



# THE BLUE PAGES

## TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE

### Tre Hargett

Vol. 3 No. 11

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.

### OUR ELECTORAL PROCESS WORKED, AGAIN

#### *From the Secretary's Desk*

We move into another holiday season with the presidential election behind us. And I'm happy to report that the election was conducted in 95 counties across our state with no major problems. Of course, this could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of the approximately 15,000 poll officials who served during the election.

More than 2.45 million Tennesseans participated in the electoral process. About 1.45 million took advantage of the convenience of early voting – the second highest total since early voting was instituted in 1994. The rest of the voters braved overcast, chilly and in some spots rainy weather to cast their ballots on Election Day.

The total turnout is comparable to November 2004, the last presidential election in which an incumbent president was on the ballot. I couldn't be more proud of all those who exercised the most important right we have as citizens.

If you think about it, presidential elections are one of the very few activities that Americans participate in together. Whether your favorite candidate won or lost, it's special to be part of electing the leader of the world's greatest nation where we enjoy the most transparent electoral process.

A small number of extremely vocal critics tried to suggest that the state's new law requiring photo identification at the polls would be a major impediment in this election. That was not the case. People who showed up to vote without



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photo IDs were given provisional ballots, with the opportunity to return to their local election commission offices within two business days after the election with proper identification to have their votes counted. Of those 2.45 million ballots cast, a fraction of a fraction of 1 percent were provisional ballots attributable to the photo ID law.

Yes, there were long lines at some polling places, particularly during the peak morning and evening hours on November 6. However, that is a common occurrence during any presidential election year. That’s a sign that interest in our democracy is strong.

In addition to the presidential election, Tennesseans also chose their representatives in Congress and the Tennessee General Assembly. There will be many new members of the General Assembly next year and I look forward to working with all of them!

Also, as Veterans Day approaches, I am pleased to report the success of our new Honor Vote program. This program allows people to cast their ballots in honor of retired and active members of our armed forces by visiting our web site. Based on the participation other states with similar programs have experienced, we thought we might eventually get 1,000 Tennesseans to sign up. That estimate turned out to be extremely conservative. In the first month of our Honor Vote program, more than 3,400 Tennessee voters paid tribute to the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect our freedoms.

As always, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State. If you have comments or questions, please feel free to contact our office.



## BRYAN COLLEGE PARTICIPATES IN AMERICA READS/AMERICA COUNTS PROGRAM

For the last 13 years, Bryan College <http://www.bryan.edu/> in Dayton has been teaming up with the Clyde W. Roddy Library <http://www.clydewroddy.org/> to provide tutoring services to children in Rhea County. In the program, known as America Reads/America Counts, parents of elementary school students contact the library if they want their children to participate. The library then gets in touch with the tutors from Bryan College, who call the parents directly to arrange meeting times. Children come after school for their sessions at the library.

“I commend Bryan College and the Clyde W. Roddy Library for their partnership in this program,” Secretary Hargett said.

*“I COMMEND BRYAN COLLEGE AND THE CLYDE W. RODDY LIBRARY FOR THEIR PARTNERSHIP IN THIS PROGRAM,” SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.*

“I have been saying for a long time that our state’s public libraries are much more than just places where people can check out books – and this program is one more example of that. The library and the college are making an investment in the future of their community, the state and the country.”

Bryan College freshman Bryan Alderman said he tutors more than eight to 10 students each week. “The highlight of tutoring has definitely



been watching the children learn and grow in their skill through our sessions,” Alderman said. “Students have increased their math and reading skills especially, which is what I work with them on primarily.”

David Haggard, Bryan College’s director of financial aid, said the federally-funded program allows the school to provide community service and gives students opportunities to expand their educational experiences outside the classroom. He said America Reads/America Counts “enables teacher-education majors to serve the community by helping to improve the reading, language arts, and math skills of local elementary students.”

The mission of Bryan College is to educate students to serve Christ by making a difference in today’s world. Staff members at the college

believe that having students participate in the program helps to fulfill that mission.

“Bryan has been a part of this wonderful county for over 80 years and this program highlights the college’s commitment to serve Christ by serving others in our area as an educational resource to local schools,” Haggard said. “Deserving elementary students in Rhea County have the same right to educational opportunity as anyone else and this program may give students the boost they need to succeed in difficult subject areas.”

If you live in the Dayton area and wish to get involved in the program, please contact the Clyde W. Roddy Library at (423) 775-8406. 



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## ONLINE FILING NOW AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES

Secretary Hargett announces that limited liability companies (LLC) may submit paperwork electronically to the office’s Business Services Division web page. It’s the latest online service to be offered through the Secretary of State’s office.

Available at <http://tnbear.tn.gov/NewBiz>, the online LLC formation tool allows a user to complete the required paperwork to file the necessary formation documents. The filing fee may be paid by using either a debit card or a credit card. A customer may also use the online LLC formation tool to prepare LLC formation documents, then print the documents and mail the paperwork to the Business Services Division with a check for payment.

Either way, the system will guide users through the process of forming an LLC. Using the online process will prevent mistakes and omissions that would prevent the division from being able to accept the formation documents.

“This is another way we are trying to make it more convenient for our constituents, the taxpayers, to transact business with the state,” Secretary Hargett said. “Online filing is easy and it allows our office to operate more efficiently.”

The division’s web page will eventually feature online filing for other business entity types, including corporations and limited liability partnerships.

For questions or further information, please contact the Business Services Division at (615) 741-2286. 

## MEET BENJAMIN DUBOIS

Nashvillians Daniel and Sarah Dubois hadn't thought about adoption their entire lives, but through trusted friends and the Lord, they found themselves considering adoption a few years ago. After lots of prayer, the family of three – Daniel, Sarah and their biological daughter Madeline - became a family of four.



*FIRST FAMILY PICTURE TAKEN AT THE NASHVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT*

“The catalyst for us thinking about adoption was friends who had adopted from Ethiopia,” Daniel said. “That was really our first introduction to international adoption. Their adoption story had a big impact on us and it seemed the Lord was putting international adoption in front of us everywhere we went.”

Thankfully, the Dubois had friends who could answer questions and ease fears they had.

“We prayed a lot and asked a lot of questions about adoption,” Sarah said. “We had concerns and fears and gradually we began to work through them.”

The Dubois started their paperwork in January 2009 and by August of that same year, they were ready to adopt.

“We were working furiously that whole time on paperwork and fundraising simultaneously,” Sarah said.

Four months later, they received their referral.

“The enormity of the referral call and e-mail was huge,” Daniel said. “You’re seeing (a photo

of) this little face for the first time and trying to digest the mountain of medical records and information of varying accuracy and trying to wrap your head around this thing that until that e-mail and that moment was highly conceptual. Now it’s a person and he had a name and a face and two big beautiful eyes.”

“It was surreal to see his picture for the first time,” Sarah said. “It is much like seeing a biological child for the first time.”

However, it was six months before Daniel and Sarah were able to travel to Ethiopia to get their son.

“This was a bit longer than usual and some of that was our own doing,” Daniel said. “We wanted to make every effort to make contact with Benjamin’s birth mom and our agency went to great lengths to try and reach her. Meeting her was important to us so that we understood who she was for Benjamin’s sake so we could share stories with him when he’s older.”

Once in Ethiopia, Daniel and Sarah were able to meet Benjamin on their first day there, despite arriving in the country a few days before the day they were officially scheduled to take him.

“We wanted to do some extra traveling and get to know Ethiopia and experience the culture as much as we could,” Sarah said. “When we arrived, our agency offered to take us to him right away and it was awesome but so overwhelming at the same time.

“It was amazing to meet him for the first time and we were prepared that he might be pretty upset when he was handed to us. He had not been around a lot of white people and we were complete strangers at that point, but there was very little trauma and he cuddled right up to us. There were lots of happy tears.”

A couple days later, Daniel and Sarah not only legally received the nine-month-old as their son,



but they also were able to meet and talk with his birth mom.

“That day was probably the most emotional day of my life,” Daniel said. “His birth mom was a terrific person and I really wish we could have known her under different circumstances. We were able to speak to her through a translator. We recorded our conversation with her and took pictures with her so we can share that with Benjamin some day.”

The first day of Benjamin’s adoption was hard for everyone.

“He cried for several hours that first day,” Sarah said. “It was so hard to see him grieving, terrified because he didn’t understand what was going on and we couldn’t explain it to him but we tried our best to comfort him. His grieving process lasted that first day and the next morning he woke up and he was OK.”

The Dubois family arrived back in the United States to around 50 people at the airport welcoming them home.

“Here in Nashville, we have quite the supportive adoption community and airport parties are something we’ve done for each other to welcome children home so we have quite a few families who came to offer their support as well as our own families,” Sarah said.

“It was a really good reminder of the community of people who came alongside us

during that whole year to make that moment possible,” Daniel said. “It wasn’t just about us making that decision. It was a community of people who had emotionally, prayerfully and financially supported us.”

International adoption has changed the Dubois family.

“It causes us to look at the day to day on a longer arch,” Daniel said. “This is something that we see is good for Madeline and good for Benjamin, even though today this decision is sometimes painful and challenged at times. Twenty years from now, this is going to be an amazing thing that will bless our family and generations to come.”

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](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm).

“International adoptions continue to bring joy to so many families in this country and I’m thankful that my office plays a small role in that process,” Secretary Hargett said. “It is an honor to help Tennesseans build their families and help children of the world to have better opportunities in life with loving families in Tennessee.” 

## 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](mailto:business.services@tn.gov), or visit [www.tn.gov/sos/bus\\_svc/apostilles.htm](http://www.tn.gov/sos/bus_svc/apostilles.htm)

## TENNESSEE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PROMOTES VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES

November 11 is Veterans Day, a holiday on which our nation pays tribute to those who have served in our armed forces. Tennessee is home to more than 500,000 veterans and Secretary Hargett recognizes the contribution they have made and are making to our communities.



In honor of Tennessee veterans, the Tennessee Business Spotlight theme for the month of November is: Veteran-Owned Businesses. There are hundreds and hundreds of businesses in Tennessee that are owned by veterans, a handful of which are being spotlighted this month.

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 showcased in November are:

- *Alliant Corporation* in Knoxville
- *Bestway Services, Inc.* in Nashville
- *Etherion, Inc.* in Maryville
- *ForceX, Inc.* in Clarksville
- *Helping Heal Heroes, Inc.* in Cordova
- *RAE Products* in Antioch
- *VetCo LLC* in Oak Ridge

"I thank these men and women who have proudly served our nation and our state in the military and are now contributing to our economy through their businesses," Secretary Hargett said. "They made great contributions to our armed services and continue to make great contributions in our communities."

To visit Tennessee Business Spotlight, go to [www.spotlight.tnsos.net](http://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) 741-3382. 🇺🇸





## STATE HISTORIAN PUBLISHES NEW BOOK ON INFLUENTIAL NAVAL OFFICER

Tennessee State Historian Walter T. Durham has come out with a new book, *The State of State History in Tennessee in 2012*, which focuses on the Tennessee connections of Navy Commander Matthew Fontaine Maury. Maury was a 19th Century naval officer who took interest in various causes affecting Tennessee, including procurement of a navy yard for Memphis, establishment of the University of the South in Sewanee and last-minute mediation efforts preceding the Civil War.

“Various works have been written about Maury and his breakthrough oceanographic discoveries,” Durham said. “I found his connections to Tennessee and said, ‘Well, this is something that hasn’t been written about and we need to look at it because his Tennessee connections seemed to be very important to him.’”

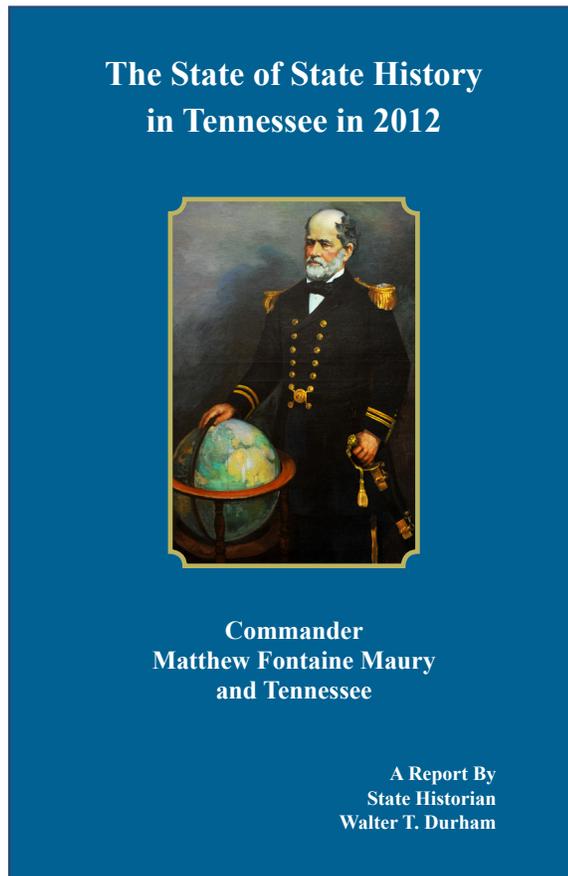
Durham is the author of many articles and 17 books on Tennessee history subjects. In 2004, he published a study of the state’s historical agencies and their activities. After conducting the study,

he produced several publications, including *A Directory of Tennessee Agencies, Governmental and Non-Governmental, Bringing State and Local History to the Public*, 2004, and *The State of State History in Tennessee in 2004*. In 2006, he produced the follow-up report, *The State of State History in Tennessee in 2006*.

The state historian is appointed by the governor. The office is honorary and without compensation and is administratively attached to the State Library and Archives. It is the state historian’s statutory duty “to prepare for publication and to disseminate historical data upon Tennessee history, past and present.”

“The state historian should write books, the Tennessee code is very specific about that,” Durham said. “I’ve tried

to be sure I’ve done that and I will continue to do it. I’m looking forward to another *State of State History*. I may get into a biography of a Tennessean who doesn’t have one but who deserves one. We’ll keep going.” 🇺🇸



## HIDDEN TREASURES AT THE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

The Tennessee State Library and Archives contains thousands of interesting historical records. Each month, Blue Pages will be highlighting an item uncovered by our archivists.

Nestled amidst the letters, diaries, and memoirs of the [Tennessee State Library and Archives Civil War Collection](#) is this document with a humble appearance that belies its massive importance. With this one page, the Tennessee General Assembly authorized Governor Isham Harris to transfer the forces of the Provisional Army of Tennessee that he had so painstakingly marshaled

to Confederate service. Harris turned over to the Confederate States 24 regiments, 10 artillery batteries, an engineer corps, quartermaster and ordnance departments and an ordnance bureau. This force would be placed under the command of General Albert Sidney Johnston and would form the nucleus of the Army of Tennessee.

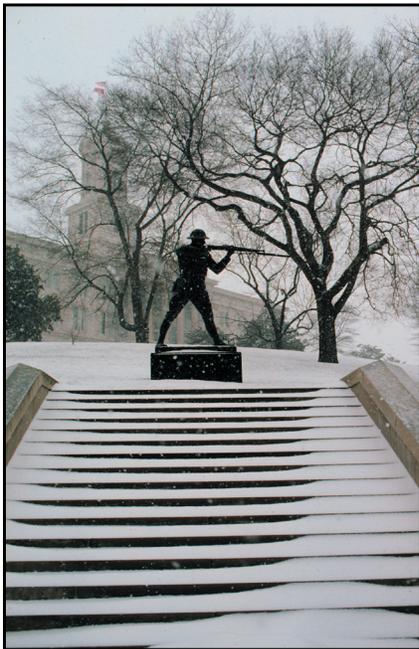
To view an image of the document in TSLA's collection, go to: <http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/tslatreasures/tslatreasures3.JPG>

(Civil war Collection, Box 3, Folder 14) 



## NOVEMBER HOLIDAY CLOSURES

THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL BE CLOSED FOR TWO  
HOLIDAYS DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.



**Monday, Nov. 12:** In observance of Veterans Day, all state offices will be closed. Business will resume at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13.

**Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23:** In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, all state offices will be closed. The Tennessee State Library and Archives will be open for its regular hours – 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Saturday, Nov. 24. All divisions with the exception of the Tennessee State Library and Archives will reopen for normal business hours at 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 26. The TSLA will resume regular business hours on Tuesday.

If you have business with any of the office's divisions, please plan accordingly. 





## RULEMAKING HEARINGS AND LISTS OF RULES

Rulemaking 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 rulemaking meeting notices online, go to: [tnsos.org/rules/RulemakingHearings.php?](http://tnsos.org/rules/RulemakingHearings.php?)

To view the rules scheduled to go into effect, go to: [tnsos.org/rules/PendingRules.php?](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](mailto:Cody.York@tn.gov). 

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