

Legislative Conference March 23-24

Plugging a \$900 million deficit, the federal stimulus package and how it will affect the state and local governments, and which TDOT projects qualify under the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will be among the many topics discussed during the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Legislative Conference.

Slated for March 23-24 in Nashville at the DoubleTree Hotel Downtown, the two-day conference provides an excellent forum for city officials to interact with their legislators and to be updated on the many legislative issues currently being addressed by the Tennessee General Assembly.

At the forefront of everyone's mind is the state's financial situation and balancing the budget. Gov. Phil Bredesen and Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz have been invited to attend and to provide an update on the state's finances and how some

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Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey



Speaker Kent Williams

Ten local bridges first to be replaced with stimulus funds

Ten local bridges will be the first projects in Tennessee to be funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The 10 bridge replacement projects are scheduled for a construction letting on March 20, which means work could be underway on the projects by the end of March.

"These 10 bridge projects will bring much needed private industry jobs to areas of the state in need of economic investment and will create a safer, more efficient bridge system for all of us," said Gov. Bredesen.

"Selecting local bridge projects also allows us to ease the burden of local governments, because funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act do not require local matching funds."

All 10 bridges are owned, maintained and operated by local governments. Normally, local governments are required to provide a 20 percent match in order to receive bridge funds; however, that match is waived under the ARRA.

TDOT began advertising the projects for the March 20 bid letting

on Monday, March 2. Interested contractors will pick up plans and submit sealed bids to TDOT during the next few weeks. On March 20, TDOT will open the sealed bids and announce the lowest bidder. The contracts will then be awarded and a pre-construction meeting scheduled with the project contractor. Once complete, work will start on the project.

"TDOT staff has worked very hard over the past few months preparing for the influx of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. "These are the first of many projects that will be funded through the ARRA, bringing thousands of jobs to Tennesseans."

Under the ARRA, at least half of all TDOT highway and bridge funds must be obligated within 120 days. TDOT plans to let all remaining ARRA funded projects in May and June. All ARRA funds will be under contract and projects should be underway this summer. TDOT and the Department of Economic and Community Development estimate some

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Web site updated with new tools, new look



The Tennessee Municipal League has re-launched its Web site with an updated format and enhanced tools. Still located at www.TML1.org, the redesigned site is easier to navigate and is designed to help streamline the communication process between the League and its members, and its members and their legislators.

Through a members-only section, entitled Hometown Connection, city officials receive up-to-date information on TML's legislative priorities, have access to a "library" of legislative resources, and can track key legislation that affects municipal governments. Through a new section, "What's Happening,"

city officials are kept abreast of state and national news. In addition, a new e-mail feature gives TML members the convenience of electronically communicating with their members of the General Assembly on pertinent legislative issues.

Other highlights include improved search functionalities, access to electronic copies of *Tennessee Town and City*, information on upcoming events, and contact information for TML's associate members.

Future plans include a video library that will include timely information on key legislation and interviews with legislators and city and state leaders.



Photo by Victoria South

The Tennessee Valley Authority set up its first photovoltaic system to generate solar power in April 2000 at the Adventure Science Center on Fort Negley Blvd. off I-65 in Nashville.

Here comes the sun: solar energy industry growing in Tennessee

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Frying an egg on the sidewalk could become more than an amusing cliché as the state and the nation explore new and cheaper ways to harness solar energy. Included in President Barack Obama's \$15 billion budget proposal along with other modes of alternative energy, Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen has also challenged the General Assembly, the private sector, the university system and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to initiate the work toward national leadership in basic

solar research.

Until recently, solar energy has been a blip on the alternative power radar screen, eclipsed by expense, yet much more than a space age fantasy.

"Today, it is still deep in the hobby phase," Bredesen said "and there remains a lot of work to be done, both theoretical and applied, to make it practical."

In his recent column to *The Tennessean*, Bredesen urged the state to mobilize the technology and scientific resources available at the University of Tennessee Knoxville and Oak Ridge laboratories to

"spearhead the building of a Solar Institute bringing together the scientists of the new century to solve the problem."

"If we succeed in creating such a place, it will pay Tennessee dividends for decades to come," Bredesen added.

The governor's vision is accentuated by incoming solar industry to Tennessee, the announcements of two \$1 billion, 500-employee polycrystalline silicon plants, Hemlock Semiconductor at the Commerce Park mega site in Clarksville and Wacker Chemical Corp., of Ger-

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Federal Recovery Act provides additional funds for COPS program

On Feb. 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (H.R.1), which includes \$4 billion in Department of Justice grant funding to enhance state, local, and tribal law enforcement efforts, including the hiring of new police officers, to combat violence against women, and to fight internet crimes against children.

"This funding is vital to keeping our communities strong," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "As governors, mayors, and local law enforcement professionals struggle with the current economic crisis, we can't afford to decrease our commitment to fighting crime and keeping our communities safe. These grants

will help ensure states and localities can make the concerted efforts necessary to protect our most vulnerable communities and populations."

Specific Department of Justice investments in the Act include:

- \$1 billion to fund local police officers through Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. These grants will fund an estimated 5,500 local police officers through the COPS Hiring Recovery Program.
- \$2 billion in the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program through the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to fund grants for state and local programs that combat crime. The

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The Tennessee Municipal League is tracking information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and posting it on our web site, www.TML1.org. The site will be updated regularly, as new information is released from the various departments.

The Obama Administration is also providing information on the distribution of funds at www.Recovery.gov.

TML celebrates past, looks to the future at 70th Annual Conference

June 14 - 16
in Chattanooga

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

If you could step back in time 70 years ago to 1940, when the Tennessee Municipal League was formed, the world was at war, the nation was still recovering from the effects of the Great Depression, and city populations were exploding brought on by urbanization.

The flood of rural migrants flocking to cities, most likely in search of work, generated tremendous problems for cities in the areas of water supply, clean sewers, police and fire services, and public health issues.

The property tax was the only substantive source of revenues for municipalities. Cities had no authorization to levy a sales tax or any other significant revenue producing taxes or charges, and city governments received very little assistance from the state and federal governments.

With no where to turn for



Mainstreet in Sweetwater, Tenn. in the 1940s.

help, municipal leagues across the country began to organize for the purpose of improving city governments and to address some of these common problems.

In Tennessee, an organizing committee of 15 municipal officials met in Nashville on June 24, 1940, to establish the by-laws and dues structure for this newly-formed organization and to call a statewide meeting

to ratify the actions of the organizing committee.

On July 11, 1940, a statewide meeting of municipal officials convened at the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, thus establishing the first annual conference of the Tennessee Municipal League. Thirty cities were represented at that first conference.

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NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

BARTLETT

Saint Francis Hospital-Bartlett will go forward with a \$45.4 million expansion. The permit to nearly double the amount of hospital beds comes a little more than four years after the hospital opened. Saint Francis has not set a construction time frame, but the state certificate of need is good for five years. Another 96 hospital beds would be added to the 100 existing ones.

CHATTANOOGA

The Southeast Tennessee Human Resource Agency (SETHRA) celebrated the groundbreaking of their new facility in Chattanooga achieving the long-term goal of providing seamless transportation for all residents in Southeast Tennessee. The facility will house the SETHRA Hamilton County Transportation Department and serve as a Region Transit and Training Center. With the new center, SETHRA will provide transportation options for all residents wishing to travel anywhere within the region. In addition, the facility will serve as a driver training facility, a vehicle staging area, a transfer hub and a light bus maintenance shop.

COOKEVILLE

The Fire Department has been awarded two grants through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program totaling \$461,860. The grants provide funds for pumper replacement, fire suppression equipment on the engines, extrication equipment, station exercise equipment, and fire suppression systems for the four fire stations. These grants will allow the Cookeville Fire Department to continually improve their services and personnel, while at the same time protecting the assets of citizens. The Assistance to

Firefighters Grant will ultimately provide about \$560 million to fire departments and emergency medical service organizations throughout the country. The grant program provides funds for training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and to buy equipment and response vehicles. AFG is administered by the Grants Program Directorate and the United States Fire Administration, both part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FRANKLIN

Hospital giant Community Health Systems Inc. is selling its ownership stake in a Texas hospital for \$100 million. The deal is part of a settlement agreement between the Franklin-based Community Health and Texas Health Resources, which owns Presbyterian Hospital in Denton, Texas. The transaction is expected to close on March 31, pending regulatory approval.

JACKSON

First Tennessee Bank will cut 250 jobs in the next year, including 55 in the Mid-South on April 1. Overall, First Tennessee executives hope to eliminate about half of the jobs in the state cutback by attrition. Employees in the Memphis and Jackson areas have received notices.

JONESBOROUGH

Tennessee's oldest town is taking steps to draw even more visitors. A committee made up of tourism and marketing staff is working toward creating a Web site focused solely on tourism around the town's downtown district and businesses on U.S. Highway 11E. The committee is gathering photos and information from all lodgings, shops and restaurants in the area, while also discussing the possibility of video and audio features.

KINGSPORT

City leaders and fire officials joined with the Rock Springs community to break ground for Fire Station 7, to be constructed on a two acre tract just off Rock Springs Road bordered by Blakely Drive and Barnett Drive. When complete, the 7,300 square foot facility located just off Interstate 26 will serve the Rock Springs, Bailey Ranch, MeadowView and Sullivan Gardens areas. With construction cost set at \$1.49 million, the facility will host three bays and the city's hazardous materials response unit, as well as special equipment for the Haz-Mat response team.

KNOXVILLE

Knoxville's considerable legwork so far on a long-range, comprehensive plan for using renewable energy sources and other cost-saving technologies could position it for possible federal stimulus funds later this year. Massachusetts-based Ameresco Inc. already is midway through a six-month energy audit focused on electricity, water and natural-gas consumption among the 97 buildings operated by the city, as well as that of all parks, athletic fields, public golf courses and street lights. Those facilities collectively cost the city about \$7 million per year in utility bills. The consultant is expected to submit a set of recommendations in May for reducing the city's energy usage by 15 percent to 25 percent.

MEMPHIS

Memphis City Schools intends to expose 50,000 students and staff to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s principles of nonviolence, hoping to infuse the city with peace. The front-line in the effort — 27 community leaders and counselors — got their marching orders from leaders of the Florida Martin Luther King Jr. Institute for Nonviolence, U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen and Bernard LaFayette Jr., national coordinator of King's Poor People's Movement in 1968. LaFayette, is now director of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at the University of Rhode Island.

MURFREESBORO

Sidelines — the student-run newspaper at Middle Tennessee State University — may disappear in print form if the university president approves a proposed cut to the paper's budget. A work group responsible for reviewing nonacademic units at the university has proposed a restructuring of *Sidelines* that would



The Southeast Tennessee Human Resource Agency (SETHRA) recently celebrated the groundbreaking of their new facility in Chattanooga.

save \$100,000. This could be aimed at the paper's \$96,000 printing budget. *Sidelines* adviser Steven Chappell, believes the possible budget cut would make *Sidelines* an online-only newspaper.

NASHVILLE

Nashville is one of three U.S. cities selected by Keep America Beautiful Inc. to host national spotlight events this year. Held annually from March through May, the Great American Cleanup has become the nation's largest volunteer coordination effort. Nashville will host the final national event on May 14 with a day of community projects, volunteer cleanups and educational exhibits in and around the Tennessee Bicentennial Mall State Park. Planned activities include a kickoff rally, "green" exhibits and education programs, and community cleanups in surrounding neighborhoods.

NASHVILLE

Concerns about the limestone that lies under Nashville's J. Percy Priest Dam have led U.S. Army engineers to assign it a spot within the second-highest level of risk. There's no need for those downstream in Nashville, Ashland City or Clarksville to head for higher ground, because the Corps of Engineers says there's no imminent danger of the dam failing. But the results of the agency's recent survey of its 600 U.S. dams will lead to studies in the coming months to determine what work is needed to prevent potential failures, as well as determine the impact of a flood if the dam were to break.

OAK RIDGE

The number of foreign visitors, led by the Chinese, is increasing at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. China has headed the foreign visitors list each of the last four years. Russia

and India are also usually in the top 10, even though visits by citizens of "sensitive countries" requiring background checks typically take longer to arrange and have additional restrictions.

PIKEVILLE

Eclipse Manufacturing, one of Bledsoe County's largest employers, will close by May 1 putting 50 people out of work, state officials said. Eclipse Manufacturing makes custom, stamped-steel or tooled metal components and assemblies used by a variety of industries.

PORTLAND

UNIPRES USA, Inc. has announced plans to reduce their workforce by more than 30 percent. The parts supplier will layoff about 125 of its 400 employees. The company makes metal body parts for three auto manufacturers-Nissan, Honda and Subaru.

VONORE

Three East Tennessee companies - JTEKT automotive plant in Vonore, Great Dane Trailers in Huntsville and the United Trucking Driving School in Dandridge - plan to lay off about 270 people, according to company officials. JTEKT, which manufactures hydraulic steering gear equipment and hoses for automobiles, indicated plans to furlough about 150 people out of 590 who work at the Vonore plant. The company also will furlough about 105 people at its Morristown plant. Squeezed by a slumping economy and weak automotive industry demand, the job cuts are part of a reduction of 300 employees companywide. JTEKT North America Inc., which has a work force of more than 2,900 across the United States, is a unit of Japanese manufacturer JTEKT Corp.

Intern joins TML staff to learn legislative process

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

The functions of city government are all in a day's work for Jennifer Ward, as the second post graduate student to participate in the two-year MTAS Municipal Management Internship program. The first intern, Honna Rodgers, became Town Manager of Signal Mountain in 2008.

Working on a 3-month rotating basis with the cities of Brentwood, Columbia, Murfreesboro, and White House, along with the Tennessee Municipal League, Ward is experiencing the municipal management education of her dreams as she shadows city managers observing the day-to-day operations of various departments while working hands on with intricate projects such as the ICMA benchmarking and performance measurement program, city budgets, developing municipal fuel reduction strategies and conducting the National Citizen's Survey.

"No two days have been the same," said Ward. "The MTAS Municipal Management program really grows city managers. Unlike an MBA alone, it functions as a bridge toward becoming a city manager."

A Nashville native with a bachelor's degree in International Affairs and masters in Public Administration from Indiana University, part of Ward's internship will be spent with the Tennessee Municipal League attending meetings, tracking bills and following legislation as she learns first hand about TML's legislative



Jennifer Ward

processes on behalf of local cities.

"We are excited to be a partner in the internship program," said Margaret Mahery, TML executive director. "It is our intent to provide a variety of projects and opportunities for Jennifer to experience. A very important part will be her opportunity to observe the legislative process and to learn how TML works with members of the General Assembly as they pass legislation important to our cities and towns."

In the decade of an aging workforce, city managers will be retiring at an accelerated rate. Through the MTAS Municipal Management Internship program, Ward and other highly qualified young professionals, will be at the helm acting with confidence and knowledge as the future stewards of Tennessee's cities.

"This is an experience that is highly unique," added Ward. "Rotating to different cities of various sizes along with different types of organizations, that's unique."



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Jan Simek,

most recently the interim chancellor for the University of Tennessee Knoxville, will be acting president from March 1 through June 30 and will become the interim president July 1 following the recent resignation of John Petersen. Petersen, served as president of UT for nearly five years.

Ed Carter

has been named the new executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Carter was selected in a vote by the 13-member Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission. Carter, the current chief of the TWRA Boating Division, will assume his new duties on March 1.



Jan Simek



Ed Carter

Carter is replacing Gary Myers, who has served as TWRA Executive Director since 1978 and is retiring. Carter's career began with the TWRA in 1972.

President Barack Obama named Rockwood native **Nancy-Ann Min DeParle**, Tennessee's former human services commissioner, as the nation's new health reform czar. DeParle will be the president's health-care policy counselor and director of the newly-created White House Office of Health Care Reform.

Rebecca

Caldwell has been named Franklin's Solid Waste Director. She has served as interim director since May 2008 and as assistant Solid Waste director from 2003 to 2008. Caldwell started as an accounting clerk with the city of Franklin in 1999. She has also served as an accounting technician



Rebecca Caldwell

and secretary for Fleet Maintenance and Solid Waste.

Jackson City Councilman **Ernest Brooks, II**, District Three, has recently been appointed to the National League of Cities Council on Youth, Education, and Families for 2009. Brook's work on behalf of youth and families includes: founding of the "Do the Write Thing Challenge" against youth violence, working with the Jackson-Madison County School System and a recent "5,000 Cans of Food Hunger Project".

William Whitson is East Ridge's new city manager. He is the first city manager to qualify for the position under the city's revised charter, requiring any city manager to have the minimum of a bachelor's degree in public administration and three to five years' experience in municipal government. Whitson previously served as interim budget director for Panama City, Fla. He also was the city manager for Cairo, Ga., and assistant city manager for Port Orange, Fla.

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Solar energy industry growing in Tennessee

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many, locating in Bradley County near Chattanooga, adding to an existing panel-making plant, Sharp's Solar Energy Solutions in Memphis and AGC Flat Glass near Kingsport, the world's leading producer of solar glass.

According to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) website, solar energy is generated by photovoltaic (PV) systems. PV systems use semiconductor cells, or modules, that convert sunlight directly into electricity. The PV cells are connected in the form of flat panels that can be mounted on rooftops, canopies, or integrated into roofing shingles and other building materials.

When rays of sunshine strike a solar panel, they give some of the electrons inside it more energy, a process that creates an electrical current. PV systems include equipment comparable to inverters, which change direct current to alternating current, such as what is used in homes. One kilowatt hour (kWh) equals the amount of electricity needed to burn a 100-watt lightbulb for 10 hours.

On average, PV systems produce from four to 50 kilowatts. A

or panels, will be able to generate electricity cheaper than the grid of many regions in the world. The article also attributes falling solar electricity prices to better cell efficiency and improvements of solar manufacturing, while financing contracts for business customers purchasing electricity generated by rooftop panels over 20 or 25 years can result in a predictable, lower cost.

In Tennessee, a number of incentives exist for businesses that would like to examine solar energy alternatives. According to the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, grants include: The TN Clean Energy Technology Grant, which pays 40 percent of installation cost; the 30 percent Federal Tax Credit, with no cap on PV systems; the USDA Energy Grant, for agricultural producers and small rural business owners; and TVA's Generation Partners Program.

In his award-winning documentary *Kilowatt Ours*, Jeff Barrie, grassroots activist for energy conservation and renewable energy, states "half the power needs of a city could be met if all the flat rooftop space were covered with solar collectors."

Throughout Tennessee, a num-



PV cells are connected in the form of flat panels that can be mounted on rooftops, canopies, or integrated into roofing shingles and other building materials.

"Half the power needs of a city could be met if all the flat rooftop space were covered with solar collectors," Jeff Barrie, *Kilowatt Ours*

10-kilowatt system, for example, will generate approximately 16,500 kilowatt hours per year, a little more than the total amount of electricity used in a typical home.

A report by Photon, a global consulting firm which advises solar companies released by Green TechNET News, predicts solar prices are dropping, in large part due to competition among solar companies to achieve a \$1 per watt manufacturing cost by the year 2012.

Meeting the cost of electricity from traditional sources of power generation is called "grid parity." In the article, *Solar-power prices slide toward 'grid parity'*, the competition between the solar companies ultimately means that within a few years, solar photovoltaic modules,

ber of communities are warming up to solar energy. In 2008, Knoxville was chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy as one of 12 Solar American Cities receiving a \$200,000 grant toward integrating solar energy technology into the city's operations. A portion of the funds are being used to install solar panels at Knoxville's future downtown public transit center.

"It won't be complete until 2010, but it will be a Leed certified showcase," said Gil Melear-Hough, Knoxville Solar America Cities Program project coordinator.

"As a transportation center people will be passing through continuously and there will be an education showroom in front teaching energy efficiency technologies with

Tennessee."

Along with the transit station a model, net-zero energy home will be constructed for public viewing. The city was also awarded a \$100,000 matching grant from TVA toward professional training for the city and Knox County permitting and codes inspectors along with Knoxville Utilities Board workers.

"One of the main reasons solar technologies aren't widely used in Knoxville is that people just aren't aware of all the benefits of solar energy or the financial incentives out there to help offset the cost of installation," said Madeleine Weil, deputy director of Knoxville's Policy and Communications Department.

"Both the state and federal governments offer several financing in-

centives and programs that can help businesses dramatically reduce the costs of installing solar technologies. We're trying to get the word out that there are functional systems that you can afford and use, right now."

In addition to displays, Knoxville has included public educational outreach efforts through exhibits, training programs and workshops for individuals and businesses.

"We had one Feb. 18, and it was standing room only," said Melear-Hough.

For Solar 101 basics, visit the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy website at www.cleanenergy.org or for more information about Knoxville's Solar America Cities Program, visit www.cityof-knoxville.org/policy/solar.

TVA offers a revolutionary idea,

Green Power Switch, to harness the natural power of the wind, sun and earth creating cleaner, renewable energy sources into our everyday lives. A residential or small commercial power customer served by a TVA distributor installs a solar or wind generation source. TVA purchases 100 percent of the green power output at a rate per kilowatt-hour. Green Power Switch is sold to the consumers in 150-kilowatt-hour blocks, with each block adding \$4 to the consumer's electric bills. The consumer may purchase as many blocks as they like.

Currently, solar energy constitutes a small, but important portion of Green Power Switch.

For more information about Green Power Switch, visit the TVA website at www.tva.com/greenpowerswitch/solar_faq.htm.

Tennessee warming up to Solar

Throughout Tennessee, a number of communities are investing in solar energy.



The Adventure Science Center in Nashville: TVA set up its first photovoltaic system to generate solar power in April 2000. Formerly the Cumberland Science Center, the venue attracts more than 235,000 visitors annually, many of them children, providing an excellent opportunity to peak the public's interest in solar energy.

Memphis: a solar array is located on the roof of the Bridges facility, a nonprofit youth leadership training organization in the Uptown redevelopment area. The array has 176 PV modules producing about 46,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a year.

Oak Ridge-The American Museum of Science & Energy: The museum has a 17 kilowatt solar installation with 400 photovoltaic (PV) modules.

Chattanooga's Finley Stadium: A solar PV system began producing electricity for Green Power Switch in 2001. The 11 solar arrays are mounted on canopies located in one of the stadium parking lots.

Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville: An 80-acre park and envi-

ronmental education center. PV arrays near the visitor center, where an interactive exhibit explains the benefits of green power.

Cocke County High School, Newport: The soccer field canopy where the school's solar PV modules are mounted helps to teach students about the capacities and environmental benefits of solar power.

Dollywood, Pigeon Forge: TVA added a second solar PV array to the Green Power Switch site at Dollywood theme park in 2001. The arrays are located in the parking lot at the Tram C and Tram D/E stops.

Caldwell Travel Agency, Brentwood: As a case study, the rooftop 12.24 kW system generates 14,688 kWh per year. The 50-year system will pay for itself in five years and generates revenue, approximately \$3,000 per year.

Knoxville, Solar American City workshops

The following workshops sponsored by the Solar American Cities Program in Knoxville are free and open to the public.

April 17: "Green Jobs and Education Opportunities" – 12:30-2 p.m. Pellissippi State Technical Community College, J.L. Goins Building Cafeteria Annex at 10915 Hardin Valley Rd.

April 18: "Solar Basics for the Home" Held in conjunction with Earth Fest. – 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Pellissippi State Technical Community College, J.L. Goins Building Auditorium.

June 13: "Photovoltaics In-Depth: Site Analysis, Interconnection, and other Electric Issues" – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Ijams Nature Center, Visitors Center at 2915 Island Home Ave.

August 15: "Solar Hot Water: In Depth" – 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Ijams Nature Center, Visitors Center.

To attend a workshop, please RSVP to Gil Melear-Hough at 865-789-5482 or e-mail gil@cleanenergy.org

Good links for more information on Solar Energy:

The North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners: www.nabcep.org

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council: www.irecusa.org/

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy-Solar Energy Technologies program: www.eere.energy.gov/solar/

The U.S. Green Building Council: www.usgbc.org

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) www.seia.org

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy: www.cleanenergy.org



National Renewable Energy Laboratory-Solar Energies Technology Program: www.nrel.gov/solar/

Find Solar: www.findsolar.org

For solar installation resources, visit the following directories:

- Green Village Green: A locally owned "green" directory
- The U.S. Green Building Council: offers a directory of all its members.



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STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Across the country, crime victims funds face reduced budgets, but Tennessee's fee-based system is holding strong even during the economic downturn. Tennessee's Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund held a balance of nearly \$7 million at the end of the 2008 fiscal year, according to the office of the state treasurer. The fund collects money through a combination of probation, parole and bond fees, along with money from the federal government and privilege taxes levied against convicted criminals. Some of the money is then paid to victims of crime who do not have a means to pay medical, legal or related bills.

The Tennessee Governor's Highway Safety Office joined state and local law enforcement, as well as the Suzuki Owners Club of North America in Memphis to kick off the Tennessee Roadway Safety Tour. As the 2009 motorcycle riding season begins, the tour promotes safe riding and acts as a daily reminder for all motorists to stay alert and keep an extra eye open for motorcycles. The tour will make 76 stops across the state of Tennessee in 76 days.

The Tennessee Board of Regents has suspended its yearlong search for a new chancellor, citing an uncertain economy and potential restructuring of higher education in the state. Regents Vice Chairman Bob Thomas suggested the board's search committee immediately suspend the search for a successor to Chancellor Charles Manning, and that it recommend to the full board in March to cancel the search indefinitely. Both actions were approved. Manning, who turned 66 in March, will be asked to remain as chancellor. He planned to retire June 30.

Attendance at for-profit schools is expected to increase as many Tennesseans lose their jobs and want to continue their educations, according to school officials. There are about 71,000 students at private, for-profit schools statewide, including mom-and-pop mechanic shops as well as billion-dollar enterprises. Enrollment at these campuses nearly equals the 80,000 at Tennessee's community colleges and grew at nearly nine times the rate of community colleges from 2004 to 2007. Community colleges — which tend to attract many of the same older students as for-profit schools — saw their first significant jump in enrollment in a decade last fall, just before the nation's economic collapse.

The Tennessee Valley Authority plans to hire more workers during 2009 than in any year since the 1980s, utility officials said. Despite a drop in electricity sales this year, TVA said it still needs to replace retiring workers, contract security employees and fill training slots for new positions across its seven-state region. "We had more than 1,500 people show up for our first job fair in Huntsville, and we're counting on at least 3,000 in Chattanooga," said Susan Stout, a shared resources senior manager for TVA.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

An estimated 4 million Americans have lost their health insurance since the recession began, and as many as 14,000 people could be losing their health coverage every day, according to a report by the Center for American Progress Action Fund. The report also indicates that at least half of the 4 million who lost their insurance coverage still are uninsured. Before the recession started there were an estimated 46 million Americans without health insurance.

NASA is pressing ahead with plans to launch shuttle Discovery, moving its target day to March 11. The decision followed an all-day review of extensive testing and engineering analyses prompted by the failure of a critical main propulsion system valve during Endeavor's successful launch last November.

The state Senate approved a bill to strengthen Tennessee's current law requiring school districts to come up with plans to stop bullying and harassment. The Senate unanimously passed the legislation sponsored by Sen. Diane Black. Black, sponsored anti-bullying legislation in 2005 that became law. It requires each of Tennessee's 136 school districts to adopt a policy prohibiting bullying or harassment, as well as explore preventive measures. Black's latest proposal seeks to require 13 standards that must be included in each system's anti-bullying policy. Those standards include a statement prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying; a description of the type of behavior expected from each student; and a procedure for reporting an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying, including a way to report problems anonymously.

Census figures out this week on America's foreign-born population show Tennessee — and particularly Middle Tennessee — becoming an increasingly popular destination for immigrants. Since 1990, the state gained nearly 200,000 foreign-born residents, an increase that moved Tennessee's ranking from 31st to 24th for the number of immigrants and refugees. Of the nearly 250,000 in the state, the largest cluster — 101,932 of them — lives in the Nashville-Franklin-Murfreesboro statistical area the Census Bureau measures.

Definitive change is starting in Tennessee classrooms as the state moves this fall to implement an extensive curriculum and assessment redesign geared toward the Class of 2013. Not only have core high school graduation credits risen to 22, but curriculum change will trickle into elementary and middle schools in an effort to prepare those grades for the stiffer academic demands of high school. By tightly aligning with national standards, our students will be able to compete in any work environment nationwide," said Michael Harris, director of the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System. In the past, states each set their own bar of educational expectation. Each state defined proficiency or mastery of subject mate-

rial. These unilateral prerogatives led to apples-and-oranges comparisons of student achievement at a national or international level.

The state is taking steps to address issues in a national report that shows the number of offenders on parole and probation across the United States has surged past 5 million. According to The Pew Center on the States report, the number of people on probation or parole nearly doubled to more than 5 million between 1982 and 2007. Including jail and prison inmates, the total population of the U.S. corrections system now exceeds 7.3 million — one of every 31 U.S. adults, and in Tennessee, one in 40 adults is under correctional control. It costs \$60 a day to house a prisoner in Tennessee.

More than 18-hundred doctors in the state have signed up to begin prescribing medications electronically. Now health officials are training them on the technology. Just 3-percent of prescriptions filled in the state last year were made electronically, but e-prescribing is catching on more quickly. The state is offering doctors \$3,500 to reimburse part of the start up expense.

Tennessee's unemployment rate for January was 8.6 percent, up 1.0 percentage point from the revised December rate of 7.6 percent. The January rate a year ago was 5.3 percent. The national unemployment rate for January 2009 was 7.6 percent, up from the December rate of 7.2 percent. December-to-January job gains occurred in professional, scientific, and technical services, which increased by 2,900; repair and maintenance added 200 jobs. Declines included trade, transportation and utilities, down 21,800; administrative, support and waste services were down 14,700, and leisure and hospitality lost 9,600 jobs. From Jan. 2008 to Jan. 2009, educational and health services increased by 10,300; local government increased 3,700 and food services and drinking places increased by 1,800. Decreases were in manufacturing, down 35,800; trade, transportation and utilities, down 26,600; and mining and construction, down 18,500.



Kendell Poole, Governor's Highway Safety Office director, members of the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) along with Tenny C Bear, the THP mascot, join the Tennessee Roadway Safety Tour Kick Off in Memphis.

New state law affects state fairs, amusement parks, and carnivals

With millions of visitors to Tennessee expected to make their way to amusement parks, county fairs, and carnivals this summer, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development has announced it will conduct inspections to ensure amusement rides are mechanically safe.

Labor department staff will inspect all rides at stationary parks twice a year and will inspect rides at traveling carnivals or fairs randomly. If an amusement ride is considered unsafe, the inspector will have the authority to "red tag" a ride, shutting it down until repairs are made.

"We want parents and visitors to know that these rides are in safe working order," said Commissioner Neeley. "I have grandchildren myself, and I feel better knowing there are second and third parties inspecting these rides to check for potential hazards."

The new state law (TCA 68-121-101), effective Jan. 1, 2009, requires employers operating amusement rides to provide a certificate of insurance, annual permit, inspection history, and proof that operators are adequately trained. In addition to allowing inspections, the law establishes the Elevator and Amusement Device Safety Board.

"This process is similar to the 12,500 elevator inspections that our department conducts twice a year," said Arthur Franklin, Jr., adminis-

trator of Workplace Regulations and Compliance. "We estimate there are 120 stationary rides, and each year there are approximately 60 fairs and carnivals that set up mobile amusement devices."

The law requires operators of amusement rides to pay annual fees that will cover expenses for the inspections ranging from \$25 to \$200 depending on the size and time required to properly inspect the ride.

"There are many expectations with this new law," said state Rep. Richard Montgomery who sponsored the bill. "Riders expect to be safe, owners can expect a more thorough evaluation of their equipment and Tennessee should expect fewer accidents."

Amusement rides are defined as mechanical devices that carry a person for the purpose of giving amusement. The term includes, but is not limited to, roller coasters, Ferris wheels, merry-go-rounds, glass-houses and walk-through dark houses. Examples of rides not included in the inspections are wavepools, go-karts, skateboard ramps, and bungee cords.

For more information on the new requirements including lists of affected rides, fee structure and the Tennessee Code go to <http://www.michie.com/tennessee/lpExt.dll?f=templates&eMail=Y&fn=main.h.htm&cp=tncode/2a63e/2b975/2bffd> or contact the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development at 615-741-1627.

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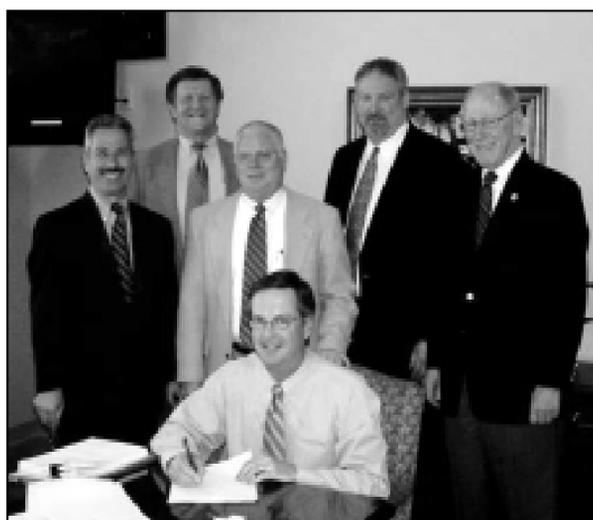
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The city of Murfreesboro closes a \$103 million loan, the largest in TMBF history.



The town of Nolensville closes a \$21,000 loan.

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With more than 100 local government clients across the southeastern USA, including the city of Kingsport, TML's new bronze sponsor, One Source Document Solutions, Inc., has expanded operations to better serve Tennessee municipalities. One Source provides document management and workflow solutions to enable municipalities to fully archive, manage, instantly find, and distribute all their paper and digital records internally, and over the Internet. In addition, the firm provides agenda management tools to simplify every aspect of the agenda creation process, from item submission to publication of the final agenda packet.

As a nine year Laserfiche "Winner's Circle" partner, One Source has a proven track record of success with local government. Their solutions enable municipalities to better manage and retrieve critical records, such as meeting minutes, ordinances, resolutions, inspection files (including maps), employee records, financial records, police reports, and other content into a single, highly secure, repository. Utilizing comprehensive security, authorized personnel can search and retrieve documents avail-

able to them, then instantly view, print, and e-mail from their desktops without a trip to a filing cabinet. Secure access to public records can also be established for intranet or Internet retrieval, and documents can be dynamically posted to the municipal web site. First response and homeland security initiatives can also be enhanced by linking supporting documents to GIS applications, and providing access to them in the field.

Through the use of workflow automation and integration with core municipal systems, One Source provides unique cost-saving benefits to all areas of government, including: the city manager's office, finance department, the city clerk, legal department, human resources, police and fire departments, water department...even GIS operations.

"In today's economy, we give municipalities the ability to lower costs while improving operational efficiencies and services to their residents," said Kevin Carver, One Source senior consultant in Tennessee, "by automating manual processes, and providing instant access to important documents, we reduce operating costs and allow key staff to focus on important projects instead of time-consuming tasks like fulfilling public record requests from area attorneys and residents. Best of all, our clients realize a rapid return-on-investment."

Contact One Source Document Solutions, Inc. today to improve productivity and increase your organizations' overall business intelligence. Kevin Carver can be reached at kevin.carver@osdsinc.com or 865- 256-0903.

Municipal Administration Program
March Schedule

Finance



MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

Revenues are declining while demands for services are staying the same if not increasing. How do cities cope? This class discusses the basics of budgeting with specific emphasis on strategic budgeting methods and strategies for addressing the challenges ahead.

Practical tools and suggestions are provided as well as the opportunity to discuss additional ideas from participants.

Instructors

Melanie Purcell, MTAS Assistant Director, William Hastings, MTAS Finance Consultant.

Who Should Attend

This class is recommended for anyone involved in the budget development and/or decision process; municipal clerks, management and finance staff, elected officials and department staff.

Time

Public administration courses begin at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m.

Dates and locations

Mar. 11	Johnson City
Mar. 12	Knoxville
Mar. 13	Collegedale
Mar. 23	Jackson
Mar. 24	Bartlett
Mar. 26	Franklin

Training Facilities

Bartlett Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center, 3663 Appling Road
Collegedale Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Drive
Franklin Williamson County Expo-

sition Center, 4215 Long Lane
Jackson West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Public Service, 605 Airways Boulevard

Johnson City Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard St.
Knoxville University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street

To register for this municipal administration program class, please visit the MTAS web site at www.mtas.tennessee.edu or contact Elaine Morrisey at Elaine.morrisey@tennessee.edu or 865.974.0411. For program information, contact Izetta Slade, MTAS Training Program manager, at 865.974.9855 or e-mail Izetta.slade@tennessee.edu.

Fees are \$25 per person per class for municipal employees and \$55 per person per class for all other participants.



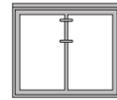
April 03 -April 05: 6th Annual Bloom 'n' Garden Expo
Franklin. More than 100 booths, display gardens, plant vendors, educational workshops and speakers. For more information, call 615-973-2112.

April 24 -April 25: Brimstock Bluegrass Festival
Moss. Free creek side camping, dog show, corn toss, bluegrass and gospel, mountain music, family fun. For more information, call 931-258-4499.

April 25: Thunder Road Festival
Downtown Rockwood. One of Tennessee's fastest growing festivals. Captures the element of Rockwood's past as a location on the notorious Thunder Road. Bluegrass music all day, costume contests, fried pie/stack cake contests, classic cars, motorcycles and more. For vendor and additional information, contact Erika Schenk at 865-354-6800.

April 26 -May 3 : Teapot Festival
Trenton. Showcases the worlds' largest collection of night-light teapots. Events include a Grand Parade, tractor pull, fireworks, community sing, community block party, and much more. For more information, call 731-855-2013 or visit us online at www.trentontn.net.

COMING UP



April 22-24: Tennessee City Management Association Spring Conference at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Murfreesboro.

April 25-26: "The Gap Divided"
The Town of Cumberland Gap presents an authentic War between the States living history and reenactment. Battles, infantry, cavalry, artillery demonstrations, authentic Civil War encampments and civil war talks. Other activities include a period Tea, fashion show, wedding and Sunday church services. For more information, visit www.townofcumberlandgap.com or www.63rdtennessee.org, or call 423-869-3860.

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Recovery Act provides additional funds for COPS program

COPS from Page 1

Byrne JAG program is distributed by formula – 60 percent to the states and 40 percent to the local law enforcement efforts.

- \$225 million in Violence Against Women Act Grants. Also provides \$100 million through OJP for grants to assist victims of crime, \$225 million for tribal law enforcement assistance, and \$50 million for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces.
- Provides an additional \$390 million from OJP for local law enforcement assistance, including \$225 million in competitive Byrne

grants, \$125 million targeted for rural areas, and \$40 million for the Southern border (including \$10 million for ATF's Project Gunrunner).

The COPS Hiring Recovery Program is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies having primary law enforcement authority to create and preserve jobs and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts. The grant funding will be available for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers. There is no local match

requirement for CHRP, but grant funding will be based on current entry-level salary and benefits packages; and, therefore, any additional costs for higher salaries or benefits for particular individuals hired will be the responsibility of the grantee agency.

CHRP grants will provide 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for three years for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off on a future date, as a result of local budget cuts.

In addition, there is no cap on the number of positions an agency

may request, but awards will be limited to available funding. Please be mindful of the initial 3-year grant period and your agency's ability to fill the officer positions awarded, while following your agency's established hiring policies and procedures.

At the conclusion of federal funding, grantees must retain all sworn officer positions awarded under the CHRP grant. The retained CHRP-funded position(s) should be added to the grantees law enforcement budget with state and/or local funds, over and above the number of locally-funded positions that would have existed in the absence of the grant. Application materials are scheduled to be available before the

end of March.

The COPS Hiring Recovery Program funding is in addition to the \$2 billion in Byrne JAG funds that can be used for a wide range of crime prevention and law enforcement activities. Under Byrne JAG, 40 percent of funding goes directly to local governments, and 60 percent goes to the state to distribute. States are required to pass a percentage of these funds through to localities.

Listed below are allocations set aside for local jurisdictions in Tennessee.

For more information on either DOJ grant program, visit www.usdoj.gov/recovery

JOINT APPLICATION (DISPARATE)	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
BEDFORD County	\$24,121	
SHELBYVILLE Municipal	\$45,742	\$69,863
COFFEE County	\$22,356	
TULLAHOMA Municipal	\$37,947	\$60,303
DYER County	\$17,502	
DYERSBURG Municipal	\$79,276	
NEWBERN Municipal	\$10,590	\$107,368
FRANKLIN County	\$24,415	
WINCHESTER Municipal	\$36,917	\$61,332
GIBSON County	\$25,592	
HUMBOLDT Municipal	\$56,773	\$82,365
HAMBLIN County	\$54,567	
MORRISTOWN Municipal	\$112,663	\$167,230
CHATTANOOGA Municipal	\$842,178	
EAST RIDGE Municipal	\$72,657	
HAMILTON County	\$138,402	
RED BANK Municipal	\$33,828	
SODDY DAISY Municipal	\$30,298	\$1,117,363
HAYWOOD County	\$16,032	
BROWNSVILLE Municipal	\$77,217	\$93,249
KNOX County	\$226,944	
KNOXVILLE Municipal	\$839,236	\$1,066,180
LAUDERDALE County	\$19,415	
RIPLEY Municipal	\$64,274	\$83,689
MADISON County	\$84,865	
JACKSON Municipal	\$338,577	\$423,442
MARSHALL County	\$14,708	
LEWISBURG Municipal	\$33,240	\$47,948
MAURY County	\$66,186	
COLUMBIA Municipal	\$191,792	\$257,978
MONTGOMERY County	\$59,714	
CLARKSVILLE Municipal	\$427,266	\$486,980
OBION County	\$16,473	
UNION Municipal	\$31,034	\$47,507
ROBERTSON County	\$40,006	
SPRINGFIELD Municipal	\$104,132	\$144,138
LA VERGNE Municipal	\$71,775	
MURFREESBORO Municipal	\$299,601	
RUTHERFORD County	\$104,574	
SMYRNA Municipal	\$62,215	\$538,165
BARTLETT Municipal	\$48,095	
COLLIERVILLE Municipal	\$26,916	
GERMANTOWN Municipal	\$15,443	
MEMPHIS Municipal	\$5,773,903	
MILLINGTON Municipal	\$37,799	
SHELBY County	\$219,884	\$6,122,040
WARREN County	\$21,621	
MCMINNVILLE Municipal	\$34,711	\$56,332
WILSON County	\$73,834	
LEBANON Municipal	\$116,487	\$190,321

Allocation amounts for disparate jurisdictions appearing in the "Eligible Individual Allocation" column are suggested amounts based on what each jurisdiction would have been eligible to receive if there was no identified disparity. Disparate jurisdictions are responsible for determining individual allocations and documenting individual allocations in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Additional JAG Frequently Asked Questions can be found on at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/09JAGFAQ.pdf>.

ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATIONS

ALCOA Municipal	\$48,242	KINGSPORT Municipal	\$165,759
ANDERSON County	\$47,801	LA FOLLETTE Municipal	\$33,828
ATHENS Municipal	\$88,248	LAWRENCE County	\$64,421
BEAN STATION Municipal	\$10,148	LAWRENCEBURG Municipal	\$55,302
BENTON County	\$16,620	LENOIR CITY Municipal	\$27,063
BLOUNT County	\$141,638	LEXINGTON Municipal	\$32,358
BOLIVAR Municipal	\$20,297	LINCOLN County	\$47,948
BRADLEY County	\$144,432	LOUDON County	\$32,063
BRENTWOOD Municipal	\$11,178	MACON County	\$20,003
BRISTOL Municipal	\$61,038	MADISONVILLE Municipal	\$13,678
CAMPBELL County	\$34,270	MANCHESTER Municipal	\$28,975
CANNON County	\$10,884	MARION County	\$21,032
CARROLL County	\$18,826	MARTIN Municipal	\$16,473
CARTER County	\$23,974	MARYVILLE Municipal	\$25,592
CHEATHAM County	\$42,359	MCMINN County	\$59,273
CHESTER County	\$11,325	MCNAIRY County	\$22,209
CLAIBORNE County	\$38,829	MEIGS COUNTY County	\$15,590
CLEVELAND Municipal	\$166,788	MILAN Municipal	\$23,386
CLINTON Municipal	\$20,885	MILLERSVILLE Municipal	\$11,913
COCKE County	\$42,653	MONROE County	\$56,773
COOKEVILLE Municipal	\$47,065	MOUNT PLEASANT Municipal	\$15,002
COVINGTON Municipal	\$47,948	MT JULIET Municipal	\$26,621
CROSSVILLE Municipal	\$41,329	MUNFORD Municipal	\$13,090
CUMBERLAND County	\$36,329	NASHVILLE Metro	\$3,831,717
DAYTON CITY Municipal	\$11,913	NEWPORT Municipal	\$36,182
DE KALB County	\$17,944	OAK RIDGE Municipal	\$68,686
DICKSON Municipal	\$53,096	PARIS Municipal	\$30,004
DICKSON County	\$61,773	PIGEON FORGE Municipal	\$25,151
ELIZABETHTON Municipal	\$34,858	PORTLAND Municipal	\$35,593
FAYETTE County	\$55,449	PULASKI Municipal	\$29,710
FAYETTEVILLE Municipal	\$33,093	PUTNAM County	\$35,887
FENTRESS County	\$20,297	RHEA County	\$23,827
FRANKLIN Municipal	\$46,330	ROANE County	\$51,919
GALLATIN Municipal	\$56,773	ROGERSVILLE Municipal	\$14,708
GATLINBURG Municipal	\$13,825	SAVANNAH Municipal	\$24,121
GILES County	\$36,476	SCOTT County	\$55,890
GOODLETTSVILLE Municipal	\$43,094	SELMER Municipal	\$15,443
GRAINGER County	\$12,796	SEQUATCHIE County	\$11,325
GREENBRIER Municipal	\$13,678	SEVIER County	\$56,626
GREENE COUNTY County	\$103,397	SEVIERVILLE Municipal	\$26,768
GREENEVILLE Municipal	\$38,829	SMITH COUNTY County	\$12,943
GRUNDY County	\$35,446	SMITHVILLE Municipal	\$12,061
HARDEMAN County	\$45,448	SOMERVILLE Municipal	\$10,884
HARDIN County	\$45,301	SPRING HILL Municipal	\$14,855
HARRIMAN Municipal	\$21,915	STEWART County	\$15,002
HARTSVILLE/TROUSDALE Metro	\$20,150	SULLIVAN County	\$181,055
HAWKINS County	\$33,387	SUMNER County	\$61,773
HENDERSON Municipal	\$12,796	SWEETWATER Municipal	\$22,797
HENDERSON County	\$27,798	TIPTON County	\$85,894
HENDERSONVILLE Municipal	\$75,158	TRENTON Municipal	\$11,913
HENRY County	\$29,710	UNICOI County	\$11,619
HICKMAN County	\$29,269	UNION County	\$15,738
HUMPHREYS County	\$12,208	WASHINGTON County	\$108,103
JACKSON County	\$10,590	WAYNE County	\$12,355
JEFFERSON CITY Municipal	\$11,178	WEAKLEY County	\$23,827
JEFFERSON County	\$44,124	WHITE County	\$25,886
JOHNSON CITY Municipal	\$153,845	WILLIAMSON County	\$32,063
JOHNSON County	\$33,387		

Counties listed under the "Eligible Individual Allocation" column are ineligible for a direct FY 09 Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) award from BJA. For JAG purposes, these counties remain a partner with the jurisdictions receiving funds and must be a signatory on the required MOU. A sample MOU is provided online at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/09JAGMOU.pdf>.

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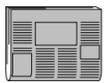
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ANIMAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

COLUMBIA/MAURY COUNTY GOVERNMENT. Columbia and Maury County government are seeking candidates with combination of education and experience equivalent to: AS Degree (BS Degree preferred) in Business Administration, Animal Science or health related field. Must possess thorough experience working with animals, knowledge of nutritional and emotional needs of animals; strong leadership, organizational, interpersonal, and decision making skills; supervisory experience; experience performing administrative and accounting duties. Must possess a valid TN Drivers License. Current Tetanus vaccination on record, and must maintain a valid Certification for Euthanasia through the State of Tennessee Division of Health-related board. Salary range is \$33,440-\$50,160. Beginning salary commensurate with experience. Deadline to apply, March 16, 2009. Residency requirement applies. We are a Drug-Free, Smoke-Free workplace. Pre-employment drug screen and physical exam required. EOE. Applications are available Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Maury County Human Resource Dept., One Courthouse Square, Suite 303, Columbia, TN. 38401. www.maurycounty-tn.gov.

CHIEF OF POLICE

DYERSBURG. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Chief of Police. The Chief of Police reports directly to the mayor, and is responsible for performing administrative, managerial, and technical functions associated with overseeing the activities of the Police Department and enforcing all city statutes/ordinances and State laws/regulations for which the police Department is accountable. Duties and responsibilities include planning, coordinating and directing all aspects of department operations; supervising the enforcement of laws/ordinances/responding to and directing major calls/occurrences; formulating orders/regulations; developing department budget and controlling expenditures; supervising assigned em-

ployees; and providing information and assistance to the general public. Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice is preferred, supplemented by formal training in law enforcement methods/practices with extensive experience in law enforcement work to include five (5) years of management/supervisory experience or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Requires Police Officer Certification by the State of Tennessee and a valid Tennessee driver's license. Salary is competitive and negotiable with benefits. Resumes along with three (3) references may be mailed to Sue Teague, Human Resources director, 425 W. Court Street, Dyersburg, Tennessee, 38024 or emailed to steague@dyersburgtn.gov.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SPRING HILL. The city is seeking an experienced city administrator with extensive knowledge and experience in municipal finance, public works, utility management, community and economic development, retail development, public safety and public relations. The applicant must have strong planning and administrative skills and experience in municipal budgeting in a similar sized city. The new administrator should be capable of developing a strategic plan with a vision for the future. The administrator must instill teamwork within the organization and effectively motivate the staff in the attainment of city goals and objectives. The administrator must have strong conflict resolution skills, be energetic and accessible. The candidate must be an effective communicator with the ability to manage complex projects and issues. The candidate must be a problem solver with the ability to think ahead and effectively communicate with the city council, staff, and the general public. The candidate must be able to effectively plan and execute in a political environment. Minimum qualifications are a bachelor's degree in business or public administration with eight (8) years of municipal experience in a similar sized city. A master's degree in business or public administration is preferred. EOE. Resumes will be received through April 15, 2009. Municipal Technical Advisory Service, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 606, Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1804. E-mail: ron.darden@tennessee.edu

TML Board meets March 23

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the Tennessee Ballroom (Lobby Level) of the Doubletree Hotel, 315 4th Avenue North, Nashville, TN., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Monday, March 16, at the offices of the Tennessee Municipal League, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 710, Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Mona Lawrence at 615-255-6416.

TMBF announces board meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund Board of Directors will meet in regular public session on Monday, March 23, at 9:00 a.m., local time, in the Vanderbilt Room on the lobby level of the Doubletree Hotel at 315 Fourth Avenue North, Nashville, Tenn., for the purpose of considering and transacting all business that may properly come before said board. Some members of the board may participate in such meeting by telephonic means, which will be audible to any member of the public attending such meeting. If reasonably possible, an agenda will be available on Monday, March 16, at the offices of TMBF, 226 Capitol Boulevard, Suite 502, in Nashville. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Lisa Shelby at 615-255-1561.

TML celebrates past, looks to the future at 70th Annual Conference

70th from Page 1

A lot has changed since those founding years of the Tennessee Municipal League. But just as the adage says: the more things change, the more they stay the same – today's city officials might find it interesting that TML's very first legislative program in 1941 included one of the League's top priorities today – opposition to any unfunded mandates. City leaders in the 1940s were also concerned about budgets and steady revenue sources, how to manage their cities efficiently, public health and safety issues, and how to deal effectively with the General Assembly and the Governor – all relative issues today.

Another constant through the years is the forum provided through the Tennessee Municipal League's annual conference.

For 70 years, municipal officials from across the state have come together at the TML Annual Conference to explore common problems, exchange ideas, and to form a united front in the effort to make Tennessee cities and towns operate more efficiently and effectively.

This year's conference will once again offer that same opportunity to network with fellow peers, to work toward common goals, and to celebrate our many accomplishments.

With a 70th Anniversary theme, the conference will take a look back to the early years while keeping an eye on the future. Workshops and speakers will focus on building green communities and the use of green energy; communicating



In 1953, TML held its 13th annual conference at the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville. Ben West, mayor of Nashville, presided as president.

through Web 2.0 tools; addressing future transportation needs; and designing for the future through regional planning.

As an added highlight, the Capitol Steps will perform. The nationally acclaimed group began more than 25 years ago when a group of Senate staffers set out to satirize the very people and places that employed them. Since then, they have recorded 28 albums, and have been featured on NBC, CBS, and ABC.

Registration for the annual conference will soon be available on line.

So be sure to make plans now to be a part of this celebratory year that recognizes TML's 70 years of service to city governments.

Editor's note: Historical information about TML founding years was provided by Ed Young, former TML Assistant Director.

Schedule At-A-Glance

Saturday, June 13
Elected Officials Academy Alumni Event

Sunday, June 14
Exhibition Opens
District Meetings
Opening General Session
Host City Reception

Monday, June 15
Annual Business Meeting
Concurrent Workshops
The Capitol Steps
TML Risk Management Pool Party

Tuesday, June 16
Annual Awards Breakfast

Legislative Conference slated for March 23-24

CONFERENCE, from Page 1

\$4.3 billion in federal funds allocated to the state under Obama's Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be distributed over the next two years.

Gerald Nicely, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), is also scheduled to speak. He will provide an update on the state's "shovel ready" projects and which ones will be covered under the stimulus plan.

Also on Monday's agenda is Commerce and Insurance Commissioner Leslie Newman who will provide information on the international fire codes.

The TML staff will also provide a legislative update on the League's 2009 legislative priorities and other issues that affect municipal governments.

City officials are encouraged to use the remainder of the day to

attend Monday evening floor sessions and to schedule time to visit with their legislators.

On Tuesday, a full breakfast will be served beginning at 7:30 a.m., followed by briefings from Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and House Speaker Kent Williams on key issues facing the state and local governments.

The remainder of the day is set aside for city officials to attend committee meetings in the Legislative Plaza.

The voice of Tennessee's municipal governments must be heard in the legislative process, and the TML Legislative Conference is a key opportunity to communicate that message.

A registration form is available on line at www.TMLI.org. Contact the TML offices at 615-255-6416 for more information.

Schedule At-A-Glance

Monday, March 23

11 am Registration
Noon Lunch Buffet
1 pm Legislative Briefings
Gov. Phil Bredesen
Comm. Dave Goetz
Comm. Gerald Nicely
Comm. Leslie Newman
TML Legislative Update
4 pm Adjourn
5 pm Attend Floor Sessions

Tuesday, March 24

7:30 am Breakfast
8:15 am Legislative Briefings
Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey
Speaker Kent Williams
Attend Committee Meetings

TDOT announces 10 local bridges first to be replaced with stimulus funds

BRIDGES from Page 1

24,000 jobs could be created through the ARRA infrastructure funding for Tennessee.

For more information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, visit www.recovery.gov or visit www.tn.gov/tdot and click on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act link in the middle of the page.

The local bridge replacement projects to be funded through the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 are:

- Carroll County: Westport Road Bridges over the Big Sandy River
- Carter County: Wilbur Dam Road (Steel Bridge Road) Bridge over the Watauga River
- Cocke County: Splashaway Road over Sinking Creek
- Fentress County: Delk Creek Road Bridge over Delk Creek
- Gibson County: McMurry Road Bridges over Davis Creek,

Reagan Creek and other branches

- Giles County: Earl Townsend Road Bridge over the West Fork of Shoal Creek
- Hardeman County: Teague Road Bridge over Clover Creek
- Hawkins County: Okolona Road Bridge over Alexander Creek
- Macon County: West Wixtown Road Bridge over the West Fork of Long Creek
- Monroe County: Belcher Gap Road Bridge over Notchy Creek

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Speaker Kent Williams promotes the most bipartisan House

BY GAEL STAHL

At the moment, there are 49 Republicans and 49 Democrats in the Tennessee House. None of them are speaker. Kent Williams is. For the 49 Republicans, it wasn't supposed to be that way. The Nov. 4 election gave the Tennessee GOP its first House majority, 50-49, since 1869. That day, the race to ensure 50 votes for speaker began in earnest by incumbent Jimmy Naifeh and Jason Mumpower, the minority leader and presumptive speaker with the Republican in the majority. But seven Republicans had voted for Speaker Jimmy Naifeh in January 2007. So, all Republican members were immediately asked to pledge they'd vote for a Republican in January. All did.

Speaker Naifeh worked diligently for two months to find one or more crossover Republican votes. Unlike 2007, he needed them in 2009. But every Republican had signed on to vote only for a Republican, and Mumpower had verbal commitments from each one that he'd be that Republican.

On election night, Nov. 4, Rep. Brian Kelsey, telephoned Williams asking if he'd vote for Mumpower for speaker. After a couple of years of pretty stiff treatment from Kelsey and other Republicans for his Naifeh vote in 2007, Williams, only partially joking, said he just might vote for himself. But, Kelsey had given him a thought that would stay with him.

When it became clear around Jan. 1, that Naifeh probably would not find a crossover vote, some House Democrats hatched a plan to help them retain some influence as the minority party and protect the jobs of career legislative staff who were expected to be replaced in bunches. What if all Democrats voted for a moderate Republican who would vote for him or herself? A couple of his Democrat friends presented the idea to Williams. He committed himself to nothing but didn't say no, either.

At 5 p.m. on the evening before the election of speaker, with Naifeh still unable to find a 50th vote, Williams agreed that if 49 Democrats voted for him, he would too. The next morning, the Democrats caucused just before the vote and members were instructed to do the unthinkable – vote for a Republican.

The House gallery, packed with Republicans ready to rock upon the election of the first Republican speaker in 40 years, tittered and roared with laughter when Odom rose to declare that his nominee for speaker stood above partisan politics. As Odom continued, they realized he wasn't speaking of Naifeh. Stunned silence, then gasps when Odom said he was nominating a Republican. With two Republicans nominated – Jason Mumpower and Kent Williams, the Democrats were polled first. All voted for Williams. The Republicans were polled in alphabetical order. When Williams rose to cast the last vote it was 49 for Williams, 49 for Mumpower. "Williams," he said.

The House gallery erupted with cheers and boing.

The previous two years had readied him for tumult. Pressure from party members had come down on him hard at times to support legislative initiatives or amendments that he felt extreme or silly. Threats to boycott his family business were made. But, he felt OK with his vote in that he'd voted for a Republican as he'd committed to in writing, just not for Mumpower. He knew he'd broken that private promise, but felt it was in the best interest of the state.

In his acceptance speech to be Speaker of the House of the 106th Tennessee General Assembly, Williams pledged to work with Gov. Bredesen and Senate Republicans for a better Tennessee. He said the welfare of the people of Tennessee comes first. He'd be fair in equally distributing committee appointments and chairmanships based on experience and ability rather than party membership. He'd favor his party but would make Democratic appointments also.

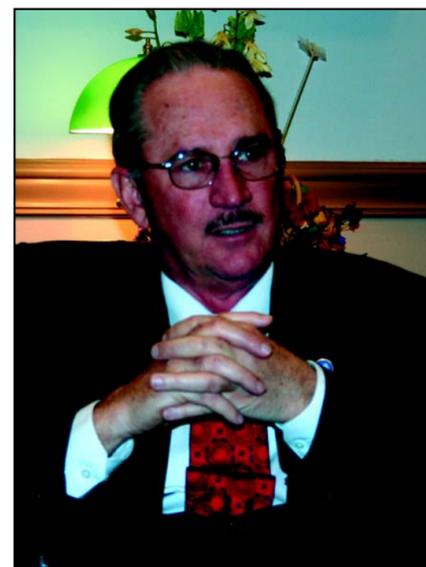
The first and most important task of any speaker is making committee assignments due to the nature of Tennessee's committee system to create laws. Speaker Williams made bipartisan committee assignments, gave both parties equal representation on committees and each



"I believe we have a lot of capable and smart people in the House from both parties. In this time of crisis, we need to utilize all of this talent and harness everyone who has the desire and ability to be a leader."



"I ran as a Republican. I know in my heart I'm a Republican. But, once you're elected to an office, you represent all the people even if they are not a registered voter. I think you work for every individual just as hard as you do for your own party."



"We have a lot of work to do. We have to put our distractions behind us, join hands, and work together – and move forward."

the same number of chairpersons. Naifeh had never appointed a Republican chair. Mumpower wasn't expected to.

Kent Williams grew up in Carter County in East Tennessee, where people are proud of their politics and the area's rich pioneer history. For it was in these counties – Carter, Sullivan and Washington – that the state of Tennessee first began under the agreement known as the Watauga Compact.

Williams, born nearly 60 years ago, June 23, 1949, and was raised at the foot of Holston Mountain in Dale Hollow in the Sadie section of Stony Creek. His father Roby worked for minimum wages at an Elizabethton textile mill and managed with his wife Bertha to raise Kent, his brother, and two sisters in a small four-room house. They thought they were rich because their first cousins across the road didn't have electricity or running water like they did. What's more, while they had an outhouse like everybody else, they also had a car. The kinfolk didn't. The kids just knew they had the good life.

There was an enjoyable childhood even though they didn't realize how poor they were until they got out into the world and ran into people that had some money. Williams attended Unaka High School in Elizabethton. He won a basketball scholarship to Lees-McCrae College in Banner Elk, NC. Unfortunately, he couldn't find a summer job to pay other college expenses, so he accepted the suggestion of his aunt and uncle to join them at their home in the Detroit suburb of Troy until he found work.

On the second day he found a job washing dishes in the kitchen of a large hospital. The most he'd ever made was 75 cents an hour working on tobacco farms and selling blackberries that he and his brother picked and sold for 35 cents a gallon. Told the dishwashing job paid \$2.27 an hour, he stammered to the interviewer, "How can you pay somebody that much money?" His father was making the mid-1967 minimum wage of \$1.40 an hour.

He soon rented a room, paid cash for a car, and met his future wife Gayle, a dietary aide at the same hospital. They married a year later and have raised four sons in the five states Kent and Gayle have lived. Williams worked at the hospital, a steel mill, a foam rubber factory, and sold vacuum cleaners in Michigan until they moved to East Tennessee in 1971 after Republican Gov. Winfield Dunn was elected. Williams got a job with the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Four years later, Democrat Ray Blanton became governor. Williams and two others hired by the Dunn administration were fired. His father, who served a six-year term as county commissioner, did get Williams' job back but his son soon found an out-of-state job that paid \$100 more.

A relative worked for Sizzler Inc. in the greater Kansas City area opening new franchise restaurants. He invited Williams to join him, which launched Williams into a new lifelong career. During the restaurant business training programs, he was told he could be an assistant manager within six months, a manager in a year. He worked 72 straight days without a break, studied all the manuals, and was a restaurant manager in three months. A

year later, they moved to Birmingham and five years later, in 1981, to Miami. A Sizzler area manager there was starting his own franchise restaurants in the Homestead area and hired Williams to help him open restaurants. In 1983, Williams became vice president of Operations for Family Steakhouses of Homestead Inc. and Family Steakhouses of Miami Inc.

In 1991, he resigned to open a restaurant with three former Miami Dolphins including Dan Marino and Gary Stevens. Four months after they opened, Hurricane Andrew shut them down. They reopened in 1993 but the business never performed well after Andrew and closed in 1995. The Williamses were about bankrupt and had lost practically everything they had worked for over the last 20 years. That's when Williams learned of an opportunity to reopen Dino's Restaurant in Elizabethton. A local bank loaned him the money to purchase the business, and for more than 20 years that hometown job has been the best in his life.

Ten years later, Williams got interested in politics. He ran for state representative in 2006 against an incumbent whose fervent partisanship had resulted in state-funded projects bypassing Carter County. Williams campaigned on that issue, said he would work cooperatively with all state officials to help the district, and was elected. His first vote was to join six similar-minded Republicans in voting for Naifeh who had more than enough Democrat votes to win. Williams explained that if you wanted to get anything done in Carter County you had to vote for Jimmy Naifeh. On being re-elected in 2008, his first important vote was for himself as speaker.

The weeks since have been quite a ride. House Republicans expelled him from their caucus, though he has since attended a caucus meeting. The Tennessee Republican Party expelled him from its party. Williams, with no intention of joining the Democratic Party, calls himself a moderate conservative "Carter County Republican." He will probably have to run for re-election as an Independent.

TT&C: Why did you, without any political experience, take on an incumbent House Republican?

KW: You read so much about how politics works. I saw what was going on specifically in our community with regard to our state representation in the Tennessee House. I had seen so many campaigns where politicians were saying a lot of nasty things about my friends. Things I knew weren't true. It's not supposed to be this way. You're supposed to run on your own merits, tell people what you're going to try to do, and then go try to do it. I wanted to return to a politics of cooperation as opposed to the process of vitriolic partisanship which was adversely affecting my county.

It wasn't that long ago that our representatives worked with all members of the House to help Carter County and its neighbors receive a share of state revenues for roads, airports, and other services. In recent years, that spirit was replaced by a partisan refusal to work with the Democratic majority to the point that some representatives couldn't get legislation passed or get the state aid that we deserved. I saw a chance to replace that kind of ineffectiveness, gave it a try and, well, here I am.

TT&C: So, part of your reason for your 2007 vote for Naifeh and your 2009 vote for yourself was to help return the party to the kind of moderate, Howard Baker type of Republican?

KW: To me, Howard is a true Republican. I don't know what's happened with our party through the years, but it's not the Republican Party I grew up with. I made the statement before that we have some of those who want to rule by hate. That's a shame. Once election day is over, we need to be bipartisan.

I ran as a Republican. I know in my heart I'm a Republican. But, once you're elected to an office, you represent all the people even if they are not a registered voter. You still represent all the people and I think you work for every individual just as hard as you do for your own party. I feel the people of Carter County sent me down here to do a job for them and for all of Tennessee. I don't think it's right that a party should tell me how to vote whether for

individuals or on issues.

TT&C: Did you experience much criticism for that during your first term?

KW: I ran into that a lot. I was in disfavor too often about a lot of silly legislation. I would go against our party on things that we all knew weren't going anywhere. Like when you are trying to change an important piece of legislation and then try to make it an immigration issue. I remember one piece of legislation that was about healthcare for children. To try to tack on something related to immigration was just silly. That's not what the bill was about.

Too often we make it out to be more than what it is. It's not us against them. We might have different ideas, but basically, to me a party is a label. You have to run on a certain ticket, because if you don't run as a Democrat or as a Republican, you aren't going to win in your district. So it's a label to run under. I admit there are differences on some social issues. You've got the far left, you've got the far right, and you've got moderates to bridge them. And moderates are getting fewer.

TT&C: Did Gary Odom, who grew up in Carter County, broach the idea of you becoming speaker when he was there for a Thanksgiving visit?

KW: I knew Gary in high school. He played basketball for Hampton High. I played for Unaka High. I was two years ahead of him in school and remember him and his family well. His mother and many of his relatives still live in Carter County. But we didn't cook anything up at Thanksgiving. He did mention the possibility during a social visit. We had a laugh about it. I did discuss it with my friend, Rep. John Litz of Morristown. He thought it was possible that I could get the votes of the Democrats.

TT&C: Elizabethton Sun editor Rozella Hardin says you still enjoy widespread support in your district, partly because as speaker you gave East Tennessee a better split in committee assignments, five of 13 committee chairmanships. How do you read the reaction back home?

KW: Support has been tremendous. People in my community are tired of the way government has operated. At the same time, I realize a few long-time friends of mine won't vote for me because I've been kicked out of the Republican Party. But the support is tremendous and people are upset about some of the partisan vitriol. They like my vision of building a bigger, more inclusive tent.

TT&C: What, exactly, are the principles that brought you to the General Assembly and influence you as a legislator?

KW: I own a small business and have a 100 percent voting record with the National Federation of Independent Businesses. I am a supporter of Second Amendment rights to bear arms. I am a supporter of SJR 127, the anti-abortion constitutional amendment. I do not want government involved in all aspects of our citizens' lives.

I believe all members of the General Assembly should be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve. I believe all legislation should receive a fair hearing. I believe we have a lot of capable and smart people in the House from both parties. In this time of crisis we need to utilize all of this talent and harness everyone who has the desire and ability to be a leader.

I believe the best service we can give our state is to move past this distraction and get to the real work at hand. This is a challenging time in our history. The people of Tennessee expect and deserve our very best as we move forward to address the major challenges before us.

TT&C: What do you see as the major challenges during your term as speaker?

KW: Balancing the budget while still funding those items that are essential to keep our state progressing will be a difficult task, but it is one that the General Assembly is up to if we join hands and work toward the common goal of what is best for the people of our state. We have a lot of work to do. We have to put our distractions behind us, join hands, and work together – and move forward.

