

# Revenue outlook grim; collections still on downward spiral

**BY CAROLE GRAVES**  
*TML Communications Director*

With April revenue collections down 10 percent from projected estimates and marking the ninth consecutive month this fiscal year of sales tax declines, state finance officials are in agreement that the worse is not over yet and that sales tax collections are still extremely unstable.

“We had hoped that we would see some bottoming out by now,” said Jim White, executive director of the Fiscal Review Committee.

Revenues for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, are estimated to be at least \$173 million below projections made in Gov. Phil Bredesen’s March budget presentation and possibly as much at \$351 million less. This brings the total budget shortfall for the current year to more than \$1.2 billion.

And economists are projecting that it’s not going to get any better either – at least not any time soon.

“Late this year, we might see some improvements. But in the near future, revenue collections look quite dismal,” said Bill Fox, director

of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee. “To have negative sales tax collections two years in a row is extraordinary. Unemployment is at levels that we’ve not seen since the mid 1980s. The only word that I can say is that it is grim.”

Based on estimates from four of the state’s top economists, the State Funding Board is projecting revenues for next year to be between a one percent drop in revenues to a less than 0.2 percent growth.

“Revenue forecasting in this environment was extremely problematic,” said White. “We missed the magnitude of the downturn, and we will most likely miss the upturn.”

Fox said that the state would have to have a five percent growth in revenues just to get back to the base of this year, which is not likely.

“Nobody knows how the stimulus money will play out – that’s the wild card,” said Fox. “But from a planning perspective – plan on the downside. We are looking at the next two to three years to be lower than 2007 collections.”

One “glimmer of hope,” said Reid Linn, Department of Revenue director of research, is that consumer confidence is up. He is projecting a turn around by mid to late 2009.

The Bredesen Administration will use the projections to present

APRIL COLLECTIONS			
	Budgeted Estimate	Actual	Difference
General Fund	\$1,174,764,000	\$1,010,510,000	(\$164,254,000)
Highway Fund	67,720,000	56,389,000	(11,331,000)
Sinking Fund (debt service)	26,339,000	25,810,000	(529,000)
City & County Fund	135,800,000	122,278,000	(13,522,000)
Earmarked Fund	892,000	892,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,405,515,000</b>	<b>\$1,215,879,000</b>	<b>(\$189,636,000)</b>
YEAR-TO-DATE COLLECTIONS			
General Fund	\$7,036,035,000	\$6,228,154,000	(\$807,881,000)
Highway Fund	533,959,000	502,660,000	(31,299,000)
Sinking Fund (debt service)	236,283,000	232,656,000	(3,627,000)
City & County Fund	653,344,000	608,510,000	(44,834,000)
Earmarked Fund	8,026,000	8,026,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,467,647,000</b>	<b>\$7,580,006,000</b>	<b>(\$887,641,000)</b>

Tennessee revenue collections continued to decline in April, once again falling short of budgeted estimates. Finance and Administration Commissioner Dave Goetz reported that overall April revenues were \$1.2 billion, which is \$189.6 million less than the state budgeted. April is the ninth consecutive month this fiscal year that Tennessee has seen negative growth in sales taxes and corporate income taxes compared to a year ago. Since January 2008, the state has experienced negative growth in sales tax collections for 14 of the past 16 months.

an appropriations amendment to House and Senate finance committees. Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz says that should be ready in the next two weeks. With the bleak

outlook and another significant hit to an already tight budget, Bredesen, who had hope to protect state jobs, is now saying that state layoffs and furloughs are back on the table.



Approximately 260 Brentwood High School and Ravenwood High School students studied the effects of stormwater and the environment at an Environmental Education Day funded by the city.

## Brentwood students get stormwater education

**BY VICTORIA SOUTH**  
*Communications Coordinator*

There’s more than meets the eye along the banks of the Little Harpeth River. That’s what Ecology teacher Doug Anderson’s students discovered after the teacher called the city of Brentwood seeking community service learning opportunities for their class.

Following Anderson’s conversation with city engineer Todd Spangler, who is responsible for Brentwood’s Stormwater Quality education program, approximately 260 Brentwood High School and Ravenwood High School students were hosted at an expense paid Environmental Education Day at Deerwood Arboretum.

Although the city’s charter includes stormwater education, those efforts usually consist of talks at local schools, informational brochures and booths and information on the city’s local channel 19. Now, Brentwood officials hope to include the field trip in their budget as an annual event.

“I wasn’t thinking about anything this big when Mr. Anderson called about doing a spring walk, but then I realized the two schools and the department could work in unison,” said Spangler. “Every-

thing just developed from there.”

The day long event evolved into a cooperative effort forged between Brentwood’s Engineering Department, the Brentwood Parks Department, the Murfreesboro Discovery Center, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and individuals active in the local stormwater industry, along with high school staff.

Volunteers manned stations where students participated in interactive activities highlighting water pollution in creeks and rivers, watershed maps, and hands on chemical water testing. Inspecting aquatic animals and insects helped students determine the water quality of the creature’s natural habitats.

Live fawns and snakes were brought in by The Discovery Center for the ecology of animals portion, where students studied the importance of ecosystems to the animals that live and thrive there and the impact development and human actions have on natural ecosystems.

Bordering the Little Harpeth River, Deerwood Arboretum showcases native trees, ponds, migratory birds, butterflies and other wildlife and has a Nature Center Complex and a small amphitheater.

“At the high school, we were

*See STORMWATER on Page 3*

**BY CAROLE GRAVES**

Two revenue-generating measures earmarked for transportation were taken off notice in the House last week, with the bills’ sponsor citing bad economic times for dropping the two funding options.

Sponsored by House Transportation Committee Chairman Bill Harmon, HB1321 indexes the gasoline and diesel fuel taxes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI); and HB1318 increases the fuel taxes 1 cent each year for the next five years.

Both measures were recommended by the Special Joint Study Committee on Transportation Funding, a 20-member committee created by the legislature in 2008 to explore new revenue options for addressing the state’s highway and infrastructure needs.

The study committee, which Harmon also chairs, met last month and agreed to send the two funding options to the Legislature for consideration. Both Harmon and Senate Transportation Committee Chair Jim Tracy acknowledged it would be a tough sell in today’s economy.

“I don’t know if we can get anything passed this year,” Harmon said. “But we need to get to a point where people are thinking about what our needs are.”

“We need to think long term and outside of the box for other ways to fund transportation,” said Tracy. “With the new electric vehicles, many vehicles may not be using gasoline in the future.”

Most lawmakers and industry officials acknowledge that long-term solutions to meet the state’s, as well as nation’s, highway needs are necessary.

Last summer’s high gas prices drove down consumption. And with advances in higher fuel-efficiency vehicles and alternative fuels, it only underscores the fact that the gas tax is becoming an unpredictable and unsustainable method for funding roads, bridges, and transit systems.

From 2008 to 2009, gasoline tax revenues were down by 4 percent and diesel taxes were down by 12.5 percent, according to state revenue numbers. Economists are only predicting modest growth – less than 1.5 percent – for the following year.

The Tennessee Department of



Rep. Bill Harmon

Transportation (TDOT) projects that over the course of the next 10 years, the department will need an additional \$8 billion to cover infrastructure needs.

TDOT’s Long Range Transportation Plan conducted in 2004-2005 identified a gap between needs and revenues over a 10 year period at \$2 billion. But due to revenue shortfalls and increases in construction costs, the gap has widened to \$8 billion.

TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely reported last October that state revenues only increased by

*See TDOT on Page 7*

## Host reception planned at Chattanooga Zoo

*Dynamic conference events scheduled for Sunday – so be sure to arrive early!*

City planners in Chattanooga are just “wild” with excitement over hosting TML’s 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and are planning a safari party at the Chattanooga Zoo to welcome everyone to the conference.

Attendees will enjoy live music from one of Tennessee’s most entertaining bands — featuring favorite oldies, Motown, disco and funk hits — as well as other live entertainment. All are welcome to stroll through the Chattanooga Zoo’s “Corcovado Jungle,” “Gombe Forest” and “Himalayan Passage,” or simply enjoy a fun ride on the carousel. Complimentary shuttle service will be provided



An African Avery is one of many rare breeds that visitors will see at the Chattanooga Zoo.

and everyone will be leaving with plenty of giveaways and goodies.

Planned from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Sunday June 14, the host city

*See CONFERENCE on Page 7*

## Comptroller proposes reforms for municipal bond financing

**BY CAROLE GRAVES**

Newly-elected state Comptroller Justin P. Wilson is proposing a series of changes on how cities and counties can borrow money to fund capital improvement projects in their communities.

The changes would specifically target “high-risk” transactions in order to prevent local governments from entering into complicated bond sales they didn’t fully understand but can carry substantial financial consequences.

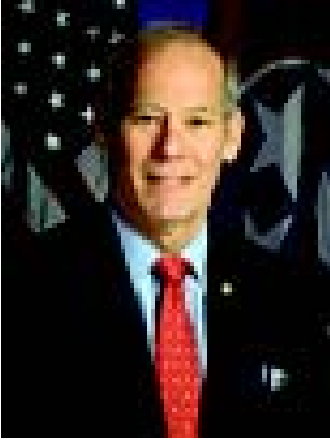
The announcement, made earlier this month during a regular meeting of the State Funding Board, comes after some cities and counties in Tennessee saw massive hikes in interest rates due to complex financing arrangements such as derivative bonding and interest-rate swaps. When the financial markets collapsed last year, those local governments involved in these high-risk bonds saw their interest rate increase in some cases 500 percent; the time

period they were given to pay off their debts was lessened significantly; and any attempts to cancel these transactions resulted in huge financial penalties.

“As cities and counties have turned to increasingly sophisticated types of financing, the potential risks for their constituents have gone up,” Wilson said.

Wilson is recommending that so-called “interest rate swaps” only be allowed on financing deals valued at \$50 million or more and “forward purchase agreements” only be allowed on deals valued at \$25 million or more. Swaps and forward purchase agreements are contracts meant to reduce the borrower’s interest rate risk related to debt. Under certain market conditions, payments on those types of transactions are subject to increase sharply.

“The practical effect of establishing a minimum size limit on those types of transactions would be to keep smaller cities and counties with limited resources and expertise



Justin P. Wilson

from taking those risks,” said Wilson.

“We agree that some of these complex transactions should require extra scrutiny,” said Charles “Bones” Seivers, president and CEO, Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund. “The Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund and the Tennessee County Services Loan Program do

*See COMPTROLLER on Page 7*



NEWS  
ACROSS  
TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

BROWNSVILLE

The company that manufactures Cub Cadet lawn mowers is closing its Brownsville plant, eliminating 200 full-time jobs and an additional 280 seasonal jobs. MTD Consumer Products announced that it will permanently close its plant at 1620 Welch St. on or about July 10. MTD also will close its 290,000-square-foot Brownsville distribution center.

CHATTANOOGA

Athlete participation in the district Senior Olympic games was the largest in Chattanooga history with 417 athletes ranging in age from 50 to 90 registered to compete. Events included: swimming, basketball free throw, bowling, volleyball, track and field, tennis, billiards, horse-shoes, table tennis, softball throw, softball, ballroom dancing, 5K run, cycling, golf, power walk, shuffleboard, badminton, basketball 3 on 3, weightlifting and racquetball.

CLEVELAND

Cleveland State Community College is the only community college in the state to receive a federal stimulus grant, and officials say it will be used to improve the college’s green energy program. The \$328,000 grant will enable the energy-efficient construction program to expand curriculum, buy equipment and create new programs. Among the school’s initiatives are the development of community outreach, a Web site where people can submit e-mail questions related to energy and development of a 1-800 number where energy questions can be handled by phone.

COLLIERVILLE

The near future for the Lucius E. and Elsie C. Burch Jr. public library may hold a new fee for nonresidents while greater use of technology is contemplated for the future. Collierville is the last library in Shelby County that does not charge nonresidents a fee, according to David Smoak, assistant town administrator. If passed by the Board of Alderman, a \$50 annual fee for nonresidents will be assessed. About 22 percent, or roughly 7,000 of the town’s nearly 32,000 cardholders are nonresidents.

JOHNSON CITY

A public/private partnership will provide a crime alert system that will send text messages, e-mails, and faxes to residents when crimes occur in local neighborhoods. The system is operated by the J.C.P.D. and the Internet Company [www.citizenobserver.com](http://www.citizenobserver.com). The

program, which is being used in many other cities across the country, allows police to take the information they have gleaned from a break-in, robbery, or any crime the public can assist in solving, and post it on a website, where it is then automatically transmitted to anyone who has signed up to receive the messages. The alerts are also available online. The system allows anyone with a cell phone to provide information anonymously to the JCPD via text message. Police Chief John Lowry said he hopes to engage residents, especially community and crime watch groups, as well as ever-growing teenage cell phone users.

KINGSPORT

Gov. Bredesen has recommended a \$250,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant to assist Kingsport in building phase one of the Riverwalk project to develop tourism in the city and region. Funding for the \$500,000 project will include \$250,000 in local funds. The grant was recommended following an application by the city of Kingsport and has the support of Mayor Dennis Phillips. U.S. Sens. Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander and U.S. Rep. Phil Roe also aided in securing the funds.

MARYVILLE

Work is well under way on an estimated \$31.4 million upgrade to the Maryville Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The city is profiting because contractors are hungry for work due to the recession, according to Jack Graham, assistant director of the Water Quality Control Department. Thus far the actual price is \$2.1 million below the original estimates of engineers. Located on Wheeler Road, the regional plant treats sewage from Maryville, Alcoa and South Blount and Knox Chapman Utility Districts. The completed plan will be state-of-the-art, going from aeration to oxidation ditches with a biological nutrient remover. The upgrade involves replacing the old plant and reusing parts and pieces of the old one. Currently the plant is running right at capacity, which is 10 million gallons per day. Once the upgrade is complete in fall 2010, the capacity will increase 70 percent to 17 million gallons per day.

MEMPHIS

Jerry Lee Lewis, the piano-pounding rock ‘n’ roller known as “The Killer,” was honored as the Tennessee Legislature voted to name a stretch of road in his honor. A proposal unanimously approved by the House, designates a stretch of Getwell Road in Shelby County as the Jerry Lee Lewis Highway. The section runs from the Mississippi



The Rotary Club’s Group Study Exchange visitors from India visit Tullahoma City Hall as part of their Tennessee visit. Pictured left to right: M.S. Thangam, Kanagasabapathy Jeyaveerapandian, Dr. R. Jeyakumar, Tullahoma Mayor Troy Bisby, Dr. S. Sheik Saleem, M.S. Sunita Teresa Samuel, and Tullahoma City Administrator Jody Baltz.

state line to Interstate 240.

MURFREESBORO

The city and Rutherford County have spent an estimated \$8.3 million as a result of the April 10 tornadoes. Federal officials reimburse local governments 75 percent of their recovery costs if the disaster meets certain requirements. The city and county have submitted reports to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, which shared details with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The information is being processed to determine whether public assistance is possible. Rutherford County estimates it has \$1.8 million in costs related to the tornado.

NASHVILLE

At a White House roundtable, Nashville entrepreneurs told federal officials that overwhelming health insurance costs have forced them to make painful business decisions. The Obama Administration wanted to hear what challenges small business owners across the nation face in trying to insure their employees. One business owner said her medical supply business opened and closed in the span of a year because she couldn’t afford the insurance. White House economic advisor Larry Summers told the entrepreneurs he’s focused on quickly finding a way of making health care more affordable.

PARIS

The pharmacy at Henry County Medical Center has added state-of-the-art equipment that should affect safety, security, time and cost. The PyxisCII Safe keeps inventory of all controlled medications and recognizes the need to reorder. The MedCarousel inventories all of the other medications, including liquids, non-liquids and refrigerated doses. Each floor in the hospital has a Pyxis machine from which physician medicine orders are scanned.

PULASKI

More than 15,000 Giles County chickens were killed in an effort to



Photo courtesy of the State Photography Service

Entertainer Jerry Lee Lewis was honored as the Tennessee legislature voted to name a stretch of road in his honor. A proposal unanimously approved by the House designates a portion of Getwell Road in Shelby County as the Jerry Lee Lewis Highway.

safeguard poultry against avian flu. The low-pathogenic strain detected at a farm in Giles County poses a minimal risk to human health and is not associated with human and poultry outbreaks in other countries. It also is not related to the H1N1 virus, commonly referred to as the swine flu. The precautions were taken to avoid contamination to other area poultry.

ROGERSVILLE

A TRW automotive plant plans to temporarily shut down — idling nearly 200 workers — following Chrysler’s announcement it’s seeking bankruptcy protection and halting production. The plant produces steering components used in Chrysler products. Plant spokespersons say if and when Chrysler resumes production, so will TRW, headquartered in Livonia, Mich.



PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Kingsport Alderman **Jantry Shupe** has been named by the Tennessee Municipal League to be a 2009 member of the Human Development Policy and Advocacy Committee for the National League of Cities. The Human Development Committee focuses on developing and advancing policies on employment and job training, early childhood development, TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), unemployment insurance, income support programs, immigration and refugee policy, health and education, equal opportunity, and social services.



Shupe

Sen. **Lowe Finney** of Jackson was elected to succeed Sen. Roy Herron as chair of the State Senate Democratic



Finney

Caucus at the end of the current legislative session. Sen. Herron, of Dresden, has stated his intention to relinquish his position as caucus chair at the end of the session.

Morristown councilmember and TML Vice President **Kay Senter** easily won re-election capturing nearly 60 percent of the



Senter

vote. As Vice Mayor, Senter represents the 3rd Ward. She has served on the City Council since 1993. In other elections, Gene Brooks won Morristown’s Councilmember at Large, while Bob Garrett will represent Ward 1 winning 60 percent of the vote.

**Constance Washington**, director of councils for the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, was honored for her family focus and community service on the nationally syndicated *Tom Joyner Morning Show*. Jordan was recognized for her involvement in scouting and efforts to instill values in children.

Tennessee airports approved for grants

Five Tennessee airports have been approved for Aeronautics Grants, totaling \$548,604.

Airports receiving grants include Everett-Stewart Regional Airport, Lawrenceburg-Lawrence County Airport, Maury County Regional Airport, Nashville International Airport and Springfield-Robertson County Airport.

“Our local airports are vital to the economy and travel system of Tennessee,” said Gov. Phil Bredesen. “Investing in our airports helps keep them competitive and efficient at meeting the needs of businesses and travelers. I’m pleased to support their continued improvement.”

The grants are made available

through the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s Aeronautics Division.

“This division administers federal and state funding to assist in the location, design, construction and maintenance of Tennessee’s diverse public aviation system,” reported TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. “We are pleased to continue to support Tennessee’s general aviation and commercial airports.”

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.

TAC Chair Larry Mullins explained, “Our board examines the applications carefully to ensure that the proper state and local matching funds are in place and that the grants will be put to good use.”

The TDOT Aeronautics Division 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.

For more information on each of these grant awards visit [www.tn.gov/tdot](http://www.tn.gov/tdot) or <http://news.tennesseeanytime.org/taxonomy/term/39>

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# National Public Works Week: A call to revitalize, reinvest, renew

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

The phrase “Little things mean a lot” could be allocated to the tens of thousands of hard working individuals in public works occupations. These talented men and women are so adept at their jobs that millions of people never realize that life without the “little things” would be tough indeed.

In Tennessee alone, nearly six million people use a public works service dozens of times a day. Every time someone turns on the tap, flushes a toilet, takes the trash to the curb, or drives down the street, a professional public or private servant along with consultants, suppliers, and manufacturers have done their job.

That’s why the week of May 17-23 has been set aside to recognize the public works profession with many agencies hosting luncheons, events, award presentations, educational displays and other recognitions for public works employees nationwide.

“The third week in May has been recognized as National Public Works Week since 1960,” said Jerry Collins, president, Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). “During this week, the goal is to educate communities and their leaders on the importance of our nation’s public infrastructure and Public Works services.”

The theme for this year’s commemoration is Revitalize, Reinvest, Renew, signaling a change in thinking and new direction in practices.

Revitalizing infrastructure is a way to increase efficiency by finding new ways to sustain performance, utilizing new materials.

Reinvesting in infrastructure should ensure safety and longevity, and renewing infrastructure entails replacing and reinvigorating the current systems and structures Americans currently depend upon.

“There’s no question that the general public takes Public Works for granted,” Collins said, but our purpose for the state is improving the quality of life for our citizens by doing more for less.”

During this celebration, the APWA is hoping to bring these be-



The Touch-A-Truck event in Germantown allows children a hands-on experience with Public Works heavy equipment. The event is held in conjunction with the city’s annual Public Works Week celebration.

hind-the-scenes heroes to the forefront encouraging public works agencies and professionals to take the opportunity to make their stories known in their communities.

The city of Germantown is all set to go with their Public Works Week celebration, which honors the city’s valuable workers and includes education and fun for all ages.

“These individuals, as a team, ensure Germantown has vital public services including water, sewer and streets. We are proud of the service they provide and honor their commitment,” said Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy.

The city’s Board of Mayor and Aldermen will kick off the week with a proclamation. The event will continue with a mid-week picnic, where staff cooks burgers and hotdogs for Public Works employees and visitors. The department retirees, Environmental Commission and City Administration will also attend.

“Our tradition is to take an annual photo of the department,” said Bo Mills, Public Services director. “We’ve framed and displayed photos since 1995. We get a kick out of looking at how we have all changed through the years.”

Germantown’s celebration will end with the annual “Touch-A-Truck” event at the Germantown

Community Library, where Public Services employees will display several trucks and pieces of equipment for area children to enjoy. The display will be a hands-on event where children, possibly Germantown’s future Public Works employees, will be allowed to sit on or crawl around on the equipment or even take a spot in the driver’s seat.

Each year the Tennessee Chapter of the APWA presents an award to the state’s most outstanding public works employee. Murphy Snoderly, for whom the award is named, was a long-time engineering and Public Works consultant for the UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service.

Snoderly felt that the working person, the man or woman who daily picks up garbage, patches streets or performs dozens of other chores at a relatively low pay scale, should be recognized for dedication and services to the community.

The National Public Works Week How-To Guide is one of several resources available to cities to assist them in developing individual celebrations. The tool provides instructions on how to create proclamations, develop media and press releases, and create meaningful activities on the local level. It’s available at [www.apwa.net/About/NPWV](http://www.apwa.net/About/NPWV).

## Brentwood students study stormwater’s effects at Environmental Education Day

**STORMWATER** from Page 1 basically land locked with no real resources to explore,” said Anderson, who had been searching for quality programs that would allow his students to utilize their classroom instruction for about eight years. “I was very impressed with the city’s willingness and openness to new ideas. It was worth the wait.”

An additional learning experience brought the Brentwood High School Media Department on site to film the event, preparing a documentary/style video that will be used in Brentwood’s stormwater management program and across the state through the TN Stormwater Association, a new agency dedicated to helping the state’s county and municipal governments develop stormwater education programs.

“It was such a fun learning day,” said Torrey Schusterman, Brentwood High senior. “We interviewed Mr. Spangler and Mr. Anderson about how the program



Volunteers manned stations where students participated in interactive activities highlighting water pollution in creeks and rivers.

started and included information about the river, the animals and the environment.”

“Other schools need to know about this opportunity,” said Anderson. “We never thought about partnering with the city before.”

“Schools sometimes have

trouble getting their foot in the door,” agrees Spangler.

“This project began by just talking to people, getting them excited about it. We’re glad we can share what we’ve learned and the next generation can expand from there to make things even better.”

## America’s Top 10 Public Works Projects

**The National Road** - Funded by an act of Congress in 1806 during the Jefferson Administration, becoming the first federally funded interstate road, eventually stretching 591 miles from Cumberland, MD, to Vandalia, Ill. Not only an important westward artery, it spurred numerous technological innovations, including the construction of the 80-foot central span of the 354-foot-long Casselman Bridge, the world’s longest stone arch bridge when completed in 1813. Needing to span the wide Ohio River, engineers built the Wheeling Suspension Bridge of 1847, which boasts a 1,010-foot center span. Both bridges remain in operation today.

**First Transcontinental Railroad**- 200,000 net tons of iron. After President Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act in July 1862, the Union Pacific started laying rail from Nebraska toward the Pacific, while the Central Pacific worked from California east. The two lines met at Promontory Point, Utah, where the Central Pacific’s Leland Stanford drove in a ceremonial Golden Spike on May 10, 1869. Paid for with U.S. bonds, the railway marked the peak of U.S. technological accomplishments of the 19th century. A passenger could then travel between San Francisco and New York in a week, as opposed to the many weeks or months necessary for passage by ship or stagecoach. Within a decade, the railway started carrying \$50 million worth of freight across the country every year.

**Hoover Dam**- 5 million barrels of concrete. In 1928 President Coolidge signed the Boulder Canyon Project Act into law. An engineering wonder made out of five million barrels of concrete, it tamed the Colorado River, providing water for irrigation and electricity for the west. The winning bid of \$48,890,995, was the largest federal contract in history. The dam blocks 4.6 trillion gallons of water and generates 4.4 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity per year.

**Air Traffic Control** - 14,305 controllers 87,000 flights per day. The modern system originated in the Air Commerce Act of 1926, which assigned responsibility for regulating commercial flight to the Commerce Department. Initially, there were only towers in Newark, Chicago, and Cleveland until the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 created the Federal Aviation Agency. Today, 14,305 air traffic controllers oversee 87,000 flights per day.

**Oregon Coastal Highway Bridge System** - 3,223-foot-long Yaquina Bay Bridge. With funding from the Public Works Administration, Conde B. McCullough designed 10 major bridges along US-101. McCullough pioneered the use of pre-stressed concrete in bridge-work in the United States. His work is characterized by sweeping curves, elegant arches, and fundamentally sound construction. Finished in 1936, the 3,223-foot-long Yaquina Bay Bridge in Newport, Ore., contains a central 600-foot

arch flanked by two 350-foot steel deck arches, a combination of steel and concrete that brings beauty to functionality.

**Lincoln Tunnel**- 120,000 vehicles per day. Funded initially by \$75 million from the Public Works Administration, the Lincoln Tunnel spanned one and a half miles and linked New York City with Weehawken, N.J. The third and final tube opened in 1957. Because of the pressure underground—at its deepest the road lies 97 feet beneath the river’s high-water mark—the “sandhogs” digging the tunnel could work inside for only an hour a day, 30 minutes in the morning and 30 more in the afternoon. Nearly 120,000 vehicles pass through the tunnel daily, making it one of the busiest tunnels in the world.

**The Tennessee Valley Authority** - 29 hydroelectric dams, 3,526 megawatts. President Roosevelt signed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act in May 1933. The TVA was designed to stimulate economic development, create hydroelectric power, improve navigation, and provide flood control to the 41,000-square-mile Tennessee Valley, which touched seven southern states. TVA is the nation’s largest public power company, providing electric power to nearly 8.6 million customers.

**Interstate Highway System** - 46,837 miles. President Eisenhower offered a plan for “a properly articulated system that solves the problems of speedy, safe, transcontinental travel. The National System of Interstate and Defense Highways of 1956 authorized \$25 billion to expand the nation’s existing interstate highways 41,000 miles by 1969. When it was “officially” completed on Sept. 15, 1991, the system had cost \$114 billion. Americans log 727 billion miles on the interstates every year.

**The Big Dig** - Estimated: \$2.6 billion; Real cost: \$14.6 billion. In 1987, Congress authorized the Central Artery/Tunnel Project (more commonly called “The Big Dig”) to replace the elevated highway that crossed through central Boston with a series of tunnels and bridges. The 7.8 miles required massive excavations that dodged subway tunnels and utilities while not interrupting traffic flow. Engineers ran into numerous problems, including hundreds of leaks and a fatal ceiling collapse in the tunnels underneath Boston Harbor.

**The Internet** -1.46 billion users. The World Wide Web of interconnections, the Internet, began at the U.S. government’s Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA). ARPANET first linked computers at the Stanford Research Institute and the University of California on Oct. 29, 1969. The computers communicated via “packet switching,” a method of breaking down complex data into manageable chunks or packets that were reassembled at their destination. In 1991, the High Performance Computing and Communication Act, helped fund creation of one of the first web browsers and the National Research and Education Network. --Reprinted from *Invention & Technology Magazine*

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# STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

The University of Tennessee’s supply chain and logistics, engineering, law and education graduate programs have been ranked among the best in the nation, according to *U.S. News and World Report’s* recently released 2010 graduate rankings. The supply chain and logistics graduate program, part of UT’s College of Business Administration, jumped one spot to ninth in the nation and fifth among all public institutions. The program has been ranked among the best of its kind by the magazine for four consecutive years. The 2010 report ranks the college’s overall graduate program 54th in the nation and 27th among public universities.

Tennessee will become one of the first states able to officially confirm cases of swine flu instead of sending tests to the Centers for Disease Control. The State Public Health Laboratory will be the only site to confirm swine flu. Area hospitals will not receive test kits from the CDC.

Employees of several school systems and local governments in Tennessee who use tobacco will soon be paying extra for their health insurance. Those schools and governments that are on the Local Education or Local Government Insurance plans will see the increase come Jan.1, 2010. The surcharge will be \$50 a month for employees who use tobacco, or whose spouse uses tobacco. The state will also help pay more for nicotine replacement gums, patches, and lozenges, as well as prescriptions that help members kick their habit. Employees will only have to pay a \$5 co-pay for these items, or a \$10 co-pay for a 90 day supply. Many school systems also will be having free quit support seminars. To learn more specific information about the Tobacco Use Surcharge, quit supports and the Quitter’s Refund, visit <http://www.state.tn.us/finance/ins/ins.html>

State and Metro employees said public hotlines are successfully exposing fraud, waste and the abuse of taxpayer money. Workers with the state said their hotline receives anywhere from 600 to 700 calls a year from people reporting trouble within agencies. “It’s very important that we’re insuring that the money that’s being spent is being spent for the purposes that it’s distributed for,” said Greg Cothron of the Tennessee Comptroller’s Office. In recent months, the public number has helped to recover \$14,000.



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

The government is struggling to keep pace with the growing number of attacks on its computer networks, potentially leaving key military and civilian systems vulnerable to overseas hackers. At several hearings on Capitol Hill, officials from each branch of the armed forces said the nation’s cyber defenses were being challenged like never before by sophisticated, well-organized efforts to disrupt important systems and steal classified information. “Threats in cyberspace move at the speed of light, and we are literally under attack every day as our networks are constantly probed and our adversaries seek to exploit vulnerabilities,” Lt. Gen. William Shelton, the Air Force’s chief information officer, told a House Armed Services Committee panel.

An increasing number of school districts nationwide are contemplating trimming the traditional school week to four days to save money. A four-day week has long been confined to a few small rural districts looking to save on fuel costs. But some districts contemplating the move serve suburban or urban areas. A recent University of Washington study found that states are cutting 18 percent of their education spending over the next three years, eliminating as many as 574,000 jobs.

The state is on a course to increase borrowing, which would drive up Tennessee’s debt per capita – now the lowest in the nation. Figures from 2007 show \$677 of outstanding debt per person. The nearest state is Texas at roughly \$1,000. This year, the General Assembly has approved the sale of bonds to finance new expenses like economic development incentives. And Gov. Bredesen said he wants to break a pay-as-you-go policy for road building to take advantage of good interest rates and low materials costs. “Even if we do a somewhat higher level of bond funding this year on things like these road projects, we will still be way under \$1,000 per capita and still be far and away the lowest state in the nation,” Bredesen said.

It looks like texting while driving will be against the law in Tennessee. The Tennessee Legislature approved a bill to ban drivers from sending or reading text messages while their vehicle is in motion. Drivers who violate the law can be fined a maximum \$50 plus no more than \$10 in court costs. Although the bill makes texting a violation only while the vehicle is in motion, it also declares that it’s a “nonmoving violation.” That non sequitur of a distinction means that it doesn’t add “points” in the driver’s record under the state’s point system of violations that could ultimately result in suspension of a driver’s license.

Consumer confidence in Middle Tennessee is at its highest point since early last year. Middle Tennessee State University periodically asks people how they think the economy is doing, and what they expect in the future. The answers are used to compute a local consumer confidence index. In February, it hit an all-time low of negative 66. But the latest survey, taken this month, bounced back up into positive numbers with a score of 105. Researchers say responses to the survey showed that Middle Tennesseans see the economy as a cycle that’s due for an upward swing.

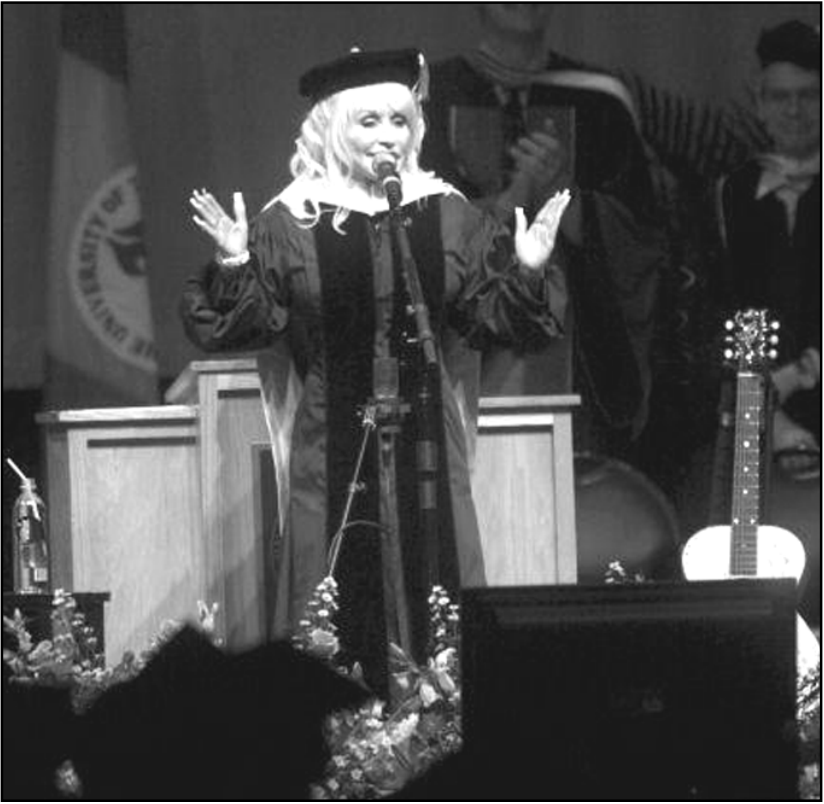
The Tennessee Consortium for International Studies has postponed its study abroad program to Mexico because of the swine flu outbreak. Program director J.

Milton Grimes says the trip may be rescheduled for late July if the outbreak is contained and the travel advisory is lifted. He says the three-week language study program is intensive immersion during which 25 students and three faculty members from several Tennessee colleges and universities live with Mexican families. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended people avoid nonessential travel to Mexico.

Drug agents in Tennessee are reporting a surge in the production of methamphetamine, despite state laws enacted to curb its use. State legislators responded to the meth crisis by passing the Meth-Free Tennessee Act of 2005. The law limited access to cold and allergy medicine containing pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, used in the manufacture of meth. Consumers were limited to buying only nine grams of pseudoephedrine in a 30-day period, and pharmacies began keeping records of who bought the medicines. After it passed, lab seizures declined and in 2007 dropped to a low of 589. But the busts were up again to 823. Experts say meth makers are adopting new methods to get around state laws enacted to limit the sale of over-the-counter drugs used in its production with a practice known as “smurfing.” The meth maker hires people to travel to several stores and sometimes other states to buy the legal limit of pseudoephedrine or ephedrine. Tennessee’s meth problem surfaced in 2000 and peaked five years ago when law officers busted 1,559 labs statewide.

Cash-strapped Tennessee school districts looking for extra money might soon find some by extending the lives of their school buses. Lawmakers have proposed letting school buses operate for 17 years, up from the current 12 to 15. Buses must go through extra inspections to prove they are safe to carry students. The estimated savings for school districts could top \$1 million a year, depending on how many buses a district buys.

The Tennessee Attorney General has filed three settlements and two lawsuits against companies for using misleading advertisements aimed at Hispanic immigrants.



Dolly Parton was among those honored during UT’s commencement ceremonies last week. She was awarded an honorary degree – a doctorate of humane and musical letters – largely because of her work with Tennessee’s Imagination Library. The Imagination Library “came from my desire to do something to inspire the little kids to read,” she told the graduates. Gov. Phil Bredesen established the Governor’s Books from Birth Foundation in 1994 to replicate the Imagination Library program across Tennessee.

These companies and individuals calling themselves “notarios publicos” are not licensed to practice law in Tennessee and should include that disclaimer in all advertisements. In many Spanish-speaking countries, a notario publico is an attorney who has been specially appointed to assist in certain common, everyday transactions. In America, notary publics can only administer oaths and witness signatures.

The Tennessee Valley Authority has raised its top estimate for cleaning up a massive ash spill at the Kingston Fossil Plant to nearly \$1 billion and acknowledged the recovery could take several years. The estimates for the cleanup of the coal ash disaster are \$150 million higher than previous forecasts. They lift TVA’s predicted range to \$675 million to \$975 million.

Reported crime dropped statewide by nearly three percent in 2008, with drops in violent crime and big increases in credit card fraud and shoplifting. An annual report, issued by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, detailed the changes across the state. The largest declines were in “crimes against society,” which dropped almost eight percent and include drug, gambling and prostitution offenses. Though

property crimes as a whole dropped slightly, increases were reported in fraud related to credit cards, welfare and impersonation charges. Overall, credit card fraud has jumped by 38 percent over the last three years.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services recently announced the creation of a time limited childcare scholarship program for low-income, working families. The program was established through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). Providers at all licensed childcare center and homes across Tennessee are eligible to participate in this one-time, \$42 million program.

Almost half of Tennessee adults between the ages of 25 and 74 sampled in a study had less than very good health, according to a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission report. The report also stated a correlation in every state: Adults with less education are more likely to be in less than very good health than college graduates. Overall, the state ranked 42nd in the study that looked at 3.7 million adults. The 20-page report gives a state-by-state analysis at adult health. Vermont fared the best and Mississippi came in last place.

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The town of Nolensville closes a \$21,000 loan.



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health care as becoming available and affordable to all. We support those goals and are working to

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To learn more about BlueAdvantage Plus and BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Municipal Employer Group Retiree Solutions, visit Booth No. 103 at the Tennessee Municipal League Annual Conference in Chattanooga, June 14-15, 2009, or call me at (865) 693-6424.

Community libraries to receive grants from state to help job hunters

A half dozen libraries across Tennessee are receiving grant funds administered through the Secretary of State’s office for programs that help job-seekers find work.

Libraries in Ardmore, Rogersville, Johnson City, Decatur, Union City and Franklin will each receive \$7,500 to set up job training centers. These centers will provide materials and professional services to teach new skills to displaced workers, provide information about career choices and offer resume writing and job application assistance.

The libraries will be collaborating with Department of Labor and Workforce career development centers, community colleges, high school vocational programs, extension offices, local businesses and other organizations involved in job training and placement.

With the state’s unemployment rate estimated at 9.6 percent in March, Secretary of State Tre Hargett said there are many communities that could benefit from job training and assistance programs like those financed through the grant funding.

“During these difficult economic times, people who are out of work may need help in finding new employment,” Secretary of State Tre’ Hargett said. “These job training centers are intended to give them the resources they need to re-enter the workforce.”

The grants come from federal funding made available through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which administers the Library Services and Technology Act. All 50 states and U.S. territories receive annual appropriations based on their population.

In Tennessee, the grants are administered by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, which is part of the Department of State. The Tennessee State Library and Archives staff advertises the availability of grant funding to libraries throughout the state, screens the grant applications, distributes the money to qualified recipients and makes sure the money is properly spent.

“While there’s a limited amount of money available for these types of programs, they can pay dividends even after the grant funds have been spent,” Hargett said.



Tre' Hargett

For example, librarians can learn skills at workshops that they can then pass along to co-workers or library patrons. In one case, a library user in Kingsport who attended a grant-funded workshop about finding local jobs online has taken it upon himself to volunteer his time to teach that skill to other library visitors.

Information for job seekers is also available through the Tennessee Electronic Library <http://tnel.tnlib.org/>, which is supported by state and federal funds.

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TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

May 16: Tennessee Strawberry Festival

Dayton. Saturday’s events include: Pancake Breakfast at 7 a.m., Fine Arts show at Rhea County Courthouse at 9 a.m., family fun area downtown, craft and food vendors, gospel entertainment at the Courthouse stage, Strawberry Gold Tournament at Dayton Country Club at 10 a.m., Tennessee Strawberry Festival Parade at 1 p.m. in downtown, Carnival fun night, and headline entertainment from 8-10 p.m., fireworks at 10 p.m. For events schedule, visit the website at [www.tnstrawberryfestival.com](http://www.tnstrawberryfestival.com). For more information, contact the Dayton Chamber of Commerce at 423-775-0361 or e-mail questions to [chamber@volstate.net](mailto:chamber@volstate.net).

COMING UP

May 21-31: Food for Life.

Sequatchie Valley Institute (SVI) in Whitwell. SVI’s eleventh annual comprehensive food conference includes skill-building workshops as well as discussion-oriented political dialogues. The event has been expanded to a full week-plus schedule and a festival atmosphere. Participants may attend for a week, weekend or a day. Experts will demonstrate and teach various food preservation strategies including canning, different methods of cooking, diet choices, health and nutrition. See <http://svionline.org/> for a full event schedule, registration form, and list of workshops and presenters.

June 6: Sonnenschein Regional Sustainability Forum.

The Hohenwald Forum will be from 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. at Lewis County Middle School and includes a Green Business Fair and discussions related to the environment and the economy of Middle Tennessee. Additional activities Fri. and Sat. evenings, and Sun. presentations, exhibits, and auction. \$12 admission fee. For more information, call 888-878-2434 ext.5 or e-mail [info@holisticecology.org](mailto:info@holisticecology.org). Also, visit the website at [www.sonnenscheingreentn.org](http://www.sonnenscheingreentn.org).

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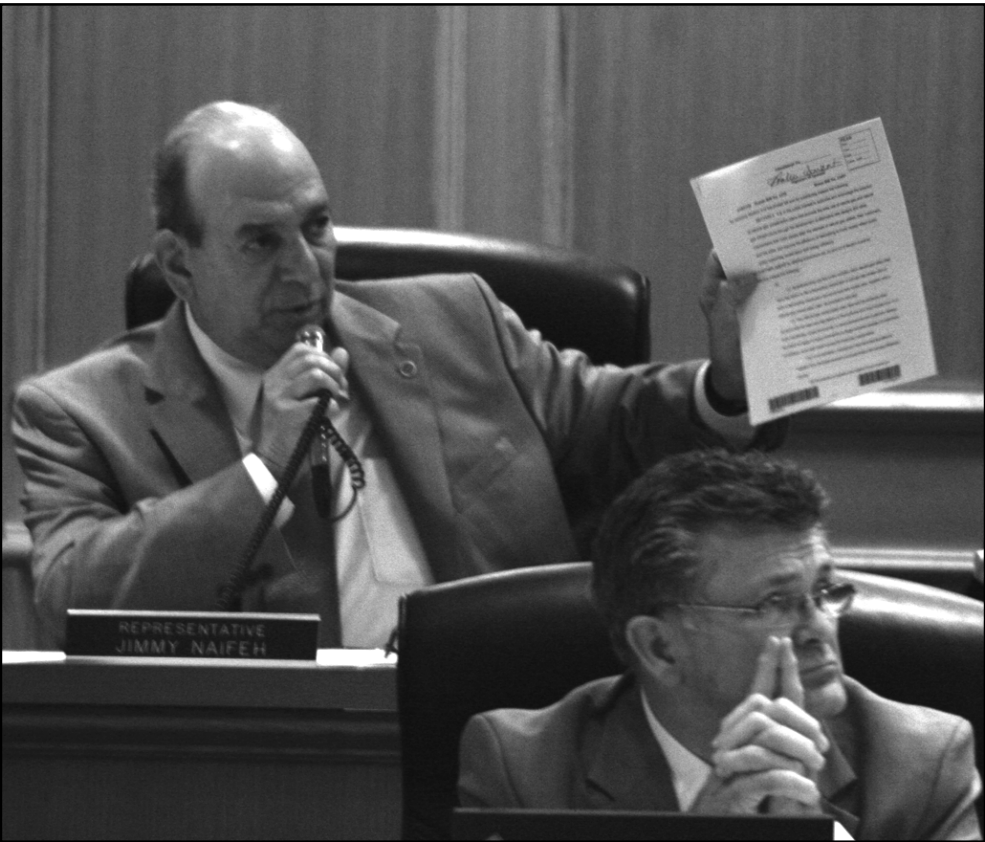
# Legislative committees consider the issues of 2009



Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey and Sen. Mark Norris



Sen. Paul Stanley



Speaker Emritus Jimmy Naifeh and Rep. Charles Curtiss



Sen. Bill Ketron and Sen. Lowe Finney



Sen. Dwyane Bunch



Rep. Dennis Ferguson



Sen. Beverly Marerro



Sen. Tim Burchett



Rep. Joe Towns and Rep. Brenda Gilmore



Sen. Ken Yager



Sen. Thelma Harper



Sen. Joe Haynes





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**CITY PLANNER**  
GALLATIN. The city is accepting applications for the position of City Planner. Reporting to the Mayor, and responsible to the city council, the city planner manages the Planning Department; is responsible for current and long-range planning; coordinates and takes part in plans review processes; prepares elements of the comprehensive plan related to a variety of elements; makes presentations to boards and commissions; works closely

with other city departments and interfaces daily with the Codes and Engineering Departments. Minimum qualifications include any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in urban planning coupled with significant supervisory experience. A Masters degree in a related field is preferred. Considerable professional planning experience (5 years or more preferred). Must possess a driver's license valid in the State of Tennessee and AICP professional planner certification. Salary DOQ (Salary Range \$53,145 - \$84,960). To apply, please submit cover letter summarizing reasons for interest and qualifications, a detailed resume including salary history, and three professional references. Mail resumes to City of Gallatin, 132 W. Main St, Gallatin, 37066, Attn: Dave Crawford, Personnel Official. Position open until filled. EOE.

## Dynamic conference events scheduled for Chattanooga

**CONFERENCE** *from Page 1*  
reception promises to be full of fun and adventure and an excellent way to unwind after an eventful day of networking and educational opportunities.

The conference gets underway Sunday morning beginning at 9 a.m. with registration and the opening of the exhibit hall. Two of TML's associate members will present vendor workshops beginning at 10 a.m. and will focus on various aspects of green conservation. OHM Engineering will present information on *Funding Green Streets and How to Find Money for Stormwater Infiltration*; and One Source Documents will present information on *Going Green and Reducing Costs with Dynamic Document Management and Workflow Solutions*.

Chattanooga's Green Committee will also present information on the city's Climate Action Plan and how they plan to reduce their carbon footprint within the region.

Also scheduled on Sunday are TML's district meetings, planned for 2:15 to 2:45 p.m. District elections are scheduled for odd-numbered districts.

The opening general session will kick off beginning at 3 p.m. and will feature keynote speaker USA Green Lady (aka Charlie Geiger) who is currently working with community leaders from across the country to help them *Go Green and Save Green*. As she talks to community leaders and asks them their thoughts regarding the environment and creating sustainable communities, she often asks what are they willing to do to encourage and participate in conserving energy?

Following the opening session, Geiger will stick around to moderate a panel discussion from experts in the field who will address how being a green city affects jobs, the economy and the health of your city.

Other conference highlights

include a host of dynamic workshops covering a wide variety of topics offered throughout the day on Monday, a performance by the Capitol Steps, and TML's Annual Awards Breakfast on Tuesday.

Conference registration is available online at [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org)

### Annual Conference June 13 - 16 Program At-A-Glance

#### Saturday, June 13

3 - 5 p.m. Board Meeting  
3 - 5 p.m. MTAS Alumni Event

#### Sunday, June 14

9 am - 5 pm Registration  
10 - 10:45 Vendor Workshop 1  
11 - 11:45 Vendor Workshop 2  
12 noon Lunch  
1:15 - 2 Vendor Workshop 3  
2:15 - 2:45 District Meetings  
3:00 - 4:15 Opening Session  
4:30 - 5:30 Workshops  
• Budgeting for Outcomes  
• Green Expert Panel  
6:30 - 9:30 Host City Reception

#### Monday, June 15

8 - 8:45 Breakfast  
9 - 9:45 Second Session  
10 - 11:15 Workshops  
• Tools for the Budget Gap  
• Immigration Issues in Tennessee  
• Tennessee Healthcare Survey  
• Treasury Management  
• Green Roads for Red Budgets  
11:30 - 12:15 Business Meeting  
12 - 2 MTAS Advisory Lunch  
12 - 1:15 Lunch  
1:15 - 1:45 Door Prizes  
2 - 4:30 Workshops  
• TN Cities Green Initiatives  
• Sustainable Land Use Planning  
• Web 2.0 in Government  
• THDA's Response to Economic Crisis  
• Council-Manager Government  
• Census 2010  
• City Audits  
• Administrative Utility Hearings  
5:30 - 6:30 Capitol Steps  
6:30 - 11 Pool Party

#### Tuesday - June 16

8 - 10 Annual Awards Breakfast

## Transportation study committee recommends two funding options

**TDOT** *from Page 1*

0.5 percent a year and federal revenue by 1.4 percent while construction costs grew 15.9 percent.

Had the fuel tax rate already been tied to the CPI, TDOT estimates it would have raised \$350 million over the past five years. The cost to the consumer would have increased from the current rate of 21.4 cents per gallon on gasoline to 30.8 cents over the five year period.

"I've always been in favor of price indexing," said House Speaker Kent Williams, who is a member of the study committee. "I think it's much easier on a gradual index than all of a sudden doubling the gas tax."

Some states already using indexing include Kentucky, Florida, Iowa, Maine, New York, and North Carolina.

TDOT estimates that a one-cent gas tax increase would generate \$30.5 million per year with TDOT receiving some \$18 million. Over the five year period, the increase would generate some \$87.9 million for TDOT (60 percent), \$55.7 million (38 percent) to cities and counties, and \$2.9 million (2 percent) to the State General Fund.

A one-cent increase to the diesel



With advances in higher fuel-efficiency vehicles, the gas tax is becoming an unpredictable and unsustainable method for funding transportation needs. Pictured above is Gov. Phil Bredesen in an all-electric vehicle that Nissan shipped from Japan. Nissan is expected to introduce electric vehicles for U.S. commercial and government fleets in late 2010 and for mass market globally by 2012.

tax would generate \$11M per year with TDOT receiving \$8M. Over the five year period, the increase would generate some \$50.2 million with TDOT receiving \$36.1million (72 percent); \$13.1million (26 percent) to cities/counties; and \$1 million (2 percent) to the State General Fund  
The current state tax is 21 cent

per gallon on gasoline and 18 cents on diesel fuel. The federal tax is 18.4 cents.

"Our transportation system is in a crisis," Harmon said. "And it's going to take a bipartisan effort to solve the problem and meet the identified needs. We can't put this off much longer, people."

## Comptroller proposes reforms for municipal bond financing

**COMPTROLLER** *from Page 1*

not employ these types of transactions, nor do we intend on starting."

Other recommendations include:

- cities and counties engaging in those types of transactions be required to have full-time staff members who could demonstrate they have sufficient education and training to understand the deals they are entering into on behalf of local taxpayers; and
- increasing the state's oversight role by adding new reporting and monitoring requirements for cities and counties and eliminating conflicts of interest between the various parties involved in the transactions.

"Allowing the financial advisor to also be the underwriter is a problem," said Seivers. "We strongly encourage oversight in this area and

would support Comptroller Wilson in his efforts to separate these duties."

Wilson said he is also considering placing limitations on the use of variable-rate debt for municipal financing.

"We have to respond to a fundamental shift in the way in which local governments have been paying for parks, schools and other public works projects over the last few years," Wilson said. "Some local governments have been relying exclusively on variable-rate debt, which can be as dangerous as a homeowner financing a mansion with an adjustable rate mortgage and no down payment up front."

Wilson said he's begun to work with the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance to determine any regulatory changes that might be necessary and to examine disclosure requirements for variable rate secu-

rities. He notes there is limited federal regulation in this important area.

Wilson stressed that his proposals are just a starting point for a discussion about necessary reforms. He said he plans to seek public comment for at least 30 days on all of the ideas before any changes are made.

"This is only the first phase of a complex process," Wilson said. "It's not possible to wave a wand and fix every conceivable problem that might arise in the complicated universe of local government finance. But we can and will do more to make sure that ordinary Tennesseans are adequately protected from the uncertainties that are always present in the financial marketplace."

To review the draft guidelines, please visit [www.tn.gov/comptroller](http://www.tn.gov/comptroller) Comments on the guidelines can be sent to [comptroller.web@tn.gov](mailto:comptroller.web@tn.gov)

## Law Enforcement Management and Administration Class

The Law Enforcement Management and Administration class will provide police managers with the tools to effectively manage the various legal and administrative mandates of the state and federal governments.

Most police managers rise through the ranks to become chiefs or command officers. In many cases, chiefs and command officers are ill prepared to deal with all the administrative requirements of the job.

Many become aware of legal mandates after they get in trouble. This class is designed to provide chiefs and command officers with the knowledge and ability to deal with these duties in an effective and

proactive manner.

#### Who should attend

The class should be considered a must for newly appointed chiefs and command staff officers.

#### Course topics

Personnel Law, Overtime Regulations, Budgeting and Financial Management, Internal Investigations, Managing the Drug Fund, Risk Management, Open Records Law, and state regulatory mandates.

#### Times:

1:00: Monday, July 6  
Friday, July 10: Concludes at noon with graduation.

#### Location:

Signal Mountain Police Department, 1111 Ridgeway Ave., Signal Mountain, TN.

Credit for the course is 32-hours. The point of contact at Signal Mountain Police Department for directions or lodging is Capt. Greg Hall at 423-886-2137. Registration is through TLETA. For further information, contact Linda Spears ([linda.spears@tn.gov](mailto:linda.spears@tn.gov)) at 615-741-4448.

*Presented by the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy and the UT's Municipal Technical Advisory Service and hosted by the Signal Mountain Police Department.*

## Good Risk Management is Just Good Management



Municipal parks and playgrounds can contribute to a community's overall quality of life. But they can also pose some safety hazards. Each year, emergency rooms treat more than 200,000 children ages 14 and under for playground-related injuries.

Through a comprehensive training program offered by the TML Risk Management Pool, city leaders are taught hazard identification and risk management methods.



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# Kingsport among top 50 in Government Innovations

BY VICTORIA SOUTH  
Communications Coordinator

While necessity may be the mother of invention, the crown jewel lies in innovation, as demonstrated by the Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation. The institute's Innovations in American Government Awards, created in 1985, were established to restore public trust in government by promoting public sector creativity and excellence as reflected through innovative processes that often influence policy reform and legislation improvements. Recognized among 2009's top 50 Innovations in Government, the city of Kingsport's Higher Education Initiative is a shining example.

"Despite the difficult climate, governments at the city, state, and even federal levels are demonstrating creative and effective solutions to some of the nation's most pressing challenges, and doing so with thread bare budgets and diminish-

## Ash Institute to deliver American Government Awards

In 2001, the city launched the "Educate and Grow" program offering two-year scholarships at Northeast State Technical Community College (NESTCC) to any local high school graduate who met the college's entrance requirements. With Sullivan County's decision to participate, the two governments expanded the area's conventional K-12 public school program to an optional K-14 program.

Lacking a college campus of its own, the city then developed a downtown academic village conveniently located near Kingsport's public transit system. Enrollment at Kingsport's Regional Center for Applied Technology (RCAT) exploded, meeting a five-year goal of 1,000 students in just two years.

Opening in 2002, the center provides higher education opportunities for everyone in the Tri-Cities area of Kingsport, Bristol, and Johnson City, including traditional and non-traditional students, high



A rendering of the Kingsport Center for Higher Education



Kingsport's Center for Higher Education under construction

ing resources," Harvard Institute officials said in a recent release.

In Kingsport, hard times were the catalyst that brought education into play, igniting a can do spirit that has earned the region national respect. Since 1990, community leaders found themselves dealing with a

stee p  
decline  
in the  
area's

historically strong manufacturing base. Some 12,600 manufacturing jobs disappeared. The city found itself sinking, lacking in a diversified economic base as well as a skilled work force. Although Kingsport's public school system has been widely recognized for excellence, the majority of the community's best and brightest chose to pursue careers in other cities. As the situation grew dire, the city hosted an Economic Summit in 1999, which would become a life changing day for the citizens of Kingsport.

"A consultant was called in and during his report, basically hurt our feelings," recalls Kingsport Chamber of Commerce President, Miles Burdine. "He called us a "Rough Belt" and that word got our attention because our economy was based primarily on manufacturing, which led us to develop strategies to encourage more retail development while inviting outside businesses to consider locating to Kingsport."

However, creating a competitive and marketable work force to attract outside businesses requires educated workers. Adhering to the policy "The best things in life are free," city officials decided education would become a free commodity in Kingsport.

school student dual- enrollment programs, and senior citizens.

Becoming an oasis of learning, the educational village continues to grow. Kingsport's Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved funding for a \$4 million, 42,000 square foot Regional Health Center for Health

the community to provide a trained work force to Eastman and other industries in 5-10 years. Through the Kingsport Higher Education Initiative, we can provide the needed employees for local industries and provide citizens the means to provide for their families. Most graduates can

make a livable income, but with our manufacturing school, we can take someone and educate them to earn \$40,000 to \$60,000 a year, the difference between just existing and being able to provide a good life for their family. Our goal, when we are finished, is to have 3,000 students in

Professionals (RCHP) adjacent to RCAT. A major healthcare provider supplied \$1 million in scholarship money. Then two Kingsport-based companies developed a \$2.7 million Regional Center for Applied Manufacturing (RCAM) focusing on vocational-based training, welding, pipe-fitting, etc.

A \$13 million city-funded, 54,000 square foot Kingsport Higher Education Center (KHEC) is slated to open in the fall of 2009. Like RCAT, RCHP and RCAM, KHEC will be operated by NESTCC.

The target recipients of the "Educate and Grow" program have since expanded from Kingsport and Sullivan County High Schools to non-traditional students, adult learners, 25 or older, who represent the current or potential workforce in the city.

"We want to make education so convenient that there is no reason for folks not to get a two or four-year degree in Kingsport," said Mayor Dennis Phillips. "There's no cost for community college here in Kingsport and our goal is to expand the program to include four years and possibly add two years of trade school. We had a breakfast meeting where the county leaders challenged



Kingsport Regional Center for Health Professions

downtown Kingsport daily," Phillips concludes.

According to Phillips, the city has approached Northeast State about adding an Automotive School to the educational village, funded through a local benefactor.

"Kingsport's initiative is unique in that we are investing in human knowledge and people to supply jobs and satisfy the economy," said John Campbell, Kingsport city manager. "We've had more than \$370 million in new investment in the community since 2006. This has been one of the most comprehensive and rewarding pro-

grams in my career in local government."

Award finalists will be narrowed down to the top 16 and announced in May, while the winners will be announced in September. Kingsport is currently in the top five percent of nominations, according to Grant Morris, Kingsport Government Relations Specialist.

"It is gratifying to receive outside recognition for your work," said Keith Wilson, publisher of the *Kingsport Times* and original chair of the Educate and Grow project. "However, in the long run, the city is going to reap its own reward."

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### Kingsport Higher Education Initiative timeline

**Mid to late 1990s--** Many businesses in the greater Kingsport area begin downsizing.

**1999--**Economic Summit hosted by the city of Kingsport.

**2001--**A city-led initiative called "Educate and Grow" is launched.

**2002--**The downtown Regional Center for Applied Technology (RCAT) completed by the city of Kingsport, with the assistance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

**2005--**RCAT exceeds five-year goal of 1,000 students.

**2007--**Construction of the Kingsport Center for Health Professions—funded by the city.

**2008--**Construction of the 54,000 square-foot Kingsport Center for Higher Education—funded by the city with assistance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

**2008--**Partnership formed through Northeast State Technical Community College, Eastman Chemical Company and Domtar Paper Mill for construction of the Regional Center for Applied Manufacturing.