

BUSINESS

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DOW
12,958.44
+215.00


NASDAQ
2,580.80
+39.81


S&P 500
1,428.23
+21.01


6-MO T-BILLS
3.38%
+0.02


30-YR T-BONDS
4.35%
+0.08


CRUDE OIL
\$94.42
-3.28


GOLD
\$813.70
-12.30


EURO
1.4841
-.0027

AirTran fills Frontier void

Will fly Memphis-Florida routes starting Jan. 11, evaluate other destinations

By JANE ROBERTS
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AirTran Airways is picking up the Memphis-Florida routes Frontier Airlines was forced to abandon when oil hit \$95 a barrel.

Starting Jan. 11, Atlanta-based AirTran will add weekend service to Orlando and Fort Lauderdale. In mid-February, it will bump up the number of flights for spring break, it says, while continuing to evaluate

the possibility of other nonstop destinations from Memphis.

AirTran will not offer introductory rates, but plans to match its going price to Orlando. January bookings Tuesday started at \$89 for a one-way ticket.

"Frontier asked us if it would be possible for us to take some of the passengers they had already sold tickets to," said John Kirby, AirTran spokesman. "Since we have a partnership with Frontier, it made

sense."

The low-cost carriers share frequent-flier benefits. This month — six months after it came into the Memphis market — Frontier said economics were forcing it to cut back, starting in January.

While it will continue to serve Memphis with two daily flights to Denver — its home — it cut service to Las Vegas, Orlando and Fort Lauderdale.

"AirTran has always been a smart

opportunist, stepping in where others haven't made the grade," said David Field, editor, Airline Business magazine.

"Bear in mind that also AirTran has a pretty good balance sheet and can afford losses on a new market, while Frontier had to start to make money from day one," he said.

AirTran is also better known among bargain hunters, which travel agents say will help in Memphis,

Please see AIRTRAN, C2

COFFEE BREAK

New device treats hip condition

The Commercial Appeal

WRIGHT MEDICAL GROUP has introduced a new surgical system for treating a degenerative condition called avascular necrosis of the hip.

The system from the Arlington-based medical device maker combines the firm's X-ream brand surgical instrument with its Pro-dense brand bone graft product, which promote bone tissue growth.

The surgeon first removes the diseased bone and then injects Pro-dense to fill the space. Dr. Robert Heck, of the Campbell Clinic, called the new system a "simple but important advancement" in this type of treatment.

Forbes profiles Cal

The national media is noticing what John Calipari is accomplishing with the University of Memphis basketball program — and not just the sporting press.

Calipari is profiled in the Dec. 10 issue of Forbes magazine, which notes his "tireless marketing of the Memphis program to players, recruits, fans and corporate boosters," and quotes Cal thusly, "When you're building a basketball program, you're trying to create a love affair."

The story chronicles the program's improvements on the court, at the ticket windows, and in the classroom, as well as the rise in athletic department donations.

It also notes that Calipari has re-established his own career in Memphis, after being fired by the NBA's New Jersey Nets.

WELL SAID
Malcom S. Forbes.

"Failure is success if you learn from it."

"I learned a lot about myself from that failure," Calipari told Forbes. "I learned that you have to be an active participant in your own survival, that you have to swim like hell and look for a life raft."

The Cotton Club

The night of Dec. 8, The Cotton Museum will be transformed into The Cotton Club with an 18-piece swing band providing vintage and not-so-vintage sounds on the historic trading floor. The Memphis Knights Big Band will play a variety of swing-era favorites, modern jump-jive-wail, jazz standards and holiday tunes for the museum fund-raiser.

Doors open at 7 p.m.; the music begins at 7:30 p.m. and will end approximately at 9:30 p.m.

Admission is \$10. BYOB. Soft drinks and mixers will be for sale.

The museum is located at 65 Union. For details, call 531-7826.

Dunn signs book

Former governor Winfield Dunn will sign his book, "From a Standing Start: My Tennessee Political Odyssey," from 6 to 8 tonight at Bookstar, 3402 Poplar.

The standing start is a pretty good analogy for those who remember Dunn's administration. In November 1970, he defeated Democratic Party nominee John J. Hooker to become the first Republican elected governor of Tennessee in a half-century.

Dunn was a Memphis dentist when he got into politics. Before his election, Dunn had never held public office and was a virtual unknown in political circles, especially those outside Memphis.

'The Warehouse'



Mark Weber /The Commercial Appeal

Kris Kourdouvelis and Sharon Gray sit on a band stage in the warehouse inside their home. Kourdouvelis allows the warehouse to be used for musical and other events that are good for the community. He's a recent Memphis transplant who wants to help the city, especially the music community.

Recent transplant makes space for special events

By DAVID WILLIAMS | williams@commercialappeal.com

HE CALLS IT his "living room."

But with its 10,000 square feet, a stage, sound and lighting system, pool table and touches of neon, you also could call it the Memphis music community's favorite Downtown clubhouse.

It's "The Warehouse," part of transplanted Memphian Kris Kourdouvelis' personal residence, which he opens to musicians, musical organizations, community groups and select others in need of a large, cool space.

"If it's something good for the community, I'll let them do it ... especially if it has to do with local music," said Kourdouvelis, 47, who's such a Memphis fan that he moved here in 2004, even though his oil company is headquartered back in his hometown of Centralia, Ill.

The building, at 36 East G.E. Patterson in the South Main district, isn't available for event rentals.

"I get lots of calls. I turn most of them down," Kourdouvelis said. "People get the wrong idea. They think it's a venue of some kind.

"I call this my living room."

It's a living room that gets a lot of traffic — rapper Al Kapone practices here. Keith Sykes has held his Songwriter's Showcase here. The afterparty for the North Mississippi Allstars and Lucero New Year's Eve Orpheum show was here.

And, let's see ...

"We did our No Boundaries party there, with our little folk battle of the bands contest," said Louis Meyers, executive director of the Memphis-based Folk Alliance, a South Main neighbor.

Meyers said Kourdouvelis made the Warehouse available at "minimal cost. The cost included all the production and pretty much no walk-in. Everything we needed was taken care of.

"He's such a nice guy and it's such a cool venue that it's really hard to pass up. We're

certainly considering doing other things in there."

The Folk Alliance event drew about 400 people — a breeze for a space that has held as many as 1,200.

"It's nice to see somebody who's unrelated to the music contributing so heavily to it," Meyers said.

Kourdouvelis claims no musical ability. He plays no instrument — although he does hand out guitar picks with his picture on one side and the words "Support Memphis Music" on the other.

It's a mission that starts at home, but Kourdouvelis is branching out as a recent addition to the Memphis and Shelby County Music Commission volunteer board.

"We were all excited when he got appointed," said fellow board member Pat Mitchell Worley, development manager at ArtsMemphis and a veteran of Warehouse events.

"A lot of people in town tend to have their relationships in a specific genre of music. But Kris, he's got a hand in the folk thing, he's got a hand in the hip-hop thing, he's got a hand in the R&B thing, the rock, the blues. It's amazing. He's made all these friends.

"I think it boils down to, he didn't have any agenda whatsoever.

"He just wanted to have fun and help out."

Kourdouvelis' Memphis connection began in the late 1970s, when he was a student at the University of Tennessee at Martin and made trips here with college buddies.

Those visits eventually led to what has become

KRIS KOURDOUVELIS

Age: 47

Business: president of Seip Oil Properties Inc. in his hometown of Centralia, Ill. "With e-mail and cell phones and fax, I found I can run things from anywhere," he said.

Home: 36 East G.E. Patterson, which includes a 10,000-square foot warehouse he makes available for select music and community events.

Local involvement: 17-year volunteer with Memphis in May; board member of the Memphis and Shelby County Music Commission. He has also bought a 30,000-square foot building on South Main and is renovating it with offices and studios for rental by people in the music and film business.

Web site and contact info: visit warehousememphis.com

a 17-year relationship with Memphis in May.

"I started out pouring beer at the beer stands," Kourdouvelis said. "Eventually, I was on the steering committee in charge of beer stands."

Now, he and his girlfriend, native Memphian Sharon Gray, are volunteers on the MIM production committee, helping prepare booths, buildings and fencing for the annual fest.

"I used to come down and stay the month of May, originally. Then, I started coming down in April and spending two months here," he said.

In 1999, he bought "The Warehouse," which he said dates to 1913 as a post office, and more recently was home to a janitorial and dry cleaning supply business.

He moved here in 2004 after meeting Gray. "She was like-minded with me about the music scene here," he said. "We had that in common.

"We try to do everything we can to be involved and help."

On a recent day, she was decorating a Christmas tree at 36 East G.E. Patterson.

The theme? Musical, of course.

— David Williams: 529-2310