



June 7-9 Nashville Convention Center

Public safety issues focus of conference workshops

Race relations, cybercrimes, and understanding the threat of sovereign citizens will be the topics of three very powerful workshops being offered at TML's Annual Conference, slated for June 7-9 in Nashville.

Steve Anderson, Metro Nashville police chief, will speak about strategies and policies that could prevent situations similar to those in Ferguson, MO., and New York City.

Chief Anderson has won national acclaim for his and the Metro Police Department's handling of protests in Nashville, following the Missouri grand jury's decision not to indict a police officer in the death of African-American teenager Michael Brown.

Anderson and his officers set an example for the nation when they chose to take a cooperative approach to local protesters – a stark contrast to the militarized crackdowns employed by other departments. Anderson's police force met protesters with hot chocolate and bottled water, rather than tear gas and riot gear. The officers marched alongside them, and ran the type of security that one might expect at a special event or parade, all the time communicating with protest leaders.

As a result, no violence, looting,



Chief Steve Anderson



FBI Agent Scott Augenbaum or vandalism took place.

Other methods Anderson employs for improving race relations is *See TML on Page 3*

Legislature passes aggressive panhandling law

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

The Tennessee Legislature has approved a bill establishing "aggressive panhandling" as a misdemeanor offense under the state code, a measure many officials say could help strengthen local panhandling laws. Senate Bill 596 was proposed by Sen. Brian Kesley, R-Germantown, and its counterpart, House Bill 923, is sponsored by fellow Shelby County lawmaker Rep. Raumesh Akbari, D-Memphis. The Senate bill passed 29-0 on March 23 while the House bill was approved 94-1 on April 1.

Under the proposal, "aggressive panhandling" would be defined as touching a person being solicited without their consent, obstructed the path of a person being solicited or that person's vehicle, following a person who has chosen not to make a donation, or making a statement, gesture or communication that may cause a person to feel fear of personal harm if they refuse a solicitation for a donation.

Further amendments struck out language prohibiting panhandlers from using derogatory or profane language, coming within three feet of those being solicited or soliciting donations while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

A first offense conviction would be a Class C misdemeanor punishable by up to \$50 in fines and up to 30 days in jail. Second and subsequent offenses would be Class B misdemeanors punishable by up to \$500 in fines and up to 90 days in jail. If signed by Gov. Bill Haslam, the bill would take effect on July 1.

Established by the city of Memphis and Shelby County as a partnership between government and local businesses, the Downtown Memphis Commission works to promote development within the city. Making downtown Memphis safe is one of the organization's priorities, which includes tackling issues like homelessness and panhandling.

Debra Streeter, manager of public safety with the Downtown Memphis Commission, said many aggressive panhandlers are repeat offenders and continue to panhandle because they would rather pay city fines than earn money in another way.

"I talked to a guy who has been panhandling out here for years and



City officials are hoping a new statewide measure against "aggressive panhandling" will help the enforcement of local ordinances.

he told me 'I make \$300 a day, and if I get a \$50 fine, I'll pay it,' she said. "To them, they made \$250 of tax free money."

Currently, Memphis has a city ordinance making it unlawful to panhandle in certain areas and panhandle anytime between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. The law further prevents panhandlers from coming within three feet of a person being solicited unless they have indicated they want to make a donation, touching a person without their consent, blocking the path of an individual or vehicle, panhandle in a group or while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Streeter said panhandlers often create other issues downtown including disorderly conduct, violations of open container laws and public intoxication. She said those issues can be a nuisance to both residents, business owners and tourists.

"They are afraid of these guys because they are aggressive and will basically make them give them something," she said. "We have people that feel unsafe, people who live down here and are being followed. Customers come into businesses and complain, so it's a ripple effect. They actually target areas they know will have tourists in them, like around hotels and convention centers."

Streeter said the downtown community is hopeful the state bill will help improve conditions in the downtown area and throughout the city.

Instead of giving money, Streeter said the Downtown Memphis

First session of 109th General Assembly adjourned

The 109th General Assembly has concluded its work for the first regular session.

Among the many highlights of the session was the passing of a \$33.8 billion budget that includes \$73.5 million dollars for the Rainy Day Fund; a 4 percent increase in funding for teachers' salaries; a modest pay raise for state employees; and \$500,000 for statewide methamphetamine cleanup programs.

Gov. Haslam's "Revenue Modernization Act" also passed both chambers. The legislation makes various changes to current tax statutes; taxes software and video games accessed remotely via the Internet; and creates incentives for companies to distribute products in Tennessee.

This legislation is estimated to increase local government revenue by \$7 million annually.

Other pieces of legislation that will affect municipalities, include new restrictions on guns in parks, banning most speed cameras, and an increase in the Hall income tax exemption for senior citizens.

Guns in Parks. Repeals a provision in a 2009 state law that allows local governments to prohibit, by resolution, the possession of handguns by gun carry permit holders in parks or recreational areas owned or operated by the local government. The new legislation invalidates local restrictions and allows permitted gun holders to carry guns in state and local parks, with exceptions for those

used by schools. At press time, Gov. Bill Haslam had not made a decision on whether he will sign or veto the legislation.

Traffic Cameras. Initially, legislation was introduced to ban local governments' use of all automatic traffic cameras, but in the final days of the session was later amended to only apply to speed cameras after current contracts expire. It exempts Chattanooga's cameras along the deadly "S" curve section of Hixson Pike and in school zones across Tennessee.

Hall Income Tax. Increases the exemptions from \$33,000 to \$39,000 for single filers over the age of 65 and from \$59,000 to \$68,000 for joint filers over the age of 65.

New protocols for rape kit testing approved

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

A new bill creating a statewide protocol for the collection and processing of sexual assault evidence kits is expected to be signed by Gov. Bill Haslam, as part of an attempt to decrease a backlog of untested kits across the state.

In 2014, a report released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation found there were 9,000 sexual assault kits left untested statewide, including some dating back 30 years. The city of Memphis was listed as the area with the largest rape kit backlog in the state with nearly 7,000 kits – approximately 77 percent of the backlog – untested. The city of Knoxville had the second largest backlog with 394 and Jackson followed with 249.



A new measure will require police departments statewide to have rape kits tested within 60 days of being turned over to law enforcement. Memphis has already self-imposed a 96-hour timeframe.

That same year, advocacy program End the Backlog reported that Metro Nashville had 4,524 sexual assault kits, some dating as far back as 1995, many of which were sent to the state lab with a request in August 2014. Presently, End the Backlog said it has no information on how many rape kits are still untested in Nashville has public records requests for up-to-date information have not yet been answered.

Senate Bill 981 was proposed by Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris, R-Collierville, with its companion, House Bill 1239, sponsored by State Rep. Larry Miller, D-Memphis. The bill directs the state's Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to create a model policy to respond to sexual assaults and for police agencies across the state to create their own written policy on the enforcement of sexually-oriented crimes by July 1, 2016.

The bill also requires police departments statewide have rape kits submitted for DNA or serology testing within 60 days of being turned over by health care providers. The bill will also prohibit the submission of a kit for testing without consent of the victim and ensures victims cannot be charged for the collection *See DNA on Page 3*



Sen Mark Norris



Rep. Larry Miller

President's proposed budget caps municipal bond interest

Tax-exempt municipal bonds are once again being targeted for elimination or capping the percentage on the tax deduction.

The President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Proposal recently submitted to Congress, proposed capping the tax deduction for municipal bond interest at 28 percent.

Under current law, the owners of municipal bonds are not required to pay federal income tax on the interest income they receive from the bonds. Municipalities benefit from this tax exemption through substantial savings on the interest cost of borrowed money.

Over the last decade, municipal bonds have funded more than \$1.9 trillion worth of infrastructure construction for schools, airports, affordable housing, water and sewer facilities, roads, and public transit. In 2013 alone, more than 11,000 tax-exempt bonds financed more than \$330 billion in infrastructure spending.

In the House, more than 100

members of Congress, including Reps. Phil Roe and Stephen Fincher from Tennessee, have signed on to a bipartisan letter urging House leadership to support the preservation of the tax exemption on municipal bond interest. Both Sens. Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander have indicated they support the tax-exempt status.

The federal tax exemption on municipal bond interest has been in place since the first federal income tax was enacted in 1913 having been maintained through two world wars, the Great Depression and the recent Great Recession, and as a result, state and local governments save, on average, two percentage points on their borrowing to finance investment in public infrastructure.

This exemption has generated trillions of dollars of investment in public infrastructure and has saved taxpayers hundreds of billions in interest costs. Reducing or eliminating the exemption on municipal bonds would cause investors to demand higher returns on their municipal

bond investments to make up for the tax they would have to pay.

The outcome of reducing or eliminating the tax exemption on municipal bond interest would be higher borrowing costs for state and local governments, less investment in infrastructure and fewer jobs.

According to the National League of Cities, the traditional tax exempt status of municipal bonds is now regularly under threat whether it be as a part of a deficit reduction plan, a push for comprehensive tax reform or as an offset for new spending. Municipal bonds are the primary way state and local governments finance the public infrastructure yet several federal proposals have emerged over the last few years, including the President's FY'16 budget proposal, that would modify the tax exemption or eliminate it entirely.

If your representative has signed the letter, thank him. If your representative is not, please urge them to protect municipal bonds in future tax reform and budget efforts.

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



CHATTANOOGA

The Chattanooga metro area has ranked No. 1 in the social well-being of its residents out of the 100 biggest metropolitan areas across the nation, according to a Gallup-Healthways poll. The poll, which was conducted over the course of last year, found Chattanooga residents ranked at the top of all other cities monitored for people with support and love from friends and family, encouragement to go bigger, do better and try new things. Chattanooga residents are also 6 percent more likely than the rest of the country to be on the receiving ends of "positive energy" from friends and family. Additionally, the city ranked No. 2 among the 100 10 cities for community well-being and eighth for the sense of purpose among its residents. Chattanooga was also ranked 14 out of 100 in the overall community rankings, making it the highest ranked metropolitan area in the state.

HENDERSONVILLE

A new communications contracting office opening its doors in Hendersonville is expected to add 500 jobs to the area. Lawrence, Kan.-based Bear Communications announced on April 8 they will be opening a new location on Molly Walton Drive in Hendersonville, and the company will employ 500 personnel, both directly and through contract partners. The company will be relocating some staff from other offices around the country, but intends to recruit the majority of the new staff from the Hendersonville and Nashville area. The company will be performing telecommunications construction work for an undisclosed company in the area. The company has offices in 12 states, including Tennessee.

JOHNSON CITY

Johnson City Water and Sewer Services is celebrating a milestone – 10 years of inspecting and maintaining wastewater collection lines to ensure optimum performance. In 2005, the city began planning for programs to maintain and improve operation of the wastewater collection system. Water and Sewer Services began

cleaning, TV inspecting and determining the condition of each foot of line within the system. The goal was to inspect and TV at least 10 percent (270,000) of the system annually and determine the condition of the lines for future plans to either re-condition or replace. By the end of 2014, more than 2.45 million feet had been inspected. In 2016, the cycle will start over. Since 2004, the city has invested more than \$50 million in upgraded treatment units, pumping stations, and replacement lines and currently is investing an additional \$32 million in continuing to rebuild the system. In 2014, the city achieved the highest wastewater plant and collection system compliance level to date, which is directly attributable to the investment made.

KNOXVILLE

Tax incentives expire this year for the downtown Hampton Inn and the Market Square building that houses Oodles Uncorked and Latitude 35. Combined, the properties will add \$10.26 million to the city's tax rolls. Knoxville officials are beginning to see the fruits of tax breaks leveraged over a decade ago to spur downtown development and job creation. Between 2012 and 2014, seven incentive-aided redeveloped properties returned to the city's tax base. Together, they are valued at \$68 million and are generating more than \$800,000 in annual revenue, according to figures from the city's Office of Redevelopment. "I've heard people say, 'Oh that's free money,'" Mayor Madeline Rogero said of the city's tax breaks. "It's not free money because that project never would have occurred. It's like priming the pump to get projects going."

NASHVILLE

Texas-based computer maker Dell Inc. is laying off nearly 100 Nashville employees. According to a notice sent to the state, dated March 18, Dell will lay off 96 workers, effective this month. Dell is shutting down a customer support unit that services clients with global operations. Local Dell employees that support North American customers

are not impacted by the cuts. Dell's Nashville campus employs about 1,400 people.

MEMPHIS

Memphis Public Housing will receive a \$3 million federal grant to help its low-income residents find and keep higher-paying jobs, the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs announced. Memphis is one of nine cities sharing in the \$24 million fund over the next four years. HUD's Jobs-Plus Pilot Program is designed to fund work readiness and link public housing residents with employment, education and "financial empowerment services," the federal agency said in a release.

OAK RIDGE

Oak Ridge could see bigger and more prestigious rowing regattas after lawmakers secured \$250,000 in state funds to add an eighth rowing lane at Melton Hill Lake. The eighth lane will enable the Oak Ridge Rowing Association to compete for both bigger regattas as well as international regattas. State legislators, Sen. Randy McNally and Rep. John Reagan who helped secure the funding for the extra lane, said the regattas have a huge economic impact because they bring teams, fans and relatives who stay in the county's hotels and motels, eat at restaurants and shop at stores. Their presence means jobs and tax revenue. Authorities said the stretch of water used by the association is considered among the nation's best. But without an eighth lane, which is used as a travel or return lane in international regattas, Oak Ridge was unable to bid on some of the larger and international events, authorities said.

PORTLAND

Hatch Stamping Company recently held a ribbon cutting event for its new facility in Portland. In June 2014, Hatch Stamping announced they would invest \$17 million to design and manufacture highly engineered metal stampings and assemblies in a 106,000 square foot manufacturing facility in Portland, creating 101 new jobs. The facility produces parts for the southeastern automotive market and worldwide distribution.

SPARTA

Jackson Kayak will invest \$6.5 million to expand their current operations in Tennessee by opening a new manufacturing facility in Sparta. This expansion will create 250 new jobs in White County. Jackson Kayak produces whitewater, recreational, fishing and hunting kayaks and high performance coolers. The company has reached its manufacturing capacity in its current 100,000-square-foot facility in Sparta. Due to the international popularity of the Jackson Kayak brand and the launch of the new Orion cooler line, the company anticipates sales to double over the next five years. With this additional space, Jackson Kayak will be able to expand manufacturing operations, bring in currently outsourced processes and house a new research and development center. Production is scheduled to begin production in the new facility by the end of this year.

SPRING HILL

Auto parts manufacturer Magna International officially opened the doors to its new Spring Hill facility. The 122,500-square-foot operation, at 701 Beechcroft Road, is set to bring more than 350 jobs and represents a \$17 million investment. The site abuts the Spring Hill General Motors Manufacturing facility. The company is headquartered in Ontario, Canada, but operates other locations around the country and world.

New Nashville Sounds Stadium open



Mayor Karl Dean, joined by the Nashville Sounds and the Metro Sports Authority, celebrated the grand opening of First Tennessee Park on April 17, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Dean was joined by several guests including Oakland A's president Michael Crowley, Sounds owners Frank Ward and Masahiro Honzawa, and featured musical guest Chip Esten, who plays Deacon Claybourne on ABC's "Nashville." Scheduled to open in time for the 2015 season with room for 10,000 fans, the \$38 million facility occupies the old Sulphur Dell site, the original home of professional baseball in Nashville. Minor League and Negro League teams played there dating back to the 1860s. "This is where Jackie Robinson, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio all played when they came through Nashville decades ago," Dean said.

Groundbreaking for new Pegram Fire Station



A groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 8 for the new Pegram Fire Department Station No. 2. Cheatham County is building the new fire station on property owned by the town of Pegram. Pegram purchased the property for the station in 2014. The station is one of three that the county will construct as part of a \$995,000 long-range fire plan.

Tree replacement project underway in Murfreesboro



The Murfreesboro Urban Environmental Department has embarked on a tree removal and replacement project in the historic downtown business district. Dead and dying trees were removed from landscape island and are being replaced by 'Natchez' Crape Myrtles.

Tennessee schools honored

The Tennessee State Board of Education recognized eight Tennessee schools that earned national recognition for their academic achievement and closing achievement gaps.

Six Tennessee schools were named National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education and two Tennessee schools earned recognition as Title I Distinguished Schools by the National Title I Association. The National Blue Ribbon Schools award, presented by the U.S. Department of Education, honors public and private schools whose students attain and maintain high academic goals that work toward closing achievement gaps. Those Tennessee schools are:

- Foothills Elementary, Maryville City Schools
- Hillsboro Elementary/Middle, Williamson County Schools
- Kenrose Elementary, Williamson County Schools
- Madison Academic Magnet High, Jackson-Madison County
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet High, Metro

Nashville Public Schools

- Trinity Elementary, Williamson County Schools

These Tennessee schools join more than 7,500 schools nationwide that have received this honor over the 33 years of the program. National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models for other schools throughout the nation. The schools were celebrated at a ceremony in Washington D.C..

The state board also recognized two West Tennessee schools that were named Title I Distinguished Schools:

- E.E. Jeter Elementary, Shelby County Schools
- Cummings School, Shelby County Schools

The National Title I Distinguished School Program selects schools from each state that demonstrate academic achievement and show shrinking achievement gaps among their students. E.E. Jeter Elementary was recognized for academic achievement and Cummings Schools was celebrated for closing achievement gaps.

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Conference workshops focus on public safety

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by reaching out to key members of the African-American community, meeting with church leaders and residents to discuss their concerns about diversity in the department, racial profiling and militarization of police.

New recruits are also given a brief history lesson on the civil rights movement. Police trainees spend an afternoon at the city's civil rights room at the Nashville Public Library. Anderson hopes that the history lesson will give the future officers a better understanding of how to interact with the community and serve as a reminder that just 50 years ago inequality was a real issue in Nashville.

Anderson's workshop is scheduled for Monday morning, June 8 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Later Monday afternoon, FBI Special Agent Scott Augenbaum will present an eye-opening session on "Why Transnational Enterprises want to Target my Municipality."

Through cybercrime, transnational criminal organizations can pose as a significant threat to our financial systems and power grids.

Augenbaum will discuss the persistent and sophisticated threat from cyber criminals. He will offer insight into evolving threats, strategies for responding to threats and attacks, and how to safeguards and protect your organization's data.

On Sunday, June 7, an investigator from the Intelligence Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center will conduct a workshop "Understanding the Threat of the Sovereign Citizen."

The strange subculture of the sovereign citizens movement, whose members hold complex anti-government beliefs, has been growing at a fast pace since late 2000. Sovereigns believe that they — not judges, juries, law enforcement or elected officials — get to decide which laws to obey and which to ignore. They disavow federal authority but are evolving to oppose any authority including law enforcement stops, city court, and payment of property taxes. This workshop will help to identify their subtle techniques of opposing authority and how you and your staff should respond.

For more information on additional conference workshops, go to www.TML1.org

76th TML Annual Conference

Schedule At-A-Glance

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

- 1 - 8 pm
MTAS EOA
- SATURDAY, JUNE 6**
- 8 am - 12 noon
MTAS EOA
- 3 - 5 pm
TML BOARD MEETING
- SUNDAY, JUNE 7**
- 10 am - 5 pm
Registration &
Exhibit Hall Open
- 10:30 - 11:15 am
Vendor Presentation
- 11:30 am - 1:15 pm
Lunch
- 1:15 - 2:15 pm
TML Affiliate Workshop
CMFO Workshop
- 1:30 - 2:15 pm
District Meetings
- 2:30 - 3:45 pm
Opening Session
- 4 - 5 pm
Workshops
- 6 - 8 pm
Host City Reception

MONDAY, JUNE 8

- 8 - 8:45 am
Breakfast
- 9 - 10:15 am
Second General Session
- 10:30 - 11:30 am
Workshops
- 11:30 am - 12:15 pm
TML Affiliate Workshop
- 11:45 am - 12:30 pm
Business Meeting
- 12:30 - 2 pm
Lunch
- 2:15 - 3:15 pm
Workshops
- 3:30 - 4:30 pm
Workshops
- 6 - 11 pm
Pool Party

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

- 8 - 10 am
Awards Breakfast

To register, go to TML's website, www.TML1.org; or contact Sylvia Trice at (615) 425-3903 or by e-mail at strice@TML1.org.

New protocols for rape kit testing approved by legislature

DNA, from Page 1

or testing of a rape kit.

While the number of untested kits statewide may seem alarming, TBI spokesman Josh DeVine said recent follow ups with law enforcement across the state has shown that not all of the untested kits are part of pending criminal investigations. DeVine said kits are sometimes left untested because victims didn't want to seek prosecution of their cases, the rape report turned out to be false or because medical examiners sometimes collect sexual assault kits as precautionary measures and as part of routine autopsies, even if there is no evidence of sexual assault.

"When you hear there are 9,000 untested sexual assault kits, the natural inclination is to think there are 9,000 sexual assaults that have to be investigated, 9,000 victims and 9,000 perpetrators who might be out there," he said. "That might not be, in actuality, the case."

DeVine said TBI tests any and all sexual assault kits sent to the organization's three forensic labs in Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis free of charge. However, DeVine said TBI cannot test kits that have not been sent to them.

"The backlog that exists is not TBI's backlog," he said. "The backlog exists because, for one reason or another, law enforcement departments have not sent us kits to be tested. When they send them to TBI -- they are tested."

Currently, DeVine said it takes 18 weeks for the TBI forensic labs to process and return results from sexual assault kits, though he said TBI is working to decrease that time. DeVine said money has also been set aside to help process these kits more quickly.

"The governor's budget includes funding for three new forensic scientists who are to work specifically on forensic biology — the unit that handles the sex assault kits," he said.

While TBI offers its forensic services to departments across the state for free, DeVine said there still can be costs associated with testing a rape kit, especially if a department opts to outsource forensic testing.

"Outsourcing a typical sexual assault kit is dependent on whatever price we can arrange through the state competitive bidding process, but is generally around \$1,000 to \$1,500 per kit," he said. "After it has been worked by a vendor lab, a TBI forensic scientist must complete a technical and administrative review of the case, which takes a couple of hours to complete for each one. It's tough to enumerate what our in-house testing can cost from a manpower, supplies and instrumentation perspective."

Even before the TBI report was finalized, the city of Memphis had begun working to address its backlog. In 2013, the New York-based Rape Kit Action project found the city had more than 12,000 kits in its possession, some dating back to the 1970s. Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton created the Memphis Sexual Assault Task Force to oversee the testing of kits and establish policies to ensure new kits were tested in a timely fashion.

Doug McGowen, a coordinator with Memphis' sexual assault response unit, said many of those kits had not been tested either because DNA testing was not available when they were taken or because convictions had been obtained without the need for testing. Other kits were tested for blood typing as that was the most common type of testing performed between 1975 and 1988, he said.

"We had in our possession kits dating from 1975 through 2013," McGowen said. "DNA analysis was not available in Tennessee through the TBI crime lab until 1988, and the CODIS system wasn't available until 2002. When you combine those dates with the fact that the Memphis police didn't get rid of any sexual assault cases collected, it does seem like a big number."

McGowen said some kits the city has tested have come back with DNA results that only confirm cases that have already been prosecuted.

"We will get back results only to find this individual has already been charged, convicted and even already served their time for the offense," he said.

Still, McGowen said it is important to test every kit on file. He said one offender may be tied to multiple cases, and a DNA profile entered by the city of Memphis may help lead to convictions in

other cases, both locally and across the country. DNA is a valuable tool for not only sexual assault cases but murders, armed robberies and any major violent crime, he said.

"We know it is important enough to enter the profile and get it in the system because it has the ability to compare to other crimes," he said. "Nationally, we have come to understand the power of DNA. There is a pretty high incidence of individuals who are convicted of sexual assault or rape who are multiple offenders or 'serial rapists.' There is a very high number of people who have been indicted here in Memphis who are associated with multiple cases. We know that these individuals are not immobile. They move around. Taking every opportunity we can to populate the combined DNA index system with people who are convicted of these crimes is a benefit to help the entire nation and every community solve these crimes."

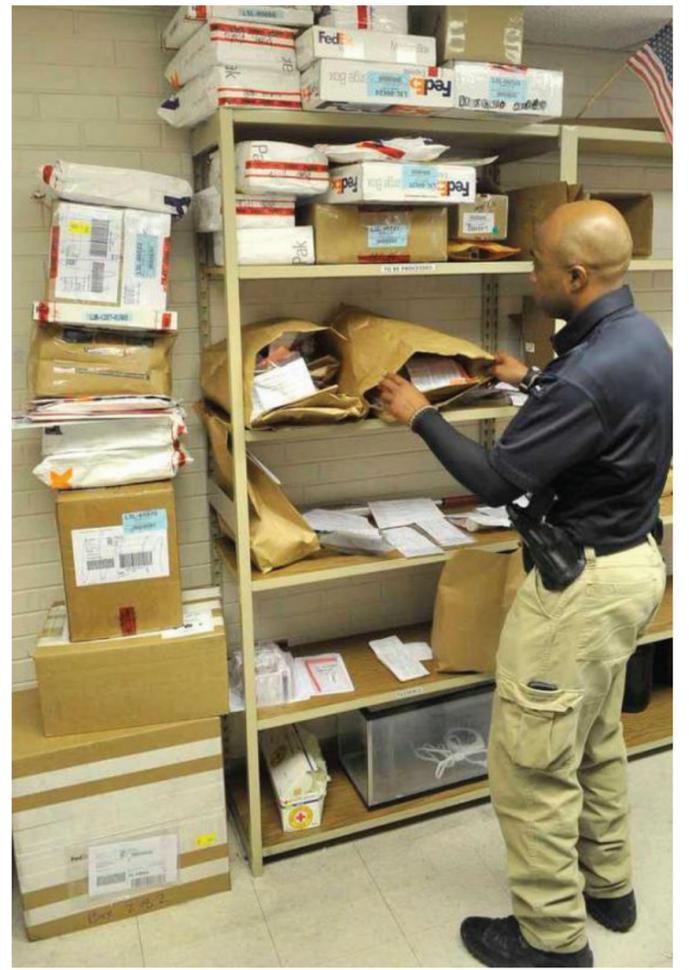
Memphis has partnered with the cities of Cleveland, Ohio and Detroit, Mich. to ensure all kits are tested. Additionally, McGowen said the city is already going above and beyond the 90-day requirement Norris' bill would impose on departments statewide.

"We are holding ourselves accountable to really make sure we are using every opportunity to use best practices, testing 100 percent of the kits going forward and 100 percent of the kits we have on hand," he said. "Memphis Police Department policy is that we will submit for forensic testing within 96 hours any received sex assault kit. We are holding ourselves accountable to doing that. That means we have a new opportunity to bring justice for these victims."

Memphis has a long history of helping sexual assault victims with their cases, McGowen said.

"Memphis had one of the first rape crisis center in the nation in 1975," he said. "We are one of only two only rape crises centers in the state. For other municipalities, victims must go to the emergency room. Here, we have trained sexual assault nurse examiners who are superficially trained in how to take evidence, and there is a lot of sensitivity required. We are getting ready to celebrate the 40th anniversary of that great resource."

Above all, McGowen said the



The newness of DNA testing is one of several reasons for rape kit backlogs nationwide. However, according to the Memphis Sexual Response Unit, untested kits do not always mean delayed justice. Often kits have only confirmed rape convictions already prosecuted.

Memphis Police Department's goal is justice for the victims of sexual assaults and rapes.

"We are all 100 percent committed to have a victim-centered approach and giving victims back their power and their voice," he said. "Whether they choose to participate in prosecution going forward or not, their power was taken when they were assaulted. We want to give them back that power, give them back their voice."

Tennessee is not the only state with a backlog of untested sexual assault kits. The number of untested sexual assault kits nationwide is unknown, but is estimated to be at least 400,000, according to U.S. Department of Justice. There is no

federal requirement for rape kits to be tested and many states have no laws regarding the timeliness of kit testing.

End the Backlog said testing is underway for backlogs in cities across the nation and reported New York City was able to clear a backlog of 17,000 kits while Los Angeles has since cleared its backlog of 12,500.

President Obama asked Congress in March to approve \$35 million in 2015 to end the nationwide backlog, including \$20 million for research to determine more efficient ways to deal with the nationwide backlog. Later that same month, a \$41 million a DOJ program was approved by Congress to help cities fund testing of rape kits.

Legislature passes aggressive panhandling law

from Page 1

on their feet.

Panhandling has also been an issue elsewhere in Tennessee. In November 2014, the city of Knoxville passed an ordinance putting stricter rules on panhandling, particularly in the downtown area.

According to the Knoxville Police Department's website, the ordinance makes it unlawful to solicit after sunset and before sunrise, by repeatedly asking a person, using abusive language or profanity, in parking lots or garages owned by the city, on private property if the owner has asked the person to stop, from persons waiting in line to be admitted into a commercial establishment, from motorists in traffic, by falsely representing why they are seeking money or an "aggressive manner" in a public area.

The ordinance also made it illegal to solicit money within 20 feet of a crosswalk, ATM, entrance or exit of any bank or check cashing business, public restroom, payphone, bus stop or station and sidewalk café or outdoor dining area.

On its website, the Knoxville Police Department encourages residents and visitors to support area charities that help the homeless rather than giving to panhandlers and to report any illegal panhandling activity to officials.

"Giving panhandlers your spare change does not help them address the circumstances that put them on the street, and it may discourage them from seeking assistance from social service agencies," the website says. "Local social service agencies can help people change their circumstances by providing full meals, shelter, clothing, health care and



In 2011, the city of Brentwood changed its ordinance to specifically deal with people collecting from motorists on the street, walking out into the street and selling or seeking donations to people in cars.

employment services. When confronted by a panhandler, the most compassionate thing you can do is politely decline and keep walking."

In 2011, the city of Brentwood changed its ordinance prohibiting newspapers and other materials from being solicited to vehicles on public streets and donations from vehicle occupants on the street, Brentwood City Attorney Roger Horner said.

"Our issue dealt specifically with people collecting from motorists on the street, walking out into the street and selling or seeking donations to people in cars. We had an ordinance that prohibited that. It didn't prohibit selling to pedestrians or seeking donations from pedestrians. It did prohibit standing on the sidewalk and seeking donations from people in cars or walking out into traffic to seek donations from people in cars."

Horner said the city felt those soliciting donations on roadways could pose traffic and safety issues.

"It was happening at some major intersections in Brentwood. It just had the potential or causing traffic accidents or risking the safety of both the motorists and those who were

doing the solicitation."

The change led to a suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of *The Contributor* newspaper and two of its vendors claiming First Amendment rights violations, but a U.S. District Court judge ruled in favor of the city, finding the ordinance was adopted for traffic and safety reasons. The ruling has since been used by other cities, including Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to craft their own similar ordinances.

"You have to honor people's Constitutional rights and there is a First Amendment right to engage with people and solicit donations," Horner said. "At the same time, state and local governments can impose restrictions based on health and safety issues."

Horner said the panhandling proposal has the potential to help cities keep their streets safe.

"It sounds like it will support the right of cities to preserve the safety of those who live, work and visit their cities," he said. "There is a fine line between honoring people's Constitutional rights and preserving the safety of the community."



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

TIME Magazine has named U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Chatanooga, to its annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world – a combination of political leaders, business magnates, artists and icons. He was attributed for his ability to work across the aisle and his tough-minded pragmatism and grasp of economics that have restored prestige to the Foreign Relations Committee.



Sen. Bob Corker

as assistant manager for the city of Columbia since 2010. Moody's experience also includes working for the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (UTMTAS) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) in Chicago. During her MTAS internship, Moody spent several months with the city of Murfreesboro, where she worked on projects for police and fire and rescue. Moody has an undergraduate degree in international affairs from the Xavier University and a master's in public administration from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Phil Bredesen, the former governor of Tennessee and mayor of Nashville, will receive the hospitality industry's E.W. "Bud" Wendell Award at the National Travel and Tourism Week Hospitality Luncheon in May. Bredesen is the second recipient of the award named for Wendell, the longtime Gaylord president and CEO. The award recognizes an individual not affiliated with the hospitality industry whose contributions have aided tourism in Nashville. Bredesen was mayor when Nashville lured professional hockey and football franchises. By financing the construction of what is now Bridgestone Arena, Bredesen aggressively advanced the revitalization of Lower Broadway, which has become one of the nation's preeminent tourist destinations. "One of our strongest assets is having leaders from all types of business be champions for hospitality," Nashville Convention and Visitors Corp. chairman and Vector Management President Ken Levitan said



Phil Bredesen

Kate Coil joins TML staff

The Tennessee Municipal League has selected Kate Coil as a new communications specialist. She officially joined the staff April 1 and will primarily work as a staff writer and assist with the production of *Tennessee Town and City*, the League's bi-weekly newspaper.

Coil is a native of Murfreesboro and graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in mass communications with a focus in journalism.

She worked for three years as a general assignment reporter for the Bluefield Daily Telegraph in Bluefield, W.Va., which covered news in southern West Virginia and Southwest Virginia. While there, she won West Virginia State Press Association awards for coverage of a lawsuit regarding a Ten Commandments display at a local high school. She returned to Middle Tennessee in 2013 to work for the Columbia Daily Herald in Columbia. While in Columbia, she covered city and



Kate Coil

county government and education before being promoted to copy editor in 2014.

In college, she worked for the student newspaper *The Sidelines* all four years of school, serving as a reporter and features editor. During that time she received the John Seigenthaler Award, as well as the Douglas E. Stults Memorial Scholarship and the Tennessee Hope Scholarship. She studied abroad in England for a summer semester in 2008.

State Rep. Ryan Haynes has been elected chairman of the Tennessee Republican Party. Haynes was elected by the GOP's executive committee to replace Chris Devaney, who stepped down just months into his fourth term to become executive director of the Chattanooga-based Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti. Haynes, of Knoxville, won a majority of votes on the first ballot, defeating fellow Rep. Mary Littleton of Dickson and Vanderbilt professor Carol Swain.



Rep. Ryan Haynes

The town of Collierville's Finance Department recently welcomed new Assistant Finance Director **Mark Krock**. Before taking the position as assistant finance director, Krock worked as a purchasing agent with the town's finance department nearly 20 years ago. He left that position in 1998 to work as a certified public accountant and most recently worked as the vice president and compliance officer in the wealth management division of First Horizon National Corporation. Krock has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Memphis, is a certified public accountant and a certified internal auditor.



Mark Krock

Former Knoxville Mayor Kyle Testerman passed away April 11, at the age of 80. He served two terms as mayor, from 1972-75 and 1984-87. Testerman, a Knoxville native, helped pave the way to bring the 1982 World's Fair to Knoxville during his first term in office. Testerman's public service also included a term as city councilman from 1969 - 1971. He was a successful attorney and businessman who was well-known throughout the community.

Fred "Fizz" Tallent, the former mayor of the town of Vonore, died at the age of 77. In addition to serving as the town's mayor, he was also instrumental in starting the Vonore Police Department, Vonore Fire Department, Vonore Library and was also instrumental in local little league baseball, football, basketball and boy scout troops. Tallent served as mayor of Vonore for 22 years and was elected to the position for the first time in 1977. His first term lasted until 1983. He served his second term second from 1987-89 and a third from 1995-2009. Additionally, Tallent served as military police with the U.S. Army, worked as a guard at Brushy Mountain Penitentiary and was retired from Y-12. He is survived by his wife Faye Tallent, two sons, four daughters and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Long time city secretary **Becky Campbell** with the town of Oliver Springs has been promoted to city manager. Campbell, a lifelong resident of Oliver Springs, was first hired by the town in May 1998 as the city secretary. During her tenure she has twice served as interim city manager. "In view of her excellence service, the town council choose to promote from within and hire Mrs. Campbell as the new city manager," said Mayor Jerry Vann.

James "Spike" Good has been appointed by the Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen as a new alderman. He replaces David Harmon, who resigned before his term was up. Good is also running for one of three seats on the board in the May elections and will only serve for the months of April and May unless elected. Good, 58, was born and raised in Bluff City. Harmon resigned from the board earlier this year citing a move to Florida.

Linda Nichols has been named Cheatham County's new 911 director. Nichols, who previously headed the Dickson Emergency Communications Center, replaces Pat Harris, who stepped down in November to take a job in the private sector. Nichols, a native of Dickson County, has been in the emergency dispatch business since 1988, working as a dispatcher with the Dickson County Sheriff's Department for three years. In 1991, the Sheriff's Department and the city of Dickson joined forces to create one dispatch center, where Nichols worked until coming to Cheatham. She was the operations commander of the Dickson center from 2012 to 2014 and was the director for the past year.



Linda Nichols

A non-profit advocating for abused and neglected children are praising Tennessee Department of Children's Services and **Commissioner Jim Henry** of Kingston. Childhelp, which advocates for abused and neglected children, announced that Henry and his staff will be honored with the Childhelp Voice of the Children Award at the Childhelp National Day of Hope celebration in Washington, D.C.



Jim Henry

Jennifer Moody has been selected to fill Murfreesboro's second assistant city manager position and work alongside Assistant City Manager Jim Crumley and under City Manager Rob Lyons. She will assist in economic development for the administration and recommend strategic grant funding opportunities to the city manager and city council. Moody was selected among a pool of 150 applicants for the position and following an interview with both a city panel and a community panel. She joins the city of Murfreesboro after serving



Jennifer Moody

Kirk named Chief Academic Officer of TN Department of Education

Dr. Vicki Kirk, superintendent of Greene County Schools, has joined the Tennessee Department of Education as the chief academic officer and one of three deputy commissioners.

Kirk currently leads the Greene County School System, serving approximately 7,500 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. She brings more than two decades of education experience in Tennessee, seven years in the classroom and 16 years in leadership positions. Kirk has served as Greene County Director of Schools for the past five years; prior to that she served as the assistant director of Greeneville City schools for a decade.

Kirk will lead the academic divisions of curriculum and instruction, special populations, teachers and leaders, and CORE district support offices. She will also manage the newly named division of the department, college and career



Dr. Vicki Kirk

readiness, which is dedicated to connecting the department's work around strategies that will lead high school students to success during and after graduation. The division will also be responsible for early postsecondary coursework, cross agency collaboration through Pathways TN, and Career and Technical Education.

Kirk has a bachelor's, a master's, and Ed.D. from East Tennessee State University

Recruits representing eight Tennessee Fire Departments graduate from Fire Academy

Twenty firefighter recruits from eight fire departments across Tennessee graduated from the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy (TFSCEA).

The graduating class is the 33rd to complete the Recruit Firefighter class since TFSCEA opened in its Bedford County location in 2001. These students have performed a variety of training exercises such as victim rescue, hazardous fuel spills and multiple live fire simulations.

In addition to classroom training situations, this class faced weather challenges due to February's winter storm. While the hazardous winter weather forced students to miss a week of classroom and drill field practice, they ultimately completed courses and homework assignments using online tools and monitoring from instructors. They later moved to the drill field to demonstrate to the instructors what they had learn



Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy

while off campus. Fire departments represented in the graduating class include:

- Humboldt Fire Department
- Lebanon Fire Department
- Loudon Fire Department
- Manchester Fire Department
- Martin Fire Department
- Paris Fire Department
- Smyrna Fire Department
- Williamson County Rescue Squad

MEMBER FOCUSED



THE TML **POOL**

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STATE BRIEFS



For the first time in history, **Tennessee travel has exceeded 100 million domestic person stays.** The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development confirmed a record-breaking year for Tennessee tourism for 2014. Total travel to Tennessee for this record year was 101.3 million, up from 96.4 million in 2013, an increase of 5.1 percent. This was higher than the national growth of 4.4 percent. Since 2004, Tennessee saw a total increase of over 25 million person stays. Increases in visitor volume translate into increases in Tennessee revenues. Preliminary numbers for 2014 economic impact results project nearly \$18 billion in direct travel expenditures. This is an estimated increase of \$1.3 billion over the previous year. Attracting visitors to Tennessee are some of the top tourism sites in America including Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Dollywood, Grand Ole Opry, Beale Street, Graceland, Bristol Motor Speedway, and the Tennessee Aquarium. The coming year will likely continue to see growth as the state welcomes new attractions in 2015 such as Dolly Parton's DreamMore Resort in Pigeon Forge, Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid in Memphis and the George Jones Museum in Nashville.

The state unemployment rate ticked down to its lowest level since

the summer of 2008. The Tennessee Labor & Workforce Development announced that the state's preliminary unemployment rate was 6.3 percent. The rate for February stands at 6.6 percent. That's the lowest level since May 2008, when the state rate was 6.1 percent. The biggest gains were in the health care and social assistance industries, which added an estimated 1,600 jobs in March. The biggest losses were in the transportation, trade and utility sector, which shed 2,200 jobs in March.

The Tennessee Supreme Court postponed execution dates for four inmates, effectively halting all executions while the courts decide whether current protocols for putting people to death are constitutional. Tennessee last executed a prisoner in 2009. Since then, legal challenges and problems obtaining lethal injection drugs have stalled new executions. In 2013 and 2014, the state tried to jump-start the process with a new one-drug lethal injection method and the reinstatement of the electric chair as a backup. Beginning in December 2013, the court set new execution dates for 11 inmates. One inmate died in prison, and the execution dates for the others have been postponed as they approach because of legal challenges to the new methods. On Friday, the court postponed the last of the scheduled execution

dates. It will set new dates after the legal questions are settled. States across the country have been struggling to find a method of execution that will stand up to legal challenges. And obtaining lethal injection drugs has been getting harder.

Tennessee farmers who grow organic crops and have become USDA certified can now qualify for a cost share reimbursement for the costs of their certification. Certified organic producers can apply to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for a 75 percent cost share up to a maximum of \$750 to help defray costs related to receiving and maintaining organic certification, including inspection costs. Organic operations that have achieved certification since October 1, 2014 meet the time qualification to seek reimbursement, as do organic operations that became certified between now and September 30, 2015. Organic certification typically costs small farm producers between \$600 and \$1,000 annually. Costs increase based on product and sales volume. For more information about USDA organic certification and cost share reimbursement, visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usda-home?contentidonly=true&contentid=organic-agriculture.html>. Or contact Amy Tavalin at (615) 837-5163 or email Amy.Tavalin@TN.gov.

March revenues below expectations

Tennessee revenue collections fell short of budgeted expectations in March. Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin reported that overall March revenues were \$943.7 million, which is \$15.6 million less than the state budgeted.

Total tax collections in March were 1.26 percent below the previous year.

"March collections reflect weaker than anticipated revenues from the sales tax category due to the severe ice storms which occurred in February," Martin said. "We believe this is an isolated occurrence and that consumer spending will reflect somewhat normal growth next month. Franchise and Excise collections were above budgeted estimates for March and, taken as a group, all other tax collections exceeded budgeted estimates for the month as well."

On an accrual basis, March is the eighth month in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The general fund was under collected by \$16.0 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$0.4 million.

Sales tax collections were \$32.5 million less than the estimate for March. The March growth rate was negative 3.17 percent. For eight months revenues are over collected by \$117.8 million. The year-to-date growth rate for eight months was positive 5.67 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined were \$6.9 million above the budgeted estimate of \$189.4 million. For eight months revenues are over collected by \$172.2 million. The year-to-date growth rate for eight months was positive 24.45 percent.

Gasoline and motor fuel collections for March decreased by 4.96 percent and were \$3.2 million above the budgeted estimate. For eight months revenues are over collected by \$17.7 million.

Tobacco taxes collections were

\$0.3 million under the budgeted estimate of \$21.4 million. For eight months revenues are under collected in the amount of \$6.2 million.

Inheritance and estate taxes were over collected by \$3.2 million for the month. Year-to-date collections for eight months are \$15.2 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Privilege tax collections were \$2.3 million less than the March estimate, and on a year-to-date basis, August through March, collections are \$0.2 million above the estimate. Business tax collections were \$8.0 million above the March estimate. All other taxes were under collected by a net of 1.8 million.

Year-to-date collections for eight months were \$354.2 million more than the budgeted estimate.

The general fund was over collected by \$320.5 million and the four other funds were over collected by \$33.7 million.

FedEx launches world's first zero-emission, hydrogen fuel cell ground support equipment



Fred Smith, FedEx chairman and CEO, stands in front of cell-powered cargo tractors designed to emit zero emissions as well as reduce noise levels at the Memphis International Airport.

FedEx Corporation recently introduced 15 new hydrogen fuel cell-powered Ground Support Equipment (GSE) cargo tractors. These tractors will be used at the FedEx hub located at the Memphis International Airport. Along with this, FedEx has also built a hydrogen fueling station at the airport, provided by Plug Power Inc, which these tractors will use to refuel at the airport.

The project cost was \$2.5 million, and was financed through a Department of Energy grant.

The fueling station will have the

storage capacity of 15,000 gallons of liquid hydrogen.

The company will benefit from the reduction in the tractors' fuel consumption at the airport that will be two times less than the conventional diesel engines.

The hydrogen fuel-powered tractors will give zero emission, and will also have reduced noise. Additionally, the hydrogen fuel cell will be more cost effective than lead acid batteries in replacing the conventional diesel-powered tractors. These tractors will be capable to bear loads up to 40,000 lbs.

TDOT releases 3-year plan; 2016 includes only 2 new projects

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) released the department's three-year transportation program, featuring approximately \$1.2 billion in infrastructure investments for 39 individual project phases in 32 counties, as well as 15 statewide programs.

The 2016 building program consists of only two new projects. The rest of the projects listed are projects from the 2015 building program that were delayed due to continued uncertainty of the future of the Federal Highway Trust Fund. In addition to the 2016 budgeted program, partial plans for 2017 and 2018 are included. The 2nd and 3rd year of the program are unchanged from last year's 2nd and 3rd years.

The current federal transportation funding bill expires May 31, 2015. If a new bill is not passed by Congress, TDOT could lose funding for the remaining four months of the current fiscal year. This is the same situation that forced the department to delay dozens of projects last year.

"TDOT is continuing its long held 'pay-as-you-go' philosophy, and this three-year plan reflects our state's ongoing commitment to remain debt free on our roads," Gov. Bill Haslam said. "The department's conservative approach also ensures that projects already under construction won't be negatively impacted by decisions out of Washington."

The two projects added to the 2016 building program include the paving to complete the construction of SR 66 in Hamblen County and

funds for Right of Way acquisition for a section of SR 13 in Montgomery County for improvements related to the future Hankook Tire Company manufacturing facility. TDOT will invest more than \$680 million in resurfacing and bridge repair and replacement projects over the next three years.

"At this critical juncture in federal transportation funding, TDOT's priority must be maintaining our existing pavement and bridges rather than new projects," TDOT Commissioner John Schroer said. "We must also prepare for the reality of possible continued delays to the projects in our building program."

The program includes dedicated funding for 15 transportation programs including Rockfall Mitigation, Spot Safety Improvement, the statewide HELP Program and the second year of the State Route Multimodal Access Initiative, which enhances connections between modes, such as sidewalks and park-and-ride facilities at key locations along state routes.

The program also provides funding for transit agencies, Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations and private non-profit organizations in all 95 counties in Tennessee.

To view a complete list of projects funded through the 2016-2018 multimodal program visit www.tdot.state.tn.us/documents/ThreeYearProgram-TDOT-2016-2018.pdf.

For more information about transportation funding, visit www.tdot.state.tn.us/funding.shtml.

**Side by side,
community by community,
state by state.
Opportunity at every step.™**

The demands facing government entities are more challenging than ever. So our specialized client teams work side by side with you to turn challenges into opportunities. To help you do more with less with greater efficiency, transparency and control. After more than a century of experience serving the public sector, we're here with advice and a range of solutions including credit, treasury and liquidity. Bringing the capabilities of a global financial services organization to the state and community level.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

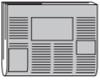


Oil production in the United States has been significantly increasing every year since 2008, and that increase has contributed to an international supply glut. The Wall Street Journal reports the country might have finally reached peak production, according to recent data. Rapid increases in supply have contributed to plummeting oil prices, and the low prices have led producers to slow drilling activity. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, two of the nation's largest oil fields, the Bakken and Eagle Ford, are likely to post production decreases for April and May.

Nearly one-third of higher-income households said they live paycheck to paycheck at least sometimes, and 44 percent agreed that spending on lifestyle purchases such as dining out and entertainment causes them to save less than they should each month. Those are the findings of a new SunTrust survey conducted online by Harris Poll among those whose households make \$75,000 or more annually. For millennials with the same household income, that number jumps to 71 percent. Other findings from the survey of Americans in households making \$75,000 or more annually: a third said a lack of financial disci-

pline at least sometimes holds them back from achieving their goals. Among those who are not saving as much as they believe they should because of spending on lifestyle purchases, 68 percent blamed dining out as the main reason. Among millennials (ages 18-34), 70 percent blamed dining out. Fifty-three percent of those ages 35 to 44 believe they are saving enough to live comfortably in retirement. Among those ages 45 to 54 that number drops to 37 percent.

Poultry producers in several states are bracing for more losses as a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza forced producers to kill millions of chickens and turkeys in the USA in recent weeks. The fast-moving H5N2 virus was confirmed on Monday at a chicken laying facility in Osceola County, Iowa. Some 5.3 million chickens will be euthanized to try to prevent the spread of the disease. Meanwhile, mega turkey producer Hormel Food Corp. confirmed that avian flu is causing significant supply chain problems in its Jennie-O Turkey Store segment as 17 turkey flocks owned or processed by the company have been hit by avian flu. In addition to losing turkeys, those affected facilities are also quarantined, so they can undergo thorough cleanings



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR

UNION CITY. This is inspection work in building control and construction. The building inspector is responsible for the enforcement of the building code adopted by the city. Responsibilities include monitoring storm water control methods on construction sites and in new sub-division developments, flood plain management and development in the city flood prone areas. Applicant must be graduate of a standard high school or GED equivalent, hold active State of Tennessee certifications in building, plumbing and mechanical. For a complete job description notify: Lisa Chambers – lisag@ci.unioncity.tn.us or mail to resume to: City of Union City, PO Box 9, Union City, TN 38281

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

LAFOLLETTE. The City of LaFollette is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of City Administrator. The selected candidate will serve as the administrative head of the City government and oversee day to day operations and is responsible for supervising all department heads. Minimum qualifications shall include a college degree or training and experience in municipal management of public administration. The Mayor and Council desire a person with skills in budgeting and financial management. The applicant should also have good public relation skills, as well as good oral and writing communication skills. The applicant should have experience and knowledge in the application for and administration of state and federal grants. The applicant should also have the ability to deal with personnel, public safety and long range planning. Salary and benefits to be discussed during candidate interviews. Qualified candidates should submit applications and/or resumes before June 30, 2015 to: The City of LaFollette, City Administrator Position, Attn: Human Resources, 207 South Tennessee Ave, LaFollette, TN 37766

CITY ATTORNEY / LEGAL SERVICES

KINGSTON SPRINGS. The town of Kingston Springs is accepting qualification statements from interested attorneys or law firms for services related to providing legal assistance to the town. Statements will be accepted on or before 4 p.m. on Friday, May 1. No late statements will be accepted. 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. Services will begin on, or around July 1. Interested parties should submit three copies of their statement of qualifications to: City Manager Mike McClanahan, Town of Kingston Springs, P.O. Box 256, 396 Spring Street, Kingston Springs, TN 37082

CITY RECORDER/FINANCE DIRECTOR

MCKENZIE. The City of McKenzie is accepting applications for a

city recorder/finance director. This employee is responsible for a broad range of the financial activities of the City related to but not limited to: budgeting, accounting, purchasing, tax collections, grants etc. The employee is also responsible for a broad range of administrative and support related functions. The employee must attend all governing body board meetings and workshops. This position requires strong supervisory, organizational, financial oversight, budgeting and communication skills. Applicants should have 5+ years in municipal accounting experience. Local Government software experience is a plus. Must either be a CPA, or certified CMFO or be able to obtain CMFO certification within 2 years. Submit by mail a cover letter, current resume with salary history and at least three professional references to: Mayor Jill Holland, City of McKenzie, 2470 Cedar St. P.O. Box 160, McKenzie, TN 38201 Salary is commensurate with experience. The city of McKenzie complies with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination, and reserves the right to reject any and all bids and /or waive any formalities in the solicitation process. Position profile is available at: www.cityofmckenzie.gov. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. May 29, 2015.

FIRE CHIEF

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin is seeking qualified applicants for the position of fire chief. The city is a full service community, with its own airport, regional hospital, community college, and excellent city services, and a popular destination for tourism and recreation. The fire department has 72 employees and a \$4+ million budget that serves a diverse community with 4 fire stations. Starting salary: \$65,684 - \$85,651 with excellent benefits. Reporting to the mayor, and responsible to the city council, the fire chief plans, programs, directs, and evaluates the operation of the department; will be responsible for development of annual department budgets; controls budgeted expenses; formulates and implements fire policies; manages employee relations; attends community meetings; and makes presentations related to fire activities. Minimum qualifications include any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in fire science, public administration or related areas. Extensive administrative experience (10 years or more preferred) in fire service. Upper-level management experience preferred. Desire individuals with experience in Tennessee, with knowledge of all controlling laws applicable to fire agencies in TN. Highly desire individual with fire experience in diverse community of similar/larger size with experience as chief/assistant chief or command-level position in a similar size department. Must possess a driver's license valid in the State of Tennessee; meet all departmental and statutory standards. Must be willing to meet residency requirement to maintain their residence within the corporate limits or within two miles of the corporate limits, but in no event outside the boundaries of Sumner County, Tenn. Residency requirement does not apply until 90 days after appointment. To apply, please submit an online application, cover letter and resume at www.gallatinon-themove.com. The city of Gallatin is an equal opportunity employer, drug-free with policies of non-discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or military service. Telephone 615-451-5890 (HR).

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

JOHNSON CITY. The city of Johnson City (65,000) is seeking a progressive and experienced human resources director to lead and direct the services and programs provided

by the human resources department. The city is a growing, progressive community with a solid financial base, large medical services industry, and home to a regional university. Minimum qualifications include the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree in business, management, or public administration with seven years of progressively responsible experience in human resources and health insurance administration. Responsible for planning, organizing, directing and coordinating the personnel activities of the city's 900 FTE employee workforce, including organizational training. The city is looking for an enthusiastic, responsive, team-oriented individual with good management and organization skills, self-starter. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills are required. Competitive salary with excellent benefits package. Online applications, including a resume, will be accepted until the position is filled (www.johnsoncitytn.org) EEO/AA

INSPECTOR IV - SENIOR ELECTRICAL

FRANKLIN. The Franklin Building and Neighborhood Services Department has a vacancy for an Inspector IV- Senior Electrical. Please see the full job announcement and submit an online application at www.franklintn.gov/jobs. Deadline to apply is open until filled. Salary: \$23.95/hr-\$26.07/hr The city of Franklin is an EOE/Drug-free Workplace

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

BRISTOL, TENN & BRISTOL, VA. Salary range \$63K - \$78K, DOQ plus excellent benefits. 35 employees and \$2.2M budget shared by both cities and other sources. 350K/yr. circulation and 300K/yr. gate count. Past Director served 13 years. Position answers to a 13-member Board. Full service library, plus one branch, serving the twin cities of both states. Must be a proven manager with excellent communication and team-building skills. Demonstrated success in library operations, finance, community interface, leadership and strategic planning. At least eight years' experience as Library Director/Assistant or equivalent. ALA accredited Master's degree in Library and Information Science required. Position Profile and Job Description can be viewed at: https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B7AERE1_uIRgX-3dlafHzZTRacVFacGhqWDMQ-jhreERJSIpr&authuser=0. Send resume by May 20, 2015, to: resumes@bristol-library.org

STORMWATER MANAGER

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is currently accepting applications for the position of stormwater manager. This position is responsibility for developing and maintaining the city's MS4 stormwater program. Starting compensation range is \$18.78 - \$22.88 per hour depending on experience plus benefits. Visit www.cityofwhitehouse.com for full job description and application. Applications and resumes should be returned to the HR office located at 105 College Street, or fax to 615-616-1058, or emailed to abrewton@cityofwhitehouse.com. EOE. Application deadline is open until filled.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

ARLINGTON. The town of Arlington is seeking a new town administrator. To view the full job description, please go to the town of Arlington's website located at www.townofarlington.org. Arlington is located in West Tennessee, just 10 miles North of Memphis. The town of Arlington was named "Best City for Young Families 2015." Arlington has a population of approximately 12,000 and 40 full-time employees. Positions that report directly to the town administrator include the director of planning, director of public works, director of finance, director of parks and fire chief. This position is responsible to a seven member Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The successful candidate should have a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Finance, or related field and/or equivalent experience with senior level experience with local govern-

ment. A Certified Public Manager and/or ICMA Credentialed Manager are preferred. This position requires strong supervisory, budgeting, and communication skills. Salary is commensurate with experience. Letters of application, resumes, cover letter along with salary requirements, and three professional references with contact information should be submitted to: The town of Arlington, Attention: Town Attorney, 284 German Oak Drive, Suite 200, Cordova, TN 38018, or to glawson@cperkinslaw.com. Position will remain open until filled. The town of Arlington is an equal opportunity employer.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

BRENTWOOD. The city of Brentwood is currently accepting applications for the position of Traffic Operations Coordinator. The purpose of this job is to manage the day to day operation of the City's Traffic Operations Center (TOC) and assist the Public Works Director in planning, coordinating and budgeting for the improvements to the City's traffic signal and Intelligent Transportation systems. Duties and responsibilities include operating and maintaining all equipment in the TOC, maintaining all data and reports generated through the TOC, identifying and solving problems related to signal operations throughout the City and performing inspection and maintenance on all signal equipment and ITS components. The salary for this position \$47,500 - \$52,500 + DOQ plus excellent benefits. The City of Brentwood is an equal opportunity employer. A full job description and application is available at www.brentwood-tn.org to be submitted to hr@brentwood-tn.org.

NOTICE OF BID

The city of Pigeon Forge is receiving bids on existing used equipment to be sold and removed from old wastewater plant. List of equipment may be obtained from the Public Works Department in City Hall between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. All bids must be in sealed envelope with bidders name and address on outside and marked "Bid on Equipment Removal WWTP." Bids will be received until 2 pm, May 6, 2015, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. The city reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept the bid most favorable to the city. City of Pigeon Forge, Public Works Department, P.O. Box 1350, 3211 Rena Street, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868; www.cityofpigeonforge.com



April 29-May 1: Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association 2015 Spring Conference, Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, TN.

April 29-30: The 20th Annual Rural Development Conference, Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. The event features keynote speaker Jon Schallert, an internationally-recognized professional speaker and business consultant specializing in teaching businesses how to turn themselves into Consumer Destinations.

May 18-19, 2015, TNECD's Grant Writing management workshop. William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave, Nashville. This training is for grant recipient organizations across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to administer government grants and stay in compliance with applicable rules and regulations. Cost: \$595 (includes Grant Writing USA's 400-page grant management workbook and reference guide) Contacts: Janet Darling, Grant Writing USA, 888.290.6237 toll free, janet@grantwritingusa.com. Or Sally Haar, TNECD Research and Planning Division, 615.253.3563, sally.haar@tn.gov.

June 7 - 9: TML 76th Annual Conference, Nashville Convention Center at the Renaissance Hotel. A tentative agenda, registration and lodging information can be found at www.TML1.org.

June 18: 7th Annual Power of 10 Regional Summit, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, Nashville, TPAC's Polk Theatre. A 10-county summit focusing on shared future for regional transportation, land use, transit trends, the region's priorities and next steps.

Oct. 13-14: 2015 Governors Conference on Economic and Community Development, Nashville Convention Center at the Renaissance Hotel. www.govcon.tnecd.com.

November 4-7, NLC Congress of Cities, Nashville Music City Center. Registration is open! www.nlccongressofcities.org

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS TML RISK MANAGEMENT POOL JUNE 6

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the TML Risk Management Pool will meet in regular session on Saturday, June 6, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. local time in room NCC201 of the Nashville Renaissance Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee for the purpose of considering and transacting all business which may properly come before the Board. Additional information concerning the meeting may be obtained by calling The Pool's office at 800-624-9698.



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Associate Profile

Ibtelematics awarded state contract, GPS fleet tracking, management system

Memphis based Ibtelematics recently was awarded a statewide sole vendor contract for GPS Fleet Tracking and Management Systems; beating out 17 other companies. The terms of SWC199 obligates Ibtelematics to extend this contract to all Tennessee cities, county or universities and certain charitable groups.

Highlights of this system include:

- Real time mapping of fleet vehicles -vehicle is identified on a map w/ push pin icon as to the name, speed and location of vehicle. Vehicles can be viewed in groups; police, fire, public works etc., allowing dispatch to direct the closest vehicle to an incoming call.
- Monitoring driver behavior -Exceeding Posted Speed Limits, Harsh Braking, Harsh Acceleration and Idle Time analysis is available 24/7 in real time and for any period from a 12 month historical database. Data from these reports is used to coach drivers resulting in improved safety, reduced wear and tear and gasoline savings. This data provide managers a tool quantifying savings achieved from the implementation of idle and/or driver behavior policies.
- Reporting vehicle diagnostics-Monitors coolant and charging systems w/automatic text or email alerts if temperature and/or voltage are out of their defined acceptable range; providing managers the ability to correct a minor problem



Ibtelematics

before it becomes major. System knows the hours and mileage of each vehicle, allowing efficient scheduling of maintenance such as oil changes, annual brake inspections etc.

- Monitoring the engagement of vehicle auxiliary devices -Pumps, sprayers, sirens, etc., giving managers an accurate timeline of device usage and assist w/risk management)

Telematics devices communicate using either GSM or CDMA cellular networks. Ibtelematics offers both CDMA and GSM providing optimal coverage according to each clients operational footprint. Unlike other companies who offer plug-n-play On Board Diagnostic (OBD) devices, Ibtelematics' units are tamper resistant hardwired into the vehicle. As part of SWC 199, Ibtelematics technicians install the device, provide training and on-going technical support. Hardware and mapping software used by Ibtelematics is commercially available, if for any reason a new vendor is desirable after initial contract, replacement of hardware is not required. All US telematics vendors know and can

service the hardware and/or mapping software we install- one consideration which shouldn't be overlooked when evaluating a telematics deployment.

Municipalities across the country have been deploying telematics at a rapid pace this year, SWC 199 allows a simplified pricing structure unavailable in the public market.

"The savings your department or municipality can realize through increased efficiencies while improving safety for your employees, and as a result the public at large, warrants serious consideration of the GPS Fleet Tracking and Management Systems available through Ibtelematics", states William Oxley, President of Ibtelematics.

Ibtelematics will be attending the 2015 Tennessee Municipal League Annual Conference, June 7 - 9, where they will be providing demonstrations of their system in booth #'s218-220. Stop by and say hello!

Useful Websites: Ibtelematics: <https://ibtelmatics.com>
State Contract SWC 199: http://tn.gov/general/serv/cpo/SWCWeb_Lines3.html#SWC199



April 30- May 3: Knoxville Blue & Gray Reunion and Freedom Jubilee

Knoxville will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War through a series of programs and activities; will highlight Union, Confederate, and African American perspectives, with a focus on Reconstruction, remembrance, and reconciliation. All events are open to the public, most are free of charge. For the full list of Blue & Gray Reunion and Peace Jubilee events and details, please visit www.easttnhistory.org/BlueGray.

April 30 - May 3: Nashville 29th Annual Southern Women's Show at the Music City Center

It's all about great shopping, creative cooking ideas, healthy lifestyle tips, trendy fashion shows and great celebrity guests. Plus, learn about travel destinations, home décor and improvement ideas, and business opportunities. Admission \$12 at the door; \$6 children ages 6-12; under six is free with paying adult. For more details, go to www.Southern-WomensShow.com

May 16: Spring Hill Third Annual Pickin' in the Park

Monthly community music event kicks off at Harvey Park with an exciting lineup of performers. In partnership with the Spring Hill Parks & Recreation Department, organizers have booked the first two events, and are encouraging local musicians and songwriters to sign up for remaining sessions, which run through Oct. 10. This rain or shine event is family friendly and encourages the community to bring a lawn chair or blanket and take in local music between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

June 6: Franklin The Franklin Kids Arts Festival of Tennessee at Pinkerton Park

from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. This new festival is free and open to the public. The Festival will offer many opportunities for school-aged artists of Franklin, and surrounding communities, including: A juried art exhibit, hand-crafted art for sale, stage performances, master classes, art stops to experience and create unique art, and more! For additional information, applications, and deadlines visit the website at www.franklintn.gov/fkaft.

June 13: Greeneville The Windows to the Past Festival

will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on West Depot Street. The event's Antique Market will feature numerous vendors. Admission is free. The event is a project of the Greene County Heritage Trust. For more information, contact Andy Daniels at 423-639-2626 or andkdaniels@gmail.com.

UT MTAS MAY MAP CLASSES

TEAM BUILDING

This experiential learning course includes an outdoor day of challenges hosted at a Tennessee state park. Municipalities are encouraged to send teams of individuals (a minimum of five persons per city/team) to participate. The purpose of this interactive course is to encourage teambuilding, to develop leadership skills, to think critically, to provide meaningful experiences outside a traditional classroom and to empower city employees to move beyond self-imposed limitations. This is a great course to unify employees within a specific department or jurisdiction. Participants will leave with a better understanding on how to unify as a team and build upon one another's strengths.

Dates & Locations
May 19 Caryville
May 28 Burns
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Target Audience: City employees
Credits: 6 hours CPE/CMFO (Other) (LM)



To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu, or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

ADVANCED BUDGETING WORKSHOP

This class will cover the requirements of the Comptroller's Office of State and Local Finance budget policies. The required budget format, ordinance and miscellaneous Excel spreadsheets will be demonstrated.

Dates & Locations
May 4 Kingsport
May 5 Jackson
May 5 Knoxville
May 6 Collegedale
May 7 Nashville

Time: All workshops will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 CST/EST
Credit: Credits: 4 CEU or 4 CPE/CMFO (Financial) (PA)
Cost: Tennessee Municipal Employees—\$50/person/class. \$65 for non-municipal attendees.



To register for a course, go to www.mtas.tennessee.edu, or fax to 865-974-0423. Credit card payments must register online with the Solution Point System: <http://www.solutionpoint.tennessee.edu/MTAS> or by invoice. For registration assistance, call 865-974-0413. Or for more information, contact Kurt Frederick, training consultant, at 615-253-6385.

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The city of Morristown closed a \$20 million loan for sewer system upgrades.



The city of Martin recently closed a \$23 million loan through the TMBF loan program in the amount of \$650,000.



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Service as city alderman helped prepare Rep. Dale Carr for new role as chair; strives to provide voice of reason for local government needs

BY LINDA BRYANT

When Dale Carr was growing up in Sevierville, the area was small, isolated and one of the poorest areas in the state. Over the decades, he saw it blossom into a major national and regional tourist destination. Last year tourists spent \$1.7 billion in Sevier County, which created more than 18,000 jobs.

Even before he was elected District 12 State Representative in 2012, Carr was the kind of a citizen who served his community. He worked for many years for the local electric company and served as a volunteer fireman and former chair of the Sevier County Rescue Squad. He is the former treasurer of the Boys and Girls Club of Sevier County and was a board member of the Robert F. Thomas Foundation and the Sevierville Housing Authority.

Carr decided to run for city alderman in 2005 because he wanted to have an even bigger impact on the community. While serving in that position, Carr learned the importance of taking a stand on tough issues. He became increasingly concerned about issues specific to Sevier County, particularly in infrastructure and tourism. He attempts to balance those concerns with conservative values that emphasize low taxes and fiscal responsibility.

“One of the greatest challenges facing Sevier County is determining how to balance the infrastructure needs of our community with the realities of creating a streamlined budget,” Carr said. “I’m an advocate for addressing these needs quickly and efficiently.”

It’s not a surprise that Carr is focused on infrastructure and tourism issues. Sevier County has about 90,000 residents, yet millions of tourists pour into the region every year. They spend their vacation money, which is good for the tax coffers, but bad for the roads, highways, sidewalks and sewer and water systems. The tourism industry now employs almost 50 percent of Sevier County’s workforce. Of course, Carr is thrilled about that fact, but he’s also concerned that many are lower-paying retail jobs that are seasonal or part time. He consistently supports efforts that bring in more development to the region.

TT&C: What is your background? Did you grow up in Sevier County?

DC: Around here you’re considered a local if you’ve lived here for 20 years or more. I was born and raised here, so I’m an actual native. I graduated from high school here and worked for the local electric company for 30 years. I worked every position you can think of there and was office manager for the last 16 years. Then I became a founder and partner of Thompson Carr Auction. I ran for city alderman in 2005, and I served for two terms, or eight years. My wife Jo Ann and I have been married for more than 40 years. We have one son, Brandon, and one grandchild, Finley Grace.

TT&C: Can you give an example of a challenge you faced when you were a city alderman in Sevierville?

DC: I will make the hard vote when I have to. When I first took office I was the deciding vote when we decided to bring our Water Department back under the umbrella of the city. It had been spun off from the city government and become a stand-alone entity. It created some problems with management and growth of the system. It took a unanimous vote just to get anything done. I caught a lot of heat for the vote, but within about a year people realized that it was easier to manage the system and the employees realized they had better benefits and pay. The whole system is better now.

TT&C: What’s some specific legislation you’ve been a part of that you’re proud of?

DC: We’re getting legislation passed (HB 56) that says if you’re involved in a vehicular homicide while intoxicated you have to serve at least 60 percent of the sentence, and you can’t be paroled until you’ve served at least 45 percent. I feel strongly about it. A drunk driver killed a good friend’s husband in a car wreck, and her little boy is im-



Rep. Dale Carr



Rep. Carr on opening day of the 109th General Assembly with fellow legislators from his area: Rep. Andrew Farmer from Seiverville (left) and Sen. Doug Overbey from Maryville. All three represent parts of Sevier County.

paired as a result. There were people getting out of jail before serving a major part of their sentences. This way if you get a 20-year sentence you’ll serve at least 12 years. It’s an important bill, and we hope for a public signing at some point.

We’ve been able to upgrade our Highway 66 system that is the artery to our major cities — Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Sevierville. It meant widening from four to six lanes, creating sidewalks and enhancing a lot of safety features. The traffic lights from Exit 407 to Gatlinburg are a part of the same system and are synchronized. The first two phases, from Nichols Street to Boyds Creek Highway and from I-40 to Douglas Dam are completed. The third and last phase from Boyds Creek Highway to Douglas Dam will be done this year.

The whole thing has taken a lot of coordination between the different city officials and with TDOT. Highway 66 is a lifeline for us. It’s the gateway to the Smoky Mountains. There’s been a lot of economic growth in the whole area, and it caused a lot of congestion. The improvements are alleviating many of the problems.

TT&C: You have sponsored some education bills. Why is education important to you?

DC: I don’t feel like I sponsor many, but the one’s that I do, benefit the students in Sevier County. We are in a tough situation. Sevier County brings in the third highest amount of tourism tax dollars to the state, only behind Shelby and Davidson County, and a lot of that doesn’t get returned to us. We get back the least MPS, or money per student.

We’re a county of 90,000 but because we’re a top tourist destination that population can grow to 300,000 during tourist season. There’s a lot of wear and tear on our infrastructure, our roads, bridges and sewer. A lot of the money we

get back has to go to maintaining our infrastructure and paying for police, water, and fire protection. I want to increase the amount of MPS money given to our students. I don’t care for vouchers and charter schools; I’ll vote against them. We are starting to be heard a little more on this issue, but it remains a long-term challenge. We’ll need to continue to lobby the state to help us with our school funding problems. It’s very complicated and takes a Philadelphia lawyer to figure out. But because we bring in so much tax revenue, we look like we’re a rich county. That’s deceiving since so much of the money goes to maintain infrastructure used by millions of tourists every year. We fund our schools roughly on a 70 percent local and 30 percent state basis, while the majority of other counties receive 70 percent from the state and pitch in the other 30 percent from their local governments. As a result our schools miss out on about \$8 million a year.

TT&C: Can you talk about being chair of the Local Government Subcommittee?

DC: I’m proud of everything we’re doing, and I was very pleased to get the appointment. I think being a city alderman really helped prepare me for the position. You end up having more understanding of local issues, and you know what’s important to cities and how they work. I try to be a voice of reason on the local level, and I also understand cities and their needs.

In our last session we had more county people on the committee. They don’t always understand the workings of a city or municipality. Without our cities there’s no growth, and without growth you can’t provide for basic services such as water and sewer because you can’t generate the revenue you need. I don’t always get the answers cities want to hear. It’s what I call a WIP — or

“Our local governments are working hard to be financially responsible. An unfunded mandate often means a lot of additional incurred costs that can hit hard at the local level.”

- Rep. Dale Carr

- District 12 Representative (Sevier County)
- House member 108th and 109th General Assemblies
- Chair, House Local Government Subcommittee
- Member, House Local Government Committee
- Member, House Transportation Committee
- Alderman, city of Sevierville

incurred costs that can hit hard at the local level. It makes sense to be transparent about what those costs are going to be.

TT&C: Some members of the TN General Assembly view local governments as a political subdivision and partners with the state, while others see it more as ruler-subject relationship and local governments are subjects of the state. What camp or school of thought would you say that you follow?

DC: I definitely see local governments as partners with the state. You have to work together as a team.

TT&C: Sevier County is really known for its tourism economy. Can you talk about its benefits and challenges? Do other cities look to you for direction when it comes to developing tourism?

DC: I don’t know where we would be without tourism because we don’t have a lot of industry in the county. I’ve always advocated growing and improving our tourism offerings, and that’s really been a great thing to see develop. The tourist season may be from May to September, but our communities have been able to add activities in the off-season. It’s important to remember that Tennessee is a one-day’s drive for about one-half of the U.S. population. Our towns and cities can take advantage of this and develop events and attractions that make people want to come play, stay and eat.

Other cities do look to us as leaders in tourism development. Sevier County has become a year-round destination by adding things such as holiday festivals and events for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Youth sports events are a big thing and growing fast. The idea is to develop more things for people to do, especially events that appeal to the whole family — kids, parents and grandparents. We now have sports centers that attract crowds for youth sports such as soccer, basketball, volleyball and lacrosse.

Rocky Top Sports World opened in Gatlinburg last July and it’s already one of the top new sporting venues in the country. It has six regulation hardwood basketball courts and the campus can also accommodate up to 14 youth soccer fields and 17 volleyball courts. LeConte Center at Pigeon Forge is also hosting many sports events — baseball and cheerleading competitions. We have it all. We even have an indoor skatepark and BMX park.

The other side of tourism is that it attracts millions of people to our area every year, and it puts a strain on our infrastructure and utilities. We have to find ways to maintain the services. We have to issue bonds. Just as an example, there’s a tremendous strain on our water system. There’s a demand for 26 million gallons a day.

TT&C: There’s been some talk about raising the gas tax in Tennessee. It hasn’t been raised since the 1980s. Where do you stand on this issue?

DC: The idea has been floated around quite a bit this year, and I have listened to a lot of opinions on the matter. I’m not specifically for a gas tax, but I think it’s important for us to look at the whole issue and organize our priorities. We are going to have to do something. We have some of the best roads in the country, but they still need to be kept up. We’re a pay-as-you-go state. We don’t have debt on our roads. It’s not like it is in California where your great-great-grand kids will be paying for the roads.

There was a bill this year that would have taxed the big trucks coming into Tennessee. Other states do this because big trucks cause a lot of wear and tear on your roads. We are a narrow state, so a big truck can come up through a state like Alabama and drive through the state without even stopping for gas. It amounts to a free ride through Tennessee. The bill as it was written was considered unconstitutional because it was written to exclude Tennessee trucks. It would have generated about \$150 million. I’m sure it will be rewritten and will come back up in the next session.

There are other areas we can look at. What about electric cars that also put wear and tear on the roads?

work in progress. I try to provide reason and balance, realizing that it takes time for things to change.

TT&C: You sponsor one of TML’s biggest legislative priorities that pertains to unfunded mandates. The bill provides that any legislation enacted that has an estimated cost to local government in excess of \$100,000 or that causes the combined estimated costs of the laws enacted affecting local government to exceed \$1 million shall not be mandatory, unless it is fully funded.

DC: I come from the city side, and I know how important that viewpoint is. It’s tough right now to get this passed, but I think it’s a situation that will change over time. Most of us don’t like it when the federal government gives mandates to the state without helping to pay for them. Sometimes we are doing the same thing to our cities and municipalities. Many of our local governments are struggling to provide basic services and stay within their budgets. I understand their concern. I really don’t think the state should have any unfunded mandates because so often they can have a negative impact. Eventually, I believe we’ll work together on this issue. I think people are beginning to listen.

TT&C: The second piece of legislation would provide that any rule or regulation proposed by the state that is determined to have a fiscal impact on local governments must include a written justification for the regulation; a fiscal note; and a cost-benefit analysis. What is your view on this measure?

DC: I also am favorable to the idea of fiscal notes and cost-benefit analysis for projects proposed by the state. Our local governments are working hard to be financially responsible. An unfunded mandate often means a lot of additional