



Dynamic speakers planned for TML Annual Conference

Keynoter to present smart growth strategies

At the heart of the American dream is the simple hope that each of us can live in a community that's beautiful, affordable and easy to get around. Citizens want healthy communities with strong local businesses, schools and shops nearby, transportation options and jobs that pay well.

Local leaders want to make their cities great, and smart growth strategies can help make that dream a reality.

"Smart growth is about creating local jobs and protecting the environment. It is about being able to safely walk to a park close by. It is about spending less time in traffic and more time doing what's important to you," explains John Robert Smith, senior policy advisor with Smart Growth America.

In his keynote presentation at the TML Annual Conference in Chattanooga, Smith will share with attendees what's working well in other communities and show how a



John Robert Smith

smart growth approach can improve a city's financial bottom line.

"Whether by saving money on upfront infrastructure; reducing the cost on ongoing services like fire, police and ambulance; or by generating greater tax revenues in years to come; community after community See CONFERENCE on Page 6

Cities must meet new pension financial reporting standards

BY NEIL BOMBERG
National League of Cities

Despite numerous requests from government finance organizations and individuals for an indefinite delay in the implementation of the accounting and financial reporting standards for public pensions, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) announced recently that they would not delay implementation of GASB Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions.

The requirements of Statement 68 will become effective in fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2014, and will require cities to report the "net unfunded accrued liability of their pensions" or the funds that have not yet been added to the pension plan but are expected to be needed to meet all retirement obligations.

Earlier this month, however, GASB issued a free toolkit that is designed to explain the new rules and provide cities with information that will ensure they are able to comply with Statement 68. The toolkit helps preparers, auditors, and users of state and local government financial reports understand and apply the revised pension accounting and

financial reporting standards that GASB approved in June 2012.

Statement 68 specifically applies to pension plans that administer benefits through trusts that meet the following criteria:

- Contributions from employers (and by other governments and entities on behalf of the employers) are irrevocable;
- Assets in the trust are dedicated to providing pension benefits to the plan members; and
- Assets in the trust are protected from the creditors of the employers, the plan administrator, and the plan members (for defined benefit pensions).

The vast majority of government pensions are administered through trusts meeting these criteria. Statement 68 applies primarily to defined benefit pension plans, which are used to provide specified pensions that specify the benefits to be provided to the employees after the end of their employment.

This new toolkit complements the toolkit the GASB released in November 2013 for pension plans looking to implement GASB Statement No. 67, Financial Reporting for Pension Plans.

U.S. Supreme Court rules against local governments in Rails to Trails Case

BY CAROLYN COLEMAN
National League of Cities

In a case addressing rights of way for abandoned railroads, *Marvin M. Brandt Revocable Trust v. United States*, the U.S. Supreme Court held 8-1 that a private party, rather than the federal government, owns an abandoned railroad right-of-way granted by the General Railroad Right-of-Way Act of 1875.

In a brief filed through the State and Local Legal Center (SLLC), NLC argued that a series of federal statutes granted the United States title to abandoned rights-of-way unless a state or local government establishes a "public highway," including a recreational trail, within one year of abandonment. But the Court concluded these statutes do not

apply to 1875 rights-of-way because "these statutes do not tell us whether the United States has an interest in any particular right of way; they simply tell us how any interest the United States might have should be disposed of."

In the Court's decision, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the lone dissenter, summarized why this case is a loss for federal, state, and local government: "[T]he Court undermines the legality of thousands of miles of former rights of way that the public now enjoys as means of transportation and recreation. And lawsuits challenging the conversion of former rails to recreational trails alone may well cost American taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars."

A summary of the case is on the website www.statelocallc.org/

Spring is in bloom in Tennessee



Photo by Victoria South

After a bitter cold winter, cherry blossoms in bloom at the Legislative Plaza are a welcome sign that spring is finally here.

Session winding down; budget among last items of business for 108th General Assembly

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

The Tennessee Legislature is in the final days of the 108th General Assembly. At press time, the House had approved the budget, but was still awaiting Senate action. Closing the books on the current year and approving an appropriations plan for FY 14-15 are among the final orders of business before adjourning.

The House approved appropriations bill follows Gov. Haslam's plan in all major provisions, including his revised plan for plugging a \$310 million budget gap. The plan cuts \$160 million from his FY14-15 budget proposal and an additional \$150 million in the current fiscal year.

For the first seven months of the current fiscal year, revenues have been below projected estimates. The administration said lack luster holiday sales, combined with volatile business tax collections are the reason why revenues are down. The franchise and excise tax missed projections by \$210 million.

The \$150 million gap in the current FY 2013-14 budget will be closed by increasing reversions from state departments, capitalizing on monies various departments did not use during the year.

The amended FY 14-15 budget eliminates a proposed 2 percent pay raise for teachers, saving some \$63.1 million; a 1 percent raise for state employees totaling \$15.6 million; and a \$12.9 million increase for higher education that were included in the original budget plan presented in February. The revised budget continues to fully fund the BEP at \$61 million.

The FY15 deposit to the Rainy Day Fund will be decreased by \$4.8 million, which preserves an investment of \$35.5 million and brings the total fund to \$491.5 million. At its all time high, the Rainy Day Fund stood at \$750 million during FY 08.

"We are only taking over and above what is required of the Rainy Day Fund," Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin said when presenting the Adminis-

tration's revised budget plan earlier this month to both the Senate and House Finance, Ways and Means committees. "We need to try to grow it - and hope to push it up further - but circumstances this year prevent us from doing that."

Other budget changes include:

- Lower rate paid to TennCare providers: \$18.5 million
- Savings from automating TennCare eligibility system: \$6.5 million
- Renegotiated Families First contracts: \$4.75 million
- Reducing the BEP Growth Fund: \$5 million

Martin said none of the cuts will have an operational effect.

"We have tried not to affect services to citizens, particularly the vulnerable populations who are at a greater risk," he said.

The departments of Health, Intellectual and Development Disabilities, and Children Services will not be impacted by the cuts.

Ducktown takes home EPA award from Washington, D.C. for 28k solar array

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

The environmental efforts of a small, rural town in Southeast Tennessee, came full circle this month, as the city of Ducktown, pop. 475, was honored with a Clean Air Award by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Recognized for "Community Action," the award recognizes innovative programs that protect Americans' health and the environment, educate the public, serve their communities and stimulate the economy.

Ducktown's landscape, once devastated by years of local ore mining and open pit processing, has undergone a radical transformation within the last five decades, partially through reclamation and reforestation efforts, funded through public/private partnerships.

The city's leaders have continued to carry the torch, attending numerous educational classes and conferences and focusing on renewable energy projects and economic development efforts— such as the community's 28-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system constructed on city-owned land adjacent to an old landfill.

Partnering with the Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council (TREEDC) of which Ducktown Mayor James Talley is acting president, Ducktown



Janet McCabe, EPA acting assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation presents an EPA Clean Air Award for Community Action to Ducktown Mayor James Talley in Washington D.C.

constructed the project through a federal grant received from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and local funds.

The project's \$108,000 allotment would cover a 14-kilowatt system, but the project team of city officials, local businesses and staff, determined they could construct a larger system by thinking outside the box—utilizing municipal and local labor, and developing the necessary skill set to complete the project in-house.

A Ducktown employee agreed to travel to Georgia for solar installation training, and with the solar team working together, the system was completed with quality crafts-

manship.

The 28-kilowatt solar photovoltaic project also garnered a Green Leadership Award in 2012, presented by the Tennessee Municipal League at the agency's annual conference in Knoxville.

In the first year of operation, the 28-kilowatt system has created \$9,000 in revenues, offsetting approximately 45 percent of the energy costs and avoiding more than 35 tons of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

The city has also partnered with other private businesses to install an additional 60 kilowatts of solar capacity, offsetting the total energy costs by 65 percent.

See DUCKTOWN on Page 2

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BYRDSTOWN

The city has drafted a new pilot program offering local and state incentives, in an effort to make the region more attractive to new industries. The program, which also offers incentives to existing and/or expanding industries, has been fully accepted by the area's Joint Economic Community Development Board and Industrial Development Board, the Board of Mayor and Alderman and the Pickett County Commission. Requests for Information (RFIs) are routinely sent forth by the state's Economic & Community Development Department to assist inquiring industries in determining which locations have the lowest operational costs in business. Factors considered are: construction costs, local tax and utility rates, average wages, logistics, and accessibility to rail, interstates/roads and airports along with local and state tax incentives. "Time is of the essence during these types of requests," said Byrdstown Mayor Chris Thompson. "They want a tax incentive program on paper and ready to go." Mark Farley and Wallace Austin of the Upper Cumberland Development District assisted the community with drafting the program. Together, the duo have negotiated 13 pilot programs with existing and new industries within White County.

CALHOUN

Resolute Forest Products U.S., Inc. officials announced plans to invest \$105 million in equipment and building improvements at its pulp and paper mill. Resolute Forest Products is a top global paper products manufacturer and one of McMinn County's largest employers. The company will create 25 new jobs over the next five years. The company owns or operates more than 40 pulp and paper mills and wood products facilities in the United States, Canada and South Korea, and power generation assets in Canada. Established in 1954 as one of the earliest newsprint mills in the southern United States, the mill is located on the Hiwassee River and is one of the largest in North America.

COLLIERVILLE

The last bottles and cans of Pepsi are rolling off the assembly line as Pepsi closes its manufacturing facility, laying off 55 workers. The production component will be shifted to other Pepsi sites. The location will still be used as a warehouse and distribution facility. The company notes the primary reason for the closure is due to a difficult national climate for soft drinks.

FRANKLIN

With a robust housing market, confident job forecasts and plans for new developments, county leaders and developers say more steps must be taken to create diverse housing options for new residents and spur greater use of public transportation to ease wear on local roads. New figures released by the U.S. Census Bureau and, separately by the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce, track the county's growth in the past and what's predicted. Williamson County was Tennessee's fastest-growing county between July 1, 2012, and July 1, 2013, census data show, where the population grew 3.1 percent. Williamson was followed by Rutherford County at 2.5 percent, Wilson County at 2.4 percent, Maury County at 2.1 percent and Sumner County at 1.8 percent. Local officials expect Williamson County will see its population of senior residents aged 65 and older to grow from around 20,000 people today to more than 40,000 by 2023, chamber figures show. Meanwhile, the county's job market will see its biggest gains in the retail sales and financial-specialist fields, where employers are expected to add thousands of new jobs over the next five years.

GERMANTOWN

The inaugural Tennessee Summer Reading Program Award for 2013 was awarded to the Germantown Library at the Tennessee Summer Reading Conference. The award was given to the library with the highest youth participation rate based on its population. Germantown, which had 6.14 percent participation, not only had the highest percentage among Level 4 libraries, but its 2,417 par-

ticipants, last year, was the highest percentage among all libraries in the state. The 2014 reading program's theme "Fizz Boom Read," will emphasize science and math.

GREENEVILLE

The town's credit rating from Standard and Poor's has increased from A to A+. Standard and Poor's cited the town's strong budgetary performance and sound financial management practices as reasons for the improved rating. The increased rating can help the town have lower interest rates when borrowing, and enhances the town's profile reviewed by companies considering development there. The city was lauded by Standard and Poor's for budgetary flexibility. For fiscal 2014, officials are projecting to end the year with a fund balance of \$9.5 million, or a very strong 63.2 percent of expenditures. The report includes a stable outlook for the city over the two-year outlook horizon, due to the maintenance of very strong debt and contingent liabilities.

JONESBOROUGH

A Smithsonian Institution traveling arts exhibition may help boost the town's already established reputation for storytelling. In August 2015, the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum and Archives will serve as the launching point for the national Smithsonian's traveling art show, "Jacob Lawrence Interprets Aesop's Fables." The town was contacted by the Smithsonian in 2013 about the possibility of kicking off the exhibition tour citing the area's proclivity for storytelling. While the city contended with bigger localities for the slot, Town Administrator Bob Browning notes mutual interest in hosting the exhibit during the town's National Storytelling Festival helped clinch the deal. The 12-week exhibit will coincide with the autumn storytelling festival dates.

KNOXVILLE

The city introduced a new recycling program for parks and greenways, as well as a revamped park waste management system. The city purchased 430 new waste receptacles, half of which will be used for recycling, while the other half will replace green trash barrels that have been in service for decades. The total cost for the initiative was approximately \$27,000, funded as a city capital project. Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh and Public Service Director David Brace teamed to upgrade the existing trash containers and to initiate the park recycling program — as well as to redraw more efficient routes for waste pickup crews. Through the program, the city hopes to significantly reduce the amount of waste that winds up at the landfill. The Solid Waste Office oversaw the project, enlisting two AmeriCorps workers to conduct an inventory of waste operations and collections in parks. Through this evaluation, the project team was able to determine more efficient routes for service crews. The Public Service Department is currently in the process of installing the new cans with mechanisms to secure them in the city's 60 parks. Installation is expected to be complete by May.

MANCHESTER

Michigan-based Aspen Technologies Inc. is building a polyurethane foam molding plant that could create more than 160 jobs over the next five years. The company plans to invest \$5.1 million to build the factory in the Manchester Industrial Park. Aspen Technologies' customer base is primarily automotive. In recent years, however, the company has been awarded more non-automotive

business and intends to shift about 25 percent of its sales to non-automotive-related sectors. The company was founded in 2003 to develop, manufacture and assemble specialized polyurethane foam products for the automotive industry, as well as heavy truck and sport recreation markets. The company will start production the first week of July.

MURFREESBORO

CityTV is a bronze winner in the 35th Annual Telly Awards for its "Stones River National Battlefield Documentary." CityTV was chosen from among nearly 12,000 entries from all 50 states and numerous countries. The documentary, produced by Communications Specialist Michael Nevills, details the Battle of Stones River and its role in the outcome of the Civil War. The Telly Awards is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs, the finest video and film productions, and online commercials, video and films. Winners represent the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators, and corporate video departments in the world.

NASHVILLE

The Music City Center has made quite a first impression with convention-goers. A recent *USA TODAY* Reader's Choice digital poll at *10best.com* named Nashville as the No. 3 Best Convention City in the country. The results gave the City Center high marks, calling it "loaded for bear when it comes to amenities and extras." The report also cited the center's connectivity to the new Omni hotel and the newly expanded Country Music Hall of Fame. Nashville hosted more than 12.2 million visitors in 2013, resulting in more than \$4.6 billion for the local economy.

PIGEON FORGE

The city authorized a \$1 million purchase of an aerial platform truck for the fire station to replace its 24-year-old ladder truck. The vehicle, equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, has an overall design that will offer better maneuverability and ease of operations, which will save time during an emergency. The truck allows drivers to pull forward into an emergency area, while the tip of the ladder can reach heights of 100 feet and hold up to 1,000 pounds of equipment and personnel. Equipped with two nozzles that can be operated remotely, the truck has a water tank and 2,000 gallon per minute fire pump. The city anticipates the new truck will last at least 20 years.

SPRING HILL

One of the state's fastest-growing suburbs also has been ranked the second-best place in Tennessee for home ownership. Spring Hill boasts an 81.2 percent home ownership rate, according to data analyzed in 58 Tennessee cities by *NerdWallet*, a consumer advocacy website that recently released a top 10 list for the best places for home ownership in the state. Coming in at No. 2, Spring Hill homeowner costs are only 23.9 percent of the median household income. By comparison, 40 percent (260,000) of renters in Tennessee are spending more than 35 percent of their income on housing, according to the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, leaving homeowners short on cash for food, clothing and utilities. Spring Hill was the fastest-growing community on *NerdWallet*'s list, which includes three other Middle Tennessee communities: Mt. Juliet (No. 3), White House (No. 6) and La Vergne (No. 7).

Franklin wins *Garden & Gun's* "Greatest Southern Town" contest



Photo by Victoria South

Franklin's rich Civil War heritage coupled with the unique boutiques and fine dining of historic downtown make it a hot spot for events and entertainment. The 19th century architecture and family friendly festivals complete the hometown vibe.

With more than 69 percent of the final round votes, Franklin is the winner in *Garden & Gun* magazine's "Greatest Southern Towns" bracket.

In the 32-town match-up, Franklin beat Fairhope, Ala., Oxford, Miss., and Florence, Ala. in the first three rounds. The city then faced Hot Springs, Ark. in the Final Four. From the online votes, Franklin garnered more than 62,000 of the 90,000 total votes in the final round, toppling Savannah, Ga. for the championship.

Tourism officials hosted a "tweet off" at the Franklin Theatre, handing out free popcorn to anyone who would vote.

"Franklin rallied its fan base early thanks to lots of homegrown support and some clever use of social media," the magazine's editors said in its announcement of the winner.

While this is the magazine's fourth year for a Southern-style "March Madness" online matchup, this is the first year the magazine, based in Charleston, SC, chose towns as the contest's topic. About 1.3 million votes were cast in the three-week contest.

Business and tourism officials

are hoping the win brings financial rewards. "It creates a huge platform for Franklin to stand on and say, 'Hey, these guys did a competition. It was run by public opinion,'" Josh Collins, digital communications manager for the county Convention and Visitors Bureau (WCCVB) told local media outlets. The WCCVB promotes the Williamson County area and city of Franklin's local historic assets to visitors across the state, the U.S. and worldwide.

The city's popularity extends into the sky, as well. The latest issue of Delta Airlines' *Delta Sky* magazine includes Franklin in its feature story of top 15 "Where To Go Now" cities list.

State Tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker referred to the magazine during Franklin's recent dedication of its Civil War battlefield park.

For information on all there is to see and do in Franklin and the unique communities of Williamson County, contact the Williamson County Convention and Visitor's Bureau at 615.791.7554, on the web at www.VisitFranklin.com or by mail 400 Main Street, Suite 200,

Ducktown takes home EPA award from Washington



Ducktown constructed a 28-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system with in-house labor, saving money and allowing for a much larger system.

DUCKTOWN from Page 1

"The innovative projects from this year's Clean Air Excellence Award winners will protect air quality in communities across the country," said Janet McCabe, EPA acting assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation.

"These winners are educating our communities, inspiring organizations to take action and developing cutting-edge programs that will cut harmful pollution, improve public health, and make our cities and towns more sustainable."

"The city is reinvesting the revenues generated from the 28 kilowatt solar farm, but this project benefits the community in many other ways," said Mayor Talley. "First by developing municipal employees and a

community that understands solar technology and what its impact can be on a community and surrounding landscape. Second, the town can assist in developing future systems, whether they are private or public sectors."

Talley's dream is that one day, the entire city will run completely on solar.

"Ducktown proves that no city is too small to become a giant in renewable energy," said Warren Nevad, University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service consultant and TREEDC director.

The EPA presented 2014 Clean Air Excellence Awards to nine projects from across the United States and one individual for their work on clean air and climate initiatives.

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Unicoi building economic success on culture, amenities

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

As morning dawns, a blanket of mist curls around the mountain ridge overlooking the town of Unicoi. It's the same view the Cherokees saw many generations ago, when Buffalo roamed and Unicoi's earliest settlers built homes, planted vegetables and baked bread. And its part of the culture Unicoi is preserving today, as the small town of 3,600, neighboring Johnson City and historic Jonesborough, begins to tell its own story with food, art, and restoration projects in an effort to improve the community's infrastructure, economy and amenities.

As with many small communities across the state, Unicoi is finding a vital connection between its natural heritage, local talents, amenities and Tennessee's burgeoning tourism industry.

Already widely known for the county's lush strawberries and two major agricultural businesses, Scott Farms and Jones and Church Farms,

the area is likely to receive an influx of visitors in the coming years, thanks to the state's acquisition of 2,036 acres in the Rocky Fork area, which will bring Tennessee's 55th state park to the county.

"We thought it would be nice to have an information center to greet people as they pass through," said Unicoi Mayor Johnny Lynch.

Moving full speed ahead, the town purchased and renovated a house off I-26 and exit 32 in a future commercial development district, creating an impressive \$632,000—2,969 square foot Tourist and Information Center. Christened last June, the center hosted more than 250 visitors in less than 30 days the first month of operation.

"We designed the house like a welcome center but kept the homey atmosphere," Lynch said proudly. Visitors are greeted at the entrance by a stone fireplace, where the head of Unicoi's official brand, the buffalo, hangs as a popular conversation piece. The building also provides a home for some of the town's depart-



Local officials, staff and citizens cut the ribbon on the Town of Unicoi's new Tourist and Information Center located off I-26 and exit 32.

ments and includes an information area and a 1000-square-foot conference room. The center will also be getting 30-minute car chargers in front of the building.

A quality art gallery featuring regional arts and crafts and other products for viewing and for sale, has found a temporary home there, as a prelude to a full-scale Tanasi Arts and Heritage Gallery that will be built on property near the Information Center.

Right now, periodic demonstrations of painting, pottery, wood carving, weaving, and broom-making are taking place on the tourist center grounds.

"When we began the Tourist and Information Center, we saw a home for the arts center as well," said Town Recorder/Treasurer Larry Rae. "It's been at least a 10-12 year dream for the community."

The Tenasi Arts Center will be grant and privately funded, and will take visitors on a voyage through the past, present, and future of the arts, crafts, music, drama, dance, lit-

tem. Opened in 2010, it is a licensed commercial kitchen that can be rented by Tennessee food entrepreneurs for their own food-processing operations.

Unicoi will partner with the University of Tennessee, the Agriculture Extension Office and East Tennessee State University on the project.

"Scott Farms is also interested in being an anchor," said Lynch. "They already sell their fresh products to food city and are interested in having a value added enterprise using some of their fresh produce in a commercial venture."

In the meanwhile, Unicoi's bread baking in an authentic 1700's Beehive oven, is drawing tourists and consumers alike to the Bogart-Bowman cabin, the site of the town's annual Heritage Days Festival.

When Unicoi officials traced the oldest house in town to the late 1790's, they decided to make a purchase of the property at \$65,000. The exterior of the dwelling had been covered by manufactured siding for eighty years and the interior rooms had been covered by sheet rock and other paneled coverings. When the siding and carpeting was removed, two log cabins were discovered underneath connected by a dogtrot, the archway separating the main house and the kitchen.

During the process, the front cabin fell over one day, so Mayor Lynch and several volunteers found themselves reconstructing the cabin in the same way Unicoi's ancestors once did.

The fireplace covered in the main room and the second floor had been sealed off, but once the sheet-rock on the interior was removed, newspapers from the late 1800's and early 1900's were discovered plastered to the logs, a common practice of the period, in an effort to ward off the cold. The chimney and fireplace in the main cabin were constructed of native Tennessee limestone.

History Com-

mittee members are hoping to raise enough money through bread sales to fund a museum at the cabin.

"We have artifacts and would like to get the museum started so that we can collect more," said Rae. "People have donated things to us that are from the late 1700s."

The community is also nearing the completion of a certified arboretum at the site.

"The trees are planted and everything almost complete, except for the signage and official designation," Rae notes.

The cabin will be furnished with late 1700's furniture and cooking period food, according to Pat Lynch, a History Committee member and long-time resident bread baker.

Once restored at a total cost of \$153,446, the Bogart-Bowman log cabin and park will be the site of educational opportunities for local children and the public that will include local and state history, early frontier social and cultural practices, as well as outdoor study of native plants.

While the town of Unicoi's origins began with a Native American word meaning "fog-shrouded," there's nothing hazy about the community's economic development future. The story is about us," the town's website says, "about our beginning, our history."



Reedy & Sykes/Architecture and Design

An artists rendering of the future Tanasi Arts and Heritage Center, located near the Unicoi Tourism & Information Center. The building is being developed in two phases and will have an interpretative area telling the story of the mountain arts. Guest studios will provide regional artists and crafts people with a space for working and displaying their creations. Special exhibits will depict the customs and life of the Tennessee mountains.



The Shelby family originally obtained the property along the Buffalo Creek in 1782. It is believed Bogart-Bowman Cabin was built in the late 1700's or early 1800's. The Town of Unicoi purchased the property in 2008 and began restoration for a museum.

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erature, history and heritage, food, and natural beauty of the mountains.

The town recently closed on a \$220,000 purchase for another building, plus two acres, adjacent to the Tourism Center in which to build a certified community kitchen.

The kitchen will serve two purposes: as an educational facility, where individuals will receive proper training on how to safely meet industry regulations, as they can, bake and cook—and as a business incubator, allowing users to sell products commercially, which should lend to local job creation.

The total cost of the kitchen project should be around \$900,000, according to Lynch, with Unicoi securing two U.S. Department of Agriculture grants, that total \$80,000, as well as an Appalachian Regional Commission grant for \$135,000.

"We received a grant that should allow us to start building the kitchen," Rae said.

In the planning process, Unicoi officials traveled to the city of Lebanon to visit the Cumberland Culinary Center, a 2,400-square-foot facility resulting from a partnership between the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Cumberland University and Wilson County School Sys-

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



State Rep. **Barrett Rich**, Somerville, announced he will not run for another term representing his rural West Tennessee district in the House this year. The House District 94 seat represents all of Fayette and McNairy counties and part of Hardeman County. Rich has served three terms and is the current chairman of the House Health Subcommittee. He is a former state trooper who served on Gov. Phil Bredeben's security detail.



Rich

Jackson City Councilman, **Ernest Brooks II**, district three, was recently re-appointed to a fourth term to serve on the National League of Cities, Council for Youth, Education and Families for 2014. The council oversees and supports the work of the NLC's Institute for Youth, Education and Families (YEF Institute), a special entity within the National League of Cities, created in 2000. Brooks is chair of the Jackson "Do the Write Thing Challenge" program, a youth violence prevention program for middle school students, and is the founder of the Jackson Hunger Project.



Brooks

Court of Criminal Appeals Judge **Jeff Bivins**, of Kingsport, has been appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court. Bivins, 53, will succeed Justice William C. Koch, Jr., who plans to retire July 15. Bivins has served on the Court of Criminal Appeals since 2011 and was a circuit court judge before then. He also served on the Williamson County Commission and as general counsel to the Department of Human Resources under Gov. Don Sundquist.



Bivins

Bob Wormsley will serve as interim executive director of the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS). He will replace long-time Executive Director Mike Garland, who retired in March. Garland became executive director of CTAS in 2002. He joined the agency in June 1977 and through 1994, was a county government consultant for counties in Northeast Tennessee. Wormsley, who served as CTAS executive director from 1989 through 1991, officially stepped back into the role April 1.



Wormsley



Garland

The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame is dedicating a permanent exhibit to former Lady Vols coach **Pat Summitt**. The exhibit will feature memorabilia, photos, videos and interactive displays highlighting Summitt's career. Summitt won 1,098 games - more than any other men's or women's college basketball coach in history - and led Tennessee to eight national titles in her 28-year tenure. After stepping down as Tennessee's coach in 2012, one year after announcing she had early-onset dementia, Alzheimer's type, Summitt remains on Tennessee's staff as head coach emeritus. The Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame is located inside Bridgestone Arena in Nashville.



Summitt

Thad Jablonski, former Lakeland executive coordinator, is now East Ridge treasurer and deputy city manager.

Collierville Town Administrator **James Lewellen** will be honored by the Rotary Club of Memphis East as the recipient of the 2014 Dunavant Public Servant Award. The award, which is named after long-time Probate Court Clerk Bobby Joe Dunavant, is presented annually to one non-elected official and one elected official in Memphis and Shelby County for their commitment to public service. Serving the town since October 1995, Lewellen was nominated for his integrity, professional approach to all aspects of the job, commitment to high standards of ethics and transparency, a dedicated work ethic and his visionary leadership style. A native of Ripley, Mississippi, Lewellen previously served as Germantown chief planner in the Department of Development in 1989. He was promoted to assistant city administrator in 1993. He is a member of the American Planning Association, the International City Manager's Association and served as president of the Tennessee City Manager's Association in 2011. Award recipients will be honored at a luncheon April 21.



Lewellen

Dawn Distler, a 27-year veteran in the field of public transportation, has been named as Knoxville's director of Transit. Distler has been general manager of operations and maintenance for Davidson Transit Organization in Nashville since 2010. Prior to that, she served as director of operations. Distler started her transit career as a bus operator for 10 years with Metro Regional Transit Authority in Akron, Ohio, and rose to operations manager for ADA/paratransit services and assistant director of customer services.



Distler

Tenn ECD welcomes new project managers to recruitment team

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) recently welcomed new project managers to its recruitment team. Joining current Project Manager Victoria Hirschberg are: Alex Bertelli and Chassen Haynes, who are new to TNECD. Additionally, Bryan Farlow, Cody Huddleston and Alison Sielbeck have joined the project management team from other positions within TNECD.

The team and their new recruitment sectors are as follows:



Hirschberg

Bertelli



Farlow

Haynes



Huddleston

Sielbeck

Alex Bertelli manages the state's aerospace and defense and energy technology projects. He joined TNECD from the U.S. Army where he was stationed at Fort Campbell in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (A). Bertelli spent eight years with the organization holding leadership positions from operations officer to company commander and liaison officer. During his time there, his responsibilities included managing a 10,500 flying hour program, a \$35 million training and administrative budget and the employment of 38 special operations helicopters valued at over \$1 billion. He deployed 10 times to Afghanistan, Iraq and Europe as a joint task force detachment commander. He is qualified in four army aircraft and currently serves as an operations officer in the Tennessee National Guard. He is a distinguished military graduate of the University of Dayton with a degree in Finance and a minor in Military Science.

Bryan Farlow oversees statewide projects in the transportation, distribution & logistics and manufacturing sectors. Beginning at TNECD in 2012 as a business development consultant for the Southeast region, Farlow facilitated existing industry expansions and recruited new industries to the area totaling more than \$250 million in investment and creating more than 1,110 jobs. He joined TNECD after serving as a Regional Planner in the Southeast region. He holds a degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College

and completed additional coursework at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and the UT Center for Industrial Services.

Chassen Haynes' economic development sectors include transportation, distribution & logistics and manufacturing. Haynes came to TNECD from the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, where he was the director of Existing Industry & Special Projects. While there, he worked with area partners to recruit and retain businesses for the region and promote Rutherford County as a destination for corporate headquarters, back office/shared services, advanced manufacturing, logistics and aviation.

Haynes earned both a bachelor of business administration and a masters of business administration from Middle Tennessee State University.

Victoria Hirschberg manages projects and investments within the automotive sector for TNECD. Prior to joining the project management team, Hirschberg served as a business development consultant in Northern Middle Tennessee where she helped facilitate company expansions and build stakeholder relationships. She was named to the Top 40 Under 40 in Economic Development by the International Economic Development Council/Development Counsellors International and received the 2013 Southern Economic Development Council Chairman's Award. Hirschberg earned a master of community & regional planning degree and a master of arts in Latin American studies from the University of New Mexico. She completed her undergraduate studies at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.

Cody Huddleston's concentration is on the chemicals, plastics, food, beverage and agribusiness sectors for the state. Joining TNECD in 2012 as a business development consultant for the Upper Cumberland region, Huddleston worked with new and existing industries to encourage business investment and expansions.

Prior to TNECD, Huddleston was an account executive for Comdata Corporation, where he managed and grew more than 2,500 existing accounts valued at \$2.2 million annually. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Tennessee Technological University and a master of business administration from Norwich University.

Alison Sielbeck handles projects in the headquarters, R&D, business services, and health care and medical devices sectors for the department. She joined TNECD in 2013 as a special projects analyst before transitioning into her current role. Previously, Sielbeck was an investment banking analyst for Avondale Partners in Nashville, where she performed extensive corporate due diligence through analyzing company structure, operations, financial processes and strategic development.

A graduate of Wake Forest University, Sielbeck has a degree in business and enterprise management with a concentration in venture capitalism in Latin America.

Water and wastewater construction loans help fund infrastructure improvements

Five communities have been approved to receive low-interest loans for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.

"I am pleased to see local governments using this important program to address critical drinking water and wastewater needs, making infrastructure improvements that will benefit the health of these communities and foster economic growth," Gov. Bill Haslam said.

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program provides low-interest loans that help communities, utility districts, and water and wastewater authorities finance projects that protect Tennessee's ground and surface waters and public health. Loans are used to finance the planning, design and construction of water and wastewater facilities.

Through the SRF Program, communities, utility districts, and water and wastewater authorities can obtain loans with lower interest rates than most can obtain through private financing. Interest rates for loans can vary from zero percent to market rate based on each community's economic index. Loans utilizing EPA grant funds include a principal forgiveness component for water and wastewater projects.

"The State Revolving Fund Loan Program is a community investment to help maintain environmental and public health, while keeping local communities moving forward as they prepare for future needs," TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau said.

The Department of Environment and Conservation administers

the SRF Loan Program for the state of Tennessee in conjunction with the Tennessee Local Development Authority. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides grants to fund the program, and the state provides a 20 percent match. Loan repayments are returned to the program and are used to fund future SRF loans.

The funding order of projects is determined by the SRF Loan Program's Priority Ranking Lists that rank potential projects according to the severity of their pollution and/or compliance problems or for the protection of public health.

Wastewater Loans recipient:
• Pegram (Cheatham County) - The City of Pegram will receive \$449,000 for a project that includes wastewater treatment plant and land application

improvements. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$426,550 loan with an interest rate of 0.95 percent and \$22,450 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

Drinking Water Loans recipients:
• Halls (Lauderdale County) - The town of Halls will receive \$723,258 for a project that includes Green-Water meter replacement. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$578,606 loan with an interest rate of 0.64 percent and \$144,652 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.
• Livingston (Overton County) - The city of Livingston will receive \$800,000 for a project that includes water treatment improvements. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$520,000 loan with an interest rate of 1.64 percent and \$280,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.
• Jellico (Campbell County) - The city of Jellico will receive \$750,000 for a project that includes Green-Water line installation. The project will be funded with a 20-year, \$600,000 loan with an interest rate of 0.23 percent and \$150,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

Traditional Wastewater Loans recipient:

• Union City (Obion County) - Union City will receive an increase of \$1.4 million to an existing \$1.75 million, 20-year loan which brings the total to \$3.15 million with an interest rate of 1.17 percent for a project that includes wastewater treatment plant improvements.
Traditional Drinking Water Loan recipient:
• Livingston (Overton County) - The city of Livingston will receive a \$200,000, 20-year loan with an interest rate of 1.64 percent for water treatment improvements.

Any local government interested in the SRF Loans should contact the State Revolving Loan Fund Program, Tennessee Tower, 12th Floor, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave, Nashville, TN 37243, or call (615) 532-0445. Information about the SRF Loan Program may be found www.tn.gov/environment/water/fund.shtml.

ing demographics, market trends, and community/neighborhood development preferences.

Along with regional and Middle Tennessee Local Government panelists, TDOT Commissioner John Schroer, will communicate experiences and lessons from TDOT's efforts to connect transportation, land use planning, and infrastructure investments.

Join Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, as he provides the annual Regional Call to Action.

Register today and make plans to represent your organization, community, and region at <http://www.10power.org>.

* Registration is available on site the day of the event.



This year's 2014 POWER OF TEN Regional Summit will focus on "Redeveloping Middle Tennessee Communities - Infill, Innovations, Investments" and showcase the many leaders and projects that are helping to build a vibrant, competitive future for communities, region, and state.

Speakers and panelists from Tennessee and across the country will share strategies, successes, and wisdom that can be put to work in advancing Middle Tennessee and the state's priorities.

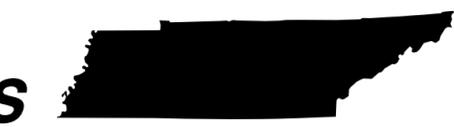
The Summit also provides opportunities for regional leaders to share best practices and learn from other peer regions, along with local, state, and federal experts, on six issues of regional importance:

- Economic Competitiveness
- Land Use/Quality Growth
- Infrastructure
- Open Space Conservation
- Air/Water Quantity/Quality
- Transportation/Transit

National Peer Region Keynote Speaker Joe Minicozzi, of Asheville, North Carolina's Urban3 LLC, will share economic research findings from Nashville and key peer regions that support community redevelopment action and implementation.

Smart Growth America's Geoff Anderson and Rick Bernhardt, of the Nashville/Davidson County Metropolitan Planning Department, provide research results on the economic value of community redevelopment, as well as Middle Tennessee's chang-

STATE BRIEFS



State hospitals to receive \$80 M

A federal agency has approved a payment of \$80 million for Tennessee hospitals serving low-income and uninsured patients. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services' payment is divided among hospitals with large numbers of uninsured and low-income patients. While other states receive automatic payments, Tennessee negotiates separately each year because it set up TennCare about 20 years ago. In the hospital industry, the "essential access hospital" funding payment is negotiated as a replacement for the "disproportionate share hospital" Medicaid payments that Tennessee no longer gets under TennCare. The payment does not settle the separate issue involving Medicaid expansion in Tennessee.

TN has highest state-local sales tax rate in nation

The nonpartisan Tax Foundation has released a report on sales taxes in 2014 indicating Tennessee has the highest average combined state-local sales tax rate in the nation. Tennessee's average sales tax rate is 9.45 percent. Using a population-weighted average of local sales taxes, the report details the combined state and local sales tax rates for each state and explains how sales taxes fit into a state's overall tax structure. According to the report, sales tax rates differ by states, but sales tax bases also impact how much revenue is collected from a tax and how the tax affects the economy. Differences in sales tax rates cause consumers to shop across borders or buy products online. The study addresses the fact that 38 states—including Tennessee—allow local governments to levy sales taxes within their jurisdiction. These local rates, when combined with the statewide rates, can result in substantially larger tax bites.

Whiskey giant Dickel sues over TN storage laws

Whiskey maker George Dickel is



Dunbar Cave has been closed to the public for so long that some may have forgotten it once was open for guided tours by flashlight. Those tours could resume soon; The cave is one of a limited number of closed Tennessee caves now under consideration for reopening, according to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

suing to overturn a Tennessee law that requires liquor to be stored in or around the county where it is distilled. Dickel, which is owned by global liquor giant Diageo PLC, said it stores all of its Tennessee Whisky at its distillery near Tullahoma, about 60 miles south of Nashville. But other products made there are stored at a company-owned distillery in Louisville, Ky. The lawsuit filed in federal court in Nashville on Friday claims that state law violates interstate commerce rights under the U.S. Constitution. "Tennessee has never before sought to enforce the geographic limitations of the storage statute," Dickel said in the lawsuit.

Lowest number of wildland fires spur longer burn permit laws

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry wants to continue a trend from last year, when the agency recorded the lowest number of wildland fires since 1927. The division said burn permits for safe debris burning contributed to the decrease in fires along with increased efforts in fire prevention and suppression. The free burn permits are required in all areas of the state

by law through May 15, unless covered by local ordinances. For more information, visit <http://www.burnsafetn.org> or call the local Division of Forestry office.

Dunbar Cave may resume tours

Dunbar Cave has been closed to the public for so long that some may have forgotten it once was open for guided tours by flashlight. Those tours could resume soon. The cave is one of a limited number of closed Tennessee caves now under consideration for reopening. Shannon Ashford, spokeswoman for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, confirmed that reopening Dunbar Cave is under consideration by park rangers and state staff, and they could reach a decision within a month or two. Dunbar Cave State Natural Area sprawls 110 acres of trails, woodland, a lake and the cave, all in the center of Clarksville. In March 2010, the cave proper was gated up as off-limits to visitors in order to prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome, which has decimated bat populations across the eastern United States.

Tennessee's 2015-2017 Transportation Plan reflects economic uncertainty

Gov. Bill Haslam and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Commissioner John Schorer released the three-year transportation program, featuring approximately \$1.5 billion in infrastructure investments for 59 individual project phases in 41 counties, as well as 14 statewide programs.

Due to the uncertainty of the future of the Federal Highway Trust Fund, TDOT has taken a conservative approach to this building program. The program does not feature early engineering work on any new projects. TDOT is continuing its "pay-as-you-go" philosophy and remains one of only four states in the nation to carry no debt for any transportation initiatives.

Tennessee's transportation system has also been recognized as one of the best in the nation. The three-year, multimodal program places a

high priority on maintaining the condition of our pavement and bridges. TDOT will invest more than \$600 million in resurfacing and bridge repair and replacement projects over the next three years.

The program also funds several improvements to the interstate system, including the addition of truck climbing lanes, interchange projects, and capacity expansion on several major state routes.

There is funding indicated for improved access in several communities, including the construction of new interchanges on I-40 at Mine Lick Creek Road in Putnam County and I-640 at North Broadway in Knox County.

TDOT receives approximately half of its funding from the Federal Highway Trust Fund. If new transportation funding legislation is not passed by Congress in the coming

months, the fund will run out of money by September 30, 2014.

Dedicated funding has been added for 14 transportation programs including: Rockfall Mitigation, Spot Safety Improvement, the statewide HELP Program and the second year of the State Route Multimodal Access Initiative, which enhances connections between modes, such as sidewalks and park-and-ride facilities at key locations along state routes. The program also allows funding for transit agencies, Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations and private non-profit organizations in all 95 counties in Tennessee.

To view a complete list of projects and programs funded through the 2015-2017 three-year multimodal program visit <http://www.tn.gov/tdot/news/2014/ThreeYearProgram2015-2017.pdf>.

TN Main Street communities generate \$59 M investments

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development announced the 2013 Economic Impact and Reinvestment Statistics from 23 Tennessee Main Street communities for activities occurring between Jan. 1, 2013, and Dec. 31, 2013. These Main Street communities generated more than \$59 million of public/private investment in 2013, and continue to be a vital part of the state's economic and cultural identity.

"Tennessee's Main Street communities are some of the state's most valuable and treasured resources," Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty said. "These job growth and investment numbers reinforce the importance of our Main Street program in bolstering economic growth while allowing communities to develop productive initiatives that support job creation, downtown revitalization and the long-term success of our state."

Tennessee Main Street provides technical assistance and training for communities in developing real-world solutions to make downtowns safe, appealing, vibrant places where folks want to shop, work, live, invest and make memories.

Other reinvestment statistics from the designated Main Street communities reporting include:

- Net new jobs: 646
- Net new businesses: 182
- Building rehabilitation projects: 273
- Public improvement projects: 126
- Net new housing units: 173
- Volunteer hours contributed: 88,036
- Total public/private investment: \$59,807,753

"The annual reinvestment statistics make a strong statement about the economic activity occurring within our Tennessee Main Street program districts," Tennessee Main Street Program Director Todd Mor-

gan said. "New jobs, businesses and investment, along with an impressive number of volunteer work hours, prove this community-based approach to downtown revitalization is hard at work."

There are currently 26 designated Main Street program communities across Tennessee. The following 23 were included in these reinvestment statistics: Bristol, Cleveland, Collierville, Columbia, Cookeville, Dandridge, Dayton, Dyersburg, Fayetteville, Franklin, Gallatin, Greeneville, Jackson, Kingsport, Lawrenceburg, McMinnville, Morristown, Murfreesboro, Ripley, Rogersville, Savannah, Tiptonville and Union City. The remaining three communities—Jonesborough, Lebanon and Sweetwater—were not included, because newly designated programs are recommended to receive accreditation from the National Main Street Center after successfully completing one full year of participation and statistics are only reported from accredited communities.

Tennessee Main Street is currently working with six communities through the affiliated Tennessee Downtowns program: Clifton, Greenfield, Portland, Tracy City, Waynesboro and White Bluff. Applications for Tennessee Downtowns Round 4, which will begin in July 2014, are due by April 30.

Tennessee Main Street is a coordinating partner with the National Main Street Center. Designated communities are required to meet national accreditation standards annually, which include illustrating broad-based community support for the program, development of a comprehensive work plan, a sufficient operating budget and professional staff with volunteer support.

For more information about the Tennessee Main Street Program, please visit www.tennesseemainstreet.org. For more on the National Main Street Center, visit www.mainstreet.org.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness and Enforcement Month. Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways. This risky activity can divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving, while endangering the safety of the driver, passengers, and bystanders.

In 2012, there were 3,328 people killed and 421,000 injured nationwide in crashes involving distracted driving. In 2013, there were 18,761 traffic crashes including 54 fatalities as a result of distracted driving in Tennessee.

"When you text while driving, you take your eyes off the road, hands off the wheel, and mind off the task of driving. That puts lives in danger, and no one has the right to do that," said Kendall Poole, Director of the Governor's Highway Safety Office.

Text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, and is by far the most alarming distraction. Tennessee has a primary texting law that is enforced by the Tennessee Highway Patrol and state-wide law enforcement.

According to Sergeant Bill Mill-

er, Public Information Officer, troopers are looking for any unsafe action that takes away from the responsible and proper operation of a motor vehicle. Troopers patrol daily in the familiar black and cream patrol cars, as well as on police motorcycles. The THP also utilizes unmarked patrol vehicles to detect reckless behavior.

"When drivers text and drive that creates a very dangerous, reckless situation and detecting those distracted drivers is definitely a priority of the THP" said Sergeant Miller. "If you are texting and driving, or doing anything that creates an unsafe situation on the road, then troopers are going to take the appropriate action. If you choose to drive drunk, reckless or distracted then you will lose, don't do it."

The Governor's Highway Safety Office urges drivers to make safe choices when driving on Tennessee roadways. In Tennessee, texting while driving is against the law and considered unsafe. For more information about distracted driving, please contact Megan Buell, 615-337-7685 or visit our website at www.tntrafficssafety.org.



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CITY ADMINISTRATOR

MCMINNVILLE. The city is seeking well-qualified, innovative, professional applicants for the position of City Administrator. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in public administration, or a closely-related field (master's degree preferred), with at least five years experience in municipal government management and finance. Major duties include: supervision of all city departments, staff employment and assignments, work procedures and schedules, budget preparation, monitoring of revenues and expenditures, development and implementation of goals and visioning for the city, provision of proper reports, initiation of grant writing, and the implementation of new technology across each department. The administrator will perform duties which will reflect the needs of a progressive city by serving on various boards, committees, agencies and civic organizations that promote retail, tourism, and industrial development in the area. The administrator will possess all the skills necessary to complete the successful operation and management of the city while fulfilling the expectations of the elected officials. The city administrator is selected by and reports to the mayor and a six-member board of aldermen. The starting salary and benefit package will be market competitive, depending on the professional experience and qualifications of the selected candidate. Reasonable relocation expenses will be negotiated. Interested applicants should email cover letters, resumes with references and salary history to Warren Nevad, The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service at warren.nevad@tennessee.edu.

FIRE FIGHTER

LA VERGNE. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Firefighter. This position is under close supervision of the fire chief and assistant fire chief. This position performs fire suppression and fire prevention duties to protect life and property; provides emergency rescue and basic medical treatment as required; utilizes various tools and power equipment in rescue operations; maintains department equipment, vehicles and facilities; and performs related duties as assigned. Detailed job description along with benefits information can be found by applying online at http://www.lavergnetn.gov/?page_id=172.

POLICE CHIEF

MILLINGTON. The city is seeking a proactive and solution oriented individual as its new police chief. The job performs administrative, managerial and technical work in directing overall operations of the police department, protecting life and property and enforcing federal, state and local laws. The ideal candidate will need strong leadership and supervisory skills. Duties and responsibilities include: planning, coordinating and directing all aspects of department operations; supervising interpreting and ensuring compliance with laws, ordinances, rules and regulations; supervising staff; developing departmental budget and controlling expenditures; instructing and preparing/maintaining docu-

mentation; and providing information and assistance to the general public. Candidate should be experienced in developing and implementing training programs and have understanding of procurement and maintenance of equipment and facilities and grant management experience. Candidate should have the ability to communicate effectively with city officials, school officials, employees, citizens, various agencies and the media and understand the nature of how smaller cities work along with community policing strategies. The successful candidate should have five years of command level experience with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice preferred. Must have completed specialized training in the field of work, with six or more years of experience in a local government involving law enforcement, criminal investigation, and/or police administration, to include proven administrative and management skills; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this position. Command Level Training such as FBI National Academy or Southern Police Institute preferred. Must meet the Minimum Standards Law (TCA 38-8-106) for police officers. Requires a valid driver's license. Interested individuals are encouraged to view the full police chief's job description on the city website at www.millingtontn.gov. Letters of application, resumes, cover letter along with salary requirements, and three professional references with contact information should be submitted online via the website or forwarded to: The city of Millington, Attention: Personnel Department, 7930 Nelson Road, Millington, TN 38053. Position will remain open until April 16, 2014. EOE.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

CHAPEL HILL. The town is seeking an accomplished municipal government professional to be the town administrator. The administrator is appointed by and reports to the board of mayor and aldermen. The town has a \$1.6M budget with 17 full and part-time employees. Candidates are required to have a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or a field closely related to local government management, with a master's degree in a related field preferred; and a minimum of five years of professional governmental experience in a senior management position. This is an opportunity to take the organization to new levels of success and requires a person with a sound working knowledge of municipal policy execution, human resources, water and sewer utilities, and basic municipal services. The position description is available at www.townof-chapelhilltn.com. Send a cover letter and resume by electronic mail to the University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, attention Jeff Broughton, by April 21, 2014. Please direct questions to Jeff Broughton at jeff.broughton@tennessee.edu.

TOWN RECORDER

CHAPEL HILL. The town is accepting applications for the position of Town Recorder / Treasurer. The position requires responsibility for the oversight of a range of municipal finance functions including, but not limited to, general ledger, financial reporting, tax title, treasury, local revenue collections, cash management, payroll, investment of funds, management of debt service, payables disbursement, and other

activities as required. A background in accounting is required with a bachelor's degree in accounting preferred. The successful candidate must have, or be willing to obtain, a Tennessee Certified Municipal Finance Officer designation within two years of being hired. The successful candidate must also become certified as a municipal clerk within four years of being hired. The town offers a competitive salary and a generous benefits package. The full job description is on the town's website <http://townofchapelhilltn.com>. Resumes may be sent to the town of Chapel Hill, TN, Attn: Austin Edmondson, interim city administrator, P. O. Box 157, Chapel Hill, TN, 37034 or submitted by e-mail to cityofch@united.net. In order to be considered, resumes must be submitted by April 25, 2014. The Town of Chapel of Chapel Hill is EOE.

UTILITIES CLERK

PIPERTON. The city has an opening for a utilities clerk in its administrative office, with tasks to include reconciling utility customer lists and issuing periodic reports, resolving customer problems and explaining procedures regarding a variety of city functions including water, sewer, garbage and other issues; must have ability to interact with a variety of city staff, members of boards and commissions, vendors and contractors and have extensive knowledge of Microsoft Office, especially Word and Excel, which is required. Experience with automated applications is desirable; High School diploma or G.E.D. plus a minimum of two years related experience is required, along with effective communication (oral and written) and interpersonal skills. Valid driver's license from state of residence and attention to detail are also required. Email resume to tparker@piperton.com. Pay is negotiable, depending on experience and training. Piperton is an EOE employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, gender or disability.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

WHITE PINE. The town is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Water Treatment Plant Operator. Applicants must have a high school diploma, or GED, Tennessee Grade 2 Water Treatment and Water Distribution Grade 2 license. Must have a valid Tennessee driver's license with the ability to obtain a commercial driver's license. Prefer applicant with ability to operate a backhoe. Subject to pre-employment drug and alcohol testing as well as random testing. Submit resumes detailing experience and training to: Town Hall, 1548 Main Street, PO Box 66, White Pine, TN 37890 or faxed to 865-674-2053 by April 15, 2014. EOE employer.

TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

April 25-28: Greenville

Old Oak Arts and Music Festival
This free activity-packed festival returns to the Tusculum College campus featuring something for everyone in music, art, theater and creative writing, along with gallery and museum exhibits. Children's activities Sat. from 9 am to 5 pm and Sun. noon to 5 p.m. Storytelling performances on stage and around the grounds plus the Ayers llamas stop by for a visit. Three performances of "Twelve Angry Men," will be presented by Theatre-at-Tusculum in the Behan Arena Theatre. The Allison Gallery will be open throughout the weekend, featuring top student work in painting, sculpture and photography. Arts offerings include pottery, woodcrafts and folk art, with demonstrations in pottery, blacksmithing and cooking. Bluegrass to jazz including Pickin' at the Doaks, a bluegrass music jam session at the Doak House Museum Fri. at 6 pm and Sat. at noon. Check out the lantern-lit tour of the Tusculum College buildings listed on the National Historic Registry Sat. at 4:30 pm. The festival concludes Sun. at 5 pm with a 5K race starting at the Tusculum Linear Trail Head. Festival food like homemade strawberry shortcake, Philly cheese steak, and Amish doughnuts. For more information, contact David Price at 423-636-7303 or visit the festival website at <http://www.oldoakfestival.org>.

April 24-26 : Clarksville

Award winning Rivers & Spires Festival. Historic Downtown Clarksville. Family-friendly activities, musical acts and entertainment. New is the Sports Zone, a fully interactive area of Austin Peay-themed sports activities, including football, baseball and golf. Mini clinics and a free yoga session from Raja Hot Yoga Fri. night. A sports trivia night Sat. at 6 pm. Visit the Publix cooking stage for healthy recipes and food samples. Gig City Gaming area features more than 160 video games for all ages and consoles. Johnsonville Brats brings the Big Taste Grill, weighing 53,000 pounds and 65 feet long. See The Clydesdales, world-champion horses. The parking lot at the corner of Second and Main Street will be lined with classic cars at the Chevy's on the Cumberland car show on both evenings. Enter to win a chance to meet country music star Randy Houser and Christian music artist Aaron Shust. For more information, contact Jessica Goldberg at Jessica@clarksville.tn.us or visit the website www.riversandspires.com.

April 26-27:Franklin

Main Street Festival
Downtown. This free street festival features more than 200 artisans and crafters, three stages, two carnivals and an international food court. Family-oriented activities, with nonstop musical entertainment and more than 20 food vendors. A juried arts and crafts show and a special children's activity area.

April 25-26:Cross Plains

The Kilgore Station Bluegrass Festival
Held at Kilgore Station Park. The Grascals headline, with the Ridge-top Ramblers, Jackie Kincaid and Steppin Out, Sugar Ridge and many more. Tickets are \$10 at the door and \$8 in advance, with children 12 and under free. For more information, visit the website kilgorestation.com.

April 26: Arlington

24th Arlington in April Festival
More than 100 local and regional craft vendors, musicians, and children's activities at the historic Depot Square. Handmade jewelry, local artwork, pottery, Farmer's Market, face painting, gift shops, antique store, historic museums and blacksmith shop. Hours are 10 am - 4pm. Rain date is Sun., Apr 27, from 12pm to 5pm. For more information, visit www.arlingtoninapril.com.

April 26: Gallatin

Gallatin Square Fest
Held on the historic downtown square, from 10 am until 5 pm. This signature event includes arts and crafts, live entertainment, a kids area and food vendors from throughout the mid-south. For more information, call the Greater Gallatin office at 615-452-5692.

April 26-May 24:Dayton

67th Annual Tennessee Strawberry Festival. This year's theme "Hollywood StarBerries." For an events schedule, go to www.daytontnchamber.org

May 31 - Savannah

Grand Opening Savannah Street Park
Between Alabama and Tennessee Streets in historic Savannah, this six-acre, nearly \$3 million facility is destined to become the crown jewel of the city. The park features incredible playgrounds, splash pads, pavilions, walking trail, gazebo, butterfly garden, fountain and a grand lawn among the manicured grounds. Grand opening festivities kick off at 11 am.

TML Annual Conference in Chattanooga, June 22 - 24

CONFERENCE from Page 1

has found that smart growth development would benefit their overall fiscal health," said Smith.

Other conference sessions will focus on industrial recruiting, retailing recruiting, building healthy communities, and workers comp reforms, just to name a few.

The conference will kick off on Sunday, June 22, with the opening General Session, along with district meetings, workshops and the Host City Reception.

Monday, June 23, will be a day filled with educational workshops, TML's annual business meeting, and will wrap up with The Pool's fun-filled party complete with food and music. The Tuesday morning Awards Breakfast will bring the conference to a close.

To registration for the conference and to obtain more information about the various workshops and speakers, go to TML's website at www.TML1.org.

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Saturday, June 21

8 am - 3 pm MTAS EOA
MTAS / CMFO
6:30 - 8 pm Hospitality Suite

Sunday, June 22

9 am - 5 pm Registration
9 am - 11 am MTAS / CMFO
11am Exhibit Hall
12 - 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 - 2:15 pm District Meetings
2:30 - 3:30 pm Opening Session
3:45 - 5 pm Workshops
6 - 8:30 pm Host City Party

Monday, June 23

9 - 10 am Workshops
10:15 - 11:30 am Industrial Site
Selection Panel
11:45 - 12:30 Business Meeting
12:30 - 2 pm Lunch
2:15 - 3:15 pm Workshops
3:30 - 4:30 pm Workshops
6:30 - 11pm Pool Party

Tuesday, June 24

8 - 10 am Awards Breakfast

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NATIONAL BRIEFS



Since 2008, the number of people who call themselves middle class has fallen by nearly a fifth, according to a survey in January by the Pew Research Center, from 53 percent to 44 percent. Forty percent now identify as either lower-middle or lower class compared with just 25 percent in February 2008. A full five years after the recession, former professionals are now stocking shelves at grocery stores, retirees are struggling with rising costs and people are working part-time jobs, but desperate for full-time pay. Such setbacks have emerged in economic statistics for several years. Now they're affecting how Americans think of themselves. According to Gallup, the percentage of Americans who say they're middle or upper-middle class fell 8 points between 2008 and 2012, to 55 percent. Home ownership is among factors economists cite as markers of middle-class status. Others include being able to vacation, help children pay for college and save for a secure retirement. The most recent National Opinion Research Center's General Social Survey found that the vast proportion of Americans who call themselves middle or working class, though still high at 88 percent, is the lowest in the survey's 40-year history. It's fallen 4 percentage points since the recession began in 2007. The difference between the income earned by the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans and by a median-income household has risen 24 percent in 30 years, according to the Census Bureau. Individuals and families who feel they've slipped from the middle class are likely to spend and borrow less. Such a pullback, in turn, squeezes the economy, which is fueled mainly by consumer spending. Roughly 8.4 percent of respondents to the National Opinion Research Center's survey, last conducted in 2012, said they consider themselves lower class. That's the survey's highest percentage ever, up from 5.4 percent in 2006.

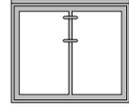
Calls to U.S. poison control centers about people sickened by e-ciga-

rettes containing liquid nicotine have soared in the past four years, climbing from just one a month in 2010 to at least 215 per month this year, federal health officials said. More than half of the poisoning reports involved children younger than 5, including many kids drawn to the nicotine-laced liquids flavored like fruit, bubble gum and soda pop, which come in containers ranging from small vials to multi-gallon jugs that are not required to be childproof. E-cigarettes — battery-powered devices that let users inhale nicotine-infused vapors — now account for more than 40 percent of all poison center calls about cigarette-type products, according to a report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Between September 2010 and February 2014, there were 2,405 calls about e-cigarettes to the nation's 55 poison control centers, and about 16,248 calls about conventional cigarettes, the study found. "Kids are the biggest worry — as little as a teaspoon of highly concentrated liquid nicotine could cause serious harm," said Lee Cantrell, director of the San Diego division of the California poison control system. Reports of poisonings in kids jumped 10-fold at his site in the past 14 months. Concentrations of nicotine used in e-cigarettes vary widely, from none in flavored liquids aimed at helping people quit smoking to as little as 6 milligrams per milliliter up to 36 milligrams per milliliter.

A new report ranks U.S. metro areas by how compact and connected they are, linking development policies to higher life expectancy and chances of upward mobility for residents. Researchers from the University of Utah's Metropolitan Research Center and Smart Growth America, an organization that advocates for sustainable growth, followed up their 2002 report on suburban sprawl by expanding the number of areas included and finding correlations between rankings and

quality of life measures. The report measures 221 metropolitan areas and 994 counties using 2010 statistics in four key areas: residential and employment density, diversity of land use, the proportion of people and businesses located near each other and measures of physical infrastructure, such as the average length of street blocks and the percentage of four-or-more-way intersections. Since the original 2002 report, a growing body of research has linked development that encourages communities to spread out across great geographical distances to obesity, traffic fatalities, inefficient energy use, even depression. Researchers weighed the four factors equally, producing an index with an average of 100, meaning metro areas that scored above that tend to be more compact while those scoring below 100 are more sprawling. The report cautioned against making comparisons between the two decades because the lines of metropolitan statistical areas change, sometimes dramatically. The most sprawling metro areas came mostly from the South. The South claimed seven of the top 10. Reid Ewing, a professor of urban planning at the University of Utah, attributed the region's greater sprawl to cultural values that are less focused on "ecological friendly development," different investment strategies and a lack of geographical barriers to growth. Using existing data, researchers also concluded there's a direct relationship between compactness and economic mobility, finding that a 10-percent increase in a metro area's overall index score translates to a 4.1 percent increase in the chances a child born in the bottom 20 percent of income distribution reaches the top 20 percent by age 30. Researchers also found that life expectancy increases by about four percent every time an overall index score doubles. To view the complete study, visit <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/2014/03/18/a-new-measure-of-sprawl-in-america/?key=35097004>

COMING UP



April 26-30- The American Planning Association's Conference held in Atlanta at the Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd. NW. For registration information and a schedule of events, visit www.planning.org

April 28-29 - 19th Annual USDA/ TVA Rural Economic Development Conference, Embassy Suites, 1200 Conference Center Boulevard, Murfreesboro. To register for the conference, go to <http://www.tnedc.com>. To make hotel reservations call 615-890-4464 or go online at embassy-suites.com

April 28 - May 1 - 8th Annual Tennessee Basic Economic Development Course held in Nashville. This four-day comprehensive course, accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), focuses on the fundamental concepts, tools and practices needed to be successful in today's complex economic environment. The course location will vary by day and include the Music City Center, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Tennessee Titans LP Field. A detailed schedule with locations will be shared with participants in advance of the course. To register, visit, www.ci.tennessee.edu/tbedc

May 14 -15, Municipal Court Clerk Conference, Embassy Suites, 1200 Conference Center Boulevard, Murfreesboro. This training will fulfill the state mandate of three hours per year for municipal court clerks training. Topics to be covered include Tennessee Judicial System, Dealing with Sovereign Citizens, Administrative Office of the Courts Update, Open Records, and Department of Revenue Forms. For more information, email michelle.buckner@tennessee.edu, or contact the MTAS office at (865) 974-0411.

UT MTAS May Classes

– Workplace Safety –



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Schedule of Sessions

May 7 -Johnson City

May 8- Knoxville

May 27- Franklin

May 28- Jackson

Cost: Municipal Employees- \$50/person/class. All other participants \$65/person/class.

CMFO-4 CPE (Financial)

To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu and click on "Register for a Class" under the training tab. You may pay with a credit card or request an invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0411 or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu.

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Tennessee legend Sen. Douglas Henry reflects on five decades of public service in General Assembly

BY LINDA BRYANT

Sen. Douglas Henry has been praised by both political parties for decades. So much so that words such as distinguished, respected and beloved don't seem adequate enough to describe his career, character and impact on the state.

Perhaps the best word for him is icon.

A Democrat, Sen. Henry is the longest serving member in the history of the state legislature. Serving under seven administrations and for 11 consecutive terms, he made a name for himself as a budget hawk as well as a passionate advocate for education, families and children, and the environment. Although he calls himself a conservative Democrat — and sometimes a Jeffersonian Democrat — it's never been easy to attach a label to the gentlemanly 87-year-old.

Tributes and accolades for Henry started to pour in last year when he announced he'd retire after the Nov. 2014 elections. But Henry has advised colleagues against plans for excessive "hail and farewell" type festivities, instead encouraging them to take care of the state's business. Yet as his official retirement date draws near, it's hard to believe there won't be some fanfare surrounding his departure.

Case in point: There is a current bill before state lawmakers that would honor Henry by protecting a parcel of land north of Interstate-440 from the intersection of Lealand Lane and Gale Lane and naming it the Senator Douglas Henry Urban Conservation District.

Despite the fact that physical mobility is difficult for Sen. Henry, he remains active in the legislature, often making his way to and from the chambers with the assistance of a walking cane. Recently he made history when he presented his final legislation, a bill that calls on colleges to respect the religious rights of students. His first bill was presented to the Tennessee State Senate in 1955, nearly 60 years ago.

After retirement Sen. Henry plans to spend time with Lolly, his wife of almost 65 years, and his five children and their families. (His eldest daughter Emily passed away from cancer in 2006.)

TT&C: You have served in the Legislature for 46 years. During that time what would you consider to be as some of your more significant issues and/or accomplishments?

DH: What sticks out in my mind is the sponsorship of Tennessee law ordering the reporting of child abuse in 1972-73. Previously there had been no law in Tennessee. I spent a lot of time going around the state talking to key people to try to get support for it—the district attorneys, sheriffs and Supreme Court justices and many others.

I sponsored the Rainy Day Fund with John Bragg. John was chairman of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee for many years. He and I sponsored various things together. He's the best single legislator I ever knew. I'm proud of the Rainy Day Fund. It hasn't built up to what it should have been, but it's been a good thing. It's looked at very favorably, especially by the bond rating folks in New York.

I was always interested in children's issues. They don't have a vote, so that makes my votes on their behalf important. Tennessee is pretty far down when it comes to child welfare measurements. That's something that always concerned me. Many Tennessee parents believed the state should have a limited role in child welfare. They thought child welfare should primarily be the responsibility of home and church. I agree with that, but excessive belief in that direction tends to constrain the state. There are times when the state can make an important difference to the welfare of children.

Education has also been important to me. In order to participate in world progress, you have to have better educated people.

TT&C: You first served in the Legislature under Frank Clement's Administration in the 1950s — later returning in 1971 under Winfield Dunn's administration. Can you share some choice memories from those times?

DH: I think my favorite time was during the Lamar Alexander and Ned McWherter years. They were mighty



Described by many as a budget hawk, Sen. Henry presided as chairman of the Senate Finance Ways and Means committee for more than a quarter of a century.



A young Sen. Henry with his trademark cigar and wearing his signature seersucker suit.

good for the state. There were some good times before that, but I think those back-to-back Republican and Democrat administrations were the best because they were fair and balanced. At that time the Democrats and the Republicans were still basically the same people. The Republicans lived in East Tennessee and the Democrats lived in West Tennessee. There wasn't as much polarization. I never would ask for a decision until I'd heard from both the Republican and Democratic leaders. There seemed to be a general agreement of that kind back then, but now it's all partisan politics.

TT&C: Do you think the extreme partisan divide is just a cycle or might we get back to a time where Democrats and Republicans are working more closely together?

DH: I kind of doubt it. Tennessee has been drawn into the national scheme of things. It's happened to a lot of other states, and it has to do with national politics. The Tennessee Democratic Party has to fit in with the national party and the Republican Party is the same way on the national level. Previously, we could chart our own course. I don't see a reversal any time soon, but I hope I'm wrong. I hate to see it happening. It's not good for the state.

If you go back before the Alexander and McWherter era, we had Gov. Dunn, who was the first Republican governor since Al Taylor in the 1920s. He was a very personable fellow and got along fine with the Democrats. But the Democrats wouldn't let him have anything free. He had to work for it.

When Gov. Dunn left and we got Ray Blanton, he just came out of Washington where everybody did what Lyndon Johnson said. He thought that's the way things were, but it didn't work that way here. There was disarray between the executive branch and the legislature during both those administrations.

TT&C: Didn't Republicans try to persuade you to switch parties?

DH: Oh yes, at least two governors did, and there were others.

TT&C: What did you tell them?

DH: Well, I always said I appreciated the invitation, but my family's been Democrat. I think the Democratic Party gave me a little more room than the Republicans could have. The Republicans were often all of one mind. Even now, the Republicans meet down in the Speaker's office before session every morning; and you can't make a dent in them when you get on the floor.

My basic philosophy revolves around social welfare and a balanced budget. Democrats influenced by the New Deal would say "take care of social welfare but forget the budget." Conservative Republicans would say, "Balance the budget and forget social welfare." I don't agree with either of those approaches really, but there was plenty of room for me in the Democratic Party. That's where I was supposed to be, and that's where I stayed.

TT&C: Do you think the Democratic Party will come back at some point?

DH: I think so. Mr. Obama is such a polarizing figure, and without meaning to, he drove off a lot of people in Tennessee. His time will come and go. I think the Democratic data right now in Tennessee is a function of Mr. Obama's presidency.

TT&C: Are you in favor of Medicaid expansion in Tennessee?

D.H. There are a lot of women and children who are going to be hurt if we don't expand Medicaid. The Republicans seem to have a lock on that where they won't talk about it. It seems so apparent that Tennessee could benefit from the expansion. We have pockets of poverty all over the state. If the rural hospitals start closing up, we're really going to be in bad shape. The Governor has a fine idea to go up there and talk to Ms. Sebelius and get her to agree to use the Medicaid money to some benefit, but that plan never seems to come forth. I like Bill Haslam. I

think he has the right instincts, and I don't want to get in his way, but all things considered, I think we should expand Medicaid.

TT&C: Do you think there have been times when the Legislature's actions have been overreaching?

DH: I'm not sure I'd put it quite like that; however, because of the majority they enjoy, Republicans believe they have a mandate to carry out Republican ideas statewide. It's often about programmatic control. One example is charter schools. There was a bill through the other day saying you could have a state board saying where the charter schools can go. I'm not against charter schools, but having the state board deciding where the charter schools go in Morgan County doesn't make much sense. What's the local school board for then?

TT&C: Recently you were the sole "nay" vote on the annexation legislation that abolishes annexation by ordinance. As you know, under PC 1101 cities and counties have used Urban Growth Boundaries to plan for future growth for the past 15 years. Can you talk a little bit about your thoughts on this issue?

DH: Annexation by ordinance has generally been a good thing for Tennessee. It's allowed cities to expand naturally. It's been misused at times. But on balance, I believe we are better off leaving cities with this avenue for expansion. It seems like the majority party feels really strongly about the issue, but I think the rule of annexation by vote would make it less likely for a city to prosper.

TT&C: As chairman of the Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee for more than two decades, you have worked on numerous budgets. What were some of the toughest years. And what would you describe as the good times?

DH: The worst was when Sundquist was governor. The legislature, after decades of work, had finally achieved a AAA bond rating. Instead of cutting back to balance the budget, we just

TRIBUTES AND ACCOLADES

"Sen. Henry is a true Tennessee legend. Not only has he served the state for a long time, he has served it very well. We will miss his sound judgment, his knowledge of the budget and, most of all, his gentlemanly demeanor."

- Gov. Bill Haslam.

"Sen. Henry is one of the most honest, hardworking, genuine people I have ever met. He always votes his convictions and he always stands by his principles. He is a true gentleman and one of Tennessee's most loyal sons."

- Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey

"I am grateful for Sen. Henry's friendship and support through the years. His voice has been an important one in this General Assembly, and Tennessee is better off because of his service. He has represented his Nashville district with distinction, and he truly understands the importance of public service. Sen. Henry is a true southern gentleman who treats everyone with respect, and will rightfully have a place in Tennessee's history books."

- Speaker of the House Beth Harwell

"There is no individual more responsible for the financial integrity of the state of Tennessee than the Senator from Snow White."

- Justin Wilson, TN Comptroller of the Treasurer

"The Senate Democratic Caucus joins me in thanking Sen. Douglas Henry for his five decades in state government. His skills as a legislator are peerless, eclipsed only by his fervent advocacy for children, the mentally ill, the needy, and those Tennesseans who rightfully rely on his articulate voice because they do not have one of their own."

- Caucus Chairman Lowe Finney

changed our revenues projections. We lost our good credit rating and it took years to build it back.

Probably the most flush years were during the Dunn and Blanton Administrations — and part of Alexander's term — when money from the federal government was flowing freely.

TT&C: What's your take on this year's budget.

DH: I think the governor has put up a good budget. We're putting more money in reserves and I can't quarrel with that.

TT&C: Sen. Henry, you've known and interacted with so many people over the decades. Who stands out as your closest associates?

DH: My three chief advisors were M.E. Derryberry, Jack Thomson and Nick Bailey. Nick Bailey is the only one who's still alive. Derryberry was certainly my close companion. We traveled all over the state and beyond. There have been many close allies over the years, but I really want to thank those fellows. I couldn't have made a move without my wife Lolly. She's backed me in everything I've ever done. She's a wonderful lady. She's always gone out of her way to be courteous, cordial and accommodating to people.

TT&C: How do you feel about retirement?

DH: It's not an easy thing just to quit. I'll figure out something to do, but I don't know what it is right now. At night when I go home I lie in bed for an hour or two thinking about everything that's going on, and not only political things. Maybe I've just read a book and I'll reconjure it in my head. My mind is still very active, but I've gotten so doggedly disabled. I can barely walk except with a walking stick and a wheel chair and I can't drive anymore. I have to dodge the steps (at Legislative Plaza) and find the elevators. My doctor didn't want me to run for reelection in 2010, but I felt I really had to. Now is the right time to retire.