially out of a job — he was placed on unpaid leave — the coach's attorney, Steve Pence, told the Courier-Journal that Louisville has "effectively fired" Pitino.

"I'm more angry than embarrassed," Postel said Wednesday

at a news conference, adding that an interim coach would

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Fire hits Shooters Supply

BY DAVID ZOELLER

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A fire Wednesday night at Shooters Supply on Cairo Road created hazardous conditions from exploding ammunition and prompted an evacuation of the immediate area.

The blaze was contained shortly after 9 p.m., about an hour after it started.

According to McCracken County Sheriff Jon Hayden, the prompt response of fire departments from Concord, West McCracken County and City of Paducah helped minimize the damage. No injuries were reported.

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role of the arts in the system's upcoming Innovation Hub, scheduled to open in 2020. The school system recently started looking at aligning specific career pathways, from engineering to nursing to industrial maintenance, with local job needs outlined by Greater Paducah Economic Development.

"It's our belief that the arts are how we connect these (curriculum pathways)," he said. "It's the creativity from art that allows engineering and IT to work together. It's the design principles. Art is a pathway for a successful life in Paducah, I believe."

Seay's presentation highlighted innovative approaches to engineering, particularly in the field of sustainability. He used an overseas program that converts plastic waste to fuel as an example.

"Engineering is really a creative discipline," he said. "The real place we see creativity is in the design process."

Albritton, who, like Ortega, is a graduate of Paducah Tilghman High School, discussed how innovation in urban planning can improve quality of life and address big issues such as climate change and water and air pollution. He pointed out that the



Delegates and others from the UNESCO Creative Cities Network gather in the lobby of the River Discovery Center on Wednesday and listen to a presentation by Julie Harris, the organization's executive director.

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United Nations' 2030 Agenda includes goals for reducing poverty, protecting land and water and mitigating climate change — all of which align with goals of the global Nature Conservancy.

He also highlighted the importance of including cities in the conversation about sustainability, stating that by 2050, two out of every three people will live in a city.

"Cities are demonstrating great leadership and creativity to address some of the world's greatest challenges," he said.

Fluharty brought his perspective on "urban

cities" and micropolitan areas like Paducah to bear on the conversation, calling Paducah a "poster child" for the role a micropolitan area can play in bridging the deepening divide between urban and rural in the United States.

He said there are 650 micropolitan areas — clusters that include several counties and a city of between 10,000 to 15,000 — in the United States. As he sees it, they will play a crucial role in the coming years, as will the increased quality of life that the arts can offer.

"(It's) about how critical it is to have creative communities that bring

young people. And if you're going to have those, they're going to have to be edgy, inclusive, diverse, and they're going to have to allow opportunities for young people to express their leadership," Fluharty said. "Workforce and GDP will go to quality places, because people will go there and jobs will come to them."

At the end of the panel, Ortega encouraged Paducah to keep quality of life questions in mind as the city looks toward the future.

The meeting concluded Wednesday evening with a visit to Porkstock, the kick-off event for Barbecue on the River.

be announced within 48 hours. "We will be looking for someone with integrity. ... There's no reason this team can't have a good season."

The Cardinals have been winning under Pitino, who has a 416-143 record over 16 years at Louisville, including a 2013 NCAA championship. But there have been continuing off the court issues.

Jurich, who has been at the school for nearly 20 years, has always supported Pitino through many embarrassing transgressions.

But Postel said, "It is vital for this university to strictly adhere to the NCAA rules and of course federal law. Failure to do that would be a tacit endorsement of criminal behavior."

The recent federal investigation is the latest black eye for the Cardinals program, which is already reeling from a sex scandal. It is unclear where the marquee program goes from here.

Pitino and Louisville are in the middle of appealing NCAA sanctions handed out in June following a sex scandal that unfolded nearly two years ago — which could cost the school its 2013 national title.

In the latest investigation, federal prosecutors say 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 one of them as Louisville, the other was Miami.

Postel also said Wednesday that one student-athlete has been informed he will not practice or play for the university until the investigation is resolved. He did not name the athlete allegedly involved in the investigation, which federal documents list as a high school All-American.

The player's name also was not released by federal prosecutors, but details in the criminal complaint make it clear investigators were referring to 6-foot-7 Brian Bowen. The freshman has yet to play in a game with the Cardinals.

"This decision will protect the interests of both the student and the University of Louisville," Postel said.

Pitino's future meanwhile will be evaluated at a later date, Postel said, while his assistants' status will be examined by the interim AD.

Jurich's future will be determined by the school's Board of Trustees.