



THE BLUE PAGES TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE Tre Hargett

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*From the
Secretary's
Desk*

TENNESSEE HISTORY DAY BUILDS BETTER STUDENTS – AND BETTER CITIZENS

April 21 was an interesting day in history.

It was on that date in 1989 that Chinese students began protesting in Tiananmen Square.

It was also the date in 1918 when ace German fighter pilot Manfred von Richthofen - better known as the “Red Baron” - was shot down and killed over France.

It's the same date in 1836 on which Sam Houston's forces defeated those led by Mexican General Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto, one of the decisive conflicts in the Texas Revolution.

And it was on that day in 753 B.C. that twin brothers Romulus and Remus were said to have founded Rome.

The truth is, though, that all the days of our calendar are packed with anniversaries of momentous events that have shaped the world in which we live. I picked April 21 because it also happens to be the date of this year's Tennessee History Day competition.

For the last three years, our department has been proud to be one of the sponsors for this event, in which students present exhibits, research papers, web sites, documentaries and live performances on various historical subjects. The Tennessee Historical Society

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does a great job of organizing the event, which will be held at Legislative Plaza, War Memorial Auditorium, Tennessee Tower and the Nashville Public Library.

The students who will be participating in the April 21 event in downtown Nashville have projects that were judged among the best of the best at one of six regional competitions held throughout the state in February and March.

April 21 winners will have the opportunity to participate in the National History Day competition held at the University of Maryland in late June. Each year, about half a million students in grades six through 12 participate in History Day.

It's a program I wholeheartedly support, for a number of reasons.

First of all, true to its founder's intent, History Day provides a fun and exciting way for students to learn about history outside of a classroom setting. The curriculum can help engage many students who might not find traditional lectures on history interesting.



Also, History Day helps students develop new habits, such as critical thinking and organizational skills, which will serve them well both in school and in their professional lives.



SECRETARY HARGETT AT HISTORY DAY.

Perhaps most importantly, research has shown that students who participate in History Day grow up to become more active and informed citizens after they reach adulthood. I've seen this firsthand with students who I met during the first two years our department was involved with History Day.

I'm sure that some of the students who participate in Tennessee History Day this month won't be making their last trips to Legislative Plaza. I fully expect they will be returning some day to help lead our state.

So, in reality, while History Day may deal with events that took place in the past, it's all about the future. That's why I hope you will join me in supporting the students, parents, teachers and organizers who help make this wonderful event happen.

As always, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State. If you ever have questions or concerns about state government, please don't hesitate to contact my office. 🇺🇸

J. H.

TENNESSEE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PROMOTES SOME OF STATE'S TOP FOOD PRODUCERS

From the barbecue chips of Memphis to the Moon Pies of Chattanooga and everywhere in between, Tennessee food and snack companies produce legendary Southern creations enjoyed not only in this great state, but across the nation and around the world.

The Tennessee Business Spotlight, a new program featured on the Secretary of State's web site, highlights selected companies each month with overviews of their products and operations, including employment figures, photos, and links to their Internet and social media sites. The program's goal is to raise awareness about companies that produce quality products, contribute to local communities and employ Tennesseans.

In recognition of our state's signature food producers, the Tennessee Business Spotlight April theme is entitled "Tastes of Tennessee."

The highlighted companies are:

- Brim's Snack Foods of Bartlett
- Shenandoah Mills of Lebanon
- Clifty Farm Country Meats of Paris
- Chattanooga Bakery, Inc., producers of the Moon Pie, in Chattanooga
- Tellico Grains Bakery of Tellico Plains

"Tennessee's food producers provide great products throughout Tennessee and the world," Secretary Hargett said. "I'm very proud we are able to promote some of the many great businesses we have through this program. It's another way



government can serve these corporate citizens who provide jobs for thousands of Tennesseans. The businesses we spotlight incur no costs to take part. The program is just something we do to help them."

To view the Tennessee Business Spotlight, go to www.spotlight.tnsos.net.

To nominate a company to be recognized in the Tennessee Business Spotlight, please visit the web page and click the "Suggest a Business" link or call (615) 532-5605. 

ELECTION RESULTS CERTIFIED

On March 29, Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins certified the results for Tennessee's recent presidential primary. To view the results online, go to: <http://www.tn.gov/sos/election/results/2012-03/index.htm>. 

MEET ISAAC WRIGHT

Nathaniel and Rebekah Wright felt like their family was missing something, even with two biological daughters and an adopted son. That something turned out to be a special little boy from China named Isaac.



AT THE REGISTRATION OFFICE IN CHINA JUST AFTER MEETING ISAAC.

Almost two years ago, Rebekah Wright had lunch with a friend who had just returned from Maria's Big House of Hope, an orphanage for special needs children in China started by singer Steven Curtis Chapman and Mary-Beth Chapman and named in loving memory of their late daughter, Maria.

"We spent lunch talking about a special little boy named Isaac," Rebekah said. "I went home and out of curiosity searched for Isaac on Maria's Big House of Hope's blog. I watched a video of this sweet boy laughing hysterically and my heart melted."

Isaac was a special needs child because he was born with Spina Bifida.

The Spring Hill family had recently adopted Caleb, then an infant, so the Wrights weren't quite

ready to adopt another child. However, they began lobbying for someone to adopt Isaac.

"As a family, we started a journal for Isaac that we hoped to one day give to his family to let them know that someone had prayed for him and loved him while he waited for a family," Rebekah said.

That journal did not have to travel very far. In December 2010, Nathaniel and Rebekah made a big decision – one for which they felt the Lord had been preparing them – of adding a sixth family member.

"We could not let Isaac go on any longer without a family and decided to try to adopt him ourselves," Rebekah said. "We did not have a good reason not to adopt him as we had a house, a great support system and Vanderbilt's Spina Bifida clinic just down the road where he could get the care he needed.

"We were anxious as adopting an older child who also has special needs would be new territory for us," Rebekah said. "But because of our faith in God, we knew that Isaac was meant to be our son and that God had led us on this path and that He would help us the rest of the way."

And a year later, Nathaniel and Rebekah, along with Rebekah's dad, traveled to China. On



THE WRIGHT FAMILY

Christmas Day in the United States - December 26th in China - they received their new son.

“Before we could even spot him, he yelled, ‘Mama!’” Rebekah said. “It was amazing to finally hold him in my arms. I remember wanting to smell his hair and hold his little hands. The first meeting seemed to be in slow motion as I studied my new precious child.”

The Wrights spent the next week and a half in China with their new son.

“I remember watching him, wanting to soak in everything about him that I have often taken for granted with our children – how he moved, what made him laugh, hearing his voice,” Rebekah said. “‘Surreal’ is the word that keeps coming to mind. And ‘thankful’ – I was just so thankful that I was chosen to be this little boy’s mother!”

The Wrights returned to nearly 100 people in the airport waiting for Isaac’s arrival. But soon the family was into its own routine.

“The first days at home were spent mostly on the floor – all six of us – playing with Legos, cars and Barbies,” Rebekah said. “And we had such great friends who brought food nearly every night for a month. I think Isaac thought that American food just showed up at the door around supper time!”

There have been some adjustments for Isaac.

“Everything about living in a house was new to Isaac,” Rebekah said. “The dishwasher, the

washing machine, the oven – I remember having to teach him that the oven was hot when he reached out for it one day. The seatbelt was an adjustment as well. In China, he rode on my lap and he couldn’t understand why he couldn’t sit in my lap while I drove.”

Rebekah hopes that these experiences will help shape and mold Isaac into the man he will be when he’s older.

“It has been special and also heartbreaking to teach Isaac what it means to be a part of a family,” Rebekah said. “It is sad to my heart as his mother that he had five years without a family. We trust that even all of that time spent as an orphan will be used to shape him into the man he will grow to be one day.”

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

“The heart Tennesseans have for children, both domestically and internationally, is amazing,” Secretary Hargett said. “We are proud to assist these families in one small part of an international adoption process.” 

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. Over 12,100 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

ARCHIVIST RECOGNIZED FOR HIGHLIGHTING WAR OF 1812

Even though it led to the origin of the “Tennessee Volunteers” nickname, the War of 1812 isn’t one of the better-remembered events in American history. However, an archivist at the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) is trying to change that – and he recently received statewide recognition for his efforts.

Tom Kanon, a historian and archivist who has worked at TSLA for 18 years, received the “Spirit of 1812 Award” at the Tennessee State Society United States Daughters of 1812 convention last month. The award is given annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the preservation of the War of 1812 history.

Dr. Kanon has written and spoken extensively about the war, particularly the battles held along the southern frontier. He is the author of an upcoming book on the war. He also delivered the keynote address at the convention, which was held in Jackson.

United States Daughters of 1812 is a volunteer women’s service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism as well as preserving and

increasing knowledge of American history, with special emphasis on the country’s early years after independence.



*DR. TOM KANON GIVING A PRESENTATION.
PHOTO CREDIT: THE HERMITAGE, HOME OF ANDREW JACKSON.*

“Dr. Kanon has long been recognized as an expert on Tennessee in the War of 1812,” said State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill. “I’m very pleased that the Daughters of 1812 chose to recognize his years of research, writing and speaking in this way.” 🇺🇸

TAILS FOR TALES

For some young children, reading aloud to other people is a frightening prospect. However, the experience can be less stressful when the audience is a friendly canine companion.

That’s why Kingsport Public Library is one of a handful of libraries in the state that has adopted a “Paws to Read” program, which gives independent readers in grades 1-5 the opportunity to read to a certified therapy dog. Each reading session is one-on-one with a dog and lasts 20 minutes. Children may bring their favorite books or select something from the library.

“It’s fun and the children do not feel judged by the dog,” said Helen Whittaker, the library’s director. “If a child misses a word, the dog just listens and wags its tail,” Whittaker said.

The dogs volunteering at the Kingsport Public Library have gone through a special training program for therapy dogs. Kingsport currently has three dogs participating.

“At our library, we had a 9-year-old autistic boy who had no interest in reading,” Whittaker said. “After one session with the library dog, he read every day so he would be able to read ‘better’ to

the dog and told his mother he wanted a reading-themed birthday party.”

Johnson City Public Library and Oak Ridge Public Library both offer similar programs.

To register for your “doggie spot,” please contact the Kingsport Library at (423) 229-9489. To see if the regional library in your area has a similar program, please visit www.tn.gov/tsla/pld to find a library near you.

“The Tennessee State Library and Archives provides training and technical support to public libraries throughout our state,” Secretary Hargett said. “In addition to that, it’s important that we help publicize some of the innovative programs those libraries offer, like ‘Paws to Read.’ These programs



BLAKELY GAMBLE READING TO TYRA.

are gaining popularity not only in Tennessee, but in other parts of the country. If reading to a dog helps a child develop an interest in books, then that’s something we certainly want to encourage.” 

TENNESSEE BLUE BOOK AVAILABLE ONLINE

The *2011-2012 Tennessee Blue Book*, considered the manual of state government and state history, is now available online.

The Blue Book can be accessed by visiting <http://state.tn.us/sos/bluebook/index.htm>.

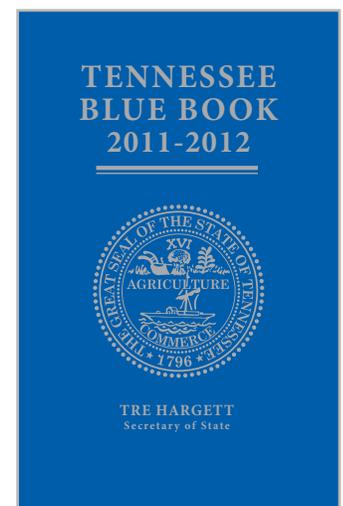
“Making the Blue Book available online is another way we can provide better service to our customers, the citizens of Tennessee,” Secretary Hargett said. “The newest edition of the Blue Book has updated graphics, photos and other enhancements that have not been available in previous editions. The staff of our Publications Division has embraced my challenge to look for new ways to add value to the work that we do here.”

The Blue Book is published every two years by the Secretary of State’s office. It contains valuable information about the legislative, executive and judicial branches of state government - including biographical information about top elected and appointed officials. It also includes biographical

information about the state’s representatives in Congress, a detailed history of the state, information about historical sites around Tennessee, statistics about cities and counties, election results, state symbols, and much more.

The online archived Blue Books date back to the *2005-2006 Tennessee Blue Book*. To view the archived books, please visit <http://state.tn.us/sos/bluebook/index.htm> and scroll down to “Archived Blue Books.”

The current edition of the Blue Book is dedicated to Lt. Gov. Ronald L. Ramsey and Speaker of the House Beth Harwell for their service to the state of Tennessee. 



STATE OFFICES CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY

Like other state offices, the Office of the Secretary of State will be closed Friday, April 6 for the Good Friday holiday. The Tennessee State Library and Archives will reopen Saturday, April 7 at its regular hours. Other divisions will reopen Monday, April 9 at their regular hours. 🇺🇸



USPS ADDRESS FORMATTING NOW PART OF BUSINESS ANNUAL REPORT FILING SYSTEM

The Business Services Division's online annual report filing system is now programmed to require business filers to make their listed addresses comply with United States Postal Service (USPS) address deliverability standards. This will allow the division to mail its business customers at the lowest cost, thus realizing considerable savings for the taxpayers. It will also greatly improve the division's ability to get important business information to our customers in an accurate and timely manner.

When filing an annual report online, the system will pause briefly to validate an address or reformat it. If the system cannot find any form of the currently listed address in the Postal Service database, it will require a filer to enter an address that is verifiable against the database.

If you experience difficulty making one of your business' listed addresses comply with Postal Service standards, call the Business Services Division at (615) 741-2286. We will be glad to work with you to successfully file your annual report. 🇺🇸

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. 🇺🇸

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