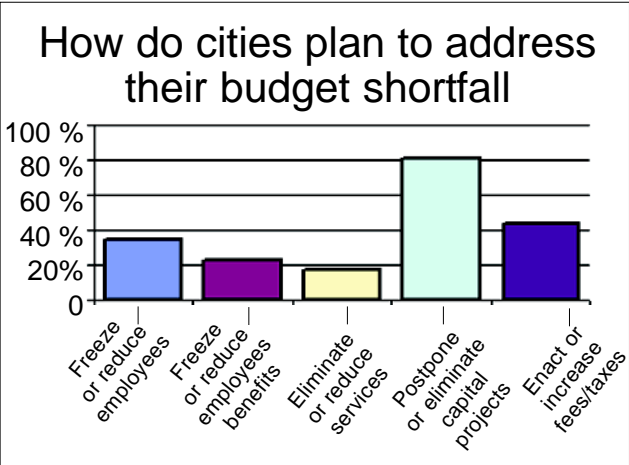


Tennessee cities also face budget shortfalls

The state is not the only agency feeling the affects of a s l o w e d economy. City governments across Tennessee are also facing a tight budget year.

According to a recent polling of municipal officials, more than 50 percent of Tennessee cities are experiencing a budget shortfall. A reduction in local option sales tax collections, an increase in the cost of fuel, and rising health care costs for employees are cited as the main reasons for the shortfall. In addition, more than 50 percent responded that their city has experienced a downsizing or closure of local businesses or industries.

To make up for the budget deficits, cities reported they would take several steps to balance the books, including postponing or eliminating capital improvement projects, implementing a hiring freeze or layingoff employees, or increasing fees or raising taxes.



Of those cities experiencing a budget shortfall, 80% say they will postpone capital projects; 44 % say they will have to raise fees or taxes to make up the deficit.

Bredesen outlines plan to slash \$468 million from 2008-09 budget

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Before a joint session of the Tennessee General Assembly, Gov. Phil Bredesen outlined his plan to cut \$468 million out of his proposed budget for 2008-09, as well as bridge a \$315 million budget gap to close the books on this year.

The cuts will come from four areas: base reductions totaling some \$233.2 million; \$229 million in reversion spending from state departments; reductions in planned improvements (\$283.3 million); and reductions in capital outlay spending (\$111.3 million).

“First, we will make honest cuts. We will use recurring funds to match recurring expenses, and not fall into the trap of using one-time dollars,” said Bredesen. “Second, we will protect our major reserves – TennCare and the rainy day fund. As large and tempting as these funds may seem, we’ll need them if the national economic situation worsens. Finally, we will resist calls to

take the easy path. We can’t tax our way out of this shortfall. We’ll need to make the changes necessary to live within our means.”

Bredesen proposed base reductions in three areas: state personnel reductions; higher education; and TennCare spending.

Proposed personnel reductions include a 5% permanent reduction in the workforce, or about 2,000 employees, through a voluntary buyout program estimated to save the state some \$64.4 million. Details of the plan are still being worked out. But over the next three weeks, department heads are being asked to identify positions that could be eliminated from their department permanently that will have a minimal impact on the public.

Bredesen said he hopes to be able to offer the buyouts around June 6, and employees will have 45 days to accept or reject them. If not enough employees take the buyout offer, however, Bredesen said there will have to be layoffs this summer.

“We will know by July if our



Gov. Bredesen calls for “honest cuts” and to protect reserves.

buyouts have achieved the necessary reduction,” said Bredesen.

Higher education has been cut 4.1 percent, or about \$56 million, and will be determined by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. **See BUDGET on Page 6**

Cities should include fuel cost clauses for solid waste bids

BY JOHN CHLARSON
MTAS Public Works Consultant

Approximately 18 months ago, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) received a call from a city with a solid waste collection problem. This city had contracted with a well known company for solid waste collection and disposal.

Approximately two years of the original five-year contract term remained. Since the date that the contract had been executed, the price of fuel had increased far beyond what anyone had foreseen.

The contractor asked the city to pay a fuel surcharge to help with the financial losses they claimed to be experiencing as a result of the unforeseen fuel cost increases. The city pointed out that their contract had no provision for a fuel surcharge, and accordingly, they had no obligation, or for that matter, authority, to pay a surcharge. The contractor responded by stating that, based on their losses, if the city would not help them, the contractor would be forced to default on the remainder of the contract.

After consultation, the city pointed out that if the contractor were to default, the contractor would have to buy out the remainder of the contract. The contractor responded that this option would lose them less money than operating under existing conditions for the remainder of the contract period. It was a very ugly situation all the way around.

During 2005, the average retail price of diesel fuel skyrocketed from \$1.93 per gallon in January to \$3.15 per gallon in late October. This 63 percent increase sent a shock wave throughout the solid waste industry. The National Solid Wastes Management Association (NSWMA) estimates that more than \$2 billion was spent on diesel fuel during 2005 to collect trash and recyclables in the United States.

Because of long-term contracts and other restrictions, the 2005 diesel cost increases were not always easy to pass on to customers. While the price of diesel has declined from its post-Hurricane Katrina peak, it remains much higher than it was in the 2000-2004 time period. Experts project prices will remain high for the foreseeable future.

In addition to the major pinch felt at fuel pumps, waste management companies have experienced other commodity related price increases such as higher vehicle and container costs due to steel and resin price increases, higher vendor fees for delivering supplies and services, more expensive tires and other vehicle parts, and increased utility costs.

In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) to allow for the kind of price increases that we have seen in the past few years. To get the best bid possible on the front end, MTAS recommends including a fuel cost adjustment provision in municipal solid **See FUEL on Page 6**

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Have you hugged your watershed lately? The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Tennessee Department of Transportation hopes that you will in the future.

Targeted to promote good stewardship and to increase public awareness about the importance watersheds play in protecting and maintaining Tennessee’s water resources, 187 green watershed signs have been placed along interstate and state highway routes since the program’s inception on Earth Day in 2007, with two to 10 signs installed per area based on the geographic location and number of major highways entering the watershed.

A watershed is the entire land area that drains into a lake, river, stream or other water body. They can be larger areas that drain into major rivers, or small, such as an area that drains into a neighborhood creek.

“It’s wonderful to see these two agencies partnering on something like this to help raise awareness that everyone in Tennessee lives in a watershed and has an interest in protecting it,” said Margo Farnsworth, senior fellow for the Cumberland River Compact. The two departments split the \$280,000 cost of the signs.

“Protecting our natural environment is a bigger job than any government agency or private organization can do alone,” added



To help promote public awareness, 187 watershed signs have been placed across Interstate and state highways across the state.

TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke.

“It requires the participation of all citizens, and I hope creating greater awareness of our watershed

boundaries will lead Tennesseans to be more active in their protection of our water resources.”

See WATERSHED on Page 5

Dynamic workshops focus on top municipal concerns

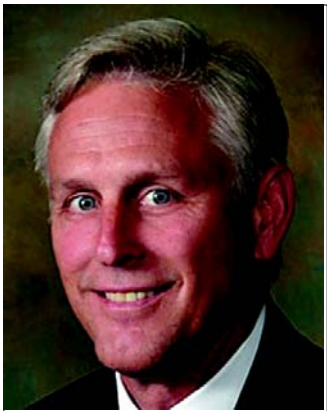
City officials attending the Tennessee Municipal League’s Annual Conference in June will have a wide variety of workshop sessions to choose from.

Slated for June 22-24 in Memphis, the conference will feature 16 concurrent workshop sessions, two member-participation workshops, as well as four vendor presentations.

On Monday afternoon, City Attorney **John Hessel** will provide a riveting account of the events leading up to and the attack inside the City Council Chambers in Kirkwood, Mo. In February, a gunman killed two police officers, two council members and the public works director, and seriously injured the mayor. The gunman aimed two pistols at Hessel from four feet away. He managed to escape after hurling chairs and throwing the gunman off-balance. Mr. Hessel will discuss how Kirkwood’s City Council handled logistics and safety precautions in the aftermath of this tragic story, in an effort to help Tennessee municipalities prevent such events in the future.

Jonathan Walters, a senior correspondent for *Governing Magazine*, will participate in two conference workshops. On Monday, he will serve as a panelist on transportation funding, providing his insight into the tug of war on how to pay for the desperately needed improvements to the nation’s infrastructure. Later that afternoon, he will present a workshop on media relations and how to get the media, public and legislators to focus on performance.

Walters has covered state and local public policy for more than two decades, with an emphasis on man-



John Hessel



Jonathan Walters

agement and administration. He lives in Ghent, N.Y., where he serves as chair of the Ghent Planning Board and is an active member of the Ghent Volunteer Fire Company.

Other workshops topics include: labor relations, growth management, leadership training, revitalization through public-private partnerships, disaster training, an update on the opens records law and the Ombudsman office, performance measurement, and how to overcome community opposition on **See CONFERENCE on Page 6**

Time stands still at Boiling Spring Academy



Photo by Victoria South

Third grade students from Mr. Bakke’s class at Sunset Elementary listen attentively to the school marm, played by retired teacher Barbara Depp at Boiling Spring Academy, a restored schoolhouse built in 1832 in Brentwood. Children dress in period clothing and relive a typical 1845 school day. The site is also home to ancient Indian burial mounds. **Story on page 3**

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ATHENS

An Athens pre-kindergarten program was recognized as exemplary for educating children with disabilities in regular classrooms, according to the Tennessee Department of Education. Four Star Academy was one of 13 public schools honored for outstanding services to students with special needs. The academy is a centrally located pre-K that serves about 130 pupils. Pre-K is under the early childhood learning department.

CHATTANOOGA/
CLARKSVILLE

Automotive analysts and experts expect Volkswagen to consider sites in Chattanooga and the Clarksville area for a possible new U.S. assembly plant. The sites have been certified as automotive manufacturing megasites by the Tennessee Valley Authority's site-selection consulting firm, McCallum Sweeney of Greenville, S.C.

COOKEVILLE

Cookeville officials are already looking at a significant property tax increase to fund the next year's budget, mainly due to declining sales tax increases, salary increases and a new fund for post-employment benefits. Cookeville City Finance Director Mike Davidson told council members that a 10-cent property tax increase is being proposed on top of the city's current property tax rate of 79 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Davidson said the increase would mean an extra \$50 in city property taxes on a \$200,000 home. City officials are projecting only a 2.75-percent increase in sales tax collections for the next fiscal year, which is the lowest increase projected for the city in several years.

DAYTON

Employment offices in the region will close this summer, victims of a federal funding cut, state officials said. A job service office in Jasper will close June 30, and a similar office in Dayton will close July 1. The government cut \$12 million from the next fiscal year's budget that it had been giving to the state to pay for job services at employment offices. No employees will lose their jobs. The Tennessee Career Center at the Dayton campus of Chattanooga State Technical Community College will remain open.

DYERSBURG

Grand Opening Celebrations were held recently in Dyersburg to celebrate the opening of NSK Steering Systems America; Inc. NSK Steering Systems America is a division of the global steering systems business of NSK Limited, headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. NSK is a world leader in the design and manufacture of automotive steering systems, components, bearings, and other motion control products. They will supply steering systems and components to companies such as Toyota, Honda, Mercedes, Nissan and other automotive companies from the Dyersburg facility. Over a period of 3-4 years, the plant is expected to employ some 150 people.

FRANKLIN

One of the nation's largest insurance companies is pondering a move to Middle Tennessee that could bring 450-500 jobs. Mayor John Schroer said he has met with Michigan-based Jackson National Life Insurance Co. officials about relocating a division to either Cool Springs or downtown Nashville. The company has \$82 billion in assets and sells insurance products in 49 states.

JOHNSON CITY

Beginning in July, East Tennessee State University will partner with North Side Elementary School through a \$3 million grant awarded by the National Science Foundation GK-12 program. The program, known as Science First!, will help bring hands on projects in science, technology, engineering and mathematics lessons to the elementary school, said Richard Church, principal at North Side. The grant, which lasts five years, will provide for nine ETSU graduate students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics to teach along with the elementary school teachers at North Side.

KNOXVILLE

The development of a sustainable biofuels industry in Tennessee has taken another leap forward. The U.S. Department of Energy has announced that Mascoma Corp., along with the University of Tennessee, is among the recipients of a \$26 million grant for the development of biomass conversion technology. The grant is for demonstrating the production of cellulosic ethanol at approximately one-tenth commercial scale operations. The facility is to be constructed at the Niles Ferry Industrial Park in Monroe County as part of the Tennessee Biofuels Initiative.

LEBANON

Summit Medical Center is opening an imaging center and an immediate care center in Wilson County at the new Physician's Plaza of Lebanon building. The total cost for the buildout of 18,700 square feet of leased office space and the medical equipment is more than \$7 million. The first center, Summit Imaging at Lebanon, opened May 12. It will be a diagnostic outpatient facility. The other center, Summit Convenient Care at Lebanon, will open in mid-August and is staffed by RNs and Nurse Practitioners. The center will offer medical services including physicals for schools and employees, immunizations, pediatric assessment and treatment of illnesses.

MCMINNVILLE

Google released a case study on its Cities in 3D Web site featuring McMinnville. The case study demonstrates how small towns can use Google's SketchUp software to create three-dimensional city models for use in Google Earth. "Since we started building the model of our downtown I've had phone calls and emails from everyone from local contractors to tourist companies," said Chris Wilson, director of Main Street McMinnville. To view the McMinnville case study, visit sketchup.google.com/3dwarehouse

and click on "Cities in 3D Program" then click on "Success Stories" on the left side of the page.

MEMPHIS

A delegation of approximately 50 doctors, administrators and medical experts from China will visit Tennessee this month for the first-ever Tennessee-China Health Care Exchange. The delegates will be divided into groups and spend several weeks at the University of Memphis, Vanderbilt University and East Tennessee State University. They will study health care financing, rural health care delivery, health care management and epidemiology among other topics. The delegation will reconvene in Nashville at the end of May for a symposium on health care issues before returning to China. With Tennessee's vast knowledge base in health care and China's projected six percent annual growth rate in private health care spending, there is a strong potential benefit to Tennessee's economy.

SAVANNAH

Savannah, located in Hardin County, has joined the list of certified communities in the Tennessee Main Street Program, bringing the total to 22 Tennessee communities certified through the program. The Main Street program provides communities with technical assistance and guidance in developing long-term strategies that promote economic growth and development. The program provides information and assistance in forging public networking and training opportunities for downtown commercial districts.

SURGOINSVILLE

ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber and Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens joined officials from Nu-Energie, LLC to celebrate the company's grand opening in Surgoinsville. The new plant is the first bio-diesel manufacturing facility in Northeast Tennessee and will create 15 new jobs representing a \$4 million capital investment. The project is supported by a FastTrack Infrastructure Development Grant from ECD to install railroad spurs in the Phipps Bend Industrial Park, where the plant is located. Nu-Energie is already developing a partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and they have secured Eastman Chemical as their first customer.

WESTMORELAND

Five years after two major employers closed factories and laid off workers, Westmoreland is still struggling to recover from a lost economic base. Now, town leaders and officials say the north Sumner town of 2,100 is poised for a comeback. The town's Industrial Development Board, has spearheaded efforts to increase Westmoreland's visibility and market the town's attributes to potential businesses. The board has been working with the state's Department of Economic and Community Development and the Tennessee Valley Authority's Consumer Connection, program to attract industries that suit Westmoreland's demographics. The city also distributed a citizen survey addressing local quality of life issues.



PEOPLE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ECD Commissioner **Matt Kisber** received a nod in the latest Southern Business & Development Magazine.



The magazine called Commissioner Kisber "One of the Top 10 People who Made a Difference," alongside actor Brad Pitt and retired Bank of America Chairman Hugh McColl.

Chief Justice **William M. "Mickey" Barker** of Chattanooga, a member of the state Supreme Court for 10 years, announced he'll retire Sept. 1. Barker, 66, was a circuit judge for 12 years and member of the Court of Criminal Appeals for three before Gov. **Don Sundquist** named him to the high court in 1998. Justice **Janice Holder** of Memphis, will succeed Chief Justice William **Barker** as chief justice. Holder, 58, was named to the court in 1996. She is the third of four women to have served on the court and will be the first female chief justice.



Barker



Holder

State **Sen. Randy McNally**, was honored at Oak Ridge Public Library in recognition and appreciation of his continuing support of libraries. Sen. McNally helped secure state funding for the Tennessee Electronic Library during the past legislative session, according to a library news release. The TEL databases include articles from newspapers and magazines, and a variety of reference sources, with information on health, business, authors, literature, and general reference, as well as Spanish language materials.



McNally

State **Sen. Tim Burchett** of Knoxville and Allison Beaver of Maryville are engaged to be married in Knoxville on Sept. 6. It is the first marriage for both Burchett, 43, and Beaver, 26.



Burchett

Former state House majority leader **Kim McMillan**, who formed an exploratory committee for the 2010 Democratic gubernatorial primary, has been elected chairman of the board of Cumberland Bank & Trust in Clarksville. The likely Democratic gubernatorial hopeful says she does not believe Tennessee needs a state income tax after previously voting for it. McMillan said she supported the income tax because she was following the will of her constituents, who live on the border with Kentucky, which has no sales tax on food.



McMillan

State House Majority Leader **Gary Odom**, 56, is getting married on the May 17 to Rachel Zamata, a 2006 graduate of the University of Tennessee.



Odom

Court of Criminal Appeals Judge **David G. Hayes**, 64, of Camden is retiring June 30 to become a senior judge.

John Jagger

will serve as Maryville new Development Services Director. Jagger's responsibilities will include planning and implementing economic development programs and services, assisting existing and potential businesses and industries, and management of the Planning & Codes area of the City. Jagger comes to Maryville from the City of Pigeon Forge where he served as Community Development Director for 13 years. Jagger has more than 30 years of planning, zoning, and development experience.



Jagger

Richard Goode will assume the duties of city manager for Mt. Pleasant. Goode is from Castle Rock, Colo., and grew up in Paducah, Ky. Goode has vast experience in real estate and multi-million dollar shopping mall developments, and was senior vice president for LaSalle Partners Inc.

Court of Appeals Judge **Frank Crawford**, 81, died of lung cancer April 17 at his home in Memphis. In 1996 he wrote the court's decision that a state law making homosexual acts a crime was unconstitutional. In 1992, he played a judge in the movie *The Firm*, the one who swears in Tom Cruise's character.

Louis J. "Jody" Baltz III, Tullahoma City Administrator, was named 2008 Alumnus of the Year by the Tennessee State University **Baltz** College of Public Service and Urban Affairs Institute of Government. Baltz is a 1995 graduate of the MPA program and is serving in his tenth year as city administrator.



Baltz

Former longtime *Tennessee Town & City* editor **Beverly Bruninga** passed away May 11. A former librarian, Bruninga's 21-year career with the Tennessee Municipal League spanned from 1974 until her retirement in 1995.

East Tennessee State University President **Paul E. Stanton Jr.** announced plans to retire next year after more than a decade at the helm of the school. Stanton said he will retire next March. He became the school's eighth president in 1997 and led the university through the creation of a new pharmacy school. Stanton told the ETSU Foundation that he will maintain strong ties to the university after his retirement and hopes to serve in an emeritus status.



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Learning is timeless at historic Brentwood school house

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

On a bright spring day in Brentwood the sounds of children at play beside an old brick school house bears truth that history repeats itself in ingenious ways. Third graders from Sunset Elementary are enthralled as they recapture a traditional school day in 1845 at Boiling Spring Academy, a restored 2-story schoolhouse built in 1832 at the intersection of Wilson Pike/Moore's Lane.

Dressed in period clothing, the students enjoy their lunches outdoors on quilts, sip water from tin cups and play a rollicking game of "Drop the Hanky" much like their predecessors did on a break from their benches and slates.

A retired school teacher, Barbara Depp, relishes her role as school marm, teaching classes in 1840s reading, penmanship and

While the schoolhouse alone represents a vital piece of early Tennessee history, the intrinsic value of the land is magnified two-fold by the large raised mound alongside the building, the remnant of a prehistoric village dating from A.D. 900 to 1450.

The property was once home to a population of early Native Americans known as the Mound Builders. Several ceremonial mounds were once visible there dating from 1200 to 1500 A.D. Now, this is the last one.

The large mound once hosted the abodes of a lineage of chiefs who traditionally built their homes on top, according to archeologists. The mound areas are called the Fewkes Group Archeological Site and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"The earliest settlers knew that Brentwood was a good place to live even then," Crigger said. "There 's

Depp notes that some of the more reticent students raise their hands often and are eager to be called upon at the Academy, at times demonstrating they have more subject knowledge than they had previously displayed on regular class days.

"We've had teachers e-mail us saying "Send us back those students," agreed Crigger.

"This is a wonderful learning opportunity for students, as well as adults," Crigger added.

"One boy told me it was the best field trip he had ever been on. Another girl said it was the second best behind Cumberland Caverns. I guess we cannot ask for more than that."



The two-story brick schoolhouse, Boiling Spring Academy, was built in 1832 and is protected as part of the Brentwood City Parks system at Primm Park.



The 2008 class of Boiling Spring Academy pose in front of the old schoolhouse.



The students experience life without modern conveniences such as hand pumped water served in tin cups by Carol Crigger.



Without modern playground equipment, the children play games such as "Drop the Hanky."

arithmetic. Each student completes an informative activity booklet about the time period and historical features prior to the field trip.

A project developed by the Brentwood Historic Commission, third-grade students throughout the city spend a day each year at the Academy learning history through the process of immersion.

"The children become incredibly attentive," said Depp, who also discusses proper 1800s classroom decorum with her charges; raising hands to speak, stand when speaking, feet and hands crossed, and one-room schoolhouse punishments Depp's never had to deploy.

"They become different children altogether," agreed Carole Crigger, Brentwood planning commissioner and Boiling Spring Academy program coordinator for the Historic Commission, who has witnessed the phenomenon several times now.

"They're so quiet and well behaved. It's a totally different environment for them, no clutter, nothing hanging on the walls. They appear to be in awe."

Originally a school for the sons of wealthy landowners until the Civil War era, the building became a public school and community church around 1887, then eventually fell silent for most of the 20th century, utilized by the property owners, the Primm family, as a shed to store feed and tobacco. Their 200-year-old farm house with slave cabins still exists across the way and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

fertile land for crops, wild game, and plentiful water resources." Crigger attributes the name of the area, Boiling Spring, to the natural spring spontaneously bubbling from the ground along the property.

In 2003, the Primms donated the school building along with the two acres of land comprising the archeological site to the city. The city then funded the school restoration project through a \$225,000 bond. A donation of an additional 29 acres of adjacent property, enabled the city to develop the area as a municipal recreation area, Primm Park, thus protecting the site from future development.

As an excellent example of historic preservation on the local level, the city utilized a knowledgeable local contractor that specialized in historic rehabilitation, Leatherwood, Inc., saving much of the integrity of the structure. The original chalkboard is still intact along the upstairs wall, as well as much of the original wood flooring, and handwritten messages scrawled on the walls throughout the ages, one clearly legible from 1904.

During the process, workers alerted the city when they discovered archeological fragments underneath the building's floorboards which were later excavated by Middle Tennessee State University's Archeology Department. A portion of those remains are encased for viewing at the front of the classroom and include small animal skeletons, pottery shards, slate tablet fragments, clothing rivets, and one glass marble.

May is National Preservation Month

Facts about Boiling Spring Academy

Boiling Spring Academy opened its doors January 1833 under the direction of School Master J.M. Tilford, a graduate of Cumberland University.

The first students of Boiling Spring Academy were seventeen-year-old boys.

Students from outside the community requiring board were housed by families in the vicinity.

The Academy offered three levels of classes with each term lasting five and a half months.

The first level cost \$8 per term offering reading, writing, and arithmetic. The second level, at \$10 per term, incorporated the study of grammar and geography, and an advanced level of study featured Latin and Greek languages and the sciences at \$14 per term.

The surrounding archeological site was used as a pasture until 1920, when archeologist



William Myer conducted a formal excavation and testing of the mounds.

In 1980, the integrity of the site was formally recognized, and the Fewkes Group Archeological Site and Boiling Spring Academy were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information about Boiling Spring Academy, contact Linda Lynch, City of Brentwood at 615-371-0060.

Photos by Victoria South

STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Tennessee officials say they’re taking steps to improve the release of information about fatal and life-threatening child abuse cases despite a report from two advocacy groups that give the state a failing grade. The report, which gave 10 states low marks for their disclosure practices, urges Congress and state legislators to adopt stronger policies and laws regarding deadly child abuse cases. Currently, only a handful of states fully comply with the legislative intent of federal law mandating public disclosure of the deaths and near deaths of abused or neglected children, the report said.

The Legislature approved bills to increase the penalty for those who illegally park vehicles in places designed for the handicapped and to make more handicapped spaces available in the future. Both bills passed overwhelmingly in both the House and Senate. SB2706, will increase the fine for improperly parking in a space designated for the disabled from \$150 to \$200, which would be the established penalty in all cases. In addition, the bill authorizes a judge to require that the offender perform five hours of community service, including “monitoring handicapped parking spaces” or providing assistance to the disabled or to disabled veterans. The second bill, SB2571, establishes a new formula for the number of designated handicapped spaces required in open-to-the-public businesses with parking areas that are built or expanded after Jan. 1, 2009. It basically brings state law into conformance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. Under the bill, a business with one to 25 parking spaces would be required to have one specially marked handicapped parking space. More general spaces would mean more required handicapped spaces.

A \$2.5 million grant to the Tennessee Hospital Association’s patient safety center will help more hospitals participate in a national program shown to cut down on post-surgical infections and other adverse outcomes. The funds will help defray the cost for Tennessee hospitals to join the American College of Surgeons’ National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, which compiles a database of surgery outcomes adjusted to account for the health and risk factors of a hospital’s patient population. Participation in the program can cost a hospital about \$100,000 a year, including an annual fee of \$35,000 paid to the American College of Surgeons for running the program.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, which is developing plans to expand its nuclear fleet from six to nine reactors by 2020, also will work on a way to reprocess the waste from its nuclear plants. TVA officials announced that it has signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy to research new ways to reclaim much of the spent nuclear fuel from commercial reactors without creating plutonium that could be used to make nuclear weapons. The signed memorandum of understanding doesn’t commit the DOE or TVA to build any facilities or hire more staff. But, the four-page agreement mentions the potential of eventually developing a flexible reactor facility along with a nuclear fuel reprocessing center and research facility. TVA and DOE officials hope the partnership will bring closer the new fuel reprocessing envisioned under the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership announced by Pres. George Bush in his State of the Union address two years ago.

Drug experts say people are stealing tanks from places that fill them with propane and filling them with anhydrous ammonia to make Meth. “It is a tremendous impact all the way around making it a number one drug threat,” said the Tennessee Meth Task Force Director.

Gov. Bredezen and the Tennessee Historical Commission have announced grants to 22 community organizations for programs and activities that support the preservation of historic and archeological sites, districts and structures. The program helps fund the work of local governments, non-profit groups and others to preserve historic places representing a total of

\$521,800 in assistance, according to Bredezen. The grants awarded come from federal funds allocated by the Department of Interior under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act.

A Tennessee Department of Agriculture survey has concluded that approximately 8,215 acres of forestland were damaged by the February tornados. The damage had an estimated timber value of \$10.3 million, according to a release from the Division of Forestry. In addition to the potential timber losses to landowners, future forest damage could occur as a result of secondary insect and disease problems, which could likewise result in an increase in fuel loading that will ultimately make fire suppression more difficult over the next few years.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation and Department of Environment and Conservation will provide a \$1 million grant to retrofit diesel engines in older school buses in Hamilton County and 15 other school systems because the areas have high enough levels of harmful pollutants in the air. The add-on equipment can reduce emissions from the engine or the tailpipe and can cost anywhere from \$1,500 to \$5,000 per bus. For a school district to get the grant, it must agree to put in place an idling reduction policy for its buses. Grant recipients also would be encouraged to use biodiesel, a cleaner-burning fuel made partially with soybean oil.

A new State Board of Education rule will require athletes entering the seventh and ninth grade for the 2008-09 school year to have a complete health maintenance exam also known as a “well-child check” or Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) exam prior to sports participation. The health maintenance exam includes a thorough history, a physical exam, screening for hearing and vision, laboratory tests, immunizations and age-appropriate education.

Tennessee’s First Lady Andrea Conte gave a standing ovation to **150 walkers who joined her and raised almost \$20,000 to help abused children through the Child Advocacy Center.** Andrea Walks chair Lisa Bobo Wells said the Cannon County Andrea Walks event raised an additional \$18,000 for the center. The Child Advocacy Center is a non-profit agency that serves children who have been victims of child abuse, child sexual abuse and drug endangered children along with their non-offending parents and family members.

Every available member of the Tennessee Highway Patrol was out in full force recently as part of a statewide effort called “Take Back Our Highways.” Motorists can expect to see more patrolmen all summer long, as part of an on-going effort to reduce traffic fatalities. In Tennessee, traffic fatalities declined by 9 percent in 2007 and preliminary figures for 2008 indicate the trend is continuing with the exception of some rural areas where crashes are up compared to the same time period last year.

Gov. Bredezen has signed into law a bill to require stricter water quality monitoring on the Pigeon River. For more than 100 years a paper mill in Canton, N.C., has dumped discharges from a bleaching process into the river before it flows into Tennessee. The bill that passed both chambers unanimously calls on the Department of Environment and Conservation to test the water from the center of the river within a quarter-mile of the North Carolina border.



A ribbon cutting was held recently for the new \$3.7 million Bartlett Public Library. At 21,000 sq. feet, the new facility has \$250,000 in new reading materials. Pictured front row, left to right are Alderman W.C. (Bubba) Pleasant, CAO Jay Rainey, Mayor Keith McDonald, Library Manager/Gay Cain, Alderman Bobby Simmons & Alderman Jack Young. Back row: library staff.

The University of Tennessee has closed the funding gap by raising ticket revenues for its 2009 budget. The financial forecast for the UT’s Athletic Department next fiscal year had at one time called for a \$3 million shortfall, the result of more money for debt payments, higher salaries mandated by the state, and higher costs for travel and operation of its facilities. Now, there’s a new \$90 charge to students for season football tickets, or \$15 per game if purchased on a game-by-game basis. Previously, students could obtain tickets for free with a valid student ID. The hunt for new revenue also included a \$19 jump in non-student season-ticket prices and a 30 percent reduction in tickets discounts for faculty and staff. UT officials presented a balanced \$87 million Athletic Department budget as a result.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park can be the engine to propel new eco-friendly tourism for gateway communities in Tennessee and North Carolina, according to participants at a regional conference on “sustainable tourism.” That’s both an opportunity and a challenge for such communities as Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Cherokee, N.C., and for the country’s most-visited national park itself. A National Geographic Traveler survey of “sustainable destinations” ranked the Smokies second to last among 55 national parks in the U.S. and Canada in 2005, citing “terrible traffic, vista-choking haze, invasive species and crowded trails.” Some 9.2 million visitors come to the Smokies annually. U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne told a news conference before addressing the meeting that record new federal spending has been authorized for the national parks, including the Smokies, that will help with routine operations and special projects.

Tennessee communities cited in national magazine

ECD Commissioner Matt Kisber and several Tennessee communities received nods in the latest Southern Business & Development Magazine.

SB&D celebrated their 15 year anniversary in 2007, and to mark the occasion, they recognized the Top Ten contenders in a wide swath of categories for their Winter 2008 issue.

The magazine called Commissioner Kisber “One of the Top 10 People who Made a Difference,” alongside actor Brad Pitt and retired Bank of America Chairman Hugh McColl.

“ECD has done more with less than any other state economic development agency in the South,” the article reads. “Kisber and the department are light years ahead of where they were when they started back in 2002. From our point of view, ECD is as consistent of a performer as there is.”

The Memphis and Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin areas also claimed high honors, ranking third and fifth, respectively, among the Top 10 Major Markets in the South from 1993 to 2007. Memphis drew on its successful partnership with FedEx to earn its award, and the magazine touted Nashville’s burgeoning automotive industry, including the facilities of Saturn and Nissan, as a reason for its award.

SB&D called Dyersburg number four on the list of “Top 10 Small Towns in the South That Deserve a Second Look.” Dyersburg is home to corporate facilities for Jimmy Dean Foods, Caterpillar and Dr. Pepper/Pepsi Bottling, as well as a \$2.6 million conference facility. The article also cited Dyersburg’s

mention on *Fox News* as one of the best places in the U.S. to retire.

Knoxville/Oak Ridge and Memphis rank in fourth and fifth, respectively, among the “Top 10 Markets in the South for Advanced Manufacturing.” The magazine mentioned Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the University of Tennessee and the Y-12 National Security Complex in Knoxville/Oak Ridge, and Smith & Nephew, Medtronic and Wright Medical in Memphis as indicators of success in the two regions.

CentrePoint Distribution Park in LaVergne and Elam Farms in Murfreesboro both made the list of “Top 10 Incredibly Large, Nicely Positioned Distribution Sites in the South You May Not Know About.”

Finally, Clarksville, outside Nashville, and Cleveland/Bradley County, outside Chattanooga, were both named among the “Top 10 Great Edge Markets You Might Not Know About.” Clarksville is home to Middle Tennessee’s only TVA-Certified Megasite, Commerce Park, as well as Austin Peay State University and Fort Campbell Army Post. The area has recently received investments from American Standard Trane, Quebecor World, Robert Bosch, LLC and others. Bradley County boast 147 manufacturers, as well as the Cleveland/Bradley County and the Hiwassee River Industrial Parks just off Interstate 75.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development works routinely with new and existing businesses to establish and expand their presence in the state.

For more information, visit www.tnecd.gov.



NATIONAL BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Congressional negotiators said that they had reached a tentative agreement on a five-year farm bill that would increase spending on food stamps and other nutrition programs while mostly maintaining existing farm subsidies at a time of record profits for farmers. The bill, which would cost more than \$300 billion, includes an increase of \$1 billion a year for food stamps and other nutrition aid, and it would make a modest cut, of about \$40 million a year, to a much-criticized farm subsidy that is paid based on acreage even if it is no longer farmed. The deal also contains tax cuts of up to \$1.8 billion, including depreciation incentives for race-

horse breeders. And it includes a new \$3.8 billion disaster relief program for farmers, scaled back from the \$5 billion proposed by the Senate.

The United States has less than 5 percent of the world’s population. But it has almost a quarter of the world’s prisoners. The U.S. leads the world in producing prisoners. Americans are locked up for crimes, from writing bad checks to using drugs, that would rarely produce prison sentences in other countries. And in particular they are kept incarcerated far longer than prisoners in other nations. The United States has 2.3 million criminals behind bars, more than any

other nation, according to data maintained by the International Center for Prison Studies at King’s College London.

The Supreme Court upheld an Indiana law that requires citizens to present a driver’s license, passport or other approved identification before they vote, a ruling that could inflame a heated debate before November’s elections and encourage other states to enact similar rules. There could be some impact on the many new voters drawn to the political process, as well as recent immigrants and low-income citizens thought to be more likely to lack the required credentials.

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U.S. House passes housing stabilization measure

BY MIKE WALLACE
Nation Cities Weekly

The U.S. House earlier this month passed a substantial housing assistance package that would help struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure and ease the growing burden of vacant housing on cities and states.

The housing legislation was passed in two bills, H.R. 5818, The Neighborhood Stabilization Act, and H.R. 3221, The American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act. Both are top legislative priorities for NLC, whose recent polling of local elected officials indicates that 62 percent of cities are experiencing significant increases in home mortgage foreclosure, and 33 percent reporting increases in vacant properties and declines in local revenues as a result.

Although the bills passed with strong bipartisan support, with nearly 40 Republicans joining Democrats on the two bills, the measures did not gain veto-proof majorities. As a result, the Senate may choose to scale the bill down to levels more in line with President Bush, who threatened to veto the House-passed legislation.

Neighborhood Stabilization Act
The Neighborhood Stabilization Act authorizes a one-year \$7.5 million grant program and a \$7.5 billion federal loan program to help sustain neighborhoods and communities experiencing the highest rates of home foreclosure. Funding could be used to purchase qualified houses made vacant by foreclosure, to rehabilitate houses to restore compliance with local codes and general habitability, including energy-efficiency improvements, and to re-sell or rent the houses to income-targeted families.

In addition, recipients could use up to 8 percent of their grant to cover operating and holding costs, such as management fees, taxes and insurance, and other administrative overhead associated with the property. The bill gives the Department of Housing and Urban Development

the ability to approve funds for the demolition of houses too damaged for rehabilitation, but bars funds for the demolition of public housing.

In the original bill, funding was directed to state governments for redistribution to local governments and other housing and community development entities. Waters, however, offered an amendment supported by NLC that made cities and urban counties with high rates of foreclosure, along with the states, eligible for the funding directly.

According to the National Foreclosure Prevention and Neighborhood Stabilization Task Force, the \$15 billion investment will generate at least \$38 billion in direct and “ripple effect” economic activity nationwide, employ 120,000 people and restore nearly \$225 million per year in local government real estate tax collections.

The American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act
The American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act, which passed the House in the form of three large housing and tax amendments that completely rewrote a foreclosure rescue bill the Senate passed in April, is actually several bills packaged together under the leadership of House Financial Services Chairman Frank.

The bill would stimulate foreclosure prevention efforts undertaken by private lenders and mortgage servicers, provide increased liquidity in the mortgage markets, and strengthen federal regulation and oversight of the lending industry. The centerpiece of the bill is the FHA Housing Stabilization and Homeowner Retention Act. Under the bill, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) would set up a new program to encourage lenders to voluntarily forgive a portion of outstanding debt on troubled mortgages. In exchange for forgiving the debt, those mortgages would be refinanced into conventional, lower-interest mortgages guaranteed by the FHA.

To qualify for the voluntary pro-

gram, lenders would have to accept a payment of no more than 85 percent of the currently appraised value of the property as payment in full on the loan. Homeowners would be eligible only if they could reasonably be expected to repay the refinanced loan and would have to share any profit from future home appreciation with the government.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that about 2.8 million borrowers will have foreclosure proceedings initiated against them in the next four years, and that most of these would be eligible for an FHA-guaranteed refinanced loan, provided their lenders agree to participate in the program.

The bill also includes Federal Housing Administration and Government Sponsored Enterprise (GSE) reform bills passed by the House last year. FHA reform would allow FHA to provide home loans in higher-cost housing markets and to individuals with less-than-perfect credit. The GSEs, composed of mortgage finance giants Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Banks, would be given similar latitude to finance a wider range of mortgage loans.

Another provision in the bill would establish a federal Affordable Housing Fund paid for by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which would contribute funding equal to 1.2 percent of their total outstanding mortgages. Only very-low and extremely low-income families would be eligible for assistance from the fund, and the assistance could be used for rental housing, homeownership, and public infrastructure activities in conjunction with housing.

Finally, the bill would provide a legal safe harbor for mortgage loan servicers making certain loan modifications. The provision responds to concerns that mortgage loan servicers are being discouraged from modifying loan terms to prevent foreclosures by the fear of potential lawsuits from investors that stand to lose some profit on the loan modification.

In 1998, the EPA and the USDA jointly released the Clean Water Action Plan to meet the promise of clean, safe water for all Americans.

A key element in the plan called for a new cooperative approach to watershed protection, the Unified Watershed Assessment and Restoration plan, in which state, tribal, federal, and local governments and the public identify the watersheds with the most critical water quality problems and direct resources and enforce strategies to solve them.

New watershed signs promote clean water

WATERSHED from Page 1

According to TDEC, Tennessee’s waters are best assessed and water quality addressed at the watershed level. How the land is treated and managed has a direct impact on the ability of water to support a number of important public uses such as swimming, fishing, a habitat for aquatic species and drinking water supply.

“We all live downstream from someone, and what happens in a watershed does not just stay in that watershed,” according to the state

website.

Informing citizens about their local watersheds facilitates better understanding of how activities in individual watersheds affect the water quality in the community and adjoining watersheds.

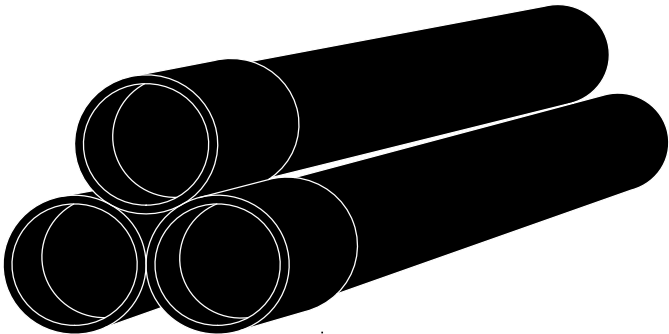
The watershed names on the signs reflect those used by the Environment and Conservation watershed management system, consistent with the naming system utilized by the U.S. Environment Protection Agency.

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May 17-18: 34th Annual Festival of British & Appalachian Culture
Historic Rugby. Continuous British Isles and Appalachian music and dancing, traditional arts & crafts demonstrations, storytelling, historic building tours, children’s activities and food. Contact Historic Rugby at 888-214-3400 or www.historicrugby.org.

May 21-24: 20th Annual Buford Pusser Festival
Adamsville City Park. Held in the hometown of the legendary sheriff Buford Pusser of “Walking Tall” fame. Good music, food, and family fun. Contact City Hall at 731-632-1401 or visit the event website www.sheriffbuffordpusser.com.

May 24: Appalachian Dumplin’ Festival
Winfield. Games, crafts, live bluegrass music, food and the largest variety of dumplings’ in the region. Contact the Town of Winfield at 423-569-6139.

May 31: National MooFest
Downtown Athens. Features unique activities that demonstrate Athen’s role in the dairy industry during the town’s past, present and future. Crafts, food, homemade ice cream, entertainment and more. Contact Richard Newman at 423-746-9041 or visit www.nationalmoofest.com.

June 6-14: Riverbend 08
Chattanooga. Nine-day music festival in Downtown on the 21st Century Waterfront. Six stages of world class entertainment from classic rock to country and bluegrass. Also features a children’s village, 5/10K runs, Starfighter jet flyovers and a fireworks finale. Food, drinks and fun for the whole family. For more information, visit the event website www.riverbendfestival.com.



June 5-7: The Tennessee Preservation Trust Statewide Preservation Conference and Main Street Summit in Maury County. For more information, visit the Tennessee Preservation Trust website at www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org.

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TMBF closes \$10 million loan



The city of LaFollette closed a \$10 million loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to be used for utility improvements. Pictured from left to right are: Joe Muscatello, TMBF representative; Debbie Pierce, city recorder; Cliff Jennings, mayor; and Kenny Baird, utilities director.

Budget cut by \$468 million

BUDGET from Page 1
sion as how the spending cuts will be allocated.

In TennCare, Bredesen proposes scaling back a planned expansion in the medically needy program created to help near poverty level patients with medial expenses due to a catastrophic injury or illness. No enrollees will lose benefits, but by deferring a portion of the growth, the state will save \$80 million.

In the area of improvement reductions, Bredesen plans to cut \$86.5 million to continue reforms of the state’s Basic Education Program and \$22 million from pre-K expansion. An additional \$27.8 million in savings will come from fully funding BEP without any improvements. Some \$59 million for the inflationary costs of both pre-K and the traditional K-12 system are still included in Bredesen’s budget.

Some \$71.8 million in reductions will come from no salary increases and health insurance adjustments for state employees.

Funding for capitol maintenance programs at the state’s colleges and universities will also be reduced by \$37.6 million.

Revised FY 2008-09 Budget At A Glance

Base Reductions: \$233.2 million (Recurring Funds)

- \$80m -TennCare medically needy
- \$62.9m - 5% personnel cuts
- \$55.8m - Higher Education

Reversion Increases: \$284 million (Non-Recurring Funds)

- \$221m - Statutory/Reserve funds
- \$35m - Rainy Day improvements
- \$24.7m - BEP growth savings
- \$3.1m - savings from agencies

FY08-09 Improvement Cuts: \$226.5

(Recurring Funds)

- \$86.5m - BEP 2.0 improvements
- \$71.8m- 2% salary increases
- \$27.8m - BEP improvements
- \$22m - Pre-K expansion

FY08-09 Improvement Cuts: \$56.8

(Non-Recurring Funds)

- \$13.75m environ./conservation
- \$10m ECD jobs package
- \$11m Dept. of Health (grants)
- \$4.8m Dept. of Ag. (grants)
- \$5m Education grants

Capitol Outlay Reductions: \$111.3

(Non-Recurring Funds)

- \$23m Board of Regents
- \$14.6m Univ. of Tennessee
- \$53 m Dept. of Corrections
- \$17m statewide maintenance

Additional workshops planned for Memphis

CONFERENCE from Page 1
public projects.

In addition, TML has added two new member-participation sessions on Sunday afternoon to focus on specific needs for different-sized cities. TML will provide more information about the two discussion groups, planned prior to the opening general session from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Vendor workshops are scheduled in the exhibit hall throughout the day on Sunday, and will focus on

Got an extra hotel room that you don’t need? Let us have it!

If you have a room at the Memphis Marriott that you plan to release, please release the room(s) to TML so that we can assist other delegates in getting into the Marriott at the conference rate. If you release the room to the hotel, it will go back into their inventory and will not be available at the conference rate. Call Sylvia at 615-425-3903.

water quality, new technology emerging in the water metering industry, and occupational dog bite safety.

Other conference highlights include: a 5K walk /run scheduled for Sunday morning; a special spouse’s program that includes a guest speaker, lunch and a trip to Mem-

Cities should include fuel cost clauses when conducting solid waste bids

FUEL from Page 1

waste collection bid and contract documents.

Currently, many municipalities include an escalation clause, under which an annual adjustment of rates will be made to reflect the general increase in the cost of operations. The unit rates for collection and disposal are increased by the same percent increase (if any) as accrued for the previous 12 months in the all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI). The fuel cost adjustment is for increases in fuel costs beyond the annual all-items CPI.

The National Solid Wastes Management Association has a good model clause.

Model Fuel Cost Clause

Annual compensation shall be made to the Contractor to cover fuel cost increases beyond the control of the Contractor which exceed the CPI automatic annual cost escalation.

At the end of each year the year’s weighted average fuel price will be calculated as the year’s total expense for fuel divided by the total number of gallons.

If the weighted average fuel price for the second and each succeeding year of this contract exceeds the product of that for the previous year and the current (most recent) CPI, the difference will be the Fuel Adjustment Factor. This Fuel Adjustment Factor multiplied by the total number of gallons purchased in the latest year will equal the additional compensation due the Contractor.

If the weighted average fuel price for the most recent year does not exceed the product of that for the previous year and the most recent annual CPI, no adjustments will be made in compensation due the Contractor.

All interpretations of the fuel cost adjustment calculation method shall be made by the city. Documentation to the satisfaction of the city must be provided before any fuel cost compensation will be made.

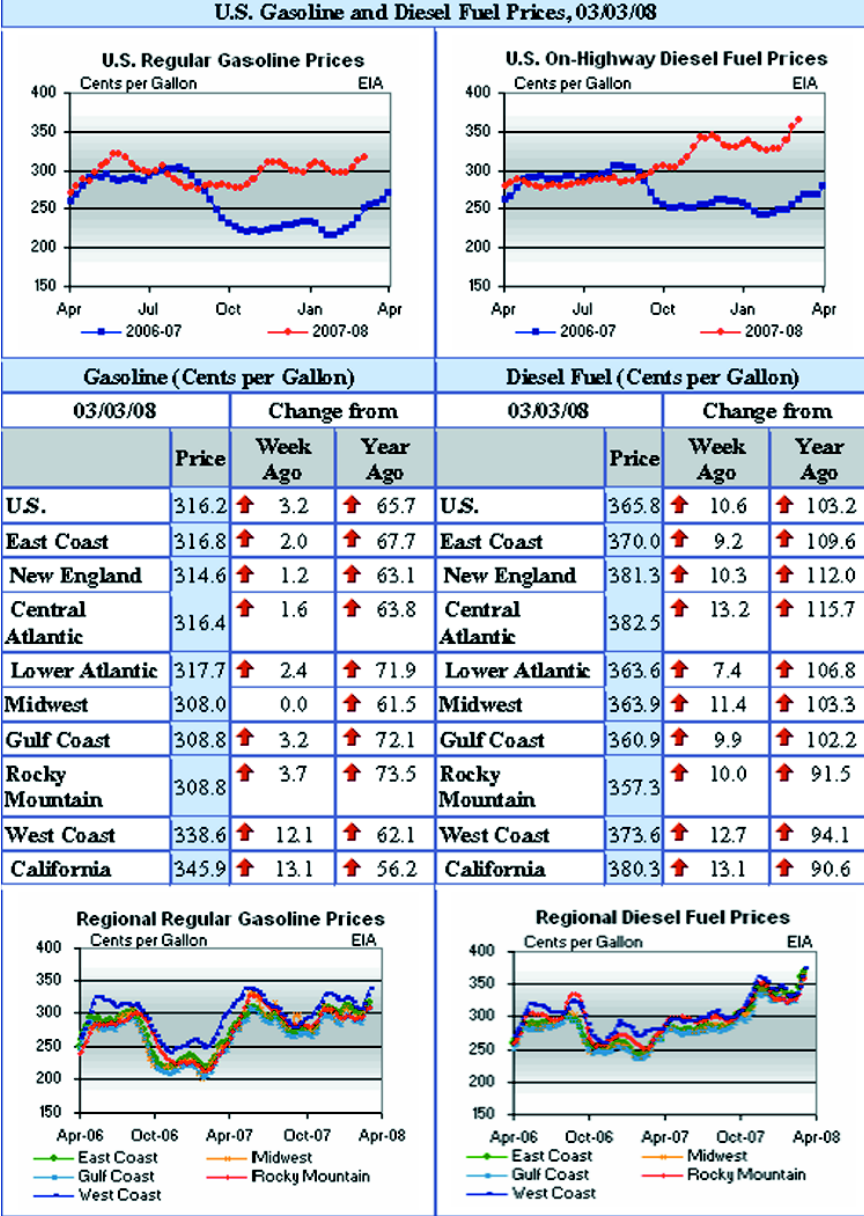
Acceptable documentation on fuel prices would include the Department of Energy’s Energy Informa-

tion Administration website: <http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/gdu/gasdiesel.asp>

A source such as this could provide the fuel cost documentation, then the city and the contractor would have to negotiate the method for documenting the contractor’s fuel consumption connected with the collection and disposal of the city’s solid waste.

Once the documentation for both cost and consumption is agreed upon, calculating any fuel cost adjustment payment is pretty straight forward as shown in the following process:

Step 1: Determine if a fuel cost adjustment is warranted.Take the weighted average percent of fuel cost increase and subtract the percent of the CPI, if the remainder is positive, then a fuel cost adjustment is warranted. (If percent fuel cost



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Step 1: Determine if a fuel cost adjustment is warranted.Take the weighted average percent of fuel cost increase and subtract the percent of the CPI, if the remainder is positive, then a fuel cost adjustment is warranted. (If percent fuel cost

increase > percent CPI)

Step 2: Calculate the % of fuel cost adjustment.Weighted average percent fuel cost increase - percent CPI = percent fuel cost adjustment

Step 3: Calculate the fuel cost adjustment payment. (%fuel cost adjustment/gallon) x (Previous year agreed fuel cost baseline/gallon) x (number of gallons consumption for contract/previous 12 months)= fuel cost adjustment payment.

To ensure that your city gets the best possible bids from the most contractors on the front end and avoids putting the contractor in a possible default situation, MTAS recommends considering using a fuel cost adjustment clause when seeking bids for solid waste collection and disposal.

Editor’s Note: Article reprinted with permission from Tennessee Public Works Magazine.

2008 Municipal League Annual Conference At-A-Glance

Saturday, June 21 9 am – 5pm MTAS’ EOA 3 – 5 pm TML Board Meeting Sunday, June 22 6:30 – 9:30 am 5K Walk / Run 9:30 am Exhibit Hall / Registration 10:45 – Noon Jazz Brunch 12 – 3:30 pm Vendor Workshops 2:30 – 3:15 pm Discussion Groups 3:30 – 5 pm Opening General Session 6 – 8 pm Host City Reception Monday, June 23 7:30 – 8:15 am Continental Breakfast 8:30 – 9 am District Meetings 9 am Exhibit Hall Opens 9:15 – 10 am Concurrent Workshops	10:15 - 11:00 11:15 – 12:30 12:30–1:30 pm 1:30 – 2 pm 2:15 – 3:15 pm	1) Transportation Funding 2) Leadership Training 3) Urban Forestry 4) Cost of ADA Concurrent Workshops 5) Growth Management 6) Leadership Training 7) Public/Private Partnerships 8) Stormwater Regs Second General Session Annual Business Meeting Legislative Overview Lunch in Exhibit Hall Door Prizes Concurrent Workshops 9) Open Records	3:30 – 4:30 pm 6:30 – 11pm Tuesday – June 24 8 – 10 am Third General Session Awards Breakfast • TML Achievement Awards • Spouse of the Year • City Manager • Mayor of the Year	10) NIMBY opposition 11) Performance Measurements 12) Disaster Training Concurrent Workshops 13) Public Meetings 14) Labor Relations Panel 15) Media Relations 16) City Council Shootings Pool Party
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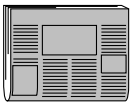
Good Risk Management is just Good Management



The TML Risk Management Pool is one of the largest providers of workers’ compensation coverage in Tennessee. The Pool insures more than 40,500 of Tennessee municipal employees, including those who perform some of the most dangerous jobs like utility line workers, firefighters and law enforcement officers.

Controlling accidents through an effective loss control program is a vital foundation of the Pool’s program. By each member taking responsibility to continuously reduce risk exposures through good risk management practices, municipal governments are helping taxpaying citizens get the very best for their tax dollars.





CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Mona Lawrence, 226 Capitol Blvd. Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: mlawrence@TML1.org; or fax: 615-255 4752.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

PIGEON FORGE: The city is accepting resumes' for the position of Community Development Director. This position is responsible for the management of the Economic and Community Development of the City. The Director works under the general supervision of the City Manager and Assistant City Manager. Qualifications include: High School Diploma, Valid Tennessee Driver License, Bachelor's Degree in City Planning, Public Administration, Business Administration, or closely related field and seven years of responsible, relevant experience in local government is preferred. A Master's Degree in any of the fields of study noted above may substitute for two years of experience. Salary will be determined based on qualifications and experience. Excellent employee benefit package. Applicant will be subject to Drug Testing in accordance with City Policy. Submit resume to: City of Pigeon Forge, Human Resource Department, P.O. Box 1350, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868-1350, Attn: Community Development Director. Resume must be Postmarked by Friday, May 30, 2008 @ 4:30 P.M. Please, no phone calls. A copy of the detailed job description may be requested by submitting a requested via e-mail to: kvalentine@cityofpigeonforge.com EOE, complies with ADA and Title VI.

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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MILLINGTON: The Industrial Development Board is accepting resumé's for the position of Executive Director. This position is appointed and serves at the "will and pleasure" of the Industrial Development Board, Board of Directors. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or closely related field; supplemented by three (3) years previous experience and/or training that includes industrial real estate and private/public finance, or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Applicant must be able to obtain and maintain a valid driver's license. Further details listed at www.millingtontn.gov. Qualified applicants may submit resume and salary requirements in person at: City of Millington, Personnel Department, 4836 Navy Road Suite 3, Millington, TN 38053. Office Hours M-F 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST or electronically at: cdonaldson@cityofmillington.org. Or by fax to: 901-873-5636. Deadline for submission is May 30, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. CST. Interviews of candidate(s) will be conducted on June 12, 2008 at a time to be announced. Salary DOQ. EOE.

MTAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KNOXVILLE: The University of Tennessee, Institute for Public Service Municipal Technical Advisory Service, is seeking applicants for the Executive Director position in Knoxville. The position require a masters degree in public administration, city management or related field and ten years of senior level management experience, preferably in a state or local government or non-profit agency with similar work goals. Experience as a city manager or managing staff in remote locations a plus. For more information on the position, visit www.mtased.ips.tennessee.edu. To apply, send a resume and cover letter detailing how the applicant's credentials meet the requirement of the position including salary expectations to the MTAS Executive Director Search Committee via email to: chuck.shoopman@tennessee.edu.

PARKS & RECREATION

OAKLAND: The town has an opening in the Parks and Recreation Department. All pertinent information will be discussed at the time of interview. No phone calls please. Interested parties should get an application from City Hall or mail resumes to: The Town of Oakland, P.O. Box 56, Oakland, TN 38060, Attn: Mayor Mullins.

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

State certification earned at the 2008 Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recordors



Pictured from left to right front row: Theresa Meyer, Lakeland; Jennifer Arnold, Elizabethtown; and Levon Womack, Millington. Back row left to right: Sondra Denton, Englewood; Linda Adair, Lawrenceburg; Lisa Stewart, Thompson Station; Joan Johnson, Franklin; and Eva Sams, Tusculum.

The Tennessee Association of Municipal Clerks and Recordors (TAMCAR) took place April 16-18 at the Cool Springs Embassy Suites in Franklin.

Session topics related to city clerk and recorder positions included Middle Tennessee Municipal Attorneys, the Comptroller's Office division of Municipal Audit

and Municipal Bond Issuance, State Department of Finance and Administration, and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service.

The Academy and Institute sessions provide assistance in professional development, as well as credit hours toward state certification and International Institute of Municipal Clerks certification.

Eight clerks and recorders received certificates for attending six institutes completing their requirements for state certification.

For more information regarding the Institute or Academy, contact Kurt Frederick, TAMCAR Institute director, at 615-253-6385, or visit the MTAS website at www.mtas.tennessee.edu.

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Sen. Randy McNally’s appointments to Finance, 1987; chair, 2007; intriguing, energizing

BY GAEL B. STAHL

Sen. Randy McNally, elected to the Tennessee House in 1978, came to the Senate in 1986, but claims his political style and savvy ripened later, in 1992. When Leonard Duvant retired, Senate Speaker John Wilder named McNally Finance Committee vice chair. It made all the difference. Chairman Doug Henry took him under his wing. Henry’s tutelage turned out to be the best thing that could have happened to McNally who had long relished his combative style. Henry helped him redirect that energy.

McNally, descended from feisty, Boston-area, Irish Catholics, had a grandfather who was a ward heeler in the rough and tumble politics of legendary Boston Mayor James Curley. McNally says he brought the Irish in him to the legislature, that he arrived at the House “a little raw about the edges” and at the Senate “ready for a brawl.” Working with Henry taught him to see the bigger picture, to mature mellow, to engage in battles without getting personal, to fight to win—or lose—and not hold a grudge.

More recent observers, TML lobbyists, for example, find the earlier image hard to believe. They have known the McNally who is “delightful to work with, patient yet dogged, determined, and effective behind the scenes” after Wilder put McNally with Henry.

Wilder returns the compliments McNally favors him with. He says he owed his political life after 1986 to freshman McNally. The Senate Democratic Caucus had chosen another Democrat for speaker in 1987-88. When Republicans helped Wilder win re-election, Wilder ran a more bipartisan Senate for the next 20 years. He appointed Republicans to chair some committees and McNally to a seat on the coveted Finance Committee in 1987, vice chair in 1993, Education chair in 2001, and vice chair of Finance again in 2005. Last year, after another historic election, Republican Sen. Ron Ramsey, whose coalition of Republicans and a Democrat had elected him speaker/lieutenant governor, appointed McNally Finance chair and Henry vice chair. Their working relationship has changed little.

James Rand “Randy” McNally III’s personal story began in Massachusetts. His father, James Rand McNally Jr., who ran the low and high hurdles, had put himself through college on scholarships and graduated from Boston College and from MIT as a physicist and became an instructor at MIT. He met Margaret Ann McKenna McNally, also of Dedham, a suburb southwest of Boston, who was working in a county registry office, having graduated from business school.

Both were Irish with ancestors named Turley, McKenna, Finnegan, though one great-grandfather McKenna married a MacKenna—a Scots name. The families immigrated to the states around the time of the potato famine in the late 1840s. The men on his mother’s side became seafaring Gloucester fishermen and died at sea.

In 1948, McNally’s father, a spectroscopy specialist teaching at MIT, was recruited by Chris Keim (later, director of Oak Ridge National Lab) to work in the thermonuclear division of Union Carbide that ran ORNL. McNally was four and saw for the first time rolling verdant hills during the drive to the Knoxville airport to Secret City, as Oak Ridge was called in 1948. Till then, he’d known only densely populated Dedham, Cambridge and Boston.

James and Margaret Ann raised seven children, all of whom bypassed physics and other theoretical sciences at college. One became a pharmacist, two are nurses, one a certified lab technician, two are computer engineers, and one a businessperson. All attended Oak Ridge’s prestigious municipal schools and all worked. McNally delivered newspapers starting in grade school, then worked in a men’s clothing store. He spent one summer driving a truck on a farm. People at each job would play a role in his future.

McNally graduated from high school in 1962, from Memphis State University (now, University of Memphis) in 1967, and from UT College of Pharmacy in 1969. His college job was as maitre d’ of prestigious Ember’s Restaurant on Park and Getwell. It was fun work, he ate well, the pay was good, and his customers included Memphis



That first Senate race against Gene Caldwell may have been the cleanest race in Tennessee history. But that race made me work harder than any other race I ran in my 30-year career.



He takes that bond rating, holds it up for all to see, tears it down the middle, and says, “That’s what we’re doing and have done to our bond rating.” He was exactly right.



Photos by Gael Stahl

It’s not all doom and gloom, though. We’ve got good things going for us. What we need to do is balance the budget and cut expenditures.

political types such as Mayor/Judge Henry Loeb and his brother Bill Loeb, Congressman Dan Kuykendall (Harold Ford Sr.’s predecessor), Judge Taylor, and even Congressman John Duncan once. McNally’s political involvements also started in college.

He and his wife Jan married in 1968 while he was in pharmacy school. They moved to Oak Ridge in 1970, and had two daughters. His wife had a distinguished career in nursing and hospital administration and McNally was in retail and hospital pharmacy. He got involved in several prominent campaigns, won an open House seat in 1978 at age 34, and eight years later an open Senate seat. He’s been a member and vice chair of the powerful Finance Committee, chair of the Education Committee and, now, chair of Senate Finance.

TT&C: Why did you choose to go into the medical field?

RM: I wanted to be able to help people; I also had an interesting biological science teacher. I majored in pre-med but then had such a good time at Memphis State that I ended up in Pharmacy School. An advisor and bio chemistry professor, Dr. Holmes, called me in toward the end of my junior year, and said, “We might be able to get you in the very bottom of the Med School class, but you ought to look at pharmacy.” I knew a pharmacist in Oak Ridge at whose pharmacy my paper route ended. I always enjoyed talking with him, so I chose to go into pharmacy.

TT&C: What did you do after you got that degree?

RM: I worked at a Walgreen pharmacy in 1969 for one year. We loved Memphis. My wife and I had been married in 1968 by Father Kearney at Immaculate Conception Parish, later the Memphis Cathedral Parish. Jan, who graduated from Mississippi College for Women with honors, was a teacher. Her first assignment was at Hume Junior High School, Elvis’s alma mater when it was a high school. In 1968, after Martin Luther King Jr. was killed, I escorted Jan to school. It was surrounded by the National Guard.

In 1970, we decided we wanted to raise a family in my hometown so we moved. Jan raised Melissa and Maggie at home until they were both in school. She then studied nursing and graduated from the UT School of Nursing. She went to work at Methodist Hospital, moved up to assistant manager and then manager of ICU, nursing supervisor, director of nursing, vice president, and finally president of Methodist. She left there for awhile to become an executive with Covenant Health, the company that owns the hospital, and has probably had a more distinguished career than I have.

I worked in retail pharmacy until 1978 and at a hospital pharmacy ever since. It’s more challenging work and gives me the flexibility to be able to work Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during sessions and be in Nashville Monday night to Thursday noon.

TT&C: What led to your civic and political involvements?

RM: I’d gotten active in a fraternity at Memphis State and in some of their activities doing things for St. Peter’s Orphanage. I was also active in campus politics and before leaving Memphis in 1970, I called a Memphis dentist, Winfield Dunn, who was head of the Republican Party in West Tennessee and

running for governor. There were strong Republican candidates from Middle and East Tennessee—Maxey Jarman, William Jenkins, and House Speaker Claude Robertson. I told him I wanted to help him when I got back to Oak Ridge because he wasn’t well known in East Tennessee. He told me that Jim Kile, a veterinarian I’d worked for as a boy on a farm, was head of the Dunn campaign in Anderson County.

Working the primary and the general election campaigns was my first big campaign. Dunn won, became governor, and I was smitten.

TT&C: Smitten in what ways?

RM: I was involved in organizations trying to locate a nursing home in Oak Ridge. Mayor Al Bissell appointed me to serve on that committee. I was treasurer of the local Republican Party. I worked Jane Hardaway’s campaign; it was unsuccessful. I was chairman at Oak Ridge for Bill Brock’s campaign; it was unsuccessful: and Alexander’s first campaign, in 1974 was unsuccessful.

In 1978 (the year Alexander won the governorship), I chose to run my own campaign and see how that worked out. That was different; you can always go home and sleep real good if you’re successful in a campaign. I ran because some of the people I had been working with, and the local Republican party, wanted me to run for an open House seat Democrat Keith Bissell had given up to run for the Public Service Commission. I won my first political race and served on the House Finance, House Environment, and chaired the Environment Subcommittee.

TT&C: Interesting that you won when all those prominent people you helped earlier didn’t.

RM: I was fortunate to get a wake up call in the primary. There were three Democrats in the primary and two Republicans. The lead Democrat got 5,000 votes; the second, a local football hero who dropped out of the race, got 2,500 votes, and the third 1,800. I got around 2,200 and the other Republican less than a thousand.

I was definitely an underdog. Luckily, some friends that encouraged me to run sat me down and said, “We know you like to do all that campaign organizing but we don’t want you to do any of that anymore. Just get out there and knock on doors.” That’s what I did. My friends were very helpful and we ended up winning something like 8,500 to 5,500 due strictly to the effort by a great group of people. My campaign treasurer for the race, local banker Ralph Aurin Jr., has been my treasurer ever since.

TT&C: In 1986, you won Buzz Elkins’ open Senate seat, which made all the difference to John Wilder?

RM: That first Senate race against Gene Caldwell may have been the cleanest race in Tennessee history. We were friends and would be friends afterwards. But that race made me work harder than any other race I ran in my 30-year career.

Had my Democratic opponent won, Gov. Wilder felt, he would not have gotten the last vote he needed to survive as speaker.

In 1986, there were just 10 Republicans in the Senate. Ben Atchley and Carl Koella met with Gov. Wilder who told them he was not going to be lieutenant governor anymore. He was getting beat by the

Democratic Caucus who had elected another colleague. Ben and Carl said that they had 10 members that would support him. Those 10 votes were crucial to Wilder’s reelection.

I had served on House Finance and requested serving on the Senate Finance Committee. Minority Leader Sen. Atchley told me that was a pretty tall request for a freshman senator, but he’d see what he could do. Soon after, he was able to get me appointed to Finance.

When Wilder was re-elected speaker, I served on Finance until I became chairman of Education Committee in 2001. In 2005, I returned to Finance as vice chair and later that year was elected majority caucus chairman, and last year I was named Finance chair.

TT&C: Has your relationship to Sen. Henry changed since you swapped roles?

RM: When Doug was chair and I was vice chair, he was always helpful, taught me everything I know about committees and state finance. He was my mentor and he took me under his wing even when I was a freshman and first came on Finance. He is certainly one of the most knowledgeable people down here and a fine gentleman.

When things changed and I became chair, he took pains to help me in my new role so that the committee went well and people work together. It’s great to know I can always rely on Sen. Henry for support and advice.

TT&C: Doug Henry is easily the most outspoken guardian and protector of the state’s bond rating. He was so proud when the state finally earned the highest ratings after years of working for it. He was the most outraged when we blew it a couple years later.

RM: I remember his speech on the floor of the Senate after we passed those questionable budget measures in 2001. He wrote out the state’s perfect bond rating on a good-sized piece of paper. Then he takes that bond rating, holds it up for all to see, tears it down the middle, and says, “That’s what we’re doing and have done to our bond rating.”

He was exactly right. That was the result of using one-time money for continuing expenses and playing games with estimates of expected revenues and other games we played—a lot of games.

TT&C: In 2002, with no budget in effect, state services were suspended in early July. The legislature relieved that crunch by raising the sales tax 1 percent giving us \$1 billion in recurring revenues to carry us through another seven years or so until sales taxes again fail to keep up with growth in the economy and the cost of services. As chair of Finance, do you see any hope of avoiding the next budget crunch or staying it off for awhile?

RM: There are two parts to that problem. The first is about what we do to get out of the ditch we’re in now. To a large extent, the current shortage is caused by events not under our control but national type events—the subprime mortgage crisis has really hurt us as far as housing starts, the expense of a war, and extremely high gas prices. We’re not alone. Only energy producing states like Texas, Alaska, and Louisiana aren’t as badly affected as we are. It’s not all doom and gloom, though. We’ve got good

things going for us. What we need to do is balance the budget and cut expenditures. That’s not going to be pretty; but we’ll have to do it and make sure we don’t spend one-time money for continuing expenditures and not use one-time rainy day revenue for recurring expenses, even in education. And, of course, we can’t be overly optimistic about revenue collections.

If you look at Tennessee’s bonded indebtedness, we’re 50th of 50 states in having the lowest bonded indebtedness. We probably have one of the highest Rainy Day Funds or Revenue Fluctuation Funds based on percent of general fund revenue. We have ample reserves in TennCare.

As far as our financial stability goes, we need only weather this economic storm. Forbes, and the Tax Foundation both have rated Tennessee in the top 20 states. As far as our business climate, *Site Selection* magazine rates us in the top 10. That’s why I think that after we get through this national situation, we’ll be in better shape than most states.

TT&C: With regard to our heavy reliance on sales tax revenue, what can the next governor and General Assemblies look forward to in 2010?

RM: It’s hard to say where we’re going to be. I think the sentiment of the public to run government lean is fairly strong. Whereas in the past, we raised taxes every time new programs came along, we need to look at what we’re doing to provide for the safety, education, and economic development of the public and limit ourselves to doing those types of things.

To the extent that we can provide essential services and limit the frills, I think it benefits industry coming in and benefits the development and expansion of industry we already have. Education and economic development are key.

TT&C: What do you specifically see Finance doing with regard to the budget crisis this year?

RM: Among the tough issues this year is the bill that deals with the shortfall. Already, \$180 million of the state’s deficit has been addressed through cutbacks, leaving a \$320 million shortfall that still has to be resolved. (*Editor’s note: Since this interview, the shortfall has grown to \$468 million.*)

There are a number of lottery bills that can be divided into two pots of money. One is the lottery reserve that builds up over the years, which is a little less than \$400 million. Gov. Bredesen would like to take about \$200 million of that to expand scholarships for students based on their family income and scholarships for needy students. That leaves some additional money that we can use to address some problems, including, I hope, giving some of that back to the local school systems for construction costs and capital outlay, which we’re able to do.

TT&C: What revenues for education are most sacred?

RM: We’ve got two things I want to protect most. First, the inflationary money for K-12 education, about \$85 million, and then, another \$86.4 million that the governor has in his budget right now for the second phase of BEP 2.0. It was part of the \$100 million that we had placed in the rain day fund. That’s my priority for K-12 education.