



Make plans to attend TML Legislative Conference, March 26-27 in Nashville

TML's Legislative Conference is scheduled for March 26 - 27 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Nashville.

A slate of state leaders are scheduled to address key municipal issues being debated in the General Assembly during the 2018 session.

The two-day conference provides an excellent forum for city officials to interact with legislators as well as other municipal officials.

To register go to <https://www.cognitofirms.com/TML/2018LegislativeConferenceRegistrationForm>

New Senate leadership, new committee assignments for Senate, House members

Lt. Governor Randy McNally, R-Oak Ridge, announced the appointment of Sen. Ferrell Haile, R-Gallatin, as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate. Sen. Haile replaces Jim Tracy, who resigned late last year to accept a presidential appointment.

The speaker pro tempore is a key leadership role in the General Assembly, in terms of both operations and policy. Most notably, the speaker pro tempore presides over the state Senate in the absence of the Speaker of the Senate.

Sen. Janice Bowling, R-Tulahoma, will replace Sen. Haile in the position of deputy speaker. She will be the first woman to hold the position of Deputy Speaker of the Senate.

The deputy speaker is appointed to a two-year term and serves at the pleasure of the Speaker of the Senate. Principle duties of the position include assisting the Speaker in regard to committee appointments and the assignment of bills to standing committees. The deputy speaker helps schedule and guide the flow of legislation on the floor and assists the speaker in the administrative decision-making of the Senate, and also serves as a liaison with regional and national legislative bodies. The deputy speaker often presides over the Senate and assists the speaker on special projects.

Lt. Gov. McNally also announced Senate committee assignment changes for the second session of the 110th General Assembly. The changes come as a result of the resignation of three Senate members since the legislature adjourned in May. Two of the resigning senators, Doug Overbey and Jim Tracy, accepted presidential appointments.

Notable changes include the appointment of Sen. Richard Briggs, R-Knoxville, as chairman of the Ethics Committee replacing former Sen. Overbey. Sen. Kerry Roberts, R-Springfield, will take over as chairman of the Calendar



Sen. Ferrell Haile



Sen. Janice Bowling

Committee.

Sen. Joey Hensley, R-Hohenwald, will now serve as second vice chair of the Finance, Ways and Means and Labor Committee. Sen. John Lundberg, R-Bristol, moves to 1st vice chair of the Judiciary Committee.

New Senate members Sen. Art Swann, R-Maryville, and Sen. Mark Pody, R-Lebanon, will serve as first vice chair of the Transportation Committee and second vice chair of the Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, respectively.

Also of note, Sen. Becky Massey, R-Knoxville, will now serve on the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee and Sen. Frank Niceley, R-Strawberry Plains, will join the Commerce and Labor Committee. Sen. Steve Southerland, R-Morristown, moves to the Ethics Committee.

The Senate has nine standing committees and four select committees: Commerce and Labor; Education; Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources; Finance, See **LEGISLATORS** on Page 4

High Court sides with the states in WOTUS

The Supreme Court held unanimously that a legal challenge to the definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) must begin in a federal district court not a federal court of appeals.

Tennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III applauds the U.S. Supreme Court's decision.

The Supreme Court's decision to require the rule be challenged in federal district courts, a more local and direct route than being limited to the U.S. Court of Appeals, helps protect the states and individual property owners from unlawful federal overreach.

Slatery said that this week's U.S. Supreme Court decision is another positive step for the states in challenging the Obama-era rule.

"The courts have consistently sided with the states, and this is another important decision," General Slatery said. "As we have stated

from the outset, the WOTUS Rule is unlawful under the Clean Water Act, U.S. Supreme Court precedent, and the U.S. Constitution."

In 2015, the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the states and issued a nationwide stay blocking enforcement of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WOTUS Rule. On June 27, 2017, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced his intent to rescind the rule.

The WOTUS Rule's broad assertion of authority unlawfully encroaches on the states' traditional role as the primary regulators of land and water resources. The Rule asserts sweeping federal authority over usually dry channels, roadside ditches, and isolated streams. The Rule also asserts federal authority over land covered by water only once every 100 years.



Gov. Bill Haslam recently announced a \$30 million plan to deal with opioid abuse in Tennessee as part of the 2018-19 fiscal year budget. Also pictured are members of the legislative leadership (L to R) Sen. Haile, Rep. Curtis Johnson, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, Sen. Mark Norris, Speaker Beth Harwell, Rep. Glen Casada and TN Chief Justice Jeffrey Bivins.

Haslam outlines \$30M opioid crisis plan

BY KATE COIL
TML Communications Specialist

Gov. Bill Haslam along with leadership from the Tennessee House, Senate, and Chief Justice Jeff Bivins announced a new plan to fight opioid abuse in Tennessee.

The TN Together plan is a multi-faceted initiative focuses on three major components: prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. Haslam said the initiative will include legislation, \$30 million in proposed state and federal funding in the 2018-19 fiscal year budget, executive actions, and task forces.

TN Together was designed in partnership with the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Opioid Abuse Task Force, which included House Speaker Pro Tem Curtis Johnson as chairman.

"This is a crisis that knows no boundaries and impacts many Tennesseans regardless of race, income, gender or age. Our approach

will be aggressive with provisions to limit the supply of opioids and significant state and federal dollars to provide treatment to those in need," Haslam said. "I applaud the collaboration and the considerable work of the House and Senate on the TN Together plan, as well as the judicial branch's leadership through the Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative and National Opioid Task Force, and I ask all stakeholders around this issue to work together to achieve real reform and action that will save lives."

Lt. Gov. Randy McNally said he believed the proposal will yield both short-term and long-term results for the state.

"I am proud to support the comprehensive TN Together plan to attack the opioid crisis in Tennessee," McNally said. "This scourge is breaking up families, ruining lives and killing our people. The approach Gov. Haslam outlined today demonstrates the united commitment by all three

branches of Tennessee state government to confront this threat. The three-legged stool of enforcement, treatment and prevention will stop the flow of these drugs in our state, help those ravaged by addiction and work to prevent our citizens from starting down the road to addiction. We are confronting this crisis from all sides and from all angles."

House Speaker Beth Harwell, said the focus on treatment because it costs far less than any other option, including incarceration.

"The biggest thing we hear is that funding is desperately needed, for treatment programs," Harwell said. "Only a fraction of those people get the treatment they need."

The three components of TN Together include prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. Specifically, the plan includes:

- Legislation to address prevention by limiting the supply and the dosage of opioid

See **OPIOID** on Page 3

TN steering committee to develop water plan for current, future needs

BY DENISE PAIGE
TML Government Relations

It has been said that water is the new gold. In addition to being essential to human health and the environment, it is also vital to food production, as an energy source, and essential to thriving businesses.

Recently, water issues have stepped into the spotlight nationwide. Drought in the West and Southeast; lead contamination in Flint, Mich.; and "water wars" between states over rights to water, like the Mississippi River, have emphasized the necessity and value of this natural resource.

TN H2O is Gov. Bill Haslam's water planning initiative to address water-related issues in TN. The TN H2O steering committee recently met in January to begin efforts to assess the state's current water resources and to develop recommendations to ensure that Tennessee will have adequate water resources to support future population growth and economic

needs.

The committee consists of members representing all levels of governments, agriculture, industry, academia, environmental groups, and public utilities. Bo Perkinson, Athens council member and president of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML), and Jim Strickland, Memphis mayor, represent municipalities on the steering committee. Jim Henry, deputy to the governor, serves as the chairman. The committee is charged with submitting a draft of the plan to Gov. Haslam, and will make it available for public input by October 2018.

"Abundant, clean water has been a strategic advantage for Tennessee and is critical to our quality of life," Haslam said. "We need to ensure this critical natural resource is managed appropriately as our state continues to grow and prosper."

Tennessee's population is estimated to double in the next 50 years, which makes it imperative to

See **WATER** on Page 6



Supreme Court to hear Internet sales tax case this term, possible June 2018 ruling

BY LISA SORONEN
State & Local Legal Center

In November 2017, a Government Accountability Office report estimated that states and local governments could "gain from about \$8 billion to about \$13 billion in 2017 if states were given authority to require sales tax collection from all remote sellers."

In January 2018, the Supreme Court agreed to decide *South Dakota v. Wayfair*. In this case South Dakota is asking the Supreme Court to rule that states and local governments may require retailers with no in-state physical presence to collect sales tax.

This case is huge news for

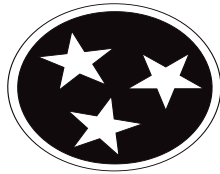
states and local governments. This article describes how we got here and why it is likely South Dakota will win.

In 1967, in *National Bellas Hess v. Department of Revenue of Illinois*, the Supreme Court held that per its Commerce Clause jurisprudence, states and local governments cannot require businesses to collect sales tax unless the business has a physical presence in the state. Twenty-five years later in *Quill v. North Dakota* (1992), the Supreme Court reaffirmed the physical presence requirement but admitted that "contemporary Commerce Clause jurisprudence might not dictate the same result" as the court had reached in *Bellas Hess*.

Customers buying from remote sellers still owe sales tax but they rarely pay it when the remote seller does not collect it. Congress has the authority to overrule *Bellas Hess* and *Quill* but has thus far not done so.

To improve sales tax collection, in 2010 Colorado began requiring remote sellers to inform Colorado purchasers annually of their purchases and send the same information to the Colorado Department of Revenue. The Direct Marketing Association sued Colorado in federal court claiming that the notice and reporting requirements were unconstitutional under *Quill*. The issue the Supreme Court reached in *Bellas Hess*. See **SALES TAX** on Page 7

NEWS ACROSS TENNESSEE



BRENTWOOD

Delek US Holdings, Inc., announced it will expand its headquarters in Brentwood, investing \$4 million and creating 175 new jobs in the area. A Fortune 500 company with assets in petroleum refining, logistics, retail convenience stores, asphalt and renewables, Delek closed on its acquisition of Alon USA Energy in July 2017 and said it would be using the area for a corporate headquarters to better keep its footprint in Middle Tennessee. Delek has had a corporate headquarters in the greater Nashville area since 2001, when it was founded. The company operates four inland refineries with a combined production capacity of 302,000 barrels per day. The company also markets asphalt product formulations through its operations and operates plants in Texas and Arkansas that produce biodiesel fuels that are used in refining operations and by third parties. Delek's logistics operation supports its refining segment as well as third parties, in the Southeast U.S. and Texas.

BRISTOL

The city of Bristol has created a new zoning district that will help grow business in the community. City leaders voted unanimously to create a Central Business Expansion District or B-2E zone, which will increase business growth by reducing parking for nonresidential uses, eliminating setback requirements, allowing buildings to be up to six stories high and establishing signage and design standards to match those in the Central Business District. The new zone is proposed to include Anderson Street, State Street, the Norfolk and Southern Railroad right-of-way and Volunteer Parkway and include the portion of West State Street between Volunteer Parkway and 18th Street, which is currently zoned for General Business. Bristol Senior Planner Cherith Marshall said the creation of the new zone is the first phase of a two-phase process with the second phase rezoning portions of the West State Street corridor.

CHURCH HILL

AGC Glass North America will expand its operations in Church Hill, investing \$40.6 million and creating 85 jobs in the community. AGC plans to add more than 100,000 additional square-feet of manufacturing space to its existing facility in Church Hill. With this expansion, the company will also install a state-of-the-art MSVD coater at its Church Hill complex to serve the residential and commercial glass markets. AGC Glass North America is one of the largest manufacturers of glass and glass-related products in North America, offering a broad selection of flat glass for architectural, interior and residential applications. The company's products are available through an extensive network of glass fabricators and window manufacturers in the U.S. and Canada. AGC Glass North America is part of the AGC Group, employing more than 50,000 people in approximately 30 countries.

DICKSON

Metrican Stamping, LLC, will expand its manufacturing operations in Dickson, investing \$18.9 million and creating 104 new jobs in the area. With this expansion, Metrican will add 43,000 square feet to its current facility in Dickson to make room for new equipment

and increase production capacity. Metrican Stamping is a leading supplier of tooling, stamped metal and value-added components. The company established its first stamping operations in Dickson in 2005. Headquartered in Canada, Metrican operates manufacturing and stamping facilities in Canada, Mexico and Tennessee.

ETOWAH

The city of Etowah is looking to turn its former fire hall into a city park. The fire department recently moved from the historic hall to a new location on Robinson Street after structural issues and water damage devastated the original building. Etowah City Manager Tina Tuggle said she is looking to demolish the former fire hall and turn it into a park near the city's Carnegie Library. A commemorative plaque detailing the history of the department will be installed at the park as well as the city's antique fire engine. Plans for the new park are expected to be complete in the summer.

JOHNSON CITY

Johnson City has achieved Tennessee Main Street accreditation, joining 34 other Tennessee Main Street communities recognized by the state program and Main Street America, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Downtown Johnson City applied for the designation for a Tennessee Main Street district that encompasses many historic commercial buildings in its downtown. The Main Street Program provides training, support and grant opportunities to assist in downtown revitalization efforts. As part of the Tennessee Main Street program, Johnson City will have access to technical assistance and funding opportunities to continue to make downtown improvements. In 2016, accredited Tennessee Main Street communities generated more than \$154 million of public/private investment and created more than 1,000 new jobs.

KINGSPORT

The city of Kingsport received a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial planning from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 17th year in a row. Kingsport earned the award for its Fiscal Year 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR document is a detailed review of city government (including schools, utilities, and economic development). It covers 36 separate funds and all manner of financial issues from debt to assets. Another long-standing achievement is a clean or unmodified opinion. The city once again received a clean opinion on the fiscal year 2017 CAFR, the highest opinion a CPA firm can issue. This is the 19th year in a row Kingsport has received the highest opinion.

LAWRENCEBURG

Martin Technologies will invest more than \$6 million and create approximately 240 jobs in Lawrenceburg. Martin Technologies' decision to establish a new facility in Lawrenceburg is driven by increased demand among automotive OEMs and Tier-1 suppliers for its engineering, testing and manufacturing services. Martin Technologies will initially occupy 60,000 square feet at 100 Hicks Drive in Lawrenceburg. Martin Technologies plans to have the new facility operational in January 2018. The Lawrenceburg operations will initially support engineering and testing services for automotive OEMs before providing additional manufacturing services for OEMs and suppliers. Headquartered in New Hudson, Mich., Martin Technologies is a full-service engineering and manufacturing company, providing global mobility solutions to the automotive, marine, aerospace and defense industries.

LOUISVILLE

Avant, LLC, will locate new operations in Louisville and create more than 200 new jobs in the next few years. Avant will locate its new call center in an existing 25,000-square-foot building in Louisville. Avant.com is an on-

line lending platform and leading provider of credit alternatives to middle-income consumers. The company also offers its technology solutions to bank and non-bank partners via its Powered By Avant product to provide an innovative digital lending experience to its customers.

MANCHESTER

The city of Manchester has been chosen by Canadians as one of their top cities to visit. A survey of Canadian residents undertaken by Expedia.com found that Manchester was one of the top 18 cities and one of only eight non-Canadian cities that residents enjoyed visiting the most last year. Canadian tourists listed Bonnaroo as one of their top reasons for initially coming to the area, but also praised local restaurants and whiskey distilleries. The site also noted that Tennessee is one of the top states enjoyed by Canadian visitors as well.

MILAN

Escue Wood Treated Products, LLC, will build a new manufacturing facility in Milan, investing \$3.3 million and creating 100 new jobs. Escue Wood plans to construct and operate its new facility at 7095 Telecom Drive in Milan. The new manufacturing operations will be capable of producing 60 million board feet of treated pine lumber per year. Escue Wood is one of the leading manufacturers of treated southern yellow pine wood. Founded in 2013, the company's wood products are manufactured in Milan and distributed in five states.

MURFREESBORO

The city of Murfreesboro has been selected by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) to receive a \$6 million IMPROVE Act Competitive Transit Capital Grant for final design and construction of a new transit facility. The \$11.5 million full-service Rover bus facility is planned on a potential 2.89-acre site located at West Main Street and Bridge Avenue. The city hopes to open the approximately 12,700-square-foot facility, including offices, by 2021. The TDOT award provides \$3 million in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018 funding and an additional \$3 million in SFY 2019 funding. Remaining funding will come from a combination of federal, state and local funds. The Murfreesboro City Council initially approved the Murfreesboro Transit Station in 2013. Construction on the Murfreesboro transit facility is anticipated to begin in October 2019.

OAK RIDGE

Construction has begun at the new home of the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) in Oak Ridge. Crews began working on Jan. 5 at the new museum, located between the current JCPenney store and a future Marriott hotel, which is also under construction. The museum entrance will be on Main Street East. AMSE will be all on one floor, occupying approximately 18,000 square feet. Design plans include a large theater as well as classroom space that can be divided into two regular-sized rooms or one large classroom, supporting a variety of uses for visitors and staff.

TULLAHOMA

The city of Tullahoma has created a new sports council to help provide healthier outcomes for Tullahoma citizens as well as promote existing sports facilities in the community. Proposed by Mayor Lane Curlee and endorsed by city aldermen, the Tullahoma Sports Council will work, in conjunction with Tullahoma Parks and Recreation and other organizations, to introduce and promote activities that encourage fitness at all age levels. Possible projects suggested for the council include creating a local Sports Hall of Fame, a local EPSYs award for local sports leagues, regional tournaments, and stimulating economic growth through sports tourism. A nine-member council has been proposed to be selected at a future Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting.

Brownsville earns SWTDD award for downtown renovation project



The city of Brownsville was awarded the Southwest Tennessee Development District's Project of the Year for its Main Street Downtown program. The city and its Main Street Program worked to revitalize downtown Brownsville through façade improvements using funding from two Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The city also received TDOT grant funds to complete the downtown pedestrian walkway, new handicap accessible sidewalks, and obtained about \$1,361,000 in total grant funding, which was matched with \$350,000 in city funds to accomplish revitalization projects. From left, Brownsville Main Street President Rhonda I. Thompson, Mayor Bill Rawls, former mayor and SWTDD employee Jo Matherne, and Brownsville Main Street Director Mary Anne Sharpe.

Mt. Juliet officers engage in sled race, talk winter safety



While out patrolling in winter weather, Mt. Juliet Police Department's Corporal James Christensen and Corporal Jennings Taylor took a break to race local children sledding downhill. The department used the video of the sled race to talk to viewers about finding safe places to engage in winter play, away from major roadways.

Greeneville officials clear city hall snow



Greeneville City Administrator Todd Smith, foreground, and Greenville Police Lt. Tim Ward work to clear snow from the walkway into Greenville City Hall. Smith and Ward worked alongside Greenville Police Lt. Alan Dotson and Public Works employee Paul Beals, who volunteered to clear the walkway and make it safer to visit city hall after January snows.

Red Bank welcomes K-9 officer



The Red Bank Police Department recently reinstated its K9 program with the addition of K9 Officer Harry. Duties for K9 Harry and handler K9 Officer Kyle Dennis include narcotics tracking and criminal apprehension. The city received a \$10,000 grant from Aegis Law Enforcement Foundation and the Schillhahn-Huskey Foundation that covered the cost of the dog, three weeks training for K9 and handler, and kennels for the officer's home and car.

TENNESSEE TOWN & CITY
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Grassroots campaign works to return former president to Columbia

By KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

A grassroots campaign to bring America's eleventh president back home to Columbia is one step closer to its goal as members of the Tennessee House of Representatives debate a bill to move James K. Polk's grave from the state capitol to his former home.

Polk's legacy is often overshadowed by the two other presidents who called Tennessee their home. Polk's mentor Andrew Jackson was a larger-than-life figure, a war hero, and a man considered "tougher than hickory." Andrew Johnson was faced with the difficult task of piecing the country back together following the Civil War. And yet Polk — who more than doubled the country's size, helped win the Mexican-American War, and is considered by many the most effective president of the pre-Civil War era — is often lost in the shuffle.

Likewise, many feel Polk's desire for him and his wife, Sarah Childress Polk, to be buried at their home was overshadowed by legal battles, family disputes, and politics. While Jackson is buried at the Hermitage and Johnson at the National Cemetery in his hometown of Greeneville, Polk's body doesn't rest where he asked for it to in life.

The James K. Polk Home and Museum is the only residence of the former president's that is still standing other than the White House. Museum Curator Tom Price said the campaign to bring Polk's body from its current resting place at the Tennessee State Capitol wasn't started by the city of Columbia or the museum, but rather visitors and locals who felt none of Polk's last wishes in his will had been honored.

"This started with people who learned Polk's story and came to the conclusion simultaneously that Polk didn't get any of the things he wanted in his will," Price said. "They wanted to know why he was buried on the capitol grounds where he's lost and literally in the shadow of Jackson. There is a big statue of Andrew Jackson that sort of overshadows his tomb, which is tucked away to the side. These people kept coming back and asking us questions about what it would take to move him. That started about a year-and-a-half ago."

Since then, the campaign has grown to include support from 75 county leaders across Tennessee as well as businesses and the United Auto Workers Association (UAW). Mayor Dean Dickey and the city of Columbia have also lent local support to the campaign.

"The city of Columbia supports the efforts of the James K. Polk Home and Museum to move the remains of President James K. Polk, our 11th U.S. President, and wife Sarah to his ancestral home here in Columbia," Dickey said. "We want to honor President Polk's legacy and continue to tell his story,



Gov. Bill and First Lady Chrissy Haslam lay a wreath at the tomb of former President James K. Polk and his wife Sarah Childress Polk. It is a tradition for Tennessee governors to lay a wreath at Polk's tomb on his birthday, Nov. 2. Many feel returning the Polks to the Polk House and Museum in Columbia is more in line with the wishes outlined in the eleventh president's will.

his complete life story, from birth to death."

The story of the campaign begins at Polk Place, which was originally built as Grundy Hill by early Tennessee politician, congressman, and senator Felix Grundy. The house is located at what was then Vine Street and Union Street, today known as Seventh Avenue and Union. Grundy sold it to Polk, who renamed it Polk Place and intended to live out the rest of his life in the Nashville mansion. Polk died only three months after his presidency ended and indicated in his will he wanted to be buried at the home.

"Polk wanted to be buried at his last home in Nashville, which was Polk Place," Price said. "He and Sarah bought it while they were in the White House in 1847, and he modeled his idea of the house after George Washington's Mt. Vernon. Many early presidents set a precedent that, when they died, they would be buried at their homes. Polk had planned to be buried in the side yard at Polk Place, and he and Sarah looked forward to a long retirement there. They were the youngest White House couple, and he retired at 53."

Polk's retirement plans never manifested.

"Unfortunately for him, Polk died three months after his retirement during a cholera epidemic," Price said. "He was the president with the shortest retirement and the youngest one to die who wasn't assassinated. He was first buried in Nashville's City Cemetery because he died of cholera. City ordinance mandated he be buried within 24 hours on the outskirts of town. It was 11 months later when he was exhumed and moved to Polk Place where he wanted."

His wife, Sarah Childress Polk, continued to live at the prop-



A photo taken of Polk Place and the tombs of President James K. and Sarah Polk shortly before the home was demolished. The home was located on Vine Street (Seventh Avenue today) and Union Street in Nashville, just a stone's throw from the state capitol. This photo is now part of the Tennessee State Archives collection.

erty in Nashville until her own death in 1891. Initially, she, too, was buried alongside her husband at Polk Place.

"Polk wrote in his will that if Sarah outlived him she would get life estate of the property, because, at the time, a woman couldn't own property. The ownership actually went to the state of Tennessee," Price said. "Polk wrote that when she died, she would join him at the tomb where they would repose in perpetuity, never to have any building erected over the site. He's modeling this plan after earlier presidents, like Washington. Polk wanted to be buried where his legacy resided."

However, a legal dispute between some 55 various Polk relations over ownership of the property forced the land to be sold in 1893.

"In his will, Polk asked for the governor of Tennessee to designate a worthy Polk family member to live in the house and maintain the property after Sarah's death," Price said. "That became problematic because Polk didn't name anyone

specifically, and he had no children. Some 55 family members sued the Polk estate and won after a long court fight. They split the proceeds 55 ways. Shortly after that, Sarah's niece felt the tomb should be moved because it was no longer going to be a Polk property. They moved the tomb to the capitol, which was two blocks away. At that point, the Polk Museum in Columbia was still a private residence. There were no other Polk residences available for his burial. This niece also inherited many of the Polks' belongings."

In 1900, Polk Place was demolished to make room for an apartment complex and the tomb of the former president and first lady was moved to the capitol in Nashville. A marker at 211 Seventh Avenue North in Nashville marks the former location of Polk Place.

The same niece who inherited Polk's belongings is also responsible in part for the creation of the Columbia museum. The James K. Polk Home in Columbia was built in 1816 and is the only surviving residence of President James K. Polk — outside of the White House.

The home was built by Polk's father and the future president lived in the home for several years as a young adult, leaving it in 1819 to read law in Nashville. He then returned to the residence when he opened up his law practice in Columbia.

In the 1920s, a group of Nashville women formed the James K. Polk Memorial Association in the hopes of securing the Polk family home as part of the former president's dwindling legacy. Together with the state of Tennessee, the association purchased the family home in Columbia and furnished it with family heirlooms and items that had once adorned Polk Place. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as a National Historic Landmark, the James K. Polk Home and Museum contains the largest collection of artifacts relating to the nation's eleventh president.

Price said the historical argument for moving the tomb is Polk's own will and desire to be buried in the place where his legacy is held. Price said many feel the Polk Museum and House in Columbia is that place. Polk wouldn't be the first president to be moved in death — that honor goes to James Madison — and Price said there is a set path for how the move would take place.

"It is a big process," he said. "Under a 1981 statute that specifically addresses moving the Polk Tomb, a joint resolution is required from the Tennessee State Legislature. The Senate passed it with a vote of 20-6. We go before the House this session. We will also have to go before the Tennessee Historical Commission, the Capitol Commission, and eventually chancery court. The legislature is just step one."

The Polk Association has taken the lead role in the move, and Price said the association wants to make it clear taxpayer dollars won't be used for the move, nor is the move about tourism.

"We realized quickly this would take a lot of money, and we don't want taxpayer dollars going to this," Price said. "We are going to raise the money on our own. We expect it will be somewhere between \$500,000 and \$1 million to move the tomb here. We will have a ceremony for the reburial, but we also don't want the Polks to be forgotten at the capitol. If the tomb gets moved, we would like to commission with the state a statute of President Polk or President and Mrs. Polk. It won't cost anything for people to see the tomb here, and I don't expect we'll see a big uptick in visitation."

For Price, the ultimate goal of the campaign is just to give Polk the legacy he intended for himself.

"I think it completes the circle," Price said. "This began with people lamenting the fact that Polk didn't get what he wanted in his will. That's what we are trying to do."

Haslam outlines \$30M opioid abuse proposal for 2018-19 budget

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prescriptions, with reasonable exception and an emphasis on new patients. Initial prescriptions will be limited to a five-day supply of drugs with daily dosage limits of 40 MME (morphine milligram equivalent).

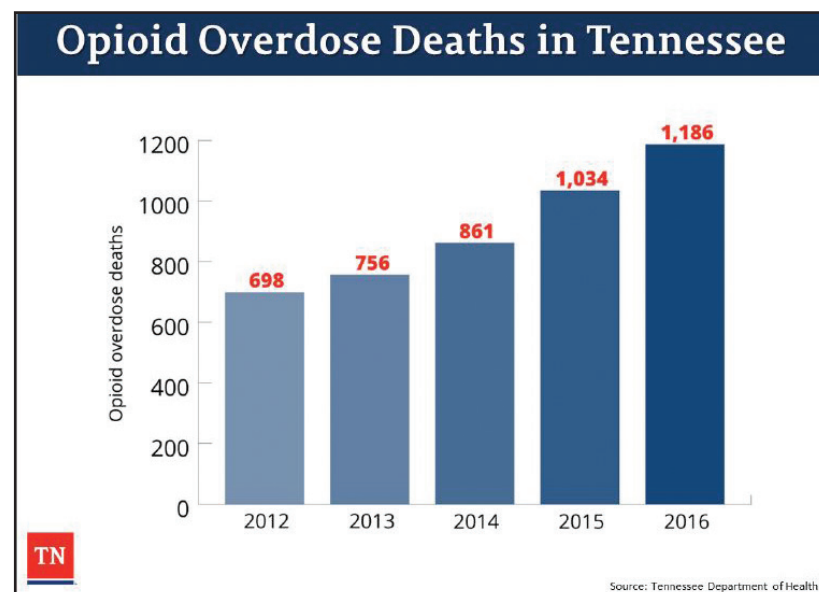
- Limiting coverage for TennCare enrollees to an initial 5-day supply with daily dosage limits.
- Increasing prevention education in grades K-12 through revisions to the state's health education academic standards.
- Identifying women of child-bearing age who are chronic opioid users and providing targeted outreach about risks and treatment in order to aid in the prevention of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) births.
- Investing more than \$25 million for treatment and recovery services for individuals with opioid-use disorder. These services will include an increase in peer recovery specialists in targeted, high-need emergency departments to connect patients to treatment immediately.
- Improving the state's data systems to better and more timely identify critical hot spots for targeting.
- Legislation that expands residential treatment and services for opioid dependence within the criminal justice system and

creates incentives for offenders who complete intensive treatment programs while incarcerated — a best practice that is proven to reduce recidivism, improve lives and communities and save taxpayer dollars.

- Attacking the illicit sale and trafficking of opioids by providing additional resources to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation for rapid response teams and, through legislation, penalizing the use and unlawful distribution of dangerous and addictive drugs, including those that mimic the effects of fentanyl. Providing every Tennessee state trooper with naloxone for the emergency treatment of opioid overdose.

Haslam also announced the establishment of the 19-member Commission on Pain and Addiction Medicine Education, which includes medical and healthcare professionals from the state's public and private medical educational institutions, the Tennessee Department of Health, a broad group of professional associations, and licensed health care practitioners.

"To be clear, this is not us telling medical and health care practitioner schools what their curriculum will be," Haslam said. "This is a group of professionals from that field who will come together and design what competencies should be developed around evidence-based pain and addiction management."



Data from the state of Tennessee has shown opioid overdose deaths have been on the increase for years, quadrupling since 1999. There are presently 7.6 million active painkiller prescriptions in the state — roughly 1 million more prescriptions than there are Tennesseans.

The commission will develop competencies for current and future curricula so that future prescribers receive instruction and training regarding effective treatment for acute and chronic pain, including alternatives to opioids to manage pain; the potential risks and effects of using opioids to treat pain, including physical dependency and addiction, and effective discontinuation of opioids; proper identification of and treatment for patients demonstrating misuse or abuse of opioids; and utilization of the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database.

Other state officials also out-

lined their part in the plan. Correction Commissioner Tony Parker told said 512 beds at West Tennessee State Prison will be repurposed to deal with opioid addiction issues in the state prison system, doubling the department's current capacity.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Commissioner Marie Williams said data indicated some 300,000 Tennesseans "misuse" drugs but aren't addicted while about 80,000 adults are addicted based on data.

An estimated 7.6 million painkiller prescriptions are active in Tennessee, which exceeds the state's total population by roughly

1 million.

Williams said her department will also be meeting with private providers to see how to best use the state's resources for a public-private partnership to fight opioid abuse.

Senate Minority Leader Jeff Yarbro, D-Nashville, said he applauded many of the steps being taken by the Haslam administration under the TN Together plan, but he felt there were parts of the proposal that are lacking.

"This is the time for bold action," Yarbro said. "I think there's some things that are included in this proposal that everyone supports. But this is a modest step. Under this plan, we are not sending enough people into medically-assisted treatment. I think personally, the governor feels his hands are tied by the [Republican] majority who hasn't let him expand Medicaid."

According to information from the state of Tennessee, the number of opioid-related overdose deaths nationwide, including prescription opioids and heroin, has quadrupled since 1999 with Tennessee remaining one of the top 15 of all states in drug overdose deaths.

Tennesseans are more likely to die of an opioid-related overdose than in a car crash with three people dying of overdoses in the state each day.

More details on the TN Together plan, including help for those suffering from addiction and other resources, can be found at tn.gov/opioids.



PEOPLE



Becky Buchanan, director of community relations for Johnson City, has retired after 36 years of service to the city, 18 of which were at the helm of the community relations department. Buchanan earned a degree from East Tennessee State University before joining the city's parks and recreation department in 1981 as a cultural arts director. She was promoted to operations manager in 1988 and assistant parks and recreation director in 1995. She has served as the director of community relations since 1999. Keisha Shoun, who has worked under Buchanan for more than 10 years, has been named interim director of community relations.



Becky Buchanan

ment, beginning with patrolman in 1976. Cannon worked with the detective division for 21 years, as captain for four years, as assistant chief for four years, and as chief for the past decade. Before coming to work with the department, Cannon was employed in the restaurant industry. During his more than 40 years on the force, Cannon has served under five mayors and five police chiefs.

Tom Gatley has been selected as the new assistant fire chief for the city of Bartlett after the retirement of Danny Baxter in December. Gatley holds a master's degree in fire administration from Arkansas State University and was hired as a firefighter/paramedic for the city in 2000. Later that same year, he was assigned to the EMS division of the department. Gatley was promoted to paramedic lieutenant in 2007.



Tom Gatley

Joe Haynes, a longtime former Democratic state senator, died on Jan. 26 at the age of 81. Haynes served for nearly three decades in the Tennessee legislature and in a number of leadership roles, including Senate Democratic Caucus chairman for 10 years, caucus treasurer and secretary for six years and caucus majority whip for one session. Haynes was born in Castalian Springs and became the first person in his family to graduate from both high school and college, graduating from the University of Tennessee in 1959. He worked at DuPont and later attended the Nashville School of Law, being admitted to the bar in 1965. Haynes founded the law firm of Haynes, Freeman and Bracey. He was first elected to the Goodlettsville City Commission in 1976 and the Tennessee State Senate in 1984, where he served for 28 years before retiring in 2012.



Joe Haynes

Rod Kirk has been selected as the new mayoral assistant for economic development for the city of Hendersonville. Kirk has more than a decade of experience with economic and community development on both the state and local level, most recently serving with the University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services. He earned a bachelor's degree in business with a marketing concentration from Townson University and has worked for the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Robertson County Chamber of Commerce, and Clarksville-Montgomery County Economic Development Council.



Rod Kirk

Mike Callender has been selected as the new general manager of the Centennial Golf Course owned by the city of Oak Ridge. Callender has 18 years of experience in the golf industry. He is a Class A PGA Professional with 10 years as a head professional and is certified in golf operations. Before coming to Oak Ridge, Callender worked with the Tennessee National Golf Club in Loudon and at the Green Hill Yacht and Country Club in Quantico, Md. The city of Oak Ridge made the decision in October to begin managing the course through the city's parks and recreation department rather than having the course managed by a private firm. Opened in 1996, the course will be undergoing renovations through April.



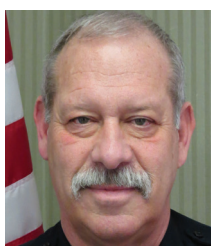
Mike Callender

Rep. Karen Camper, D - Memphis, has been named Tennessee director for the National Foundation for Women Legislators. Her term runs through the end of the year. She was also recently elected president of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women. Camper was first elected in 2008 following the death of Gary Rowe. She attended the University of Tennessee - Knoxville and holds an associate's degree from the University of Albany-SUNY. She is a retired chief warrant officer with the U.S. Army.



Karen Camper

Greenville Police Chief Terry Cannon has announced his intention to retire on June 29, following 42 years of service. Cannon has served in nearly every rank of the Greenville Police Depart-



Terry Cannon

Rep. Steve McDaniel, R-Parkers Crossroads, was the recipient of the Tennessee Federation for the Aging Award at the eighth annual Southwest Tennessee Development District legislative luncheon. McDaniel received the "Legislative Champion for Aging" award for his service to elderly constituents in West Tennessee. McDaniel has been a champion of initiatives benefiting rural communities - like being a sponsor for the Consumer Health Care Advocacy Act, which ensured primary care doctors would be in driving distance for rural customers, and also a sponsor of the Competitive Cable Act, in hopes of increasing broadband access in rural areas.



Steve McDaniel

Guy Nicholson, former mayor of the city of Hohenwald, died on Jan. 13 at the age of 90. Nicholson served in the U.S. Navy and then as a Tennessee State Trooper beginning in 1949, working his way from trooper to captain and retiring in 1975 after 25 years of service. He then worked at Hohenwald Bank and Trust until 1982. Nicholson was elected mayor of Hohenwald in 1983 and served five consecutive terms with the city, retiring in 2003.



Guy Nicholson

Mark Sturtevant has been named the new director for the Metro Public Works Department after having served as interim director since 2016. Selected from a nationwide search process, Sturtevant has worked with Metro Nashville government for more than 20 years. In his time with the city, he has served as chief development officer for the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority, with the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency and the Metropolitan Historical Commission.



Mark Sturtevant

Jack Tucker has been selected as the new director of sanitation and environmental services (SES) for the city of Franklin. Turner has served as the interim director since the summer of 2017 and before that, worked for four years as assistant director of the department. Before coming to the city of Franklin, Tucker worked for the Nashville Public Works Department for 14 years and in the private sector for Waste Industries.



Jack Tucker

Portland's Wilber announces retirement after nearly 30 years

After nearly 30 years of service, Portland Mayor Ken Wilber will not be running for another term.

Wilber was first elected mayor of Portland in 2005, but was first elected to the city council in 1987. Wilber served as a city councilman from 1987 to 1995, serving as vice mayor for four years.

Between 1996 and 2003, Wilber worked as a superintendent of Portland's Public Works Department and then as a private contractor for two years before returning to the city council as mayor.

"The citizens here have honored and blessed me to elect me for three terms," Wilber said. "The city is in a good spot right now. I'm getting to a point in my life where it might be time to slow down and to do some other things."

During his tenure as mayor, Wilber has overseen the completion of several major capital projects, particularly related to the city's utilities. Major sewer and natural gas updates initiated under Wilber are still ongoing throughout the city. Wilber has also overseen the creation of a full-time city planner position for the city.

Business and industry have also changed for Portland during Wilber's tenure. Portland opened a new industrial park and is looking forward to the completion of the new major Highway 109 project and interchange. Wilber has helped Portland use its unique location to cater to a wide variety of industries, including automotive providers, distribution centers, manufacturers of hospital supplies, and steel fabricators of metal buildings.

He has also launched and supported several healthy initiatives in Portland, turning a personal fitness goal into city-wide initiatives.

Wilber launched a 10-week walking program entitled "Strawberry Stroll" held twice a week in March and April. Participants are rewarded at the end of the 10-week period with a victory celebration.

In 2013, the city started a community garden within the city's Richland Park and the program is administered through the Portland Parks and Recreation Department.

Wilber was named the 2016 Mayor of the Year by the Tennessee



Ken Wilber

Municipal League in honor of his service.

"The Tennessee Municipal League has been our voice with state and federal legislation and revenue sharing," Wilber said. "For the last three decades it has provided towns and cities specific needs such as the TML Risk Management Pool and the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund."

Wilber has remained active in the Tennessee Municipal League since 1987, when he was first elected to the city council and he attended his first TML conference. In 2007, Wilber was first elected to the TML Board of Directors as TML's District 5 Director. He was later named third vice-president and eventually served as TML president in 2013.

He has been active in the Greater Nashville Regional Council, the Sumner County Council of Government, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, and the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System.

"I was blessed to be able to work with these regional and state agencies," Wilber said. "It was very educational and enlightening and benefited the city."

Wilber said he didn't think he'd completely retire, adding he thought he would keep busy working or volunteering. He is involved in his church, Portland Church of Christ, as well as civic organizations including the local Rotary Club, Lions Club, and Quarterback Club. Wilber said he also plans to spend more time with his granddaughters.

Wilber's current term as mayor will end in November.

New committee assignments for members of TN legislature

LEGISLATORS from Page 1

Ways and Means; Health and Welfare; Government Operations, Judiciary; State and Local Government; Transportation and Safety; Ethics; Delayed Bills; Rules; and Calendar.

House committee assignments

House Speaker Beth Harwell also announced committee assignment changes for the second session of the 110th General Assembly. Notable changes include the appointment of Rep. Mike Spark, R-Smyrna, as vice-chair of the House Calendar and Rules Committee, and Rep. John Holsclaw, R-Elizabethton, as chairman of the House Business and Utilities Subcommittee.

Speaker Harwell made the following assignment to new House members:

- Rep. Clark Boyd, R-Lebanon,
 - Member, House Insurance and Banking Committee
 - Member, House Consumer and Human Resources Committee
 - Member, House Consumer and Human Resources Subcommittee
- Rep. Jerome Moon, R-Maryville,
 - Member, House Business and Utilities Committee
 - Member, House Business and Utilities Subcommittee
 - Member, House Insurance and Banking Committee
- Rep. Kevin Vaughan, R-Collierville,
 - Member, House Business and Utilities Committee
 - Member, House Business and Utilities Subcommittee
 - Member, House Insurance and Banking Committee

MEMBER FOCUSED



THE
TML
POOL
Tennessee's Leader in Risk Management Services

STATE BRIEFS



A new audit claims Tennessee lawmakers have not done enough to prevent teachers accused of sexual misconduct from being rehired in different school districts. The audit, conducted by the Tennessee Comptroller, found that teachers in the state accused or even charged with sexual misconduct were often allowed to resign or leave their posts only to be found reoffending in a different Tennessee school district. The audit said state law doesn't define educator misconduct specifically enough and that the Tennessee Teacher Code of Ethics, which is part of state law, doesn't refer to appropriate boundaries between educators and students. Additionally, 118 school districts in the state have no policy regarding the proper way of reporting child sexual abuse either by a teacher or other party, and many others have unclear policies about the proper steps to take in reporting such abuse.

Tennessee is making strides in helping develop a solution to antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Antibiotic medications attack infectious, disease-causing bacteria, but the pathogens that antibiotics are designed to kill are learning how to fight back and threatening these essential, life-saving treatments. Nashville is home to one of seven antibiotic resistance regional labs, which are strategically placed around the nation to perform high-tech, specialty testing of emerging resistance concerns. The Tennessee lab, which accounted for more than \$2.9 million of the state's allocated funds, tests specimens from Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Puerto Rico. The testing identifies extremely rare and dangerous germs, like carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*, better known as CRE or the "nightmare bacteria," which was found in a Tennessee hospital this fall. In the U.S., at least 2 million people per year are infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics, according to a report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and at least

23,000 of those people die as a direct result of antibiotic-resistant infections.

A recent study has named Tennessee as one of the 10 least educated states in America. The personal-finance website WalletHub recently released their 2018 Most and Least Educated States in America report, which found Tennessee ranking as the eighth least educated state in the country. The numbers are based on data from the U.S. Census, U.S. Department of Education, and the National Center for Educational Statistics. Factors going into the ranking included per capita high school diploma and college graduation numbers as well as university quality, public school quality, and gender and racial gaps. The study said a lack of investment in education also contributed to Tennessee's low scores. Southern states tended to rank among the least educated.

According to the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office, **the recently passed national tax reform legislation provides significant incentives for property owners who install fire sprinklers.** Championed by the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), the bipartisan legislation was first filed following the Station Nightclub fire in Rhode Island that claimed 100 lives in 2003 – a tragedy that likely could have been prevented had the building featured a fire sprinkler system to reduce the heat, flames, and smoke that hindered the occupants' escape. Small businesses will now be able to fully expense installation of fire sprinklers under section 179 of the tax code up to a cap of \$1 million in each year of expense. This will allow for the retrofit and upgrading of numerous occupancies such as nightclubs. In addition, small businesses that may need to borrow money to pay for the retrofit will be able to fully deduct the interest expense on the loan. More detailed information about these fire sprinkler incentives can be found on the NFSA website, www.nfsa.org/

December revenue \$171.6M over state budget estimate

Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration Commissioner Larry Martin announced that revenues for December posted higher than expected and exceeded the monthly revenues from the previous year. State revenues for December were \$1.4 billion, which is a growth of 11.34 percent and \$139.9 million more than December 2016.

"Total revenues in December were higher than expected due to revenues in the sales, income and corporate tax categories," Martin said. "Recorded revenues in the corporate category include two substantial one-time payments. The substantial gain in the Hall income tax is thought to be driven by the pre-payment of 2017 taxes due to recent changes in the federal tax code.

December sales tax revenues reflect retail activity that occurred in November which includes Black Friday and after-Thanksgiving sales. January's report will capture consumer spending for the Christmas holiday season. All other revenues, combined, posted marginal gains compared to recorded revenues of one year ago."

On an accrual basis, December is the fifth month in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Total revenues in December were \$171.6 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded revenues exceeding budgeted estimates by \$157.6 million, and the four other funds that share in state tax revenues were \$14.0 million more than estimates.

Sales tax revenues were \$32.6 million more than the estimate for December. The December growth rate was 8.73 percent. For five months revenues are \$49.6 million higher than estimated, and the year-to-date growth rate is 4.61 percent.

Franchise and excise taxes combined, including the one-time substantial payments, were \$103.3 million more than the December budgeted estimate. For five

months revenues are more than estimates in the amount of \$107.9 million.

Gasoline and motor fuel revenues for December increased by 23.19 percent, but were \$3.4 million less than the budgeted estimate of \$92.5 million. For five months revenues are \$13.1 million more than estimates.

Motor vehicle registration revenues were \$4.5 million more than the December estimate, and on a year-to-date basis they are \$9.8 million more than estimates.

Tobacco tax revenues were \$2.6 million more than the budgeted estimate of \$19.4 million. For five months revenues are \$1.3 million less than estimated.

Privilege tax revenues were \$600,000 more than the budgeted estimate of \$22.6 million. Year-to-date revenues for five months are \$5.7 million more than the budgeted estimate.

Inheritance and estate tax revenues for the month were comparative to the budgeted estimate. For five months revenues are \$2.1 million less than the budgeted estimate.

Business tax revenues were \$300,000 more than the December estimate and \$1.4 million more than estimates on a year-to-date basis.

Hall income tax revenues, including the very large estimated pre-payment of 2017 taxes, were \$31 million more than the budgeted estimate.

All other taxes for December recorded a net increase of \$100,000 compared to estimates.

Year-to-date revenues for five months were \$210.2 million more than the budgeted estimate. The general fund recorded \$172.7 in revenues more than estimates, and the four other funds \$37.5 million more than estimates.

These estimates are available on the state's website at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/finance/fa-fa-budget-information/fa-budget-rev.html>.

250K Tree Day planned for Feb. 24

25,000 volunteers to plant 250,000 trees in 95 counties across Tennessee

Tennessee Environmental Council is promoting 250K Tree Day, a statewide event on Feb. 24, planting 250,000 trees with 25,000 Tennessee volunteers of all ages. Tennessee's growing population equates to more consumption and deforestation.

The Council's Tennessee Tree Project was created to plant one million native trees across the state to help repopulate trees. The organization has planted more than 360,000 trees since 2007 fulfilling the mission to educate and advocate for the conservation and improvement of Tennessee's environment, communities, and public health.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) are collaborating with the Council on this statewide event.

"We could not host this successful event without our collaborative partners and sponsors. We are grateful for the hard work of our volunteers and distributors throughout all 95 counties," said John McFadden, CEO of Tennessee Environmental Council.

"Trees help protect our state's most important natural resources," said Tennessee Department

of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Bob Martineau. "They are vital for maintaining water quality, healthy air, flood prevention, wildlife habitat and healthy communities," said Martineau.

In 50 years one tree provides \$130,750 in total benefits including oxygen, air pollution control and stormwater drainage.

The U.S. Forest Service found that more than two million acres of Tennessee's native forests were cut and more than 500 thousand acres of forest were converted to other uses.

Visit the 250K Tree Day website (www.tectn.org/250kreeday) for details, registration, and important updates.



The tree planting on Feb. 24 will be the largest community-tree-planting event in Tennessee history, and is the largest tree-planting event in the United States.

250K Tree Day is a project of Tennessee Environmental Council. Special thanks to sponsors, partners and volunteers who make this historic event possible.

TN communities receive CDBG funds to assist with local infrastructure and safety

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe recently approved nearly \$25.5 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which assist communities with infrastructure improvements, health and safety initiatives, and façade improvements in downtown commercial districts.

The allocation of CDBG funds is based on priorities set through the public meeting process at the local community level. The CDBG program is funded through HUD and administered in Tennessee by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Funds are available for water and sewer improvements and extensions, housing rehabilitation, health and safety projects as well as commercial façade improvements in Main Street and Tennessee Downtown communities. Commercial façade grants can be used for new awnings and signs, painting, building repair, and other upgrades.

Community	Project	Amount	Matching Funds	Total
Allardt	Fire Protection	\$223,000	\$28,000	\$251,000
Athens	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$251,208	\$776,208
Bell Buckle	Sewer System Improvements	\$442,426	\$38,471	\$480,897
Bolivar	Sewer System Improvements	\$389,197	\$48,103	\$437,300
Brownsville	Housing Rehabilitations	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000
Byrdstown	Water System Improvements	\$525,000	\$65,000	\$590,000
Celina	Commercial Façade Improvements	\$100,000	\$33,333	\$133,333
Centerville	Commercial Façade Improvements	\$100,000	\$33,333	\$133,333
Clifton	Fire Protection	\$254,604	\$16,251	\$270,855
Erin	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$3,375,000	\$3,900,000
Erwin	Commercial Façade Improvements	\$100,000	\$33,333	\$133,333
Erwin	Ambulance Services	\$315,000	\$145,400	\$460,400
Estill Springs	Early Warning Sirens	\$116,317	\$20,526	\$136,843
Ethridge	Emergency Response Vehicle	\$115,000	\$18,721	\$133,721
Etowah	Sewer System Improvements	\$520,200	\$91,800	\$612,000
Gates	Water System Improvements	\$525,000	\$89,500	\$614,500
Greeneville	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$870,236	\$1,395,236
Harriman	Water System Improvements	\$525,000	\$93,000	\$618,000
Humboldt	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$78,448	\$603,448
Huntland	Sewer System Improvements	\$450,000	\$2,050,000	\$2,500,000
Jamestown	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$123,150	\$648,150
Jasper	Sewer Line Improvements	\$525,000	\$183,000	\$708,000
Jefferson City	Commercial Façade Improvements	\$100,000	\$33,333	\$133,333
Jonesborough	Commercial Façade Improvements	\$100,000	\$33,333	\$133,333
Lawrenceburg	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$226,000	\$751,000
Lewisburg	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$92,647	\$617,647
Livingston	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$93,000	\$618,000
Martin	Commercial Façade Improvements	\$100,000	\$33,333	\$133,333
Martin	Sewer System Improvements	\$511,200	\$56,800	\$568,000
Maynardville	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$159,300	\$684,300
McKenzie	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$58,333	\$583,333
McLemoresville	Protective Fire Equipment	\$80,677	\$5,073	\$85,750
Milan	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$139,600	\$664,600
Milledgeville	Water System Improvements	\$525,000	\$189,000	\$714,000
Newport	Drainage Improvements	\$315,000	\$65,000	\$380,000
Niota	Water System Improvements	\$425,000	\$75,000	\$500,000
Oneida	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$107,600	\$632,600
Palmer	Fire Truck	\$91,000	\$9,000	\$100,000
Paris	Commercial Façade Improvements	\$100,000	\$33,333	\$133,333
Pikeville	Commercial Façade Improvements	\$37,500	\$12,500	\$50,000
Red Bank	Sewer System Improvements	\$525,000	\$730,300	\$1,255,300
Rives	Drainage Improvements	\$164,500	\$10,500	\$175,000
Rutherford	Water System Improvements	\$420,032	\$200,000	\$620,032
Shelbyville	Sewer System Improvements	\$450,000	\$67,241	\$517,241
Somerville	Sewer System Improvements	\$451,000	\$61,500	\$512,500
South Fulton	Sewer System Improvements	\$488,250	\$36,750	\$525,000
Sweetwater	Housing Rehabilitations	\$525,000	\$0	\$525,000
Tellico Plains	Water System Improvements	\$525,000	\$115,300	\$640,300
Waverly	Water System Improvements	\$525,000	\$263,375	\$788,375

2018 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards

March 30 deadline for nominations

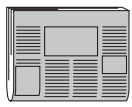
The Tennessee Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards are the most prestigious environmental and conservation awards in the state. Marking its 32nd year, the awards have been presented to city and county governments, individuals, organizations, and educational institutions making significant contributions to the protection and improvement of our natural resources and wildlife.

The awards are designed to bring about a greater knowledge and awareness of effective practices and projects and to give proper recognition to those persons and organizations that make outstanding contributions to the natural resources of their community and the state.

Nominations being accepted until March 30, 2018.

More information is available at www.tn.gov/environment.





CLASSIFIED ADS

Advertising: \$9.25 per column inch. No charge to TML members. Send advertising to: Carole Graves: cgraves@TML1.org.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR

WHITE HOUSE. The city of White House is now accepting applications for administrative services director. Under the direction of the city administrator the administrative services director plans, directs, manages and oversees the activities and operations of the administrative services department including the administrative and legislative support, building and grounds, economic development and tourism, and purchasing divisions. The administration services director performs all functions of city recorder as required by Municipal Code, coordinates assigned activities with other departments and outside agencies, provides high level administrative assistance to city administrator and elected officials requiring specialized knowledge of administrative support activities and knowledge of local government. Qualifications/Requirements: bachelor's degree or equivalent in liberal arts or business field, and at least three years of experience in a professional office environment, or any combination of training and experience necessary to complete the essential functions of the job. Starting Compensation Range: \$50,440 to \$61,456 annually DOE. Application deadline: Feb. 15 at 5:15 pm. For a complete job description and details on how to apply online, visit: www.cityofwhitehouse.com.

ASSISTANT PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

SHELBYVILLE. The city of Shelbyville is accepting applications for a full-time position of assistant parks and recreation director at the Shelbyville Parks and Recreation Center. This position will be responsible to perform functions involving all aspects of planning, supervision, development, management and day-to-day operations of the Shelbyville Parks and Recreation Department, whether owned or leased by the city of Shelbyville for the benefit of the citizens of our community. Applications and a copy of job description may be picked up at city hall during normal business hours. Applications must be returned to City Hall Administration Office, 201 N. Spring Street no later than 4 p.m. on Feb. 22. Applications can be found on the city's website www.shelbyvilletn.org and faxed to 931-684-4123, mailed to the address above or emailed to anna.mai@shelbyvilletn.org. EOE/drugfree workplace. Successful applicants required to pass background check, physical and drug screen. For more information, please visit our website: www.shelbyvilletn.org

ASSISTANT TOWN ENGINEER

FARRAGUT. The town of Farragut is seeking applicants for an assistant town engineer, whose essential responsibilities include: intermediate to advanced technical and administrative work for supervision of construction and contract management for the town's capital projects, including construction of roadways, greenways, parks and other public facilities. Inspection of public works and public utilities projects. Supervision, preparation and maintenance of engineering records. Provides technical assistance to engineers, contractors, surveyors, architects, developers and citizens on matters related to residential and commercial development. Performs civil engineering work in the field and in the office relating to municipal public works, capital improvements, drainage and other related "in-house" designs for projects constructed by the town's public works department. Works closely with our citizens, as well as other members of the town's staff. Work is performed under the general direction of the town engineer. Applicants with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, or related field and considerable experience with civil design, roadway construction, project management, municipal engineering, or equivalent combination of education and experience are encouraged to apply. An EIT or PE certification are preferred. Benefits include a competitive salary, medical, dental, life, LTD, and a matching 401(k) retirement plan. Applications and a job description may be obtained at the Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, TN, 37934, or www.townoffarragut.org/jobs. Applicants

must submit a completed Town of Farragut application with an attached resume. Application deadline is Feb. 28.

BOOKKEEPER / ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MASON. Responsible for bookkeeping and support services under the general supervision of the office manager/human resources manager. Instructions to the employee are general and the employee must routinely use independent judgment when performing tasks. The employee must occasionally consider a different course of action. The uniform accounting code and accounting system must be followed in order to complete tasks. Graduation from an accredited high school or possess equivalency, and supplemental course work in bookkeeping principles and practices. Experience in clerical accounting work. Responsible for all bookkeeping and financial records of all funds including reconciling bank statements and invoices, bond payments, drafting checks, accounts payable, etc.; balances all receipts and tax collections monthly; prepares all deposits and withdrawals; prepares all bookkeeping reports; prepares all payroll; prepares Social Security and tax withholding reports; prepares quarterly unemployment reports; reviews recorder reports before being submitted to state; maintains general records of account according to established accounting classifications, including various ledgers, registers, and journals; posts entries to books and computer from supporting records, makes adjustments and prepares financial statements; and deposit city receipts at bank. SALARY: \$14.00 Hourly. Please apply at the Town of Mason; Mason City Hall; 12157 Main Street. Position open until filled. EOE.

CITY MANAGER

SAVANNAH. The city of Savannah, Tennessee, bordered by the beautiful Tennessee River, is home to 7,030 residents and is a progressive and growing city which provides an excellent community in which to live. Savannah is seeking an experienced city manager due to the approaching retirement of the current city manager. Three years as a city manager, assistant city manager, or related experience is required. Experience is needed with municipal regulations and grants. The successful candidate should possess a bachelor's degree in public administration or a closely related field. Savannah has 85 employees, a general fund budget in excess of 10 million dollars and a utility department providing water, sewer and natural gas. The city manager is expected to live or relocate within the city limits of Savannah. The city manager position is an exempt, at-will employee working under the general direction of a five member city commission. Savannah operates under a Private Act City Charter, which designates a Manager/Commission form of operational structure, with duties outlined in the Charter and Municipal Code. The salary is DOQ; plus a comprehensive benefits package. EOE. Resumes will be accepted until March 20. All interested applicants must submit a resume, cover letter, salary history along with three personal and five professional references to: City of Savannah, Attn: Mayor, 140 Main Street, Savannah, Tennessee 38372

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES/ PLANNING DIRECTOR

JOHNSON CITY. The city of Johnson City is seeking a director of development services/planning. This is a high-level, visible management position reporting directly to the city manager. The director will oversee the operations of the planning, building inspection, permitting, code compliance division, and the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization. Will work closely with community stakeholders and the economic development council to attract new and diverse businesses. Must be a service-oriented leader who works collaboratively with staff as well as with other city departments, city commission, neighborhood groups, public or private agencies to seek resolutions that are in the best interest of all parties. Will oversee the work of all departmental personnel; establish departmental policies, procedures and regulations and ensure proper enforcement. Prepare and administer the departmental annual \$1.6M budget and monitor expenditures during the year and make recommendations for budget

modifications or additional funds. Ensure compliance with city policies, procedures, and regulations. Present information and recommendations to various boards, commissions and committees. Research and prepare ordinances and ordinance revisions related to development, permitting and code enforcement. Work with the public and developers in answering questions and providing information regarding land use, the development process, building projects, building and housing regulations and code enforcement. Serve as technical advisor to the planning commission, city manager, board of commissioners, and department heads on planning and zoning issues. Establish and maintain a policy of downtown improvement and coordinates that policy with other urban growth policies and zoning policies etc. Make frequent presentations to the city boards and commissions. Manage multiple projects in a fast-paced environment with strong prioritization and organizational skills. A bachelor's degree in public administration, planning, or a related field and five years of progressive experience is required. AICP certification and master's degree is preferred. Must have knowledge of urban planning and zoning principles, land use and development laws, federal, state, and municipal building codes, GIS, and current and long range planning methods. Must be a city resident or secure residence within the city limits within 12 months of employment. Applications will be received on-line at www.johnsoncitytn.org until the position is filled. Salary range \$72,070 - \$116,810. EOE.

MANAGER/GRAPHIC DESIGNER/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II

GALLATIN. The city of Gallatin Economic Development Agency (EDA) is seeking qualified applicants for the position of existing industries manager/graphic designer/administrative assistant II. This position works with existing industry on personnel recruitment and problem-solving, creating promotional materials for the EDA, along with assisting with day-to-day operations of the office. This is a 40-hours per week, day shift position. Starting rate is \$20.11 per hour + excellent benefits. The successful applicant should have experience in event organization, including arranging venues, catering and audio/visual needs; strong organizational and multi-tasking skills in a fast paced environment; advanced computer skills with a thorough knowledge of Adobe Creative Suites, Microsoft Office, and Excel. Essential duties include working with the executive director to gain a general understanding of all initiatives within the economic development agency, representing the agency, and city when appropriate, at job fairs, completing diverse administrative tasks including; appointment management, meeting and presentation preparation and database management, while maintaining strict confidentiality, and arranging travel needs (including but not limited to hotel, air and registrations) for the agency. Qualified applicants must possess an associate's degree. Bachelor's degree is preferred. Must have at least five years recent work experience in a related capacity, preferably working directly with executive level positions. For a full description and to apply, visit the city's website at www.gallatintn.gov. Open until filled. EOE.

FINANCIAL ANALYST

PORTLAND. The city of Portland is now accepting applications for a financial analyst. Under the direction of the city recorder, the financial analyst will perform, plan and organize duties of the general accounting department, billing and collection department and general administration. Responsible for accounting and financial records for all city funds; perform treasurer and cash management functions; assist in preparation of the annual budget and completion of the annual audit. Qualifications/Requirements: bachelor's degree or equivalent in accounting and/or business administration, minimum of one year's experience in the accounting field desirable. Successful candidate will be required to complete Certified Municipal Financial Officer (CMFO) certification within two years. Compensation range \$45,226 to \$63,100 with full benefits package. Application deadline: March 5, or until position is filled. For a complete job description and how to apply online, visit: www.cityofportlandtn.gov.

FIREFIGHTER-FIRST RESPONDER CANDIDATE TESTING

GALLATIN. The Gallatin Fire Department is accepting applications for firefighter candidates testing. The test will be

Steering committee to develop TN water plan

WATER from Page 1

be proactive to address water supply, water rights, and issues associated with the failure of aging drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in the state.

Much of today's water infrastructure dates back to the late 1800s/early 1900s. The lifespan of these pipes is typically 75 to 100 years, which means that many of the state's water mains, pipelines, and pumps, are in dire need of replacement or updating. Leaky and corroded pipes can cause water waste, damage to surrounding areas like flooded buildings and roads, contaminated drinking water, and disruptions in service.

The committee discussed key water-related challenges to each stakeholder's area of expertise, along with potential solutions to ad-

dress current and future water needs. It also identified opportunities and action items the plan should address as a state.

Moving forward, stakeholders will also focus on surface and groundwater, water and wastewater infrastructure, natural resources, institutional and legal frameworks, and technical matters.

Input from leaders on the steering committee is imperative to solving current and future water challenges in the state. Developing a statewide water plan will allow Tennessee to understand and to strategically prioritize its water needs.

More information about TN H2O, including a list of other members on the steering committee, can be found at www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/th20.html.

held on March 24. Testing of firefighter candidates does not necessarily indicate available openings. An eligibility list will be created as a result of this test and utilized to fill future openings in addition to current openings. Aptitude and physical agility tests will be administered to final candidates as part of the selection process. Firefighters average 56 hours per week. The schedule is a rotating shift with weekend work required. Starting rate is \$11.70 + excellent benefits. Minimum qualifications: high school diploma/GED. Must be able to respond to the assigned Fire Station within 45 minutes in case of call back for emergency service. Must complete FEMA online courses IS-100 and IS-700 within six months of employment. Must have valid driver's license. Must meet physical standards established by the Gallatin Fire Department. The following skills are preferred: commissioned firefighters from state of Tennessee, firefighting certifications from accredited fire school, certified as first responders or EMTs. All non-Tennessee certifications must meet reciprocity standards established by the state of Tennessee. Persons wishing to test must apply online at www.gallatintn.gov. All completed applications must be received no later than March 13. Testing invitations will be emailed out to eligible candidates after the closing date. EOE.

POLICE CHIEF

JOHNSON CITY. The city of Johnson City is seeking a committed public safety professional to lead and manage a modern, full service agency dedicated to policing our city with a highly engaged and community-involved approach. Under the general direction and supervision of the city manager, the chief plans, organizes, directs, coordinates and evaluates all activities of the Johnson City Police Department. The police chief will be privileged to lead a dedicated staff of 149 sworn officers and 32 civilian employees. The chief will manage the non-union police department's \$13.5 million budget and oversee the entire operations. The department is nationally accredited and is organized into three divisions: administration, criminal investigations, and operations. Areas of responsibility include: patrol, criminal investigations, canine, drug task force, EOD, minimum security jail, special operations, community policing, school resource, and SWAT. The candidate must possess the following critical success factors: strong interpersonal and communication skills (both verbal and written); experience presenting to elected officials and public speaking; ability to motivate and inspire staff to build on past successes; demonstrated ability to develop and achieve long-range planning and budget goals; comprehensive and broad knowledge of the principles and practices of modern police administration. Requirements include a bachelor's degree in a related field (criminal justice, public administration, or equivalent) from an accredited university or college. A minimum of seven to 10 years of command level officer experience in a similar-sized department at the captain level or above. The city operates under the Commission-Manager

form of government with a city manager appointed by a five-member city commission. Applications will be received online at www.johnsoncitytn.org until the position is filled. Salary range \$72,069 to \$116,810. EOE.

POLICE OFFICER

CLEVELAND. The city of Cleveland is accepting applications for police officer. Qualified applicants will have a high school education or state recognized equivalent, will be 21 years of age, will have a valid Tennessee driver's license, will be required to undergo post-offer medical and psychological exams including drug screen, and will conform to other standards as set forth in T.C.A. 38-8-106. Applicants will progress through pre-employment testing procedures and successful candidates will be selected as positions become available. Pre-employment procedures consist of: 1) written exam measuring basic skills in reading comprehension, math, grammar, punctuation, spelling, report writing; 2) physical readiness exam consisting of a 1½ mile run, 300 yard run, one rep free weight bench press, pushups, agility course, and vertical jump; 3) ride-along with certified officer and written assessment of events observed during the ride-along; 4) structured oral interview process; 5) background investigation. Applicants who have obtained an associate's degree or higher from a Department of Education recognized regionally accredited college or university, or those that are currently POST certified will have the written exam waived. Entry level annual salary of \$35,892 and competitive benefits package provided including fully employer paid retirement plan with Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. Applications may be obtained by contacting the city of Cleveland Human Resources Office at 160 2nd Street NE or by phone at 423-559-3313. Applications are also available at the city's website www.clevelandtn.gov. Applications should be submitted to the City Human Resources Office at the above address or by mail to City of Cleveland, P.O. Box 1519, Cleveland, TN 37364-1519, ATTN: Human Resources Department. Please contact the Human Resources Office at 423-559-3313 if you have questions or would like additional information. EOE

POLICE OFFICERS

KNOXVILLE. The city of Knoxville is currently accepting applications for police officer. Applicants must possess must be 21 with a valid birth certificate. High School graduate or equivalency. Must have a valid Tennessee Driver's License, is a U.S. Citizen, or a Permanent Legal Resident of the U.S. who is an Honorable Discharged Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and applies for or obtains U.S. Citizenship within six years of hiring. The city only accepts online applications. To apply, go to <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/jobs>. You must complete all sections. Do not leave sections blank. Doing so could result in your application being deemed incomplete. If you need assistance submitting an application or have questions regarding your application, please call Civil Service at (865) 215-2106 before the posting deadline. Applications must be submitted online by 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 23. Entry-level salary: \$31,975 annually (during academy). Police officer salary: \$35,035 - \$47,298 annually (after graduation from academy. Drug testing may be required. EOE

POLICE OFFICERS

JACKSON. The city of Jackson is accepting applications from qualified individuals to become police officers. Eligible applicants must meet the following minimum requirements: pass a written exam, physical agility test, oral interview board, and thorough background investigation. There is no residency requirement. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age or be a sworn police officer with a minimum of one full year experience. Jackson is looking for officers with no experience or officers with POST Certification. Starting salary from \$34,112-\$43,305/year depending on experience. Benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, holidays, bonus leave, TCRS retirement system, education reimbursement, and specialized units. Applications are being accepted until Feb. 28 for the test date of March 24. POST Certified officers can receive a sign on bonus and up to 4 years of service credit depending on experience and qualifications. Apply online at www.cityofjackson.net.

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Supreme Court to decide sales tax case

SALES TAX from Page 1
 Court decided in *Direct Marketing Association v. Brohl* (2014), was whether the Tax Injunction Act barred a federal court from deciding this case. The Supreme Court held it did not.

The State and Local Legal Center (SLLC) filed an amicus brief in *Direct Marketing Association v. Brohl* describing the devastating economic impact of *Quill* on states and local governments. Justice Kennedy wrote a concurring opinion stating that the "legal system should find an appropriate case for this Court to reexamine *Quill*." Justice Kennedy criticized *Quill* for many of the same reasons the SLLC stated in its amicus brief. Specifically, internet sales have risen astronomically since 1992 and states and local governments have been unable to collect most taxes due on sales from out-of-state vendors.

Following the Kennedy opinion a number of state legislatures passed laws requiring remote vendors to collect sales tax in clear violation of *Quill*. South Dakota's law was the first ready for Supreme Court review.

In September 2017, South

Dakota's highest state court ruled that the South Dakota law is unconstitutional because it clearly violates *Quill* and it is up to the U.S. Supreme Court to overrule *Quill*. In October 2017, South Dakota filed a certiorari petition asking the Supreme Court to hear its case and overrule *Quill*. The SLLC filed an amicus brief supporting South Dakota's petition. The Supreme Court ultimately agreed to decide the case.

It seems likely the Supreme Court will rule in favor of South Dakota and overturn *Quill* for a number of reasons. It is unlikely the Supreme Court accepted this case to congratulate the South Dakota Supreme Court on correctly ruling that South Dakota's law is unconstitutional. Said another way, if the Supreme Court wanted to leave the *Quill* rule in place it probably would have simply refused to hear *South Dakota v. Wayfair*.

It is easy to count at least three votes in favor of South Dakota in this case. First, Justice Kennedy of course. Second, Justice Thomas. While he voted against North Dakota in *Quill* he has since entirely rejected the concept of the dormant Commerce Clause, on which the *Quill* decisions rests. Third, Justice

Gorsuch. The Tenth Circuit ultimately decided *Direct Marketing Association v. Brohl* ruling that Colorado's notice and reporting law didn't violate *Quill*. Then-judge Gorsuch wrote a concurring opinion strongly implying that given the opportunity the Supreme Court should overrule *Quill*.

That said, the Supreme Court, and the Roberts Court in particular, is generally reticent about overturning precedent. The *Quill* decision illustrates as much. The Supreme Court looks at five factors in determining whether to overrule a case. One factor is whether a rule has proven "unworkable" and/or "outdated... after being 'tested by experience.'" This factor weighs strongly in favor of overturning *Quill*. As Justice Kennedy pointed out in *Direct Marketing Association v. Brohl*: "When the Court decided *Quill*, mail order sales in the United States totaled \$180 billion. But in 1992, the Internet was in its infancy. By 2008, e-commerce sales alone totaled \$3.16 trillion per year in the United States."

It is possible (though not yet certain) the court will hear this case this term meaning it will issue an opinion by the end of June 2018.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

The Centers for Disease Control is urging vaccination after the deaths of at least 53 children already this flu season. According to the CDC, 85 percent of the 53 children who have died from influenza this year were not vaccinated against the disease. This year has been a severely dangerous flu season with the dominant flu strain – H3N2 – known to cause severe illness and death in the elderly and the young. Historically, the CDC said between 80 and 85 percent of children who die from the flu are not vaccinated against it. CDC officials said some Americans claim to have not gotten the vaccination because Australia's version of the vaccine was said to be only 10 percent effective against the flu. CDC officials said that not all flu

deaths are reported because most states do not require reporting of flu-related deaths in adults.

Natural disasters cost the U.S. an unprecedented \$306 billion last year with 16 weather and climate events costing the nation \$1 billion each in 2017. Last year tied with 2011 for the most 10-digit calamities in a year and set a new cost record for disaster spending, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In addition to the financial toll, 362 people lost their lives in the devastating floods, fires, and hurricanes that struck the nation. Officials said government leaders should be planning for the number of national disasters to increase along with climate change and should focus on minimizing the growing impact of bad weather

rather than for the number of storms to go down.

The housing crunch is negatively affecting America's children, 10 million of whom live in overcrowded conditions. A report issued by the U.S. Census Bureau found children living in homes where the number of occupants is greater than the total number of rooms can suffer far-reaching consequences. These children often lag behind peers in educational performance, are less healthy, are more withdrawn, and tend to have more disciplinary problems. Living in an overcrowded residence can also erase advantages children might have from their parents' educational background, long seen as the most powerful indicator of a child's future educational attainment.

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No loan is too large or too small



The city of East Ridge closed a \$4.9 million fixed-rate loan with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund to finance interchange improvements. Pictured from left to right: J. Scott Miller, city manager; Mayor Brent Lambert; and Diane Qualls, finance director. Standing are Steve Queener and Linda Mooningham, TMBF representatives.



The town of Signal Mountain closed a \$3 million fixed-rate loan to finance the construction and equipping of a new fire station. Pictured are Mayor Chris J. Howley and Carol White, finance director; and TMBF representatives Steve Queener and Linda Mooningham.



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February 16-18: Knoxville
Dogwood Arts House & Garden Show

Held in the convention center, the show features hundreds of retailers and manufacturers exhibiting products, services, and advice on interior design, home improvement, gardening, and more. Stroll through beautifully landscaped gardens and have the opportunity to talk with the designers. Go to www.dogwoodhouseandgarden.com/.

March 1 - 4: Nashville
Nashville Lawn and Garden Show

The four-day, indoor show will include live garden displays, lectures, vendors, floral designs, and special programming, including the popular Tennessee Wine Festival on Saturday afternoon. This year's theme, Guerrilla Gardening and the Urban Jungle, will highlight topics such as small space gardens, urban horticulture, aquaponics, community gardens, and more. Visit www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com.

March 17: Bell Buckle
Daffodil Day

Bell Buckle celebrates its Daffodil Day in its downtown area. Mass plantings of the golden beauties were planted more than 100 years ago along the corridors to the scenic little town of Bell Buckle. Horticulture seminars, The Daffodil Flower Show, and a seed exchange round out the festival events. Visit: www.bellbucklechamber.com/daffodil-days-2/daffodil-day-flower-show-rules/

March 20-24: Pigeon Forge
24th Annual Mountain Quiltfest

Quilters will be able to attend classes based on skill level and technique. Vendors will showcase a variety of quilts. Hours: Wed.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Pigeon Forge LeConte Center. Go to www.mypigeonforge.com/events/quiltfest/

March 23-24: Linden
Blooming Arts Festival

Fine arts, local craftsmanship, engaging performances, and fantastic eats. More than 100 artisans and vendors showcasing fine art and local crafts, chainsaw carving, live dance performances, painting exhibits, kids activities, quilt exhibitions, and more. Hours: Fri. 12 p.m.-7 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-7 p.m., 200 East Main Street, Linden, TN 37096. Visit: www.bloomingarts-festival.org/

March 24: Cleveland
BBQ Blues & Bluegrass Festival

Come out and enjoy a fun-filled family experience including food, music, vendors, games, and much more. Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Greenway Park, 755 Raider Drive Cleveland, TN. Visit: www.bbqbluesandbluegrass.com/

Tennessee-made treats ready to satisfy any sweet tooth

BY KATE COIL

TML Communications Specialist

Whether buying something for a sweet-heart or just satisfying one's own sweet tooth, there are plenty of candies and chocolates with a local connection for Tennesseans to chow down on.

Samantha Jean, director of communications for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, said more and more consumers want to purchase locally-crafted items.

"Supporting Tennessee businesses helps support Tennessee's economy and creates increased demand for raw ingredients," Jean said. "There is a definite interest in purchasing local. Consumers are interested in knowing where their food comes from and in supporting their local communities. The experience associated with making a local purchase is also important. The demand for local products has definitely provided incentive for small business development."

One of the ways the state promotes locally made food products is through the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's long-standing consumer promotion campaign - Pick Tennessee Products (PTP). Jean said the program provides a valuable marketing tool for businesses of all sizes.

"There is no cost to be listed in the PTP directories," she said. "In addition to connecting consumers directly to the businesses producing a product, the PTP directories are a great source for the food manufacturing business looking for a specific ingredient. For example, a jam producer can use the directories to connect with a fruit grower. The new Agricultural Advancement Division and the Consumer and Industry Services Division work together to get food businesses the resources they need and help them understand licensing and regulations for food manufacturing in Tennessee."

Tennessee has a long history of candy-making. South, Littlefield and Streere began manufacturing products like bonbons, chocolates, and marshmallows in Knoxville in 1901. That same year, Nashville's Standard Candy Company opened its doors as the Anchor Candy Company. Dinstuhl's opened its doors in Memphis in 1902 and has remained a local tradition ever since.

Chattanooga became home to the Brock Candy Company in 1906 followed by Ferrara



Ole Smoky Candy Kitchen has been using a machine and manual labor to make its famed taffy logs since 1952. Both big and small-name candymakers across Tennessee make a variety of treats ranging from taffy to chocolate to caramels and brittles.

Pan in 1908. Brock and Ferrara Pan merged in 2012 before being bought by Wrigley.

Today, Tennessee is a leader in sugar and confectionary product manufacturing with companies like Mars, Standard Candy, and Hershey employing more than 2,500 residents. Tennessee is the top state in the Southeast and among the top 10 nationally for sugar and confectionary product manufacturing as well as for non-chocolate confectionary manufacturing.

Mars Inc., has a long history with Tennessee and particularly with the company's candy products. Company founder Franklin C. Mars retired to a farm in Pulaski named after the Milky Way candy bar. His son, Forrest Mars Sr., would develop beloved candies like M&Ms and the Mars Bar. Other Mars products include 3 Musketeers bars, Dove chocolates, and Twix as well as various treats made under their subsidiary Wrigley.

Two of Mars' most popular treats - M&Ms and Twix - are made at the company's factory in Cleveland, which Mayor Tom Rowland said

is a great source of local pride.

"We make 100 percent of all the Twix bars and 55 percent of all the M&Ms distributed worldwide in Cleveland," Rowland said. "Mars has been here more than 25 years, but they weren't always as big as they are now. They've grown considerably over that time. Anytime a Tennessee industry expands it sends a strong message that a community is a good place to do business."

Whenever he's out and about, Rowland said he tries to purchase a Mars product.

"If I'm in a hurry, I'll get some M&Ms, but if I have time to sit down and enjoy something I get a Twix," he said. "Everybody who lives close to the plant talks about the chocolate smell from the Twix bar cake being made. I always encourage people to buy a product made in their hometown and if not that, buy one that's made in Tennessee. It not only helps our state economy but it helps your friends and neighbors."

Rowland said Mars is also supportive of the local community.

"About two years ago they opened up a

pop-up store for the Christmas holidays in an old bank building," he said. "It was packed every day, and you could buy M&Ms by the pound. We would love for Mars to build a factory store or retail store downtown. Every Halloween, we have an event called Treat Street and Mars always sets up a tent where they give away their products. The line for that is always long and stays long for a long period of time."

Created in 1969, the Charms Blow Pop is the lollipop with a chocolate-covered gum center. Though the company was acquired by Tootsie Roll Industries in 1988, Charms has maintained a factory in Covington since 1973. Covington Mayor Justin Hanson said the blow pop remains a local and international favorite.

"Every blow pop you buy is made right here in Covington, and who doesn't like a blow pop?" he said. "It gives us brand recognition and literally puts Covington on the map, which is what we want. Every blow pop wrapper has 'made in Covington' on it. Whether you're in Asia, Europe, or Timbuktu, any time you have a blow pop you're eating a Covington product."

The success of Charms may have also influenced other sweet companies to locate to Covington.

"They have been in Covington for more than 40 years, and are a legacy industry here," Hanson said. "They are a part of the foundation for our strong industrial base. I like to refer to Covington as West Tennessee's Sweet Spot because of the sweet candy and Unilever, a new industry here that is the largest ice cream manufacturer in the world. We also have CSC Sugar, which takes sugar and liquefies it. They work with U.S. Cold Storage very closely to support Unilever. In Covington, we have sweet industry and sweet people as well."

By supporting products like the blow pop, Hudson said consumers get to support their fellow Tennesseans as well as indulge in a sweet treat.

"The Made in Tennessee initiative has brought awareness to so many people about what is made in the state," he said. "It's important to eat locally and to shop locally. There are wonderful products all over Tennessee that are made by Tennesseans."

For more information on where to find treats made in Tennessee, visit www.picktn-products.org.

Tracking Tennessee sweet treats: Candies made in the Volunteer State

Tennesseans with a sweet tooth don't have to look far to find a tasty treat. Here is a small selection of some famous and uniquely Tennessee candies and where they are made.

BRISTOL

Ratliff Peppermint Baskets

Founded in Bristol in 1952, the Ratliff family has been making these unique peppermint treats for three generations. Peppermint mugs and wintergreen flavors have since been added to the menu, but much of the process has remained the same for more than 65 years. Still largely hand-made, these unique creations have been featured by national retailers such as the QVC Network, Bloomingdale's, and Fannie Mae.

CHATTANOOGA

Wrigley's Crème Savers

Introduced in 1988, the Crème Saver is a fruit-flavored and creme-swirled candy perfect for anyone's sweetheart. The Chattanooga factory where these are made is owned by Mars and operated under its subsidiary Wrigley. The same factory also churns out its signature gum as well as confections like Life Savers, Sugus, and Altoids. The largest manufacturer of chewing gum in the world, Wrigley dates back to 1891 and acquired the Ferrara Candy Co. - which had recently merged with Brocks - in 2012.

CLEVELAND

Mars Food, Inc.'s M&Ms

Ranked as the favorite candy among Tennesseans in 2017, it may surprise some to learn that M&Ms are made at the Mars factory in Cleveland. In fact, Mars has a long history with the state. The residence of the company's founder, Milky Way Farms, is open for tours in Pulaski. The Cleveland factory and its M&Ms were once featured on the Food Network show "Kid in a Candy Store."

COVINGTON

Charm Blow Pops

These lollipops with a chocolate-covered bubble gum center are manufactured in Covington. Introduced in 1969 and considered the first bubble gum-filled lollipop in the world, this product has been coming out of West Tennessee since 1973. Blow pops were the best-selling product for the Charms Company. Charms was acquired by the Tootsie Roll Industries in 1988, but the blow pop still retains its signature name.

GATLINBURG

Ole Smoky Candy Kitchen's

Homemade Taffy Logs

Candy and the Great Smoky Mountains



go hand-in-hand, and nowhere is that more apparent than at Gatlinburg's Ole Smoky Candy Kitchen. This company has been turning out signature treats like taffy logs and fudge out of copper kettles and taffy machines since 1950, opening its flagship stop on the Parkway in 1952. For generations of tourists watching the candy be made is almost as fun as eating it.

KNOXVILLE

Knoxville Chocolate Company's Tennessee Walking Sticks

These crispy pretzel sticks are hand-dipped in caramel, rolled in fresh pecans, and smothered in milk or dark chocolate. That might be why the Knoxville Chocolate Company took home the 2014 Pick TN Products Silver Award. In operation since 1995, the company is now located in Market Square and makes products including chocolate-covered popcorn, candy bars shaped like Tennessee, and other Knoxville-inspired chocolates.

LYNCHBURG

Lynchburg Cake and Candy Company's Whiskey Praline Pecans

Tennessee whiskey is Lynchburg's signature product and local candymakers have incorporated it into a variety of creations. The Lynchburg Cake and Candy Company was founded in 2003 and began making whiskey cakes from a 135-year-old family recipe. Today the company has expanded to include praline pecans, jam cakes, and whiskey candies.

MEMPHIS

Dinstuhl's Fine Candy Company's

Chocolate Covered Strawberries

Founded in Memphis in 1902, Dinstuhl's is one of the oldest candy companies to con-

tinuously operate in Tennessee. Recipes have been passed down for generations including the company's famed chocolate covered strawberries and cashew crunch. Brittles, fudge, mints, chocolate bars, and even Elvis-themed chocolates have been added to the menu since. Ranked as the "Best Candy Store in the South," Dinstuhl's has turned out unique creations for events including Super Bowl XL, the Kentucky Derby, and NBA Finals.

Shotwell Candy Company's Hand-Crushed Espresso Caramels

The Shotwell Candy Company is known for its assortment of caramels and toffees. Handmade in Memphis, caramel varieties include hand-crushed espresso, original salted caramel, craft beer and pretzel, and bourbon and maple pecan in addition to seasonal flavors. Shotwell's Tennessee Toffee also comes in classic, espresso, and trail-mix varieties. The company is named in honor of the founder's great-grandfather, L. Shotwell George, who operated a general store in Kansas.

NASHVILLE

Nashville Chocolate & Nut Company's Signature Chocolate Guitar

Nothing says "Music City" like guitars made out of chocolate, which can be found in both acoustic and electric models from Nashville Chocolate & Nut Company. Chocolate Piano Keyboards are another signature product of this company that makes sweet treats like Music City Macaroons, Tennessee Honeycomb Candy, and caramel corn.

The Standard Candy Company's Goo Goo Cluster

A tried and true standby, the Goo Goo Cluster rose to fame due to the Standard Candy Company's sponsorship of the "Grand Ole Opry" radio program. The company was founded in 1901 but didn't begin making its signature treat until 1912. The Goo Goo is considered by some to be the first modern candy bar. A pilgrimage to the flagship store and dessert bar in downtown Nashville just as important as a trip to any country music landmark.

OLIVER SPRINGS

Country Fresh Food & Confections' Country Fresh Fudge

Since 1989, Country Fresh Food & Confections has been churning out fudge, candies and gourmet foods in Oliver Springs. Patrons can order gift baskets and buy in bulk online or visit their shop, Pamela Anne's, in Oliver Springs. In addition to chocolate, Country Fresh Fudge varieties include strawberry cheesecake, turtle pecan, chocolate walnut, vanilla, peanut butter, oranges 'n' cream, chocolate mint, cranberry walnut, tiger butter, and red velvet.

TULLAHOMA

Water's Edge Chocolates' Chocolate Covered Almond Toffees

Toffee, dipped in chocolate and covered with almonds, is just one of many tasty creations found at this Tullahoma start-up. Found in 2012, Water's Edge made the jump from a kitchen in Estill Springs to its first brick-and-mortar in 2016. The store sells a variety of specialty treats including chocolate caramel pretzel twists, chocolate caramallows, chocolate bars, caramel apples, and various chocolate-covered foods like popcorn, Oreos, Nutter Butter, and potato chips.