



- News
- Sports
- Classified
- Obituaries
- Archives

Tuesday, January 06, 2004; Paducah, Kentucky

Reader Options

- [Front Page](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Region](#)
- [Life & Leisure](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Home & Garden](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Weddings, Engagements & Anniversaries](#)
- [eXtra!](#)
- [Snitch](#)
- [Food](#)
- [PlayFour!](#)

## Renaming doesnt stop work

*Jane and Louis Myre gave \$6 million to the project. The center was renamed for her father.*

By **C.D. Bradley** [cdbradley@paducahsun.com](mailto:cdbradley@paducahsun.com)--270.575.8650

With 53 days until opening night, the construction crews building the \$36.4 million performing arts center in downtown Paducah couldn't afford any distractions Monday.



LANCE DENNEE/The Sun Cold, but thrilling: Above, Mayor Bill Paxton (left) sits next to Jane and Louis Myre prior to the announcement, by president David Rowell (looking on in background), Monday that would honor her father with the newly renamed Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center. The Myres donated \$6 million to the construction of the center, which will open Feb. 27. In order to finish on time, construction work did not halt for the renaming ceremony.

That's why work continued even as the project, more than year into construction after a decade of preparation, got a new name.


A sign on Kentucky Avenue bearing the names of 325 donors and a prominent Paducahan who died more than 40 years ago was unveiled under gray skies as about four dozen now-prominent Paducahans sat under a tent and shivered. The names of the guests of honor, Jane and Louis Myre, sat alone on the sign in the category of those who gave \$5 million or

More cache. Less cash.



Paducah   
**ONLINE**  
[PADUCAH ONLINE](#)

**SELL YOUR VEHICLE ONLINE!**  
 Click here for details

SonyMusicStore  
**FREE ITEM** with purchase wherever you find this icon: 

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS ONLINE**  
 Click here for more information

Dishes, Décor & more



 **Budget Busters Coupons**

---

[Newspapers  
in Education](#)

---

[Events  
Calendar](#)

---

[Subscribe to  
the Online  
Edition](#)

---

[Subscribe to  
the Print  
Edition](#)

---

[Advertise  
with Us](#)

---

[Classified  
Rates](#)

---

[Contact Us](#)

---

more to the project. Jane Myre's father's name was alone at the top: The Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center.

"It's cold, but I'm thrilled," Jane Myre said after the brief ceremony. "My father loved Paducah, and this is really just in memory of him ... I thought it would be great if something here carried his name."

Carson started the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Paducah, and his family name is hardly unknown here. It graces a county park and a building at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. Neither, though, was as large an undertaking as the center.

John Williams Sr., a center board member who chairs its capital fund-raising campaign, estimated the total project cost at \$47.5 million, including the building, improvements to the site and the endowment. With less than eight weeks until it opens, \$750,000 is needed to fully pay for it. Nobody except the state of Kentucky with its \$20 million donation has done more financially for the project than the Myres.

They gave \$5 million toward the endowment, which Williams said was crucial in securing state aid for construction. When the final campaign began, they gave \$1 million more.

After the ceremony, and after accepting congratulations from others named on the wall, the Myres entered the center for a brief tour. They had seen it before, of course — Louis Myre said they had been in the building just last month — and quietly slipped into the lobby as the tour group checked out the performance hall.

The Myres ambled toward the center's front doors, then turned. They stood there silently for several moments, staring up at the unfinished mural above the donor wall's permanent home against the lobby's back wall. The rest of the group filed out of the hall, and more congratulations were offered. After a few minutes, the crowd thinned out, and the Myres departed until opening weekend.

Left were a handful of center staff and board

members, who quickly began discussing issues surrounding the center's wall and floor coverings. Back to work. Only 53 days to go.

[\\* E-Mail this article to a friend.](#)

**\* Using this feature as a means to send unwanted emails (SPAM) to people is not permitted. Online subscriptions will be cancelled if this service is misused.**

Powered by  MediaMaker<sub>v2.5</sub> from 