



Hendersonville is promoting the health of waterfowl as well as its residents in a unique partnership with Vaulted Vending. The company installed several protein pellet vending machines along the seawall in Memorial Park for visitors to feed the ducks. See Story on Page 3.

Haslam rolls out FY 2012/2013 budget amendment

BY CAROLE GRAVES
TML Communications Director

Appearing on the legislative calendar earlier than in recent years, the Haslam Administration has rolled out a revised budget proposal for FY 2012-2013.

Finance Commissioner Mark Emkes presented the budget update to both Senate and House Finance committees last week. Consideration of the Administration's budget is traditionally one of the final actions that the General Assembly considers prior to adjournment.

The supplemental appropriations amendment to SB 3768/HB 3835 reflects new estimates on increased state revenues – some \$250 million in over collections for the first seven months of the fiscal year. All but about \$30 million of that was already accounted for in Haslam's original budget unveiled in January.

"Our budget proposal earlier this year reflected a thoughtful and strategic process to allocate taxpayer dollars to serve Tennesseans in the most customer-focused, efficient and effective way possible," said Gov. Bill Haslam. "This budget amendment continues that focus by making targeted investments in the short term that allow us to plan for a more comprehensive approach to our budget decisions in the long term. I am pleased that we're able to restore funding for programs important to Tennesseans. We will continue to evaluate all of our funding priorities in the context of the broad picture of our state's needs."

In previous years, both Gov. Haslam and former Gov. Phil Bredesen have waited until the State Funding Board agrees on its final revenue projection before submit-

ting an appropriations amendment. Commissioner Emkes told the Senate Finance Committee that the Administration was confident in their revised budget proposal.

Projected revenues for FY 2013 totals some \$9.4 billion. The state hasn't enjoyed revenue collections at that level since 2007 when total collections to the General Fund were at \$9.3 billion.

"People will see that revenues are improving and make false impressions," said Sen. Bo Watson during the Senate Finance Committee. "We're still going to be financially challenged in this year's budget. And we're still going to be financially challenged in next year's budget. We, as appropriators, need to be mindful of that."

In Haslam's revised budget, he proposes to reduce the sales tax on food even further than originally planned. His budget amendment includes \$3.3 million to reduce the sales tax on food from the current rate of 5.5 percent to 5.25 percent, slightly down from his original plan of 5.3 percent. Total cost of the tax relief measure is estimated to cost the state \$21.3 million.

To help fund one of his public safety initiatives that mandates jail time for repeat domestic violence offenders, he is allocating \$4 million to increase the daily per diem payment to local jails by \$2 from \$35 to \$37.

His revised plan also includes \$236,000 to address the synthetic drug epidemic. The funds will be used to address the added cost of incarcerating offenders.

Haslam's original budget proposal restored more than \$100 million of a total \$160 million in cuts to See **BUDGET** on Page 6

Local officials push Congress for greater CDGB support

by Mike Wallace
Nation's Cities Weekly

For the 7,000 cities and towns that receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds each year, directly or indirectly, concerns are growing that the foundation for transformative community projects is beginning to crumble. Over the last two years, Congress has cut funding for the CDBG program more than 25 percent, from about \$4 billion to \$2.9 billion, which is divided among 1,200 cities and 50 states. For a program with enormous bipartisan support from leaders elected to local office, the recent drop in support from Congress, as measured by House and Senate letters on spending priorities, appears well out of step with hometown priorities.

Every year, members of Congress are given a deadline to tell the House and Senate Appropriations Committees what programs, if any, they consider funding priorities. Appropriators take these recommendations into consideration as they write spending bills.

Unfortunately, growing pressure to reduce the federal deficit has

complicated the traditional processes by which members of Congress signal support for programs. In the case of CDBG, the number of senators and representatives willing to sign annual CDBG support letters to the Appropriations Committee has been shrinking. Worse yet, the growing partisan divide threatens to pin the fate of programs like CDBG to just one party at the federal level, despite support across parties, demographics and sectors at the local level. The divide is reflected in how increasingly lopsided Congressional CDBG support letters have become.

Last week, however, marked a small reversal of these trends, thanks in large part to calls from local elected officials and state municipal leagues.

In the House, the Pennsylvania delegation led the way. Rep. Robert Brady (D-Pa.) wrote and circulated a letter arguing for greater federal investment in CDBG grants at \$3.4 billion for FY 2013. Rep. Lou Barletta (R-Pa.) joined Brady as the top Republican to cosign the letter and gave the request an important bipartisan boost in the House that it hadn't received last year. In total, See **CDGB** on Page 7

Divided Congress resorts to three month extension on highway bill

By Daniel C. Vock
Stateline Staff Writer

State transportation officials who worried they might have to delay road construction projects because of a lack of federal money can breathe a little easier, after Congress agreed to keep the money flowing for another three months.

Lawmakers sent President Obama the measure on March 29, but nearly everyone involved was disappointed. The Republican-led House and the Democratic-controlled Senate could not agree on a compromise that would last longer, so they gave themselves another 90 days to make a deal. This is the ninth time since 2009 that Congress extended the deadline to find agreement.

"It is not enough for us to continue to patch together our nation's infrastructure future with short-term band-aids," said Obama spokesman Jay Carney. "States and cities need certainty to plan ahead and America's construction workers deserve the peace of mind that they won't have to worry about their jobs every few months."

The brinksmanship had states scrambling for a worst-case scenario, in which the federal gas tax would have expired March 31 and highway money would stop flowing to the states. The Missouri Department of Transportation, for example, worried that it would have to cancel its annual contract bidding April 20, according to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

There is no guarantee that Congress will do any better in the next three months than it has over the last three years. A bipartisan coalition in the Senate backed a two-year surface transportation bill earlier this month, but it made no headway in the House. In fact, House Republicans have not been able to come up with a package that meets the de-



Unable to reach a compromise, the U.S. Senate and House voted to extend the highway bill three months. This is the ninth time since 2009 Congress voted for an extension rather than pass comprehensive legislation.

mands of their own caucus.

The main sticking point in negotiations is over funding. The federal gas tax is no longer sufficient to pay for all of the projects Congress directed to be funded, but lawmakers are loathe to raise the gas tax. Generally, conservatives want to scale back federal spending to match the amount of money generated by the gas tax, while many liberals want to find the money from elsewhere in the budget or through borrowing.

City revenue streams focus of TML Conference workshops June 9-12

With tight budgets and decreased spending a common theme for local governments, several workshops offered at the Tennessee Municipal League's Annual Conference will focus on managing revenues and city resources.

Slated for June 9 - 11 in Knoxville, the conference will feature tax policy expert David Brunori, who will present a workshop on "Why the Property Tax Matters More than Ever." His workshop will provide a nationwide perspective on issues surrounding property taxation with an emphasis on the property tax relationship to efficient and responsive local government.

The property tax is one of the most reliable sources of local government revenue. Yet in this era of anti-tax sentiment, the property tax has come under siege. Brunori will discuss this push for statutory or constitutional limits that cap how much local governments can collect in revenues and spend on services –

and once set in motion – how these caps can have unforeseen consequences over the long term. His session will also include an overview of the current state of local public finance and the outlook for recovery in the aftermath of the Great Recession.

Brunori is a research professor

of public policy at the George Washington University where he teaches courses in state and local public finance, administrative law, and fiscal federalism. He is a frequent speaker at conferences around the United States on the subject of state and local tax policy. In addition, he is See **CONFERENCE** on Page 7



David Brunori



Don Schulte

Local Government Corporation celebrating 35 years of service

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

In the seventies, before lap tops and pocket projectors were cool, a small, but diverse group of individuals started a revolutionary new project that would help usher many local governments into the computer age. It was 1973, and computers the size of woolly mammoths—with even larger price tags—far out priced the budgets of the small to mid-sized cities who wanted them. Additionally, the rapid growth of the industry itself provided vendors with all the business they needed, without going to smaller customers in remote locations.

Enter James Cotton, Jr., from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Ken Joines of the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), and Mike Kesler, Computer Center Director of Columbia State Community College (CSCC), who got together to discuss a mutually beneficial solution—providing computer services for Tennessee's cities. The pieces fit. TVA had some limited funding earmarked for the service, MTAS, expertise in municipal fund accounting, and CSCC, computer hardware and programmers.

Suddenly, Mickey Rooney's iconic phrase, "Hey, my dad's got a barn, let's put on a show!" (*Babes in*

Arms—1939) was technically relevant, as the agencies pooled their resources for the common good, creating Local Government Data Processing Corporation—today's LGC.

Forging ahead as an independent entity in 1977, TVA provided \$50,000 and UT

MTAS and County Technical Advisory Service (CTAS) \$45,000 start-up money toward the project, current LGC President Mickey Wilson recalls. "The board set up that \$95,000 on our books as a liability so that anytime those organizations wanted their money back, we can give it to them," he said.

In the beginning, LGC's work was exclusively "batch" related in municipal accounting, payroll and utility billing. "We provided what you would refer to then as service bureau type services, where cities would send in their paperwork and we would key it into a computer here in Columbia, generate the reports, and send everything back to them on a monthly basis," Wilson said.



A museum piece by today's standards, one of LGC's earlier IBM personal computers, now retired.

Working as a programmer, Wilson was one of LGC's original five employees. His co-workers were Mike Kesler, vice president; John Hunt, programmer and Key Punch Operators, Sue Gilliam and Doris O'Neal.

The fledgling group started out with a used IBM 360 Model 30 computer in a tiny office on Columbia's Penny Ave. But through the years, as the agency witnessed the advent of micro-computers in the marketplace and how more cities wanted that computing power for their own in-house, LGC was able to transition effectively to meet the needs of local governments through service and support.

See **LOCAL GOVT.** on Page 3

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

BRENTWOOD

The only city in Williamson County that contributes extra money to the county-run schools in town — is about to sweeten the pot. Schools that aren't in the city limits but have Brentwood students can now get a piece of the annual funding pie after the city commission agreed to the change in Brentwood's Educational Contributions Policy. The change is important as growth ramps back up in Brentwood and makes school rezoning a recurring need, and as decisions are made on building a high school in the Nolensville area. In the revised policy, Williamson County Schools with enrollment of 50 percent or more Brentwood students could receive the same annual contributions handed out to other schools by the city. Right now, that would include schools in Nolensville, according to Brentwood Assistant City Manager Kirk Bednar. Other schools outside the city could also get prorated contributions, if the student body includes 25 to 50 percent Brentwood kids. Schools with less than 25 percent Brentwood students wouldn't get the funding.

CHARLESTON

The Tennessee legislature passed a bill to assist Olin Chlor Alkali Products in north Bradley County, providing Olin a \$160 million loan for a new state-of-the-art membrane cell manufacturing facility. The construction will allow Olin to meet federal guidelines on eliminating the use of mercury in its manufacturing process. Construction began in July and is tentatively scheduled for completion by the end of 2012.

CHATTANOOGA

Volkswagen Group of America, Chattanooga Operations announced that the company is creating an additional 800 new jobs at its Tennessee manufacturing facility. The positions are needed as Volkswagen Chattanooga continues to ramp up capacity to meet customer demand for the new U.S.-produced Passat. The new hires at the Chattanooga plant, just opened last year, will push total employment past 3,000, 50 percent more than the German automaker promised when it came to town. The hires will let VW run the plant 10 hours a day, six days a week.

CHATTANOOGA

Construction is to start soon on a solar park estimated to cost about \$30 million that will supply a big chunk of power to Chattanooga's Volkswagen plant. The solar park, believed to be the state's biggest at 9.5 megawatts, will go on a tract adjacent to the factory, said Patrik Mayer, executive vice president of finance and information technology for VW in Chattanooga. "It will be one of the largest in the Southeast that's privately run," said Mayer. When up and running late this year, the park will provide up to 12.5 percent of the 2 million-square-foot plant's power, he said. Two companies will build and run the plant — Phoenix Solar, a German business with U.S. headquarters in California, and Silicon Ranch Corp., which is based in Nashville. The power generated by the solar park will go to the plant and not onto the EPB or TVA grids. A spokesperson for the Tennessee Solar Institute said the solar park "is very large for Tennessee, one of the bigger ones in the Southeast."

CLARKSVILLE

The first phase of renovations is underway on the Clarksville satellite campus of Nashville State Community College and the school is slated to open just in time for fall classes. In August 2011, George Van Allen, president of Nashville State Community College, along with Tim Hall, president of Austin Peay State University, and local state officials Rep. Joe Pitts and Sen. Tim Barnes, announced a satellite campus of Nashville State Community College, a two-year technical school with more than 80 programs, would occupy the former Clarksville Saturn dealership at 1760 Wilma Rudolph Blvd.

CLARKSVILLE

Home-owned Furniture Connection will open a \$4 million, 60,000-

square-foot regional distribution center along a vacant stretch of industrial-zoned International Boulevard between Interstate 24 exits 4 and 8. With a brand-new, heavily automated warehouse, major plans are being developed by the owner for corporate development, while truck delivery from the facility to a network of Furniture Connection and Furnish 1,2,3 stores, is expected to grow. The warehousing operations plans to add about 10 more employees at the new center. Also, corporate office employees' offices are being consolidated at the new distribution site.

CLEVELAND

P&G Duracell announced it will expand its battery manufacturing and packaging facilities in Cleveland. The expansion will create 60 jobs and represents a \$36 million investment. P&G Duracell is the world's leading manufacturer of high-performance alkaline batteries. The Cleveland manufacturing facility is one of only three plants in the U.S. and will be the sole producer of C- and D-cell batteries for the Duracell brand. The Cleveland packaging facility is the only one of its kind in North America, packaging batteries for all three U.S. plants. In September 2011, the Cleveland plant celebrated 50 years of battery production.

CROSSVILLE

StonePeak Ceramics has announced a \$15 million expansion of its state-of-the-art porcelain tile manufacturing facility. The expansion will add a new product line to the facility as well as allow for increased storage space of its finished product and bring 50 new jobs to the community. The expansion is scheduled for completion by the end of 2013. The company has purchased 35 acres adjoining its property on Porcelain Tile Drive. A new 60,000-square-foot expansion to the current 750,000-square-foot manufacturing facility is also planned.

FRANKLIN

After installing 29 LED street lights at Jim Warren Park, the city has found the new lights to be 80 percent more energy efficient than the metal halides they replaced, estimating it will save \$1,500 annually on replacement costs and labor alone. The lights were installed with left-over funds from an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant through the Department of Energy. The LED bulbs are more expensive and retail at \$179/light, but no ballast is required. The LEDs are estimated to last 8-10 years and will only decline in light output, not burn out, and carry a 5-year 50,000 hour warranty. The TVA rebate was \$35 a light for a total of \$1,019 for the purchase of 29 new LEDs.

FRANKLIN

Jackson National Life Insurance Company announced the expansion of its regional headquarters in Franklin, incorporating a new Information Technology (IT) center and the addition of 20 new Systems and Programming staff. The expanded IT operations will support Jackson's growth and technology initiatives, such as automated business processes across the company's various departments.

FRANKLIN

Video Gaming Technologies Inc. is rolling its staff of casino gaming developers and engineers under one roof in Cool Springs. VGT, which is one of the biggest U.S. makers of gaming technology, will transfer about 180 of the 217 positions at its soon-to-be closed Ruckersville, Va., operation to Cool Springs by the end of the year.

JACKSON

Carlisle Transportation Products will add between 20 and 50 jobs this year, as the company moves production of tires to its Jackson plant from Clinton and China. The jobs are coming to Jackson after increases in overseas wages, production and transportation costs, U.S. import, and a more efficient local plant have made manufacturing tires in Jackson as profitable as in China. Some products will be moved from Clinton to Jackson, as well, to better categorize some manufacturing.

JACKSON

Armstrong World Industries, Inc. announced the company plans to add an additional 95 jobs to its Jackson facility with the addition of a third production shift targeted for completion by the end of May. Armstrong World Industries, Inc. is a global leader in the design and manufacture of floors, ceilings and cabinets. Based in Lancaster, Pa., The Jackson facility is located at 154 Rosedale Street.

KNOXVILLE

After spending eight years in development, the city will soon have four new ordinances to deal with cases of extreme blight. The city council voted unanimously to approve the measures on first reading. One of the new ordinances will allow the city to appoint an administrative hearing officer to hear certain building and property code violations, and another one will make the Better Building Board an appellate board. This will allow the city to levy \$500 fines instead of \$50 fines. A third ordinance will allow the city to charge interest on nuisance lot liens, and the fourth will allow the city to sell acquired lots for less than the delinquent taxes owed, if necessary. The city's director of public service, David Brace, says Knoxville spends \$1.2 million annually dealing with blighted properties each year, and most of those properties are delinquent on their taxes. Brace says blighted properties can result in a 10 to 30 percent loss in the property values of nearby homes.

KNOXVILLE

The largest solar photovoltaic system owned by the city of Knoxville, consisting of 90.75 kilowatts and more than 363 panels, is under construction at the city's Convention Center. Crews set to work assembling the pads, racking system and panels, which could be viewed from the Convention Center's 4th floor observation deck, The Sunsphere.

LENOIR CITY

One of the city's oldest industrial employers will close its doors within the next year at a cost of more than 200 jobs. Yale Locks and Hardware Co., a fixture in Lenoir City since 1953, will cease local operations, according to parent company ASSA ABLOY in New Haven, Conn. Yale will begin consolidating its operations into a factory in Berlin, Conn., as part of a global factory footprint reduction. About 235 employees will be affected by the closure. Product development and technical product support will remain in Lenoir City.

MEMPHIS

US Airways launched three daily nonstops from Memphis to Washington's Reagan National Airport with a ceremony marking the first openly competitive flights from Memphis to the go-to airport in the nation's capitol. Delta's downsizing of the Memphis hub helped punch the ticket for the hoopla, along with a federally mediated restructuring of Delta and US Airways' flights at two busy East Coast airports. Airline regulators last year allowed Delta and US Airways to trade certain flying rights, with Delta beefing up New York LaGuardia and US Airways bolstering Washington National. Delta continues to offer three daily nonstops between Memphis and Washington National.

MURFREESBORO

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Amazon Murfreesboro Fulfillment Center at the construction site off Joe B. Jackson Parkway. The Amazon project also includes a fulfillment center in Lebanon. The Tennessee Department of Transportation agreed to provide \$1.3 million to construct a turn lane on Joe B. Jackson Parkway, a new four-lane public street, to provide additional access to Amazon and the adjacent NHK Seating factory and the cost of putting signals at two intersections leading to both of the industrial operations.

NASHVILLE

CSX Corp. announced plans to recruit employees for nearly 150 positions to be filled in Tennessee by year's end, with the jobs to be located primarily in Nashville. The hiring comes as the company prepares to meet the demands of a growing regional, national and global economy and to offset attrition, CSX officials said. The new employees will operate trains and maintain tracks, locomotives and rail cars.

Lavergne offers free language database to library patrons



Au ja, was läuft denn?

Culturally diverse LaVergne is among the first cities to offer "Transparent Language Online," a software program that can teach a large number of different languages at the city's public library.

With at least 180 languages spoken within the city, Lavergne's Public Library is thrilled to offer patrons the means to communicate 100 different ways. The library recently introduced "Transparent Language Online," a software program that can teach a large number of different languages. The English as a second language component is available for those who want to learn English, offering English lessons in 15 different languages, including Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, Thai, and more.

English speakers can learn more than 100 languages, including Spanish, French and Latin, the most requested instructional books in the library, according to Director Teresa Wilberscheid. "We have so many people coming in to check out books on learning other languages that often these books are unavailable," she said. "If these books are already checked out, patrons can access the database at home on their computer through the library's web page by using their library card."

The online language-learning service offers an unprecedented number of learning options. Transparent Language Online features listening, reading, speaking, and writing exercises, as well as integrated pronunciation analysis, Byki (or "before you know it") vocabu-

lary acquisition exercises, conversational language courses, video grammar lessons, and a robust social community.

"The breadth of coverage with all the languages available is tremendous. There is literally something for everyone," said Wilberscheid, who credits LaVergne's diverse population as a motivating factor for city officials to provide funding for the new software.

"When you have a population as culturally diverse as we enjoy here, we want to make sure everyone is provided the opportunity to learn, to read, to speak whatever language they desire," said Mayor Senna Mosley.

In 2008, a proposal to encourage high school students to become fluent in a foreign language sailed through the State Legislature and was signed into law by Gov. Bredesen. The measure, amended for grades K-12, urges the Tennessee Board of Education to develop guidelines for school districts to use to motivate students to do more than just take foreign language as a credit.

House sponsor Jim Coley, of Bartlett, said the bill was necessary to help prepare students to work in a global economy.



Regency Centers is partnering with ECoTality, Inc., a leader in clean electric transportation and storage technologies, to install Blink® Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at 19 shopping centers. The roll-out is part of The EV Project, the largest national deployment of commercial and residential charging stations in major U.S. cities and metropolitan areas. The goal of The EV Project is to collect data on electric vehicle use, evaluate the effectiveness of EV charging infrastructure and evaluate revenue systems for commercial and public charging stations. Pictured: Regency Center's Peartree Village in Brentwood.

NASHVILLE

Nashville was the No. 1 growth city in the nation in 2011, according to the *U-Haul National Migration Trend Report*. Among cities with more than 5,000 families moving, Tennessee's capitol city registered the highest percentage of growth, at 10.39 percent, moving up from No. 15 with 2.99 percent in 2010, the company said. Nashville was the only city in Tennessee ranked among the top 30. Cities are ranked by calculating the percentage of inbound versus outbound moves.

PORTLAND

Kyowa America Corporation will open a new facility in Portland, creating 160 jobs and investing \$12 million. The company, a leader in automotive plastic injection molding, will locate at 1039 Fred White Blvd. in the Robertson County section, and is expected to be operational by late summer. Kyowa America specializes in manufacturing high quality, close tolerance plastic parts used in automotive applications. Company expertise includes hi-gloss molded finish, gas-assisted molding, in-mold decora-

tion, custom painting and printing, and a full array of assembly capabilities.

SIGNAL MOUNTAIN

Alexian Brothers plans to finish its self-funded, \$23 million nursing home project by the summer of 2014. Plans for the 114-bed health and rehabilitation center were unanimously approved by Tennessee's Health Services and Development Agency. The new nursing home is part of a \$32 million renovation plan touching several parts of Alexian Village.

SPRINGHILL

TRG Customer Solutions, an outsourcing company, announced that it will hire an additional 150 employees at its Spring Hill site, which opened last year. The company said it has experienced tremendous growth in 2011 and early 2012, after gaining several major client accounts and expanding its footprint from 14 to 17 sites throughout the world. TRG plans to hire an additional 300 people in Spring Hill in the near term, starting with 150 new hires immediately.

Hendersonville park's pellet machines help keep waterfowl healthy

BY VICTORIA SOUTH
TML Communications Coordinator

If it walks like a duck—quacks like a duck—then why is it eating buttered popcorn? That's a question posed by many cities across the state as everyday, good-hearted folks, with the very best intentions, feed the waterfowl throughout the local parks system bread, crackers, pizza and other foods downright detrimental to them. As a result, many of the animals are sick. Unable to digest people food properly, most develop a crippling wing defect rendering them unable to migrate.

Toxic waste malnourished ducks and geese leave behind on sidewalks and water banks is an unsightly problem that also poses health risks to visitors. But at Hendersonville's Memorial Park, things are changing for the better at the clink of a quarter.

"We were receiving numerous citizen complaints about the duck feces making it unpleasant to be here," notes Alison Muncy, president of the "Beautiful Hendersonville" Board of Directors. The group is launching a city-wide education effort to get the word out to

parents, who've been coming out to feed the ducks and geese these types of foods for years."

"It's like eating a pound of bacon every morning and not expecting to get a heart attack," Dave LeMarbe, Hendersonville Parks & Recreation director explains. At one point, the pair said they had even considered a city ordinance against citizens feeding the ducks. "Old Hickory Lake is home to the largest concentration of Canadian geese in the Southeastern United States. They're not going away. So, how do we manage them?" LeMarbe asked. "We didn't want to make this a political issue, for example, by fining a grandmother from out of town that might not know about the ordinance."

Instead, the city chose to get its ducks in a row another way—by installing several protein pellet vending machines along the park's seawall through Vaulted Vending. For only a quarter, the handful of high-grade protein pellets visitors receive will not only keep the ducks happy and healthy, but help create a cleaner shoreline and protect the eco system.

Designed to be fed in the water, the pellet food is safe for both fish and other wildlife. "The duck feeders

"The ducks in the inner city were getting fed about 80 loaves of bread a day." According to Howard, in about eight months, Knoxville had a 1000 percent improvement rate. "The bread has no nutritional value for waterfowl. That's why they get aggressive looking for bread," he said. "It's not that they like it, it's that they're starving."

Another interesting point is that in about three months, the ducks stop looking for bread altogether, Howard notes. "They're looking for the protein pellets. We've seen it happen in Huntsville. Offer bread, and a lot of them will just swim off. Their bodies get strong when they're not starving."

The Sevierville company installs the machines anchored in concrete, stocks them with food and even maintains them. "We wanted this project to be helpful and I know it can be," Howard said. "We've never had anybody ask us to come get the machines."

Howard said the company is currently working with the city of Murfreesboro, and the cities of Clinton, Lenoir City, East Ridge and Kingston are also on his client list. "We will be working with Elizabethton also. They have a covered bridge park that's getting into trouble and we're going to try to help," Howard said. As for proceeds, Howard says cities collect their share every 60 days, garnering anywhere from \$250 to \$1,000.

Although it's only been a few weeks, LeMarbe and Muncy say significant changes are taking place within Memorial Park. "The walkways were covered with feces, where the ducks stayed on the land all the time," said LeMarbe. "Now, when they hear the click-click of the machines, they take off for the water. If they even see people go near the machines they head for the water."

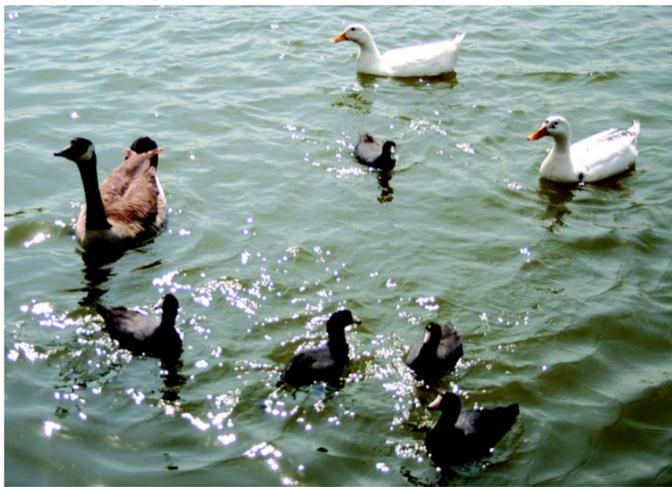
The project has also allowed LeMarbe and Muncy to move on to other park projects. "We're working on making the island area at the park more appealing when people drive by," Muncy said. "We plan to add rose bushes, benches, trash cans and picnic tables. Pulling the waterfowl back into the water off the island will really help."

"We see people using the machines every day. In six months, we should be even better," LeMarbe adds. "We know there's still going to be some people who throw bread. There's no way to stop that, unless we put a police officer here. But the more we educate people the better we will be."



Photos by Victoria South

Visitors looking to feed the ducks and geese a healthy snack, can buy a handful of protein pellets for a quarter. The pellets are easily digested by both fish and waterfowl, reduce animal waste in the park and help boost the eco-system.



Before the installation of pellet food machines, the waterfowl at Memorial Park created a messy shoreline and behaved aggressively toward bread-welding visitors. Now the little guys are minding their manners, heading for the water when they hear the machine's click.

schools and the media. A lone sign at the park explaining the detrimental effects of feeding human food to waterfowl, so far, goes largely unheeded.

"We went into some of the junior high schools to educate them about what it does to the ducks and humans," said Muncy. "The more they listened, the more they were willing to make a change. It's also about educating parents and grand-

keep the ducks in the water, they get healthier, there's less feces on the land. It's a win/win for everyone," enthused LeMarbe.

Todd Howard, of Vaulted Vending said he has installed the feeders in other cities such as Knoxville and Cleveland with reported success.

"Knoxville called me about three months ago to say they were thrilled with the machines," said Howard.



Hendersonville Parks & Recreation Director Dave LeMarbe and Alison Muncy of "Beautiful Hendersonville"

Causes of angel wing in waterfowl

Angel wing is a disease that affects waterfowl, primarily geese and ducks. The condition is acquired by young birds and is believed to be the result of a diet high in carbs from food sources such as bread. Feeding water fowl human foods creates a diet imbalance which causes the feathers of the birds to grow so fast that the wings are unable to be supported by the wrist bones and the bones begin to twist outward. In adult birds, the disease is incurable and usually leads to an early death as birds are rendered flightless.

Feeding waterfowl also discourages their natural behavior and can rapidly lead to overpopulation in urban parks. Many of the birds will suffer from the aggression and competition that occurs when wildlife becomes highly concentrated. High concentration also causes costly environmental damage to park landscaping, making it less enjoyable for the community. Bird droppings can increase algae growth in nearby water sources and harm fish populations. Left on their own, waterfowl will find new areas where food sources are plentiful. Source: Hendersonville Memorial Park



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Local Government celebrates 35 years

Local Govt. from Page 1

"We wrote programs and developed services for cities and counties to use that in-house computing power for every aspect of their business from property taxes collection to payroll, purchasing, general ledger, fixed assets, utility billing, and school systems with automatic cafeterias," Wilson said.

Although today, LGC has 123 employees and five offices, the company has more than ever on its "to do" list, re-writing all of its software using next generation tools (NextGen) in a world of ever-changing technology.

"I would love to have all our software rewritten," Wilson said. "It's a massive undertaking and not all of our 123 people are dedicated to software development, just a small minority. Five years ago, who would have believed that a tablet or an I-phone would be what it is today? We're constantly having to address technology changes to make sure our clients, and ourselves are protected against outside entities who might be trying to commit identity theft or break in and get valuable information."

Thirteen hundred customers and thirty-five years later, business is still booming for LGC, a company that's synonymous with serving the automation needs of Tennessee's state and local governments.

"I'm just proud that we had an organization that could perform services in a very effective manner, both cost effective, and bending over backwards to put the customer first," Wilson said. "We did the training and support, we wrote the programs, partnered with the state



Mickey Wilson, LGC president



for areas to develop software and deliver it to the various entities. We worked with the Comptroller's office, the administrative office of the courts, and various other organizations such as TML and the Tennessee County Service Association that have all been kind in supporting our organization, and we have tried to provide a service that would help them as well."

STATE BRIEFS



BY TML STAFF REPORTS

State unemployment rate drops

The Tennessee unemployment rate has fallen 0.02 percent to 8 percent in February, the lowest since November 2008. Tennessee gained some 4,800 jobs in February. University of Tennessee economist Bill Fox said the state has gained more than 50,000 jobs in the past year, as monthly data show reasonable job increases in health care, durable manufacturing and temporary employment agencies. The national unemployment rate in February was 8.3 percent, unchanged from January.

Bills in Gov's anti-crime package approved, signed

The House approved two key pieces of Gov. Haslam's anti-crime package and sent the bills for the governor's signature. The chamber voted 91-0 to increase penalties for violent crimes committed by groups of three or more people. A bill to enhance penalties for gun possession by people with previous felony convictions was approved on a 95-0 vote with no debate. The companion bills were approved earlier by the Senate. Haslam included the estimated \$6 million cost of the enhanced penalties in his budget proposal. Other measures have faced a bumpy road in the Legislature. They include bills seeking to create a prescription drug database and to require mandatory jail time for people receiving repeat domestic violence convictions.

State fines coal company

The state is fining a coal company for illegally dumping more than a million gallons of coal slurry into the New River in the Cumberland Mountains. The river is home to a fish and plant on the federal list of threatened species. The Department of Environment and Conservation is levying a base fine of \$50,000 against Premium Coal. The company could pay an additional \$196,000 unless it quickly upgrades its coal-washing operations. State officials said the company never reported an incident in early January that discharged the slurry into the river and polluted it for miles. It was citizens who tipped off authorities that something had happened to the river. Witnesses reported that the

water turned ash gray as far as 28 miles downstream. Coal slurry is a solid and liquid waste byproduct of coal mining. The discharge coated rocks and plants for several miles downstream and boosted the amount of iron and suspended solids into the New River for several weeks.

National publication lauds ECD, four TN businesses

A national economic development publication has recognized four businesses in Tennessee for their community impact. Amazon, General Motors, Quaprotek USA and MANN+HUMMEL were honored by *Trade & Industry Development*. The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development was recognized as well. All were chosen for the magazine's 2012 Corporate Investment and Community Impact awards. The publication, which focuses on company site selection and facility planning, picked 30 winners.

TN advances in solar rankings

Tennessee has jumped up in the rankings of solar installations. Ranked No. 20 in 2010, the state—which has successfully recruited solar companies like Wacker Chemie AG and Hemlock Semiconductor Group—ranked No. 15 in 2011.

State parks team with TN Titans

Tennessee State Parks and the Tennessee Titans are partnering as part of the NFL Play60 effort, encouraging kids to stay active, eat healthy and become more physically fit—all while enjoying one of Tennessee's great 53 state parks. Tennessee is the first state park system to participate in the NFL Play60 campaign, which features outreach into local schools and communities to engage children with messages and activities that promote outdoor experiences, the natural world, healthy lifestyles and fun. The Titans and TN State Parks joined Gov. Haslam at LP Field to kick off the the campaign celebrating its success in promoting healthy lifestyles among Tennessee's youth.

Not the average bear

As spring blooms in Tennessee, the state's fast-growing population of black bears comes out of hibernation

and begins foraging for food. Wildlife officials believe Tennessee's bear population is higher today than at any time in the past 150 years, with about 3,500 to 5,000 black bears, including about 1,800 in parks. Hunting is allowed in some of Tennessee's eastern counties, and last year, 583 bears were taken by hunters—a state record. Some farmers, hunters and others have requested that the growing population in the north Cumberland Plateau area be opened to hunters, as well. The TWRA conducted a statewide study this year, finding 87 percent of Tennesseans support having bears in the state, while only 6 percent oppose them. It also found that 54 percent believe that the current bear population is about right, while 23 percent think it is too low, and 5 percent believe it is too high. To view the study in its entirety, visit <http://www.tn.gov/twra/pdfs/blackbearsurvey2012.pdf>.

State unveils new magazine

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture recently unveiled the premiere issue of *Tennessee Ag Insider* magazine, a comprehensive guide to the state's farms, food and forestry. The department unveiled the magazine to the public March 20th at the annual Ag Day on the Hill celebration at Legislative Plaza. The yearly magazine serves as a primer for government and business leaders and consumers about the impact of agriculture and forestry on the state's health, environment and economy.

Trees provide tall benefits

A study by the U.S. Forestry Service finds that trees in Tennessee's urban areas provide the state with environmental benefits valued at nearly \$640 million a year. Shade trees save the state about \$66 million a year. That's mostly savings in heating and cooling expenses as the trees protect rooftops from the summer sun and block cold winds in winter. The state's urban trees also store and remove from the air more than \$570 million worth of pollutants each year. The study is meant to set a baseline for measuring the future health of the state's urban forest. Tim Phelps of the state Forestry Division says knowing the economic value of trees helps make the case for planting and protecting them.



A Red Boiling Springs soldier has been awarded the first Tennessee Fallen Heroes medal, honoring service members killed in the line of duty. In a ceremony at the Capitol, Gov. Haslam and Veterans Affairs Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder honored Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Murray, who was killed in November by a roadside bomb while serving in Afghanistan. Murray was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kan. His mother, Wanda Maxey, accepted the award on behalf of the family. The medal was established last year by the Legislature. Rep. John Ragan, who sponsored the measure, said he wants the families of service members who are killed to know that Tennesseans are grateful for their sacrifice. Future Tennessee Fallen Heroes Medals will be presented to surviving families at the time of visitation or memorials of service members killed in action.



ECD Commissioner Bill Hagerty, Tourist Development Commissioner Susan Whitaker and Nashville Mayor Karl Dean joined Simon Property Group, Inc. officials on Thursday, March 29, at the Grand Re-Opening of Opry Mills, the largest outlet and value retail, shopping, dining and entertainment destination in Tennessee. Opry Mills' Grand Re-Opening events will continue during April through May 5. The grand finale event will be a free outdoor concert with Country Superstar Josh Turner. The Grand Re-Opening of Opry Mills comes nearly two years after the historic flood in May 2010 ravaged Nashville and Opry Mills, one of Tennessee's top tourist attractions.

Deadline extended for Environmental Stewardship Award nominations

The Department of Environment and Conservation has extended the nomination deadline for the Governor's 2012 Environmental Stewardship Awards, which recognize Tennesseans who go above and beyond to protect the state's diverse environment. The deadline for nominations has been extended to April 30, 2012.

The Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards cover 10 categories: Building Green; Clean Air; Energy and Renewable Resources; Environmental Education and Outreach (business category); Environmental Education and Outreach (school category); Land Use; Materials Management; Natural Heritage; Sustainable Performance and Lifetime Achievement.

Any individual, business, organiza-

nization, educational institution or agency is eligible, provided they are located in Tennessee and projects were completed during the 2011 calendar year. All nominees must have a minimum three years of environmental compliance with the Department of Environment and Conservation. Self-nominations are encouraged.

A panel of judges representing agricultural, conservation, forestry, environmental and academic professionals will select award recipients based on criteria including on-the-ground achievement, innovation and public education. Award recipients will be announced in June 2012. For more information about each category, judging criteria and nomination forms, visit TDEC's website at www.tn.gov/environment/awards.

NATIONAL BRIEFS



U.S. builders began laying the ground work for a turnaround in the housing market later this year by requesting the most building permits in any month since October 2008. Building permits for single-family homes and apartments jumped 5.1 percent in February, according to a government report Tuesday. That offered some hope that buyers may be ready to come back four years after the housing bubble burst. Builders have slowly grown more confident over the past six months after seeing more people express interest in buying a home. And home sales are slowly rising. Economists cautioned that construction levels remain depressed and the housing market has a long way to go before it is back to full health. But Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said he expects further gains over the next few months. Builders broke ground on slightly fewer homes in February.

Housing starts dipped to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 698,000 homes last month, the Commerce Department reported. That's down from January's revised level of 706,000, which was the highest since October 2008. Building permits, a gauge of future construction, rose to 717,000. Two-thirds were for single-family homes, which are critical to a housing recovery. It can take up to 12 months for a builder to obtain a permit and construct a single-family home. Patrick Newport, an economist with IHS Global Insight, projects 745,000 homes will be started, up from 611,000 last year. Two-thirds are likely to be apartments and condos, reflecting pent-up demand for housing among young adults who are living with their parents. Each home built creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in taxes, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

Consumers' confidence in the U.S. economy dropped in March amid higher gas prices, says a private research group. The decline comes after confidence rose to the highest level in a year during the previous month. The Conference Board said that its Consumer Confidence Index fell to 70.2, down from a revised 71.6 in February. Economists surveyed by FactSet expected a reading of 70. Consumer confidence has made a recovery since it fell to an all-time low of 25.3 in February 2009. But the March reading is below the 90 reading that indicates a healthy economy. The index hasn't been near 90 since December 2007. Economists watch consumer confidence closely because Americans' spending on things from clothing to health care accounts for about 70 percent of the nation's economic activity. Gas prices have been rising rapidly this year, reaching levels never seen this early in a calendar year.



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States have a \$23 billion sales tax loophole and Congress is considering a bill to close it

By Jon Kuhl
NCSL Public Affairs Specialist

With states still struggling from the 2008 financial crisis that ripped through budgets and stunted revenues, an effort to improve the revenue outlook is gaining widespread support.

The Marketplace Fairness Act would allow states to enforce tax laws currently being ignored. It needs the support of Congress, but would cost the federal government nothing.

Backers say the law would generate billions for state budgets—without raising tax rates—to help build roads, improve schools, support small businesses and fight crime.

“This is a chance for the federal government to really help out the states,” says Illinois Senator Pamela Althoff (R). “And it’s not chump change. We’re talking billions of dollars in extra revenue. During good times we may have been able to get by without the revenue, but the recession has changed everything, and states can no longer afford to forgo any sources of revenue.”

In 2008, states lost an estimated \$18 billion in uncollected taxes from out-of-state sales, \$7.7 billion of which were from online sales. That figure is expected to climb to \$23 billion this year, with almost half of that coming from Internet transactions.

Opponents argue the Marketplace Fairness Act is merely a tax hike in disguise and will hit consumers with taxes that, while already owed, are often not collected. Others who oppose the law come from states without sales taxes who feel it will unfairly burden local companies who do business on the Internet.

What the Act Would Do

The bill will allow states to enforce tax laws currently being circumvented. When a company does business with customers in states where it has no physical presence, the customers’ states have the right to impose sales and use taxes on those transactions.

But, as the Supreme Court ruled in two landmark decisions, the states do not have the authority under the Constitution to compel out-of-state merchants to collect the taxes.

This is where Congress comes in: If Congress explicitly grants states the authority to enforce their current tax laws, the loophole would be closed.

This tax-enforcement problem dates back to a 1967 Supreme Court case, *National Bellas Hess v. Illinois*, in

which a mail-order company located in Missouri mailed flyers and catalogs to customers in various states, including Illinois. After clashing with the Illinois Department of Revenue over sales taxes, the catalog company took the state to court. The Illinois Supreme Court ordered National Bellas Hess to collect sales and use taxes from customers who intended to use their products in Illinois.

Appealing to the Supreme Court, Bellas Hess argued that since the company owns no tangible property in Illinois, the state had no right to force it to pay Illinois sales taxes. The Supreme Court agreed, ruling that compelling a merchant to collect sales taxes for a state in which it does not have a physical presence is a violation of the interstate commerce clause, and therefore unconstitutional. In its decision, the Supreme Court established a firm precedent that can only be remedied by an act of Congress.

Twenty-five years after Bellas Hess, North Dakota put the Court’s legal reasoning to the test. The state ordered Quill Corporation, an out-of-state merchant with no offices in North Dakota, to collect sales and use taxes on products sold to North Dakota residents. In *Quill v. North Dakota*, the Supreme Court found the case indistinguishable from the Bellas Hess case, and upheld the 1967 precedent.

If passed, the Marketplace Fairness Act would remove the collection complexity to interstate commerce that concerned the Supreme Court in both Bellas Hess and Quill. Simplified and Streamlined

But the act is only part of the equation. Knowing it would be difficult to recoup their taxes in full without an effective enforcement mechanism, several states created a program that would comply with the Court’s decisions and convince Congress to act. To this end, the National Conference of State Legislatures helped develop the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, a multi-state effort to simplify and modernize the states’ sales and use tax collection systems. To date, 24 states have passed it.

When the agreement went into effect in 2005, it opened an amnesty program in which states would forgive sales taxes owed by companies if the businesses voluntarily registered to collect sales taxes. Although the agreement can’t force companies to collect sales taxes on out-of-state transactions, a company that complies with it does not have to pay the sales taxes owed to states before



In 2008, states lost an estimated \$18 billion in uncollected taxes from out-of-state sales, \$7.7 billion of which were from online sales. That figure is expected to climb to \$23 billion this year, with almost half of that coming from Internet transactions. The Marketplace Fairness Act would allow states to enforce tax laws currently being ignored.

“This is a 20-year-old loophole that only the federal government can solve. Unless we act, states will continue to be deprived of their right to enforce their own tax laws, and businesses will not be allowed to compete on a level playing field.”

— Tennessee U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander

the company’s registration date. Companies that don’t register run the risk of being compelled to pay back sales taxes when and if Congress passes the Marketplace Fairness Act.

At the start of this year, 1,737 businesses had volunteered to collect and remit previously uncollected sales taxes. That’s a little more than \$916 million, not counting the holiday season, from 2011. Bipartisan Support

The Marketplace Fairness Act was introduced in the U.S. Senate last November with bipartisan support. It includes an exception for small businesses with gross revenues under \$500,000, over concerns that they might be unfairly burdened by the law. States, not businesses, will be responsible for the cost of any tax-collecting software needed for online businesses to comply.

Not all online retailers support the effort, however. “Overturning the Supreme Court ruling helps big-box retailers with websites, since they already have to collect in nearly all states,” Steve DelBianco, executive director of NetChoice, a trade

association representing online businesses, wrote in an op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal. “It will raise costs for small firms that compete via their online and catalog sales.”

DelBianco explains that big-box retailers already have the advantage of allowing customers to buy products online, then pick them up in stores to avoid shipping costs. He argues that requiring online retailers without stores to collect sales taxes removes one of their primary competitive advantages.

Opposition aside, prospects for the new federal bill are high. “We’ve had legislation introduced in Congress before,” says Neal Osten, director of NCSL State-Federal Relations. “But this time, I think all the stars have aligned. We have always had a strong and bipartisan group of state legislators and governors pushing for this from the state level, but now we have a strong and bipartisan group of senators and representatives in Washington who are working to pass this. And with the cuts in federal dollars about to hit the states, people at the federal level know this is something they can do to help states offset the cuts.”

Tennessee passes Amazon tax law

A proposal that implements a deal Gov. Haslam made with Amazon.com has been signed into law by the governor. Haslam and the Seattle-based online retailer agreed to a deal last year over collecting sales taxes on goods sold in Tennessee. The measure allows Amazon to begin collecting the tax in 2014, which is expected to generate \$22.8 million for the state and \$9.6 million for local governments.

The bill originally grew out of a controversy over the Bredesen Administration’s commitment to Amazon that it would be exempt from collecting sales taxes in Tennessee, despite the Internet giant establishing a physical presence by constructing two 1 million-square-foot distribution centers in Hamilton and Bradley counties.

National retailers and some smaller retailers objected to the deal, saying it was unfair to require them to collect the 7 percent state sales tax and up to 2.75 percent local sales tax and not make Amazon do the same.

Amazon currently has a distribution facility in Chattanooga that employs 1,700 people. The company also employs 400 people in Bradley County and plans to build in Rutherford and Wilson counties.

States allow tax cuts to expire

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) grabbed headlines in September by noting that for the first time in a decade, states reported that they cut taxes more than they increased them. But what looked like a cut on many ledgers were actually temporary tax increases that were allowed to expire in several different tax categories.

NCSL has released its full version of the 2011 “State Tax Actions” report. The new report provides details on the changes in tax policy that took place during 2011 legislative sessions that will affect revenue collections in FY 2012.

The “State Tax Actions” shows sales taxes experienced the largest cuts, at what was projected to be more than \$5.2 billion. This is primarily because temporary sales tax increases in California and North Carolina expired. States also cut corporate income taxes and miscellaneous taxes. Many of these reductions also were the result of allowing temporary tax increases to expire. In 2011, states cut nearly \$2 billion in taxes.

NCSL’s “State Tax Actions” report includes extensive information on:

- Personal income taxes (net increase: \$2,995 billion)
- Corporate and business taxes (net decrease: \$805 million)
- Sales and use tax (net decrease: \$5,245 billion)
- Health care provider and industry taxes (net increase: \$1,956 billion)
- Tobacco, alcohol and motor fuel taxes (net increase \$51.9 million)
- Fees and other non-tax changes (net increase \$1,186 billion).

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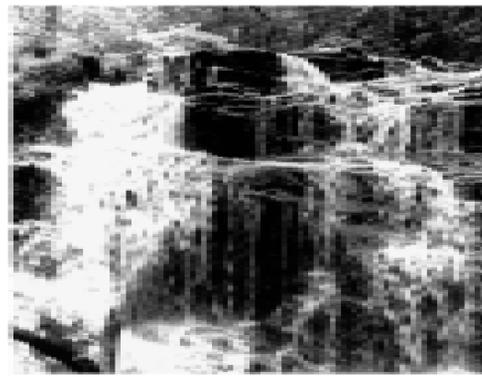
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Democratic state Rep. **Mike McDonald** of Portland has announced he will retire after nine terms in the House. McDonald becomes the 10th Democrat to announce he won't seek re-election to the General Assembly this year. McDonald was first elected to the House District 44 seat representing northern Sumner County in 1994. The mostly rural district was significantly redrawn as part of this year's Republican redistricting plan and now stretches into the cities of Gallatin and Hendersonville. McDonald said that he looks forward to spending more time with his family and to private sector opportunities. House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh of Ripley called McDonald a "tireless advocate for public education, the environment and working people."



McDonald

State Rep. **Scotty Campbell** has decided to not seek re-election to the 3rd House District seat after one term in office. Campbell, 28, is a 911 dispatcher in Johnson County and was named to serve on the House Finance Committee as a GOP freshman lawmaker. He replaced longtime state Rep. Jason Mumpower, who went to work at the state comptroller's office.



Campbell

Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has named **Liza Joffrion** as the new Director of the Multimodal Transportation Resources. In her new post, Joffrion will oversee the Office of Passenger Transportation and the Office of Rail and Waterway Freight Transportation. Joffrion joins TDOT from her role as principal and president of MultiModal Research, LLC, a Nashville based transportation planning and public policy firm. Prior to that post, she worked in the urban transportation planning field at firms in Seattle, Wash. Joffrion has 17 years of experience in land use, transportation planning, public policy, and finance.



Joffrion

Paris fireman **Vic Mallard** has retired after 35 years with the city's Fire Department. Mallard was hired in 1977 as a firefighter, named fire marshal in 1981, and assistant chief in 2000. He retired with the double title of deputy chief and fire marshal. He is a past president of both the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association and the Tennessee Arson Investigators Association.

Former House Speaker **Jimmy Naifeh**, who recently announced his retirement, received the Tennessee Democratic Party's Gov. Ned Ray McWherter TNDP Legacy Award during the party's Jackson Day dinner in March.

The Tennessee Arts Commission has announced the appointment of **Anne B. Pope** as the next executive director. She succeeds the Commission's long-time director, Rich Boyd, who retired in January after 28 years of service. Pope's appointment becomes effective May 14. She comes to the commission with a wealth of experience - not only in all areas of government, but in the private sector as well.



Pope

Madison County Schools Superintendent **Nancy Zambito** has accepted a full-time job with the Tennessee Department of Education as the director of TEAM training. TEAM is an acronym for Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model. The model includes frequent teacher observation, constructive feedback, student data and professional development. In her new role, Zambito will supervise and support nine consultants who specialize in training school administrators in the state's new teacher evaluation model. Zambito worked part time as a consultant for the state after leaving Jackson-Madison County Schools last June.



Zambito

Nashville Fire Chief **Steve Halford** has announced his retirement, effective May 1. Halford, who has served as fire chief for 11 years, is the longest tenured chief in Metro history. Halford says he plans to travel and spend more time with his family. Metro Public Works Director Billy Lynch will serve as interim fire chief.



Halford

White House Police Chief **Jerry Herman** was named the city's new city administrator. Herman has served as the interim administrator since January. Until a new police chief is found, Herman will continue pulling double-duty.

Knoxville financial director **Randy Vineyard** has been appointed Blount county's new finance chief.

Edwin "Ed" Arnold, 77, of Loudon, who served as a state representative in the 1960s, was killed when he stepped into traffic on I-40 to help his grandson, who was involved in a wreck.

Andy Bass, evidence and property officer with the Paris Police Department, is retiring at the age of 62 after 17 years with the PPD and a quarter century in law enforcement. A luncheon was recently held in his honor attended by his family and friends, the Police Department staff and Carl Holder, Paris city manager. Bass started his career in law enforcement in January 1987 as a correctional officer at the Henry County Sheriff's Department. He is a certi-

fied law enforcement officer at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy in Donaldson.

Funeral services were held recently for Judge **Irvin H. Kilcrease Jr.**, one of the first African-American graduates from Nashville School of Law. Kilcrease became the first African-American to preside over a Tennessee Chancery Court after Gov. Lamar Alexander appointed him Davidson County Chancellor Part I in 1980. Kilcrease served as chancellor for 23 years, retiring in 2003. He is the longest-serving chancellor in Davidson County, according to the Davidson County Trial Courts website.



Kilcrease

Kent Oliver has been named director of the Nashville Public Library. Oliver has directed the Stark County District Library in Canton, Ohio, since November 2001 and has 35 years of experience in the library services field. He will assume his duties this summer. Tricia Bengel has been serving as interim director since late last year, when Donna Nicely retired after serving 16 years as library director. Oliver started his career as a reference librarian at the Topeka Public Library in Topeka, Kan. He served as head of public services at the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia, Mo., and was library director at the Olathe Public Library in Olathe, Kan. He was associate director for branch services for the Johnson County Library in Overland Park, Kan.



Oliver

The Iowa Department of Public Safety announced the sudden death of its current Building Code Commissioner **Stuart Crine**. Before accepting the Iowa position, Crine, 51, served the cities of Tennessee, first as a firefighter in East Ridge in the early 80's, and later as Tennessee State Fire Marshal. Crine also served as Director of the Tennessee State Fire Academy. As a part of the State Fire Marshal division, Crine oversaw operations within the building code and electrical inspections program. Crine leaves behind his wife Kim and daughter Kaitlin.



Crine

Germantown has hired Indianapolis native **Susan Hopson** as their new human resources director, replacing recently retired Pat McConnell. She will oversee 377 full-time and 208 part-time city employees.

Germantown appointed a city prosecutor and police adviser to fill positions left vacant by Joe Lee Wyatt. **Christopher Nearn**, a Collierville prosecutor, also worked as a prosecutor in Bartlett City Court for nine years. **Mark McDaniel** was also named as the new police adviser.

Haslam's budget plan presented in committee

BUDGET from Page 1
"core services" first identified as reductions in the FY 2010-2011 budget but delayed until this year due to the use of one-time federal money. His revised budget plan restores funding to several programs that were targeted for elimination including:

- \$1 million for family support services run by the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, in addition to \$4.5 million of restoration in the initial budget proposal;
- \$3.9 million for Healthy Start and Child Health and Development programs, such as home visiting programs for first-time parents and child abuse prevention;
- \$1.4 million for peer support centers that serve as halfway houses for people transitioning out of hospitals and run by the Department of Mental Health; and
- \$5 million for Tennessee career centers to address the past practice of funding annual operating expenses with non-recurring federal dollars.

Additional funding priorities include:

- \$300,000 for maintenance of the West Tennessee River Basin Authority;
- \$3 million to fund family resource centers across the state;
- \$250,000 for child advocacy centers in Tennessee;
- \$250,000 to support a mentoring program for children of inmates through the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization;
- \$375,000 to fund a poison control center that provides state-wide services;

- \$122,000 to fund legislation that requires unemployment recipients to verify their job search efforts;
- \$115,500 to fund an online system to send businesses unemployment insurance notices electronically and to allow employers to submit relevant information electronically;
- And \$1 million for land acquisition and maintenance efforts at Radnor Lake State Park in Nashville.

Some highlights of Haslam's original \$31 billion budget plan include:

- \$875.5 million allocated for state-shared revenues, a \$25.9 million increase over last year and reflecting a 3 percent growth;
- 2.5 percent across the board pay increase for employees;
- increasing the state's inheritance tax exemption from \$1 million to \$1.25 million;
- \$2.9 million for State-Aid Road Fund
- \$8.7 million to restore Real Estate Transfer Tax revenue, which a portion is allocated to the Local Parks & Recreation Fund;
- \$50 million to the Rainy Day Fund bringing it up to \$356 million.
- \$25 million to the West Tennessee Megasite;
- \$80 million for Phase 2 of public safety communications system; and
- \$50 million for FastTrack Infrastructure and job training assistance.

Unemployment claimants now required to provide proof of work searches

Extended Federal benefits come with strings attached for 56,000

Beginning in April, significant changes to the unemployment insurance system will require in-person case management and documented work searches for nearly 56,000 claimants. Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Karla Davis today announced the receipt of guidance from the USDOL outlining new requirements for select claimants to continue receiving unemployment benefits.

"The reality is that as the state unemployment rate drops there will be fewer weeks of unemployment available," said Davis. "These new requirements will make sure claimants are on track to find employment and not get caught off guard when their benefits expire."

All claimants receiving Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC 08) must complete two work searches weekly and provide documentation to Labor and Workforce Development upon request. Additionally, claimants must participate in case management at a Tennessee Career Center including orientation, eligibility review, assessment of skills, participation in

remedial workshops, and commitment to a work search plan.

"The federal government has raised the bar on accountability for claimants," said Commissioner Davis. "Claimants will be required to prove that they are looking for work, and they will be engaged face to face with our job service employees. If these requirements are not met they will no longer be eligible to receive benefits."

In February 2012, federal legislation was enacted extending the deadlines for federally funded unemployment benefits through December 2012. The changes to the structure of federal benefits reduced the total amount of benefit weeks, but did not create additional benefits for those who have exhausted their unemployment benefits.

For up-to-date information visit <http://www.tn.gov/labor-wfd/2012> Unemployment Update.html or follow the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/TNLabor>.



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Statewide "Meth Stops Now" Campaign

Gov. Haslam rolled out a comprehensive statewide campaign designed to inform Tennesseans about the consequences of violating the "I Hate Meth Act," which took effect on July 1, 2011. The announcement took place in coordination with the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association meeting in Nashville. "The goal of this campaign is to communicate the harsh consequences of violating our anti-meth law," Haslam said. "We want to deter people from making and using meth in our state, which will save lives, protect children, save taxpayer dollars, and make Tennessee safer overall."

The "Meth Stops Now" campaign is an action step in the administration's public safety action plan and specifically addresses the portion of the anti-meth law that increases the penalties for making or using meth in the presence of children and for purchasing pseudoephedrine products for non-medical uses.

The communications campaign targets the counties in Tennessee where there have been the highest number of children removed from homes due to meth-related incidents

and the greatest number of meth lab seizures. In 2011, the Department of Children's Services removed 321 children from their parents' custody due to meth use or manufacturing. Law enforcement officials also seized 1,687 meth labs in Tennessee last year, the second highest number in the nation, according to the Tennessee Meth Task Force.

The governor also announced \$750,000 in his budget amendment for the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to assist local governments with training and equipment costs related to meth clean-up. This funding was originally appropriated for the current fiscal year but required matching funds from local governments of 25 percent. The current budget proposal eliminates the matching requirement.

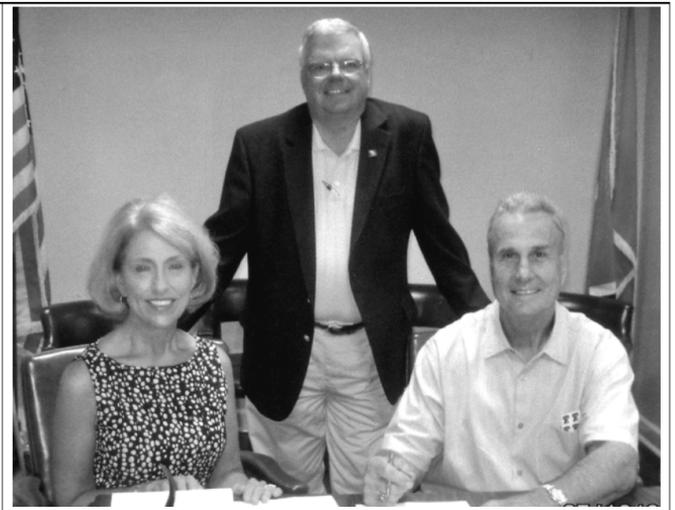
Created by the Tombras Group, the anti-meth campaign is funded by the Department of Finance and Administration's Office of Criminal Justice Programs through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, and by the Consumer Healthcare Products Association. It includes



"Meth Stops Now" campaign materials are available online at www.methstopsnow.com

radio public service announcements, billboards, gas pump advertisements, in-store signage, informational pharmacy bag fliers, and bumper stickers for law enforcement vehicles at the website www.methstopsnow.com.

Partners in the effort include the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Department of Children's Services, Tennessee Meth Task Force, Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference, Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, Tennessee Sheriffs' Association, Tennessee Pharmacists Association, and the Consumer Healthcare Products Association.



The city of Ripley closed a \$640,000 loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to be used toward equipment and parks. Pictured with TMBF Representative Tommy Green are Donna Buckner, city recorder, and Mayor Jon Pavletic.

Local officials push for greater CDGB support

CDGB from Page 1

137 members of the House signed the Brady-Barletta CDBG support letter to the Appropriations Committee, an increase of more than 50 compared to last year.

In the Senate, as in past years, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) authored and circulated a letter urging Senate Appropriators to raise CDBG funding to \$3.3 billion for FY 2013. Sen. Scott Brown (R-Mass.), responding to significant outreach from local officials and others in his state, joined Leahy in signing the letter. In total, 33 senators signed the Leahy-Brown CDBG support letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee, a gain of five over last year.

The potential impact of the House and Senate CDBG support letters on FY 2013 funding depends on many factors, including how budget sequestration is dealt with. And bipartisan support for CDBG remains much too lopsided. However, lifting the trend in Congressional support for CDBG is a significant accomplishment and, more importantly, a necessary first step to

reversing the downward trend in funding.

Another step, almost as important as supporting CDBG directly, is to ask if the overall funding level allocated to each Appropriations Subcommittee is adequate to fund federal programs at sufficient levels. This overall funding level, called a 302(b) allocation, can largely determine the fate of federal funding for programs before appropriations bills are even written.

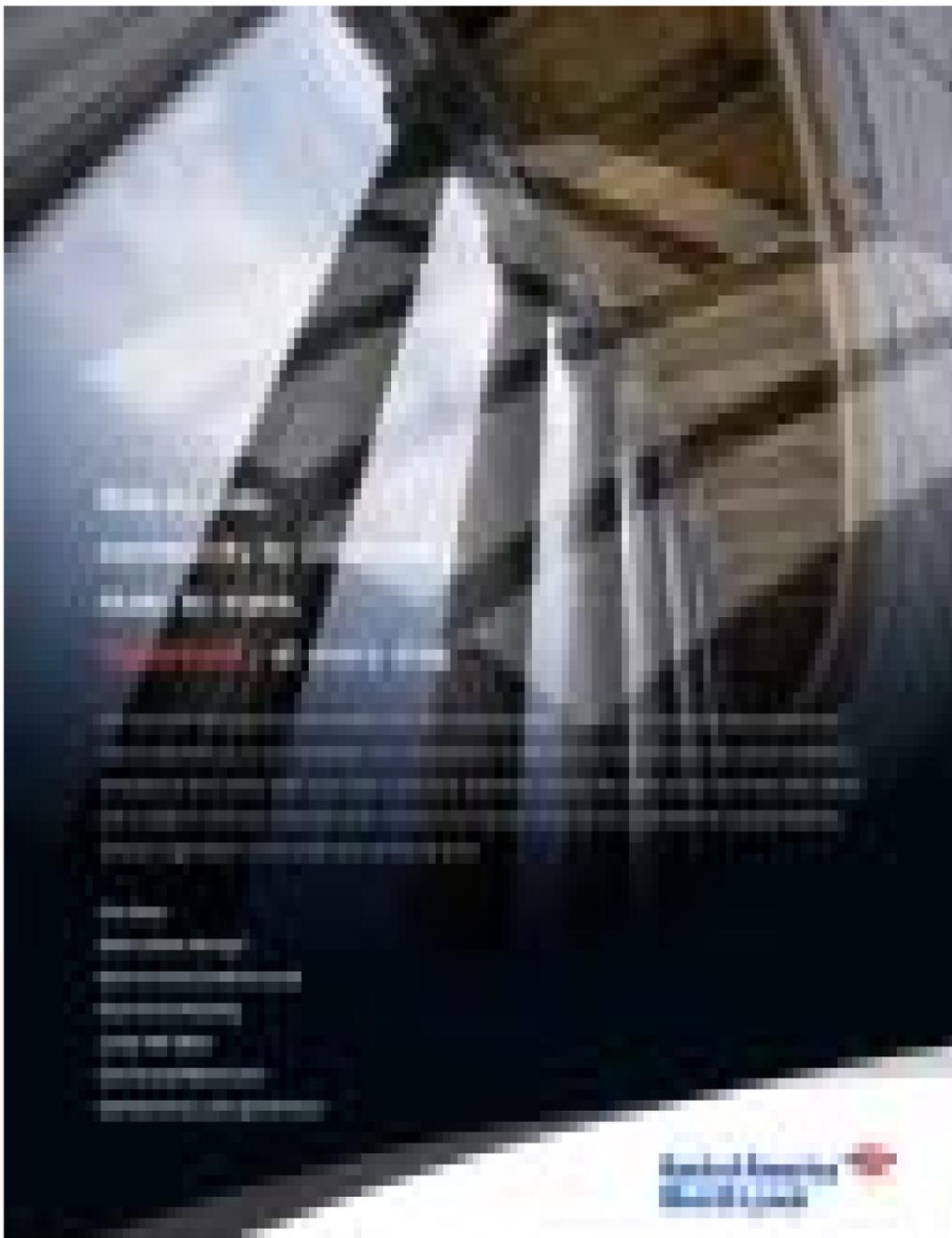
For instance, programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) are funded annually under one single 302(b) allocation. In recent years, community planning and development programs like CDBG have not fared well in this division. Rather than cut funding across the board for all programs when 302(b) allocations wavered, Congress has, reasonably, chosen to maintain investments in job-creating transportation programs and sufficient funding for existing housing rental vouchers. Generally, then, any overall reduction in funds neces-

sarily fall on programs comprising the development side of HUD, such as CDBG and, last year, Sustainable Communities Grants.

Earlier this year, in an effort to provide appropriators with the necessary additional resources to fulfill House and Senate CDBG funding request letters, NLC spearheaded a large coalition of HUD and DOT stakeholders to urge Congress to increase the overall DOT-HUD 302(b) allocation. A total of 178 organizations joined NLC on the letter to Congressional leaders.

NLC expects Congress to set 302(b) allocations sometime in the next three weeks. Soon after, appropriators will release their first drafts of FY 2013 spending bills that give funding levels for individual federal programs like CDBG. After that, local leaders and stakeholders will have a small number of additional opportunities through amendments and House/Senate negotiations to impact funding for their priorities.

The letters and lists of those who signed can be found on NLC's website.



Managing city finances focus of conference workshops

CONFERENCE from Page 1

contributing editor of *State Tax Notes* magazine and the author of *The Politics of State Taxation*, a weekly column focusing on state tax and budget politics.

Also on the conference schedule is a workshop presented by Don Schulte on developing public-private partnerships that will be mutually beneficial to all parties.

Many local governments are struggling to keep up with ever increasing service demands coupled with reduced funding. Through innovative revenue-generating partnerships and programs developed between the public and private sector, cities can help augment budgets to expand services and fund supplemental programs.

Schulte is founder and COO of Public Enterprise Group, Inc., one of the nation's first municipal marketing organization focused on strategic planning and new business development for cities and counties. His municipal marketing team have generated millions of dollars for municipalities across the country by customizing long term public-private partnerships.

Matt Murray with UT's Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) is also on the agenda to provide a budgeting and economic forecast.

Dr. Murray holds a joint appointment with CBER and the Department of Economics at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is associate director of CBER, director of the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, the Ball Corporation professor of Business in the College of Business Administration, and program director for the Public Administration Major in Economics. His research interests include state and local tax policy, education finance, tax compliance, and regional economic development.

In addition, the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) will offer several conference sessions this year as part of the Certified Municipal Finance Officer program. Workshop sessions have been approved by the State Comptroller as continued education units (CEU).

Sessions are open to all conference registrants.

Some of the workshops being offered are:

- Outsourcing of public services
- Assessment of internal controls
- Tax increment financing



Matt Murray

Both Brunori's and Murray's workshops have also been approved for CEU credits.

Other conference highlights include a welcome reception Saturday night, a Sunday morning golf tournament to benefit the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service Scholarships, a full exhibitors' program, and a Host City reception.

The conference will kick off Sunday, June 10, with district meetings and the opening general session, followed by two dynamic workshops and the host city reception. An awards breakfast on Tuesday will conclude the conference.

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

Schedule at a Glance

SATURDAY, JUNE 9	
7 - 10 pm	Welcome Reception
SUNDAY, JUNE 10	
8 am	Golf Benefit
9 am - 5 pm	Registration
11	Exhibit Hall Opens
12 noon	Lunch
1:30 - 2:15 pm	Workshop
2:15 - 2:45 pm	District Meetings
3 - 4:15 pm	Opening Session
4:30 - 5:30 pm	Workshops
6:30 - 8:30 pm	Host City Reception
MONDAY, JUNE 11	
9 - 10 am	Workshops
10:15 - 11:15 am	Workshops
11:30 - 12:15 am	Annual Business Meeting
12:30 - 2 pm	Lunch
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Workshops
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Workshops
6:30 - 11pm	Pool Party
TUESDAY, JUNE 12	
8 - 10 am	Annual Awards Breakfast

2011-2012 Tennessee Blue Book now available on-line

The 2011-2012 Tennessee Blue Book, considered the manual of state government and state history, is now available online.

The Blue Book can be accessed by visiting <http://state.tn.us/sos/bluebook/index.htm>.

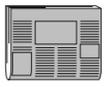
"Making the Blue Book available online is another way we can provide better service to our customers, the citizens of Tennessee," Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. "The newest edition of the Blue Book has updated graphics, photos and other enhancements that have not been available in previous editions. The staff of our Publications Division has embraced my challenge to look for new ways to add value to the work that we do here."

The Blue Book is published every two years by the Secretary of State's office. It contains valuable information about the legislative,

executive and judicial branches of state government - including biographical information about top elected and appointed officials. It also includes biographical information about the state's representatives in Congress, a detailed history of the state, information about historical sites around Tennessee, statistics about cities and counties, election results, state symbols, and much more.

The online archived Blue Books date back to the 2005-2006 Tennessee Blue Book. To view the archived books, please visit <http://state.tn.us/sos/bluebook/index.htm> and scroll down to "Archived Blue Books."

The current edition of the Blue Book is dedicated to the Lt. Gov. Ronald L. Ramsey and Speaker of the House Beth Harwell for their service to the state of Tennessee.



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

CITY MANAGER

MT JULIET. The city is accepting applications for the position of City Manager. The position is responsible to a five member commission, for the day-to-day administration of all city services and departments. Individual must have demonstrated ability to motivate and delegate responsibility, ability to identify long-term goals and issues for the commission's consideration. Candidates must have demonstrated ability to deal with the public, and able to be articulate and interactive with the community, and community groups. Experience in budgeting, control of expenditures, management of multiple departments, legislative issues, economic development, and planning are high priorities. The ideal candidate will have: a bachelor's degree in public administration, political science, or business management, a master's degree would be preferred, and will have five to seven years of experience as a city manager or assistant city manager in a similar sized community; or will have more than ten years of experience in a management role in municipal government or another related field. Salary: DOQ, EOE. Letters of application, Resumes and 3 professional references will be received at: City of Mt. Juliet, attn: City Manager Search, P.O. Box 256, Mt. Juliet, TN 37121 by April 20.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL

BRISTOL. The city is seeking an Economic Development Professional. The successful candidate should hold a B.S. degree in planning, business administration, marketing public administration, or closely related field and a minimum of two years related experience, preferably in municipal government. Competitive salary and benefit package. To apply please submit an application along with a resume, and introductory cover letter to: City of Bristol, H.R. Department, P.O. Box 1189, Bristol, TN 37621-1189, or electronic submissions may be faxed to 423-968-7197. Position open until filled. To download an application and review summary of benefits, go to www.bristoltn.org. EOE

ENGINEER

BRENTWOOD. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Engineer. The position will perform site inspections of commercial and residential construction and also monitor storm water drainage systems and erosion control for compliance with municipal regulations. This position has the responsibility to coordinate new developmental construction with existing developments; coordinate construction activities with departmental maintenance activities and with other governmental agencies. This position requires a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering or related field with at least two (2) years of experience as an engineer knowledgeable in residential/commercial construction, storm water management, and general construction inspection. The starting salary for this position is \$46,400 DOQ plus excellent benefits. More information and applications are available at www.brentwood-tn.org. Submit applications to City of Brentwood, Attn: Human Resources, 5211 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN 37027.

FIRE FIGHTER

FRANKLIN. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of firefighter. Under general supervision, performs all duties of a firefighter which includes fighting fires, salvage and rescue work, and administering minor first aid. Completes regular training sessions and performs some maintenance work on the fire station and vehicles as required. Reports to the Captain and/or Lieutenant. HS Diploma (or GED), 21 years of age, the ability to work under stressful and dangerous conditions, active EMT Basic (minimum) license required, active Paramedic license preferred, a valid TN driver's license, and a record free from habitual use of drugs or intoxicants, felony convictions & misdemeanors involving dishonesty or false statements. Applicants will be pre-screened for training, education, and experience. Highest-rated candidates will be invited to written test and a pass-fail physical agility test (date yet to be determined). Must score 63 or higher on written test. As a condition of employment with the City of Franklin Fire Department, all firefighters must attend and successfully complete Franklin Fire Academy training school as specified by the Franklin Fire Department. Must work a 24 hours-on/48 hours-off shift (average 56 hours week), and live within 45-minute drive of Fire Department Headquarters within twelve (12) months of employment. May be subject to call-back 24 hours a day. Please submit applications online at www.franklinton.gov/jobs. EOE/Drug-free Workplace.

POLICE CHIEF

JOHNSON CITY. The city is seeking a proven and committed Police Chief that will provide professional leadership that will positively promote and affect the community, organization and the department. Candidate should be a self-starter, energetic, progressive and visionary. The Chief will lead a dedicated staff of 150 sworn officers and 23 civilians, manage the non-union police department's \$13 million budget and oversee the entire operations. The department is nationally accredited and is organized into two divisions: Administration and Operations which includes, but not limited to, canine, drug task force, EOD, minimum security jail, special

operations, and SWAT. The candidate must possess strong interpersonal and communication skills (both verbal and written); experience presenting to elected officials and public speaking; ability to motivate and inspire staff to build on past successes; demonstrated ability to develop and achieve long-range planning and budget goals; comprehensive and broad knowledge of the principles and practices of modern police administration; at a minimum have a bachelor's degree and ten years experience in similar-sized department, supplemented with formal training in police administration and scientific methods of crime detection; and demonstrated progressively responsible supervisory experience in several police specialties including command experience at a police captain rank or above. Send a confidential resume and application to City of Johnson City, Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 2150, Johnson City, TN 37605. Min. salary is \$66,574 or higher depending on experience. Visit our website at www.johnsoncitytn.org to access an application. EOE

POLICE CHIEF

WHITE HOUSE. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Police Chief. With 19 full-time sworn and three full-time civilian employees, The Police Department has six Reserve Officers. Officers are dispatched by the Robertson County E911 Consolidated Communications Center. The department is actively involved, through joint operations, with the Sumner County Emergency Response Team and the 18th Judicial Drug Task Force. Qualifications include: A Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice or a related field is required. Extensive work experience in law enforcement or related field; five years of supervisory level experience is required. Tennessee Law familiarity is a plus. Post-Certification must be obtained within six months of employment. The salary range is expected to be between \$52,324 and \$73,253 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications plus benefits. Application deadline is April 16, 2012. Apply at: City of White House, 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188, Attn: Human Resources Dept. or CLewis-Smith@cityofwhitehouse.com Visit the city website to view a detailed position description at www.cityofwhitehouse.com. EOE.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

BELLE MEADE. The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Director of Public Works. Candidates must have a thorough knowledge of public works practices, supervisory experience, excellent written and verbal communication skills, the ability to manage and supervise a diverse range of operational functions simultaneously, including but not limited to street maintenance, trash & recycle collection, brush & chipper service, storm water management, wastewater collection, budgeting and project management. Candidates should also possess a working knowledge of Microsoft Office software. Qualifications include: High school graduate or equivalent; college degree preferred; Minimum of eight (8) years public works experience, with at least four (4) years in a responsible supervisory position as director, assistant director or superintendent; Valid Tennessee driver's license; OSHA approved certification for forklift operator; EPSC Level I (EPSC Level II desired); ability to occasionally work beyond normal hours (7am-3pm), at night or on weekends. Salary range, depending on qualifications and experience is \$50,000 to \$68,000. Periodic pay increases are determined solely by the city's performance review process. The city's comprehensive benefits package includes: longevity pay (after 5 years of service); health & dental insurance - approx. 30 percent employee contribution (single or family); life insurance policy paid by city - \$20,000; additional insurances available through payroll deduction; long-term disability policy paid by city; take-home vehicle within 25 miles from City Hall; clothing and uniforms provided; one-day per month accumulated up to 90 days; 10 paid holidays per year; vacation: two

weeks- 1-5 years; three weeks- 6-10 years; four weeks- 10+ years; retirement plan through Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System; educational assistance program and early retirement program (minimum 55 years of age & 10 years of service). A copy of the job description and employment application is available on the city's website www.citybellemeade.org and at City Hall. Send resume with cover letter, completed application and three (3) professional and three (3) personal references to: Beth Reardon, city manager; City of Belle Meade, 4705 Harding Rd., Nashville, TN, 37205, or e-mail breardon@citybellemeade.org on or before May 10, 2012. Selected qualified applicants will participate in an interview process that includes written and oral assessment. The city anticipates the position to be filled by July 15, 2012. (This information subject to change without notice. The City of Belle Meade is an EEO/ADA/Title VI employer).

WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

BARTLETT. The city's Engineering Department is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Water Treatment Operator. This position involves the treatment and production of potable water and will be required to perform a wide range of duties associated with the operation of the city's water system. Requires a high school diploma or GED; some college preferred, but not required. Must have at least one year of experience in the operation of a water treatment facility, and have a Tennessee Grade II Plant Operator's License or obtain one within a two-year period of employment. Compensation \$17.68 per HR/\$36,778 annual with full benefits including pension, social security, health and life insurance. May be required to work weekends as part of a normal work schedule. Must have a valid driver's license and pass a background and driver's license check, psychological and physical exam, including a drug screen. Will work outside exposed to extreme temperatures and inclement weather and inside within a professional and structured office. Must be able to exert up to 100 lbs of force occasionally and/or up to 50 lbs of force frequently. Bartlett resident preferred, but not required. Will work in a non-smoking work environment. Apply by April 13, 2012 at Personnel Dept., Bartlett City Hall, 6400 Stage Rd., Bartlett TN, 38134, or on-line at www.cityofbartlett.org. EOE.

WATER AND WASTEWATER PLANT SUPERVISOR

SOUTH FULTON. This position is under the administrative direction of the Public Works Director. This employee is responsible for the supervision of the operation and maintenance of the water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment plant. This is highly technical work, subject to state and federal regulations. Some work is conducted indoors with in the treatment plants or in a laboratory. Work is also conducted outside, occasionally adverse weather conditions. The employee may be required to lift heavy objects weighing more than 50 pounds above the waist. The employee's work may expose him/her to high places, fumes, chemicals and/or toxic substances and biological hazards. The employee will be subject to occasionally working in confined spaces. Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering, Pollution Abatement Technology, or a related field. Minimum of five years in the operation and maintenance of both water and water/wastewater treatment plants of similar size and complexity as those operated by the city, including three years responsible administrative and supervisory experience in the operation of water and wastewater treatment facilities. Or any combination of experience and education that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. Tennessee Wastewater Operators Class III, Water Operators Class II, Collections and Distribution Class II required within first year of employment. Licenses must be maintained throughout employment with the city. Application may be obtained at City Hall or fax resume to 731-479-2144 or mail to 700 Milton Counce Drive, South Fulton, TN 38257. Deadline for application is April 20, 2012.



TENNESSEE FESTIVALS

Now-April 29: Knoxville

Dogwood Arts Festival
Walk along more than 60 miles of trails featuring some of the most spectacular dogwood trees of all kinds and colors. This popular event offers a chance to visit and admire beautiful gardens and take part in arts and crafts fairs, while enjoying outdoor concerts from local musicians. Also open gardens, student art show and festival parade. For more information, visit the website <http://www.dogwoodarts.com/> or call 865-637-4561.

April 14: Murfreesboro

Cannonsburgh Pioneer Days
Held at Cannonsburgh Village 312 South Front Street. Activities include blacksmithing, lye soap making, local crafters and artists, square dancing, clogging, petting zoo, antique car show, hayrides, Art League show and a bluegrass concert. Free admission. For more information, call 615-890-0355.

April 17-18: Chattanooga

4 Bridges Arts Festival
Held at the First Tennessee Pavilion Fine art market featuring artists and fine crafts, children's art activities, live music, and a variety of fantastic local cuisine. For more information, www.4bridgesartsfestival.org/ or call Festival Director Laura Lintz at 423-265-4282 Ext. 106.

April 21: Watertown

Spring Mile-Long Yard Sale
Join the city's biggest yard sale held at Watertown Public Square. Want to avoid traffic? Take the Tennessee Central Railway Excursion Train from Nashville.

April 23-29: Paris

World's Biggest Fish Fry
A Paris tradition. More than five tons of catfish at the Bobby Cox Memorial Fish Tent serves thousands each year. Rodeo, parade, catfish races, 5k Hushpuppy Dash, street dance, carnival, All You Can Eat Fish Tent, Hushpuppy Eating Contest, Christian concert, arts & crafts show, Grand Parade, horse & mule pull and much more. For a full schedule of family fun events and information, visit the festival website www.worldsbiggestfishfry.com/ or call 731-642-3431.

April 27-28: Parsons

Peavine Festival
A free outdoor festival with arts & crafts vendors, live music, fun events and great food held downtown. Honors the Peavine Railroad line that once connected Parsons and Lexington, TN. For more information, call 731.847.6358 .

April 28-May 12: Dayton

TN Strawberry Festival
Larger than ever, this year's theme is "Star Spangled Strawberries - A Hometown Salute To America." Come join this traditional celebration in downtown Dayton. Carnival, craft and food vendors, live entertainment, gospel music, family fun

area, TN Strawberry Parade on May 12. For a schedule of events, visit tnstrawberryfestival.com/schedule.php.

April 28-May 5: Dresden

Iris Festival
Arts and crafts, Iris parade, city-wide yard sale, pageants and 5K Road Race. For information, visit www.tennesseeirisfestival.com.

April 29-May 5: Trenton

Teapot Festival
Beginning in 1981, John W. Melton developed the idea of a "teapot festival" to draw attention to a rare collection of Porcelain Veilleuses. The festival has grown into a weeklong event beginning with a ceremonial Lighting of the Teapots and culminates in the Annual Grand Parade. For more information, call 731-855-2013.

May 3-6: Celina

Moonshine Daze
Held at 424 Brown Street. Arts & Crafts, food, music, Hillbilly events, and outhouse races. For more information, call 931-243-3338.

May 4-5: Murfreesboro

Jazzfest
Held at 212A W. Main Street. For more information, visit the website www.jazzfestmainstreet.com or call 615- 895-1887.

May 4 -5: Townsend

Spring Festival
Held at 7906 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway. Traditional mountain culture, including bluegrass music, arts & crafts booths, clogging, and more. For more information, call 865-448-6134.

May 4 -6 : Morristown

ETANG All Nations Gathering
Held at 3075 Floyd Hall Drive, Cherokee Park. Native American dancers, story tellers, flute playing, arts and crafts, Indian tacos, tepees and music. For more information, call 423-327-3914.

May 5-June 23: Covington

Music on the Square
Each Saturday evening from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. enjoy an evening of free music in a family, friendly environment. Bring your lawn chairs; no coolers allowed. For more information call 901-476-9613.

May 6-12: Humboldt

West TN Strawberry Festival
A 75-year tradition. Parade, pageantry, food, contests, music, carnival. For a complete listing of events and times, visit the festival website <http://www.wtsf.org/>.

May 11-19: Portland

71st Strawberry Festival
The big festival day is May 19 in downtown Portland. Parade, food, entertainment, carnival, contests, family fun. For more information, stay tuned to www.portlandtn.com/strawberry_festival.htm

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Report documents viability of public pension plans: most are secure

BY NEIL BOMBERG
Nations's Cities Weekly

A March report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the research arm of the U.S. Congress, documented the viability of public pension plans.

Despite the recent economic downturn, the GAO reported that most large state and local government pension plans "have assets sufficient to cover benefit payments to retirees for a decade or more." The report downplayed any danger of an immediate collapse of public pension plans, which critics of public pension plans have predicated, noting that their methodologies were flawed and that the financial basis for public pension plans naturally creates strong, long-lasting plans that can provide benefits into the foreseeable future.

The report did agree with

critics that the Great Recession has had an impact on public pension plans, but also documented that plan sponsors are making adjustments to retirement plans that assure no less than their medium-term viability.

The authors of the report wrote, "Since 2008, the combination of fiscal pressures and increasing contribution requirements has spurred many states and localities to take action to strengthen the financial condition of their plans for the long term, often packaging multiple changes together."

The report found that 35 states have reduced pension benefits, mostly for future employees due to legal provisions protecting benefits for current employees and retirees. A few states, like Colorado, have reduced postretirement benefit increases for all members and beneficiaries of their pension plans. Half the states have increased member contributions, thereby shifting a larger share of the pension costs to



PENSION

A March GAO report indicates public pension plans are viable.

employees. Some states, the report found, have shifted to hybrid plans that combine defined-benefit and defined-contribution plans, shifting the investment risks to employees.

The report concluded that growing budget pressures on states and localities will continue to challenge the ability of state and local governments to maintain their pension systems, but for now most are secure, well-funded and at no risk of being unable to meet their obligations to current and future retirees.

The Baldrige Forum April Schedule

Excellent Performance Maximizes Taxpayer Investment

The UT Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership in partnership with the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence sponsors a workshop on the Baldrige process for performance improvement focused on applications in government.

Government leaders are always striving to be good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars and to operate their organizations as efficiently and effectively as possible. The workshop will introduce you to a proven approach to enhance the effectiveness of your government's programs and op-

erations, while maximizing efficiency and saving those tax dollars.

For more than two decades, the Baldrige process has helped organizations sharpen their focus and improve results. Hear actual stories from representatives in government who have successfully implemented worthwhile improvements, many resulting in positive financial savings.

Time

Held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Dates and locations

April 12 — Oak Ridge

April 25 — Jackson

Training Facilities

Jackson, West Tennessee Research and Education Center, Seminar Room 150,605 Airways Boulevard

Oak Ridge, East Tennessee Economic Council (ETEC) Meeting Room, 1201 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Suite 100

Check-in is at 8 a.m. Registration fee is \$25. For information or to register, visit the website www.leadership.tennessee.edu/baldrige. For registration assistance, contact Sherri Brown at 865-974-6621 or e-mail sherri.brown@tennessee.edu.

MTAS MAP Class May Schedule

Drug Fund Overview, Property & Evidence Disposal

This Municipal Administration Program course covers all aspects of drug fund administration and the proper disposal of sensitive property and evidence items, such as drugs, firearms and vehicles. Discussion will include the accounting process required for confidential expenditures; allowable expenditures; and how the special revenue account (drug fund) differs from the confidential expense account. The course will review recent legislative mandates for the disposal of firearms and comptroller's regulations concerning drugs and forfeited vehicles.

Who should attend?

City recorders, sheriffs, county finance directors, city clerks, finance directors, police chiefs, command officers and investigation supervisors responsible

for confidential drug fund expenditures

Time

All classes held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dates and locations

May 3 — Franklin

May 10 — Collegedale

May 15 — Johnson City

May 16 — Knoxville

May 22 — Bartlett

May 23 — Jackson

Training Facilities

Bartlett, Performing Arts Center, 3663 Appling Road

Collegedale, Collegedale City Hall, 4910 Swinyar Drive

Franklin, Franklin Ag Expo, 4215 Long Lane

Jackson, West Tennessee Research and Education Center, Seminar Room 150,605 Airways Boulevard

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Johnson City, Carnegie Hotel, 1216 West State of Franklin Road
Knoxville, University of Tennessee Conference Center, 600 Henley Street, 4th floor.

To better meet the needs of our customers, MTAS has changed to an online registration system and will accept registration and payment by credit/debit card through your Solution Point account. Registration fee is \$40/person/class. All other participants \$55/person/class.

If you need assistance with registration or payment, call (865) 974-0411.

COMING
 UP

April 19: Dr. William M. Bass will speak at 6:30 p.m. at MTSU's Murphy Center as part of the Legends in Forensic Science Lecture-ship. The event is free and open to the public. Bass is an internationally recognized expert in the field of forensic anthropology. He has gained prominence through his research facility, the UT Body Farm, which has been featured in fiction and nonfiction books, and television programs such as "The Dead Zone" and "CSI." Dr. Bass, along with his co-author Jon Jefferson, has also become a successful fiction writer. He also was honored as National Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. The event is presented by Forensic Institute for Research and Education. For more information, call 615-494-7713 or email fire@mtsu.edu.

April 26-27: The 2012 Governor's Innovation Conference This inaugural event will be held at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel. The conference will provide a glimpse into the Volunteer State's economic future through keynote addresses, panels, investor pitches and interactions with Tennessee's investment community, technology innovators and entrepreneurs. The conference will explore new programs designed to drive economic growth and job creation in Tennessee. The hundreds of conversations initiated at this event will become a launch pad for Tennessee's transformational development and growth. To register, visit <http://www.tntechology.org/conference>.

May 1-2: The Tennessee Innovation in Evidence-based Programming Conference. Held at the Chattanooga Convention Center, 1150 Carter St. For criminal justice practitioners (law enforcement, community corrections, mental health, children's services and juvenile justice professionals) Sessions include: Implementation of Evidence-Based Programs (EBPs); Effective Gang Prevention/Intervention Strategies; Risk and Needs Assessments: Serving the Right Offenders for Effective Outcomes; Drug Market Intervention, Smart Policing and CIT; and Preventative Juvenile Services, Youth Courts and Relapse Prevention.

To register go to: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/TPOnline/TPOnline.dll/LEICHome>. Create an account. Login. Click on "Catalogs" in the upper left hand corner. Type in - Evidence Based. Select TN resident or non-TN resident. Click Register. Cost \$25 in state; \$50 out-of-state attendees. For more information, visit the website mtas.tennessee.edu/Training/TIE/TIEBPC12.pdf

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The city of Dyersburg closed a \$4.5 million loan to use on various municipal projects.



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Judd Matheny takes law enforcement, music roads to politics

BY GAEL STAHL

Judd Matheny has lived in many places and in each he found a home, schooling and employment during a swift trek through youth. His Virginia family moved from the Shenandoah Valley to Knoxville the year before he was born in 1970. His father, a UT entomology professor, went from there to teach at Motlow Community College in Moore County and at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Matheny was six when his parents separated. His mother left his oldest brother with their father in Florida and took him to Tullahoma, Tenn.

At age 12 he rejoined his dad for seventh and eighth grades and was 14 when he moved with him to Cameroon West Africa where his father taught university professors insect control and cropland issues for the US Agency for International Development. It was a rich, fertile mountain area just north of the equator. The weather was wonderful, the thriving population well-fed with abundant wild game in a peaceful environment. For Matheny, returning to Tennessee at age 16 was a reverse culture shock. While he enjoyed the 911 call system, the paved roads, television in every home, and a car in every driveway, he realized that you could actually be better off without all those things in Cameroon. The simplicity of that life made him aware of his surroundings and he started to gravitate toward public service.

When he turned 17 in 1987, he jumped started a 15-year span in which he was all over the place going to school while working several jobs during a fast-paced period that cooled off only after he married in 1999 and got into politics in 2002. It started after his junior year at Tullahoma High School when he had his mother take him to the Tennessee Army National Guard Armory and sign a waiver so he could go to basic training. For the next eight years he was employed by the U.S. Army and the Winchester Army National Guard Unit. After basic training, he graduated from Tullahoma High in 1988 and attended Motlow Community College for nearly two years. He spent two summers working in the Governor's Task Force for Marijuana Eradication that linked the TBI, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and the Tennessee Army National Guard under the umbrella of the Alcohol Beverage Commission (ABC) to look for marijuana being grown in the hills and woodlands of Tennessee.

During the non-growing season, he worked with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department as a 20-year-old reserve deputy, and was hired by the Baxter Police Department and sent to the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy at age 21. Two years later, Matheny went to work fulltime for the National Guard's Counterdrug Program with an assignment to assist the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department. At age 23, with the guidance of a mentor, Tom Gothard, Matheny was hired as a special agent with the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission in Cookeville, Tenn.

His interest in politics and music came together during a Fred Thompson Senate campaign when Matheny did a fundraising concert for him and went on to produce hundreds of major concerts. In 1998, he also started his own security company and received a sizeable contract. That led him to give up his law enforcement career at ABC and for the next several years operated his security company in Nashville. At the same time, he produced and promoted dozens of major concerts, handled bookings and road management, ran the soundboard and lights for about 400 shows, and went on a couple of tours up and down the eastern seaboard.

After a seven-year hiatus from schooling, he graduated in criminal justice and political science from Regent's College in Nashville that was attached to the State University of New York in 2000.

Around 2001, the music business peaked then fell off just as Matheny's security business took off. At first it was a company that booked off-duty police officers and indemnified the local government against their worker's comp and liability. It later evolved into executive protection – obtaining the contract for the Gaylord Center for Predator's games, and what is now LP Field, which houses the Tennessee Titans and TSU games. He also garnered contracts with major corporations in town.

In 1999, at age 29, Matheny had married his high school sweetheart, Christy Smith. They dated all through high school and have two children, Abigail, 12 and Aulden, 10. A year after their marriage, he and Christy watched the Bush and Gore election results at party headquarters and studied their state representative's race. He told her that if the challenger got a third of the vote against the incumbent he'd close that other one-third gap and win the seat in two years. The incumbent got 35 percent and Matheny started campaigning the next morning. He'd moved to Tullahoma a couple years prior, and with help of people like Sam Harper, he campaigned for two solid years as a total political unknown and won in November 2002.

He was a diligent team player serving on various committees and last year, after House Republicans won a 64-35 majority in the 2010 elections, Matheny ran for speaker pro tem and became the first Republican speaker pro tem in 150 years.

Five years ago, Matheny started a new career as an auctioneer. He took two years of training and is now starting his third year as a full auctioneer.

TT&C: How did you build up the contacts and friendships that led to your election as speaker pro tem?

JM: One person at a time. I won the support of people by being honest with them when we would all sit around that table and when I voted. Honesty is the No. 1 thing up here whether you're a legislator, a lobbyist or a citizen. If you're dishonest in your dealings, it will follow you and haunt you. Naturally, you have good and bad relationships with people over a 10-year period but most have been excellent. People have different ways of handling disagreements. We all get mad and then get reasonable again. Some people get mad and harbor it a long time. I've learned to separate the personal, emotional parts of issues from the mechanical part of it. It's vital to see the difference and understand the mechanical is the one we worry about because that's what we ultimately put in the legislation. But the emotional reasons people bring forward are just as important so making sure you're attuned to all those things during your decision-making process will normally leave a pretty good taste in everybody's mouth regardless of the outcome of the bill.

TT&C: What are your main duties as speaker pro tem?

JM: The main constitutional responsibility of speaker pro tem is to provide continuity, to fill in for the House Speaker until a new one is appointed or elected but hopefully, we will never have to do that. Also, I fill in to preside on the House floor when she is away from the podium. We communicate about as many issues as possible to make sure we're pulling in the same direction and saying the same things to the same people.

My unofficial duties are to serve at-large on all committees and sub-committees, to break ties and assist in quorum calls and the like and solve various issues the speaker assigns me.

That's the way I sold myself to the caucus two years ago. I said, look, I want to get in here and help where I'm needed to move us on to the extent of my abilities. I want to stay out of people's way and not get in their business; but if they need somebody to help them to push issues and consolidate opinions, I want to be that guy. Those are my natural abilities.

My biggest challenge is being omnipresent. This past week, I was literally sitting on three committees at once and watching two others. I'm challenged to make sure I keep my commitments to help other legislators with their legislation and to keep up with my legislative responsibilities to the bills that I carry, and always being there in committees.

TT&C: If you could change anything in the Tennessee General Assembly, what would it be?

JM: I'd like to strive for less legislation being filed. I tell members that what you try to get done may not be as important as what you don't let happen. Passing bills is not always a mark of a good legislator; stopping bad bills is equally good. When you're helping other people pass good legislation, it benefits you also by being able to share that credit. A lot of bills filed are redundant and waste taxpayer money. Beth Harwell has done a great job in trimming this back and getting a hold of it. We want every legislator to do what they need to do but understand that this slows the entire system down. If you're not passionate about something or due diligence tells you it won't pass, why try passing it just to pass it. We need to get fewer bills being filed because the less time we can be here the better it is for everybody – including us.

TT&C: What is your proudest legislative accomplishment to date?

JM: Methamphetamines were the big issue when I got here in 2002. In 2005 we passed the strongest meth bill in the country and it slowed the problem down. I was one of the drivers in that. It came out of my law enforcement days when I watched meth problems emerge in the rural Cumberland areas. I set up a meth lab in one of the committee rooms in 2003 to educate legislators on how easy it was to make meth. Those efforts were one of my earlier accomplishments.

I chaired Consumer Employee Affairs for the two years prior to becoming speaker pro tem. Probably the greatest thing we did was look at employee classification in the construction industry and overhaul our entire unemployment insurance system. Through cooperation from every member, we managed to prop up our program without borrowing money from the federal government. We're one of the few states in the neighborhood now sitting with \$370 million in surplus in that fund and owe the federal government nothing. Many states owe billions. We have total control of our program with no debt.



Rep. Judd Matheny, House Speaker Pro Tem

It autocorrects itself and does not take more money out of the market place. Rep. Charlie Curtiss was instrumental in helping implement that.

The workers comp issue I oversaw while I was Consumer Affairs chairman was that individual contractors had hefty workers comp policies on themselves even if they could self-insure. We worked for eight months in the off season so individuals that wanted to exercise their own personal responsibilities could protect themselves. When we passed the bills, each department said they thought about 3,000 businesses would take advantage of it. Last count I had was 18,000 small businesses had exempted themselves. There's no doubt that thousands of people would be out of business if we had not passed these laws. That's a big accomplishment.

TT&C: You are the House sponsor of the prescription drug database bill. How will it target doctor shopping and the selling of prescription drugs on the street?

JM: I could not have asked for more cooperation from the administration, pharmacists, hospitals and medical associations in solving the problem. Everyone wants this to pass, and I am confident that it will. The objective is to have a data base system in place so that when physicians prescribe a schedule 2, 3, or 4 drug, we'll be able to look at the system and within a minute or two, know if that person has a redundant prescription. And we can know if someone attempted to go other places to have the prescription for that controlled substance filled. Tennessee leads the nation in prescription drug abuse. The number of prescriptions that individuals receive here is twice the national average. We're tightening up controls incrementally by spending money for hardware and software implementation of a database system that can handle millions of queries a year to providers and dispensers. We are starting out trying to dump that data every seven days into a computer database that law enforcement could set for investigation purposes. To get closer real-time accurate information that a doctor can look at, the objective is to get down to 48 hours. That's ambitious, but again, I'm confident that it will pass. It's been a pleasure to carry that bill for the governor.

TT&C: Viam Manufacturing in your Coffee County district recycles clear plastic bottles. What's the economic/environmental impact?

JM: It's a great story. Viam, a Japanese company, is the largest manufacturer of automotive floor mats in America. Vicam, a spin-off from Viam is new, their fourth major facility. Vicam recycles clear plastic bottles into a fiber so fine it is preferred in human wigs as hair. They also use that fiber to make carpeting. A plant in Kentucky makes headliners and we make automotive floor mats with it. The economic impact is many dollars in infrastructure and increases in jobs in a high-tech recycling industry. The biggest challenge right now is the supply of clear plastic bottles with 15 million needed a month. Supply streams are coming in from other parts of the country, but I want a Tennessee source for them and am in negotiations with the governor who attended a grand opening of the plant. I want us to divert clear plastic from landfills and have regional facilities in nearby metropolitan areas close enough to truck plastic to the manufacturing site economically. Recycling collection points in Rutherford and Davidson counties would be 45 minutes from Manchester. Cities, individuals, and businesses could make money dumping plastic at a concerted area with low capital equipment such as washers and grinders and balers, collect clear plastic from ditches, rivers, and lakes, and load them on trucks, and ship them straight to the factory.

We've had a plastic bottle bill up almost every year to put additional tax on plastic bottles. Instead, Viam could solve the old problem of getting them out of the ditches and out of the landfills and lakes and rivers.

TT&C: A huge economic boon for your district is the Bonnaroo music festival in Manchester. Describe the cooperation of volunteers, city, county, and state agencies to pull something of this magnitude off.

JM: It's a well-oiled machine that Coffee County and Manchester do not take for granted. You open *Rolling Stone* magazine in May and see a full-page ad to come to Manchester, Tennessee. The name recognition goes around the globe. It brings tens of millions of dollars into our local economy with a lot of part-time jobs and benefits to civic organizations since Bonnaroo embraces booster clubs and churches. Any 501 that makes application to Bonnaroo normally has success getting a booth inside and people profit from selling ice on site, watermelons, and by parking vehicles in their yards. Organizations that normally raise a couple thousand dollars holding a traditional fundraiser can make much more during the days of Bonnaroo.

We could not get more cooperation from the Bonnaroo people. They require a lot and they pay for police and medical and fire services above and beyond the costs to the cities. They pay their own way, keep the infrastructure up, and are continuously upgrading infrastructure by putting in permanent staging, power, and water facilities so that we're beginning to have more events and concert series out there. It's exciting fun for everybody in the county. There were traffic issues the first couple of years with people coming off the interstate, but now people going to the musical festival have a minimal delay and those not going to it can go around the town. Hotel rooms sell out for 50 miles in every direction. Restaurants and Wal-Marts get cleaned out. I'm good friends with the promoters of the event, as are city and county officials.

TT&C: TML's two biggest legislative priorities pertain to the fiscal impact of any state imposed unfunded mandates. The first bill would provide that any legislation that has a cost to local governments and not fully funded would give local governments an option as to whether or not they implement the unfunded mandate. The other bill provides for any rule or regulation proposed by the state that has a fiscal impact on local governments to have a written justification for the regulation, a fiscal note, and a cost-benefit analysis. What is your view on both of these measures?

JM: Both of those measures are prudent. The last thing we want to do is put an unfunded mandate on local governments. That's the one thing that our cities and counties and commissions and boards of mayor and aldermen continuously tell us: We'll do it, but you need to pay for it. Of course, we deal with the same thing when the federal government tells the state to do things. I will always support efforts not to send unfunded mandates down to the cities and counties. Any piece of legislation that has a fiscal impact should have a cost-benefit analysis and justification for it. When a government does something with taxpayer's money it absolutely should tell why they are doing it and what resources they are going to do it with. That should be predetermined before the mandate is passed down. I'm confident Speaker Harwell feels the same way as do the leadership of both the Republican and Democratic parties. Sometimes things slip through, which is why, I suppose, these bills are before us to stop it. I don't think either bill is going to have much of a problem.

TT&C: I saw where you were quoted as saying that selling and buying wine in grocery stores is manifest destiny?

JM: I have no problem with it. At some point, it is going to pass. The only caveat is that if we allow wine to be sold in grocery stores that we allow liquor stores to sell other things to level the playing field. I spent a couple of years in Florida where selling wine in groceries just wasn't a big deal. The wine industry is booming in Tennessee. We're making some of the best wine in the country. Some say we're making brands with Tennessee grapes that are globally competitive. Our farmers need every opportunity to sell their wares. It may not be in grocery stores yet, but we are expanding our markets by allowing wineries to pop up more often. We passed a bill today that would allow an individual farmers with grapes to have wine bottled under their grape name. It's more than a boutique industry now. It's an actual bona fide industry in Tennessee.

TT&C: You've talked up Adventure Tourism in the past.

JM: That's another huge jobs-creation bill if individuals and local governments take advantage of it. It allows a business or group of businesses to petition a government or consortium of governments to create an adventure tourism district. That brings a lot of benefits as they begin to advertise for outdoor activities like rock climbing, kayaking, skiing sports, zip lines, canoeing, white water rafting, and the like. The Ocoee River area would be an ideal adventure tourism district if they get all the outfitters together and local governments give them liability waivers so outfitters can put up notices saying that individuals are personally liable for the risks they take. The bill gives a \$4,500 a year franchise and excise tax credit per employee hired. It enables them to grow. Cities can consolidate businesses to work together and flourish together. The Department of Tourism played a major role in this.