

## 108th Tennessee General Assembly adjourns first session



### Legislature adopts new barrel rate on Wholesale Beer Tax, effective July 1

BY KEVIN KRUSHENSKI  
TML Legislative Analyst

On April 10, the Tennessee General Assembly passed SB422 (Kelsey) / HB999 (Sexton) that re-established the wholesale beer tax as \$35.60 per barrel of beer in place of the historical 17 percent of the wholesale price. This new barrelage rate takes effect July 1, 2013.

At the onset of the 2013 legislative session, Sen. Brian Kelsey of Germantown and Rep. Cameron Sexton of Crossville introduced legislation for the beer industry that would change the beer tax. The sponsors and the industry called for replacing the current price-based percentage tax to a fixed, per barrel tax similar to the state's beer barrelage tax. Both the legislative sponsors and the industry discussed their intention to hold local governments harmless and mentioned that if their proposal passed then Tennessee would "still be the highest tax state."

In recent years, a burgeoning craft beer industry brought the wholesale tax to the political forefront. They claimed that the tax

places craft beer at a disadvantage within the industry, and it also places the state of Tennessee at a disadvantage among peer states for beer industry jobs and products. The beer industry purported that the percentage based wholesale beer tax "unfairly penalizes Tennessee's young craft-brewing industry," is "driving away economic development from the beer industry," and creates a situation where a brewer can sell less beer year over year, but pay more taxes. They cited a statistic where beer consumption (as measured by barrels taxed by the state) decreased almost five percent over a decade while the wholesale tax increased about 30 percent. The industry claimed that absent changes it would struggle and not see much growth going forward in Tennessee.

At the March TML Legislative Conference in Nashville, the TML Board met and received a presentation on the history of the wholesale beer tax, recent industry dynamics, consumption and collection trends, future tax projections, and the pros and cons of moving from a dynamic, price based tax to a tax based on

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### New TACIR report confronts challenges to Tennessee's future

A new report conducted by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) says Tennesseans need a shared, long-term vision to make the most of the state's assets and meet current and future challenges.

Called *Charting a Course to Tennessee's Future*, the report offers the best thinking of a cross-section of public officials, private sector leaders, and members of academia on how to envision a better future, work toward common goals, and solve shared problems.

The report notes Tennessee's many strengths—because of its location and landscapes, is a natural transportation hub and tourist destination, and its high quality of life continues to attract new businesses and residents.

At the same time, though, Tennesseans are confronting many challenges. The state's growing population is also aging, increasing the demand for services from health care to transportation. As the population ages, the workforce shrinks by comparison even as workers and the businesses that employ them try to adapt to the changes wrought by globalization.

Tennesseans' educational attainment levels and overall health, though improving, lag behind those of residents of other states. Sharp contrasts of wealth and poverty make developing effective state-wide policies to deal with these problems a daunting task. And, at a time when government at all levels is strapped for resources, public roads and bridges, and water and sewer

lines are deteriorating.

Most people interviewed for *Charting a Course to Tennessee's Future* were asked, "What do you think Tennessee's biggest challenges will be over the next 20 years?" They responded with a wide range of concerns but with surprising agreement, echoing four broad themes centering on people, infrastructure, natural resources, and governance. More than half of those interviewed said that education is the greatest challenge, citing its effect on the state's ability to provide a skilled workforce and promote economic development. They also expressed concern about the effect of education on Tennesseans' health and civic engagement.

The report notes that, like the rest of the United States, Tennessee's population is not only becoming older but also more racially and ethnically diverse. The Tennessee Data Center projects that the state's population will increase by 25 percent between 2010 and 2040—from 6.3 million to 7.9 million. At the same time, the population aged 85 and older will more than double, from about 100,000 to 203,500, and the percentage who are children will decrease. Tennessee's leaders will need to consider how these changes affect health care, housing, transportation, and education.

The report also notes that Tennesseans face many health problems, from infant mortality to adult-onset diabetes. Sadly, many of the health problems plaguing the state's

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Meeting a pledge by both Speakers to adjourn by mid-April, the 108th Tennessee General Assembly completed its business April 19, setting a record for the earliest adjournment since 1990. Gov. Bill Haslam's \$33 billion

spending plan was approved in both Houses on April 17, which is always one of the last items the Legislature most take care of before adjourning. With state revenues showing signs of improvement, the approved state budget

assumes that revenues will grow by 3.89 percent during the next fiscal year.

TML will address many of the new laws passed during the 2013 session in the next issue of *Tennessee Town and City*.

### More exemptions approved for senior citizens on Hall Income Tax

BY CAROLE GRAVES  
TML Communications Director

Tennessee lawmakers approved legislation last week that raises the income exemption levels on the Hall Income Tax for senior citizens.

SB198 (Norris) / HB192 (McCormick) increases the Hall Income Tax maximum allowable income exemption levels, for taxpayers 65 years of age or older, from \$26,200 to \$33,000 for single filers, and from \$37,000 to \$59,000 for joint filers, for tax years beginning in 2013.

The bill is estimated to reduce local government revenue by \$821,500 in fiscal year 2014-15.

The legislation is part of Gov.

Bill Haslam's legislative package. It passed unanimously in both chambers.

Currently, the state levies an annual tax of six percent on each person, partnership, association, trust or corporation in the state that received or was credited with receiving incomes derived from dividends from stocks or interest on bonds.

The revenues collected from each filer are shared between the state and the municipality or county in which the taxpayer resides. The state retains 62.5 percent of the tax collected, while 37.5 percent of the tax paid is allocated to either the city or county.

The action by the General Assembly builds on Hall tax relief ef-

forts taken in 2011 which raised the exemption level for senior citizens from \$16,200 to \$26,200 for single filers and from \$27,000 to \$37,000 for joint filers.

Many lawmakers have stated publicly that this is part of multi-year phase out to totally eliminate the Hall Income Tax.

During TML's annual Legislative Conference in March, Rep. Charles Sargent, chairman of the House Finance Ways and Means Committee, told city officials that "Over the next 10 or 12 years the Hall tax will probably end up disappearing. It's something that will be phased out over several years so everyone can adjust. We know that it affects your budgets."

### State tax collections reach record high after Recession's decline

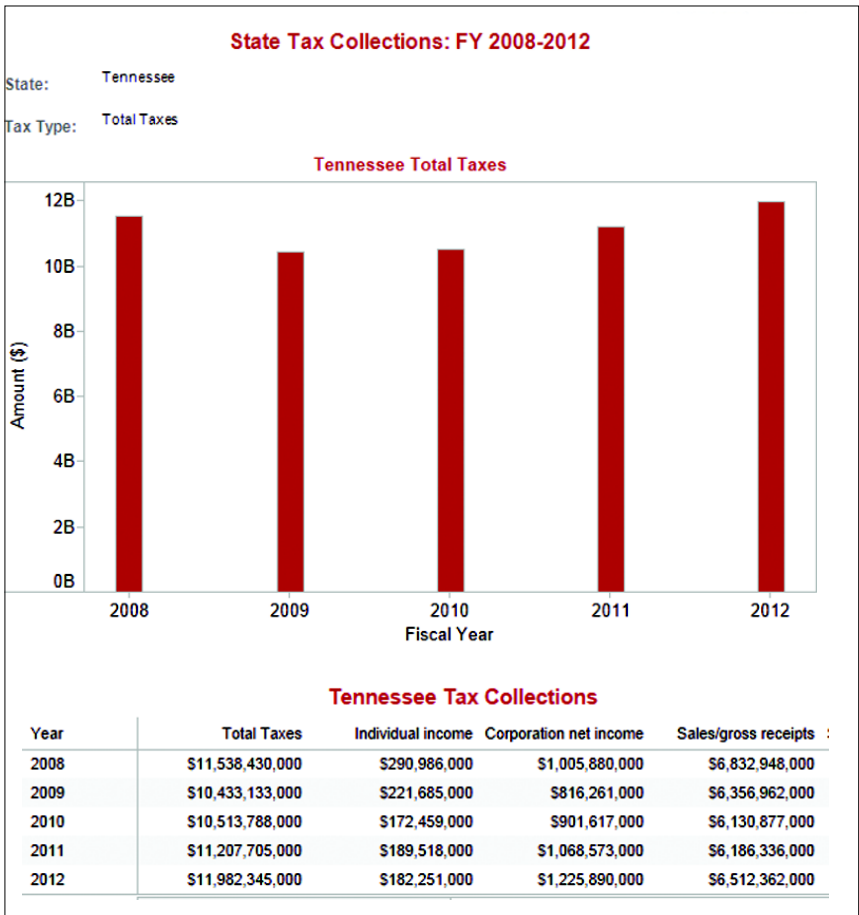
BY JAKE GROVUM,  
Stateline.org Staff Writer

State tax revenue reached record highs last fiscal year, just years removed from the depths of the Great Recession, which ravaged state budgets and drove down revenues in many states.

States collected nearly \$800 billion in the 2012 fiscal year, according to Census data released this month. The dollar figure is not adjusted for inflation, but nonetheless shows a drastic jump in collections from 2010 when states collected just \$703 billion, the lowest level since 2005.

Several individual states saw significant jumps. Illinois, for example, saw income tax collections increase nearly 40 percent. Hawaii saw a nearly 24 percent increase. Oregon and North Dakota received 20 percent more revenue from motor fuel taxes. Other sizable increases were in large part because of natural resource revenue. North Dakota, for example, saw a 47 percent increase and Alaska, a 27 percent increase.

Nearly every state reported a revenue increase in 2012 compared to the previous year. Eight states saw revenue increases of greater than 10 percent last year when compared to 2011. Tennessee ranked 21st in



Tennessee ranked 21st in overall tax collections and up 5.3 percent when compared to last year

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California's collections de-

clined, something attributed to the expiration of a temporary sales tax

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### CMFO training offered at Annual Conference

The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) will offer several conference sessions at the TML Annual Conference in Memphis as part of the Certified Municipal Finance Officer program (CMFO).

Workshop sessions have been approved by the State Comptroller as CMFO continued education units.

The Municipal Finance Officer Certification and Education Act of 2007, as passed by the Tennessee General Assembly, requires each municipality to have in its employ a Certified Municipal Finance Officer (CMFO). The legislation also provided an alternative for cities with gross annual revenues of \$100,000 or less and \$100,000 or less in outstanding debt. These smaller cities are given the option to have an employee complete 24 hours of qualifying continuing education each year, or contract with a qualified person to provide financial oversight. These cities may also elect to send an employee through the CMFO program.

In addition, to maintain certification, a certified municipal finance officer shall earn at least 24 hours of continuing education units (CEUs) of financial education each calendar year after receiving the designation.

Although the workshops are being offered as part of CMFO, sessions are open to all conference registrants. All workshops are offered on Monday, June 24 in the Cook Convention Center.

• **Understanding Municipal Financial Statements**

Qualifies for 1 hour CMFO continuing education hours (financial)

Speaker: Mike Hewitt, CPA

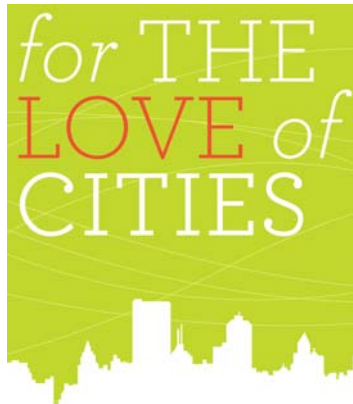
The annual financial report should be much more than a legal document that sits on a shelf in your office. This is a useful tool that provides citizens, elected officials, and municipal staff important financial and statistical information needed for effective municipal management. This session will provide an understanding of the contents of the annual financial report and provide skills necessary to obtain basic financial information from this document.

• **GASB**

Speaker: Mike Hewitt

Qualifies for 1 hour CMFO continuing education hours (financial)

This session will provide an overview of the accounting changes from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and what is required by the latest update.



**TML Annual Conference**  
**June 22-25, 2013**  
**Memphis, TN**

• **Analysis of audit findings**

Speaker: Sharee Brewer, MTAS  
Qualifies for 1 hour CMFO continuing education hours (financial)

The session will explain the current audit finding processes and updates to those processes, which includes, contracting for the audit, what goes on during the audit and the follow up process with possible findings, including current examples. This session is informative

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# NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



## BY TML STAFF REPORTS

### ALCOA/HENDERSONVILLE

Windham Professionals is adding 245 new jobs in Tennessee. Windham, headquartered in Salem, N.H., is a collections agency. The company is adding 95 positions at its Hendersonville office, which serves as a regional headquarters, and 150 positions in Alcoa. The expansion represents an investment of \$500,000.

### ATHENS

A new automotive supplier plant with 200 new jobs is coming to the city. HP Pelzer Automotive Systems officials announced the company will locate a 185,000-square-foot manufacturing facility at the Mt. Verd Industrial Park. Pelzer makes automotive acoustic and interior trim parts for the auto industry. The company will invest \$28 million in the McMinn County plant. The plant will supply products to numerous auto assembly plants, including several in the Southeast. Site preparation is beginning this month and the plant is scheduled for completion in September.

### CLARKSVILLE

At year's end, Hemlock Semiconductor will take over the debt payments on the \$20 million the county borrowed to buy the land where the \$1.2 billion plant is built. The news came from James Chavez, president and CEO of the Montgomery County Economic Development Council. Hemlock has essentially shuttered the Clarksville plant and laid off its employees before opening because of economic conditions. Chavez said that the company had been paying only interest on the debt the county created with the sale of bonds in July 2008, and anticipated tax revenue from the plant operations was to repay the debt on the 1,215 acres bought as an industrial park expansion.

### DAYTON

MainStreet Dayton will begin the third phase of its courthouse square revitalization project later this summer. In October 2011, the board approved \$75,000 for the second phase of renovations, aimed at completing projects not covered in the first phase of sign work, exterior painting and new awnings at downtown businesses. Approved applicants will receive \$10,000 for improvements to include storefront glass and glazing, exterior windows, entrance doors and miscellaneous exterior building rehabilitation. MainStreet Dayton has included a list of suggestions with the applications. Decorative posts and street signs with larger lettering is planned for 2013.

### DICKSON

The company behind Project Falcon, the code name for a proposed 300-job, \$165 million industrial development, has chosen Dickson as the "preferred location," according to both the county mayor and Dickson city administrator. The next steps for the company will be to proceed with site related due diligence work and obtaining project development related permits and other relevant documents, within the next six months. According to the company, phase one of the proposed project would include a \$92 million investment in constructing a facility and machinery. A second phase, which would be started about three years after completion of the first, would include another \$73 million in construction, totaling \$165 million. Phase one would create 175 jobs and phase two would create 125 jobs.

### GALLATIN

SERVPRO officials announced plans to expand the company's corporate headquarters on Industrial Blvd. The expansion represents a \$6.7 million investment and will create 90 new, full-time jobs in Sumner County. As a leading provider of fire and water damage restoration services, SERVPRO's Gallatin campus includes the corporate team, national call center, warehouse, manufacturing facility and franchisee training center. The company's professional services network responds to property damage emergencies ranging from small individual disasters to multi-million dollar large-loss events.

### GERMANTOWN

The Tennessee Health Services and

Development Agency has approved a proposal by Baptist Memorial Health Care Corp. to build a 49-bed in-patient rehabilitation hospital in Germantown. The project is estimated to cost about \$33.2 million and is planned for construction at 1238 and 1280 South Germantown Parkway.

### JOHNSON CITY

The city's Traffic Division is nearing the implementation of a \$3.6 million Intelligent Traffic System project. The project will employ fiber optic/Ethernet into an interconnected system that operates traffic signals and cameras and sends visual and other information back to the division's office. There, engineers can observe traffic patterns and manipulate signal timing to allow for better flow. The system includes 43 high-tech cameras that rotate to give engineers an expanded, real-time view of heavily traveled corridors. Fiber optic communication allows transmission of information from one place to another by sending pulses of light through an optical fiber. The optical fibers will replace old copper wire that's now in place. The Federal Highway Administration is providing 80 percent of the cost. The state and Johnson City each will provide 10 percent matches, which equates to about \$400,000 for the city. The new system will incorporate a fiber optic network that initially hooks up to 43 cameras.

### MEMPHIS

Memphis-based Bryce Corp. is planning a \$21 million expansion that will create 95 new jobs and retain 318 jobs. According to an application for tax abatements the company filed with the Economic Development Growth Engine of Memphis & Shelby County, the company is seeking payment-in-lieu-of-taxes benefits for 10 years that will save an estimated \$4 million in taxes, while creating an estimated \$17.9 million in new tax revenue for Memphis and Shelby County. Bryce will invest the money in new equipment at its facilities. Bryce manufactures packaging for the food industry, including snack foods, frozen foods and pet foods. The company last expanded in 2010, investing \$9 million and adding 25,000 square feet to its 100,000-square-foot facility.

### MEMPHIS

Nike Inc. broke ground on the 1.3 million-square-foot expansion of its Memphis Distribution Center. When the project is finished, it will give the company a total of 2.8 million square feet in Memphis, and allow Nike Inc. to ship its footwear, apparel and equipment across the U.S. The new facility, which will cost an estimated \$276 million to expand, is the centerpiece of Nike's distribution machine.

### MONTEREY

The Monterey Depot Museum's "Centennial of Quilts" exhibit, featuring 15 quilts made by local women who lived to be more than 100 years old, has won the Tennessee Association of Museums' 2013 Award of Excellence. The award is the Association's highest recognition and is awarded in several categories. The Depot claimed top honors in temporary exhibits, presented during TAM's annual conference and awards ceremony on March 20. A tribute to John F. Kennedy is in the works at the museum for July.

### MURFREESBORO

State and local leaders attended the grand opening of the Amazon Fulfillment Center recently. The facility, located on Joe B. Jackson Parkway, has been under construction since last year. The center has created more than 1,100 new jobs and is expected to supply millions of dollars to the local economy.

### NASHVILLE

Asurion, the fast-growing Nashville-based mobile phone insurer, is eliminating 32 jobs in its IT department. After a recent review, Asurion's IT department concluded that the roles were no longer a fit with the department's way of delivering computing services internally. Asurion currently has 180 open positions in the Nashville area. In recent years, Asurion has been awarded more than \$10 million in local and state incentives to expand in Tennessee. Metro Nashville paid \$2.4 million to keep the company

from moving out of Davidson County.

### NASHVILLE

The city's efforts to promote the proposed East-West Connector bus rapid transit project got a financial boost. The Rockefeller Foundation announced a \$1.2 million grant to support bus rapid transit efforts in four cities across the nation, including Nashville. The grant is part of the foundation's Transform Cities initiative aimed at helping communities grow and improve their quality of life through mass transit. The money will help support communications and community outreach. Nashville's proposed East-West Connector is a 7½-mile bus rapid transit proposal that would run from Five Points in East Nashville to the White Bridge Road area in West Nashville via West End Ave. The project, along with other infrastructure work such as stations and streetscaping, is expected to cost about \$175 million.

### NASHVILLE

Quantum Workplace has placed Music City No. 7 on its annual "Top 10 Best Cities to Work" list. According to the survey, the top 10 cities in which to work in 2013 are: Charlotte, Denver, Sacramento, San Antonio, Washington, D.C., Austin, Nashville, Baltimore, Boston, and Miami-Dade. Quantum Workplace uses science-based tools to measure and manage employee engagement, loyalty and retention. The company issues a yearly report that shows year-over-year aggregate trends, industry trends and analysis on the components having the greatest impact on engagement, employees' preferences for recognition, and the effect of engagement on retention, profits, and sales. Nearly 400,000 employees took the survey.

### NASHVILLE

Metro-Nashville Public Schools announced that first lady Michelle Obama will address the graduating class at Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Magnet School on May 18. There are no public tickets for the event. The high school has nearly 1,200 students in grades seven through 12 with a curriculum that emphasizes mathematics and science.

### NOLENSVILLE

The city, which was the last Williamson County incorporated municipality without a city administrator or town manager, is looking to hire that top staff position by the beginning of next year. The town is now building \$30,000 in their next budget for a six-month city manager compensation package starting in January 2014. "As this town continues to grow and the way our town government is structured, it's just very difficult to place the administrative burdens on the mayor's position," said Alderman Jason Patrick. "In looking into the future and where we want to go as a town, with the level of professionalism we want and accountability that is required in a governmental situation, it is time to start exploring that acquisition."

### PIGEON FORGE

Residents got their first look at Wear Farm City Park recently. The 118-acre facility already has a football field, a set of baseball/softball fields, playground and walkway. The old city park was running out of space. The Pigeon Forge Rotary is putting \$100,000 toward another planned playground for the facility with more opportunities for children with disabilities. The facilities represent the first phase of the park, which will eventually expand over Waldens Creek and could include more walking or biking trails. Officials credited the Forever Parks Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization formed to raise funds to help build and maintain the park.

### SMYRNA

The town's airport air traffic control tower will remain open in spite of earlier federal sequestration plans to close it. The news came from David Grizzle, chief operating officer of the Federal Aviation Administration, which reviewed each airport that would be affected by the closures. Grizzle consulted with the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security and conducted operational assessment of each potential tower closure on the national air transportation system. As a result, 24 federal contract towers will remain open because closing them would have a negative impact on the national interest. The FAA funds the air traffic control tower in Smyrna, which had been



Photo by Kimberly McMillian

A view of Market Street businesses from the Secret Garden in downtown Dayton. Dayton will implement the third phase of the courthouse square revitalization private realm grant for downtown businesses to upgrade their entrance doors, storefront glass and glazing, windows and miscellaneous exterior building improvements.

scheduled to close in early April as a result as of the federal sequestration and predicted budget constraints.

### TULLAHOMA

Defense spending cuts, as part of the budget agreement two years ago by Congress and President Obama, are beginning to hit the city. The budget changes will slash the military's ability to test new airplane and aerospace engines. The Aerospace Testing Alliance plans to cut 128 of 1,809 civilian jobs at Arnold Air Force Base, on top of a 20 percent pay cut and weekly furloughs for workers at the propulsion research facility. About 400 Department of

Defense employees will also take a furlough day each week, for a total of more than 2,200 workers, who will see take-home pay drop by 20 percent. The mandatory furlough of one day per week will last until at least September, when the federal fiscal year ends.

### WHITE HOUSE

A Washington-based logistics company will open in Robertson County. The ProPack expansion is estimated at \$1 million and is expected to create 22 new jobs. The company specializes in order fulfillment and freight forwarding services.



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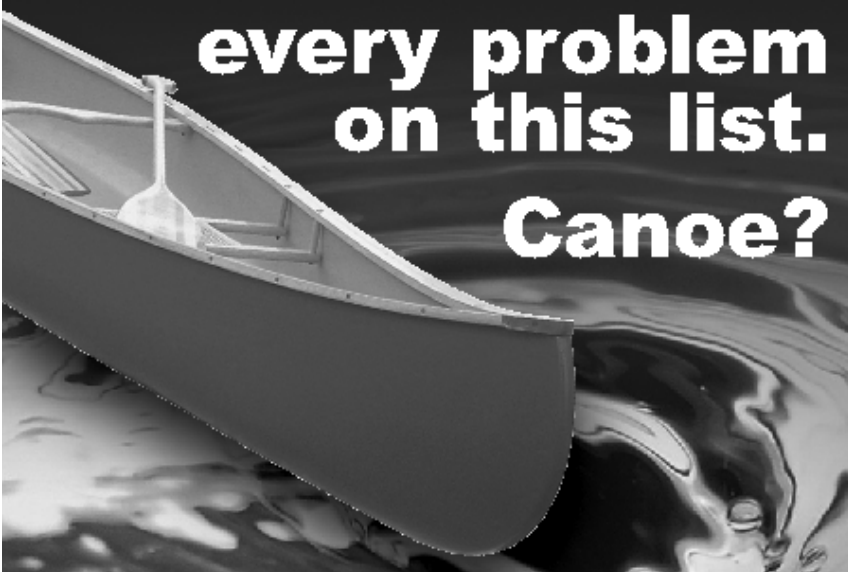
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In the Senate chamber, Abby Booher (student), Sen. Becky Duncan Massey, Medal of Honor recipient Leo Thorsness, and Brittany Davis (student) receive a framed copy of the resolution recognizing a model character program for Tennessee public schools.

## Medal of Honor recipient to promote model character education program in state

A group of Knoxville Central High School students and teachers joined Medal of Honor recipient Leo Thorsness and State Sen. Becky Massey in the Senate chamber to recognize a model character program for Tennessee public schools. Senate Joint Resolution 45, written by the students, urges official adoption by the State Board of Education of the Congressional Medal of Honor Character Development Program as the official curriculum to be used to meet the character education requirements currently set out in state law.

“I am very proud of these students and their teacher, Dr. Michael McDaniel, for their thoughtful pursuit of this model program on character development promoted by Medal of Honor recipients,” said Sen. Massey. “I also appreciate Colonel Thorsness and all of our Congressional Medal of Honor recipients involved in this program for not only serving their country with the highest distinction in combat, but for all their work to serve the next generation of Americans through this innovative and thoughtful program.”

Col. Thorsness was awarded the medal for an air engagement on April 19, 1967. He was shot down two weeks later and spent six years

in captivity in North Vietnam as a prisoner of war.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Character Development Program has been endorsed by a number of school systems across the nation, but Tennessee is the first state to endorse its use statewide. The curriculum includes the six characteristics promoted by the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients: courage, commitment, sacrifice, patriotism, integrity, and citizenship. The curriculum can be integrated into but not limited to a number of academic subjects including government, contemporary issues, history, sociology, psychology, language arts, leadership, and math. It is provided free online and is accessible by any public school.

Students at Central High School involved in writing the resolution include Abby Booher, Brittany Davis, Jennifer DeHart, Book Tatum, and Ben Archer. Other veterans and members of the State Senate supporting the resolution include Sen. Dolores Gresham, Sen. Mark Green and Sen. Rusty Crowe.

The curriculum becomes effective for the 2013-14 school year. The Congressional Medal of Honor Society will hold its 2014 convention in Knoxville honoring the 80 living Medal of Honor recipients.

## Mule Town trolley rolling toward a summer launch across three communities

BY VICTORIA SOUTH  
TML Communications Coordinator

A tiny piece of Tennessee trivia is coming together in a big way this summer for three local communities, thanks in large part, to a fizzled transportation project, and a phone call to Sanford Potts, the Transportation director for the South Central Tennessee Development District’s South Central Area Transit Service.

When an East Tennessee town needed to relinquish a couple of classically detailed trolley buses, the offer was pitched to Maury County, which got the wheels of Potts’ imagination turning. The buses reminded him of his teenage years, the days gone by when a bus line running from Mt. Pleasant to Columbia took people to work and shopping.

“I got a phone call from TDOT, and I thought ‘What can I do with these trolley buses?’” Potts recalls. “We didn’t pay anything for them. They were transferred, which is something that can be done when they’re purchased with state or federal funds. And these were actually purchased with state funds back in 2005. It didn’t work out where the town could use these, and they already had too many vehicles.”

Before long, the region’s newest celebrity, the “Mule Town Trolley” made its debut April 1 at the state capitol and on April 6 at the Mule Day Parade. “We transported the Mule Queen and her court along with local dignitaries to the Capitol, where they proclaimed Mule Day and that was quite exciting,” Potts said.

The trolley’s detailed, antique design elements, chrome handrails, wood bench seats, cast iron seat frames and arched glass windows are juxtaposed against modern, ADA compliant features such as a public address system, automatic wheel chair lift, and what’s known as a “kneeler” — or hydraulic device—that lowers the bus’ step eight to nine inches from its original position for easier boarding.

Right now, the buses, which will transport passengers from Mt. Pleasant to Columbia and Spring Hill for shopping or other activities, are in the trial run stage, as Potts and his team work toward finalizing a fee schedule and hiring drivers.

“You have to be qualified to drive these trolleys,” Potts explains. “We’ve hired two drivers and need about four or five. We’re doing trial runs everyday, where our drivers are being trained to get in and out of the shopping centers.”

As for fees, Potts is leaning to-



Courtesy photo

An illustration of the new Mule Town Trolley buses, features the new commuter service from Mt. Pleasant, Columbia and Spring Hill beginning this summer. A special rate for seniors, youth and veterans will be included in the preliminary fee schedule, such as Senior Day for half fare or seniors and veterans half-fare Wednesdays. There may also be half fare rates for students on Saturdays.

ward special rates for seniors, youth and veterans. “We’ve talked with a senior center here in Maury County and hope to have something worked out for seniors where one day a week or once or twice or month, we will have a Senior Day, where they can ride for half fare, he said. “Seniors and veterans could ride Wednesdays for half fare. And we’re thinking about doing half fare rates for students on Saturdays.

Seniors who don’t have transportation to the trolley, would be picked up through a smaller feeder system, according to Potts, where riders could call the SCATS office 48 hours in advance to schedule the arrangements.

As a more relaxed mode of transportation, the trolley is not the best method for those in a hurry, Potts notes. “From Mt. Pleasant, we can have you in Springhill at The Crossings in an hour and 15 minutes. That’s without loading and unloading passengers, which is another 15-20 minutes. We’re looking at an hour and a half from Mt. Pleasant to shopping in Spring Hill.”

A preliminary schedule was presented to the Columbia City Council that begins at the downtown square in Mt. Pleasant. “We had 15 stops, but eliminated two of those,” said

Potts. Riders can park their vehicles at a designated shopping center and catch the trolley, where there would be two to three stops in Columbia at Columbia Mall and the River Walk on Riverside Dr., which would be in walking distance for some residents.

“From there, the bus would go to Spring Hill to the Crossings Shopping Center,” Potts said.

Excitement about the new mode of transportation seems to be catching on throughout the community.

“People are stopping the drivers on their trial runs at the shopping centers, knocking on the window to see if they can ride,” Potts said. “A lot of those have been young people. And I’ve already had four requests for weddings on the weekend.”

All this excitement has Potts thinking about purchasing another trolley with grant funding. But he’s also quick to emphasize that the Mule Town Trolley is all about public transportation. “We can do special events, but if it interferes with our shuttle service, we can’t do that.”

If everything goes as planned, The Mule Town Trolley should be up and running in June or early July. The preliminary schedule calls for the buses to run from 10 am to 6 pm Wednesday through Saturday and from 1 pm to 6 pm on Sunday.

## Flood Insurance Reform Act impacts property owners rates located in full risk areas



Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders.

In 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other agencies, to make a number of changes to the way the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is run.

Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders. The changes will mean premium rate increases for some policyholders over time. Not all policyholders will be affected.

Those with insurance can no longer rely on subsidized rates as policies begin to convert to full risk rates. The elimination of subsidies can mean big increases for some property owners and as new maps are released rate increases can occur when the newer maps identify a higher flood risk.

Subsidies for non-primary residences, business properties and severe repetitive loss properties will be phased out as rates increase 25 percent per year until they reflect the full risk rate. These changes became

effective Jan. 1, 2013, at policy renewal, for non-primary residences.

The rate increases for commercial buildings and severe repetitive loss properties will become effective for policy renewals after Oct. 1, 2013.

Also effective Oct. 1, 2013, full risk rates will apply to all new policies. No longer will subsidized rates be transferred to a new property owner. If an existing policy lapses, upon renewal, full risk rates will apply. For any building that was uninsured as of the date the reform act was enacted any such new policy will move to a full risk rate.

In Tennessee, the Department of Economic and Community Development serves as the state coordination agency for the National Flood Insurance Program. Questions regarding the National Flood Insurance Program should be directed to Stanley Harrison at 423-434-0158 or Stanley.harrison@tn.gov.

A fact sheet distributed by FEMA about the Flood Insurance Reform Act and the impact of changes can be found at [http://www.tml1.org/pdf/up/bw12\\_sec205\\_207factsheet3\\_26\\_2013%281%29.pdf](http://www.tml1.org/pdf/up/bw12_sec205_207factsheet3_26_2013%281%29.pdf)

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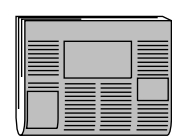
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Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: TT&C Classified Ads, Mona Lawrence, 226 Capitol Blvd, Suite 710, Nashville TN 37219; e-mail: [mlawrence@TML1.org](mailto:mlawrence@TML1.org); or fax: 615-255 4752.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR**

**COLLIERVILLE.** The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Building Inspector for the city's Development Department. This position performs responsible enforcement of town codes and ordinances and investigative work in the inspection of all town commercial, industrial, and residential structures and properties. May require attending meetings after normal business hours. The applicant must possess a journeyman level certification or equivalent in the assigned area of building or plumbing at time of hire. Must obtain certification from the International Code Council as a Building Inspector and one additional Inspector certification within 12 months of employment and maintain certification throughout employment. Valid Motor Vehicle Operator's license required at the time of hire. Candidate must be able to pass a work related physical and drug test. Qualifications include: High school diploma or GED supplemented by technical or college level courses in building construction, electrical, mechanical, or structural engineering or related areas; and five (5) years experience in the building construction industry, skilled construction trades or in comparable code enforcement work, three of which must be in the assigned area of responsibility of building or plumbing; or any equivalent combination of education, training, and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this job. Minimum salary is \$32,799.00 with excellent benefits package. Selection process may include: examinations, interviews, assessment centers, practical skills, etc. Drug testing may be required. FLSA Status: Non-Exempt. Please apply at the Human Resources Office, 500 Poplar View Parkway, Collierville, TN. 38017. A new application must be submitted for each job applied for. We regret we are unable to answer all inquiries, but will only notify candidates selected for testing or interviews. Pursuant to Tennessee open records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure. If special accommodations are required during the selection process due to a disability, please notify the Human Resources Office at 901-457-2290. EOE. Minorities, women, and disabled applicants are encouraged to apply. The Town of Collierville is a drug free work place.

**CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN**

**WHITE HOUSE.** The city is seeking applicants for the full time position of Children's Librarian. Under general supervision, the position is responsible for planning and directing children/young adult programs and performs related work as required. Prepares and presents children's story hour with the use of activities that may include puppet shows, film, multimedia programs, music, and storytelling. Plans and implements a children and teen summer reading program, develops programs for children and teen to encourage reading, viewing, and listening and the use of library materials and facilities throughout the year. Manages the Children's Librarian's budget and handles all library floor operations when the director is absent. Confers with teachers, parents, and community groups to assist in developing programs to encourage and improve children/teens literacy, writing, and communication skills. Helps patrons in the use of the on-line catalog, internet resources, computer, and copy machine. Answers questions in person and on the telephone and other reference help. Issues library cards. Checks books and materials in and out, and assesses and collects overdue fines. Shelves books and materials. Requirements: Knowledge of library principles, practices, methods and techniques. Knowledge of library materials and collections and the Dewey Decimal System preferred. Skills in working with young children required, working with the public, both in person and by telephone, use of computer software including Microsoft Office, standard office machines and equipment, ability to perform routine library work and maintain routine records, ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, and make basic arithmetic calculations. Ability to pass reasonable fitness and physical standards to safely perform work, as determined by city physician; vision and hearing, normal or corrected sufficient to read, write, distinguish colors, and safely operate equipment used in work; able to lift and carry about 25 pounds, etc. Hourly Minimum: \$10.24 Education: any combination of training and experience equivalent to graduation from high school and experience planning and implementing children/teens' programs and library work. Associate degree in Library Science preferred. Application deadline: April 24, 2013 to the City of White House, 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188 Attention: Human Resources [www.cityofwhitehouse.com](http://www.cityofwhitehouse.com) EOE.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**NEWPORT.** The city is seeking applicants for the position of City Administrator: The administrator is responsible for 118 employees and \$10 million general fund budget. Position answers to six-member council. The previous administrator served almost five years. Must be proven manager with excellent communication and team-building skills. Experience in budgeting and intergovernmental relations. At least three (3) years' experience in public administration, preferably as a city manager/assistant city manager or equivalent. Bachelor's degree required, master's preferred. Application is a public record. Salary DOQ plus excellent benefits. Current salary \$75,000. Send resume by May 16, 2013 to Pat Hardy, UT-MTAS, 600 Henley Street, Suite 120, Knoxville, TN 37996-4105. Fax: 423-854-9223. Phone: 423-854-9882. Or email resume to: [pat.hardy@tennessee.edu](mailto:pat.hardy@tennessee.edu).

**CITY ATTORNEY**

**CROSSVILLE.** The city is seeking applicants for the position of City Attorney. Applicant must be a member in good standing with the Tennessee Bar Association, have a minimum of two (2) years of practicing law, preferably in the area of municipal law. Courtroom experience desirable. Must have experience in title work, employment law, and contract law. Must possess a valid Tennessee Driver's license. Must be bondable. Must have administrative skills, including the ability to prepare and administer a department budget. Must have a variety of legal experience to include some experience with criminal and worker's compensation law. Must have computer skills sufficient to do legal research. Review, and occasionally, prepare ordinances and resolutions for the city at the direction of the mayor and city council; represent the city as legal counsel in all actions brought by or against the city or against city officials for actions performed in their official capacity, including prosecution of City Code violations in Municipal Court. Work will be performed primarily in an office setting, courtroom, and council meetings. Some work could involve visits to various city sites and exposure to whatever risks are present at those sites. This is a full time position with benefits. The salary range is \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year depending on qualifications and experience. A complete job description is available upon request. Resumes may be sent to City of Crossville, Bruce Wyatt, City Manager, 392 N. Main Street, Crossville, TN 38555. The city of Crossville is an EEO/Affirmation action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, religion, color, disability or national origin. Resumes will be accepted until April 26, 2013 at close of business.

**CITY MANAGER**

**FOREST HILLS.** The city, located within Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, is seeking applicants for City Manager. The current manager has announced his pending retirement. Experience in budgeting and budget management, legislative issues, planning and zoning, historic preservation and storm water management are high priorities. Candidates must be able to demonstrate a record of achievement and innovation that will allow the city to build upon its strong tradition of providing superior services to its residents and customers. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Management or a related field; a master's degree is preferred. Candidates will have substantial experience as a city manager or assistant city manager in a similarly sized community, with preference given to applicants with five years of municipal experience with broad and complex management responsibility. Candidates must be certified, or be willing and able to become certified, as a certified municipal finance officer and city recorder. Resumes, along with a cover letter and three professional references will be received at: The University of Tennessee, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, 226 Capitol Blvd., Nashville TN, 37219-1804, Attn: Dana Deem. The city has a competitive salary and benefits package; including retirement, health and life insurance, depending on qualifications. This position will remain open until filled.

**CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

**LENOIR CITY.** The city of is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Codes Enforcement Officer. The ideal candidate will have recognized building official certification credentials (residential, commercial, plumbing, and plans examiner). City planning and storm water management experience is a plus. The Codes Enforcement Officer reports to the City's Public Safety Director and is responsible for performing professional and technical duties consistent with this responsible position. Candidate will be proficient in such areas, but not limited to, as working independently and with others; technical work in the enforcement of planning and zoning codes; appropriate computer applications; good interpersonal and communication skills (both verbal and written); and construction/inspection of building structures. Salary and benefits are competitive, including retirement. Qualified applicants shall submit a resumé with references no later than 4 pm April 30, 2013. Apply to City Administrator, City of Lenoir City, 600 East Broadway, P.O. Box 445, Lenoir City, TN 37771. EOE.

**CODES ADMINISTRATOR**

**MILLERSVILLE.** The city has an immediate opening for a Codes Administrator to manage the operations of the Codes Department, including the enforcement of building and zoning codes and city ordinances. The employee shall keep and manage all departmental records and communicate with other city, state and federal departments to coordinate community development, stormwater program and floodplain maps. The employee must use independent judgment and must have strong verbal and written communication skills and the ability to work well with the public. The preferred candidate will have experience with the review and issuance of building permits and have a strong understanding of zoning and code regulations. Building inspector certification is preferred but not required. Duties also include other support services under the general supervision of the city manager. See job openings on the at [www.cityofmillersville.com](http://www.cityofmillersville.com) for more information. The position offers a competitive salary and benefit package that includes health, dental, and life insurance, paid holidays, vacation and retirement plan. A city application is required and is available at city hall or at [www.cityofmillersville.com](http://www.cityofmillersville.com). Send application, resume and cover letter to: City of Millersville, 1246 Louisville Hwy., Millersville, TN 37072. EOE

**DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**LA VERGNE.** The city is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Director of Human Resources. The position reports to the mayor and city administrator. This position is responsible for all strategic human resources functions for the city. The HR Director works closely with the city administrator, the mayor and Department Heads. The HR Director performs a variety of complex administrative, technical and professional work in directing and supervising the personnel systems of the organization, including classification, compensation, coordination of benefits and insurance administration, recruitment, selection, labor relations, employment law, compliance, training and development and performance review administration. Detailed job description along with benefits information can be found by applying online via the city website at: [www.lavernetn.gov](http://www.lavernetn.gov)

**DIRECTOR HUMAN RESOURCES**

**KINGSPORT.** The city is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Human Resources Director. The city employs approximately 725 full time and 150 part time employees. This position reports to the city manager or his designee. The ideal candidate thorough knowledge of employment laws, including application to the workforce and organization; be a self-motivated, results oriented leader, possess excellent communication skills and be a team player that approaches the job through collaboration and cooperation to meet city and team goals. Qualifications are: bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in human resource management, business administration, public administration or a closely related field and 10 years full time experience in Human Resources with at least two (2) years of management experience. PHR/SPHR or IPMA-CP certification preferred. Salary Range: \$55,336 - \$78,582. Complete application and upload resumé at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/kingsport>. Application deadline April 30, 2013.

**GENERAL MANAGER**

**ETOWAH.** The city's Utilities Board is seeking a general manager. Applicants should have a minimum of a four year degree in engineering, business or related field from an accredited university and eight (8) years of experience in progressively responsible positions preferably with a full service utility system, with a minimum of five years supervisory experience on the senior or management level. A civil engineering degree, experience as a licensed engineer or as an electrical engineer are preferred as are high level budgetary, financial and communication skills. Resume must include a summary of education, work experience, accomplishments relevant to the position and contact information for three work references and two personal references. Please include official transcript, community involvement, salary history, and salary expectations. Submissions will be accepted through May 10, 2013 or until the position is filled. Mail resume and supporting documents to: Search Committee, Etowah Utility Board, P.O. Box 927, Etowah, TN., 37331.

**HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR**

**KINGSPORT.** The city is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Human Resources Director. Kingsport employs approximately 725 full time and 150 part time employees. This position reports to the city manager or his designee. The ideal candidate will have 10 years of increasingly responsible professional experience in Human Resources including two (2) years of management responsibility; thorough knowledge of employment laws and there application to the workforce and organization; be a self-motivated, results oriented leader possessing excellent communication skills; team player that approaches the job through collaboration and cooperation to meet city and team goals. Qualifications include: bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in human resource management, business administration, public administration or a closely related field and 10 years full time experience in Human Resources with at least two (2) years of management experience. PHR/SPHR or IPMA-CP certification preferred. Salary Range: \$55,336 to \$78,582. Complete application and upload resumé to <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/kingsport>. Application deadline is April 30, 2013.

**LIBRARY CLERK**

**WHITE HOUSE.** The city is seeking applicants for the part-time position of Library Clerk. Under general supervision, performs a variety of library clerical work of routine difficulty and provides direct library services to the public. Assists patrons in the use of the on-line catalog, internet resources, computer, and copy machine; answers reference questions in person and on the telephone and suggests reading materials. Checks books and materials in and out, and assesses and collects overdue fines, issues library cards, processes interlibrary loan requests and reserve requests, aides patrons with READS services, Shelves books and materials, repairs, cleans, and prepares books and other items for circulation. Knowledge skills include: library principles, practices, methods and techniques; library materials and collections and the Dewey Decimal System preferred, working with the public, both in person and by telephone, use of computer software including Microsoft Office, use of standard office machines and equipment, ability to perform routine library work and maintain routine records; communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; make basic arithmetic calculations. Must have ability to pass reasonable fitness and physical standards to safely perform work, as determined by city physician; vision and hearing, normal or corrected sufficient to read, write, distinguish colors, and safely operate equipment used in work; able to lift and carry about 25 pounds, etc. Education: High school diploma or equivalent. Library experience preferred. Experience working with the public preferred. Salary is hourly minimum of \$8.13. Application deadline: April 24, 2013. Apply at: The City of White House, 105 College Street, White House, TN 37188 Attn: Human Resources Department. Website is [www.cityofwhitehouse.com](http://www.cityofwhitehouse.com) EOE.

**PATROL OFFICER**

**NOLANSVILLE.** The city's Police Department is accepting applications for the position of Patrol Officer. Investigator background would be a plus although is not a requirement. Applicants must successfully complete an interview; background investigation; physical, psychological, and drug screen. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and a US citizen; possess a high school diploma or equivalent, possess a valid Tennessee Drivers License, cannot have a felony conviction or a conviction involving gambling, sale of alcohol or driving while intoxicated. Candidates must be P.O.S.T. Certified in the State of Tennessee. Rate of pay will be \$14 -\$16 DOE. Applications will be received through April 26, at noon. Email application to [ton\\_lancaster@hotmail.com](mailto:ton_lancaster@hotmail.com), or send US Postal Mail at P.O. Box 547, Nolansville, TN 37135, or hand deliver M-F between 8am-4pm to Nolansville Town Hall, 7218 Nolansville Road, Nolansville, TN 37135. No phone calls please. EOE.

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**GENERAL MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY**

**SPRING HILL.** The city will receive qualification statements from interested attorneys or law firms for services related to providing legal assistance for a term of three (3) years, to the city on or before 2 p.m., Friday, April 26, 2013. Interested firms should submit three copies of their statement of qualifications to: City of Spring Hill, April Goad, City Recorder, P.O. Box 789 (US Postal mailing), 199 Town Center Parkway (courier or delivery in-person), Spring Hill, TN 37174. Further information on this project may be obtained by contacting: Victor Lay, City Administrator, [vlay@springhilltn.org](mailto:vlay@springhilltn.org), 931.486.2252 ext. 215. Note: The selection of an attorney or firm to provide the described scope of services will not be made on cost alone, but may be made based on the consideration of qualifications-related factors contained in the Request for Qualifications. The complete RFQ including General Scope of Services, Information Required for Statement of Qualifications, and Statement of Qualifications Form can be accessed at [www.springhilltn.org](http://www.springhilltn.org) Or at Spring Hill City Hall M-F 8 am. to 4:30 pm. The City of Spring Hill will not discriminate in the purchase of all goods and services on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or any other lawfully protected classification. Verbal, emailed, or faxed quotations or quotations received after the closing date will not be accepted. The city reserves the right to reject any or all Responses to this notice and/or informalities in any response received, and to make an award in any manner, consistent with law, deemed in the best interest of the city.

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ENGINEER**

**SPRING HILL.** The city will receive qualification statements from interested civil engineers or firms for services related to providing General Municipal Engineering as determined by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Statements must be submitted no later than 2:30 p.m., Friday, April 26, 2013. Interested firms should submit three copies of their statement of qualifications to: City of Spring Hill, April Goad, City Recorder, P.O. Box 789 (US Postal mailing), 199 Town Center Parkway (courier or delivery in-person), Spring Hill, TN 37174. Further information on this project may be obtained by contacting: Victor Lay, City Administrator, [vlay@springhilltn.org](mailto:vlay@springhilltn.org), 931.486.2252 ext. 215. The complete RFQ including General Scope of Services, Information Required for Statement of Qualifications, and Statement of Qualifications Form can be accessed at [www.springhilltn.org](http://www.springhilltn.org). Or at Spring Hill City Hall M-F 8 am. to 4:30 p.m. The City of Spring Hill will not discriminate in the purchase of all goods and services on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or any other lawfully protected classification. Verbal, emailed, or faxed quotations or quotations received after the closing date will not be accepted. The city reserves the right to reject any or all responses to this notice and/or informalities in any response received, and to make an award in any manner, consistent with law, deemed in the best interest of the city.

## No loan is too large or too small



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



The town of Cumberland Gap closed a \$5,000 Highway Safety Grant Anticipation Note.



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BRIEFS



Prescription history law in effect

In an effort to crack down on prescription drug abuse, Tennessee doctors are now required to perform background checks on patients before they are prescribed certain medications. A new law that took effect April 1 requires doctors across the state to check a patient's prescription history in an online database before painkillers and other controlled substances, such as valium, are prescribed. During the check, the patient's name will be run through the Tennessee Controlled Substance Monitoring Database, which became operational in 2006. Until now, doctors were only encouraged, but not required, to check the database. The process on average to look up and analyze a patient's history is about three minutes. Pulling up the report takes 30 seconds or less. The law contains stipulations that allow a licensed medical professional to be authorized by the doctor to check the database on their behalf. Experts say prescription drug problems are widespread among demographics and income levels.

**Smokies' remain most visited national park.** Great Smoky Mountains National Park drew 9,685,829 visitors last year to maintain its title as the most visited national park in the U.S. Grand Canyon National Park was second with 4,421,352 visits, and Yosemite National Park was third with 3,853,404 visits, according to a National Park Service report. The Blue Ridge Parkway — a unit of the national park system but not technically a national park — was the most visited of all places in the national park system with 15,205,059 visitors in 2012. The Smokies' visitation count for 2012 was the highest in a decade, due to the mild winter weather, especially in February and March.

**Federal funds available for specialty crops.** The state is accepting



Photo by Warren Bielenberg

The trail to the Clingmans Dome observation tower is crowded with visitors last year in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which maintained its title as the most visited national park in the U.S., drawing 9,685,829 visitors in 2012.

proposals for federal funds aimed at increasing production of specialty crops. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture says the funds from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program can be used to grow and produce fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and nursery crops, including floriculture. Universities, cooperatives, food producers, for-profit industries or community-based organizations may submit proposals for project funding. They will be eligible for about \$480,000 to support grower education, infrastructure, food safety and marketing. Proposals must be in one of three categories. They are good agricultural practices, food safety, and traceability; farmers markets and wholesale produce; and innovative specialty crop projects. Proposals must be received by the state no later than May 17.

**TN personal health spending among country's lowest.** *The Wall Street Journal* has compiled an interactive story taking a state-by-state look at per capita health care spending, and the results may surprise you. Despite the general per-

ception that the population of Tennessee and the South in general is less healthy than in other parts of the country, personal health spending per capita in the Volunteer State is among the lowest in the country — the 13th lowest, to be exact. Hospital care in Tennessee ranked as the No. 10 least-expensive, and dental services were even less costly when compared to other states.

**Billboards promote toll-free stop smoking assistance.** New billboards are going up across the state promoting the toll-free Tennessee Tobacco Quitline that helps people seeking to end their tobacco habits. The billboards are being funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and are located in eight cities. They are Morristown, Columbia, Cookeville, Clarksville, Dyersburg, Lexington, Johnson City and Cleveland. According to The state Health Department, the billboards were placed in cities with large colleges or universities or a military base nearby in an attempt to reach young people who are often the target of tobacco companies.

# Tennessee tax collections for March modest, but higher than last year

Tennessee revenue collections continued to exceed budgeted expectations in March. Finance and Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes reported that overall March revenues were \$936.1 million, which is \$33.1 million more than the state budgeted. Total tax collections in March were 2.2 percent above the previous year.

"March collections continued to reflect strong corporate profits from last year, but also reflect very modest retail activity for the month of February, when spending occurred," Emkes said. "We believe the slowdown in retail spending reflects the two percent increase in the federal payroll tax in January and temporary erosion in consumer confidence, most likely brought about by the federal budget sequestration process.

"While year-to-date corporate tax collections remain very encouraging, we must remember that about a fourth of them typically — but not always — occur in the month of April. Due to the volatility of our corporate

tax collections, we will be extremely diligent in monitoring our spending patterns for the remainder of this year, maintaining a balanced budget and financially posturing ourselves for the future."

On an accrual basis, March is the eighth month in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The general fund was over collected by \$35.4 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$2.3 million. Sales tax collections were \$2.8 million less than the estimate for March. The March growth rate was positive 0.11 percent. For eight months revenues are under collected by \$33.1 million. The year-to-date growth rate for eight months was positive 1.77 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$42.7 million above the budgeted estimate of \$168.8 million. For eight months revenues are over collected by \$156.5 million. The year-to-date growth rate was positive 9.12 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel collec-

tions for March increased by 0.75 percent and were \$0.2 million above the budgeted estimate. For eight months revenues are under collected by \$15.2 million.

Tobacco taxes collections were \$5.9 million under the budgeted estimate of \$24.7 million. For eight months revenues are under collected in the amount of \$10.7 million.

Inheritance and estate taxes were over collected by \$2.2 million for the month. Year to date collections for eight months are \$12.8 million more than the budgeted estimate. Privilege tax collections were \$2.2 million more than the March estimate, and on a year to date basis, August through March, collections are \$17.8 million above the estimate.

All other taxes were under collected by a net of \$5.5 million.

Year-to-date collections for eight months were \$127.1 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund was over collected by \$141.6 million and the four other funds were under collected by \$14.5 million.



PEOPLE

BY TML STAFF REPORTS

Finance and Administration Commissioner **Mark Emkes** will be leaving the administration at the end of May to enjoy retirement and spend more time with his wife in her home country of Spain. Before joining the Haslam administration, Emkes, 60, spent his entire professional career at Bridgestone Americas, working his way up from a trainee to chairman, chief executive officer and president before retiring in February 2010 after 33 years at the company. The commissioner's last day will be May 31.



Emkes

**Jerome Kitchens** will become Elizabethton's next city manager. Kitchens has been serving as interim city manager since Fred Edens Jr., retired in February. Kitchens also serves as director of finance and city clerk.



Kitchens

**Stephania Motes** has been named the new city manager for Spring City. Motes was serving as interim city manager and had previously served as the city recorder.



Motes

**B. Shane Sullivan** is Coopers & Lybrand's new police chief. Sullivan, 40, began his law enforcement career in 1996 with the Hickman County Sheriff's Office as a deputy. He graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy in 1997; was promoted to sergeant in 2002 and lieutenant in 2009. He was awarded the Medal of Uncommon Valor by Hickman County Commissioners in 2009.



Sullivan

State Sen. **Jim Tracy** has been recognized by the Development Districts Association in Tennessee (TDDA) for legislative achievements benefiting the people of the 14th Senatorial District, which he represents. Tracy received the award at the TDDA statewide meeting in Nashville. The association was established to serve as a statewide forum for the diverse problems the districts must solve in their mission to serve 95 counties and some 350 municipalities.



Tracy

Rep. **Matthew Hill**, was appointed to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR). The 25-member body serves as a forum for discussion and resolution of intergovernmental problems and is comprised mainly of state senators and representatives. The commission also consists of public officials from state and local government as well as private citizen members, whose mission is to resolve intergovernmental problems and provide research and in-depth analysis to improve the overall quality and effectiveness of government in Tennessee.



Hill

**Jerry Martin**, the United States attorney for Middle Tennessee, is stepping down to enter securities fraud law. Martin made his mark combating white-collar crime, including health care fraud, during his three years as the government's top lawyer in the region. He will develop a Nashville office for Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd.

After six years as Kingsport's Police Chief, **Gale Osborne** has announced his intent to retire effective May 17 to care for his mother. Osborne has served more than 33 years in the department, working his way up through the ranks from patrol officer in 1980. He was promoted to chief in April 2007, and also served as interim chief since 2006. Osborne also served 11 years as deputy chief.

University of Memphis' 11th President, **Shirley Raines**, 68, announced she is retiring effective June 30. The Tennessee Board of Regents has named **R. Brad Martin** interim president, effective July 1. Martin is a member of the university's board of visitors and the retired chairman and CEO of Saks Inc. He has been an active alumnus, donating funds for the creation of the Martin Institute for Teaching Excellence,



Raines

Former Spring Hill Alderman **Rick Graham** won the mayor's seat in the recent city election. Citizens also voted for four aldermen positions, one in each ward. Incumbents Amy Wurth, Jonathan Duda and Keith Hudson were each reelected, while Kayce Williams was voted into the Ward 4 alderman seat beating incumbent Allen Hall. Because Graham was an alderman when he ran for mayor, the board will select a resident from Ward 3 to finish out his term.



Graham


Elizabethton attorney **Stacy Street**, 45, was selected as First Judicial District Criminal Court Judge.

**Donna Bebout** was named the new director of the La Vergne Public Library. Bebout will supervise library operations and plan programs and services. She served as the library director for two years before accepting the position of senior center coordinator in 2007.



Bebout

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**David Gordon**  
Mayor, Covington (District 8)  
**Kevin Helms**  
City Manager, Oak Hill (District 5)  
**John Hickman**  
City Manager, Waynesboro (District 6)  
**John Holden**  
Mayor, Dyersburg  
**Dot LaMarche** (District 2)  
Vice Mayor, Farragut  
**Bo Perkinson**  
Councilmember, Athens (District 3)  
**Madeline Rogero**  
Mayor, Knoxville  
**Hoyte Jones**  
Alderman, Sparta (District 4)  
**Charles “Bones” Seivers**  
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**Ron Washington**  
Vice Mayor, Murfreesboro  
**A.C. Wharton**  
Mayor, Memphis

**PAST PRESIDENTS**  
**Kay Senter** (2012)  
Mayor Pro-Tem, Morristown  
**Sam Tharpe**, (2011) Mayor, Paris  
**Dale Kelley** (2010) Mayor, Huntingdon  
**Tom Beehan**, (2008) Mayor, Oak Ridge  
**Tommy Green** (2007) Mayor, Alamo  
**Tommy Bragg** (2006) Mayor, Murfreesboro  
**Bob Kirk** (2004) Alderman, Dyersburg  
**Tom Rowland** (2002) Mayor, Cleveland

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Local government most trusted in new poll

Voters trust local government to address the issues that matter most to them more than any other level of government according to results from a new Mason-Dixon poll for the National League of Cities. The nationwide poll surveyed 1,000 registered voters on March 27 and 28 and April 1, 2013.

“This poll confirms the strength of our nation’s cities and towns and their efficiency in managing the various needs of our diverse communities,” said Clarence Anthony, NLC executive director. “Local governments are trusted to address the issues that are critical to the everyday lives of Americans.”

The poll asked 1,000 voters, “Which level of government do you trust the most to address issues that

matter in your life: local government, state government or the federal government?” It found that 37 percent put the most trust in their local governments, as opposed to 22 percent for state and 12 percent for federal. Women put more faith in local government than men, and voters with the most trust in local government and the least in the federal government are men and women between the ages of 35 and 49.

No Republican respondents said they trust the federal government most. Similarly, only 22 percent of Democrats and 12 percent of Independents expressed the most trust in the federal government. In contrast, trust in local government is solid across party lines with 32 percent of Democrats, 39 percent of

Independents and 40 percent of Republicans saying they trust local government most. State government is most trusted by 26 percent of Republicans, 21 percent of Independents and 19 percent of Democrats.

“While trust in the federal government appears to be fractured and tragically low, this survey shows that when it comes to getting the job done on critical issues in people’s lives, voters firmly entrust their local leaders to represent them best,” said Marie Lopez Rogers, NLC president and mayor of Avondale, Ariz. “Voters would rather have the issues they care about addressed by their local leaders who are neighbors they know and trust. That makes the work of NLC in bringing local voices to national leaders so critical.”

May MAP Class Schedule

Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Local Governments

In a joint session with the County Technical Advisory Service (CTAS), this seminar will address key provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that impact governmental employers and their group health plans.

In addition to providing a bottom-line explanation of the law and what it means, this session will walk through a cost-benefit analysis on whether to pay the penalty tax or play by the rules and offer affordable group health benefits under the shared responsibility provisions of the act.

One of the keys to compliance with the act will be determining who is a full-time employee and the options you have for implementing the rules.

We will illustrate these rules by using class participation examples.

**Time:**  
All classes are from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

**Schedule of sessions:**  
April 30 —Jackson  
May 1—Franklin  
May 2—Knoxville

**Location:**  
**Jackson:** West TN Research and Education Center, 605 Airways Blvd.  
**Franklin:** Cool Springs Marriott, 700 Cool Springs Blvd.  
**Knoxville:** UT Conference Center Building, 600 Henley St., 4th floor

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Cost: Municipal Employees – \$50/ person/class. All other participants – \$65/person/class. Qualifies for 4.0 hours of CMFO continuing education hours (financial).

To register, go to the website, [www.mtas.tennessee.edu](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu) and click “register for a class.” MTAS will need to receive payment in order to confirm your attendance for the class. If you need assistance with registration or payment, contact MTAS at 865-974-0411.



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COMING UP

**April 24-26: Environmental Show of the South – the 42nd Annual Solid / Hazardous Waste Conference & Exhibition** Held in Gatlinburg and hosted by The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Division of Solid Waste Management. The annual meeting is designed to provide low-cost training to a variety of environmental professionals ranging from community leaders and regulated entities to researchers and educators to government officials. Seminars on environmental topics including a Solid Waste Technical Update, Waste Reduction and Recycling, Hazardous Waste Regulatory Training, Innovative Technologies, Remediation, and Environmental Law. Breakout sessions will feature experts and exhibitors from across the country who will share the latest in environmental information and technology. Professional education credits are also offered by the Tennessee Bar Association, the Tennessee Solid Waste Association and for professional engineers and landfill operators. Christi Branscom, Knoxville’s senior director of Public Works, will serve as keynote speaker on April 24. Dr. A. Stanley Meiburg, deputy regional administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will also be on hand to share his knowledge and address upcoming changes at the federal level. Registration is \$350 and may be paid on-site. A special student fee is available for those pursuing a degree in an environmental discipline (enrollment must be verified). For more information, including a detailed agenda, visit [www.tn.gov/environment/swm/conference/](http://www.tn.gov/environment/swm/conference/).

**May 17: Franklin 2013 National Public Works Week Equipment Rodeo** from 10 am to 2:30 pm at Jim Warren Park, 705 Boyd Mill Avenue. The city’s employees will compete in a round of various heavy equipment tasks, including the knuckle boom, mini excavator, lawn mowers and more. Winners of the competitions may represent the city in a statewide competition. Vendors are invited to participate or make a donation. To register, fill out the form by May 3 at <http://www.franklintn.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=15014>

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**May 2: Bristol**  
*16<sup>th</sup> Annual Full Moon Jam series*  
Downtown Center, 810 State Street. Something for everyone, from the mellow sounds of country music artists from the 40's and 50's to cover songs of today's hottest acts in Nashville. Forty-three events are scheduled into the early fall. Hosted on the country music mural stage with concerts beginning each evening at 7 pm. For more information, visit [www.bristoltn.org/downtowncenterintro.cfm](http://www.bristoltn.org/downtowncenterintro.cfm).

**May 3-4:Clinton**  
*8<sup>th</sup> Annual Clinch River Spring Fair*  
Starts with a Kick-Off Party May 3 from 6 to 9 pm with musical entertainment. The shops on Market and Main Street will be open late and food vendors will be set up in Hoskins-Lane Park. On Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., more than 90 exhibitors from East Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina and Ohio will offer a wide range of antiques and collectibles. Knoxville antique appraiser Scott Bishop will be available to appraise personal treasures from 10 a.m. to 4 pm under the big tent in the Hoskins/Lane Park. Each item brought for an appraisal will cost \$5. Foods from local vendors. For more information, call 865-457-5250.

**May 4: Monterey**  
*Spring on the Mountain Dogwood Festival.* Held Downtown, this festival honors King coal, the railroad and the community's miners. Held from 9 am to 3 pm with arts and crafts, music, train rides, food and a car show on Commercial Ave. A yard sale will also be held near the Depot Museum. At the Farmers Market, the Monterey Garden Club will host their annual plant sale from early morning until sold out. An excursion train will arrive from Nashville near noon. To ride from Nashville, contact the Tennessee Central Railway Museum at [www.tcry.org](http://www.tcry.org) Or for shorter rides, the Monterey Depot Historical Society is selling tickets for \$10 to ride from the museum out to the sand plant and back.

**May 4-11:Portland**  
*72nd Annual Strawberry Festival*  
The big festival day is May 11, beginning with the Rotary Pancake Breakfast and the Strawberry Stride. Strawberry farmers will be selling Portland strawberries and the Strawberry Jam music will be on Market Street, Strawberry Bake Contest, KidTown USA. inflatables on Main Street, Strawberry Eating Contest, Parade and more.

**May 4-11: Dayton**  
*TN Strawberry Festival.* This year's theme is "Strawberries in Space." Pageants, food, games, and May 11 is the big parade day. For more information, visit <http://www.daytontnchamber.org/Tennessee-Strawberry-Festival/Schedule.aspx>

**May 5-11: Humboldt**  
*West TN Strawberry Festival*  
Fireworks extravaganza, parade, carnival, beauty contests, food, games and lots of strawberries. For more information, visit <http://www.wtsf.org/>

**May 15-18:Adamsville**  
*25th Annual Sheriff Buford Pusser Festival.*  
Held during National Police Week at the city park, carries on the legacy of legendary Sheriff Buford Pusser in bringing together families and the community. A ceremony to honor fallen officers will be held along with carnival, parade, pageant, Bluegrass and country music, car show and a fire works finale. For more information, call 731-632-4080 or 731-632-1401 or visit [www.bufordpussermuseum.com/Festival25.html](http://www.bufordpussermuseum.com/Festival25.html).

**May 16-18**  
*Memphis in May World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest*  
Held at Tom Lee Park. Hundreds of teams compete for more than \$110,000 in prizes. Ms. Piggie Idol competition, t-shirt competition and best booth contest. Tickets online or call 1-800-745-3000. Tickets will also be sold at the north and south gates at Tom Lee Park. For more information, visit <http://www.memphisinmay.org/worldchampionshipbbqcontest>

## CMFO offered at Conference

*CMFO from Page 1*  
and interesting and will remind everyone present of the need to remain vigilant of financial matters involving municipal government.  
• **Fraud in Municipal Government**  
Speaker: Sharee Brewer, MTAS  
*Qualifies for 1 hour CMFO continuing education hours (financial)*

This session will provide an overview of the fundamentals of fraud including the nature and types of fraud, prevention of fraud, and techniques to detect fraud in organizations. A discussion of current examples and resolutions will also be included.

TML is also offering the following workshops, as part of the regular conference agenda. These workshops have also been approved as CMFO continued education units.  
• **Fiscal First Aid - Becoming the Picture of Fiscal Health**  
Speakers: Jon Johnson and Chris Fabian, Priority Based Budgeting  
*Qualifies for 1 hour CMFO continuing education hours (financial)*

Communities across America are struggling to develop meaningful and fiscally prudent budgets under financial pressures unknown in modern times. Revenues are down while demand for services are up. This workshop will demonstrate how you can use proven tools and techniques to achieve fiscal health in this unprecedented economic climate. Traditional responses to financial crisis, such as across-the-board cuts, tax increases, or selling assets,

are not typically the best treatments when trying to close the budget gap. By applying the wrong treatment, you will discover that you can even make matters worse. This workshop will help attendees determine the best approach for reaching and maintaining long-term financial stability.

• **Getting Your Share of the Pie**  
Speaker: Valerie Mann  
*Qualifies for 1 hour CMFO continuing education hours (financial)*  
A successful grant writer for 35 years, Mann will discuss the "dos and don'ts" of grant writing, and will include all stages of the grant seeking process. A number of these tips are considered to be deal breakers by the agencies. Whether you are a novice or an experienced grant writer, this workshop will provide information to ensure your success.

• **Avoiding Communication Mishaps**  
Speaker: Jim Rooney  
*Qualifies for 1 hour of CMFO continuing education hours (other)*

What would you say if you could reduce relationship tension with staff, city council members, and your citizens and at the same time enhance your city's image? This workshop will help you develop workplace interpersonal communication skills to become a more successful leader and improve your influence with those you interact with.

### Schedule At-A-Glance

<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 22</b>	
8am - 3pm	MTAS / EOA
6:30 - 8pm	Vendor Extravaganza
<b>SUNDAY, JUNE 23</b>	
9am - 5pm	Registration (Marriott Hotel)
11am - 5pm	Exhibit Hall Open
12 - 1:30 pm	Lunch / Exhibit Hall
1:30 - 2:15pm	District Meetings
2:30 - 4pm	Opening Session
4:15 - 5pm	Workshops
6:30 - 8:30pm	Host City Reception
<b>Monday, June 24</b>	
8 am - 2pm	Registration (Marriott Hotel)
8 am - 2pm	Exhibit Hall Open
8 - 8:45am	Breakfast
9 - 10 am	Workshops
10:15 -11:15am	Workshops
11:30 am -12:15 pm	Business Meeting
12:30 - 2 pm	Lunch / Exhibit Hall
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Workshops
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Workshops
6:30- 11pm	Pool Party
<b>Tuesday, June 25</b>	
8 -10 am	Awards Breakfast

To register for the conference or for more information on other workshops and speakers, go to TML's website at [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org).



For the most up-to-date information, be sure to check our website [www.TML1.org](http://www.TML1.org)

## Legislature adopts changes to Beer Tax

*BEER from Page 1*  
consumption.  
According to the beer industry's own Brewer's Institute, consumption was down in most states regardless of the state's tax. In addition, according to the same Brewer's Institute study, beer's share of the total alcohol consumed (beer, wine, and spirits) decreased over the past decade. So, while the impediments to the beer industry's growth are debatable, the beer industry's argument did have political traction.

As such, the TML Board directed TML staff to negotiate a compromise with the legislative sponsors and the beer industry that would obtain some growth for local governments.TML worked with the sponsors toward a barrelage number that achieved the Board's desires for a few years of growth.

After reaching a compromise with the sponsors, the legislation moved rapidly through House and

Senate committees. At print time, Gov. Haslam has not yet signed the bill into law.

**Background**  
Tennessee has a long history of tight handed regulation and taxation of the alcoholic beverage industry. Beer cannot be purchased in the same location as liquor and wine. Liquor and wine stores keep tight hours and are not open on Sundays. These, among other laws and regulations, have been in place for decades and very rarely change. In addition, the state has essentially divided the regulatory responsibilities over alcoholic beverages between levels of government. The state regulates liquor and wine sales, and local governments regulate beer and lower alcoholic content beverages.

To cover the cost of these regulatory responsibilities, the state imposed a variety of taxes on

alcohol. The most notable of all the alcoholic beverage taxes to local governments was the wholesale beer tax. In 1953, Tennessee passed public chapter 76. It imposed a 17 percent tax on wholesale price of beer to serve as an additional source of local revenue as well as a means to compensate local governments for their beer regulatory responsibilities.

Tennessee Code outlined the distribution and administration of the wholesale beer tax. Local governments would receive 96.5 percent of the total collections and the beer wholesalers and state department of revenue would receive the balance in commissions for their tax administration responsibilities. The wholesalers would remit the tax collections to the local government where they delivered the product for retail sale, and the Department of Revenue would be responsible for post-audits as needed. The tax rate and distribution had not been modified since inception.

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## Revenues at record levels

*REVENUE from Page 1*  
rate increase. And Wisconsin saw a decrease in both its sales and individual income tax revenues, the only state in the Census data to report a decline in both of those two crucial categories that comprise the most state revenues. North Carolina also saw a nearly 10 percent decline in sales tax receipts compared to 2011, and New Jersey saw a small dip there as well. New Hampshire income tax revenue declined 2.3 percent compared to the previous year.

Many experts were optimistic that this would be the year states recovered from the downturn, and indeed many have seen budgets return to the black after years of red ink dominating budget sessions around the country.

But the depths of the recession — and the corresponding revenue loss — still continue to reverberate in the revenue figures. States collected \$794.6 billion last year, according to the Census data, which is the highest level ever recorded. But before the Great Recession, states were near a similar level: In 2008, they collected \$781.7 billion. That means states have made up much of the ground lost in recent years, but also shows how much ground they lost during the recent economic downturn.

Still, the collections are seen as a sign of continuing improvement in many states, not just in terms of their budgets and tax collections, but also their economies. State tax revenue and economic conditions are inextricably linked, which is why many states suffered deep deficits during the recession.

"The latest data show that state tax revenue is continuing to recover, albeit slowly, from the depth of the recession," Donald Boyd, a senior fellow at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government at the State University of New York, said in a statement accompanying the data.

The increasing revenues in certain sectors show the improving economic picture. Individual income tax revenue increased more than 8 percent in 2012 compared to 2011, and sales tax revenue increased nearly 3 percent.Revenue from harvesting natural resources also continues to increase: States collections in this section jumped 29 percent over the previous year. From 2010 to 2011, too, those resource revenues increased nearly 30 percent, making natural resources a significant and ever-increasing portion of state's tax picture.

## New TACIR survey on state's future

*TACIR from Page 7*  
population are rooted in risky personal choices, such as poor eating habits, lack of exercise, smoking, substance abuse, and refusing to wear seatbelts. Reducing healthcare costs and improving economic productivity will require changing these behaviors.

According to Charting a Course to Tennessee's Future, Tennessee lacks long-term vision to address these and other challenges. While pockets of focused thinking can be found in various agencies and organizations, no single representative group is charged with thinking broadly about the future. Consequently, state agencies, local governments, as well as the private and not-for-profit sectors, sometimes duplicate effort and work at cross-purposes, thus wasting both resources and opportunities.

And what of Tennessee's future? The report concludes that meeting the challenges of the 21st Century will require continuity of thought and leadership that transcends election terms and intrastate rivalries, as well as greater interaction and coordination within and among all levels of government and the private and nonprofit sectors. Promising initiatives are underway in a handful of other states, and good work is being done here on a local and regional level. Some of these plans are discussed in the report.

Whatever the approach, the report suggests that Tennessee should draw on the expertise of various groups and individuals in order to facilitate meaningful discussion of public problems, exploit the wealth of available data, emphasize outcomes more, and provide incentives to encourage long-term results.

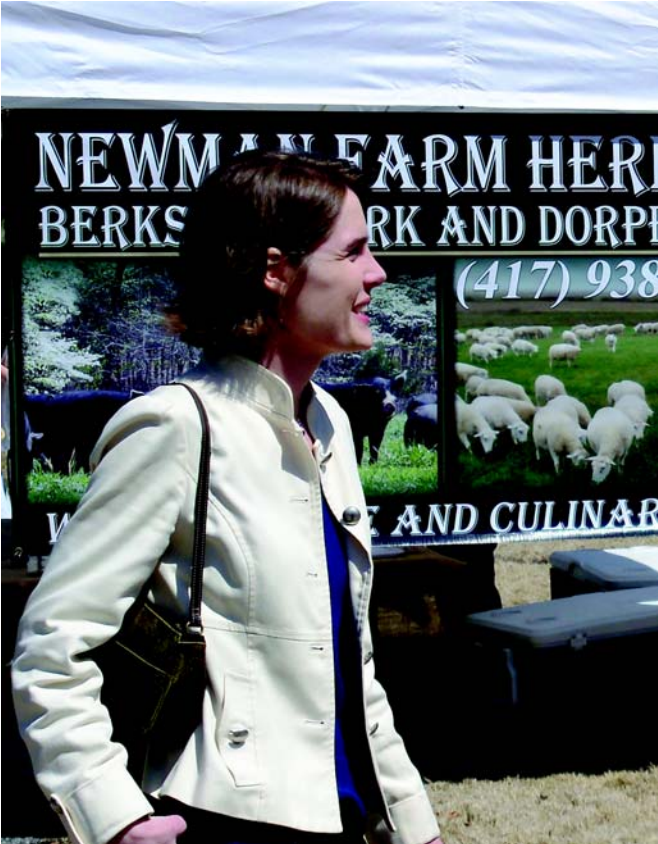
The full report is available at [www.tn.gov/tacir](http://www.tn.gov/tacir).



# Memphis / Shelby County host Sustainability Month, celebrate Earth Day

BY JAN COMPTON  
TDEC

As leaders across the country face ever-increasing challenges to responsibly managing resources for their constituents, consideration of sustainable options is not always a priority. Memphis Mayor A. C. Wharton and Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell are not only prioritizing it, but they've brought it to the forefront. They partnered together to celebrate the second annual Sustainability Month during the month of April, with a variety of events to support the joint effort. They also celebrated the second



Christine Donhardt, Senior Planner with the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability, visits with exhibitors at the Shelby County Health Department's sustainability day event.

anniversary of the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability and the progress that has been made in such a short time.

Highlighted by Earth Day on April 22, Sustainability Month includes options for residents of all ages to learn and participate in activities to beautify the region, increase recycling, promote local food sources, and incorporate healthy initiatives.

Memphis is known for many attractions including famous barbeque, Graceland, Beale Street and the Peabody Hotel. A new synergy can be sensed around the city as they are attracting not only national, but

also international attention through recognition with awards, grants and notoriety.

Memphis was recently chosen by National Geographic Travelers editors as one of the 20 "Best Trips 2013" locations, which may seem surprising compared to some of their other highlighted destinations including Grenada, Marseille, St. Augustine and the Great Bear Rainforest. Local leaders, however, were not surprised by the selection

of Memphis because they are currently joining efforts between the city and Shelby County to create and sustain a more vibrant region that will provide the activities, amenities and needs for present and future generations. The National Geographic Travelers editors specifically mentioned the non-profit, Project Green Fork, and the Office of Sustainability in the "Best Trips 2013" overview. Memphis is gaining momentum through a variety of projects, many of which are a result of considering sustainable options in the decision-making process.

Paul Young, administrator of the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability, says he is pleased with the regional efforts thus far but realizes there is more work to be accomplished. When asked why the city is being recognized more frequently in a positive light, Young Young described their Office of Sustainability as an umbrella to identify and funnel grant and recognition opportunities to the pertinent city leaders and to facilitate efforts for greater success. "Building and maintaining partnerships is the key to a successful program which promotes a cleaner environment, improved health for residents, economic stimulus and many other attributes," Young said.

Through the work of many successful public-private partnerships, the Office of Sustainability have helped establish many outstanding programs to be offered during Sustainability Month. Businesses and residents are invited to participate in the Mayors' Energy Challenge, a partnership between public and private entities formed to encourage energy evaluations and to provide low-interest loans for those pursuing energy efficiency upgrades. MLGW is hosting a series of



Events included a high school student workshop on the Mississippi River. The Lausanne Collegiate School participated in sessions by Living Lands and Waters using the floating classroom.

workshops to educate residents about energy efficiency. The Shelby County Health Department will host Sustainability Day at Health Sciences Park with a farmers' market to promote eating local and healthy. Residents who attend the Earth Day 5k run at Shelby Farms Park can dress in their best "earth-themed" costume for prizes and follow up the race with volunteer tree planting and trail maintenance at one of the largest urban parks in the nation.

Memphis Bioworks Foundation, and the Memphis & Shelby County Office of Sustainability will host Dr. Catherine Tumber, author of "Small, Gritty and Green: The Promise of America's Small Industrial Cities in a Low-Carbon World." Dr. Tumber will conduct a lecture that addresses the assets that mid-sized cities offer for sustainable living and how these cities' fertile farmland, manufacturing infrastructure and workforce skills are being repurposed for the production of renewable-energy technology.

Other events include high school student workshops on the Mississippi River, Earth Day at the University of Memphis, Grizzlies

Go Green Expo, a lecture on sustainable landscape design at the Memphis Botanic Garden, GreenUp Day at city hall, a half-day workshop on solar power, and many other options for participants of all ages. For a full list of events for Sustainability Month and other future activities, please see the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability website at <http://www.sustainable-shelby.com/>.

Residents may not always understand what sustainability means, but they usually love the results. For instance, Memphis has added 50 miles of bike lanes between 2010 and 2013, which has health benefits along with providing another means of transportation for residents to travel to work and other places.

Through educational events, such as these scheduled during Sustainability Month, the Memphis and Shelby County Office of Sustainability hopes to continue partnering with others in the community to help residents learn more about the benefits of this more holistic approach to solving challenges and growing the region.

## From prehistoric sites to Elvis: what's happening in Memphis

Memphis to host TML Annual Conference, June 22-25

BY VICTORIA SOUTH  
TML Communications Coordinator

Whether it's the lazy Mississippi, a tribute to "The King," or the mouthwatering scent of southern barbeque, as smoky as a bluesy tune on Beale Street, the sights, tastes and sounds of Memphis say "Welcome home to Tennessee." And this year, there are more exciting things to do and see in addition to some old time favorites.

One of the Memphis area's best kept secrets lies just an hour or so away, about 80 miles east of the city, at Pinson State Park, where the remnants of ancient native American civilization begs to be explored.

Standing stark against the sky, a jaw dropping series of mounds and earthworks, nearly 2,000 years old, comprise the Pinson Mounds State Archeological Area. Situated along a stretch of the Forked Deer River and surrounded by natural forest and ample hiking paths, the site was discovered in 1820 by a surveying crew and is now a national historic Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Researchers from as far away as Stone Henge, have been known to drop by to study this man-made phenomenon. The park also offers plenty of activities, for those wanting to make a full morning or afternoon of it, with hiking trails, a playground and picnic sites for the family and a museum/visitor center constructed to look like a mound.

Open year-round, the museum hosts numerous educational activities and ranger-led discussions for groups of all ages, and includes 4,500 square feet of exhibit space, an archaeological library, an 80-seat theater and 'Discovery Room' for historical exploration. The building also houses the park offices and the West Tennessee Regional Archaeology Office.

"This is one of only two archeological areas managed by Tennessee State Parks, and contains possibly 45 prehistoric mounds grouped into the Middle Woodland time frame," said Park Manager Tim Poole. "It's the largest of its time period still in existence and we have the second tallest mound in North America."

William E. Myer, an archaeologist with the Smithsonian Institution, surveyed and mapped Pinson Mounds in the early 1900's. A copy of his map still hangs in the museum.

"Because we are a state facility, we are responsible for protecting the resource, so only professional state of Tennessee archeologists are allowed to excavate the mounds," Poole explains. "The majority of archaeological work for this cycle was

done in the early 80s."

Every year, each September, an Archaeofest is held at the Mounds offering craft demonstrations of pottery, basketry, leatherwork, flintknapping and chipping, and jewelry making.

Backtracking to Memphis, there's nothing ancient about Graceland, as two hot new exhibits capture the essence of The King's favorite hangouts. "Elvis' Hawaii: Concerts, Movies and More!" celebrates Elvis Presley's love for Hawaii and the 40th anniversary of his most famous concert "Aloha from Hawaii." The exhibit features both American Eagle jumpsuits Elvis wore in 1973, a gold lamé jacket from his first Hawaiian concert in 1957, and never-before-seen concert footage, movie memorabilia and rarely-seen photos.

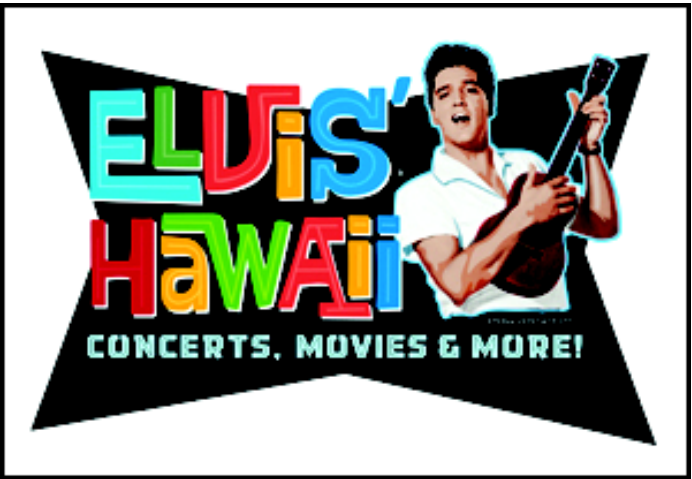
"Elvis: Live from Vegas" encapsulates the excitement of Elvis' triumphant return in 1969 and beyond. The exhibit contains the very first jumpsuit he wore on-stage in 1970, as well as others and part of

B-Q, where a greek-inspired rub is slathered on everything from ribs to turkey, Leonard's BBQ, an 86-year old local legend with a killer pulled pork sandwich, and The Cozy Corner, where barbeque cornish game hen is a regular on the menu.

Fieri also feasts on a local delicacy, barbeque spaghetti, chased by sweet mustard cole slaw and batter fried onion rings. Tune into the Memphis BBQ tour at <http://www.foodnetwork.com/diners-drive-ins-and-dives/the-memphis-bbq-tour/index.html>.

As Dr. Martin Luther King's dream inspired a new generation, likewise, renovations at the National Civil Rights Museum, at 450 Mulberry St., have opened the door to a rare opportunity. For the first time, visitors are allowed access to the Lorraine Motel balcony outside Room 306 where Dr. King once stayed. King was standing there on April 4, 1968, when a bullet fired from a rooming house across the courtyard struck him down at age 39.

The Legacy Building encom-



Two new exhibits at Graceland provide guests the experiences of Hawaii and Las Vegas through the eyes of "The King."

a 30-foot marquee that once stood outside the New Frontier Hotel in 1957. Graceland is open year round with various tour options.

After all those Elvis sightings, everyone's sure to have worked up a powerful appetite and there's no better way to ditch those peanut butter and banana sandwich cravings than a hunk-a-hunk of fresh Memphis barbeque.

Close by Graceland, Marlowe's Ribs at 4381 Elvis Presley Blvd., not only holds the secret to the perfect rub, but has a fleet of pink cadillacs. The eatery was included on the Food Network's recent *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* series on April 19. Spike-haired host Guy Fieri rolls through Memphis, dubbed "one of America's greatest barbeque towns," in search of the Holy Grail of smoked meat. He's far from disappointed.

Other Memphis barbeque spots featured on the series are Tom's Bar-

passes the old boarding house across the street, and is also open for tours during the renovation project.

On the second floor of the Legacy Building, an investigation of the assassination is displayed along with the case against James Earl Ray, and conspiracy theories. The first floor exhibits illustrate the Freedom Movement's impact on human rights efforts globally—ending with a call to action for all to continue the legacy of the American civil rights movement. The renovation phase will continue until the first quarter of 2014.

As evening falls, staying at the legendary Peabody Hotel, should be all it's quacked up to be, as an 80-year tradition gets underway. The Peabody Duck March at 11 am and 5 pm, is how five north American mallards spend each day, at the fanciest "cement pond" in Tennessee. Since 1940, one drake (male), the



As part of ongoing renovations at the National Civil Rights Museum, for the first time, visitors are allowed access to the Lorraine Motel balcony outside Room 306 where Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

one with the white collar and green head, and four, less colorful, females, march through the lobby along a red carpet toward the exquisite marble fountain. There, they preen and splash all day to everyone's content.

With one of the most unusual jobs in the world, Duck Master, Anthony Petrina, 25, for a year and a half, has served as only the 5th Duckmaster in the history of the Peabody. His duties include feeding and training the teams for their twice-daily marches.

"The duck march starts every morning about 10:30 when I roll the red carpet out from the elevator to the fountain," he said. "I march the ducks from the rooftop penthouse, all the way across the roof, into the elevators, where they ride down with me into the lobby and they waddle on down to the red carpet and into the fountain."

Petrina gets most of the groups when they are a year and a half old and it takes about two-three days to train them. While the ducks are cute and pampered with silver tray service, Petrina reiterates they are and will remain "wild." He doesn't pick them up, pet them, feed them out of his hand, or even name them while they are in his care.



Two thousand-year-old mounds comprise the Pinson Mounds State Archeological Area, just 80 miles outside of Memphis.