

# Teamwork



## NEWS

September 2005

A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Above is a rendering of the new building that will house the TDLWD. **Drawing courtesy Southeast Venture**

## TDLWD looks forward to new home

By this time two years from now, 850 employees of the TDLWD in Nashville will be happily relocated in their brand new, four-story, 236,284-square-foot building in Nashville's MetroCenter.

"Our new central office will be a great place to work, and I am especially excited to have the opportunity of bringing the majority of our Nashville employees and all the divisions of our department together in the same building," said Commissioner Neeley. "As I look toward the future and my vision of the department, the new central office will be another important step in enabling us to improve our

operations and better serve the citizens of Tennessee."

The new building will be situated on 17 acres at the corner of French Landing Drive and Vantage Way in MetroCenter. In addition to having more than 1,000 on-site parking spaces, the building will

See page 6 for  
aerial view

have new furniture, equipment, and workspaces; a large grill and cafeteria area; the Employment Security Credit Union; state-of-the-

*(Continued on page 6)*



Ken Cunningham

## Cunningham named administrator for new division

Commissioner Neeley recently announced that Ken Cunningham will serve as Administrator for the newly developed Labor and Workforce Development Technology Division. The Technology Division merges the Employment Security Information Technology division in Davy Crockett Tower and the Information Systems Management division in Andrew Johnson Tower.

Cunningham has been in state government since 2002 and joined our department in 2004. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University and

*(Continued on page 5)*

## TDLWD helps hurricane Katrina survivors

Career Centers statewide opened their doors and hearts this month to Katrina survivors from neighboring states to the south, forced to evacuate in the hurricane's aftermath. As of September 23, 2005, the TDLWD had taken 1,911 Louisiana interstate claims for unemployment benefits and 236 Mississippi claims. Job Service had registered 535 Katrina applicants for work and posted 50 job openings specified for Katrina evacuees.

In east Tennessee, TDLWD and WIA staff worked together to provide information and assistance to the TEMA Mobile Disaster Assistance unit and evacuees. The unit was in Gray, Tennessee, on September 23, when approximately 70 evacuees visited the resource table and were provided information regarding Unemployment Insurance, Job Service, and Training services, as well as advice on available workshops, computer training, and other services provided through the Career Center system. Among staff on-site from various locations were **District Manager Teresa Broome**, **Tommy Noe** (Morristown), **Jack Greene** (Greeneville), and **Ross Sams** (Johnson City), all TDLWD; and **David Shanks**, **Marquita Tittle**, and **Cindy Martin-Hensley**, representing WIA.

From Memphis, **District Manager Bobbie McGee** reports that staff estimate they were able to refer to jobs about 80 percent of the roughly 360 job seekers who registered for work at the Disaster Assistance Center during the period of September 19 – 24; almost 1,200 people sought services at the

Center during that time. Among staff who assisted with the Center's activities were **Michael Edwards** (Poplar), **Eddie Scott** (Poplar), **Betty Winrow** (Poplar), **John Bledsoe** (Raleigh), **Tommy Davis** (Mendenhall), and veterans' representatives, who rotate among the three offices – **Danny Shields** (Poplar), **Edward Matthews** (Raleigh), and **Wayne McMichael** (Mendenhall).

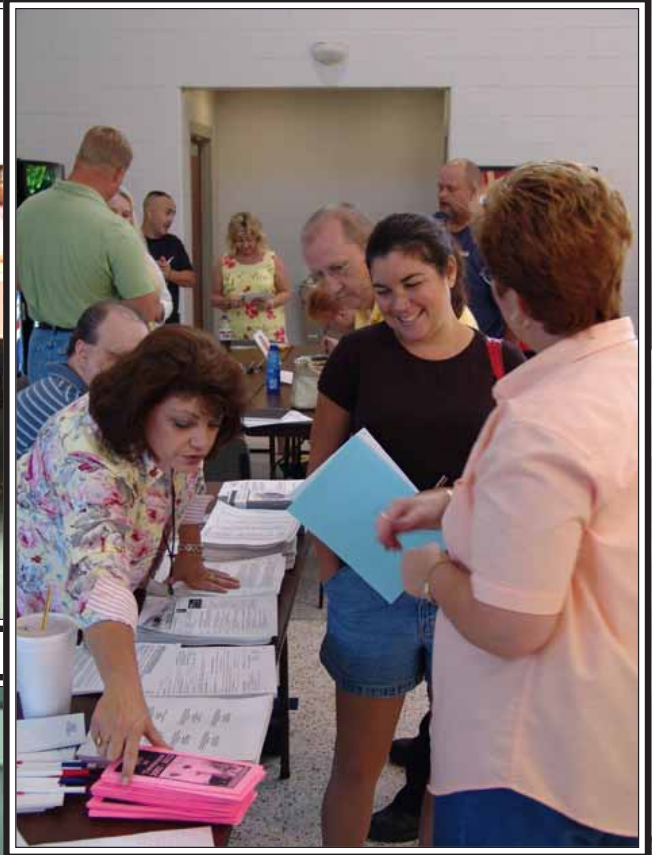
TDLWD employees worked two different Fridays as part of an IAWP-sponsored group who volunteered for a Feed the Children project in Nashville. On September 9, the group packed 560 boxes of food –  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a truck load; taking part that day were **Adam Augustine**, **Freida Begarly**, **Derrick Boswell**, **Linda Davis**, **Jean**



**Harrington**, **Nelson Hunter**, **Greg Jones**, **Teresa Malone**, **Mattie Miller**, **Edwina Reeder**, **John Tucker**, and **Frances Turner**. The following Friday, some of the same TDLWD staff joined a team from Caterpillar and together packed enough boxes to fill more than two truckloads of supplies. Hats off to volunteers **Adam Augustine**, **Freida Begarly**, **Linda Brooks**, **Rebecca Brooks**, **Christy Chapman**, **Jacqueline Cook**, **Linda Davis**, **Deanna DeBerry**, **Mark Fisher**, **Jean Harrington**, **Mark Herron**, **Claudia Hill**, **Nelson Hunter**, **Greg Jones**, **Mattie Miller**, **Robin Moore**, **Mack Slayden**, **Jamie Stanley**, **Tyrone Sullivan**, **Abby Tidwell**, **Martha Wettemann**, **Clay Whitmire**, and **Linda Williams**.



*Pictured at the Nashville Feed the Children project for Katrina survivors are TDLWD employees (back row, from left) Jamie Stanley, Mattie Miller, Abby Tidwell, Freida Begarly, Adam Augustine, Linda Davis, and Jean Harrington; (front) Mark Herron and Deanna DeBerry.*



Clockwise, from top left corner: Bobbie McGee assists mother and daughter evacuees at the Memphis Disaster Assistance Center; TDLWD at work at TEMA Disaster Information Center in Johnson City; crowd at Middle TN Career Center job fair for Katrina evacuees; Lee Ketner talking about our services to a survivor at the Career Center set up inside the Franklin shelter



*Pictured at the Older Workers' Week open house at the Middle Tennessee Career Center are (from left) Paul Haynes, Christine Bradley, Mischelaina Hatchett, Tanya Roberts, Commissioner Neeley, Paulette Osborne, Susan Cowden, and Terry Hiers.*

## Older Workers visit TDLWD offices

“Older Worker Week” open houses at Career Centers across the state attracted several hundred employees this year and more than 40 employers. The events highlighted the new Boomer Careers Web site to assist older workers with employment information.



*Biddie Roby, termed a valuable part of the team at the WTCC in Jackson, is one of the older workers honored during the week.*



*At the Paris open house are (from left) Joyce Watts, Beverly Owens, Jane McInnish, Joyce Walker, and Betty Gallimore.*



*In Johnson City are (from left) Johnnie Smith, Jackie Sensabaugh, and Helen Huffman.*

## Older Workers celebration (Cont.)



At the Columbia Career Center are (from left) Rick Molder, older worker award recipients Imogene Harris and Ewell B. Harris, TDLWD's Paulette Osborne, and Gloria Anthony, South Central Tennessee Workforce Board.



Partners who took part in the open house at the Southeast TN Career Center at Chattanooga are (back row, from left) Andrea Witt, Jan Cheek, and Deborah Hester; (front) Cindi Crutchfield, Brenda Jenkins, and Bill Brakebill.

## Cunningham (Cont.)

postgraduate studies from David Lipscomb University. Prior to coming to state government he served such positions as Vice President and Director of Phillips Oil & Gas and Director and President of Crown Enterprises, Inc., both his privately owned businesses.

“Although I’ve only been on the TDLWD team for just over a year, I truly feel as though I’ve been a member of this family for several years,” said Cunningham. “The excellence and accessibility of our agency leadership is impressive. It is an incredible honor to be placed in an Administrator position in service to the combined IT staff as they look at the information systems’ challenges facing our agency.”

Tyrone Sullivan and Bob Ingram will continue in their current assignments as directors and report to the administrator. Cunningham will report to Deputy Commissioner Bob Henningsen.

### Teamwork News



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**Phil Bredesen**  
Governor

**James G. Neeley**  
Commissioner

**Milissa Reierson**  
Communications Director

**Martha Deacon**  
Publications Editor



*Aerial view of new TDLWD building. Drawing courtesy of Southeast Venture*

## *New building (Cont.)*

art technology; two break rooms on each floor; a focus on employee security; and numerous conference rooms of various sizes spread throughout the building.

The plans have been approved by the State Building Commission, and a request for proposal has been

awarded to Southeast Venture, LLC, for the design and construction.

“At a later date we will have plans to share with everyone,” said Commissioner Neeley, “including the specific units that will be on each floor.”

Workers’ Compensation Benefit Review and the Claims Center will stay in their present locations at MetroCenter.

## **Bill Toombs honored by YWCA**

Pictured at right is **Bill Toombs**, assistant director in the Division of Adult Education, who was recently awarded the Nell McKeerley Partner Award by the YWCA’s Job Readiness and Career Development Department (JRCD). This annual award is presented to an individual who has exhibited untiring commitment to help further the work of the JRCD and, by extension, foster the success of the participants. Judy Greenwood, education coordinator for the YW, presents the award.

