



# THE BLUE PAGES TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE Tre Hargett

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## MY HOLIDAY WISHES FOR TENNESSEANS

*From the  
Secretary's  
Desk*

With Thanksgiving not too far in our rearview mirror, the celebration of the birth of Christ quickly approaching and the New Year soon to follow,

the General Assembly will be convening in no time at all. Not long after they do, I'll mark my four-year anniversary as Tennessee's 37<sup>th</sup> Secretary of State. It is hard for me to believe that the time has passed so quickly.

Usually, my efforts during the holiday season are geared toward ensuring that Tennesseans are careful and educated givers of their charitable dollars. There are many organizations worthy of your charitable support. However, this year I also want to encourage

Tennesseans to look for opportunities in which we can give to others in ways that are even more meaningful.

I know that is easier said than done, but the holidays should be a time for us to think more about our blessings than our burdens. The holidays are a time for us to remember that many fellow Tennesseans and their families are making the sacrifice of serving in our armed forces and protecting the freedoms that we all enjoy in our everyday lives. Each of us should be mindful that for some of our neighbors, this time of year brings feelings of loneliness and loss. Every one of us has the capacity to share kindness and generosity with others. Whether it is a smile, a kind word, or just digging a little deeper into

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our reservoirs of patience to give others the same courtesy we would like extended to ourselves.

There are so many reasons that I love our great state. I treasure its natural beauty. I appreciate that, unlike the partisan gridlock that plagues Washington, D.C., Tennessee continues to be a place where ideas can trump politics. More than anything, though, I am grateful to live in a state where people still care about their neighbors, open their hearts to total strangers, and remember the true meaning of this holiday season.

It is a busy time for us in the Secretary of State's office as we prepare for the return of

the Tennessee General Assembly in January. However, I will try to practice what I have suggested and look for ways - big and small - to have a positive impact on the lives of others by sharing the hospitality and generosity for which Tennesseans are so well known. We never know exactly what moments we have been created for so let's always be prepared for the chance we have to share with others. I continue to pray that God may bless you, your family, and the great state of Tennessee. I remain humbled by the privilege to be your Secretary of State.



## ANOTHER HIDDEN TREASURE FROM THE STATE ARCHIVES

The Tennessee State Library and Archives contains all kinds of documents, including the final geographic survey of the Tennessee-Kentucky border performed in 1858 and 1859 by Benjamin Peeples, a Tennessean, and Austin P. Cox, a Kentuckian. The document was part of a report to the Boundary Line Commissioners of Kentucky and Tennessee.

For 385 days, a Kentucky corps and a Tennessee corps including engineers, surveyors and woodsmen labored to run and re-mark the boundary between Kentucky and Tennessee with a more permanent dividing line. The past method of chopping blaze marks on trees was deemed unsatisfactory with the increased clearing of the land. Sixty-three stone posts engraved with "Ky." and "Tenn.," the stone number, and the distance in miles from the starting point at the east bank of the Mississippi River were placed five miles apart along the 321 ½ mile border. The report describes the work done by the members of the two corps:

"They have cut their way through heavy canebrakes for miles; they have waded through mud, mire, swamps, ponds, and lakes . . . they

have groped their way through brambles and thickets, and over miles of sharp, flinty stone, that tore their apparel to pieces in a very short time; they have clambered over hills and mountains, from a few hundred to near two thousand feet high, and they have scaled and mounted over cliffs, to the manifest danger of life and limb, whose tops reached above the lower clouds."

The report, which took several weeks to complete, is accompanied by the required mapping, as well as astronomical observations made with a Zenith telescope from places such as Camp Watson, Cypress Creek, Lineport, Black Jack, and Cumberland Gap. On the featured image, map sections of the Kentucky-Tennessee boundary where the survey work began are visible in detail and notations of "No. \_\_\_" along the border line represent the stone number and its placement. No alteration has ever been made to the boundary set by this survey. 

The document can be viewed at:  
[http://www.tn.gov/tsla/tslatreasures/BoundariesOfTN\\_p7and\\_p15\\_web.jpg](http://www.tn.gov/tsla/tslatreasures/BoundariesOfTN_p7and_p15_web.jpg)

## THE LITTLE LIBRARY WITH A BIG HEART

It started with a grant from the Secretary of State's office to the Irving Meek Jr. Public Library in Adamsville to pay for some new computer equipment. Yet thanks to the generosity and can-do spirit of the community's residents, it turned into something much more elaborate.

Last year, the Secretary's office provided the library with a \$14,000 grant to pay for a computer room with seven laptops – all with Windows 7 software, a charge hub for the laptops, a projector, a computer with special handicap features and an instructor to teach computer classes.

Inspired by that project, people living in the community began contributing other improvements to the library as well.

Billy Holmes, a local merchant who repairs cars, spiffed up the library's after-hours drop box.

"He picked it up one day, cleaned it up, and returned it to us, dent-free and with a fresh coat of paint," said Marsha Jernigan Hutcherson, the library's director.

When termite problems were discovered, city employees made needed repairs to save on labor costs.

Additional updates included cosmetic changes like painting of the interior, wallpapering the entryway, gingerbread trim around the windows, plantation shutters on a main window and painting of the sign outside the library.

"We also cleaned out a storage closet to provide a private meeting space for library staff and the public to use," Hutcherson said. "Before, we really had no private meeting space or anywhere we could even do a conference call. Now we have a wonderful space for that."

The library has also added comforts for those who walk and sit in the library, with the addition of new area rugs, couches and benches.

Several people in the community also donated artwork to enhance the library's appearance.

"With this renovation, we have had an outpouring of community involvement," Hutcherson said. "From [repairing] termite damage, to painting, to roofing, this has been a real community effort. It's hard to put a tangible percentage or amount on the time and money donated by the community."



*MARSHA JERNIGAN HUTCHERSON, LIBRARY DIRECTOR*

Hutcherson said the improvements were long overdue.

"It has been 25 years since this library was renovated," Hutcherson said. "We are honored that we received this grant and so delighted that everyone in the community joined in to make it something special."

Secretary Hargett said he's pleased that the seed money provided for the computer equipment became a catalyst for a comprehensive renovation project.

"I applaud the people of Adamsville for rallying to support their library," Secretary Hargett said. "Libraries are much more than places where people can check out books. They are, in many cases, focal points that help bring communities together. The people of Adamsville

have made an investment that will pay dividends for many years to come.”

Hutcherson agreed with Secretary Hargett’s view about the library’s role in the community.

“The library has become the heart of the community once again,” Hutcherson said. “It’s turned into a hub where people gather. It’s become an information center, a tutoring center, a place for homeschooling, a place to hold conferences. It’s just been wonderful what a hot spot it has become.”

Adamsville Mayor David Leckner also praised the Irving Meek Jr. Public Library’s transformation.

“The library provides services to so many children and people and we’re excited about the work that was done there,” Leckner said. “We love our library. It’s been a unique treasure in our town. It’s wonderful to have it here, at our fingertips and appreciate the things that have been done at the library for us. I thank everyone for that.” 🌟

## MEET JUDE WHITFIELD

Sara and David Whitfield knew they wanted to grow their family a couple of years ago, but they were uncertain about whether to have a third biological child or get their first adopted child. After much thought and prayer, they decided international adoption from Ethiopia was what they were called to do.



THE WHITFIELD FAMILY

“I’m the type of person who, when told something needs to be done, I’ll work really hard to make it happen,” Sara said of the adoption process. “In adoption, there are so many things you can’t control and I thought, ‘I’ll do what I can to push it along, the part I can control.’”

The Franklin couple was matched last year with a little boy they named Jude. They were delighted when they received photos of him via e-mail.

“I loved seeing the face of who was going to be my child, loved what he was going to do to our family and bring to our family,” Sara said. “It’s kind of like pregnancy when you find out the gender. The journey isn’t over, but it’s an exciting milestone.”

Ethiopia is a ‘two-trip’ country for international adoptions. On the first trip, families have court dates in which they must be declared fit and legally eligible to adopt. Families then must travel back a second time to bring their adopted children back to the United States.

There were several different events that delayed the Whitfields’ first trip to Ethiopia.

“We were supposed to go in May of 2011, but with things constantly changing with the Ethiopian government, we didn’t have our court date until July 27, 2011,” Sara said. “On July 27, though, [Jude] was legally declared ours and his last name [became] Whitfield. It was a really great day after a very hard month.”

Sara and David also got to meet Jude on their first trip and spent the majority of their time in the country with him.

“Through those months and staring at those pictures, you form this bond with this child you’ve never met,” Sara said. “Getting to pick

him up was a holy moment. It was amazing and something I'll treasure forever. We bathed him and took care of him. We were really able to form an attachment during that time."



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: TAYLOR, JUDE, AND CALLIE

The Whitfields returned to the United States with hopes of making their second visit to bring Jude home soon. However, complications arose again in November 2011.

"I left on the 8th with a one-way ticket," Sara said. "The U.S. Embassy wouldn't clear Jude [to travel] and I said, 'I will come home on the plane when he comes home on the plane.'"

After two weeks of waiting, they were finally able to return to the United States with Jude.

"We came home to a jam-packed airport," Sara said. "We had traveled with another family who had a really hard time so we both had really great support systems with people rallying for us for months and months and it was just a wonderful moment to celebrate this child you've

been talking about forever who is now here, with you."

Jude has adjusted well to his new American lifestyle.

"We had many troubles getting him home and being home has been the easy part in our journey," Sara said. "He is a joyful child and a loving child and he transfers his love to us and he loves us and values us and we him. Yes, there are hurdles, but nothing compared to what we had been through to get him here with us."

He gets along just fine with his older sisters, too.

"They eat him to pieces," Sara said. "The first thing they do every morning is run to find him and squeeze him until he screams. Their love for him is huge."

International adoptions in Tennessee require an apostille or authentication by the Tennessee Secretary of State's office. For more information on document authentication, call (615) 741-0536 or go to [http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/apostilles.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm).

"Adopting a child, whether domestically or internationally, requires a major commitment and I'm proud that Tennesseans are willing to make that kind of commitment," Secretary Hargett said. "I am proud that my office plays a small role in helping Tennesseans welcome children from around the world into their families." 🌟



## INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

Some people may have the impression that the only thing state employees do is push paper around. This story is an example of how state employees positively impact Tennessean's lives and the lives of children worldwide. International adoptions require an apostille or authentication, depending on the nation of origin, by the secretary of state in the state where the documents were signed. This certification of the signatures' validity on the documents is much like the notary publics would be on the local level. Apostilles/authentications are processed in the Secretary of State Division of Business Services. About 20,000 apostilles and authentications were processed last year.

Documents may be submitted by mail or in person.

For more information, contact: Division of Business Services, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Snodgrass Tower, 6th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243, 615.741.0536, [business.services@tn.gov](mailto:business.services@tn.gov), or visit [www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/apostilles.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm)

## TENNESSEE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PROMOTES HOLIDAY-RELATED BUSINESSES

Tennessee has many homegrown businesses that produce goods all year round, but some of them remind us of the holidays more than others. This month's *Tennessee Business Spotlight* theme is: Tennessee, Home for the Holidays! This month's featured businesses smoke hams, grow produce and cultivate Christmas trees all around the state. They include one launched in the last year and another that has been in business for 65 years.

The companies showcased this month are:

- **Benton's Smoky Mountain Country Hams** in Madisonville
- **Doe Run Farm** in Petersburg
- **Falcon Ridge Farm** in Toone
- **Roan Valley Tree Farm** in Johnson City
- **Tripp Country Ham** in Brownsville
- **West Wind Farms** in Deer Lodge
- **Wildwood Christmas Tree Farm** in Woodbury

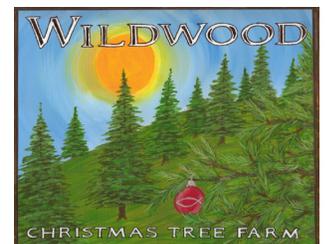


*Tennessee Business Spotlight* is a feature on the Secretary of State's web site that showcases some of the state's businesses that create jobs, produce quality products and give back to their local communities. People visiting the *Tennessee Business Spotlight* web page can learn about the selected companies' goods and services, operations, employment figures, photos and links to web and social media sites that provide more information.

"The holidays are a great time to remember that we have wonderful products and services provided to us locally by hardworking Tennesseans," Secretary Hargett said. "I am thankful for these businesses and the benefits they provide to our communities - especially around the holiday season."

To visit *Tennessee Business Spotlight*, go to [www.spotlight.tnsos.net](http://www.spotlight.tnsos.net).

To nominate a company to be recognized in *Tennessee Business Spotlight*, please visit the web page and click the "Submit a Business" link or call (615) 741-3382. 



## FILING FEE FOR WORKERS' COMP EXEMPTION REDUCED NEXT YEAR

The cost of filing an exemption to avoid carrying workers' compensation insurance will be half of what it has been, thanks to action taken by the Tennessee General Assembly.

In 2010, the General Assembly gave the Secretary of State's office the responsibility to establish and administer the Workers' Compensation Exemption Registry, which allows corporate officers and owners in the construction services industry to exempt themselves from the requirement of carrying workers' compensation insurance.

The registry is administered by the Secretary of State's Division of Business Services. The law initially set the application filing fees at \$200 for applicants who do not have active contractors licenses issued by the State Board for Licensing Contractors and \$100 for applicants who do have active contractors licenses. Exemptions last for two years and can be renewed.

The General Assembly later decided to lower the filing fees for workers' compensation exemption applications and renewals, effective January 1, 2013. The new registration and renewal fees will be \$100 for applicants who do not have active contractors licenses and \$50 for applicants who do.

The Division of Business Services will have revised forms available online, beginning January 1, 2013. In addition, the online filing tool (<http://tnbear.tn.gov/WC/ExemptionRegInstr.aspx>) will be adjusted accordingly to reflect the lower fee structure.

More information is available online at <http://tnbear.tn.gov/WC/ExemptionRegInstr.aspx>.

If you have questions, please e-mail [WorkersComp.ExemptionRegistry@tn.gov](mailto:WorkersComp.ExemptionRegistry@tn.gov) or call (615) 741-0526. 🇺🇸

## CHARITABLE GIVING TIPS



The holidays are a time for sharing – with friends, family members, and even strangers who are in need. Many of you will reach into your wallets, purses, or closets this holiday season to give money or goods to charitable organizations. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when you are thinking about making a donation:

- Do your research, ask questions and become acquainted with a charity's mission and financial practices. Avoid being pressured into making an on-the-

spot decision about donating money or goods.

- Do not give credit card information over the phone to an unknown person - even if that person is asking for donations to a familiar charity.
- Be skeptical about what you see and make sure that donation bins or clothing bins are actually owned by the charities identified on the bins.
- “Cause-related” purchases make it possible to buy gifts and make charitable donations

at the same time, but be sure to find out how much of what you donate will go to the charity as opposed to a fundraising organization or the company marketing the products.

- Make donations by check, made out to the organization as opposed to an individual, whenever possible. This provides you with a tax record of the transaction and offers some protection against unscrupulous solicitors. Avoid donating cash.
- Except for those exempted by law, most organizations that raise money for charitable causes in Tennessee are required to register with our Division of Charitable

Solicitations and Gaming. Information on properly registered charities can be found at <http://www.tn.gov/sos/charity/co-info.htm>.

- If you are suspicious of a group or individual's fundraising practices, contact the Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming at (615) 741-2555.

There are a lot of great charities and charitable promotions that are worthy of the support Tennesseans can afford to give them with time, money, and other means of donations. Like any other spending decision though, an informed choice is always the best choice. 🇺🇸

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*



CHRISTMAS TREE AT STATE CAPITOL

# OFFICE CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS



In celebration of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Office of the Secretary of State will be closed Monday, December 24, and Tuesday, December 25, and again Monday, December 31, and Tuesday, January 1.

The Tennessee State Library and Archives, which is usually open on Saturdays, will be

closed on Saturday, December 22, and Saturday, December 29.

TSLA will also be closed Monday, December 24, Tuesday, December 25, Monday, December 31, and Tuesday, January 1.

If you have business with the office or any of its divisions, please plan accordingly. 

## RULEMAKING HEARINGS AND LISTS OF RULES

Rulemaking 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 rulemaking 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 Cody York at 615-741-2650 or email him at: [Cody.York@tn.gov](mailto:Cody.York@tn.gov) 

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