

# THE KENTUCKY ENQUIRER

10M

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2007

AN EDITION OF THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER \$1.50

## NUS JNDAY

reads inside  
y's Enquirer

### cats beat n the 'Dores seventh win

Kentucky Wildcats beat their seventh football team of the year, defeating Vanderbilt Commodores, 27-20, and keeping hopes for a national championship and national bowl game alive.

### pbell Co. s got it done

Well County Democrats made a promise to Beshear that the county could carry the 7 in the November election. And they kept it.

### ding formula s low grades

More mention of the drug formula called Fen-Phen. Support Education Excellence in Kentucky makes many local school administrators nervous.

### th Residence rn beautifully

Decorating an assisted-living facility can be a tough task, but the Residence in Finney made the transition beautifully.

### puts its chips Las Vegas'

is relying on "Las Vegas" to boost its Friday ratings.

### ipes an early day present

today food season is us and Gıda De

## SPECIAL REPORT • FEN-PHEN FALLOUT

# Rx FOR SCANDAL

How a \$200 million diet drug payout turned nasty



By Dan Bern  
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The money was supposed to make things right.

The company that produced fenphen, the "miracle" diet drug of the 1990s, agreed in 2001 to pay \$200 million to more than 400 Kentuckians hurt by the drug. The settlement was intended to cover expenses and medical bills.

Most of the money never got to the people it was meant to help. It went to their lawyers instead.

Three of those lawyers — William Gallion, Shirley Cunningham Jr. and Melbourne Mills Jr. — are now behind bars in Boone County, accused of cheating clients out of tens of millions of dollars in a fen-phen diet drug settlement. The three are accused of using the money to buy racehorses and influence.

Another lawyer, Cincinnati's Stan Chesley, is not charged

with a crime but faces criticism for accepting \$20 million in fees.

The judge who oversaw the case, Joseph Bamberger, resigned months before a disciplinary commission could fire him.

The scope and cost of the case is unprecedented in Kentucky and, perhaps, in all of American law. The three jailed lawyers are accused of intimidating their clients and taking their money to buy race horses and influence.

At its heart, authorities say, the fen-phen case is a story of greed and betrayal.

"It's absolutely horrible: they did this to so many people," said Malanei Marro, an Alexandria, Ky., woman who was part of the settlement.

The lawyers go on trial in January, their former clients are suing them and a judge is demanding to know where all the money went.

For the complete story of how the scandal unfolded — and what might happen next — turn to Forum, Page E1

**MORE AT NKY.COM, SEARCH: FEN-PHEN**



See video of one of the victims speaking out ■ Review legal documents from the past six years.

## Region's top firms are larger and richer

\$70M in revenues was Cincinnati 100 cutoff

By Carolyn Pioske  
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Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky's largest privately held companies are getting larger, according to an annual survey out today.

This year, a company needed annual revenues topping \$70 million to even make the Deloitte Cincinnati USA 100 list of the top 100 privately owned companies.

That's a 23 percent jump from the benchmark for 2005 revenues — \$56 million.

Those companies took in more than \$24 billion in 2006, a 68 percent rise since 2000 and 20 percent rise over the year before.

No. 1 on this year's list is Crestview Hills-based Columbia Sussex, whose \$2.8 billion takeover of Azar Corp. last year sent it from the No. 2 spot.

Other big movers on the list range from Messer Construction, Paul Hemmer Cox and Baker Concrete Construction to manufacturer Enerfab Inc., Union Township transportation brokerage firm Total Quality Logistics and Republic Wire Inc. of West Chester. Half the companies are in either distribution and wholesale or manufacturing. Two-thirds are family owned.

In a recent survey by Deloitte of the region's largest private companies, more than 65 percent said they were expecting the local economy to be good or excellent in the coming year, although they were less bullish about the national economy. Seventy-three percent responded that they thought the U.S. economy would remain flat.

Looking at their own businesses, 72 percent said they expected sales to increase in the coming year.



### Inside


- Commercial construction is still building big. J1
- Northern Kentucky's Ralph Dees gives back. J1
- Complete list of top 100 privately held companies, including top executives, revenues and more. J2-3
- Up-and-coming firms are making their mark. J6
- A closer look at some of the companies on the top 100 list. J4, 7

Last Updated: 2:47 pm | Sunday, November 11, 2007

## This year's Cincinnati 100 Top Ten

No.	Company	Business	Headquarters
1	Columbia Sussex Corp.	Construction/real estate	Crestview Hills
2	The Drees Co.	Construction/real estate	Fort Mitchell
3	Contech Construction Products	Manufacturing	West Chester
4	Castellini Corp.	Distribution	Cincinnati
5	United Dairy Farmers	Retail	Norwood
6	Lykins Cos. Inc.	Distribution	Milford
7	Joseph Auto Group	Automotive	Cincinnati
8	Messer Construction Co.	Construction/real estate	Cincinnati
9	Standard Textile Co. Inc.	Manufacturing	Reading
10	Baker Concrete Construction	Construction/real estate	Monroe

• [See the other winners of the Deloitte Cincinnati USA 100](#)

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## HIGHTOWERS PETROLEUM

Industry: Petroleum and petroleum products distributor for business, government, and industry

Headquarters: Middletown

Employees: 18

Top executive: Stephen Hightower

## MED PACE

Industry: Contract research organization providing comprehensive clinical research support to the pharmaceutical industry

Headquarters: Norwood

Employees: 543

Top executive: August Troendle

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Outstanding Enterprises Forum Member Leggett  
Co. \* Previously on the 100 \*\* Honored as a 2005  
Rising Star \*\*\* Acquired

### 24 years on list

The following companies have been on the Deloitte Cincinnati USA 100 list, or its predecessor lists, every year since the program began in 1983.

Columbia Sussex Corp. and Affiliates, Crestview Hills

**Messer Construction Co., Bond Hill**

Standard Textile Co. Inc., Reading

Baker Concrete Construction, Monroe

Jeff Wyler Automotive Family, Batavia

Griffin Industries Inc., Cold Spring

Belcan Corp., Blue Ash

Kenwood Dealer Group Inc., Deerfield Township

totes Isotoner Corp., West Chester

Hickman, Williams & Co, downtown

Jake Sweeney Automotive, Cincinnati

Corporex Cos., Covington

Aurora Casket Co., Aurora

Towne Properties, Mount Adams

IlSCO Corp., Madisonville

Thomson MacConnell Cadillac Inc., Mount Auburn