

Education, air quality, reducing fire related deaths top speakers' concerns

BY CAROLE GRAVES & VICTORIA SOUTH

Providing some eye-opening statistics about the state's education system, state Comptroller John Morgan linked below average attainment levels with low household incomes during his presentation at TML's Legislative Conference recently held in Nashville.

He urged city leaders to be concerned about the problem and to participate in the policy-making decisions when it comes to investing in education.

"Education offers the promise of improved quality of life for the family, greater competitiveness for business, and a more vital economic base for local communities," said Morgan.

Among Morgan's key points:

- Tennessee is below average when it comes to school funding, educational attainment, graduation rates and test scores, as well as income and many other quality-of-life measures.
- Tennessee's high school graduation rate has shown improvement but still trails the national average by more than 10 percent. Only seven out of every 10 teenagers who entered ninth grade in 2004 will graduate in May 2008 with their classmates.
- The shortage of skilled workers is real and will continue to grow. Many of the occupations expected to see strong growth in



Comptroller Morgan

the years ahead — such as computer software engineers, physician assistants and home health aides — will require more education and training than was required in the past.

"A better educated workforce means greater regional prosperity. One of the most obvious benefits of education is greater personal earning potential," said Morgan.

Paul Sloan

TDEC Deputy Commissioner

Assuring local officials that Tennessee's cities and TDEC are partners in providing a clean, safe environment for citizens across the state, Paul Sloan, deputy commissioner with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, discussed several environmen-

See **SPEAKERS** on Page 9



Deputy Commissioner Sloan



Commissioner Newman



Carol Coletta



Patrick Slevin

Design at IIT. She is frequently interviewed as an expert on urban issues by national media and is an active speaker on the success formula for cities and creative communities. This year she was named one of the world's 50 most important urban experts by a leading European think tank.

Patrick Slevin, an award-winning, nationally recognized public relations consultant with years of experience in winning high profile, some times controversial public campaigns, will present a workshop on Monday afternoon on *How to Overcome NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) Opposition on Public Projects*.

Getting a project approved and completed can be an expensive undertaking, and NIMBYism only compounds the costs with delays, concessions, and lawsuits. Most elected officials have experienced the public hearings or council meetings, where community activists have packed the chambers with angry citizens while members of the media delight in writing the David

See **MEMPHIS** on Page 7

Successful cities, handling community opposition the focus of Memphis keynotes

The formula for successful cities and overcoming community opposition on public projects will be the focus of two highly acclaimed speakers during TML's Annual Conference in Memphis, June 22-24.

Carol Coletta, president of CEOs for Cities and host and producer of the nationally syndicated public radio show *Smart City*, will discuss how strong cities make a strong America — taking an in-depth look at urban life, the people, places, ideas, and trends shaping cities.

Coletta will serve as the keynote speaker on Sunday, June 22, during the opening general session from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Previously, Coletta served as executive director of the Mayors' Institute on City Design, a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and American Architectural Foundation. She was a Knight Fellow in Community Building for 2003 at the University of Miami School of Architecture and is currently a candidate for a Master of Design Methods at the Institute of

Greenways showcasing Tennessee's history

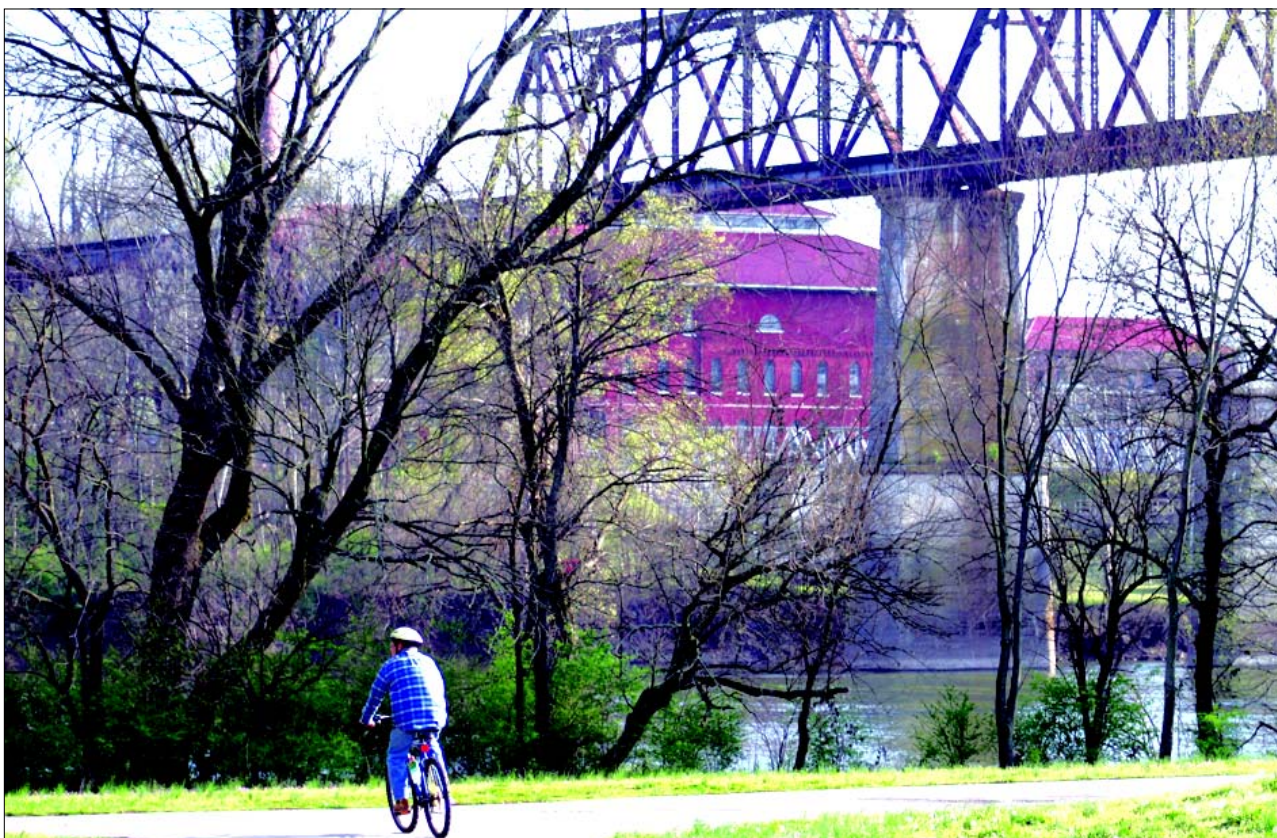


Photo By Victoria South

Shelby Bottoms at historic Shelby Park in Nashville is the centerpiece of a greenways and trails system that will run throughout Davidson County. Greenways are becoming vital links to Tennessee's historic sites. See story on Page 3.

Revenue projections worse than expected

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

State administrators have been bracing for the worst, but the economic news delivered to the State Funding Board this week was more dramatic than expected.

On Tuesday, revenue experts told the funding board that the governor and the legislature will have to agree to more than \$400 million in adjustments to Bredesen's proposed 2009 fiscal year budget before the 105th General Assembly adjourns.

The plummeting housing market, high oil and gas prices, and inflation, which combined affect discretionary consumer spending, have all had a negative impact on the state's current fiscal conditions.

"Clearly, the economy has turned much worse than anyone had anticipated a year ago or even four or five months ago," said Dr. Bill Fox, director of the UT Center for Business and Economic Research.

In addition, economists are projecting the state will have to spend \$270 to \$380 million less than budgeted for in FY 2008, which ends June 30. This figure is addition to the \$180 million in adjustments that have already been made to this year spending plan.

Since March 2007, sales tax revenues have shown a steady decline. This month's decline of 5.5 percent marks the most significant drop in monthly revenues since 1960 and reflects \$140 million less in sales tax collections than the state budgeted for.

"I do think we are in a recession. The first two quarters we have seen negative sales tax growth. Consumption spending is down," said Fox.

"New home sales in March 2008 sunk to their lowest level in nearly two decades," said Kevin Krushenski, legislative research analyst with the state Comptroller's office.

County building permits for the first quarter of 2007-08 were down on average by 52 percent. Realty transfer and mortgage tax collections have dropped some 25 percent. Consequently, sales tax revenues generated from building materials saw more than a 10 percent decline with furniture and home furnishing down by 4 percent.

Automotive sales have also been hit by the economic downturn and are reporting a 13-year low. Employment rates have also been affected with March employment rates less than they were a year ago.

According to Dave Goetz, commissioner of Finance and Administration, the current budget was based on sales tax growth of slightly more than four percent, but the actual growth rate has been below two percent.

Forecasts for the upcoming year are equally as bleak, with economists only projecting a .02 to a 1.8 percent growth rate in revenues. In comparison, the state enjoyed growth rates of some 6 to 7 percent during the past previous four years.

As to when the economy will return to more moderate times, projections ranged from the end of the calendar year to another year or

See **BUDGET** on Page 7

New immigration program fuels request for local judge

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Growing pains mark the one-year anniversary of Davidson County's successful immigration enforcement program, 287(g), as lawmakers and elected officials appeal the federal government for a local immigration judge to help process the nearly 3,000 illegal aliens passing throughout the Davidson County legal system.

In April 2007, Nashville/Davidson County became one of four municipalities in the country to participate in the program sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Proponents of the program, Davidson County Sheriff Darron Hall and Reps. Jim Cooper and Marsha Blackburn, met last year in Washington, D.C. with U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker to discuss implementation and training issues for the program.

287(g) provides federal training to Davidson County Sheriff's deputies authorizing them to check the immigration status of individuals held in the county jail and initiate deportation proceedings, if the detainees are determined to be in the country illegally.

Since its inception, the number of illegal aliens found in Nashville has risen dramatically from 150 to 3,000. Currently, in the absence of a local immigration judge, all persons

processed in Nashville must report to Memphis or Oakdale, La., for an immigration hearing, a 13-hour bus ride at a cost to local taxpayers.

"It makes no sense to pay to send these individuals to Louisiana when there are 400 empty beds in Nashville that have already been approved by Immigration and Customs Enforcement," Alexander said.

Immigration advocates further note that the current process could take up to six weeks for a bond hearing with individuals released on bonds expected to make their way back to Nashville on their own.

"Everything in Nashville is in place to start processing this alarming number of illegal immigrants except a judge, and I think it's time for the federal government to recognize this and send an immigration judge to Davidson County," Alexander said, speaking to U.S. Attorney Gen. Michael Mukasey before a Senate subcommittee hearing.

After one year of implementing the program, Davidson County will have processed more illegal immigrants than any other country east of Phoenix, A.Z., according to Alexander and Hall.

"Nothing definitive has happened regarding the request," said Karla Weikal, Davidson County Sheriff's Department spokesperson. According to Weikal, Alexander plans to host a meeting in Washington to continue working toward the proposal.

William Snodgrass dies

Former Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury William R. Snodgrass, 85, died at home April 20, 2008, following a short illness.

Snodgrass was first elected as Comptroller of the Treasury in January 1955. He served for 22 consecutive two-year terms until his semi-retirement in January 1999—a career that spanned the terms of seven different governors and 23 General Assemblies.

As Comptroller, Snodgrass presided over an office that grew in importance and responsibility in the areas of governmental auditing, local government finance, property

assessments and property tax administration, debt financing, policy research and education accountability. At the time of his retirement, the General Assembly bestowed Snodgrass with the title of Comptroller Emeritus, a role which he actively filled until his recent illness. Snodgrass is the only state constitutional officer to ever receive emeritus status. The legislature also named Tennessee's largest state office building, the William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, in his honor.

Snodgrass had been an accountant. See **SNODGRASS** on Page 7

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

BLOUNT COUNTY

The opening of a fourth Denso Manufacturing plant in Tennessee in Blount County represents an added \$185 million investment. The auto parts maker employs about 3,000 people in the county and plans to continue hiring through 2010. Denso Corp. has invested more than \$1.1 billion in its 189-acre location in the Blount County Industrial Park. Earlier this month the company announced a new president for its Tennessee operations. Atsuhiko "Art" Shimmura is succeeding Masahiko "Mack" Hattori, who has been president since 2004. Hattori is credited with guiding Denso Tennessee through capital improvements, including the new, 214,000-square-foot, \$185 million plant investment, increased sales and stable employment.

CHATTANOOGA/KNOXVILLE

Chattanooga and Knoxville are featured in the April 7 issue of *Forbes* magazine's Best Places section. Chattanooga's growing economic development and favorable business climate were the subjects of a feature article. Several local businesses were highlighted, along with the city's many revitalization efforts. Knoxville was ranked 10th on the Best Places for Business and Careers list, noting business costs are 14 percent below the national average. The *Forbes* rankings cover the 200 largest metro areas with populations over 240,000. For the complete list, visit www.forbes.com/bestplaces.

CHATTANOOGA

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected the city of Chattanooga for a \$200,000 brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up the 8.2-acre Ohls Avenue brownfields site. The site was home to small foundries, tire repair facilities, and a disposal site for the former Chattanooga Glass Company. Chattanooga was also selected for a brownfields assessment grant from the EPA. Grant funds will be used for performing Phase I and Phase II environment site assessments, conducting human health monitoring, and supporting community outreach activities in the city's urban core.

CLEVELAND

City employees and their families have a voluntary opportunity for health and fitness. The Wellness Steps program is free to city and Cleveland Utilities employees and their dependents 14 and older. Wellness Steps is a 12-week program that has received statewide recognition. The program was launched in January 2007. During the first two 12-week programs, more than 200 people recorded a total weight loss of 3,300 pounds. The program was made available through a grant from Cigna, the city's insurance provider.

CLEVELAND/BRADLEY COUNTY

Starplex Scientific, a Toronto-based pharmaceutical plastics company,

located its first U.S. operation in the Cleveland/Bradley Industrial Park. The company cut the ribbon on a 57,000-square-foot facility on a 12-acre site and will hire 25 associates in the first year of operation. Slated to open in early 2009, the plant is a \$10 million investment for the company and is anticipated to create 40 new jobs.

COLLIERVILLE/UNION CITY Collierville and Union City were both featured in the April edition of *Southern Living* magazine. Businesses located in the downtown commercial district were featured in both cities. In Collierville, a restaurant that has been located on the town square of downtown since 1996 and Union City is represented by a photograph of Kiwanis Park and its fountain, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

COOKEVILLE

The Cookeville Police Department has attained accreditation for the fourth time from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The accreditation is for a period of three years, at the end of which the police department will be required to undergo another extensive self-evaluation and assessment by police officials from other areas in order to maintain the accredited status. Chief Terry said the CALEA accreditation process "is a proven modern management model that strengthens an agency's accountability, both within the agency and to the community."

HENDERSON

Arvin Sango broke ground for its new manufacturing facility in Henderson. The automotive parts manufacturing company will build exhaust systems for the Toyota Highlander SUV model slated for production at Toyota's newest assembly plant in northern Mississippi, currently under construction. Arvin Sango supplies more than 65 percent of the exhaust systems used by Toyota Motor Company plants in North America. The company's plants also manufacture stampings, manifolds, converter systems, instrument panels and door impact beams for the automotive industry. Slated to open in early 2009, the plant is a \$10 million investment for the company and is anticipated to create 40 new jobs in Henderson. More than 900 automotive assembly and component parts manufacturing companies operate in Tennessee, employing more than 85,000 Tennesseans.

JACKSON

Jumpstart Jackson hosted its largest event as part of Jumpstart Jackson Month. The Wellness Walk was an all-day event at the Jackson Fairgrounds led by Mayor Jerry Gist, Superintendent Nancy Zambito and state Health Commissioner Susan Cooper. Cooper, a West Tennessee native, is the first nurse to serve in this position.

JOHNSON CITY

East Tennessee State University students voted 1,416 to 282 in favor of imposing a \$5 fee per semester to create the Campus Environmental Stewardship Fund. About 14 percent

of the university's 12,000 students voted. The fund will pay for more energy-efficient vehicles and buildings, solar panels and education programs. A committee of student government members, other students and staff advisers will decide how to spend the money. Several other public and private universities in the state have similar programs. Last year students voted against raising athletic fees to return football after it was dropped in 2003.

KNOXVILLE

Knoxville has been selected as one of 12 Solar America Cities by the U.S. Department of Energy and will receive a grant of \$200,000 plus technical assistance to increase use of solar technology. TVA has committed to matching DOE's grant with an additional \$100,000 over the 2-year project period. In addition to the funding, DOE will also provide technical assistance to help the selected cities build local capacity to facilitate the use of solar technology. Knoxville will use the Solar Cities grant and technical assistance to reduce barriers to solar deployment in four main areas: informational, technical, financial and business development.

LAWRENCEBURG

Gov. Bredesen has approved a \$23,000 Main Street Innovation Grant for the Lawrenceburg Main Street Program. A portion of the \$20,000 grant will be used to develop new enhancements to downtown, and \$3,000 will fund professional development for Main Street staff. The Main Street Innovation Grant encourages Tennessee's 21 Main Street communities to explore unique projects, programs, activities and technologies that shape best practices in downtown revitalization. Grants can be used to enhance the downtown district's appearance, promote local business development or market a community through printed materials or a Web site.

MILLINGTON

The board approved two purchases totaling about \$95,000 to bring the Police Department further into the electronic age. The city is spending \$57,000 to purchase handheld devices that allow officers to file reports electronically from the field. The devices are designed to eliminate much of the paper and redundant labor it now takes when officers write reports and police clerks type them into the computer system. The city also is spending \$50,000 to purchase digital video-recording systems to install inside 12 police cars.

MUNFORD/ATOKA

The Munford-Atoka Fire Department will soon hire another much-needed firefighter with the help of a federal grant. U.S. Rep. John Tanner announced that the department will receive a \$185,425 homeland security grant to be used for hiring and recruitment. Munford-Atoka Fire Chief J.R. Bonson said he hopes to hire a firefighter who is already a licensed inspector and experienced in fire investigation.

MURFREESBORO

Teams of Murfreesboro Fire Department personnel are canvassing neighborhoods to record the names of remaining household residents for the city's 2008 special census. The fire department was successful in securing a large amount of information from non-responding house-

holds when the last special census in 2005 recorded a population of 81,393. Since January, about 19,000 households have responded to two mailings and through the city's Web site, but about 22,000 have not. Based on the numbers indicated by single- and multi-family residential building permits issued since 2005 and a growth in the number of households, city leaders believe Murfreesboro population has grown to some 100,000 people.

NASHVILLE

Nashville has been selected as the site of the 34th Annual Joint Meeting of the Japan-Southeast U.S. Association and the Southeast U.S.-Japan Association in October 2010. The associations are made up of leaders in business and government from Japan and from the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Florida. The organization was created in 1975 to promote trade, investment, understanding and friendship between Japan and the organization's member states. Gov. Bredesen and ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber attended the 2007 conference at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo and participated in a series of panel discussions on U.S.-Japan trade relations. The conferences are traditionally chaired jointly by a Japanese business leader and an American counterpart. Japan is Tennessee's 5th largest trading partner, purchasing more than \$800 million dollars in Tennessee goods and services in 2007.

OAK RIDGE

The University of Tennessee received a \$65 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to build the Kraken supercomputer. The state-of-the-art supercomputer will enhance the computational power of the TeraGrid, which the foundation described as "the world's largest, most powerful and comprehensive distributed cyber-infrastructure for open scientific re-

search. Named for the gargantuan sea monsters Kraken, NSF Director Arden L. Bement said the possibilities in scientific and engineering advances it enables are enormous, limited only by the confines of human imagination and vision beyond the frontiers of science. The supercomputer will be built through a partnership between the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the University of Tennessee and other partnering universities.

ROGERSVILLE

A celebration marked the grand opening of the Sam Dong Company Limited in Rogersville. The 80,000-square-foot plant, which manufactures specialty wire products used in the electrical transformer, motor and generator industries, began production in March 2008 and currently employing 60 people. Company executives say the facility will add up to 40 additional jobs as it becomes fully operational. It is the South Korean company's first location outside the country, with a facility sitting on 10 acres in the Rogersville Industrial Park. Sam Dong has been a producer of magnet wire in South Korea for 30 years and exports products globally. The company is recognized as an industry leader, serving a broad North American customer base.

WHITE HOUSE

City leaders have reached an agreement in principal to purchase property in the center of town as the site for a new library. The 1.4 acre parcel of property has been purchased for \$279,000, pending the finalization of the formal agreement by attorneys. The money will be taken from the parks impact fees and parks sales tax fund. The new location should serve as a magnet for revitalizing the town center. The Library Board formed a focus group several months ago to begin preparing a plan for the new facility as the current library has outgrown its space.



PEOPLE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Congressman Bart Gordon

received the "Spirit of Enterprise Award" from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for his work supporting legislation to grow the economy and create jobs for hard-working Americans.



Gordon

First Lady Andrea Conte

received the National Crime Victim Service Award from U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey at a ceremony in the nation's capital. The national award honors "extraordinary efforts in direct service to crime victims." Conte, a former victim of violent crime, is a leading victims' rights advocate in Tennessee and around the country. Conte has made victim advocacy and justice issues a priority. As First Lady, Conte worked to create a statewide Commission on Crime Victims As-



Conte

sistance responsible for providing recommendations regarding benefits and other issues associated with the Criminal Injury Compensation Fund. In 2004, Conte launched a walk across the state to raise awareness of child sexual abuse. Her journey took her more than 600 miles and raised more than one million dollars.

Charles "Chuck" Suttles has been hired as Dayton's new fire chief replacing former Chief Jack Arnold, who retired. Chief Suttles has been an officer with the Dayton Police Department since 2002. Before that, he was fire and police chief in Lookout Mountain for 16 years.

Bill Youree, 60, a Brentwood city commissioner, passed away recently. Youree spent his career in health care management, developing Rehability Corp., manager and owner of rehabilitation clinics nationwide.

Joe Jackson, former mayor of Murfreesboro and former president of the Tennessee Municipal League passed away April 22. Mr. Jackson also served as former Chairman of the TN Municipal Bond Fund.

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Greenways showcasing Tennessee's history a step at a time

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Guided by a full moon, a group of hikers trek acres of field and floodplain bordering the Cumberland River. Resonating with the sounds of song birds, frogs, and numerous wildlife, this primitive wetland is only three miles outside downtown Nashville inside historic Shelby Park.

In Murfreesboro, a spur trail of greenway leads pedestrians to Cannonsburgh, a recreated pioneer village interpreting 19th century life in Rutherford County, while bikers tour a cache of historic homes along the Holston River and Greenbelt in Kingsport.

As cities across the state emphasize healthier modes of transportation and historic preservation, greenways are becoming an alternative, yet traditional, means of touring local historic sites. Designed for walking, skating or biking, the greenway system of linear parks and trails not only provide an attractive venue for exercise and recreation, but connect neighborhoods to shopping areas, offices and parks, nature reserves and historic areas.

Beginning in the mid-1500s, with Hernando De Soto's discovery while crossing the Tennessee Valley, greenways and trails have been around long before the state was

park and trailhead for the Hermitage side of the Stones River to Downtown Nashville greenway and a nature center to serve the Donelson, Hermitage and Old Hickory communities.

Purchased with the assistance of a \$400,000 TDEC grant, \$300,000 from non-profit Greenways for Nashville and \$475,000 in Metro Parks land acquisition funds along with transportation funding through the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the 1918 colonial style mansion designed by 20th century architect George Waller and the adjoining log cabin on the bluff overlooking the river, Eversong, will be a beautiful and educational stopping point for travelers for generations to come.

As a condition of acquisition, Stone Hall landowner, Stroud Merritt, took steps to permanently protect the historic property from outside development by granting a conservation easement to Land Trust for Tennessee. A conservation easement is a voluntary contract between a landowner and a land trust, government agency, or another qualified organization in which the owner places permanent restrictions on the future uses of some or all of his property to protect scenic, wildlife, or agricultural resources. Land Trust works with



Photo by Victoria South

Built in 1918, Stone Hall in Donelson, a suburb of Nashville, will provide a midway park and trailhead for the Hermitage side of the Stones River to Downtown Nashville greenway and a nature center to serve the Donelson, Hermitage and Old Hickory communities.

lachian Trail National Trails, the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and the Natchez Trace Parkway National Historic Trail. Communities along these trails can promote the trails as part of their cultural heritage."

The National Historic Trails System, established by the National Trails System Act of 1968, commemorates historic routes and promotes their preservation, and development for public use.

"Congressman Zack Wamp has been instrumental in providing federal dollars for the Trail of Tears NHT along with the state, local and private investment dollars for both the Riverfront development and the Tennessee Riverpark," Richards said. Wamp was one of several state and local officials at Point Park to celebrate a 382-acre expansion of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

"We should leverage our seniority and our clout and our energy to do this," Rep Wamp said. "This is what makes the quality of life in Southeast Tennessee what it is today."

According to U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, there is reluctance by lawmakers to spend money on the preservation of history and land, but the concept is something the majority of Americans support.

"The American people have a high value for history and we have a high value for the outdoors," Alexander said. "We want to spend a reasonable amount of money to make sure it is here for our children and grandchildren."

In Murfreesboro, "Congressman Bart Gordon, working with former Mayor Joe B. Jackson and Dr. James K. Huhta, retired Special Projects Committee Chair of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, had the vision of a recreational path that would connect the city's primary heritage resources and create an alternative way for residents and visitors to experience those heritage assets," said Dr. Carroll Van West, director MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Center.

The resulting greenway connects the Stones River Battlefield, which interprets the Dec. 31-Jan. 2, 1863 battle between the armies of Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg and Union Gen. Williams S. Rosecrans, the second bloodiest battle in Tennessee during the war, to Fortress Rosecrans, which the Union army built in 1863 as a major military base for its march to Atlanta, and then to the town square of Murfreesboro, where the Rutherford County Courthouse was the Union occupation headquarters and the



The Chattanooga Riverwalk

Photo courtesy of the River City Company

scene of the Battle of Murfreesboro of July 1862, according to Van West.

"Stones River was always the town's first key resource in the pioneer days," Van West added. "The National Park Service maintains the battlefield and Stones River while the city's Parks and Recreation Department shoulders the upkeep of the greenway along with the Cannonsburgh property."

A Civil War fortress will become a pedestrian-friendly spot along Clarksville's downtown greenway connector, according to Ron McClurg, grants manager, Clarksville Grants Department.

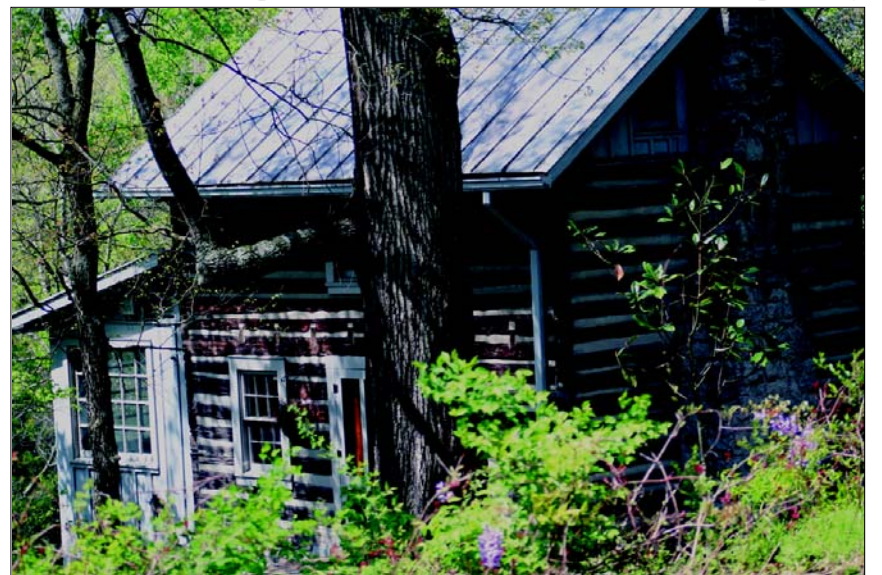


Photo by Victoria South

Eversong cabin was formerly used as guest house and painter's studio

The city, in conjunction with the River District Commission have applied for transportation grants and have created a master plan to beautify the greenway and create pedestrian access to Fort Defiance. Built high above the Cumberland River, the fort was once employed by the Confederates as a means to stymie the transport of supplies by the Union army. The Union subsequently, utilized the fort following a Confederate surrender.

owned historic homes and sites of significant historic value.

"We work as an oversight committee reporting back to the board of mayor and aldermen, working with the city engineers, networking with the community to see that developments are built and operated as they should be," said Tom Parham, Greenbelt Committee chair.

Parham is excited about Kingsport's riverwalk development currently in the works; a major project promoting the arts, history, recreation and culture of Kingsport.

Parham said the city has met with three Cherokee tribes to discuss plans for their segment of the project. Long Island was the sacred land and treaty ground of the Cherokee nation and can be reached by suspension bridge across the Holston River.

"Kingsport is the only city in the U.S. that has restored land back to the Cherokee Nation by returning the island and its future development," said Parham.

For more information about greenways, visit the TDEC website <http://state.tn.us/environment/recreation/presentations/>.



A national landmark, Long Island in Kingsport was the sacred land and treaty ground of the Cherokee nation and can be reached by suspension bridge across the Holston River.

named Tennessee. As noted in the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation website, the system of trails, centuries old buffalo traces and Indian routes spied by De Soto, later became pathways and wagon roads for explorers and early settlers, and ultimately the roads and highways of today.

"Most greenways and trails are started by a community activist," said Robert Richards, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Greenways and Trails coordinator.

"The proverbial little old lady in tennis shoes or maybe a bird watcher wanting to preserve green space, a teacher who understands how important it is to instill the natural connection in children or young people who understand about global warming and want to do their part by walking or riding a bicycle to work."

"The process continues with the development of a Comprehensive Master Plan," Richards continues. "This is where the historical/ cultural resources fit into the puzzle. Each community has to ask itself the question 'Is this feature important to us, and do we commit the resources to protect it?'"

Protecting historic sites

"It is up to each city or town to preserve, protect and promote these historic sites which takes capital and human resources," Richards explains.

As the developer of Shelby Bottoms, the centerpiece of a future greenways/trails system that will run throughout Davidson County, the acquisition of historic Stone Hall by the Greenways Commission of Metro Parks will provide a midway

communities and individuals to identify natural and historic assets and protect important lands as well as sites.

A lesson in partnerships

From building bridges and markers, to fundraising and cleanup, volunteers, partners and activists are the life's blood of greenways.

"Volunteers use and take ownership of them," marvels Renee Bates, board member for the Greenways Commission and Greenways for Nashville.

"Through the Trail Watch program, people who use the trail note what maintenance needs should be focused on and make us aware of them."

"It has been an amazing journey," agrees John Norris, chair, Metro Greenways Commission.

"Ten short years ago, greenways were barely on the public radar screen. Mention of the word 'greenway' to a group was likely to elicit more puzzled looks than nods of approval. What a difference enlightened political leaders, dedicated staff, hard-working volunteers and generosity from the private sector have made. Now that greenways are seen as an important amenity, nearly every neighborhood is clamoring for one."

Chattanooga has a strong emphasis and connection with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (NHT) and has spent millions of dollars on their riverfront, the former Ross' Landing, the starting place for the Trail of Tears water route detachments.

"Tennessee is fortunate to have four National Scenic and Historic Trails," said Richards. "The Appa-

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TML addresses the issues at the 2008 Legislative Conference in Nashville



Charles "Bones" Seivers, president/CEO Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, and Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey



House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh and Tommy Bragg, Murfreesboro mayor



Harold Craig, Bells mayor; Tommy Green, TML president and Alamo mayor; Rep. Fitzhugh; and Bob Kirk, Dyersburg alderman



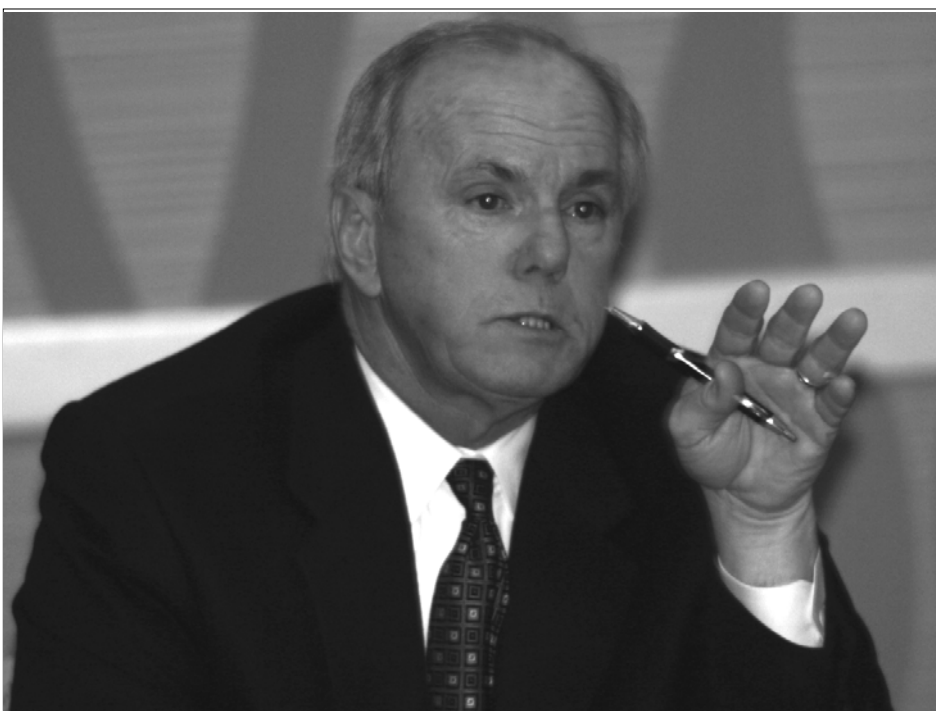
Karl Dean, Nashville mayor, and TaJuan Stout Mitchell, Memphis intergovernmental relations Memphis



Tom Beehan, Oak Ridge mayor and TML vice president



Keith McDonald, Bartlett mayor



Johnny Piper, Clarksville mayor



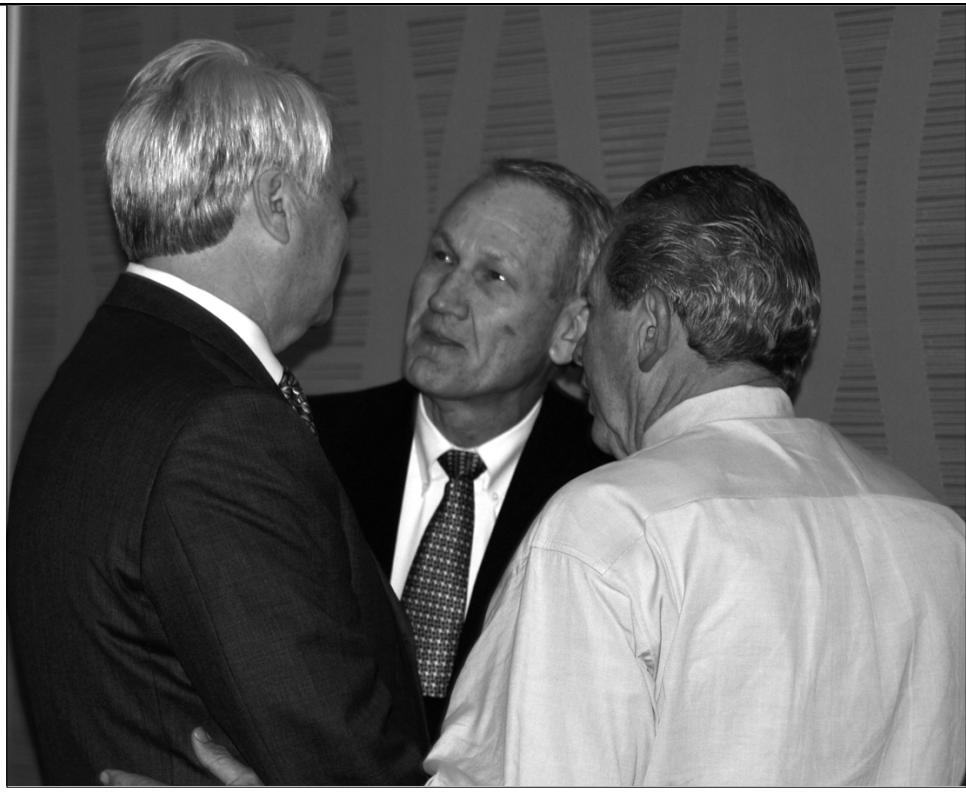
Mitch Moore, Athens city manager, and Chad Jenkins, TML deputy director



John Proffitt, Athens mayor and Jean Davis, Cookeville vice mayor



Eddy Ford, Farragut mayor



Lt. Gov. Ramsey, Ed Haley, Arlington town superintendent, and Bubba Pleasant, Bartlett alderman



Avery Johnson, Cleveland councilmember, and Dot LaMarche, Farragut alderman



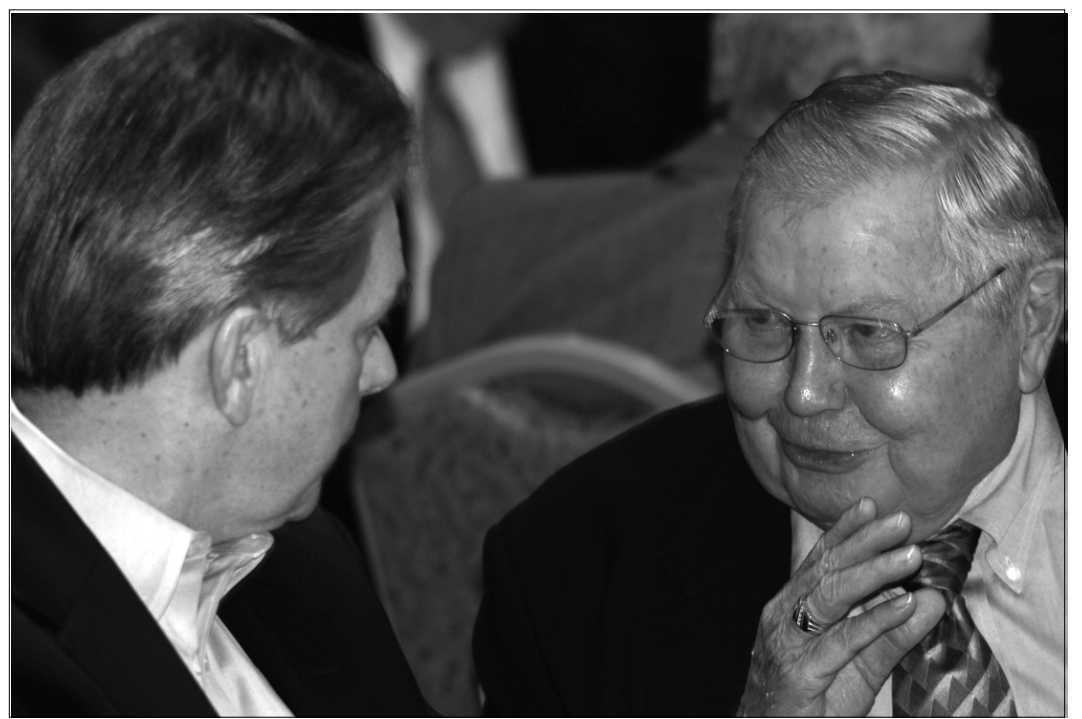
Sally Oglesby, Crossville city clerk, and Royce Davenport, McMinnville mayor and TML vice president



Rick Emmett, Knoxville urban growth manager, Kay Rose, Shelbyville councilmember, and JoAnn Holland, Shelbyville councilmember



Dr. Ken Moore, Franklin alderman; Dean Dickey, Columbia councilmember; and William Gentner, Columbia mayor



David Robinson, Selmer mayor and Webb Banks, Brownsville mayor



David Gordon, Covington mayor, and Terry Jones, Millington mayor



Charles Rahm, Jackson councilmember, and Johnny Dodd, Jackson councilman



Janice Cagle, Soddy-Daisy city manager, and Sara Burriss, Soddy-Daisy city recorder



Walter Winchester, McKenzie mayor, and Charlie Beal, McKenzie city clerk/recorder



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STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Tennessee students are better writers than they were five years ago, especially those from poor or troubled homes, according to national test results. On an average scale, students from the Volunteer State increased scores on the National Assessment of Education Progress writing assessment by eight points, from 148 in 2002 to 156 in 2007. The assessment was administered to nearly 140,000 eighth-graders nationally, including a sampling of students from Middle Tennessee and in districts across the state. Nationally, the proportion of kids scoring at or above the basic level rose from 85 percent to 88 percent. Seventy percent of Tennessee students scored at or below the basic level. North Carolina was the only state to see scores go down compared with 2002.

State officials say roadside memorials pose safety risks. Hundreds of makeshift tributes dot roads and highways across Tennessee. Every one is illegal. State officials say the memorials jeopardize motorist safety and make roadside maintenance harder, but they turn a blind eye to them out of respect for mourners. The Tennessee Department of Transportation will launch a planting program this summer that they hope will serve as an alternative. Families will be able to buy trees, shrubs or flower bulbs that will be planted in memory of those who have died.

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency has created a free Web site for owners and managers of rental property to list housing, TNHousingSearch.org. Once the site has a significant selection of properties; THDA will promote its use as a search engine to housing seekers. Letters have been sent to thousands of management companies found through Internet searching, the executive directors of all of Tennessee's public housing authorities and to developers with the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, and MultiFamily Bond Authority programs. Listings on TNHousingSearch.org are not targeted to any rent levels. Using the site, owners and managers can list such features as number of baths, bedrooms, levels, accessibility and utility history. Other resources include Chambers of Commerce, school districts, community services and a rent affordability calculator.

The state has already diverted more than \$26 million this year in tax refund payments going to Tennessee residents who were behind in child support payments. State government officials expect to nearly double the amount of child support seized from delinquent parents in coming weeks. More than 20,000 refunds were seized under the Federal Income Tax Offset Program.

Budget takes \$800 million hit

BUDGET from Page 1

two of slow economic growth. In addition to Fox's projections, the funding board also heard from Department of Revenue and the General Assembly's Fiscal Review Committee. Combined, their projections are used by the funding board to estimate revenues for the new fiscal year.

File sharing and illegal downloads may not be worth a run-in with the law. Fear of lawsuits has frightened some students into mending their music-trading ways. Others have not, and those **scofflaws are at the center of a Tennessee legislative debate on copyright infringement and universities' responsibility to monitor their students' online activities.** The state Senate last month passed legislation that could prevent college students from using campus Internet resources for illegal downloads. The bill requires universities with public funding to have a policy on copyright infringement and to report to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission when they have more than 50 copyright infringement violations. Global music piracy costs the music industry \$12.5 billion every year, according to a report by the Institute for Policy Innovation, a public-policy research institution in Texas. The Motion Picture Association of America reports that in 2005 studios lost \$2.3 billion worldwide to Internet piracy.

The Tennessee Board of Regents has changed its decision to deny honorary degrees to 13 Tennessee State University students who were expelled for participating in Freedom Rides of the 1960s civil rights movement. The board voted unanimously to change its March vote, which brought criticism from civil rights activists. The Freedom Rides were bus trips designed to challenge segregation in areas of the deep South that were unwilling to accept a Supreme Court order integrating interstate travel facilities. Board members who opposed the idea had explained their decision by saying honorary degrees are meant to recognize a lifetime of achievement, not a one-time action. Those who asked the board to reconsider its vote included the faculties at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville and Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, both governed by the Board of Regents.

The number of murders in Tennessee is down for the second year in a row and the total number of crimes reported has fallen almost 1 percent since 2005, according to the annual "Crime in Tennessee" report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. According to the report, 632,540 crimes were reported in Tennessee in 2007, 4,212 more than the 628,328 reported in 2006, but 5,311 less than the 637,851 reported in 2005.

Current seventh-graders will be the first batch of kids under a new requirement to take an extra half-credit of physical education, approved recently as part of the state's sweeping high school revisions to combat the childhood obesity epidemic. About 43 percent of students in the state are obese, state officials said.

Tennessee is not alone in its declining fiscal situation, however. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 22 other states are facing the same two-fold problem: keeping their current budgets in the black and enacting a balanced budget for 2008-09.

State's Republicans win Walk Around the Capitol Challenge



State Republican and Democrat senators wrapped up six weeks of friendly competition in the Walk Around the Capitol Challenge, a BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee-sponsored program promoting the health benefits of walking. The Republican party won with the competition with more than 1 million steps. A \$10,000 check from the BlueCross Community Trust was presented to Coordinated School Health on behalf of State Senator Diane Black, whose party won the challenge. Pictured: Sen. Diane Black and third-graders at Richard Hardy Memorial School in South Pittsburg lead a walk around the Capitol.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



The U.S. Government has cleared the way for a new, nationwide emergency alert system. The system will send notifications warning people of natural disasters and terrorist attacks, or be used to aid law enforcement find missing children. As more than 250 million Americans, or 85 percent of the country, use cell phones, the government stresses the effectiveness of the system. Under the plan, with the push of a button, local or state governments, even the president, can send the message. An increasing number of universities already have text messaging alert systems to communicate during emergencies. The major wireless companies are all on board and customers who aren't can opt out.

Annual Conference slated for June 22-24

MEMPHIS from Page 1

vs. Goliath stories. Slevin, a former mayor of Safety Harbor, Fla. and founder of Smart Growth Solutions, specializes in grassroots public relations consulting. His unique knowledge of NIMBYism will offer city officials tips for overcoming community opposition through a proactive, consensus-building approach.

Other workshops will focus on a

Illegal immigrants are paying taxes to Uncle Sam, experts agree. Just how much they pay is hard to determine because the federal government doesn't fully tally it. But the latest figures available indicate it will amount to billions of dollars in federal income, Social Security, and Medicare taxes this year. One rough estimate puts the amount of Social Security taxes alone at around \$9 billion a year. Paycheck withholding collects much of the federal tax from illegal workers, just as it does for legal workers. The Internal Revenue Service doesn't track a worker's immigration status; yet, many illegal immigrants fearful of deportation won't risk the government attention that will

come from filing a return, even if they might qualify for a refund.

The American medical system is woefully unprepared for the flood of aging baby boomers, according to a federal study which predicted crisis-level shortages in healthcare workers and serious gaps in training. The Institute of Medicine report estimates that there currently is only one physician certified in geriatrics for every 2,500 older Americans and that turnover among nurse's aides averages 71percent annually. Although the institute's study focused on the national picture, a state legislative report estimated that there is only one geriatrician for every 4,000 Californians age 65 and older.

Snodgrass legend in government finance

SNODGRASS from Page 1

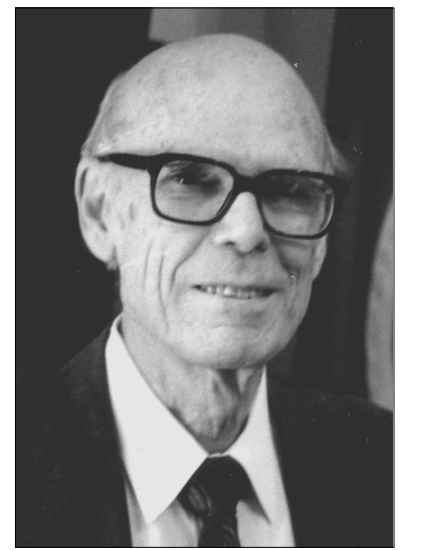
tant working at the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Assistance Services when he was hired as a budget director for Gov. Frank Clement in 1953.

Throughout his service, Snodgrass was at the forefront of the governmental accountability movement at the local, state and national level. He served on the executive committee of the National Legislative Conference from 1970-74, staff chairman in 1973-74, and went on to serve on the first executive committee of the newly-formed National Conference of State Legislators in 1974-75.

Always concerned with the

quality of government finance and accounting. Snodgrass was instrumental in the creation of the National Council on Governmental Accounting and its subsequent evolution into the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. From 1990-95, he served as a member of the board of trustees of the Financial Accounting Foundation, the group that appoints the accounting standards setters for both private sector and governmental accounting in the United States.

In addition to his family, William R. Snodgrass is survived by many government finance and public policy practitioners who learned from him the importance of integrity and the value of public service.



Snodgrass

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MTAS welcomes new staff members in 2008

The Municipal Technical Advisory Service is pleased to announce the addition of six new staff members in 2008: Gail Cook, Ken Cox, William Haston, Leigh Lawson, Kay Stegall, and Dale Wolfe.

Beginning her career with MTAS in March as a Finance and Accounting Consultant in the Knoxville office, **Gail Cook** assists cities with finance, accounting, budgeting, and related questions or problems. Cook will also be assisting with Certified Municipal Finance Officer training. Previously, she was the director of accounts & budgets for Anderson County for nine years and received her undergraduate degree in Accounting from Tennessee Wesleyan College, where she has also taught accounting classes.

Cook hold certifications as a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Government Finance Manager and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants, Association of Government Accountants, and Government Finance Officers Association.

Ken Cox came on board as a Training Consultant with MTAS and UT Institute for Public Service in January. He holds BS and MS degrees in Adult Education at UTK along with an associate degree in Electronic Technology and Journeyman credentials as both a Computer Electronics Technician and an Industrial Electronics Technician. During his 30 years in the training and development field, Cox has worked with adult learners in Technical Education, Industrial Training, Apprenticeship Programs, Team Effectiveness, and Management Development. His private sector experience as a training manager includes eight years with Westinghouse Electric and 10 years with Mead Paper.

A middle Tennessee native, **William Haston** was born and raised in Fayetteville. His work with MTAS as a Finance and Accounting Consultant, began in March helping city officials use and manage available fiscal resources effectively and develop new revenue sources along with accounting, purchasing, budgeting, debt service, and other finance-related issues. Prior to joining MTAS, Haston worked with the city of Kingsport for 14 years serving as assistant city manager/budget officer and also served as town recorder for the town of Jonesborough.

Leigh Lawson, joined MTAS in March bringing previous administrative experience to her position as New Program Resource Specialist. Lawson is the first point of contact at

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the Nashville office, addressing the administrative front desk duties and acting as the administrative assistant for nine MTAS consultants. She also provides clerical assistance for such programs as the Tennessee City Managers Association and Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recorders.

Kay Stegall has worked at the Martin office since March consulting with West Tennessee municipalities concerning finance and accounting issues. In addition, she will be participating in the development, review and presentation of the new Certified Municipal Finance Officer certification program.

Stegall graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin and started her professional career at the State of Tennessee Comptroller's Office in the Division of State Audit. While there, she participated in numerous audits of state departments and colleges and universities.

Prior to relocating to West Tennessee, she worked for the Nashville/Davidson County Metropolitan Government as an internal auditor where she supervised or participated in audit projects involving parks and recreation operations and fire department operations also assisting the external auditors in performing the annual audit of the government and the Division of Accounts with preparation of the comprehensive annual financial report.

Stegall spent the last 12 years in public accounting with Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC serving as the Senior Manager responsible for government audits and financial reporting. Her duties involved the review of audited financial statements and audit work papers. The duties required extensive research related to numerous accounting and audit topics. Over the past several years she has worked with a variety of federal grants and has gained experience with various federal grant regulations.

Stegall has also developed and presented training classes for firm personnel related to government accounting and audit standards.

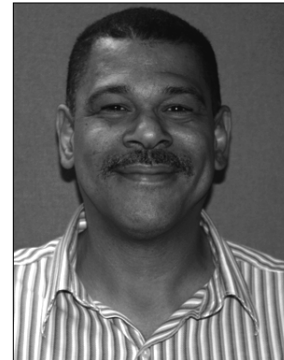
Dale Wolfe serves as the Business Manager for MTAS in the Knoxville office. Having moved from Anchorage, Alaska in 1990, Wolfe previously worked as a Prudhoe Bay production and revenue accountant for Atlantic Richfield and as finance manager with Hodge Engineering.



Gail Cook



Ken Cox



William Haston



Leigh Lawson



Kay Stegall



Dale Wolfe



May 9-10: 29th Annual Red Bank Jammin' Jubilee

Live entertainment, crafts and homemade foods. The community celebration begins with an auction at Meeks Auction, 5006 Dayton Blvd., at 6:30 p.m. May 9. Catch the parade along Dayton Blvd. May 10, at 10 a.m., enjoy the Stratoblasters on the BI-LO stage, the 6th Annual Car Show and Kidz Korner. Activities are centered in the Red Bank City Park.

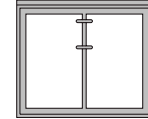
May 13 - 17: 67th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival

Portland. Fresh homegrown strawberries and various events all week culminating in Saturday's Annual Parade and a free Ronnie McDowell "Elvis" Concert and "grand finale" fireworks display that night. For detailed information contact the Portland Chamber of Commerce at 615-325-9032 or visit the website www.portlandcofc.com, or call the City of Portland at 615-325-6776 or www.cityofportlandtn.gov.

May 16 & 17: Dyer/Dyer Co. Old Time Bluegrass Festival

Dyersburg at the Dyer County Fairgrounds. Featuring old time string, bluegrass, and gospel music. Free admission. Friday gates open at 5 p.m. with music at 7 p.m. Sat. open at 9 a.m. Antique tractors, cars, crafts and concessions. For more information, contact Freeman Dudley at 731-285-2681.

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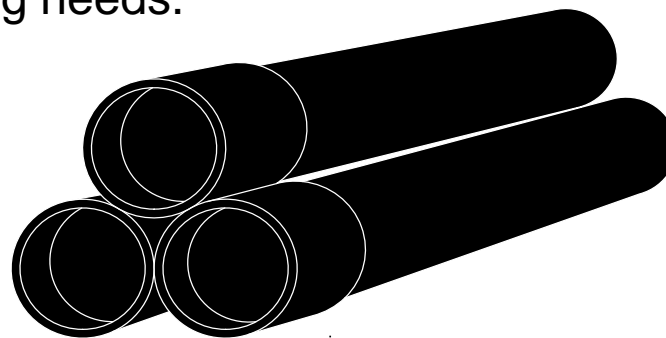
- May 6: Knoxville**
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- May 7: Kingsport**
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- May 8: Chattanooga**
The Chattanoogaogian
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- June 11: Bartlett**
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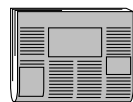
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CHIEF PLANNER

COLLIERVILLE. The town is seeking applications for the position of chief planner. This position performs responsible, complex professional work in a variety of current and long range planning studies. It requires a Bachelors degree in planning, landscape architecture or a closely related field supplemented by 6 years previous experience in a planning office at a professional level; or a Master's Degree in planning and 5 years experience; AICP certification may be substituted for one year of professional experience, or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Must possess and maintain a valid operators license. Salary range is \$46,437.000 - \$72,115.00 (DOQ) plus full benefits package. Applications may be obtained at the Human Resources Department, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, Tennessee, 38017, Mon-Fri. Applicants must fill out the official Town of Collierville application to be considered for this position. Applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. This position will remain open until filled. EOE

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

BOLIVIER. The city is seeking applications for the position of City Administrator. Salary is market competitive and negotiable DOQ. Mayor and 8 member council with 110-115 full-time employees. Strongly prefer degree in public administration and demonstrated success as chief administrative officer in full-service municipal government. Require minimum bachelor's degree in business/public administration/political science/closely related field. Looking for accomplished, assertive, and forward thinking; strong emphasis on current knowledge of municipal finance, economic development, growth management, and transportation issues; strong interpersonal and communication skills. Prefer experience managing in city council/manager form of government; served as city manager of similar size organization, or as deputy director in larger organization. Reports directly to council and responsible for oversight of departments, administration, finance, planning and community development, utility, public works, police, fire, parks and recreation and library. Equivalent educational qualifications or experience will be considered. For more information, call 731-658-2020. Send cover letter, detailed resume and references to City of Bolivar, Attn: Mayor Bobby Sain, 211 N. Washington Street, Bolivar, TN 38008. EOE. Tennessee Drug Free Workplace.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

JACKSON. Will serve as principal assistant to the chief in organizing, directing, supervising, disciplining and coordinating activities associated with the department, ensuring effective and efficient daily operational practices, firefighting techniques and procedures. Specific job duties include: supervising, directing, and evaluating fire prevention officers, training officers, and emergency medical services officer; handle employee concerns and problems; direct work; counsel; discipline and complete employee performance evaluations; direct personnel, apparatus, equipment and property of the department at emergency scenes, ensuring strict compliance with rules and regulations of the department, as designated by the fire chief; assist the chief in the development, implementations, and monitoring of operational and administrative procedures and policies; assist fire chief with the preparation and presentation of annual budgetary evaluations and related analysis to appropriate individuals; review the financial operations of the department and make recommendations on annual operating budget and capital improvements. Associate's degree in Fire Science preferred, with a minimum of three years' experience as a Captain. Must have State of Tennessee or National certification as a Firefighter II, Fire Instructor, Fire Officer I and II. Must possess a minimum of medical First Responder's certification from a Department of Public Health. Generous benefit package; salary is \$61,000.00. EOE/M/F/V/D. Minorities are encouraged to apply. Job description on city web site: www.cityofjackson.net. Contact the City of Jackson, Personnel Department, 127 E. Main Street, Suite 303, Jackson, TN 38301; phone 731-425-8252; Fax: 731-425-8673.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SPECIALIST HAYWOOD/TIPTON COUNTY. The Southwest Community Development Authority is seeking applicants for the position of Economic Development Specialist to lead the agency. The duties of this position include coordinating regional efforts to assist with the creation, retention, and expansion of high quality job opportunities for the people of southwest Tennessee. The position will be based in Haywood or Tipton Counties. A minimum of five years professional work experience in an economic development environment is re-

quired. Work experience in a range of economic development issues including community development, leadership development, entrepreneurship development, or technology development is preferred. Demonstrated experience in seeking and successfully securing grant funds is preferred. This person must be familiar with the latest economic development trends; have demonstrated experience and knowledge of the industrial site selection process including recruitment, proposal development, and working with industrial prospects or site selection consultants. Strong verbal and written communication skills and strong listening skills are required. This position also requires the applicant to possess a B.A. or B.S. degree. The completion of IEDC (International Economic Development Council) basic core curricula or additional economic development related course-work is preferred. This position requires a person that is highly motivated with a high level of integrity. Current priorities of the Southwest Community Development Authority include building relationships with economic development partner organizations, developing strategies to position our region for future growth, building the skill level of the workforce, retaining and assisting existing industry to expand, and building awareness for economic development within the general public and enhancing tourism opportunities. Salary: DOQ & Exp. plus excellent benefits. To apply, send cover letter stating salary requirements to Jeff Huffman, Tipton County executive, P.O. 686 Covington, TN, 38019, Attn. Economic Development Specialist Search. Deadline is May 1, 2008.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

ASHLAND CITY. The city is seeking a Public Works Director to be responsible for the Water, Wastewater and Street Departments of the city. Candidates must possess or be soon eligible for the required operating licenses; should have a minimum of 5 years of appropriate related experience with personnel management skills. The department currently has 16 employees. Ashland City operates a council approved salary plan and benefits program. The salary for beginning this position is \$42,800. Contact Phyllis Schaeffer, City Recorder, P.O. Box 36, 101 Court St. Ashland City, Tennessee 37015 for full job description. EOE

STAFF ENGINEER

LAKELAND. The Staff Engineer has a key role in assisting and working closely with a licensed City Engineer in providing professional engineering advice and assistance on matters pertaining to the growth of Lakeland in the development of commercial and residential subdivisions; implementation of Lakeland's storm water phase II program; and the design, construction, and maintenance of its street, storm water, and sanitary sewer systems. The position is responsible for planning, reviewing, designing, and inspecting a variety of municipal civil engineering projects of moderate complexity. In performing these duties, the Staff Engineer confers with a wide range of individuals and groups including engineers, contractors, developers, and public officials in addition to coordinating projects with the City of Lakeland's staff. Salary Range \$41,414 to \$49,689. The position's requirements include a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and an Engineer-In-Training (EIT) license. We offer excellent salaries and benefits, including insurance (medical, dental, life, short- and long-term disability), a retirement plan, paid sick leave and vacation, educational reimbursement, training opportunities, and a merit pay system. For a detailed job description and information, see www.lakelandtn.gov or call 901.867.2717. E-mail resumes or applications to: cityhall@lakelandtn.org; or fax to 901.867.2063; mail to: City of Lakeland, 10001 Highway 70, Lakeland, TN 38002. EOE

WASTEWATER SPECIALIST

LAKELAND. The city of Lakeland, located in the metropolitan Memphis area, is seeking applicants for the position of Wastewater Specialist. The Wastewater Specialist will assist in the maintenance, operations, and/or repair of the recently built wastewater treatment plant and the City's collection system. The position's requirements include a high school degree or G.E.D; minimum of two-years related experience; the ability to use hand and power tools and operate equipment; a valid driver's license and CDL with tanker endorsement within time frame determined upon entry into the position; mechanical and construction knowledge; the ability to respond to emergency call-out on a 24/7 basis; and wastewater certification within two years after entering the position. Salary range is \$27,278 to \$32,730 negotiable based on experience. We offer excellent salaries and benefits, including insurance (medical, dental, life, short- and long-term disability), a retirement plan, paid sick leave and vacation, educational reimbursement, training opportunities, and a merit pay system. For job description and additional information, visit www.lakelandtn.gov or call 901.867.2717. e-mail resumes and applications to cityhall@lakelandtn.org; or fax, 901.867.2063 or mail to: City of Lakeland, 10001 Highway 70, Lakeland, TN 38002. EOE

Conference speakers' address top concerns

SPEAKERS from Page 1
lion in Clean Water and \$64 million in Drinking Water loans over the last five years for planning, design and construction.

Sloan commended city governments for the work they have already done in meeting federal ozone standards through the participations of Early Action Compacts, adoption of a vehicle emissions testing program, and reducing speed limits for 18 wheel trucks.

"But before we could even uncork the champagne to celebrate the success of these local communities, EPA has now proposed a new, stricter ozone standard that will almost certainly result in several Tennessee counties - and several other states in the nation - being designated ozone nonattainment."

Sloan said a final designation announcement will probably not come until March 2010, and that TDEC will begin meeting with local officials this fall as this season's air quality data is finalized and more information becomes available on the milestones associated with the new, stricter ozone standards.

Commissioner Sloan also listed several state programs in place to assist local governments with environmental issues.

- TDEC works closely with local governments to identify projects and make grant applications that secure federal grant dollars for brownfield redevelopment
- State Revolving Loan Fund has provided more than \$446 mil-

lion in Clean Water and \$64 million in Drinking Water loans over the last five years for planning, design and construction.

The creation of the Tennessee Storm Water Association that will encompass five different regions to improve overall program effectiveness for storm-water pollution permits

Commissioner Leslie Newman Commerce and Insurance
Fire prevention education, building and fire codes enforcement, regulation, investigation and law enforcement were some of the primary topics governing Commissioner Newman's remarks.

Newman stressed that nearly 80 percent of firefighters are volunteers with no added subsidy for training programs and that the state currently has no mandatory training requirements for volunteer firefighters. With developmental assistance by the Municipal Technical Advisory Service and County Technical Advisory Service fire consultants, Newman's office will be proposing legislation for a minimum 16-hour training program, which will be made available to all volunteer firefighters.

13,000 students, fire fighters, codes officials and members of other law enforcement agencies.

Battles between two code councils - the NFPA and the ICC have been waged over the adoption of the state's fire code. The State Fire Marshal's Office has decided to begin another public hearing process with many cities either already adopting the International Fire Code or have written letters urging the State to do so.

Newman cited the benefits and low cost of home sprinkler systems, not only lowering homeowner insurance but, resulting in significantly less smoke and water damage than when fire pumpers are used. However, current residential codes do not require the use of automatic systems.

From 2002-2006, 378 residential fire deaths were reported to TFIRS, the Tennessee branch of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 65 percent occurring in one or two family dwellings. NFPA's study shows that certain factors are indicators of high residential fire death rates including: poverty, lack of education (people over 25 years old without a high school diploma), high smoking rate, and extensive rural areas. NFPA concluded that effective fire and life safety education, a wider use of home fire protection systems, along with a strong consensus code with strong enforcement, can reduce fire death rates in any state.

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Jim Tracy, NCAA hoops ref, brought education, insurance know-how to Senate

BY GAEL STAHL

Last year, Sen. Jim Tracy's time-consuming work in the legislature moved him to discontinue his 25-year career as an NCAA official. The life-time athlete/coach/official retired reluctantly. It was something he really enjoyed, something he picked up from Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley, also a long-time NCAA basketball referee, who had officiated his high school basketball games in Savannah, Tenn. Later, Kelley helped Tracy get started at NCAA.

At Savannah High, Tracy played three sports and at college, baseball all four years – two at Freed Hardeman University, a four-year, liberal-arts college at Henderson, and two years at the University of Tennessee at Martin where he received his degree in Agriculture Education.

Certified to teach science and ag classes, he taught both for six and a half years and also coached. He spent two years in Dalton, Ga., two years in Mobile, Ala., and two years in Columbia, Tenn. Liking the feel of being back home in Tennessee, wife Trena put down her foot, looked at Jim, looked at their two young boys, and said, "I'm tired of moving. You need to get settled." Tracy knew she spoke the truth. He gave up his dream to become a college coach, settled into the insurance business in 1984 at Columbia, and has been at it ever since.

In 1989, the family moved to Shelbyville when he took over an insurance agency that he still owns. He also has an office in Murfreesboro. He has developed as many connections there as in Bedford County from attending Middle Tennessee State University events and serving on the Murfreesboro/Rutherford Chamber of Commerce. In Shelbyville, he was elected to the Bedford County Board of Education and served nine years beginning in 1996. His first elected position, it rewarded him with the useful chance to learn about education from the other side. He already knew the classroom teacher side from having been one, his mother also, and his wife who worked in education. He learned how funding formulas are created and has served on the Senate Education Committee for four years.

Tracy's West Tennessee parents were both from Crockett Mills and both were teachers. His father, James Tracy Jr., was teaching there when he met Tracy's mother, Betty. When Tracy's dad became an assistant county agent for the University of Tennessee, the family moved to Savannah. His dad became Extension Leader, a position that was then, and still is, an important job and an "especially big deal in rural West Tennessee." While growing up, Tracy went all over the county tagging along with his father enjoying himself and learning a lot. But, his main lifelong sideline has been athletics, starting with Little League, continuing through college on up to the marathons he's been running lately.

Tracy met Trena, originally from Alabama, at Freed Hardeman. They married while he was in college. Trena worked for the Department of Education as a teacher assistant until she retired last year after 16 years. She now has a real estate license and practices that.

Their three sons range in age from the oldest, 28, who has a degree in P.E. and journalism at MTSU, which he practices as a part-time sports writer for the Shelbyville Times Gazette, to supplement a full-time job. Their middle son works for a Shelbyville contractor, and their youngest, 17, is a junior at Shelbyville High School.

School Board member Jim Tracy ran for a House seat in 2002, lost to Rep. Curt Cobb of Shelbyville, and chalked it up to an enjoyable experience. But, when an opportunity came up two years later to run for a Senate seat against incumbent Sen. Larry Trail, Tracy won. Up for re-election in November, Tracy chairs the Senate Transportation Committee and is a member of the Senate State and Local Government Committee. He serves as a member of the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations made up of legislators, city and county officials, and private citizens who help the legislature study common problems and recommend legislation to the House and Senate. During Tracy's first year at TACIR, a major study of local elections (whether they should



Photos by Gael Stahl

"My philosophy, going back to when I was on the Board of Education, is to always check back with those affected by what we do."

"I hated unfunded mandates when I was a school board member, and I know that mayors, city councils, and county commissioners don't like unfunded mandates either."

"One of my goals, if I get reelected this November, is to spend some time over the next four years working to change the laws so families can help their relatives with mental disabilities."

be scheduled to concur with state elections, or not) and state elections (whether to use back-up paper ballots) has been on-going.

TT&C: Who were major influences during high school?

JT: Estill Mills, my high school principal, who later became assistant commissioner of Education. Department Commissioner Charles Smith, during the McWherter administration, pushed me to try things I wouldn't have otherwise. I became student body president during my senior year. I also played three sports and had some influential coaches. Football Coach Rick Barker and baseball Coach Mike Fortin also pushed me and helped make me be a better person and leader than I thought I could be. Later, Coach Barker hired me to be his assistant coach at Columbia when he became coach there. He called me in Alabama where I was coaching to see if I would be interested in returning to Tennessee. I absolutely was and have been back in my home state ever since.

TT&C: You've been on the Education Committee all four years in the Senate?

JT: Yes. In my opinion, education, (pre-K, K-12, and higher education) is about the most important thing we do in state government. It is our best way to improve the quality of lives and helps citizens become productive.

I'm also on the Corrections Oversight Committee, which oversees all the prisons in the state. There are education issues there, too. It is depressing that we spend \$22,500 or more per year to keep citizens housed in a prison, when for a lot less, we can get them educated, into the work force, and put something back into society. I've visited a lot of Tennessee prisons and was told at a facility in Nashville last year that about 75 percent of the prison population hasn't finished high school.

TT&C: And even fewer of them college material?

JT: Correct. That's where career and technical education comes in. It's important to me because my degree is in vocational agriculture. Our Education Committee's emphasis this year is to improve graduation rates, something the governor talks about all the time. One way to keep young folks in school is through career and technical education. Not all students go to college and so need a career path to follow. Our technology centers all over the state provide that kind of education after high school. Already at the high school level they can begin aiming for a technical career in heating/air contracting, auto mechanics, carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, or computer training. For example, my oldest son planned on going to college all along. My middle son did not. He wanted to work with his hands and he's now working for a contractor and loving it. Young people like that may decide not to go along a college path of study but take a technical path. I have several bills that deal with providing additional money specifically for equipment at career and technical education centers. It's a bipartisan effort.

TT&C: TML Executive Director Margaret Mahery was director of the Technology Center at Athens

where she was mayor before coming to Nashville and knows firsthand how those centers improve the state's work force. She's observed your interest in career and technical education, GEDs, and adult education.

JT: I didn't realize that was her specific role; only that she was involved in education. Well, let's talk about adult education. Last year, I received the Legislative Award from the Adult Education Task Force, which has to do with the folks that may drop out of school, not get their diploma, and go to work for a couple of years. All of a sudden, they decide this isn't their deal. They want to go back and get their education.

We have a group of teachers that do an outstanding job across the state helping those young folks get their GEDs and sometimes their diploma. Since those folks who go back to get their GEDs are going to improve their work chances, Adult Education is under the Department of Labor and Work Force, not under the Department of Education.

TT&C: In this tight budget year, any new education money will have to come from excess lottery funds, won't it?

JT: Because of that, I have Senate Bill 277 to make about \$100 million of the \$460 million total we have in excess lottery funds available for capital outlay. The \$100 million is to be divided up on a county or school system basis based on the number of students in each school system. The capital improvements include building new classrooms to replace portable classrooms, upgrading energy efficient lighting, getting new heating and air facilities, or getting a new roof or windows.

TT&C: As chair of Senate Transportation, were you able to find any money for the state's transportation needs?

JT: Our budget problems increased when we learned that Tennessee is getting \$66 million less from the federal government this year – our share of the federal cutbacks in road funds to all 50 states. Transportation is a vital cog in the state's economy, and we do have quality roads today. But roads not maintained deteriorate. We also need money to handle the tremendous growth in Tennessee. Our quality of life attracts more and more people and we have to build new roads for all the new developments. My district includes Rutherford County, the fastest growing county in the state. If we don't have roads to get increasing numbers of people in and out, it stymies everything.

This year, I sponsored legislation to fully fund the Road Fund with our designated gasoline tax for transportation purposes. In the past, some of that money was taken out of the Transportation Fund, but not last year or the year before.

A priority is to finish the 11-mile stretch of 840 between Murfreesboro/Franklin and I-40 west. That will tremendously help to get heavy traffic to skirt Nashville and divert tens of thousands of vehicles every day to the southwest loop between I-24 east and I-65 south and I-40 west. TDOT Commissioner Nicely met with our committee and said his goal is to get this \$250 million project finished as quickly as possible.

TT&C: You are involved in getting more home-based care for

senior citizens?

JT: The governor's plan to give choices to seniors is important. That is important to citizens. Both of my parents feel it's important to them to be able to continue to live at home as long as possible and I'm supportive of all who want to live at home as long as they can. Everyone does, really. I was on that Study Committee last summer that studied these issues. There will always be a place for nursing homes for people at a certain stage of life, but the governor's proposal to expand home care options is something I'm very much for.

TT&C: You've said that folks with mental disabilities are too often left behind. Any progress to report?

JT: We don't intentionally leave them behind. It's just that we have so many other things we're working on. I passed a bill two years ago to fulfill a promise to some day help people with mental disabilities. This year, I am sponsoring Senate Bill 2651 which will put more funding in there to try to fulfill that promise. One of my goals, if I get reelected this November, is to spend some

insurance evolve?

JT: I was chairman of the National Federation of Independent Business' leadership council in 2003 before I ran for the Senate. The NFIB represents small business folks from Johnson City to Memphis. A study conducted by NFIB 15 years ago showed 75 percent of its members offered health insurance. Results of the same poll last year showed a drop to only 45 percent of members offering coverage, with businesses having smaller number of employees being less likely to offer insurance.

I co-sponsored the legislation this year to let more small business owners join together to negotiate lower health insurance rates. The Senate has given final approval to bill SB 4014 designed to encourage more small employers to purchase health insurance and give them predictability and stability in health insurance rates. I'm an insurance agent myself and know how important it is for the many Tennessee employees and families that are employed by these businesses.

TT&C: What political philosophy have you embodied during your four years as senator?

JT: I met Gov. Buford Ellington at 4H Boys Camp when I was about eight years old. That made an impact on me. I never forget it's an honor to be one of 33 senators in Tennessee and that I represent District 16 in Rutherford, Bedford, and Moore counties. My philosophy, going back to when I was on the Board of Education, is to always check back with those affected by what we do. I call my city council-person or county commissioner or school board members or law enforcement officials about what proposed laws say. It may sound wonderful up here but may negatively affect the folks back home. It may even be an unfunded mandate. I hated unfunded mandates when I was a school board member, and I know that mayors, city councils, and county commissioners don't like unfunded mandates either.

TT&C: Do you have any hobbies or past-times other than NCAA officiating that you've enjoyed?

JT: All my life I've enjoyed volunteering, whether coaching at the Little League level or the Babe

There are education issues [in corrections], too. It is depressing that we spend \$22,500 or more per year to keep citizens housed in a prison when for a lot less we can get them educated, into the work force, and putting something back into society. I was told at a facility in Nashville last year that about 75 percent of the prison population hasn't finished high school.

— Sen. Jim Tracy

time over the next four years working to change the laws so families can help their relatives with mental disabilities. Often, parents can't do much to help their own adult children if they won't take their medication.

TT&C: What does the bill you are co-sponsoring to improve education benefits for veterans do?

JT: The Senate committee approved my subcommittee recommendation to set up a \$25 million endowment fund for Tennessee veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill would provide a scholarship of up to \$1,000 per semester for veterans. Total benefits would be capped at \$8,000, which education experts believe would bridge the scholarship gap veterans face with the GI bill to complete their degree. Since we have more than 12,000 Tennesseans who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, this could lift the quality of life for many across the state. Our veterans served on the front lines for our country. The least we can do is provide an affordable way for them to get a college education upon returning home if they have not already graduated.

TT&C: How did the bill to help small businesses provide health

Ruth level or coaching football. I serve on the board of directors of the Rutherford YMCA and try to stay involved with the Boys and Girls Club.

I've enjoyed anything athletic. Golf used to be a big passion. I love getting out to golf, to hunt, and just be out in open spaces. I've done some fishing but prefer hunting, especially bird hunting and rabbit hunting with beagle hounds when I was growing up.

Most recently, I've gotten into running. I made it a goal when I was 49 to run a marathon when I turned 50. It's more of a mental test than a physical challenge. You have to train yourself to do it. I ran three marathons in the last two years, the Marine Corps Marathon last October where you have all the Armed Service folks manning the water stations. I'd just turned 51 and did it in 4 hours, 47 minutes. The year before, I did the St. Jude's Marathon in Memphis in 4:29:40. The Marine Corps race was a tougher course and I wasn't in quite as good shape as I was the year before, but I got through all 26 miles and 385 yards of it. A buddy about the same age and I trained for six months to work our way up to do it. We got it done, and I'm still running and working out today.