

FLOOD EDITION

May 17, 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.

[State Oks Permits Needed To Build Cleveland Airport \(Times Free-Press\)](#)

State regulators ruled this week that construction of a new municipal airport in Cleveland will not impact local water quality and that permits issued to the Cleveland Municipal Airport Authority should be upheld. Activists from the Tennessee Clean Water Network, led by local members Erin Fuller and John Moore, had appealed the issuance of the permits in an effort to delay construction of the airport. "This is expected, albeit welcome, news for the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board to uphold permits issued for the new Cleveland Municipal Airport," airport authority Chairwoman Lynn DeVault said in a news release. Renee Hoyos, executive director of the Tennessee Clean Water Network, expressed disappointment. "It is not over. We are still going to monitor the site," she said. There could also be an appeal to Chancery Court, she said. "Whether we do that remains to be seen. No decision has been made yet," she said. In its ruling, the Water Quality Control Board said the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation properly issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the airport.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/may/15/state-oks-permits-needed-to-build-cleveland/>

FLOOD NEWS**[Road Repair To Take Months \(The Daily Herald\)](#)**

November is the target to reopen a portion of washed-out roadway on State Route 7 that is longer than three football fields. Vanessa Bateman, a civil engineer for the Tennessee Department of Transportation, said a preliminary investigation shows the highway gave way when the groundwater level rose and weakened the soil underneath the road. Bateman said the collapse is the largest in Middle Tennessee caused by the recent flooding.

http://www.c-dh.net/articles/2010/05/16/top_stories/02road.txt

[FEMA To Send Mobile Units To Middle TN Counties \(Tennessean\)](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials will drive mobile units to four Middle Tennessee counties this week to help residents receive disaster assistance. Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers will open Monday in Lewis, Macon, Jackson and Robertson counties for residents to ask questions and fill out applications for federal aid. U.S. Small Business Administration representatives also will be present to assist homeowners, renters, businesses and private nonprofit organizations of all sizes with loans to repair or replace real estate and personal property damaged by the storms and flooding. Before visiting the centers, residents should register online at www.disasterassistance.gov/daip_en.portal or by phone at 800-621-FEMA.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100517/NEWS01/5170330/FEMA+units+head+to+four+counties>

[Storm Damage Exceeds \\$72M \(Jackson Sun\)](#)

Two weeks after record rainfalls poured down on West Tennessee and tornadoes hit some communities, officials in many counties are still adding up the damages to homes, businesses, farms, roads and other infrastructure. The flood damage totals do yet appear to exceed damage wreaked by tornadoes that devastated Jackson in 2003 and 2008, but the numbers will continue to rise. Incomplete estimated damages from the storms of May 1-2 in 13 counties surveyed by The Jackson Sun so far exceed \$72 million. Some parts of the region were deluged with almost 20 inches of rain, while locations along the Interstate 40 corridor reported 10 to 15 inches, according to the National Weather Service in Memphis. The storms also produced tornados, large hail and damaging winds in some areas. The February 2008 tornado caused about \$100 million in damage in Jackson and Madison County, and the May 2003 tornadoes, which hit Madison and Henderson counties, caused even greater damage, officials have said.

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100517/NEWS01/5170303/1002/Storm-damage-exceeds--72M>

[State Office Building Down For At Least Another Week \(City Paper/Wood\)](#)

The Andrew Johnson Tower, home to Tennessee's Department of Education and several other state offices, will remain out of service for at least one more week. The facility, located at 710 James Robertson Parkway near Bicentennial Mall, sustained heavy damage in the flooding of May 1-2 and has been closed ever since. The most recent estimate from officials dealing with the situation is that it may reopen by May 24 — "which is better than what we had been hearing," in the words of Amanda Anderson, a spokesperson for the Department of Education. Lola Potter, speaking on behalf of the General Services department that is responsible for state buildings, said late Friday that the Nashville Electric Service had found critical damage to wiring in the basement of the office building and mandated the complete replacement of that circuitry.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/state-office-building-down-least-another-week>

[Tennessee Shows Nation It's The Volunteer State \(Knoxville News-Sentinel\)](#)

If anyone in the country doesn't yet know Tennessee is the Volunteer State, they aren't paying attention. Tennessee businesses joined charities, churches, media organizations, musicians and just plain folks to aid, comfort and mop up after flooding in Middle and West Tennessee. And Nashville leaders went on the airwaves to declare the tourism-rich city open for business as recovery efforts were just beginning. East Tennesseans responded through their own volunteer networks, and businesses chipped in too. UT Federal Credit Union set up an account where Knoxvilleians could donate to the Red Cross and accepted canned food and water at its branches to give to the Salvation Army. WBIR, Channel 10, donated two hours of air time to a star-studded telethon produced by the NBC affiliate in Nashville. WVLT, Channel 8, got together with WIVK and collected donations at a local Walmart.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/may/17/tennessee-shows-nation-its-the-volunteer-state/>

[TN Mudslides Bring More Misery To Flood Region \(Tennessean/Carey\)](#)

Paul Jefferson and his family live in a house on a hill, well above the floodwaters that caused millions of dollars of damage in Nashville and Middle Tennessee. The waters of the Harpeth River couldn't get in. But the earth on the hill above him could. Jefferson, his wife and their 9-month-old daughter were at home two weeks ago when a mudslide broke through the stone retaining wall in their backyard and crashed through the double doors leading into their bedroom. Other homeowners in his West Meade neighborhood are still digging out, as well. Mudslides have blocked roads and damaged parks and homes such as Jefferson's in parts of Bellevue and west Davidson County, in Williamson County near the Natchez Trace and in Maury County. They could continue to pop up on hillsides until the ground dries out.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100517/NEWS01/5170317/TN+mudslides+bring+more+misery>

[Will Nashville Neighborhoods Become FEMA Fields? \(City Paper/Maldonado\)](#)

At 5:52 p.m. last Tuesday, still 8 minutes before a question-and-answer session with Metro and federal officials at Bellevue Middle School was scheduled to begin, the bleachers inside the school's gym were filled to near capacity. Three minutes later, they had run out of bleacher space. People were lining up the chairs from the cafeteria along the back of the gym. By 6 p.m., attendants were hauling in folding chairs, the line of which pushed all the way up to the WSMV-TV camera at the midcourt line. "We're pretty overwhelmed with the crowd," said Sherri Weiner, president of the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, into the microphone as the meeting finally began at 6:12 p.m. A large crowd should perhaps have been expected in Bellevue, where, only a few minutes' drive away, the River Plantation condo development looked like a combination of Chernobyl and the rear lot of a Walmart

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/will-nashville-neighborhoods-become-fema-fields>

[Flood Cleanup's Big Jobs Tackled By A Few Firms \(Tennessean/Ward\)](#)

Tim Robbins and his crew had just completed post-flood cleanup work at Warwick Mall in Rhode Island when a call came asking him to prepare for a job in Nashville. Within two hours, 45 project managers and other supervisors from his Servpro of the Seacoast franchise in Dover, N.H., were on a chartered jet or commercial flights that would land here four hours later. Trucks stocked with equipment such as air scrubbers, pressure washers and dehumidifiers also hit the roads, destined for use here in recovery efforts from floodwaters that overtook Nashville during the first weekend of May. Robbins' franchise is part of Gallatin-based cleanup and restoration company Servpro's "extreme" team. The team was set up a year ago to handle work on mostly large commercial losses of \$500,000 or more that Servpro and other players increasingly see as a sweet, albeit competitive, spot in the multibillion-dollar-a-year cleaning and restoration industry.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100517/BUSINESS01/5170331>

FEMA Money Comes Quickly For Tennessee (Tennessean/Sisk)

Officials pleased, residents surprised as \$79M disbursed More than \$92 million in disaster relief funds have been approved by the federal government, and Nashville residents appear to be receiving most of that money, a quick influx of cash that has pleased state officials and surprised recipients. Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency say they have already disbursed \$79 million in flood relief. More than 50 percent of that money has been awarded to residents of Davidson County. The money has provided needed relief to residents in hard-hit neighborhoods, where some flood victims have already begun to repair their ravaged homes. The speed of the response has also helped reverse widely held misgivings about FEMA forged in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina four years ago, when monthslong delays in aid distribution compounded problems that began with the slow response to the crisis. "Having this amount of money on the street and having served this many clients, this certainly wouldn't have happened a few years ago," said James Bassham, director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100516/NEWS02/5160351/FEMA+money+comes+quickly+for+Tennessee>

Flood Damage Adds, Takes Away Jobs (Tennessean/Johnson)

Cleanup, construction crews in demand When floodwaters washed over Nashville early this month, Connie Pickett's car and trailer home were swept away. And just as the Antioch woman thought it couldn't get any worse, the doughnut shop where she worked got soaked, too, leaving her without a place to work. Yet the floodwaters that took away a job and so much else from Pickett may give a short-term economic lift to some others, including temporary workers who have landed jobs on cleanup crews in thousands of waterlogged homes and businesses. "I filled out an application and they put me right to work," said 30-year-old Tim Hartsinck of Hendersonville, who is earning \$9 to \$10 an hour doing demolition work after being unemployed since November. "The economy in Nashville is booming again," Hartsinck said. As jobs are lost and others created, flood-related economic activity could move the needle on the area's unemployment rate from its March level of 9.5 percent for the 13-county area around Nashville. But which way will it move?

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100516/BUSINESS01/5160333/Flood+damage+adds++takes+away+jobs>

Displaced Workers Can Get Jobless Benefits (Tennessean/Johnson)

Workers who have lost their jobs because of the flood may be eligible for unemployment benefits for the next 26 weeks. Even workers who don't typically qualify for unemployment because they are self-employed or sole proprietors, including farmers, can get the benefits, said Don Ingram, administrator for the Tennessee employment security division. People in 42 counties who are out of work as a direct result of the flood as well as severe storms, flooding, straight-line winds and tornadoes that began on April 30 are eligible for Disaster Unemployment Insurance, according to the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Benefits range from \$114 to \$275 per week. Claims must be filed by June 6 for residents in Davidson, Williamson, Cheatham, Sumner, Rutherford and several other Midstate counties.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100516/BUSINESS01/5160343/2221/BUSINESS/Displaced+workers+can+get+jobless+benefits>

Most Flooded Roads Repaired, Open (Tennessean/Snyder)

Funding sought for big projects Two weeks after floodwaters rushed through Middle Tennessee, travel in the area is almost back to normal, but no one is sure how much it's going to cost to fix the roads and bridges damaged by the deluge. "There are just a few roads still closed," said Gwen Hopkins-Glascock, spokeswoman for Metro Public Works. Metro work crews have repaired and reopened more than 100 local roadways since the flood. There's still plenty of work to be done, though. Officials with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, cities and counties are surveying the flood damage to roads and bridges. No one is giving comprehensive repair estimates yet. In many cases, the repairs that already have been made are temporary. Permanent repairs will come later possibly with federal disaster relief dollars. "We think we'll have that done in the next few days," Eddie Hood, supervisor of the Williamson County Highway Department, said of the road assessment.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100516/NEWS01/5160373/1001/NEWS/Most+flooded+roads+repaired++open>

[Farmers Worry Over Thousands Of Acres Of Lost Crops \(Jackson Sun\)](#)

White sand covers nearly 30 acres of what was once Keith Steele's corn crop. Another 40 acres of brown wheat lays flat against the soil, matted by sand and silt like unwashed dreadlocks. The water in Bear Creek that evenly divides this 1,000-acre section of Steele's north Gibson County farm now trickles quietly westward, a taunting reminder of the May 1 flood that covered nearly half this part of his farm, destroyed levees, drowned crops and stole at least 20 acres of farm land through erosion. He will lose an additional 5 acres he will have to use to rebuild the levees that once protected crops from flooding. May 1 floodwaters covered thousands of acres of farm land across Middle and West Tennessee. The destruction has left farmers wondering how to pay to repair damage after they lost future revenues from destroyed crops and acreage that will not be ready for planting this year, if at all.

<http://www.jacksonsun.com/article/20100516/NEWS01/5160317/1002/PRINT-EXCLUSIVE--Farmers-worry-over-thousands-of-acres-of-lost-crops>

[Was Flood Risk Underplayed? \(Tennessean/Snyder\)](#)

Many residents saw no need for flood insurance Michael Krieger's home in Rutherford County has a low risk of flooding, according to the federal government. You wouldn't have known that two Sundays ago, when it was sitting under nearly 3 feet of water. Krieger, a husband and father of three, doesn't have flood insurance. In fact, he doesn't remember ever talking to an insurance agent about flood insurance. Similar stories have played out across Middle Tennessee in the wake of the May floods in which at least 13 inches of rain fell in a two-day period, inundating homes and neighborhoods that for the most part weren't covered by flood insurance policies. The federal government requires flood insurance when most lenders issue mortgages in special flood hazard zones, sometimes known as the 100-year flood plain. But many areas outside of that area took on water in Middle Tennessee, leaving the taxpayers on the hook for disaster aid and sparking a threat of more home foreclosures.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100516/BUSINESS01/5160354>

[More Than \\$80M In FEMA Funds Approved For State \(City Paper\)](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved more than \$80 million in relief aid for flood victims across Tennessee, the agency announced Friday. Registration across the state is close to 29,000 households, according to FEMA spokesman Nate Custer. Of those, 13,913 are in Davidson County, according to figures released Friday morning. Statewide, the agency has completed 16,219 home and property inspections. "It's moving along pretty quickly," Custer said, adding that money is "in the pipeline" already for many families. He did not provide a specific number. Families are eligible for as much as \$29,900 in FEMA aid. To register with FEMA, visit www.disasterassistance.gov or call 1-800-621-FEMA.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/2010-flood/more-80m-fema-funds-approved-state>

[Getting More Federal Money for Flood Victims \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)

Tennessee communities trying to rebuild from historic flooding could be in line for more money from the federal government. A U.S. Senate committee approved billions of dollars in extra emergency funds for states on Thursday. Tennessee's share is \$150 million. The President's request for Iraq and Afghanistan funding included \$5 billion in disaster relief for all states. Republican Senator Lamar Alexander says the money could help restart businesses that were closed after the flood, and also pay for costs to rebuild roads, bridges and other infrastructure. "Not only do I want to say thank you to the committee for its fast work I believe these are important first steps for what is going to be a long term recovery for the people of Tennessee." Senator Alexander says Tennessee will also be eligible for federal dollars to pay for dredging along the Mississippi River.

<http://wpln.org/?p=17682>

[Nashville Seeks Tax Relief For Flood Victims \(Chattanooga Times Free-Press\)](#)

House Minority Leader Gary Odom, D-Nashville, said Friday he intends to push a sales-tax exemption on appliances and building materials for families who suffered flood damage in this month's severe flooding. Tennesseans qualifying for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance, authorized by President Barack Obama, could buy appliances such as refrigerators and building materials tax free through September. "After several meetings with constituents, I believe that this is absolutely necessary in providing relief for our citizens that were devastated by the recent flooding disaster," Rep. Odom said in a news release. "It is the least we can do to help our neighbors and friends get back on their feet." He said the measure should not have a negative effect on sales tax revenues because the appliances and material would not otherwise need to be purchased to the extent they will now.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/may/15/nashville-seeks-tax-relief-for-flood-victims/>

[Nashville Government Switches From Crisis Mode To Flood Recovery Mode \(NBJ\)](#)

With the Great Flood of 2010 nearly two weeks past, Nashville's government is ready to switch from crisis mode into long-term recovery mode, the mayor's office announced Friday. Since May 1, the police, fire department, EMS, public works and water departments have all been commanded from the Office of Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center. That will end at 7 tonight. Disaster Information Centers at Bellevue, East, Hadley, Coleman and Hermitage Community Centers will also close after Sunday, with their information functions being transferred to FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers and the delivery of emergency aid being transferred to nonprofit distribution centers. The FEMA centers are at 100 Oaks Mall, 719 Thompson Lane; Ford Complex Community Building, 2620 W. Heiman St.; Hartman Park Community Center, 2801 Tucker Road; and the SBA Small Business Recovery Center, TSU, Avon Williams Campus. All FEMA centers are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/10/daily43.html?surround=lfm>

[Nashville Mayor Karl Dean Appoints Flood Recovery Team \(Tennessean/Cass\)](#)

Nashville Mayor Karl Dean has named five Metro officials and one nonprofit leader to a flood recovery team that will work out of his office to manage long-term recovery assistance for residents and businesses. The team and their areas of responsibility are: • Jen Cole, human services. Cole is the director of the Metro Arts Commission. • Curt Garrigan, infrastructure and planning. Garrigan is the assistant director of Metro Parks over finance, administration, planning and facilities development. • Talia Lomax-O'Neal, finance. Lomax-O'Neal is the assistant director of Metro Finance over the Office of Management and Budget. • Billy Fields, neighborhood and community affairs. Fields is the director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods. • Loretta Owens, housing. Owens is the executive director of The Housing Fund, a Nashville-based nonprofit established to finance affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization projects. • Doug Sloan, legal. Sloan is an attorney with the Metro Department of Law.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100515/NEWS0202/5150342/1009/NEWS>

[Cheatham Ravaged By Wrath Of 2 Rivers \(Tennessean/Kenning\)](#)

Quiet communities struggle to recover At his home next to the Cumberland River, Johnny Reynolds ripped out walls and floors, surrounded by ruined belongings and cursing his decision to cancel his expensive flood insurance. Twenty miles to the south, Nashville businessman Bill Carney stopped to drink a cold beer, overwhelmed by the damage to his Harpeth River home, which the flood ripped from its foundation, pushed up a hill, stabbed with tree trunks and nearly broke in two. And at the Foggy Bottom Canoe Rentals, owner Pat Hutcherson, who lost a business and a home in one stroke, was so tired of sleeping in a tent to keep canoes from being stolen that she hung a spray-painted sign reading, "Please Mr. Prez: I need a FEMA trailer." Cheatham County, a largely rural area west of Nashville dotted with bedroom communities, is slowly recovering after being slammed particularly hard by the swollen Cumberland and Harpeth rivers and flash flooding along a large network of streams and tributaries. Nearly 40,000 people live here.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100515/NEWS01/5150323>

[FEMA Aiding Flood Victims \(Columbia Daily Herald\)](#)

Officials are urging anyone whose property was damaged by recent flooding to register their losses with the federal government. Mark Blackwood, director of the Maury County Office of Emergency Management, said authorities are estimating homes across the county sustained more than \$2 million worth of damage. Maury County is one of 42 counties designated as federal disaster areas. Blackwood said the county also sustained several million dollars worth of damage to roadways, bridges, agricultural products and equipment and other infrastructure. It's critical that residents apply for assistance if any is needed, Blackwood said. "There's no guarantee there will be assistance," he said. "But if they don't apply, there certainly will not be." Cleo Howell, a public affairs officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said several programs are available for residents needing assistance.

http://www.columbiadailyherald.com/articles/2010/05/14/top_stories/01fema.txt

[**FEMA Opens Office In Civic Hall \(Leaf Chronicle\)**](#)

A federal Disaster Recovery Center is now open at Montgomery County Civic Hall in Veterans Plaza on Pageant Lane, according to officials with the Small Business Administration. At the center, individuals who have had flood damage in the storms last week can register for Federal Emergency Management Agency aid, and businesses can register for SBA low-interest loans. Individuals also can check on their relief application status and get answers on how FEMA and SBA assistance works. During federally declared disasters, FEMA helps individuals with relief grants using need-based criteria; and homeowners, renters and businesses may apply for low-interest SBA loans, according to Tom Nocera, SBA spokesman. The center is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, including Saturdays and Sundays. Individuals can register with FEMA online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 800-621-FEMA (3362). Those with hearing or speech disabilities can use the TTY number, 800-462-7585. <http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100515/NEWS01/5150305/1002/FEMA-opens--office-in--Civic-Hall-->

[**Metro Could Prevent Some Flood Victims From Rebuilding \(WKRn-TV Nashville\)**](#)

Some middle Tennesseans may not be able to rebuild their home after the flood, because the city could buy homes to prevent anyone from building in a flood plain. Residents in west Nashville met with Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives and Metro zoning inspectors Friday night. The meeting was tense, but filled with a lot of important questions and answers. People who live in west Nashville have started gutting their homes and planning to rebuild, but as they try and get permits, many have been turned down. Part of the neighborhood, in the Richland area, sits on a flood plain or flood area. They have heard rumors of Metro pulling permits. Friday night, they received real answers. "If we don't follow the rules, you can't get reimbursed. If we do this wrong, if Metro does this wrong, we screw it up for y'all. Give us a chance to do it right," a Metro official said at the meeting.

<http://www.wkrn.com/global/story.asp?s=12486633>

[**Bellevue Businesses Battle Flood-Soaked Shops, No Power, Lost Customers \(NBj\) With Photos**](#)

City Limits Bakery & Cafe owner John Woods rented the last water pump available at Home Depot and took it into combat for 10 hours on Sunday, May 2, to protect his 9-year-old Bellevue business from rising floodwaters. Woods, his wife and two employees were the soldiers. Two water pumps, sandbags and mops were their weapons. "If the power would have gone out, we would have been floating," Woods said. "It was close. It started coming in under the door." Eventually the danger subsided, and floor drains took care of what little water entered the cafe. Woods is thankful to have won that battle, but worried about losing the war. The latest estimates from Nashville Mayor Karl Dean put the cost of flood damage at \$1.6 billion in Davidson County. Bellevue, home to more than 200 businesses, was one of hardest hit areas in the county.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/17/story3.html> (SUBSCRIPTION)

[**Downtown Office Market Rallies After River Recedes \(Nashville Business Journal\)**](#)

Downtown's parking woes seem almost cute by comparison. This month's flood evacuated portions of downtown, submerged parking garages and symphony centers alike and disrupted power to several buildings for much of a week. Still, the work interruptions and high-water lines in the hub of Nashville's office market, real estate professionals said, should not cripple downtown's ability to attract new businesses. "My knee-jerk reaction would be that it's just a blip on the radar screen," said Tom Frye, managing director of the Nashville CB Richard Ellis office. Frye's office in the One Nashville Place building was one of several without power from the morning of May 4 until May 10, after floodwaters breached underground electrical equipment in a Demonbreun Street substation. Still, Frye said, it's conceivable that an out-of-town firm with Nashville on its radar could see images of the downtown flooding and opt for an alternative like office-hotbed Cool Springs.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/17/story6.html> (SUBSCRIPTION)

[**Floods Take A Bite Out Of Convention Center Budget \(Nashville Business Journal\)**](#)

If the Opryland Hotel and Convention Center is closed for six months, city officials expect to lose about \$2 million in taxes that would have gone toward paying for a new convention center. While a significant amount, it won't jeopardize financing for Music City Center, said Metro Finance Director Rich Riebeling. The flood of 2010 will dramatically dampen the local hospitality industry for some time, but city officials say the downturn should not be large or prolonged enough to impact the convention hall's construction. A mix of tourist taxes are the funding source for the \$585 million Music City Center, the largest municipal project in state history. Construction officials said flooding put the project a week behind and added \$10,000 to its cost. Scheduled to open in 2013, Music City Center is expected to generate \$134.9 million in annual spending and support 1,524 jobs in its first stabilized year of 2017.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/17/story7.html>

[Prepare For Flood Of Litigation Following Storm \(Nashville Business Journal\)](#)

Despite the outpouring of goodwill that has followed the flooding in Nashville, area attorneys warn that such a catastrophe also could lead to an uptick in litigation as businesses assess how to deal with the fallout. The bulk of the litigation, they said, likely will be disputes over insurance coverage, but some could involve how companies do business with one another. Estimates on how much litigation between companies will increase varied widely, but attorneys interviewed said double-digit increases are possible. “There’s a lot of stuff to kind of settle out,” said John Tishler, chairman of law firm Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis. Companies may have trouble meeting financial obligations or fulfilling product orders — or on the other side of the situation, be too strapped or leery to provide leeway to struggling companies. A flood is less likely to spur the blame game than, say, the oil spill off the Gulf Coast where lawyers are actively clamoring for cases to take up.

<http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2010/05/17/story9.html> (SUBSCRIPTION)

-Opinion-

[The Spirit Of Nashville \(City Paper\)](#)

The numbers behind what our city went through in the flood that began May 1 are astonishing: Nearly 14 inches of rain in two days — more than twice the amount of rain Nashville has ever experienced in a two-day period since we started keeping records on weather. The Cumberland River crested at 51.8 feet on the night of Monday, May 3. That’s the highest level it’s been since the late 1920s, when it reached 56.2 feet. The numbers behind our city’s response are just as impressive: Our emergency responders conducted approximately 1,400 water rescues and responded to more than 13,500 calls for assistance over three days. Hands On Nashville, the nonprofit contracted with Metro to assist in organizing volunteer assistance activities for disaster relief, was right there with us from day one in the city’s Emergency Operations Center. As the floodwaters receded, Nashville’s hardest hit neighborhoods became a flurry of activity with volunteers — people from all over the city and the region — helping Nashville residents and business owners begin to recover.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/city-voices/commentary-mayor-spirit-nashville>

[We Are The Volunteer State \(City Paper\)](#)

The devastation is overwhelming. The need is overwhelming. The outpouring of volunteers has been equally overwhelming. The Flood of 2010 and its images of buildings floating down interstates, children being rescued by boats and floating ottomans, and the elderly being carried by strangers to safety, will stick with us for a lifetime. What will also stay with us is the spirit of volunteerism that has taken over a city taken over by water. Our images are now turning to neighbors helping neighbors and strangers helping strangers haul personal belongings to curbside trash heaps; to scores of people distributing food and water to those who have none; and to cleaning up, piece by piece, person by person, so we can move toward the next steps of recovery: rebuilding and restoring. On May 2, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean announced that those wanting to help with flood relief efforts in Middle Tennessee should go through Hands On Nashville. In short, HON serves as a hub for volunteerism by linking volunteers with available volunteer opportunities.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/city-voices/hands-nashville-we-are-volunteer-state>

[While Flood Memory Is Fresh, Get Prepared \(Tennessean\)](#)

In the aftermath of Tennessee’s horrendous 2010 flood, individuals, government and businesses are confronting devastation, cleanup and recovery with astonishing resourcefulness and commitment. All, undoubtedly, look up from their labors now and then and think about a time when the mud will be cleaned away, homes and shops restored, and something like “normal life” will return. That is as it should be. However, it also is someone’s job to plan for the next one. But wait ... the next 500-year flood? Or even a thousand-year flood, as the recent disaster has been called by some? As it turns out, those are just expressions. Nashville alone has seen five catastrophic floods in the past 120 years. The events in 1882 and 1926 left much higher levels of flood water, because they occurred before construction of a series of dams along the Cumberland River. But the losses incurred in 1975 and this year have been no less painful for Nashvillians to bear. So the prospect of another such disaster occurring in the next 30 to 50 years should be reason enough for urban planners, civil engineers and other experts in our region to start preparing — now.

<http://blogs.tennessean.com/opinion/2010/05/16/while-flood-memory-is-fresh-get-prepared/>

[Nashvillians Proved Their Mettle In Previous Floods \(Tennessean\)](#)

When James Robertson and John Donelson traveled to Middle Tennessee and founded what is today Nashville in 1779, they selected a choice spot on the bend of the Cumberland for their new settlement. The first commercial and residential buildings of Nashville were built in the area of the long, powerful river. Before this month, Nashville saw nine other major floods since the days of Robertson and Donelson, when the Cumberland reached more than 52 feet or higher. The greatest started on Christmas Day 1926. That week, Nashville had 8.39 inches of rain, with another 2 inches in the few days after Christmas. The rain pushed the Cumberland River to 56.2 feet — the highest on record — which is 4 feet over the crest of the Cumberland this month. In 1926 older citizens still remembered the last time Nashville had a big flood, in January 1882. This flood brought great human suffering to the river city, which was still scarred from the Civil War.

<http://blogs.tennessean.com/opinion/2010/05/16/nashvillians-proved-their-mettle-in-previous-floods/>

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