

June 9, 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.

[Tennessee Requests Additional Farm Assistance \(Southeast Farm Press\)](#)

According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee farmers reported moderate to severe damages to 39 percent of the state's corn crop and 21 percent of winter wheat following the flooding. Damages to fruit and vegetable crops and nursery stock were also reported as well as significant damage to farm infrastructure including access roads, levees, fences, conservation practices, buildings and equipment. Governor Phil Bredesen has requested a Secretarial designation of natural disaster for agriculture for eight additional counties in middle and west Tennessee as a result of the historic rainfall and devastating floods that began April 30. The eight counties include: Cheatham, Dyer, Hardin, Haywood, Madison, Montgomery, Tipton and Williamson.

<http://southeastfarmpress.com/grains/disaster-assistance-0608/>

[Grant Will Help TN Flood Victims Handle Emotional Toll \(Tennessean/Sanchez\)](#)

Counselors warn need will grow Flood victims may just be starting to show signs of the anxiety and depression that often follow a disaster, and the need for counseling services is only going to grow, mental health experts say. Tennessee will get a \$380,265 federal grant to help victims cope with the emotional impact of the disaster with counseling, community support groups and public education. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's grant will bring funding to five community mental health centers in Middle and West Tennessee to help children and adults. But the money will only scrape the surface of the need that likely will appear in the coming months as ongoing stress and frustration from the cleanup takes a toll on families. The state will seek federal funding to keep the free mental health services going for up to year.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100609/NEWS01/6090369/1001/NEWS/Grant+will+help+TN+flood+victims+handle+emotional+toll>

[Flood Victims Likely to Have Long-term Mental Health Needs \(WPLN-Radio Nash\)](#)

In the coming months, state mental health officials expect an increase in victims seeking services related to last month's flooding. Up to this point, they say flood victims have been too busy meeting basic needs in the immediate aftermath to pay attention to their mental health. Debra Dillon with the Southeast Mental Health Center says that as the months go on, people will begin to feel the effects of what they've been through.

"They're still having anxiety, depression, flashbacks to some of the things they've been through, children having nightmares about the situations, and that's the time that they'll start calling and wanting to come in and get into counseling and get some help in dealing with some of that." The state recently received a short-term grant for \$380,000 to provide sixty days of educational programs; however, officials plan to apply for a long-term grant from the federal government to continue crisis counseling services throughout the year.

<http://wpln.org/?p=18418>

[Disaster Recovery Center Evolves, Changes Location \(State Gazette\)](#)

Just over a month ago, Dyer County residents witnessed the highest flooding to date of the Forked Deer River. As the floodwaters rose and fell, emergency management officials, first responders, firemen, police officers and members of the community stepped up to aid those affected by the disaster. When the immediate safety threat receded, officials in charge moved from rescue to recovery operations. Soon after the flooding began, Federal Emergency Management Agency officials arrived with members of the Small Business Administration - each agency charged with a different piece of a puzzle aimed to help local residents and businessmen recover. And just as local officials moved from rescue to recovery initiatives, federal assistance options are beginning to change as the needs of local flood victims continue to evolve. The Disaster Recovery Center located in the Dyersburg Mall has been moved to the City Court Clerk's office at 115 W. Market St. Now considered a Disaster Loan Operations Center - or DLOC - the office will be staffed with SBA members as FEMA officials prepare to leave the area.

<http://www.stategazette.com/story/1640742.html>

[FEMA Office Closing Saturday \(Leaf Chronicle\)](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Recovery Center at Civic Hall in Veterans Plaza will close on Saturday. FEMA officials have said the center will remain open as long as necessary to assist residents affected by last month's flooding in filing claims. However, registration is continuing for federal assistance until a July 6 deadline. To register, go online to www.DisasterAssistance.gov or call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 (FEMA). As the local Disaster Recovery Center closes, the Small Business Administration will set up an office in a training room next to the Trustee's Office in Veterans Plaza. The office is expected to remain open another week or so to assist business owners and residents.

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100609/NEWS01/6090328/1002/FEMA-office-closing-Saturday>

[NES, TVA Helping Flood Victims Rebuild More Energy Efficiently \(City Paper\)](#)

A new partnership announced Tuesday between the TVA and Nashville Electric Service gives victims of storms that swept across the region last month another reason to include energy efficient upgrades as they rebuild. TVA's Energy Efficiency Disaster Assistance Initiative—for residents and businesses in federal disaster areas—gives residents with FEMA documentation up to \$500 in rebates for weatherization and heating and cooling improvements. Homeowners may also take advantage of up to \$20,000 in low-interest financing through participating power distributors. These loans can be repaid through monthly power bills over a period of up to 10 years. Business customers will be able to qualify for rebates on high-efficiency lighting and heating and cooling equipment through new provisions available in TVA's Commercial Efficiency Advice and Incentives program.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/city-news/nes-tva-helping-flood-victims-rebuild-more-energy-efficiently>

[Flood Victims Receive Energy Efficiency Offers \(Tennessean/Paine\)](#)

Qualified residents and businesses hit by the flooding will be able to take advantage of new breaks on energy efficiency incentives. The programs were unveiled Tuesday by the Nashville Electric Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority. An initial onsite evaluation requirement for an In-Home Energy Evaluation Program will give residents with FEMA documentation up to \$500 in cash rebates for weatherization and heating and cooling improvements. Homeowners also may get up to \$20,000 in low-interest financing through participating power distributors. The loans can be repaid through monthly power bills over a period of up to 10 years. Business customers with a FEMA registration number can apply for rebates on high-efficiency lighting and heating and cooling equipment through new provisions available in TVA's Commercial Efficiency Advice and Incentives program.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100609/NEWS02/6090363/1009/NEWS>

[Dickson County's Water Is Best Tasting In The State \(Tennessean/Dickson Herald\)](#)

The water treated by the Water Authority of Dickson County won the award for best-tasting water ...

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100608/DICKSON01/100608071/Dickson-County-s-water-is-best-tasting-in-the-state>

[Lookout Mountain Water Lines Repaired \(WDEF News 12\)](#)

Tennessee American Water started the one-point-six million dollar project to back in January. Some of the pipe replaced dated back to the early 19-20's. The project was also unique because Tenn-Am used ten mules to carry equipment up the mountain to the job site.

http://www.wdef.com/news/lookout_mountain_water_lines_repaired/06/2010

VIDEO LINK http://wdef.com/lookout_mountain_water_lines_repaired

Opinion

[Railroad Renaissance A Plus For Tennessee \(Knoxville News-Sentinel\)](#)

Railroads hold a unique position in the American psyche, blending the symbolism of uniting the country and the romanticism of a bygone era. Trains never went away, of course, but automobiles and airplanes all but killed passenger service in the United States. Railroads, however, seem poised for a much-welcomed renaissance. Recent developments point to a renewed emphasis on rail travel that we hope will benefit the region. Most welcome was the announcement by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood that "America is going to get in the high-speed intercity rail business ... and I hope that includes, for my money, from Atlanta Hartsfield (airport) to Chicago through Chattanooga, Nashville and beyond." Of course, we would prefer to see a high-speed passenger rail line come through Knoxville, but an Atlanta-Chicago line running through Chattanooga and Nashville would be a boon to the state's economy.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/jun/09/editorial-railroad-renaissance-plus-tennessee/>