



Dorms at Union University in Jackson imploded during a Feb. 5 tornado trapping more than 12 students and sending at least 50 to area hospitals. With 40 percent of the dorms destroyed, the damage estimates reached \$40 million.

## Disasters producing new breed of emergency first responders

BY VICTORIA SOUTH  
TML Communications Coordinator

Super Tuesday, Feb. 5, brought more than the customary onslaught of primary election results. As night fell, thunder, rain, and hail as large as baseballs descended upon Tennesseans huddled in hallways, bathrooms, basements, and closets. Then, a 264 mph funnel splintered the darkness.

Tearing across Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky and Alabama, the nation's deadliest cluster of twisters in at least a decade arrived in Tennessee.

Ripping through Memphis and Jackson, the storm spun across the Pinewood and Primm Springs communities southeast of Fairview, then artfully dodged Nashville and Hendersonville before touching down again southeast of Gallatin.

Barreling through the rural communities of Castalian Springs and Hartsville in eastern Sumner County, the storm slammed through northwest Trousdale County setting off a fiery gas plant explosion at the Columbia Gulf Transmission Co., before shredding Macon County and the city of Lafayette and finally moving onward into Kentucky.

By Wednesday morning, 192 people were injured statewide, with 32 deaths in Tennessee, 13 in Arkansas, seven deaths in Kentucky and five in Alabama and hundreds without homes or businesses.

In Jackson, 12 students were trapped and 51 sent to hospitals after a tornado struck Union University. Damages are estimated at \$40 million.

Wilson County Emergency workers celebrated finding an 11-month old baby, Kyson Stowell,

alive in a Castalian Springs field across the street from the town's demolished post office. The child's mother was found deceased close by.

Surveying the damage by helicopter over Macon, Sumner and Trousdale counties, Gov. Phil Bredesen commented that it was the most severe and longest trail of tornadoes he had seen since becoming governor.

For those who've been through it before, the sights and sounds are horrifyingly familiar.

"This couldn't happen again," thought Mayor Jerry Gist speeding toward the Jackson Emergency Management Agency Feb. 5. The city had already suffered its share of tornadoes in 1999, another in 2001, followed by a catastrophic tornado in 2003. Gist's fears were confirmed  
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## Tennessee hits the trail with new Civil War heritage program

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

The Tennessee Department of Tourism is inviting tourists and residents alike to hit the trail across Tennessee to explore the state's rich Civil War heritage.

The Tennessee Civil War Trails initiative provides structure for travelers, communities, the state and preservationists through descriptive signage, markers, maps, tours, and exhibits highlighting significant areas directly linked to the Civil War era.

The program joins three other states with successful trails initiatives featuring 800 sites in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina soon to be followed by West Virginia.

Approved by Gov. Bredesen, an 80/20 matching federal grant of \$537,420 from the Tennessee Department of Transportation will help feature the historic sites with trailblazer signage and map guides while preserving the historic and natural integrity of the sites.

The Tourism Department kicked off the program by holding six public meetings across the state in Murfreesboro, Clarksville, Chattanooga, Memphis, Greenville, and Parkers Crossroads where speakers included Tourism Director Susan Whitaker and Mitch Bowman, Civil War Trails, Inc. executive director.

State officials were able to explain the program's annual membership and maintenance fees to communities receiving heritage signage and the services provided including:

- Development, design, fabrication and installation of one four color interpretive marker;
- Fabrication and installation of four logo trailblazer signs located on TDOT right-of-ways;
- Inclusion of the Tennessee Civil War Trails statewide map guides and map guides for distribution; and
- Interpreted sited promotion on



MTSU students Julie Lenger and Ashey Tate install an exhibit at the Heritage Center in Murfreesboro.

all materials distributed through the existing multi-state program and featured on the web site [www.civilwartrails.org](http://www.civilwartrails.org).

"Our meeting went very well, we had a full house," said Laura Holder, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area manager in Murfreesboro. The meeting was hosted at the new Heritage Center at 225 West Collage Street.

"We were able to highlight our new Civil War era exhibit to state officials plus we got a chance to explain how the National Heritage Area can help groups and communi-

ties research and prepare text and images for the markers," Holder said.

"The program has come at a great time corresponding with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War in 2011."

According to Holder, the meeting at the center was attended and embraced by various organizations associated with or interested in Heritage tourism.

"It was very important," said Dr. Van West of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, "for the  
See **TRAIL** on Page 5

## State provides \$2.5 million to help local governments

Gov. Bredesen announced that the state will help local governments receiving Federal Public Assistance funding for storms that struck Tennessee Feb. 5 meet their obligation to provide matching funds.

"It is critically important to bring state and federal assistance to these communities as quickly as possible," Bredesen said. "This requires that all levels of government – local, state and federal – work together. I am pleased to announce that the state will do its part to help our local governments meet the matching funds required in order to receive federal aid."

The state will provide half of those matching dollars – about \$2.5 million – to help ease the burden on local governments.

"This is one-time money that will help these communities get back on their feet," Bredesen said.

"We have provided this funding

assistance to local governments in the past, and I am pleased the state is able to help in this way."

The state of Tennessee will match up to 12.5 percent of the total amount of Federal Public Assistance funding provided to recent tornado disaster victims in West and Middle Tennessee. County governments that incur qualifying Public Assistance damages, costs or expenditures would also need to match 12.5 percent of the total amount of the damages. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency manage the emergency declaration grants for Public Assistance.

The federal funding available to those affected by the storms falls into two categories – individual and public assistance.

Individual assistance can in-  
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## Senate resolution honors Tennessee's firefighters

Firefighters were honored earlier this month with the passage of a resolution, SJR 642, in the Tennessee State Senate marking Feb. 11 as "Firefighters Memorial Day."

The resolution, sponsored by Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey, recognizes the service of firefighters and the sacrifices they make in the line of duty.

"Everyday across Tennessee, brave firefighters put on their uniforms and report for duty with the knowledge that some day they may have to pay the ultimate price for the job that they do," said Ramsey. "It is appropriate that we have this day set aside to honor them and pray for

their safety, and to commemorate those fallen heroes who lost their lives."

There are 23,553 fire fighters in Tennessee, of which 7,074 are full-time and 16,479 are volunteers. Seventy-six firefighters have died since 1954.

"Tennessee is truly the volunteer state, as evidenced by the number of volunteer firemen who are willing to risk their lives to protect their neighbors," Ramsey continued. "I am pleased this resolution has passed, and hope that it raises awareness in our communities of the sacrifices fire fighters make every day."

## Foreign language fluency urged for state's students

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

A step forward in international communications studies could be on the horizon for students in Tennessee as a new bill to foster foreign language fluency among grades 7-12 sweeps the state legislature.

SB2980, sponsored by Sen. Mark Norris, passed the Senate Education Committee unanimously while its companion bill, HB3252, is moving through the House Education Committee. The measure, including a House amendment encompassing grades K-12, urges the Tennessee Board of Education to de-

velop guidelines for local educational agencies (LEAs) to follow that urges students to take more foreign language courses.

"It's not a mandate, just encouraging students to study more foreign languages," said House sponsor, Rep. Jim Coley. Coley, an educator, notes that youths are far more proficient in foreign languages in countries other than the U.S.

"I talked to some friends in Germany, where students are fluent by 9 years of age," said Coley.

Current Tennessee law requires two years instruction in a foreign  
See **LANGUAGE** on Page 6



Nashville's Centennial Park features the International Celebration of Cultures, held annually to foster understanding of other cultures.

## Presidential disaster declaration issued for 16 Tennessee counties

The federal government has authorized a major disaster declaration for three more counties in Tennessee, bringing the total number of counties authorized to receive some form of federal assistance to 16.

Five of the state's hardest hit counties, including Hardin, Macon, Madison, Shelby and Sumner, were authorized for both individual and public assistance on Feb. 7. Eight counties were added to the disaster declaration with an amendment on Feb. 12, including individual assistance for Benton, Hickman, Houston, Lewis, Montgomery, Perry, Trousdale and Williamson Counties.

On Feb. 20, Gov. Bredeesen announced that Fayette, Haywood and McNairy, along with public assistance designations for Benton, Hickman, Houston, Lewis, Perry, Trousdale and Williamson Counties will be included in a second amendment to the Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Tennessee for storms that struck the state on Feb. 5 and 6.

Fayette County has been authorized to receive both individual and public assistance. Haywood and McNairy Counties have been authorized for public assistance.

"It takes the partnership of all levels of government – local, state and federal – to recover from a storm event of this magnitude," said Bredeesen. "I'm pleased to see federal disaster aid continue to be authorized for impacted areas of Tennessee to supplement ongoing state and local recovery efforts."

On Feb. 14, Bredeesen announced the State of Tennessee will help local governments receiving federal public assistance funding meet their obligation to provide matching funds. The state will provide half of those matching dollars – about \$2.5 million – to help ease the burden on local governments.

Federal funding authorized by the disaster declaration falls into two main categories – individual and public assistance. Individual assistance can include grants and loans to individuals or businesses to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses.

Public assistance allows public agencies and certain non-profit agencies and utilities providing essential public service to seek reimbursement of 75 percent of eligible spending for recovery operations. These eligible operations may include debris removal, overtime for police and fire departments and other public workers, and repair or restoration of roads, bridges, public utilities, water control facilities, and public buildings.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the counties authorized for federal assistance should apply for assistance immediately by registering online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-3362.



Bredeesen speaks with first responders in Macon County, one of the hardest hit areas, with more than 68 injured and 12 storm-related fatalities. A Presidential disaster declaration was requested for 21 counties.



President Bush attends a briefing on regional tornado damage shortly after arriving at the Lafayette Fire Department. The President, pictured with Bredeesen, visited the area in the wake of the deadly storms.

## Low-interest SBA loans available for declared tornado disaster areas

To help with recovery efforts, the U.S. Small Business Administration will make available low-interest federal disaster loans available to homeowners, renters and businesses.

Counties declared by the federal government as major disaster areas, including Benton, Fayette, Hardin, Haywood, Hickman, Houston, Lewis, Macon, Madison, McNairy, Montgomery, Perry, Shelby, Sumner, Trousdale and Williamson are eligible for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA.

The contiguous counties of Carroll, Chester, Clay, Crockett, Davidson, Decatur, Gibson, Hardeman, Henderson, Jackson, Robertson, Smith, Tipton, Wayne and Wilson in the Tennessee are only eligible to apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses of any size and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$1.5 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and

other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses only, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loans assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Interest rates can be as low as 2.75 percent for homeowners and renters and 4.0 percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based upon each applicant's financial condition.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, victims must first call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Additional details on the location of Disaster Recovery Center(s) and the loan application process can be obtained by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is April 7, 2008. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Nov. 7, 2008.



ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber, Union University President David Dockery and SBA Administrator Steve Preston visit the Union University campus in Jackson to survey tornado damage.

## Unemployment assistance available for tornado victims

Gov. Phil Bredeesen attained Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) for workers in counties declared by the federal government as major disaster areas who have lost work as a direct result of the severe storms that ravaged the state Feb. 5-6.

Benefits will be paid under provision of the Robert T.

Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, which became available when President Bush granted a Presidential Disaster Declaration in Tennessee at Bredeesen's request.

Disaster unemployment assistance benefit amounts are determined in the same way as regular unemploy-

ment benefits.

Benefits range from \$111 to \$27 each week and are payable up to 26 weeks beginning with the week ending Feb. 16, 2008.

For more information, visit [www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/news/DUA2008.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/news/DUA2008.htm).

## Good Risk Management is just Good Management



When disaster strikes, it not only devastates your community, but it can wreck havoc on your municipal budget.

When a tornado plowed through downtown Jackson in 2003, the city sustained millions in property damages. The TML Risk Management Pool responded quickly and aggressively to ensure the city's claim was handled with the utmost care – providing some \$12 million to help rebuild the city.

# TML

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# Trained volunteers a national trend during disasters

**DISASTERS** from Page 1  
as he spied the road up ahead littered with overturned tractor trailers, shredded trees, and power lines. The clock in the school bell tower had stopped at exactly 7:02 p.m. just as dorm walls imploded, and roofs came smashing down upon helpless students now communicating by cell phone.

As Gist began coordinating emergency personnel, organizing an emergency operation center, and declaring a state of emergency along with Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris, 200 police, firefighters and volunteers were working side by side to rescue trapped and injured students.

"Disaster training is critical for businesses, companies, schools, and citizens" said Gist. "When people know what to do in a disaster, it's easier for the city. Even Union knew what to do because they had drills and disaster preparation. I believe there was no loss of life because the administration at the dorms got as many kids as they could to a lower floor as they were trained to do," Gist said.

Since 911, and as natural disasters gain momentum across the U.S., every day citizens have become more adept at providing aid in the event of an emergency. With the advancement of Internet courses, and easier access to industrial equipment, and local training, volunteers have become the

golden thread woven throughout the fabric of the first responder tapestry.

In Jackson alone, more than 800-900 volunteers, including high school students from Madison Academy trained in disaster recovery, turned out to aid the community.

"At a time like this, government and citizen are really no longer separate entities," writes Jonathan Walters, of *Governing Magazine*, who notes that the heaviest load in the wake of disaster often "falls too clearly on the shoulders of government-employed emergency personnel."

"A huge mass of Americans who have never thought of being part of government mobilize to join in. They do this reflexively from steel workers to students," Walters continues. "While it is a novel feeling right now, this is the way it is supposed to be in America. There isn't supposed to be a sharp divide between government and citizen. They are supposed to be one and the same. Yet, over the decades, the two have sometimes resembled warring camps more than connected pieces of the same whole."

Neighbors helping neighbors is the mantra for Gallatin Mayor JoAnn Graves. Two years ago, before Graves was mayor of the city, Gallatin, along with Goodlettsville and Hendersonville, suffered a paralyzing fate during a devastating tornado. Nine deaths occurred in Gallatin in 2006 along with 2,600 demolished buildings and residences



Macon County is considered one of the hardest hit areas of the deadly Feb. 5 twisters.

and significant damage to Volunteer State Community College.

"We are more than happy to do what we can to help just as people came to our aid two years ago," said Graves, having dispatched the Gallatin Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments to those areas in need.

Some 1,500 volunteers showed up at the Gallatin Chamber of Commerce to help with the massive cleanup efforts, while hundreds prepared sack lunches and sorted supplies and donations at the emergency

operation center at Cragfont Baptist Church in Castalian Springs. Volunteers also distributed cardboard boxes throughout damaged neighborhoods so that individuals might store their recovered items. A donated warehouse next to the Gallatin Airport became a massive Red Cross relief center.

For some individuals, the tornado of 2006 became an unexpected lesson in disaster training, according to Sumner County Executive Hank Thompson.

"After the last tornado, a lot of people all over the county took disaster training," Thompson said. Among them, the Bledsoe Baptist Association, including 39 churches in Sumner, Trousdale, and Macon counties. In 2006, the group had an empty trailer and a handful of volunteers with just enough training to get injured themselves at the damaged sites, according to Mike Pennington, director of missions and coordinator of volunteer teams.

"We probably have three times the volunteers now, 75-100 said Pennington. "We have a recovery trailer fully stocked with chainsaws, pressure washers, generators and 75 volunteers fully trained and prepared to go in at the first moment of disaster."

According to Pennington, the group has received special permission from FEMA to help clean up ravaged Macon County where the damage is quite severe.

"FEMA has invited us in as first responders," Pennington continues. They want people who know what they are doing. Tennessee's Baptists are well trained with clean up, recovery and rebuilding after a disaster as well as the Churches of Christ."

According to Pennington, training sessions take place at the Hendersonville Baptist Church,

where volunteer groups are taught the mechanics of disaster relief, mass feeding, commercial laundering, operating chain saws, rebuilding and recovery and pastoral grief counseling.

"Sometimes people just need a shoulder to cry on," Pennington added.

Training is conducted by those highly experienced in their field or who have gone on at least five missions.

The Gallatin Chamber of Commerce was approached by the Emergency Management Agency to head volunteer efforts across three counties, Sumner, Macon, and Trousdale. The efforts of the chamber had been instrumental during the 2006 tornados.

"We put the word out and ended up registering 2,500 volunteers," said Paige Brown, director. According to Brown, many were motivated by previous tornado related loss.

"We received a call from a group of farmers in North Dakota hit by a tornado last year who are making the trip out here to help," said Brown.

In addition to church and civic groups, individuals from the agricultural and medical fields have shown up as volunteers.

Madison County, along with Hardin, Macon, Shelby and Sumner counties, those hardest hit, were among the first areas authorized to receive federal aid to individuals and businesses devastated by the storm.

After further assessment, Benton, Fayette, Hickman, Haywood, Houston, Lewis, McNairy, Montgomery, Perry, Trousdale and Williamson counties were added to the list.



An electric worker clears away downed power lines at what remains of a home in Fairview where around 500 residents lost power in the Fairview and Pinewood areas. Coldwater, Pinewood and South Harpeth Roads were heavily affected with fallen trees and mountains of debris blocking roadways.

## Public Libraries become ports in the storm

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

As tornados trampled across seven counties in Tennessee, free access to continuous news and weather reports, blogs, and other interactive web sites was a click away for those seeking instant information at public libraries across the U.S.

Ellen Perlman notes in *Governing Magazine* "during emergencies, citizens and even some disaster workers depend on libraries for Internet connections to the world," while at the same time, she observes that the duties of librarians have increased beyond that of cataloging and book referrals.

In her article, "Critical Connectors," Perlman compares librarians in Pasco County Florida to first responders during times of emergency.

"Library staff give callers timely information such as where they can get water and ice, which hotels are pet friendly, whether there will be an evacuation, where the sandbags are available," writes Perlman.

"It's a natural fit for library workers who are used to answering questions and giving information and customer service," Perlman continues.

"The only unnatural part: the staff has no emergency training."

Perlman encourages governments relying on library personnel for technological support and disaster relief efforts to include library staff in emergency planning conversations and exercises along with disaster training courses.

"Public libraries are taking on additional roles at their own expense," agrees John Carlo Bertot, professor at Florida State University "We're trained to be information professionals; we're not trained as first responders."

"The library's role in any disaster situation is in Metro's *Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*," said Chase Adams, administrator at Nashville Public Library.

"We are to provide the general public the use of computers at main library/branches as well as other metro entities, provide access to preparedness materials pre-and post disaster, an example would be the Wolf Creek Dam flood maps available for public inspection at various libraries and I presume we will get copies of the Center Hill Dam flood maps when they are available. We also provide a reference copy of Metro's comprehensive disaster plan (CEMP)."

"Library staff may also be reassigned to provide general assistance/support to OEM and the Health Department in times of disaster," Adams continues.

"Every department in Metro has the responsibility and can be

called upon to assist with crowd control, questionnaires, mobilization, or whatever they can quickly be trained to do," said Adams.

According to Metro's *Procedures for Reassignment of Staff to the Health Department to assist in Disaster Response*:

In the event of a bio-terrorism event or other type of disaster requiring the mass inoculation of the citizens of Davidson County, Metro employees may be reassigned to assist the Metro Health Department as described in a Public Health Disaster Response training video that all library employees are to view.

Library administration will be notified by the Metro Health Department and/or the Mayor's Office to provide staff to assist. Library staff may volunteer for these assignments; otherwise, the manager will select the employees to be reassigned based on a lottery that will be conducted by the branch/division manager.

Adams indicates the staff at the Nashville Public Library understand their unique role as information specialists and are more than willing to assist in the event of emergency.

"You would think that under the circumstances, the library staff might say "I didn't sign on to do this," Adams said.

"However, for every employee we've shown the film to and described the procedure, not one person has said no."

## Local disaster training class schedule



**Feb. 26:** Parkway Baptist Church, 505 Cunniff Pkwy, Goodlettsville, 6:30-9:30 pm, \$5 fee. Contact Murray Johnson at 615-226-0957 for pre-registration.

**Feb. 28:** First Baptist Concord, 11704 Kingston Pike, Knoxville H-101 choir room in the main sanctuary building from 6-9 pm, \$5 fee. To register, e-mail ltriplett@tds.net or call the church receptionist at 865-966-9791.

**Feb. 28:** True Life Baptist Church, 9789 Hwy. 59S, Atoka, 6-9 pm, \$5 fee. Call Stan Smith at the Associational office to make reservations, 901-476-6759.

**Feb. 29:** First Baptist Church, 90 Hwy. 20, Summertown, 7-10 pm, \$5 fee. To pre-register, contact person Lanny Benefield at 931-626-5921.

**Mar. 3:** Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Ave, Germantown, 6:30-9:30 pm, \$5 fee. To pre-register, contact Kathy Rainwater at 901-756-9450 or e-mail krainwater@gbconline.net

**Mar. 8,** Belle Aire Baptist Church, 1307 N. Rutherford Blvd., Murfreesboro.

**Mar. 10:** Faith Baptist Church, 3755 N. Germantown Rd., Bartlett, 6-9 pm, \$5 fee. Contact the church to pre-register at 901-386-4785.

**Mar. 18:** First Baptist Church, 1627 N. Highland Ave., Jackson, 6-9 pm, \$5 fee. Contact Carl Teel at 731-343-1857.

**Mar. 29:** First Baptist Church, 1627 N. Highland Ave, Jackson.

**Apr. 19,** First Baptist Church, 504 West Main Street, Morristown.

**May 10:** Unit Directors Training Baptist Center, Brentwood By invitation only by your director of missions.

**May 24:** 30th Disaster Relief Anniversary Camp Linden, Linden

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency has set up a hotline for people interested in helping the storm recovery effort. The call center is operated by AT&T and staffed with volunteers. Its purpose is to help direct offers from the public to donate time or services, goods, or money to victims in any of the 21 counties hit by last week's tornadoes. TEMA officials hope the hotline will reduce the volume of calls to the state's Emergency Operations Center.

The toll free number is 1-866-586-4483.

# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## BY TML STAFF REPORTS

**BAXTER**  
The city of Baxter has entered discussions about building a new fire station on land leased by the county. As a duly recognized department by the state Fire Marshal's Office, the department has grown to 19 members, 15 who have completed recruit school along with 4 certified driver/engineers.

## CHATTANOOGA/HAMILTON CO.

Hamilton County parents unable to pay their children's student fees should be allowed to volunteer at schools, attend PTA meetings or perform other "in-kind" services to repay their debt, County Commission Chairman Bill Hullander said. Because students in Tennessee cannot be required to pay a fee to attend public school, many parents choose not to pay, leaving schools with one less source of income. Fees for students attending Hamilton County schools range from \$10-\$75. According to Hullander, if parents received credit for attending parent-teacher association meetings and painting or weeding around campus, "it would help the schools and increase parent involvement."

## CHATTANOOGA

Manufacturers Industrial Group, LLC (MIG) has purchased Modern Industries, LLC from Leggett and Platt, Inc. preserving 300 jobs. Leggett and Platt indicated that the facility would close during 2008 if a buyer could not be found. Located in two facilities in Lookout Valley, Modern Industries currently makes wire frames and seat components for the automotive seating market. MIG, which is headquartered in Lexington, TN, is the largest business in Henderson County and the largest minority-owned business in Tennessee. The company specializes in robotic, resistance, projection, automatic, and hand welding. MIG will manufacture formed wire and tube at the Modern Industries plant.

## COLUMBIA

Two local state representatives presented officials of the Polk Home with more than \$12,500 in grants to assist in renovating a new wing — the Polk Presidential Hall. Sen. Bill Ketron and Rep. Tom DuBois provided the funds through the Tennessee Community Enhancement Grants in a ceremony on Columbia's public square. The funding will help renovate the facility and ensure its future use as a community education and exhibition hall. The hall is scheduled to be completed this year.

## FRANKLIN

Franklin Fire Station No. 6, located at 1061 Cool Springs Blvd., has been officially placed in service. The three-bay, 11,175 square ft. station, in the Avalon development, will serve the area east of I-65 and north of Murfreesboro Rd. and will house eight firefighters per shift. In addition, it includes offices for two fire inspectors and the city's medical officer. Land for the new station, 1.8 acres, was donated by the developers of Avalon, a residential and commercial development located in Cool Springs.

## GALLATIN/HENDERSON-VILLE

Sumner County leaders and business owners are pushing a plan to lengthen the runway at Sumner County Regional Airport, an expansion that would boost the area's ability to attract corporations and grow local business. The airport has received \$1.4 million in state grants and is seeking more state and federal funds for a project that will cost about \$3.5 million. In a joint effort, Hendersonville, Gallatin and county leaders want to lengthen the runway from 5,000 feet to 6,500 feet, a move that would push Sumner County beyond runway lengths in Lebanon and the John C. Tune Airport in West Nashville making it the third longest behind Smyrna's airport and the Nashville International Airport. The airport has received approval for the 1,000 foot extension and is asking for another 500 feet.

## HENDERSON

Arvin Sango, Inc. announced it will locate a new manufacturing facility in Henderson. The automotive parts manufacturing company will build exhaust systems for the Toyota Highlander SUV model slated for production at Toyota's newest assembly plant in northern Mississippi, currently under construction. The plant is a \$10 million investment for the company and is anticipated to create 40 new jobs in Henderson. Arvin Sango supplies more than 65 percent of the exhaust systems used by Toyota Motor Company plants in North America.

## HENRY

A factory that was the biggest employer in the city of Henry has been wiped out in a fire. No workers were present when the fire began in the early morning at the Champion Manufacturer Home Plant. The only reported injuries were minor injuries to firefighters. The facility has been declared a total loss and damages will run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. According to the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, the plant that opened in 1968 employed about 230 people.

## JASPER

The town of Jasper, in Marion County, received an enhancement grant in the amount of \$128,260 to assist with the development of a Trail Lighting Project. The project will enable the town to install pedestrian lighting along 2,200 linear feet of trail. The grant is made possible through a federally funded program administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Under a previous enhancement grant, the town secured funding for the multipurpose trail that connects Marion County High School, Jasper Elementary School, the Marion County Board of Education Building, Senior Housing, and town recreational complexes. This multipurpose trail provides residents with a paved trail for walking and biking, allowing access to a majority of Jasper. The installation of pedestrian lighting along the trail will enhance the area and add to the safety of the trail users.

## MEMPHIS

The Memphis Board of Education's policy committee took a deeper look

at increasing the frequency of metal detector screenings at secondary schools. Staffers proposed that schools be required to do one search each week, either a school-wide metal detector screening or a random search in a classroom or other school room. Each campus would be required to conduct a school-wide screening at least once a month. In Nov., the board asked the district's staff to do a feasibility study looking at daily screenings in every Memphis middle and high school after a Manassas High School student accidentally shot his classmate in October during an honors English class and a Hamilton High School student intentionally shot an algebra classmate after an argument related to music.

## MURFREESBORO

Bridgestone Americas Holding Inc. is considering moving a technical center from Akron, Ohio, to Middle Tennessee that would add more than 600 engineering, science and technician jobs to the area. In the meantime, the Nashville-based company is asking officials in the two states to come up with incentive proposals. The company is considering sites in Nashville and Murfreesboro. The tech center would need about 35 to 40 acres for a facility that would design and develop all Bridgestone and Firestone tires made in North, Central and South America.

## NASHVILLE

Only one person among Vanderbilt University's most recent crop of 25 graduates with bachelors degrees in computer science and computer engineering accepted a job in Tennessee, with the remainder heading to more attractive job markets, according to Vanderbilt. Nashville has been known to post more than 1,200 job vacancies in a single month in information-technology fields. According to the Nashville Technology Council, local universities may produce as few as 215 four-year degree-holders in tech-oriented fields this year and 69 percent of those are destined to leave the state upon graduation. To make matters worse, only 4 to 10 percent of the four-year schools' student bodies are working toward tech degrees.

## NASHVILLE

Nashville continues to lure out-of-state investors looking to get a piece of a sizzling apartment market. The city and surrounding areas recently ranked No. 4 in the nation for apartment investment according to a Dallas area rental research firm. The M/PF YieldStar report comes at a time when observers say national investors could flee other markets and buy in Music City.

## OAK RIDGE

UT-Battelle, a not-for-profit company established for the purpose of managing and operating the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy, has earned straight "A's" for its management of the laboratory and will get nearly \$10.4 million in fees for fiscal year 2007. The Department of Energy announced that it had evaluated the company's performance in managing the lab, grading it on eight performance goals that included the quality of research programs and the efficiency of the lab's operations. The company scored an "A" on all eight goals, with the lowest score being an A-, according to a DOE news release.



# PEOPLE

## BY TML STAFF REPORTS

**Gov. Phil Bredesen** was selected to chair the Southern Technology Council, an advisory council focusing on technology and innovation policy issues for the Southern Growth Policies Board. The council is comprised of a diverse group of professionals in the science, technology and economic development fields with the principal mission of strengthening the Southern economy through innovation and technology. The Southern Technology Council will continue to promote the state's initiatives in science and technology, particularly in the area of bioenergy. Bredesen's commitment of more than \$70 million to alternative fuels development last year helped make Tennessee a leader in the movement away from a petroleum-based economy, lessening the state's dependence on foreign oil and its environmental impact. Bredesen also co-chairs the National Governors Association State Alliance for e-Health.



Bredesen

tions analyst, and in 1989 was appointed the agency's division chief of Consumer Services and External Affairs. From 1995 to 1996, he served as interim executive director during the agency's transition from Public Service Commission to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. Freeman, who will become the first African American woman to serve on the TRA, will assume her duties beginning July 1. Prior to joining Gov. Bredesen's staff in 2003, Freeman served as executive assistant to state Rep. and Speaker Pro Tempore Lois DeBerry.

Former House Republican Leader **Trey Hargett** took the oath of office after confirmation of his nomination to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. **Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey** nominated Hargett to serve on the body, which sets the rates and service standards of privately owned telephone, natural gas, electric and water utilities.



Hargett

**Drew Kim**, the executive director of Gov. Bredesen's Office of Policy and Planning, has moved to a national lobbying firm.



Kim

Kim was the governor's chief policy adviser for more than six years. He is joining the new Nashville office of Southern Strategy Group, which is headed up by **Robert Gowan**, Bredesen's former legislative affairs director.

**Honna Rogers** has been hired as the new town manager of Signal Mountain. Rogers had worked in Signal Mountain, East Ridge, Cleveland and Athens while serving an internship with the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service after receiving her master's degree from UT. This is Rogers's first full-time job as manager, though she served as an assistant manager for Sevierville, while attending graduate school at UT. The position was vacated by Diane Campbell who resigned in December. Rogers will assume her managerial duties the first week in March.



Rogers

**Rep. Mike Bell** is recovering from surgery after breaking his leg. Bell, a volunteer firefighter, injured himself while fighting a house fire in rural McMinn county.



Bell

**Benjamin Wright**, Chief Administrative Officer for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, has resigned effective March 21.

Murfreesboro native, **Dr. Hershel "Pat" Wall** was named chancellor of the UT's Health Science Center in Memphis. UT President John Petersen had announced plans to remove the interim title designation for both **Wall** and **Ken Brown**. Since mid-April 2007, Dr. Wall has served as interim chancellor and vice president for Health Affairs, while Dr. Brown has served as chief of staff and interim executive vice chancellor for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). Dr. Wall will carry the title of chancellor and its full responsibilities until a new permanent chancellor is hired.



Wall

**Eddie Roberson** and **Mary W. Freeman** have been appointed as directors to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA). Freeman's appointment is shared between the Gov., the Speaker of the House, and Lieutenant Governor.



Roberson



Freeman

Roberson, who currently serves as the agency's Chairman, was originally appointed to the TRA by Bredesen in May 2006 to replace former director Debi Tate, who was appointed commissioner at the FCC by President Bush. Freeman replaces current TRA director Ron Jones. She currently serves as a legislative director to Gov. Bredesen. Roberson joined TRA, then the Public Service Commission, in 1975. He has worked as a consumer protection specialist, a telecommunica-

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# STATE BRIEFS



# New Civil War heritage program



Tennessee Department of Tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker speaks at Murfreesboro's new Heritage Center as one of the state's six public meetings unveiling the Tennessee Civil War Trails program.

### TRAIL from Page 1

Middle Tennessee heritage community to attend and find out how this state platform for heritage tourism can help them achieve wider recognition for their Civil War resources."

The Heritage Center contains

educational and informative exhibits, yet also presents the whole history of the city of Murfreesboro through walking tours and bike trails pointing out little known stories of Murfreesboro's past. It is free of charge and equally informative for tourists and residents.

For more information about the Tennessee Civil War Trails program, contact the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Noel Rembert, Civil War Heritage Coordinator, at 615-532-8077 or Noel.Rembert@state.tn.us

### BY TML STAFF REPORTS

**An early assessment of Tennessee's pre-K initiative shows the program is beneficial** but critics say it's still too early to gauge its effectiveness. The state commissioned Ohio-based Strategic Research Group to conduct a three-year study of the program from 2007-2010, and representatives from the group presented a report to the Senate Education Committee. The report showed there are some short and long-term benefits associated with pre-K. The report also showed some problem areas. For instance, in the case of reading and language arts, minority females did better than minority males. In math, white males in pre-K didn't do well when compared to a group of white males not in the program.

Corporate Knights Inc. and Innovest Strategic Value Advisors released their **fourth annual Global 100 list in January, highlighting the most sustainable large corporations** around the world. Two have a presence in Tennessee - Eastman Kodak Company and Alcoa, Inc. The Global 100, which represent 17 countries and all sectors of the economy, were chosen based on how effectively they manage environmental, social and governance risks, and opportunities relative to their industry peers.

Highlighting a rise in obesity, a decline in sportsmanship, and the growing use of steroids among athletes, U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp, and several other lawmakers are **calling for an increased focus on positive youth sports programs.** Lawmakers at a news conference, which also featured former professional athletes now working in youth sports, said with children being bombarded by stories, pictures, and videos of misbehaving athletes in the media, sportsmanship and positive behaviors have to be reinforced by coaches, teachers and parents.

**Consumer confidence in Middle Tennessee fell to its lowest level** recently since Middle Tennessee State University started a survey of how residents feel about their economic fortunes more than seven years ago. The MTSU index, based on a survey of 495 residents in Davidson, Williamson, and Rutherford counties, found people 30 percent more pessimistic than they were two months ago. MTSU Marketing Professor Timothy Graeff attributes the weak report to jitters about where the national economy appears to be headed.

**The number of cattle and calves in Tennessee fell 8 percent from last year to 2.3 million head.** The decrease is attributed to the same extreme weather conditions that vexed the state's row crops last year, according to a survey conducted by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Tennessee Field Office. The drop was attributed to the Easter freeze coupled with extreme drought conditions, which resulted in poor pastures and reduced hay production. Water shortages in some areas also resulted in many producers culling cattle. The survey shows around 1 million head of beef cattle in the state, which is down 6 percent

from last year. Milk cow numbers were down 9 percent to 61,000. Tennessee's cattle numbers have fallen far from the 3.3 million seen in the mid-1970s.

Chances are looking good that an **upcoming Hannah Montana feature will shoot in Middle Tennessee**, in late March or April. The state has been under consideration for the feature since last fall. Disney and Tennessee's state film commission have been diligently working to find acceptable terms. Teen sensation Miley Cyrus made headlines around the world when the Hannah Montana concert film grossed more than \$31 million during Super Bowl Sunday.

To promote exercise and fitness, **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee will sponsor a 12-week contest** between the 16 Senate Democrats and 16 Senate Republicans, given pedometers to measure which party caucus does the most walking.

**Tennessee transportation officials are facing a shortfall of more than \$5 billion in the next eight to 10 years** because of stagnant fuel revenues and skyrocketing construction costs. Although Tennessee hasn't increased its gasoline tax of 21.4 cents per gallon since 1989, TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely said he has no plans to push for a hike in the existing tax.

**The Hispanic birth rate in Tennessee is far outpacing the national rate.** State Department of Health figures show that the number of Hispanic babies born in Tennessee jumped from 444 in 1990 to 7,885 in 2006. Demographers say the increase is due to the growing number of Hispanics moving to the state. Tennessee experienced the fourth-highest Hispanic growth rate in the country, 55.5 percent from 2000 to 2006.

**The Great Smoky Mountains National Park** had a slight increase in visitors in 2007, despite hot and dry weather which brought on a drought in the region. The park received 9.37 million hikers, campers and outdoors enthusiasts last year, up 83,039 visitors or about 1 percent since the year before. Most of the increase came May through September when the 520,000-acre preserve straddling the Tennessee-North Carolina border experienced some of its hottest and driest weather. Although the park finished the year with rainfall deficits in some areas, the display of fall foliage was one of the best in years, park officials said.

# Sales tax receipts for December dropped below budgeted estimate

Business tax collections offset a drop in sales tax collections for January in Tennessee. State Finance & Administration Commissioner Dave Goetz reported that overall January revenues were nearly \$1.1 billion, and \$110,000 less than the state budgeted.

"This is the first time in more than three decades that sales tax receipts for December dropped below the previous year, yielding a negative growth rate," Goetz said. "It confirms what retailers have already reported, that consumer spending was disappointing in December."

On an accrual basis, January is the sixth month in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

The general fund was over col-

lected by \$3.0 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$3.1 million.

Sales tax collections were \$26.6 million less than the estimate for January. The January growth rate was a negative 1.36 percent. For six months revenues are under collected by \$86.1 million. The year-to-date growth rate for six months was 2.39 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$37.8 million above the budgeted estimate of \$142.8 million. For six months revenues are under collected by \$35.7 million.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for January decreased by 10.53 percent and were \$171,000 below the budgeted estimate of \$71.5 mil-

lion. For six months revenues are over collected by \$2.0 million.

Tobacco tax collections were \$3.3 million below the budgeted estimate of \$26.5 million, and for six months they are \$43.6 million under the budgeted estimate.

Year-to-date collections for six months were \$182.2 million less than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was under collected by \$183.2 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$1.0 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2007-2008 are based on the State Funding Board's consensus recommendation adopted by the first session of the 105th General Assembly in June of 2007.

# State provides \$2.5 million aid to governments

### STATE from Page 1

clude grants and loans to individuals or businesses to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses.

Public assistance allows public agencies and certain non-profit agencies and utilities providing essential public service to seek reim-

bursement of 75 percent of eligible spending for recovery operations.

These eligible operations may include debris removal, overtime for police and fire departments and other public workers, and repair or restoration of roads, bridges, public utilities, water control facilities, and public buildings.

To date, five Tennessee coun-

ties have been approved for Public Assistance, including the counties of Hardin, Macon, Madison, Shelby, and Sumner.

Authorization for additional counties is expected as damage surveys are completed and submitted to FEMA. The devastating storms that hit Tennessee killed 32 persons and injured 192.

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## U.S. communities explore buying green

BY AMY ELSBREE  
Nation's Cities Weekly

City, county and school purchasing officials and suppliers of a broad range of goods and services gathered last week at the annual meeting of the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance to share best practices and new opportunities for "buying green." The U.S. Communities program is the national purchasing program sponsored by NLC and four other national organizations.

Chief among the conclusions was that there are varying definitions of what it means to be "green" and that it is best to start making incremental improvements, rather than focus too much on achieving perfection.

According to Yalmaz Siddiqui, environmental strategy advisor to Office Depot, "There are shades of green. You don't have to be perfect. We need to remove the old school idea that if you are not perfect you are not green."

Joe Sandoval, division manager, Purchasing and Contract Services, County of Los Angeles, spoke of the county's environmental purchasing plan as a "road map." He said, "It's not a science. You implement and implement and take steps to get to where you are going."

Nancy Locke, city purchasing manager for Seattle, added, "It takes time. You have to work through product by product. It's not that you can just say, 'Now we are green,' and you are done. Our citizens expect us to be paying attention to this and they are doing this in their own corporate offices."

Participants dispelled the common myths that being green is expensive or sacrifices quality. An example is that remanufactured printer cartridges cost less than new ones and have been improved so they no longer burst inside printers as they once did. According to Locke, Seattle is saving \$300,000 each year just on toner cartridges. They are also achieving savings by using retreaded tires, recycled antifreeze, plastic lumber and remanufactured furniture.

The national contracts offered

## NLC taking nominations for Excellence Awards

BY ANN SWING  
KELLY  
Nation's Cities Weekly

As the leading innovators of the 21st century, cities and towns are finding ways to turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities. To recognize outstanding programs that enrich the quality of life in America's communities, NCL is accepting nominations for the 2008 Awards for Municipal Excellence.

While honoring hometowns for their ingenuity and creativity, the Awards for Municipal Excellence also raise the visibility of winning cities and towns throughout the country and offer other communities the chance to implement similar programs.

Each nomination will be evaluated on:

- the program's innovativeness;
- the success of the local government in implementing the program; and
- the measurable benefit of the program for local government and the overall community.

In addition, a panel of judges will be looking for programs that exemplify:

## Foreign language fluency urged for state's students

LANGUAGE from Page 1  
language.

Coley, who suggests updating Tennessee's curriculum beyond romance languages, proposes that curriculum become more compatible with the nation's international relationships, such as courses in Indian or Chinese.

No longer delegated to the back burner, foreign languages are viewed as a necessary component in today's global marketplace and a powerful tool on the home front as well as the U.S. becomes more culturally diverse. A recent report released by the Pew Hispanic Center, a nonpartisan research group, indi-

cates that a continuation of current trends could make the white race a minority in the nation by 2050.

In Tennessee alone, the Hispanic birthrate is far outpacing the national rate according to data by the Department of Health. In the years 2000 to 2006, the state experienced the fourth-highest Hispanic growth rate in the country, 55.5 percent according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

During the 1990's the U.S. State Department, along with non-profit resettlement agencies, observed that a steady growth of immigrants speaking a variety of languages could be found in midsize and Southern cities.

With sales of more than \$1.2 billion in 2007, U.S. Communities now offers 16 competitively solicited contracts, providing thousands of products and services including office supplies and furniture, parks and playground equipment, homeland security and public safety products, maintenance products, auto parts, technology products and more.

NLC Executive Director Donald J. Borut attended the meeting as the NLC representative to the Board of Directors. "The U.S. Communities green purchasing program is a great benefit to our member cities, offering them low cost goods and services that can also contribute to the city's efforts to be more environmentally conscious and energy efficient," said Borut.

The program is easy to use. There is no fee to participate, no minimum spending and only a simple electronic registration is required. Any city or town may register online at [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org) and clicking on "Register to Participate."

Electronic registration provides a public agency with access to all contract documents and pricing, all suppliers, and substantial information on program savings and program participants. It also provides an electronic copy of the master inter-governmental cooperative purchasing agreement that serves as the legal document that authorizes a participating public agency's use of each lead public agency's contract available through U.S. Communities.

For more information on the program including the green purchasing opportunities, visit U.S. Communities "Go Green" at [www.uscommunities.org/green/](http://www.uscommunities.org/green/) contact Marc Shapiro at (202) 626-3019 or [shapiro@nlc.org](mailto:shapiro@nlc.org).

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- project implementation with tangible results.

Nominations are considered in four population categories: less than 50,000; 50,001-150,000; 150,001-500,000, and more than 500,001. Judges will choose a gold and a silver winner for each population category.

Nominations must be post-marked by May 3 to be eligible for the award. Winners will receive their awards at the 2008 Congress of Cities being held Nov. 11-15 in Orlando, Fla.

For more information and a copy of a 2008 nomination packet, send an e-mail to [awards@nlc.org](mailto:awards@nlc.org).

## Eight Tennessee airports were approved for aeronautics grants totaling \$435,246

Eight Tennessee airports have been approved for Aeronautics Grants totaling \$435,246.

Airports receiving grants are Fayetteville Municipal Airport, Lovell Field in Chattanooga, McGhee Tyson Airport in Knoxville, General DeWitt Spain Airport in Shelby County, Tri-Cities Regional Airport, Crossville Memorial Airport, Mark Anton Municipal Airport in Dayton and Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport.

"As our communities continue to grow and thrive, it becomes increasingly important that our airports stay competitive and efficient at meeting the needs of the travelers who use them," said Bredesen. "These airports are vital to area economies and travel systems, and I'm pleased to support their continued growth."

The grants are made available through the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Division.

Except for routine expenditures, grant applications are reviewed by the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission (TAC), which is a five member board charged with policy planning and with regulating changes in the state airport system plan.

The TDOT Aeronautics Divi-



Lovell Field in Hamilton County: \$99,546 has been approved for a \$99,546 grant. It is one of eight Tennessee airports that received money from the TDOT Aeronautics Division.

sion has the responsibility of inspecting and licensing the state's 126 heliports and 75 public/general aviation airports. The Division also provides aircraft and related services for state government and staffing for the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission.

The following airports received grant money:

- Crossville Memorial Airport: \$19,000
- Fayetteville Municipal Airport

in Lincoln County: \$50,000

- Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport in Sevier County: \$15,000
- General DeWitt Spain Airport in Shelby County: \$50,000
- Lovell Field in Hamilton County: \$99,546
- Mark Anton Municipal Airport in Dayton: \$55,000
- McGhee Tyson Airport in Knoxville: \$48,700
- Tri-Cities Regional Airport: \$98,000

## New construction in Kingsport hits \$164.48 million mark for 2007

The books are closed on a record calendar year for new investment, with the city of Kingsport setting a blistering \$164.48 million pace for new construction, nearly doubling the \$88.5 million total of 2006.

"I've been in the building division in Kingsport for 30 years, and I have never seen a year this strong," Building Official Mike Freeman said. "And really, it looks like we are going to have a solid 2008 as well, particularly with the huge project Eastman Chemical is working on."

On the housing front, 120 new detached houses, 58 condominium and 53 apartment units were permitted for construction in 2007, for a total value of \$28.2 million in residential construction. The average home permit value was \$162,030, up \$4,399 over the average single-family home in 2006.

"We have hundreds of folks moving into the Kingsport area each year, but only a limited amount of developable land inside the city limits," Freeman said. "That's why annexation is critical, to bring more developable land inside the city for residential construction."

City Manager John Campbell said he is particularly encouraged by the number of regional homebuilders now looking to the single-family market in Kingsport.

"Just this past seven days, there have been four different developers in my office who are keenly interested in looking for land to build on in Kingsport," Campbell said. "We need to be able to ensure city services are available at developable properties to make these potential projects become reality."

On the commercial side of the ledger, Holston Medical Group's new six story medical office building on Stone Drive was valued at \$40 million in new investment, offering well over 200,000 square feet of medical office space once completed.

All told, Kingsport realized \$92.7 million in commercial construction and renovation, with continued two new office buildings in the MeadowView business district, completion of the Kingsport Pavilion, the new Food City at Crown Point and start of construction at Reedy Creek Terrace and Goose Creek Plaza on Jack White Drive, not to mention a \$1 million renovation to Wal-Mart.



Kingsport realized \$92.7 million in commercial construction and renovation. Pictured above is the Allied Health Building.



Holston Medical Group's new six story medical office building on Stone Drive was valued at \$40 million in new investment, offering well over 200,000 square feet of medical office space when completed.

tion to Wal-Mart.

On the industrial side, the city processed four building permits with a construction value of \$7 million, the very first of the \$265 million Eastman will spend each year for the next five years as they add new production capacity and pollution controls, while also rejuvenating manufacturing infrastructure at the site.

The 2007 annual building report also notes that the old Wal-Mart on Stonegate Road has been demolished to prepare for redevelopment, the Pavilion has several out parcels available and work should begin in 2008 on the extensive Fort Henry Mall renovation projected to add 80,000 plus square feet of retail

space to that facility.

Meanwhile, work will get under way this year on the estimated \$12 million Higher Education Center, a \$15 million addition to the Marriott Hotel at MeadowView, while work continues on the \$100 million Project Platinum at Wellmont Holston Valley Medical Center.

"All-in-all, Kingsport continues to be in a great position moving forward," Campbell said. "While we won't see all of the positive impacts for 2-4 years, we are building real economic synergy in Kingsport. In the mid-term, the strong pace of development gets us much closer to our goal of providing the best possible services at the lowest possible cost."

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

When taxpayers receive extra cash from the federal government this spring, most consumers are likely to save it or pay down debt, according to a national survey completed by the Washington D.C.-based National Retail Federation. Consumers said **70 percent of their rebate checks would go toward savings, investments, paying bills and debts, or buying necessities** such as food and gas, which could signal continued weak consumer spending.

**More states are turning over records to a federal database of mentally ill people barred from owning guns**, nearly tripling the number in the system since the massacre at Virginia Tech last spring, the FBI says. The tragedy spurred states to revisit their policies regarding the database. The FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which federally licensed gun dealers must consult before selling a gun, has about 402,000 records from 32 states of people declared

mentally ill by a court. The bulk of the records come from three states: California, Virginia and Michigan, which contribute about 368,000 of the 402,000 records. The federal government cannot force states to transmit their records. However, a new law President Bush signed in Jan. gives states grant money to pay for collecting the information and transmitting it to the federal database. States that don't participate could lose federal money for law enforcement.





## CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Mona Lawrence, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: mlawrence@TML1.org; or fax: 615-255 4752.

### BUILDING INSPECTOR

**PORTLAND.** The city of Portland is accepting applications for the position of building inspector until filled. The position is responsible for the inspection work in the enforcement of state and local regulations. This person performs on site building and structure inspections for compliance with state and local codes and regulations. They must ensure that land and building usage conform to health, safety, and zoning regulations. The building inspector advises the public and contractors concerning building, electrical, plumbing and other regulations and codes concerning construction. The salary range is \$30,290 - \$42,405. Application may be obtained from the Receptionist or Human Resources Department, City Hall, 100 South Russell Street, Portland, TN 37148 or at [www.cityofportlandtn.gov](http://www.cityofportlandtn.gov). Resumes send to [HR@cityofportland.gov](mailto:HR@cityofportland.gov) or fax to 615-325-5345. For more information, call 615-325-6776.

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

**BOLIVAR.** The city is accepting applications for the position of city administrator. Salary is market competitive and negotiable DOQ. Strongly prefer degree in public administration and demonstrated success as chief administrative officer in full-service municipal government. Mayor and 8 member council with 110-115 full-time employees. Require minimum bachelor's degree in business/public administration/political science/closely related field. Strong emphasis on knowledge of municipal finance, economic development, growth management, and transportation issues; strong interpersonal and communication skills. Prefer experience managing in city council/manager form of government; served as city manager of similar size organization, or as deputy director in larger organization. Reports directly to council and responsible for oversight of departments, administration, finance, planning and community development, utility, public works, police, fire, parks and recreation and library. Equivalent educational qualifications or experience will be considered. The City of Bolivar is an equal opportunity employer. Tennessee Drug Free Workplace. For more information, call 731-658-2020. Send cover letter, detailed resume and references to City of Bolivar, Attn: Mayor Bobby Sain, 211 N. Washington Street, Bolivar, TN 38008.

### CIVIL ENGINEER

**OWASSO, OK.** The city of Owasso Public Works Department seeks a civil engineer to work under the direction of the Engineering projects manager and the Public Works director, and will be responsible for reviewing subdivision submittals, generating documents for city authorities, and working with other engineers for the design and construction of small capital improvement projects. Requirements: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major study in civil, environmental or transportation engineering, construction management or a related field; two to three years of experience in professional civil engineering work, preferably in the area of design and/or construction of streets and roadways; possession of an Engineer-In-Training (EIT) certificate preferred; and all education requirements must be verifiable from records of satisfactory completion of courses. Join a team dedicated to improving the lives of its citizens through innovative engineering and public works concepts. Send resumes to: [employment@cityofowasso.com](mailto:employment@cityofowasso.com) or Human Resources, P.O. Box 180, Owasso, OK 74055. Visit the website at [www.cityofowasso.com](http://www.cityofowasso.com). Position open until filled.

### DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

**SPRINGFIELD.** The City is accepting applications for a Director of Parks and Recreation with the Springfield Recreation Department through March 14, 2008. The employee will perform complex professional and administrative work in managing the operation of the City's parks and recreation system, including all parks, facilities, programs, and special events. A bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university with a major in recreation, physical education, business administration, public administration or a field of study that would complement parks and recreation work; five (5) years or more of experience in the administration of recreational programs and in the development and planning of recreational facilities. Hours are M-F

7:30 a.m.-4:30p.m. Salary, \$51,729-\$70,636 per year. Requirements are: a valid TN Drivers License, pass drug screen and physical exam. Applications must be postmarked by March 14, 2008 or may be received in person at the City of Springfield Personnel Office, 405 North Main Street and returned no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date specified above. For more information, contact Carolyn Scott at [cscott@springfield-tn.org](mailto:cscott@springfield-tn.org). When applying for this vacancy announcement, please reference announcement number #REC-042. Website address: [www.springfield-tn.org](http://www.springfield-tn.org). The city of Springfield is an affirmative action/EOE.

### FINANCE DIRECTOR/ ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGER

**BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC.** The Town of Black Mountain seeks an experienced financial professional who has experience or is interested in expanding their skills into other administrative areas. Position reports to Manager and is responsible for administration of the departments of Finance and Water Administration. Duties include: supervising the financial activities of the town; oversight of preparation of three-year financial plan and five-year CIP; contract administration (including IT oversight); and, performing various projects for the Manager. Salary: DOQ/E. A combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in finance, public administration or related field and extensive experience in municipal government desired. Salary range: \$50,565-\$75,837. Job description and application are available at [www.townofblackmountain.org](http://www.townofblackmountain.org). Return to: Town Clerk, Town of Black Mountain, 102 Montreat Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711. Position open until filled. EOE

### PLANNING ADMINISTRATOR

**MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY.** The city of Memphis and Shelby County is seeking applicants for the position of Planning Administrator. Requirements include Master's Degree in City/County or Regional Planning plus 7 years experience in urban planning or Bachelor's Degree in planning, engineering, public administration, architectural, or the social sciences plus 10 years professional experience in the field of planning. Five years in Executive/Planning Director capacity is required. Submit resume by visiting [www.watersconsulting.com/recruitment](http://www.watersconsulting.com/recruitment) or for more details on the position. Position open until filled.

### PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

**OWASSO, OK.** City of Owasso, Ok is seeking resumes for Public Works Director; position is responsible for planning, organizing, directing, and coordinating the activities of the Public Works Department. Requirements: Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university, Masters of Science in Civil Engineering or related field preferred; P.E. certification a plus; Five years increasingly responsible experience in a broad range of municipal services including engineering/architectural design or operations, refuse system operations, water/wastewater and/or street maintenance; Oklahoma Class "A" license as Wastewater Operator and Oklahoma Class "A" license as Water Operator or ability to obtain; other combinations of experience and education that meet the minimum requirements may be substituted. For more information, visit [www.cityofowasso.com](http://www.cityofowasso.com). Position open until filled.

### WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERVISOR

**OWASSO, OK.** The Public Works Department seeks a Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor to service a population of 33,858. The hired professional will work under the direction of the Public Works Director, and will be responsible for coordinating, supervising, and reviewing the activities relating to the operations and maintenance of the City of Owasso wastewater treatment facilities as well as monitoring projects, providing technical expertise, and responding to after hour problems and emergencies. Requirements: Associate's Degree in biology, chemistry, engineering, or a related field; five years of increasingly responsible supervisory experience in wastewater treatment operation and maintenance; minimum of three years experience must be at the Class A level; possession of an Oklahoma Class A wastewater works operator certification; possession of an Oklahoma Class B wastewater laboratory certification. For more information, [www.cityofowasso.com](http://www.cityofowasso.com). Send resume to [employment@cityofowasso.com](mailto:employment@cityofowasso.com) or Human Resources, P.O. Box 180, Owasso, OK 74055. Position open until filled.

## TACP discuss enhanced 911 call verification



Members of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police met recently at ADS Security in Nashville, to discuss issues related to 911 enhanced call verification. Pictured left to right are Johnson City Chief of Police John Lowery; Memphis Deputy Chief of Police Jim Tusant; Security Consultants President Cecil Hogan of Memphis; Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Director Maggie McLean Duncan; Life & Property Security, Inc. President John Knox, Knoxville; Nashville Metropolitan Police Lt. James Stephens; ADS Security Regional Vice President Paul Owen; and Tennessee Burglar & Fire Alarm Association Executive Director Penny Brooks. Also participating in the meeting were Brentwood Chief of Police Ricky Watson; Knoxville Chief of Police Sterling Owen; Security Industry Alarm Coalition representative Glen Mowrey, Charlotte, North Carolina; and Columbia Assistant Chief of Police Tim Potts.

## Municipal Administration Program March Schedule

### Planning and Zoning (4399)

Planning is a process that seeks to guide the future. Decisions regarding zoning, building development, and growth issues affect landowners, neighbors, and the entire community — often with significant impact on property values, community character and quality of life — and even the municipal budget. This course will address the following topics:

- Legal basis for planning.
- Comprehensive planning process.
- Implementation of land use decisions.

#### Instructor

Tim Roach, Director of Local Planning, Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development.

#### Who Should Attend

Municipal officials, staff along with planning commission members who have planning and zoning responsibilities.

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#### Time

Public administration courses begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m.

#### Dates and locations

Mar. 4	Bartlett
Mar. 5	Jackson
Mar. 18	Knoxville
Mar. 19	Johnson City
Mar. 27	Franklin
Mar. 28	Cookeville
Mar. 31	Collegedale

#### Training Facilities

**Bartlett** Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center, 3663 Appling Road  
**Collegedale** Collegedale City Hall,

4910 Swinyar Drive  
**Cookeville** Town Center, One West First Street  
**Franklin** Williamson County Exposition Center, 4215 Long Lane  
**Jackson** West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Public Service, 605 Airways Boulevard  
**Knoxville** University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street

To register for this municipal administration program class, please visit the MTAS web site at [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu) or contact Elaine Morrisey at [Elaine.morrisey@tennessee.edu](mailto:Elaine.morrisey@tennessee.edu) or 865.974.0411.

For program information, contact Kurt Frederick, MTAS Training Consultant, at 615.253.6385 or e-mail [kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu](mailto:kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu). Fees are \$25 per person per class for municipal employees and \$55 per person per class for all other participants.

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**John Franklin Jr.** (2005) Councilman, Chattanooga

**Bob Kirk** (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg

**Tom Rowland** (2002) Mayor, Cleveland

**Sam Tharpe** (2001) Vice Mayor, Paris

**Dan Speer** (1997) Mayor, Pulaski

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## Little good news for cities in Bush's budget

President Bush's final budget offers little good news in terms of funding for programs important to cities and towns, according to an analysis conducted by the National League of Cities (NLC).

"The President's budget hits local governments hard, cutting programs needed by cities and towns to develop their communities, promote jobs, and fight crime," said NLC President Cynthia McCollum, council member of Madison, Ala. "Yet again, the Administration is attempting to reduce the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, slash programs to address housing, energy efficiency, workforce development and other critical federal grants. The cuts for workforce development assistance are especially troubling given the sudden and sharp downturn in the number of jobs in the workplace.

"We've had to fight every single year for CDBG — one of the most successful programs used by cities of all sizes — and we will have to do it again. We're also concerned about the cuts to homeland security and other public safety programs. Finally, at a time when we need to find ways to increase energy efficiency and reduce the congestion choking our metropolitan areas, the proposed cuts to Amtrak and transit funding makes no sense.

"More importantly, however, is the effect these cuts will have on our local budgets, which are facing huge pressures because of the fallout from the housing crisis. Because cuts at the federal level too often translate directly into local government — and the taxpayers — scrambling to pick up the tab, our choices are few — cut needed services or raise revenues.

"These are the kinds of programs that help keep America strong and we will work hard with Congress to restore the funding," McCollum said, vowing to work closely with Congressional leaders in the coming months. "We need to bring reality into this budget process and have the federal government as a full partner in our efforts to provide for our citizens on a daily basis," she said.

Key findings by NLC include:

#### Crime Prevention, Public Safety and Homeland Security

- Funds for **crime prevention programs** that support local law enforcement efforts would be slashed by 61 percent or \$1 billion as part of a consolidation of 70 state and local law enforcement assistance programs into four grant programs. This consolidation would mean the end of two popular and effective pub-

lic safety programs, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program and Byrne Justice Assistance Grants.

- Funds for grants for **security, law enforcement, firefighters and emergency medical teams** would be cut by almost half or \$1.9 billion. Funding for state and local interoperability emergency grants would stay at current levels of \$50 million.

#### Economic Development and Housing

- Funding for the **Community Development Block Grant** program (CDBG) would be cut by approximately \$1 billion or 30 percent from \$3.9 billion to \$2.9 billion. The President also proposes to eliminate the HOPE VI program, the only federal program dedicated to the construction and rehabilitation of public housing.
- Funds would increase for several affordable housing programs, including the **HOME Investment Partnership Program** by \$263 million to nearly \$2 billion, and an additional \$15 million, for a total of \$65 million, would set aside for housing counseling programs to help homeowners at risk of foreclosure.
- Funds would increase substantially for the **Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance program**, adding \$1 billion to a total of \$7 billion. Last year, HUD ran out of funding before the end of the year, delaying payments to property owners and jeopardizing the status of the renters and the stability of communities.

#### Transportation Programs

- Almost \$2 billion less in transportation funding authorized by SAFETEA-LU** was included in the President's budget, with reductions in the transit account taken to offset the anticipated shortfall in the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund.

#### Energy Programs

- Funds for the **Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy** were cut by 27 percent to \$1.26 billion in FY 2009, elimi-

nating the \$220 million Weatherization Assistance Program that local governments use to help families insulate their homes and lower their heating or cooling costs.

#### EPA

- The **Clean Water State Revolving Fund** would receive \$555 million in FY 2009, a drop of about \$145 million from FY 2008. Through this fund, states and local governments can access low-interest loans to for sewage treatment and pollution control.

#### Health and Human Services Programs

- Funding for the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program**, which has helped millions of poor and elderly Americans pay for heating or cooling their homes, would be reduced by 23 percent from \$2.57 to \$2 billion.
- Funding for the **Social Services Block Grant and the Community Services Block Grant** program would be zeroed out. Cities and towns that use these funds to provide welfare and other low income individuals with child care or basic medical services would have to eliminate the services offered or find alternative funding sources.

- Funding for **pandemic flu preparedness** would increase significantly from about \$78 million last year to more than half a billion dollars this year.

#### Workforce Development Programs

- Funds are reduced by \$438 million for the **Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs**, an important component of local job creation initiatives and used for training dislocated workers and disadvantaged adults and youth. NLC will hold its Congressional City Conference in Washington, DC, March 9 – 12, which will include high-level meetings with members of Congress and the Administration, and a push for more discussion on issues of importance to cities in the ongoing presidential campaign.



**Mar. 24-29:** Chattanooga Convention Center. **Southern Gospel Music Fan Fair** featuring live performances from quartets to soloists. Family fun. For more information, call 205-662-4826.

**Mar. 24- Apr. 30:** **Spring in to the Arts**, Nashville Public Library celebration of arts and culture featuring musical and dance performances, puppet shows, craft workshops, story hours, movies, and entertainment by local performers. For more information, call 615- 862-5800.

**Mar. 27-30:** **Memphis International Film Festival**. Malco Theaters, 4-day film festival featuring short films, feature films, documentary, animated and music videos. Each night features various musical entertainment at different venues. Festival pass \$40. For more information, call 901-626-9685 or e-mail lisab@onlocationmemphis.org.

**Mar. 29-30:** **Historic Mansker's Station Encampment**. Watch wood working, blacksmithing, cooking over the campfire, bread baking. Tour Mansker's Fort and the Bowen Plantation built in 1787. For more information, call 615-859-FORT.



**March 4:** The American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee will host its 2008 Engineering Excellence Awards reception and banquet at the Hilton Nashville Downtown hotel. Featured speaker: Dr. John Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee.

**April 14-15:** The 2008 Legislative Conference at the DoubleTree Hotel in Nashville.

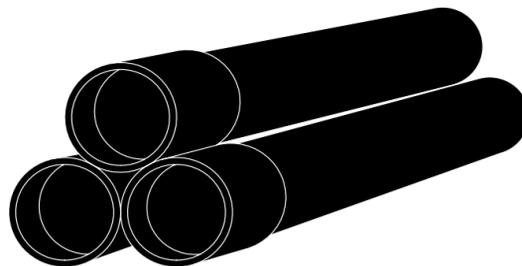
**June 4-6:** Alliance for Innovation's Transforming Local Government Conference 2008 Greenville, South Carolina. Complete conference information, registration and hotel booking can be found at [www.tlgconference.org](http://www.tlgconference.org)

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# AG Robert Cooper pondered journalism and law, excelled at both

BY GAEL STAHL

Robert E. Cooper Jr., also known as Bob Cooper in legal and judicial circles, was born to students of law. His father, Robert E. Cooper, and his mother, Catherine Kelly, one of only two women in their law class, graduated together at Vanderbilt Law School. They married the same year, 1949, and moved to Chattanooga where Cooper had grown up.

Cooper Sr. had a vastly successful legal career that included a 37-year career in the Tennessee judiciary as a circuit and appeals judge and as Supreme Court justice and a chief justice. No firm would hire his equally competent wife, so she pursued a more varied career. She raised four children, worked for the fairly new Chattanooga Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance Company, taught school and did legal work for individuals and helped her husband in his judicial chambers.

Cooper, born in 1957, has three older sisters, two of whom became teachers and one a pharmacist. He attended Baylor School for grades 7-12 where he ran cross-country and for the track team. Running has been his preferred physical exercise ever since, including the running of such races as the Country Music Marathon and as an occasional member of the Tennessee State Employees running team.

Baylor's outdoor programs sparked his lifelong love for long backpacking treks in the Cherokee Forest, the Smoky Mountains, the Big South Fork National Recreational Area trails and most other such areas in Tennessee and beyond.

Cooper has served on the Baylor School Alumni Board, gives talks to students about the legal profession, and last fall, Baylor honored him with the Distinguished Alumni Award.

After graduating in 1975, Cooper left his beloved East Tennessee mountains in order to experience another region of the country. At Princeton University, he graduated with an undergraduate degree in economics and revealed in Princeton's superb programs, faculty and students. It was there that his career journalism took flight while writing for *The Daily Princetonian*, learning the journalistic skills of researching and investigating, then organizing and communicating in the voice of a newspaper reporter. He became its editor.

After graduating magna cum laude in 1979, Cooper left college to work as a reporter for the *Raleigh Times*. In 1980, he entered Yale Law School and spent a summer working for a law firm in Atlanta, and another working first for a Washington, D.C., law firm and then for Bass Berry and Sims in Nashville. After graduating in 1983, he clerked for U.S. District of Columbia Judge Louis Oberdorfer for a year.

Oberdorfer, a Carter administration appointee, had been a high official in the Justice Department of the Kennedy administration and was involved in Civil Rights issues. In the mid-1970s, he helped start the Legal Services Corporation that funds legal aid societies across the nation.

In 1984, Cooper began working at Bass Berry and Sims and in January 2003 became Gov. Phil Bredesen's legal counsel. Since 1998, he has been an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt Law School.

When the office of the state attorney general became vacant, Cooper submitted an application and was named by the Supreme Court justices to serve an eight-year term. On Nov. 1, 2006, his proud father, former Chief Justice Robert E. Cooper, held the Bible and his proud mother watched their son sworn in as Tennessee Attorney General Robert E. Cooper Jr. by Chief Justice William M. Barker.

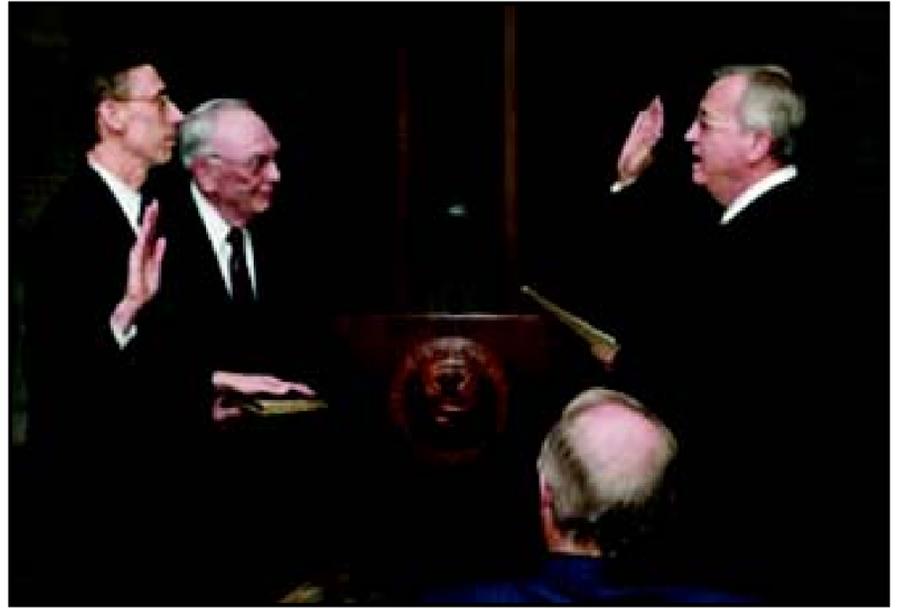
**TT&C: How does one come to write for and edit *The Daily Princetonian*?**

**RC:** In order to get on the newspaper, you had to write stories, so you went through a training process and were given a beat to work. The next semester you moved to another beat. I did that and loved it. Ultimately, I moved up to chairman, what they call the person who heads the news/editorial side of the newspaper.

You'll appreciate this. In the late 1970s we had a bunch of old Royal typewriters. You sat there and pounded out your copy triple-space



Robert E. Cooper Jr.  
Tennessee Attorney General



On Nov. 1, 2006, his father, former Chief Justice Robert E. Cooper, held the Bible as Tennessee Attorney General Robert E. Cooper Jr. was sworn in by Chief Justice William M. Barker.

on cheap copy paper and gave it to the editor who would mark it up and send it upstairs to the production room where the only paid people on staff worked. The typist keyed the edited copy into a computer ticker tape so the compositor machine could format it. It spit it out in sheets that you then waxed the back of and pasted onto the boards for the printer.

Everyone especially loved to work the headlines-setting machine. Most days you were writing stories but every few weeks you worked the press operation at night. That meant proofreading the copy after it was pasted, writing captions for the pictures, and writing headlines on that machine – the only machine you got to play with. We loved that.

**TT&C: You took a degree in economics into journalism rather than law?**

**RC:** I had always been interested in public policy issues with an inclination for math and science. Economics has a nice combination of all those elements and is useful for both career choices. During my senior year at Princeton, I still didn't know whether I wanted to go into journalism or law. I decided to give journalism a try but also applied to and was accepted at some law schools. I deferred those acceptances to keep that option open. I'd also written letters to some daily newspapers. I ended up at the *Raleigh Times*, moved to North Carolina, and became a business reporter but did a fair amount of general assignment work, too. I couldn't have had a better time or more fun. Newsrooms get a lot of interesting people who like to talk and interview people – a gregarious, outgoing group paid to go out and talk to people, write about it, and have thousands of people read what you write. Not a bad way to make a living. I enjoyed that year.

**TT&C: Why only a year?**

**RC:** I seriously thought about working another year for a newspaper but decided that I really did want to go to law school. Journalism was great in terms of being able to find out what is going on in a community. But a journalist is supposed to stay objective and detached. I found it restrictive to only report on what was going on. Law was much better for getting involved in public policy and public issues. Besides, as you know, the skills needed to be a successful journalist or lawyer are similar in being able to research and analyze and organize a complicated set of facts into a coherent story, and the ability to communicate that story in a clear and interesting manner.

The only difference is that in law, you are supposed to be persuasive and have a point of view, just the opposite of journalism's objective point of view.

Yale proved the perfect place for me. I became managing editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. Yale made its three-year standard law school program interesting by using an interdisciplinary approach to emphasize how the study of law is affected by other disciplines and affects them in return.

**TT&C: What did the adjunct professorship at your mother and father's alma mater entail?**

**RC:** Vanderbilt Law School has a program that brings local practitioners in to offer the kind of courses regular faculty don't have time, ex-

pertise or interest to offer. For several years I had been providing legal counsel on campaign and election issues to Tennessee Democratic Party candidates and officeholders. I offered to teach a course on campaign finance and election laws. With faculty approval, I began in fall 1998. I find it fun to teach a limited enrollment course for second or third year law students, many of whom have worked in political campaigns and are interested in learning about these sorts of issues.

To add even more of a mix of the practical with the academic, I invite speakers who apply the principles to real cases. The general counsel of the Democratic National Committee, the general counsels of Republican and Democratic presidential campaigns, and Harold Ford Jr., and Vice President Al Gore's chief of staff have come in and talked. It's especially interesting when the course is taught during an election cycle.

**TT&C: Was Bass Berry Sims a fun place to work?**

**RC:** I was an associate and a partner and worked in the litigation department with a primary focus on business and corporate litigation – and also did a fair amount of work in the administrative law area. Bass Berry and Sims is an extraordinary law firm. It was tough to leave. I had been there 19 years and the collegiality you develop at such a firm is something you are not going to duplicate elsewhere.

It was certainly something of a shock to go from working in an environment with 150 lawyers to working in an environment like the Governor's Legal Counsel Office, where my deputy counsel and I were it.

**TT&C: Really? How does a two-person office like that operate?**

**RC:** You have only one client. Your job is to provide the governor the legal advice needed to do his job. That includes five basic areas.

One, you review and advise on any official documents coming before him to sign – mostly bills passed by the General Assembly and presented for him to sign, not sign while allowing them to become law, or veto. But you don't wait till a bill lands on his desk to review and analyze it. You have to get involved in the legislative process early and work closely with the governor's legislative team in fashioning the governor's legislative package. Likewise, you monitor other bills moving toward his desk.

Two, the governor's legal counsel is the governor's liaison with the general counsels of the various departments with regard to legal issues that affect the executive branch.

Three, he is the governor's liaison to the attorney general's office.

Four, he advises the governor on judicial appointments, provides background information.

Five, he helps shepherd clemency cases and issues through and get them framed for the governor to make a decision.

**TT&C: During your 16 months as attorney general, the media daily reports AG opinions on issues important to legislators, the administration, and the citizenry. You've added some clients?**

**RC:** The attorney general wears many hats. He's the chief legal of-

ficer for the whole state – the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch.

He is a litigator representing the state government in court when it is sued or when it brings a lawsuit.

He and his office are the source of opinions. We put out 150-200 formal opinions each year covering every imaginable topic.

He's a public advocate for the Tennessee Regulatory Authority and for the public in his role as consumer advocate enforcing the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act. We work with the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Commerce and Insurance. We are the ones empowered to bring lawsuits, seek injunctions, and seek monetary relief for consumers.

The attorney general is a criminal law enforcer. Local district attorneys handle the prosecution of crimes in the Criminal Court. When their convictions are appealed, our office takes over and protects those convictions at the appellate level.

He is a legislative advisor and gets a lot of questions from legislators, not just requests for formal opinions but also requests for informal advice about legal issues and legislative options.

Finally, this office is sometimes called on to acts as investigators for the legislature or the executive branch.

**TT&C: You enjoyed your stint in that two-person, one-client office?**

**RC:** I couldn't imagine working for four years for a better client than Phil Bredesen. He gave me the best legal job in the executive branch. If you are going to trade in all of your clients for one client, you better really like that one client. Gov. Bredesen was a good client – a smart and engaged listener and decisive. It made me a better lawyer. I'm proud to have been a part of the significant accomplishments of his administration.

**TT&C: An ongoing matter regards the famous art collection of Fisk University, which is struggling to just survive. You have suggested the artwork be kept in Nashville in a future African-American museum. That seems to be an example of your desire to not only report on the news but help shape it?**

**RC:** My role in this is conferred on me by state law. Fisk University holds the Stieglitz collection as a charitable gift from Georgia O'Keefe. Her conditions on that charitable gift included making it available for free public viewing. State law says that the Tennessee attorney general represents the interests of beneficiaries of all charitable gifts – the citizens.

The issue before the court is a petition by Fisk asking the court to modify the conditions that Georgia O'Keefe placed on the gift so Fisk can sell a half interest in the collection to the Crystal Bridges Museum that is being built in Bentonville, Ark., and transport the art to Bentonville to be displayed there half the time. As long as I have been involved in this issue, I have stated my preference that a way be found to help Fisk and to help keep the art collection intact in Nashville. That prompted my most recent filing with the court seeking a continuance. That has been denied, so we will proceed with final preparations for the trial.

**TT&C: When you opined that the electric chair could be used in some cases, was that based on a constitutional issue?**

**RC:** That was an issue of statutory interpretation. The question was, in light of the decision by a federal district court holding Tennessee's current legal injection protocol unconstitutional, did the state have the right under state law to substitute electrocution as a means to carry out the sentence. We reviewed the statute and found that the way the state law had been written, it allowed that substitution only if legal injection had been declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court or by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

**TT&C: What do you like about your AG job the most?**

**RC:** This is a dream job, ideal for someone who loves the combination of law and public policy and working with the outstanding group of lawyers who are hardworking, intelligent, and public-spirited and such a high caliber staff.

We have been effective in enforcing action against provider healthcare fraud and abuse related to the TennCare program. Last year, we recovered \$12.5 million for the state in settlements with healthcare providers. It was a joint effort between my office, the TennCare Bureau, and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations. We created a provider fraud taskforce that is closely studying TennCare billing data looking for other enforcement opportunities.

We have had great success working with the Department of Environment and Conservation. TDEC and my office kicked off a joint enforcement initiative a year ago to target more egregious instances of violations of state environmental law, starting with stormwater permits. A lot of construction is going on and if not done properly, big rains will wash all that loose dirt into the neighboring streams and rivers killing off aquatic life. Permits are important to maintain our water quality. We've brought lawsuits against places with particularly extensive violations.

When I announced this, a major contractor in the state wrote to say this program was causing shudders of consternation in construction communities. He also told me it was absolutely the right thing to do. Response has been excellent. We're seeing a lot of improvement.

In the area of consumer protection I joined attorney generals across the nation to announce a settlement with the MySpace website seeking to address issues of protecting children from predators who use the site to try to impair children. We made arrangements with MySpace for greater parental oversight of minor children's use of MySpace and are working with MySpace to introduce technology to verify users' real age and identity.

**TT&C: You're having a ball here. Do you still enjoy running and backpacking?**

**RC:** Both. Some friends from my old law firm and I try to take a week off each summer or in early fall to do a long backpacking trip. Last September, we headed out to the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming. I generally try to get up into the Smokies or other points in East Tennessee for a long weekend each spring.