

THE BLUE PAGES...



Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

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From the Desk of the Secretary...

Since my office oversees elections across Tennessee, it shouldn't come as any surprise that Independence Day is one of my favorite holidays. Obviously, had the Declaration of Independence not been signed, we would not have the great form of government we enjoy to this day. However, my interest in the work done by our founding fathers took root long before I became Secretary of State. As an elementary school student, history was my favorite subject – and so even at a young age, I was fascinated to learn about how this great country of ours got its start.

Like other state offices, the Department of State will be closed on Monday, July 5 to celebrate the

holiday. I encourage you to pay attention to the words of John Adams, who in July 1776 wrote a letter to his wife, Abigail, in which he offered his thoughts on how Independence Day should be celebrated:

“...I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore...”

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Speaking of elections, as noted in this issue of *The Blue Pages*, early voting for the August 5 state primary and county general elections begins this month. While the outcome of those elections won't be known for a few more weeks, this month's issue focuses on some other winners: Frances Darnell, a longtime advocate for libraries who recently received a Medallion Award; Tennessee students who participated in the National History Day competition in June and the 88 libraries across the state that submitted successful applications for

technology grants administered by the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

This issue also features articles about a training seminar for state election officials and "Tennessee Disasters" – an interesting new exhibit at the State Library and Archives building. I hope you enjoy this month's issue of *The Blue Pages*. Please contact me at Tre.Hargett@tn.gov if you have story ideas or suggestions for how we can make future issues of our newsletter better!

New TSLA Exhibit Chronicles Some of Tennessee's Biggest Disasters

Many communities in Tennessee were hit hard by the May flooding, but the state's residents have endured many disasters before.

A Yellow Fever epidemic in the 1870s caused more than 7,000 deaths in Memphis alone. The sinking of the steamboat *Sultana* on the Mississippi River in 1865 claimed more lives than the sinking of *Titanic* 47 years later. And a head-on collision between two trains in Nashville in 1918 still ranks as one of the worst train wrecks of all time.

All of those calamities - and others - are documented in a new exhibit on display at the Tennessee State Library and Archives building in downtown Nashville. The exhibit, titled "Tennessee Disasters," chronicles some of the worst moments in the Volunteer State's history, as well as the determination and resilience of the people who lived through them.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, recounts the Blizzard of 1951, which froze the Cumberland River and paralyzed usually balmy Nashville for more than a week. There is also a section devoted to the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812, which created Reelfoot Lake and

caused tremors felt as far away as Maine. And there is another section describing the Fraterville Mine accident of 1902.



This photograph was taken by W.C. Midgett at Devil's Elbow, a very winding stretch of highway that climbs from Whites Creek onto the ridge in the northwest corner of Davidson County. Historically, this area was called Paradise Ridge, but is now known as Joelton. The elbow is known as one of the most treacherous pieces of road to travel in Davidson County during icy winter weather, as it consists of a rock bluff on one side and a ravine on the other. The name no doubt comes from the wicked curve at the foot of the hill.

"Tennessee has seen its share of disasters, but this exhibit also highlights the courage and strength many people who have lived in this state have shown in the face of adversity," Secretary Hargett said. "There really is a spirit of neighbors helping

neighbors that is evident in some of these exhibits. For example, there was a fire in East Nashville in 1916 fueled by high winds that destroyed about 500 houses, but because people pulled together and helped each other, there were few injuries and only one death.”

The exhibit will run through October 1,

2010. The Tennessee State Library and Archives building is located at 403 Seventh Avenue North, across from the State Capitol. The building is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., Central time, except on state and federal holidays. Limited street parking is available for visitors near the building.

Longtime Macon County Library Advocate Frances Darnell Receives Prestigious Medallion Award

Frances Darnell, a longtime champion of Macon County’s libraries, received a prestigious Medallion Award from Secretary Hargett during a ceremony held in June at the Macon County Library.

Medallion Awards are sponsored by the National Association of Secretaries of State and are presented to individuals or groups who have made significant contributions in the areas of civic education, government service or voter education and participation. Each state’s secretary of state may award up to five Medallion Awards each year.

“Ms. Darnell richly deserves this Medallion Award,” Secretary Hargett said. “She has been a tireless advocate not only for the Macon County Library, but also other libraries throughout the region and state. Among her many accomplishments, she spearheaded the drive to raise funds to furnish an addition to the Macon County Library in 1993 and

she played a key role in the creation of the Macon County Library Foundation.”

Ms. Darnell serves on the Macon County Library Board and the Upper County Regional Library Board. She is also a member and past president of the Friends of Tennessee Libraries and a member and past chair of the Tennessee Library Association Trustee and Friends Roundtable.

Ms. Darnell, an avid traveler and former Macon County teacher, is married with two children and three grandchildren.



Secretary Hargett presents a Medallion Award to Frances Darnell

Election Officials Visit Nashville for Training Session

Nearly 400 county election officials from across the state converged on Nashville in June for a two-day training session on proper election procedures. The training was provided by the Secretary of State’s Division of Elections.

All 95 county election administrators in Tennessee are required to attend annual training programs. In addition, many election commissioners and other election employees voluntarily chose to participate.

Secretary Hargett addressed the group on the first day of the training session, offering praise and encouragement for the hard work Tennessee's election officials do.

Tennessee Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins said 385 people attended this year's event.

"The seminar was extremely successful," Coordinator Goins said. "I am proud of the Division of Elections staff for the professional training they provided to the election officials across the state."

The Division of Elections staff provided guidance on issues such as ballot formatting, legal requirements for poll watchers, election commission duties, appointment of poll officials, proper procedures for counting absentee ballots and allowing nursing home residents to vote, write-in candidate requirements and rules regarding the

100-foot campaign free zone around polling places.

Drew Rawlins, executive director of the state's Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance, gave a presentation about campaign finance laws and procedures and Tom Fleming, director of the state Comptroller's Local Government Division, spoke to the group about redistricting and boundary maps.



Tennessee Students Win Awards at National History Day Contest

After months of intensive research and success at local and state competitions, three Tennessee students won awards in June during the National History Day (NHD) competition held on the University of Maryland's College Park campus.

In all, more than 40 students from Tennessee participated in the annual competition in which students are judged by the quality of their history projects. Projects were based on this year's annual theme of Innovation in History: Impact and Change and were entered in five categories: museum



style exhibit, interpretive website, multimedia documentary, dramatic performance, and research paper.

"This phenomenal group of students from Tennessee conducted thorough research and produced high quality projects to become the best History Day students in the state of Tennessee," said Kelly Wilkerson, state coordinator for the Tennessee History Day program. "The students, their teachers and parents have much of which to be proud."

"The delegation of Tennessee students did a great job of representing our state in this year's National History Day competition," said Secretary Hargett, whose office was one of the co-sponsors of Tennessee History Day this year. "I have personally met many of these students – and knowing how smart and ambitious they are, it gives me great confidence about our state's future."

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The Winners!

- **Emma Grace Thompson**, a home school student from Tellico Plains, who took second place in the Junior Individual Documentary category for her project on “Innovation Ends Isolation: The Effect of the Telephone on a Small Appalachian Community.” Teacher: Sharron Thompson.
- **Dillan Edwards**, a student at Mountain View Elementary in Etowah who took the Outstanding State Entry prize in the Junior Division for his exhibit on “The Jungle.” Teacher: Kimberly Powers.
- **Caitlyn Sudkamp**, a home school student from Signal Mountain, who took the Outstanding State Entry.

The NHD program annually engages more than 500,000 students in grades six through 12 from 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa and Department of Defense schools.

Each fall, students nationwide begin the year-long National History Day program, competing in a series of history contests in their local communities and states. The top students in each category are selected for participation in the national contest.



In Tennessee, district competitions took place in Knoxville (sponsored by the East Tennessee Historical Society), Chattanooga (sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga), Murfreesboro (sponsored by Middle Tennessee State University) and Memphis (sponsored by the University of Memphis.) The state competition is held in Nashville at Legislative Plaza and is sponsored by the Tennessee Historical Society.

More than just a day, NHD encourages year-round learning by allowing participating students to choose their own topics of study and research from original sources based on a particular theme.

More than 300 historians and other education professionals evaluate the work of over 2,000 students at the National History Day contest. More than \$250,000 in scholarships and cash prizes were awarded at the ceremony. To see a full list of winners, visit the National History Day website at www.nationalhistoryday.org.

For more information about the History Day program in Tennessee or the program’s state-level sponsor, the Tennessee Historical Society, visit our website at www.tennesseehistory.org/historyday.htm or contact Kelly Wilkerson at 615-741-8934 or by email at historyday@tennesseehistory.org

Here is a complete list of Tennessee students who participated in the competition in College Park:



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HISTORY DAY PARTICIPANTS...

NAME	PROJECT	TEACHER	SCHOOL
Dillan Edwards	"The Jungle."	Kimberly Powers	Mountain View Elementary, Etowah
Tyler Hounshell	"Proving the Past: The Impact of Radiocarbon Dating."	Rebecca Byrd	New Center Elementary, Sevierville
Caroline Rader & McKynlea Cable	"Fight for the Right: The Impact of the 19th Amendment."	Rebecca Byrd.	New Center Elementary, Sevierville
Stetson Spain, Patrick Perry, Jesse Holt, and Justin Yates	"From the Farmhand to the Farm Machine: Cotton Picking Machine."	Eric Hagan	Jo Byrns Middle School, Cedar Hill
Emma Grace Thompson	Innovation Ends Isolation: The Effect of the Telephone on a Small Appalachian Community."	Sharon Thompson	Homeschool student , Coker Creek
Miriam Ryburne	"Peace Through Children: CISV, An Innovation with Global Impact."	Liz Shugart	Greenway School, Knoxville
Sophia Henderson, Graham Hardison, Brandon Babbitt, and Riley Clem	"Women in the Workforce: How World War II Changed American Women Forever."	Ellen Petree	Episcopal School, Knoxville
Anne Batcheller and Alexa Ewan	"The Creation of Labor Laws After the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire."	Ellen Petree	Episcopal School of Knoxville
Kiyoko Reidy	"All That Jazz: An American Innovation with an Impact on Music and Culture."	Liz Shugart	Greenway School, Knoxville
Ashleanne Zachary and Logan Craig	"Songs of Freedom."	Darrell Vandergriff	First Baptist Academy, Knoxville
Tristan Hightower	"The Atomic Bomb Disseminates America's Position: United States Poised for Victory."	Tammy Lightholder	Concord Christian School, Knoxville
Logan Garrett	"Code Talkers: The Code that Could Not Be Cracked."	Justin Woody	Vonore Middle School
Ruth Simberloff	"In Danger of Extinction: Impact and Innovation of the Endangered Species Act."	Liz Shugart	Greenway School, Knoxville
Abby Huber	"The Montessori Method: An Innovation in Education."	Liz Shugart	Greenway School in Knoxville
Caitlyn Sudkamp	"A Matter of Time: John Harrison's Sea Clocks."	Linda Neuhoff	Walden Home School, Signal Mountain
Jeremy Meister	"It Came Like a Flash of Lightning-The Innovation of Nikola Tesla."	Scott Johnson	First Assembly Christian School, Cordova
Sarah Stokely, Jessi Reed, and Katie Caughron	"The Cotton Gin."	Clay Blazer	Cocke County High School, Newport
Celeste McAlpin-Levitt, Rebekah Rhea, Katie Smith, and Madeline Stinnett	"Still Standing: Leg Braces and AFO's."	Candace Greer	West High School, Knoxville
Hannah Clevenger	"Foxfire: Preserving the Past, Changing the Future."	Rebecca Byrd	Gatlinburg-Pittman High School

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HISTORY DAY PARTICIPANTS...

Caroline Rhodes	“The Polio Vaccine: More Than a Syringe.”	Carrie Pfeiffer	Lebanon High School
Maranda Vandergriff & Lydia Taylor	“Talking Leaves: Innovation of the Written Language.”	Katie Vandergriff & Lisa Taylor	Homeschool student, Oak Ridge
Brandon Holt & Cindy Ma	“The Nashville Sit-Ins: An Innovation in Non-Violent Demonstrations.”	Fred Artibee	Martin Luther King Magnet- Pearl High School, Nashville
Jason Van der Merwe	“The Proximity Fuze: A Killer Innovation Which Saved Lives.”	Meryl Van der Merwe	Homeschool student, Knoxville
Alex Livesay and Rachael Bakowicz	“Frank Lloyd Wright: Innovations in Architecture.”	Christina Lesh	St. Agnes Academy
Savannah Lockwood	“The Electric Chair: Sparks of Controversy.”	Candace Greer	West High School, Knoxville
Michelle Woodruff	“Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement.”	Teri Blair	McMinn Central High School, Etowah
Brandie McConkey	“AC/DC: The Story of Tesla.”	Lance McConkey	Sequoyah High School, Madisonville

Early Voting for August 5 Elections Runs from July 16-31

People who can't or don't want to wait until Aug. 5 to vote in the state primaries and county general elections have another option.

Early voting for the August 5 elections begins July 16 and continues through July 31.

Under state law, counties are required to keep at least one early voting location open for at least three hours on weekdays and Saturdays during that time period. Consult your county's election headquarters for information about early voting locations and operating hours.

For more information about upcoming elections, visit the Secretary of State's Division of Elections web page at: <http://state.tn.us/sos/election/>

Eighty-eight Libraries Receive Technology Grants Administered by the Secretary of State's office

...funding provided by the act has paid for the purchase of 1,220 computers...

Eighty-eight libraries in 64 counties across Tennessee are receiving technology grants this summer through a program administered by the Secretary of State's office.

The grant funds will allow libraries statewide to buy a total of approximately 230 personal computers, 36 laptops, 36 wireless networking stations, 15 general software packages and various other items such as printers, scanners, monitors and external storage drives.

"Particularly during tough economic times, it is important that our public libraries have the resources citizens need," said Secretary Hargett. "In many communities across our state, particularly in rural areas, public libraries are the only free source of Internet access people have. And without Internet access, it is more difficult for people to file for unemployment benefits, conduct job searches or become more competitive in the workforce by learning new skills through online training programs."

Staff members at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, a division within the Secretary of State's office, provide advice and assistance to help library officials prepare their grant proposals, including suggestions about what type of equipment to include in their request. Also, network services coordinators with the State Library and Archives help libraries install the equipment after it has been purchased.

The grants, which total \$200,500 statewide, are provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services through the federal Library and Technology Services Act. The grants are administered by the State Library and Archives. From 2004 through 2009, funding provided by the act has paid for the purchase of 1,220 computers for Tennessee libraries.

In order to qualify for funding, libraries are required to provide money from other sources that at least matches the amounts of their grant requests.

Reelfoot Lake



Tennessee's only large naturally-formed lake, Reelfoot was created by the violent New Madrid earthquakes in 1811. Tremors lasted for more than a year and were felt from New Orleans to the Great Lakes. The area is steeped in the legend of Kalopin, or Reelfoot, a Chickasaw prince born with a deformed foot which caused him to walk with a rolling gait. Against the wishes of the Great Spirit, Reelfoot captured a Choctaw princess, Laughing Eyes, for his wife. In

anger the Great Spirit stomped his foot, creating a giant crater into which rushed the backwaters of the Mississippi River, flooding the Chickasaw hunting grounds, and destroying Kalopin's people. The 14,000-acre lake is 20 miles long and up to seven miles wide. Early in the last century controversy arose over the private development of the lakeshore, and angry residents resorted to masks, robes, and vigilante terrorism to defend their customary hunting and fishing rights. Troops were called out to suppress the Night Riders and several were brought to trial and convicted. Today the area is a peaceful preserve and features year-round hunting and fishing.

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Blake Fontenay, Constitutional Officers'
Communications Director
615-253-2668

Secretary of State

Tre Hargett
Kara McMahan, Executive Secretary
615-741-2819

Administrative Procedures

615-741-7008

Business Services

615-741-2286

Charitable Solicitations & Gaming

615-741-2555

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615-741-7956

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