

Flood leaves widespread devastation across state



Photo by Mandy Lunn, *The Tennessean*

Franklin firefighters assist residents evacuate the Fieldstone Farms neighborhood. Franklin rescue workers performed more than 250 rescues over the two-day period.

First responders lauded for extraordinary efforts

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Weather forecasters were calling for it, but no one could have predicted the level of devastation left behind from two days of torrential rains and severe storms that hammered Middle and West Tennessee.

As a result of the extreme weather conditions, Tennessee suffered 21 confirmed fatalities.

Rivers crested at historical levels; entire subdivisions, businesses and cars were submerged; and portions of the Interstate were shut down for days from the record-level of rain that fell May 1 and 2. Rain totals in some areas were greater than 17 inches. The Cumberland River crested at 51.86 feet in Nashville, a level not seen since 1937. In Clarksville, the Cumberland peaked at 62.5 feet. And in Dyersburg, the Forked Deer River reached its highest stage since 1937 at 30.48 feet.

"This flooding situation is very serious that has impacted a large portion of our county," said Metro Nashville Mayor Karl Dean. "Our hearts go out to the families who have lost loved ones; many communities members have been displaced from their homes; and they have our heart felt concern and our support."

In the Metro Nashville area,

more than 600 water rescues were performed as flood waters continued to rush through neighborhoods leaving residents stranded.

"I was there in Bellevue when OEM, the fire department and an everyday citizen in his duck boat pulled out a couple of hundred senior citizens," said Nashville Metro Councilman Bo Mitchell. "If it wasn't for them, numerous more deaths would have occurred."

In West Tennessee, Memphis Fire Department units used boats to evacuate about 500 people. And in Millington, police officers searched door to door to help evacuate residents of a trailer park.

Millington was one of the hardest-hit areas in West Tennessee. Two subdivisions, a trailer park and the Naval Support Activity Mid-South base were flooded after the levee breached in two places. About five feet of water flooded the base, stranding about 250 people who had to be rescued. Another 500 were evacuated from their Millington homes.

"The swift reaction from emergency first responders was exemplary during this emergency situation," said Gov. Phil Bredesen. "I want to thank local and state agencies that responded so quickly to evacuate, perform water rescues, and assess any immediate damage



Photo by Rob McDonald, *McDonald Media*

Residents of Bellevue, one of the hardest hit suburbs in Metro Nashville, are rescued by boat. In the Davidson County area alone, more than 600 water rescues were performed as flood waters continued to rise leaving residents stranded.

and danger to the roadways."

More than 150 roads throughout the state were closed, including sections of Interstate 40, I-24, and portions of I-65. All were rendered impassable due to the severe flooding.

By Sunday morning (May 2), Nashville Mayor Karl Dean declared a state of emergency for Davidson County. By Sunday afternoon, Franklin Mayor John Schroer had also issued an emergency warning, urging residents to stay off the roads and imposing a curfew for Sunday evening.

"Water flooded roadways in areas of the city that I haven't seen in my 15 years as Chief of Police in Franklin," said Police Chief Jackie Moore.

Among the hard-hit areas in Franklin was the 2,100-home Fieldstone Farms subdivision. Franklin firefighters made boat rescues from homes on Sunday, then fought a fire in waist-deep water early Monday morning when one of the flooded houses exploded and burned.

Community water supplies were also effected across the state. Water treatment plants in Davidson and Williamson counties are operating at half capacity after record floods crippled the area. Concerned that the

area's water supply could be totally depleted, both Davidson and Williamson Counties, including Franklin and Brentwood, are under a mandatory water conservation order. Numerous other cities across the state are under boil water advisories.

As flood waters began to recede by mid week in Middle Tennessee, Metro rescue workers were able to enter areas that up until this point were difficult to reach by foot. Led by emergency services personnel specially trained in Urban Search and Rescue procedures, more than 100 Metro Nashville

firefighters and police officers went door to door in flood ravaged neighborhoods to check on the welfare of residents and to offer assistance.

Metro reported that over a three-day period (May 1-3), the Metro Police Department responded to some 9,200 calls; Metro Fire: 1,900 calls; and EMS responded to 540 calls.

"It is humbling to serve as a mayor of a city that has so many great people working for the city everyday and that has such great citizens that step up and volunteer," said Mayor Dean.

See **FLOOD** on Page 3

Effective communication, leadership skills part of TML conference offerings

The pressure on municipal leaders to communicate with their constituencies has never been greater, nor more challenging. Financial shortfalls, combined with an increasingly critical public and media, require leaders to have a strong understanding and command of communications skills.

Three workshop sessions during the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Conference, slated for June 13 - 15 in Gatlinburg, will focus on effective leadership and communication skills.

Beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 14, Brian Polansky will lead a session entitled, *Great Leaders are Great Communicators*.

Participants will learn specific techniques that enhance their leadership abilities and personal effectiveness; identify the critical verbal skills of leading others; present proven strategies for developing trust and collaboration; and provide tools to effectively motivate commitment and cooperation in others.

Participants will develop leadership skills that will facilitate excellence in the workplace and improve the way they communicate and interact with everyone both professionally and personally.

During the afternoon sessions, participants will learn effective media relations skills. *On the Frontline: Media Communications in a You Tube World*, presented by Brad and Janet Ritter, is an interactive, two-part workshop that combines presentations with hands-on, table-top exercises and even mock media encounters.

Each session will have a separate focus. Attendees are encouraged to participate in both portions, but each will be presented as a stand-alone program for those who can attend only one.

Session 1: *Working Effectively with Today's Media* will



Brian Polansky



Brad Ritter



Janet Ritter

cover: media trends and implications for municipal leaders; managing media opportunities and challenges; dealing with bloggers and "green" reporters; and conducting See **CONFERENCE** on Page 5

Meth debris litters state's roadsides

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

"Meth Lab in a Bag" is not a new video game or some sleazy science experiment; it's what's dotting the highways across Tennessee and other states as an increasing number of meth addicts and dealers have taken their meth production on the road, discarding evidence as they go and evading police.

The one pot method, also called Shake-n-Bake, doesn't require a lot of space or much pseudoephedrine, the decongestant found in common cold medicines, just a two-liter bottle, a few pills and some common household chemicals, refuse that can be easily stuffed into a garbage bag and tossed from a moving vehicle.

"Anytime you reduce the size of the lab, you increase the mobility," said Tommy Farmer, Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force director. "The Shake-n-Bake method has fewer components which makes it much simpler." And while the soda bottles, gloves, and empty packs of cold medicine blend well with other roadside sludge, that half empty pop bottle could contain enough chemical fire power to blow a person's arm off or cause extensive acidic burns, according to Farmer, which is why authorities scramble to clear the toxic debris before citizens happen upon it.

"They think because there's no heat source, it's not as harmful, but there have been a number of people who've discovered these bags—children, who pick up bottles con-



Photos courtesy of The Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force

Jeremy Belk, an agent in McMinn Co., demonstrates the mobility of one pot, Shake-N-Bake meth labs.

taining hydrogen gas thinking its Mellow Yellow and drink it," he said. Hospital burn units have seen a dramatic rise in patients with acid burns, according to Farmer, where the plastic bottles used in one pot meth production have leaked onto the cooks' skin.

Tennessee had experienced a decrease in meth-labs and related arrests after legislation cracking down on consumer access to cold

medicines containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine were passed. But now, sixty-five percent of meth lab seizures in Tennessee are the one pot variety often made on the go. Meth cooks; mostly addicts themselves, and their fellow-users, nicknamed "smurfers" are operating across wider territories while driving from store to store picking up smaller amounts of chemical ingredients See **METH** on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

CHATTANOOGA

A \$1.7 million expansion has been planned by Southern Tool Steel, Inc. (STS), a distributor of metals and plastics. The project will double the production capacity of the operation and add 25 new jobs within the first year of completion. STS is a metal supplier to machine shops, tool and die and manufacturing facilities including automotive parts stamping operations, and their tier-one suppliers. The expansion is expected to add as many as 45 employees within three to five years of the completion.

CHATTANOOGA

The Chattanooga Downtown Visitors Center has relocated to the lobby of the former Bijou Theatre, at the intersection of Broad and 3rd Streets. The new space will occupy roughly 5,000 square feet of the 25,000 square feet of space and will provide an improved visitor experience. There is ample parking available in the attached garage. It is also at the northern terminus of the downtown shuttle, making it more visible for people getting on or off the shuttle.

CLEVELAND

The Cleveland City School system soon will be shedding new light on both energy conservation and economics. The school board agreed to a contract with Excel Energy Group to install an energy-efficient lighting system in all but one of its buildings. The schools will repay loans for the project from savings in the cost for lighting. Excel has installed new lights in the Bradley and Hamilton County schools districts as well as dozens of others in Tennessee and other states.

DAYTON

The city has received a \$19,000 grant to purchase lap top computers for the Clyde Roddy Dayton Library. The state contributed \$16,000 and \$3,000 came from the Rhea Development Council.

FRANKLIN

ZoomProspector.com has released

their top 10 smaller cities to start a new company and Franklin came in 8th place. The city was selected for being one of the nation's wealthiest counties with a growing technology sector, including a new biotech campus under construction. *Bloomberg Businessweek* magazine notes that smaller cities have become the best places to start new companies. ZoomProspector weighed 11 factors including the number of startups, quality of the workforce, and resources like universities and venture capital to compile a list of the top places to build the next Apple or Google.

FRANKLIN

The city is on track to become one of only a handful of Tennessee cities making green construction practices a requirement — at least when it comes to municipal buildings. A proposed ordinance requiring that all new government-owned buildings of 5,000 square feet or larger must meet the "silver" level of environmental guidelines developed by the U.S. Green Building Council has cleared the city's sustainability commission for approval. Renovations of public buildings would be included in the ordinance as well. If approved later this year, Franklin would be the first in Williamson County to join the growing list of American cities requiring that municipal buildings use Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design sustainable building practices.

JACKSON

A total of 69 people are being laid off from Jackson's Stanley Black & Decker manufacturing plant as the newly formed company begins to cut duplicate services to save money. Stanley Works announced in November that it would acquire Black & Decker, which operates two tool manufacturing plants in Jackson: a 1.12-million-square-foot facility in North Jackson and a 465,000-square-foot facility in South Jackson. The nearly \$4.5 billion buyout of Black & Decker by Stanley Works was approved by shareholders in March. The division is being moved to Black & Decker's



Representatives from Tennessee Department of Transportation and Anchor Trailways & Tours held a ribbon cutting April 28 to celebrate the launch of a new daily intercity bus service between Nashville and Memphis. The service is funded by a federal grant administered through TDOT's Intercity Bus Demonstration Program. The daily round-trip bus service will operate seven days a week with stops at both the Memphis and Nashville airports and Greyhound stations, the Memphis Amtrak Station, Atoka, Ripley, Dyersburg, Union City, Martin, Dresden, Paris, Camden, Holladay, Dickson, Kingston Springs, the Vanderbilt Medical Arts Building and the Music City Star Train Station.

former headquarters in Towson, Md.

KINGSPORT

Kingsport is planning to kick off a number of small projects at Bays Mountain Park, from improving the parking situation to making the wolf habitat more secure and less likely to sustain a breach. The three projects are: to add a pole fence around the wolf habitat to catch any potential falling trees; to create an overflow parking area near the existing parking lots; and to renovate the four bathrooms in the nature center. The estimated cost of all the projects is \$59,600. In December 2009, a tree fell and breached both fences of the wolf habitat at Bays Mountain Park, resulting in the escape of six gray wolves. As a result of the breach, city officials talked with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and looked at other animal habitats across the state to determine the best steps to help prevent another breach.

KNOXVILLE

Michigan-based Robert Bosch LLC will start laying off 222 workers at its PBR Knoxville automotive brake operation. Bosch announced that it would be closing the PBR Knoxville brake caliper operation in phases during 2010. Bosch also announced it would close its Johnson City brake production plant by the end of July and lay off 140 people there. The company has cited the recession and declining demand for brakes because of the downturn in the automotive industry as reasons for the plant closings.

MEMPHIS

As two local cotton companies work through their lengthy merger, another player has arrived on the scene with the purchase of a 300,000-square-foot warehouse it will use as a major distribution center. Anderson Clayton Corp., a Fresno, Calif.-based company owned by Queensland Cotton Holdings Ltd. of Australia, has paid \$3.9 million for the building at 4173 B.F. Goodrich Blvd. in Oakhaven. The company bought the warehouse from Denver-based developer ProLogis. Cliff White, senior vice president at QC (US) Marketing — said the company was setting up shop here to be "involved in the certification business on the futures market" and also to expand its U.S. cotton business.

MORRISTOWN

The Morristown City Council has given a facelift to the farmers market

in the core of downtown based upon the suggestions of a citizens and business-owners task force. The long-standing market had provoked concerns because of its growing size, appearance and abuse by non-farmers in competition with local grocers and merchants. The updated ordinance allows for more variety in agricultural products, organic produce, hand-made crafts, artwork and provides a venue for live music, festivals and other performances. Under the new regulations, the city will provide uniform shelters for vendors, require posting of business licenses and other permits, and has updated its fee schedule to a structure more equitable with downtown business properties. Morristown leaders have agreed that the new Downtown Market will be a good draw for the central business district, for agri-tourism, and will provide a unique, nostalgic shopping opportunity within the city.

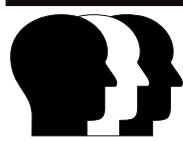
NASHVILLE

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) announced plans to create a presence at the Nashville Medical Trade Center. HIMSS becomes the first anchor tenant for the medical trade center, slated to be built on the space currently occupied by the old

Nashville Convention Center at 601 Commerce Street. The space occupied by HIMSS at the Nashville Medical Trade Center is expected to become a permanent home for the Society's Interoperability Showcase, a state-of-the-art, interactive demonstration showing how health IT applications share patient data across a range of healthcare settings. The Showcase will be the premier demonstration platform for the latest in healthcare information technology.

NASHVILLE

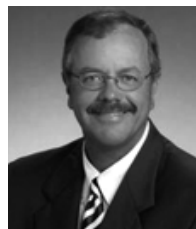
Nashville is joining the ranks of districts in Florida, Missouri and other states where, for the right price, businesses can brand a school building, sports field or academic program. It's an idea that's greeted happily at Antioch High School, where administrators formally announced a \$150,000 partnership with the Tennessee Credit Union. Under the agreement, passed by the Metro school board, the business owns the signage to the school's academy of business and finance and will open a student-run branch on campus this fall. The district held a signing event recently to announce more partnerships between businesses and high schools.



PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

State Education Commissioner **Tim Webb**, who was due to leave his position at the end of June to become Cheatham County schools superintendent,



Webb

has agreed to stay on at the state through December to help implement Race to the Top initiatives.

Longtime Criminal Court Judge **John Colton Jr.** is retiring. Colton, 73, who has been on the bench since 1990, said he will step down June 30, leaving four years remaining on his current eight-year term. The seat is expected to be on the ballot in the Aug. 5 general election.



Colton

Former State Rep. **Shirley Duer**, 72, wife of Crossville City Councilman Carl Duer, has passed away. She was elected to the Tennessee State Legis-

lator in 1980 to 1996 and was the first of three women in the State Legislature. Duer pushed for many of the road improvements in Cumberland County in the 1980s and early 1990s and is credited for playing a key role in securing funding for Roane State Community College Cumberland County Campus.

David Himes, assistant director of Nashville Public Works, has been appointed by Tim Manning, FEMA Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness, to serve on FEMA's National Preparedness Task Force. Himes is assistant director of Public Works for Nashville and currently sits on APWA's Emergency Management Committee.

Former state representative **Tom DuBois** of Columbia was elected chairman of the State Election Commission.

Jeff Rose, Maryville Water Quality Control director, has resigned to accept a job with McGill Associates. **Baron Swafford** has been appointed in the new combined water and electric position.



Sweetwater recently closed a \$6.5 million loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund for a new sewer plant. Seated are Mayor Doyle Lowe with Recorder Jessica Morgan, Robert Bettis, Utility manager and Joe Muscatello, TMBF representative.

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Federal disaster designation for 21 counties, more to come

The federal government authorized a major disaster declaration for 21 Tennessee counties. Gov. Phil Bredesen asked President Obama to declare 52 counties federal disaster areas following the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that struck the state beginning Friday, April 30.

This action makes federal funding available to individuals in Cheatham, Davidson, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Hickman, Houston, McNairy, Madison, Montgomery, Obion, Perry, Shelby, Tipton, and Williamson Counties. Declarations for additional Tennessee counties are expected in coming days.

As a result of the extreme weather conditions, Tennessee suffered 21 confirmed fatalities. Numerous nursing homes, apartment complexes and residences were evacuated due to rapidly rising waters and flash flooding. Water rescues and helicopter extractions were performed as flood waters continue to rush over hundreds of roads through cities, towns and neighborhoods. Many residents lost all of their possessions as homes were destroyed or sustained major damages.

"We can see President Obama and other federal officials continue to move quickly to process our requests and announce declarations for more counties," said Bredesen. "I expect us to continue to see additional counties authorized for federal assistance as the damage assessments continue, which will be tremendously helpful to Tennesseans who suffered losses as they work to rebuild."

Bredesen toured impacted areas of West and Middle Tennessee. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate was in Tennessee and Bredesen also spoke by phone with President Obama and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in the four counties, including both individual and public assistance.

Individual assistance can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Public assistance is also available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for debris removal and emergency protective measures only at this time. In addition, federal funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance immediately by registering online at www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).

Local governments that are covered by a federal disaster declaration are expected to pay 25 percent of the costs while the federal government pays 75 percent. In the past, the state has paid for half of the local government share.

Clarksville declares curfew, issues a state of emergency

BY VICTORIA SOUTH

TML Communications Coordinator

A county curfew was decreed by both the city of Clarksville and Montgomery county mayors as flooding shut down several major roads. The Cumberland and Red rivers spilled over their banks, flooding Riverside Drive businesses and leaving Madison Street as the sole entrance to downtown Clarksville. Emergency officials instituted a curfew from 8 p.m. May 3 to 6 a.m. May 5 to keep roads clear for rescue workers. Bridges linking Clarksville's northern and southern sides were also closed, leaving only one route in and out of the city. The Cumberland River had crested at 63 feet by May 4, according to the National Weather Service.

"The water had come up on several roads and bridges and restricted travel inside Clarksville, so it moved our travel pattern to other roads," said Mayor Johnny Piper. "The roads became like parking lots because so many people were on them." Piper, no stranger to disaster after a tornado ravaged the city in 1999, declared Clarksville to be in a state of emergency. Montgomery County has been approved to receive both individual and public federal assistance from a state list of 52 counties.

"This flood has some similarities to the tornado," Piper notes. "The commercial properties along Riverside Drive probably have 5-7 feet of water in them. Some of them are possibly going to have to be demolished. I'm concerned for the



Photo by Rob McDonald, McDonald Media

In the Metro Nashville area, more than 600 water rescues were performed as flood waters continued to rush through neighborhoods leaving residents stranded.



Photo by Chris Desmond, The Commercial Appeal

Millington police officers search door to door to help evacuate victims of the flash flood at the Pecan Circle trailer park in Millington.



Photo by Rob McDonald, McDonald Media

A 90-year-old resident of River Plantation in the Bellevue suburb of Metro Nashville is ecstatic as she is rescued from the rising flood waters.

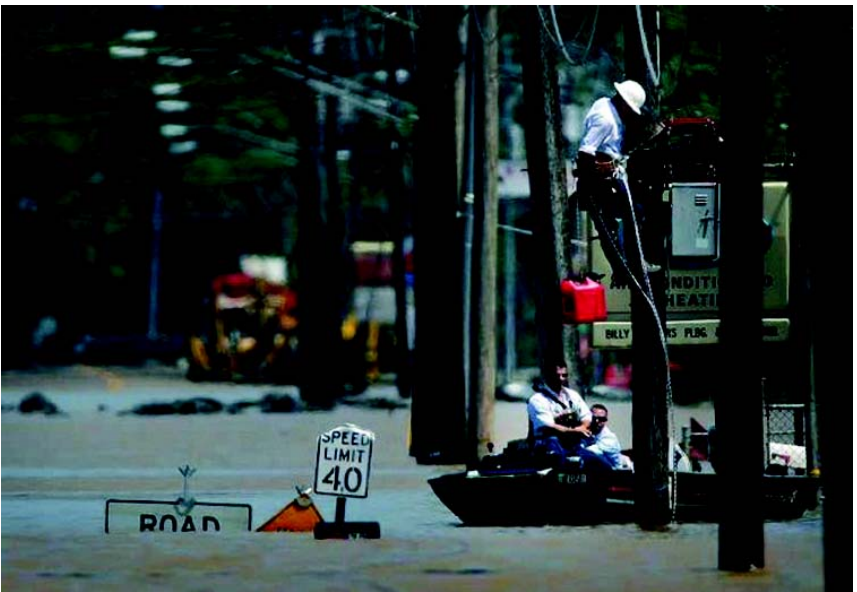


Photo by Jim Weber, The Commercial Appeal

About 460 houses and businesses were flooded in Dyersburg when the Forked Deer River flooded. Above photo is of Old Highway 51 in Dyersburg.



Photo by Victoria South

In the shadow of LP Field, The Music City Star Commuter Rail Station remains engulfed by the Cumberland River. Downtown Nashville, along 1st and 2nd Avenues and beyond were under about 8-10 feet of water.

County by county

FLOOD, from Page 1

County By County Coverage

In Cheatham County, **Ashland City** and **Kingston Springs** were hit hard, closing numerous roads, shutting down schools, and flooding home and businesses. Hundreds of residents were rescued by emergency personnel. Parts of Ashland City were completely cut off by water and only accessible by boat or air. The National Guard airlifted food and water to citizens still stranded in their homes.

In **Dyersburg**, the Forked Deer River was cresting at 30.48 feet, just shy of the record stage of 30.91 set in 1937. The flooding developed nearly two days after a foot or more of rain fell across much of West Tennessee. At least 461 homes and businesses were flooded.

Many of the towns in Gibson County, including **Trenton**, **Dyer**, **Rutherford**, **Kenton** and **Milan**, experienced extensive flood damage. In Trenton, two days of rain caused levees to break on the Middle Forked Deer River. In Humboldt, officials believe a tornado touched down.

In Hickman County, there were more than 200 rescues. The Pleasantville area was hit the hardest and the Duck River Bridge in **Centerville** was blocked off. The water system was shut down and a boil water notice was issued to residents out of concern that the water could be contaminated.

During the first 48 hours of the flood, the **Jackson** and **Madison County Fire Departments** responded to more than 140 calls for service and safely rescued more than 200 people from the floodwaters. Mayor Jerry Gist estimates that about 85 businesses and 87 homes have been affected.

In Maury County, officials were keeping their eyes on the Duck River, which crested to near 45 feet. "A relatively small number of homes were evacuated and reported power outages were minimal," said **Columbia Mayor Dean Dickey**. "But considering everything that has happened, we are fortunate."

In Sumner County officials estimate that more than 500 residents needed to be rescued. Homes were pushed off their foundations, bridges were washed over and roads flooded. Vietnam Veterans Boulevard, which remained shut down for almost a week, caused nightmare commutes of up to three hours to and from Nashville. Downtown Gallatin businesses saw several feet of water in some areas. Hendersonville's athletic fields were severely damaged.

In Wilson County, emergency workers and volunteers worked Saturday to sandbag downtown **Lebanon**, which was under about 2 feet of water. About 60 businesses were evacuated.

livelihood of the persons who own those businesses and those who work there. It is my understanding many of them did not have flood insurance."

At 61.5 feet, the flood waters broke a 1975 record by four feet. The river's overflow engulfed the Clarksville Wastewater Treatment Plant, leading Clarksville Gas and Water to shut down and evacuate the facility. During this period, raw sewage has flowed directly into the Cumberland River, untreated. The city's water supply is deemed to be safe as the water treatment plant functions normally.

"The truth about Clarksville is that we are a resilient community," says Piper. "We always respond. I've been there with our first responders as they try to help people. They have been working around the clock. The firefighters, the police and street department's done a great job, and the community always comes together when you send out the call."

Piper said he doesn't anticipate any further danger of water rising or causing additional property damage. The city's downtown area sits on a bluff overlooking the Cumberland, a protectant from high waters. "The first thing that happens in an event like this is you make an evaluation as to what the problems are and then you begin to attack them," said Piper. "Then you begin a recovery effort and finally, you begin reconstruction. Right now, we're still in recovery mode. We are just trying to help those who need to be helped."



The Cumberland and Red rivers spilled over their banks, flooding Riverside Drive businesses with at least 5-7 feet of water.



Flooding shut down several major roads in Clarksville and bridges linking Clarksville's northern and southern sides were also closed, leaving only one route in and out of the city.

STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Tennessee will join forces with Microsoft in an innovative public-private partnership to provide free technology training to people across the state. Through Elevate America, Microsoft will work with the Tennessee Department of Labor to distribute 25,875 vouchers for free, online technology training and certification. Tennessee will receive 11,500 vouchers for Microsoft Business Certification training, 11,500 vouchers for Microsoft Business Certification exams, and 2,875 vouchers for advanced Microsoft IT Professional online learning. America Microsoft Vouchers can be obtained online at <http://elevateamerica.tn.gov>. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities at the Tennessee Career Center nearest you. For a list of Tennessee Career Center locations, visit <http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/cc/cccounty.htm>.

A new report says almost half of Tennessee's young adults are too obese to qualify for military service. The study, by a group of retired military officials, warned members of Congress that the nationwide trend is a threat to national security. In Tennessee, it found that 45 percent of all 18 to 24-year-olds are too overweight or obese to be taken by any of the armed services. Lieutenant General Norman Seip says the numbers show that young adults don't seem to be getting healthier. His fear is that it will be increasingly difficult for the military to recruit the people it needs. "Ten years ago today only one state had 40 percent or more of its young adults overweight. Today, that number is 39. Since 1995, the proportion of recruits rejected during their physical exams because they are overweight has increased by 70 percent."

In recent months, TVA has signed contracts to buy 1,380 megawatts of wind-generated power from providers outside the Tennessee Valley. Earlier this year, a Department of Energy-funded report took a detailed look at how wind could be used to supply 20 percent of the region's power needs by 2030. While the study determined that adopting big chunks of wind power is feasible, the biggest issue becomes how to get the power from where the winds blow to where it's needed most. The Electric Power Research Institute is launching a two-year project, funded with a \$500,000 DOE grant, to explore

how large amounts of wind power might travel to the Southeast from the Southwest Power Pool, a region that includes Oklahoma, Kansas, parts of Texas and Minnesota, which had been shown in a previous DOE report to have untapped wind resources. The project is pulling together major power companies in the South, including TVA, Entergy, Southern Co. and Oglethorpe, to create a detailed plan for how such power sharing might take place.

Tennessee has received an \$11.5 million grant to reduce alcohol binge drinking among teens and young adults. The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities said that the grant will go to fund projects across the state during the next five years. The projects aim to reverse the state's upward trend in binge drinking, prevent substance abuse and strengthen prevention at the state and county level. The grant was provided by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

A new report shows the number of Tennessee school children committing zero tolerance offenses has increased 31 percent during the past decade, but there's been improvement in the past couple of years. Those offenses include drug possession or use, firearms possession and battery against staff members, and they generally result in transfer to an alternative school, expulsion or some other discipline. The state comptroller's office looked at data from school districts across the state from 1999 through 2008. In the 1999-2000 school year, the rate was 2.6 offenses per 1,000 students. The rate peaked in the 2005-2006 school year at 3.7 offenses per 1,000 students. The rate for 2007-2008 dipped down to 3.4 offenses per 1,000 students. Mike Herrmann, Tennessee's executive director of school safety and learning support, said drug possession and use make up the majority of the zero tolerance offenses.

Tennessee has the second highest credit card debt in the nation - at \$6,823 per person and one of the top 20 in the nation for foreclosure filings. Fully 10 percent of the state's adults don't have a bank or credit union account. Those are sobering figures for Teach Children to Save Day today, part of a national campaign from the American Bankers Association to help educate more young people about handling money. The Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions, which

aside from regulating the state's banks also has a hand in state efforts to improve financial literacy, has put together a website with resources for parents, teachers and children. There are online games and lesson plans, including "financial soccer," a personal finance quiz, tips on saving and a downloadable budgeting worksheet: http://tn.gov/tdfi/crd/financial_literacy/index.html

The Tennessee Department of Health is issuing a warning about a potential scam related to vital records information. The Office of Vital Records does not send workers to resident homes, the warning said. Anyone doing that and identifying himself as a Vital Records employee should be considered an impostor. "Tennesseans should be wary of providing any personal information to individuals who show up at your door," Health Commissioner Susan R. Cooper said. "Individuals on official state business should be able to provide proof of their employment in the form of work identification, which includes a photo."

After several months of declines, contracts for future construction in Tennessee jumped upward in March, according to data released by New York-based McGraw-Hill Construction. Contracts for each of three building categories — nonresidential, residential and nonbuilding — were up compared to March 2009, with a total of \$1.3 billion in contracts being awarded across the state last month. That's essentially twice the \$510.6 million awarded last March. Nonresidential construction — for commercial, industrial, educational buildings, etc. — had the greatest jump, to \$766.7 million worth of contracts, compared to \$162.8 million in the year-ago period. Residential contracts increased from \$238.6 million to \$386.4 million, and nonbuilding construction — which includes infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, airports and utility systems — increased from \$109.2 million to \$142 million. For the quarter, the value of contracts awarded in Tennessee is up 49 percent, with \$2.3 billion worth of contracts issued, up from \$1.5 billion in the year-ago quarter.

Tennessee is the 11th most affordable state for home health care services and those services in Memphis cost even less than statewide averages, according to Genworth's 2010 Cost of Care Survey. The median annual rate for home care costs is \$40,040 statewide, about 9 percent below the national median annual rate of \$43,472. Tennessee's median hourly rate for home care is \$18. In Memphis, the hourly rate is \$16, lower than the state's median and the national average of \$19 per hour.



Pictured are 30 new Tennessee Department of Transportation employees from Marshall County.

New TDOT hires funded by American Recovery Act

Thirty Marshall County citizens hit the roads April 26 as new employees of the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The new hires are part of Gov. Phil Bredesen plan to use federal Recovery Act funds to reduce unemployment in Marshall County by putting a total of 175 people back to work. These 30 newly-hired TDOT workers are among the first to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Governor's plan.

"TDOT has worked quickly to hire, train and place dozens of Marshall County citizens on the job," said Bredesen. "These new jobs, along with others outlined in the plan, should begin to ease some of the strain caused by the economic downturn in Marshall

County."

The newly-hired highway maintenance workers will work throughout TDOT's District 34, which includes Marshall, Rutherford, Bedford, Moore and Lincoln Counties. Some of the job duties performed by the new employees include litter pickup, tree and vegetation removal, mowing, graffiti removal, culvert cleaning, painting and fence repairs.

TDOT is working now to hire employees for the remaining positions supported under the plan. Marshall County residents must meet certain income and asset requirements to be eligible for these positions. Interested individuals should contact the Tennessee Career Center in Lewisburg at 931-359-9726 for more information.

Hourly rates in the Nashville and Knoxville areas are \$19 and \$18, respectively. The median annual rate of assisted living, for a one-bedroom, single occupancy, is \$36,300 in Memphis, lower than the \$36,750 statewide rate and \$38,220 nationally. And the cost of adult day health care in Memphis is \$11,700 annually, compared to \$12,610 statewide and \$15,600 nationally.

Changes are coming to the health care plans of employees receiving benefits from the state. The most significant changes include the addition of deductibles and a new focus on healthier habits. Newsletters detailing the changes are being mailed to those affected. It describes the need for the changes; increasing health care costs and decreasing state revenues. Workers can choose from two options, each of which has a deductible, however there are ways enrollees can save on costs. By signing up for the "Partnership

Promise," members will have lower premiums and deductibles than those who opt for the other plan.

Chief Executive magazine named Tennessee one of the top three states in the nation for business in their sixth annual survey of Best and Worst States for Business. More than 650 chief executive officers rated states in three general categories: taxation and regulation, workforce quality and living environment. Tennessee moved up two spots from fifth in 2009.

In 2008, the number of children dying of abuse or neglect in Tennessee is on the rise while dropping nationwide, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. State officials don't believe there's more child abuse happening in Tennessee, just that witnesses are more likely to report it and investigators more likely to detect it. The numbers include child deaths caused by everything from beatings and burnings to car accidents in which a child was not restrained. Nationally, child deaths caused by abuse or neglect dropped from 1,599 in 2007 to 1,361, while in Tennessee they increased from 44 to 55.

Wildlife Resources Agency officials are sampling for one kind of fish fairly new to Tennessee, Asian carp. They compete with native species for food, and could hurt the state's billion-dollar sport-fishing industry. Asian carp have spread across Tennessee from west to east. So far, the agency hasn't found evidence that they are breeding here.

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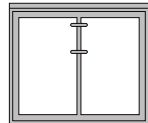
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COMING UP



May 19: The Postal Regulatory Commission Field Hearing in Memphis. The commission will be holding field hearings to gather public input on the Postal Service's proposal to go to five day mail delivery. The commission would like to include record testimony from a variety of perspectives, including local officials. For those interested in participating, contact: Michael J. Ravnitzky, Chief Counsel to the Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission, 202-789-6812, michael.ravnitzky@prc.gov or Ann Fisher, the Commission's Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations, at ann.fisher@prc.gov, 202-789-6803.

TML Conference

CONFERENCE from Page 1

print, web and electronic interviews.

Session 2: Crisis Communications will cover analyzing your city's vulnerabilities; what to do before a crisis strikes; and offer crisis communications strategies.

Other conference sessions will focus on the new health care reform act; creating healthy and sustainable communities for an aging population; navigating the fiscal crisis; the basics of local government liability; and community entrepreneurship strategies.

City officials will also hear first-hand the views of each gubernatorial candidate.

Democrat Mike McWherter and three Republican contenders – Bill Haslam, Ron Ramsey, and Zach Wamp – are all on the schedule to provide their views on the "State of the State" and why they are the best candidate for the new job.

Other conference highlights include a welcome reception on Saturday night; vendor presentations, district meetings, the opening general session, and the host city reception on Sunday; dynamic workshops and the TML Risk Management Pool Party on Monday; and an awards breakfast on Tuesday.

To register, go to the League's website: www.TML1.org.

Schedule At-A-Glance

Saturday, June 12

7 - 9 pm Welcome Reception

Sunday, June 13

9:00 - 5:00 Registration
10:30 - 11 am Feud Game
11-11:45 am Vendor Workshop
12 noon Lunch
12 - 2 pm Ice Cream
1 - 2 pm Vendor Workshop
2:15-2:45 pm Vendor Workshop
3 - 3:45 pm District Meetings
4 - 5:30 pm General Session
6:30 - 8:30 pm Host Reception

Monday, June 14

8 - 8:45 am Breakfast
9 - 10 am General Session
10:15-11:15 am Workshops
11:30 - 12:15 Business Meeting
12:30 - 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 - 2 pm Door Prizes
2:15 - 3:15 pm Workshops
3:30 - 4:30 pm Workshops
6:30 - 11 pm Pool Party

Tuesday, June 15

8 - 10 Annual Awards Breakfast

Tennessee city, county governments awarded \$9.2 million in energy efficiency grants

One hundred Tennessee cities and counties were awarded more than \$9.2 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The grants will enable communities to implement cost-effective strategies that reduce total energy expenses and save taxpayer money through improved energy efficiency in buildings and transportation systems, creating an estimated 100 new jobs in the process.

The EECBG program is expected to support more than 100 Tennessee jobs and produce more than 65 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy savings annually, resulting in a cost-savings in excess of \$5.5 million per year for local communities. The grants will also allow installers and retrofitters to gain valuable training and experience which will serve private sector companies as they expand their energy efficiency programs.

Applications were scored on the local government's overall conservation strategy, project feasibility, readiness to proceed, community impact, partnerships and the ability to extend funding impact beyond a one-time use.

ECD's Energy Policy Office is announcing a second round of EECBG grants that will award an additional \$3.8 million. The application period for this round is set through May 21. For a copy of the second round grant application and program guidelines or for more information, visit ECD's EECBG Web page at <http://tneecd.gov/EECBG/>. For specific questions regarding the application process, call 800-342-1340 or e-mail ecd.energypolicy@tn.gov.

These cities received grants:

Adams—\$99,617.00
For HVAC and water heater retrofits at the jail;
Alamo—\$89,300.00
For street light replacement;
Athens—\$100,000.00
For traffic signal replacement
Bristol—\$100,000.00
For lighting retrofits at three city buildings and pump replacement at Water Plant;
Brownsville—\$100,000.00
For lighting and HVAC retrofits at City Hall, Public Works and Welcome Center;
Burdston—\$19,239.00
For lighting and HVAC retrofits at city hall;
Calhoun—\$40,000.00
For lighting, HVAC and insulation retrofits at city hall;
Camden—\$90,000.00
For pump retrofits at Wastewater Treatment Plant;
Church Hill
\$100,000.00
Lighting, HVAC, insulation, door and window retrofits at the police department;
Clinton—\$95,000.00
For traffic signal replacement;
Columbia—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC and window retrofits at 3 city buildings and traffic signal replacement;
Cookeville—\$100,000.00
For street light replacement;
Covington—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC, window, door and insulation retrofits at school



gym and auditorium;
Crossville—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC and insulation retrofits at 6 city buildings;
Dandridge—\$52,029.00
For lighting, HVAC, window and insulation retrofits at 9 city buildings and traffic signal replacement;
Ducktown—\$100,000.00
For small-scale solar installation on city property;
Dunlap—\$100,000.00
For lighting and pump retrofits at 6 city buildings;
Dyersburg—\$100,000.00
For traffic signal replacement;
East Ridge—\$99,077.50
For lighting and HVAC retrofits at five city buildings and traffic signal replacement;
Estill Springs—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC, window and door retrofits at 4 city buildings;
Etowah—\$100,000.00
For HVAC and pump retrofits at library and pump stations;
Fayetteville—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC, window and door retrofits at city hall;
Gainesboro—\$100,000.00
For lighting and insulation retrofits at city hall and fire hall and traffic signal replacement;
Gallatin—\$100,000.00
For development of a Community Energy Plan and lighting retrofits city hall and Civic Center;
Gatlinburg—\$73,514.50
For lighting retrofits to 16 city buildings and street light replacements;
Greeneville—\$100,000.00
For lighting and HVAC retrofits at Town Hall and Police Department;
Gruetli-Laager—\$17,500.00
For development of a Community Energy Plan, lighting, HVAC and door retrofits at City Hall;
Harriman—\$100,000.00
For development of a Community Energy Plan, traffic signal and street light replacement;
Huntingdon—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC, windows, doors, and insulation retrofits at two city buildings;
Jasper—\$100,000.00
For HVAC and pump retrofits at city hall and pump stations;
Jefferson City—\$100,000.00
For lighting and HVAC retrofits at 5 city buildings and traffic signal replacement;
Jefferson County—\$100,000.00
For lighting retrofits at a high school;

Jellico—\$83,655.00
For development of a Community Energy Plan, lighting, window, door and insulation retrofits at City Hall and street light replacement.;
Jonesborough—\$100,000.00
For lighting retrofits and solar panel installation at historic school;
Kingston—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC, water heater and pump retrofits at multiple city buildings;
LaFollette—\$100,000.00
For development of a Community Energy Plan and lighting and HVAC retrofits at multiple city buildings;
Lawrenceburg—\$100,000.00
For lighting and HVAC retrofits at Administration Building;
Liberty—\$93,429.00
For HVAC and window retrofits at City Hall;
Loretto—\$38,520.00
For lighting, HVAC, window and door retrofits at City Hall and Civic Center;
Madisonville—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC and pump retrofits at 4 city buildings and replacement of traffic signals;
Manchester—\$100,000.00
For lighting and HVAC retrofits at the recreation center;
Mauzy City—\$87,500.00
For traffic signal and street light retrofits;
Maynardville—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC and pump retrofits at 3 city buildings
Mountain City—\$100,000.00
For replacement of street lights;
Mt. Pleasant—\$28,180.00
For lighting, HVAC, and window retrofits at City Hall;
New Market—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC, insulation, door and window retrofits at a city building and traffic signal replacement;
New Tazewell—\$98,800.00
For traffic signal and street light retrofits;
Newport—\$100,000.00
For HVAC and roof retrofits at the Cultural Center;
Niota—\$96,000.00
For lighting, HVAC and insulation retrofits at Municipal Building;
Norris—\$100,000.00
For development of a Community Energy Plan, lighting, HVAC, window and insulation retrofits at 4 city buildings;
Oak Ridge—\$100,000.00
For development of a Community

Energy Plan and HVAC retrofits at office complex;
Oliver Springs—\$30,000.00
For traffic signal replacement;
Oneida—\$100,000.00
For lighting, door, window and roof retrofits at Town Hall;
Pikeville—\$100,000.00
For street light replacement and biofuels development;
Pulaski—\$100,000.00
For HVAC retrofits at City Hall;
Red Bank—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC and insulation retrofits at City Hall;
Ripley—\$100,000.00
For lighting and HVAC retrofits at a city-owned building being converted to a recreation center;
Rockwood—\$100,000.00
For development of a Community Energy Plan and retrofits;
Selmer—\$100,000.00
For installation of remote read water meters;
Sevierville—\$100,000.00
For traffic signal replacement
Shelbyville—\$100,000.00
For lighting retrofits at recreation center and street light and traffic signal replacement;
Signal Mountain—\$100,000.00
For HVAC and water heater retrofits at historic school building;
Soddy Daisy—\$100,000.00
For lighting and HVAC retrofits at 3 city buildings;
Spring Hill—\$94,750.00
For lighting, HVAC and window retrofits at 4 city buildings;
Sunbright—\$100,000.00
For installation of solar energy system at City Hall;
Sweetwater—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC and insulation retrofits at library and City Hall;
Tiptonville—\$100,000.00
For installation of remote read water meters;
Tracy City—\$100,000.00
For lighting, HVAC, window, roof and insulation retrofits at five city buildings;
Whitwell—\$100,000.00
For traffic signal replacement and pump retrofits at water plant
Winchester—\$69,277.00
For HVAC retrofits and appliance replacement at six city buildings
Winfield—\$100,000.00
For lighting, window, doors and insulation retrofits at City Hall;
Woodbury—\$70,000.00
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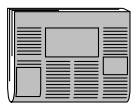
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CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SOMERVILLE: The town is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Administrator, whose responsibilities will include the administration of all city services and departments, including but not limited to finance and administration, personnel, budgeting, code enforcement, police, fire, natural gas, water, sanitation, streets, sewer, industrial development, recreation, planning, and zoning. The position is responsible to a seven member Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The person hired must have a bachelor's degree in public administration, business, or related field, and five years experience in local government management of multiple departments. Legislative issues, economic development, storm water operations, and planning are high priorities. The position requires a leader and a team player with excellent communication skills. The applicant must be willing to relocate to the town of Somerville corporate limits within the first year of employment. The city has an annual operating budget of \$9,000,000 with 48 full time employees. Salary: DOQ, plus excellent benefits, including automobile expenses. Send letter of application, resume, and salary demand to: Town of Somerville, Attention Judy Sides, Administrative Assistant, P.O. Box 909, Somerville, TN 38068. References will be checked. Position open until filled, priority to those resumes received by June 4th, 2010. Somerville is in compliance with the Title VI Civil Right Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. EOE.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

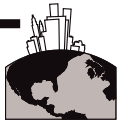
BARTLETT. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Finance Director. This position is the city's authority on all aspects of financial management and requires a compre-

hensive understanding of city government finance. The Finance Director manages the budgeting, accounting, accounts payable, debt service management and information technology functions of government and participates in the cash management, pension, investments, and certain aspects of the payroll process and purchasing. This position requires a bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Public Administration, or closely related field, and seven (7) years of progressive experience with a minimum of five (5) years in a senior management role, preferably in the area of governmental accounting and budgeting. Candidate must have professional certification such as Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO), Certified Governmental Financial Manager (CGFM), Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) or Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in Tennessee, in active status with a minimum of five (5) years of primarily governmental experience, with at least three (3) of those years in Tennessee, in order to comply with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Officer Certification and Education Act of 2007. Salary: DOQ; comprehensive benefit package including the City of Bartlett Retirement Plan. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Submit a letter of interest, current resume with salary history and a list of at least three professional references to: Personnel Director, City of Bartlett, 6400 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN 38134. Email: pvoos@cityofbartlett.org EOE.

DIRECTOR OF TOURISM & DIRECTOR OF STREET DEPT.

JONESBOROUGH. The Town is accepting applications for the following two positions: Director of Tourism (entry level \$33,065 - Salary depends on experience) and Director of Street Dept (entry level \$42,220 - Salary depends on experience) An application and position description and requirements can be obtained by directly contacting the Administrator's Office at Town Hall, 123 Boone Street, Jonesborough, TN 37659, or from the town's website at www.jonesboroughtn.org.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Three states hit hard by economic conditions have proposed using federal funds to pay down loan balances for distressed borrowers and to subsidize mortgage payments for the unemployed. The proposals come in response to a foreclosure-prevention effort by the Obama Administration, which set aside \$1.5 billion for the five states hardest hit by the housing crisis: California, Florida, Michigan, Arizona and Nevada. The funds are being allocated as part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP. Proposals are now being reviewed by the Treasury Department and will be finalized next month. While the funding will make only a small dent in the foreclosure problem, the Administration has touted the "hardest hit" program as a laboratory for states to experiment with new ways to alleviate the housing crisis. Arizona, which will receive \$125 million, will use nearly three-quarters of its funds to pay down loan balances for borrowers who are heavily underwater, according to state officials. Nearly half of all Arizona borrowers are underwater, or owe more than their homes are worth, and nearly one-third of borrowers owe at least 125 percent of their property's value, according to First American CoreLogic, a real-estate data firm.

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Meth debris litters state's roadsides

METH From Page 1
while meth is being made in the back seat.

"Smurfers do nothing but ride along and purchase cold medicines," said Farmer, who adds that the profile of the average offender is growing younger, the 19-26 year range. And while the quantity of mobile labs are increasing, the amounts of the drug uncovered by authorities is often too minute for state and federal prosecution. One two-liter bottle produces around eight grams of meth for the cook and his friends verses the pounds of meth often usually discovered at home labs.

Nationally, the number of meth labs, dumps and equipment seized from 2007-2008 rose nearly 15 percent, according to Drug Enforcement Administration data. In Tennessee, from Jan. 1 2010 through March 2010, the state recorded 482 meth lab seizures. For this same three-month span in 2009, Tennessee recorded 362. The number of seizures thus far in 2010, according to Farmer, puts the state on the road toward an eventual seizure of approximately 1,925 labs, which would be the largest number of seizures in Tennessee history.

However, in spite of the data, Farmer encourages citizens to take heart. "Tennessee is doing a good job, he said. "We've passed legislation, conducted an aggressive public education campaign, brought in more equipment, respond trucks statewide, air monitoring, Ion scanners that detect meth on skin and clothing, and additional schooling



In Tennessee, from Jan. 1 2010 through March 2010, the state recorded 482 meth lab seizures.

that trained, certified and equipped officers in meth investigation and then we put them back on the streets."

The role of lead agency in Education and Awareness programs for the Meth Task Force (MTF) has been taken up by the Tennessee National Guard providing programs for schools, municipalities, first responders, civic groups, health care workers, social workers, and community-based organizations at no cost. To request educational support, visit the Task Force website for a registration form at <http://rid-meth.org/>

"We have a motto," said Farmer. "If you cook it; we will come."



Evidence of confiscated Shake-N-Bake meth labs. Sixty-five percent of meth lab seizures in Tennessee are the one pot variety.

Municipal Clerks complete studies at TAMCAR Institute, receive certificates



The spring 2010 Institute took place at the Airport Embassy Suites in Nashville, April 14-16. The clerks have completed six institutes totaling 105 hours in sessions taught by experts in their fields. Sessions included state and local legislation, the Fair Labor Standards Acts, stimulus funds, communication, business tax, leadership, technology in the workplace, budget forecasting and ethics. Graduates of the Certified Municipal Clerks Institute receiving their certificates from TAMCAR President Shirley Dancy are: (Back row-left to right) Jason Griggs (Dyer) Curtis Hayes (Livingston), Stacey Williamson (Humboldt), Cristy Pratt (Collegedale), Tina Worley (Waverly), and TAMCAR President Dancy; (Front row-left to right) Jamie Moses (Englewood), Diane Widner (Tazewell), Gina Singletary (Maynardville), Diane Qualls (Brownsville).

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The Global Economy requires local response

BY JAMES BROOKS,
CHRISTIANA MCFARLAND
AND KATIE SEEGER
Nation's Cities Weekly

Economic development is inherently competitive. Cities compete to bring in new investments, grow and keep entrepreneurs and small businesses, and educate, attract and retain a talented workforce.

Traditionally, cities competed for these assets against their neighboring cities, counties and states. However, in the 21st century economy, cities compete against metropolitan regions across the globe. Furthermore, in a global economy, a city's competitiveness is inherently tied to how well it can foster relationships with the adjacent cities it used to compete against.

While a focus on global competitiveness is not new, the drum beat is certainly getting louder. President Obama launched his National Export Initiative and set the goal of doubling the amount of U.S. exports in 5 years. The strategy is tailor-made for cities, because it recognizes the opportunities for export expansion by small- and medium-sized firms, which are the bulk of hometown enterprises.

City Examples
The Seattle region is one of the oldest and best examples of how cities can make an impact in a global marketplace by establishing a common strategy and pooling resources. In remarks at an NLC CityFutures Panel gathering last month at the

Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C., Bill Stafford, president of the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle, explained that the alliance was born out of recognition that new local partnerships were necessary to retain the region's future competitiveness in a rapidly changing global economy.

The alliance is made up of the Washington cities of Bellevue, Everett, Seattle and Tacoma; Pierce and Snohomish counties; the Ports of Seattle, Everett and Tacoma; and the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce. Together, they market the region's collective assets and create a brand as one of North America's premier international gateways and commercial centers.

Making a community more open to foreign cultures is another way to encourage lasting relationships with international investors. For example, in Cleveland, Tenn., the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce is undertaking efforts to make the region more welcoming to new German employers and employees, as it prepares for two new companies — Volkswagen and Wacker Chemie.

The chamber's six week class, "Understanding the German Way," is designed to help prepare local businesses to interact with these new clients and industries. Classes cover issues such as values and attitudes, housing and real estate, and consumer preferences.

Action Steps

A supportive policy environ-

ment for both domestic and foreign investment is necessary to encourage economic growth. Local governments can streamline business licensing and permitting to make it easier for new business start-ups or expansion of existing firms.

Local governments can also help by connecting businesses with information resources and with knowledgeable people who are part of neighborhood, regional and global networks. These networks are built through sister cities or study abroad programs or perhaps by trade and investment missions — both inbound and outbound.

Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) offer unique cost-savings benefits relating to the importation, manufacturing, assembling and exportation of goods. Local governments can identify accessible FTZs and explore the appropriate uses that may serve local businesses. For a list of FTZs, contact the Foreign-Trade Zones Board, <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/ftzpage>.

NLC supports local efforts on economic competitiveness with a variety of programs and resources. NLC's International Council offers a forum for interested local leaders to access global networks. For details about the International Council, contact James Brooks at brooks@nlc.org. For more information about NLC's Center for Research and Innovation's work on economic development and global competitiveness, contact Christiana McFarland at mcfarland@nlc.org or Katie Seeger at seeger@nlc.org.



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

**Log Cabin Days**

May 15: Bell Buckle Motorcycle Days
Held rain or shine with free admission beginning at 9 a.m. at the Captain Rodney's Stage behind the stores in downtown Bell Buckle. Sponsored by: Bumpus Harley Davidson, Murfreesboro. Features "Double Shot" in concert, Poker Run, awards, bike show awards, great food and more. For information, call 931-389-9663

May 22-23: Pikeville Log Cabin Days
Great food and family fun in Sequatchie Valley. Activities include: The Bitter Creek Rangers with cowboy shootouts and music; antique tractor and quilt display; heritage living skills; master gardeners; children's train rides; puppeteer; blacksmith and story-telling. Handmade arts and crafts, free children's make-it-and-take-it; huckweaving; leather tooling; basket weaving; wool spinning; woodcraft; candles; jewelry; soapmaking and more. For more information call 423-533-2732 or visit <http://www.logcabindays.org/>

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Municipal Management Academy May - June Schedule

Municipal Management Academy (MMA) is an MTAS training program for city employees who want to improve their leadership and management skills. More than 50 cities in Tennessee have scheduled MMA training sessions for their employees during the past several years.

In May and June we will offer the introductory sessions, Municipal Management Overview (MMA-01) and Communication Skills and Behavioral Styles (MMA-02), in various locations across the state.

These two sessions are prerequisites for additional classes in the MMA program. We will schedule other classes from the MMA series based on the response to these initial sessions. Participants will receive leadership and management credit for the Public Administrator or elective credit for the Policy Maker certificates when attending these programs.

Who Should Attend?

Supervisors, department managers, city recorders, even some city managers and full-time mayors have participated in these training sessions. Overwhelmingly, people come away from these sessions having a better understanding of their responsibilities, themselves, and of the people they supervise.

Municipal Management Overview (MMA01)

Provides a basic overview of municipal management and supervisory skills, and more importantly provides a self-assessment of supervisory or managerial skills for each participant. The course examines differences between leadership and management as well as allowing participants to identify areas in which they need to improve their skills and set specific personal goals and objectives for their professional growth.

Communication Skills and Behavioral Styles (MMA02)

Examines the communication process as it relates to interaction between employees and supervisors. Participants also explore their own workplace behavior and Communication style through an instrument called DiSC©. Discusses communication channels of organizations; emphasizes the difference between communication and effective communication. Participants practice techniques of good communication, such as active listening, "reading" verbal and nonverbal messages, and giving directions or feedback.

Time

MMA01 will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 12 p.m. MMA02 will begin at 1 p.m. and conclude at 5 p.m.

Dates and Locations

May 18: Collegedale
May 19: Knoxville
May 20: Johnson City
June 2: Goodlettsville
June 3: Mt. Juliet
June 10: Lakeland

Training Facilities

Lakeland, International Harvester Club House, 4523 Canada Road
Johnson City, Johnson City Municipal Building, 601 East Main Street
Collegedale, Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Drive
Knoxville, University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street
Mt Juliet, Mt. Juliet Community Center, 2425 N Mt. Juliet Road
Goodlettsville, Fire Department Training Facility, 105 Long Hollow Pike.

To register for this program, please visit the MTAS website at www.mtas.tennessee.edu or contact Elaine Morrissey at 865-974-0411 or e-mail elaine.morrissey@tennessee.edu.

For program information, contact Kurt Frederick, MTAS Training Consultant, at 615.253.6385 or e-mail kurt.frederick@tennessee.edu. Fees are \$40 per person per class or \$80 per person to attend both MMA01 and MMA02.

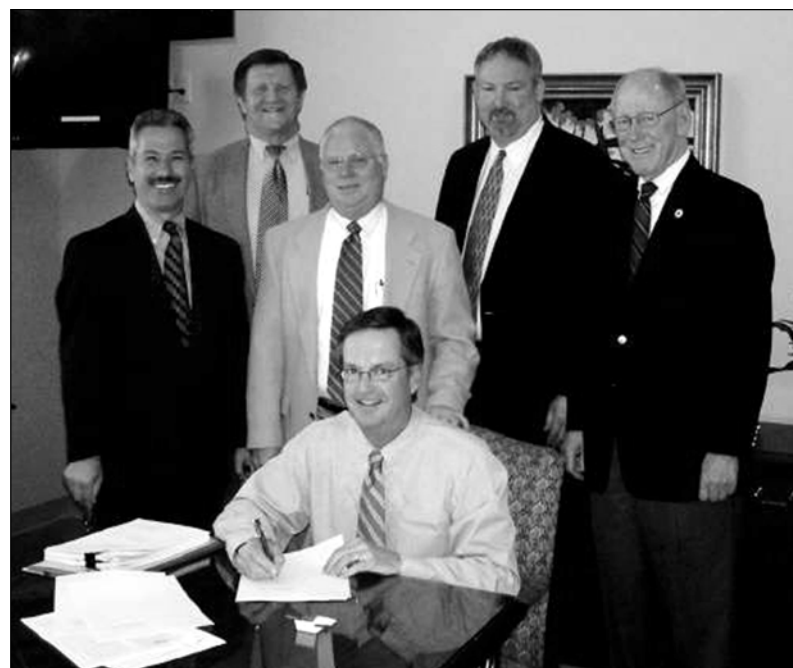
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TMBF

TENNESSEE MUNICIPAL BOND FUND



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



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

Strawberry fields: Forever a festival tradition in Tennessee

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
Communications Coordinator

Ahh! A rose by any other name might smell as sweet, but would it match the juicy essence of a red, ripe strawberry? An agricultural cousin of the rose family, strawberry season occupies much more than a May-June presence in three small communities in Tennessee. Although the bulk of strawberry farming ended in the 50s and 60s, for seven to 10 days in May, the berry is restored to its former glory, as Portland, Humboldt and Dayton host lavish festivals reflecting the rich history and traditions of small town living.

Attended annually by thousands of tourists and spectators from all over the world, the streets are jam packed with food, crafts, carnivals, music, parades and pageantry, with strawberry-themed events building daily until the big parade day.

Festival roots run deep with citizens as well, as the subculture of committees, rules and traditions governing the festivals are handed down throughout generations.

"We treat our queens like royalty, always have," Laurie Gamble, Humboldt's West Tennessee Strawberry Festival president states matter-of-factly. In its 73rd festival year, Humboldt, the place where "you'll find small town pleasures with large town amenities," takes the tradition of selecting a strawberry queen and princess very seriously.

"They don't just receive a title," said Gamble. "The floats they ride on in the parade are very regal and they wear a red robe with fur and carry a scepter." The young ladies selected must sign a waiver, according to Gamble, to reflect the behavior and decorum befitting the festival's stance on family values. With so many years of festivals, it's not unusual to find a family connection.

"We have many former festival queens who still live here," Gamble says. "Mothers who were queens whose daughters were queens... sisters who were queens..."

"It catches you off guard at times because you are just a normal Humboldtian," laughs Deanna Day, Humboldt's 1978 Hostess Princess. "I was treated like royalty and traveled to different cities as a representative of the festival. The whole week was packed with things to do, luncheons, breakfasts. I visited a preschool and the kids were thoroughly intrigued by it. My son was also junior host in 1994."

Founded in 1934, the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival was designed to promote the area's expanding strawberry industry. Agriculture was very important in the early development of the city, which is located about 12 miles north of Jackson. Small trial fields of strawberries and rhubarb gave way to larger and more prosperous fruit and vegetable farming operations that included tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce and sweet potatoes.

Today, Humboldt's festival, scheduled for May 2-8 this year, draws 100,000 visitors, many staying over in the area's hotels for the weekend. The event's two parades are a big draw. The non-motorized parade — where every float or cart is

hand pulled — is hailed as the state's largest.

On Main Street, the city's Strawberry Festival Historical Museum, housed in a restored 1912 building, exhibits 73 years of photos and memorabilia from the festival's history. And as is tradition, every festival president is responsible for compiling a festival magazine for the museum.

"The museum is so much fun," said Gamble. "You can go in there and look through 73 magazines and see how everything has changed throughout the years. The strawberry festival is a celebration of our history, our heritage and traditions."

"Strawberry festivals are our identity," explains Portland Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Amy Wald. The city's 69th festival will run May 8-15. "It's a lot of fun and a lot of work." Wald is already in preparation for the city's 70th. "Our Strawberry Stride is the second oldest fun run in Tennessee," she said. "You just don't see festivals like this in rural areas anymore." Portland will host its first Strawberry Ball this year, and there will be dancing like the days of old on Main Street.

"When I was a kid, the festival was my favorite thing," says celebrated native and country music star Ronnie McDowell. "My dad had an old dry goods store by the police station and I have great memories from the 50s of the beautiful floats, the candy and pretty girls." McDowell will be coming home for a concert in the park at the big finale May 15 and couldn't be more excited. His rendition of his new hit song, "Beautiful Lady" a song about all he loves about America, will feature local elementary school children as back up singers.

Ken Wilbur, Portland's mayor and lifelong citizen, is excited as well. The area's strawberry industry, which fizzled in the 60s, seems to be making a comeback of sorts. "In the last year or two, as people want more natural foods, the farming has really picked up again," he said. "The festival is such a great tool for our community and such a great time for people to get together and enjoy the different activities."

Incorporated in 1905, and hailed as "The Strawberry Capitol of Tennessee," Portland held its first festival in 1941. The legacy reportedly began when one of the early founders, W.T. McGlothlin, affectionately called "Uncle Billy," shipped his first berries in 1885 as proof that they could be grown commercially in the area.

By 1912, The Portland Strawberry Growers Association shipped 107 railroad cars of strawberries. The success of the crop would lend to the hustle and bustle of the Portland Depot, a favorite whittling spot for locals and commuters. According to the *USP* May 18, 1945 issue, in 1928, 576 rail cars of berries were shipped from the Portland depot. Crates for the berries were made at the local Strawberry Crate Factory, which by 1932, manufactured 75,000 berry crates per year.

"I just think it's a great time for the community," said long-time



Portland resident Johnnie Freedle. "People need something like this to bring them together." Freedle was Portland's 1960s Hostess Queen. As a representative of the festival, she and her eight attendants enjoyed a whirlwind of activity appearing on television programs like "The 5:00 Hop" and the "Morning Show" with Dave Overton.

The bonds she and her classmates formed during festival time has clearly carried over through the years. Freedle and those same classmates recently compiled a coffee table book showcasing Portland's history in celebration of the city's Sesquicentennial in 2009.

Without local newspaper accounts of Portland's early years, events had to be pieced together through interviews and painstaking research. "We were so proud of ourselves for establishing that the first festival was in 1940 for the book," said Freedle. But, then 98-year-old citizen, Ella Moore West Owen came forward with a tidbit nobody knew, an earlier strawberry celebration took place around 1926. West was the first to pen the slogan "In the Heart of the Strawberry Belt" in 1929, for which she received a five-dollar gold piece.

"Ms. West said H.W. Hill, one of the movers and shakers of Portland, arrived around 1925 or 1926 to take over the Strawberry Crate Factory, which was the main industry in Portland," said Freedle. "He was really into politics and promoting the town and his daughter, Jane, just thought it would be wonderful to have a celebration and she could be queen. There wasn't any contest that



Photos from Top: Portland resident Johnnie Freedle (center) was Portland's 1960 Strawberry Hostess Queen acting as a representative of that year's festival. The children's parade in Portland brings a smile to young and old. Humboldt's West Tennessee Strawberry Festival, held May 2-8 this year, draws 100,000 visitors. The Cox Family Young Bluegrass Pickers play at the Tennessee Strawberry Festival in Dayton.

Strawberry festival, that began as a one-day event started by the local Lion's Club in 1947, has grown to a 10-day extravaganza sponsored by the Dayton Chamber of Commerce.

"Strawberries are still very much a part of our festival here," said Mayor Bob Vincent. "People come in from all over East Tennessee to buy our berries."

According to former chamber president and current festival president Randy Wells, one of the major growers is Tidwell's Berry Farm, which cannot pick enough of the luscious delicacy at festival time.

"They literally sell out every morning," said Wells, and more unusu-

ally, according to Wells, people will ask local stores if the berries are Tidwell berries before purchasing them. "Hundreds of berry flats are brought in for the festival and by late afternoon after the parade, we have people stop by our information booth and ask "Where are the strawberries?" he said.

Dayton's downtown revitalization project has made life much simpler for vendors at the city's historic "Strawberry Cake on the Courthouse Lawn" event. "We just went through an extensive program to provide underground wiring at the courthouse," said Vincent. "It will save the electric department two weeks of preparation."

The estimated 25,000 people that come in for the parade May 1-22, will also enjoy events such as rodeos, old cars, a carnival, children's choir and antiques.

"These are exciting times for us and such a joyous occasion for everyone," said Mayor Vincent.

For a complete schedule for Dayton's strawberry festival, visit www.tennesseestrawberryfestival.com

For a schedule of events for Portland's strawberry festival, visit www.portlandcofc.com.

Heirloom Strawberry Recipes

This recipe appeared in the *Caney Fork Bugle*, official paper of the 1956 Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival.

Strawberry Island Cookies

Ingredients
1 1/2 cups enriched flour
1/2 teaspoon soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
2/3 cup shortening soft
1 egg yolk
1 cup sugar
2 tablespoons pineapple juice
1 cup quick rolled oats, uncooked

Glaze
Egg white and sugar

Filling
Strawberry jam (2/3 cup)
Pineapple wedges (about 1/2 cup)

Sift together flour, soda and salt into a bowl. Add shortening, egg yolk, and sugar and pineapple juice. Beat until smooth, about 2 minutes. Blend in rolled oats. (Dough will be stiff). Shape dough into balls; place on greased baking sheet. Make a hollow in the center of each cookie. Beat egg white slightly; brush lightly over cookies. Sprinkle with

sugar. Put a teaspoon of jam in the center of each unbaked cookie. Top with a small wedge of pineapple. Bake 350 degrees 12-15 minutes.

Shirley Lambert of Tullahoma, takes strawberry cake seriously. So seriously that she adds only fresh strawberries to this dazzling pink cake.

Strawberry Cake with Strawberry Cream Cheese Frosting

Ingredients
Solid vegetable shortening for greasing the pans and flour for dusting the pans
1 package (18.25 ounces) plain white cake mix
1 package (3 ounces) strawberry gelatin
1 cup mashed fresh strawberries with juice (1 1/2 cups whole berries)
1 cup vegetable oil, such as canola, corn, safflower, soybean, or sunflower
1/2 cup whole milk
4 large eggs
1 cup frozen unsweetened grated coconut, thawed
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Strawberry cream cheese frosting
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese,

at room temperature
8 tablespoons (1 stick) butter, at room temperature
3 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted
3/4 cup fresh ripe strawberries, rinsed, capped, and mashed to make 1/2 cup, then drained well
1/2 cup frozen unsweetened grated coconut, thawed
1/2 cup chopped pecans

1. Place a rack in the center of the oven and preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly grease three 9-inch round cake pans with solid vegetable shortening, then dust with flour. Shake out the excess flour. Set the pans aside.

2. Place the cake mix, strawberry gelatin, mashed strawberries and juice, oil, milk, and eggs in a large mixing bowl and blend with an electric mixer on low speed for 1 minute. Stop the machine and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula. Increase the mixer speed to medium and beat for 2 minutes more, scraping the sides down again if needed. The strawberries should be well blended into the batter. Fold in the coconut and pecans. Divide the batter among the prepared pans

and place them in the oven; if your oven is not large enough, place two pans on the center rack and place the third pan in the center of the highest rack.
3. Bake the cakes until they are light brown and just start to pull away from the sides of the pans 28 to 30 minutes. Be careful not to overcook the layer on the highest oven rack.
4. Remove the pans from the oven and place them on wire racks to cool for 10 minutes. Run a dinner knife around the edge of each layer and invert each onto a rack, then invert again onto another rack so that the cakes are right side up. Allow them to cool completely, 30 minutes.

4. Meanwhile, prepare the frosting. Combine the cream cheese and butter in a medium bowl with an electric mixer on low speed for about 30 seconds. Stop the machine and add the sugar and drained strawberries. Blend the frosting on low until the sugar has been incorporated. Then raise the speed to medium and mix the frosting another minute or until the frosting lightens and is well combined. Fold in the coconut and



pecans.

5. To assemble, place one cake layer, right side up, on a serving platter. Spread the top with frosting. Add another cake layer, right side up, and frost the top. Repeat this process with the third layer and frost the top. Use the remaining frosting to frost the sides, working with clean, smooth strokes. Serve at once or chill the cake for later serving.

6. Place this cake, uncovered, in the refrigerator until the frosting sets, 20 minutes. Cover the cake with waxed paper and store, in the refrigerator, for up to 1 week. Or freeze it, wrapped in aluminum foil, for up to 6 months. Thaw the cake overnight in the refrigerator before serving.