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## Nuclear plant plan reduced

Initial proposal for 4 reactors at Ala. site trimmed to one

**BY DUNCAN MANSFIELD**  
 Associated Press

TVA, faced with falling electric sales and rising costs from cleaning up a massive coal ash spill in Tennessee, on Friday trimmed plans for a potential four-unit nuclear plant in northeast Alabama

to one reactor.

The nation's largest public utility, which two years ago had positioned itself as a leader in this country's so-called "nuclear renaissance," said it would prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement to consider a single reactor for its unfinished Bellefonte site near Scottsboro, Ala.

That single unit might be one of the two advanced Westinghouse AP1000 reactors for which TVA

has already applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a combined construction and operating license. Or it might be one of the two incomplete reactors that have been mothballed at the site since 1988.

A third option would be to not build anything, though TVA officials continue to see nuclear in the agency's future particularly because of tougher clean-air standards on power generators.

TVA still expects to need more baseload power by 2017-2020, TVA nuclear executive Ashok Bhatnagar said.

"Using nuclear generation to meet this need" will help TVA achieve at least 50 percent low or no-carbon-emitting generation by 2020, he said.

TVA directors are two to three years away from a final decision on

See **TVA** on B5

## Shoppers flock to tax holiday

Malls see strong retail spending on opening day

**BY CARLY HARRINGTON**  
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Sheri Good of Knoxville usually avoids the crowds that come with Tennessee's annual sales tax holiday, but this year she opted to take advantage of the savings.

"We've gotten some good deals and saved on taxes. I'm pleased," said Good, who spent the day shopping for her three children at Target and West Town Mall.

School supplies, clothes and computers were among the items on many shopping lists Friday, which kicked off the state's fourth annual sales tax holiday, which runs through Sunday.

Shoppers pay no sales tax on clothing priced at \$100 or less per item, school supplies priced at \$100 or less and computers that cost \$1,500 or less.

West Town Mall was a big winner as cars filled up parking spaces and people looked for deals at such retailers as Forever21 and Abercrombie & Fitch. The Apple computer store opened an hour early and had a line all day, Area Mall Manager Tim Hill said.

"We're happy with the turnout. We expected it to be a good weekend with back-to-school and tax-free weekend," Hill said. "Having the one holiday really helped. It's a good thing for us."

West Town and Knoxville Center malls scheduled a children's expo and fashion show to coincide with the holiday, and also moved up the Simon Kidgits Club Carnival to this weekend.

Officials at West Town Mall and Tanger Five Oaks in Sevierville said

See **SHOP** on B3



ADAM BRUMER/NEWS SENTINEL

Richard W. Krieg, pictured inside McGhee Tyson Airport, has stepped down after serving three seven-year terms on the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority.

## A vision for improvement

Departed board chair oversaw renovation, changes in security

**BY ED MARCUM**  
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Over the past 20 years, McGhee Tyson Airport expanded services and facilities and even ventured into development with an office complex. But the period also was a time of challenges, with the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and a punishing economic downturn putting the airport to the test.

Air travel at McGhee Tyson and Downtown Island airports during the past two decades happened under the watch of Richard W. Krieg, who recently left the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority after finishing a term as chairman. Krieg, who also is a Knoxville lawyer, has served three seven-year terms on the board since his appointment by then-mayor Victor Ashe in 1988.

Though he had never taken part in running airports, Krieg was familiar with them from a passenger's perspective.

"Back in those days, I was representing a major

client on a regional basis and was traveling a great deal. So I had plenty of airline travel experiences to draw upon," he said.

He learned how an airport introduces travelers to a community, and over the years he worked with a board that shared his view and had a vision to improve the facility.

A good example is the \$70 million renovation the Airport Authority completed at McGhee Tyson in 2000, Krieg said. The project included an extension of the main terminal building, the addition of two concourses, gates, ticket counters, passenger loading bridges, administrative offices, gift shops, and a Ruby Tuesday restaurant.

"There was no question that our existing terminal was old and inadequate," Krieg said. "But there was significant debate as to the scope of the renovations needed."

A proposal presented by the board's planning staff had some support, but was more modest than what some other board members had in mind. The more ambitious view prevailed, Krieg said.

"The board saw the opportunity to create the

See **KRIEG** on B3

### MKAA MILESTONES

- Established in 1978
- Air cargo complex serving FedEx, UPS and Airborne Express opens in 1991
- \$70 million McGhee Tyson Airport renovation completed in 2000
- McGhee Tyson passenger traffic surpasses 1.8 million in 2005
- MKAA assumes management of Downtown Island Airport in 2006
- McGhee Tyson's economic impact estimated at \$1 billion annually and employs 140 workers

Source: Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority

## Uranium shipments on track

800 drums of depleted material targeted for Oak Ridge

**BY BROCK VERGASIS**  
 Associated Press

**SALT LAKE CITY** — The first shipments of nearly 15,000 drums of depleted uranium from a former nuclear weapons complex in South Carolina will begin coming to Utah in October, a spokesman for the site said Friday.

The 14,800 drums of radioactive waste from the Savannah River Site

# With old quarries, stay out, stay alive

BY HILDA L. SOLIS

On June 6, a 22-year-old Tennessee man drowned in a South Knoxville quarry while swimming with friends. Since 1999, more than 300 people have lost their lives in recreational accidents on mine properties — including at least 20 so far this year.



Solis

The U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), which oversees the safety and health of the nearly 400,000 men and

women who work in our nation's mines, launched "Stay Out-Stay Alive" 10 years ago to educate children and adults about the existing hazards at both active and abandoned mine sites.

Since the public safety campaign began, MSHA and its federal, state and private partners have visited thousands of schools and contacted countless students from kindergarten through college. They have reached out to thousands more through community events, scouting groups and outdoor venues in all 50 states.

Mining is a fundamental component of the American economy. Over half of the electricity generated in the U.S. comes from coal. Sand, gravel, limestone and other rock products are used in the construction industry. Salt keeps wintry roads free of ice. Gold, silver, iron, copper and many other minerals are essential to our national prosperity.

Mines are located in every state — from small sand and gravel operations to complex underground coal and metal mines, to extensive surface operations that use some of the largest industrial equipment ever built.

When we consider that there are about 500,000 abandoned mines and another 14,000 active operations in the U.S., and as communities spread further into undeveloped lands, it is more likely than ever that people of all ages will come in contact with a mine.

Dangers often exist, but miners are trained to confront them. However, for the unauthorized explorer, hiker, ATV rider or someone simply looking for a place to cool off, these hazards are not always apparent.

Drowning accounts for two out of three fatalities in recreational accidents. Water-filled quarries have slippery slopes and unstable rock ledges, and the water may conceal old machinery and sharp objects left behind after a mining operation closes.

Half of all drowning victims are between 15 and 25 years old. Even expert swimmers may encounter trouble in the dangerously cold and deceptively deep waters — and lifeguards are seldom on duty to rescue someone who gets into trouble.

Underground mines can have hidden shafts that drop hundreds of feet down. Openings are often covered by decayed and rotten boards that can give way under the slightest weight.

Old surface mines, which are popular spots for ATV enthusiasts, contain hills of loose materials or refuse heaps that can easily collapse and cause deadly rollovers. Vehicle accidents involving ATVs, four wheelers and motorcycles are the second largest cause of these types of fatalities.

What can you do to prevent future accidents?

Be aware of your surroundings. Whether you are on a hike, riding a bike, exploring an unfamiliar location or going for a swim, take notice of where you are and what is around you. Observe posted warning signs, stay on pathways, and avoid locations that are known to be dangerous or have a history of accidents.

With summertime activities still in front of us, it is especially important that we encourage family and friends to find safe, supervised places to swim and play.

Any community with active or abandoned mines, quarries or pits could become the scene of the next tragedy. Please don't let it be yours.

For more information on "Stay Out-Stay Alive," contact MSHA at 202-693-9400 or visit MSHA's Web site at [www.msha.gov](http://www.msha.gov). Unsafe access to mine sites can be reported by calling the toll-free hotline at 800-746-1553.

Hilda L. Solis is United States Secretary of Labor. Previously, Solis represented the 32nd Congressional District in California, a position she held from 2001-2009.

## DILBERT



Scott Adams

# Tennessee has eye on energy future

BY DANA CHRISTENSEN

In a June press conference conducted in the state Capitol, the Pew Charitable Trusts released a report featuring three states that have generated the most new jobs in the emerging field of renewable energy.



Christensen

Two of the states, Colorado and Oregon, probably came as no surprise. More than a few eyebrows were raised, however, when Pew announced that the third state with the most new jobs was Tennessee.

How Tennessee helped generate some 2,400 new jobs in the renewable energy sector is an important lesson for all of us concerned about the impact of double-digit unemployment.

As the senior manager overseeing energy research programs at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, I am especially interested in the idea that new jobs can be a by-product of efforts to reduce carbon emissions in the air while we also reduce the amount of oil we buy from countries that don't like us.

Tennessee's rise to the top, seemingly overnight, was no accident. The recent signing of Gov. Phil Bredesen's energy legislation was the latest in a series of initiatives calculated to build the foundation for renewable energy jobs.

Recommended by a Clean Energy Task Force chaired personally by the governor, the new law includes modern building codes and construction standards designed to reduce energy consumption — and the energy costs — of new buildings in Tennessee.

As state and local governments seek to reduce the amount of energy we use, Tennessee also has been quietly putting in place a strategy to attract and develop new jobs by investing in alternative ways

of producing energy.

Perhaps nowhere has this strategy been more successful than in the field of solar power. In the past year, solar manufacturing companies Hemlock Semiconductor and Wacker Chemie have each committed more than a billion dollars to build new plants and create hundreds of new jobs in Tennessee. Similarly, the Department of Energy awarded Knoxville a Solar City grant to promote the use of solar power.

Building on this momentum, the governor and the Legislature recently appropriated \$62 million in federal stimulus funds to create the Solar Institute at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee.

The project includes construction of a 5-megawatt solar farm in West Tennessee, where TVA can sell "green power" while learning about how solar power interacts with our electric grid. Pending approval by the Department of Energy, the Solar Institute will help solar manufacturers adapt new technologies that should result in even more jobs in the solar industry for Tennessee.

Meanwhile, Tennessee is also laying the groundwork for new jobs making ethanol. ORNL is developing ethanol from switchgrass. The new fuel will be tested by UT at a refinery funded by the state.

If successful, the result should be more jobs for the state's rural communities from farmers growing switchgrass and refineries turning switchgrass into fuel.

Given all that has taken place, it is hard to grasp that we are only at the beginning of what may be a historic period for Tennessee's economy.

When in 1982, Nissan announced it would build Japan's first American auto plant in Smyrna, Tenn., few imagined that in 15 years Tennessee would be the nation's third leading state in auto manufacturing jobs. Time will tell, but don't be surprised if 15 years from now, we see dozens of new factories and thousands of new jobs supporting the renewable energy industry. And, if that comes to pass, Tennessee once again will be listed among the states with an eye on the future.

Dana Christensen is associate laboratory director for Energy and Engineering Sciences at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

## SEMINAR

from B1

Fame Drive and for preventive maintenance of KAT vehicles.

Even small business owners used to working with the city will need to learn a new set of rules that apply to stimulus funds, as the federal government demands a strict accounting of how those funds

are used, Evans said.

Larry Martin, city finance director, said the city recognizes the importance of small businesses and has goals to increase its dealings with them. One goal is to do at least 10 percent of the city's business with women- and minority-owned businesses. Martin said the city is on track to reach that goal. Also, the city spent \$15.3 million, or about 20 percent of its '08 business expenditures, with

small businesses, he said.

Information on the city's projects is at [www.cityofknoxville.org/stimulus](http://www.cityofknoxville.org/stimulus) and the slide presentation from the seminar can be found at [www.cityofknoxville.org/purchasing](http://www.cityofknoxville.org/purchasing). For more information, e-mail [bhevans@cityofknoxville.org](mailto:bhevans@cityofknoxville.org).

Business writer Ed Marcum may be reached at 865-342-6267.

## KRIEG

from B1

front door for people coming to our region for the first time and felt very strongly that it was important to make a statement with our facilities, and we succeeded in doing that. And I feel like, to some extent, we raised the requirements for what this region wanted in its public buildings," Krieg said.

The renovation was a milestone, but there have been others, he said. In 2000, a Continental Express maintenance hangar was added to the McGhee Tyson complex, and a maintenance hangar to serve airlines Northwest and Pinnacle was built in 2002. Also in 2002, the airport ventured into development with its West Aviation Area, which incorporated the existing Airport Hilton Hotel and added the 264,879-square-

foot Tyson Center Office Park, the Northwest maintenance hangar and about 45 more acres of what Krieg refers to as "beachfront" property — ready to be developed.

But there have been some serious hurdles too, he said. The biggest was the blow to air travel from the 2001 terrorist attacks and new security requirements that resulted.

"We were state-of-the-art, but now we had to adapt to new security demands. Fortunately, our design was such that we were able to do it with one central security point," he said.

The next most serious challenge was the fuel crisis and economic downturn that affected the airlines.

"What that did to us was make us work harder to maintain and grow air service. As the airlines decreased customer service, we purposely tried to do what we could at the airport to increase service for peo-

ple passing through, with better concessions, more concessions and things of that nature," Krieg said.

Since it opened in June, McGhee Tyson's food court has done well and business has increased at the adjacent Ruby Tuesday restaurant, he said.

Despite current economic conditions, Krieg believes that improvements made over the years have put McGhee Tyson in a good position to take advantage of an economic rebound, and to help speed the region's economic recovery as well.

"Clients I have who come here, the first thing they comment about is the airport. And how that plays into the overall scheme of things in recruiting industry and business, I don't know, but I sense that it says that this is a region that is forward-looking," he said.

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## SHOP

from B1

retail spending really picked up last weekend as some got ready for back-to-school and others simply got confused about the holiday.

"Last weekend, we were super busy. I think some people got confused because the holiday is usually the first weekend of the month," Tanger Manager Judith Hus-

key Balkcom said.

Liz Ridener drove down from Stearns, Ky., to take advantage of the holiday, hitting such stores as Hollister Co., Children's Place and Dillard's at West Town Mall with her sister and three children.

"We came down just for the day for the sales tax thing," said Ridener, who had a stroller full of bags of recently purchased clothes, shoes and a backpack.

Eddie Carballo, 18, a freshman who will be attending

Tennessee Wesleyan College, estimates he saved about \$50 on a laptop from Best Buy.

It was the only purchase Carballo, who went to the retailer with his sister Elaine and friend Conor Cook, expected to make the whole weekend.

"It's a pretty good deal not having to pay tax," Cook said.

Business writer Carly Harrington may be reached at 865-342-6317.