

## FLOOD EDITION

May 6, 2010

**A daily roundup of recent news stories and opinion pieces about Tennessee transportation, water and flood control infrastructure**

For the full story, click the headline or use the link.

### [Montgomery, Dyer Added to Federal Disaster List \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)

Two more flood-damaged Tennessee counties have been declared disaster areas. President Barack Obama signed the order on Wednesday adding Montgomery and Dyer Counties to the list of communities eligible for federal disaster assistance. Cheatham, Davidson, Hickman and Williamson Counties were declared disaster areas on Tuesday. Governor Phil Bredesen has asked that 52 Tennessee counties be made eligible for federal help. Officials expect most if not all will be added to the list in the coming days.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17189>

### [More Tenn. Counties Approved For Federal Aid \(Associated Press\)](#)

Two more Tennessee counties have been declared federal disaster areas following severe storms, tornadoes and flooding over the weekend. Montgomery County and Dyer County were added on Wednesday to the growing list of counties that have been approved for federal funding for residents who sustained damage and losses. Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen has requested assistance for 52 counties in all. The storms are blamed for at least 29 deaths in three states. Four counties Cheatham, Davidson, Hickman and Williamson were approved by the federal government on Tuesday.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33463187.story>

### [Montgomery Co. Declared Federal Disaster Area \(Leaf Chronicle\)](#)

Bredesen: Designation 'opens the door' to federal assistance As Gov. Phil Bredesen and other government officials touched down Wednesday afternoon following an aerial damage assessment, word came that President Obama had designated Montgomery County as a disaster area. The announcement clears the way for local residents and business owners affected by massive flooding to apply for federal disaster assistance. "That shows that even in the air, we are working," Bredesen quipped at a news conference at Outlaw Field. The governor said the disaster designation "opens up the door to all kinds of assistance," and local residents should begin registering with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to begin the process. Bredesen has requested that 52 Tennessee counties be declared disaster areas. Dyer County was also designated a disaster area on Wednesday.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100506/NEWS01/5060323/1002/Montgomery-Co.-declared-federal-disaster-area>

### [Obama Adds Two Counties State Disaster Declaration \(City Paper/Woods\)](#)

President Obama declared disasters Wednesday in two more Tennessee counties because of the weekend floods that claimed 20 lives in the state. Disaster declarations were made for Montgomery and Dyer counties. Davidson, Cheatham, Hickman and Williamson counties were authorized Tuesday, making federal assistance available to flood victims. Declarations for 46 more counties requested by Gov. Phil Bredesen are expected, officials said. "President Obama and the federal government continue to move quickly in their response," said Bredesen. "As people begin to rebuild their homes and their lives, this assistance will be an important resource for Tennesseans." Tennessee suffered 20 confirmed deaths in the violent weather struck the state April 30-May 2. On Wednesday, Bredesen toured northern Middle Tennessee, including Montgomery and Sumner counties.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/obama-adds-two-counties-state-disaster-declaration>

### **[Storm-Damaged Shelby, Tipton Counties Named Federal Disaster Areas \(C. Appeal\)](#)**

Among 10 in state that will get aid; body found near bridge in Raleigh On the day a body was recovered from the area's worst storm in years, the federal government declared Shelby and Tipton counties disaster areas. The declaration, requested by Gov. Phil Bredesen, clears the way for federal aid to areas damaged by flooding. It brings to 10 the number of Tennessee counties declared disaster areas. Four of the counties are in West Tennessee -- Dyer and McNairy were also added Wednesday -- which was hit hard by flooding and wind. The other six to receive the designation -- Cheatham, Davidson, Hickman, Montgomery, Perry and Williamson -- are in Middle Tennessee. That bit of good news was tempered by the discovery of a body in Raleigh, which may be that of a 32-year-old man who disappeared in floodwaters Saturday morning.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/may/05/storm-damaged-shelby-tipton-counties-declared-disa/>

### **[Obama Declares Four Tennessee Counties Major Disaster Areas \(Samford Crimson\)](#)**

The federal government has granted Governor Bredesen's request for Federal Emergency Assistance, a major disaster declaration, Tuesday for four Tennessee counties. The declaration makes federal funding available to people in Cheatham, Davidson, Hickman and Williamson counties. Other counties will not be rejected from assistance, as declarations for more Tennessee counties are expected in coming days. The six people who handcuffed themselves Tuesday are veterans and were organized by the group GetEQUAL, which also put together the California protest. Bredesen asked the president on Monday to declare 52 counties a federal disaster area. The declaration allows for federal help to immediately begin for flood-ravaged Nashville.

<http://media.www.samfordcrimson.com/media/storage/paper1166/news/2010/05/05/News/Obama.Declares.Four.Tennessee.Counties.Major.Disaster.Areas-3917670.shtml>

### **[Federal Disaster-Area Designations Could Come Slowly \(TN Report\)](#)**

It could take weeks before all seriously flood-damaged Tennessee counties are seriously considered for official disaster relief. More counties will likely be added within coming days, but it will take weeks for officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to scope another 48 counties hammered in last weekend's storms, officials said Wednesday. "We'll continue to assess the other counties that have been requested," said Derek Jensen, a FEMA spokesman. "So we're in the process of doing that right now. We'll keep working with the state, look at what the impact's been in those counties. It's an evolving process and it's going to be kind of a moving target for the next several weeks." The first four counties were deemed disaster areas less than 24 hours after officials took an aerial tour of Cheatham, Davidson, Hickman and Williamson counties to examine the damage, finding homes and industrial parks awash in murky flood waters. Tennessee Emergency Management Agency spokesman Jeremy Heidt expects the rest might take some time.

<http://www.tnreport.com/2010/05/federal-disaster-area-designations-could-come-slowly/>

### **[Floodwater Flyover Brings Back Memories Of Tornado Assessment \(Leaf Chronicle\)](#)**

From the air, Clarksville looks like a bustling lake-front community with streets running into the large body of reddish-brown water like boat ramps. But a closer look reveals just roof tops protruding from the water and the structures below mostly submerged. Tree lines neatly separate the water into compartments with parking lots, streets or lawns just below the surface. In areas away from downtown, large fields of deep green and contrasting light tan look like golf course fairways and greens with plentiful water hazards randomly scattered about. As a Black Hawk carrying Gov. Phil Bredesen, local government officials and journalists circled Clarksville Wednesday afternoon to assess flood damage, I thought back to a similar flyover in 1999, when I joined former Sen. Bill Frist, who was surveying tornado damage. This time, the helicopter doors were open, unlike that cold February day more than 11 years ago when the view out the window was of many blue tarps covering rooftops and building interiors opened to the heavens with rubble bleeding out the remaining walls.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100506/NEWS01/5060326/1002/Floodwater-flyover-brings-back-memories-of-tornado-assessment>

### **[Nashville Floods Affecting Chattanooga \(WTVC-TV Chattanooga\)](#)**

Flooding fall-out continues in Nashville. The water is receding, but the massive road to recovery remains. Slowly residents are returning to their homes and businesses assessing the damage done by these flood waters. Many are still without power and officials are warning residents to conserve water. Six Tennessee counties are now deemed federal disaster areas by the President. Those include Davidson, Cheatham, Williamson and Hickman, Montgomery and Dyer counties. Governor Phil Bredesen toured the damage by helicopter Wednesday. But the problems that persist are not contained to the middle of the state. Several government offices in state capitol are now out of commission. Which means, the daily flow of business and records throughout the state is becoming backed up. It also means many in Chattanooga are getting flooded with frustrations. The phone calls to Nashville's unemployment office are not going through, which makes the lines in Chattanooga's office longer, and the frustrations grow faster.

<http://www.newschannel9.com/news/nashville-990968-floods-affecting.html>

### **[Residents Can Register For FEMA Help Before Disaster Declared \(Jackson Sun\)](#)**

West Tennessee flood victims can register for help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency now, even though the area has not yet been declared a natural disaster area by President Barack Obama. Residents who register now will be given a registration and a disaster number that identifies the flood and the person whose property was damaged. Those who register need to keep both numbers for future reference. FEMA and the Small Business Administration will establish Disaster Recovery Centers in Jackson and other West Tennessee cities after the president declares each county a natural disaster area. Once that occurs, residents will be able to apply for federal grants and low-interest loans to help rebuild their lives. To register for assistance, residents need to have: The address of the affected home or business.

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100506/NEWS01/5060308/1002/Residents-can-register-for-FEMA-help-before-disaster-declared>

### **[Agencies Closer To Normal Operations After Floods \(Associated Press\)](#)**

State agencies providing services to Tennesseans are closer to returning to normal operations after being disrupted by this week's floods. The Department of Labor is working to reroute calls to make unemployment claims to satellite offices because its call center in north Nashville has been evacuated. But claims can be processed online and at career centers. All offices processing food stamps are open, and people on the program who lost food due to the storms are eligible to have their balances restored. Disaster information centers have been set up in some of Nashville's hardest hit areas to provide guidance on social services, legal and insurance information.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33463935.story>

### **[FEMA: With \\$1 Billion Damage Estimate, Federal \\$ Won't Fix Everything \(CP/Garrison\)](#)**

Federal aid should give Nashville's flooding victims a boost, but officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency caution that its range is limited. Mayor Karl Dean said Wednesday the cost of damages from the weekend of record flooding will likely exceed \$1 billion. President Obama has authorized disaster declarations for four Middle Tennessee counties, including Davidson, clearing the way for federal aid to flow into Nashville. "It's safe to say the damage we are looking at will easily exceed a billion dollars," Dean said Wednesday. The hardest-hit neighborhoods include parts of Bordeaux, Bellevue and Antioch. The downtown commercial district, among several other areas of town, has also sustained significant damage. Davidson County residents can call 1-800-621-FEMA to apply for assistance. Five Metro Parks and Recreation community centers — Coleman, Bellevue, Hadley, Hermitage and East Park — have turned into spots where victims can learn more about disaster relief.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/fema-1-billion-damage-estimate-federal-funds-won-t-fix-everything>

### **[Corps Continues To Release Water From Rain-Swollen Lakes \(City Paper\)](#)**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District is carefully balancing the safety of rain-swollen lake with the need for flood protection downstream. With safety in mind, the Corps is ramping up efforts to bring water levels down behind its dams along the Cumberland River and its tributaries. On Tuesday, the agency said several lakes had reached record levels with water behind the dam creating Old Hickory Lake coming within inches of flowing over the dam. The following updated information is currently available regarding operations at Corps dams along the Cumberland River and its tributaries. Wolf Creek Dam on the Cumberland River, Jamestown, Ky. - Lake Cumberland elevation at 9 a.m. Wednesday was 702.8 feet. The lake is forecast to peak at 704.2 feet on Friday night.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/corps-continues-release-water-rain-swollen-lakes>

### **[City Workers Assess Devastation; Dean Says Damage Tops \\$1 Billion \(Wpln\)](#)**

Officials in Nashville are trying to get a complete sense of the damage after weekend storms across Tennessee flooded parts of the city, including some areas downtown. Police and firefighters are going door to door in some neighborhoods, and Mayor Karl Dean says city workers are feeling out the full extent of the damage. Dean says that's hard because some areas are still underwater. "I mean we're doing the assessment now of property all over the county, they're working really hard, we have lots of teams, I think 45 teams out right now. And I think it's safe to say that the damage that we're looking at will easily exceed a billion dollars, but I can't give you the details about specific number of jobs lost yet." While President Obama has declared the area a federal disaster area, Dean says it's too soon for details about what sort of aid will follow.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17196>

### **[Nashville Flood Damage May Top \\$1 Billion \(Tennessean/Cass, Rau\)](#)**

About 100 Metro police officers and firefighters went door to door Wednesday trying to account for everyone affected by the historic floods that battered Nashville, while inspectors continued to assess damage that Mayor Karl Dean said would soar well above \$1 billion for the city alone. Dean's estimate didn't take into account damage from places elsewhere in the region, which could add hundreds of millions, if not billions, to the total. Nor did it account for lost revenue from businesses soaked by the floodwaters or forfeited wages for workers who haven't been able to return to their jobs. "The magnitude of the damages to those businesses, I don't know," the mayor said. "I think it's safe to say the damage that we're looking at will easily exceed \$1 billion." By the end of the fifth day of the crisis, city officials had identified more than 450 infrastructure sites across Nashville that needed repairs. Many of the sites are "quick fixes" that will merely require filling in potholes or clearing storm-water drainage ditches, Metro Public Works Director Billy Lynch said.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100506/NEWS02/5060342/Nashville+flood+damage+may+top++1+billion>

### **[City Inspectors Hit The Streets In Damage Assessments \(City Paper/Wheeler\)](#)**

Every single inspector in Metro Codes was out assessing and documenting flood levels throughout Nashville Wednesday afternoon. It is a process that should expedite the process if those residents apply for FEMA aid. Tim Roland and Steve Regen are a team of inspectors in the building division that covered Inglewood on Wednesday. "This is all that we're doing right now is damage assessments. We're not doing any normal inspections," Roland said. They have been working steadily throughout Nashville since Monday. Each resident visited has a flood story, a bit of confusion receiving help and usually someone to blame. Potential scapegoats on this trip included the Army Corps of Engineers, the water company, careless neighbors with faulty drainage and property owners renting to tenants.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/city-inspectors-hit-streets-damage-assessments>

### **[Damage Estimates At \\$1 Billion In Nashville \(WKRN-TV Nashville\)](#)**

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean estimates the damage from weekend flooding could easily top \$1 billion. In Davidson County, the death toll remains at nine with two persons missing. Eighteen-year-old Daniel Alexander Brown was last seen Sunday evening while tubing in Mill Creek. His friends reported that the swift current slammed Brown into a bridge pillar and then down stream. Danny Tomlinson, 39, of Pegram, was last seen in his car early Sunday morning. The car ran into high water on Newsom Station Road near Buffalo Road. A friend in the car with Tomlinson got out safely. The car was found in a flooded section of Newsom Station Road Tuesday afternoon. As of 4 p.m. Wednesday, the Cumberland River was at 48.15 feet, down from 51.8 feet when the river crested Monday evening. Flows will remain high as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to release water from the dams on Old Hickory and Percy Priest lakes to protect the integrity of the dams. The releases are not expected to lead to additional rises on the Cumberland River.

<http://www.wkrn.com/global/story.asp?s=12433269>

### **[Flood Victims Will Have Some Financial Relief When Rebuilding \(WPLN-Radio\)](#)**

Several area utilities and agencies announced plans today to waive fees for flood victims. Piedmont Natural Gas and Nashville Electric Service will not charge reconnection fees to customers affected by the disaster. In addition, the gas company is waiving the charges for late payments for the next two months and has pledged not to disconnect anyone for nonpayment during that time. Metro Codes will not charge the usual permit and inspection fees for flood-related construction work at homes and small businesses. Metro Water is waiving late fees throughout the month of May.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17214>

### **[Mayor Proposes Fee Waivers For Businesses, Residents \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)**

Mayor Karl Dean has proposed waiving Metro Codes Department fees associated with building, mechanical, plumbing and electrical permits for businesses and homeowners attempting to rebuild after the past week's historic flooding in Nashville. The waiving of fees administered by the Metro Codes Department will have to be approved in an ordinance by the Metro Council. Metro Water Services, Nashville Electric Service and Piedmont Natural Gas also have announced that they will waive several reconnection charges, late charges and other fees in the immediate future for flood victims. In other developments, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools employees are being asked to return to work Thursday, but classes are still canceled. Metro government offices and courts will be open Thursday with a few exceptions.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/03/daily36.html?surround=lfm>

### **[Rutherford Residents Urged To Report Flood Damage As Aid Eligibility Assessed \(TN\)](#)**

Red Cross offers respite center at Smyrna church building Rutherford County emergency officials have assessed about 155 flood-hit structures, putting the estimated value of loss at \$13.5 million, with more assessments still to be done. Northwestern parts of the county, particularly La Vergne and Smyrna, were hardest hit by the record rainfall. "In the next few days, county officials will be working with TEMA and FEMA to conduct damage assessments that could determine whether the area will be eligible for federal disaster assistance," U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon said. "If your property was damaged by flooding, make sure the county is aware of it. This is one of the most important steps you can take right now." The Heart of Tennessee Chapter of the American Red Cross has a respite center at Highland Heights Church of Christ in Smyrna. The center offers a place to stay, food, drinks and snacks for those affected by the flooding.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100506/NEWS01/5060347/1001/NEWS/Rutherford+residents+urged+to+report+flood+damage+as+aid+eligibility+for+county+is+assessed>

### **[County Drying Up \(Columbia Daily Herald\)](#)**

Maury County authorities are urging flood victims to report damage to local emergency officials, the first step in applying for federal disaster assistance. "The affected cities and the county are doing everything they can to try to take care of the needs of people and also try to qualify for disaster reimbursement, but there's no guarantee we will get that at this point," said Mark Blackwood, director of the Maury County Office of Emergency Management. Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen wants Maury County, along with 51 other Tennessee counties, to be designated federal disaster areas by President Barack Obama. Damage assessments are still under way, but it appears northwestern Maury County and the Sandy Hook community were the hardest hit areas locally. Some people in those areas lost everything during the flooding and don't have insurance to cover the damage.

[http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/05/05/top\\_stories/01dryingup.txt](http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/05/05/top_stories/01dryingup.txt)

### **[Hickman County Devastated By Flood Waters \(WSMV-TV Nashville\)](#)**

Residents Endure Hardships Since Sunday Hickman county residents have been without water and power since Sunday. Centerville has been distributing water to residents at four locations in the city. The National Guard has been handling those duties in the county. A steady stream of people pulled up at Centerville's fire station on Wednesday to pick up a case of water. Many are ready for life to return to normal. "I've been here four years and this is the worst I've seen it," said one resident who was handed a case of water. Making matters worse for resident are the washed-out roads left behind by the high water. Highway 100, the main highway through Centerville, has been closed since Sunday because Mill Creek Bridge was washed out. Volunteer firefighters are concerned about the water pressure being so low and their ability to fight fires. Fire officials devised a back up plan that includes a tank of water next to the fire station.

<http://www.wsmv.com/weather/23469993/detail.html>

### **[Government To Get Back To Business Thursday \(City Paper\)](#)**

Metro government expects to be running at near-full capacity Thursday morning, Mayor Karl Dean announced Wednesday evening. "Tonight is all basically good news," he told reporters gathered for a press briefing, one of several officials have been holding daily since the weekend's flooding. Most courts and city offices will be operational, he said. The exceptions: Juvenile Court and the Juvenile Court Clerk's office, both severely damaged by floodwaters, will be relocating, and Dean said a location had not been finalized. The County Clerk's office and Metro Social Services, both of which are located in north Nashville's MetroCenter, which sustained major flooding, will remain closed. And the Farmers' Market will also keep its doors shuttered as recovery continues there.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/services-government-get-back-business-thursday>

### **[Metro Schools Issues Guidelines for Flood Victims \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)**

Nashville school teachers and staff members will go back to work Thursday, but students may be out of school until Monday. When classes resume, students who have been forced to move due to the flood may attend either their usual school or the closest zoned school. Displaced students will be eligible for free and reduced lunch and will not be expected to wear "standard school attire." Children from other counties who are now in Metro due to flooding will be allowed to enroll without the usual required documentation. Flood-related absences will be excused, and there will be no replacement fee charged for textbooks lost in the flood.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17212>

### **[Metro Schools May Not Reopen Until Monday \(City Paper/Garrison\)](#)**

Director of Schools Jesse Register said Wednesday all Metro schools teachers are expected to attend a workday tomorrow and hopes to have all students return to school by Monday at the latest. "We hope everyone will be situated by then, but we can't delay any longer than that if the conditions are right," Register said. Register said he expects the state will sign off on an exemption to bypass making up all the canceled school days.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/metro-schools-may-not-reopen-until-monday>

### **[Displaced Metro Nashville Students Get Some Slack \(Tennessean/Ross\)](#)**

District to make decision soon on when to reopen schools Most Metro Nashville Public Schools employees are back at work today and trying to determine just how soon students might join them. When Nashville's students do return to class, they'll be the last in the area to do so. But they will find a district ready to bend rules about dress codes, textbooks and zone attendance so that students can start learning again, district officials said in a statement released Wednesday. Federal law requires the district to do what it can to accommodate homeless and displaced students, said Olivia Brown, a district spokeswoman. That includes temporary changes in school rules:

- Students displaced by the flood can attend the school in which they were enrolled before the flood, or the school in the zone where they have moved.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100506/NEWS04/5060335/Displaced+Metro+Nashville+students+get+some+slack>

### **Nashville Water Plant Dried Out, Under Repair (City Paper)**

Nashville has dried out its submerged water plant enough for workers to start repairs and try to get the plant back online. Only one plant has been treating water since weekend storms submerged the K.R. Harrington plant. Scott Potter, Nashville's director of water services, announced Wednesday his workers got into that plant Tuesday night. They are busy taking apart motors, inspecting all electrical systems and replacing equipment to measure water quality. Potter says the damage isn't as bad as feared. But he said at a briefing that calls to limit water only for hygiene and cooking "aren't taking hold yet," and asked people to conserve so Nashville will have water available until the second plant returns to service.

<http://content.usatoday.net/dist/custom/gci/InsidePage.aspx?cld=tennessean&sParam=33461759.story>

### **Conservation Beginning To Have Positive Effect (City Paper)**

As of Wednesday evening, it appeared water conservation efforts in Nashville were beginning to have a positive effect. Scott Potter, director of Metro Water, said the city is still operating at 48 percent capacity, 11 percent above the supply at the same time Tuesday. Clean water reserves remain critically low, with only one operating treatment plant. Potter's office checks water supplies every four hours. He said the change this afternoon was "demonstrable," attributing it to continued efforts to implore Nashvillians to reduce their water usage by half. He also reiterated that it is essential for Nashvillians to continue cutting their water usage. Metro's water reserve is now operating at 48 percent capacity, the result of moderate conservation, typically lower water usage overnight and more production from the city's sole operating treatment plant.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/water-conservation-beginning-have-positive-effect>

### **Water Crisis Eases A Bit, But Danger Persists (Tennessean/Sarrio)**

After days of warnings, Middle Tennessee residents seem to have finally gotten the message to conserve fresh water. Even so, officials in Nashville renewed their pleas Wednesday to use less water to offset the loss of a Donelson-area treatment plant as concerns persisted over the city's supply of fresh water. This week's flooding also has hampered the stocks of fresh water in other cities and rural areas. By Wednesday afternoon, Nashville's water reserve filled up 48 percent of available space in reserve tanks, up from a low of 37 percent Tuesday. In Williamson County, power was restored to a crippled facility, bringing a renewed strength to that supply. But officials warned that conservation efforts must continue until the flood-damaged facilities are repaired. "I don't want to give a rosy outlook so much that people start to go out and wash their cars," said John Brown, general manager for the Harpeth Valley Utilities District, which supplies water to Williamson County. "We've got a long way to go on this, and so does Middle Tennessee."

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100506/NEWS01/5060338/Water+crisis+eases+a+bit++but+danger+persistence>

### **Metro Water Reserves Holding Steady (WPLN-Radio Nashville)**

The call to conserve water seems to finally be taking hold in Nashville. Water reserve levels started and ended the day Wednesday at roughly the same amount. Metro Water Chief Scott Potter says that's exactly what he wanted to see happen. "I want to extend a sincere thank you to the citizens of Nashville for their efforts to conserve water. I need that to continue and if we do that, we'll get through this safely." One of the city's two water treatment plants was shut down by the weekend's flood. The Harrington facility has been drained of contaminated water and repairs are underway. Potter says it's too soon to know when it will be online again. In the meantime, the remaining Omohundro plant is working continuously at full capacity. Williamson County water customers are also being asked to conserve water. The county regularly purchases a portion of its supply from Nashville. In several other areas, people should boil water to ensure its safety. Boil water advisories are in effect for portions of Cheatham, Giles, Hickman, Maury and Wayne Counties.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17216>

### **[Rescuers Going Door to Door; Serpas Says Some Looting Arrests Made \(WPLN\)](#)**

Rescue workers are going door to door in flooded parts of Nashville today, after a weekend storm dumped record amounts of rainfall across Tennessee. City workers are trying to assess the devastation, but it's hard to get a complete picture because some areas are still underwater. Metro police chief Ronal Serpas says rescuers are out looking for anyone who needs help. "This morning the police department and fire department put together about a hundred firefighters and police officers; many of them are specialty trained in what's called urban search and rescue. They're going into some of the hardest and most devastated areas today and for the next several days doing essentially door to door checks." It's not yet clear exactly how big an area the search crews have to cover. Police have arrested a few people for looting, but Serpas says his department is well-staffed to keep that problem in check.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17201>

### **[Tourism Officials Fight To Keep Conventions \(Tennessean/Johnson\)](#)**

Opryland events move downtown As historic floodwaters recede and Nashville residents sift through the sludge, the city's tourism industry is attempting to do some salvaging of its own. With the now-flooded Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center out of commission for several months — and scores of groups no longer able to meet or spend money there — at least two conventions say they will still come to Music City. The move is a sign that a push by city officials and local tourism marketers to get the message out that Music City has other hotel space available and remains safe for visitors has started to pay dividends. A group of 1,700 conventioners with the Humane Society of the United States was supposed to lodge and meet at the spacious Gaylord resort May 12-15, but now it will move to the Nashville Convention Center downtown and guests will be booked into several downtown hotels.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100506/BUSINESS01/5060326/Tourism+officials+fight+to+keep+conventions>

### **[Opry Mills Still Closed; Piranha Escape Reports False \(Tennessean/Johnson\)](#)**

The Opry Mills shopping center, known for its Bass Pro Shops and Rainforest Café, remains closed because of flooding. Reports that dangerous piranha escaped from the Aquarium Restaurant at the mall are not true, restaurant officials said. Because of limited access because of floodwater, neither the mall nor its largest tenants have had time to assess damage or project a reopening date. "We're under two feet of water," said Larry Whiteley, spokesman for Bass Pro Shops. The outdoor shop's aquariums remain intact and the fish are being cared for, he said. Most of the fish at the Aquarium Restaurant and adjacent Stingray Reef survived the floods and are contained, according to parent company Landry's Corp. "Aquarium biologists have been onsite since Monday caring for the fish that survived," a company statement said. The 1.16 million-square-foot mall near the banks of the Cumberland River has been closed since last weekend's historic floods, which also washed over the nearby Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center and Grand Ole Opry, which also are shuttered.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100506/BUSINESS01/5060328/Opry+Mills+still+closed++piranha+escape+reports+false>

### **[Flood Victims Worry About Jobs \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)**

Opry Mills Mall is closed until further notice, and that has the mall's employees wondering what to do next. Beverly McKissack, general manager of the Osh Kosh B'Gosh kids clothing store is waiting to see if she and the store's 14 other hourly employees will get paid. "I have two employees in the Pennington Bend area that got hit real hard, and they want to know if they're going to get a check." McKissack says company officials aren't even sure what to do. She says there's talk of sending her and other employees to a store in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Some workers in the mid-state aren't waiting for the floodwaters to recede to find out if they still have a job. Phillip Melton, manager of Riverview Restaurant in Ashland City, says his boss told him it could be three months before re-opening. ."

<http://wpln.org/?p=17195>

**[High Water, Debris Plague Tennessee River \(Knoxville News-Sentinel\)](#)**

The U.S. Coast Guard has banned until further notice recreational boating in both the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, including two of the most popular lakes in western Kentucky. The Coast Guard took the action Wednesday as the two rivers reached record-high levels and became filled with debris following excessive rains during the weekend. Closed to recreational vessels are the Tennessee River from Paducah, Ky., to Pickwick Landing, Tenn. The 206-mile length stretches through both states and includes Kentucky Lake. Also closed is 313 miles of the Cumberland River, which includes Lake Barkley in Kentucky. The Coast Guard said in a news release that the swiftly moving waters are filled with spilled hazardous materials, boat docks, piers, logs and other heavy debris.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/may/06/state-briefs-may-6/>

**[Clarksville Mayor Addresses Businesses About Flood \(Leaf Chronicle\)](#)**

Though those buildings closest to the Cumberland remain inaccessible, still submerged in the river's run-off, several nearby business owners were able to begin cleaning up their properties Wednesday. What greeted them provided a bleak image of things to come: mud-soaked parking lots made salvaging goods a slippery and dangerous proposition, and some of those at the edges of the river's throws still reported more than \$100,000 in damage. Clarksville Mayor Johnny Piper met with some 400 business owners from the Riverside Drive and Kraft Street areas Wednesday to field questions and provide information on the next steps in recovery. He said he was making the Riverside area the top priority in recovery, because of its importance as a traffic corridor and commercial hub. "It's the best way to get our community up and flowing again," Piper said, adding that the waiting was the hardest part.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100506/NEWS01/5060324/1002/Clarksville-mayor-addresses-businesses-about-flood>

**[Agent: Prices Will Rise As Waters Recede \(Nashville Post/Lind\)](#)**

Hammond looks to post-Katrina New Orleans for indicators Nashville real estate agent Grant Hammond thinks housing prices will head for higher ground as the Cumberland recedes. Hammond blogs that the basic principles of supply-and-demand are in effect – and uses a post-Katrina New Orleans as an example. As New Orleans recovered, rental prices jumped 39 percent and home prices in the suburbs surged. Some of the Big Easy's bedroom communities had home prices increase by as much as 23 percent in the months following the hurricane. Of course, it's not an exact parallel. Devastation was widespread in New Orleans and many people left the city completely. Rebuilding was – and continues to be – a slow process. Hammond predicts home prices in the hardest hit areas of Nashville – Bellevue, Antioch and Pennington Bend - will drop sharply. But, he suspects, widespread out-moving may not be a problem.

[http://www.nashvillepost.com/news/2010/5/5/local\\_real\\_estate\\_predicts\\_rising\\_home\\_prices\\_as\\_waters\\_recede](http://www.nashvillepost.com/news/2010/5/5/local_real_estate_predicts_rising_home_prices_as_waters_recede)

**[Flood A 1,000-Year Event \(Knoxville News-Sentinel/Marcum\)](#)**

TVA would struggle to control flooding in the face of a massive storm like the one that hit Nashville over the weekend, which the Army Corps of Engineers now describes as a 1,000-year flood event. But downtown Knoxville at least would have a height advantage over downtown Nashville, said Chuck Bach, general manager of TVA River Scheduling. Although Fort Loudoun Lake's shore comes right up to Neyland Drive, the ground rises very steeply from there toward downtown and the University of Tennessee, he said, although Neyland Stadium and Thompson-Boling Arena are in close proximity to the water. "If there was flooding on Neyland Drive, downtown is still up quite a bit from the river," he said. "Nashville, on the other hand, is right on the river." Bach, who is in charge of managing the system of dams and reservoirs operated by TVA, said he is unaware of Knoxville ever facing a deluge like that Nashville just suffered.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/may/06/flood-a-1000-year-event/>

**[UPDATE: Water Capacity Improving, Conservation Still Urged \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)**

Recovery of water capacity has improved in the last half day, but Metro is still urging conservation. The K.R. Harrington Water Treatment Plant remains down as crews work to remove water and assess damage. There are no plans to cut off water to customers, according to the release, and Metro is asking that residents not fill bath tubs, or other containers with water. Water should only be used for drinking, cooking, hand washing or other critical uses — but not chores such as watering plants or washing cars or pavement.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/03/daily31.html>

### **[Corps Plans To Release Water From Cheatham Dam \(Tennessean\)](#)**

Water was not to be released from Cheatham Dam to lower lake levels to a safe elevation until after the river crested on Tuesday. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville district operates area dams along the Cumberland River and its tributaries to minimize flooding and reduce lake levels due to heavy rainfall throughout Tennessee and southern Kentucky. "We are seeing no problems with the integrity of our dams despite record rainfall amounts throughout the region," said Barney Davis, chief of engineering and construction for the Corps' Nashville district.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100505/ASHLANDCITY01/100504085/-1/nsitemapXML/Corps-plans-to-release-water-from-Cheatham-Dam>

### **[Inmates Aid Nashville In 'Incredible Effort' \(USA Today\)](#)**

When the flood-beleaguered people of [Nashville](#) open kitchen faucets and get fresh water today, they might want to raise their glasses in a toast to some men behind bars. Without a herculean effort by 400 Davidson County inmates on Monday, Nashville's lone working water treatment plant most likely would have been overrun with muddy overflow from the [Cumberland River](#). "It was an incredible effort," Nashville Mayor Karl Dean said of the rush to bag 500 tons of sand on the grounds of a county jail and transport it to form a wall around the Omohundro Water Treatment Plant. "We had staff and inmates that literally worked 36 straight hours," Davidson County Sheriff Daron Hall said. "We had inmates who volunteered and didn't want to stop when we said they could go back."

[http://www.usatoday.com/weather/floods/2010-05-04-flood-main\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/weather/floods/2010-05-04-flood-main_N.htm)

### **[Gill, Urban, Underwood Help Bail Out Water-Logged Nashville \(E! online\)](#)**

After the Cumberland River overflowed this weekend and devastated downtown Nashville, country music's finest are coming together to lend a hand. Local NBC affiliate WSMV-TV Channel 4 plans to broadcast a telethon titled *Working 4 You: Flood Relief With Vince Gill & Friends*, tomorrow from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. ET. It will feature appearances from Gill, Naomi Judd, Alison Krauss, Darius Rucker, Phil Vassar and former *American Idol* contender Bo Bice and will benefit the Red Cross, Salvation Army and the Second Harvest Food Bank. The help couldn't come soon enough. Music City landmarks, including the Grand Ole Opry House and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum have sustained severe water damage. Performances at the Opry had to be relocated for the first time since 1975, when the venerable institution was also hit by flooding. At nearby Opryland Hotel, about 1,500 guests and 500 staffers had to be evacuated, while other areas of the Opryland complex, including the Opry museum and shopping mall, will likely be shuttered for months while they undergo repairs.

[http://www.eonline.com/uberblog/b179548\\_gill\\_urban\\_underwood\\_help\\_bail\\_out.html](http://www.eonline.com/uberblog/b179548_gill_urban_underwood_help_bail_out.html)

### **[High Water, Debris Plague Tennessee River \(Boston Herald\)](#)**

The U.S. Coast Guard has banned until further notice recreational boating in both the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, including two of the most popular lakes in western Kentucky. The Coast Guard took the action today as the two rivers reached record-high levels and became filled with debris following excessive rains during the weekend. Closed to recreational vessels are the Tennessee River from Paducah, Ky., to Pickwick Landing, Tenn. The 206-mile length stretches through both states and includes Kentucky Lake.

[http://news.bostonherald.com/news/national/south/view/20100505high\\_water\\_debris\\_plague\\_tennessee\\_river/svc=home&position=recent](http://news.bostonherald.com/news/national/south/view/20100505high_water_debris_plague_tennessee_river/svc=home&position=recent)

### **[Toll Rises In Tennessee As Waters Begin To Ebb \(NPR\) See Photo](#)**

The dark waters of the Cumberland River slowly started to ebb Tuesday as residents who frantically fled the deadly flash floods returned home to find mud-caked floors and soggy furniture. Rescuers prayed they would not find more bodies as the floodwaters receded. The river and its tributaries had flooded parts of middle Tennessee after a record-breaking weekend storm dumped more than a foot of rain in two days, rapidly spilling water into homes, roads and some of Music City's best-known attractions. At least 29 people were killed in Tennessee, Mississippi and Kentucky by either floodwaters or tornadoes. Water submerged parts of the Grand Ole Opry House, considered by many to be the heart of country music, and the nearby Opryland Hotel could be closed for up to six months with more than \$75 million in damage. The Schermerhorn Symphony Center was also closed, as was the Country Music Hall of Fame. As a precaution, power was shut off to many downtown buildings.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126515598>

### **[Nashville's Famed Music Quieted By Flooding \(The State -SC\)](#)**

The blazing fiddles and screaming guitars at Nashville's famed downtown honky-tonks are a little quieter as the city recovers from flash flooding blamed for 28 deaths in three states. Elsewhere in Nashville, the Country Music Hall of Fame has closed and the Grand Ole Opry - the most famous country music show in the world - had to move its performances. The Cumberland River, which winds through the heart of the city, spilled over its banks as Nashville received more than 13 inches of pounding rain over the weekend. The flash floods were blamed in the deaths of 17 people in Tennessee alone, including nine in Nashville. Other deaths were reported in Kentucky and Mississippi.

<http://www.thestate.com/2010/05/04/1271784/more-victims-feared-as-tenn-floodwaters.html>

## **Opinion**

### **[Flooded Areas Of State Need Our Help \(Knoxville News-Sentinel\)](#)**

The waters of the Cumberland River are receding, but the death toll and damage estimates from the weekend deluge continue to rise and Nashvillians must come to grips with the city's worst flood since 1937. More than 13.5 inches of rain swamped Nashville on Saturday and Sunday, flooding many of the city's landmarks. At least 9 people died in the city and more might be found as emergency workers comb through devastated areas. While Nashville has received the bulk of the attention in the storms' aftermath, other communities across the state have been wrecked as well. Jackson, Clarksville and Millington are just three of the cities that endured rising floodwaters. Rural counties were hard-hit, too. Gov. Phil Bredesen declared 52 of Tennessee's 95 counties disaster areas. In all, at least 29 people perished in the storms across Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. The financial cost hasn't been calculated but is certain to run into the tens of millions of dollars. President Barack Obama has promised federal aid.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/may/06/flooded-areas-of-state-need-our-help/>

### **[Flood's Regional Impact Massive \(Daily News Journal\)](#)**

From north Mississippi to Memphis, Jackson, Nashville and across northern Rutherford County, the land is flooded. This event, which is being characterized as a 100-year, 500-year or even a 1,000-year flood, is taking a toll by claiming lives, stranding people in homes and destroying property. Rutherford County's estimated property damage is \$13.5 million compared to Nashville's at an astounding \$1 billion. Water is essential to life, but in this case, we've had enough. Properties where drainage is consistently a problem are suffering more than ever, and areas where water has never pooled are sustaining damage, too, in Rutherford County. Smyrna, La Vergne, Leanna, Walter Hill and a number of places across Murfreesboro got hit hard, causing property damage that will hurt people financially. Unless people are in a floodplain, they probably don't have coverage. La Vergne Mayor Ronnie Erwin acted promptly by closing down the city streets, seeking disaster assistance and even going out to help rescue storm victims.

<http://www.dnj.com/article/20100506/OPINION01/5060314/1014/opinion/EDITORIAL++Flood+s+regional+impact+massive>

### **[Gail Kerr: Step Up, Nashville, Even If Your Feet Are Wet \(Tennessean\)](#)**

Best I can figure, we were sitting in the Gospel Tent listening to the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club Men's Ensemble when the flood waters began threatening our neighborhood Sunday morning. They were singing "Down by the Riverside." Seriously. We'd heard reports of heavy rain and flooding at home. But we were more concerned with the weather at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. It was a Winnie the Pooh kind of day — blustery and drizzly. Back at our hotel room late in the day, I turned on the Weather Channel. Jim Cantore was reporting from Nashville. That's a scary sight. We learned that our Bellevue area was hit hard. Disaster trumps vacation every time. The following hours were a blur of packing fast and trying to get any information about our neighborhood. People are kind — we heard from far-flung friends. Co-workers and one of my top news competitors tried to find out if our house was OK. The only real news we heard was that water was blocking the entrance to our subdivision.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100506/COLUMNIST0101/5060333>

**[Editorial: Nashvillians, Tighten Up On The Tap \(Tennessean\)](#)**

This may be the hardest time for flood-hit Nashvillians. The sun is shining, the weather is warm. But homes and businesses sit destroyed or badly damaged, many have lost loved ones to the flood and basic necessities are hard to come by. One of those necessities is safe, clean water for drinking, cooking and hygiene. And while much of the city's problems are out of individuals' control, how much water we use is not. As has been reported, the weekend rains swamped one of Nashville's two water-treatment plants. Since then, the Omohundro plant has been used to capacity. On Sunday, officials implored residents to start conserving water, but people simply are not conserving enough. On Tuesday, Nashvillians used 79.3 million gallons of water, barely less than the 81.6 million gallons that were used on the same date a year ago, when there was no disaster and both plants were operating at full capacity. The need is very clear: We must use less water and do so immediately. Hoarding does not help, as it still strains the plant's capability to get water where it is most needed.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100506/OPINION01/5060322/1007/OPINION/Editorial++Nashvillians++tighten+up+on+the+tap>

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