

The West Tennessee Solar Farm will be located at the new Haywood County industrial megasite near Brownsville. Under a preliminary agreement, TVA will purchase power generated by the Solar Farm at a renewable-energy price.

300 jobs to quench thirsty economy in Perry County

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Like water to dry land, a 300-job stimulus package toward economically parched Perry County rained hope upon a struggling community. At 25.4 percent, the county, 90 miles southwest of Nashville, has the highest unemployment rate in the state and one of the worst in the nation.

"Perry County has been hit especially hard, and I'm glad the state can offer this assistance during these tough times," Gov. Phil Bredesen said, outlining the plan before state and local leaders and about 300 citizens in Linden, the hub of the county on the east bank of the Tennessee River south of I-40.

"This jobs package will put people back to work immediately and begin to ease some of the strain caused by the economic downturn," added Bredesen.

Most Perry County residents have lived in the sleepy rural hamlet bordering the Tennessee and Buffalo Rivers all their lives, where land is cheap and 50 percent were dependant upon an auto industry that stopped giving back. Layoffs at two of the largest plants in the commu-

nity eliminated 800 jobs alone. Perry County also lacks a four-lane highway to I-40, the yellow-brick road to goods and industry.

"We've had our eggs in one basket for so many years," said Lobelville Mayor Robbie Moore. "We've put a lot of energy into job recruitment, tried to think outside the box."

According to Moore, frustrated residents unable to find gainful employment were slipping into despondency. "The state's commitment has certainly improved morale from a sociological standpoint," Moore said. "These people have been blaming themselves."

The Department of Economic and Community Development will be partnering with local officials to bolster the county's long-term economic growth and planning efforts. And an economic development consultant secured by the department with expertise in rural economic development will be on hand to work with local officials on their economic development projects.

"We have started on our own to promote tourism," said Linden Mayor Jim Azbill. "We have local artists and artistic people who would

rather, this information will facilitate the child's adoption.

The medical history, along with any other identifying information regarding the mother or child, is confidential and may be released only to the department of children's services. While the child is in the care of the facility, employees are charged with performing any act necessary to protect the physical health and safety of the child. Within 24 hours of acceptance and only after the mother leaves the facility, an employee must notify the department of children's services of the voluntary delivery.

The facility and any attending employees are provided immunity from any criminal or civil liability arising from any action taken in complying with this legislation. However, nothing in the legislation exempts a medical employee from an already existing standard of care. The mother too is exempted from any criminal prosecution if she fully complies with the law.

The bill, which takes effect upon becoming law, will amend T.C.A. § 68-11-255. The actual text of the legislation can be read there. If you have any questions concerning this legislation, please contact an MTAS management consultant.

Governor proposes new solar initiatives

Gov. Phil Bredesen is proposing a comprehensive solar-energy and economic-development program — the Volunteer State Solar Initiative — that will use up to \$62.5 million in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to advance job creation, education, research, and renewable-power production in Tennessee.

Subject to approval by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Tennessee General Assembly, the proposed initiative consists of two closely related projects:

- The Tennessee Solar Institute at UT and ORNL, which will focus on basic science and industry partnerships to improve the affordability and efficiency of

solar products; and

- The West Tennessee Solar Farm near Brownsville, a five-megawatt 20-acre power generation facility at the Haywood County industrial megasite that will be one of the largest installations in the Southeast and serve as a demonstration tool for educational, research and economic-development purposes.

"Our success over the past few months in recruiting solar-industry manufacturers to Tennessee shows we have bright economic prospects for additional job growth in this area," Bredesen said. "Now, it's time to build on our strengths and position Tennessee for the next wave of investment in the renew-

able-energy sector. This approach fits within our state's broader job creation strategy, and addresses President Obama's short- and long-term goals in economic stimulus and renewable energy."

In announcing the new initiative, Bredesen was joined by legislative leaders and key partners including Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and the University of Tennessee (UT). Support was registered from Washington, D.C., by members of Tennessee's congressional delegation, including U.S. House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon and Congressman John Tanner, a

See SOLAR on Page 6

TML Legislative initiatives approved

Two of TML's 2009 legislative initiatives have won approval in both Houses, with others still pending in the Tennessee General Assembly.

SB 0811, sponsored by Sen. Doug Overbey, and HB 0956, sponsored by Rep. Joe McCord, was signed into law April 22, becoming Public Chapter 74. The legislation clarifies that a municipal utility can make improvements to an existing system without having to seek approval from the governing jurisdiction, provided it is within the utility's established service area.

SB 1221, sponsored by Sen. DeWayne Bunch, and HB 1209, by Rep. Eric Watson, that allows municipalities to execute municipally-issued distress warrants, was approved by the Senate on March 19 and by the House on May 18. It is waiting the governor's signature to be signed into law.

Construction Improvements

PC 74 clarifies statutes that were exceptionally broad and could be interpreted in such a manner as to inhibit a municipal utility's ability to meet the demands of its customers located outside the municipal boundaries but within its approved

See LEGISLATION on Page 7



Sen. Doug Overbey



Sen. DeWayne Bunch



Rep. Joe McCord



Rep. Eric Watson

Nashville host city for American Cleanup

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

Spring showers did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of volunteers of all ages from across the state, who showed up to prune trees, haul trash, landscape and paint over graffiti across the city in honor of Nashville's starring role as a 2009 host city to The Great American Cleanup (GAC). The city's important role follows Tennessee's 100 percent participation in GAC events for the past two years.

"Tennesseans have never hesitated to roll up their sleeves and get to work on making our state better," said Gov. Phil Bredesen. "I applaud the volunteers who made Tennessee the first state in the nation to achieve 100 percent participation in the GAC."

As the environmental stewards of the future, hundreds of excited school children wearing GAC commemorative t-shirts worked on projects and visited informational booths and educational exhibits stretched around the Bicentennial Capitol Mall.

Nashville's selection as a show

See GAC on Page 7



Photo by Victoria South

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and Matt McKenna, president and CEO Keep America Beautiful, present the coveted Presidents Call to Service Award and a personal letter from President Barack Obama to Alice Ann Barge, former science teacher and Nashville Tree Foundation board member during Nashville's celebration as host city for the Great American Cleanup. The award is the highest level among the Presidential Volunteer Service Award categories and is presented to those who have accumulated 4,000 hours of volunteer service during a lifetime.

Police stations, fire halls among sites mothers can leave unwanted newborns

BY JOSH JONES
MTAS Legal Consultant

Earlier this month, the House and Senate Speakers signed Senate Bill 1714. The governor is expected to sign the bill into law this month. When he does, this bill will require a fire department, law enforcement facility or emergency medical services facility that is staffed 24 hours a day to accept certain newborn infants left with an employee.

Broader legislation, passed in 2001, requires a birthing center, community health clinic or an outpatient clinic to accept voluntary delivery of an unharmed infant not more than 72 hours old. This bill merely expands the scope of facilities that must accept an infant to include fire departments, law enforcement facilities and emergency medical services facilities staffed 24 hours a day.

The person dropping off the infant must purport to be the child's mother and not express an intention of returning for the child. Upon acceptance of an infant, an employee must, to the extent possible, inquire as to the health and medical history of the mother and the child. The mother must be informed that she is not required by law to respond,

Management Pool celebrates 30 years

Around 500 municipal entities are currently working together through the TML Risk Management Pool to form a voluntary, self-insurance, risk-sharing partnership that is not just another insurance company.

Formed by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1979 to aid municipalities in weathering the insurance market, the Pool's mission has always been to provide our members with the very best in risk management products and services with absolute integrity.

For the past 30 years, the Pool has been driven by this mission and continues to work to create a stable and viable municipal insurance market in Tennessee. The success of the Pool can largely be attributed to

the commitment of the members to a philosophy of safety and risk management. The TML Pool Board and Staff would like to congratulate our members on the continued success they have helped to achieve as we celebrate our 30th anniversary.

The TML Risk Management Pool was the first statewide municipal liability pool in the nation, created in the wake of the volatile insurance market of the 1970's. Many cities found themselves being charged unaffordable premiums or unable to obtain insurance at all.

The Pool was created to be a wholly owned and professionally operated non-profit, risk-sharing pool. The Pool's Board of Direc-

tors, lead by municipal officials from across the state, have a variety of responsibilities including setting policy, approving rates and dividend credits, approving the budget, as

See POOL on Page 6



NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ALCOA

Alcoa Middle School students have resurrected a community favorite, a living museum in which students portray famous people. The event, which was first organized nearly 10 years ago, had been on ice for the last four years. The Cultural Museum of History had grown from only 13 sixth-graders in its first year to more than 100 sixth, seventh and eighth-graders. Teachers applied for and received a \$2,000 grant from the Alcoa City Schools Foundation to purchase supplies — such as paint, costumes, foam board and props — and hope to tie the project into the new state educational standards and offer students credit for it in the next couple of years.

BRENTWOOD

Some of Brentwood's first city leaders got together at City Hall to reminisce on the occasion of the city's 40th birthday. Brentwood's first police chief, original city commissioners, former city manager and other department heads came out to celebrate and catch up with one another. Brentwood's police department started in 1971, two years after the city was incorporated, with only four employees and a total operating budget of \$40,000. Former city manager Frank Clifton, hired in 1984 witnessed the development of the city's early fire station, saw the municipal offices move to various locations before landing on Maryland Way, and served through a referendum that would have changed the city's form of government leadership to a mayor-centric system. Retiring city judge Thomas Schlater, has served since the city was incorporated in 1969.

TRI-CITIES

The Tri-Cities lost more than 8,000 jobs in the first quarter of the year, pushing the region's unemployment rate up to more than 8.5 percent. According to the latest labor market report issued by East Tennessee State University, the region lost a total of 8,303 jobs in the first quarter vs. the same period a year ago. Kingsport lost 1,473 jobs in the period, and its unemployment rate rose from 4.92 percent a year ago to 8.01 percent this year. Johnson City reported a loss of 1,970 jobs in the first quarter, and its unemployment rate rose from 5.36 percent last year to 8.34 percent this year. And Bristol lost 937 jobs in the first quarter, while its unemployment rate rose from 4.77 percent last year to 8.48 percent this year.

CHATTANOOGA

The cost of assisted living care grew about four times faster in Chattanooga over the past five years than in three other large Tennessee cities, according to a recent study. Assisted living rates have risen 13 percent annually over the past five years, compared to 4 percent in Memphis, 3 percent in Knoxville and 2 percent in Nashville, according to the study by Genworth Financial. In Chattanooga, the median annual cost for this type of care is \$29,760.

COLLIERVILLE

A new software package developed

by Collierville-based Medical Design & Marketing LLC is designed to cut the time patients have to wait to get test results and provide instant access to medical records. The product, Vitesst, by physician Ara James Hanissian and Paul Cheek, will be available to other doctors for an initiation fee of \$1,000 and a monthly fee of \$300. The software allows doctors to either upload or transfer test results to a health level seven secured Web site that patients can access with their own password. Health level seven is a security standard for financial and sensitive patient data in the health care industry. When the results are available, patients receive a text message or an e-mail notification.

ERWIN

Morgan Insulation, whose Jonesborough Road facility is distinctive because of its huge silo visible through much of downtown, will start shutting down July 13. The move will affect 42 employees. Morgan makes high-temperature insulation products.

FRANKLIN

Something still stinks in Franklin, and it is baffling the state. Residents have filed dozens of complaints, and the state has studied the mysterious stench. However, months after the smell first appeared, there are still no clear answers. "Just when you think that maybe it has resolved itself because there is a change in the wind direction or a lot of rain, then you go by the plant and you still notice the odor is still there, and it is pretty heavy," said Franklin Alderman Mike Skinner. After two months of testing by the Tennessee Air Quality Control division, much of the odor centers around the Superior Essex Corporation at 120 Southeast Parkway. The state said all testing has been inconclusive.

KINGSTON

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will oversee cleanup of the coal ash spill at the Kingston power plant under an order TVA has agreed to. An order EPA issued under the federal Superfund law calls for TVA to reimburse EPA for its oversight costs. TVA's estimated tab for the cleanup is approaching \$1 billion, excluding lawsuits and penalties. Previously, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation had primary oversight, in consultation with the EPA.

KINGSPOINT

Kingsport's Higher Education Initiative has been selected among the top 16 finalists for the 2009 Innovations in American Government Awards by The Ash Institute at Harvard Kennedy School. On May 27, representatives from the selected programs will present at the Harvard Kennedy School Forum. The event is free and open to the public. Presentations will also be available via live video stream at <http://video.ksg.harvard.edu:8080/rangen/encoder/live> and on the Ash Institute YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/ashinstitute).

KNOXVILLE

Two elementary students placed first and second in their age group in a national aviation arts contest, 4th grader Zeth Akins, who placed second in the International Aviation Arts Contest and Chihye Kim, who was recognized for winning her age bracket in the

National competition. Both children are students at Cedar Bluff Elementary School.

LEBANON

A Middle Tennessee company is doubling its staff and moving into a brand new \$12 million facility. Swedish-based Permobil, which manufactures high-end electric wheelchairs, custom made to fit customers' requirements, is currently located in Lebanon's Eastgate Business Park. The company's new 120,000 square foot building will be environmentally friendly with skylights and windows to create natural light and solar panels on the roof. Permobil officials, in part, attribute their business boost to referrals from the Department of Veterans Affairs but said the product is helpful to anyone with specialized mobility needs.

MEMPHIS

Actor Morgan Freeman is coming to Memphis to the Regional Medical Center to raise a goal of \$60,000 for the Elvis Presley Memorial Trauma Center at the Zero to 60 Fundraiser on June 6. Last year, Freeman, 71, was airlifted to The Med after the car he was driving veered out of control, flipping several times before landing in a ditch in Mississippi. It was in the trauma center that Freeman underwent emergency orthopedic surgery on his neck and shoulder and spent four days recovering. When Freeman healed, he set up an endowment of \$25,000 a year for nurse training.

MEMPHIS

Memphians packed into Shelby Farms for the second annual Israel Festival, hosted by the Memphis Friends of Israel. Several thousand sampled Israeli food as klezmer music echoed over Patriot Lake in a celebration of Memorial Day and Israel's 61st anniversary as a country. The Memphis Friends of Israel has both Jewish and Christian members, in about equal proportions, but is a secular non-profit organization for promoting the art and culture of Israel. "It surprised me. It warmed my heart to see such support," Ilan Shohat, mayor of the Israeli city of Zefat, said. "When we have friends in Memphis, and all over the U.S., it gives us hope, and helps us be strong against our enemies."

MORRISON

A factory may be moving into the old Carrier plant in Warren County where the unemployment rate is near 14 percent. County officials did not say which company was interested, but it could mean hundreds of new jobs. Carrier moved out of the complex in Morrison four years ago and took more than 1,000 jobs. There's nearly a million square feet of space in the buildings.

MURFREESBORO

Rutherford County students affected by the Good Friday tornadoes are getting a boost from the state Department of Education. Rutherford County and Murfreesboro City Schools both received \$27,500 for homeless student services. County schools will use those funds to supplement its Academic Time Leads to Achieving Students — ATLAS — program. If requested, students are provided transportation, school supplies, clothing and food to be sent home over the weekend. 70 students lost their homes in the tornadoes, but it's not known how many of those students requested ATLAS services.

NASHVILLE

A Dallas-based company announced plans for a 1.5 million-square-foot medical convention and trade center in Nashville with a smaller first phase opening as early as next summer. Market Center Management says the Nashville Medical Trade Center could open as



After participating in the downtown Chattanooga parade to celebrate Armed Forces Day, the Retired Enlisted Association Chapter 103 brought the float to The Lantern at Morning Pointe Alzheimer's and Memory Care Center of Excellence in Collegedale. There has been an Armed Forces Day Parade in Chattanooga for the past 60 years.

early as 2010. The center would have showrooms for health care product manufacturers, information technology firms and distributors; trade show space; and conference facilities for medical trade events and could add additional jobs and welcome new businesses, according to Market Center president and CEO Bill Winsor.

NASHVILLE

Metro Nashville Schools is considering a \$1.1 million adult high school that would place dropouts and struggling students on a fast track to earning a high school diploma. The school would open next year and serve hundreds of students with morning, afternoon and evening classes. Students age 17-21 who have completed 10th grade could earn two course credits every eight weeks at two locations, tentatively planned for the Old Cockrill Building and Opry Mills Mall Career Center. The schools would replace some of the adult education services being offered at Cohn Adult High School at no additional cost.

OAK RIDGE

Orion Laboratories LLC, an Oak Ridge technology company which has created new technologies to produce the material used in making solar panels, was selected among six finalists of the inaugural contest sponsored by the Fairview Technology Center, a small business incubator owned by Knox County and managed by the Development Corpora-

tion of Knox County and Technology 2020. The Fairview business competition was created to encourage development of new businesses and ultimately job creation. The contest was limited to new, independent enterprises in the seed capital, startup or early-growth stages.

SHELBYVILLE

National Pen Co. will shift an undisclosed number of jobs from the Philippines to Shelbyville. The positions are in sales and customer service. National Pen is closing operations in Manila. The company, based in San Diego, sells a range of products including writing instruments, cups, mouse pads, calendars, shirts and bags.

SMYRNA

A Seattle-based coffee machine maker, Franke Coffee Systems' North American office is moving its warehouse and retail space to Smyrna in August. According to a Franke spokeswoman, about 50 people work at the Seattle location and about six will be making the move to Tennessee.

TELFORD

Nearly 150 local factory workers will lose their jobs by July 14, and if the owners of Bush Hog LLC can't sell the company's Telford plant, those jobs will be lost permanently. The fate of Bush Hog's workers, who produce front-end loaders, zero-turn mowers and backhoes, is in the hands of a potential buyer.



PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Dr. Kenneth Hill has been named by Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey to serve as director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. The nomination is subject to confirmation by the House and Senate. Hill, who is the father of state Rep. Matthew Hill, will replace Tre Hargett, who left as TRA director earlier this year when elected secretary of state.

Dr. Jeff McMillin, Bristol, and **Eric Wright**, Elizabethton, have received appointments as statewide commissioners to serve as members of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission. The two new commissioners are part of the 13-member governing body of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

U.S. Rep.

Marsha Blackburn, was recently awarded the Iron Jawed Angel Award by the Richard Lugar National Excellence in Public Service Series. The award, which was given by 14 state chapters



Blackburn

of conservative women active in public service, honors women's contributions to public service. "Iron Jawed Angel" is a term coined by a newspaper reporter for the Suffragettes, who quietly stood vigil in front of the White House for two years until a constitutional amendment was passed providing for women's right to vote.

Brentwood City Commissioner **Betsy Crossley** was elected mayor and Commissioner **Rhea Little** elected vice mayor in a recent election. Crossley Brentwood's mayor and vice mayor are selected by city commissioners from among their own members.



Crossley

Murfreesboro's deputy city manager **Rob Lyons** has been promoted to city manager by the city council to replace Roger Haley, who will retire in August.



Lyons

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State guiding municipalities toward sustainable tourism

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
Communications Coordinator

While you can't bottle it, the sweet essence of Tennessee is a \$14.2 billion a year tourist industry generating \$1.1 billion in state and local taxes. Whether it's the panoramic views to the East, storytelling in Jonesborough, Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, old log cabins, quilt making, or barbecue on Beal Street, the state's department of tourism aims to keep Tennessee "one of a kind" geographically, historically, culturally and ecologically through sustainable tourism practices.

A buzz word for responsible, environmentally, eco-conscious travel, sustainable tourism is the commitment to sustain the environment, history and culture of a region, while simultaneously sustaining economic growth through tourism. During tough economic times, the tourism industry also ranks No.1 in nonfarm employment.

"Sustainable tourism is one of the tourism industry's most important issues," said Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. "It's a call to stewardship of Tennessee's natural beauty and rich heritage which is fundamental to good business. Getting this message out to all our stakeholders will keep tourism thriving in Tennessee for generations to come."

One way the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development is accomplishing that task in 2009 is through

four statewide Sustainable Tourism Workshops. Partnered with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, each event will target the hospitality and tourism industry, providing sustainable tourism resources, case studies, best practices and access to leading experts.

According to the World Tourism Organisation, cities will continue to be in high demand by tourists of all varieties, and the problems associated with handling these tourists will have to be more systematically tackled by all parties concerned.

Essentially, sustainability practices should saturate the industry on all levels including:

- Convention and Visitors Bureaus
- The Chamber of Commerce
- Local Government
- Economic development officials



Photos by Victoria South

Nashville's Farmer's Market offers fresh locally grown foods

- Tourism business owners and management
- Hotels and lodging
- Restaurants
- Land and resort attraction developers as well as others interested in sustainable tourism.

"Sustainable tourism can benefit our local communities, the environment and the bottom line," said Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke. "From energy conservation initiatives to recycling and waste reduction to LEED certification for new state park cabins, the state is leading by example and we're pleased to share that experience with others in the tourism industry."

Research by the Travel Industry Association & TravelsAmerica indicates that 89 percent of people who travel to Tennessee think it is somewhat very important for a travel provider to be environmentally sensitive compared to 86 percent in 2007.

In fact, 55 million Americans are classified as sustainable or "Geotourists" while more than two-thirds of meeting professionals take environmental considerations into account when planning conferences.

According to Gov. Phil Bredesen, "Volkswagon claims environmental responsibility as a core value of the company, citing Chattanooga's strong environmental commitment as a factor in winning the plant."

As green becomes the new black

Cities face a double challenge. First they have to be able to respond to the expectations and needs of the growing numbers of tourists who are attracted to their rich and varied array of cultural, business, entertainment, shopping, sports and other attractions, and second, they have to ensure tourism is developed and managed in such a way that it benefits the resident population, does not contribute to the deterioration of the urban environment but the enhancement, and does not become a financial burden to local officials.—World Tourism Organisation

nationally, sustainable practices in restaurants, conference centers, and convention centers will be the baseline requirement to doing business in the hospitality industry.

Satisfying the environmentally conscious customer, most sustainable practices can also save Conference and Convention Centers substantial amounts of money.

Green Events packages offer a green or environmentally-friendly experience for conferences, meetings, weddings and other events. Recycling is provided at the events, while conference staff works with the customer on other techniques to reduce waste. A plan for conserving water considers water saving faucets, showerheads, and toilets and a landscaping watering plan. The use of vendors and suppliers with a commitment to the environment, effective food inventory control to cut

down on waste and green products purchased in bulk for cleaning are just a minute sampling of options available.

Research released by the National Restaurant Association's 2009 Restaurant Industry Forecast shows that Americans are looking for healthier options and "greener" restaurants when they dine out and that restaurants' responsiveness to customers' preferences will drive these industry trends.

Restaurants have the opportunity to minimize operational impacts on the environment by eliminating the use of styrofoam and other disposables, recycling grease and other recyclable products, using water efficiently and conserving energy using compact fluorescent lighting EnergyStar appliances and efficient heating and cooling systems.

In Nashville, "Tayst" restaurant is an example of best practices in sustainable tourism. The first and only restaurant in the city to be certified by the Restaurant Association, it is 100 percent styrofoam free, using bio-degradable take out containers, recycled products, and locally grown foods. It is also energy efficient.

For more information about the

National Restaurant Association's 2009 Restaurant Industry Forecast, visit www.restaurant.org/forecast.

Tennessee's Department of Tourist Development says that historic/cultural travelers spend more, \$630 for the average trip, and stay longer with an average of five nights. Fifty-eight percent of U.S. adult travelers include historic activities or events on their trips.

Tennessee's Civil War Heritage is a primary example where sustainable tourism can preserve Tennessee history. Shiloh National Military Park, Stones River National Military Park, Battle of Blue Springs, Greeneville, Franklin Civil War Trails, dozens of Tennessee Civil War battlefields and sites have become parks and museums in the years since the war. Civil War self-guided tour maps have been produced sending visitors into cities and through the Tennessee countryside.

The Tennessee Civil War Trails Program has been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the most sustainable heritage tourism programs in the nation. Funded by Federal Enhancement grants administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the program can help groups and communities research and prepare text and images for markers to promote their history. The program's goal is to have more than 300 markers across Tennessee by 2012.

For more information about the Civil War Trails program, visit www.civilwartraveler.com.

Steps the state is taking to promote sustainable tourism

The state has re-launched the Sustainable Tourism website where



Local country and bluegrass music says "Welcome to Tennessee!"



Local artisans and craftsmen can be spotted in Watertown, home of the mile long yard sale and annual Jazz Festival.

visitors can view information and research best practices studies from the online toolbox at www.tn.sustainabletourism.com.

A consumer micro site has been launched this month to promote sustainable tourism to visitors at www.tnvacation.com.

A series of six green webinars will cover: the green travel industry, green meetings, green lodging, eco tourism, green marketing, and green web sites. The dates will be announced on the state's website www.tnsustainabletourism.com.

Tennessee's Sustainable Tourism initiative has been recognized by the U.S. Travel Association for inclusion on www.travelgreen.org.

E-mail The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Commissioner Susan Whitaker at susan.whitaker@tn.gov

Sustainable Tourism Workshops

These one-day workshops will be held from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Each event will target hospitality and tourism industry, providing sustainable tourism resources, case studies, best practices and access to leading experts. There is no charge, but space is limited.

June 16—Baxter
DelMonaco Winery and Vineyards.

November 16—Jackson
Casey Jones Village

November 17—Memphis
Pink Palace Museum

Tourists can promote sustainable tourism

According to the World Tourism Organisation, sustainable tourists can reduce the impact of tourism including:

- Informing themselves of the culture, politics, and economy of the communities visited;
- Anticipating and respecting local cultures' expectations and assumptions;
- Supporting the integrity of local cultures by favoring businesses which conserve cultural heritage and traditions;
- Supporting local economies by purchasing local goods and participating with small, local businesses; and
- Conserving resources by seeking out businesses that are environmentally conscious, and by using the least possible amount of non-renewable resources



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STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Gov. Phil Bredesen and state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens announced the donation of more than \$165,700 in private tobacco settlement funds to The Land Trust for Tennessee to support farmland preservation. "I'm pleased that through this donation we will be able to support private/public partnerships with The Land Trust to preserve working farms in Tennessee," Bredesen said. The donation represents undesignated funds from the National Tobacco Growers Settlement Trust. The tobacco settlement trust was created in 1998 and approved by attorneys general from tobacco producing states.

The Tennessee Ethics Commission, facing an uncertain future, fired its executive director Bruce Androphy. The motion to fire Androphy was made by former Jackson mayor Charles Farmer. Farmer said the governor had no input in his decision, which he said he made partly because "so little progress has been made after two years." Androphy was hired in 2006 after nearly 17 years with the New York State Ethics Commission. The Ethics Commission was created in 2006, the centerpiece of reforms enacted in the wake of the Tennessee Waltz bribery scandal that convicted nine local and state officials and a lobbyist. The agency regulates lobbying, collects financial disclosures from state and local officials, investigates ethics complaints, issues advisory opinions and conducts ethics training.

Health officials say the number of confirmed cases of swine flu in Tennessee has increased to 84. Tennessee medical epidemiologist Dr. Tim Jones said the prognosis with swine flu is not any worse than with regular seasonal flu, and the long-term outlook on the health status of Tennessee patients is good. There are 42 confirmed cases in Davidson County, 13 in Williamson County and 15 in Knox County. Blount, Bradley, Maury, Montgomery, Shelby and Sullivan counties each have four or fewer cases of the virus known as H1N1. The state laboratory is assisting Texas and Arkansas public health authorities with testing specimens. State health department spokeswoman Andrea Turner said Tennessee has tested 314 samples from Texas and 390 from Arkansas.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

State tax collections continued to fall in the first quarter as muted consumption, falling incomes and weak profits plunged states into a deeper financial hole. A report by the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government at the State University of New York says the 47 states that have reported first-quarter revenues saw total tax collections fall 12.6 percent — about \$20 billion — compared with the first three months of 2008. The steepest drops were in income taxes: Corporate income taxes declined 16.2 percent in the latest quarter, reflecting weaker profits. Personal income taxes fell 15.8 percent. Sales taxes were down 7.6 percent.

The number of vacationing Americans will be down this summer, according to a new AP-Gfk Poll, and a third of Americans surveyed said they have already canceled at least one trip this year because of financial concerns. Overall, the survey found only 42 percent of Americans plan a leisure trip this summer, down from the 49 percent who said they planned to take a summer trip in an AP-Ipsos poll conducted in May 2005. Not surprisingly, the less money you make, the less likely you are to take a vacation. More than two-thirds of those in the \$100,000-plus bracket will take some type of leisure trip this summer, compared to 48 percent of those earning \$50,000-\$100,000 and just one-third of those with family incomes under \$50,000.

The Tennessee Valley Authority will trim electric rates again on July 1, effectively erasing a huge boost approved last year to offset the high cost of coal and natural gas. It's the third straight quarter the nation's largest public utility has reduced its fuel cost adjustment charge as prices for gas and coal for its power plants continue to decline.

Tennessee's historically black colleges and universities are hoping to hit the jackpot, winning a grant worth millions of dollars to help preserve historic campus buildings. The National Park Service is awarding \$2.5 million in federal stimulus money to help preserve the buildings and infrastructure of historically black colleges and universities. Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, Tennessee State University, Knoxville College, Lane College and Lemoyn-Owen College would be eligible for the grants. When the money is distributed, 50 percent of the construction must be completed in 18 months, meaning some of the updates could begin by the end of the year.

Tennessee health officials have created a hot line to help pregnant women stop smoking. The Department of Health Commissioner Susan R. Cooper said that talking with a health care provider is the first step for pregnant women having difficulty quitting tobacco use. Tennesseans can call the Tennessee Tobacco QuitLine free of charge at 1-800-QUIT-NOW. Nearly 20 percent of Tennessee women who gave birth in 2007 indicated that they had smoked at some point during their pregnancy.

In observance of National Police Week, a special service was held to pay tribute to Tennessee State Troopers and other law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Tennessee Department of Safety (TDOS) Commissioner Dave Mitchell joined U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee Ed Yarbrough, Tennessee Highway Patrol Colonel Mike Walker, members of THP's Command Staff, current and former State Troopers and family members gathered for a special ceremony held at the Tennessee Department of Safety Headquarters in Nashville. Since the establishment of the Tennessee Highway Patrol in

1929, 38 Troopers have died in the line of duty.

More than one-fifth of Tennesseans under age 18 — 293,038 children — are at risk of not getting enough to eat, according to a national anti-hunger group's analysis of government information for 2005-07. Only three states have more children who lack consistent access to food. Advocates expect the recession and layoffs will edge up the number of children without regular, healthy meals. The research by Feeding America, a nonprofit network of food banks and similar programs, also showed that Tennessee is one of 11 states with more than 20 percent of children at risk for hunger. More than 77,500 of the state's at-risk children are under age 5. The growing child hunger follows the trend of increases for food stamps and the number of free and reduced-price lunches in schools. Unemployment and poverty rates in Tennessee, each higher than the national averages, contribute greatly to child hunger. Tennessee's unemployment rate for March was at 9.6 percent, more than a percentage point above the nationwide figure. Its poverty rate in 2007 was 15.8 percent, compared with a national average of 12.5 percent.

Tennessee will hold a special state sales tax holiday in late July or early August at a time when the shaky economy continues to stress many family budgets. A three-day tax holiday will be observed Aug. 7-9.

To improve bicycle safety across Tennessee, steps are being taken to add bike lanes to city streets and to renew emphasis on safety and awareness of cycling laws. Recently released rankings by the League of American Bicyclists, list Tennessee as No. 43 in the nation in terms of bicycle friendliness.

Beginning next school year, the Tennessee Department of Education will implement the Tennessee Diploma Project (TDP). The project is a broad overhaul of standards and curriculum designed to challenge students and better prepare them for college and the workforce. Students beginning high school in Fall 2009 will begin a new path with increased graduation re-

quirements from 20 credits to 22, a focus on the skills needed for college and the workforce in an ever expanding global economy, and new assessments. Gateway Exams in high school will be replaced by end-of-course exams that truly test the mastery of expectations leading to college- and work-readiness.

Rural drivers in Tennessee wear their seat belts less than their urban counterparts, so officials are extending a statewide campaign aimed at educating all drivers about the benefits of buckling up. The state's highway safety office has begun its annual "Click it or Ticket" campaign, which will run through the middle of June and is uniting with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and state and local highway safety and law enforcement leaders. Radio and TV spots will remind all drivers to wear their seat belts with a special emphasis on rural areas.

The state may accept 100-percent of federal stimulus dollars for unemployment, according to Deputy Gov. John Morgan. The federal government has several requirements for states accepting unemployment funds like paying extra for dependents and allowing those working part-time to file for benefits. Gov. Bredesen and members of the Legislature were concerned that the conditions could cost the state too much money when the federal stimulus dollars run out in two years. However, the required changes in the state's unemployment insurance program from 100-percent of federal funding would be paid for as many as five, six, seven years or longer depending on what happens with unemployment, according to Morgan.

Some towns in Tennessee may not have the appropriate technology and training for the dispatchers who handle emergency calls, according to a state audit. Part of the problem is that there's no uniform way to run emergency services in Tennessee. Because local law enforcement agencies are allowed to run their emergency services the way they choose, public safety standards may not be met, the audit said. Most jurisdictions answer to a 911 center in the county that provides them with a portion of their state funding from cell phone fees. But some cities doing their own dispatching are doing so completely on their own: without state money or state oversight to ensure they're

meeting the same standards.

Electricity meters smart enough to save the customer money by staying in constant touch with the power company are on the way in parts of Tennessee. While the Tennessee Valley Authority and most of its distributors are still hammering out the possibilities of a so-called smart energy grid, some utilities are deep into making the initial changes needed. In Chattanooga, the pilot program with 32 residences saved up to \$48 a month for customers and reduced energy use that would have resulted in emissions equal to 17 cars. Studies from the U.S. Department of Energy and energy experts outline what a smart grid can bring: energy independence, homeland security benefits, the ability to incorporate renewable energy resources, added revenue and savings to consumers.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park will receive \$64 million in federal economic stimulus funds to rebuild roads and trails, repair buildings and restore cemeteries. Most of the money — \$34 million from the Federal Highway Administration — will be used to continue work on the Foothills Parkway overlooking the mountains — the oldest unfinished public works project in Tennessee.

Chrysler notified more than a dozen dealers across Tennessee that their franchise agreements could be terminated. The automaker, who filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on April 30, called for the elimination of 789 of its 3,200 U.S. dealerships. Chrysler dealers are expected to have the right to appeal the automaker's decision. Privately held Chrysler filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in April in a deal that includes a partnership with Italy's Fiat. The restructuring also calls for closing eight plants.

Simple assaults accounted for most of the criminal offenses committed in Tennessee schools from 2006 to 2008. According to a report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the School Crimes Study revealed 30 percent of all school-related crimes were assaults, including fistfights. The report marked the TBI's first effort to quantify school-related crimes committed by students in grades K-12, based on numbers submitted by state law enforcement agencies. The report doesn't break down the numbers by county or school but lumps them together by the type of offense.

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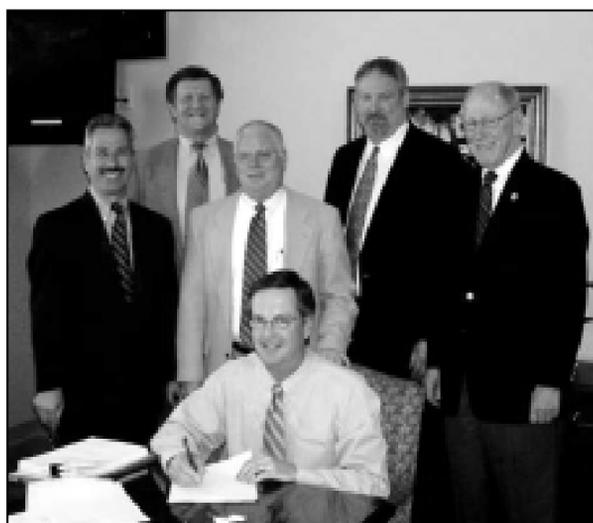
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The town of Nolensville closes a \$21,000 loan.

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Photo by Brett Howell, CTAS

Thirty-nine economic development practitioners and community leaders have completed the Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course (TBEDC) sponsored by the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service (IPS). The course, now in its third year, is an International Economic Development Council-accredited course in the fundamentals and emerging concepts of economic development.

Tennessee Communities Receive Grants for Environmental Assessment, Cleanup

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced four Tennessee recipients will receive a total of \$2.2 million in grant funding to help communities assess and cleanup sites known as Brownfields, which may be contaminated by hazardous chemicals or pollutants. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation assists communities in the application process, and applications are made directly from the communities to EPA.

"We're pleased this funding is available for our communities to clean Brownfields and safely return these properties to beneficial use," said Environment and Conservation Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan.

"These cleanup projects benefit the environment and help renew local economies."

Chattanooga was awarded \$1.2 million. \$1 million will be used to capitalize a revolving loan fund from which the city of Chattanooga will provide loans to support cleanup activities for sites contaminated with hazardous substances in urban core areas. The remaining \$200,000 will be used to clean up the former Anchor Glass office site on the 400 block of West 45th Street.

Knoxville was awarded two grants totaling \$400,000. One

\$200,000 grant is to assess petroleum contamination and the other to assess hazardous substances. Both grants will be used for a community-wide assessment of the South Knoxville Waterfront Project.

The Upper Cumberland Development District was awarded \$400,000 (\$200,000 for petroleum, \$200,000 for hazardous substances) for a community-wide assessment to help the region move forward with cleanup and redevelopment activities.

Brownfields are sites where expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to offer approximately \$75M in Brownfields Redevelopment Grants for the upcoming year. Brownfields funding is from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 to help assess and cleanup properties, some grants are no cost-share.

Tennessee's grants are part of \$111.9 million in Brownfield grant funding announced by EPA. The federal grants include \$37.3 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and \$74.6 from the EPA Brownfields general pro-

Free Brownfields grant writing workshops

Turn your eyesores into community assets. Find out how you can competitively write a winning grant proposal, especially if you are a unit of local government or a non-profit.

Jackson: July 27, 1-4 p.m.
Nashville: July 28, 9-noon
Knoxville: July 29, 9 a.m. - noon.

Who should attend: county, municipal development districts, consultants, and interested community members from Tennessee.

Please register before Friday, July 24. Call Paula Larson at 615-532-0926 or e-mail Paula.Larson@tn.gov

For general information, visit www.epa.gov/brownfields

gram funding.

All of Tennessee's grants come from EPA's general program funds.

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/brownfields/eparecovery/index.htm.

TMBF Board of Directors to meet June 13 in Chattanooga

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund will meet in regular public session on Saturday, June 13, at 10:30 a.m., in the Lookout Mountain Room, Chattanooga Marriott, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before said board. Some members of the Board of Directors may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting.

If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, Nashville, Tennessee. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Lisa Shelby, at 615-255-1561.

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May 29-30: Wartrace MusicFest
Presented by the Town of Wartrace and the Wartrace Chamber of Commerce at the Wartrace Horse Show grounds. The five year old music and craft festival will once again include recording artists spanning the acoustic music spectrum including an open-mike segment for amateurs and professionals and the annual guitar clinic. Three-time Grammy nominees and winners of the prestigious IBMA Entertainer of the Year award Cherryholmes returns to MusicFest by popular demand. Bring your lawn chairs. For a schedule of acts and more information, visit www.wartracemusicfest.org.

May 30: MooFest

A kickoff to June Dairy Month and celebration of the dairy industry featuring food vendors, arts and crafts, ice cream recipe contest, ice cream eating contest, dairy-themed games "Milkshake Shake," scoop-stacking contest, sundae-making and milk chugging contests, agriculture demonstrations, petting zoo with cows and an "udderly" fascinating array of exhibits on the history and practices of the dairy industry. A week-long carnival located on the downtown greenspace will open May 26 and operate through MooFest on the 30th. Musical entertainment Fri. night, May 29, and all day Sat., May 30. Admission \$3 per person. Children under six free. For more information, visit www.nationalmoofest.com.

June 13: Bell Buckle Motorcycle Days

Bell Buckle. Free admission. Designated The Official Tennessee State Bike Show. Jam packed with an incomparable Poker Run, a wildly competitive Bike Show, live entertainment and the best in country cooking. Poker Run is \$25 including lunch and event t-shirt. Concert by Big Mike Griffin. Drive in bike show will feature seven classes full custom, mild custom, manufactured custom, sport bike, classic, antique, and trike/side car. Each class will feature 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies. A 50/50 raffle will benefit the Bell Buckle Fire Department. For more information, email info@BellBuckleChamber.com, or call 931-389-9663, or visit the website at www.bellbucklemotorcycledays.com

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COLUMBIA. The city is accepting applications for the position of Assistant Director of Public Works. Salary range \$46,758 to \$71,822. Requirements: Requires Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, Public Administration, Construction Management, Management or other related field. Five years experience managing medium to large public works operations with extensive knowledge of methods, material, and equipment utilized in public works construction and maintenance operations. This position assists the Public Works Director in providing effective development, planning, control, and evaluation of the programs of Streets and Storm Water, Sanitation, Traffic, and Fleet Services. Must have a Class D Drivers License. Physical examination and drug screening will be required prior to employment. File application at the Personnel Department, City of Columbia, 707 N. Main St., Columbia, Tennessee, 38401 before 4 p.m., Mon., June 15, 2009. Visit our web site at www.columbiatn.com. Additional information may be obtained by contacting 931-388-8650. Fax (931)381-7722. EOE.

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 Street, Gallatin, TN 37066, Attn: Dave Crawford, Personnel Official. Position open until filled. EOE.

Bredesen proposes new renewable-energy initiatives

SOLAR from Page 1

member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Congressman Gordon, an original supporter of the federal Energy Independence and Security Act, which will make renewable energy more accessible and affordable for consumers, lauded the project as a forward-looking investment in Tennessee's future.

"This statewide initiative puts Tennessee in a leading role nationally to promote and capitalize on the solar industry, and in turn curb our nation's dependence on foreign oil," Gordon said. "It also will bring us closer to eventually developing a regional high-tech corridor, connecting Oak Ridge and UT with Tennessee Tech, MTSU, Vanderbilt, and the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama."

Congressman Tanner, a long-time advocate for rural economic development, said the investment makes sense given the solar-related economic activity already underway in Tennessee.

"The solar farm represents a near-term economic boost in West Tennessee with manufacturing and installation jobs, and a long-range economic asset to help market the Haywood County megasite," Tanner said. "The broader initiative is another step toward meeting our larger goal of energy independence."

TENNESSEE SOLAR INSTITUTE

The Tennessee Solar Institute will be located at the UT and ORNL campuses in Knoxville and Oak Ridge. At UT, the institute will anchor the new Joint Institute for Advanced Materials, a previously funded shovel-ready 132,000-square-foot facility that will be the first building in the university's new Cherokee Farm Innovation Campus. At ORNL, the institute will take advantage of existing world-class DOE research assets including the Spallation Neutron Source and the world's most powerful super-computers.

The institute will support Tennessee's economic growth strategy and advance U.S. competitiveness by bringing together industry and research activities to improve the conversion of solar energy into electricity and increase the capacity of key technologies for storing electrical energy. One ultimate goal: Make solar technologies more affordable and efficient, which will help accelerate their adoption in the U.S. and globally. Short-term efforts will be accomplished in part through increased hiring of graduate research scholars, postdoctoral fellows and support staff at UT.

UT Acting President Jan Simek said, "The Solar Institute will put UT at the cutting edge of renewable-technology research. This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance UT's

research portfolio and at the same time promote renewable energy in Tennessee."

ORNL Director Thom Mason added, "Tennessee is taking advantage of a unique opportunity to become a national leader in the solar industry. By leveraging all of the state's assets on the single goal of making solar energy more affordable, there is a good chance that the Solar Institute will help bring even more jobs to Tennessee."

Conversations with manufacturers have begun about how the Solar Institute can best support their needs as well as discussions about how the institute can support utilities, government agencies, consumers, and other stakeholders. Among other activities, the Solar Institute will pursue industry partnerships to help improve existing manufacturing processes as well as incubate solar photovoltaic start-up firms and help advance laboratory processes into pilot manufacturing efforts. Additionally, the institute will work with the affiliated Solar Farm to demonstrate new technologies and examine the large solar array's interaction with the region's electrical grid.

WEST TENNESSEE SOLAR FARM

The West Tennessee Solar Farm will be located at the new Haywood County industrial megasite in a partnership with TVA, the nation's largest public power company. Under a preliminary agreement, TVA will purchase power generated by the Solar Farm at a renewable-energy price. Proceeds from power sales will be reinvested in the site for maintenance, expansion and improvement.

"The Governor's comprehensive initiative addresses energy, environmental and economic-development issues that are important to all of us, and TVA is proud to be a part of it," said Tom Kilgore, president and CEO of TVA. "We look forward to including energy from the West Tennessee Solar Farm as a clean and renewable energy source for TVA's power supply."

From an economic-development standpoint, the Solar Farm will



Photo by Victoria South

Demonstrating the zero-carbon production of electricity on a highly visible and significant scale is expected to encourage future renewable-energy interest and investments.

be a unique asset to help market rural Haywood County to new industry, including renewable-energy product and equipment manufacturers that may be considering expanding in Tennessee.

Moreover, the farm will serve as a showcase for Tennessee-made solar products and components, such as panels assembled by Sharp Solar Energy Solutions Group, which operates a nearby manufacturing facility in Memphis, and glass produced by AGC Flat Glass, which has a longstanding manufacturing presence in Northeast Tennessee.

Additionally, the farm will include materials produced by more recent entrants to the Volunteer State, including Hemlock Semiconductor and Wacker Chemie AG, both producers of polycrystalline silicon, a key precursor element in photovoltaic solar panels. Product orders will represent a boost in short-term production for manufacturers such as Sharp and AGC Flat Glass and result in downstream economic activity associated with the installation.

In addition to supporting the Solar Institute's research mission,

the Solar Farm will serve as an educational site for students and the public. The farm, which will be located at a site to be determined along Interstate 40, will be Tennessee's largest solar installation to date and one of the largest in the Southeast. Demonstrating the zero-carbon production of electricity on a highly visible and significant scale is expected to encourage future renewable-energy interest and investments.

The Volunteer State Solar Initiative is the most recent in a series of landmark energy-related investments Tennessee has made over the past two years under the leadership of Bredesen and the General Assembly.

Bredesen added: "Short-term, these new projects will go hand-in-hand with creating or supporting jobs in construction, manufacturing and installation, and scientific efforts to improve the affordability and efficiency of solar energy. Long-term, they will strengthen Tennessee's reputation as a national energy research hub and emerging force in the U.S. solar industry."

TML Risk Pool celebrates 30 years

POOL from Page 1

well as reviewing and approving financial statements.

The Board of Directors is the foundation of the Pool and is thoroughly dedicated to the task of safeguarding taxpayer resources. The Pool's premiums are unique to the entity and are soundly based on actuarial principles, not subject to "just reducing the price to get the business."

The Pool currently insures over 90 percent of the municipalities in the state of Tennessee as well as

numerous other municipal entities. Through this partnership, a tradition of providing the best services and coverages at a consistently stable and affordable cost has been established. We strive to serve our members through various services including our Loss Control, Client Services, Underwriting, Finance, and Claims functions. All of the departments of the Pool work closely together to give our members the best experience possible.

In addition, the successful partnership has led to an Annual Dividend Program that has returned an average of \$5,173,000 million a year in excess surplus to the membership over the past 13 years. The success of the dividend program can be attributed to the risk management and loss control philosophy that not only saves insurance premiums, but helps each member better protect the safety and welfare of its employees and taxpaying citizens. Due to the success of this philosophy, the Board of Directors was able to vote to return a dividend of \$8,250,000

for the 2009-2010 upcoming policy period. Tommy Green, Mayor of Alamo, Tennessee, and TML Pool Board Chairman affirmed, "The Pool's dividend program continues to be very successful in highlighting and rewarding good risk management practices within our partnership. The Pool's foundation is built on each member taking responsibility to continuously reduce our risk exposures through good risk management practices."

The TML Risk Management Pool would like to thank all of its members for their commitment to risk management. We believe our quality service, competitive rates, and consistently solid dividend program highlight the success of the partnership with our members. As our Executive Vice President Dawn Crawford says, "Good risk management is simply good management."

We invite the municipal entities of Tennessee to continue to partner with the TML Risk Management Pool and look forward to 30 more years of success!

TML Board to Meet June 13

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Saturday, June 13, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at the Chattanooga Marriott, in Plaza AB for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Mona Lawrence at 615-255-6416.



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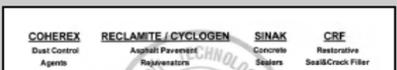
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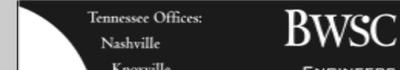
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Legislation still pending

LEGISLATION from Page 1
service area.

The existing laws did not distinguish between constructing a new system and making improvements to an existing system. As such, the statutes could be read to require a municipal utility to receive the approval of the governing body of any affected local political jurisdiction before constructing any improvements to its system.

The majority of governing bodies in the state meet once a month. If municipal utilities were required to delay a proposed improvement until an affected municipality or county considers and approves a proposed improvement to an existing system in a regularly scheduled meeting, then it would be unable to serve its customers in a timely fashion.

While no one would dispute the wisdom of requiring a municipal utility to obtain the consent of any affected governing body prior to establishing new service outside the municipal boundaries, requiring a governing body's approval each and every time a utility seeks to install a new water main or extend its power lines within its established service area is inconsistent with current practices.

Distress Warrant

This new law updates all relevant statutes to indicate that municipal law enforcement officers have the authority to execute distress warrants.

Under Tennessee law, municipalities may issue distress warrants; however, only county law enforcement officers and designated personnel from the state Department of Revenue may execute such warrants. Consequently, a municipality seeking to execute its own warrant to collect an unpaid debt to the municipality must employ a sheriff, sheriff's deputy, constable, or have a police officer sworn in as a special deputy.

The affects of allowing municipalities to execute municipally-issued distress warrants will result in more efficient operation of municipal government and reduce the costs associated with the execution of such warrants that are presently borne by all municipal taxpayers.

Pending legislation

Business Recording Fees. HB 1144 Brooks / SB 861 Black increases the business tax collection and recording fee by \$2 for municipalities. Qualified businesses pay an annual collection and record-

ing fee to offset the costs associated with processing business tax returns. Public Chapter 924 of 2008 increased this collecting and recording fee for business tax returns from \$5 to \$7 per return for counties, earmarking the \$2 increase for computer replacement, hardware purchases, or other usual and necessary computer-related expenses. The fee municipalities are authorized to assess for processing business tax returns remains \$5, even though municipalities and counties perform the same tasks associated with collecting and recording business tax returns.

Under the current fee structure, municipalities are treated inequitably, therefore, requiring municipalities to absorb the entire cost of technological updates while counties receive an additional \$2 per business tax return to help offset such expenses.

This legislation allows municipalities to charge \$7 for collecting and recording business tax returns, earmarking the additional \$2 for computer replacement, hardware purchases, or other usual and necessary computer-related expenses; and provide for the standardization and coordination of business collection and recording fees for municipalities and counties.

The legislation passed the Senate on April 30. It is scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Ways and Means Committee on May 27.

Municipal Courts HB 1450 Coleman / SB 1497 Watson clarifies that municipalities are authorized, upon assessment by a municipal court, to recover the costs incurred by the municipality in collecting any unpaid fees or costs, including monies paid to a collection agency. State statutes authorize municipalities to contract with third parties to recover delinquent court costs, provided that there is a written contract between the municipality and the collection agency that caps fees for collection at 40 percent of the total amount in default. While cities have the authority to include the cost of collection in their efforts to recover delinquent municipal court costs, it is not clearly expressed in the state statutes. Absent clear statutory authority, there remains the potential that taxpayers will not be fully compensated for debts owed.

The legislation has been placed on calendar of the Senate Judiciary Committee for May 27. It is scheduled for the House floor on May 26.

Other legislative issues of interest

Guns in Bars/ Restaurants

The Tennessee General Assembly has approved legislation allowing permit holders to "carry" handguns into restaurants or other establishments serving alcohol as long as the owners of the premises says its okay to do so and the gun holder does not consume alcohol. Those who are in possession of a handgun are already prohibited from consuming alcohol or face a Class A misdemeanor, which carries a \$2,000 fine and up to 11 months and 29 days in jail. Both the House and Senate adopted the conference committee version of the "guns in restaurants" bill, which deleted provisions for a "gun free zone" tied to age or time restrictions. It is now up to the governor as to whether or not he approves the

new legislation. According to information provided by the Senate Republican Caucus, 37 states allow legal permit holders to carry into locations that serve alcohol.

Guns in Parks -The state legislature voted to allow handgun-carry permit holders to take their firearms into every state, city and county park in Tennessee. The bill makes it mandatory that every Tennessee state park be opened to guns carried by permit holders. City councils and county commissions could ban guns in local parks under their jurisdictions only by majority vote for each park they wish to designate as gun-free zones. It is currently illegal to carry guns into any state, local or Federal park in Tennessee.

Nashville hosts Great American Cleanup

GAC from Page 1

case city by Keep America Beautiful (KAB), kept Nashville's GAC organizers on their toes seeking 1000 volunteers from all 95 counties in Tennessee to demonstrate the "Volunteer State" moniker in action.

True to the GAC motto "Green Begins Here," participants headed to North Nashville to plant flowers and shrubs, paint over graffiti and pick up litter.

"Litter is an eyesore and litter cleanup is one expense I'd like to permanently cut from our budget," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely, who attended the festivities as a representative for Gov. Bredesen.

According to Metro Beautification director, Veronica Frazier, local volunteers have collected approximately 150 tons of trash and debris in Davidson County.

Seventh grade students from Fentress County planted flowers at Buena Vista school and witnessed environmentally conscious clean up techniques from recycling lumber into benches and mulch to utilizing a wood chipper powered by biofuel.

Tired, but pleased with their efforts toward a cleaner America, citizens gathered under the big tent for lunch, music and inspirational words from city officials and representatives from KAB.

"Never underestimate the fact that the volunteer state will protect our environment and do what's right," said Nashville Mayor Karl



Mickey Brown, of the Fentress County Solid Waste Department, works at the Buena Vista Enhanced Option School. Almost every county had representatives in Nashville for the Keep America Beautiful 2009 Great American Cleanup.

Dean. "My goal is to make Nashville the cleanest city in the southeast."

Longtime member of the Nashville Tree Foundation Board, Alice Ann Barge, was presented the coveted Presidents Call to Service Award by Mayor Dean and Matt McKenna, president and CEO Keep America Beautiful along with a personal letter from President Barack Obama.

As a fourth grade teacher for many years at Oak Hill School in Nashville, Mrs. Barge encouraged her science classes to focus on trees and how they function. Among the numerous student-led projects she

initiated was labeling the trees on the property where the school is located, many of which are more than 200 years old and were standing when soldiers camped on the site during the Civil War.

The award is the highest level among the Presidents Call to Service Award categories and is presented to those who have accumulated 4,000 hours of volunteer service during a lifetime.

"This 2009 Nashville celebration honors heartland efforts and will be a role model for states across America," said Edith Heller, state leader for KAB.

Governor sends 300 jobs to Perry County

JOBS from Page 1

like living in a town our size. To put this mildly, artists are not generally known for having excess cash, and the cost of living is cheaper here."

An additional component will allow the unemployed residents access to one year of free tuition at Columbia State Community College, Nashville State or Tennessee Technology Center at Hohenwald.

"The education part was a pleasant surprise," said Perry County Mayor John Carroll. "We had no idea that was coming. Currently, one in three Perry County residents lack a high school diploma and only 7 percent have earned a bachelor's degree. "We are very appreciative to the Governor and his staff for their efforts," said Carroll. "It's not a bandaia that would work for everyone, but it's upbeat and continues to be a good thing."

Following the governor's speech, job seekers converged upon on-site employment stations for prescreening interviews by the State Department of Human Resources.

Funded by the Recovery Act and other federal funds through September 2010, applicants are required to meet certain income and asset requirements to be eligible for most of the 300 positions, which include government and private sector employment opportunities. Compensation for the positions is between minimum wage and \$15.85 per hour, most with benefits.

"I think corporate America doesn't utilize the work ethic of the rural work force," said Mayor Azbill. "When jobs are moved off shore and out of Tennessee, the little people have no recourse. I appreciate the fact that Gov. Bredesen and his staff have us on the radar screen



Photo courtesy of the state photography service

Gov. Bredesen outlines a 300-job stimulus plan for Perry County that will potentially cut unemployment there by 40 percent.

and they're going to help us."

The mindset of community leaders is to move forward. "It's nice to think that the efforts we have put forth these past few months will make things better for our future residents," said Moore.

Up to 200 Perry County youth between the ages of 14 and 24 are eligible to participate in the state's Summer Youth Employment Program which provides summer employment and job training opportu-

nities to low-income residents.

"We'll be training the kids in how to promote festivals," Azbill said. "And they will be videotaping our older citizens for their take on the county and it's history for a promotional video. We received a grant for 20 lap top computers for youths to use for research projects and we will access the news media with press releases."

"In the future, you'll be hearing a lot more about Perry County."

Perry County Job Package

- 50 highway maintenance workers, TDOT
- 10 conservation workers, TDEC
- 16 unemployment insurance interviewers, Labor and Work force Development
- 6 Correction workers, Turney Correctional Center
- 200 private sector positions with various Perry County-area employers: Perry County Nursing Home, Armstrong Pie Co., and Commodore Hotel, Linden.
- 200 Perry County residents between the ages of 14 and 24 are eligible for the state's Summer Youth Employment Program.

Good Risk Management is Just Good Management



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Cities and municipal agencies have joined together to create in the TML Pool what has grown to be the largest municipal insurer in Tennessee. The extent of the coverage provided for municipal exposures is staggering.

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Tennessee Municipal League 70th Annual Conference June 13 - 16, 2009 Chattanooga, Tennessee



1st & 70th Annual Conference frame 69 years of TML history 1940 - 2009 TML Milestones

1940 - TML held the first annual conference and hired the first executive director, W.H. Newell.

1941 - First Regional TML meetings were established.

1943 - League furniture, fixtures, and equipment sold to raise money.

1946 - Herbert Bingham hired as executive director.

1947 - Cities get one-eighth share of new state sales tax.

1949 - MTAS was created by legislative statute.

1950 - *Tennessee Town & City* was published for first time.

1951 - Cities were authorized to issue industrial bonds.

1952 - Municipal officials were instrumental in electing Frank Clement as governor.

1953 - Bill giving cities one cent of the gas tax becomes first law passed in Clement administration.

1955 - Model annexation law passed.

1957 - TML's seven-point fringe area annexation bill is enacted.

1960 - Joint city-county committee for preservation of local government passed.

1961 - The West Tennessee Mayors Conference is formed.

1963 - Local Option Revenue Act authorizes new one cent local sales tax. State agrees to pay costs of acquiring highway rights-of-way.

1965 - Local governments authorized to create multi-jurisdictional planning and economic development districts.

1968 - Local option sales tax authority increased from one-third the state rate to one-half the state rate.

1971 - Cities authorized by referendum to increase local option sales tax by an additional one-fourth cent. State grant program enacted providing annual payment to cities of \$.75 per capita for solid waste purposes.

1973 - League drafted Tennessee Governmental Tort Liability Act.

1974 - Statute enacted requiring fiscal notes on all bills imposing costs on local governments.

1976 - TML secures "Memphis" rule in General Revenue Sharing Act, which gave cities tax effort credit for state shared taxes.

1977 - Local Government Investment Pool created. TML successfully avoids imposition of crippling limits on taxes/spending.

1979 - *Mortex v. Johnson City* places burden of proof of reasonableness on annexing municipality. In October 1979, the TML Insurance Pool became a legal entity. Athens and Hendersonville signed an interlocal cooperation agreement, thus launching the Pool operations.

1982 - Herbert Bingham retires after 36 years. Joseph Sweat becomes executive director. TML District System implemented. League defeats "beer tax cap legislation."

1985 - Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund is created.

1986 - Cities get \$.01 of gasoline tax increase of \$.04 per gallon.

1990 - Local option sales tax cap increased from \$1,100 to \$1,600.

1992 - TML Board passes resolution urging Congress to halt the enactment of unfunded mandates. Sales tax is increased by one-half cent, restores \$116 million to education.

1993 - League works with Gov. McWherter's Administration to make half-cent increase in sales tax permanent.

1995 - President Bill Clinton signs the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

1998 - Joe Sweat steps down as executive director. PC 1101 law enacted, requiring cities and counties to establish 20-year growth plans. TML Urban Coordinator is established.

2001 - Tennessee governmental tort liability limits are increased significantly for the first time in more than a decade.

2002 - Legislature approves TML \$50 constitutional amendment. Budget crisis solved with a one-cent increase to state sales tax. TML Risk Management Pool creates the Catastrophic Medical Fund. Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy opens for training. Margaret Mahery, former Athens mayor and TML past president, is selected as TML's executive director. TML launches *\$50 Bucks Won't Stop the Bad Guys* campaign. Question 2 wins yes votes but fails super majority in order to make the change to the Tennessee Constitution.

2003 - Gov. Phil Bredesen solves budget crisis by making systemwide cuts, including cuts to state-shared revenues.

2004 - Reforms to the state's workers' compensation passes benefiting both cities and the private sector and bringing costs in line with neighboring states. Legislature approves Mutual Aid bill which simplifies mutual aid agreements among local governments.

2005 - Tennessee Ethics Commission is created to monitor lobbyists and locally elected officials. League is successful in delaying the implementation of streamlined sales tax legislation. Cuts to state-shared revenues are restored.

2006 - In the wake of the *Kelo v. City of New London* case, the Tennessee Legislature enacts new eminent domain laws that place restrictions on the use of eminent domain for private economic development, including increased tax revenues and increased employment opportunities.

2007 - Ron Ramsey becomes the first Republican elected Lt. Gov. and Speaker of the Senate for the first time since 1869. He defeated 36-year incumbent Sen. John Wilder.

2008 - House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh convened a months-long process of meetings and negotiations between legislators, state officers, local governments, cable industry leaders, and AT&T executives. Eventually, this process led to a negotiated compromise on a statewide cable franchise agreement. TML played a large role in the negotiation process.

2009 - After serving 16 years, Naifeh loses his post as House Speaker to Kent Williams.

For 70 years, municipal officials from across the state have come together at the TML Annual Conference to explore common problems, exchange ideas, celebrate cities' accomplishments, and to form a united front in the effort to make Tennessee cities and towns operate more efficiently and effectively.



Come celebrate with us in Chattanooga!
For a conference agenda or to download a registration form, go to WWW.TML1.org

S&L Chair Curry Todd plays key role in 2009 legislative session

BY GAEL STAHL

Rep. Curry Todd had an amazingly multi-layered career before his election to the General Assembly where starting his sixth term he chairs the House State and Local Committee, the first Republican to do so in at least 150 years – probably ever.

He was born on the last day of 1947 at his grandparents' farm house in the Juno community between Lexington and Jackson, Tenn.

His father, Curry Todd Sr., never stopped working. He worked as a mechanic for the city by day. He spent evenings and weekends running side businesses from home, eventually, a plumbing business. His mother, Virginia, was a stay-at-home Mom until Todd and his two brothers and sister were in school. Todd worked summers – at his uncle's sheetrock business, one summer for the city cleaning ditches along roadways ahead of the grass mowers, another summer setting cones out of the back of the municipal road paint crew truck. Each year, he says, was a lesson added to his future work life – you have to work for what you get in life, and second, you usually have to start at the bottom and work your way up.

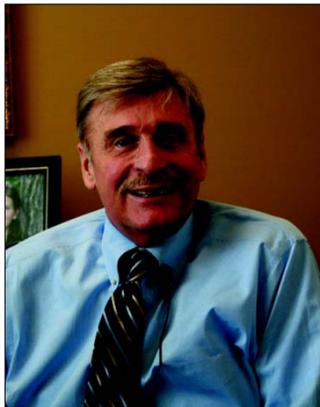
His happiest childhood memories were summers at his grandfather's and grandmother's farm where so much was happening that their having no television was a positive. They sat on the porch where grandpa pinched off snuff from a rooster jar while they'd listen to St. Louis Cardinals baseball games on the radio through open windows. Todd learned to do the basic necessities of the farm. He hand-cranked the washing machine, hung clothes on lines to dry, gathered eggs, fed the chickens, prepared spring fryers for dinner by wringing their necks and picking the feathers, and even got in on hog killing. His favorite part of it was turning the grinder to make sausage.

He fetched the cows in from the pastures and milked them, planted and chopped cotton and carried the tote sacks down the row. Best of all was riding the horses around the 50-acre homestead. He wouldn't take any amount of money for those experiences including going with a relative who was enrolled at the country school house and taking his pennies to get RC colas and eating many a Moon Pie.

Todd made good grades at Treadwell High where his basketball coach had unimaginable influence. He required team members to be home by 9 o'clock weekdays and 10 o'clock on weekends – no exceptions. He or staff called to check every night, sometimes dropping by the house. The team went to coach's house for pre-game meals, prayed together, and played together. The discipline resulted in many a college scholarship.

Todd, who lives in the most rapidly basketball-oriented part of the state, now loves everything about the University of Memphis, especially its basketball team. When he graduated from Treadwell, he had several basketball scholarships and planned on going to Kentucky where Adolph Rupp was coach. He talked to UCLA Coach John Wooden and North Carolina's Dean Smith and other fine programs but chose Memphis. Unfortunately, the coach promised a lot but didn't keep his word, so Todd looked at transferring. Back then, freshmen couldn't play anyway, so he could have gone to another school and sat out the year. He also conferred with Babe McCarty, coach of a pro team in New Orleans, about why playing high school grads couldn't skip college to play in the pros. Todd ended up staying as long as he could, three years, and even though he lacked a few hours to get a business administration degree, went to work for the Memphis Police Department. He also played basketball in the city pro league for years.

Todd's post-education goal had been to become a high school coach. He never dreamed he'd want to go with a police department, but the choice would channel him into a variety of professional opportunities he'd have never considered as an educator. Within just over four years after leaving college, he had worked in every division of the police department and gone on to become an aide to the police chief and mayor and went on to represent a series of police associations as lobbyist



I ask TML and anyone else who comes to see me about a bill they favor to tell me the pros and cons so I know both sides of the issue. That's important lest we elected officials forget whom we actually represent.

byist and consultant, and served a long stint as administrator of the county Correction Department's Work Release Program. After his election to serve in the House of Representatives in 1988, Todd took early retirement and has devoted himself to public service ever since.

Todd met Kathy Cox at the University of Memphis at a Kappa Alpha fraternity party. Married in 1970, they have one daughter, Kimberly, whom Todd says they raised with the same strict discipline as he was raised. Kim went to the University of Tennessee Dental School to become a dental hygienist and now works in Illinois where her husband also works.

Kathy was 16, when she and Curry Todd started at the police department. She also took early retirement when quite young – after 28 years. Her father had been on the police department also but was shot in the line of duty in 1981 by a killer who went on to Jackson, Tenn., where he broke into a Catholic church and shot and killed a young priest.

TT&C: After four and a half years with the police department, you lobbied for police associations?

CT: Before I became an officer in the Memphis Police Association, as it was called at that time, I'd worked with the city administration, close to the mayor helping intervene with problems that came up in his job. I'd been involved in all the police department divisions. I worked in the uniform patrol, worked in the bureaus, worked in burglary, robbery, homicide, and ended up working in the narcotics unit buying and selling unit. Also, I worked in personnel. I had a very rounded experience beginning as a patrolman, then sergeant, and left as a lieutenant to become a consultant.

I was able to meet a lot of folks and have influence on things that were done. I had an early role in one important bill, the victim's compensation bill. Seeing what a lobbyist and association representative could do may have helped me see later that a legislator could do even more in shaping important legislation.

I worked for the Director of Police John Holt for whom The John D. Holt Training Academy for Police was named. As his assistant, I saw a lot of things I could help with and get involved in. That was when I was coming to Nashville helping them handle legislation.

TT&C: Which areas of your police career meant the most to you?

CT: Well, one part of my job that was just plain enjoyable was when we had big concerts. I was one of the persons responsible for being the body guard to singers like John Anderson, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley, the Temptations, Charlie Rich, and many other famous musicians. I escorted them to the Peabody Hotel and from there to the concert venues.

A major highlight was working in Human Relations for a long time. We went into the housing projects to help kids whose parents were gone. They didn't have anybody to guide them or lead them. We set up the police boxing program, basketball, and other clinics and did things in the community to get folks involved instead of hanging out on the streets. I am grateful for that slice of my life. When we made house calls, we often saw a big mess, kids sleeping all over the floor, bugs running everywhere, no food in the house. That was a wake up call for me. I didn't grow up rich; my family didn't have much. I had to work all the time. I was used to doing without. But going into those homes and seeing what I saw changes your perspective. Seeing the harsh, needy



When the founding fathers passed the Second Amendment, they weren't talking about someone going out duck or squirrel hunting but about protecting their livelihood and their families.

part of life when you do police inspections can affect you emotionally and mentally.

TT&C: Was there any carry over for you?

CT: There was carry over. A lot of those instances broadened my focus later when they asked me to take over the work release program for the Shelby County Corrections Administration. I did that for about five and a half years. It was the largest inmate corrections program in the state, probably one of largest in the nation. I'd been on the law enforcement side so many years, and this took me to the other side where I learned to deal with a whole different brand of issues in preparing inmates to return to the community. That was another enjoyable slice of my life – a highlight.

TT&C: What were you doing when you ran for legislative office in 1998?

CT: I was still head of the work release program. I was earning a good salary, so I had a hard choice to make. Physically, I just couldn't keep doing it all. I was working 50-60 hours a week what with being in Nashville Monday to Thursday, then working 10 hours a day for corrections on Fridays and Saturdays, even Sundays some. It wasn't fair to my employer. I decided to retire from corrections and just try to make it. I knew these would be lean years to make it through, and I have so far.

TT&C: What bills did you pass early on?

CT: I used to have a small locksmith company, Safes and Locks Company. It does safes, locks, and security work. I also did a lot of subcontracting – for almost 18 years. It's an old industry that wanted me to help it become regulated to improve standards and professionalism. Rep. Mark Maddox also had a bill for that in the State and Local Government Committee of which I've always been a member. After much discussion and trade-offs, we cobbled together a bill. It had some less than desirable things in it but he went with them to get the bill passed. When problems started with how the Department of Commerce and Insurance was interpreting and regulating it, I was asked the very next year to rewrite the bill for them. I worked with the state locksmiths to clean up the statute that had passed earlier, rewrote it, and attached a new implementation date.

TT&C: You supported and helped Tennessee towns and cities pass a TML bill on fireworks?

CT: The fireworks industry had long needed regulating seeing as how it comes into communities and sets off pyrotechnic type fireworks at huge municipal July 4 celebrations, Titans games, basketball and baseball games, musical concerts, or at the Fed Ex Bowl in Memphis. If those operators don't know what they are doing, it could be fatal. And your kids are sitting right there. We wanted to forestall anything like the February 2003 explosion and fire at a night club where a rock band's pyrotechnics display ignited foam sound proofing. Flames spread through the structure in minutes and killed more than 100 people.

I was asked to sponsor a fireworks bill. We worked with the Tennessee Municipal League, the national Pyrotechnics Association, with the Tennessee Farm Association, the fire chiefs, the state fire marshal. We gave local officials the right to look at the regulation process and the power to shut a pyrotechnical display down if they saw a danger. Now, locals have to approve each of the shows. What we



My opinion can change as I get more information. There is always time to revisit issues and change. But if I change, I tell you, the lobbyist, or House member involved, not leave you in limbo.

did was, rather than regulating them, set up an advisory committee with the Department of Commerce officials responsible for keeping an eye on that industry.

TT&C: You have long supported gun bills unpopular with local government and police officials about allowing concealed handguns almost any time anywhere?

CT: I've had gun bills and gun issues up here for 11 years and not everybody agrees with me. I've had the bill to carry your handgun into a restaurant that serves food, even if it has a bar. Just weeks ago the bill, for the first time, got out of the Criminal Justice Subcommittee. That was a very happy moment. Not all folks who eat in restaurants agree, and it is their right to disagree about our respective opinions on that. [On May 4, with Todd chairing the House conference committee, the House accepted the Senate version of the bill that lacked a curfew Todd had earlier supported. The bill passed and is pending Gov. Bredesen's to veto, sign, or let it take effect without his signature.]

Most rank and file police officers supported the bill. The Chiefs of Police Association came out against it, and even there, not all of them were against it. But the association votes as a whole, and they sure weren't for it. I tell people that folks affected by my bill are legitimate citizens. They go through a background check, a fingerprint check, take a class to be certified and carry a certified weapon. When the founding fathers passed the Second Amendment, they weren't talking about someone going out duck or squirrel hunting but about protecting their livelihood and their families.

TT&C: What was your bill last year to authorize mixed martial arts about?

CT: When I was asked to help regulate them by law, there were a number of bills introduced. Rather than dive in and write my own bill, I suggested we put it in a study committee and see what changes we need for our state laws after getting input from those for and against it here. Then we'd get input from states that have already passed mixed martial arts laws and learn from their experience. We did that and introduced a bill that ran to 70 pages making this industry legitimate in Tennessee.

We learned from other states that mixed martial arts create revenues for the state. Believe it or not, it's the No. 1 sport in the world in terms of being the top draw nationwide – over football, basketball, soccer, and baseball. I visited other states to see what they've done. A cage around the ring keeps them from falling out while mixing it up with martial arts such as jujitsu, kick boxing, kung fu, wrestling, boxing, and other arts. It's a popular and big money item. A city like Memphis or Nashville can see revenue produced in the range of \$35 million to \$50 million for one fight.

The bill that was signed into law last year included a Tennessee Athletic Commission to replace the non-functioning advisory Boxing Commission that would regulate boxing, mixed martial arts, and kick boxing. It sets guidelines for all three, oversees the certification process, and has a new executive director. There is a major mixed martial arts fight coming up soon in Nashville and a national fight in Memphis, probably in July.

TT&C: What legislation have you passed for municipalities in your district?

CT: I represent Collierville, Germantown, and just a small por-

tion of Memphis. The rest of my district is in the county. We've had a few bills on municipal charter changes, such as when Collierville went to staggered elections about four years ago. Before, everybody was up for reelection at the same time. The more important issue for my cities has been whether they were going to get to keep their state shared revenues and taxes, some of which were withdrawn during the 2003-2004 state budget crunch. I know you all appreciated that I stood up and fought for you to get those funds back. A big thing for locals is jockeying for road projects. I have a good relationship with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and have been able to get road projects done in Germantown and Collierville using local and state funds.

TT&C: What was your transition from State and Local member to chairman like?

CT: This is my 11th year to serve on the committee making me one of the longest serving members on it, so I know it well. The main difference is a member has to be responsible for what is going on in his or her subcommittee. As chair, I'm responsible for looking at all the bills, see what we need to do on particular issues, talk to the different sponsors find out what they are trying to accomplish, find out which bills have to be assigned to the State or to the Local Subcommittee, depending on whether it's a state issue or a local issue, and finally, I set the regular calendar. State and Local has as many or more bills than any other committee in the House except Finance.

TT&C: How has Speaker Kent Williams' equalizing the number of Democrats and Republicans on each committee worked out? Any problems or benefits?

CT: I don't know if I've seen any problems, yet. Making the committees equal, of course, has never happened before. A lot of committees are smaller now, so it can be much harder to get a bill out. For example, the State and Local subcommittees have six members each. A 3-3 vote means a bill can't get out. It has to be reconsidered. That's happened in subcommittees that I've been on. That's the potential downside.

At the same time, in the past, the chairman and the vice chairman were supposed to sit in on all the subcommittees and patrol them. That made it a little bit unfair by overloading the committee to one side or the other. I kind of like the way the speaker set it up whereby the chairman and vice chair are on only one subcommittee in this system. That's new and so far working fairly well. Time will tell.

TT&C: When subcommittees now vote 3-3, the chair can't go in and break the tie?

CT: No, the chairman doesn't get a (floating) vote – period. For example, I'm chair of State and Local but serve only on the Local Subcommittee that Rep. Miller chairs. I have one of six votes on that sub. As chair, I can't do like chairs could in the past, go to the State Subcommittee and vote. I think that probably makes it a little more fair and equal now.

TT&C: TML works with you on many local issues. What's that process like?

CT: I try to deal with input from the Municipal League and County Services and see how their legislation affects or impacts all of the other local areas of the state. I ask TML and anyone else who comes to see me about a bill they favor to tell me the pros, and then tell me about the cons so I know both sides of the issue – especially the downsides if there are any. That's important lest we elected officials forget whom we actually represent. And, the opinions of the people in my district who sent me up here are just as important as my opinions regarding municipal issues. My responsibility is to listen even if I don't agree with their opinion.

I have always had a good working relationship with TML and the County Services Association. I try to deal with input from them to see what their local government concerns are. With all the legislation that comes through the committee, we have to see how local legislation affects or impacts all the other local areas of the state. Most of your folks know me pretty well and know if I don't agree with you, I'll tell you. My opinion can change as I get more information. There is always time to revisit issues and change. But if I change, I tell you, the lobbyist, or House member involved, not leave you in limbo.