

Highlights from Tennessee's Census data

You might already know that the state's population grew by 11.5 percent over the last 10 years (6,346,105).

But did you know that 3,748,831 people reside in cities. Middle Tennessee saw the largest increase with 68 percent of the increase in total municipal population, followed by East Tennessee with 17 percent, and West Tennessee with 15 percent.

The populations of cities and towns located in the counties immediately contiguous to Shelby, Davidson, Knox and Hamilton Counties grew, on average, at a rate of 35 percent over the last decade. These cities and towns accounted for about 46 percent of the growth in the state's municipal population or about 30.7 percent of the growth in state's population.

Legislation introduced to allow cities to collect taxes from Internet

BY LARSETZKORN
Nation's Cities Weekly

Bills were introduced in both houses of Congress last week to require the collection of sales taxes by out-of-state Internet sellers.

Both bills are titled the Main Street Fairness Act (S. 1452 and H.R. 2701). The bill was introduced by Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) in the Senate and by Reps. John Conyers (D-Mich.) and Peter Welch (D-Vt.) in the House. The legislation is co-sponsored by Sens. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.) in the Senate and Rep. Heath Shuler (D-N.C.) in the House.

Neither bill was introduced with Republican co-sponsors.

"Consumers shouldn't have to face the burden of reporting all of their online purchases," Durbin said upon introduction of the legislation. "Main Street retailers collect sales taxes on behalf of consumers, why shouldn't online retailers do the same?"

"The Main Street Fairness Act would not require a single penny in additional taxes to be paid that are not already owed," said David Hooks, chair of NLC's Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee and Homewood, Ala., council member. "It would help localities nationwide collect billions in taxes that are already owed."

NLC supports the bills, as they are consistent with longstanding policy calling to level the playing field between brick and mortar and Internet retailers.

The bills are also supported by Amazon.com Inc., the largest online Internet retailer, which previously opposed many state-specific attempts to compel online retailers to collect state sales tax.

"Amazon.com has long supported a simple, nationwide system of state and local sales tax collection, evenhandedly applied to all sellers, no matter their business model, location or level of remote sales," said Paul Misener, Amazon's vice

president for global public policy.

The bills will "allow states that sufficiently simplify their rules to require collection of sales tax by out-of-state sellers," Misener said.

eBay, however, opposes the bills because they impose "new taxes and regulatory burdens" on small online businesses, according to Brian Bieron, eBay's senior director of federal government relations and global public policy.

"A collection of state tax commissioners have again been able to get an outdated Internet sales tax bill introduced in Congress, but we are confident that it will be rejected because it would harm small Internet retailers," Bieron said.

Local retailers argue they are at a competitive disadvantage because they collect sales taxes while out-of-state retailers, including many large online and catalog retailers, in effect give their customers a discount by collecting no state or local sales taxes.

Under a Supreme Court ruling, known as Quill, retailers are only required to collect sales tax in states where they have brick-and-mortar stores. Consumers must report to state tax departments any sales taxes they owe for their online purchases.

As a result, 44 states and the District of Columbia have worked with the business community and local governments and their representatives, including NLC, to adopt a comprehensive interstate system, called the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, to harmonize and simplify their sales tax rules and administrative requirements.

To date, 24 states comply with this interstate agreement. But the Quill decision made it clear that Congress must authorize and sanction such an agreement. The Main Street Fairness Act does that while providing financial assistance for online retailers and small businesses to implement the requirements.

BY DANIEL C. VOCK
Stateline Staff Writer

When federal lawmakers return to Capitol Hill next month, one of their first assignments will be the normally routine task of finding money for better roads and rails. But given Congress' recent track record of letting seemingly mundane matters build to a crisis, transportation experts are keeping a wary eye on Washington.

The reason for the concern is the expiration of two key transportation-related statutes. At the end of September, the law providing for a federal gas tax expires. So, too, does the law that authorizes aid for building and repairing roads, subways and bridges. In the past, when the issue has come down to the wire, Congress has simply voted itself more time while it figured out a plan. But that's not a given any more. When it comes to transportation funding, Republicans in the U.S. House and Democrats in the Senate

TML Policy Committee to meet Oct. 19; deadline for submissions Sept. 22

TML Policy Committee will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in the TML building located at 226 Capitol Boulevard in Nashville.

The Policy Committee marks the first step in the process that leads to the development of TML's legislative initiatives for the second session of the 107th General Assembly that convenes at noon on Jan. 10, 2012.

Registration

A "TML Policy Committee Registration Form" has already been emailed to city officials. It must be completed and returned for those who are interested in participating. Registration is also available online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RWJZCLC>.

Submissions

Have an idea to streamline or augment state law to increase efficiency or efficacy of local govern-

ment? Know of a law or regulation that is burdensome and costly to local governments? The policy committee affords you an opportunity to present your idea(s) for consideration by other local government officials from across the state. All ideas are welcome; however the League encourages initiatives with broad appeal that may benefit many cities.

Process for Submitting Initiatives for Consideration by Policy Committees

Only those initiatives sponsored by a city/town and submitted, in writing, to TML by **Thursday, Sept. 22**, will be considered by the Policy Committees. Each submission must include a summary of the problem, a description of the proposed remedy, and a statement of the anticipated benefits to municipalities pursuing the proposed ac-

tion. A "Proposed Legislative Initiative Form" can be accessed on line at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RY7B87P>. It must be submitted to TML by Sept. 22.

Presenting Initiatives

The sponsoring city must attend the policy committee meeting to present an initiative to the policy committee, without exception. If the sponsoring city is not present to explain the initiative, the committee will not consider the proposal. In such cases, the proposal will be forwarded to the TML Legislative Committee with the note that the sponsoring city was not present and the proposal was not reviewed, ranked or approved by the policy committee.

Thank you for your participation. For questions or additional information, contact the TML offices at 615-255-6416.

Small town hosts the nation's largest concert

Handling the onslaught of traffic, crime and health needs of the 80,000 people who attend Bonnaroo every year is an art form for local officials.

BY ZACH PATTON
Governing Magazine

For 361 days a year, the old McAllister Farm outside Manchester, Tenn., is a quiet, uninhabited patchwork of fields and trees. But for four days every summer, the farm morphs into the sixth-largest city in the state of Tennessee, packed tight with nearly 100,000 people. That's because the 750-acre farm is home to Bonnaroo, a massive annual concert event that's become a mecca for music lovers around the globe.

Bonnaroo is big. Really big. Since it debuted in 2002, it has become the largest festival of its kind in North America -- bigger than Lollapalooza, Coachella and Burning Man. Rolling Stone has called Bonnaroo "the ultimate over-the-top summer festival." Every year, a sold-out crowd of approximately 80,000 concertgoers descends on the farm outside Manchester, along with another 5,000 or so guests and crew members, and thousands more volunteers. Most of the attendees camp on the farm, but hotels for miles around are also booked solid a year in advance.

All that can be more than a little overwhelming for the small town of Manchester, a sleepy burg of about 10,000 people, about 65 miles southeast of Nashville. When Bonnaroo's not around, Manchester has the lazy feel of Anytown, U.S.A., with a placid little courthouse square at one end of the main drag and a string of fast-food chains out by the interstate.

Hosting a large-scale event is a challenge for any city, but it's particularly daunting when a festival's arrival means a tenfold increase in the local population. Handling the onslaught of traffic, crime and health needs of that many people is an art form for local officials. The event this June marked the concert's 10th anniversary, and officials say the



"It's a hayfield during most of the year, but once they get set up, it's kind of amazing," says Manchester Safety Commissioner Ross Simmons. "Bonnaroo is a city within itself."

past decade has been an extended course in crowd control.

"Bonnaroo is a lot of work," says Manchester Mayor Betty Superstein. "But it's a lot of fun. And the community really has kind of embraced it."

The big reason residents have come to love the Bonnaroo ballyhoo is the concert's financial impact -- the event pumps \$20 million a year into the local economy. In addition, the concert has contributed more than \$1 million to charity groups in Manchester and surrounding Coffee County. Earlier this summer, for example, the town saw the opening of a new amphitheater funded entirely through contributions from Bonnaroo. There are other business impacts, too: The large-scale stage construction company that builds the venues for Bonnaroo recently relocated from Los Angeles to Coffee County, and three new hotels have opened in Manchester in the past two years. "I can't see why

three new hotels would go up except for one reason," says Superstein. "And that's Bonnaroo."

Still, the sheer size of the event means lots of work for local officials. "For Bonnaroo week, everybody's got a duty," says Manchester Commissioner of Safety Ross Simmons, who heads up the city's police and fire departments. Managing the arrival of the concert, he says, is like coordinating with a neighboring town. "It's a hayfield most of the year, but once they get set up, it's kind of amazing. Bonnaroo is a city within itself."

Ask any local official about the first year of Bonnaroo, and you'll get a universally negative response: "Horrible," says Superstein. "Awful," says Simmons. "A nightmare," says Coffee County Sheriff Steve Graves.

They're referring to the traffic, which was by all accounts, epically bad. The concert that year had only *See BONNAROO on Page 8*

Transportation deadlock in Congress worries states

have drafted plans that are miles apart philosophically. Hardly anyone expects that they will be able to reach agreement by the end of September. The question is whether they can agree to give themselves an extension, and on what terms.

Jack Basso of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials is not panicked yet. "We believe members of Congress, particularly congressional leadership in both houses, understand the importance of these programs to the economy and the jobs market," he says. The federal gas tax, which stands at 18.4 cents a gallon, brings in an enormous amount of money for local construction projects and the jobs that come with them, Basso notes.

Gas tax fight

A new highway bill has been on Congress' to-do list since the last major rewrite expired in 2009. Since then, the lawmakers have more or less kept the same plan on the books through seven different extensions.

"We'll get another extension. I'm extremely — about 99 percent — certain," says Robert Poole, director of transportation policy at the Reason Foundation, a libertarian group. He says so despite recent reports that anti-tax groups would fight for the outright elimination of the federal gas tax. Poole believes the idea of bringing the gas tax to a halt — along with the federal highway program that depends on it — is "a complete pipe dream."

One of the groups pushing for the end of the federal gas tax is Americans for Tax Reform, the influential anti-tax organization that made its presence felt during the recent debt ceiling debate. Mattie Corrao, ATR's manager of government affairs, says the group does want to see the end of the federal gas tax, but it is pushing a gradual approach.

But she says members of Congress who have promised ATR not to raise taxes could vote for a gas tax extension without breaking that

pledge, because the tax is already on the books.

Even if members can be persuaded to support an extension, they must deal with the fact that the federal gas tax does not bring in enough money to pay for all of the transportation projects it is now supposed to fund. Three times since 2008, Congress has had to supplement gas tax revenues by depositing extra money into the Highway Trust Fund, the primary source of federal transportation money. Those transfers add up to \$34.5 billion, while the yearly total for federal transportation spending under the current highway bill is \$48.8 billion.

The shortfall is expected to grow even bigger. The gas tax rate has been the same since 1993, but, because it is tied to the number of gallons sold rather than the price of gas, it has not kept up with inflation. As cars and trucks become more fuel-efficient, the gap widens.

A new debate

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NEWS
ACROSS
TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

ATHENS
More than 200 people celebrated the grand opening of Athens’ Market Park in the park’s recently built pavilion. Pick Tennessee Products, a Tennessee Department of Agriculture program created to promote locally grown produce, co-hosted the celebration as part of its 25th anniversary tour. Market Park was selected as only one of 10 tour sites statewide. Austin Fesmire, director of Athens Parks & Recreation, welcomed local, state and federal officials who supported the creation of the market. Market Park’s second building phase will include public restrooms and concrete walkways, which are scheduled to be completed by November 2012. A second pavilion is expected to follow.

CHATTANOOGA
Chattanooga abolished the former joint city-county library board and established a city-only library board. The moves come months after the expiration of a 45-year-old sales tax agreement between the city and Hamilton County. The agreement spelled out how the city and the county broke down their financial responsibilities for agencies jointly funded by the pair. Chattanooga decided not to renew the agreement. Afterward, the city took complete control of funding of the library, so Mayor Ron Littlefield decided the city should form a city-only board.

CHATTANOOGA
After years of talking, a local group says matching money is in place for a federal grant to help advance a

proposed Chattanooga-to-Atlanta high-speed rail project. The head of the rapid rail initiative for Chattanooga’s Enterprise Center, Joe Ferguson, said the \$3.3 million will secure a \$13.8 million grant for the Georgia Department of Transportation. The money will be spent partly to speed up an environmental assessment and study routes. Ferguson said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood told him that the money should still be available despite federal withholding of some money because of budget shortfalls. Georgia applied for the grant in December 2008.

CLEVELAND
Cleveland High School has opened the doors to its \$8 million science wing. Twelve years ago, the city built a new commons area and renovated part of the building, but there was not enough money for the science rooms. The Max R. Carroll Science Wing brings 21st century science education to the school. Carroll, one of the dignitaries present for the open house, served on the Cleveland Board of Education for 25 years and led the search for land for several of the school system’s newest facilities during those years.

COLUMBIA
The final plans for the James Campbell Boulevard Corridor were revealed to the public. The project is focused on renovating the boulevard into a modern, attractive corridor that is accessible to pedestrians. The effort is being funded by a \$250,000 grant awarded to the city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The proposal for the

road is a “multi-lane boulevard” including two main lanes, each with a “side access” lane. The plan from Tennessee Planning and Urban Design Collaborative also includes a blend of housing with commercial development. Norman Wright, Columbia’s planning director, said the city will seek more grants to fund the project, and hope to present the plan to the city council by October.

EAGLEVILLE
City offices moved to a new city hall located at 108 Main St. The uncompleted restaurant building, which the city purchased, is six times larger than the size of the former city hall and has individual offices for city staff.

EAST RIDGE
The East Ridge City Council voted unanimously to create their own Municipal Planning Commission. The vote comes after the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission deferred action for 60 days on the proposed East Ridge fireworks regulation ordinance that was recommended to the commission by Regional Planning Agency staff. Mayor Brent Lambert stated by forming the city’s own municipal planning commission, East Ridge “will be able to plan its own future without being subject to extended delays by others.”

JACKSON
The Jackson City Council voted unanimously to approve \$3 million to help buy Lambuth University’s campus for the University of Memphis, including a \$1 million contribution from West Tennessee Healthcare. Council members voted in support of a resolution to fund the city’s share of the purchase and closing expenses needed to acquire the Lambuth campus. The city, county, West Tennessee Healthcare and Jackson Energy Authority have offered the Lambuth board of trustees a combined \$7.9 million total for the purchase.



Officials hold a watermelon cutting to celebrate the grand opening of the Market Park pavilion in Downtown Athens. Pictured l-r: Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Julius Johnson, state Rep. John Forgety, TDEC deputy commissioner Brock Hill, Athens Mayor Hal Buttram, state Director USDA Rural Development Bobby Goode, McMinn County Mayor John Gentry, Maxine Gernert, representing U.S. Rep. John Duncan Jr. and Evan Freeman, representing U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander.

fered the Lambuth board of trustees a combined \$7.9 million total for the purchase.

JACKSON
Construction of a wellness center in downtown Jackson is scheduled to start the first week of October. The center is part of a larger development plan that will encompass about 17 acres north of downtown just north of the farmer’s market. The wellness center will be the anchor for the several phase project, proposed to include retail centers, an apartment complex and single-family housing. It is scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2012.

KINGSTON
TVA unveiled plans to convert a disaster zone still in cleanup mode into public areas featuring a new park, recreational area and walking trails near wetlands fed by natural springs. More than 100 people, during an open house, heard the conceptual proposals for land TVA has acquired in Roane County’s Swan Pond community. The area was ravaged in 2008 when 5.4 million cubic yards of coal ash sludge burst from a ruptured holding pond next to TVA’s Kingston Fossil Plant. As part of the \$1 billion-plus, years-long cleanup, TVA purchased 889 nearby acres within 171 tracts for \$46.6 million. Now on TVA’s drawing board: razing of houses on Lakeshore Drive, located on a narrow peninsula next to the Emory River; and conversion of that 35-acre area into a new dawn-to-dusk TVA park where a boat ramp, two fishing piers and walking trail are planned.

KINGSTON
Two pieces of World Trade Center steel arrived by police escort to East Tennessee thanks to Andrew Benson, a Tennessee Valley Authority employee. The former New York native, worked with the World Trade Center Foundation to bring nearly five tons of steel to the area for a future 9/11 memorial at the TVA Fossil Plant. The memorial is expected to be complete by the 9/11 anniversary this year and a dedication service is planned. The other piece of steel will be given to the Cumberland Volunteer Fire Department as a way to thank them for their services during 9/11.

MEMPHIS
Kruger plans to invest \$316 million to expand its existing Memphis mill located at 400 Mahannah Avenue. The company will implement state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment increasing its production capacity by 18 percent. The expansion will create 100 jobs. The project involves the construction of a new building and the purchase of a new tissue machine, as well as converting and handling equipment.

MEMPHIS
Business Facilities magazine has named Memphis as the No. 1 logistics, distribution and shipping hub in the country for 2011. The magazine noted Memphis is considered North America’s premiere, and perhaps only, aerropolis. “Memphis has an

unsurpassed combination of air, rail, land and water shipping possibilities,” Business Facilities Editor-in-Chief Jack Rogers said. The magazine mentioned the city’s “superior road and rail networks and its port on the Mississippi River along with having the FedEx Corp world headquarters, and one of the busiest cargo airports in the world. Memphis’ five Class I railroads have in recent years, invested more than \$500 million in new or expanded rail systems, which already bring more than 200 trains through the city each day.

MEMPHIS
The Memphis City Council has approved a \$215 million financing package to turn The Pyramid into a Bass Pro Shops destination store and to invest in full ownership of the neighboring Memphis Cook Convention Center. The Center City Revenue Finance Corp., the finance arm of the Downtown Memphis Commission, will issue bonds to fund the project, which are to be paid back through increased sales tax revenue collected downtown.

MORRISTOWN
Meritor, Inc. announced it will expand its precision forging manufacturing operations. The company confirmed an investment of \$26.6 million in new production equipment to serve the needs of the North American commercial truck market. The investment will be made over a period of five years and will result in the creation of 29 new positions over three years to accommodate the increased production capacity. An additional 45 jobs could be created in time, if the commercial truck market continues to improve and production volume increases. The plant currently employs 376 employees.

RIPLEY
Quaprotek USA has decided to locate a manufacturing facility for the production of metal parts for vehicles, engines and power trains in Ripley. The German-based company will invest \$22 million to fit out a 63,000 square foot existing building on Highland Street, creating 126 jobs over a five year period to supply leading manufacturers within the automotive industry.

SPRING HILL
City leaders voted unanimously to stop adding fluoride to city water. Alderman Amy Wurth asked the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for the change, on the grounds that the supplement appears in many more sources than it did in 1945, when fluoridation began as a way to reduce dental decay. Twelve states and the District of Columbia require fluoride use in public water systems. In Tennessee, community water systems make that decision locally. Of the 479 community water systems in Tennessee, 303 add fluoride, according to TDEC’s Division of Water Supply. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services plans to lower the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water for the first time in nearly 50 years to reduce the possibility of children receiving too much fluoride.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey has been elected to the National Conference of State Legislatures’ Executive Committee. Lawmakers from around the nation chose Ramsey during NCSL’s 2011 Legislative Summit in San Antonio, Texas. NCSL was founded in 1975 to advance the effectiveness, independence, and integrity of the 50 state legislatures as equal coordinate branches of government.



Ramsey

Tennessee Department of Transportation Chief Engineer Paul Degges, P.E., has been selected to serve a two-year term as vice chairman of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Standing Committee on Highways. The committee is responsible for developing all major engineering standards and policies for the highway program, as well as investigating, studying, and reporting on all engineering activities and developments. Degges, the youngest individual to become Chief Engineer, has been with TDOT 23 years and has overseen the awarding of more than 2,800 projects with a construction value of more than \$5.6 billion. In 2008, he was named “Government Engineer of the Year” by the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers.



Degges

Ana L. Escobar is the newly-appointed Metropolitan Clerk of Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County. Escobar will replace Marilyn Swing, who led Nashville’s official record keeping agency for 27 years. Escobar, who will become the first Hispanic woman to head a department of Metro government, is a graduate of George Washington University Law School and Vanderbilt University and has devoted her career to the practice of criminal law.



Escobar

Mike Walker has been selected as La Vergne’s new police chief. Walker retired in September 2010 as Colonel of the Tennessee Highway Patrol after 33 years of service. As the top officer of the state police, he managed 899 sworn troops and 125 civilians. In addition, Walker was responsible for preparing and managing annual budgets in excess of \$100 million on behalf of the THP.



Walker

Betty Blair, a 17-year veteran Tennessee Highway Patrol, has become the first woman promoted to the rank of major. Blair began as a road trooper in the Cookeville District in 1994, most recently heading the Inspectional Services Bureau as a captain. Capt. Vic Donoho will succeed Blair.



Blair

Lynn Tully is Kingsport’s new Planning & Community Development Director replacing Alan Webb, who retired after 27 years. Assuming the position on August 1, Tully is a certified professional planner. She most recently served as director for District 2 of the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association and has 16 years planning experience, 11 in Atlanta’s rapidly growing North Metro area.



Tully

Spring City officials recently named Vicki Doster as their new city manager.

Robin Grubb, La Vergne Parks and Recreation director, has retired to accept a position as Deputy Commander of the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. During her tenure the activities offered by the department expanded to include Howl at the Moon 5K Run, Trail of Treats, and Summer Camp for Kids, as well as numerous sports programs. Grubb was recognized at a reception Aug. 23rd.

Longtime Oak Ridge Code Enforcement Department division manager, Tim Ward, has retired. Ward began working for the city in December 1978 as a building inspector supervisor. Ward has received numerous awards and served as a member of local and international boards of directors, including the board of governors of the World Organization of Building Officials, which represents the United States, Canada, Japan, Jordan, China, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Australia, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom.



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Kingsport reaches for the brass ring with carousel project

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

Eye popping colors, Victorian gold leaf. Scramble onto the back of a wild, but gentle steed. Race round and up; round and down to the music in the breeze. Don't forget to grab the brass ring!

Virtual technology may never reproduce the glorious splendor of that first carousel ride. But a group of citizens, members of Engage Kingsport, the Cutral Arts Division of Kingsport's Park and Recreation Department, and the Carousel Task Force, are working to safeguard the magic for Kingsport's future generations. It's been a tremendous effort, where just one wooden figure can take up to 400 hours to carve. And the original "Four Horsemen," as they like to be called, Reggie Martin, Milton Nelson, Ted Heilig and George Gibson, along with Bud Ellis, their instructor at Horsin' Around Studios, well...they aren't youngsters anymore. Which makes it all the more endearing that the four men would take on the task of carving, sanding and painting the whimsical creatures that will one day come to life on the Kingsport Carousel.



Valerie Joh, Kingsport Alderman and the wife of the late Gale Joh, carves a horse for the kingsport carousel project at Bud Ellis' studio.

It all started with the vision of the late Gale Joh. Originally from Binghamton, NY, Joh grew up in a town with six carousels, where lucky children could ride all day to their heart's content for free. As an adult, Joh moved on to Kingsport to work for Eastman Chemical Co., but the bright lights and ponies from his carousel days were never far from his memories.

In 2008, Joh pitched the idea of a Kingsport carousel to Bonnie MacDonald, the city's cultural arts administrator, but community inter-

est was slow in the beginning. In 2009, he asked Kiwanis Club member, Reggie Martin to head an early Carousel Task Force to help create a spark. Unfortunately, Joh passed away before he could see his vision ignite. However, his wife, Kingsport Alderman Valerie Joh, also a volunteer carver, knows he would be pleased. "My husband very much wanted a carousel in Kingsport," Alderman Joh said. "He took the idea to his Kiwanis Club and never let it drop."

"It sounded like a fascinating project," said Martin. "I started doing some research and found several communities around the country had done what we're doing; a community build project, with volunteers carving the wooden animals for the carousel."

Joh's research had led him to Bud Ellis, who runs his own carving school, "Horsin' Around" in Soddy-Daisy. It seems that for about 26 years, people from all over the U.S. have been making a silent pilgrimage to Soddy-Daisy just to spend time at Ellis' shop, where they learn the fine craft of carving and making take-home souvenirs. What is the master carver and former UT art teacher's specialty? Carousel animals. Lots of



The original "Four Horsemen," volunteer carvers working with the Kingsport Carousel project, with Bud Ellis at Horsin' Around Studio in Soddy Daisy. From left to right: Ted Heilig, Milton Nelson, Bud Ellis, Reggie Martin and George Gibson.

Coolidge Park project," Ellis chuckles, reflecting on his past resume'. Completed in 1997, the Coolidge Park carousel is considered large, with 52 steeds. "If I had known what I faced, I might not have agreed to do it," he said. "It took me 12 years to carve all those figures." But after he was contacted about Kingsport's community build project, Ellis readily agreed to tutor Martin and all the others. So far, he's instructed more than 10 volunteers.

"We lost most of the carousels in the 70s," Ellis notes. "But there's been a real resurgence of interest in cities across the U.S. Grandparents bring their grandkids, so we have a whole new generation of fans." According to Ellis, a newly carved figure like the ones made in his shop, could cost as much as \$4,000-\$8,000. But the antique collectibles can fetch roughly \$20,000 apiece. "People remember them from

tourists who like to watch us carve here Monday-Friday from 10 am-5 pm."

While financing the carousel is a challenge, providence has smiled upon the project in several ways. "We recieved two grants from the "Arts Build Communities" program of the Tennessee Arts Commission as well as a grant from the East Tennessee Foundation," MacDonald said. The city of Kingsport also donated property near the new Farmer's Market on Clinchfield Street, where the carousel's traditional "round house" building will be constructed.

"The city has been a tremendous help in kind," Martin said. "After we build the carousel, we plan to turn it over to the Parks & Rec department." An existing two-story building at the carousel site will be used for birthday parties and anniversaries with a large gift shop and

to see if I'm dreaming. We had been in contact with a carousel dealer in California, Brass Ring Entertainment, and told him we had no money. We asked him to look for something we could afford," Martin recalls. The dealer called nearly two years later to say he had located a frame that had been in storage for six years at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, CT. Martin immediately e-mailed the zoo's assistant director to tell him about Kingsport's project.

"We spoke the next day by phone, Martin said. "He told me they were fascinated with our community build project and wanted to help us. He said he had spoken with the zoo's directors and they all agreed that if we wanted the frame, to just come and get it. I almost fell out of my chair!" Martin added.

Within hours, the volunteer group was well on its way to Bridgeport. They later learned the zoo had



A carousel frame rests in Bud Ellis' Horsin' Around Studio in Soddy-Daisy, where folks travel from all over the U.S. to learn how to carve carousel animals.

their childhoods and want one of their own, but they can't afford the older figures," Ellis said. "That's why they make them at my school."

The Kingsport Carousel will have 35 figures, half of which will be horses, and the remainder, a combination of wildlife. "We will have one dragon," said Martin, "along with a giraffe, zebras, wolves, lions, a rabbit and a frog. And thanks to the city, the volunteers no longer have to make the three-hour trek to Ellis' school to do their carving; they have their own studio right in Kingsport."

The shop is set up in the Lynn View Community Center, which is managed by the city's Parks and Recreation Department. "The Parks & Rec department was very generous in providing the space," said Martin. "We have a lot of interested

carving studio on the first floor.

"We're trying to raise funds in two ways," said Martin "We're selling brick pavers which start at \$100 each, that will be placed in the area near the carousel in the new Food City complex. We're also selling sponsorships for the carousel animals. They start at \$5,000 and go up to \$7,000, depending on the size of the animal." The carousel's chariots will be sponsored at \$10,000 each. And a brass plaque will be placed under each animal and chariot providing the name of the carver, painter and sponsor.

Then there's the story of how the group obtained the carousel's unique 1956-vintage Herschel frame for free. "The frame is truly a miracle," MacDonald said. Martin agrees. "I have to pinch myself just

been advertising to sell the frame for \$20,000.

While Martin says the frame still needs \$25,000 to \$30,000 in reconditioning to be fully operational, additional fundraising efforts will feature regional artwork along the outside panels, called rounding boards. "We will have spaces for 24 original paintings, which will be sponsored at \$1,000 each," he said. "These will be done by local artists as scenes from the Kingsport area or from Kingsport's history. It's very ornate and a gift that's going to be absolutely beautiful when it's finished."

The carousel has a projected June 2013 opening date, with multiple volunteer opportunities still available. Carvers, painters, sanders, mechanics, carpenters, electricians and others are welcome.

Carousel Facts

- Although carousels were in existence as early as the 1800s, the "Golden Age of Carousels" in America lasted two decades, 1905-1925, due to the large numbers of carousels built then. Today, a number of the "Golden Age" carousels have been restored and operate at various locations around the country.
- Since 1973, the National Carousel Association has been working to keep America's remaining carousels in operation. Visit the National Carousel Association at <http://www.nca-usa.org/>
- Engage Kingsport in partnership with the Carousel Project Task Force, is interested in contracting with an architectural/design/construction firm for the Kingsport Carousel facility. For the complete Request for Qualifications, call the Cultural Arts office at 423-392-8416. Responses are due by August 31.
- For more information about the Kingsport Carousel project, visit www.kingsportcarousel.org/a-carousel-for-kingsport-presentation.

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MTAS, IPS staff recognized for outstanding service

The UT Institute for Public Service (IPS) annual awards were presented at the IPS conference held July 21-22 in Murfreesboro. This year, 16 awards totaling more than \$7,000 were given. About 76 nominations were received for awards recognizing 54 individuals and seven projects.

At the annual Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) meeting held in conjunction with IPS' conference, MTAS Executive Director Steve Thompson recognized the work of six MTAS staff members with MTAS achievement awards.

Ralph Cross, MTAS finance and accounting consultant, received the coveted Victor Hobday Award. Established in 1988 in

honor of Vic Hobday, known as the most influential executive director in the history of MTAS, the award celebrates individuals who best display outstanding dedication and service to the agency.

Customer Service Awards were presented to: Tess Davis, MTAS administrative specialist (business office); Michelle Buckner, administrative specialist (CMFO) and Elaine Morrisey, administrative support assistant (Training Program). Bonnie Jones, human resource consultant, and Josh Jones, MTAS legal consultant, both received MTAS Trailblazer Awards.

Pat Hardy, MTAS management consultant, received the Five Franklins Award, which is presented to an individual who has made a

significant contribution on at least one major project during the last year, resulting in high customer impact and high customer value.

IPS staff member Becky Smeltzer, Technical Services Librarian recieved the Beacon Award, recognizing an individual, either non-exempt or exempt employee, who has demonstrated a continued capacity for providing top-notch services behind the scenes, by having first-hand knowledge of projects and by helping support agency outcomes.

Emily Keyser, Administrative Support Assistant (Codes Production) was presented the Horizon Award, presented to a regular full-time or part-time non-exempt employee with less than three years of



Cross nets Hobday Award

service with an IPS agency. The recipient must demonstrate a positive attitude, show initiative, be a team player and exemplify excellence in performance.



Sept. 10-11 Germantown

40th annual Germantown Festival
Held at 7701 Poplar Pike. Family fun with arts and crafts, jewelry, pottery, metal, woodwork, hand-stitched garments, paintings, photography, purses, garden accessories, food, live music and kid's area. Enter your little precious in the "Best Dressed Weenie Contest" or "Running of the Weenies" dachshund race. Admission is free with ample parking. For more information, call 901-757-9212 or visit the website www.germantownfest.com.

Sept. 17: Munford

Celebrate Munford
The 27th annual event held in Historic Downtown Munford with car show, children's area, arts and crafts, food, art and photography displays, games, and free entertainment with alternative, gospel and Center stages. For more information, visit www.munford.com or call 901-837-5972.

Sept 24: Thompsons Station

Fall Festival and Craft Fair
Held at Thompson's Station Park at 1513 Thompson's Station Road W. Arts & crafts, live entertainment music and a variety of foods. For more information, call 615-794-4333

Sept 23 -Sept 24: Columbia

Southern Fried Festival
Held at I Public Square. Three music stages, Kid Zone, arts & crafts, Cooking Challenge, food, vendors, Zinghopper Kids performance and much more . For more information, call 888-852-1860.

Sept. 23-24: Sweetwater

National Muscadine Festival
Several events held at Tsali Notch, Tennessee's largest muscadine vineyard, a few miles from Historic Downtown Sweetwater. Activities include a jelly-making demonstration, live music, storytelling, and picking fresh muscadine grapes. Other activities include a Black Tie and Blue Jean Dinner at Sweetwater Valley Farm, a 5k Road Race, parade, food and art vendors, free horse show, BBQ competition, inflatables, art shows, and much more. For more information, call Jessica Morgan at 423-337-6979.

Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Bartlett

2011 Bartlett Festival & Car Show
Held at W. J. Freeman Park, 2629 Bartlett Blvd. Friday from 6-10 pm and Sat. from 9:30am-5pm. This family friendly event kicks off Fri. evening with a midway carnival, vendors and live music starting at 6:30 p.m. Sat. events include a BBQ cooking contest, music stages, arts & crafts, car show, children's activities, food and more. Free admission. For more information, call 901-385-5589 or email dmorrison@cityofbartlett.org



Buckner



Davis



Jones



Jones



Morrisey



Pat Hardy, MTAS management consultant, receives the Five Franklins Award, pictured with Mary Jinks, IPS vice president of Public Service.



Becky Smeltzer, IPS Technical Services librarian, receives the Beacon Award.



Emily Keyser, administrative support assistant, is presented the Horizon Award.

Southwest Development District hires regional planners

With the recent elimination of the regional planners from the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development's payroll, cities and counties across Tennessee were faced with a dilemma regarding maintaining the planning services on which they've come to depend.

Through the efforts of Southwest Tennessee Development District and its executive board, several cities and two counties came together to share the expense of contracting for the services of two regional planners. Shelton Merrell and Thomas Skehan have been hired by SWTDD to fill the coopera-

tive role. The communities that have united are the cities of Bolivar, Brownsville, Henderson, Lexington, Parsons and Stanton and the counties of Hardeman and Haywood.

SWTDD's planning services include attendance at planning and/or board of zoning appeals meetings; assistance in preparing/reviewing of long range work programs; preparation of comprehensive plans, Public Chapter 1101 Growth Management Plans and amendments, and other planning studies and documents; preparation of land use controls for adoption, implementation and enforcement by local community officials, including but not limited to

zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, flood plain management regulations, or other land use controls; review of development proposals; advice and assistance to administrators of zoning, subdivision regulations and other land use controls.

Merrell and Skehan also will provide training for planning com-



Merrell



Skehan

missions, boards of zoning appeal and local administrators; assist in providing information and interpretation on planning programs/activities to the public through meetings and conferences, news releases and presentations; and provide advice and assistance on matters relating to state, federal, and regional programs that affect planning and implementation.

For more information about SWTDD's planning services, contact Shelton at smerrell@swtdd.org or 731-668-6430 and Thomas at tskehan@swtdd.org or 731-668-6429.

Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund board to meet Sept. 8

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund will meet in regular public session on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, at 11:00 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 Director's 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. 2, at the offices of TMBF at that address. Additional information concerning the above may be obtained from Linda Mooringham, 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 representing more than \$951.7 million in annual payroll exposures;
- 18,960 municipal vehicles with total insurable values of some \$350 million for liability coverage; and provides
- general liability coverage for 16,407 miles of streets.



Tennessee revenue collections continue modest growth in July

Tennessee revenue collections continued a very modest growth trend in July. Finance and Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes announced a net positive growth of 1.17 percent over July collections of one year ago. Overall July revenues were \$843.3 million or \$19.9 million more than the state budgeted.

July marks the 12th consecutive month this year in which total collections have exceeded the budgeted estimates. July sales tax collections represent consumer spending that took place in the month of June.

“The year-to-date growth in both sales and corporate tax collections indicates a very slow economic recovery in Tennessee, and it means we must continue to cautiously move forward in managing the state’s budget,” Emkes said. “Additional concern for us at the state level is that economic indicators are showing a very slow national recovery.”

The general fund was over collected by \$2.3 million, and the four other funds were over collected by \$17.6 million.

Sales tax collections were \$30.5 million more than the estimate for July. The July growth rate was 4.87 percent. For 12 months revenues are over collected by \$226.1 million. The year-to-date growth rate for 12 months was positive 4.62 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$5 million under the budgeted estimate of \$55.4 million. The growth rate for July was negative 2.10 percent. For 12 months revenues are over collected by \$42.8 million and the year-to-date growth

REVENUE COLLECTIONS JULY, 2011, AND 12 MONTHS YEAR-TO-DATE			
July Collections:			
	Budgeted Accrual Estimate	Actual	Difference
General Fund	\$667,088,000	\$669,349,000	\$2,261,000
Highway Fund	57,936,000	75,141,000	17,205,000
Sinking Fund	31,089,000	31,183,000	94,000
City & County Fund	65,220,000	65,570,000	350,000
Earmarked Fund	2,050,000	2,050,000	0
Total	\$823,383,000	\$843,293,000	\$19,910,000
Year-To-Date Collections:			
	Budgeted Accrual Estimate	Actual	Difference
General Fund	\$8,389,700,000	\$8,611,004,000	\$221,304,000
Highway Fund	665,900,000	687,610,000	21,710,000
Sinking Fund	369,200,000	370,831,000	1,631,000
City & County Fund	801,100,000	825,898,000	24,798,000
Earmarked Fund	24,600,000	24,600,000	0
Total	\$10,250,500,000	\$10,519,943,000	\$269,443,000

rate was positive 6.66 percent.

Inheritance and estate tax collections were \$5.6 million below the July estimate. For 12 months collec-

tions are \$21.1 million above the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax collections were \$2.4 million below the July budgeted estimate. For 12 months collections are \$12 million less than the budgeted estimate, and the year-to date growth rate was positive 1.57 percent.

Tobacco tax collections were \$557,000 below the budgeted estimate of \$26.1 million. For 12 months revenues are under collected by \$7.7 million.

Gasoline and motor fuel tax collections for July were under collected by \$350,000. For 12 months revenues are over collected by \$10.3 million. All other taxes for July were over collected by a net of \$3.3 million.

Year-to-date collections for

twelve months were \$269.4 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$221.3 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$48.1 million.

The budgeted revenue estimates for 2010-2011, are based on the State Funding Board’s consensus recommendation of April 7, 2010 and adopted by the second session of the 106th General Assembly in June. They are available on the state’s website at www.tn.gov/finance/bud/budget.html.

The State Funding Board met on the 8th and 14th of December 2010, and again on February 7, 2011. As a result of these meetings the board adopted mid-year revised revenue ranges for 2010-2011. The board issued a formal letter addressed to

the Governor and Chairman of House and Senate Finance Ways and Means Committees dated February 25, 2011, detailing the board’s actions.

The 2010-2011 revised ranges adopted by the board reflect growth rates ranging from 3.60 percent to 4 percent in total taxes, and 3.95 percent to 4.45 percent in general fund taxes.

Based on the board’s consensus recommendation, the official budgeted estimates for 2010-2011 were revised in March 2011.

The revised estimates are reflected on pages A-72 and A-74 in the 2011-2012 Budget Document and assume an over collection in total taxes in the amount of \$198.5 million, and an over collection of \$161.3 million in general fund taxes. Year-to-date collections through July compared to the February revision are \$70.9 million above the total estimate, and \$42.8 million above the general fund estimate. The four other funds that share in state tax collections are \$28.1 million above the revised estimate.

The funding board met again on April 12, 2011, to hear updated revenue estimating presentations on the state’s near-term economic outlook for fiscal years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, taking final action on April 15 to revise the February ranges.

The action taken by the board in April recognized an increase at the top of the range for 2010-2011 from 4 percent to 4.15 percent in total taxes and from 4.45 percent to 4.50 percent in general fund taxes. The result of this action increased projected revenues for total taxes by \$15.1 million and general fund taxes by \$15.2 million for this fiscal year. This increase was recognized in the administration’s budget amendment and adopted by the General Assembly on May 21, 2011.

Year-to-date collections through July compared to the final action taken by the board and approved by the General Assembly are \$55.8 million above the total estimate, and \$27.6 million above the general fund estimate.

Year-to-date collections for 2010-2011 are subject to final accrual adjustments.

State departments plan for 30% cuts in Federal funding

With the recent federal law that will reduce federal spending, the state of Tennessee is developing contingency plans for significant federal aid reductions that will affect state fiscal year 2012-2013 services and possibly 2011-2012. About 40 percent of Tennessee’s state budget is funded by federal aid.

According to Mark Emkes, commissioner of Finance and Administration, the bond rating agencies have advised that all states will receive fewer federal dollars and as a result want to know how the state of Tennessee will respond to the reduction. State agencies have been asked to submit their reduction plans by Aug. 24.

The U.S. Budget Control Act of 2011 (U.S. Public Law 112-25) establishes mechanisms to restrain federal spending and decrease the projected federal deficit through the year 2021. The law places limits on federal spending and establishes a committee of Congress, which by Nov. 23 is directed to submit recommendations and legislation to Congress on program reductions. The act requires a vote by Congress by Dec. 23, with no amendments permitted. If the committee fails to report or Congress fails to endorse the legislation, then automatic across-the-board reductions would be applied to programs.

“While it is not possible for the state to know now what specific program reductions will be implemented by the federal government, we must plan,” stated Commissioner Emkes in a memo to all state agencies.

In order to understand the impact of potential federal reductions, all state agencies have been asked to submit contingency budget reduction plans for 15 and 30 percent reductions in federal aid. The reductions are to be submitted in two tiers, the first 15 percent and an additional 15 percent of recurring federal aid in the current-year work program.

The Budget Office has provided a template for development of the plans and the estimate of recurring federal revenues in the first draft of the work program. The reduction plans should be developed from those recurring federal revenue estimates, identify by state program the reduction amount, describe what programs and services are being reduced, and describe the impact.

All agencies receiving federal aid and agencies receiving interdepartmental or other departmental revenues which are derived from federal aid have been asked to submit the reduction plans.

In developing the plans, Commissioner Emkes said that state departments must assume that state revenues will not be used to maintain federal programs at the current funding level and are not to supplant federal funds with state revenues as a funding source for continuing services. In the reduction plan template, agencies are also asked to identify any matching state funds that would be no longer required to match the reduced federal sources. He said this process will help the Haslam Administration recommend priorities for the use of the unmatched state funds for continuing services.

Transportation deadlock worries states

ROADS from Page 1

For the first time in years, both Democrats and Republicans will have a plan in hand shortly after Labor Day. House Republicans, led by U.S. Rep. John Mica of Florida, have drafted a six-year plan that would scale back federal transportation spending to the levels brought in by the current gas tax. Depending on how you look at it, this would amount to between a 6 percent and a 35 percent reduction to states.

Poole says the drop-off is not very significant for states that planned on the end of extra stimulus money for transportation, funding that largely disappeared this summer. The states knew that stimulus support would be coming to an end. “States that have done their transportation planning that way shouldn’t have much of a problem with only 6 percent less than the average they’ve gotten per year,” Poole argues.

But David Goldberg, communications director at Transportation

for America, says the Mica plan will not be enough to keep up the country’s deteriorating roads and bridges.

“We cannot lock in a less-thanadequate, miserly view of what it takes to maintain and expand necessary infrastructure,” he says. “We have built an awful lot of highways out there. We built 40,000-some miles of interstates. Bridges are nearing the end of their design life all over the place.”

In the Senate, Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, put together a plan with modest spending increases. Her plan would only last two years.

Devolving to states

Americans for Tax Reform may not be promoting an immediate end to the federal gas tax, but the group is pushing for steps to send less transportation money to Washington. Instead, states ought to control more of their own resources, Corrao argues.

“The federal government sees

this as a big pot of money that they can spend on whatever projects they want,” she says. “What we’ve seen is the Highway Trust Fund abused for years, starting in the ’80s, for projects that are not highway-related... There’s no reason the people in Wyoming should be paying for the subway system in New York.”

But AASHTO’s Jack Basso says a national transportation plan is necessary in order to keep the country’s commerce flowing smoothly. The vast majority of freight, for example, travels on the highways. And the Interstate highway system, he says, requires good roads through sparsely populated states that would not be able to pay for that type of infrastructure on their own.

“The real question,” Basso says, “is can you maintain a national system, given the diversity and the breadth of geography in the country and the population situation, without some kind of national program? I think the answer is ‘No.’ ”



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STATE BRIEFS



BYTMLSTAFFREPORTS

State errors on NCLB guidelines

The Tennessee Department of Education’s misinterpretation of No Child Left Behind guidelines in 2007 meant Metro Nashville Public Schools, for the past four years, had wrongly been operating under a more severe classification of the federal law than it should have. State administrators have corrected the error. Still — in retrospect — consequences could have been severe, with a potential state or mayoral takeover of Metro schools riding on the line. The accountability workbook refers to a lengthy, state-drafted document — approved by the federal government — that sets how student test scores are interpreted under the No Child Left Behind law. The book determines what constitutes proficiency or failing when comparing one school year to the next. Two consecutive years of failing scores within the same subject area is the criteria to warrant a jump to a more severe classification of NCLB. State administrators apparently compared 2006 reading scores with 2007 math scores, and it hurt Metro’s NCLB standing.

UT receives smart grid grant

The University of Tennessee has received a National Science Foundation grant to research the overhaul of the nation’s electric power transmission system. The \$18 million grant is intended to help find ways to develop smart-grid technologies. UT Chancellor Jimmy Cheek said the university has the experts and the tools to lead development of a greener, safer and smarter power grid. The aim of the research is to develop methods to make the power grid more efficient and more reliable.

State closes wildlife center

Tennessee’s Catoosa Wildlife Management Area is closing to the public after officials found roads and trails had been made unsafe by sabotage. Wildlife officials say they have found nails, spikes and nail-boards at Catoosa since late June and added that the tires on some vehicles have been flattened. The sabotage began shortly after new rules changed the classification of wild hogs from a game animal to a nuisance animal targeted for eradication. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency notes the sabotage may be from hunters angry about the change because booby-traps have been found near wild hog traps. Catoosa covers approximately 80,000 acres in East Tennessee. Wildlife officials will search the area with metal detectors before the area reopens.

TN 1st in auto manufacturing

Business Facilities, a national economic development publication, has issued its annual 2011 State Rankings Report, and Tennessee has been named the No. 1 state in the nation for Automotive Manufacturing Strength for a second consecutive year. Tennessee also earned high honors for Transportation Infrastructure, Economic Growth Potential and Business Climate.

Funds bring fresh produce for school lunches, snacks
Tennessee schools will share \$3

million in federal funding for more students to eat healthy fresh fruit and vegetables this school year. The state was awarded a \$3.15 million grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to prepare the healthy snacks at no charge to students in 156 low-income elementary and middle schools.

Coneflower off endangered list

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is removing the Tennessee purple coneflower from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, thanks to more than 30 years of efforts to expand and protect the sunflower’s colonies. Long-term recovery efforts by several agencies and partnerships include the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), The Nature Conservancy, The Tennessee Division of Forestry, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The rare plant, which is a member of the sunflower family, is only found in the limestone barrens and cedar glades of Davidson, Rutherford, and Wilson counties.

More workers move to TN

More workers are moving into Tennessee than away from the state, according to the Atlas Vans Migration Patterns study. The study, tracking the numbers of workers transferred into and out of states by national corporations, found that 1,588 workers were transferred to Tennessee in 2010, compared to 1,282 transferred out. The inbound numbers in Tennessee have outpaced outbound numbers every year since 2003, when 1,908 workers moved to the state, versus 1,988 workers who moved out of the state. The Atlas Vans Migration Pattern tracked more than 75,000 total moves in 2010.

Officials say pension plan sturdy

Tennessee financial officials say they’re confident the state’s pension plan is in good shape long term despite the likelihood of continued stock market volatility and the recent Wall Street sell-off. The financial storm is causing an uneasiness among many state fund managers still trying to recover from steep losses during the recession. Some state officials are concerned taxpayers may have to foot the bill for billions in unfunded liabilities for government retirees. But Steve Curry, assistant to the Tennessee treasurer, says part of the reason the state is faring better than most is because of its conservative portfolio, which is made up of about 42

percent bonds.

Chestnuts roasting again

A fungus wiped out much of the species in the first part of the 1900s, but now the U.S. Forest Service is helping the American Chestnut start an artificial comeback, and many of the trees are growing in Tennessee. More than half of the nearly 3,000 saplings planted in three states are in Tennessee. Many of the young trees are crossed with a Chinese Chestnut in order to be more blight resistant. The strain is being called the “Restoration Chestnut.” The test sites are within National Forests, but the exact locations aren’t being disclosed so the trees can grow undisturbed. Chestnuts can reach 200 feet tall. The hardwoods were popular for lumber because of their straight, branchless trunks.

Court offenders can lose license

Under a new law, the state can take driver’s licenses away from criminal defendants who fail to pay their court costs and fines within a year of their cases closing. The law applies only to offenses charged after July 2. The legislation is expected to net the state \$5.2 million and local governments \$6.5 million a year, according to an analysis prepared by the Tennessee General Assembly Fiscal Review Committee. In Nashville/Davidson County alone, \$369.4 million of \$423.6 million in assessed court costs and fines went uncollected from 2000 to 2010. Opponents say the law is counterproductive because it will make it harder for defendants to drive to work and make the money they would need to pay the fees. The law includes provisions that would allow judges to stay the revocation of a defendant’s driver’s license if that person sets up a payment plan with the court.

Storm shelter tax savings

Storm shelters may qualify for state sales tax savings under recently passed legislation. The Tennessee Department of Revenue says Tennessee taxpayers who purchase qualifying building supplies to construct storm shelters between July 1 and Dec. 31 can save up to \$2,500 on sales tax paid on certain construction supplies. Individuals can file a claim for refunds for sales tax paid on these items. They also may claim a refund for tax paid by certain contractors. Items eligible for a refund include Sheetrock, insulation, flooring, construction tools, paint materials, hardware, brick, concrete block, lumber and other building materials.

TN Small Businesses ranked

Recently, *Business Leader* and *Who’s Who* Magazines of Tennessee ranked the Top 300 Small Businesses of the South. About 50 of the

Cities of Goodlettsville, Millersville receive Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award



Leaders from the cities of Millersville and Goodlettsville were on hand to receive the 2011 Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award for Aquatic Resource Preservation, honoring Sumner County’s Stream Watch Committee for their ongoing efforts. In the back row (l-r) are Jim Thomas, Goodlettsville city manager; Tim Ellis, Goodlettsville assistant city manager; Dan Toole, Millersville mayor; and Robert Mobley, Millersville city manager. Front row (l-r) are: TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau; Karen Smith, Millersville Stream Watch co-chair; Amy Murray, Goodlettsville Stream Watch co-chair; and Deputy Governor Claude Ramsey.

The Sumner County Streamwatch committee, comprised of volunteers from the cities of Goodlettsville and Millersville, received the Aquatic Resource Preservation Award at the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards ceremony.

This nine-member water quality committee was created to ensure the protection of Slaters and Mansker creeks. This non-profit committee has successfully cleaned the two streams through three separate events.

Activities include removing

more than 5,000 pounds of metal, which was recycled and generated \$500 in revenue; and collecting more than 500 bags of household trash, which was removed from the creeks and banks along with many larger items that would not fit into trash bags such as broken bikes, an above-ground swimming pool and tires.

The committee also successfully pursued the prosecution of one illegal dumping case in the city of Millersville, along with aiding in the correction of two illicit connections to Slaters Creek.

winners were from Tennessee. USR Healthcare in Nashville and Monogram Brands, LLC in Memphis placed among the Top 10. The businesses were ranked based on a combination of factors, including percentage of sales generated in their local market, revenue growth, businesses achievements and civic contributions. How the companies rank in their markets and against one another across the South is available online at www.businessleader.com/commonevent/index.aspx?id=1.

UT Extension loses 44 jobs

The University of Tennessee Extension says 44 grant-funded jobs providing nutrition education for Tennesseans using food stamps will be eliminated due to a \$2.9 million cut to funding. The affected workers in the Tennessee Nutrition and Consumer Education Program were notified that their positions would be eliminated on Sept. 30. The extension gets funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the nutrition education program through

the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

Accountant shortage in TN

Demand for accountants is growing faster than supply in the middle Tennessee area, and a shortage of accounting professors across the nation makes meeting future needs difficult, say local educators and workforce experts. Fueled by the concentration of corporate headquarters, the region will need almost 4,900 more accountants in a decade, a 33 percent increase, according to reports by the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The reports point to bright job prospects for certified accountants, but expose a local workforce mismatch. Heading off the shortage is difficult because it begins at the top of the profession, where too few accountants hold doctoral degrees that qualify them to teach. The number of accounting master’s graduates has slowly ticked up across Tennessee, but “completers” of various programs and training centers are down.

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Municipal Administration Program September Schedule

Stormwater Administrative Hearings

How do you defend and collect penalties? How do you avoid problems if a decision is appealed? This class provides municipal/county attorneys, public officials and municipal staff an understanding of administrative law and the fundamental components of administrative hearings. Instructors will discuss procedures of particular hearings such as: stormwater, water and wastewater and property maintenance.

During this highly interactive class, participants will view a video of administrative hearing procedures and witness a mock session that will illustrate the dos and don'ts of administrative hearings. You are not limited to “\$50 a day for the bad guys.” With the administrative penalty process, you can assess much higher penalties – in the case of stormwater, for example, \$5,000 per day per violation.

Who Should Attend?
This important class is recommended for elected officials, ap-

pointed officials, city attorneys, city recorders, codes enforcement officials, and utility and public works directors and managers.

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

Dates and locations
Sept. 26. Franklin
Sept. 27 Athens
Feb. 28 Kingsport
Feb. 29 Knoxville
Oct. 03 Jackson

Training Facilities
Franklin, *Williamson County Exposition Center, 4215 Long Lane*
Athens, *Conference Center, 2405 Decatur Pike*
Jackson *West Tennessee Center for Agricultural Research, Extension & Public Service, 605 Airways Blvd.*
Kingsport, *Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market St.*

Elected Officials Academy: Level 2

Time
Classes begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 pm.

Cost: \$200 per person
This one-time fee includes registration for both Elected Officials Academy Level I and II.

Instructors
Classes are taught by MTAS Training Consultants

Training Facilities
Knoxville, *UT Conference Center, 600 Henley St.*
Jackson, *West Tenn Center for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Public Service, 605 Airways Blvd.*

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Participants must complete five sessions to receive the Elected Officials Academy Level II certificate.

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS	
Knoxville Classes	
Sept. 21	Human Resources
Oct. 12	Public Works
Oct. 19	Fire Review
Nov. 2	Council at Work
Nov. 16	Police Review
Nov. 30	Water Wastewater

Elected Officials Academy: Level 1

Cost: \$200 per person
This one-time fee includes registration for both Elected Officials Academy Level I. Seating is limited, so please register in advance. Submit payment with your registration

Instructors
Classes are taught by MTAS Training Consultants

Training Facility
Clarksville City Hall
Second floor training room
One Public Square
Clarksville, TN 37040

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Participants must complete five sessions to receive the Elected Officials Academy Level I certificate.

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS	
Friday, Sept. 23	
• 5 pm – 7 pm	Ethics and Open Meetings
• 7 pm – 9 pm	Foundations and Structure of Municipal Government

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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.

To obtain a registration form, register or for additional information please visit the MTAS website at www.mtas.utk.edu under the training tab or contact MTAS at 865-974-0411. For more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or Elaine Morrissey at 865-974-0411.

Jackson Classes	
Sept. 28	Public Works
Oct. 12	Police Review
Oct. 26	Water Wastewater
Nov. 9	Council at Work
Nov. 30	Human Resources
Dec. 14	Fire Review

To obtain a registration form, register or for additional information please visit the MTAS website at www.mtas.utk.edu under the training tab or contact MTAS at 865-974-0411.

For more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or Elaine Morrissey at 865-974-0411.

Saturday, Sept. 24
• 8 am – 10 am
Municipal Finance Overview
• 10 am – 12 pm
Economic Development
• 12 pm – 2 pm
Introduction to Charter, Code and Open Records Law

To obtain a registration form, register or for additional information please visit the MTAS website at www.mtas.utk.edu under the training tab or contact MTAS at 865-974-0411.

For more information, contact Kurt Frederick at 615-253-6385 or Gary Jaeckel at 615-253-4814

COMING
UP

Sept.15: CEU Seminar for Codes Professionals “Increasing the Credibility of the Codes Official.” Chattanooga Convention Center, Room 12, 1150 Carter Street. Presented by Tim Ryan, ICC Instructor. Registration: 8–9 a.m. Seminar: 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. This seminar will help the codes professional define credibility and develop improvement objectives as it relates to property owners, occupants, contractors, construction professionals and the media. \$100 registration fee includes course materials, certificate of completion and CEU credit of 6 hours.

Oct. 6-7: Grant Writing Training Class hosted by the State Department of Economic and Community Development Research and Planning Division, at the William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L Parks Avenue, 3rd Floor, Media Room in Nashville. Held from 9am-4pm both days. Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Rupa DeLoach, at ECD, at 615.532.1912 or e-mail rupa.deloach@tn.gov.

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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.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



BYTMLSTAFFREPORTS

Facing severe funding shortfalls, park agencies around the country are struggling to maintain facilities and programs, and to even stay open altogether. State park managers are adopting a variety of conventional strategies to keep their historic greenspaces operational: raising user fees, laying off staff and relying more heavily on volunteers. But increasingly, parks are charting new territory — by looking to corporations to help close the budget gap and sustain a business-oriented governance model. Most of these efforts come with recognition — on a playground sign, on a park pass — of the corporation’s contribution. “State budget crises have brought the issue of corporate sponsorships to the forefront,” says Shari Boyer, chief executive of Government Solutions Group, a California firm that brokers deals between corporations and state parks. As companies and parks explore what are supposed to be mutually beneficial relationships, one of the key challenges is identifying brands that reinforce the park mission. So far, many states are still in the initial stages of the partnership process: educating the public about budget shortfalls, seeking out potential corporate donors and trying to figure out what exactly constitutes an appropriate relationship between a profit-driven company and a public agency that oversees — at least for now — one of the few remaining commercial-free zones in the country. Such deals are unlikely to provide a long-term solution to budget woes, park directors emphasize. Instead, the push to locate company dollars is best understood as part of the new, bottom-line approach to state park management.

The number of people seeking unemployment benefits fell below 400,000 for the first time in four months, a sign that the job market may be improving slowly after a recent slump. Applications for unemployment aid dropped by 7,000 to a seasonally adjusted 395,000, the Labor Department said. Applications had been above 400,000 for the previous 17 weeks. The four-week average, a less-volatile figure, fell to 405,000, its sixth straight decline and the lowest level since mid-April. That suggests layoffs have eased. Applications fell in February to 375,000, a level that reflects healthy job growth. They soared to an eight-month high of 478,000 in late April, and have declined slowly since then. There were fewer layoffs in the manufacturing, transportation and service industries, according to the report. Only nine states reported an increase in applications. Many employers pulled back on hiring after signs emerged that the economy had weakened from last year. High gas prices and scant wage gains left consumers with less money to spend on discretionary purchases, such as appliances, furniture and electronics. Supply chain disruptions caused by the Japan crisis also dampened U.S. factory production. The economy expanded at an annual rate of just 0.8 percent in the first six months of the year, the slowest growth in the two years since the recession officially ended. Still, the outlook for the economy is dim. The Federal Reserve said it expects growth will stay weak for two more years, acknowledging that the problems go beyond temporary factors, such as high gas prices. As a result, the Fed said it would likely keep the short-term interest rate near zero at least through mid-2013.

Manchester welcomed 80,000 to Bonnaroo

BONNAROO from Page 1

one entrance -- at the end of a narrow two-lane road. Traffic was brought to a standstill for miles. The trip from Nashville, which normally takes about an hour, stretched into a 16-hour slog. Interstate 24 became a parking lot. Superstein, whose house sits on a hill overlooking the interstate, remembers watching from her front porch: “I could see people stopped on the interstate, get out, walk up to the Waffle House, eat, go back and get in their car, and nothing had moved. They set up picnics in the median.”

The problem, officials all agree, is that they simply didn’t think so many people would actually come. “We didn’t believe them when they said 80,000 people were going to show up,” says Superstein. “Here? In Manchester?”

Today, the traffic flows smoothly. The venue now has six separate entrances and multiple roadways dedicated to concert traffic. City police and the county sheriff’s office coordinate to manage the flow. They bring in state troopers to help direct traffic. There’s now even a temporary interstate exit that’s dedicated solely for Bonnaroo-bound drivers. “Now, everything’s running as smoothly as it can,” says Graves.

Once the event is in full swing, the traffic subsides and officials turn their attention to the other persistent issue: crime. Graves sets up a full-scale mobile command center in a small field just outside the Bonnaroo site. There, his team can respond to calls within the concert venue, and arrest and process offenders on site before transporting them to jail.

Mostly, though, they wait. Over 10 years of Bonnaroo, Graves says he’s learned that it’s often best to let the concert’s private security handle the problems before turning offenders over to the sheriff. “We answer calls inside on a need-to basis,” he says. “If a private security guard goes up to someone and has to take them out, there’s usually not a problem. But if a police officer goes in and takes them out, it can cause a riot. So we try to let their security handle it. If they can’t, we’ll go in.”

The majority of offenses involve drugs and domestic fights. Unsurprisingly, the problems tend to escalate as the event stretches into the third and fourth days. “The heat gets to a lot of people,” Graves says -- it is June in Tennessee, after all. “The crimes usually progress as the concert goes on.” When it comes to narcotics, Graves says his team focuses most of their energy on drug dealers, particularly those who are pedaling lethal substances. “Believe it or not, there’s a lot of fake drugs. There’s a lot of people who come here just to rip kids off. Those are the ones that cause the majority of the problems.”

Inevitably, the combination of heat, drugs and alcohol can have fatal consequences. Ten people have died in the 10 years of Bonnaroo, including two deaths this year. Predictably, the causes have included heat stroke, drug overdoses and injuries from auto accidents. For the most part, though, Graves and other officials say the concertgoers are just there to have a good time. “Most of these kids who come here for the concert are no problem at all,” Graves says.

Mayor Superstein agrees. “All the kids are easygoing. It’s a really mellow crowd.”

Still, hosting an event like Bonnaroo isn’t easy for city and county workers. One sheriff’s deputy, when asked what it takes to put on a concert like this, laughs and answers with just one word: “Miracles.”



The town didn’t rely on advice from other cities that have hosted concerts, says Manchester Mayor Betty Superstein. “We kind of just watched what was going on and just made it work for Manchester. It pretty well flows now.”



At the Coffee County Sheriff’s Department’s mobile command unit, set up just outside the perimeter of the concert site, it’s all hands on deck, says Sheriff Steve Graves. “No one gets vacations or days off during Bonnaroo,” he says.



The parking lot of the Manchester Walmart has become the unofficial gathering spot for Bonnaroo-bound folks in the days leading up to the concert. “Walmart loves it!” says Mayor Betty Superstein.



Food vendors do big business at Bonnaroo. For example, just one booth – Prater’s BBQ – served 2,000 pounds of pork at this year’s fest.

New tourism trail launched

With the tagline, “MoonPies to Mountain Highs,” the Pie in the Sky Trail, was launched Aug. 18, the seventeenth trail of 16 in the Discover Tennessee Trails & Byways program. Opening ceremonies were held in downtown Chattanooga at the new Chattanooga Visitors Center located at 215 Broad St.

Participating in the celebration were Tennessee Tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Tennessee Department of Transportation Assistant Commissioner Joe Carpenter; Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield; Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger; Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitors Bureau President and CEO Bob Doak; and other state agencies and state and local elected officials. Also on display was the “World’s Largest MoonPie®” provided by the Chattanooga Bakery and antique cars displays.

Pie in the Sky guides travelers from Chattanooga to destinations such as Lookout Mountain, the Cumberland Plateau in Monteagle, through Falls Creek Falls State Park and later topping the Cumberland Plateau again in Crossville. It includes beautiful drives through the Sequatchie Valley before returning to the Scenic City.

The 300-plus miles driving loop showcases the cultural gems discovered in Hamilton, Marion, Franklin, Grundy, Warren, Van Buren, Bledsoe, Cumberland, Rhea and Sequatchie counties. Its final destination is the new MoonPie® General Store in downtown Chattanooga.

The trail was developed with the extensive cooperation between the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Southeast Tennessee Tourism Association, Upper Cumberland Tourism Association and their partners. For information, visit tntrailsandbyways.com.



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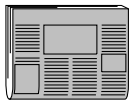
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CITYMANAGER

CROSSVILLE. The city is seeking resumes for the position of City Manager with a strong emphasis on current knowledge of municipal finance, economic development, growth and management and transportation issues. Strong interpersonal and communication skills a must. This position is under the general guidance of the mayor and four-member council, and is responsible for overseeing an annual budget. The position exercises responsibility for planning, organizing, leading and controlling (through Department Managers) the activities of 165 full-time employees providing a broad range of services for the city through the following departments: Finance, City Administration; Central Staff; Police; Fire; Public Works; Recreation; Human Resources and Customer Service. Responsible for the development and implementation of operating policies and procedures and for monitoring compliance. Insures that city programs operate within state and federal laws. Works with mayor and council in overall program planning and policy development for the city. Must be able to interface with industry heads, the public, media and a variety of governmental boards and organizations. Requires a minimum B.S. or M.S. in Public Administration or a related field plus 10 years of successful experience in a senior management position, such position having had fiscal responsibility, human resource responsibility and long range planning responsibility. Salary is market competitive (range Min. 72,933 to a Max. \$109,400). Salary negotiable DOQ. The City of Crossville offers a benefits package which includes, group health, dental, and life insurance as well as retirement and vacation and sick leave. Candidate must pass a physical and post employment offer drug screen. Moving expenses negotiable. Resumes may be sent to Sally Oglesby, City Clerk, City of Crossville, 99 Municipal Ave., Crossville, TN 38555 or emailed to soglebsby@crossvilletn.gov. The deadline for accepting resumes will be at the close of business at 4 p.m. on September 8, 2011. The City of Crossville is an EEO/Affirmative action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, religion, color, disability or national origin.

CITYPLANNER

LA VERGNE. The city is accepting applications for the position of City Planner. Position reports to the Engineering, Planning, Codes and Storm Water department director and will be responsible for assisting with the development and maintenance of all city planning programs including land use, retail and industrial development, etc. Salary: \$40,831 DOE/Q includes comprehensive medical (PPO), dental, vision benefits (city pays full premium), vacation, paid time off, sick time, STD, LTD, Life insurance. For full information, visit the city's website at www.LaVergneTN.gov.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

SPRING HILL. The city is accepting applications or resumes for the position of Human Resource Director. This position is responsible for organizing, planning, managing, and directing the City's human resources programs. Work involves assisting in directing and supervising the work of personnel involved in developing, implementing and coordinating programs in all aspects of the human resources function. Work is performed under the limited supervision of the city administrator. This is an exempt position and is not subject to comp time or overtime. A Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, Public Administration or other related field from an accredited college or university and three to five years of increasingly responsible experience in human resources work, with supervisory experience are preferred. Job Description and applications may be downloaded from the city's website:

www.springhilltn.org, online services, employment or picked up at City Hall, 199 Town Center Parkway. Applications should be returned by Mon., September 19, 2011 to: April Goad, City Recorder, City of Spring Hill, 199 Town Center Parkway, Spring Hill, TN 37174 Re: Human Resource Director Position. The City of Spring Hill is an EOE /Drug Free Workplace.

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

JOHNSON CITY. The city is taking applications for an innovative and experienced Director of Parks and Recreation. The position is responsible for leading a staff of 63 employees and managing a \$3.42 million department budget. Candidates should possess strong interpersonal and communication skills; demonstrated leadership experience; extensive experience of a progressively responsible nature in organized parks and recreational activities. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university required. Send a confidential resume and application to City of Johnson City, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 2150, Johnson City, TN 37605. Visit our website at www.johnsoncitytn.org to access an application, and view the full ad and job description. EOE

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

LEWISBURG. The City is accepting applications for a Parks and Recreation Director. This position is under the supervision of the City Manager and shall work with the City Manager to establish programs, procedures, and policies for the department. The director will be responsible for the management of all recreation and fitness facilities, parks, fields, and other recreation areas operated by the City with heavy emphasis on operating and maintaining swimming pools and a golf course. The essential functions of the job entail preparing payroll, purchase orders, departmental budget, supervising accurate accounting of collection and expenditures, preparing reports, and establishing procedures and methods to ensure efficient and effective use of department personnel and equipment. A graduate from an accredited college or university with a degree in recreation or a related field with at least 3 years experience in recreation program delivery and facilities management, and at least 2 years experience in staff management and supervision is preferred. Applications and resume should be submitted to the City of Lewisburg, P.O. Box 1968, 131 East Church Street, Lewisburg, TN 37091, no later than 4:30 pm, September 6, 2011. EOE

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

LA VERGNE. The city is seeking applicants for the position of Public Works Director. The director reports to the City Administrator and will be responsible for every aspect of public works including streets, water and sewer departments as lights, street lights, chipper service, paving projects and other public works programs. Position is also responsible for fleet maintenance and chairs monthly safety meetings. Salary: \$44 - \$50K DOE/Q includes comprehensive medical (PPO), dental, vision benefits (city pays full premium), vacation, paid time off, sick time, STD, LTD, Life insurance. See full information at www.LaVergneTN.gov

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

MORRISTOWN. The city is seeking applicants for Public Works Director. The director supervises diverse public works functions including: construction, maintenance and operation of storm drains, streets, sidewalks, solid waste collection, traffic controls, sewer collection, sewer collection/treatment, engineering, equipment repair and building and grounds maintenance. Reviews the performance level of assigned operations for efficiency, effective operation, and service level and adjusts operations to effectively serve citizens. Reports to the city administrator. Bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university in Civil or Environmental Engineering, Public Administration, Business Administration, or related field; four

or more years of related experience, or any combination of education, training, and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job. Salary DOQ; comprehensive benefit package offered, including TCRS pension. Applications will be accepted until position is filled, with interviews beginning in early September. Mail resume and cover letter to: City of Morristown, PO Box 1499, 100 W 1st North St.; Morristown, TN., 37816-1499, attn.: City Administrator. Information about the city can be obtained from the website at www.mymorristown.com.

POLICE CHIEF

SPRINGFIELD. The city is accepting applications for Police Chief. Individual will plan, organize and direct the activities of the Police Department under a Council/Manager form of government. Previous chief retired with 21 years of service in the position. The Police Department consists of 39 POST certified officers and is one of the first in the state to be accredited by the Tennessee Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. Bachelor's degree with a major in criminal justice, public administration, business administration or a related field required. A minimum of 15 years experience in law enforcement, with at least 10 years of supervisory experience above the rank of sergeant required. Master's degree in criminal justice can be substituted for two years of supervisory experience. Salary range \$57,013 - \$77,771 (DOQ). Applications must be received by Thursday, September 15, at P. O Box 788, Springfield, TN, 37172. The City of Springfield is an AA/EOE employer.

Making Great Cities Even Better



The city of Jackson closed a \$10 million fixed rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to be used on various public works projects. Pictured are Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist, TMBF Representative Tommy Green, and City Recorder Al Laffoon.



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Mayor Troy Beets leads Kingston with energy, passion of public service

BY GAEL STAHL

W. Troy Beets, was born in 1943 in Knoxville. In the 1950s, his father had a heart attack, so his family moved to Florida to be near a sister who helped care for his ailing father. After Beets graduated from Daytona Beach Mainland High School, he and his mother moved back to Knoxville.

He says it was the best move he ever made, Beets married Carolyn Gideon and they started raising their family of two boys. In 1966, he began a career at the Oak Ridge K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant and in June 1969, he, Carolyn, and sons moved to neighboring Roane County where they settled in Kingston. Before Beets retired 32 years later in 1998 as a Section Head in the Information Technology Division from Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, he'd worked at K-25, the Y-12 plant that did nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly, and then at the ORNL X-10 plant that was the research and development arm.

When he went to work, his division was simply called IBM or Computers. He helped run, install, and maintain the large mainframe computers that spat out punch cards. At the time, K-25 site was the largest computer center in eastern United States. He grew with the technology and later branched into the computer security field, returned to ORNL at another level of management in computer services, and a few years later, he started a group called Technical Services and Information Technology.

He was 54 when he retired in 1998. He had also been on the Roane County School board the previous 15 years and had been elected to the All Tennessee School Board in 1994. He retired from the school board and stayed retired for about 18 months to do the traveling thing with Carolyn and to remodel the home and other chores he'd saved up. Due to his great relationship with people in the school system they thought of him when they started up an interactive computer lab at Kingston Elementary. Although he insisted he wasn't looking for a job, friends called to tell him how great he was with kids, loved education, and had the best background in computer technology. Long story short, one day in 1999, Beets went from not looking for a job, to having a job, just as he was growing accustomed to retirement.

Turned out he loved it like no other job he's ever had. Since the school was just down the street, he walked to work and enjoyed being a computer lab assistant. He enjoyed two months off every summer, enjoyed the best lunches in the county for \$2.50 every day, and being "granddaddy" to 720 kids. No job paid him less or him more enjoyment. Still, he retired from it in May 2005. He had been elected county commissioner in 2002, and in June 2005 he would become Kingston mayor.

Over the last nine years, Beets has pursued every professional certification and training program available to a county or city official. For example, he graduated from the University of Tennessee's Local Government Leadership Program, the East Tennessee Regional Leadership Program, Level I and Level II Elected Officials Certification from UT-MTAS, Policymaker Certificate from UT-MTAS, and passed tests for University of Tennessee Certified Public Administrator. He's been a member of the board of directors for the East Tennessee Development District and the East Tennessee Human Resource Agency and numerous other boards, a member and chairman of the Roane County Commission 2002-2009, and mayor of Kingston since 2005. He's been active with Tennessee Municipal League committees, district meetings, and annual conferences and in June, the TML membership elected him a member to the TML Board of Directors.

Carolyn Beets, a cosmetologist who owned her own shop in the Kingston area beginning in 1971, is now retired. The Beets' sons, Jay and Doug, have given Troy and Carolyn four granddaughters. Tayler and Sarah live in Virginia, Becca lives in New Jersey, and Brittani McClure lives in Kingston. She is the mother of their first great-grandchild, Rowynn.

TT&C: After six years as elementary school lab assistant you decided to get back into elective office?

TB: When I got out of politics by leaving the school board, in 1997, I decided I had given 15 years and worked hard, in fact, I only missed one meeting in all those years. It was time to do something else. Then I let a friend talk me into serving on the local Leadership Alumni Board even though I'd given up all my boards when I retired. That got me more interested, and in 2001 my friends wanted me to run for county commissioner. One of them, a county commissioner representing our district, said he wasn't going to run again and talked me into putting my name on the ballot. I actually led the county ticket by getting the most votes of 15 commissioners – I'm sure it had something to do with the fact that I had worked in public service since 1982.

I found that serving on the county commission was like riding a bicycle. You don't forget. It renewed my passion and energy level. I started going to all the various leadership classes and worked toward getting my Certified Public Administrator's certificate. I was rolling along having a good time when some of those same 'friends' talked me into being a candidate for mayor. Once again, I ended up winning by almost 10 percentage points. So as of July 2005, I'm a county commissioner and mayor of Kingston.

TT&C: Was learning municipal administration as easy as commissioner?

TB: It was so odd. I'd been mayor maybe five weeks, still learning how city administration was something like school board and county commission administration, but different. Then I was told by a city official that Kingston had \$68,000 in the bank and outstanding debts of \$300,000. That would mean raising taxes from \$1.02 to \$1.41 to make up the difference for the budgeted expenditures that we had. We couldn't ask the people to raise their taxes without doing some cutting so we went to work and ended up raising taxes 25 cents and cutting 15 cents of services out of the budget. With the help of two new councilmen and one already on the council, we voted in the tax increase with a vote of 4-3. That was six years ago. The last time I looked at our annual report we had \$1.2 million in the bank.

I don't get involved in the day to day running of the city. That's what we have a city manager for. However, that accomplishment triggered an effort to recall all seven of us on the council. A couple of individuals took the tax increase personal and started the recall effort, which got nasty, and put a strain on some friendships. But the recall failed in the end for lack of enough certified signatures on the petition. That was over by the early part of January. But those first six months of my tenure as mayor were filled with a lot of tension.

We survived that and we have moved forward ever since. The last census shows we have grown by 670 people from 2000 to 2010 which is 13 percent growth and the whole county grew by 4.3 percent. Kingston had 30 percent of the total county growth. I'm proud of that. We're doing something right. People want to come live here. We're up to 5,934 now.

TT&C: How were you able to take office with \$68,000 in the bank and owing \$300,000 and now have \$1.2 million in the bank?

TB: We raised taxes and cut the budget. We've maintained this attitude; don't waste money, cut everything, cut into muscle, not just cut out the fat. We borrowed a little money to get us straight but were able to pay that back. Since then we've operated with a tight fist, so tight we squeeze a nickel to a buffalo chip. We've got a Public Works head that goes to Nashville to buy used road equipment. We've got talent so that if something's wrong with it we'll fix it and get some use out of it. We were finally able to buy new police cars. We passed this year's budget with no increase of water, sewer, or garbage pick up rates. And we were able to give our employees a 3 percent raise. Not everybody in this area can say that. I say it's because we've got a great city manager. I think James Pinkerton is the best city manager in the state.



Troy Beets



Kingston Mayor Troy Beets and U.S. Sen. Bob Corker fly over the site of the ash spill from TVA's Kingston Fossil Plant that took place in 2008 when a dike failure allowed a retaining pond to release 1.1 billion gallons of sludge.

TT&C: While mayor, you ran for reelection to the county commission in 2006?

TB: I ran again because I had this renewed passion and energy and was representing the same people in the city of Kingston that I represented on the school board and as mayor. I was just wearing different hats. They all know me. So I put my name on the ballot and got reelected to the county commission; then my fellow commissioners elected me their chairman to serve from 2006 through 2010. I was reelected mayor in 2009. But I lost my commission office when I ran for reelection in the summer 2010.

TT&C: Strangely, not only did you, the chairman lose, but so did the county executive?

TB: Elections are usually made up of a lot of little things and that election removed almost all incumbents around here from office. Mr. Ferguson, our state representative in the legislature for 16 or 18 years, was absolutely swept away by a young lady running for office for the first time. Long-time Congressman Lincoln Davis lost his district to a neophyte also. In our 16-county development district, with some seats uncontested, we had 11 incumbent county executives defeated. Everybody up through this East Tennessee valley who had shown any kind of leadership took it on the chin. I blame nobody but myself. A young man running for the first time got more votes than me or another longtime incumbent. We just got swept up in a "throw the bums out" election.

TT&C: The Dec. 22, 2008, catastrophic TVA ash spill into the Emory River that runs through Kingston has been your most recent challenge. You calmed citizen fears by drinking Kingston water on TV?

TB: We get our water from an entirely different source, the Tennessee River. The ash went into the Emory River. People were fearful because toxic elements were found in the Emory. At that press conference on Jan. 22, I was drinking city water to rebut a campaign by environmentalists and naysayers who don't want any coal being burnt even in your Warm Morning heater. They were proclaiming how coal is poisoning the world and were trying to make Kingston like Three Mile Island.

We had concrete data that our own water supply was not any different from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3 than it had been Dec. 21. But people kept saying "Oh, we can't drink city water."

Had the city of Kingston really had a water problem, you couldn't drink a cup of coffee or drink the water in your house. Restaurants and schools would have had to shut down or had water tanked in. I needed to show that wasn't true. We had the scientific data. Because everyone was wringing their hands, I told them how I mixed the formula for my infant great-grandson with my tap water. I didn't tell City Manager Pinkerton or anyone else I was going to do it. I just ran me a cup of water here at the house, took it down there, and drank it. And I told them how my

\$5 million. We voted unanimously as a city council to ask TVA for that much money and we got it. Harriman followed that lead and asked for \$2 million to update its Princess Theater for Roane State Community College. Rockwood did the same thing for its infrastructure. I didn't hear one negative complaint from one Kingston resident. The people the spill affected that TVA bought out didn't complain. I've been told that TVA gave some of them double the appraised value for their property. It happened. Those people were rewarded handsomely and should have been.

The Kingston community should have been too. Kingston's image has been hurt worse than anyone's. It wasn't called the Harriman ash spill or the Roane County ash spill but it's still called "the Kingston Ash Spill." The complainants may have been people who felt they were impacted but hadn't gotten any money yet. That's for the courts and TVA to decide, not me.

If the people of Kingston had to borrow \$5 million and even if it paid the low rates of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, it would take 38 years to pay back the \$7 to 8 million that would have cost with interest. That's money my constituents won't have to pay back.

We got a new sewer plant costing users not a penny. If you divide that \$5 million by 5,900 people, you can see how much each person in Kingston got from this ash spill. (Note: more than \$847) And more than that, because they fixed the water line for us for about \$2 million. This is stuff we'd have had to do in the future that we're not going to have to do. Kingston also shared in the \$32 million that was put into the Roane County School system building program.

TT&C: Kingston produces mighty fine politicians. Like Jim Henry former Kingston mayor, state legislator, head of the state Republican Party, worker with disabled children, and now Gov. Haslam's commissioner of the Department of Intellectual Disabilities. You've been there for years. People there aren't afraid to speak up or throw out incumbents. They expect a lot from those in office. It's a very politically attuned area?

TB: You asked earlier who my hero or influence might be. Politically, we've been blessed in this area. I've been impressed with the work ethic and the constituent concerns of Dennis Ferguson and Ken Yager, one a Democrat and one a Republican. But the one person I most look up to and would rather be more like than anyone is Jim Henry. He's my political model. He's able to reach across both sides of the aisle successfully and do it low key. Jim is a personal friend as are Dennis and Ken. We both came up through the Jaycees at a different time, and we've had some of the same friends. You're in good company if people say you remind them of Jim Henry.

TT&C: What are your future plans for Kingston?

TB: I want to develop the Gallaher Road corridor. We went out there and installed lights at the 356 interchange with our grant money. You can't grow without infrastructure, and those infrastructure improvements are almost in place. I've worked hard to get that done. We're getting ready to turn the corner to where we can go to businesses and say "OK, we've got the sewer and water capacity to handle you now. We've got the police and fire protection. We're a great place for you to come." We're a growing community. What I want to do is let people know that Kingston is a great place to come and live and to work and retire, or to play. And we're going to be able to handle it now. We weren't before. Our future is to prepare ourselves for growth and work hard to make it come.

We've got \$13.5 million in projects going on right now with \$11 million of that in grants, \$7 million in TVA money. That comes from everyone working to upgrade our services. Have you ever been here and walked on our waterfront? I don't think there is a better waterfront inside a municipality in Tennessee than Kingston's. It's unspoiled. No T-shirt shacks or tattoo parlors or other buildings on the waterfront. I want to keep it that way. Did the ash spill damage us? Yes, it damaged our public image. Did it damage our spirit or our hearts, our passion or our energy? No.