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New Model Debt Policy released; deadline for public input Sept 15

State Comptroller Justin Wilson has released a revised draft statement on debt management.

The comptroller first developed a Model Debt Policy last year and asked for input from municipal governments.

On behalf of Tennessee's municipalities, the Tennessee Municipal League compiled the cities' comments and submitted them to the Comptroller for consideration.

The comptroller reviewed the comments and acknowledged that local governments raised some legitimate concerns that warranted a rewrite of the proposed Model Policy.

In his remarks accompanying the release of the revised draft he stated, "Each local government's debt policy should address each of the four guiding principles. Beyond that, it is not advisable or practical to try to create a 'one-size-fits-all' debt management policy."

"Cities and counties throughout our state have different needs and different challenges relating to debt management. Once the basics are met, I believe it is best to create a general framework for sound debt management, but give governmental debt issuers the flexibility to adopt policies tailored to their specific needs. I want the comptroller's office to serve as a clearinghouse for the sharing of ideas about what works and what doesn't."

Wilson says that the draft is based on four guiding principles for

Tennessee governmental debt issuers to consider while developing their own policies. These principles are understanding transactions, explaining to citizens what is being considered, avoiding conflicts of interest, and disclosing costs and risks.

The revised draft also requires each municipality to adopt a debt management policy no later than Jan. 1, 2012. Moreover, each city's policy would be required to contain specific, mandated language relating to these four guiding principles.

Comptroller Wilson is inviting written comments and suggestions for these draft documents by Sept. 15.

After receiving input from governments and interested parties, Comptroller Wilson will consider making recommendations to the State Funding Board regarding debt management. The State Funding Board has authority to adopt a model debt policy for Tennessee governmental debt issuers.

In addition to the draft debt management statement, Wilson released a guide and checklist on best practices in debt management, which includes examples from current debt policies. To further assist debt issuers, the Comptroller also released a list of recommended sources and resources.

To view the documents prepared by the Comptroller's office, go to: <http://tn.gov/comptroller/lf/lfDebtManagement.htm>

Haslam, McWherter to face off in November

GOP candidate Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam prevailed in a three-way Republican primary race for governor. He won with 47 percent of votes, followed by 3rd District U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp in second place with almost 30 percent and Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey in third with 22 percent.

Meanwhile, West Tennessee businessman Mike McWherter is uncontested on the Democratic side. He was unopposed after four Democratic opponents withdrew from the race.

The two candidates will square off in three gubernatorial debates planned for this fall with the first scheduled for Sept. 14 in Cookeville.

Congress
Several Congressional races were also hotly contested. In District 9, incumbent Steve Cohen easily won his democratic primary over former Memphis Mayor Willie Herenton. Cohen received 79 percent of the vote over Herenton's 21 percent.

GOP challengers battled it out in District 8, with Stephen Fincher winning the primary with 48.5 percent over Ron Kirkland's 24.4 percent and George Flinn's 24 percent. Fincher will face state Sen. Roy Herron, the Democratic nominee, in the general election for the chance to fill the seat vacated by longtime U.S. Congressman John Tanner, who chose not to run after serving 11 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In District 6, state Sen. Diane Black won a tight three-way race for the GOP nominee. She won with 30.5 percent of the votes over challengers LouAnn Zelenik (30.2 percent) and state Sen. Jim Tracy (29.8 percent).

In District 5, David Hall won his GOP primary in a field of 11 to challenge incumbent Rep. Jim Cooper in the fall.

In District 3, Chattanooga lawyer Chuck Fleishmann won the GOP primary over former GOP chairman Robin Smith with 29.7 percent to her 28.1 percent of the vote.

Legislature

In the state legislative primaries, District 21 was the race to watch. Incumbent state Sen. Douglas Henry faced Nashville lawyer Jeff Yarbboro for the democratic nominee. Henry narrowly won by 11 votes for a chance to keep the senate seat he has held for 40 years. A possible recount is still pending.

In District 17, Sen. Mae Beavers won the GOP primary over Rep. Susan Lynn with 49 percent of the votes. Beavers will face Smith County farmer George McDonald on the Democratic side, who won his primary with 42 percent of the votes against challenger Sam Hatcher's 39 percent.



GOP candidate Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam will face Democratic nominee Mike McWherter in the November general election, to determine who will serve as the 49th Governor of Tennessee.



In District 27, former senator Don McLeary won the GOP nomination to face democratic incumbent Sen. Lowe Finney.

In District 7, Rep. Stacey See **ELECTION** on Page 5

Mandatory collective bargaining failed

BY CAROLYN COLEMAN
Nations Cities Weekly

Recent efforts to pass mandatory federal collective bargaining legislation (H.R. 413/S.1611/S.3194) failed. The "one-size-fits-all" bill would require that every state, county, city and town collectively bargain with their police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and corrections officers, regardless of state and local laws.

NLC has opposed this legislation since it was first introduced 15 years ago. Last month, the House included the legislation in an amendment to its version of the supplemental appropriations bill (H.R. 4899), which contained funding for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The amendment also contained billions of dollars in domestic funding.

When the bill returned to the Senate for consideration, the Senate rejected the House's amendment largely because of the additional funding and returned its original version back to the House for consideration. The House eventually passed the Senate version of the bill, which the President signed into law on July 29, 2010.

"NLC will continue to oppose this legislation on behalf of cities and towns on the grounds that it interferes with state and local laws, violates principles of federalism, and may be unconstitutional," said NLC Executive Director Don Borut.

In a House subcommittee hearing earlier this year, North Carolina League of Municipalities Executive Director Ellis Hankins testified on behalf of NLC and urged the committee not to fix what isn't broken.

"For centuries, states and local

governments have developed procedures for addressing the needs of their employees, taxpayers and citizens," Hankins testified. "They have done so with and without collective bargaining, through laws that are designed to provide their workers with excellent working conditions, competitive salaries, excellent health and pension benefits, and a working environment that is safe and appropriate." He added that this bill would put the federal government in charge of what has been a state and local function for no compelling reason.

Citing the Constitution, Supreme Court decisions and existing law, Hankins noted that this bill disregards and disrespects the democratic decision making process employed by states and localities to decide how best to interact with their employees.

State banking on financial literacy

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Tennessee's youth could become its most savvy consumers under a financial literacy education program offering techniques on saving money for college targeting elementary school students, parents and teachers. Headed by the Tennessee Financial Literacy Commission, under the state's Department of Treasury, the effort is part of a national campaign to promote financial literacy education.

"There is a need in our state for greater understanding of financial concepts," said Treasurer David Lillard Jr. "In addition to promoting college savings, I look forward to making other financial educational resources more readily available to our citizens."

The initiative will include a web-based clearinghouse where residents will have access to financial literacy resources already at hand in Tennessee along with a partnership with the University of Memphis' existing literacy program, Smart Tennessee.

A state appropriation of \$125,000 is earmarked for the Smart Tennessee program, according to Treasury Department spokesperson Blake Fontenay, and a college sav-



Nationally, on average, high school seniors answered only 52.4 percent of questions about personal finance and economics correctly.

ings component will likely be incorporated into Smart Tennessee's current curriculum as the state program develops under the guidance of the new commission, appointed this fall by speakers of the House and Senate.

Smart Tennessee, initiated in 2006, offers professional development to K-8 teachers, helping them integrate economic and financial literacy instruction into their classes whether it be math, reading, language arts or social studies.

"We know that previous models of financial literacy instruction,

which focus on the 12th grade, are just too little, too late," said Dr. Julie Heath, chair of U of M's Economics Department and director of Smart Tennessee. "Our children are best served if we begin financial literacy instruction in the early grades and reinforce these themes throughout elementary and secondary school years."

Smart Tennessee, which has served around 75-80,000 children across the state, according to Heath's estimates, boasts a remarkable **LITERACY** on Page 5

State Fire Marshal's office establishing network of building permit issue agents

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance is currently accepting applications for building permit issue agents as part of a new codes enforcement program set to begin Oct. 1.

Included in the Tennessee Clean Energy Future Act are provisions regarding adoption and enforcement of a residential building code to one- and two-family residences across the state.

The State Fire Marshal's Office will issue residential building permits using a system similar to the electrical inspection program that it presently operates. Owners and licensed contractors will obtain a construction permit from the local issuing agents. Inspectors will then inspect residences during construction to ensure code compliance.

"Enforcing building codes will make new homes safe and more energy-efficient, and will help assure the quality of residential construction meets minimum standards," said State Fire Marshal and Department of Commerce and Insurance Commissioner Leslie A. Newman.

These building codes will only apply to new construction of residential structures. Nonresidential structures, such as out buildings and unattached garages, are not covered. Renovation of existing structures,



no matter how extensive, is also not covered.

Cities and counties that presently enforce a building code that is current within seven years (the 2003 or 2006 edition of the International Residential Code will qualify) can notify the State Fire Marshal's Office and continue local enforcement. Local codes may be more stringent than the state adopted code. Cities and counties may also choose to have no minimum one- and two-family residential building code and no inspections by a two-thirds opt-out vote of their governing bodies.

Those interested in applying for a permit issue agent position have until August 31 to submit their application. Applications, as well as a list of requirements, can be found on the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance's website at http://tn.gov/commerce/sfm/documents/issueagentapp_001.pdf

For additional information call, 615-741-1270.

NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ALCOA, BLOUNT CO., MARYVILLE

Alcoa’s City Commission authorized an intergovernmental agreement with Blount County and Maryville to purchase a \$4.4 million radio system for police and fire departments. The new digital system will piggyback onto the new \$26 million state-of-the-art Tennessee Valley Corridor System that allows emergency agencies in counties along the I-75 corridor to communicate using a digital radio system provided by Motorola. “We’ve been working for years moving to this digital system. It’s light years ahead of where we are now,” said Alcoa City Manager Mark Johnson.

ALGOOD

MJF Media hosted a ribbon cutting July 29 in celebration of their newly expanded facility, which will distribute DVD retail packages to much of the retail industry including leading grocery chains, drug stores and mass merchants. The new 55,000 square foot distribution center is an addition to the company’s existing 100,000 square foot facility located in Algood and brings 25 additional jobs to the community. MJF Media currently employs more than 100 people, that distribute both books and DVDs to retail clients throughout North America. MJF Media is a wholesale book distributor headquartered in Toronto, Canada.

ASHLAND CITY

Illinois-based conglomerate Brunswick is selling its Triton Boats subsidiary. Production of one the company’s fiberglass lines is moving to Flippin, Ark., this fall and Brunswick is shifting another line of work to its plant in Vonore. Combined, the moves will cost Ashland City 135 of its 225 Triton jobs. Triton’s home office and top managers will stay in Middle Tennessee.

BRENTWOOD

Comdata is adding 120 new jobs at its Brentwood headquarters, in-

creasing its local workforce by 15 percent. The new operations positions will bolster Comdata’s regulatory compliance division, which provides services such as permits, fuel tax filing and annual licensing for transportation companies. A company spokeswoman said the jobs represent Comdata’s “renewed focus” on regulatory compliance, which is a growth area for the company. The positions come to Brentwood by way of Irving, Texas, Local hiring will start immediately. The new workers will join Comdata’s staff of 800 at its Maryland Farms headquarters.

BRISTOL

City officials and Reclaimed Resources confirmed plans remain on course for the company to build a waste-to-energy plant at the former Raytheon missile-systems facility on Vance Tank Road. Both city and county officials have suggested that the Reclaimed Resources’ project would bring numerous benefits to the area — from providing a better way to handle waste to breathing new life into a deteriorating property that’s been largely vacant for 10 years. Reclaimed Resources said while it would need to do extensive site-preparation before construction would begin, it estimated that the plant would be fully operational 24 to 36 months after building started — and would eventually have 100 employees.

CHATTANOOGA

Chattanooga is ranked No. 1 in the country for metro economic growth potential by a national business magazine, outpacing such go-go cities as Charlotte and San Antonio. Citing the auto and polycrystalline silicon industries the region has attracted by landing Volkswagen and Wacker Chemical, *Business Facilities* magazine made the area its top pick. VW’s \$1 billion assembly plant will employ more than 2,000 workers when fully ramped up. An adjoining supplier park is to create another 500 jobs. Wacker is expected to start work by early next

year on a \$1 billion polycrystalline silicon factory in nearby Bradley County. The company’s product is used in the solar industry.

CLARKSVILLE

A Clarksville printing plant will be closed, costing 700 jobs, as Wisconsin-based Quad/Graphics Inc. (NYSE: QUAD) consolidates operations following its purchase of Canada’s World Color Press Inc. in June. The company announced that it will shut down five printing plants across the U.S. that employ a total of 2,200 employees, moving work to more modern printing facilities. The company plans to save \$225 million through the consolidations. Quad/Graphics also operates a plant in Nashville that employs 220 people and one in Dickson that employs 250. Both were part of World Color Press.

COLUMBIA

Work on the long-awaited Duck Riverwalk project is set to begin Aug. 23 after the city recently approved a \$4.5 million contract with Civil Constructors Inc. The project will include walking trails along the river, a new sidewalk on the south side of Riverside Drive and new streetscapes on 5th and 6th streets along with a face lift for the Riverside Bridge. The Tennessee Wildlife and Resource Agency’s boat ramp will be paved with a special type of concrete designed to withstand flooding. According to city officials, the project should be completed within 12-18 months.

FRANKLIN

The Franklin Finance Department has received a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). According to the GFOA, the Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The 2009 award is Franklin’s 19th consecutive award, according to City Administrator Eric Stuckey.

KINGSPORT

The U.S. Postal Service is consolidating all its Kingsport area carriers into the Eastman Road branch to cut costs and streamline the delivery process. USPS spokeswoman Beth Barnett said carriers who have been based out of the Colonial Heights office and the Center Street branch in downtown Kingsport are being transferred to the Eastman Road office, which will not result in any job losses or impact mail delivery or retail operations at any of the Kingsport postal locations. “Nationwide, we’re doing a number of things like that where we’re consolidating functions. It’s just a way of streamlining everything to save where we can,” Barnett said.

KNOXVILLE

The biggest solar energy unit in TVA’s seven-state region debuted in Knoxville using the 2 millionth solar module produced at Sharp Corp.’s Memphis facility. The system includes 4,608 Sharp-produced solar modules and will generate nearly 1.2 million kilowatt-hours of energy each year for the Knoxville Utility Board under TVA’s Generation Partners program. The solar system was designed and built by Natural Energy Group and will be operated by Efficient Energy of Tennessee LLC. The solar array will eliminate the greenhouse gases that would otherwise be emitted by the consumption of 2,000 barrels of oil.

NASHVILLE

Three hundred new jobs could be headed to Middle Tennessee. HealthSpring is planning a \$53 million expansion that will likely create hundreds of jobs over the next four to five years. HealthSpring already has offices in Metro Center and said its new plan is to consolidate those and build a new campus on Great Circle Road. Crews are set to break ground at that site in a matter of weeks.

NASHVILLE

City leaders started a plan to attract the best teachers to Nashville. Mayor Karl Dean and Director of Metro Schools Dr. Jesse Register announced their new strategy to improve the school system, called ASSET, which stands for Achieving Student Success Through Effective Teaching. The plan focuses on how to attract and keep effective teachers in every classroom and includes evaluations for every teacher currently in the system. “To do that, you have to look at ways you recruit teachers, the way you train them and the way you retain them. To do that effectively, obviously evaluation is

part of it, compensation is part of it and creating the right atmosphere is part of it,” said Dean. ASSET is a two-phase program that begins now and will end in the next 12 to 18 months. It will be funded through federal Race To The Top money.

NASHVILLE

Texas-based Omni Hotels has been chosen to develop a headquarters hotel for the Music City Center convention hall under construction downtown. The project could be as large as 1,000 rooms and \$300 million. A convention hotel was considered a critical piece to ensure the success of the \$585 million Music City Center, which is scheduled to open in 2013.

PULASKI

The Southeast’s first parking area solar array with integrated electric vehicle (EV) charging capacity will generate more than 20kW of electricity in Pulaski. Located at Richland, LLC, the solar array represents the first step in a growing EV charging network. The commissioning ceremony featured remarks from U.S. Congressman Lincoln Davis, Pulaski Mayor Dan Spear and Pulaski Electric System President Wes Kelly. Congressman Davis activated the array and the system began to generate enough electricity to power approximately four homes.

SPRING HILL

The city will save \$2 million on its estimated \$18 million sewer plant expansion because it is incorporating green practices in the plans. The savings is offered through the State Revolving Fund Loan Program, which is giving the city principal forgiveness for that amount on the \$10 million it can borrow. The city’s population has more than tripled since the plant last expanded in 2001 when capacity was increased to 2 million gallons a day. The expansion would take the treatment capacity from 2 million gallons a day up to 5 million. The plant treats between 1.6 million and 1.9 million gallons a day.

THREE WAY

The city will celebrate the grand opening of a new municipal complex and city park on Sept. 25. The complex includes a large maintenance building and storage yard, while the new “Pine Hill Park” includes a large pavilion, more than a dozen picnic tables, large paved walking trail with pond, landscaped bench and swing areas. The complex also has a location for a future children’s playground, and a new city hall. The project was completed without borrowed funds.



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Former Tennessee Comptroller **John Morgan** has been named the new chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents. Morgan, 58, begins work at the end of September succeeding Regents Chancellor Charles Manning, who led the system’s 13 community colleges and six universities for the last decade.



Morgan

Gov. Bredesen has appointed **Gerald Nicely**, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation, to serve as Deputy to the Governor effective Oct. 1. Nicely will replace John Morgan, who was named the next Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents. Nicely has served as Commissioner of TDOT since 2003 and concurrently served as Interim Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Safety from December 2005 until January 2007. Nicely also served in a number of positions in local gov-



Nicely

ernment, including Chief of Staff, when Bredesen was mayor of Nashville.

Tennessee Senate Majority Leader **Mark Norris**, Collierville, was elected chair of the Council of State Governments’ Southern Legislative Conference (SLC). Norris is the first Tennessee Senator to serve as SLC chair since 1988. Delegates from SLC’s 15 member states unanimously elected Norris. He will preside over all Executive Committee meetings of the SLC and guide the Conference in major policy deliberations. The 65th SLC Annual Meeting will be held in Memphis on July 16-20, 2011.



Norris

Justice **Connie Clark**, will be sworn in as chief justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court Sept. 1, succeeding Chief Justice Janice Holder. Clark, 58, served as administrative director of the Tennessee



Clark

courts in Nashville until 2005, when she began serving the state supreme court.

Rep. **Mark Maddox** was elected vice president of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), a bipartisan organization that serves the nation’s 7,382 state lawmakers. He will serve one year in the position, ascend to president-elect the following year and then become president. Maddox, who is the House Minority Whip in his sixth term, has been actively involved in NCSL for 12 years.



Maddox

Terry J. Oliver, a sixth generation farmer, has been appointed Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. Oliver, who formerly served as deputy commissioner, succeeds Ken Givens, who has joined the Mike McWherter campaign. Oliver has been deputy commissioner under four commissioners and has a family farm in Gleason.



Oliver

Former Smyrna mayor
Knox Ridley dies at 91

Former county and Smyrna Mayor Knox Ridley died in Florida after a brief illness. He was 91. Born June 23, 1919, he was 30 minutes older than his twin brother, former Smyrna Mayor Sam Ridley, who died in 2003.

Ridley was drafted into the U.S. Air Force Signal Company in 1941. He served in Europe and Africa and was honorably discharged as a lieutenant, receiving the Bronze Star and seven Combat Stars.

His career in public service began in 1948, when he was elected to the Rutherford County Court (now Commission). Ridley served on the court for several years before being elected county judge (mayor) in 1973.

He also was Smyrna municipal court judge for 10 years. In 1983, he retired from public service after several years as city co-

ordinator. He came back to public office in 1987 and served until 1993.

As an avid businessman, in the early 1980s, Knox Ridley was affiliated with at least 15 businesses as a partner or board member. He was also a charter member of the Smyrna Rotary Club and commander of the local VFW Post, member of the American Legion, Lions, Elks and Moose clubs.

He is preceded in death by his wife Marie Miller Ridley and is survived by sons Knox Ridley Jr., Thomas J. Ridley, and William C. Ridley.



Ridley



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Middle Tennessee back on the map for high speed rail

Southeast U.S. Corridor spans Atlanta—Chattanooga—Nashville

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TMLCommunications Coordinator

The recent \$34 million bid by the Georgia Department of Transportation and Tennessee Department of Transportation for a federally funded high-speed rail service is especially sweet news to the Nashville area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The story begins internationally, where high-speed rail is transforming the face of the continent.

While commuters across Tennessee are drumming their nails in smog-fueled frustration, travelers in Europe, Spain and Asia are reaching their destinations with time to spare, swiftly, safely and luxuriously with snacks and a movie. Their steed of choice? Sleek electric trains, bold neon with plush seats rocketing at speeds of 180-225 miles per hour.

It's not great grandpa's locomotive, but in the 21st century high-speed rail holds every bit as much promise and intrigue in the United States. Bridging the distance between cities and states, the high-speed technology thumbs its nose at air pollutants and airport security and breathes fresh life into economically stagnant communities once considered 'off the beaten path.'

According to a report for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, in 25 years, in four U.S. cities alone, high-speed rail development could create 150,000 jobs and \$19 billion in new business. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's prediction that within the next 25 years, 80 percent of Americans will be linked via high-speed train, stops international train-makers and operators ready to funnel their knowledge and techni-

latest round of federal funding for high-speed rail carries a requirement that states chip in 20 percent of a project's costs, which could be a difficult, if not unrealistic, funding choice for some states, according to Josh Mitchell, *The Wall Street Journal*.

States applying for funding under The Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) U.S. High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail program, could get a waiver around the matching requirement in next year's round of funding, as the agency investigates the matter, according to Mitchell. FRA funding is used to implement high-speed service along approved corridors.

At once time, earlier editions of a national map chartering a high-speed rail vision for America did not include corridor routing to service Middle Tennessee, a major objective for the Nashville MPO in its federally mandated long-range transportation plan.

Today, MPO officials are crediting ongoing intergovernmental efforts supporting a regional vision for sustainable transportation with getting Middle Tennessee back on the Federal Railroad Administration's map. Georgia's bid for an Atlanta to Chattanooga route, to Nashville and eventually Louisville, Kentucky, marks a major step toward mass transit goals for the state and confirms long-range plans for the 10-county region. With FRA approval, Georgia DOT and TDOT would continue environmental planning, design approved stations along the corridor, and create a plan that "could one day stretch from Florida to Chicago," according to a recent press release.



New high-speed trains will link 80 percent of Americans within 25 years, at a cost of about \$500 billion, according to U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. High speed trains are the central component of a high speed rail system. The other key components include special high performance dedicated track, and advanced signalling systems. High speed trains are specially designed and assembled as secure 'trainsets' to operate at speeds of 186 - 225 mph. Technologically sophisticated and visually impressive, high speed trains are being built and expanded all over the world.



Today's light rail is re-engineered to meet 21st century needs for accessibility by seniors, parents with strollers, and persons in wheelchairs.

cal expertise into lucrative American contracts just short of popping the cork.

But it's not cheap. A \$500 billion to \$1 trillion price tag over the next 40 years remains a sobering thought for most Americans. "When we started the interstate system, we didn't know where all the money was coming from," LaHood, who is spearheading the effort, encourages a gathering of business and political leaders at Central Pennsylvania College. "In less time than it took to create the interstate highway system, you'll start to see high-speed rail in this country."

In January, President Obama announced an \$8 billion stimulus investment for 13 corridors in 31 states, in addition to another \$5 billion in the next five years. Yet, the

"With Middle Tennessee now much better positioned to be considered as a priority for a high-speed rail corridor in this national vision, state and local officials now have a great deal of work yet to do on coordinated regional planning efforts," said Michael Skipper, Nashville MPO executive director.

The agency plans to host a regional symposium this fall, with mayors and other key stakeholders "to discuss the greater Nashville area's prospects for high-speed rail access, and the likely process of moving forward," Skipper said.

In addition to high-speed rail, the 20-plus year plan includes varied options, light rail and bus rapid transit lines connecting Nashville to Franklin, Gallatin and Murfreesboro within 25 years along with numer-

ous smaller road, bike and pedestrian projects. The vision looks at what the 10-county region would need to do to move an additional 900,000 people around by the year 2035. In all, there is a total of \$5 billion projects, with no guaranteed funding. Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and other regional leaders have formed Transportation Alliance of Middle Tennessee to help build private sector support in efforts to fund a Middle Tennessee transit system.

In U.S. cities, bus rapid transit systems range from \$200,000 a mile to \$55 million a mile, while light rail systems range from \$12.4 million to \$118.8 million, according to data from the U.S. General Accountability Office to Congress.

Bus rapid transit applies to a variety of public transportation systems using buses to provide faster, more efficient service than an ordinary bus line. More often this is achieved by making improvements to existing infrastructure, vehicles and scheduling.

Bus rapid transit puts buses in dedicated lanes on major thoroughfares and is generally cheaper to implement than light rail.

Light rail, an electric railway system similar to an updated version of a streetcar, is re-engineered to meet 21st century needs for accessibility by seniors, parents with strollers and persons in wheelchairs. The new vehicles, however, carry more passengers than either trolleys or buses, cutting operating costs.

Light rail is characterized by its ability to operate single or multiple cars along



Part of the Nashville MPO's long range transportation plan is bus rapid transit lines connecting Nashville to Franklin, Gallatin and Murfreesboro. Bus rapid transit puts buses in dedicated lanes on major thoroughfares.

exclusive rights-of-way at ground level, on aerial structures, in subways or in streets, able to board and discharge passengers at station platforms or at street, track, or car-floor level and normally powered by over-

head electrical wires. To view the 2035 regional transportation plan, visit www.nashvillempo.org/plans_programs/rtp/.



A national map chartering a high-speed rail vision for America was released by the Obama Administration in 2009. Early editions of the map did not include corridor routing to service Middle Tennessee. Following intergovernmental efforts in support of a regional vision for sustainable transportation, Middle Tennessee is back on the Federal Railroad Administration's map of the Southeast U.S.

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STATE BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Tennessee sales tax revenue experienced the sharpest increase in July of any month since April 2007. July revenues totaled \$833.6 million or \$22.5 million more than the state budgeted. Revenues reported in July were collected in June, which closed the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The July growth rate in sales taxes was 5.94 percent. The fiscal year had a negative 2.25 percent growth in the category for an under collection of \$225.7 million. Finance Commissioner Dave Goetz says the rise in sales and corporate taxes point to an economic recovery in Tennessee.

Tennessee and Georgia’s Departments of Transportation have jointly applied for \$34 million in federal funding to develop high-speed rail service from Atlanta to Chattanooga, Nashville and eventually Louisville, Ky. The Federal Railroad Administration money would allow the two states to continue environmental planning and engineering for a high-speed rail link between Atlanta and Chattanooga. TDOT would manage the planning process from Chattanooga to Nashville.

Tennessee ranks 30th in the number of stimulus-related jobs supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, according to a report by Onvia. The analysis of the “Recovery Summer” shows the Volunteer State has 7,107 jobs supported by stimulus funding. The report also says that Tennessee — which had a June unemployment rate of 10.1 percent — has been awarded fewer dollars per capita (\$105) than all states except Nevada and Utah. The report ranked Tennessee 16th for future job growth from the ARRA, commonly known as the stimulus bill. According to Onvia, ARRA-supported jobs in Tennessee are expected to grow 39.1 percent in the second half of the year.

Federal assistance has topped \$301.6 million for Tennesseans affected by early May flooding. That amount includes \$155.9 million in approved Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster grants and \$145.7 million in low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Federal assistance for residents in West Tennessee exceeded \$8.5 million, in-

cluding more than \$2 million for individuals in Haywood County, almost \$2 million for Madison County residents, and nearly \$2 million for Gibson County residents. The \$155.9 million in FEMA grants to Tennesseans includes \$134.5 million in home repair and rental assistance, and more than \$21.4 million for other disaster-related needs such as personal property, medical care and funeral expenses. The SBA has approved more than \$145.7 million in low-interest loans for Tennessee homeowners, renters and businesses.

Mass layoffs in Tennessee fell in the second quarter compared to a year ago, but inched up from the first quarter, according to a report issued by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the three months ending June 30, Tennessee had 30 mass layoffs — defined as a layoff of 50 or more people by a single company. That compares to 27 in the first quarter and 41 in the second quarter of 2009. During the 2nd quarter, 4,225 people made initial claims for unemployment insurance, compared with 4,813 in the prior quarter and 7,704 a year ago.

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, Tennessee’s Sesquicentennial Commission announced the state’s Inaugural Sesquicentennial Signature Event. Taking place Nov. 12 and 13, the theme of this historic milestone is “The Coming of the Civil War.” Gov. Bredesen will kick off the event at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center’s Jackson Hall beginning at 10 a.m. on Nov. 12. The Tennessee Sesquicentennial Signature Event will consist of historical discussions, stories and reenactments in addition to music by the internationally acclaimed Fisk Jubilee Singers and special appearance by country superstar Trace Adkins.

The University of Tennessee Biofuels Initiative has helped to plant more than 1,000 acres of varieties of switchgrass to see what kind is best for producing biofuel. The planting is part of a U.S. Department of Energy project to help make bioenergy production more efficient, cost-effective and sustainable. A team of biofuels researchers and farmers from nine East Tennessee counties planted the switchgrass and will monitor their yields this year.

Gov. Bredesen has signed an executive order that promotes expanding science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in K-12 public schools across Tennessee. The governor said that the state is positioned to be a national leader in those fields and the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network will “drive the development of the tools and resources that will help us realize those opportunities.” Officials say the network will conduct various STEM educational activities in coordination with local education agencies, including teacher professional development and curriculum development. The network and its activities will be managed by Battelle Memorial Institute, a national leader in STEM education.

Tennessee recently received a \$325,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to begin creating a fully searchable, digitized online archive of the state’s newspaper collection. Only a select group of newspapers — about 2,500 rolls of microfilm or 100,000 pages — from 1836 to 1922 will be included in the pilot program. A committee of historians, librarians and archivists from across the state will select which papers make the cut. Tennessee will join 15 other states that have made their collections available online as part of the National Digital Newspaper Program.

Public spending is secondary concern, while jobs and the economy proved to be the most important issue facing Tennessee today and state spending ranking a distant second, according to a new poll by media outlets in the state. According to the poll of 625 registered Tennessee voters, 54 percent of those surveyed said their top issue was the economy and jobs. Government spending came in second, with 22 percent naming it the most important issue facing the state today. Unemployment in Tennessee stood at 10.1 percent through June, down from 10.9 percent a year ago at this time, according to the state Department of Labor.

The Tennessee Arts Commission was recently awarded more than \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Education through an Arts Education Model Development and Dissemination grant. Funds will be used for Arts360°, a whole-school instructional model that makes arts-based and arts integrated learning a focal point of the curriculum. Arts360° is based on the innovative *Artist to Artist* model pioneered by the Perpich Center for Arts Education, the North Dakota Council on the Arts, and the Minnesota State Arts Board. It includes year-round professional development for classroom teachers, arts specialists, and teaching artists.

Recent reports indicate Tennessee is in better shape than many states when it comes to paying for retiree benefits. A recent study by the nonprofit Pew Center on the States said Tennessee is one of 16



Federal assistance has topped \$301.6 million for Tennesseans affected by early May flooding. That amount includes \$155.9 million in approved Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster grants and \$145.7 million in low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

states that are solid performers - the highest ranking - when it comes to their state pension systems. The same study found that 95 percent of Tennessee’s accrued pension liabilities had been funded.

The Tennessee State Library and Archives will develop an online database of the state’s Civil War battlefields. The project will convert a comprehensive Civil War database for Tennessee to a web-based application. It will support protection for the 38 most important battlefields in Tennessee. The database will link information from the Civil War Sourcebook for Tennessee to Civil War maps and documents archived at the library. The database will be created under a \$40,750 grant from the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program.

Tennessee has reduced the number of children in its foster care system by 34 percent since 2000, while providing more effective help to families, according to a study released by Casey Family Programs. The study shows the number of children in state custody

in Tennessee has fallen since 2000 from 10,144 to 6,702 in 2009. In addition, Tennessee has decreased the number of children in long-term foster care, and the rate of children in out-of-home placements is now below the national average. At the same time, recurrences of abuse and neglect in children have decreased, indicating the safety of reform efforts. The study was conducted to share the examples of states and counties that have been successful in child welfare reform. It outlines the way the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services has worked with Youth Villages, its largest private provider, to bring about reform.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, beginning Sept. 1, will offer alerts via cell phone, text message and/or email. Nixle, a community information service, will allow TBI to create and publish messages to be delivered to subscribed residents instantly via cell phone with text messages and/or email on a handheld device. Notifications can also be accessed online at Nixle’s website at www.nixle.com. The service is reliable and free for TBI to use.

Municipal airports among aeronautic grants recipients

Gov. Bredesen announced \$25.9 million in federal and state aeronautics grants to fund improvements at 22 commercial and general aviation airports. The TDOT Aeronautics Division has the responsibility of inspecting and licensing the state’s 126 heliports and 75 public/general aviation airports. The Division also provides aircraft and related services for state government and staffing for the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission.

The following municipal airports were among the recipients: **Chattanooga Lovell Field**—\$67,500—for emergency runway repairs. **Cleveland Municipal Airport**—\$7,672,121—for the purchase of property near the airport and for Phase II construction of the new airport. **Lawrenceburg/Lawrence County Airport**—\$36,000—for replacing lighting on two runways.

Millington Regional Jetport—\$72,000—to make emergency repairs. **Nashville John C. Tune Airport**—\$9,247,500—for Phase I of a new construction project, to purchase property, and for emergency reconstruction of the airport’s apron. **Nashville International Airport**—\$953,000—for relocation of the airport’s telephone room and upgrades to the airport’s storm water treatment plant. **Savannah-Hardin County Airport**—\$7,875—for emergency concrete repairs on the airport’s taxiway. **Smithville Municipal Airport**—\$46,308—for new grounds maintenance equipment. **Smyrna Airport**—\$1,161,000—for design and rehabilitation of several taxiways. **Tri-Cities Regional Airport**—\$443,550—for land acquisition and to remove tree obstructions.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

About a third of people in nine states were obese in 2009, a dramatic increase from 2007, when only three states had obesity rates that high, a new survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows. People are obese if they are roughly 30 or more pounds over a healthy weight. Obesity raises the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, many cancers and other diseases. The data indicate that about 27 percent of people in the USA are obese, but that’s an underestimate; more accurate government data show that about 34 percent of adults — almost 73 million people — are obese, the CDC says. This state breakdown is based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System phone survey, in which 400,000 adults self-report their height and weight. The higher rate is from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which is considered the gold standard because it is a national survey of people whose weight and height are actually measured.

With the departure of thousands of temporary Census workers and thousands more let go by state and local governments, businesses could not rescue the American labor market in July. Over all, the nation lost 131,000 jobs last month, according to the Department of Labor, which also said that June was far weaker than previously indicated. Private employers added 71,000 jobs last month, but those figures were overtaken by the 143,000 cut as the Census wound down. It is also about half the number that economists say is needed to simply accommodate population growth, so the tepid job increases cannot begin to plug the hole created by the loss of more than eight million jobs during

the recession. The unemployment rate, in fact, remained stuck at 9.5 percent in July. “The private sector is still hobbled,” said Robert A. Dye, senior economist at PNC Financial Services Group in Pittsburgh, “and certainly is not nearly strong enough to overcome the drain on the government side.”



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Sept. 13-17 : Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2010 Conference in Chattanooga sponsored by the The National Center for Bicycling & Walking (NCBW). This year's theme, "Bringing Livable Communities and Regions to Scale," will help attract a diverse representation of community planners, engineers, transportation and elected officials, as well as those concerned with the environment, public health and energy policies. To learn more about the conference or register, visit www.bikewalk.org or contact Philip Pugliese at 423-643-6887 or ppugliese@outdoorchattanooga.com.

Sept. 16-17: 57th Annual Governor's Conference on Economic and Community Development "Vision Into Action."In conjunction with the conference, ECD representatives from China, Canada and Europe will be available to meet with local community and economic development representatives. Meetings will be held at the Nashville Convention Center. Appointments are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and should be scheduled through ECD Representative Andrea Fanta at 615.532.9055 or e-mail Andrea.Fanta@tn.gov. For details and registration information visit www.tn.gov/ecd/GovConf10/index.html or call the ECD office at 615-253-1390.

Sept. 22-24: The Tennessee City Management Association Fall Conference held at the Hilton Knoxville. For questions, call Pat Hardy at 423-854-9882 or David Angerer at 731-423-3710 or email at pat.hardy@tennessee.edu or angererd@tennessee.edu

Oct. 7-8: Two-Day Grants Workshop in Nashville sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. Learn how to find grants and write winning grant proposals. This training is applicable to grant seekers across all disciplines. Beginning and experienced grant writers are encouraged to attend. Tuition is \$425 and includes workbook and accompanying resource CD. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary. For more information call 800-814-8191 or visit: <http://GrantsTraining.com/Nash1010>.

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ELECTION *from Page 1*
Campfield won the GOP nomination for the senate seat left vacant by Tim Burchett who handily won the election for Knox County mayor.
Two incumbents in the House lost their primaries. Rep. Eric Swafford lost to Cameron Sexton for the GOP nomination in House District 25. Rep. Chad Faulkner lost to Dennis Powers for the GOP nomination in House District 36.
City Government
Thirty-six city governments across Tennessee also held local elections. At press time, some election results had not been declared official and therefore, the list is not complete.

Algood	
Terry Foutch	Mayor
Hugh Adams	Council
Kirk Dyer	Council

Baileytown	
Doug Carter	Alderman
Donald Kilday	Alderman

Baxter	
Willie Dale Allison	Alderman
Greg Phillips	Alderman

Bellebuckle

Dennis Webb	Mayor
James Anderson	Alderman
Jenny Hunt	Alderman

Byrdstown	
Chris Thompson	Mayor
Glen Parris	Alderman
John Bilbrey	Alderman
Opal Clayborn	Alderman
Johnny Sells	Recorder

Chapel Hill	
Carl Cooper	Mayor
Thomas H. Lawrence	Alderman
Houston Bryant	Alderman
Pam Elliott	Alderman

Charleston	
Walter S. Goode	Commissioner

Church Hill	
Mark A. Drinnon	Alderman
Tom Kern	Alderman
B.D. Cradic	Alderman
Benny G. Moore	Alderman

Cleveland	
Tom Rowland	Mayor
Richard Banks	Council at large
Charlie McKenzie	Council
Bill Estes	Council

Dowelltown	
Bradley Driver	Alderman
Keith Farler	Alderman
Ronald Griffith	Alderman

Eastview	
Jessie Robbins	Mayor
Jeff Coln	Alderman
Elvis Butler	Alderman
Burl Sutton	Alderman
Lucy Martin	Alderman

Elkton	
Carolyn S. Thompson	Mayor
Bill J. Cary	Alderman
Roosevelt Whitfield	Alderman

Englewood	
Terry Glen Hanner, Sr.	Commission
Ben Fetter	Commission

Erin	
Tommy Parchman	Mayor
Paul Bailey	Alderman
Malinda Campbell	Alderman
Nina Finley	Alderman

Etowah	
Matt Goodin	Commission
E. Burke Garwood	Commission
Dennis R. Morgan	Commission

Gainesboro	
John R. Fox	Mayor
John B. Cassetty	Alderman
Roger Gore	Alderman
Paul Stafford	Alderman

Greenbrier	
Wayne Dugger	Alderman
Jeff Delong	Alderman
Jorgen Runquist	Alderman

Greeneville	
W.T. Daniels	Mayor
Sarah E.T. Webster	Alderman
Darrell Bryan	Alderman

Gruetli-Laager	
Linda Slatten Broom	Mayor
Allen Joslyn	Alderman
Dwayne Brewer	Alderman

Henderson	
Bobby C. Barnes	Alderman
Timothy G. Faulkner	Alderman
Keith Smith	Alderman

Lobelville	
Robbie Moore	Mayor
Don Burnette	Alderman
Josh Warren	Alderman

Lookout Mountain	
Greg Brown	Mayor
Daniel Crates	Commission
Walker Jones	Commission
Will Moses	Commission
Carol Mutter	Commission

Manchester	
Lonnies Norman	Alderman
Donny Parsley	Alderman

Minor Hill	
Tracy Wilburn	Mayor
Bernard Dalton	Alderman
Scott Jarrell	Alderman

Monterey	
Jeff Hicks	Mayor
Jeff Murphy	Alderman
Hershel Bohannon	Alderman
Billy Whalen Jr.	Alderman
Rebecca Crabtree	Alderman
IaQuinta	

New Johnsonville	
Lance Loveless	Mayor
Wayne Woods	Commission
Richard Adkins	Commission
Ricky Lee	Commission

Pegram	
Eugene Evans	Alderman
Warren Miller	Alderman

Petersburg	
James Owen	Commission
Alan Moorehead	Commission
Kenneth Richardson	Commission
Corey Smith	Commission

Sardis	
James W. Creasy	Mayor

Scotts Hill	
Harold Britt	Mayor
Jonathan Montgomery	Alderman
Bett Rosss	Alderman
Carolyn Ross	Alderman
Joe Tomlin	Alderman

Sparta	
Jeff Young	Mayor
Jim Floyd	Alderman
Hoyte Jones	Alderman
Bobby Officer	Alderman

Townsend	
Michael Talley	Commission
Charles R. Tippet	Commission
Ron Palewski	Commission

Tullahoma	
James D. Eads	C ommission
Mike Norris	Commission

TN drinking water systems recognized for exceptional service during May flood

The men and women from Tennessee's public drinking water systems were recently recognized for their extraordinary response and recovery efforts during the historic floods of May 1-2.

Examples of challenges faced by drinking water systems included:

- water line breaks throughout distribution networks;
- flooded water intakes and wells;
- submerged water treatment plants and associated filter beds;
- excessive turbidity and debris;
- power outages;
- damages to pumps and valves; and
- numerous communication issues.

The rapid restoration of delivering safe drinking water to all customers occurred at a pace that amazed even federal emergency response officials.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation recognized the dedication and cooperative spirit demonstrated by water systems during a Post Flood Meeting on July 21 at the department's Fleming Training Center in Murfreesboro.

The meeting provided a sharing, learning and networking opportunity for representatives of area public water systems to compare experiences from the unprecedented flooding. A total of 49 public water systems documented impacts from the floods and almost that many attended. Additionally, other area water systems were invited to participate and learn from the shared experiences. Managers of five systems that experienced some of the most significant impacts provided presentations on the specific challenges faced and recommendations on how to handle similar crises in the future.

A highlight of the meeting was Deputy Governor John Morgan and TDEC Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan presenting a special Governor's Commendation for Exceptional Public Service to representatives of drinking water systems impacted by the May flood.

These commendation certificates recognized the determination, expertise and cooperation of Tennessee water professionals that protected public health in our communities and averted potential negative

outcomes from this flood disaster. The department joins Governor Bredesen in saluting all drinking water professionals and system employees for their exceptional public service in ensuring Tennessee citizens and communities continued to receive clean, safe drinking water during the 2010 flood.

Water Systems Recognized
Alexandria Water System
Ashland City Water Department
Bon Aqua – Lyles Utility District
Brentwood Water Department
Castalian Springs Utility District
Cedar Grove Utility District
Celina Water System
Centerville Water System
Clarksville Water Department
Consolidated Utility District
Dover Water Department
Erin Water System

State banking on financial literacy

LITERACY *from Page 1*
able 45 percent increase in financial literacy proficiency with participating students per year.

According to the department's website, "Many Tennesseans' first exposure to 'financial literacy education' comes from a bounced check, massive credit card debt, even phone calls from debt collectors."

According to Heath, in keeping with the state's college savings initiative, students may be taking home more projects in the future that require direct parental participation as a way to get the whole family in tune with financial literacy.

"Financial literacy is as much of a state economic issue as any other," said Heath. "Having a state program gets the term 'financial literacy' away from a trivial grounding in the state's economy."

On the national front, local governments are moving ahead in the effort to help residents become more financially stable. The *Bank On Cities Campaign*, a project spearheaded in 2008 by the National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education and Families is built on partnerships between city governments, banks, credit unions and community organizations.

The goal of the campaign is to help municipal leaders connect low and middle income citizens with affordable, safe bank accounts, a

Franklin Water Department
Gainesboro Water System
Gibson County Municipal Water District
Hendersonville Utility District
Humboldt Utilities – Water Department
H. B. & T. S. Utility District
Harpeth Valley Utility District
Jackson Energy Authority
Kenton Water Department
Lawrenceburg Water System
Lexington Water Systems
Lobelville Water Department
Madison Suburban Utility District
Maury County Water System
McMinnville Water Department
Michie Water Department
Mount Pleasant Water System
Nashville Water Department
New Johnsonville Water Department

North Utility District of Benton/Decatur County
Parsons Water Department
Pleasant View Utility District
Poplar Grove Utility District
Portland Water System
River Road Utility District
Rutherford Water System
Second South Cheatham Utility District
Smithville Water System
Tennessee Ridge Water System
Trenton Water System
Vanleer Water Department
Water Authority of Dickson County
Waverly Water Department
Waynesboro Water System
Westmoreland Water System
West Wilson Utility District
White House Utility District
Woodbury Water System

healthier alternative than costly check cashing and title loan companies. Twenty-five cities strong and growing, project participants learn about how to access financial services, the ability to accumulate and protect savings and other financial assets and avoid bad credit and unmanageable debt; all keys to family financial stability which provides greater economic vitality for cities.
The Bank on Cities program has received a nod from the Obama administration in the form of a \$50 million federal budget request.

In another quality youth oriented program, Junior Achievement, students are serving as mayors, bank tellers and business owners in JA Biz Town, where kids work together to run a make believe city. A national nonprofit organization with a branch in Tennessee, JA teaches financial literacy, work readiness skills and entrepreneurship to a combined 65,000 students in Nashville and Memphis, and have set their sights on joining forces with the new state program in the future.

Financial Facts and Figures

- Tennessee had the second-highest bankruptcy rate in the nation for the year 2010 ending June 30, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Tennesseans filed bankruptcy at a rate of 8.33 per 1,000 residents.
- Tennessee ranked in the top 20 states for the number of foreclosures with 3,911 in January 2010.
- Tennessee has the second largest per capita credit card debt load in the country with an average of \$6,823.
- Tennessee's average credit score is 687 while the national average is 692.
- According to a recent FDIC report, nearly 10 percent of Tennesseans do not have a bank or savings account, which is 2.2 percent higher than the U.S. household average.
- As of Dec. 31, 2009, the state has 194 FDIC insured banks in operation.

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Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.

SILVER LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

AT&T

ING Financial Advisers, LLC

Sensus Metering Systems

SpeedFix

BRONZE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

Alexander Thompson Arnold, PLLC

Alliance Water Resources

Collier Engineering Co., Inc.

Johnson Controls

McGill Associates, P.A.

Rare Element, Inc.

Sophicity

CORPORATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

A To Z MUNI-DOT Company

Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Assoc., LLC

Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, Inc.

CMI Equipment Sales, Inc.

Comcast Cable Communications

Concrete Paving Assoc. of Tennessee

DBS & Associates Engineering

Desktop Risk Manager

Education Networks of America

Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc.

Florence & Hutcheson, Inc.

Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc.

J.R. Wauford & Co. Consulting Engineers, Inc.

LaserCraft, Inc.

Local Govt. Corporation

Mattern & Craig, Consulting Engineers, Inc

Nashville Tractor & Equipment, Inc.

OHM(Orchard, Hiltz, & McCliment, Inc.

One Source Document Solutions, Inc.

Pavement Restorations, Inc.

Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.

Statewide Insurance Group of America

Tennessee Cable Telecommunications Assn.

Tennessee Energy Acquisition Corporation

Tennessee Fiber Optic Communities

Thompson & Litton, Inc.

Thompson Engineering

Thompson Machinery

Third Rock Consultants,LLC

TLM Associates, Inc.

Tri Green Equipment, LLC

Tysinger, Hampton and Partners, Inc.

URS Corporation

Utility Service Co., Inc.

Vaughn & Melton

Volkert & Associates

Waste Connections of Tennessee Inc.

Waste Management

Wiser Company, LLC

Report shows significant cuts to local government jobs, services

BY CHERIE DUVALL JONES
Nation's Cities Weekly

Leaders from National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties (NaCo) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) announced the results of a survey demonstrating that county, city and town governments now face a fiscal crisis that will force job losses approaching 500,000 and significant cuts to much needed public services.

The report highlights that unemployment in America is not only a national crisis, but also a local crisis in which individuals and families struggle to find work, make ends meet and keep their homes amid an anemic economic recovery.

Local governments, often a life-line providing working families with the assistance they need to stay afloat, are facing their own fiscal crisis — one that will continue to worsen over the next few years, making it more and more difficult to provide such services at a time when individuals and families seek them out the most.

Survey data collected for the report captures the consequences of

job and service cuts as cities and towns attempt to balance their budgets with fewer resources, as well as that the majority of the cuts will be seen in the areas of public safety, public works, public health, and social services.

The report further documents that these cost-cutting measures will come at a steep price to our nation’s overall recovery. The three organizations continue to emphasize that there can be no national economic recovery as long as unemployment remains high and the ability of local governments to respond to the needs of their residents is hindered. Federal investment that helps save local jobs and preserve local services, such as the Local Jobs for America Act, will help stabilize communities across the country and ensure that all Americans are able to participate in the economic recovery.

NLC First Vice President James Mitchell Jr., council member, Charlotte N.C, noted that the worst effects of the fiscal crisis have yet to be felt by many local governments as they are only beginning to feel the pinch of decreased tax revenues, a falloff in state and federal assis-

tance, and an increase in demand for social services.

Ilene Lieberman, Broward County, Fla., commissioner and chair, NACo Large Urban Caucus, echoed that sentiment and said that federal investments in public sector jobs are critical in order to make things better for local residents and communities.

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, USCM second vice president, added that the bleeding at the local level is hurting the nation’s march toward recovery and that people in America's cities cannot understand news reports that refer to a rebounding economy when companies still are not hiring.

While some signs show the U.S. economy is slowly emerging from the worst economic crisis to hit since the Great Depression, the nation will continue to feel the impact of the recession for years to come, including the potential loss of up to 500,000 jobs and the cutting of much-needed public services, if the federal government does not respond now.

To view a copy of the report visit www.nlc.org.



Sept. 10-12: Elizabethton
Sycamore Shoals Celtic Festival
1651 W. Elk Ave. Celtic bands, clans, costumes, food, vendors, storytelling, workshops, weapons demonstrations, contests, and much more. For more information, call 423-741-4841.

Sept. 16-18: Kodak
11th Annual Dumplin Valley Bluegrass Festival
Dumplin Valley Farm. Enjoy three days of music from the nation’s best Bluegrass musicians. For more information, visit the website www.dumplinvalleybluegrass.com or call 865-397-7942.

Sept. 17-18: Algood
22nd Upper Cumberland Quilt Festival
Enjoy the beautiful countryside of the Upper Cumberland Region. Travel the Quilt Trail, a scenic driving tour followed by maps. See beautiful and historic barns and gorgeous quilt squares displayed on businesses and homes in the various communities. For maps and information, visit the website www.uppercumberlandquilttrail.com.

Sept. 12: Collegedale
Arts in the Park Festival
From noon until dusk. Free fun for the whole family featuring a wide variety of activities, musical entertainment, artistic programs, food and vendors. Held at Veterans Memorial Park, located near the intersection of Apison Pike and Little Debbie Parkway. For more information, visit the website at www.artsintheparkfestival.com or call Mike Newberry at 571-224-5680.

Sept. 25: Three Way
9th Annual Three Way Festival
Arrive at 3 p.m. to celebrate the grand opening/ribbon cutting of the new municipal complex and city park. Enjoy all the festival’s outstanding family activities, food and fun until 7 p.m.

Municipal Administration Program September Schedule

Human Resources Hot Topic

With the passage of several pieces of legislation, in addition to modification of previous laws, this course will provide an overview of those subjects of interest to local governments affecting Human Resources. The course will cover such topics and the proposed Collective Bargaining legislation, Healthcare Reform, Effects of ARRA on Political Activities, Modifications to FMLA and USERRA and the definition of a job applicant under new EEOC Guidelines.

Instructor
Richard Stokes, MTAS Human Resource s Consultant

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

Dates and locations
Sept. 1 Lakeland

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE **UT**

MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL
ADVISORY SERVICE

Sept. 2	Jackson
Sept. 8	Johnson City
Sept. 9	Knoxville
Sept. 10	Collegedale
Sept. 15	Smyrna

Training Facilities
Collegedale, Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Drive
Jackson, West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Public Service, 605 Airways
Lakeland, International Harvester Club House, 4523 Canada Road

Johnson City, Johnson City Municipal Building, 601 East Main Street
Smyrna, Town Center, 100 Sam Ridley Parkway East
Knoxville, University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street

The registration fee for MAP courses for Tennessee city officials is \$25 each. A fee of \$55 is charged for non-city officials. Registration is required. Seating is limited at all sites, so please register in advance. Submit payment with your registration. MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm your attendance for the class. For more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or Elaine Morrissey at 865-974-0411.

J.R. Wauford & Company

Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Water and Wastewater Systems

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2835 Lebanon Road

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Nashville, TN 37214

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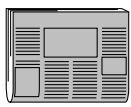
No loan is too large or too small

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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.





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.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR

MORRISTOWN. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Administrative Services Director. This position is the city's authority on all aspects of financial management and requires a comprehensive understanding of city government finance. The director manages the city's accounting, accounts payable, payroll, tax collection, purchasing, debt service and cash management functions. The position also oversees human resources, information systems, and risk management. Candidates should demonstrate management experience involving responsibility for the planning, organization, implementation and supervision of varied administrative work programs. A bachelor's degree with major coursework in public or business administration, accounting or a related field is required. Preference will be given to candidates with professional certification. If not certified, must be able to attain compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Officer Certification and Education Act of 2007 within 18 months of hire. Salary DOQ within a pay range of \$60,000 to \$89,000; comprehensive benefit package offered, including TCRS pension. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Mail resume and cover letter to: City of Morristown, P O Box 1499, 100 W 1st North St., Morristown, TN 37816-1499, attn: City Administrator. Information about the city can be obtained from the website www.mymorristown.com.

CHIEF OF POLICE

MCKENZIE. The city is accepting applications for the position of Police Chief. Minimum requirements: bachelor's degree in related field or at least three to five years experience at police command level. Responsible for leadership and development of police department consisting of 15 commissioned officers and dispatchers. DOQ, salary negotiable, DOE and training. Successful candidate will have a combination of training and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills, & abilities; initiative and experience and strong commitment to community policing, staff training, officer development and motivation of the department, consistent with the values and leadership philosophy of the city. Position requires a team player who can work well with employees, other city departments, the Mayor, the Board of Mayor and Council and other police agencies. Candidate must have the ability to obtain valid TN driver's license and to meet current TN police officer certification standards, (P.O.S.T). To apply: send resume to Mayor, City of McKenzie, P.O. Box 160, McKenzie, TN. 38201. Deadline for receipt of applications: Oct. 01, 2010. City of McKenzie is EOE.

POLICE CHIEF

RED BANK. The city is seeking an experienced and visionary leader for Chief of Police, who will lead the Police Department, with a staff of 25 sworn and non-sworn personnel and an operating budget of \$1.7 million, in a community of approximately 12,400 people, which is completely surrounded by the city of Chattanooga, a city of approximately 171,000 people. Qualifications include a high school diploma and bachelor's degree from an accredited university majoring in police science, criminal justice, police administration or closely related field. A minimum of 10 years of law enforcement experience with a minimum of three to five years in a command position. Must have a Tennessee law enforcement certification or obtain certification within one year after appointment. Additional specialized training, such as FBI National Academy, SPI or Northwestern University is desired. Demonstrated skills in the following areas; personnel management, budgeting, community policing, investigation and community relations. A Demonstrated ability to work with various

community leaders and local officials. Knowledge of communications system, desktop computer networks, word processing, statistical methods, spreadsheets, e-mail and internet. Familiarity with local, state, and federal laws, including labor laws. Must have or be able to obtain a valid driver's license. The selected candidate will be a proactive and a solution oriented individual who can demonstrate a history of creative problem solving and forecasting for the future. Candidate should understand the nature of how smaller cities work and be able to look at issues from a city-wide perspective. The ideal candidate will have strong leadership and supervisory skills: understanding of community policing strategies; experience in dealing with elected officials and the general public; experience in developing and implementing training programs; a working knowledge of municipal finance procedures and understanding of procurement and maintenance of equipment and facilities; grant writing experience and the ability to communicate effectively with city officials, employees, citizens, various agencies and media. Resume may be submitted to: Christopher J. Dorsey at Red Bank City Hall, 3117 Dayton Blvd., Red Bank TN. 37415 or citymanager@redbanktn.gov

CITY PLANNER

KINGSTON SPRINGS. The town is accepting proposals from certified planners or planning groups to provide full, contracted planning services to Kingston Springs and the Town's Regional-Municipal Planning Commission. The proposal/specifications package can be obtained online at www.kingstonsprings.net or at city hall during business hours (8 am to 4 pm, Monday-Friday) at 396 Spring Street, Kingston Springs, TN 37082. (Mailing address: P.O. Box 256, Kingston Springs, TN 37082). A faxed copy may be obtained by calling 615-952-2110. Application packages will be accepted at City Hall through 4 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010. Interviews for applicants selected as finalists will be Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010, at city hall. All application expenses and travel are borne by the applicant. Applicants must submit 6 printed copies and one electronic proposal. Applicants must have a Title VI endorsement policy. Proposals submitted to the town must be valid for 60 days from submission deadline. The selected City Planner will not be an employee of the town and must meet the IRS requirements for designation as an independent contractor or firm. The town reserves the right to alter the specifications and/or terms of this request.

DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LEWISBURG. The city is seeking applicants for Director of Industrial/Economic Development. The director provides leadership in implementing and managing the organization's programs and manages properties owned by the IDB. This includes knowledge and promotion of existing building inventory and sites within the city and county. This also includes the development of marketing programs, strategies for recruitment of business and industry, as well as retention and expansion of local business and industry. Other responsibilities include management of support staff, management of contracts, and budget accountability. A bachelor's degree in economic and community development, business, public administration or finance is preferred. Polished verbal, presentation, and written communication skills a must. Applicant shall be proficient in Microsoft Office. This would include but not be limited to Microsoft, Access, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint, Publisher and Word. Must also be capable of learning any other computer application deemed necessary or applicable to the position. Complete job description available upon request. Interested candidates must be willing to relocate in 6 months and should submit a cover letter, resume, a two page essay explaining how they will bring and retain jobs in Lewisburg to the City of Lewisburg, 131 East Church Street, P.O. Box 1968, Lewisburg, TN 37091 by 4 pm on Fri., Oct. 1, 2010.

2010 Summary of Public Acts that affect municipalities

BY JOSH JONES
MTAS Legal Consultant

Alcoholic Beverages
Chapter No. 622 (HB2571/SB2571). Alcoholic beverages may be sold at Oak Ridge Playhouse. Amends T.C.A. § 57-4-102(12) by authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Oak Ridge Playhouse at up to five special events annually. *Effective March 2, 2010.*

Chapter No. 623 (HB2758/SB2492). Alcoholic beverages may be sold at Roxy Regional Theatre. Amends T.C.A. § 57-4-102(12) by authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Roxy Regional Theatre in Clarksville. *Effective March 2, 2010.*

Chapter No. 647 (HB3243/SB2496). Alcoholic beverages may be sold at Clayton Arts Center. Amends T.C.A. Title 57, Chapter 4 by authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Clayton Arts Center in Blount County. *Effective March 22, 2010.*

Chapter No. 649 (HB2580/SB2731). Alcoholic beverages may be sold at Majestic Theater in Chattanooga. Amends T.C.A. § 57-4-102 by authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Majestic Theater in Chattanooga. *Effective March 22, 2010.*

Chapter No. 664 (HB3354/SB3464). Alcoholic beverages may be served at Sewanee Inn. Amends T.C.A. § 57-4-102 by authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Sewanee Inn. *Effective July 1, 2010.*

Chapter No. 788 (HB3522/SB3610). Referendum on retail liquor license for manufacturer. Amends T.C.A. Title 57, Chapters 2 and 3 by authorizing, as an alternative to a special election, a referendum on the availability of a retail liquor license for a manufacturer of alcoholic beverages. Only applies in jurisdiction where voters have by local option approved the issuance of a special retail license. Also expands where manufacturers can distribute free samples to include any location on the premises allowed by federal law. *Effective April 19, 2010.*

Chapter No. 1002 (HB3355/SB3330). FBI background checks for beer permit applicants authorized. Amends T.C.A. § 57-5-103 by authorizing a local government to enter into an agreement with the FBI, in addition to the TBI, for background and fingerprint checks on applicants for beer permits. *Effective July 1, 2010.*

Chapter No. 1133 (HB0499/SB0274). Limited service restaurants. Amends T.C.A. Title 57 by creating a new class of establishments, limited service restaurants, for purposes of licensing by the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Available to establishments that make less than 50% of their gross revenues from the sale of prepared food. Also authorizes liquor stores operating in Lakewood to continue in operation if the city surrenders its charter as a separate municipality

within Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County. *Effective June 30, 2010.*

Animals
Chapter No. 615 (HB0539/SB0675). Forfeited deposits must be used to conduct spay and neuter programs. Amends T.C.A. § 44-17-503 by requiring forfeited deposits paid to animal control agencies to be used solely for conducting spay and neuter programs in the community where the agency is located. *Effective March 2, 2010.*

Chapter No. 775 (HB3749/SB2796). Animal control agency employees receive immunity when rendering emergency care. Amends T.C.A. Title 39, Chapter 14, Part 2 by granting immunity from civil liability to any person who renders or obtains emergency care for a non-livestock animal that is running at large, abandoned, injured or in distress. Individual must take reasonable steps to locate owner of such animal. Provides immunity from owner for veterinarians and persons working under veterinarians who provide emergency care to a non-livestock animal at the request of someone other than the owner. Grants immunity to animal control agencies and employees acting within scope of employment who provide care or shelter to a stray or abandoned non-livestock animal. *Effective April 16, 2010.*

Chapter No. 882 (HB3383/SB3715). Nashville and Memphis may petition for destruction of dogs without district attorney. Amends T.C.A. § 44-17-120 by authorizing Davidson and Shelby counties and the municipalities therein to, upon passage of an ordinance, petition a general sessions court for destruction of a dangerous dog. Other cities must go through district attorney. *Effective May 5, 2010.*

Annexation
Chapter No. 917 (HB2713/SB2581). Annexation outside of an urban growth boundary. Amends T.C.A. § 6-58-111 by requiring a municipality seeking to annex territory outside its existing urban growth boundary by ordinance to actually adopt an amendment to the growth plan. This is accomplished by having its desired change to the urban growth boundary submitted to the coordinating committee and receiving a recommendation for or against. The committee must submit the proposed amendment with its recommendation to all involved local legislative bodies for approval. If the amendment is approved, granted by all bodies or by the dispute reso-

lution panel, it is then submitted to the local government planning advisory committee for approval. A municipality may also annex within a county's planned growth area or rural area, but only by referendum. *Effective May 26, 2010.*

Chapter No. 1026 (HB3864/SB3489). Expansion of urban growth boundary to include certain tracts. Amends T.C.A. § 6-58-104 by authorizing a municipality to expand its urban growth boundary (UGB) to include a tract of land that is 10 acres or smaller; is contiguous to a tract of land that has the same owner and has already been annexed by the municipality; is being provided water and sewer; and where the owner consents. Does not require coordinating committee to reconvene nor approval from the county or any other municipality. Only governing body of expanding city need approve. *Effective June 9, 2010.*

Boards, Authorities & Commissions
Chapter No. 723 (HB3341/SB2975). Build America Bonds interest rate formula developed. Amends T.C.A. Title 7, Chapter 89 and Title 47, Chapter 14 by specifying the formula for the rate of interest on Build America Bonds issued on or before June 30, 2012 by convention center authorities. *Effective April 9, 2010.*

Chapter No. 802 (HB3309/SB3399). Airport authorities may be created jointly with out-of-state local governments. Amends T.C.A. Title 42, Chapter 3, Part 1 by authorizing a new method for creating an airport authority. Authorizes the creation of a regional airport authority when three or more Tennessee cities and counties and at least one political subdivision of another state create a regional airport commission and a majority of such entities, by resolution, recommend the creation of a regional airport authority and enter into an interlocal agreement approved by the attorney general. Each entity appoints the same number of commissioners. *Effective July 1, 2010.*

Chapter No. 970 (HB3598/SB3335). Membership on Regional Megacite Authorities. Amends T.C.A. § 64-6-110 by changing the membership of a regional megacite authority and giving the governor three additional appointments. These appointees must reside in counties that are contiguous to the county in which the megacite is located and not otherwise represented. These members shall serve without reimbursement for travel expenses. *Effective May 26, 2010.*

TMBF Board meets Sept. 8

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund will meet in regular public session on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., local time, in the Fifth Floor Conference Room of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, 226 Capitol Blvd., Suite 502, Nashville, Tennessee, 37219, for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before said Board. Some members of the Board of Directors 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 Friday, Sept. 3, at the offices of TMBF at that address. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Linda Mooningham, telephone number 615-255-1561.

Good Risk Management is just Good Management



Cities and municipal agencies have joined together to create in the TML Pool what has grown to be the largest municipal insurer in Tennessee. The extent of the coverage provided for municipal exposures is staggering.

The Pool insures:

- 40,575 municipal employees for workers' compensation including 6,450 firefighters (2,263 full-time, 240 part-time & 3,947 volunteers), representing more than \$951.7 million in annual payroll exposures; and provides liability coverages for some
- 18,960 municipal vehicles with total insurable values of some \$350 million.



5100 Maryland Way • Brentwood, TN • 800-624-9698

Your Partner in Risk Management since 1979.

Mark Gwyn’s childhood dream was to be a police officer – now he’s TBI director

A degree in communications aided his evolvement into Tennessee’s top cop

BY GAEL STAHL

Mark Gwyn was born and raised in McMinnville, Tenn., a small town best known for extensive nurseries that supply the landscaping and gardening needs of businesses and individual residences across Middle Tennessee and beyond.

Favorite native sons and daughters are Uncle Dave Macon, Dinah Shore, Dottie West, U.S. Ambassador Carl T. Rowan, one of the preeminent journalists in the 20th century, and now, Mark Gwyn, born in 1963 and beginning his second six-year term as TBI director.

Neither of Gwyn’s parents had a high school education, but Leonard and Thelma Gwyn told their three children how their lack of education played a big part in barriers they faced in their own lives. The children took that to heart. Gwyn graduated from Warren County High in 1981 and Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in 1985, which led to a career in law enforcement.

His father, who worked in a funeral home, also worked as a reserve (auxiliary) police officer. That’s what fired Gwyn’s childhood and lifelong passion. He has vivid memories of how excited he got when Daddy donned his police uniform to go out on assignment. His mother has pictures she took of him at about age five wearing a badge pinned to his shirt and a gun on his hip trying to arrest his sister.

Fast forward to 2010. TBI Director Gwyn says he still drives to work everyday thinking how “this job is like living a childhood dream.” On graduating from MTSU in 1985, he became a McMinnville police officer, a TBI agent in 1988, and was promoted in 1992, 1996, 2004, and 2010 – the last two being appointments by the governor to six-year terms as Tennessee Bureau of Investigation director.

Gwyn joined the TBI not long after it took its current form. The original Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Investigation (TCBI) was created in 1951 under the aegis of the Department of Safety. That worked out fine until the late 1970s when Gov. Ray Blanton was involved in issues such as the selling of liquor licenses and wholesale pardons of criminals. The TCBI did a joint investigation with the FBI and wanted to see TCBI’s files. In 1980, the legislature took TCBI out of the Department of Safety, completely reorganized it and renamed it the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation as an independent agency to provide assistance including high tech investigative help to state, county, and city law enforcement agencies. It’s come a long way since Gwyn came on board in 1988.

When he became director in 2004, Gwyn oversaw the creation of the Technical Services Unit (high tech surveillance methods and computer forensics) and launched a Cyber Crimes Unit to battle Internet crimes targeting children. His Drug Investigation Division targets mid-to-high-level drug dealers and is an active part of the Governor’s Meth Task Force and the state’s Governor’s Task Force on Marijuana Eradication.

Gwyn’s TBI career includes being a special agent and criminal investigator, executive officer to the TBI director, assistant director in charge of the Forensic Services Division, and Bureau director.

He has completed prestigious law enforcement and leadership training programs such as the John F. Kennedy School of Government from Harvard University and the FBI Leadership in Counterterrorism Program. He received terrorism training conducted in Israel by the Israeli National Police. Gwyn sits on the IACP Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Committee as well as the Board of the University of Tennessee National Forensic Academy. He lives in Nashville where he is a graduate of Leadership Nashville and serves on the Board of Directors for the Salvation Army and Second Harvest Food Bank.

Gwyn, who is unmarried, has two older brothers and one older sister. One brother just retired from CSX Railroad – the former L&N Railroad – and the other just retired as a chiefmaster sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. Their sister has worked for the social Security Administration for more than 30 years.

and played all day and half the night. You could go to anybody’s house and they’d welcome you and feed you. Good people. Good values. I went to work early on, loved sports but worked afternoons and evenings so didn’t play on any varsity teams.

I was taught early that education would be an essential component of my life and another would be a good work ethic. Watching my mom and dad who always worked, I didn’t know there was any other way. I started mowing lawns with my dad when I was 11. At age 16, my brothers and I went to work at a grocery store where my father’s friend was the manager. I worked there through college.

Even as a youngster, I always wanted to get into law enforcement. It was more about wanting to serve, not the money. My first job as a McMinnville police officer in 1985 paid \$1,000 a month. I would have done it for free. It was never about carrying a gun, wearing a badge, or having authority. It was about helping and serving people, about trying to do the right thing, doing a job that a lot of people wouldn’t do for hundreds of thousands of dollars. I was willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice so others could be safe.

TT&C: In college, you majored in criminal justice?
MG: No, I majored in communications. My father told me that to make it in life you’ve got to be able to talk to all types of people. I knew that whatever I ended up doing, I had to be able to communicate and talk to anybody of whatever status or position. So I majored in communications and minored in speech. It has served me well. At MTSU, I learned written communications, and radio and television broadcasting. I wrote for the high school newspaper and also for the local newspaper some. I loved what I was learning. But I never forgot I wanted to become a police officer.

TT&C: Did you have communications role models?
MG: I’ve always been a pretty outgoing person who loved to meet and talk to people. As for mentors, coming from such a small rural town, I didn’t have a lot of African American role models who had been highly successful in certain arenas. You had to look outside your race or at TV for role models. I had plenty of role models coming up of the type that taught me to do the right thing and to work hard to get ahead. You were raised by the community. If the neighbors saw you messing up, they’d grab you up and tan your hide just like your parents. That was part of the foundation on which I achieved whatever success I’ve reached thus far.

A couple of years ago I gave the eulogy at my Sunday School teacher’s funeral. She was also my kindergarten teacher and had followed me through my whole career – even into my early 40s. She’d call and check in and ask if I was okay. You never forget people like that.

Later, when I became a 22 year-old police officer carrying a badge and a gun, I wanted to save McMinnville. I saw myself as the guy designated to come in and take the bad guys off the street. I had people sit me down and say you don’t have to arrest everybody you come into contact with. You’ll see them again if they continue to mess up. Sometimes people make mistakes that are bad enough to make an arrest. But sometimes the law allows you to give that person a second chance to improve. You can exercise that without taking everybody to jail.

TT&C: Was it difficult getting on the McMinnville Police Department in 1985?
MG: It was probably a little easier for me since I had a college degree. Only one other officer had a college degree. In some ways, the degree worked against me. The day I went to meet with the chief, he told me he was going to hire me, but he was concerned that I would not stay. Sure enough I did leave. I’m so grateful that he did not hold it against me but hired me and sent me to the Law Enforcement Academy to get good training. That training and my three years as a police officer made me a better TBI agent as did my degree in communications. How you communicate with the public is essential. I don’t know if there’s a greater ability a law enforcement officer needs.

TT&C: What was your entry job with TBI?



Mark Gwyn



Gwyn stands before the photos of TBCI/TBI's eight directors since its inception in 1951. The most recent directors are on the right: John Carney Jr. 1990-1992, Larry Wallace 1992-2003, Mark Gwyn 2004-Present. Carney and Wallace were the two Gwyn served under before becoming director.

MG: The Bureau sent me to Nashville in 1988 as a special agent and criminal investigator on its statewide Special Investigations unit. We worked as a team of about 15 agents on high level public corruption type cases, drugs, and gambling – mostly white collar stuff. It gave me a chance to mature and work alongside experienced agents. Being just 24 years old when hired, I needed that.

But I’d always wanted to work violent crimes. That’s what our field agents do working with local law enforcement officials in specific counties. It was set up so I could work with the team but also work as an agent in Cannon and Rutherford counties. When Director Larry Wallace came aboard in 1992, I asked to work in my home area full-time. He made me a field agent in Rutherford and Cannon counties. Working with local law enforcement is all I did until 1996.

TT&C: Who picked the cases you worked on?
MG: I did whatever the local district attorney, requested. The TBI was created with the mission of *assisting* local law enforcement, not to be a mega agency of 2,000 agents. We offer technical, specialized help to local law enforcement especially in dealing with the worst of their worst crimes. We have a field agent and a drug agent in every county. Everybody knows our phone number.

TT&C: What did you do after the field agent stint?
MG: In 1996, Director Wallace brought me back to Nashville for five years to be his executive officer in senior management and, because I had a degree in communications, he made me the Bureau’s first public information officer (PIO), executive officer in charge of the Top Ten Most Wanted program, in charge of overseeing the construction of the new TBI headquarters and the adjoining Forensics Division facility, and special projects.

We do all that differently now. Without a doubt, one of the best moves I made on becoming director was to bring in a full-time PIO from outside the Bureau. I knew that I didn’t do the job justice with so many other things to do. It’s a full-time job. When I headed up the Top Ten Most Wanted program, we did reenactments of the crimes of the fugitives in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies. We’ve revamped the program and made the Criminal Investigation Intelligence Division re-

sponsible for it.

TT&C: And five years later?
MG: In 2001, Director Wallace promoted me to assistant director over the Forensic Division. At that point, I wondered if that would be the end of my career. I don’t have a forensic background. It was unheard that someone would go from the criminal side to the forensic side – a whole different building, a whole different field of expertise. But the director wanted someone to manage the division. With hard work and lots of help, it worked out OK. It was very challenging and very rewarding. It brought my career full circle. Without a doubt, it set me apart from a lot of other people when a new director was appointed in 2004. I don’t think I would be sitting here as director of TBI today if I didn’t have that background.

TBI’s Forensic Division implements technology and science to investigate and establish facts and evidence for use in a court of law including forensic analysis of DNA, toxicology, drug testing, latent fingerprints, microanalysis and other so-called *CSI* type stuff. TBI has three nationally accredited crime laboratories with about 120 special agent/forensic scientists conducting approximately 280,000 tests on 83,000 pieces of evidence a year. What makes the division so critical is that we’re the only people in the state that can do it so all law enforcement evidence comes to us. If we get bogged down, we’ll bottleneck the entire law enforcement and judicial process across the state.

TT&C: Which of the TBI divisions do you spend most of your time?
MG: The Criminal Division. Its Field Investigation Unit of nearly 150 special agents and supervisors are the heartbeat of the organization. They represent the reason TBI was founded. It launches investigations of drugs, public corruption, fugitives, organized crime, domestic terrorism, gambling, Medicaid fraud, and any criminal violations requested by local district attorneys. Its Criminal Intelligence Unit covers organized crime, fugitives, gang activity and missing children. It manages Amber Alerts, the Fusion Center, the Top Ten Most Wanted program, and the Tennessee Sex Registry. In 2004 I added the Technical Services Unit to zero in on cyber crimes against children and computer evidence recovery unit with regard to digital forensics. The Medicaid Fraud unit has three dozen TBI employees

across the state. TBI does instant gun purchases checks and background checks to the public for a fee and conducts nearly 2,000 hours of law enforcement training for 12,000 people annually. We train and certify all dispatchers in the state.

Of our 463 TBI employees, about 300 are commissioned special agents or special agent/forensic scientists; the others support staff and law enforcement information coordinators.

TT&C: Are you in a way the state’s “Big Brother” who goes everywhere and sees everything?
MG: Well, if you get stopped for speeding and your driver’s license is used to run a criminal history, all that comes through us. Every state has a control terminal agency. It’s just easier for the FBI to deal with one agency instead of more than 400 law enforcement departments in Tennessee. Admitted, some things can slip through the system as when someone is not fingerprinted so that there’s no record. Humans will make mistakes, but the controls are pretty good.

TT&C: What does your Fusion Center do?
MG: That’s TBI’s joint project with the Department of Homeland Security. It brings together state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies including probation and parole and makes them swap information. To do that, we *gave* every law enforcement agency in the state a records management system. Now, they can feed all their data into the Tennessee Fusion Center and everyone is aware of each others’ raids, arrests, and other activities. We’ve already got 20 million records in the center. If you are assaulted by a person with a red dragon tattoo on his arm, we can enter “red dragon tattoo” and it’s going to pop up. That’s never been possible before. This

revolu-tionizes law enforcement and improves our Amber Alert program. Last year, we were rated the best Amber Alert program in the nation.

TT&C: Is the methamphetamine task force still active?
MG: Absolutely. Last year was a record breaker. After I became a member of the Governor’s Task Force on Methamphetamine in 2004, we were able to pass legislation that put pseudoephedrine behind pharmacy counters. While that was like putting a band aid on a gunshot wound, it only helped for awhile. People can still go from pharmacy to pharmacy buying their limit of cold tablets from behind the counter at Walgreen’s to make meth and then go across the street to buy their limit at CVS. In 2004, there were about 800 labs in the state. Our Task Force dismantled thousands of meth labs. Last year we were up to nearly 1,500 and stood at No. 2 in the nation. This year we may become No. 1 for number of methamphetamine labs. After Oregon made pseudoephedrine a scheduled prescription drug, labs dropped from about 500 to 15. Mississippi just passed that legislation. If it gets a dramatic decrease, we’ve got to take a look at doing it, too.

TT&C: What’s been your hardest challenge as TBI director?
MG: The major budget cuts over the last two years have tested my leadership ability more than any position I’ve had within TBI including going to Forensics without the institutional knowledge I needed. But my entire staff and I have shown the kind of leadership people talk about when you try to weather the storm by keeping morale on an even keel so things don’t fall to pieces. It’s been tough.

TT&C: When Gov. Bredesen reappointed you, he listed your many improvements over the past six years. Which are most important?
MG: The first thing I did as director in 2004 was to create the Technical Services Unit to give better and more technical services that local, state, and federal law enforcement needed in the areas of computer forensics, cell phone forensics, cyber scams and cyber crimes related to children, digital forensics for preserving and analyzing digital evidence seized from computer systems and mobile devices during investigations. I’m proud that we’re on the cutting edge of technology. There is no investigation that we can’t work.