



Harvey made landfall as a Category 4 Hurricane with winds of 130 mph near Rockport, Texas. In a four-day period, many areas received more than 40 inches of rain. Houston, the nation's fourth largest city, received a record amount of 52 inches.

Hurricane Harvey has many asking:

How hard is it to evacuate a major populated city?

BY J. BRIAN CHARLES
Governing Magazine

It's the million-dollar question in disaster planning: Do you order a city to evacuate before a hurricane hits land, or do you tell residents to shelter in place?

The question has been before big-city leaders several times in recent years, and it was the question Houston faced as Hurricane Harvey barreled toward the fourth largest city in America.

Mayor Sylvester Turner decided not to order an evacuation, a decision that's come under scrutiny since the storm landed, flooding large swaths of the city and leaving thousands of people stranded on top of their water-filled homes. Texas

Gov. Greg Abbott, on the other hand, urged people the day the storm made landfall in the Houston area to leave, adding to the political fallout from Turner's decision.

But even as rain continued to fall and levees began to break that eventually prompted evacuations, the mayor defended his decision.

"You cannot evacuate 6.5 million people within two days. You cannot. That would be chaotic... you would be putting people more in harm's way," Turner said in a news conference following the storm.

Houston's history has taught them as much.

In 2005, Hurricane Rita struck Houston just weeks after Hurricane Katrina pummeled New Orleans. See **HARVEY** on Page 7

TN municipalities urged to take Local Government Fiscal survey

This year the Fiscal Review Committee of the state legislature is conducting a survey of all local governments throughout Tennessee. Its purpose is to gain valuable information regarding municipal structure and fiscal matters to aid in the construction of fiscal notes in the coming legislative session.

In 2013, Fiscal Review conducted a similar survey of local officials across the state. It is time to update the data which was collected four years ago. Survey answers will equip the Fiscal Review Committee with the tools and information needed to accurately reflect how potential legislation could impact each and every city across the state.

While 17 survey questions have potential follow-up questions, this survey contains a maximum 101 questions. You may save your survey answers and return to them at a later date, if needed. Simply click "Resume Later" at the bottom left of the survey. To return to the survey, click on the original survey link and select "Load unfinished survey." Survey link: <http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/survey/index.php?sid=95674&lang=en>

What is the Fiscal Review Committee?

The Fiscal Review Committee was created by statute in 1967 as a special continuing committee of the General Assembly. The Committee itself is comprised of six senators and nine representatives, elected by members of the Senate and House of Representatives respectively as well as the chairman of the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee of each house. In addition, the speaker of each house serves as ex officio members. Within Fiscal Review Committee's support staff, there are several different types of analysts to tackle the many different topics and subjects of legislation. There are three economists, an accountant, one attorney, two local government analysts, as well as analysts who are experienced in various topics such as health care, education, and correction.

What are fiscal notes?

A fiscal note is a document that details each bill's fiscal impact on state and local government. Fiscal notes help the General Assembly

and governor meet two constitutional requirements: a balanced budget and an estimate of first-year's funding of new legislation. These documents tell the General Assembly how much a particular piece of legislation will cost, or how much revenue it will generate for state and/or local government. A fiscal note is issued for each general bill and most resolutions. It begins with a brief description of the filed legislation, states the estimated fiscal impact of the legislation, and provides a detailed explanation of the estimated fiscal impact of the legislation if enacted.

What's the process for writing a fiscal note?

First, a bill is introduced by a member of the General Assembly. That bill is then sent to the Fiscal Review Committee where the bill is assigned to a specific analyst. The analyst then contacts state or local government agencies potentially impacted to assess any potential costs or revenue. The analyst reviews the impact information provided by the agencies and conducts independent research. After research and analysis are complete, the analyst will create a draft fiscal note for the legislation. After the fiscal note is drafted, internally reviewed and approved, it is then published.

Why are fiscal notes important?

It is imperative that fiscal notes be attached to all proposed legislation to provide the General Assembly and governor with an accurate picture of how the legislation will fiscally impact state and local government. Receiving up-to-date information is crucial in the production of accurate fiscal notes, as fiscal notes are only as good as the information analysts receive. In the completion of the local government survey sent by Fiscal Review's local government analysts, city officials are helping to equip the state legislature to see a clear picture of how proposed legislation will affect local governments in Tennessee.

For questions, or if you would like to see an example of how the data is utilized, contact Jessica Himes 615-532-9892, Jessica.Himes@capitol.tn.gov or Meagan Jones, 615-741-9509 Meagan.Jones@capitol.tn.gov.

Tennessee's first Rural Mayors' Day to honor leadership on the local level

BY KATE COIL
TML Communication Specialists

On Monday, Oct. 2, Tennesseans will celebrate the state's first-ever observance of Tennessee Rural Mayors' Day.

Signed into law by Gov. Bill Haslam in May as Public Chapter No. 176, the measure was introduced by House Transportation Chairman Barry Doss, R-Leoma. Doss said the idea for the observance came from a young constituent who wanted to honor his own city mayor, Pulaski's Mayor Pat Ford.

"There was an eight-year-old young man named Landon Bracey who just idolizes his mayor, Pat Ford," Doss said. "He came to me and said 'We have a Mother's Day, a Father's Day, a Children's Day – and he listed off several others – so why can't we have a Mayor's Day?' And I told him we can. I thought there was a lot of wisdom in this young man."

Sen. Joey Hensley, R-Hohenwald, sponsored the senate version of the bill and said many mayors in smaller communities aren't always recognized for their hard work.

"Representative Doss and I felt it was a good thing to have a special day dedicated to these rural mayors, especially since we represent a lot of rural cities," he said. "Mayors can be recognized anytime, but having the governor proclaim that day as officially as Rural Mayors' Day adds some support to it."

Doss said there are nine rural mayors in his district governing towns ranging from populations of



Rep. Barry Doss



Sen. Joey Hensley

14,000 to 300.

"I work with all of these mayors on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis," he said. "They do a lot of work for their respective communities, and it's not for the money. I think that the public doesn't realize how much work mayors put into running their city. Most of the time they get more complaints than they do pats on the back. We have 345 cities in this state, and if you take out the top 20 or so mayors, that is a lot of rural mayors. They rarely hear someone say 'thank you for what you're doing.'"

Hensley said local mayors are often an important resource for state lawmakers.

"We work with our local mayors a lot, and they work so hard to do what is best for their cities," he said. "We depend on them at the state level to know what is best for their cities and their local area."

Both lawmakers emphasized that most of the time mayors do not get credit for the day-to-day

operations that keep their cities running smoothly.

"The mayors hear from their constituents about water issues or sewer issues on a day-to-day basis," said Hensley. "I know our mayors in our smaller cities and towns can't go to a store without someone bending their ear about something. A lot of the time they are not even compensated for the time they spend on the job."

Doss said that even if working as their municipality's mayor is a full-time job, most mayors are on the job more than just from nine to five.

"I have mayors in my district who spend many, many hours working for their city, and they don't get paid for about one month of what they do," he said. "It's a huge sacrifice for someone to want to serve their city or to put their head on the chopping block. I think of Elkton Mayor Carolyn Thompson who has been to Nashville. See **MAYORS** on Page 4

Cookeville PD becomes second in nation to equip officers with epinephrine kits

BY KATE COIL

The Cookeville Police Department has become the first department in the state and second in the country to equip officers with epinephrine pens.

Used to treat severe allergic reactions, the epinephrine kits – better known by the brand name EpiPen – allow officers to treat victims of anaphylactic reactions. The Cookeville Police Department became the first department in the state to adopt the use of epinephrine kits following several 2016 pieces of legislation aimed at making the kits more widely available.

Cookeville Police Chief Randy Evans said officers keep the kits in their vehicles in case they arrive on the scene of a medical emergency.

"There seems to be a trend that more and more children are diagnosed with severe allergies," he said. "Sometimes, the administering of epinephrine is the difference between living and dying. At any given day at any given time, there might be 10 police cars in the city of Cookeville on the streets. Rarely do ambulances or rescue trucks get out and patrol, so sometimes we are the first on the scene."

Evans said the idea for the kits came from Cookeville City Councilman Dr. Chuck Womack, who worked with state lawmakers to push the measure allowing officers to carry epinephrine kits.

Public Chapter No. 801 – initially sponsored by Rep. Ryan Williams, R-Cookeville, and Sen. Paul Bailey, R-Sparta – authorized law enforcement agencies to administer epinephrine in emergency situations. The kits can only be administered by trained officers with a healthcare prescriber or pharmacist writing prescriptions for the law enforcement department. The bill also protects officers and prescribing pharmacists from civil liability. The Tennessee Pharmacists Association worked with lawmakers to create the measure.

Just like with naloxone and AEDs, Evans said officers have to be trained on the use of epinephrine before they can carry it that



Epinephrine kits, like the one seen here, can sometimes be the difference between life or death for those suffering from anaphylactic shock due to an allergic reaction. Cookeville has become the first city in Tennessee and only the second in the country to equip its officers with the kits.

includes watching videos, learning about side effects of the medication and completing a proper application of one.

Womack has experience with allergic reactions both as a medical doctor and an allergy sufferer. He told the *Cookeville Herald-Citizen* he has experienced 13 reactions requiring the use of epinephrine, including a life-threatening one in January of 1990.

"If we can spend a few hundred dollars to have the capability to save lives, it's a good thing to have," Womack told the *Herald-Citizen*. "With a few bucks, it's the difference between life and death."

Anaphylaxis most frequently occurs in those who are allergic to certain foods, including milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish, crustacean shellfish, and sesame. According to the nonprofit Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE), an estimated 15 million Americans – including around 5.9 million children – suffer from a food allergy. Roughly 1 in 13 children suffer from some food allergy and 30 percent of child sufferers will suffer from multiple food allergies.

On average, a person in the



Dr. Chuck Womack
Cookeville Councilman

U.S. is hospitalized every three minutes for an allergic reaction and 200,000 people a year in the U.S. require emergency medical care for allergic reactions to food, according to FARE. Most allergic reactions to food occur outside the home.

"Not every child is on top of their allergies, and for every allergy, there is always a first time to have a reaction," Evans said. "Sometimes neither the child nor parent do not know that the allergy exists until the child comes in. See **KITS** on Page 2

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



ATHENS

The city of Athens is moving forward with a splash pad project at Athens Regional Park, which will be funded largely through a grant the city received from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The splash pad complex will be 3,400 square feet with a 2,400-square-foot play area. Water elements will be push-button activated and include different spray elements that can be interchangeable. It will be deactivated at dusk. The city is using a \$150,000 Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant for the project, which requires a \$150,000 local match. The matching funds will be coming from the city and the Athens Parks Foundation, who is contributing \$75,000 of the total. The splash pad was part of the original design for the park's playground in 2005.

BRISTOL

The Bristol Fire Department recently received accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), an arm of the Center for Public Safety Excellence and provides the only accreditation program for fire service organizations in the world. This internationally recognized program promotes a comprehensive self-assessment and quality improvement model that enables organizations to examine past, current, and future service levels and measure internal performance through comparisons to current research and industry best practices. CFAI awards accreditation to fire and emergency services organizations that have met or exceeded all performance indicators from the program model. Less than 1 percent of fire departments in the United States have achieved CFAI accreditation, and Bristol becomes only the fifth career fire department in Tennessee to do so as they join Alcoa, Brentwood, Kingsport, and Maryville.

FRANKLIN

The Franklin Police Department has begun equipping officers with Naloxone to help reverse the effects of opioid overdoses. The department purchased 168 doses of the medication for \$6,300 with several doses distributed to known risk area work stations, particularly the lab and evidence work rooms in the Franklin Police Headquarters. In addition to saving the lives of citizens, Franklin Police Chief Deborah Faulkner said the medication has been known to save officers who unknowingly come into contact with dangerous substances during the course of investigations.

GALLATIN

The Gallatin Economic Development Agency (EDA) has received a special judges award from the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) along with top honors for its annual marketing book and a magazine ad designed by the agency. The Gallatin EDA competed against 151 entries and was one of six entrants honored with a special judges award. The award was for physical presentation for an entry that combined all the ways the agency is using the city's new logo and brand print message. The entry included the EDA's adaptation of the new logo for use with economic development, retractable banners, new letterhead and business cards, table

covers, billboards, and promotional items. The Gallatin EDA also won top awards in its division for a magazine ad featuring a hand-engraved barrel on a Beretta hunting rifle and for its annual marketing book, this year titled "True Success. Amazing Opportunities." The SEDC is the oldest and largest regional economic development association in North America with members representing 17 states in the south. The association presents communications awards annually.

KNOXVILLE

The city of Knoxville will spend nearly \$5 million for upgrades to the 1982 World's Fair site and its former convention center. The Knoxville City Council recently approved \$3 million for renovations to the World's Fair Park and \$2 million for the former Knoxville Convention Center. The goal of the upgrades is to help create an outdoor venue that can accommodate big-name acts. The city is also working with an unnamed entertainment company as part of the redevelopment. In addition to concerts, the space will also allow the city to host sports activities and other large-scale events.

NASHVILLE

International healthcare technology company Philips will be bringing 800 new jobs to the greater Nashville area. The company will be co-locating its key business functions within commercial operations, customer service operations, finance, human resources, information technology, marketing, procurement, and quality and regulatory at a new center of expertise in the Nashville area. By consolidating into one U.S.-based location, Philips can better assimilate current and future acquisitions more efficiently, standardize business processes and systems, and build a strong, scalable organization for the future, while continuously improving its customer experience. Philips is a division of Netherlands-based Royal Philips, founded in 1891. It is one of the largest electronics companies in the world and employs around 105,000 people across more than 60 countries.

SMYRNA

NFI, one of the largest third-party logistics providers in the nation, has leased a 622,830-square-foot distribution center in Smyrna's new Airport Business Park. The company will invest approximately \$7.2 million and create nearly 170 jobs in the next five years. The Cherry Hill, N.J.-based firm will be handling work for Lowe's Home Improvement and is expected to start operations by the end of the year. NFI already works in Middle Tennessee handling work at Aerostructures' Nashville aircraft parts plant and for global flooring company Tarkett USA Inc. in Murfreesboro. The 622,830-square-foot building is one of two warehouses Dallas-based Hillwood Investment Properties is developing on 75 acres near the Smyrna/Rutherford County Airport. A second, 301,000-square-foot building in

Cookeville Police Department second in nation to equip officers with epinephrine kits

KITS from Page 1

contact with that substance that triggers the allergy."

Womack wrote the prescriptions for the Cookeville Police Department and used a coupon to equip the police vehicles with epinephrine, costing about \$655 total, paid for by the Cookeville Regional Medical Charitable Foundation, which also provides the kits used in the local school system.

Evans said having the kits gives his officers one more tool for protecting citizens.

"We all became police officers to help people," he said. "Being present at the scene and not being able to help – especially in what is a potentially life or death situation – is very difficult to rectify in one's mind."

Cookeville officers already

Hendersonville hosts Japanese visitors



The city of Hendersonville recently welcomed 25 representatives from Tsuru, Yamanashi, Japan, which has served as Hendersonville's sister city for more than 34 years. A group of 20 middle school students and five junior chamber of commerce representatives from Japan visited Hendersonville between Aug. 10-13, staying with local host families and experiencing what Hendersonville has to offer. A delegation from Hendersonville will travel to Tsuru in July 2018 with a group of eighth grade students to learn more about life in Japan. The exchange program is overseen by the Tsuru-Hendersonville Friendship Committee, a non-profit organization.

the first phase of Airport Business Park is expected to be completed within a month

SMYRNA

Franke Foodservice Systems will be expanding its operations in Smyrna, investing \$11.6 million and creating 67 new jobs. The food service industry equipment manufacturer is part of the Swiss-based Franke Group and is a leading provider of comprehensive systems and services for the global food-service industry. It employs more than 1,200 associates worldwide, and manufactures and distributes a wide variety of kitchen equipment and supplies from a number of facilities in the U.S., Europe and Asia. With this expansion, Franke will consolidate both its commercial food equipment for container shipments, commercial shipments and its coffee machine retrieval, programming, testing, and shipping operations for the North American market. In addition to the consolidation, a new separate building will be constructed for a showroom for residential kitchen items to include sinks, ovens, faucets, hoods and cooktops.

TULLAHOMA

The Tullahoma Fire Department has earned an Insurance Service Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification of 2. This new designation required additional improvements in training, staffing, water supply, communications and other areas. The ISO evaluates the capacity of a fire department to respond to and fight structure fires for property insurance purposes. On the scale, one is the best. Prior to the new classification, Tullahoma was rated an ISO Classification of 3, a designation held for the last four years. Research completed by Municipal Technical Advisory Services shows that Tullahoma property owners will collectively save approximately \$144,000.00 on insurance premiums for one and two family dwellings. This does not include the commercial savings. The rating was the result of the partnership between the Tullahoma Fire Department, Tullahoma Utilities Authority, and the Coffee County Consolidated Communications Center. The Tullahoma Fire Department earned additional ISO credit for the free smoke alarm program and fire safety educational program with the local school system.

Columbia unveils mural honoring local firefighters



The city of Columbia recently unveiled this mural at the Columbia Fire Department No. 1 at South Garden Street/Carmack Boulevard to honor the 150 years of service by the city's fire department. Georgia-based artist Michael Colley created the mural at the behest of the Columbia Arts Commission to both honor the service and history of the city's fire department as well as bring a piece of public art to one of the city's most traveled areas. The mural will become part of a memorial park honoring local firefighters. The park will eventually include sidewalks, picnic tables and a gazebo.

Chattanooga cuts ribbon on long-awaited city park



Photo by Erin O. Smith/Chattanooga Times Free Press

Residents, local politicians and community leaders participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Southside Community Park in Chattanooga. The park is located at the former site of Charles A. Bell Elementary School, which closed in 1989 and sat vacant until 1991, when it was demolished. Residents had long advocated for the site to be turned into a community park to cater to the city's Alton Park neighborhood.

Kingsport celebrates 100 years with Centennial Park



Photo by Rick Wagner/Kingsport Times News

Kingsport residents continued to celebrate the city's 100th birthday with the opening of the new Centennial Park. The park features a splash pad as well as a circular walk around the splash pad that highlights Kingsport's milestones and a wall of tile representing the city's transportation history. Students from the city's Lincoln Elementary and Dobyns-Bennett High School made the tile displays on the side of the park's restrooms and pump house building. The students also helped Kingsport Mayor John Clark cut the ribbon for the new park. A "Spirit of Generosity" sculpture, including a life-size Santa from the Santa Train, will be unveiled at the park in November, a day before the annual Santa Train and Christmas parade. It will include a caboose on which people can have a photo opportunity with Santa.

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Tennessee River Basin network looks to preserve major watershed

By KATE COIL

A multi-state, regional network is looking to partner with local government leaders as part of efforts to protect one of the area's most valuable resources: The Tennessee River.

Stretching 652 miles throughout the southeast, the Tennessee River and its more than 70 tributaries flow through Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia as well as its namesake. During the past three years, the Tennessee River Basin Network has been working with various organizations to study, protect and promote recreation and pride in the river.

For years, the river has been a source of industry, recreation, and water for a wide variety of communities across Tennessee and other states and is considered the most biodiverse river system in all of North America.

Recently, members of various agencies – including the Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, local municipalities and the Tennessee River Basin Network, which is part of the Appalachian Land Conservation Cooperative – gathered for the third annual Tennessee River Biodiversity Network meeting in Chattanooga, bringing conservationists, biologists, environmentalists, fish and wildlife division officials, state agencies, and regional partners together to discuss the best way to maintain the river's biodiversity while also allowing it play an important role in tourism, recreation, and agriculture around the state.

Gillian Bee, a landscape conservation fellow with the Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative, works with the Tennessee River Basin Network and its affiliates to help protect the area. She said involving more local officials in the network is one of the goals for the upcoming year.

"The basin is such a gem and is very unique for the planet," Bee said. "The river is tied to our culture, to our tourism, and to our economics. We try to think how we can help the message out there about the importance of the Tennessee River Basin. You may think, 'Well I'm not along the Tennessee River, but the river basin is everything that feeds into and from the river. It includes a really large landscape, and so we want as many diverse people in the network as possible.'"

Fish surveys, like an electrofishing survey recently undertaken by state and TVA officials on the North Chickamauga Creek near Hixson, are some of the tools the network uses to ensure the basin is healthy. Shannon O'Quinn, TVA



Electrofishing surveys, like this one being undertaken by crews with the Tennessee Valley Authority and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, helps determine the health of fish and marine life in the water, which can in turn better determine the health of the river itself. In addition to serving as a major watershed, the Tennessee River and its tributaries are important for recreational activities like boating, fishing, and swimming.

aquatic biologist, said the river holds more than 230 species of fish and 100 species of mussels, which is more of both species than any other U.S. watershed

"The Tennessee River is home to more aquatic species than any other region in North America and contains one of the most diverse aquatic ecosystems in the world," O'Quinn said. "When it comes to aquatic biodiversity, there are few places left on this planet that can compete with the Tennessee River."

However, 57 of the fish species found in the river network are considered at risk, at least 15 are on the federal endangered or threatened list, and more than 47 mussel species are also at risk.

"While we have the most biodiverse watershed in the nation, we also have the highest number of imperiled species of any large basin in North America," O'Quinn says. "This is one reason why this network partnership is needed now more than ever before."

The dangers posed to the biodiversity of the river are one of the reasons why the TVA worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Aquarium, TWRA and other partners to form the Tennessee River Basin Network.

Bee said the goal of the network is to get all of the stakeholders involved in protecting one of the region's most valuable assets.

"In short, the purpose of the Tennessee River Basin Network is to enhance the health of aquatic resources within the Tennessee River Basin through increased regional collaboration," Bee said. "The network is unique in that it does not simply include your typical federal and state conservation agencies you might normally think of but also includes private industry, concerned citizens and state, county, and municipal staff."



The Tennessee River Basin is outlined in red and flows through seven states. The basin includes some 70 tributaries of the Tennessee River including the Big Sandy River, Duck River, Buffalo River, Shoal Creek, Limestone Creek, Flint River, Sequatchie River, Hiwassee River, Chickamauga Creek, Piney River, Clinch River, Obed River, Little Tennessee River, French Board River, and Holston River.



These mussels are some of the endangered and threatened species that call the river basin home. Delicate species like these can help determine the health of the river. The Tennessee is considered the most biodiverse river in North America.

The University of Maryland is also working with the network to assess the health of the Tennessee River Basin, what can be done to improve the health, and what threats the basin faces. The report will be available in December and is similar to a study the university recently conducted for the Chesapeake Bay.

Bee said the network works to keep all of the partners in touch as well as provides resource and aides that keep track of current conservation projects, management activi-

ties, research projects, river clean-up projects, educational forums, and communication regarding the river system.

"There are so many people doing projects throughout the basin, and we are mapping where people are working," Bee said. "You can submit a project onto our website that shows people what you are doing. You can see what different projects are happening in your area and the partners who are doing them. You can reach out to those people about the projects to learn

more about them. We are presently working on a clearinghouse for strategic plans, data sets, outreach and communications materials, and formal education materials regarding the river."

The network also does quarterly webinars to educate participants about different things happening along the river basin in addition to their annual meeting. The network is split into two major networks: a science and management sector and a sector for communications and outreach.

Funds raised through the partnership implement protection/improvement measures including purchasing conservation easements, establishing riparian stream buffers, removing aquatic stream barriers, creating in-stream habitat and implementing stream-bank restoration projects.

"We have come so far in these three years with so many great initiatives as a result of this partnership, and more are being planned for the future," O'Quinn said. "There has been some amazing work by these organizations and individuals to protect, conserve and enhance our unique landscape within the Tennessee River Basin."

In addition to the various species that call the river network home, the Tennessee River and its tributaries are often an important source of water for communities across the state. Access to the waters for recreation is a billion-dollar industry as well. According to a new study by TVA and the University of Tennessee's Institute of Agriculture, the economic impact to the region of recreation on TVA's reservoir system amounts to \$11.9 billion a year. Furthermore, the study revealed that there are approximately 130,000 jobs associated with this recreation.

Dr. Anna George, the Tennessee Aquarium's vice president of conservation science and education, said the Tennessee River network is an important place for many across the state.

"It's important to bring stakeholders together to work on solutions to the immense challenges facing the globally significant watersheds of the Southeast," George said. "Protecting the river that is cherished across our state requires innovative projects that bring together diverse members of our community."

To learn more about the Tennessee River Basin Network, visit <http://applcc.org/projects/trb/trb-network-workshop>.

To see what projects are taking place in your area or submit a project, visit the Tennessee River Basin Conservation Action Map at <http://applcc.org/projects/trb/projects/conservation-action-map>

Tennessee State Parks celebrate Solar Eclipse at maximum capacity

BY MARK VALENCIA

TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices

From a "Solar Eclipse Viewing Boat Cruise" to a "Solar Eclipse Party at the Pool," the Tennessee State Parks planned some exciting events around the total solar eclipse that occurred last month throughout parts of Tennessee.

A solar eclipse is when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, and as the sun passes in front of the sun it blocks the sun's rays. A total eclipse was witnessed in Tennessee along the path of totality for nearly two minutes and forty seconds.

Outside of the path of totality Tennesseans were able to witness a partial eclipse in which the moon blocks a portion of the sun's rays. The shadow created from the solar eclipse turned a normally sunny day into a dim and nightlike sky for a few minutes. To imagine witnessing such an event before modern astronomy could have been a quite startling event.

Solar eclipses have been occurring since the creation of Earth. The first reported solar eclipse in history was more than 5,000 years ago found on a carved stone by Irish Neolithics in 3340 B.C. In history solar eclipses were seen as omens and various rituals took place based on eclipses. Near the carved stone made by the Irish Neolithics a burial site of 48 charred remains were found. Historians believe the remains were from a human sacrifice performed after the eclipse to keep their "sky god" from dying. During one solar eclipse ancient Greeks used it as a sign to end a war between the

Medes and Lydians.

The last total solar eclipse to occur in the continental U.S. was in 1979. To say the least, this rare opportunity drew large crowds into the 18 state parks that were in the path of totality.

For one park, registration numbers were increasing so much that it had to close registration after only four months. Fort Loudon State Park Ranger Lauren Baghetti said the park had to cap registration at 1,750 people.

"Due to limited parking at the park and the amount of interest we quickly realized we had to limit how many can attend," Baghetti said.

Fort Loudon was a perfect spot for viewing because its location was within the path of totality, which created an opportunity to view a total eclipse for nearly two and a half minutes. Fort Loudon is an historic park and because of that, the park had several historically themed interpretive programs inside the fort. Fort volunteers discussed 18th century beliefs of solar eclipses, while members of the Knoxville Observers astronomy group explained the science behind solar eclipses.

Radnor Lake State Park welcomed approximately 750 attendees with the lake full of canoes for their Solar Eclipse Canoe Float. The park had such a large turnout that Meeman Shelby State Park brought over additional canoes for the float.

Park Manager Steve Ward explained that canoe rentals sold out quickly and contributes the event's success from help by James Wilkinson of Meeman Shelby State Park, Vanderbilt-Dyer Ob-

servatory, and Friends of Radnor Lake.

Edgar Evins State Park was another location for prime viewing of the eclipse. All 60 campsites and 34 cabin suites were reserved within one week after reservations opened for booking during the eclipse. Not only did their lodging sites book quickly but their "Solar Eclipse Cruise" sold out within two weeks.

Cruise attendees got a unique view of the eclipse while cruising on a pontoon boat with a guide. Aside from the cruise attendees' other options included outstanding views from the shore or float on the lake in a kayak/canoe. At the peninsula on Center Hill Lake, Park Ranger Mark Taylor manned a telescope for guests to view the solar eclipse. Nearly 3,000 guests were at Edgar Evins for the event.

It was a busy and fun filled day at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Throughout the day the park offered activities from swimming, arts and crafts, music and dancing. At any given time some form of entertainment was occurring to keep young and young-at-heart entertained before totality.

Approximately 100 people attended the Solar Eclipse Party at the pool and 15 minutes before totality swimmers were asked to exit the pool to witness the total eclipse safely. Around 11:57 a.m., seconds before the beginning of partial eclipse the sun was covered with clouds. As the clouds covered silence spread across the park with baited breaths.

After about 60 seconds the first glimpse of partial eclipse peaked through the clouds and the crowd of spectators erupted with cheers.



A young visitor watches the solar eclipse at --. Events planned at state parks throughout Tennessee for the celestial event included cruises, pool parties, and re-enactments.



Radnor Lake invited visitors to view the eclipse from canoes as part of their Solar Eclipse Canoe Float. Approximately 750 people attended the event and canoe rentals sold out quickly.

Several minutes after the first glimpse the clouds dispersed and a clear view of the eclipse remained for the remainder of the eclipse. At 1:27 p.m. the sun was completely covered by the moon, the sky went dark, stars were visible and the blanket of darkness was welcomed by a crowd of applause.

The total solar eclipse witnessed on Aug. 21, 2017, was a spectacle that created lifelong

memories. One single phenomenon brought communities throughout Tennessee together. Although the eclipse was brief and rare you may have another chance to witness a total solar eclipse at the very edge of northwest Tennessee in 2024. If the eclipse in 2024 will be anything like last month's eclipse, spectators will witness a phenomenon that will create memories to last a lifetime.



PEOPLE



Chattanooga Fire Chief Chris Adams is stepping down from his position after 30 years of service with the department.



Chris Adams

Adams was selected as interim chief for the department in 2009 and was given the title of chief in 2015. He holds an associate's degree in fire science and EMS management from Chattanooga State Community College and a bachelor's degree in fire science from Columbia Southern University. He began working for the Chattanooga Fire Department in 1990, serving both in the fire and EMS divisions of the department.

Shanna Boyette has been selected as the new city manager of Shelbyville after a unanimous vote by the Shelbyville City Council.



Shanna Boyette

She began her position with the city on Aug. 29 and will succeed Jay Johnson, who served the city for six years. Boyette has a bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University. She began work with the city of Shelbyville as a part-time clerk in 2001, advancing to the position of assistant city recorder. She was selected as the city recorder in 2014, and was recognized by the state comptroller as a certified municipal clerk and recorder. She served as Shelbyville's city recorder until 2016, at which time she left to work in the private sector.

Newport City Councilor Roger Gribble died Aug. 27 at the age of 69. Gribble had been on the city council since January 2015.



Roger Gribble

A Newport native, Gribble graduated Cocke County High School in 1966, going on to earn a degree from Tennessee Technical University and serving as a cooperative education student with the U.S. Department of Defense. He did post-graduate work at John Marshall Law School. He also received a doctorate of humanities from Emmanuel Baptist University. Gribble served as the deputy regional administrator and regional administrator for the Small Business Administration under the administrations of Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. From 1980 until 1988, Gribble owned and operated Traditional Jewelers in Jefferson City. For 30 years, he served as a financial consultant and loan broker.

Jim Henry has been honored with his own day by officials in Roane County. "Jim Henry Day" is sched-

uled for Oct. 2 to honor the former mayor of Kingston who also served 12 years as a state representative.



Jim Henry

Henry attended Hiwassee College and the University of Tennessee and served with distinction in the Vietnam War. He was first elected to the Kingston City Council in 1971 at the age of 26 and then served as mayor from 1973 to 1978. In 1980, he was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives where he served for 12 years. Henry was the first commissioner of the state's Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. He left that post and spent two years as the commissioner of the Department of Children's Services. Gov. Bill Haslam then appointed Henry to the position of deputy to the governor and chief of staff in 2015.

Gina Holt has been selected as the new city manager for Springfield after a three-month long selection process.



Gina Holt

Holt had been serving as the interim city manager for Springfield and before that had served as the city's assistant city manager. Holt has been employed with the city of Springfield for more than 25 years. Holt has more than 30 years of government and management experience, including serving in the U.S. Senate under Sen. Howard Baker, in the Reagan White House's Office of Management and Budget, and State Department as a legislative assistant for the U.S. Agency for International Development. She also has 35 years of experience in the human resources field. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee and served as director of operations for the University of Tennessee Center for Government Training. Outside of government work, she was employed as the chief administrative officer of Brentwood-based Edwin B. Raskin Company from 1986 to 1990. Holt is a member and past president of the Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) and a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). She is a past board member of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) and Leadership Middle Tennessee, and she is currently serving as a

board member of the TML Risk Management Pool.

David Roddy has been selected and confirmed as the new police chief for Chattanooga after the retirement of former chief Fred Fletcher.



David Roddy

Roddy has served with the Chattanooga Police Department for more than 20 years, most recently serving as chief of staff to Chief Fred Fletcher and as acting chief of the department during times when Fletcher was unavailable. During his career, Roddy worked his way up from patrol officer and has served as a captain in several divisions of the department. Roddy was one of 49 applicants and three finalists for the police chief position.

Mike Rodriguez-Chapman has been appointed as the new chief information officer for the city of Memphis by Mayor Jim Strickland.



Mike Rodriguez-Chapman

Rodriguez was hired earlier this year after former chief information officer Brent Nair left the city to serve in the private sector. Before joining the city of Memphis, Rodriguez served as director of information security, protection and assurance at FedEx Services. He began working with FedEx in 1997 and served in several roles at the company before eventually being promoted to director of information security. He has also served on a number of boards and was president of the Levitt Shell board.

Robert Simpson has been selected as the new chief of the Red Bank Police Department beginning on Aug. 30.



Robert Simpson

Simpson served for 28 years with the Chattanooga Police Department in a variety of roles, including in community relations and as a patrol officer. After retiring from the Chattanooga, he served as the South Pittsburg police chief for less than two years. In his role as chief for Red Bank, Simpson will oversee 26 employees — 24 sworn officers and two civilians.

Pleasant View's Smith receives Municipal Judge of the Year Award



Pleasant View City Court Judge Gregory D. Smith received the Sharon G. Lee Award for Municipal Judge of the Year on Aug. 18 at the annual conference for the Tennessee Municipal Judges' Conference, held in Franklin. The award is named in honor of Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Sharon G. Lee, who began her judicial career as a municipal judge for the city of Madisonville. Judge Smith, shown here receiving the award from Justice Lee, has been the municipal judge for Pleasant View since 1997.

Dickerson, Faison to co-chair committee on medical marijuana

State Rep. Jeremy Faison, R-Cosby, and State Sen. Steve Dickerson, R-Nashville, have been appointed to co-chair a legislative task force considering the issue of legalizing medical marijuana in Tennessee.

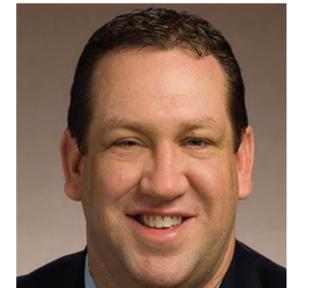
The Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Medical Cannabis for the Tennessee General Assembly consists of 10 lawmakers selected from both the House and Senate to study, evaluate, analyze and undertake a comprehensive review regarding whether the legalization of cannabis for medicinal purposes is in the state's best interest. The group will make recommendations about future legislation to be considered during the 2018 legislative session.

Other members of the committee include Reps. Sheila Butt, R-Columbia; Bob Ramsey, R-Maryville; Sam Whitson, R-Franklin; Ramesh Akbari, D-Memphis; and Sens. Richard Briggs, R-Knoxville; Rusty Crowe, R-Johnson City; Joey Hensley, R-Hohenwald; and Jeff Yarbrow, D-Nashville.

Dickerson and Faison have introduced the Medical Cannabis Act of 2017, which was designed to give patients with qualified conditions access to cannabis medicine. In 2015, Faison also helped usher in the legalization of cannabis oil in Tennessee for seizure sufferers, though many believe the law is too strict for those who would better benefit from medical cannabis.



Sen. Steve Dickerson



Rep. Jeremy Faison

The task force committee will schedule public meetings on the issue within the next three months in Memphis, Nashville and Knoxville. The first will take place Sept. 21, in Nashville. Additional details will be provided at a later date as to the dates, times and locations of each meeting.

Tennessee's Rural Mayors' Day to honor leadership on the local level

MAYORS from Page 4 visit the legislature I think 10 times at least since I was elected working for her city. She gets paid \$3,000 a year, and she is constantly working on things in her city. They don't do these things for recognition. They do it because they love their cities

and they want a better quality of life for their residents."

Hensley said he hopes local residents will take time out to give their local mayor a pat on the back and recognize their efforts as part of the day.

"We hope people on the local

level will do something to recognize their mayors, to give them some recognition of their hard work," he said. "We want people to just take a moment to honor and recognize their local mayor for everything they do."

Doss said he especially wanted

the mayors in his district to know how much he appreciates the work they do for their communities.

"All of my city mayors are rural city mayors, and I want all of them to know, directly from me, how much I appreciate all of the work that they do," Doss said.

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STATE BRIEFS



The number of new entity filings coupled with a historically low unemployment rate indicates Tennessee has a healthy economy, according to a report released by the Secretary of State's office. There were 9,524 new entity filings in the second quarter of 2017, representing a 6.8 percent increase compared to the same time last year. As of July 1, there were 267,143 active entities in Tennessee, representing a 3 percent increase compared to the first quarter of the year. New filings from foreign entities saw the largest growth, increasing by 10 percent compared to the second quarter of 2016. Despite the positive numbers, the second quarter numbers shrunk compared for the first quarter of 2017 largely because of seasonal variation. Second quarter numbers have consistently been smaller than first quarter numbers since 2003.

A record number of Tennessee students took Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 2017, according to information recently released by Education Commissioner Candice McQueen. More than 29,000 students took AP exams with the number of students who scored highly enough on the exams to earn college credit increasing to 16,240 from 15,065 in 2016. Across Tennessee, students earned as many as 79,833 college credits from the AP results – which is a 54 percent increase since the 2011-12 school year. Statewide, 29,258 Tennessee students took 48,355 AP tests in 2017 – about 3,500 more exams than were taken last year – with the

most popular subject areas being English language and composition, and U.S. history.

Unemployment in Tennessee dropped in July to the lowest level on record after employers across the state added 49,100 jobs over the past year. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development said that the jobless rate in July in Tennessee fell by two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.4 percent. Tennessee's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate during July was eight-tenths of a percentage point below the national jobless rate of 4.4 percent last month and was down by 1.4 percentage points from a year ago when Tennessee's jobless rate was 4.8 percent.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development has recently released a list of the most in-demand professions in the state through the year 2024. Team assemblers in the manufacturing field took the top spot with a projection of 1,460 openings in the field in the next seven years. Accountants and auditors took the second spot followed by office supervisors, nursing assistants, licensed vocational and practical nurses, and elementary school teachers. State officials said the list helps both jobseekers and students decide what areas might be beneficial to study as well as helps local educational institutions better focus coursework to meet the needs of growing industries in the state.

Tennessee first responders send aid to Texas

Swiftwater search and rescue teams representing the state of Tennessee were deployed to south-east Texas to conduct life-saving operations to help local authorities dealing with the unprecedented impact of Hurricane Harvey.

"Tennessee and Texas have a long and storied connection and we are proud to help in any way we can. I am proud of these first responders for stepping up to help those affected during their time of need," Gov. Bill Haslam said. "We know all too well the damage and destruction from floods and other natural disasters, and just as other states supported us in trying times, I know all Tennesseans want to do whatever we can to help Texas in this time of need."

The eight search and rescue teams, plus one support team, from Tennessee were from 20 city, county, and state jurisdictions. The teams include a total of 91 personnel with members from the following agencies:

- Ashland City Fire Department
- Bradley County Fire & Rescue
- Brentwood Fire Department
- Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department (Hixson)
- East Ridge Fire Department
- Dickson Fire Department
- Franklin Fire Department
- Hendersonville Fire Department
- Knox Fire Department
- Knoxville Volunteer Rescue Squad
- LaVergne Fire Department
- Lebanon Fire Department
- Metro Nashville Fire Department
- Montgomery County Emergency Medical Services
- Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue
- Rutherford County Emergency Medical Services



Lieutenant Derek Hyde with the Brentwood Swiftwater Team surveys flooded subdivisions west of downtown Houston. Brentwood was one of 20 agencies that sent first responders to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

- Sevierville Fire Department
- Williamson County Emergency Communications Center
- Williamson County Emergency Management Agency
- Williamson County Emergency Medical Services
- Williamson County Sheriff's Office
- Wilson County Emergency Management Agency
- Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)

The Tennessee teams were deployed to conduct search, rescue, and recovery missions to aid survivors and animals trapped in swift water and flooded areas of southeast Texas. The teams were equipped to provide basic life support, medical care, and transportation of survivors and animals to safety.

TEMA also sent two district coordinators to assist with coordination and support of the teams throughout the deployment in southeast Texas.

"We are proud Tennessee has so many well-trained search and rescue professionals who selflessly give of themselves to protect lives," said TEMA Director Patrick Sheehan.

The state of Texas issued a resource request through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) network for 100 swift-water rescues crews to conduct operations in the state for eight days. TEMA began assembling the seven Tennessee teams by working with local emergency management agencies and the coordinator for the Tennessee Association of Fire Chiefs' Mutual Aid System.

Tennessee tourism topped \$1.7 billion in state, local sales tax revenue for 2016

Gov. Bill Haslam and Department of Tourist Development Commissioner Kevin Triplett recently announced that Tennessee tourism's direct domestic and international travel expenditures reached an all-time record high of \$19.3 billion in 2016, up 4.7 percent over the previous year, as reported by the U.S. Travel Association.

For the 11th consecutive year, tourism topped \$1 billion in state and local sales tax revenue, reaching \$1.7 billion. That marks a 6.7 percent increase over 2015, higher than the national growth of travel related state tax revenues. Tourism generated 176,500 jobs for Tennesseans, a 3.3 percent growth year over year.

"More people from around the world continue to visit Tennessee each year," Haslam said. "The \$1.7 billion in sales tax revenue and job growth are good news for everyone in Tennessee. The hard work of the tourism industry, led by the Department of Tourist Development and Tennessee Tourism Committee, continues to produce record results and dedication to boost Tennessee's economy."

Five counties exceeded one billion in travel expenditures including Davidson (\$5.996 billion), Shelby

(\$3.335 billion), Sevier (\$2.217 billion), Hamilton (\$1.06 billion), and Knox (\$1.056 billion). All 95 counties saw more than \$1 million in direct travel expenditures in the economic impact of tourism and 19 counties saw more than \$100 million.

"The economic impact growth of the tourism industry is a result of guests from around the world discovering everything that makes Tennessee 'The Soundtrack of America,'" Triplett said. "It starts with what we have; the music, history, culture and experiences. It is enhanced by how those things are managed."

Triplett said the numbers indicate that Tennessee is becoming "a destination of choice" for tourists.

The authenticity and Southern hospitality from our communities and partners create an environment for our guests in a way not only that helps them enjoy their stay but motivates them to return," he said. "A critical component of this is they do not include the staggering capital investments being made by tourism partners across the state to enhance the experience."

In another record previously announced during National Travel and Tourism Week, 110 million

people visited the state in 2016, up 4.4 percent from 2015, as reported by D.K. Shifflet & Associates. An increase in leisure travelers also led to a jump in overnight stays. Tennessee places among the top 10 travel destinations in the U.S. for the third consecutive year and is considered a top retirement destination.

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development doesn't achieve these numbers alone. In 2011 Haslam appointed the Tennessee Tourism Committee, made up of tourism leaders in both the public and private sectors.

The Committee is chaired by Colin Reed, Ryman Hospitality Properties, Inc. The department also works with local convention and visitors bureaus, chambers of commerce and city and county leaders in all 95 counties to draw people to the state.

For more information, contact Jill Kilgore, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, at 615-927-1320 or by email at Jill.Kilgore@tn.gov.

For a complete breakdown of the 2016 Economic Impact for county by county in Tennessee, click here, http://industry.tnvacation.com/sites/default/files/2016_Economic_Impact.pdf



Tennesseans can now register to vote online

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett is proud to officially launch the state's new online voter registration system.

The system offers a convenient way for voters to easily register or change their address if they have moved. Counties across Tennessee can now securely receive voter registration information faster than using traditional paper registrations.

"This system meets people where they already are: online. It will improve accuracy and efficiency for voters and election officials by ensuring there are fewer errors and more accurate voter rolls," Hargett said.

The ability for the Secretary of State's Office to offer online voter registration came from a measure sponsored by State Sen. Ken Yager, R-Kingston, and State Rep. Gerald McCormick, R-Chattanooga.

"Registering to vote in Tennessee is now more accessible than ever," Yager said. "Regardless of

health or circumstance, Tennesseans can now register to vote from their own home. As Abraham Lincoln once said, 'Elections belong to the people.' I encourage all Tennesseans to take advantage of online registration and guarantee that Lincoln's statement rings true now and for years to come."

The new system will allow U.S. citizens with a driver's license or photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security to register to vote online. Each online submission is checked against the department's database while securely obtaining an electronic signature already on file with the state.

"In Tennessee, many of our hardworking men and women exercise their right to vote during each election cycle, and they take this responsibility very seriously," McCormick said. "I urge our citizens who have not registered to vote to do so online. The process is quick and easy and can be completed from the comfort of home. Registering to vote is an important step for citizens across our state to have their voices heard during the upcoming election in 2018."

The system will also help streamline the process of changing a voter's address. It allows someone to update their information instantly while reducing time-consuming data entry by state or county employees who traditionally had to manually type in what voters write on paper forms.

"In addition to offering a convenient way to register to vote, I'm excited that online voter registration will allow currently registered voters the opportunity to update address changes instantly," said Davidson County Administrator of Elections Jeff Roberts. "This will eliminate paperwork and additional time spent at a polling place for voters who moved but did not notify the election commission before the election."

Tennesseans must still register online or use a paper form at least 30 days before an election to participate.

For more information on Tennessee's new online voter registration, visit GoVoteTN.com.

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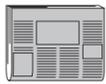
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ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

SPRINGFIELD. The city of Springfield (population 16,700) is accepting applications for assistant city manager. The assistant city manager will perform highly responsible and complex professional assistance to the city manager, board of mayor and aldermen, department heads, employees and the general public. The individual will assist the city manager with the overall day-to-day operation of the city and will assume the duties of the city manager in the city manager's absence. Springfield is a full-service city, offering electric, gas, water, sewer, sanitation and stormwater utilities, as well as The Legacy Golf Course, two cemeteries and the typical general fund departments. The annual budget is approximately \$83 million with 250 budgeted employee positions. The ideal candidate will have knowledge and experience overseeing human resources, risk management and information technology, as well as the ability to handle budgeting, legal issues, real estate transactions, building and grounds maintenance, contract administration and general administrative tasks. Bachelor's degree in public administration, business management or related field required – master's degree preferred. Must have at least five years of progressively responsible management experience in local government. Applications (along with a letter of intent and 3 work-related references) must be received by no later than Friday, Oct. 13, at the following address: Human Resources Department, City of Springfield, P O Box 788, Springfield, Tennessee, 37172, or apply online at www.springfield-tn.org. Applications may also be sent by electronic mail to Carolyn Scott, Personnel Coordinator, at cscott@springfield-tn.org. Hiring range: \$77,272 - \$88,670 DOQ. Salary range: \$77,272 - \$106,350. Springfield is an historic, economically and racially diverse community located 30 minutes north of downtown Nashville. Springfield is the county seat of Robertson County, one of the largest agricultural producing counties in the state of Tennessee. For more information on Springfield, please go to the city's website at: www.springfield-tn.org. EOE.

ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – UTILITIES

GERMANTOWN. The city of Germantown, is seeking a qualified individual to serve as assistant public works director of utilities. Under general direction plan, organize and direct the daily operations of public works utilities division, including water production and distribution, water meter reading and customer service, and sewer maintenance to provide adequate, safe and efficient water supply and wastewater services compliant with state, local and federal regulations. Manage and coordinate contracts, plans, schedules and work involved in utility construction projects. The minimum requirements for this opportunity include: bachelor's degree in civil or environmental engineering, construction management, or related field and five to seven years of progressively responsible experience in public utilities including at least 3 years in a supervisory capacity, or any combination of education, training, and experience providing the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to perform essential job functions. For more details and applications, please visit www.governmentjobs.com/careers/germantown. The application process will close Sept. 15, at 12pm. EOE

BUDGET TECHNICIAN

COLLIERVILLE. This position performs a variety of responsible and technical budgeting, accounting and other related support duties involving the town's budget including the planning, development, adoption and adjustment processes. Requires an associate's degree with major course work in finance, economics, accounting, or a closely related field; supplemented by two years' previous experience in the preparation and development of departmental budgets; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Valid driver's license required. Excel spreadsheet experience including pivot tables highly preferred. Must be able to pass a work-related physical and drug test. The work of this job is primarily sedentary. Full job description available upon request. Call (901) 457-2296. Salary range: \$29,375 - \$35,106 annually (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. Selection process may include: examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Drug testing may be required. Submit an original town of Collierville application to the following address: Human Resources, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017 Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under Employment Opportunities, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office. Applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. The Human Resources Office is open Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. We are unable to accept faxed or emailed applications. EOE/DRUG FREE WORK PLACE.

BUILDING OFFICIAL

FARRAGUT. Performs difficult skilled technical work planning, organizing, supervising, performing and managing the operation and activities of the codes inspection division which includes reviewing plans, issuing permits, manages scheduling process, maintaining records and files, preparing reports, and related work as apparent or assigned. Work is performed under the general direction of the community development director. Departmental supervision is exercised over codes staff members. Associates/technical degree with coursework in a related field and 5 years experience in the building con-

struction industry, engineering, and code enforcement, or equivalent combination of education and experience. State of TN Certified Building Inspector certification required. ICC Master Codes Professional [MCP] certification preferred. Supervisory experience preferred. Complete job description and required job application are available at www.townoffarragut/jobs. Resumes may be uploaded. SALARY: \$49,620-\$63,266 (DOQ) annually with excellent benefits package. Open until filled. EOE

CITY ENGINEER

DICKSON. The city of Dickson is accepting resumes/applications for the position of city engineer. The city engineer provides technical support and assistance in the development, reviewing and processing of various city engineering plans, permits and specifications; ensures completeness and accuracy of documents prior to issuance; generates computer-aided design drawings for capital projects including data entry, revision and correction of existing drawings, maps and records; performs a variety of technical tasks relative to assigned areas of responsibility. The position requires a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and appropriate license through the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. Two to four years of post-college design experience is preferred, but not required. Salary range is \$56,911 to \$85,518 depending on experience with benefits including health, dental and vision insurance, paid vacation, sick leave and TCRS participation. Applicants may obtain a job description and/or application at Dickson City Hall, 600 East Walnut Street, Dickson, TN, 37055, between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday; by email to administrator@cityofdickson.com; or by calling 615-441-9508 extension 508 during normal business hours. Completed applications, resumes and cover letters should be submitted to Engineer Position, attn. City Administrator, 600 East Walnut Street, Dickson, Tennessee 37055, or by email to administrator@cityofdickson.com with subject "engineer position." EOE/ Drug-free workplace.

CITY RECORDER

BELLE MEADE. The city of Belle Meade is seeking qualified candidates for the position of city recorder. Primary job duties include attendance at all monthly board meetings; preparation of all board meeting minutes (Zoning Appeals, Bldg. Code Appeals, Municipal Planning and Commissioner); processing billing and collection of property taxes and stormwater fees; maintaining official city records and answering public records requests; maintaining citizen mailing list and mailing welcome packets to new residents; serving as office receptionist and responding to questions from the public; receipting payments and posting daily receipts; providing assistance to other staff and commissioners. Graduation from an accredited high school and minimum of two years administrative and/or accounting experience preferred. The successful candidate must have excellent verbal and written communication skills, be highly organized and able to meet deadlines and multitask. He/she should be able to work independently as well as effectively operate in a team environment. Proficiency in Microsoft Office software is required. Beginning salary range \$39,600-\$46,600, depending on qualifications and experience. The City of Belle Meade is an EEO, ADA, Title VI employer. Please send application, resume, and cover letter to Beth Reardon, City Manager, 4705 Harding Road, Nashville, 37205 or email to breardon@citybellemead.org. An application and job description are available on the city website, www.citybellemead.org.

CLERK/TREASURER

ENTERPRISE, ALA. The city of Enterprise, located 30 miles west of Dothan, Alabama is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of clerk/treasurer. Enterprise is ranked as one of the safest cities in Alabama and has a population of approximately 28,000 with a median household income of \$63,036. It ranked 17th nationally in rising middle class and has a city school system that is rated as one of the top 10 in Alabama by the Niche Report. Enterprise is a gateway city to Fort Rucker, the primary training base for helicopter pilot training. The growth and quality of life in Enterprise has a long history of being positively impacted by Army aviation. The clerk/treasurer serves as one of the highest ranked appointed administrative officer of the city and is appointed by majority vote of the mayor and council. The clerk/treasurer is responsible for all financial activities of the city, recording and maintaining all official records of the city, and conducting city elections. The position has a history of stability with the previous clerk/treasurers serving over 20 years before retiring. Minimum qualifications of the new clerk/treasurer include a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, public finance, accounting or related degree; five years of upper level local government or business management experience. Governmental finance or accounting experience in a local government of similar size and complexity to Enterprise is highly desired. The successful candidate must demonstrate a high level of understanding of governmental budgeting, finance, and investment/management of public funds; knowledge of governmental accounting and finance best practices that ensure proper fund management and leads to efficient use of financial resources. Knowledge of best practices for maintaining, tracking, safekeeping, and researching official records and documents of the City is also an important requirement. The starting salary for the new clerk/treasurer will be based upon the qualifications and experience of the selected candidate; starting salary is expected to be in the range of \$110,000-\$135,000. The city offers a comprehensive benefit package which includes medical, dental, and vision insurance; life insurance; short and long-term disability insurance; Excellent retirement benefit options are

available which the city makes a contribution. A reasonable relocation allowance will be provided to the selected candidate. Qualified applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, four job related references, and salary history (email submittals recommended) NLT 5:00 p.m. (ET), Sept. 25 to: Alan Reddish, Senior Vice President, The Mercer Group, Inc., 107 Indigo Lane, Athens, Georgia, 706-614-4961, alanreddish51@gmail.com. For more information click on the "Current Searches" section at www.mercergrouping.com or www.enterprisereal.gov.

DEPUTY CLERK

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin Recorder's office seeks to fill the deputy clerk position. The purpose of this position is to perform difficult skilled clerical, technical and administration work coordinating the city recorder. Supervision is exercised over the court clerk, customer service clerks, and recorder service specialist of office operations, duties and policies. Work is performed under the regular supervision of the city recorder. This is a 40 hours per week, day shift position. The starting salary is \$43,908.80 + excellent benefits. The successful applicant should advanced skill in Excel, Word, Power Point and other software, equipment and thorough knowledge of business English, spelling and arithmetic. Ability to keep office records and prepare accurate reports. Ability to maintain effective working relationships with mayor, city council members, other department heads, employees, staff and the public. Essential duties include assisting the city recorder with computer, clerical and administrative support, preparing and maintaining detailed records and files; receiving calls for the city recorder and ascertains nature of business. Minimum qualifications: any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from high school and extensive experience in administrative supervision in the office of an executive. Three to five years of experience with Microsoft Office products. To apply, please visit our website at www.gallatin.tn.gov. Open until filled. EOE.

ENGINEER DIRECTOR

LA VERGNE. The city of La Vergne is accepting employment applications for a director of engineering. Performs complex and professional engineering work for the city's varied projects and programs. Ensuring technical competence and compliance with all current codes and criteria. Supervises GIS/mapping coordinator, construction inspectors, project engineer, stormwater inspectors/employees and other staff as assigned. May serve as project manager. Qualifications include graduation from a four-year college or university with a degree in civil engineering or a closely related field required. Minimum of five years previous professional civil engineering experience required. Any equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. P.E. Certification is preferred. Local government experience is preferred. Full-Time position with a salary of \$78,222 annually. Open Until: Filled To review the job posting and complete an online employment application for consideration for this position, go to www.lavergne.tn.gov. The city of La Vergne is a drug-free workplace. All candidates selected for any job opening must pass a physical exam and a drug screen before starting the job. EOE

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING CONSULTANT

JACKSON. The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is accepting applications for a finance and accounting consultant in its Jackson office. The finance and accounting consultant provides professional advice and technical assistance in the area of municipal financial management to cities, regardless of size, on a broad range of issues and problems. In addition to providing direct client assistance, this position researches, develops, and maintains timely technical reports and publications on critical financial issues. This position develops and teaches multiple municipal training courses within the context of a well-defined training curriculum, and assists others in the agency in the performance of individual and team projects. Requires a bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting or finance, a related field, or equivalent with at least eight years of finance related work experience. Prefer a master's degree in business administration, accounting, finance or related field with at least five years of finance related work experience. Requires at time of employment or within 18 months of employment, one of the following: Certified Government Finance Manager by the Association of Government Accountants, or Certified Public Finance Officer by the Government Finance Officers Association, or Certified Public Accountant by a state board of accountancy and in active status with a minimum of five years of primarily governmental experience. Requires experience in a finance related position in state or local government. Prefer CPA certification, and Tennessee government specific experience. Salary is based on a combination of professional experience and qualifications. Applicants must apply electronically to <http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/recruitment> and at the time of applying should submit a cover letter, resume with the contact details of three references. Open until filled. EEO.

HUMAN RESOURCES TECHNICIAN

COLLIERVILLE. This is specialized and complex office work assisting employees and the professional staff in the human resources department. Salary range: \$27,848 - \$33,282 (DOQ) with excellent benefits package. Requires an associate degree in business administration, public administration, human resources or a related field; supplemented by two years previous experience in employee program administration, which may include benefit administration or related areas, or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Bachelor's degree in busi-

ness administration, public administration or human resources preferred. Must have excellent computer skills using word-processing and spreadsheet software. Two years' experience in working with personnel/benefits with special emphasis on insurance (i.e. claims, filing, benefit's coordination/administration) and experience with workers' compensation and/or safety issues highly desired. Valid driver's license required at time of hire. Selection process may include examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Drug testing may be required. Submit an application to the following address: Human Resources, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017. Applications are available at www.collierville.com under Employment Opportunities, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office. Applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. The Human Resources Office is open Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you have a disability and require special accommodations during the selection process, please notify the human resources office at (901) 457-2290. EOE / drug free work place.

MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

KNOXVILLE. MTAS: The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is accepting applications for a management consultant in its Knoxville office. The position provides professional advice and assistance in the area of municipal management primarily to an assigned set of cities in Tennessee, regardless of size, on a broad range of issues and problems. In addition to providing direct client assistance, the management consultant researches, develops and maintains timely reports on critical issues; teaches municipal training courses within the context of a well-defined training curriculum; and assists other consultants in the agency in the performance of individual and team projects. This position performs other special project work as assigned. Requires a master's degree or equivalent in public administration. Requires at least five years employment in local government, including three years as a city manager or six years as an assistant city manager. Preference is given to experience as a city manager or assistant city manager in a city with a minimum 10,000 in population. Extra consideration will be given for additional experience city management or Tennessee specific experience. Requires knowledge and understanding of the problems faced by city officials. Also, requires independent planning and processing of projects, questions, training, etc. The work is performed in both in the field and the office and as such, requires constant scheduling and updating of work activities. The consultant must provide advice and assistance to city officials in the operation of their respective offices. In doing so, the consultant must also possess the following skills: 1) managerial, 2) analytical, 3) conceptual, and 4) interpersonal. These skills are used on a daily basis in identifying a specific city's problem and providing the advice and assistance to solve the problem. A high level of cognitive or intuitive skills are necessary to fully understand, design, and implement successful solutions to municipal problems. Each employee that drives a vehicle for work related business must have and maintain a valid driver license and insurance. This position requires extensive travel. Applicants are encouraged to review all job requirements prior to applying. Salary is based on a combination of professional experience and qualifications. Applicants must apply electronically to <http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/recruitment> and at the time of applying must submit a cover letter, resume with the contact details of three references. Position is open until filled. The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution.

MARKETING AND EVENTS COORDINATOR

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin is seeking qualified applicants for the position of marketing and events coordinator in the Parks and Recreation Department. The purpose of this position is to perform technical and professional administrative work to promote to the community through sales, marketing, promotions and special events for the Gallatin Parks and Recreation divisions. This is a 40 hours per week, rotating shift position. Some weekend work required. The starting salary is \$43,908 + excellent benefits. The successful applicant should have skills in planning, organizing, initiating, supervising and implementing a marketing program for Parks and Recreation sports activities and programs, as well as have knowledge of operations for standard software database, word processing programs, Photoshop, Illustrator and publishing software. Essential duties include making recommendations for new programs, coordinating promotional, and representing Gallatin Parks & Recreation at public events, shows, festivals campaigns. Minimum qualifications: applicants must have a bachelor's degree in journalism, marketing or public relations with one year previous experience. Previous marketing in parks and recreation is preferred. To apply, please visit our website at www.gallatin.tn.gov. Applications must be submitted by Sept. 15. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF

ALGOOD. The city of Algood is seeking applicants for a police chief. The ideal candidate will be a solution oriented, experienced law enforcement professional who is dedicated to providing exceptional service to our city through excellence in performance, teamwork, innovation, training, and dedication to our community and its residents. The chief of police is responsible for delivering safe professional police services to our community, collaborating with community organizations to promote department activities, and fostering positive community relations to ensure the best quality of life for our citizens and visitors. The chief of police is responsible for the protection of life and property in the city while being a strong fiscal administrator. The chief assists in developing and overseeing the department budget and controls and monitors expenses within the budget parameters. The police department is normally staffed with 13-full time POST certified positions and two-part time crossing guards. The successful candidate will be a

Tennessee POST certified officer and have at least seven years of experience in police operations with higher levels of supervisor experience preferred. Qualified candidates should be a legal resident of Tennessee with a valid TN driver's license, achieved a command staff rank of Lieutenant or greater; or its equivalent in a municipal, county, or state law enforcement agency in Tennessee; preference given to a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university. The ideal candidate will have excellent written and verbal communication skills. The candidate will convey a sense of stability, inspire confidence, respect, trust and a sense of mission, and maintain a good working relationship with other area law enforcement agencies. The chief of police is an at-will, exempt employee reporting directly to the city administrator. Salary in \$50K range. DOE with full time benefits. Interested candidates must submit a resume and cover letter to: MTAS – ATTN: Warren Nevad, 1610 University Ave., Knoxville, TN 37921 – 6741. Email: warren.nevad@tennessee.edu. Fax: 865.974.0423 Deadline for applications Oct. 16, at 5:00 pm. EOE

POLICE OFFICER

WESTMORELAND. The Westmoreland Police Department is currently accepting applications for a POST Certified Police Officer. Must be able to meet the Minimum Standard Law Requirements (TCA 38-8-106). Be at least 18 years of age. Be a citizen of the United States. Be a high school graduate or possess equivalence. No waivers will be granted for minimum education requirements. Must not have been convicted of or pleaded guilty to or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any felony charge or to any violation of any federal or state laws or city ordinances relating to force, violence, theft, dishonesty, gambling, liquor and other alcoholic beverages or controlled substances. Must not have been discharged from the military under other than honorable discharge. Meet the physical, psychological, criminal records requirements, and other standards for the assignment established by the Westmoreland Police Department. Have an excellent work and attendance record. Possess a valid Tennessee driver's license. Must be POST certified or have completed a POST recognized law enforcement academy and be able to become POST certified. Must be willing to work nights, weekends, and holidays. Applicants must complete an application and submit it to: City of Westmoreland, P.O. Box 8, 1001 Park Street, Westmoreland, TN 37186. EOE.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

TULLAHOMA. The city of Tullahoma is accepting resumes for the public works superintendent. This position plans and directs the daily functions of the street, sanitation and city shop divisions. Responsibilities include supervising and scheduling personnel on drainage projects, street repair, garbage collection, recycling, fleet maintenance and sign maintenance. The successful candidate must be able to plan and implement various department projects including estimation of required material, equipment and manpower including costs for construction, paving and maintenance. Position consults with engineers, contractors, design professionals and other agencies regarding public works matters. A college degree is preferred or a comparable combination of experience and training. Candidates should have five years of progressively responsible experience in construction, planning, public administration or building inspection. Supervision experience is required and stormwater experience is preferred. Salary range is \$58,579 - \$64,052, DOQ. Submit a resume to City of Tullahoma, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 807, Tullahoma, TN 37388, or email a resume to cbrice@tullahomatin.gov. A job description is available at the above email or by contacting Human Resources at 931-455-2648. EOE

TOWN MANAGER

ENGLEWOOD. The town of Englewood is accepting applications for a town manager. Manager must reside within the town limits 90 days after taking office, have an accounting background, computer skills, and be able to perform the job duties listed in the town charter. Please submit resumes in person, or mail to: Englewood Town Hall, P.O. Box 150, Englewood, TN 37329. (423) 887-7224.

WATER PLANT OPERATOR

COLLIERVILLE. The position performs skilled trades work in the installation, operation, maintenance, and repair of town water system facilities including wells, pump stations, water towers, the distribution system, water hydrants, and water meters. Qualifications include: high school diploma or GED with concentration in a vocational program; supplemented by three years' previous experience and/or training involving water system maintenance, at least one year of which must have been operating experience in a Grade II Water Treatment Plant; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Must be in compliance with TDEC Rule 0400-49-01 and remain in compliance throughout employment. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license. The work of this job requires sufficient physical strength, stamina, and ability to pass a work related physical proficiency test and pre-employment examination. The work is physically demanding, may require lifting heavy objects, and may require working in inclement weather. Work environment at times could involve toxic or caustic chemicals, risk of electrical shock or work around moving parts. For full job description call (901) 457-2296. SALARY: \$32,425 - \$55,584 (DOQ) annually with excellent benefits package. Selection process may include: examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Drug testing may be required. Submit an original town of Collierville application to the following address: Human Resources, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN 38017. Applications are available to download at www.collierville.com under Employment Opportunities, or you may obtain one from our Human Resources Office. Applications must be submitted either by mail or in person to the above address. The Human Resources Office is open Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EOE/Drug-free workplace

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How hard is it to evacuate a major city?

HARVEY from Page 7
and left 1,833 people dead. The mayor of Houston at the time, Bill White, called for an evacuation of the city. Highways were choked with traffic, fights between motorists broke out, people died from hyperthermia in the intense heat and 23 nursing home patients were killed as a bus evacuating them caught fire and exploded near Dallas.

Turner vowed not to repeat that mistake. In his position, other city officials likely would have come to the same conclusion.

Pete Gomez has spent more than 30 years with the city of Miami's Department of Fire Rescue, and he currently serves as both the department assistant fire chief and assistant chief of emergency management for the city. While his city did evacuate 25 years ago when Hurricane Andrew barreled through South Florida, he supports Turner's decision to not order an evacuation and advise Houston residents to shelter in place.

"Think about putting 6 million people on the road and possibly into the eye of the storm during the event," Gomez says.

FEMA director William "Brock" Long echoed the same sentiment, saying that it would take days to evacuate a city as

large as Houston. Mayors of any large metropolitan area are presented with a complex set of problems when a storm bears down on their cities: Elderly, poor and homeless residents may be unable to evacuate, predictions of where the storm will land are subject to sudden change, and the roads and transit systems may be unable to handle the millions of people on them.

When Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida in 1992, cities ordered massive evacuations and had to hope that residents wouldn't be caught on the road in the storm.

The evacuation was largely a success and likely reduced the number of lives lost to the storm, according to a report released by the National Hurricane Center. But the forecast that officials used to make evacuation decisions was wrong -- the storm hit south of where it was projected to make landfall. Luckily, the evacuation got most of those living in the storm's path out of the way in time, Gomez says.

Two decades later, New York City braced for Hurricane Sandy -- a storm not as strong as Andrew, Rita or Harvey but unlike any it had seen in modern history. In preparation, the city evacuated some sections. In a worse-case scenario, where New York City evacuates all six of its zones deemed at risk of coastal

flooding, emergency personnel officials are confident they can move all 3 million of those residents out of harm's way in 48 hours.

But New York's geography and infrastructure make evacuations less of a heavy lift than for cities like Houston.

"One of the things pre-storm that is a benefit is our subway and bus system, which takes excess car traffic off the roads," says Megan Pribram, New York City's assistant commissioner for planning and preparedness.

Houston covers an area more than twice the size of New York City but lacks its mass transit system. Two days may be enough to move 3 million people several miles with the help of subways and buses, but in sprawling Houston, evacuating the city in search of higher ground means traveling further, almost exclusively by car, and battling massive amounts of traffic, says Gomez.

Even if Houston had ordered mass evacuations, it's not a certainty that people would have left. Gomez was deployed to the Gulf after Katrina. He interviewed scores of people who rode out the storm.

"Many times when you do issue an evacuation order, it's impossible to enforce," says Gomez. "They say 'I survived previous hurricanes and didn't think this would be worse.'"

NATIONAL BRIEFS



U.S. workers have low expectations for better pay and new positions according to a first-of-its-kind study conducted by the Federal Reserve. Survey respondents said the lowest annual salary they would accept in a new job would be \$57,960, down from \$59,660 only four months earlier. This measure has declined since November, with most of the changes coming from older and higher-income Americans. Asked what salary they expected in job offers in the next four months, the average response declined to \$50,790

from \$54,590 when the last survey was taken in March. The respondents saw a 22 percent likelihood of receiving at least one job offer in the next four months, down from an average response of 25 percent eight months ago. The survey also showed 22.7 percent of respondents searched for a job in the last four weeks, up from 19.4 percent in the previous report. Young people accounted for most of the increase.

A U.S. appeals court has limited the ability of police officers to seize cell phones from the homes of people suspected of

crimes. The ruling found that the prevalence of mobile devices in a location did not mean police could assume the suspect was in possession of a mobile device. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia's Circuit threw out a man's criminal conviction for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, saying in a 2-1 ruling that the police found the weapon only because they drafted an "overly broad" search warrant. The ruling could complicate efforts by law enforcement in U.S. cities to seek text messages on cellphones for use as evidence in criminal cases.

UT-MTAS OCTOBER MAP CLASSES

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Oct. 5 Memphis
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Oct. 10 Kingsport
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EDT
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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.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.



Sept. 15-17: Cowan Fall Heritage Festival
A celebration of life in the foothills of the Cumberland Plateau, the festival will include food, music, entertainment, juried arts and crafts, living history, classic and antique cruise-in, beauty pageant, cornbread contest and activities for children of all ages. For more information go to www.fallheritagefestival.info or www.facebook.com/FallHeritageFestival.

Sept. 15-17: Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion
An infectious, 3-day music experience, bursting with creative passion, electricity, and soul. State Street in historic downtown Bristol is amped to the beat of Appalachia's past, present, and future. It all happens in the heart of the birthplace of country music—home to the legendary 1927 Bristol Sessions recordings. For more information go to: www.birthplaceofcountrymusic.org/festival/

Sept 22-24: Sweetwater National Muscadine Festival
Enjoy the agricultural heritage of our area with America's first grape. Event features live music, a parade, wine tasting, grape stomping, and more. Held annually in the historic downtown. Find us on the web at: www.nationalmuscadinefestival.com and on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/nationalmuscadinefestival/

Oct. 20 - 22: Bean Station 21st Annual Harvest Pride Festival
The event features the Night Owl Run, tricycle race, music, foods, arts and crafts vendors, Sunday morning worship service. For more information Email: sfennell@townofbeanstation.com. Phone: 865-993-5155



Oct. 26 - 27 Governor's Conference 2017 Gatlinburg Convention Center
Come learn more about Tennessee's strides in recruiting jobs and the programs helping to build strong local communities. To register or for more information, visit: <http://govcon.tnecd.com/>

Nov. 15-18 2017 NLC City Summit Charlotte, N.C.
Four days of networking, knowledge sharing, and working to make cities and towns even better places to live, work, and play. For more information or to register, go to: <http://citysummit.nlc.org/>

No loan is too large or too small



The city of Clinton and the Clinton Utilities Board recently closed a \$7 million fixed rate draw loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to be used on electric system improvements. Pictured are: bottom row (L to R) Gail Cook, Clinton finance director; Scott Burton, Clinton mayor; and Gina Ridenour, Clinton city recorder. Back row: Dudley Fagan, Clinton Utilities finance director; Greg Fay, Clinton Utilities general manager; and Steve Queener, TMBF marketing representative.



The city of Three Way recently closed a \$2 million fixed rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance various projects, including a new city hall, street and road improvements, and equipment. Pictured are Mayor Larry Sanders and City Recorder Susan Rogers.



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Graham sees growth, opportunities for hometown of Dayton

BY LINDA BRYANT

Dayton City Councilman Bill Graham is old enough to have seen his hometown go through both booms and busts.

These days the East Tennessee city of almost 8,000 is on the upswing, but Graham has lived through times when Dayton was losing its population to towns and cities that could offer more economic opportunities for residents.

"I sure have seen the city change a lot, especially in the last 10 to 15 years," Graham said. "Dayton is not just a sleepy little place anymore. There's a new optimism in the air, and we've been able to embrace new things."

Fortunately, Dayton is moving forward in a confident manner. Nokian, a major international tire manufacturer is setting up shop in town and bringing hundreds of jobs with it. New small businesses are sprouting up, and the schools are brimming with new students. The city has invested — and continues to invest — heavily in its infrastructure.

Graham, who is going into his 13th year as a councilman, is known as a no-nonsense leader who's not afraid of a little progress. His straightforward leadership has been a significant factor in shepherding Dayton into a hopeful new era.

Although technically retired, Graham devotes himself to his work on the Dayton City Council. He is also passionate about working with the Tennessee Municipal League, where he's currently serving as a District 3 Director. Through TML, Graham enjoys interacting and learning from other city leaders from across the state.

"Bill has been around Dayton for a long time, and that means he has a good command of what it takes to get things done here," said Dayton City Manager Thomas Solomon. "People really trust him because they know he's put in the time and has the experience to know what he's talking about."

"And it's not just citizens who respect and trust Bill," Solomon added. "Employees (of Dayton) do, too. He trusts and supports the city staff, and they return the favor."

TT&C: Tell us about your background. Where did you grow up and go to school?

BG: Except for one year of my life, I've lived in the city of Dayton. I went to Dayton schools, and I went to Cleveland State Community College and ended up graduating from Bryan College here in Dayton. I've been married since 1971 to my wife Jane. We have one son, Tripp, and he has a son, William. Another grandchild is due in February. My son lives in East Brainerd, and is studying for his CPA.

I claim to be on my third retirement. I started working for La-Z-Boy out of college. I worked there for 12 years. I developed a community credit union here and worked there for several years. When my father passed away, I took over his business, a video game arcade and wholesale ice business. I took care of that until I retired for the first time in 2005. My son went to college, so I eventually thought I'd [go back to work to] help him out a little bit. I applied to be the finance director here in Rhea County, and I stayed in that job for four-and-a-half years until 2013. I'm retired now except for my job on the Dayton City Council.

TT&C: Share some of Dayton's most current news. What's going on that you're really proud of?

BG: We've really tried to prevent stagnation in Dayton with a good team from Main Street Dayton, Rhea Economic and Tourism Council and Dayton City Council. We also get input from the Rhea County Commission. We're very excited that the Nokian Tire company is coming here. There have been other companies interested in locating here, but this is one company that finally did it. Everyone went overboard to try to pull this company to Dayton. I'm talking about the state of Tennessee, Gov. Haslam and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. [The new \$360 million Nokian Tire factory and distribution facility is slated to open in 2020 and will bring 400 jobs.]

It hasn't been that long since we lost Goodman Manufacturing, which meant losing about 615 jobs. We already had high unemployment, but we ended up being the highest unemployment in the state at one point. We were in a battle with Augusta, Ga., for the Nokian factory. We just happened to have one of the best rail sites with acreage in the whole Southeast. That helped. We are on an accelerated schedule as far as getting ready for them. The property is in place, and we break ground Sept. 19.

TT&C: Dayton is a small city in a part of the state that sometimes struggles to attract growth. But the city is growing and progressing. Do you have a "secret sauce?"

BG: Our city council tends to think out of the box a little bit more than your average council. We promote our natural resources; one good example is Lake Chickamauga. We have developed it into the No. 1 fishing spot in the Southeast, maybe even in the Eastern U.S. It's a really "hot" lake, and it's got a lot of big fish. We bring in 10 to 12 major tournaments every year, and that's not counting the many people who come in and just want to fish because there's a chance of catching a 10 to 12 pound bass.

The city council looked at our infrastructure and knew there were things we had to get done, especially because we have new indus-

try coming in. We spent between \$10 and \$12 million on our water plant and increased our capacity from 2 million to 4 million, with the possibility up to 6 million gallons per day. When you have more water flowing through then you have to decide what you're going to do with that water. We have contacted an engineering firm, J.R. Wauford & Co., and they are developing plans for a new [ancillary] plant. While we were doing that we took a look at our electric department. We've spent between \$7 and \$8 million upgrading our electrical facility, and we're getting ready to build a new substation, which is going to cost about \$10 million. This will help with the new Nokian plant. These things are helping to fuel the local economy. We like to use local contractors, engineers and construction companies as much as we can.

There are other signs of growth and development, including road construction by the state. A couple of our developers have built a lot of apartments. When they build, we have to provide services. It's a cycle you have to address; as you promote development you have to be involved.



Dayton Councilman Graham, Finance Director Michelle Horton and Codes Director Ronnie Rayper at the recent TML Conference in Murfreesboro.

TT&C: Did the city have a major turning point when you realized you were really starting to go somewhere?

BG: The turning point was four to six years ago. We had a complete turnover except for me [on the Dayton City Council], and we got some people in who were a little more progressive and active. They were a little younger and willing to think differently and try new things. Now we have new money coming in from sales tax revenue because of things like the fishing at Chickamauga Lake. We have hundreds of people coming in for those fishing tournaments, and they buy gas, spend money on food, and stay at the motels.

The Nokian plant coming in definitely keeps the momentum going and has even ramped it up. [To buy land for the Nokian project] we signed our name to almost \$4 million worth of indebtedness, and we didn't even know if it was going to happen. It was a little bit of a gamble, but since everyone was so focused, involved and engaged, we felt like it was going to happen — and it did happen. Now we're thinking: What are we going to do next?

TT&C: So many small towns are rejuvenating their traditional downtown areas. Are you doing the same in Dayton?

BG: Yes, we are, and we have good activity in downtown Dayton. We've got a courthouse grant for another three years, which is to help our infrastructure as far as being able to revitalize and remodel downtown. We have new parking lots, and we're hopefully bringing in a new anchor store downtown. Restaurants have opened up, and they've increased their hours. I can go into a restaurant and there are basically three or four people I know out of 25 or 30. You walk through the parking lot and you see all the license plates — McMinn County, Roane County, Bledsoe County, Bradley County, and Hamilton County. People are even coming from Virginia. All these things are coming together, and it really gets you pumped up.

TT&C: With so much growth and activity have you had to raise taxes?

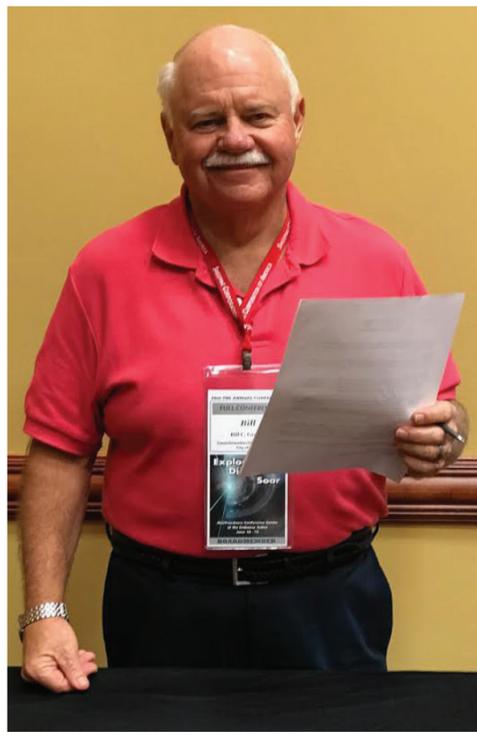
BG: We did have to raise them — from 48 cents to 54 cents per \$100 of valuation. If you look around at all the cities around you, no one can touch that. We operated off sales tax more than property tax for years and years, but it gets to the point where you can't support all the services you have to support. One example is our airport, which needed \$1.5 million worth of renovations. Projects like that operate with grants, but we have to offer support money and matching grants.

TT&C: What is the population growth?

BG: We were at 6,500 people for a long time, but when I looked recently I realized our population is at about 7,900 people now. People are moving in. In our city school, the student population has increased by 200 students in the last three years. That's just one school.

TT&C: Do other small towns and cities come to you for advice?

BG: We look at other cities to see their best practices, and they look at us to see ours. People [from other cities] congratulate us all the time because we have done a lot in the past few years as far as infrastructure goes.



Bill Graham, Dayton City Council

one is going to chew on you a little bit about it. If you do the job you are supposed to do, it will work out. I actually thought we should have raised it more. Like I told our lieutenant governor [Randy McNally] when he was speaking at the TML Legislative Conference earlier this year "You're going to get chewed on whether you raise the tax 6 cents or 12 cents. If you're going to take that chewing, anyway, I say rip that band-aid off and up the gas tax up enough to make a difference."

At first, reports showed about \$50 billion of infrastructure problems in Tennessee that need to be taken care of. I thought it was really important to make the bill have an impact so that we could have an impact in smaller cities and on country roads, too. Now there's a new report that's come out that says there's \$100 billion worth of improvements to be made.

TT&C: How do you deal with it when people have conflicting opinions? What is your style of leadership?

BG: I don't argue with people. I like to talk and reason with them, and ask questions: I'll ask, "Would you be willing to run for this office and make these decisions." They'll say, "No, that's what we elected you for." I'll answer, "O.K., then I'm doing what I'm supposed to." I try to explain to people that it takes money to support services. I might ask, "When's the last time you hit a pothole? Or, when you flip that switch you want your light to come on, don't you? When you turn on that faucet, you want good clean water don't you?" If you go up on rates it's because you have to it's not because you want to. And guess what? I'm paying those rates, too. We are all in the same boat. Many people come around when I talk them through things. You have to handle each situation as it comes to you. You are always going to have your naysayers.

TT&C: Dayton has an unusual way of running its school system that involves the city council. Can you explain how it works?

BG: The city of Dayton is under a private act school system. It means that when you are elected to the Dayton City Council, you are automatically elected to the Board of Education. We serve two different bodies at two different meetings at two different times. The city council oversees services, and the school board oversees 850 kids and 70-plus employees. It's a little unique. I don't know of any other school board [in Tennessee] that serves in that same capacity. It makes doing budgets really easy. We have two budget meetings and pass the budget on the first or second reading, and we're done.

We are proud of our schools. We just got through finishing a new fourth and fifth-grade wing because of our growth, and we are looking at building new classrooms in the next couple of years. We have started a daycare for our teachers so we can retain teachers who are going to continue to have children. Often when they have a child they quit. We've provided them with a place where they can take their child. We've also tried to revamp some of our athletic programs. We improved our field house at the local football field, and we bought new uniforms. We recently hired a new P.E. teacher.

Another unique thing we've done at Dayton City Schools is that we have two principals — a pre-K through third and a fourth through eighth-grade principal. It's another example of thinking outside of the box, and we are really satisfied with the new structure. We just hired a new school superintendent, Robert Greene, who worked as superintendent of Meigs County Schools and Athens City Schools. He was also the deputy commissioner of education for the state. We think we made a really good decision.

TT&C: What is your biggest challenge?

BG: My goal is to keep things moving in Dayton. If something is slowing down in one area, I want to address it. It's always a challenge to keep your momentum. It's like being on a diet. Once you lose a little weight — and get enthused — you have to look for ways to keep it going. We are more optimistic than ever, and we are never satisfied with what we have. We want things to increase and grow in Dayton. We want more people to come into town. I know that creates problems, but that's what I was elected for — to help create those kinds of situations and then help solve issues related to them. The important thing is to keep going forward.

TT&C: You were recently re-elected as District 3 Director for Tennessee Municipal League. Can you talk about your work with TML?

BG: The reason why I got involved with TML is to increase my knowledge. I started going to the TML conventions and workshops. Four years ago I was elected as an alternate director, and then I was elected District 3 Director. I was re-elected for another two-year turn. I am still learning.

It's helpful to be retired. I have the ability to go to Nashville to TML conventions and school board conventions. I really enjoyed going to the National League of Cities convention when it was in Nashville in 2015. I have a goal of attending more meetings of other municipalities. I'm really enthused with what goes on at TML. Take, for example, how the IMPROVE Act got passed. TML got behind it, and it passed — the first such bill since the 1980s. TML was one of the factors that helped. TML is a wonderful connection between the local officials and the legislature.

I really don't feel competitive [with other nearby counties] in a negative way. I clap for everyone when they get a new industry. That money and economic drive will permeate through the whole region. I'm not jealous. Bradley County got Wacker [polysilicon plant]; Hamilton County got Volkswagen; we got Nokian. You want to support economic development all around you because it's going to affect you, too.

TT&C: How's small business development coming along in Dayton?

BG: We have a Chattanooga State campus here that helps with small business development, and we have a state jobs site that helps people looking for work. Bryan College [a four-year liberal arts college in Dayton] gets involved in what goes on, too.

We have a lot of businesses, especially restaurants, opening up — Steak and Shake, Captain D's, Bojangles, Waffle House, Zaxby's. We have a new four-story hotel, Sleep Inn. These businesses are all economic generators. People spend their money in these places and our citizens work in them. These businesses wouldn't be coming to a town like Dayton unless they thought we had very good potential. We also have a microbrewery: Monkey Town Brewing Co. That's one business that has jumped by leaps and bounds. Dayton passed liquor-by-the-drink [in 2012]. In this last election, we had a referendum for liquor stores and it passed. That's what the voters wanted. All these [small business developments] tell me that we are doing well. We're "pedals to the metal" in Dayton.

TT&C: The Department of Tourist Development encourages counties to tap into their local history to attract tourism. What is Dayton doing in this regard?

BG: As you probably know, we are the site of the famous Scopes Monkey Trial. [A highly publicized American court case in 1925 that tested a Tennessee law, the Butler Act, which forbade the teaching of any theory of evolution in any state-funded educational establishment.] It certainly put Dayton on the map; up until that point, nobody knew where Dayton was. The interest [in the history of the Scopes Monkey Trial] waned a bit over time, but we eventually had people step forward and ask, "What are we going to do with this history? After all, this is our claim to fame." We opened up a Scopes Trial Museum at the bottom of the courthouse. We have the Scopes Trial Play and Festival, which happens every year. The whole community gets behind it and promotes it. We also still have our annual Strawberry Festival. Last year was our largest attendance with about 27,000 people. We have several smaller festivals. There's always something going on that draws people in.

TT&C: You supported the Tennessee IMPROVE Act, which increases the gas tax to 6 cents per gallon for gas and 10 cents per gallon for diesel. Why was this bill important to you?

BG: I really supported the bill because I drive the roads and know what condition they are in. I backed the bill because it was going to help everyone in the state. I've learned in my life as a politician that when you make a decision, someone's not going to like it. And that some-