



THE BLUE PAGES TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE Tre Hargett

Our mission is to exceed the expectations of our customers, the taxpayers, by operating at the highest levels of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and accountability in a customer-centered environment.

From the Secretary's Desk

NOTE: The 107th General Assembly completed its work this month, the earliest the legislative body has adjourned this century. Secretary Hargett invited Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and House Speaker Beth Harwell to summarize the highlights of this extremely productive legislative session.

A SHORT BUT PRODUCTIVE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

By Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and Speaker Beth Harwell

We are proud to report that the 107th General Assembly has concluded its business. Republicans gave the people of Tennessee what they asked for: more jobs, less spending and smaller government.

We are extremely proud of what our state legislature has been able to accomplish working with a cooperative administration in such a short time.

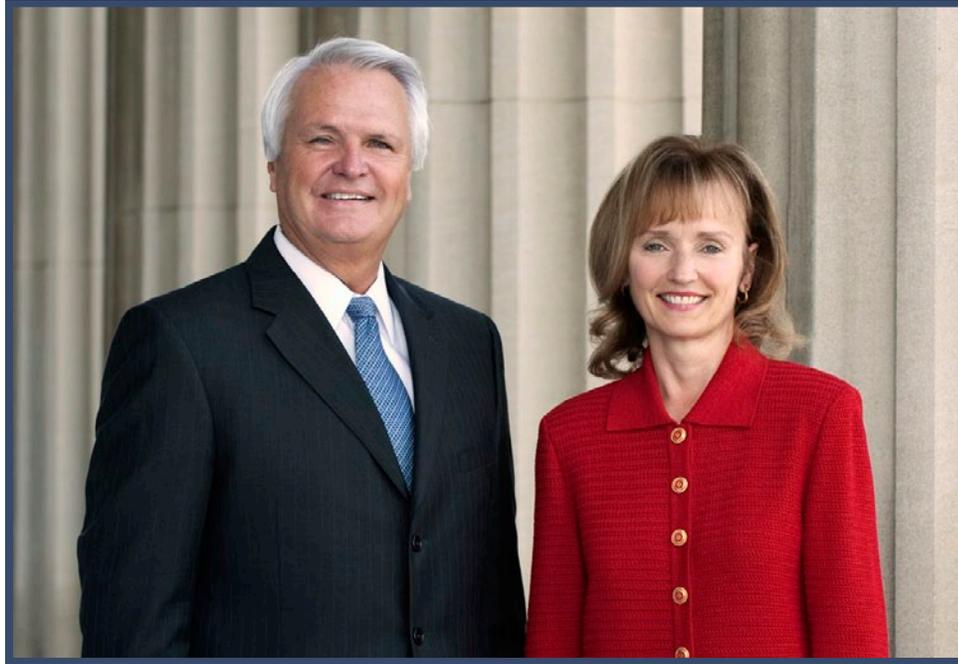
We put conservative principles into action by instituting landmark education reform, tax cuts and smaller government.

We also heeded the call of voters to make government smaller, more efficient and consumer friendly.

This General Assembly worked very diligently and efficiently to get their work done on time, adjourning

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earlier than at any point in the last 14 years - an achievement that saves considerable taxpayer dollars

This year the state of Tennessee is budgeted to spend \$31.1 billion - nearly \$1 billion less than our current operating budget.

Not only did we shrink government, we returned money to the taxpayers in the form of tax cuts. We gave every Tennessean tax relief by reducing the food tax. We also set a course for the ultimate elimination of the death tax - a tax that punishes small farmers and businessmen seeking to provide for the next generation.

Coupled with the elimination of the gift tax, Tennessee cut taxes by more than \$50 million in this budget resulting in the release of capital and the creation of jobs.

One of our most significant legislative achievements this session was the passage of Gov. Haslam's TEAM Act. A revolutionary step in state government, the TEAM Act will help us attract, retain and promote the best applicants and employees in state government. Excellence will

now be rewarded when it is achieved - just as in the private sector.

This year also marked the passage of major unemployment insurance reform which strengthens

the definition of employee misconduct to ensure that those who have been fired for cause no longer receive benefits. The reform also enacts new work search

requirements for unemployment beneficiaries encouraging the use of existing state infrastructure to help return the unemployed to the job market. This measure will be a boon not only for job creators but job seekers as well.

We passed tough crime bills attacking domestic violence, criminal gangs and drugs. We passed legislation banning chemical compounds used in illegal synthetic drugs, no matter how criminal chemists continue to modify them. Our new measure will keep law ahead of the drug pushers.

We appreciate the support of all Tennesseans as we in the legislature continue to work hard to make Tennessee the best state in the nation in which to live, work and raise a family.

Not only did we shrink government, we returned money to the taxpayers in the form of tax cuts.

TENNESSEE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PROMOTES SOME OF THE STATE'S OUTDOOR ADVENTURE COMPANIES

As the weather warms up, many Tennesseans are planning a summer full of fun in the sun. That's why the theme of this month's Tennessee Business Spotlight is "Tennessee Outdoor Adventures."

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 companies highlighted in May are:

- Cumberland Transit of Nashville
- Nashville Shores Waterpark Resort of Nashville
- Quest Expeditions Inc. of Ocoee
- Tennessee Safari Park of Alamo
- Tennessee Watercraft Inc./Yamaha of Vonore

"The businesses we are featuring in Tennessee Business Spotlight this month offer products or

services that help Tennesseans and those families visiting our state to enjoy the summer months," Secretary Hargett said. "I thank those companies for the work they do and the jobs that they provide. At the Department of State, we are glad to provide a free forum for people to learn more about these companies."



To visit Tennessee Business Spotlight, go to 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) 532-5605. 🌐

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EMPLOYEES FIND OPPORTUNITIES FOR TAXPAYER SAVINGS

"If you worry about the pennies, the dollars will look after themselves."

It's an often-used expression, particularly for businesses operating in the private sector. However, a group of employees in the Department of State's fiscal office recognize that the quotation has applications to government as well.

That's why they recently adjusted their system of processing invoices in a way that will save taxpayers small amounts of money that will add up over time.

Ingram Library Services, a private vendor that sends the department hundreds of invoices each year for books and other materials, offers a 1 percent discount for each invoice paid within 10 days of the beginning of the month following the month the invoice was issued.

However, the state's computer system wasn't set up so that employees processing the invoices were able to take advantage of the discount on every transaction. They alerted representatives from the Department of Finance & Administration,

who devised a way to process the invoices so that the discounts could be received on all transactions while holding money for payment in the bank, drawing interest for the state, for as long as possible.

Rose Case, director of the Department of State's fiscal office, estimated the savings at \$6,000 per year.

"In the overall scheme of the department's budget, \$6,000 may seem like a small amount," Secretary Hargett said. "However, I challenge our employees to always be looking for ways large and small to save taxpayers money. I commend Barbara DeHarde, Denise Zellers and Kathy Beshires on our

staff for identifying this method for saving money during the routine course of doing business. I also thank Finance & Administration Commissioner Mark Emkes and his staff for devising a method for making the invoice processing procedures more efficient."

"We believe in using the knowledge, experience, and expertise of the people on the so-called 'front lines' of government to find ways to be more efficient and effective," Commissioner Emkes said. "In order to maximize the effectiveness of our technology, we need to make sure we improve our processes before we automate them." 

BUSINESS CERTIFICATES OF EXISTENCE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Third party organizations such as financial institutions often need verification that a business is legitimately formed and in good standing with state government, and now attaining that documentation is just a few mouse clicks away. A certificate of existence signed by the Tennessee Secretary of State is the instrument used by those companies when qualifying to do business in other states or countries, when securing financing from lending institutions or when entering into business agreements.

Historically, companies have obtained certificates of existence by submitting a form and check to the Department of State either in person or by mail. Now a certificate of existence is just a few clicks away for any business with Internet access. Payment with a credit card allows online customers to generate a PDF document – complete with the state seal and Secretary Hargett's signature – certifying the existence and standing of the company.

"Providing a way for business owners to get certificates of existence online is one more way of providing better service to our customers, the

citizens of Tennessee," Secretary Hargett said. "It is our department's goal to allow online filing and receipt of documents whenever practical."

The online certificate of existence that is generated includes a unique number that can be used to verify the document's authenticity on the department's web site. Companies that are not in good standing – perhaps for outstanding tax issues – will not be able to generate certificates of existence online, but are encouraged to contact the department's Business Services Division for assistance.

Certificates of existence join other convenient online services offered by the department, such as annual report filings, registered agent changes, mailing address updates and business information searches.

Companies can access the certificates of existence filing resource at: <http://tnbear.tn.gov/Ecommerce/CertOfExistenceInstr.aspx>. 

TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY WINNERS QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION

Sixty-three students from the Volunteer State have qualified for a trip to Maryland this summer after their projects were judged the best of the best at Tennessee History Day last month.

History Day is an event in which students in grades six through 12 present history-themed projects in a variety of formats – including museum-style exhibits, research papers, web sites, documentaries and live performances.

About 5,000 Tennessee students participated in competitions held at their schools this year. The students judged best in those competitions advanced to one of six regional events held around the state. The winners from the regionals advanced to the statewide competition, which was held at various locations in downtown Nashville.

The first- and second-place finishers at the statewide competition are now eligible to participate in National History Day, which will be held on the campus of the University of Maryland June 10-14.

“I’m very excited for the students who will be advancing to the national competition in Maryland,” Secretary Hargett said. “I know that is an experience they will long remember. They will represent our state well and I expect them to bring some medals home with them. I congratulate them and all of the other young people who participated in History Day this year. History Day not only helps generate interest in an important academic subject, but it also helps participants become better students and better citizens.”

“I’m excited to see the quality of the projects submitted,” said statewide coordinator Jennifer C. Core. “The students have the opportunity at each

level of competition – local, district, and state – to revise their entries based on the judges’ feedback. Competitors learn that historical research is an ongoing process. Between now and June, our finalists will be visiting archives to supplement their research, proofreading their papers, and practicing their interview questions in an effort to improve what are already excellent entries.”

The judges at last month’s competition – who included university professors, graduate students, high school teachers, librarians, archivists and other public historians – picked the winners from the 207 projects submitted.



STUDENTS AT HISTORY DAY.

Tennessee History Day was coordinated by the Tennessee Historical Society, with sponsorship provided by the Tennessee Department of State, Humanities Tennessee, the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation and the Library of Congress.

Since 1974, History Day has grown from a small local competition in Cleveland, Ohio with about

100 students into an event that attracts about a half million students nationwide each year.

For more information about the program in Tennessee, visit www.historyday.org or contact Jennifer Core, History Day's statewide coordinator, at (615) 741-8934 or via e-mail at historyday@tennesseehistory.org. 



*SECRETARY HARGETT EXAMINES EXHIBITS
AT HISTORY DAY.*



SATURDAY'S WINNERS WERE:

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL DOCUMENTARY:

Third Place

Title: Rosa Parks: Staying Seated to Take a Stand
Student: Vikka Schweer
School: Franklin High School, Franklin, TN
Teacher(s): Casie Gaebler

Second Place

Title: Coco Chanel and the 1920's Fashion Revolution
Student: Emma Koeppen
School: West High School, Knoxville, TN
Teacher(s): Candace Greer

First Place

Title: Persecuted, but Not Forsaken: The Lavrinenko Family's Reaction to the Communist Revolution
Student: Emma Thompson
School: Berean Christian School Isp, Knoxville, TN
Teacher(s): Sharron Thompson

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL DOCUMENTARY:

Third Place

Title: The Desegregation of the University of Tennessee: A Process that Revolutionized History
Student: Colby Kuhn
School: Concord Christian School, Knoxville, TN
Teacher(s): Tammy Lightholder

Second Place

Title: Subsistence Homesteads: Reforming a Nation by Revolutionizing Communities
Student: William Seth Eckelson
School: Pine View Elementary, Rockwood, TN
Teacher(s): Rachel Eckelson

First Place

Title: The Polio Revolution: A Tale of Two Heroes
 Student: Emily Burkhead
 School: Snowden School, Memphis, TN
 Teacher(s): April Inman

SENIOR GROUP DOCUMENTARY:**Third Place**

Title: Chinese in the Mississippi Delta
 Students: Lisa Ong, Katelyn Frierott
 School: St. Benedict at Auburndale, Cordova, TN
 Teacher(s): Kristen Browning

Second Place

Title: The Battle of Athens: A Revolution, Reaction & Reform in 1940's Politics
 Students: Tucker Beard, Brandon Cummings, Trace Kerns
 School: Polk County High School, Benton, TN
 Teacher(s): Dewey Esquinance

First Place

Title: Coal Creek Wars: Revolution in the Mines
 Students: Maranda Vandergriff, Elisa Vandergriff
 School: Berean Christian School Isp, Knoxville, TN
 Teacher(s): Katie Vandergriff

JUNIOR GROUP DOCUMENTARY:**Third Place**

Title: The Watergate Trial: A Trial to Remember
 Students: Julianna Foster, Olivia Phillips, Rida Khan
 School: Meigs Magnet Middle School, Nashville, TN
 Teacher(s): Jamie Schimenti, Lisa Bucchino

Second Place

Title: Beating the Bloodhound Law: American Reaction to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850
 Students: Nic Savage, Jordan Blades
 School: Siegel Middle School, Murfreesboro, TN
 Teacher(s): Heather Warmuth, Sonya Cox

First Place

Title: America's Reaction to the Rock n' Roll Revolution's Reform of the Music Industry
 Students: Alyssa Cutshaw, Victoria Kinsey
 School: Pine View Elementary, Rockwood, TN
 Teacher(s): Rachel Eckelson

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL EXHIBIT:**Third Place**

Title: A Revolution in Warfare: The Airplane in World War I
 Student: Mary Hill
 School: Independence High School, Franklin, TN
 Teacher(s): Jenifer Wheeler

Second Place

Title: Antibiotics: A Revolution in Modern Medicine

Student: Emily Grayson

School: Independence High School, Franklin, TN

Teacher(s): Jenifer Wheeler

First Place

Title: Misled and Misunderstood: Revolution of the Appalachian Life

Student: Jonathan Thomas

School: van der Merwe Homeschool, Knoxville, TN

Teacher(s): Meryl van der Merwe

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL EXHIBIT:**Third Place**

Title: Exploration of Space: A Dream Becomes History

Student: Alyssa Neuhoff

School: Walden Home School, Signal Mountain, TN

Teacher(s): Linda Neuhoff

Second Place

Title: The Polio Vaccine: A Revolution from the Polio Epidemic

Student: Mallory Uphoff

School: Greenway School, Knoxville, TN

Teacher(s): Lynne Mullins, Liz Shugart

First Place

Title: Prohibition

Student: Sterling Fisher

School: Pi Beta Phi Elementary, Gatlinburg, TN

Teacher(s): Cindy Flynn

SENIOR GROUP EXHIBIT:**Third Place**

Title: A Revolution in Medicine: The Polio Vaccine

Students: Haven Poore, Naomi Derksen, Quinn Curtis, Olivia Seay

School: Independence High School, Franklin, TN

Teacher(s): Jenifer Wheeler

Second Place

Title: Ignition of a Revolution

Students: Rebecca Derby, Rachel Emond

School: Sevier County High School, Sevierville, TN

Teacher(s): Jeffrey Williams

First Place

Title: "The Beautiful and the Damned": The Flapper Cultural Revolution

Students: Marisa Rozzi, Rishika Singh, Rebecca Zielinski

School: Lausanne Collegiate School, Memphis, TN

Teacher(s): Dr. Scott Johnson

JUNIOR GROUP EXHIBIT:

Third Place

Title: Wright to Modern Flight: The Revolution of Commercial Aviation
 Students: Curtis Clark, Nicholas Keesler, Adam Crutcher, Sean Goggin
 School: Northeast Middle School, Clarksville, TN
 Teacher(s): Whitney Joyner

Second Place

Title: The Pedro Pan Flights: Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution
 Students: Lauren Ramos, Sophia Rosenzweig
 School: St. John Neumann School, Knoxville, TN
 Teacher(s): Vicki Sporsen

First Place

Title: Self Service Revolution: Piggly Wiggly Reforms American Shopping
 Students: Luke Daniel, Levi Daniel, Caleb Hawn
 School: Sunbright School, Sunbright, TN
 Teacher(s): Debbie Slack

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE:

Third Place

Title: Mikhail Baryshnikov Continues the Evolution of Dance
 Student: Bernadette Turnage
 School: Valley Academy, Goodlettsville, TN
 Teacher(s): Laurale Curtsinger

Second Place

Title: Heart of an Appalachian Woman
 Student: Ashleanne Zachary
 School: First Baptist Academy, Powell, TN
 Teacher(s): Darrell Vandergriff

First Place

Title: I Refuse to be Treated like a White Woman
 Student: Brandie McConkey
 School: Sequoyah High School, Madisonville, TN
 Teacher(s): Lance McConkey

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE:

Third Place

Title: Martin Luther and His Wife
 Student: Lydia Barbour
 School: First Baptist Academy, Powell, TN
 Teacher(s): Darrell Vandergriff

Second Place

Title: Jane Addams, Patron Saint of Chicago: A Revolutionary Reformer
 Student: Emma McLeod
 School: Greenway School, Knoxville, TN
 Teacher(s): Lynne Mullins

First Place

Title: Diane Nash: Reforming Discrimination in Nashville, TN
 Student: La'Charsha Ward
 School: John Early Museum Magnet Middle School, Nashville, TN
 Teacher(s): Katherine Hardwick, Kristina Deal, Tara Mielnik

SENIOR GROUP PERFORMANCE:**Second Place**

Title: Vietnam: Reactions to the War
 Students: Kathryn King, Kenneth Shoffner, Joshua Tharpe, Mark Kitts
 School: Union County High School, Maynardville, TN
 Teacher(s): Joel Collins

First Place

Title: Huey Long: The Reformist with Revolutionary Ideas
 Students: Chris Livingston, Johnathan Jones
 School: Meigs County High School, Decatur, TN
 Teacher(s): Lee Ann Cross

JUNIOR GROUP PERFORMANCE:**Third Place**

Title: A Fight For Equality
 Students: Maddux Southerland, Ashely Moore, Brittany Everhart, Hana Auchterlonie
 School: Mosheim Middle School, Mosheim, TN
 Teacher(s): Doug Lafollette

Second Place

Title: A State in Chaos; A Family in Two
 Students: Emily Ritchart, John Courson, Jake Kolaski, Sidney McCarty, Cherie Saffold
 School: Richview Middle School, Clarksville, TN
 Teacher(s): Tabitha Wilson

First Place

Title: Andrew Johnson's Reaction to the Reform of Reconstruction
 Students: Allyson Neal, Tyler Beichler
 School: First Baptist Academy, Powell, TN
 Teacher(s): Darrell Vandergriff

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL WEBSITE:**Third Place**

Title: Women on the Homefront: World War II
 Students: Anna Burkhart
 School: West High School, Knoxville, TN
 Teacher(s): Candace Greer

Second Place

Title: Jim Crow: Face of Hate
 Student: Wesley Harris
 School: South Greene High School, Greeneville, TN
 Teacher(s): Noelle Smith

First Place

Title: The Revolutionary Decision Which Sparked a Skeptical Reaction and the Landmark Surgery Which Made Ephraim McDowell The Father of Ovariectomy
 Student: Brittany Wilharm
 School: Homeschool - Wilharm, Springfield, TN
 Teacher(s): Sharon Wilharm

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL WEBSITE:**Third Place**

Title: Putting the Cold War on Ice
 Student: Mitchell Mielnik
 School: John Early Museum Magnet Middle School, Nashville, TN
 Teacher(s): Katherine Hardwick, Kristina Deal, Tara Mielnik

Second Place

Title: The Reform of the Tennessee Walking Horse
 Student: Hadley Peters
 School: Concord Christian School, Knoxville, TN
 Teacher(s): Tammy Lightholder

First Place

Title: Manga After the Atomic Bomb
 Student: Lane Crouse-Helford
 School: Siegel Middle School, Murfreesboro, TN
 Teacher(s): Heather Warmuth, Sonya Cox

SENIOR GROUP WEBSITE:**Third Place**

Title: The Space Race
 Students: Henry Evetts, Kyle Van Hoek
 School: St. Benedict at Auburndale, Cordova, TN
 Teacher(s): Mark McDonald

Second Place

Title: The Women's Movement: The Suffrage Revolution
 Students: Allie McNamara, Katherine Wein, Dakota Bailey, Ashley Koehler, Katie Akin
 School: St. Benedict at Auburndale, Cordova, TN
 Teacher(s): Kristen Browning

First Place

Title: A Revolution of Quantum Proportions
 Students: Joshua Burton, Daniel van der Merwe
 School: van der Merwe Homeschool, Knoxville, TN
 Teacher(s): Meryl van der Merwe

JUNIOR GROUP WEBSITE:**Third Place**

Title: Elizabeth Blackwell: A True Doctor
 Students: Kaleabe Truneh, Maryam Yousef, Nadiya Navas
 School: Meigs Magnet Middle School, Nashville, TN
 Teacher(s): Jamie Schimenti, Lisa Bucchino

Second Place

Title: Invention of the Microwave Oven: A Revolution for Cooking

Students: Amy van der Merwe, Joy Marshall

School: van der Merwe Homeschool, Knoxville, TN

Teacher(s): Meryl van der Merwe

First Place

Title: Agents of Destruction: The Revolution of Chemical Warfare

Students: Jackson Arnold, Ethan Huskey

School: New Center Elementary, Sevierville, TN

Teacher(s): Christy Valentine

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL PAPER:**Third Place**

Title: From Rags to Jazz: How James Reese Europe Helped Kick-Start the Jazz Revolution

Student: Angela Henderson,

School: University School of Nashville, Nashville, TN

Teacher(s): Patricia Miletich

Second Place

Title: "The Country Needed Men": The Story of Female Soldiers during the Civil War

Student: Olivia Brown

School: University School of Nashville, Nashville, TN

Teacher(s): Patricia Miletich

First Place

Title: The Overmountain Men

Student: Jacob Taylor

School: Taylor Homeschool, Greeneville, Greeneville, TN

Teacher(s): Ramona Taylor

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL PAPER:**Third Place**

Title: Revolution, Reaction, Reform: The Transformation of a Town Called Wheat

Student: Sarah Littleton

School: Concord Christian School, Knoxville, TN

Teacher(s): Tammy Lightholder

Second Place

Title: The Clinton Twelve: Reaction to Reform and Revolution

Student: Taya Smith

School: Petros Joyner Elementary, Oliver Springs, TN

Teacher(s): Debbie Slack

First Place

Title: For Our Will Wimbles and Tom Browns: Rugby, Tennessee, a Failed Revolution

Student: Abbey Huber

School: Greenway School, Knoxville, TN

Teacher(s): Lynne Mullins, Liz Shugart

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Sequoyah Award

Brandie McConkey (School: Sequoyah High School, Madisonville, TN)

The Company of Military Historians Award for the Best Project in Military History, Junior Division:

Jackson Arnold & Ethan Huskey (School: New Center Elementary, Sevierville, TN)

The Company of Military Historians Award for the Best Project in Military History, Senior Division:

Jacob Taylor (School: Taylor Homeschool, Greeneville, Greeneville, TN)

Margaret Lindsley Warden Prize for Best Project in Women's History, Junior Division:

Maddux Southerland & Ashely Moore & Brittany Everhart & Hana Auchterlonie (School: Mosheim Middle School, Mosheim, TN)

Margaret Lindsley Warden Prize for Best Project in Women's History, Senior Division:

Marisa Rozzi & Rishika Singh & Rebecca Zielinski (School: Lausanne Collegiate School, Memphis, TN)

Tennessee Historical Society Prize for Best Project in Tennessee History, Junior Division:

William Seth Eckelson (School: Pine View Elementary, Rockwood, TN)

Tennessee Historical Society Prize for Best Project in Tennessee History, Senior Division:

Maranda Vandergriff & Elisa Vandergriff (School: Berean Christian School Isp, Knoxville, TN)

Tennessee Historical Society Prize for The Best Project in African-American History, Junior Division:

Lauren Curtsinger & Mary Turnage (School: Valley Academy, Goodlettsville, TN)

Tennessee Historical Society Prize for The Best Project in African-American History, Senior Division:

Wesley Harris (School: South Greene High School, Greeneville, TN)

Society of Tennessee Archivists Award for Archival Research, Junior Division:

William Seth Eckelson (School: Pine View Elementary, Rockwood, TN)

Society of Tennessee Archivists Award for Archival Research, Senior Division:

Maranda Vandergriff & Elisa Vandergriff (School: Berean Christian School Isp, Knoxville, TN)

Dr. Ruben Brooks Award, Best Research Paper, Junior Division

Abbey Huber (School: Greenway School, Knoxville, TN)

Dr. Sam B. Smith Award, Best Research Paper, Senior Division

Jacob Taylor (Taylor Homeschool, Greeneville, Greeneville, TN)



MEET NAIKA AND TIA WILSON

Mike and Missy Wilson of Franklin made their first visit to Haiti together in November of 2007 on a mission trip with the Brent Gambrell Ministry. The whole trip had a profound effect on them, but it was a brief moment in the airport in Haiti that led to the biggest change in their lives.

“There were two couples from France and both had two children apiece they had adopted,” Mike Wilson said. “My wife looked at me and said ‘one day we will probably adopt from here.’ And me, in all my wisdom, looked at her and told her she was crazy.”

Missy and Mike have three biological children: Dyllan (16), Lane (14) and Eli (11), in addition to Katie (23), who was taken in by the family and raised as their own years ago.

Mike had been visiting Haiti since 2003 with various mission trips.

However, it wasn’t until 2009 that Missy Wilson’s prediction began to take shape. That’s when the Wilsons finished their paperwork for the adoption of two girls. They met Tia first.

“When Tia came into the room, I looked in her eyes and I looked at her the way I looked at my boys when they were born and thought, ‘that’s my daughter,’” Mike said. “She sat on my lap and put her head on my chest and that was it.”

The Wilsons were told that their soon-to-be-daughter did have some health issues.

“We were told that she had suffered from seizures and black-outs, which we are used to with our middle child, Lane, who is considered special needs,” Mike said. “The fact that this was happening to her was not an issue for us at all.”

As they continued to travel back and forth to Haiti, the Wilsons found out that one of two sisters they had seen at the orphanage hadn’t been adopted while her sister had.

“We decided then that we were going to find the girl [Naika] who had not been adopted a home,” Mike said. “That was in September 2009. By November of that year, we put our name in for her



TIA (LEFT) AND NAIKA (RIGHT) WILSON.

referral since we were already approved for two girls and we started the paper work again.”

Shortly thereafter, Katie started an internship at the adoption agency, New Life Link. That same year, Haiti was devastated by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

“We got a text alert about the earthquake,” Mike said. “And for the next 12-plus hours, I called and couldn’t get a hold of anyone. Katie finally called and said everything and everyone in the orphanage was fine. All the kids got out safe and were occupying the vacant lot across the street under tarps.”

Mike was able, because of the contacts he had made during his many visits to Haiti, to enter the country about 30 hours after the earthquake hit.

“I basically made a nuisance of myself at the American Embassy,” Mike said. “We were able to work it out so that Tia could come home immediately on her immigration visa and Naika could come home on humanitarian parole and be adopted state-side because of the HAITI Act of 2010.”

Tia, now 7 years old, came home first since her adoption was days from completion at the time of the earthquake.

“I remember walking into the house and it took Tia a grand total of five minutes to start chasing the boys around and running up and down the steps and playing with the toys in her room,” Mike said. “It was like she had always been there.”

A week later, Naika, now 9 years old, came home to join the Wilsons.

“When Naika and I stepped off the plane in Nashville, there was Tia standing at the end of the hallway,” Mike said. “They immediately started speaking Creole and Tia started explaining what was happening, how this is where they live now. It was a neat moment.”

The girls have not only fit into the family from the moment they arrived, but they have formed a strong bond.

“We have bunk beds for the girls and every night when we put them to sleep, they would climb in the same bed,” Mike said. “We tried to separate them, but they wouldn’t do it. They sleep head to feet every night.”

This past January, the Wilsons launched their own ministry in Haiti called myLIFEspeaks. Their vision was to create something in Haiti that looks like their family: boys, girls, black, white, Haitian, American and special needs all in one place. That vision is becoming reality.

“In this short amount of time, the community in Haiti has rallied around us, which has been so great,” Mike said. “We are blessed beyond belief.”

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.



WILSON FAMILY FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KATIE, NAIKA, DYLLAN, MIKE, LANE, ELI, MISSY AND TIA.

“International adoptions have brought joy into so many families in this country and I’m proud that my office plays a small role in that process,” Secretary Hargett said. “It is an honor to help Tennesseans build their families and create opportunities for children around the world to have better lives.”

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, or visit http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm

NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, METRO SCHOOLS TEAM UP FOR ‘LIMITLESS LIBRARIES’

Students can’t always get to their local public libraries. For some Nashville students, though, the library actually comes to them.

Three years ago, Nashville Public Library began developing a new partnership between public and school libraries. That led to the creation of the “Limitless Libraries” pilot project, in which students are given public library cards and allowed

number of schools has expanded to include 16 high schools, 35 middle schools and three exceptional education schools. More than 24,000 students have been participating this year, including 15,000 who never had Nashville Public Library cards before.

The partnership has also strengthened communication and cooperation between school and public library staff members.



NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

“Libraries across our state are offering innovative programs like ‘Limitless Libraries’ to help our citizens get access to the information they need,” Secretary Hargett said. “Tennessee libraries exhibit this type of creativity every day.”

“Through Limitless Libraries, we created an overwhelmingly successful partnership by bringing the vast resources of our world class Nashville Library into our school libraries,” Mayor Karl Dean said. “The number of Metro

to order books and other materials that are delivered to their school libraries.

The project began with three high schools and a ninth grade academy. As its third year ends, the

school students with library cards has grown from 9,000 to 24,000, an astonishing increase and a clear sign of the program’s success.” 

RULE-MAKING HEARINGS AND LISTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE 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 Cody York at 615-741-2650 or email him at: Cody.York@tn.gov. 

STATE OFFICES CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

Like other state offices, the Office of the Secretary of State will be closed Monday, May 28 for the Memorial Day holiday. If you have business with the office, please plan accordingly.



Secretary of State

Tre Hargett
Tawnie Mathieu, Executive Secretary
615-741-2819

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Business Services

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Charitable Solicitations & Gaming

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