

FLOOD EDITION

May 7, 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.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses can begin applying for assistance immediately by registering online at www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA.

[Bredesen Announces Disaster Declarations for 11 More Tenn Counties \(TN Report\)](#)

Governor Bredesen announced today the federal government has authorized a major disaster declaration for 11 additional Tennessee counties, bring the total number of counties declared to 21. This action makes federal assistance available to individuals in Carroll, Crockett, Decatur, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Houston, Madison and Obion counties. Bredesen asked President Obama on Monday to declare 52 counties federal disaster areas following the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that struck the state over the weekend. Twenty-one counties have received declarations to date. In addition to the 11 announced today, counties previously authorized include Cheatham, Davidson, Dyer, Hickman, McNairy, Montgomery, Perry, Shelby, Tipton and Williamson. "We can see President Obama and other federal officials continue to move quickly to process our requests and announce declarations for more counties," said Bredesen.

<http://www.tnreport.com/2010/05/bredesen-announces-disaster-declarations-for-11-more-tennessee-counties/>

[Tennessee Flood Damage At Least \\$1 Billion: Governor \(Reuters\)](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has received 8,500 requests for financial aid, which could come in the form of loans or grants, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said in a conference call with reporters. "This is a very large, very complex flood event and the numbers are only going to go up," Fugate said. A weekend deluge triggered flash flooding and pushed rivers out of their banks in parts of Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi, killing some 30 people. "I'd be astonished if there weren't \$1 billion in damage in the private sector, and probably considerably more," Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen told reporters. Because this week's flooding hit in areas not considered flood-prone, property owners may not have had flood insurance, Bredesen said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6456TQ20100507?type=domesticNews>

[Recovery Process Begins In Flooded Music City \(Associated Press\)](#)

As those who died are being laid to rest this week around the state capital, many residents are headed back to work in the city hit hardest by the storm, including the men and women who give Music City its name. Mayor Karl Dean said Thursday that the Cumberland River has dipped below flood stage a day earlier than expected, going down to 39.5 feet. But recovery could take weeks, especially in the city's iconic country music and tourism industries. Damages are estimated at more than \$1 billion... Gov. Phil Bredesen announced Thursday that 11 more counties have been declared federal disaster areas, including Fayette, bringing the total number to 21. Families of most of the victims say the fast-moving waters flooded homes and roads so quickly that, in many cases, there was no time to prepare or escape. Others simply underestimated the danger.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/may/07/recovery-process-begins-in-music-city/>

[Flood Victims To Get Federal, Corporate Aid \(Tennessean/Sarrio, Cass\)](#)

Rutherford and Sumner were added to a list of 25 Tennessee counties declared disaster areas by the federal government Thursday as cleanup efforts continued throughout the region. The designation makes residents eligible for assistance for rebuilding after floods devastated areas throughout Middle Tennessee this week. Davidson, Williamson, Cheatham and Hickman counties were the first to be added to the list. Rebuilding efforts also received a boost Thursday as Nashville Mayor Karl Dean announced plans to coordinate fundraising and volunteer efforts through a group of local business leaders. Executives from Gray Line Tours, Ingram Industries, Bridgestone and AT&T have formed a team that will promote ways for companies to donate time and money, as well as for damaged businesses to get assistance in getting back up and running.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100507/NEWS01/5070356/Flood+victims+to+get+federal++corporate+aid>

[Rutherford Gets Disaster Declaration \(Daily News Journal\)](#)

County to get FEMA funds Assistance will help in flood recovery The White House has issued a federal disaster declaration for Rutherford County, making federal assistance available to help individuals, businesses and communities recover from the devastation of recent flooding. The disaster declaration makes a range of assistance available for individuals, including grants for home repairs, funding for temporary housing and other major flood-related expenses, according to a press release from U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon. "As Tennesseans recover from this flooding, this disaster declaration will provide much-needed assistance," said Gordon, D-Murfreesboro. "I encourage everyone from the affected counties to document their property damage and be in touch with FEMA promptly to find out what kinds of assistance might be available to them." Flood damage to homes and businesses in Nashville alone are estimated at \$1 billion. In Rutherford, the damages are substantially less, at \$13.5 million for some 155 flood-impacted structures.

<http://www.dnj.com/article/20100507/NEWS01/5070316>

[Sumner County Declared Major Disaster Area \(Tennessean\)](#)

Sumner County is now one of 27 counties that have received a major disaster designation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, opening the way for individuals, families and businesses to apply for FEMA assistance. Citizens with damage can begin contacting FEMA immediately at 1-800-621-3362 or visit www.fema.gov. Assistance could include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster, FEMA officials said.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100506/GALLATIN01/100507002/-1/nsitemapXML/Sumner-County-declared-major-disaster-area>

[County Named Disaster Area \(Jackson Sun\)](#)

Although Jackson-Madison County is now included among the counties in Tennessee to be declared a federal disaster area, local officials said they are still unsure as to when FEMA disaster assessment teams will arrive. Jackson-Madison County Emergency Management Director Marty Clements said Thursday evening that he had not heard from any representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and didn't know when to expect them. Residents can register for assistance and need to have the address of the affected home or business, names of all the people living in the residence when the flood occurred, this includes any children from a divorce or elderly parents who live at the residence at least 50 percent of the year, Social Security numbers for all residents, type of insurance on the dwelling if any and phone numbers where residents can be contacted. Flooding has impacted some state offices in Nashville.

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100507/NEWS01/5070314/1002/County-named-disaster-area>

[Dyer Co. Qualifies For Assistance After Disaster Declaration \(Weakly County Press\)](#)

The federal government has authorized a major disaster declaration for two additional Tennessee counties — including neighboring Dyer County On Monday, Gov. Phil Bredesen asked President Obama to declare 52 counties federal disaster areas following the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that struck the state beginning Friday. Wednesday's action makes federal funding available to individuals in Dyer and Montgomery counties. Four other counties — Cheatham, Davidson, Hickman and Williamson — were authorized Tuesday. Declarations for additional counties requested by the governor are expected in coming days. "President Obama and the federal government continue to move quickly in their response," Bredesen said. "As people begin to rebuild their homes and their lives, this assistance will be an important resource for Tennesseans."

<http://www.nwntoday.com/news.php?viewStory=40579>

[Millington Moves to Next Chapter of Recovery \(Memphis Daily News\)](#)

Millington Mayor Richard Hodges was beginning to get a little hot under the collar by Wednesday afternoon... President Barack Obama signed a disaster declaration hours later that included Shelby County among several West Tennessee counties. It was the third such declaration from the White House for parts of Tennessee. Gov. Phil Bredesen toured Jackson and Nashville Monday and the Clarksville area Wednesday. The signing for Shelby County, after a disaster assessment by Millington and Shelby County emergency management leaders that went through Bredesen's office, kicks off a new phase in the recovery of Millington. "Each individual house will be looked at based on the needs for that particular resident," said Millington Fire Chief Gary Graves. "Some of it was insured. Some of it was uninsured damage. They're going to need some assistance for that." The U.S. Department of Defense is handling the damage recovery of homes within the Naval base.

<http://www.memphisdailynews.com/editorial/Article.aspx?id=49825>

[Vols Help Clean Up While Tenn. Still Drying Out \(Associated Press/Walker\)](#)

Dumpsters dot the Cottonwood subdivision with ductwork, insulation, mattresses and kitchen sinks piled in front of houses. The sound of hammers ripping up sodden floors and fans set at high hum through the air. Yet the fetid smell filling the neighborhood hits the hardest... Gov. Phil Bredesen has heard from frustrated county officials wanting to know why help hasn't arrived in some of Tennessee's more rural areas. "The level of ability of counties to respond to these things is very, very different. We're sitting here in Nashville in an operations center, which would be suitable for any city in the United States ... In a smaller county, you just don't have the staff and the people there," the governor said. That is why Tennesseans, such as those in Franklin, are helping themselves. So many volunteers have turned out that they don't feel ignored.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h87GMzKVJcVvgjfYT9n4QC0F8tegD9FHS3400>

[FEMA Chief Returns To Tennessee \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)

The head of the Federal Emergency Management agency was back in Tennessee for the second time this week assessing the flood disaster. Craig Fugate says while some counties have dried out and are in the clean-up stage, others are still underwater. He's urging everyone affected to go ahead and ask for help. Fugate is reminding all flood victims that in order to get federal assistance they must register with FEMA. So far roughly 85 hundred people have taken that step. "We really want to focus on people who are in shelters that if they're in there and they're eligible help them and get those folks assistance particularly renters assistance so they can get a place and hopefully move from the shelter to hopefully something more permanent as they begin their recovery." Fugate says it's still too early to know how much federal disaster assistance is heading to Tennessee.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17339>

[Cumberland River Back Below Flood Stage \(City Paper/Garrison\)](#)

The Cumberland River is no longer exceeding its flood stage. Mayor Karl Dean said Thursday the Cumberland is at 39.54 feet, dropping below flood stage a day earlier than expected. But Metro's water situation still seems precarious. Metro Water Services Director Scott Potter said water reserves are operating at 51 percent capacity, adding that the K.R. Harrington treatment plant, which had been submerged by floodwater, is "not close" to being back online. "Since 8 a.m. [Thursday], our consumption of drinking water has equaled pretty much our rate of production," he said. "We need to reinforce the message that water conservation is critical." Meanwhile, Metro is moving forward with recovery efforts. A day after Metro police's urban search and rescue team surveyed some 700 houses, the team hit another 380 homes. Officers are focusing on houses that received the greatest amount of damage as a result of the weekend of flooding.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/cumberland-river-back-below-flood-stage>

[Weekend Rains Won't Cause More Flooding \(Tennessean/Ross\)](#)

If rain falls today, Middle Tennesseans may be irritated but shouldn't be afraid. After nearly a week of higher-than-normal temperatures and no rain, the Cumberland River fell below flood stage Thursday, and many of its tributaries were expected to do the same, according to the Army Corps of Engineers. The half-inch of rain projected to fall before Monday night will not be enough to bring the river, or the area's creeks and streams, back over their banks. "It's not good news," said Hershel Whitworth, a hydraulic engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers. Hydraulic engineers specialize in the management and movement of water. "We would rather get another week of dry weather and get this river back under control. But I think we can manage that half an inch or so that's expected to fall," he said.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100507/NEWS01/5070354/Weekend+rains+won+t+cause+more+flooding>

[Helicopters Fly Food To Cheatham County \(Gannett\)](#)

Black Hawk helicopters airlifted Meals Ready to Eat into the Cheatham County region, according to Congressman Jim Cooper's office. Cooper planned to meet with Cheatham County leaders Thursday to get an update on the disaster response. The county is still waiting on Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives to set up in the county. Disaster assistance locations have not been determined. Because the county has been declared a federal disaster area, residents and business owners who sustained losses can begin applying for assistance immediately by registering online at www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA. Businesses affected by the flood should contact the Cheatham County Chamber of Commerce at 615-792-6722 to get help. Parts of the county remain isolated since flooding closed several roads. River Road just past Sams Creek Road remains closed. Edwin Hogan, the county's Emergency Management Agency director, said several spots on River Road remain blocked by water.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100507/NEWS01/5070369/1001/NEWS/Helicopters+fly+food+to+Cheatham+County>

[Hendersonville Residents Asked To Limit Water Use \(Hendersonville Star News\)](#)

Hendersonville residents are being asked to reduce the amount of water they use. The city's drinking water is safe, but utility officials want to limit the wastewater flowing into the sewer system. The problem is all of the city's wastewater is going into the Cumberland River, said Hendersonville Utility Director Tom Atchley. It would normally be pumped to a Metro Water treatment plant but that plant is flooded. Reducing water usage in toilets, cooking, bathing and car washing will help the most, Atchley said. It's still OK for residents to water lawns, he said. Hendersonville homes and businesses suffered flood damage during the weekend rains. Foster said earlier in the week the city's parks have been devastated, but he said it is too soon to put a dollar amount on the damage around town. "Probably thousands of homes had some form of water damage," Foster said. He estimated maybe 50 homes with significant floodwaters in their homes.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100507/NEWS01/5070347/1001/NEWS/Hendersonville+residents+asked+to+limit+water+use>

[Response Team Set Up To Aid Businesses \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)

Businesses dealing with fallout from Middle Tennessee's devastating flooding can now reach to a team of prominent business leaders for help. Mayor Karl Dean announced the formation of the Business Response Team during a news conference Thursday afternoon. The team's efforts will be led by Henry Hicks of Gray Line Tours, Orrin Ingram of Ingram Industries, Christine Karbowiak of Bridgestone Americas and Gregg Morton of AT&T. The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce will coordinate the team, which will provide financial and volunteer assistance to businesses in need, and seek the same from businesses that want to help the community heal. "I have received a number of calls this week from businesses throughout our community that want to help." Dean said. "I appreciate their generosity and understand it is important that we are organized and equipped to accept assistance.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/03/daily49.html?surround=lfm>

[Floodwaters Continue to Cutoff Homes in Tennessee \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)

Many Tennessee residents continue to wait for floodwaters to recede before they can assess the damage caused by weekend rains. The subsequent flooding killed 21 people in the state – a new fatality was confirmed today in Memphis. It's a five-minute trip through the flood water to get to Randy Thornton's house on the still-swollen Cumberland River. In a borrowed boat, he pulls up to the submerged log home he and his son built. He says he wasn't thinking clearly Sunday when the waters were coming up. He left his own boat parked in the garage. THORNTON: "Momma's Cadillac, I just got it out. By the time I come back got my truck, it got right over my headlights." The water rose quickly, but it's not receding nearly as fast. The river system is digesting nearly 14 inches of rain that fell over two days. Drinking water has become an increasing concern. In Ashland City, a boil notice is in effect.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17303>

[Nashville Flood Damage Assessments Only in First Stage \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)

Initial assessments of flood damage in Davidson County are almost done, but there's still much more work to be done before the disaster's full extent can be known. Search and rescue teams made up of fire and police officers examined 700 houses Wednesday, and continued those efforts Thursday. Public Works inspectors expect to finish a sweep through the entire county by the end of the day Thursday. David Himes says that's just the first step. He's the Assistant Director of Metro Public Works. "We will still have to go back and do detailed assessments on a number of those locations. For instance, bridge damage, structural damage, things of those natures." As a rough estimate, Mayor Karl Dean has said cleanup and repairs in Nashville will cost more than a billion dollars.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17311>

[Codes Officials Begin Assessing Flood Damage \(Leaf Chronicle\)](#)

Residents urged to get inspections Archibald Shuler periodically inquired about flood insurance during the 10 years he and his wife lived on Idlewood Drive in the Wingate Subdivision, but the cost seemed prohibitive. "It was always \$1,200 a year, in addition to my homeowners insurance," he said. "In retrospect, I probably saved \$12,000 over the 10 years not buying it, but now I'll probably have to spend that to fix all this." More than five feet of water from the flooded Red River submerged the lower level of his home, which was being inspected by city Building and Codes officials Thursday. "We're here to assist FEMA with an assessment of what the total cost might be for repairs," said Mike Sequin, a codes enforcement officer. He gave Shuler a packet of information about how to apply for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and he and Building Inspector David Baggett surveyed the damage.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100507/NEWS01/5070328/1002/Codes-officials-begin-assessing-flood-damage>

[Dean: Businesses' Flood Response Heartening \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)

The Cumberland River is back below flood stage. Mayor Karl Dean made the announcement to cheers on Thursday afternoon during a news conference at Belmont University, during which he praised the business community's response to the disaster and asked businesses to continue to lead the community with donations and by encouraging employees to volunteer. "There is no question that a flood of this magnitude creates a need for a sustained effort for the community to recover," Dean said. Country Music Association chairman Steve Moore used the occasion to announce that CMA will donate all proceeds from this year's CMA Music Festival, which will run June 10-13. In the past, CMA has donated half of the proceeds from the event to music education through its Keep the Music Playing program. This year, it will donate the other half to the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee for flood relief.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/03/daily48.html?surround=lfm>

[Business Community Coming Together To Aid In Flood Recovery \(City Paper/Garrison\)](#)

Mayor Karl Dean rolled out a new business response team Thursday that will facilitate the volunteer efforts of businesses and assist businesses stricken by the weekend of flooding. Taking the lead on the efforts are the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, along with Gray Line of Tennessee, Ingram Industries, Bridgestone Americas and AT&T. "This team will facilitate the process for companies to make contributions, either through donations, volunteer manpower or in-kind services," Dean said. "It will do the crucial work of reaching out to the business community to make sure they know we need help." Kicking off the efforts of the business community, the Country Music Association pledged to donate half the proceeds it nets from its CMA Music Festival, held in June, to Nashville's disaster relief cause. The figure will likely exceed \$1 million. Dean's business response team will assess the needs of businesses throughout Middle Tennessee.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/business-community-coming-together-aid-flood-recovery>

[Mayor Says Nashville Is 'Open For Business' \(City Paper/Woods\)](#)

Mayor Karl Dean declared Thursday "we're open for business right now" and urged tourists to visit Nashville despite the devastating weekend floods that inundated many of the city's symbols. "If you have reservations to come to Nashville, we want to see you here. We expect to see you here," Dean told a conference call with reporters from around the country. "And you need to make reservations to come to Nashville. This is really one of the great destinations in the United States. The downtown, I guarantee you, will be thriving this weekend, and it's only going to get stronger day after day as we go out. We're going to restore that very, very quickly." The mayor noted "there are huge portions of the city" that were undamaged. "The airport's open. The interstates are running. We have also a strong downtown.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/mayor-says-nashville-open-business>

[Riverfront Industry Reels After Floods \(Tennessean/Sisk\)](#)

Manufacturers start work to pick up the pieces Each thought felt like a kick in the stomach. The metal fabrication shop — gone. Computers, engineering drawings — gone, gone. Raw materials, communications equipment, office furniture — all gone. "I don't know. I don't know," Ken McNeese said as he looked across the floodwater receding from his mechanical contracting company. "I don't know whether to duck or dodge at this point." The flood that wiped out neighborhoods and cost at least 21 Tennesseans their lives also dealt a blow to dozens of Nashville manufacturers. Clustered near the banks of the Cumberland River within sight of downtown's skyscrapers, light industrial zones in East and South Nashville received flooding every bit as intense as the deluge that washed away riverfront homes. The owners of businesses in these areas are only beginning to assess damages.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100507/BUSINESS01/5070338/Riverfront+industry+reels+after+floods>

[Businesses Start Clean Up Process \(Leaf Chronicle\)](#)

It was mud — not water — that proved the greatest barrier to many river-area business owners Thursday, some of whom were surveying the wreckage for the first time. Though several awaited corporate orders to begin clean-up (among them, Second Street and Riverside properties Shoney's and Citi Trends), many could be seen extricating furniture and goods from their buildings, and cleaning mud from parking lots and upholstery. There were 144 businesses on Riverside Drive affected by the flood, according to city officials. Casablanca Mexican Restaurant in Two Rivers Center — its floor caked with mud — had a raining ceiling in one spot from a burst pipe. One Riverside business, Andy's Pharmacy, was able to jump start the process Wednesday with the help of City Hall. The pharmacy was given a building inspection yesterday afternoon so its employees could begin cleaning up as soon as possible.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100507/NEWS01/5070316/1002/Businesses-start-clean-up-process>

[Camden Businesses Expect To Rebound \(Jackson Sun\)](#)

Almost 42 miles of the Tennessee River remained shut down from the Kentucky state line southward on Thursday, possibly dealing another economic blow to businesses in Camden and Benton County that rely on boaters, fishermen and campers to generate sales. Last weekend's storm dumped 17.8 inches of rain in the county, and the U.S. Coast Guard on Thursday continued to ban all recreational boats from the Kentucky line to mile marker 41.7, which covers much of Benton County, according to officials. But owners of a river-side lodge and a Camden-based restaurant expressed optimism that loyal customers would return soon, even though Mother's Day weekend already is awash and flooding problems naturally lead concerned visitors to keep their distance. "I think once the water goes down, we'll be fine," said Mike Sexton, whose Beaver Dam Lodge and Marina is under two feet of water and has been closed since early Monday.

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100507/NEWS01/5070315/1002/Camden-businesses-expect-to-rebound>

[Flood Destroys Country Star Wax Museum \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)

From one of Minnesota Fats' pool tables to rare records and country music stars' clothes, Zenith Star is truly amazed at the collection he amassed in 30 years at the Music Valley Wax Museum. "It took a lot of luck," said Star, the museum's coordinator. "The way it came together — it was magic." With one historic stroke of bad luck, the museum is now destroyed. The tourist attraction on McGavock Pike near Opryland was submerged in waist-deep water during Nashville's unprecedented flooding Sunday. As the floodwaters recede, the museum is just one of many businesses picking through pieces and trying to figure out what to do next. "We got devastated," Star said while salvaging merchandise in front of museum Thursday. "It's wiped out. ... Everything you see on the wall in there, I put it up. I couldn't even hardly talk yesterday. It's a job and everything. But for me, it's more than a job." Sometimes you have to laugh to keep from crying, the saying goes.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/03/daily46.html?surround=lfm>

[Gaylord Assesses Damage As Restoration Teams Move In \(Nash Business Journal\)](#)

Gaylord Entertainment Co.'s shareholders met Thursday morning inside a cafeteria at Gaylord's corporate headquarters — a far cry from the normally-opulent but currently flood-ravaged Opryland Resort and Convention Center two miles away, where the meeting was originally supposed to take place. This year got off to a good start “up until Sunday, of course,” CEO Colin Reed told a small gathering at the annual meeting today. The brief meeting mostly entailed formal business and a recap of the company's prior year performance, but Reed also assured those present that the company will rise to the challenge and sort through the debacle caused by the past week's historic flooding in Middle Tennessee. Opryland will be closed for months as the company sorts through and repairs the damage. With nearly 2,900 rooms, the massive convention hotel accounts for about 12 percent of Davidson County's hotel stock and contributes about 20 percent of Metro Nashville's total hotel tax collections.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/03/daily43.html?surround=lfm>

[Opryland Could Be Closed For Six Months \(Tennessean/Johnson\)](#)

Just as the Gaylord hospitality company was bouncing back after a year when nobody seemed to want to travel, its flagship property, the Opryland Resort & Convention Center, could be out of commission for as long as six months. “We have water in the tunnels; we have no understanding of the damage to the power plant. It could take three months, four months, five months or six months. The fact of the matter is that until we get the water out, we just don't know,” Gaylord CEO and Chairman Colin Reed told The Tennessean on Thursday. Over the next six months, the hotel has more than 300,000 room nights booked for various conventions and meetings scheduled there, said company president and chief operating officer David Kloepfel. “We are currently in discussions to move them to other locations, both ours and locations in Nashville,” Kloepfel said.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100507/BUSINESS01/5070337/Opryland+could+be+closed+for+six+months>

[Franklin Homeowners In Path Of Road Extension Face Tough Choice \(TN/Walters\)](#)

Mack Hatcher plan may hamper rebuilding Ten homes that were in the path of floodwaters this past weekend also are in the path of the proposed three-mile extension of the Mack Hatcher Parkway. The question faced now by all is: Will homeowners rebuild their homes to make them livable only to have the city come back later and tear the houses down to make way for the Mack Hatcher extension? Uniformly, officials and homeowners say they don't want that to happen, but they have not figured out how to expedite the homes' purchases while still following state and federal guidelines. Appraisals have been done on about half of the properties. The road extension is an estimated \$90 million project that requires 10 families in the Rebel Meadows subdivision to have their houses bought by the city and either torn down or moved to make room for the roadway as it wends its way from Hillsboro Road to Highway 96 West.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100507/WILLIAMSON01/5070348/Franklin+homeowners+in+path+of+future+road+extension+face+tough+choice>

[Spirits Sinking In Dyer County; Water At Highest Level Since 1937 \(CA/Charlier\)](#)

Residents salvaging what they can Somewhere in the flooded chaos of the Plaza Food Center there were dry cigarettes, and Kenny Hinson was determined to get to them before looters did. “I'd hate for someone to come by and make money off them,” Hinson said Wednesday as he stepped off a boat after retrieving the cigarettes, checkbooks and other items from his family's store. With the North Fork of the Forked Deer River reaching its highest stage since 1937, business owners and residents in Dyersburg were scrambling Wednesday to salvage belongings from floodwaters that had risen unexpectedly fast after last weekend's rains had ended. At least 461 homes and businesses were flooded in this city of 18,000 about 75 miles north of Memphis. Most of the south end of town was covered with up to 4 feet of water, while schools remained closed for a second straight day and about 50 people were taking refuge in shelters. Statewide, flooding from the weekend storms left at least 19 people dead, though none in Dyersburg.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/may/06/spirits-sinking-dyer-county-water-highest-level-19/>

[Columbia Repairs Flood Damage \(Columbia Daily Herald\)](#)

With the sun out and the Duck River finally receding, Columbia officials can finally begin to assess the damage and begin the recovery. Maury County Emergency Management Director Mark Blackwood told council members Tuesday the city sustained some damage to its roads and infrastructure but the worst of the destruction took place in the county. "The city is in much better shape than the rural areas of the county," Blackwood said. Blackwood said officials now turn to the task of assessing damage. He said a hotline has been set up for people to report damage to their homes or businesses. He said residents should report damage to any "livable area." A livable area includes finished basements. Blackwood said other property damage, such as to driveways or storage buildings, wasn't being considered at this time. Residents with damage can call (931) 375-1515.

http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/05/07/top_stories/03survives.txt

[Disaster in Centerville \(Columbia Daily Herald\)](#)

The worst is over. The most visible sign of the chaos that gripped Centerville over the past four days is mud. A thin coating lines patches along State Route 100 into the town's center. It paints a brown high-water mark in the treetops several meters overhead. It is smeared over the four-lane bridge connecting the city's center to the rest of Hickman county, a bridge that on Sunday was swallowed by the Duck River — isolating the city completely. WIND & WATER Torrential rains flooded the Duck River and its tributaries in Centerville over the weekend, washing out or submerging every road leading to the downtown area. "Centerville was an island," said John Blackburn, a volunteer at the American Red Cross disaster relief shelter at the city's Fairfield Church of Christ. He's been on duty every day since the disaster began.

http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/05/07/top_stories/01hickmanchaos.txt

[Evansville Residents Wait For Waters To Recede \(State Gazette\)](#)

As of Wednesday, Highway 104 West in Evansville was still underwater as were several other houses and a business within the small community. Albert Brasfield lived at 118 Fouth Ave. in Evansville until floodwaters forced him and his family to leave. They along with some of their neighbors are waiting for the waters to recede to see what kind of damage they will have to deal with. Brasfield said water is halfway between the floor and ceiling inside his house, but it is getting lower. On Monday, he noticed water in his front ditch when he left that morning. At 10:30 a.m., a neighbor called him to tell him to come home because water had flooded his yard. He called his wife and they began getting belongings and raising furniture up inside the house. By 4:30 p.m. water was already 10 inches high inside his home. "I managed to save some of it, but not all of it," said Brasfield.

<http://www.stategazette.com/story/1632527.html>

[Recovery Efforts In Full Swing In Perry County \(WTVF-TV Nashville\)](#)

Local officials in Perry County said that 40 percent of their residents have suffered flood damage of some sort. Many built their homes near the Buffalo River and its streams and creeks. Those waterways, like the others in the region, overran their banks during the flooding crisis. The result was massive damage and no water or power for days. Crews have been working to restore utilities to residents. It will be months before the county recovers fully from the extensive damage. County leaders have established an online headquarters for those needing information on how to get assistance at www.perrycountydisasterrelief.com. Thursday afternoon family and loved ones held the funerals of Bobby and Kylie Qualls, the father and daughter who died over the weekend.

<http://www.newschannel5.com/global/story.asp?s=12442803>

[Highways 412 And 210 Now Open \(State Gazette\)](#)

The Tennessee Highway Patrol has announced that both Highway 412 and Highway 210 are now open. The highways had been closed since Monday afternoon, after floodwaters crossed them. Parts of Highway 412 were underwater between Highways 210 and 104 in Dyer County. Highway 210 had floodwaters crossing it between Highway 412 and Highway 51 at Four Points.

<http://www.stategazette.com/story/1632707.html>

[Flood Damage May Be \\$1 Billion Just in Nashville \(AOL News\)](#)

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency said 21 people are confirmed dead in the hard-hit state, where President Barack Obama has declared 10 counties disaster areas. Nashville Mayor Karl Dean said his billion-dollar estimate could increase considerably after taking into account the severe damages sustained outside Nashville and the revenue lost by water-logged businesses, according to various news reports.

<http://www.aolnews.com/nation/article/nashville-flood-damage-may-be-1-billion-mayor-karl-dean-says/19467547>

[Country Stars Are Reeling After Nashville Flooding \(New York Times\)](#)

As the water recedes and Nashville recovers from devastating flooding, many of the city's best-known musicians are assessing the damage to their properties and making plans to help Nashville get back on its feet. Brad Paisley, right, told The Associated Press that much of the staging and props for his coming concerts — called the H2O tour — were under water from the flood and that most of his guitars, amps and equipment had been destroyed.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/07/arts/music/07arts-COUNTRYSTARS_BRF.html

[Mom, 4-Year-Old Rescued By Swim Coach, Floating Ottoman \(CNN\)](#)

More than 30 people have died in historic flooding in the Southeast. Neelyann Sheucraft and her 4-year-old daughter barely escaped being among them. "Oh, my God, this is it. My house is going to flood," she said. "A few minutes later, the water came gushing in -- through the vents or any openings there were, I'm not sure where it was all coming in from. But the water was rising and rising and rising." Sheucraft called 911. The operator told her to get to the highest point in the one-story house. That meant climbing on the kitchen counter.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/05/06/flood.survivor.story/>

[MTA, Public Utilities Offer Financial Assistance \(NewsChannel5 WTVF\)](#)

The Metro Transit Authority and several public utilities plan to waive fees to help Nashvillians recover from the record floods that shut down the city for several days. Mayor Karl Dean announced financial assistance for victims of record flood levels at a press conference Wednesday afternoon. "Families and businesses in our community are beginning the recovery process," said Dean. In addition to FEMA assistance, Dean said the city wanted to help residents offset some of their flood costs.

<http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=12433500>

[A Flood View From My Tennessee Deep Hollow Home \(NPR\)](#)

I parked my truck at the far end of my farm and made my way through the ravines and gullies that my driveway had become. Some of the "holes" were 5 feet deep, scoured to the bedrock. I got home after dark to find no power in the house and two very confused dogs, soaked to the bone and wanting ever so much to be let inside. I understood — I too wanted some dry place. That first night, I went to bed early, lulled to sleep by the mountain river that ran just beyond my front porch, thinking that the worst was over. Oh, how wrong I was.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126558740>

[Alexander Questions Corps Communication about Dam Releases](#)

Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander wants to put the Army Corps of Engineers under a microscope for its management of dams upstream from Nashville this week. Thursday he called for a hearing about water releases from Old Hickory and Percy Priest Lakes. Both lakes reach unusually high elevations after a weekend of historic rainfall. Old Hickory even came within seven inches of the Corps of Engineers losing control. Corps officials say their management kept Nashville from seeing even more flooding on the Cumberland River. Still, Alexander says questions should be asked in a U.S. Senate hearing. "We could address the question of whether clear, consistent and correct information from the Army Corps of Engineers to the community could have saved millions of dollars in records, in homes, in lives even." Alexander says now is the time for cleaning up, but also asking what could be done better. He says the same questions — about communication from the Corps — were asked after Hurricane Katrina.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17313>

-Other Infrastructure News-

[Governor Proposes Funds To Begin Alcoa Highway Widening \(Daily Times\)](#)

Gov. Phil Bredesen is proposing funds for right-of-way acquisition for the widening of a 3.2-mile stretch of Alcoa Highway to three lanes in both directions. "(It's the) only portion we are approved for the beginning of right-of-way acquisition," said Yvette Martinez, TDOT community relations officer. The proposal is one of the four planned projects that will lead to the widening of Alcoa Highway from Woodson Drive in Knox County to south of the Little River in Blount County. All the projects will widen the existing Alcoa Highway to three lanes in each direction with 12-foot wide shoulders. Alcoa City Manager Mark Johnson said that the widening most probably would begin about a year after the right-of-ways were acquired.

<http://www.thedailytimes.com/article/20100507/NEWS/305049957>

[Alexander Champions Chickamauga Lock Work \(Times Free-Press/Flessner\)](#)

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said Thursday he supports an industry recommendation to prioritize completion of the new Chickamauga Lock in Chattanooga. During a Senate hearing, Sen. Alexander said he supports the recommendations of the Inland Waterways User Board to shift the costs of completing a new Olmsted Lock and Dam on the Ohio River to an entirely federally funded project. That would free up more of the industry's tax revenues required to match funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on projects such as the new Chickamauga Lock. "Your recommendation has my full support, because it would help the Chickamauga Lock be completed by 2015," Sen. Alexander told leaders of the Inland Waterway Users Board. "It would be unimaginable if we had to close the lock, which is a major transportation artery for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Nuclear Weapons National Security Complex at Oak Ridge and the Tennessee Valley Authority."

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/may/07/alexander-champions-chickamauga-lock-work/>

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