



THE BLUE PAGES

TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE

Tre Hargett

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From the Desk of the Secretary

With the tenth anniversary of the tragic and cowardly attacks of September 11, 2001 upon us, it is proper that we take time to reflect on what happened on that fateful day and in the years since. Hopefully this reflection will serve to redouble our resolve in support of our efforts to advance freedom in the world and fight the terrorists who threaten us.

As citizens of our great nation, we have several things upon which to reflect. First, we must never forget our emotions on that dreadful morning when thousands of innocent lives were ended in an effort to destroy us as a people and those values we treasure.

How can we forget the countless stories of selfless sacrifice that our police, firefighters and first responders made as the World Trade Towers burned and later collapsed? How many of our

fellow Americans experienced the loss of family members in New York City, at the Pentagon and near Shanksville, Pennsylvania where courageous men prevented the further loss of life by storming the cockpit of the remaining plane controlled by terrorists? Further still, how can we possibly forget the brave soldiers and their families who fought and continue to fight the War on Terror and those men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect us from those forces that seek to eliminate the way of life we enjoy here in the United States?

On that day, we realized the United States had an enemy that didn't value life. We were reminded that we still live in a world in which some people don't share our core values.

You will recall that in the hours and days

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following the malicious attacks, we entered our houses of worship or perhaps knelt in fervent prayer on our own to call upon the Almighty God for consolation, comfort and protection during our time of enormous national grief. As we struggled to explain to our children what had happened even while struggling to make sense of it ourselves, we knew we could not delay confronting our enemies.

Indeed, while reasonable people can disagree over how to confront the enemy and the methods used to protect ourselves from further attack, one thing is clear...the events of September 11, 2001 united us and steeled our resolve to protect what our country has come to exemplify. The United States remains the place, above all others, where

life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness will be honored and defended with the full measure of our strength and resolve.

How can we honor those whose lives have been lost on and since that day? We must demonstrate that while we may be cautious that we will not be fearful. We must not succumb to those who would seek to divide us - and we certainly must work to protect our American ideals for future generations.

May God bless you and your loved ones; I hope you will pause to remember those who have lost so much.



BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION NOW FILES CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES' FORMATION DOCUMENTS

The Office of the Secretary of State's Division of Business Services was recently chosen to handle filings for captive insurance companies. Now those who wish to form a captive insurance company will apply to the Department of Commerce and Insurance for a license and then file formation documents with Business Services.

A captive insurance company is a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation that provides all the services of an insurance agency to its parent company, customers and even suppliers. This is a popular choice for companies seeking a wider variety of insurance options and often provides more cost-effective coverage than traditional insurance agencies.

The Revised Tennessee Captive Insurance Act, also known as Public Chapter 468, was adopted by the General Assembly and signed by the governor this year, updating captive insurance statutes from 1978.

"The updates to captive insurance laws should be beneficial for corporations and

their employees," said Secretary Hargett. "We are proud that our Business Services Division was chosen to handle the formation filings and play an important role in this process."

The new law also allows captive insurance to cover workers' compensation for people who would otherwise be considered as self-insured. The changes took effect on September 1. 

"THE UPDATES TO CAPTIVE INSURANCE LAWS SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR CORPORATIONS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES," SAID SECRETARY HARGETT. "WE ARE PROUD THAT OUR BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION WAS CHOSEN TO HANDLE THE FORMATION FILINGS AND PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS PROCESS."

STATE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES TO DISPLAY ART FROM TENNESSEE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Claude Monet painted his legendary water lilies in dark reds while he had severely impaired eyesight. Although blind at the end of his life, his blurred impressions of nature made him one of the most famous artists of all time.

Students at the Tennessee School for the Blind have not let physical challenges keep them from creating visual arts, either.

As a prelude to “Art Beyond Sight Awareness Month” in October, the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) is exhibiting artwork created by students at the Tennessee School for the Blind. Art Beyond Sight is a national program that promotes art education for the blind and vision impaired.

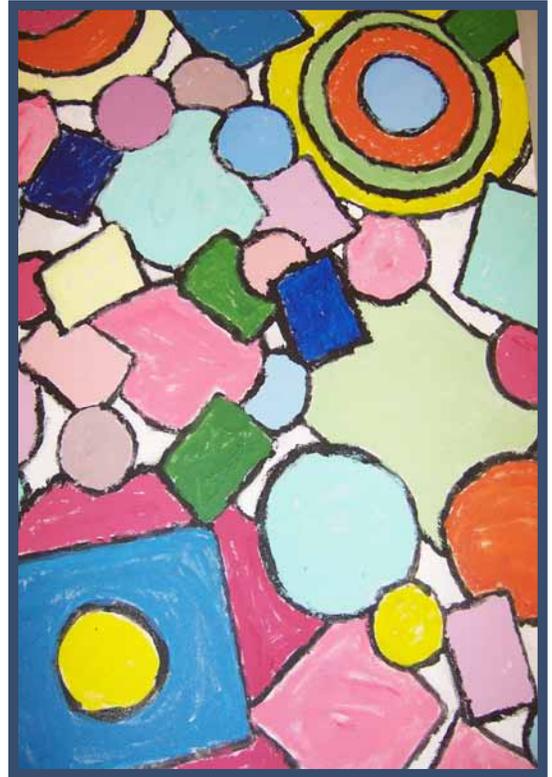
The free exhibit opened Sept. 6 in the lobby of TSLA’s building in downtown Nashville. The exhibit will remain on display until Sept. 30. The exhibit is accessible during TSLA’s normal business hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The TSLA building is located at 403 Seventh Avenue North in Nashville, next to the State Capitol. Parking is available around the building.

“We are happy to exhibit the artwork from the Tennessee School for the Blind for a second year,” Secretary Hargett said. “People who missed last year’s exhibit may not realize just how talented and creative these students are. I encourage as many people as possible to view this year’s exhibit and get a better understanding of what these young people are capable of doing.”

Items on display will include work in a variety of different artistic mediums, including paintings, sculpture and ceramics. The centerpiece of the display will be the school’s mascot: Dot, a paper

mâché tiger made from scraps of Braille paper. Dot is on permanent loan to TSLA and, unlike many art exhibits, is meant to be touched rather than merely observed.



The exhibit was organized with the assistance of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which is part of TSLA.

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides audio books, Braille books, large print books and other free library services to Tennesseans who are unable to read standard print due to visual or physical disabilities. More information about the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is available at: <http://tn.gov/tsla/lbph>. 

STATE FUNDING BOARD PROACTIVE IN DEFENDING TRIPLE-A CREDIT RATING

As the early August deadline approached for the U.S. Congress to authorize additional borrowing capacity, Tennessee was among five of 15 states rated triple-A by Moody’s Investors Services placed on notice of review for a possible downgrade due to what was described as “U.S. sovereign risk vulnerability.” In announcing the prospective downgrade, Moody’s identified what it considered to be areas of exposure relative to sovereign risk factors.

The State Funding Board, on which Secretary Hargett serves, quickly made plans to prevent the downgrade by making the state’s case directly to the rating analysts. This presentation was unprecedented and in advance of the State Funding Board’s annual presentation with the governor scheduled for September. State Funding Board members and other key officials used the opportunity to clarify data and pointed to unique and strategic advantages in Tennessee’s approach to fiscal management that they believe mitigate concerns over the state’s risk vulnerability.

“I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO ONCE AGAIN MAKING A SOLID CASE FOR TENNESSEE AS A STATE THAT IS STRONG, RESILIENT AND WORTHY OF OUR TRIPLE-A RATING,” SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.

Following the federal government’s increase of the debt limit, Moody’s confirmed Tennessee’s triple-A rating, but assigned the state and the four other states a “negative outlook.” The negative outlook status puts the state on notice that a 50 percent chance for a downgrade exists in the following three months while Moody’s takes time to further evaluate what action, if any, it will take.

The State Funding Board is currently finalizing its September presentation in which Secretary Hargett is scheduled to present on the state’s economy to credit rating analysts from Fitch, Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s.

“I am looking forward to once again making a solid case for Tennessee as a state that is strong, resilient and worthy of our triple-A rating,” Secretary Hargett said. “Tennessee continues to approach debt issuance in a conservative and disciplined manner. We are a low debt state that governs in a fiscally prudent fashion, and I’m looking forward to talking with the analysts once again about the good story we have to tell.” 

SECRETARY HARGETT SPEAKS TO LEADERSHIP GROUP

Secretary Hargett spoke last month at the Tennessee Government Executive Institute (TGEI) in Knoxville.

TGEI is a government leadership group that meets to share ideas and strategies. A select group of leaders participate in studies and discussion

on how to make Tennessee state government operate more effectively.

Secretary Hargett spoke about the importance of good customer service and efficiency in government. The August session included lessons on systems thinking, change and improvement. 

RULE MAKING HEARINGS AND LISTS OF RULES

Rule making hearings are open to the public. The web link below will provide information about the location and times of the hearings. Information about the rules going into effect includes changes or additions to rules.

To view the rule-making meeting notices online, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/RulemakingHearings.php?>

To view the rules scheduled to go into effect, go to: <http://tnsos.org/rules/PendingRules.php?>

If you have suggestions on how the online posting of the state's rules could be more "user-friendly," please contact Richard Arnold at 615-741-2650 or email him at: Richard.Arnold@tn.gov 

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