

THE BLUE PAGES...



Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

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From the Desk of the Secretary...

With the county primary elections now complete and flood recovery now well underway, the election year is on schedule again. Despite a two-week delay in the Davidson County primary and some polling places that had to be relocated in Williamson County as a result of the flooding, elections were carried out across the state last month without major problems. I am pleased with the work the Division of Elections did to ensure the voters were accommodated and the Davidson County elections were held at a more appropriate time.

Investigators with the Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming have also been busy on the

lookout for bogus charities. This month's issue includes a story about one fraudulent operation that was recently assessed with more than \$600,000 worth of civil penalties.

With the start of summer, we are also entering an active time for public libraries throughout our state. I am pleased that our staff members at the Tennessee State Library and Archives provide support and assistance to the people who run those libraries. In this edition of *The Blue Pages*, you will have an opportunity to read about TSLA's role in training community librarians through the Public Library Management Institute.

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Even though school is out for the summer, school district officials still have some work to do if they would like to take advantage of low-interest loans available through the state's Qualified School Construction Bond program. This month's issue explains more about that program and the role that I and the other members of the Tennessee State School Bond Authority play in making those loans available.

These are just a few of the highlights of what we are doing at the Office of the Secretary of State. I invite you to visit our web site at www.tn.gov/sos. Please feel free to contact me at Tre.Hargett@tn.gov if you have questions about our operations. Enjoy this issue of *The Blue Pages* and try to stay cool out there!

TENNESSEE STATE SCHOOL BOND AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE \$126.7 MILLION IN LOANS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION PROJECTS STATEWIDE

Communities across Tennessee will have an opportunity to apply for low-interest loans for school construction and renovation projects through the state's Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) program.

The Tennessee State School Bond Authority (TSSBA) is empowered to issue approximately \$212.4 million of QSCBs during calendar year 2010. A portion of the allocation, \$85.7 million, has been directly allocated by the federal government for loans to support projects in the Knox County School System, Memphis City Schools and Metro Nashville Public Schools.

The remaining allocation of \$126.7 million is available for other communities throughout the state. The TSSBA expects to make loans ranging from \$2 million to \$20 million for projects that qualify for funding.

Proceeds from the QSCBs can only be used for

new construction and rehabilitation or repair of public school facilities; land acquisition for qualified school construction projects; or equipment used in connection with qualified projects.

Local school systems must jointly apply with



Daniel Tangherlini, the U.S. Treasury Department's Assistant Secretary for Management, and Secretary Hargett (first and second from the left, respectively) joined by Sen. Doug Overbey, Rep. Joe McCord, Rep. Bob Ramsey and local officials last February to break ground on the Coulter Grove Intermediate School in Maryville. The long-awaited project was funded with a \$18,720,000 loan from the first round of Qualified School Construction Bonds awarded by the Tennessee State School Bond Authority.

their city or county governments in order to participate in the program.

The application deadline is June 16, 2010 at 4:30

p.m. The TSSBA is scheduled to consider approval of the loan requests on July 7, 2010 with the QSCB sale tentatively scheduled for the week of Sept. 13, 2010.

Questions about the program should be directed to Mary-Margaret Collier, director of the state Comptroller’s Office of State and Local Finance, at (615) 747-5370 or by e-mail at mary.margaret.collier@tn.gov.

“I am pleased that we are able to make additional loan funds available this year through the QSCB program,” said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson, who serves as secretary of the TSSBA. “This program makes low-cost financing available to support worthy school improvement projects throughout our state.”

“In these challenging economic times, our local governments can use these low-interest loans as a tool to move forward with projects they might otherwise find difficult to finance,” added Treasurer David H. Lillard Jr., who also serves on the TSSBA.

“In the last year, I have visited a number of the communities that have received loans through the QSCB program – and I can tell you those loans are making a substantial difference in those communities,” said Secretary Hargett, another TSSBA member.

Last year, the TSSBA provided \$177 million of QSCB loans to 13 local governments across the state. Those loans must be repaid at a rate of 1.515 percent over the next 17 years.

FRAUDULENT CHARITY ORDERED TO PAY MORE THAN \$600,000 IN CIVIL PENALTIES

“This type of activity is particularly reprehensible because it takes advantage of the good will of other people,” Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. “There are so many Tennesseans who want to help their neighbors – and there are many worthy causes available to those who want to help.”

The Secretary of State’s office has ordered a Millington man to pay \$622,000 in civil penalties after an investigation found that he had misled donors to believe that contributions obtained from them would be used for charitable purposes when, in fact, they were not.

Todd Kelley, director of the office’s Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming, informed Kenny King of the penalties by letter last month. King had been raising money under the names of the Tennessee Drug Education Association and the Shelby County Drug Education Agency.

The investigation found 622 instances in which

King or his associates had solicited money to support what they claimed were charitable purposes. However, the investigation found no evidence any of the money raised went to charitable causes – which resulted in civil penalties of \$1,000 levied against King for each instance.

“This type of activity is particularly reprehensible because it takes advantage of the goodwill of other people,” Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. “There are so many Tennesseans who want to help their neighbors – and there are many worthy causes available to those who want to help. I would encourage people to make wise decisions about donat-

ing money to charity. One way they can do that is to check our web site for information about charitable organizations that are registered to solicit contributions in our state. I also would encourage people who believe charities may be engaging in misleading or fraudulent activities to contact our office.”

Information about registered charitable organizations is available at: www.state.tn.us/sos/charity

To report suspicious activities by a charitable organization, call (615) 741-2555.

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS ASSISTS FLOOD-PLAGUED COUNTIES

As the floodwaters began rising in parts of Tennessee early last month, election officials across the state faced a tough decision: Whether to forge ahead with plans to hold county primaries on May 4 or postpone them until the waters had receded.

The Division of Elections, which is part of the Secretary of State’s office, played a key role in advising those counties about how to proceed. Secretary Hargett, Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins, other key staff members and representatives from the Attorney General’s office began planning for the flood’s impact on those elections while the rains were still falling May 2.

The Davidson County Election Commission ultimately decided to postpone its election for two weeks in order to give residents of the hard-hit Nashville area time to recover from the flooding. That decision was made in part because many parts of the metro area were inaccessible due to high water.

With the assistance of Coordinator Goins, his staff, the state Attorney General’s office and the metro Nashville legal department, Davidson Coun-

ty officials successfully petitioned Chancellor Russell Perkins to grant the delay.

“It was not an easy decision to postpone an election – nor should it ever be,” Secretary Hargett said.



Flooding at Belle Meade City Hall was so severe that the building was still not available for use as a polling place when the Davidson County primary elections were held two weeks later.

“Elections are one of the cornerstones of our democracy. However, in this case, Davidson County officials felt there were many people who would not be able to make it to the polls because they were cut off by floodwaters and others who were so overwhelmed dealing with property damage associated with the flooding that they would be unable to take time to vote.”

The Davidson County primary was held May 18, with three polling places relocated due to flood-re-

lated issues but no major problems reported.

Elsewhere around the state, the May 4 elections also went smoothly. Williamson County had to relocate two of its polling places due to flood-related issues, but otherwise the disruptions were minimal.

“As Coordinator of Elections, I hope I am never faced with a situation like that again,” Coordinator Goins said. “I commend the election officials across the state who worked so hard to see that the elections were run smoothly.”

TENNESSEE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPROVES LOAN FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR METRO NASHVILLE

The Tennessee Local Development Authority (TLDA) approved a loan last month that Metro Nashville officials plan to use to improve water quality in the Cumberland River.

The TLDA granted an \$18 million loan that will be used to address sewage overflow issues at Metro Nashville’s Washington CSO regulator on North First Street in East Nashville.

The loan will finance new pipes and other improvements designed to reduce the amount of untreated sewage that can seep into the river during

“I am pleased that the TLDA is able to provide a loan for this project,” said Secretary Hargett, who serves on the TLDA. “The improvements to the Nashville sewage collection system should help handle future storms and improve water quality in the Cumberland River.”

“This project has been in the planning stages for five or six years, so it is good to see that it will be moving forward,” said Treasurer David H. Lillard Jr., another TLDA member.

“The Clean Water State Revolving Fund makes

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“The improvements to the Nashville sewage collection system should help handle future storms and improve water quality in the Cumberland River.”*

heavy rains. The project is needed to meet Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

Money for the loan is coming from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which is used to provide low-interest rate loans to Tennessee communities that are eligible to make improvements to water and sewage treatment infrastructure pursuant to the program requirements. Metro Nashville will repay the loan at a 1.74 percent interest rate over the next 20 years.

good use of available state and federal funds for projects like this,” said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson, another TLDA member.

In addition to Hargett, Lillard and Wilson, the other members of the TLDA are: Governor Phil Bredesen, Finance and Administration Commissioner Dave Goetz, former Union City manager Don Thornton and Houston Naron Jr., chairman of the Williamson County Board of Commissioners.

SECRETARY HARGETT PRESENTS TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIRECTOR ANN TOPLOVICH WITH MEDALLION AWARD

Secretary Hargett recently presented Ann Toplovich, executive director of the Tennessee Historical Society, with a National Association of Secretaries of State Medallion Award for her “vital support of Tennessee History Day.”

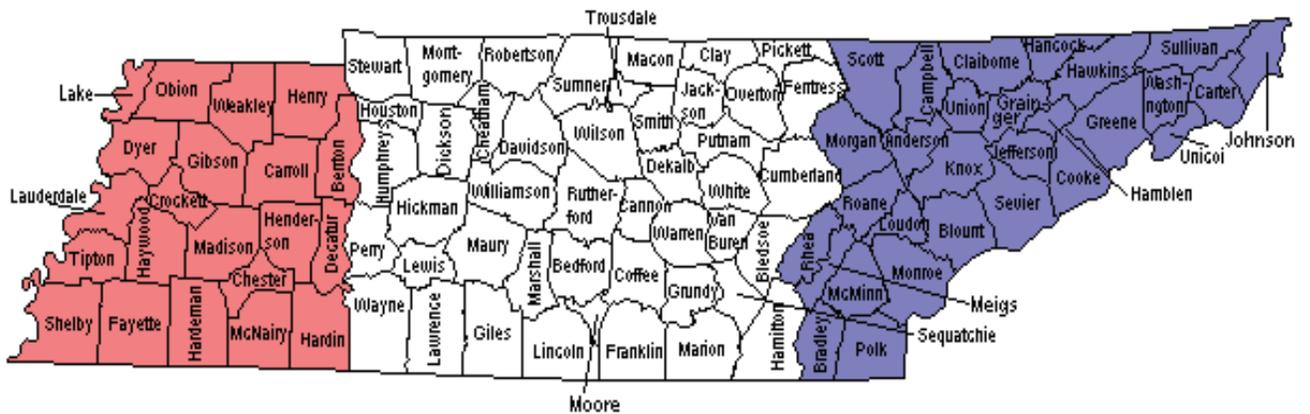
Tennessee History Day is an annual event in which students from across the state prepare history-themed projects that are judged in competition. The top finishers in the state earn the right to compete in National History Day, which is being held in College Park, Maryland June 13-17. Secretary Hargett surprised Ms. Toplovich with the Medallion Award during the Tennessee Historical Society’s May board meeting. Medallion Awards are presented by secretaries of state across the country to individuals or groups who have helped to promote civic education, govern-

ment service and voter education and participation.

“I think Ann Toplovich is richly deserving of this award based on the work she and her organization have done on behalf of the Tennessee History Day,” Secretary Hargett said. “I am also proud that my office was a title sponsor of Tennessee History Day this year. I believe students who develop a knowledge and appreciation of history at a young age are more likely to be well-informed and engaged citizens after they reach adulthood.”

“Although I am delighted to receive the award, there are many others who deserve the credit.” said Ann Toplovich, executive director of the Tennessee Historical Society

Ms. Toplovich said: “Although I am delighted to receive the award, there are many others who deserve the credit.” Ms. Toplovich recognized Kelly Wilkerson, the program’s state coordinator, as being particularly instrumental in the program’s success.



COUNTIES IN TENNESSEE

STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES SPONSORS TRAINING FOR DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS OF SMALL- TO MEDIUM-SIZED LIBRARIES

Eighteen library directors and managers from across Tennessee began their training through the Public Library Management Institute last month.

The Public Library Management Institute is sponsored by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, which is a division within the Secretary of State's office.

"I am glad we are able to offer this type of training as a service to librarians throughout our state," Secretary Hargett said. "It is one of many ways that the Tennessee State Library and Archives is assisting our public libraries."

The Public Library Management Institute offers a three-year course that is designed to give administrators who don't have extensive educational backgrounds in library management training that can help them to more effectively run their local libraries.



Participants in one of the Public Library Management Institute seminars at Fall Creek Falls State Park last month.

"The course is designed to give these talented people skills to be leaders in their libraries and their communities," said State Librarian and Archivist Charles Sherrill.

The training began May 24 with a weeklong session held at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Librarians spent the week learning about management issues in small libraries, customer service tips, public speaking skills and other topics of interest.

In addition to the weeklong spring training sessions, participants will participate in continuing education programs throughout the next three years.



Jane Pinkston (right), assistant state librarian for planning and development, assists a participant at the Public Library Management Institute's week long training session at Fall Creek Falls State Park last month.

State Bird

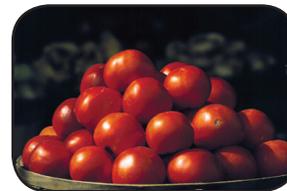
According to the *Nashville Banner* of April 16, 1933, the mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*, was selected on April 11, 1933, as state bird of Tennessee in an election conducted by the Tennessee Ornithological Society. The choice was confirmed by Senate Joint Resolution 51 adopted by the General Assembly in 1933.

The mockingbird is akin to the brown thrasher and the catbird. It is ashen gray above, with darker, white-edged wings and whitish underparts; its length, inclusive of the long tail, is about 10 inches. One of the finest singers among North American birds, it possesses a melodious song of its own, and is especially noted for its skill in mimicking the songs of other birds.



State Fruit

The tomato, scientifically known as the *Lycopersicon lycopersicum*, was designated as Tennessee's official state fruit by Chapter 154 of the Public Acts of 2003.



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