From the Desk of the Secretary...

The first two weeks of May have been a difficult time for so many Tennesseans as a result of the flooding that ravaged so many parts of Tennessee. I would be remiss not to acknowledge the valiant efforts of so many in our department as we endured the difficulties surrounding the local flooding. I was encouraged that our employees willingly accepted additional work responsibilities in the absence of co-workers impacted by the floods. Also, let me thank those employees who volunteered their time and talents to fellow Tennesseans in their time of need. Please join me in keeping those affected in your thoughts and prayers as they go through the recovery process over the weeks and months ahead.

As the 106th General Assembly approaches the final days of the 2010 legislative session, the state economy continues to be the dominant issue. Lawmakers are working tirelessly to close a $150 million revenue shortfall. It is a difficult task and I have focused much of my effort and the energy of a number of Department of State staff members toward ensuring the final budget reflects the priorities of Tennessee taxpayers.

Legislators are making difficult decisions - and I have every confidence they are up to the challenge. If we are cautious in our approach to the necessary cuts required to balance the budget today, I believe we will be positioned to become a more efficient and effective state government. While the budget process is difficult, the process can ultimately prove to be beneficial for the future of Tennessee.
SECRETARY HARGETT URGES CAUTION WHEN GIVING FOR FLOOD RELIEF

In the wake of the flooding that has hit Tennessee counties, Secretary of State Tre Hargett is urging people to watch out for scam artists who may try to solicit money for bogus charities.

"When a disaster like this strikes, it is natural that people want to help their neighbors as much as possible," Secretary Hargett said. "Unfortunately, these types of tragedies also create opportunities for unscrupulous people who want to take advantage of that spirit of generosity."

Secretary Hargett suggests that people follow some basic rules before making donations to flood relief efforts:

Ask a lot of questions. Legitimate charities shouldn’t mind providing their addresses, telephone numbers, web site addresses or other contact information. They should also be able to provide clear explanations for how donated money would be used. It should be a red flag if a person soliciting money offers only vague information about how contributions would be spent. It is also helpful to know if the person asking for money actually works for the charity or a professional fundraising organization. Often professional fundraisers keep large portions of the donations they collect.

Avoid pressure to make contributions “on the spot” or over the telephone. Unsolicited requests for donations should always be treated with caution. Making payments or giving out personal information over the telephone increases vulnerability to scam artists. Legitimate charities should not object if people want time to think over their decisions about making donations.

Do some research. Except for exempted groups, most charitable organizations raising money in Tennessee are required to register with the Office of the Secretary of State’s Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming. By visiting the division’s web page - http://www.state.tn.us/sos/charity - prospective donors can find out if a group is properly registered or covered by an exemption. Financial reports for registered groups can be reviewed online. Organizations that are required to be registered but are not should be reported to the division. Prospective donors can call the division at (615) 741-2555 with questions. Information about various charitable groups may also be found at other places online. Also, bear in mind that fraudulent charities often use names that are similar to legitimate organizations.

Pay by check. Checks are preferable to cash payments, for security and tax purposes. Checks should be made out to the charity, not the person collecting donations. Donors should only make payments by credit card with highly-trusted organizations.

Report suspicious activity. The Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming has authority to investigate and impose civil penalties against individuals or groups who engage in false, misleading or fraudulent fundraising practices. Suspicious activity may be reported to the division at (615) 741-2555 or to local law enforcement authorities.

"I encourage people who can afford to give and want to give money to assist flood victims," Secretary Hargett said. "That said, it is important for would-be contributors to make wise decisions so their hard-earned money ends up helping people who really need it instead of enriching people who are callously trying to take advantage of an unfortunate situation."
Davy Crockett’s Marriage License Back in Rightful Place

He is known as “King of the Wild Frontier” – a frontiersman, soldier and politician who, according to legend, could wade the Mississippi River, leap the Ohio River or ride a streak of lightning.

Yet early in his life, Davy Crockett was also a jilted lover. He obtained a marriage license to wed Margaret Elder, who broke his heart by marrying someone else instead. Although the marriage never happened, the marriage license remained on file at the Jefferson County Courthouse until it was lost decades ago.

Now, thanks to the hard work and persistence of officials in Jefferson County and the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville, the document has been safely returned to the Jefferson County Clerk’s vault.

“I am glad this important historical document has been returned to its rightful place in the public domain,” said Secretary of State Tre Hargett, who oversees the State Library and Archives. “I am very pleased that my staff played a role in making that happen.”

Margaret Smith, a Tampa resident, claimed that her family obtained the document long ago, when Jefferson County court officials were discarding old records. Smith maintained that her uncle had saved the license from certain destruction.

The license was featured on the Antiques Roadshow television program in 2005, where appraisers estimated its value between $25,000 and $50,000.

However valuable the document may be to collectors, Assistant State Archivist Wayne Moore said it remains public property under state law.

Moore said that according to Tennessee Code Annotated 39-16-504 - the state’s “Replevin” law - public records cannot be bought or sold.

“Tennessee has a Replevin law that allows for the restoration of public documents to public control,” Moore said. “Lost or stolen public records should not and cannot be owned by private individuals.”

Lura Hinchey, Jefferson County’s archivist, was unsuccessful in her efforts to convince Smith to turn over the document when Smith visited the county archives in 1999.

Moore said the State Library and Archives staff tries to advise and assist Tennessee counties that encounter problems with lost or stolen records.

Secretary Hargett Receives Outstanding Young Alumnus Recognition from University of Memphis

The University of Memphis Alumni Association recognized Secretary of State Tre Hargett as the college’s 2010 Outstanding Young Alumnus during an awards ceremony April 23 at the Teton Trek exhibit area at the Memphis Zoo.

Since 1988, the alumni association has presented the award to alumni age 40 or younger who have made significant contributions to society in their personal or professional lives.

Secretary Hargett is the 22nd recipient of the honor. Past honorees include David Kustoff, former U.S. attorney for West Tennessee; Gary Shorb, president and CEO of Methodist Healthcare Corp.; Larry Cox, president and CEO of Memphis International Airport; State Election Commissioner Greg Duckett; former National Basketball Association player Elliot Perry and National Football League player Isaac Bruce.

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With the state and national economic picture for the next 18 months still muddled, the Tennessee State Funding Board is expecting only modest growth in the state’s revenues during the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, the Funding Board expects the revenue growth rates to be negative, ranging between -1.77 percent and -1.29 percent for total tax revenues and between -2.31 percent to -1.78 percent for the state's general fund, the primary funding source for state government’s general operations.

For the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2010, the Funding Board is projecting a slight improvement in total tax revenues with a positive growth rate ranging between 1.73 percent and 1.98 percent. The Funding Board also anticipates a positive growth rate for the general fund between 2.05 percent and 2.30 percent.

Even with these positive growth rates for 2010-2011 fiscal year, tax revenue collections still will be less than they were for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 for total tax revenue and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 for the general fund because the growth will be from a lower revenue base. The state may not return to the 2007 and 2008 revenue collection amounts until the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The Funding Board’s revenue estimates are based on the assumption that the General Assembly will not make any changes to its current tax structure.

In a letter to Governor Phil Bredesen; Senator Randy McNally, chairman of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee; and Representative Craig Fitzhugh, chairman of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee, the Funding Board members noted the difficulty of predicting the timetable for the state’s recovery from the nation’s worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

The Funding Board held a series of meetings March 19 through March 25 to hear from economists, some of whom provided specific revenue estimates and others who commented generally on the outlook for state and national economic conditions. After those hearings, the Funding Board publicly discussed the revenue situation at meetings March 25 and March 29 before reaching consensus on its estimates.

While there was general agreement among the economists who made presentations to the Funding Board that the state’s financial situation will improve, there were several complicating factors.

For instance, improvement in the state’s unemployment rate and housing start figures, which historically indicates an economic upturn, is not expected to occur very quickly.

Also, the economists said the loss of federal stimulus funds and the expiration of the Bush Administration tax cuts at the end of 2010 could have a negative impact on the state’s revenue outlook in the 2011 calendar year. The economists also agreed that states with no state income tax are faring better than states with a state income tax.

In the letter, the Funding Board also provided estimates on revenues expected for the state lottery through the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The mid-range estimate for lottery revenues is expected to increase very slightly from $267,050,000 in the current fiscal year to $269,950,000 in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Meanwhile, funding needed to cover scholarships and grants supported by the lottery is ex-
The tulip poplar was designated as the official state tree of Tennessee by Public Chapter 204 of the Acts of the 1947 General Assembly. The act stated that, as no state tree had ever before been designated, the adoption of an official tree seemed appropriate. The tulip poplar was chosen “because it grows from one end of the state to the other” and “was extensively used by the pioneers of the state to construct houses, barns, and other necessary farm buildings.”

The following description of the tulip poplar, the botanical name of which is Liriodendron Tulipifera, is taken from The Complete Guide to North American Trees: “Perhaps the most stately tree of our range, it sometimes reaches a height of 200 feet with a stem as regular as though turned on a lathe and frequently showing 50 to 100 feet of trunk without a branch. The twigs are smooth, brownish gray, becoming cracked into a regular network of shallow, firm ridges; an old trunk broken into deep, rough ridges. Its leaves are very smooth and shining with a broad notch at the tip, usually four-lobed, 2 to 8 inches long. Its flowers are tulip-like, green orange, 1 to 3 inches deep. The fruit is cone-like hanging on through the year, and is 2 to 3 inches long.”

Davy Crockett’s Marriage License Back in Rightful Place

Moore has become a national authority on the subject of Replevin laws, acting as chairman of a national task force for the Council of State Archivists, which is dedicated to stopping the trafficking of government records.

After a lengthy legal battle, Davy Crockett’s marriage license was returned to Jefferson County after the Circuit Court there ruled the document legally belonged to the county.

“I didn’t think it would take thirteen years,” Hinchey said of the battle to return the document to its proper home.

Replevin cases in Tennessee do not always involve famous figures in Tennessee history. Moore said the case of Davy Crockett’s marriage license was unusual not only because it involved a famous person.

“It is rare for a county to go after its records – it takes a lot of effort and persistence,” Moore said. “Jefferson County officials and the county archivists, Mr. and Mrs. (James and Lura) Hinchey, deserve a lot of credit for bringing this piece of Tennessee history home to Dandridge.”

Months of research and hard work paid off April 17 for the 100 students and two teachers who won awards at the Tennessee History Day competition.

The winners are eligible to represent Tennessee at the National History Day competition, which will be held in College Park, Maryland June 13-17. The first- and second-place finishers automatically qualify for the nationals. Third-place finishers are eligible to attend if the first- or second-place finishers in their categories can’t attend.

Tennessee History Day, which was held at the Legislative Plaza, the Tennessee State Museum and the Nashville Public Library, attracted more than 200 students from across the state. The participants were all award winners from district competitions held in Memphis, Murfreesboro, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

The competition was coordinated by the Tennessee Historical Society with sponsorship provided by Humanities Tennessee and the Tennessee Department of State. Additional support is provided by The Memorial Foundation, National History Day, the History Channel and the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation.

“Congratulations to all of our winners and their fellow competitors,” Secretary of State Tre Hargett said. “I know Tennesseans will join me in applauding their accomplishments and cheering the winners to even greater success in the National History Day contest.”

In the competition, students in grades six through 12 presented history-themed projects in a variety of formats – including museum-style exhibits, research papers, web sites, documentaries and even live performances. This year’s theme was Innovation in History: Impact and Change. Students were asked to examine how different innovations have shaped the course of history.

The judges – who included university professors, graduate students, high school teachers, archivists and other public historians – picked the winners from the 118 projects submitted.

Nationwide, more than half a million students participated in some level of History Day competition this year, including about 6,000 from Tennessee.

Since 1974, National History Day has grown from a Cleveland, Ohio competition with about 100 students to a national academic program that engages 2 million people annually.

For more information about the History Day program in Tennessee, including details about the state competition, visit or contact Kelly Wilkerson at 615-210-3360 or by email at historyday@tennesseehistory.org
Complete List of Winners

**Patricia A. Bering Tennessee History Day Teacher of the Year** in the Junior Division: Ms. Rebecca Byrd of New Center Elementary in Sevierville.

**Patricia A. Bering Tennessee History Day Teacher of the Year** in the Senior Division: Ms. Carrie Pfeiffer of Lebanon High School.

**Special Awards for Best Projects in Military History Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars**

In the Junior Division, the award went to Robert Marshall and Bennett Lapides of Pi Beta Phi School in Gatlinburg for their project on “Bounty Land Warrants: The Making of America.” **Teacher:** Suzanne Terrell

In the Senior Division, the award went to Josh Dodd and Ethan Holden of Watertown High School for their project on “Tanks: A Revolution in Warfare.” **Teacher:** Barbara Marks

**Special Awards for Best Projects in Women’s History Sponsored by the Tennessee Historical Society**

In the Junior Division, the award went to Abby Huber of Greenway School in Knoxville for her project on “The Montessori Method: An Innovation in Education.” **Teacher:** Liz Shugart.

In the Senior Division, the award went to Blair Toedte and Tasha Saunders of West High School in Knoxville for their project on “The Montessori: An Innovation in Education.” **Teacher:** Candace Greer.

**Special Awards for Best Projects in African American History Sponsored by the Tennessee Historical Society**

In the Junior Division, the award went to Logan Craig and Ashleanne Zachary of First Baptist Academy in Knoxville for their project on “Songs of Freedom.” **Teacher:** Darrell Vandergriff.

In the Senior Division, the award went to Brandon Holt and Cindy Ma of Martin Luther King Magnet-Pearl High School in Nashville for their project on “The Nashville Sit-Ins: An Innovation in Non-Violent Demonstrations.” **Teacher:** Fred Artibee.

**Special Awards for Best Projects in Tennessee History Sponsored by the Tennessee Historical Society**

In the Junior Division, the award went to Emma Grace Thompson, a home schooled student from Coker Creek, for her project on “Innovation Ends Isolation: The Effect of the Telephone on a Small Appalachian Community.” **Teacher:** Sharron Thompson.

In the Senior Division, the award went to Brandon Holt and Cindy Ma of Martin Luther King Magnet-Pearl High School in Nashville for their project on “The Nashville Sit-Ins: An Innovation in Non-Violent Demonstrations.” **Teacher:** Fred Artibee.
The Society of Tennessee Archivists Awards for Archival Research

In the Junior Division, the award went to Elisa Vandergriff, a home schooled student from Oak Ridge, for her project on “Written: Sequoyah’s Invention of the Cherokee Syllabary.” **Teacher:** Katie Vandergriff.

In the Senior Division, the award went to Rita Pfeiffer of Hume-Fogg Academic School in Nashville for her project on “The Radio.” **Teacher:** Allison Halbrook.

**The Sequoyah Award for the best project accurately portraying the American Indian in History.**

The award went to Maranda Vandergriff & Lydia Taylor, home schooled students from Oak Ridge, for their project on “Talking Leaves: Innovation of the Written Language.” **Teacher’s:** Katie Vandergriff & Lisa Taylor.

**Junior Individual Exhibit**

1st place to Dillan Edwards of Mountain View Elementary in Etowah for his project on “The Jungle.” **Teacher:** Kimberly Powers.

2nd place to Tyler Hounshell of New Center Elementary in Sevierville for his project on “Proving the Past: The Impact of Radiocarbon Dating.” **Teacher:** Rebecca Byrd.

3rd place to Kayle Kearns of Fred J. Page Middle School in Franklin for her project on “The Radio: A Godlike Presence.” **Teacher:** Stephanie Gilbert.

**Junior Group Exhibit**

1st place to Caroline Rader & McKynlea Cable of New Center Elementary in Sevierville for her project on “Fight for the Right: The Impact of the 19th Amendment.” **Teacher:** Rebecca Byrd.

2nd place to Stetson Spain, Patrick Perry, Jesse Holt, and Justin Yates of Jo Byrns Middle School in Cedar Hill for their project on “From the Farmhand to the Farm Machine: Cotton Picking Machine.” **Teacher:** Eric Hagan.

3rd place to Laura-Katherine Feamster, Julia Navin, Victoria Schweer, and Heather Newlin of Hillsboro Elementary/Middle School in Franklin for their project on “Photography: Truth in Images.” **Teacher:** Toni Peterson.

**Junior Individual Documentary**

1st place to Emma Grace Thompson, a home schooled student from Coker Creek, for her project on “Innovation Ends Isolation: The Effect of the Telephone on a Small Appalachian Community.” **Teacher:** Sharron Thompson.

2nd place to Miriam Ryburne of Greenway School in Knoxville for her project on “Peace Through Children: CISV, An Innovation with Global Impact.” **Teacher:** Liz Shugart.
3rd place to Natalie Prodanovich of St. George’s Independent in Collierville for her project on “Evergreen Hand.” **Teacher:** Traci Erlandson.

### Junior Group Documentary

1st place to Sophia Henderson, Graham Hardison, Brandon Babbitt, and Riley Clem of Episcopal School of Knoxville for their project on “Women in the Workforce: How World War II Changed American Women Forever.” **Teacher:** Ellen Petree.

2nd place to Anne Batcheller and Alexa Ewan of Episcopal School of Knoxville for their project on “The Creation of Labor Laws After the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire.” **Teacher:** Ellen Petree.

3rd place to Emily Conner and Lindsay Garner of Concord Christian School in Knoxville for their project on “The Atomic Bomb: The Secret Behind the City.” **Teacher:** Tammy Lightholder.

### Junior Individual Performance

1st place to Kiyoko Reidy of Greenway School in Knoxville for her project on “All That Jazz: An American Innovation with an Impact on Music and Culture.” **Teacher:** Liz Shugart.

2nd place to Emma McLeod of Greenway School in Knoxville for her project on “Puppet Uprisings: Impact of Innovative Theater.” **Teacher:** Liz Shugart.

### Junior Group Performance

1st place to Ashleanne Zachary and Logan Craig of First Baptist Academy in Knoxville for their project on “Songs of Freedom.” **Teacher:** Darrell Vandergriff.

2nd place to Micki Werner, Makenzie Thomas, Claire Ballentine of Pi Beta Phi in Gatlinburg for their project on “Smallpox Vaccine.” **Teacher’s:** Beverly Daugherty & Suzanne Terrell.

3rd place to Lauren Craig, Josh Davidson, Laura Reed, and Ashley Barnes of Dekalb Middle School in Smithville for their project on “Advancements in Telecommunication.” **Teacher:** Tonya Sullivan.

### Junior Website, Individual and Group Combined

1st place to Tristan Hightower of Concord Christian School in Knoxville for his project on “The Atomic Bomb Disseminates America’s Position: United States Poised for Victory.” **Teacher:** Tammy Lightholder.

2nd place to Logan Garrett of Vonore Middle School for his project on “Code Talkers: The Code that Could Not Be Cracked.” **Teacher:** Justin Woody.

3rd place to Robert Marshall and Bennett Lapides of Pi Beta Phi Elementary for his project on “Bounty Land Warrants: The Making of America.” **Teacher:** Suzanne Terrell.

### Junior Individual Paper

2nd place to Abby Huber of Greenway School in Knoxville for her project on “The Montessori Method: An Innovation in Education.” Teacher: Liz Shugart.

3rd place to Elisa Vandergriff, a home schooled student from Oak Ridge, for her project on “Written: Sequoyah’s Invention of the Cherokee Syllabary.” Teacher: Katie Vandergriff.

Senior Individual Exhibit

1st place to Caitlyn Sundkamp of Walden Home School in Signal Mountain for her project on “A Matter of Time: John Harrison’s Sea Clocks.” Teacher: Linda Neuhoff.

2nd place to Jeremy Meister of First Assembly Christian School in Cordova for his project on “It came Like a Flash of Lightning - The Innovation of Nikola Tesla.” Teacher: Scott Johnson.

3rd place to Matt Hensley of Chuckey Doak High School in Afton for his project on “Cyrus McCormick: Invented Genius.” Teacher: Kimberly Francis.

Senior Group Exhibit

1st place to Sarah Stokely, Jessi Reed, and Katie Caughron of Cocke County High School in Newport for their project on “The Cotton Gin.” Teacher: Clay Blazer.

2nd place to Celeste McAlpin-Levitt, Rebekah Rhea, Katie Smith, and Madeline Stinnett of West High School in Knoxville for their project on “Still Standing: Leg Braces and AFO’s.” Teacher: Candace Greer.


Senior Individual Documentary

1st place to Hannah Clevenger of Gatlinburg-Pittman High School for her project on “Foxfire: Preserving the Past, Changing the Future.” Teacher: Rebecca Byrd.

2nd place to Caroline Rhodes of Lebanon High School for her project on “The Polio Vaccine: More than a Syringe.” Teacher: Carrie Pfeiffer.

3rd place to Vivian Hughbanks, a homeschool student from Signal Mountain, for her project on “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: The Ideas that Changed the World.” Teacher: Sue Hughbanks.

Senior Group Documentary

1st place to Maranda Vandergriff & Lydia Taylor, home schooled students from Oak Ridge, for their project on “Talking Leaves: Innovation of the Written Language.” Teacher’s: Katie Vandergriff & Lisa Taylor.
2nd place to Brandon Holt & Cindy Ma of Martin Luther King Magnet- Pearl High School in Nashville for their project on “The Nashville Sit-Ins: An Innovation in Non-Violent Demonstrations.” Teacher: Fred Artibee.

3rd place to Blair Toedte and Tasha Saunders of West High School in Knoxville for their project on “The Montessori Method: An Innovation in Education.” Teacher: Candace Greer.

Senior Website, Individual and Group Combined

1st place to Robert Hernandez & Gary Moats of Polk County High School in Benton for their project on “Lights, Camera, Action: The Impact of Television on Society.” Teacher: Dewey Esquinance.

2nd place to Jason Van der Merwe, a homeschool student from Knoxville, for his project on “The Proximity Fuze: A Killer Innovation Which Saved Lives.” Teacher: Meryl Van der Merwe.

3rd place to Alex Livesay and Rachael Bakowicz of St. Agnes Academy for their project on “Frank Lloyd Wright: Innovations in Architecture.” Teacher: Christina Lesh.

Senior Individual Paper

1st place to Thalia Spinrad of University School of Nashville for her project on “Scientology in the 1950s & 1960s: The Creation of the First Perpetually Changing Religious Doctrine.” Teacher: Pat Miletich.

2nd place to Savannah Lockwood of West High School in Knoxville for her project on “The Electric Chair: Sparks of Controversy.” Teacher: Candace Greer.

3rd place to Jacob Schiftan of University School of Nashville for his project on “Surgery & Anesthesia: Innovation in Medicine from 1800 through the American Civil War.” Teacher: Pat Miletich.

Senior Individual Performance

1st place to Michelle Woodruff of McMinn Central High School in Etowah for her project on “Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement.” Teacher: Teri Blair.

2nd place to Brandie McConkey of Sequoyah High School in Madisonville for her project on “AC/DC: The Story of Tesla.” Teacher: Lance McConkey.

3rd place to Laura-Kate Gonyea of West Harpeth Christian Tutorial in Franklin for her project on “Sally Thomas.” Teacher: Sharon Wilharm.

Senior Group Performance

1st place to Jazmine Houston, Amber Toles, Tierra Collier, and Aliyah Price of Ridgeway High School in Memphis for their project on “The Cotton Gin & Enslaved Workers.” Teacher: Nancy Parrish.

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