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See Page 10 for the entire conference lineup!

Gov. Haslam scheduled to speak at Annual Conference

The Tennessee Municipal League is excited to announce that Gov. Bill Haslam will be a featured speaker at the League's upcoming Annual Conference in Nashville.

Gov. Haslam is scheduled to address our membership during TML's annual awards breakfast, slated for Tuesday, June 9, at the Nashville Convention Center.

Currently serving his second term, Gov. Haslam's commitment to education is making a difference through his Drive to 55 and Tennessee Promise initiatives. His focus on making Tennessee the No. 1 location in the Southeast for high-quality jobs has been recognized with a "State of the Year" award for economic development. And through his fiscal responsible leadership, he has balanced the budget every year, kept taxes low, and nearly doubled the state's savings account.

Come join him as he outlines his priorities for his second term and discusses his plans for addressing the many challenges that still lie ahead.

Also on the conference agenda is an update on state issues. Slated for Monday, June 8, from 9 to 10:15 a.m, those confirmed to attend include the new Tourism Commissioner Kevin Triplett, Homeland Security Director David Purkey, and Senate Transportation Chair Jim

Other conference highlights include Pulitizer-Prize winning author Jon Meacham, who will give the keynote address at the Opening General Session on Sunday, June 7,



Gov. Bill Haslam

on The Art of Leadership: Lessons Learned from the American Presidency.

The agenda also includes three eye-opening sessions that focus on public safety issues. Steve Anderson, Metro Nashville police chief, will speak about strategies and policies that could prevent situations similar to those in Ferguson, MO., and Baltimore. FBI Special Agent Scott Augenbaum will present a session on cyber criminals; and an investigator from the Intelligence Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center will conduct a workshop *Understanding* the Threat of the Sovereign Citizen.

Back by popular demand is Dr. Scott Paine who will conduct two leadership workshops; one will focus more on citizen relations and the second will focus on council relations.

Go to Page 10 for a complete list of all the conference offerings!

Legislature approves handguns in parks; municipal attorneys abuzz with questions

BY ELISHA D. HODGE MTAS Legal Consultant

As of April 24, 2015, municipalities no longer have the ability to prohibit handgun carry permit holders from carrying handguns in public parks owned or operated by a municipality except when the properties are being used for an athletic event or other school related activity.

The bill that makes this change, Senate Bill 1171/House Bill 995, was signed into law by Gov. Haslam earlier this month and has been assigned Public Chapter No. 250, Act of 2015.

Prior to Public Chapter 250 becoming law, local governments were authorized to prohibit handgun carry permit holders from possessing handguns while in parks owned or operated by the municipality, after a majority of the governing body approved the prohibition through a resolution. Now, however, local governments no longer have this option. All handgun carry permit holders are permitted to carry handguns in public parks, natural areas, historic parks, nature trails, campgrounds, forests, greenways, waterways, or other public places owned or operated by a municipality or a branch or division of the municipality. The only exception is when



The law says people who have handgun permits still can't bring their guns within the "immediate vicinity" of a school-sanctioned sporting event that is underway at a park.

the areas are being used by a public or private school conducting an athletic event or other school-related activity on an athletic field, and the individual knows or should have known that a school athletic event or other school related activity is taking place in the immediate vicinity of the property.

For purposes of the legislation, athletic fields include, but are not limited to, football and soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, a track, running trail, Frisbee field or similar multi-use field that is permanent or temporary in nature.

The bill seems to indicate that once a handgun carry permit holder is informed or becomes aware that a school is having an athletic event or any other school related activity on the property, reasonable steps should be taken to leave the area where the event is being held and failure to do so is a violation of the law.

Public Chapter No. 250 also amends the provisions that address possessing and carrying weapons on school property. Handgun carry permit holders are now allowed to See GUNS on Page 5

High school civics test required for TN graduates

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

A new bill approved by the Legislature will require high school students across Tennessee to pass a civics test, similar to U.S. Naturalization Test administered to immigrants, in order to graduate.

Under the measure, students graduating with a regular diplo-

ma after Jan. 1, 2017, must pass a 100-question test based on the civics test administered to immigrants with at least 70 percent of the questions answered correctly. Students may take the test as many times as necessary to pass, but may not earn their diploma until attaining a passing grade.

House Majority Leader Gerald McCormick, R-Chattanooga, filed the original bill, House Bill 10, while its companion bill, Senate Bill 10, was sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, R-Collierville. The bill was approved by the House Education Committee, which called on local education agencies to incorporate 25 to 50 of the 100 questioned posed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the citizenship test.

Norris said the bill embraces legislation the General Assembly passed in 2012, which restored the teaching of project-civics and required one assessment for students between fourth and eighth grade and a second between eighth grade and graduation.

"We cannot long survive as a viable republic if our students do not know how to be active and informed participants in our democracy," he said. "This is a very important initiative and dovetails with our previous efforts to provide essential civics education to our students."

Norris said students with an



Sen. Mark Norris



Rep. Gerald McCormick

Individualized Education Program (IEP) would be exempt from the requirement under certain circumstances as provided by the bill, and that students will continue to receive the project-based civics assessments provided under the 2012 law.

The House Education Committee also added a provision to the bill that would recognize any school See CIVICS on Page 4

U.S. House moves on Transportation **HUD, Energy-Water Appropriations**

BY MICHAEL WALLACE

National League of Cities

Before adjourning for a brief in-district work period, the House took action on two FY 2016 spending bills key to cities: a bill to fund the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and a bill to fund the Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation-HUD approved the first draft of a spending bill. The subcommittee draft would provide \$55.27 billion overall in discretionary spending, a \$1.5 billion increase from the current \$53.8 billion level, resulting in a slight boost for housing subsidies and level funding for transportation. However, the draft is \$9.7 billion below the President's proposed budget, which proposed a significant increase in infrastructure investment under the White House "Grow America Act."

uncertainty around the federal Highway Trust Fund as a reason for keeping funding level.

Among other local priorities, the subcommittee draft would maintain \$3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), reflecting a victory for local officials who have long advocated for an end to cuts.

The House also passed by a vote of 240-177 the Energy-Water appropriations bill for FY2016.

Under the bill, DOE energy efficiency and renewable energy programs received a total of \$1.657 billion for research, development, demonstration and deployment activities advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Of that, \$190 million is for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which aims to reduce energy costs for low-income households by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. The bill did not provide funding for a new Local Energy Program (similar to the existing State Energy Program) that the President requested in his budget.

Sec. Foxx kicks off Infrastructure Week in Tennessee; Knoxville, Memphis among backlogged transportation projects visited



Photo by Traci McDonell, City of Knoxville

Transportation Sec. Anthony Foxx (center) met with Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett (far right), and members of the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization to discuss the proposed Alcoa Highway project. Also pictured is Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

With federal surface transportation funding set to expire May 31, thousands of stakeholders rallied together for Infrastructure Week to urge Congress to say "no" to more short-term measures and "yes" to a long-term funding solution.

In support of the third annual Infrastructure Week, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx met with state and local leaders, in Tennessee, California, and Iowa.

His trip began in Tennessee, a state that has a \$6 billion backlog in highway projects, according to the Tennessee Department of Transportation. He visited two projects that would improve safety for drivers and reduce traffic congestion, but both are delayed due to inadequate federal funding.

In Knoxville, he met with

Mayor Madeline Rogero, Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, and the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization to discuss the proposed Alcoa Highway reconstruction project and how lack of funding has delayed it over the past

He then traveled to Memphis where he was joined by Mayor A.C. Wharton, and the Memphis Urban Planning Organization to discuss the Lamar Avenue project.

"Our nation's economy and the way we live both depend on having strong infrastructure," Sec. Foxx said. "But our current levels of investment are falling short of what is needed just to keep our existing system safe and in good condition. To make matters worse, over the past six years, Congress has passed 32 short-term measures that have stripped away the ability of state and local governments to complete big projects."

Throughout the week, Sec. Foxx advocated for an alternative to that funding shortage, which is the "Grow America Act," a surface transportation bill that would provide six years of funding certainty and grow overall investment by 45 percent.

The \$478 billion proposal would increase funding in our roads, highways and transit systems, and for the first time would provide dedicated funding for passenger rail, rail safety, and a national freight program.

To learn more about the funding plan, go to www.dot.gov/briefing-room/secretary-foxx-sends-sixyear-transportation-bill-congress

Appropriators pointed to the

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



ALCOA/KNOXVILLE

A new "customer experience center" will be built next to McGhee Tyson Airport for a small airplanes manufacturer. Gov. Bill Haslam, state and local officials, and executives from Cirrus Aircraft announced that the aircraft company will be building a "Vision Center." The new center will bring 170 jobs to the area, and represents an investment of \$15 million, The Vision Center will become the flagship location for all Cirrus Aircraft pilot, owner, and customer activities including sales, delivery, training, maintenance, support, fixed base operations, and more. The Blount County location beat out 30 other airport location sites in 15 states for the center. In a release, Cirrus Aircraft notes East Tennessee's "unique airport and area amenities, favorable weather and a welcoming community" as reasons for the move. The new "Vision Center" will be the location for factory direct type rating training from Cirrus Aircraft, as well as a service center for a new model of airplane, and a design center that will let customers personalize their planes.

BRENTWOOD

Brentwood is upgrading its lighting systems at the city's most popular parks -- Crockett and River parks. The city will target lighting upgrades to the concession-restroom building at both four-plexes; the tennis center and amphitheater at Crockett park; and the restroom at River Park. The existing fixtures are no longer being manufactured per federal mandates, and once the supply is used up, parts will no longer be available when repairs are needed. The cost of the project is about \$31,500.

CHATTANOOGA

The city has launched a new campaign against graffiti and tagging, a form of graffiti that Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke says correlates with crime. Residents can now report graffiti to the city's 311 call center, either by calling 311 on their phones or emailing 311@chattanooga.gov. The mayor, along with Police Chief Fred Fletcher and volunteers, launched the program on Main Street to begin the process of removing graffiti and especially gang tags from city streets. Moving forward, if property is publicly-owned, the city will simply remove the offending graffiti if reported to authorities. If the property is owned by a private landowner, the owner will have to sign a waiver authorizing the removal of graffiti. Once multiple waivers for an area have been collected, the city will launch another graffiti clean up to remove the tags.

FARRAGUT

The town of Farragut's Office of Sustainability received a \$1,000 grant through the Walmart Community Grant Program. The grant was awarded for the Office of Sustainability's LED light bulb exchange program. Farragut Sustainability Coordinator Lori Saal said the grant will help the city with the LED lightbulb exchange, which encourages energy conservation practices within the local community in an effort to reduce the impact on natural resources.

GALLATIN

Construction is underway on the Sumner County Regional Airport's biggest project in its more than 50year history. Located in Gallatin, the airport has been closed since March 2, while crews work on the \$6.1 million project to reconstruct the runway and move the parallel taxiway in order to comply with current FAA safety guidelines. Both the runway and taxiway will remain at 6,300 feet in length as part of the project, which will also include the installation of new LED airfield lighting and precision approach path lighting. The airport is expected to be reopened by May 30. The project, expected to cost \$6.2 million, is being paid for with nearly \$3 million in state funding and \$330,000 in local funds with the remaining balance being covered by FAA discretionary funds. The scope of the work is the largest ever to occur at the airport since it was built in 1962. Operated by the Sumner County Regional Airport Authority, the airport has 12 corporate hangars, 23 port-a-ports and 40 T-hangars with between 70 and 100 aircraft based at the site. The fixed based operator is GTO Aviation, LLC. Before work on the project began, nearly all of the airplanes based at the airport were moved to John C. Tune Airport in Davidson County, Smyrna or Lebanon.

GREENBRIER

Atwood Mobile officials announced the company will invest \$3.2 million to expand their current operations at the existing Tennessee Recreational Vehicle appliance manufacturing facility in Greenbrier, creating 178 new jobs in Robertson County over the next three years. The company plans to expand both manufacturing and office space at the Greenbrier facility, allowing the company to meet growing demand for its products via enhanced operations technologies, capacity and management expertise in closer proximity to Atwood's Midwest concentrated base. The new expansion will allow the Greenbrier facility to manufacture furnaces as well. Work on the expansion at the Greenbrier plant is expected to conclude in late August. Atwood Mobile is a subsidiary of Dometic Group and is a leading supplier for appliances, chassis and seating hardware, architectural products and gas detectors to the North American RV market and specialty vehicle markets.

HENDERSONVILLE

Hendersonville leaders approved a Knoxville developer's plans to invest \$10 million in Drakes Creek Marina by renovating the 57-year-old facility and adding a waterfront restaurant. The council approved plans to rezone the property along Sanders Ferry Road from NC PD (Neighborhood Commercial Planned Development) and SR-1 (Suburban Residential) to GC PD (General Commercial Planned Development) as well as preliminary master development plan for the project. The rezoning allows the developer to build a restaurant on two vacant lots that had been zoned residential as well as add and renovate several other buildings on the property. The Hendersonville Regional Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning under conditions that the restaurant close by 11 p.m., any live entertainment must be indoors, and no more than 30 percent of the restaurant's revenue may be derived from the sale of alcohol. Those restrictions came after some area residents expressed concerns during a public hearing that a restaurant selling alcohol so close to a residential area would bring unwanted noise and traffic accidents.

MEMPHIS

The new Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid have officially opened in Memphis. The 32-story former sports arena now houses the 535,000-square-foot Bass Pro shopping center, which also includes a wilderness-themed hotel named the Big Cypress Lodge. The hotel is the first built within a Bass Pro Store and includes 150 guest rooms, tree houses, cabins and suites inspired by duck hunting camps as well as a spa, fitness center, event space and swamp-like environment complete with 100-foot-tall cypress trees, live alligator pools and duck aviaries. The new \$132 million tourist attraction also features an observation deck, 420-seat restaurant, bowling alley, pistol and archery ranges, 10 aquariums, and the country's tallest freestanding glass elevator.

MT. JULIET

Musical instruments manufacturer and distributor KHS America has announced it will expand its current operations in Mt. Juliet, bringing an investment of \$3.7 million and 67 new jobs to Wilson County. The company said the expansion will grow KHS's workforce in Mt. Juliet by 75 percent. The company also intends to add 5,000 square feet of office space to its current Mt. Juliet location in addition to completely renovating its warehouse and distribution center. Renovations are expected to be complete by mid to late summer 2015. KHS America is a subsidiary of KHS Musical Instruments Co., based in Taiwan. KHS stands for Kong Hseu Sheh in Chinese, which means "contribute to schools and society." The company located its headquarters and warehousing operations in Mt. Juliet in 2010 in a state-of-the-art 100,000 square foot facility, with space for continued growth.

MURFREESBORO

General Mills recently announced intentions to invest \$250 million to increase capacity at the General Mills location in Murfreesboro, which will also create 117 new jobs in the area. The expansion will involve increasing production on existing lines and the installation of additional production equipment. The General Mills facility currently produces dough products and Yoplait yogurt at the Murfreesboro facility. The state of Tennessee, Tennessee Valley Authority and Rutherford County Industrial Development Board are to provide incentives for the project. General Mills is one of the world's leading food companies, operating in more than 100 countries around the world. Its brands include Cheerios, Fiber One, Häagen-Dazs, Nature Valley, Yoplait, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Green Giant, Old El Paso, Wanchai Ferry, Yoki and more. Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., General Mills had fiscal 2014 worldwide sales of US \$17.9 billion.

NASHVILLE

Nashville's housing market has rebounded stronger than anywhere else in the nation in the aftermath of the recession, according to a new study. Nashville's median home price today is 11 percent higher than the peak values before the recession struck — a net growth that's the best of the nation's 100 largest metro areas. Between the third quarter of 2007, and the first quarter of 2011, home prices in the Nashville metro area fell nearly 12 percent. In the four years since then, prices have surged, increasing by 26 percent since they hit bottom and reaching a level more than 11 percent higher than their pre-crisis peak. Rounding out the top-5: San Francisco, Honolulu, San Jose and Columbus, Ohio.

PULASKI

Italian-based Magneti Marelli has announced its intentions to expand its operations in Pulaski, creating 450 new jobs in the area. The expansion of the company's automotive lighting division will add 80,000 square feet to its manufacturing facility at 181 Bennett Drive and will supply head lamps to FCA, Mercedes, GM, Volkswagen, and Honda vehicles. The company currently employs more than 950 people at two locations in Giles County. The lighting manufacturing facility was announced in June 2012 and was the company's first lighting facility in the U.S.

SMYRNA

Automotive supplier Topre America announced it will be moving to Smyrna, creating more than 100 jobs and investing more than \$50 million in the local economy. The Rutherford County Industrial Development Board approved tax incentives for the company to build a standalone manufacturing facility next to Nissan's assembly and battery plant in Smyrna. The facility will create 105 advanced manufacturing jobs, which will pay an average salary of \$45,000 a year plus benefits. The Topre Corporation produces lighter weight, reinforced automobile parts using advanced metal press forming technology. The company is based in Tokyo, Japan, but has its American corporate headquarters in Cullman, Ala. Torpe also has facilities in China, Mexico, and Thailand. Smyrna will be its second U.S. location.

SURGOINSVILLEHomeland Vinyl Products, Inc., has

announced it purchased a facility at the Phipps Bend Industrial Park in Surgoinsville, saving 40 jobs and adding 25 more in Hawkins County. The company purchased the facility most recently occupied by Engineering Plastics Corporation, which has been phasing out its operations at Phipps Bend. Homeland Vinyl has planned for more job growth at the facility, according to local officials. Homeland Vinyl will be moving its manufacturing equipment from Colorado to the Surgoinsville location, allowing for the addition of new product lines, and will be working with the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) for recruitment once additional positions are available. Homeland Vinyl Products is one of the largest manufacturers of vinyl fence, deck and railing systems in the U.S. and is based in Birmingham, Ala.

Athens celebrates Earth Day



On April 9, 2015, Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens celebrated the recertification of Tree Campus USA. During the celebration, the city of Athens was also awarded the recertification as a Tree City USA, which is the 34th year of doing so. Pictured from left to right is Athens Mayor Ann Davis; Tom Simpson, East Tennessee Regional Urban Forester; and Council Member Dick Pelley.

Dollywood marks 30 years



More than 50,000 people lined the Pigeon Forge Parkway earlier this month to welcome the "Songbird of Sevier County" for the park's annual homecoming parade. Dolly was in East Tennessee to kick off Dollywood's 30th season in Pigeon Forge. In 30 years. the park has become Sevier County's largest employer and has seen more than 75 million guests come through the gates. Nearly three million of those were just last year.

KFD honored by PETA for dog rescue



A large dog was pulled unconscious from a burning home in Knoxville. Emergency crews responding to the blaze were able to resuscitate it.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has given an award to the Knoxville Fire Department for rescuing a dog from a house on fire in north Knoxville.

The Compassionate Fire Department Award honors the first responders who carried Bella the dog outside and poured water over her to cool her body temperature.

By the time she was rushed to a local animal care center, Bella could

walk on her own. She has since been reunited with her human family of five. All five residents of the rental home were uninjured.

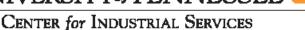
"The quick response of these brave firefighters prevented a tragedy for this dog and her family," said PETA Senior Director Colleen O'Brien in a release.

"PETA hopes their story will inspire others to come to the aid of animals in need."



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Sports tourism brings big bucks to Tennessee communities

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

From major league teams to little league tournaments, sports tourism is bringing in the big bucks to communities both small and large across Tennessee.

An annual report from the National Association of Sports Commissions (NASC) found sports tourism brought in an estimated \$8.7 billion to local economies across the nation in 2013, a five percent increase over the previous year. From 2012 to 2013, direct visitor spending as the result of sports tourism increased more than \$400 million.

The Southeast, the region in which Tennessee was included, had the second largest number of organizations affiliated with the NASC. The Midwest had the highest number. Tennessee alone has 12 active group members that belong to the NASC and is currently forming Play Tennessee Sports, a statewide sports commission under the Tennessee Department of Tourism.

Sports fans in Tennessee have the opportunity to enjoy watching professional sports teams like the Tennessee Titans, Memphis Grizzlies and Nashville Predators as well as take in NASCAR races at the Bristol Motor Speedway. The state also enjoys a wide variety of college sports and no less than nine active minor league baseball teams.

However, being home to a major league franchise or massive stadium isn't the only way to profit from sports tourism. Smaller municipalities have been able to make an economic impact as well.

The city of Crossville was able to brand itself as the Golf Capital of Tennessee, utilizing its 10 championship golf courses to turn the area into a tourist destination. Ashley DeRossett, director of tourism for the Crossville Chamber of Commerce, said the city worked with the University of Tennessee to study the popularity of golf in the area as well as create a logo for marketing purposes.

Golf courses within the Cross-ville area include Wyndam at Fair-field Glade – which features 90 holes of golf – and the Bear Trace at Cumberland Mountain State Park, which was the first course designed by Jack Nicklaus in the state, DeRossett said. The Bear Trace was even named one of the top 10 golf courses in North America by Golf Magazine and is part of the Tennessee Golf Trail.

In addition to vacationers seeking a round of golf, Crossville has also played host to state, collegiate and high school golf tournaments throughout the year.

"Word of mouth is a big deal," DeRossett said. "A lot of people play, go home and tell their friends. A lot of times, the Fairfield courses are used for tournaments. The state's men's golf tournament has been held there. We have a lot of big golf tournaments held on a state level here. These people usually stay in a local hotels, eat somewhere and hopefully come back."

On a yearly basis, DeRossett said tourism brings in \$104 million in revenue to the Crossville-Cumberland County area. While golf is not solely responsible for tourism dollars, DeRossett said it is one of the area's biggest attractions.

"Golf is one of the reasons they come here," she said. "A lot of times, the guys will come golf and the ladies will go shop. People will sometimes go to the wineries or see nature at the state park. They will go to the (Cumberland County) Playhouse, too."

In addition to tourism, golf has also made Crossville a destination for some retirees. Fairfield Glade has also been listed among the best golf resort communities in the state and was named a top 50 retirement community by *Where to Retire* magazine in 2013. DeRossett said the area has several residential areas located around golf courses, including Deer Creek and Lake Tansi.

Other cities have learned how sports tourism can amplify their existing tourist destinations.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the most visited destinations in the state and draws outdoor enthusiasts from around the globe who are interested in hiking, cycling, camping, fishing, horseback riding, white water rafting, canoeing, ziplining and more. Nestled in the foothills of the mountains, Pigeon Forge has earned a reputation for family fun through Dollywood and being one of the top places for those visiting the national park to stay.

In recent years, Pigeon Forge has also worked to establish itself as a destination for youth sporting events,

particularly baseball and softball, Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism Director Leon Downing said.

The area typically targets youth sporting events aimed at middle school-aged children, he said. A recent study the city conducted with CDM Smith indicated people spend \$7 billion traveling to youth sporting events nationwide, Downing said.

"Sports is turning out to be quite a positive thing for the city, and we are fortunate to have that in our tourism mix," Downing said. "It's been a natural evolution for us. The sports tourism industry is emerging all over the country."

Traveling teams from across the U.S. have long been coming to Pigeon Forge's Wear Farm City Park to compete in a wide variety of tournaments, including the SEAA World Series, at the park's 118 acre multi-purpose facility, which features five ball fields.

"Pigeon Forge is primarily a tourism destination, and we are fortunate of that because we don't have to bid to get teams to come here," he said. "They want to come here because we are a tourism destination."

Downing said the city's new Le-Conte Center has hosted thousands of youth cheerleaders and gymnastics for two separate tournaments. The \$45 million multi-purpose center features concourses, meeting rooms, custom concessions and an event hall with 100,000 square foot of space. This May, the center is set to host 96 basketball teams for a tournament, Downing said.

Pigeon Forge is also planning to expand its amenities for baseball and softball players and tournaments. Construction has begun on the Ripken Experience Program, a world-class baseball facility that will feature six lighted synthetic turf fields modeled after existing and historic major and minor league ball parks, including the Oriole Park at Camden Yards where Cal Ripken, Jr. played.

Plans for this facility – which is expected to open in 2016 - include a training area, batting cages, a 14,137-square-foot two-level clubhouse and a 2,749-square-foot concession/restroom building with an adjacent pavilion. The structure will not only be across from the LeConte Center but has been constructed with the Smoky Mountains as a dramatic natural backdrop.

Youth sports can be just as lucrative as major league sporting events in terms of tourism dollars, Downing said. These events can also bring people to the area nine months out of the year and an estimated 53 million youth participate in traveling events every year.

"We have no professional sports teams in Pigeon Forge, though Sevierville does have a minor league baseball team," Downing said. "We are fortunate that youth leagues want to come here because there are a lot of things for them to do. Both boys and girls events bring siblings, grandma and grandpa. Sometimes, the tournament trip gets combined with a family vacation. They only play two games a day, so when they aren't performing or playing, they are going out to enjoy all we have to see and do in the Great Smoky Mountains Region."

Looking ahead, Downing said the three cities of Sevier County are hoping to work together to help



The city of Crossville has used its 10 championship golf courses to help bring in tournaments and tourists for years. Crossville high school student Jordan Graham, right, took home a state title in 2014 at a state tournament held at the Golf Capital Classic at Lake Tansi.

broaden their opportunities for tour-

"We are very blessed to have all the resources we have here for families," he said. "This is a natural progression for Pigeon Forge and the folks in Sevier County. Gatlinburg opened their Rocky Top Sports World last year where they do basketball, soccer, lacrosse and football. The three cities of Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg and Sevierville work very closely together. We have had a lot of conversation about working together to attract regional and national events that we would use all three of our facilities together. That excites us, that we could do that someday."

Additionally, sports commissions and cities across the state have banded together to form a state orga-



In addition to bringing in visitors, the golf amenities in Crossville have helped create retirement communities and promote neighborhoods, like Lake Tansi Village.



Pigeon Forge's LeConte Center is a multi-purpose facility that has hosted cheerleading and gymnastics tournaments. It will soon be joined by a new baseball training facility, the Ripken Experience Program.

At right, Rocky Top Sports World recently opened in Gatlinburg. It is one of several facilities promoting sports tourism in Sevier County.

nization to help Tennessee promote and attract sports tourism opportunities

"The Tennessee Department of Tourism Development has created Play Tennessee Sports, an organization that brings the state together to go to shows and recruit sporting events tournaments," Downing said. "All across Tennessee communities are banding together for these national shows, where we go as a united Tennessee group."



Adventure tourism grants available through state

BY KATE COIL

Municipalities and counties are taking advantage of adventure tourism and a state program designed to help grow business in certain zones dedicated to this type of niche tourism.

Adventure tourism is a growing industry statewide and attracts visitors who are into a wide variety of outdoor activities, according to Amanda Stravinsky, a spokeswoman with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development.

'Visitors and residents find adventure everywhere in the state from biking and horseback riding in Shelby Farms Park Conservancy in Memphis to skydiving in Nashville, spelunking in Cumberland Caverns in McMinnville, hang gliding off Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga, experiencing rock climbing and many other outdoor activities through Outdoor Knoxville, and whitewater rafting the Pigeon River through the Great Smoky Mountains," she said. "In fact, the Ocoee River, located near Chattanooga in Polk County, was named No. 1 and the Pigeon River in Cocke County was named No. 3 as two of the most popular whitewater rafting rivers in the United States, according to the American Outdoors Association."

To help grow these opportunities, the state passed the Tennessee Adventure Tourism Rural Development Act in 2011. The act allows municipalities and counties to create districts where businesses related to tourism or hospitality can receive a \$4,500 tax credit for each new job they create. In order to qualify for the tax credit, businesses must create a certain number of jobs within three years of their launch and be located within the tourism zone.

"Adventure tourism is an industry gaining popularity throughout the world, and it is only fitting that Tennessee's abundance of natural resources would lend the ideal setting to support this segment of the tourism industry," Bill Hagerty, former commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, said earlier this year. "In addition to the business-friendly advantages our

state offers, we are proud to showcase Tennessee's innate geographical strengths in a way that will help generate job opportunities in rural areas of the state."

areas of the state."

Businesses located in tourism zones within Tier 3 counties must create 13 jobs while businesses in Tier 2 counties must create a minimum of 19 jobs. For businesses located in Tier 1 counties, 25 jobs must be created within three years. Businesses must also complete a jobs tax credit business plan and submit it to the Tennessee Department of Revenue.

Qualifying businesses include everything from hotels and motels to tourism-specific businesses like kayak and canoe rental companies, zip lining, biking and camping supply stores and other companies within the hospitality and tourism industry. Gas stations do not qualify.

A business that creates 25 jobs can receive up to \$112,500 in tax credits while the creation of 222 jobs earns \$1 million in tax credits. The tax credit goes against a business' franchise and/or excise taxes. Coun-

ties can also have multiple tourism districts as long as they are within commercially zoned areas.

In order to create these zones, cities and counties must pass resolutions approved by a two-thirds vote. Once the suggested zones are submitted to the Tennessee Department of Community Development, officials have 90 days to approve or reject the request.

There are currently 38 adventure tourism zones designated throughout the state in Anderson, Blount, Carroll, Grundy, Jackson, Maury, McMinn, Overton, Perry, Putnam, Roane, Scott, Union, Warren and White counties. Putnam and White counties have the most adventure tourism zones with six designated areas each.

The deadline for adventure tourism applications for 2015 was on April 15, and submissions are currently under review by the Tennessee Department of Community Development. Applications and more information about the program are available online at www.tn.gov/ecd/AdventureTourism.shtml.



PEOPLE

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) has announced the selection of Glenn



Anderson

"Andy" Anderson as the new director of the State Fire Marshalls Office (SFMO) Bomb and Arson Unit. Anderson has 28 years of law enforcement leadership experience and has served since August 2014 as the special agent in charge of the Nashville Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. A native of Middle Tennessee, he served from 2012 through 2014 as the ATF's Deputy Assistant Director for the East Region. He lives with his family in Spring Hill and began his new position on May 4.

Brentwood's **Betsy Crossley** was honored by *The Nashville Business Journal* with a 2015 Williamson County Impact Award. Honorees were nominated and then selected by a vote of their fellow nomintees. Crossley, who was recently re-elected to her third term on Brentwood Board of Commissioners, and the other nominees were honored during an awards banquet in April.

The Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission has selected Gerald Green as its new executive director. Green, a professional planner with decades of experience in East Tennessee and North Carolina, currently serves as the planning director for Jackson County, N.C., and was selected by Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett after a six-month search process. He was selected from a pool of 30 applicants for the position and will begin his duties on July 1, succeeding former MPC Executive Director Mark Donaldson, who retired at the end of 2014.

After 27 years with the city of Knoxville, engineer Brent Johnson will be moving to the private sector in July as the



Johnson

senior project manager directing water resource efforts for Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers. During his tenure with the city, Johnson designed new roads, managed the paving of existing roads, supervised traffic functions and surveying crews, protected the Turkey Creek wetland, and demolished the U.S. Pavilion to make way for World's Fair Park improvements. He administered the streetscapes upgrades on Main Street, the first Five Points Streetscapes improvements, and much of the Third Creek Greenway construction as well as illuminating lights to the Henley Bridge. One of his biggest projects was working as the city's point person in implementing first-time stormwater regulations - requirements of the 1987 amendments to the U.S. Clean Water Act, which Knoxville enacted by ordinance in the late 1990s. Johnson currently serves as the Tennessee delegate to the National Society of Professional Engineers and leaves the city as NPSE has named him as a Fellow in recognition of his service and professional contributions – making him just the 16th NSPE Fellow in Tennessee.

Murfreesboro City Attorney Susan Emery Mc-Gannon has announced plans for her retirement, effective Nov. 1, 2015.



McGannon

McGannon announced the decision to City council members and her legal staff this week. Ms. McGannon served as the Assistant City Attorney from 1992 until Oct. 2001, when she became the City Attorney of Murfreesboro. In the fall of 2014, McGannon was recertified as an International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) Local Government Fellow. In 1999, Ms. Mc-Gannon was the first Tennessean to be designated a Local Government Fellow by IMLA, and has been recertified as a Fellow three times. Prior to being hired as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Murfreesboro in 1992, McGannon practiced employment, risk management and municipal law and served as General Counsel for the Tennessee Municipal League Risk Management Pool.

Patricia Skates, the vice chairman of the Soddy-Daisy City Commission and a government and economics teacher at Ridgeland High School in Rossville, was recognized with the highest honor from the Chattanooga Bar Association. Dr. Skates was presented the Bar's annual Liberty Bell award in recognition for her career in teaching history, government and economics in both the Hamilton County and Walker County school systems. Skates was praised for her efforts to educate and involve high school students in civic affairs. Skates has helped register many high school seniors at the election commission, encouraged students to attend local government meetings and last year helped a Ridgeland High School team win a statewide stock picking contest. Skates was a teacher at Red Bank High School in the Hamilton County school system from 1988 to 2010 and has taught at Ridgeland High School since then.

Coopertown Police Chief Shane Sullivan has resigned after nearly three years with the department, citing health reasons. Sulli-



Sullivan

van's last day with the department will be June 30. He has spent nearly 20 years working in law enforcement, including 17 years working for teh Hickman County Sheriff's Office before becoming chief of the Coopertown Police Department. Coopertown Mayor Sam Childs said Sullivan's resignation is "a tremendous loss for the department" and that town leaders have already begun the search for a new chief, whom they hope to have in office by June 29.

High school civics test required for TN graduates

CIVICS from Page 1

where 100 percent of senior students receiving a regular diploma pass the test as a "United States civics all-star school" for that school year on the Tennessee Department of Education's web site.

Tennessee is not the only state to contemplate requiring civics tests for students, though most all states require civics classes in high school and half test students on civics as part of social studies testing.

High school students in Arizona, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah have to pass the U.S. Naturalization Test administered to immigrants seeking U.S. A study conducted recently by Xavier University found that while 97.5 percent of immigrants who take this test pass,

only two out of three U.S.-born citizens can do the same.

Bills proposing civics test requirements are still active in legislatures in Alabama, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina and Virginia. Bills requiring civics testing in Indiana, Iowa and Wyoming were defeated in February while one in Arkansas failed in March.

Many of these initiatives have been sponsored by the Joe Foss Institute, a non-profit institute promoting civics and history education in honor of the former Republican governor of South Dakota, American Football League President and National Rifle Association President Joe Foss.

Voters turn out in May to elect city leaders

Several city governments from across the state held local elections in May.

Some of the closer races to watch included the mayor's race in Jackson, where two-term Mayor Jerry Gist was challenged by several candidates including former state Sen. Lowe Finney. Gist held onto his position, earning his third term with 51.5 percent of the votes.

In Brentwood, five candidates were vying for four seats on the Brentwood Board of Commissioners. All three incumbents, Jill Burgin, Betsy Crossley, and Anne Dunn retained their seats. Newcomer Ken Travis picked up the fourth seat. Travis will replace Commissioner Rod Freeman, who chose not to seek re-election. The first meeting with the new commission was held on May 12, at which time Regina Smithson was chosen as the new mayor and Burgin was selected as vice mayor. Both the mayor and vice mayor are appointed by their fellow city commissioners for two-year

MAY ELECTION RESULTS Bells

Mayor: Joe M. Williams Aldermen (Top 5) Eric Jordan Dabney Long Bob Pigue John Pigue Scotty Runions

Dayton Council Member (Top 2) Bobby Doss

DunlapCity Commissioner
Seat A: Allen Jones
Seat B: Jeff B. Johnson

Jim Lewis

Gadsden
Mayor: Linda Milam
Aldermen (Top 4)
F. Scott Cole
Tommy Patterson
Lynn Reasons
Tracy Reasons Rinks

Hohenwald
Mayor: Danny McKnight
Council Members (Top 4)
Don Barber
T.J. Hinson
Rusty Isbell
Janet Turner

Jacksboro Aldermen (Top 2) Ray Green

Mattie Lou Nance

Jackson

Mayor: Jerry Gist
District 1: Vicky Foote
District 2: Johnny Dodd
District 3: Ernest Brooks II
District 4: Harvey Buchannan
District 5: Scott Conger
District 6: Charles "Pepper" Bray



In Jackson, incumbent Mayor Jerry Gist was re-elected to his position during the city's May 5 election.



Brentwood Commissioner Betsy Crossley is sworn in to serve her third term on the Brentwood Board of Commissioners.

District 7: Randy Wallace District 8: Charles Rahm District 9: David Cisco

Lewisburg
Ward 1: Steve Thomas
Ward 5: Nicholas Kyle Tipper

Maury City
Mayor: Rayce Castellaw
Aldermen (Top 5)
Billy Gibson
Fannie Malone
George E. Simmons
Danny Vaugh Sr.
Bobbie Williamson

Morristown
Mayor: Gary D. Chesney
City Council At Large: Ken Smith
City Council At Large: (2-year-term)
Tommy Pedigo
Ward 2: Chris Bivens

Ward 4: Dennis K. Alvis Sr.

Parkers Crossroads

Commissioner: John F. Simonton

Pigeon Forge Commissioner (Top 2) Kenny "Ken" L. Maples David W. Wear

Red Boiling Springs
Mayor: Tom Fultz
Council (Top 4)
Joel Ray Cole
Joe Hill
Joseph "Joe" Reardon
Lydia P. Lowe (two-year term)

Sevierville
Mayor: Bryan C. Atchley
Aldermen (Top 3)
Wayne H. Helton
Devin Koester
Travis L. McCroskey

Spring Hill
Ward 1: Chad Whittenburg
Ward 2: Matt Fitterer
Ward 3: Susan Zemek
Ward 4: Bruce Hull

Waverly
Mayor: W.B. "Buddy" Frazier
Ward 1: Daniel Collier
Ward 2: Bob Wheeler

Ward 3: Minnie Lou Warren



Handguns allowed in city parks

GUNS from Page 1

possess or carry a handgun within public parks, natural areas, historic parks, nature trails, campgrounds, forests, greenways, waterways or other similar public places owned or operated by a public or private educational institution, only if the handgun carry permit holder is also an active or reserve member of the armed forces acting in his/her official capacity with orders to carry a handgun, a civil officer of the U.S. acting in his/her official capacity, an officer or soldier of the national guard called into actual service, a state or local law enforcement officer acting in his/her official capacity, a ROTC student required to carry a handgun while acting in his/her official capacity, a private police officer employed by a higher educational institution or a registered security guard, acting in his/her official capacity.

Handgun carry permit holders are prohibited, however, from carrying or possessing a handgun in the immediate vicinity of any of the areas mentioned above when the areas are being used by a public or private school conducting an athletic event or other school related activity and the individual knows or should have known that a school athletic event or other school related activity is taking place in the immediate vicinity of the property or the property is owned or operated by a public or private school.

Again, the bill seems to indicate that once a handgun carry permit holder is informed or becomes aware that a school is having an athletic event or any other school related activity in the immediate vicinity of the property or that the property is owned or operated by the school, reasonable steps should be taken to leave the area where the event is being held or the property owned or operated by the school and failure to do so is a violation of the law.

Finally, Public Chapter 250 removes the statutory language that allowed municipalities to erect signs that addressed carrying weapons in parks and other public recreational areas. Section 6 of the legislation allows any department of state government to change, remove, or replace previously erected signs impacted by this legislation ahead of schedule, if the General Assembly, through the general appropriations act, provides funds to remove or replace the signs. However, the legislation does not authorize municipalities to replace signs. So, the removal of previously erected signs seems to be the only option municipalities have for purposes of complying with this legislation.

Since this bill was signed into law, municipal attorneys from across the state have been abuzz with questions related to how this bill is to be implemented. At this point, those details are still being worked out. But as municipalities work through the details, state leaders should take to heart the closing sentence in Gov. Haslam's letter explaining why he signed the bill, "I think it is critical going forward that we work together with local leaders to assess the impact of this law and that we all listen and respond to the questions and concerns of those leaders as they work to implement it successfully.'

Memphis joins the ranks of elite group of 4-Star sustainable communities

BY VAUGHN CASSIDY TDEC

Office of Sustainable Practices

Memphis-Shelby County now joins the ranks of an elite group of cities who have been named 4-STAR sustainable communities. The distinction comes at a perfect time as the area celebrated Sustainability Month in April with a variety of events from conservation hikes and park tours, county-wide cleanup activities, and a sustainability in business workshop.

This 4-STAR sustainable community award was given to Memphis by the Sustainability Tools for Accessing and Rating (STAR) Communities program. STAR is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., that works to evaluate, improve and certify sustainable communities.

STAR's rating system helps communities evaluate themselves across seven areas related to sustainability addressing goals of protecting and restoring resources; quality jobs and prosperity; a vibrant, diverse and connected culture; inclusion and access for all community members; a strong, resilient and safe community; quality jobs and prosperity; increased efficiency and less impact on the environment and quality, choice and access where people live, work and play. A 4-STAR rating recognizes communities for national excellence. Other 4-STAR communities include: Austin, Texas; Portland, Ore; and Washington, D.C.

Memphis-Shelby County received considerably high marks in innovation due to efforts such as the Mid-South Greenprint, the MEMFix model of activating public spaces, and the Green Prisons Initiative to improve energy efficiency and recycling in the Shelby County Corrections Center. In addition, in the past 5 years, Shelby County has seen increases of almost 10 percent in commercial green buildings and residential.

Memphis-Shelby County began their sustainability efforts in 2008 with the Sustainable Shelby Implementation Plan formed by Shelby County government, seven committees and professional urban planners working to establish a strategic framework for action. The Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability was formed in 2011 as a joint city/county agency to implement and oversee the plan.

"In 2008, county leadership saw the need to become strategic and intentional about sustainability," said John Zeanah, administrator for the Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability. "Many other organizations saw that same need and began pursuing it."

In 2012, Shelby County Government was awarded the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, about \$2.6 million, for the Mid-South Regional Greenprint and Sustainability Plan. The plan was guided by more than 300 people, representing 82 organizations from the Tri-state area, and incorporated public input from more than 4,000 residents. The plan includes a network of 500 miles of greenway trails and 200 miles of on-road connectors that link the Tri-state region, including connections to green spaces, employment centers, town centers, and areas of

interest for social equity.

"The Mid-South Regional Greenprint Plan has really brought the community together through a network of connected green spaces and trails," said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

From 2010 to 2013, Memphis doubled their miles of bike infrastructure from 62 miles to 133. By 2016, that number is expected to double yet again and reach nearly 300 miles.

Businesses and industries are also joining the movement. In April, Memphis hosted the first annual Earth Month Business Conference which emphasized sustainable packaging, sustainable purchasing, and recycling. The International Society of Sustainability Professionals opened a chapter in Memphis and conducted their first meeting following the conference.

Memphis and Shelby County have also seen innovative sustainability efforts from the community, including in the field of historic preservation. In early 2014, a group of city residents developed a plan to save the historic Tennessee Brewery that was set to be demolished later that year. The action plan to show the community and developers the potential for the site was called Tennessee Brewery Untapped. It called for



Bike lanes have increased dramatically since 2008.



The green connectors allow avid bikers more access.

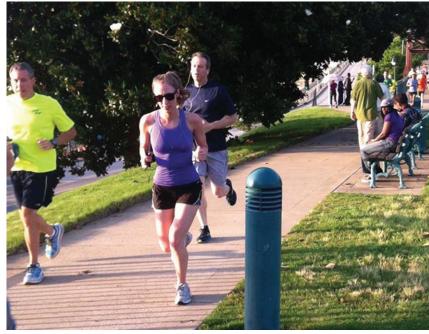
reactivating the space as a six-week temporary beer garden. The project received national recognition as it allowed citizens and visitors a way to preserve the building and appreciate its historic value. Since 2000, there has been a 57 percent increase in the number of structures designated as local historic landmarks, added to districts, or rehabilitated in Memphis.

Another organization sprouting up from the sustainable movement includes GrowMemphis, a non-profit community organization which helps communities in Memphis-Shelby County to promote a sustainable local food system. Grow-Memphis, through work within the Greenprint, has developed an online map to help Memphians locate locally grown food, get advice on creating their own community garden, and network with others that share the same interests. GrowMemphis leads the Food Advisory Council for Memphis and Shelby County.

Activities held or being held during April's Sustainability Month included the national Neighborhood Redevelopment Conference that talked about innovative approaches to neighborhood redevelopment and community building; an environmental playhouse and tours at the Botanical Garden; a healthy food festival; a Wolf River Conservancy Fundraiser; a conference about sustainable building products; garden

workshops; electronics recycling, paper shredding, and a celebration at Overton Park to name a few.

There's certainly reason to celebrate in Memphis-Shelby County as the area is one of only nine nationally recognized as a 4-STAR community.



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STATE BRIEFS

TBI reports increase in murders

A report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shows the number of reported murders across the state increased by nearly 10 percent last year. The TBI's "Crime in Tennessee" report does not give an explanation for the rise in murders. The report compiles data from law enforcement agencies across the state. The TBI says there were 375 murders reported in Tennessee in 2014, an increase of 9.9 percent from the previous year. Domestic violence offenses continued to make up 51 percent of all crimes against people, the report says, but the number of domestic violence murders in Tennessee decreased last year to 83, which is down three from 2013. Police arrested 26,810 for DUI in 2014, a slight increase from 2013. Weapon law violations decreased by 2.5 percent.

30,000 students qualified to participate in TN Promise

More than half of the original pool of Tennessee Promise applicants are still eligible for the scholarship program, according to data released by Gov. Bill Haslam's office. About 31,500 students have met the Promise requirements, attending two mandatory meetings and filing for federal aid, according to preliminary data that includes students from 84 of the state's 95 counties. More than 58,000 high school seniors initially applied for the scholarship that covers tuition at Tennessee's community and technical colleges. But officials expect most of them will end up leaving the program to pursue four-year degrees or other options. Officials say the retention rate has surpassed their projections for the program's first year. The program didn't exist 12 months ago, and now there are more than 30,000 students on track to go to college tuition-free.

Legislators may move from Legislative Plaza

Tennessee lawmakers are mulling a move out of their underground office complex to a building next to the Capitol that until recently was designated for demolition. Gov. Bill Haslam's administration last year reversed course on an earlier decision to raze the Cordell Hull office building, and this year included \$40 million in the state budget to renovate the building. State lawmakers cite space concerns for offices and committee rooms in the current space, and note the cost of ongoing maintenance problems. Legislative Plaza last underwent a \$14 million overhaul in 2007 to try to halt water damage from fountains and trees located on the roof of the structure. Plans to construct a new office building for the Legislature were abandoned in the 1990s amid escalating cost estimates.

TBR plans for smallest tuition increase in years

The Tennessee Board of Regents which includes MTSU, Tennessee State and the state's community colleges — is planning for its smallest tuition increase in the past decade. In recent year, TBR has often raised its average tuition by more than 5 percent. In 2011, tuition increased 8.8 percent, according to TBR data. But the preliminary budget this year plans to keep tuition hikes at its schools under 4 percent. The biggest reason, according to Chancellor John Morgan, is that the state has allocated more money this year to colleges and universities, which means less of the financial burden is falling on students."In several of the prior years, we actually had reductions in state funding," Morgan says. "We had some fairly high numbers in some of those years." Morgan stresses this more moderate tuition increase is still preliminary. TBR's finance committee is meeting again at the end of the month, when it's expected to finalize tuition rates.

State park recognized for Star-

A Tennessee state park known for its natural rock formations and rustic cabins is gaining a worldwide reputation for its stargazing. The International Dark Sky Association recently named Pickett State Park a Dark Sky Park in recognition of the park's exceptional nighttime beauty. Also named was the Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area, just 1.5 miles from Pickett. The combined property will be known as Pickett-Pogue International Dark Sky Park. Pickett

State Park and Pogue Creek State Natural Area are on the Cumberland Plateau near the Kentucky border, about 13 miles north of Jamestown, Tenn., and 20 miles south of Monticello, Ky. Both areas received a silver-tier rating, the intermediate ranking between gold and bronze. "As one of the few dark areas left in Tennessee, we believe in preserving the dark sky for future generations," said Brock Hill, Tennessee deputy commissioner for Parks and Conservation. "The park worked hard to preserve and protect the dark sky values, and we're excited about the potential for this designation.

Boom in small-business lending

Lending to small businesses in Tennessee is going through the roof. According to figures from the Small Business Administration, SBA loans in the state are up more than 50 percent compared to last year. Through March, financial institutions have lent \$181 million among 300 SBA loans in Tennessee, according to the SBA. With SBA's October to September fiscal year, these figures provide the halfway point for SBA lending in 2015. SBA loans are just one piece of the options available for smaller companies seeking financing (the government guarantees a sizable portion of the credit risk so the bank doesn't shoulder all the exposure in case of default). Increased activity on the small-business lending front statewide suggests business confidence is growing. That's a good sign for banks, but also the economy as a whole.

"Nashville" renewed for fourth season

ABC announced its plans to renew the primetime drama "Nashville" to a fourth season. The state of Tennessee has already earmarked \$8 million to keep filming of the country music drama local. In total, the state has allocated \$16 million to the Department of Economic and Community Development's film and television incentive fund, \$8 million of which has been flagged for ABC's primetime drama. Metro Nashville has earmarked \$500,000 in its next budget.

School Board refinances bonds, saves state \$13 million

The Tennessee State School Bond Authority (TSSBA) has closed a bond deal that will save the state \$12.9 million while also helping to finance construction projects at Tennessee colleges and universities. The TSSBA was able to take advantage of its strong credit rating and favorable market conditions to refinance outstanding bonds with lower interest rates. Those rates will result in additional savings over time. The bonds are revenue bonds that will be repaid with the revenues – such as parking and dormitory fees – that are generated by the projects that are being financed. Revenue bonds are different than general obligation debt this is repaid with taxpayer dollars. The School Bond Authority sold \$75 million in 2015 Series A taxable bonds at a true interest cost of 2.85%. The bonds included \$31 million in new money and \$44 million in refunding bonds. The refunding will save the state's higher education institutions more than \$3.5 million. The School Bond Authority also sold \$389 million of 2015 Series B tax-exempt bonds at a true interest cost of 3.39%. The bonds included a refunding that refinanced \$134 million in par amount of bonds, resulting in a \$9.4 million in savings to the institutions. . "This allowsTennessee's higher education institutions to not only move forward with important projects, but once again, it has resulted in a substantial savings," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson. "Conservative fiscal management has set Tennessee on the path to long-term success."

TDEC, MTSU announce partnership to address water, wastewater workforce demands

Tennessee will need 45 percent more water and wastewater operators in the next five years

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) announced a partnership that will expand individual opportunities for earning course credit and certifications through TDEC's Fleming Training Center in Murfreesboro, online, and at other statewide locations.

"Fleming Training Center offers cutting-edge technology and advanced classes in a variety of water areas. Having qualified candidates for these jobs is essential for protecting public health and the environment." TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau said."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the water supply and sanitation sector is expected to experience an employment growth rate of 45 percent in coming years due to regulations, infrastructure growth, security, and customer demands.

"Water and wastewater operators in Tennessee have completed extensive training through the Fleming Training Center in order to be certified," said Brandon Hulette, director of the Fleming Training Center. "This partnership will allow MTSU to recognize the level of expertise certified operators in have acquired."

MTSU officials say this is a comprehensive plan that provides degree paths for both traditional age students preparing to enter the workforce for the first time and for adult learners who are already in the water and wastewater industries.

Under the partnership, the traditional college pathway will be a four-year degree program on the MTSU campus with a major in Environmental Sustainability and Technology with a concentration in Water Resource Management. The program, administered through MT-SU's College of Basic and Applied Sciences, is designed to meet the unique knowledge base and skill set needs of water resource operators.

'We're preparing these students for careers, not just jobs." said Robert "Bud" Fischer, dean of the MTSU College of Basic and Applied Sciences."

The nontraditional pathway may include a degree completion program utilizing previous college work, college credit for prior learning, college credit for military experience and college credit for professional certifications These elements can go toward completion of a customized bachelor's degree that meets the student's career objective.

"The link between the knowledge and training taught at our colleges and universities and the career opportunities and workforce needs in our state is stronger than ever before, and this program is a commendable example of the partnerships that drive success," said Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor John Morgan.

Under the agreement, MTSU will also provide opportunities for TDEC Fleming Training Center students to utilize required training toward a degree through MTSU's Prior Learning Assessment process; individual academic advising for TDEC Fleming Training Center students: a free, one-hour "first course" that will help TDEC Fleming Training Center students make the transition back to school; and a scholarship amount equal to the tuition for the final course or \$1,000 (whichever is less), for students who maintain consecutive term degree progress (five courses a year regardless of term) and maintain a "C" average GPA.

"This collaborative effort is a perfect example of the innovation that Tennessee needs in order to meet the Drive to 55," said Mike Krause, executive director of the Drive to 55 in the Office of Governor Bill Haslam. "We commend MTSU for continually seeking ways to contribute to the community and the state."



TDEC's Fleming Training Center and MTSU, both located in Murfreesboro, are working together to offer degree paths in the water and wastewater field, including a four-year degree in Environmental Sustainability and Technology with a concentration in Water Resource Management.

New birds of prey exhibit at Rador Lake State Park



Park ranger Sam King with a red-tailed hawk.

A great horned owl, a black vulture and a bald eagle are the stars of the new Barbara J. Mapp Aviary Education Center that just opened to the public at Radnor Lake State Park.

The new exhibit features six aviaries with another one to be added soon and and that will be big enough for two bald eagles to fly within it. These birds have been injured, found, treated and then given a permanent sanctuary because of a lingering disability, such as a blind eye or a broken wing that won't heal.

"None of these birds would make it a

week back in the wild," said Steve Ward, park manager of Radnor Lake State Natural Area.

So far, \$850,000 has been invested to make the aviary possible, including a \$310,000 grant and

another \$25,000 in operating funds from the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation. Efforts continue to raise another \$100,000 to construct the flying aviary. Once built, it will rise 37 feet high, be 80 feet long and 60 feet deep.

TIGER grant applications open; due June 5

Cities can now begin the application process for FY2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants. \$500 million is available for grants in the current round.

TIGER grants allow cities and towns across the nation to leverage federal government seed money and pair it with local resources to transform their communities. Since the program's creation as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, over \$4.1 billion has been

invested in road, rail, transit, and port

projects. Potential grant recipients must pre-apply for the current grant round by May 4, 2015 at 11:59PM EDT. The Grants.gov federal grant portal began accepting applications May 5, and final applications are due no later than June 5, at 11:59PM EDT.

For more information, including informational webinars about applying for a TIGER grant this year, visit the Department of Transportation's TIGER site.

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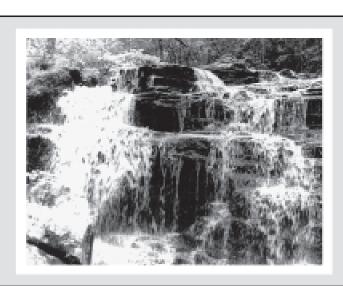
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UNION CITY. This is inspection work in building control and construction. The building inspector is responsible for the enforcement of the building code adopted by the city. Responsibilities include monitoring storm water control methods on construction sites and in new sub-division developments, flood plain management and development in the city flood prone areas. Applicant must be graduate of a standard high school or GED equivalent, hold active State of Tennessee certifications in building, plumbing and mechanical. For a complete job description notify: Lisa Chambers - lisag@ci.unioncity. tn.us or mail to resume to: City of Union City, PO Box 9, Union City, TN 38281

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

LAFOLLETTE. The City of LaFollette is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of City Administrator. The selected candidate will serve as the administrative head of the City government and oversee day to day operations and is responsible for supervising all department heads. Minimum qualifications shall include a college degree or training and experience in municipal management of public administration. The Mayor and Council desire a person with skills in budgeting and financial management. The applicant should also have good public relation skills, as well as good oral and writing communication skills. The applicant should have experience and knowledge in the application for and administration of state and federal grants. The applicant should also have the ability to deal with personnel, public safety and long range planning. Salary and benefits to be discussed during candidate interviews. Qualified candidates should submit applications and/or resumes before June 30, 2015 to: The City of LaFollette, City Administrator Position, Attn: Human Resources, 207 South Tennessee Ave, LaFollette, TN 37766

CITY RECORDER/FINANCE **DIRECTOR**

MCKENZIE. The city of McKenzie is accepting applications for a city recorder/ finance director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of the financial activities of the City related to but not limited to: budgeting, accounting, purchasing, tax collections, grants etc. The employee is also responsible for a broad range of administrative and support related functions. The employee must attend all governing body board meetings and workshops. This position requires strong supervisory, organizational, financial oversight, budgeting and communication skills. Applicants should have 5+ years in municipal accounting experience. Local Government software experience is a plus. Must either be a CPA, or certified CMFO or be able to obtain CMFO certification within 2 years. Submit by mail a cover letter, current resume with salary history and at least three professional references to: Mayor Jill Holland, City of McKenzie, 2470 Cedar St. P.O. Box 160, McKenzie, TN 38201 Salary is commensurate with experience. The city of McKenzie complies with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination, and reserves the right to reject any and all bids and /or waive any formalities in the solicitation process. Position profile is available at: www.cityofmckenzie.gov. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. May 29, 2015.

COMBINATION INSPECTOR II

BRISTOL. Under general administrative direction of the Code Administrator, the purpose of the position is to perform responsible professional, technical, and

administrative work in relation to inspection activities and regulatory standards for permitting and licensing approval of residential and commercial building construction throughout the city. Employees in this classification perform at high professional skill level, and are responsible for enforcing adopted city ordinances and codes; the inspection process, assessing, evaluating and enforcing adherence to and compliance with all applicable city, state and federal code and regulatory requirements regarding new and existing construction. The overall objective is to ensure the safety, health and general welfare of the general public and business community. High School Diploma or GED required; supplemented by three to five years related inspection experience; or an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. Must be certified as a Residential Combination Inspector and Commercial Combination Inspector by the International Code Council. Must possess a valid Driver's License. Salary: \$37,400 Yearly Please submit an application to Human Resources Department, 801 Anderson Street, Bristol, TN 37620 or to P. O. Box 1189, Bristol, Tennessee 37621-1189. An application may be submitted on-line and a benefit summary can be obtained at: www.bristoltn.org. EOE. The position will remain open until filled.

COMBINATION BUILDING INSPECTOR

KNOXVILLE. The city of Knoxville is currently accepting applications for a Combination Building Inspector. SALARY range is \$41,249 -\$63,746 annually (DOQ). Under general supervision, responsible for inspecting construction work for compliance with regulatory building, mechanical, plumbing and electrical codes. Responsible for interpreting and enforcing building, mechanical, plumbing and electrical codes; conducting comprehensive building inspections; consulting with building contractors; maintaining building inspection records; and maintaining good public relations with the citizens of Knoxville. Minimum requirements include high school diploma or GED equivalent; a minimum of five years of experience in general building construction with general knowledge of the mechanical, plumbing and/ or electrical trades; possession of or ability to obtain a Class D Tennessee State Driver's License; must obtain State of Tennessee Building Inspector Certification within the probationary period; must obtain State of Tennessee Mechanical Inspector Certification within two years of hire; must obtain State of Tennessee Plumbing Inspector Certification within two years of hire; registered with the State of Tennessee as Electrical Inspector within three years; ability to become a Municipal Enforcement Officer (unarmed) within the probationary period. To apply, go to www. cityofknoxville.org. Applications MUST be submitted online by 4:30 p.m. on: Friday, May 22, 2015. EOE / Drugfree workplace. Drug testing may be required.

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION BRISTOL

The city of Bristol is currently accepting applications for a director of administration. Salary range is \$61,825 - \$95,175 DOQ, plus excellent benefits. The current director is leaving after six years. The position reports to the city manager. Must be a proven manager with excellent communication and team-building skills. Responsible for all human resource functions as well as the departments of risk management, information technology, and purchasing. Demonstrated success in public management. At least five years' experience as a human resource manager or general public administration or equivalent. Bachelor's degree in related field required, master's preferred. To view the position profile, go to: http:// www.mtas.tennessee.edu/web2012. nsf/CityAdminWeb/1143266F-291431D985257E42006ACD06/\$FILE/ dirofadmin_bristol_2.pdf.Send resume by June 1, 2015, to City Manager Bill

Sorah, Attn: Director of Administration Applications, City of Bristol, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN 37620. Phone: (423) 989-5501. Or email to: resume@bristoltn.org.

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

GOODLETTSVILLE. The city of

Goodlettsville is currently seeking a

progressive, experienced and customer-driven professional to fill the position of Director of Planning and Development Services. The city is a full service community located only 12 miles from downtown Nashville. The position will supervise and manage the department including major functions of planning, zoning, building safety, permit administration, plan review, code compliance, property maintenance compliance and transportation planning. The position will be responsible to serve as a professional adviser to the Regional Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals; administer the implementation of zoning and subdivision regulations within the city; exhibit a service orientation toward customers and maintain effective and productive working relationships; resolve difficult and sensitive inquiries, complaints and requests for services from the development community and the public; direct the development and administration of the department budget; ensuring compliance with the provisions of the approved budget; research and compile statistical, demographic, or administrative data pertaining to department projects: analyze data and identify trends; develop and explain revisions to regulatory ordinances; ensure departmental compliance with all applicable codes, laws, rules, regulations, standards, policies and procedures: ensures adherence to established safety procedures. Minimum qualifications are eight to 10 years of experience in management of a multi-functional regulatory agency servicing the development and construction community, including five to seven years at a supervisory level, and a bachelor's degree in urban planning or closely related field required. Preferred qualification would be: American Institute of Certified Planners certification (A.I.C.P.), in combination with registration with appropriate professional organizations and Residential & Commercial Building Inspector certification. Any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience that provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job, may be substituted for Preferred Qualifications at the discretion of the hiring authority. The city offers group medical, dental, life and long-term disability insurances; paid holidays, vacation and sick leave; Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) and voluntary deferred compensation plan. The starting salary is expected to be market competitive in a range of \$62,103 to \$75,275, depending on the experience and qualifications with the pay grade maximum being \$95,506. A full job description maybe viewed. All interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter along with five personal and five professional references to: Human Resources Department, 105 South Main Street, Goodlettsville, TN 37072, no later than 4:30 p.m. on June 5, 2015. Email: humanresources@cityofgoodlettsville.org

INSPECTOR IV - SENIOR ELECTRICAL

FRANKLIN. The Franklin Building and Neighborhood Services Department has a vacancy for an Inspector IV- Senior Electrical. Please see the full job announcement and submit an online application at www.franklintn.gov/jobs. Deadline to apply is open until filled. Salary: \$23.95/ hr- \$26.07/hr The city of Franklin is an EOE/Drug-free Workplace

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

BRISTOL, TENN & BRISTOL, VA. Salary range \$63K - \$78K, DOQ plus excellent benefits. 35 employees and \$2.2M budget shared by both cities and other sources. 350K/yr. circulation and 300K/yr. gate count. Past Director served 13 years. Position answers to a 13-member Board. Full service library, plus one branch, serving the twin cities of both states. Must be a proven manager with excellent communication and team-building skills. Demonstrated success in library operations, finance, community interface, leadership and strategic planning. At least eight years' experience as Library Director/Assistant or equivalent. ALA accredited Master's degree in Library and Information Science required. Position Profile and Job Description can be viewed at: https://drive.google.com/ open?id=0B7AERE1_ulRgX3dlaFhzZ-TRacVFacGhqWDlMQjhreERJSlpr&authuser=0. Send resume by May 20, 2015, to: resumes@bristol-library.org

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

COORDINATOR BRENTWOOD. The city of Brentwood is currently accepting applications for the position of Traffic Operations Coordinator. The purpose of this job is to manage the day to day operation of the City's Traffic Operations Center (TOC) and assist the Public Works Director in planning, coordinating and budgeting for the improvements to the City's traffic signal and Intelligent Transportation systems. Duties and responsibilities include operating and maintaining all equipment in the TOC, maintaining all data and reports generated through the TOC, identifying and solving problems related to signal operations throughout the City and performing inspection and maintenance on all signal equipment and ITS components. The salary for this position 47,500 - 52,500 + DOQ plus excellent benefits. The City of Brentwood is an equal opportunity employer. A full job description and application is available at www.brentwood-tn.org to be submitted to hr@brentwood-tn.org.

WASTEWATER TECH I

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for Wastewater Tech I. A full job description detailing the purpose, functions, responsibilities, and minimum qualifications, training, and experience is available on our website at www.cityofwhitehouse. com. Starting hourly rate of \$11.50 depending on experience. Applications may be obtained by visiting our website or at the Human Resources office located at 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188. Applications should be returned to the Human Resources office or faxed to 615-616-1058 or emailed to abrewton@cityofwhitehouse.com. Application Deadline: Open until filled. EOE.

COMING

May 30: TSLA Surveying Tennessee's Digital Resources workshop. Held in the auditorium of the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m., located at 403 Seventh Avenue North, directly west of the State Capitol in downtown Nashville. Some free parking is available around the building. led by Assistant State Archivist Wayne Moore and TSLA staff members Jessica Short and Genny Carter, will provide hands-on training and helpful tips for sorting through photographs, documents, maps, postcards, film, audio and other original materials of cultural and historical significance. Workshop is free and open to the public, but reservations are required due to limited space. To make a reservation, call (615) 741-2764 or e-mail workshop. tsla@tn.gov.

May 31-June 3: GFOA's 109th **Annual Conference** Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. Sessions cover topics on accounting, auditing, and financial reporting; budgeting; capital planning and economic development; debt management; financial management; pension and benefit administration; and treasury and investment management. Go to GFOA's website, for more information. www.gfoa.org

June 18: 7th Annual Power of 10 Regional Summit, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, Nashville, TPAC's Polk Theatre. A 10-county summit focusing on shared future for regional transportation, land use, transit trends, the region's priorities and next steps.

Oct. 13-14: 2015 Governors Conference on Economic and Community Development, Nashville Convention Center at the Renaissance Hotel. www.govcon. tnecd.com.

November 4-7, NLC Congress of Cities, Nashville Music City Center. Registration is open! www. nlccongressofcities.org

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL LEAGUE **STAFF**

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John Holloway, Government Relations Debbie Kluth, Director of Marketing / Member Services

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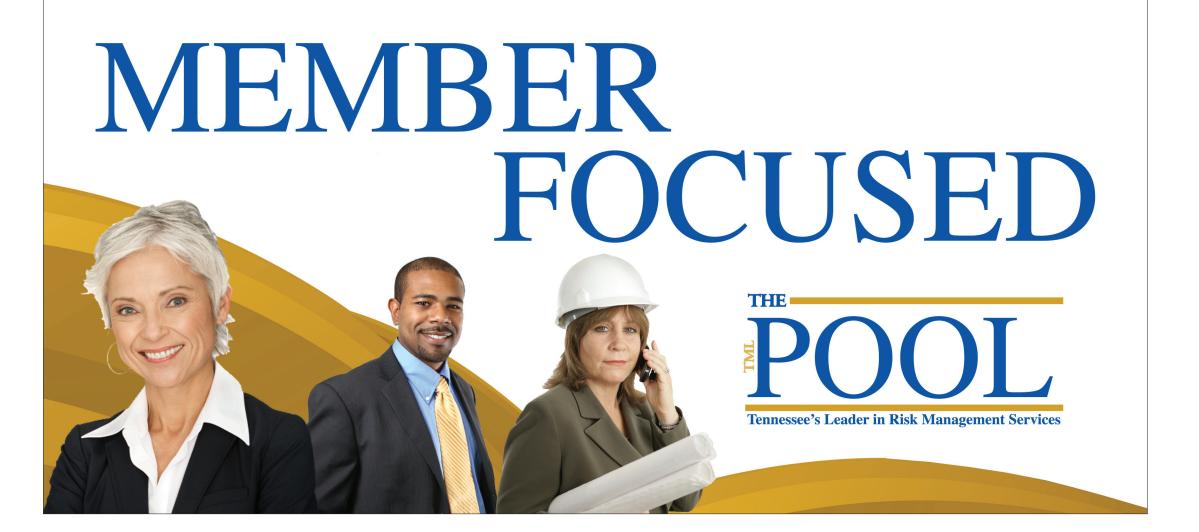
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MEETING OF TML BOARD OF DIRECTORS JUNE 6

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the TML Board of Directors will meet in regular session on Saturday, June 6, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. local time in the Music City Ballroom, Level 2 of the Nashville Renaissance Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before the Board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling TML's office at 615-244-6416.

MEETING OF TMBF BOARD JUNE 6

Notice is hereby given that the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board of Directors will meet in regular session on 2015, at 10:30 a.m. local time in the Ryman Room, Level 2 of the Nashville Renaissance Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before the Board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling TMBF office at 615-244-6416



Tennessee Municipal League 2014-2015 Officers and Directors

PRESIDENT Tom Rowland Mayor, Cleveland VICE PRESIDENTS **Curtis Hayes** Mayor, Livingston John Holden Mayor, Dyersburg Ann Davis

Mayor, Athens **DIRECTORS Andy Berke** Mayor, Chattanooga Randy Brundige Mayor, Martin Roger Campbell

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Richard Driver

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Vice Mayor, Athens (District 3) Madeline Rogero Mayor, Knoxville

Paula Sedgwick Alderman, Bartlett (District 8) **Charles "Bones" Seivers**

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Councilmember, Murfreesboro A.C. Wharton Mayor, Memphis

PAST PRESIDENTS Dale Kelley (2014) Mayor, Huntingdon Ken Wilber (2013) Mayor, Portland Kay Senter (2012), Morristown Council Sam Tharpe, (2011) Councilmember, Paris Tommy Green (2007) Mayor, Alamo Bob Kirk (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg AFFILIATE DIRECTORS

Dot LaMarche, Vice Mayor, Farragut (NLC) Janice Casteel, Cleveland (TCMA)

TML AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

(Ex-Officio Directors) Tennessee Assn. of Air Carrier Airports Tennessee Building Officials Assn. Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police TN Assn. Municipal Clerks & Recorders Government Finance Officers Tennessee Fire Chiefs Assn. Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Tennessee Association of Floodplain Management (TN AFPM)

Tenn. Assn. Housing & Redevel. Auth. Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Assn. Tennessee Municipal Judges Conference Tenn. Chapter, American Public Works Tennessee Recreation and Parks Assn. Tennessee Chapter, American Planning Tennessee Personnel Management Assn Tennessee Assn. of Public Purchasing TN Section, Institute of Transport Tennessee Public Transportation Assoc. Tennessee Stormwater Association Assn. of Independent and Municipal Schools

Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC)

TML ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

5 STAR SPONSOR Bank of America 4 STAR SPONSOR

Servpro Disaster Recovery

3 STAR SPONSOR First Tennessee Bank

2 Star Sponsor Alexander, Thompson, Arnold CPAs Alliance Water Resources Ameresco, Inc. Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc. **Buxton Company** Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC Energy Systems Group Fessenden Consulting Group **lbtelematics** Master Meter, Inc.

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Missed an Issue?

Waste Industries USA, Inc.



Read it On-line at www.TML1.org

Associate Profile

VC3: IT & private cloud services providers specializing in local government needs

VC3 is a dynamic, southeast based managed IT and private cloud services provider that specializes in serving local governments. Headquartered in Columbia, S.C., with an office in Tennessee, VC3 supports the technology needs of over 150 local governments in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia.

VC3 provides clients with a broad selection of IT solutions, supported by more than 90 employees. With 21 years of experience working with local governments and a highly qualified team of professionals, VC3 is prepared to accommodate the IT needs of your organization.

VC3 is the Strategic Technology Partner for the Municipal Association of South Carolina and the North Carolina League of Municipalities. These organizations have chosen



VC3 to assist them in offering the best possible technology solutions to their regions. Years working with local governments have given VC3 a level of insight into the needs of small to medium sized municipalities that is not found in many other tech companies.

VC3 has been on the leading edge of Information Technology since 1994, providing a full range of IT services including, but not limited to, managed IT services, private cloud services, hosted VoIP, custom web applications, SharePoint consulting, and website design &

hosting. VC3 is committed to using industry leading products from vendors such as Cisco, Microsoft, and Dell, to give you the best possible technology solutions to suit your individual needs, and is a recurring recipient of the CRN Tech Elite 250 award.

VC3 has recently opened an office in Tennessee. John Crawford is the account executive for Tennessee. and lives and works in the Nashville area. He can be reached at 615-669-7929, or by email at john.crawford@

VC3 will be attending the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Conference and Expo June 7 and 8. We are located at Booth 317 in the Exhibit Hall. Exhibit times are 10 am – 5 pm on Sunday June 7, and 8 am - 2 pm on Monday, June 8. Please stop by...we look forward to meeting you!



NATIONAL BRIEFS

For the first time in more than 20 years, the homeownership rate in the U.S. has fallen below 64 percent, the U.S. Census Bureau announced this week. The seasonally adjusted 63.8 percent rate is far below the 69 percent rate just 10 years ago — a time when homebuying may have been the easiest for Americans. Census data shows homeownership rates for individuals aged 35 to 44 are falling the fastest — from a high of almost 67 percent in 2009 to little more than 58 percent this year. As for the regions with the highest homeownership rates, the Midwest comes out on top with 68.6 percent, followed by the South with 65.1 percent. The West brings up the rear with a 58.5 percent homeownership rate. There are 133.5 million homes in this country as of the first quarter, up about 500,000 from the same time last year. There are fewer homes vacant today than in 2014, primarily because many homeowners are now renting out their homes, according to the government's numbers.

The U.S. economy added a solid 223,000 jobs in April, according to government data released earlier this month, a key sign that the labor market is regaining its footing after taking a slide earlier this year. The unemployment rate fell to 5.4 percent, a seven-year low. In 13 of the last 14 months, the nation has added at least 200,000 jobs, a period of hiring unmatched in 15 years. But starting this year, the pace of job growth took a modest step back. And in March, it cratered, with only 85,000 positions created — the worst showing since June 2012. Economists now say that the hiring slowdown was likely influenced by a West Coast port strike that choked off supply lines and by a severe winter that kept shoppers and construction crews indoors. At least one clear sign of the hiring bounceback: the construction industry added 45,000 jobs in April, its best mark in more than a year, after losing 9,000 in March.

AAA Travel projects 37.2 million Americans will journey 50 miles

or more from home during the Memorial Day holiday weekend, a 4.7 percent increase from the 35.5 million people who traveled last year and the highest travel volume for the holiday in 10 years. AAA Travel says 33 million travelers will drive to their destinations. The Memorial Day holiday travel period is defined as Thursday, May 21, to Monday, May 25. Most drivers will likely pay the lowest Memorial Day gas prices in at least five years. Today's national average price of gas is \$2.66, \$1.00 less than the average price on Memorial Day last year. The 4.7 percent increase over Memorial Day 2014 is the highest forecast growth rate for any of the holidays tracked by AAA since Independence Day 2012. More than 88 percent of travelers (33 million) will travel by automobile, an increase of 5.3 percent over last Memorial Day. Holiday air travel is expected to increase 2.5 percent to 2.6 million leisure travelers. Travelers will encounter higher lodging costs this year, while airfares are

down slightly compared to 2014.

THE UNIVERSITY of

IENNESSEE **U**

To register for a course, go to

www.mtas.tennessee.edu, or

fax to 865-974-0423. Credit

card payments must register

online with the Solution Point

System: http://www.solution-

point.tennessee.edu/MTAS or

For registration assistance, call

865-974-0413. Or for more

information, contact Kurt

Frederick, training consultant,

by invoice.

at 615-253-6385.

Advisory Service

FESTIVALS

June 5 - 7 Blue Plum Festival

An estimated 80,000 folks will converge on downtown Johnson City over the course of three days to enjoy music, arts, food and so much fun! Now in its 15th year, the event was first created for the purpose of showcasing the continuing improvements in downtown Johnson City, highlighting businesses in the community that support revitalization efforts, and to bring together regional artists to show their wares, and provide a line up of nationally recognized Americana entertainment in an outdoor, downtown setting. For more information go to http://www.

blueplum.org or Email: Whitson@

June 6: Coopertown

johnsoncitytnchamber.com

Barrel Festival and Barrel Fest 5-Mile will be held for the third time from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to focus on the rich heritage of Coopertown and crown the "Cooper of the Year" at its annual contest. The town will offer free admission, parking and shuttles for attendees. The festival serves as a community-wide fundraiser to help define the town and areas within the Coopertown Historic District. Contact city hall at 615.382.4470 or visit www.barrelfestival.com for more information.

June 6: Franklin

The Franklin Kids Arts Festival of Tennessee at Pinkerton Park from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. This new festival is free and open to the public. The Festival will offer many opportunities for school-aged artists of Franklin, and surrounding communities, including: A juried art exhibit, hand-crafted art for sale, stage performances, master classes, art stops to experience and create unique art, and more! For additional information, applications, and deadlines visit the website at www. franklintn.gov/fkaft.

June 12 - 13: Oak Ridge

The Secret City Festival celebrates 13 years of family fun, great entertainment, arts & crafts, and commemorates the incredible history that makes Oak Ridge unique. Join in as they honor the men and women who built this community and helped end the greatest war mankind has ever known. This award-winning, 2-day event includes live music and entertainment, WWII living history activities and demonstrations; Oak Ridge history exhibits, arts and crafts, and tons more.

June 13: Greeneville

The Windows to the Past Festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on West Depot Street. The event's Antique Market will feature numerous vendors. Admission is free. The event is a project of the Greene County Heritage Trust. For more information, contact Andy Daniels at 423-639-2626 or andkdaniels@ gmail.com.

UT-MTAS TRAINING CLASSES

CMFO-GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING II

This class focuses on the proprietary and fiduciary funds using accrual accounting. It presents an overview of the conversion process needed for compliance with GASB Statement 34.

Dates & Locations

May 20: Memphis City Hall May 21: Collegedale City Hall May 26: Nashville CIS Training Room

Time: All workshops will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 CST/EST

GRANT MANAGEMENT 101

This course will cover the basic steps to writing or applying for grants and then complying with state and federal grant requirements.

Target Audience: CMFOs, Elected Officials, City Recorders, Finance Directors, Municipal Accountants and others interested in the budget process

Dates & Locations June 10: Knoxville June 16: Jackson June 17: Franklin

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Morristown closed a \$20 million loan for sewer system upgrades.



The city of Martin recently closed is 23rd loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$650,000.



See us for your special projects needs. (615) 255-1561



Be sure to visit the TML Marketplace at TML's Annual Conference June 7-8 at the Nashville Convention Center

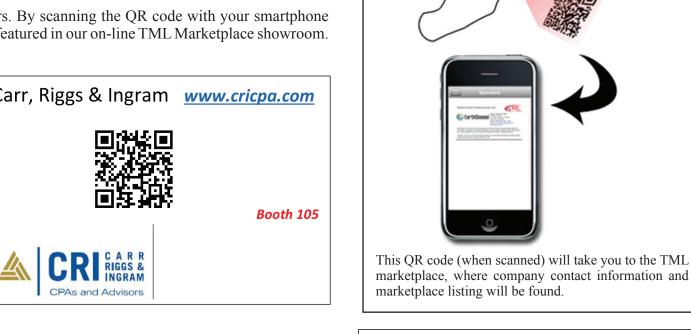
The Exhibit Hall will be open Sunday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and on Monday, June 8, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The TML Annual Conference is fast approaching and the Exhibitor's Program plays a significant role in the entire conference experience. The services and products presented by the Conference Exhibitors help city officials solve problems and serve their community. Many city and town officials look to convention exhibitors for the latest information about the techniques, products, and services their municipalities need.

Be sure and check out some of this year's highlighted vendors. By scanning the QR code with your smartphone app, you can learn more about each company listed below and featured in our on-line TML Marketplace showroom.













Use QR Code Scanner App To Open Marketplace Ads













City Showcase highlights innovative programs

The City Showcase celebrates successful, creative programs from cities and towns from across the state.

(CH 1) Unicoi's "Community Kitchen," where residents can use the commercial-grade equipment to can foods for sale at local and regional markets. The goal is to support the regional economy in value-added agriculture, nutrition, and community development.

(CH 2) Johnson City's "Tweetsie Trail," a railsto-trails project that travels the former ET&WNC ("Tweetsie") railroad right-of-way between Johnson City and Elizabethton. The trail provides opportunities for walking, hiking, running, biking, etc. on a relatively flat grade in a beautiful, natural setting. When complete, the 10-mile trail will be the longest rails-to-trails project in Tennessee.

CH 3) Manchester's Parks and Recreation Department and community-wide health iniatives with a long-term, community-wide effort to measurably improve the health of its residents.

(CH 4) White House's all-inclusive handicapped playground donated to the city by Miracle Recreation and built in honor of two brothers with an inspiring story - Conner Long, 10, and his brother Cayden, 8, who was born with spastic cerebral palsy. The playground features about 15 pieces of equipment, rubber turf for easy mobility, and a large shaded area.

(CH 6) McKenzie's preservation and revitalization of their downtown through new development strategies, hosting more community events, and funding historic restoration projects as part of the new vision for the city.

(CH 5) Savannah's award-winning Tennessee Street Park project that spans six-acres, and features two age-appropriate playgrounds with ADA accessible features, two splash pads, two large pavilions suited for events and reunions, and a paved quarter-mile walking trail. The top-notch neighborhood park, has not only introduced a new way of life to the community, it is projected to increase community involvement, build citizen interactions and reduce crime in the future.





SATURDAY, JUNE 6

3 - 5 pm **TML Board Meeting** Music City Ballroom Renaissance Hotel, Level 2

3 - 6 pm Registration Information Desk, Level 3 Nashville Convention Center

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

10 am - 5 pm Registration 10 am - 5 pm **Exhibit Hall Open**

Information Desk Level 3. NCC Exhibit Hall, West NCC

Room 201

10:45 -11:30 am TML Sponsor Presentation: TN Drug Card Savings for your Residents and Employees

Speaker: Natalie Meyer, Tennessee Drug Card

Help the residents of your community and the employees of your municipality save on their benefits and medication costs. This presentation will discuss the ongoing rise in prescription costs and how to manage those costs.

11:30 am - 2 pm **TCMA Lunch Meeting**

12 - 1:30 pm Exhibit Hall, West **Buffet Lunch**

12 - 1:30 pm J.R. Wauford & Co. Ice Cream

Exhibit Hall, West

1:15 - 2 pm

TML Affiliate Presentation Exhibit Hall, West TCAPWA: Music City Center's Green Roof

Speaker: Brian Tibbs AIA, Moody-Nolan Inc The Music City Center, located in the middle of Nashville's thriving downtown, has many sustainable features built into its construction, including the development of a175,000 square foot green roof – the largest green roof in the Southeast. Come learn about some of its award-winning features including:reduction of stormwater runoff; a water reclaim tank; and a natural habitat for plants, insects, and wildlife.

1:15 - 2:15 pm Workshop I

Room 214 & 213

Change Management

Speaker: Gary Jaeckel, MTAS Management Consultant

In an organizational context, just hearing or reading the word "change" is sufficient to create stress and cause staff to worry about their jobs. Today, however, change is constant, and leaders who anticipate change and react rapidly and responsibly are successful. This session will explore the effects of change and what leaders can do to help employees effectively deal with the change.

1:30 - 2:15 pm **District Meetings**

District I Room 102 Chris McCartt, Asst. to the City Manager, Kingsport District 2 Room 103

Roger Campbell, Asst. City Manager, Maryville Room 104

Bo Perkinson, Vice Mayor, Athens Room 105

Hoyt Jones, Alderman, Sparta District 5

Richard Driver, Mayor, Lafayette

District 6 Room 109

John Hickman, City Manager, Waynesboro Room 110 & 111 District 7

Vance Coleman, Mayor, Medina

District 8 Room 106

Paula Sedgwick, Alderman, Bartlett

2:30 - 3:45 pm **Opening General Session** Speakers:

East-Center Ballroom Renaissance Hotel

Room 108

- Clarence Anthony, NLC Executive Director Federal Issues Update
- Jon Meacham, Acclaimed Author & Historian The Art of Leadership: Lessons from the American Presidency



Jon Meacham

Pulitzer Prize-winner Jon Meacham will explore what 21st-century leaders can learn from the greatest moments of our past. This presentation — non-partisan in content and tone — ranges from Jefferson's pragmatism to Jackson's management of public opinion to JFK's capacity to recover from his own mistakes to the management of conflicting egos as shown by Reagan and FDR. Meacham discusses how history can influence the decisions all of us make every day in positions that demand creative and innovative solutions.

4 - 5 pm

Workshop 2 Room 209 & 210 Understanding the Threat of the Sovereign Citizen

Speaker: Laurie Wood, Deputy Director, Investigations & Training, Southern Poverty Law Center

The strange subculture of the sovereign citizens movement, whose members hold complex anti-government beliefs, has been growing at a fast pace since late 2000. Sovereigns believe that they - not judges, juries, law enforcement or elected officials — get to decide which laws to obey and which to ignore. They disavow federal authority but are evolving to oppose any authority including law enforcement stops, city court, and payment of property taxes. This workshop will help to identify their subtle techniques of opposing authority and how you and your staff should respond.

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Workshop 3 Room 208

Annexation Update & other Key Issues Speaker: Chad Jenkins, TML Deputy Director

Over the past two years, the Tennessee General Assembly has passed new requirements that significantly impact municipalities' ability to annex property. This workshop will bring you up-to-date on where things currently stand and what's still pending for next year.

Room 213 & 214 Workshop 4

Performance Assessment/Succession Planning Speaker: John Grubbs, MTAS HR Consultant

This informative session will introduce a model that shows how to analyze staffs' methods and behaviors and see how well they match with organizational goals. It will also help identify key staff competencies, which is helpful when succession planning.

6- 8 pm **Host City Reception** Music City Center **Grand Ballroom**

Room 103

MONDAY, JUNE 8

8 - 8:45 am Exhibit Hall, West Continental Breakfast Information Desk, 8 am - 2 pm Registration / Exhibit Hall Level 3, NCC 8 am - 5 pm

9 - 10:15 am

TMAA Meeting

Second General Session East-Center Ballroom

An Update on State Issues . Kevin Triplett, Tourism Commissioner

David Purkey, Homeland Security Director

Sen. Jim Tracy, Transportation Chair Kent Starwalt, Transportation Coalition of Tennessee

Tourism, homeland security, transportation funding - come with questions for our state's top leaders as they update us on key issues of interest.

10:30 - 11:30 am **Concurrent Workshops** Workshop 5

Room 209 & 210 Lessons Learned from Ferguson, Mo.

Speaker: Steve Anderson, Metro Police Chief

Tensions between police and the citizens they serve continue to concern Americans, as illustrated in the latest incident in Baltimore. Chief Steve Anderson won national acclaim for his and the Metro Police Department's handling of protests in Nashville following the unrest in Ferguson, Mo., setting an example for the nation when they chose to take a cooperative approach to local protesters rather militarized crackdowns employed



Chief Anderson

by other police departments. As a result, no violence, looting, or vandalism took place. Chief Anderson will discuss strategies and policies he has employed, including reaching out to wide cross-sections of the Nashville community to establish a level of trust before problems arise.

Workshop 6

Where Are You Coming From? Gaining Perspective on Others' Perspectives Speaker: Dr. Scott Paine

We live in an era in which basic facts as well as fundamental beliefs about important public issues are in dispute. And the anonymity afforded by social media often distorts the real truth. As city leaders, how do we understand and deal with the polarization and "mob



Room 211& 212

Dr. Scott Paine

mentality" taking place in our society, which ultimately impacts our decision-making process?

Workshop 7 Room 208 Can Cities Beat the Fiscal Odds? Speakers: Christy McFarland, NLC Research Director & Dr. Matt Murray, UT-CBER, Associate Director

As the economy continues to show promising signs of recovery, cities remain cautious about their fiscal condition. They continue to face rising costs of services, stark infrastructure needs, employee obligations, and omnipresent state and federal funding cuts, all the while operating at 90 percent of their pre-recession revenues. Balancing local budgets in this environment is an ongoing process of revenue and expenditure choices that affect the types, levels and costs of services provided in a community. This workshop will examine municipalities' revenue raising authority and whether cities can beat the fiscal odds and not only balance budgets, but lay the foundations for fiscal and economic growth.



Christy McFarland



Dr. Matt Murray

Workshop 8 Internal Controls and Fraud Room 213 & 214 Speaker: Ralph Cross, MTAS Finance Consultant

This session covers best practices for internal controls and the elected official's responsibility and oversight for them. Consequences of the lack of internal controls will be discussed.

11:30 - 12:15

TML Affiliate Presentation Exhibit Hall, West

TN Parks & Rec: Community Gardening Speakers: Chelsey Smith, Community Garden Project Manager, & Candi Rawlins, CPRE, CAE, IOM, Executive Director

Join TRPA for a look into the world of community gardening and how your community can get free training and resources.

II:45 am - I2:30 pm

Annual Business Meeting Room 208 Presiding: Tom Rowland, TML President, Cleveland Mayor Executive Director's Report: Margaret Mahery Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Report: Charles "Bones" Seivers, President & CEO

The Pool Report: Dawn Crawford, President

12 – 1:30 pm MTAS Advisory Lunch 12:30 - 2 pm **Buffet Lunch**

I-2pm

Room 105 & 106

Exhibit Hall, West

Exhibit Hall, West

2:15 - 3:15 pm **Concurrent Workshops** Workshop 9

J.R. Wauford & Co. Ice Cream

Room 209 & 210 Cyber Security: Why Transnational Enterprises want to Target my City?

Speaker: Scott Augenbaum, Special FBI Agent Is information technology a strategic asset or is it a liability and are organizations taking the necessary precautions to keep their information secure from cyber criminals? The faceless nature of cybercrime and global interconnectivity allow transnational organized criminal enterprises, foreign intelligence services, and hacktivists groups to target U.S organizations. When some of the largest businesses in the United States fall victim Agent Augenbaum



to data breaches it should be a wakeup call that securing information from cyber criminals needs to be the highest priority. Augenbaum will discuss the persistent and sophisticated threat from cyber criminals, and will offer insight into evolving threats, strategies for responding to threats and attacks, and how to safeguard and protect your organization's data.

Room 211& 212 Workshop 10 From Division to Decision: How We Can Get Things Done? Speaker: Dr. Scott Paine

Taking action is easy when we all agree on the goals and the best methods to achieve them. But what can we do when we don't have agreement on either? Learn some very practical ways of thinking and acting to build coalitions of divergent interests and perspectives to get things done.

Workshop II Room 208 The Mayors Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness

Panelists: Sernorma Mitchell, director, Nashville Field Office; Ed Ellis, director, Knoxville Field Office; and John Gemmill, director, Memphis Field Office

The goal of ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 is within reach, but will require the partnership and commitment of each community to get the job done. Through the Mayors Challenge to EndVeteran Homelessness, mayors and other state and local leaders across the country will marshal Federal, local, and nonprofit efforts to end Veteran homelessness in their communities. To date, 17 cities throughout the state of Tennessee have signed on to this challenge. Come learn how you can join the Mayor's Challenge and publicly commit to ending Veteran homelessness in your community.

Workshop 12 Financial Red Flags

Room 213 & 214

Speaker: Kay Stegall, MTAS Finance Consultant

This session will identify and discuss red flags that financial statement readers should notice and be concerned about.

3:30 - 4:30 pm **Concurrent Workshops** Workshop 13

Room 211 & 212

Disaster Recovery & Pathways to Preparedness Speaker: Josh Smith, ACCP, J.D., Agility Recovery

What would you do if a fire, flood, server malfunction or health pandemic occurred at your office? If you had 15 minutes to evacuate, what would you take and where would you go? How would you continue to serve your community? Are you prepared? This workshop will discuss practical ways to prepare any organization for interruptions. These straight-forward and simple to implement steps could mean the difference between surviving a disaster and giving in to one.

Workshop 14 Creating Jobs through Entrepreneurship & Rural Development Panel Presentation: Amy New, ECD Rural Development, and Lamont Price, TnInvestco director

Tennessee has a strong tradition of entrepreneurship with some of the world's largest companies founded and based here. Launch Tennessee was created to continue and expand on these efforts of attracting new capital to Tennessee, creating new jobs, and diversifying the state's economy through the development of "innovation clusters." LaunchTN has built a network of small-business accelerators around the state. Each targets a group of specific industries, and all offer access to a growing network of investors and mentors. In addition, the Depart. of Economic and Community Development has created a new division to focus on rural development and to "double down" on ECD's efforts in Tennessee's rural communities.

Workshop 15 Room 213 & 214

Debt Management Update

Speaker: Ralph Cross, MTAS Finance Consultant

This session will address key points of the Local Government Public Obligations Act of 1986 (TCATitle 9 Chapter 21) and will cover the past two years of legislative changes affecting

Workshop 16 Airbnb & Uber:

Room 103 & 104

How the Sharing Economy Drives a Host of New Regulations Speakers: Lora Fox, Terri Costonis & Margaret Darby,

Metro Nashville Law Department The impact of the sharing economy (and companies like Uber, Lyft, and Airbnb) on innovation, economic development, as well as public safety and implementation considerations is forcing cities to weigh the pros and cons of these non-traditional services. How can cities meet their governing obligations while positioning themselves as innovative places to live, work and visit? The workshop, offered by the Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association, will feature members of the Metro Nashville Law Department, who have recently drafted ordinances to address the myriad of issues cities are facing with these new start-up industries.

6:30 – II pm The Pool Party

West-Center Ballroom

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

8 - II am East-Center Ballroom Annual Awards Breakfast

Speaker: Gov. Bill Haslam