Historical Society awarded $200,000 grant

Gov. Bill Haslam recently announced the award of a $200,000 Recreation Trails Program grant to the Charleston-Calhoun-Hiwassee (CCH) Historical Society toward development of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Experience in Charleston.

The grant is a Federal Highway Administration Grant administered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

The grant is set to fund the first phase of outdoor interpretation outlined in a concept plan designed by the National Park Service Trails Division. Phase I of the trail experience connects the Hiwassee River Heritage Center to the Charleston Public Park and provides trailhead and event parking. NPS landscape architects spent a week in Charleston gathering community input and laying out a plan that creates a visitor learning experience. This experience will share the nationally significant story of the area’s role in the Trail of Tears Cherokee Removal.

Charleston was a major gateway to the Cherokee Nation as the location of the last Federal Indian Agency and ultimately the military operational headquarters of the entire Trail of Tears Cherokee Removal. This is a story that was being lost and forgotten until a group of citizens formed the CCH Historical Society and began pursuing development of a heritage project with the assistance of the Chamber’s Convention & Visitors Bureau over the past eight years.

The grant was lead by Melissa Mortimer, regional historic planner for the Southeast Tennessee Development District. Mortimer worked with Darlene Goins of the CCH Historical Society, and Melissa Woody, vice president for CVB. The three worked two intense weeks gathering and writing information for the detailed grant submission.

“This is an exciting and amazing development in this long process,” Woody said. “Projects as ambitious as this one don’t happen overnight. You have to be patient, get the right people involvement, work hard and do a lot of praying!”

CCH Historical Society opened the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in May 2013 and is currently raising funds to expand the center to include an exhibit hall and lecture room. The outdoor component will put visitors in the footsteps of history.

“Development of this project is a huge part of the overall strategy to attract visitors to our area,” Woody explained. “Tens of thousands of people pass exit 33 every day and have no idea that a nationally significant landmark is just four miles from the interstate. The site will be a hub for regional sites that are part of this story.”
**PrimeTime Business EXPO to highlight Chamber members**

The second PrimeTime Business EXPO is set for Oct. 23 from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Omega Center International and will showcase Chamber members to the community.

Due to the excitement generated by the first EXPO in March 2014, the popular showcase will now become an annual event each October. The community is encouraged to attend and visit the Chamber members who are presenting, but only Chamber members will have the opportunity to display their products and services.

The cost to reserve a booth is $100 and includes a table. Vendors are responsible for their own tablecloth; electricity will not be provided.

“Over 100 members participated in our first EXPO,” Aaron Weatherford, membership director, said. “We expect that number to increase.”

If you are interested in reserving a booth, contact Weatherford at 423-472-6587 or aweatherford@clevelandchamber.com.

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**New class of young leaders begins eighth-month program**

The Youth Leadership class of 2014-15 began a new year of developing their leadership skills by attending a daylong leadership retreat recently. The students are taking part in the 13th year of this important workforce development program of the Chamber. The class consists of 26 high school juniors and seniors who were selected through an application process a few months ago and represents Bradley Central, Cleveland and Walker Valley High Schools and Tennessee Christian Preparatory School.

The Youth Leadership program encompasses eight months and gives the students opportunities to learn about local economy, heritage and tourism, city and county government and services, and health and human services. They also experience a day in Nashville to learn about state government.

Robert Green, area director of Ocoee Region of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, kicked off the day with an inspiring talk about “Using Your Compass to Lead.” Green challenged them to identify six value statements to live their lives by, including such characteristics as integrity and honesty.

The students also spent the day in activities getting to know each other, learning team-building skills, participating in challenging competitions and reviewing characteristics of leaders.

“It is always exciting to meet the students and observe how leadership skills emerge through the activities they participate in at the retreat and watch those skills grow as the year continues,” Sherry Crye, Youth Leadership coordinator, said about the 2014-15 class.
SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

The Small Business Committee of the Chamber of Commerce presents Hampton Backhoe Service LLC as this month’s Small Business Spotlight. Each month a small business is randomly selected by its Chamber-member number to respond briefly to several questions. Hampton Backhoe, located in Athens, Tenn., joined the Chamber of Commerce in October 2013 during the membership event.

Q: How did you get into your line of work? Business?
A: Kelvin Hampton, owner, started working for his dad, Clifford Hampton, over 30 years ago on the pipeline. He has been in the ditch laying the pipe and on the excavator digging ditches to lay the pipe in. He also runs the equipment necessary to clean up after the job is done.

Q: How long have you been in business?
A: 18 years.

Q: What do you like most about your line of work?
A: We started out digging field lines and footings when we branched away from Clifford Hampton Construction Inc. 18 years ago. Now for 12 years we have been installing the main water and sewer lines for municipalities. The best part of being a business owner is being able to bring your kids up with the business and showing them how it works. How they use it in their lives is up to them, but we are able to give them the tools to start with as they enter the working world.

Q: What is the most challenging part of your business?
A: It is 24/7, 365 days a year.

Q: Why are you a member of the Chamber?
A: We were asked to join by a member of Cleveland Utilities.

Q: What is something we don’t know about you?
A: We strive to do our best at everything we do, from installation of pipeline to clean up after it is installed.

member memo

...For over 10 years, PEOPLE FOR CARE AND LEARNING has been creating systems and completing projects to help break the cycle of poverty in Southeast Asia. Based in Cleveland, this Chamber-member organization partners annually with the Chamber of Commerce to present Leadercast, a leadership development opportunity, to our community.

Recently People for Care and Learning announced they were ready to make a change. This change includes steps toward a sustainable future by launching a new brand identity—PCL. PCL reflects a forward momentum and is simplifying the brand to better communicate goals and values.

As a part of this clarification and moving forward, PCL is focusing on five main project areas that will have a long-term strategic impact around the globe. These new brands include Build a City, Sustainable Farming, Common Grounds Café, Learning Centers and Children’s Homes.

Children’s Homes not only address the basic physical needs of children, but foster an atmosphere of love, security and family. Sustainable Farming is a series of micro-enterprise projects designed to create a culture of self sufficiency, responsibility and growth in multiple villages across Cambodia.

The goal of Build a City is to rebuild a community that has lost everything—to give the people new homes, roads, jobs, lives and hope.

The Learning Centers empower the people we serve by teaching them practical, applicable, personal and job skills.

Common Grounds Café is a social enterprise that hires men and women from impoverished areas across Cambodia and provides them with on-the-job training.

The issues surrounding the poverty cycle are all integrated and interconnected—one problem cannot be solved without addressing the others.

These five brands allow for PCL to remain focused on specific projects, but also allow room for overlap so that all replicable models work together to provide holistic solutions.

For more information, please visit PCL’s new website, pcl.is.
Welcome our newest Chamber members

The Chamber board of directors and staff want to welcome the following new Chamber members as of Aug. 11, 2014. Please welcome them and support them with your business.

**Alcatraz Fitness**
Dave Thompson, Owner
3575 Adkisson Dr Ste 1040
Cleveland, TN 37312
423-559-7804
www.alcatrazfitness.com
Health & Fitness

**Bella Nails and Spa**
Michael Le, Owner
870 25th St NW
Cleveland TN 37311
423-599-7218
Beauty Salons & Spas/Supplies

**Benjamin Clark Productions**
Clark Campbell, Owner
1108 Sunset Ave NW
Cleveland, TN 37311
423-432-8948
www.benjaminclark.com
Marketing
Social Media Marketing

**Bradley County Newcomer’s Guide, Community Publications LLC**
Pamela Rogers, Publisher/Owner
609 Grand Ave S
P O Box 681185
Fort Payne AL 35968
256-364-6702
Publications

**Chili’s**
Franco Gunnell, General Manager
385 Paull Huff Pkwy
Cleveland TN 37312
423-473-7008
Restaurants

**Crepe Outdoors, The**
Dana Caylor, Co-owner
260 Benwood Trl NE
Cleveland TN 37323
423-505-7011
www.thecrepeoutdoors.com
Restaurants

**HR Sources & Solutions**
Janet Guffey, Division Manager
2340 Keith St
Cleveland TN 37311
423-710-9000
www.hrssjobs.com
Employment Agencies & Services

**Owens Construction Services LLC**
Dustin Owens, Partner
5555 N Lee Hwy Ste 5
Cleveland TN 37312
423-284-8667
Contractors—Improvements & Remodeling

**Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Chattanooga**
Tiffany Cobb, Director of Development
200 Central Ave
Chattanooga TN 37403
423-778-4338
www.rmhchattanooga.com
Community Services

**Town and Country Carriages**
Michael Pohl, Owner/Operator
216 County Rd 961
Riceville TN 37370
423-790-4066
www.townandcountrycarriages.net
Entertainment

**WRCB-TV**
Paula Kleine, Account Executive
900 Whitehall Rd
Chattanooga TN 37405-3247
423-267-5412
www.wrcbtv.com
Television Broadcasting

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SEPTMBER MEMBERSHIP COFFEE
Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 8:30 a.m.
Hosted by
The Retreat at Spring Creek
Held at the Chamber of Commerce

Presented by Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Workers Comp seminar addresses new reform

Find out what the new Workers Compensation Reform means for employers.

Major workers compensation changes went into effect July 1, 2014.

The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry is offering an important half-day seminar for employers to learn about significant workers compensation changes that went into effect July 1, 2014. These pro-business changes were initiated by Gov. Bill Haslam and enacted by the Tennessee General Assembly and supported by the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry. While there have been numerous Workers Comp reform efforts over the years, the new law makes significant changes to Tennessee’s workers compensation systems that employers need to know.

This workshop will be conducted by attorneys who specialize in workers compensation and were involved in drafting these reforms. The information shared will be valuable to business owners, managers, HR professionals and anyone involved in the administration of workers comp claims.

Instructors for the seminar include Terry L. Hill with Manier & Herod PC and Landon Lackey with Landon Lackey Law. Terry has practiced workers comp defense for over 37 years and is considered an expert in this area. Landon was formerly with the Tennessee division of workers compensation and helped draft many of the changes.

The 8:30 a.m.-noon session will be offered Sept. 26 in Chattanooga at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 2014 Hampton Pl Blvd. The cost is $59 per person, with checks payable to the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry.