

# THE BLUE PAGES...



Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

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## From the Desk of the Secretary...

The Nov. 2 elections ushered in a new era of leadership in Tennessee and across the country! I would like to congratulate Governor-elect Haslam, the newly-elected and re-elected members of the Tennessee General Assembly and all other candidates who appeared on ballots this fall. I know from personal experience that running for public office can be a grueling experience. Candidates often spend long hours on the campaign trail away from their jobs, their families and their friends. For that reason, among others, I admire those who are willing to offer themselves for public service.

While some parts of the country experienced difficulties on Election Day, I am pleased to report that Tennessee was not among them. Our elections were carried out without any major problems. For that I would like to commend our Coordinator of

Elections Mark Goins, his staff in the Division of Elections and all of the county election administrators, election commission employees and poll workers in 95 counties across our state. It takes a real team effort to hold a successful election – and that is exactly what we had not only this month but also in the months leading up to the election.



GOVERNOR-ELECT BILL HASLAM

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I am also pleased to report that many Tennesseans were able to turn to the Department of State web site for the most up-to-date statewide election results after the polls closed Nov. 2. Although we experienced some technical challenges when we tried to offer updated results on the site following the August elections, our employees in the Division of Publications, the Division of Information Services and the Division of Elections worked hard to address those challenges and provide an election night service that was in high demand. I

also want to thank outgoing Governor Bredesen for the assistance provided by his Office for Information Resources in helping to upgrade our web site to handle the additional traffic generated on election night.

Once again, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary of State. If I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me.



## LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED SPONSORS ART EXHIBIT BY BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED ARTISTS

*Secretary Hargett said: "It is inspiring to see the quality of art these students have produced."*

Being blind or visually impaired does not mean a person can't create or enjoy visual arts.

Students at the Tennessee School for the Blind proved that by putting together an exhibit of paintings, sculptures and other artwork that were on display at the Tennessee State Library and Archives building throughout the month of October.

people with vision loss or other disabilities. The Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which is part of the Department of State, arranged for the exhibit to be displayed.

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides audio books, Braille books,



*SABRINA BLACK  
ACRYLIC PAINTING*

The exhibit was displayed to commemorate Art Beyond Sight Awareness Month, which is an international initiative to promote art by and for



*JEFFERY SPRINGFIELD  
MIXED MEDIA  
PAINTING ON CANVAS*

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large print books and other free library services to Tennesseans who are unable to read standard print due to visual or physical disabilities. More information about the Library for the Blind

and Physically Handicapped is available at: <http://tn.gov/tsla/lbph>

“I am pleased that the Tennessee Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has displayed the artwork from Ms. Leister’s students to help bring attention to Art Beyond Sight Awareness Month,” Secretary Hargett said. “It is inspiring to see the quality of art these students have produced.”

Students in Monica Leister's art classes at the Tennessee School for the Blind prepared the items that were displayed in the exhibit, which include paintings in acrylic and tempera as well as mixed media paintings and items of aluminum embossing. There are also some paper, clay and

ceramic sculptures.

“We create all types of art using a variety of media,” Ms. Leister said. “Some of my students have low vision and are able to see well enough to

paint or draw without any modifications or accommodations. I also have students who are totally blind and they do require some accommodations. First of all, if a student has never had vision, then his or her concept of how something looks can be totally different from what we see. Most of my students love sculpture and working with clay,

but that is not the only thing we do. We create collages which can be very tactile. I use screen boards and texture boards to help students to feel what they are drawing. I also add sand and even fragrance to paint sometimes to make painting more of a multisensory experience.”



(FRONT ROW - LEFT TO RIGHT) HK DERRYBERRY, JEFFERY SPRINGFIELD, BROOKS GARDNER, KAYLA PAINTER, MIRACLE ALSOBROOK, AND LAURI RICHARDSON. (2ND ROW- LEFT TO RIGHT) GEORGE GUERRERO, ASHLEY JACKSON, JOSIAH HEARN, PATRICK ANDERSON, EMILY GREEN, SABRINA BLACK AND CHAZ WHITSETT. (BACK ROW- LEFT TO RIGHT) MATT RICH, RHONDA ANDREWS (ASHLEY’S SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER), BILL ROTENBERRY (BUS DRIVER), MILLY ADAMS (TSB LIBRARIAN), AND MONICA LEISTER (TSB ART TEACHER)



ASHLEY JACKSON  
SCULPTURES



CHAZ WHITSETT  
TEMPERA PAINT

## THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF CHARITABLE GIVING

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are fast approaching, which means many of us will feel inspired by the season's spirit of good will to donate money to charitable causes. That is terrific news because there are so many worthwhile charitable organizations in need of whatever

financial support we can provide. However, just as with purchasing decisions, it is important to make wise decisions about donating money.

Here are a few tips from the Department of State's Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming:

**DO** ask a lot of questions. What is the charity's mission? How will the money you donate be used? What portion of the charity's budget goes to providing services and what portion goes to administrative expenses? Does the person soliciting money for the charity actually work for the charity, or is that person a professional fundraiser who will likely receive a portion of whatever donations he or she collects?

**DON'T** feel pressured into making donations "on the spot." Legitimate charitable organizations should not mind providing telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, web addresses or other contact information so you can contact them later.

**DO** your homework. Check out the organization's web site. Ask other people what they know about the organization. And check to see if the organization is registered with the Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming to solicit funds in Tennessee. The division's page on the Department of State web site, <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/charity>, has financial information about all charitable organizations that have met state requirements to register. (Some organizations – including religious and educational institutions, volunteer fire departments and rescue squads, political groups, hospitals and nursing homes - are not required to register with the state.)

**DON'T** donate cash. Cash contributions are more likely to be misspent and the donor cannot claim them as deductions for tax purposes. Writing a check – to the organization, not the solicitor – is the recommended method for making a donation. Use of credit cards should be avoided, except for the most well-known and trustworthy organizations.

**DO** report suspicious fundraising practices to the Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming. The division has the authority to investigate and levy civil penalties against charitable organizations that engage in false or deceptive fundraising activities. You can contact the division at (615) 741-2555.



## TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES TEAMS UP WITH ANCESTRY.COM TO PROVIDE DEATH CERTIFICATE RECORDS ONLINE

*“THIS IS JUST ANOTHER STEP IN OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE MORE OF TENNESSEE’S HISTORICAL RECORDS AVAILABLE ONLINE,” SECRETARY HARGETT SAID.*

The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) has entered into a cooperative agreement with [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) that will eventually provide free online access to important state records for all 95 counties in the state. Death certificates dating back to 1959 will be included in an online database. Early Tennessee land records, tax lists, birth records and voter registration—all much in demand by the researching public—are also covered by this arrangement.

Under the agreement, TSLA will provide Ancestry.com with microfilm copies of the records to scan electronically. No original paper records will be used. Ancestry.com will then create digital images of the records as well as searchable indexes which will allow a user to find a particular record about one individual among the thousands of records contained in those databases.

TSLA will receive copies of the digital images and indexes. Tennessee residents and Ancestry.com

members will have free access to the records online through the [Tennessee Electronic Library](https://www.tennessee.gov/electronic).

All digitization and indexing costs will be assumed by Ancestry.com, which plans to create a dedicated Tennessee page for its 10 million monthly users. This page will feature the TSLA logo, TSLA databases, general information and a link back to TSLA’s page on the Department of State web site. This innovative arrangement will expand access to microfilm and paper records currently available only at TSLA to all Tennesseans and millions of online users.

“This is just another step in our efforts to make more of Tennessee’s historical records available online,” Secretary Hargett said. “I hope and expect that this new partnership with Ancestry.com will make it easier for Tennesseans to find the records they need without making trips to the physical locations where those records are stored.”



## NETWORK SERVICES PROGRAM OFFERS TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FOR TENNESSEE’S PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Many people may not be aware that the Tennessee Department of State provides technology services free of charge to more than 200 public libraries across the state. The public library “Network Services Program” is federally funded and the

program’s five full-time employees are managed by the Secretary of State’s Information Systems Division. A network services manager in the department’s Nashville office leads and supervises the work of network services consultants based in

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Jackson, Murfreesboro, Cookeville and Knoxville. Having personnel in these locations allows the program to support libraries in all regions of the state.

As public libraries have obtained technology and established wireless networks, the level of computer assistance needed at the libraries has increased and become more complex. For example, during the past year, the Network Services Program assisted 220 public libraries and 12 regional libraries with technology purchases, installations and training. The four network services consultants attend library board meetings to explain technology needs of individual libraries. In addition, the network services consultants help determine current and future technology requirements through research and library interviews; plan and implement network developments and upgrades accordingly; install and upgrade computer hardware and software; consult with library personnel in assessing information systems planning and physical facility planning; develop training aides and materials appropriate for public and regional library staff members; and plan, organize and conduct basic and advanced training sessions in both classroom

and on-site settings. In fact, the number one continuing education request from local public libraries is for additional education in the field of technology.

In more and more public libraries today, the most popular resources are the public access computers. The public library computers are resources that provide a means of communication, research, access to online services and learning in a free and open environment. Many libraries have implemented reservation systems to handle increased demand for the use of these computers, which at last count numbered more than 3,000 statewide. With the network services consultants' ongoing technical support in rural areas of Tennessee, public access computers provide Tennessee citizen library patrons with access to computing resources such as e-mail, word processing and Internet service at fast online speeds without the cost of owning the equipment or monthly access fees. The Network Services Program is instrumental in keeping the public libraries' technology equipment up and running, enabling this important free public access for all Tennesseans.

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## SECRETARY HARGETT VISITING COUNTIES TO INSPECT ELECTION EQUIPMENT AND MEET WITH ELECTION OFFICIALS, POLL WORKERS AND VOTERS





*Holiday Closings for  
November*

State offices will be closed November 11th to commemorate Veterans Day and November 25th and November 26th in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday. The Department of State’s holiday schedule is consistent with that of other State offices. If you need to conduct business during November, please plan accordingly.



*HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING*



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