



*“Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily.” ~Sally Koch*

## REDI kicks off second school year of helping students

Southwest Tennessee Development District’s Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) is kicking off its second full school year of impacting students. Targeted this year are those who will graduate from high school in 2012. More than 1,400 students were assisted last year through the efforts of more than 440 volunteers in the 12-county REDI region. Hundreds of those REDI-assisted students are attending college or another form of post secondary education this Fall!

The coming year will bring an even greater level of REDI involvement and effectiveness because THEC’s College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) provided SWTDD with the resources to hire nine new staff members. As a result, seven College Mentor Corps team members are assigned to work daily with students in a specific high school in the area. The other two new employees are College Mentor Transition Coaches housed at Jackson State and Dyersburg State community colleges. They’ll help REDI students on campus by providing guidance, securing tutors, and providing other aid to ensure success in this new experience called “college.” REDI will soon be using the Co-Bro data collection system to provide detailed student reports for each county. Corps members currently are busy meeting with students and families.



Brownsville/Haywood County recently awarded scholarships to 12 REDI students. One condition of keeping the last dollar scholarship is the student’s commitment to meet weekly with his or her REDI College Access Transition Coach.

## SWTDD hires regional planners

With the elimination of the regional planners from the Department of Economic & Community Development’s payroll, cities and counties across Tennessee were faced with a dilemma regarding maintaining the planning services on which they’ve come to depend.

Through the efforts of Southwest Tennessee Development District and its executive board, several cities and two counties came together to share the expense of contracting for the services of two regional planners. Shelton Merrell and Thomas Skehan have been hired by SWTDD to fill the cooperative role. The communities that have united are the cities of Bolivar, Brownsville, Henderson, Lexington, Parsons and Stanton and the counties of Hardeman and Haywood.

SWTDD’s planning services include attendance at planning and/or board of zoning appeals meetings; assistance in preparing/reviewing of long range work programs; preparation of comprehensive plans, Public Chapter 1101 Growth Management Plans and amendments, and other planning studies and documents; preparation of land use controls for adoption, implementation and enforcement by local community officials, including but not limited to zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, flood plain management regulations, or other land use controls; review of



Shelton Merrell



Thomas Skehan

### Upcoming Grants

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT**

Due September 1

**AFG (Assistance to Firefighters) GRANT**

Due September 15, 2011

**RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT**

Due October 2011

**TEA-21 GRANT**

Due November 1

**SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response) GRANT**

Due November 2011

**FP&S (Fire Prevention & Safety) GRANT**

Due January 2012

**CDBG** Due February 2012

Call 731.668.7112 to learn more!

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# Regional Events & Festivals



- **Aug. 10-13 – 61st Annual Decatur County Fair.** Includes agricultural contests, rides, gospel singing, baked goods contests, pageants, etc. Ride bracelets are available. \$3 adults, \$2 students and \$1 children.
- **Aug. 13 – “Beyond the C” Cancer Survivorship Conference, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Kirkland Cancer Center.** \$10 fee includes breakfast, lunch, snacks and door prizes. Sessions on Medicare, Tennessee, longterm care, healthy lifestyles, and coping. Call 731.541.5087 for reservations or more information.
- **Aug. 16 – McNairy REDI for Your Future Night at UTM-Selmer.** 5:30 p.m. free pizza and 6-8 p.m. sessions on career, college, and financial aid.
- **Aug. 18 – Lauderdale Senior Kick-off for REDI, 6 p.m. at UTM-Ripley.**
- **Aug. 16, 23 & 30 – Living Healthy with Diabetes Program, 5:30 p.m. at Selmer Senior Center.** Includes free information, education, presentations, and a demonstration on how to prepare healthy meals; you'll also have the opportunity to taste a variety of dishes and receive the recipes. Free. Call Hollie Knight at 731.645.7843 to register.
- **Aug. 25 – “Community” Trivia Night for Alzheimer’s from 6 to 8 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church.** To play, bring a team or come as individual and they'll place you on a team. \$5 per person. Snacks, door prizes, and fun for all. All proceeds benefit The Walk to End Alzheimer’s, October 15, Pringles Park. Call Terrie Adkins, 668-6414, for more info.
- **Sept. 2 – “So Long Summer” Party 7 p.m. at Henco Furniture in Selmer.** Includes food, music, dancing, games and wet bar for those over 21 years of age. Admission is \$15 per person. RSVP to 731.645.6360 or [tracy@mcnairy.com](mailto:tracy@mcnairy.com).
- **Sept. 3 & 17– Main Street Music & Broomcorn Festival in McNairy County.**
- **Sept. 8 & Sept. 13 – SHIP/SMP Volunteer Training in Jackson.** Call 731.668.6416 or email at [sharvey@swtdd.org](mailto:sharvey@swtdd.org).
- **Sept. 10 – Casey Jones Old-Time Music, Art & Quilt Festival from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Casey Jones Village.** \$5 admission includes tour of the Casey Jones Home & Railroad Museum. Art activities, jamming, shade tree pickin' by the Plectral Society, quilt show and live bands (separate music ticket). For more info, visit [www.caseyjones.com](http://www.caseyjones.com).
- **Sept. 16-17 – Darryl Worley’s 10th Annual Tennessee River Run in Hardin County.** Events include a golf tournament, motorcycle poker run, boat poker run, fishing tournament, 5K run, and lots of concerts! Visit [www.tnriverrun.org](http://www.tnriverrun.org) for info.
- **Oct. 1 – SWTDD Annual Meeting & Banquet at Pickwick Inn.**
- **Oct. 15 – Walk to End Alzheimer’s @ Pringles Park.** Registration begins at 9 a.m. Register a team or join an existing team by going to [www.2011walktoendalz.kintera.org/jacksontn](http://www.2011walktoendalz.kintera.org/jacksontn). For info, call 731.668.6414.
- **Oct. 15 – Savannah Main Street Festival, 3 to 6:30 p.m. Downtown Court Square.** Call 731.925.3300 for information.

**SWTDD is here to serve; let us promote your event!!!**

*Send your festival information, news releases, story ideas, events and happenings to [ddunaway@swtdd.org](mailto:ddunaway@swtdd.org).*

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST SAVE THE DATE!!!!

**E**xpect fabulous food, fun and a kickin' band that will make you want to dance the night away at SWTDD's Annual Meeting & Banquet on Saturday, Oct. 1 at Pickwick Inn!!! Mark your calendar so you won't miss the best annual banquet EVER! In fact, we'll be having so much fun on Oct. 1 that you might just want make a room reservation at Pickwick Inn NOW, call 1.800.250.8615!

## 'LIKE' us on Facebook!

If you're wondering what's happening at the Southwest Tennessee Development District between newsletters, be sure to "Like" our pages on Facebook: "Southwest Tennessee Development District" and "REDI College Access Program." Our pages include information on REDI events, Aging & Disability info, volunteer recognitions, news stories and more!



## June Unemployment

**United States–9.3%**  
**Tennessee–10.2%**

### SWTDD Counties:

**Chester–12.1%**  
**Decatur–12.0%**  
**Hardeman–13.6%**  
**Hardin–12.0%**  
**Haywood–15.6%**  
**Henderson–14.2%**  
**Madison–10.5%**  
**McNairy–11.9%**

### Other REDI Counties:

**Crockett–12.5%**  
**Fayette–10.7%**  
**Gibson–14.2%**  
**Lauderdale–15.7%**  
**Tipton–11.0%**

### State Highest:

**Scott–20.9%**  
**Lauderdale–15.7%**  
**Haywood–15.6%**  
**Marshall–15.2%**  
**Perry–15.2%**  
**Pickett–15.1%**  
**Hancock–14.9%**  
**Dyer–14.5%**  
**Henderson–14.2%**  
**Lawrence–14.2%**

# Regional News Round-up

## City of Henderson & Chester County receive grants from State of Tennessee

There was standing room only in the City of Henderson's council chambers as Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam presented both the city and Chester County with checks totaling nearly a million dollars. The City of Henderson received \$644,361 for improvements to its downtown sidewalks, which will bring them up to current ADA standards, and improve downtown lighting.

Additionally, Chester County received \$278,847 from a transportation enhancement grant for its sidewalk project – which includes improvements in storm drainage and pedestrian lighting – to provide better access to the courthouse. Funded through the Tennessee Department of Transportation, SWTDD wrote these grants and will administer them as well.



**Governor Bill Haslam, City of Henderson Mayor Bobby King, Representative Steve McDaniel, and Senator Dolores Gresham**



**Representative Steve McDaniel, Governor Bill Haslam, Chester County Mayor Dwain Seaton, and Senator Dolores Gresham**

## Barker elected to NADO Board of Directors

Congratulations to SWTDD Executive Director Joe Barker, Tennessee; David Bottar, New York; Catherine Dimitruk, Vermont; Lynne Keller Forbes, South Dakota; and Jill Saegesser, Indiana, who were recently elected to the NADO Board of Directors for the 2011-2012 term. NADO's active board includes leaders from across the United States.



## Middleton welcomes \$36 million facility

The City of Middleton unanimously agreed to enter into an agreement with the AltGen Company to build a proposed \$36 million facility that could create about 300 jobs for residents. Groundbreaking is expected to happen before Oct. 1.

The facility will process waste tires, municipal solid waste, waste wood, waste commercial grease, waste paper, plastic, and oil. Congratulations Middleton!

## UTM Parsons offers self defense and photography

Whether your motivation is capturing grandchildren or just honing a new skill, UTM Parsons Center is offering digital photography courses that can help you capture the best shots.

A Basic Digital Photography class will be held 6-9 p.m. on Mondays from Aug. 22-Sept. 12. Advanced Digital Photography will be 6-9 p.m. on Mondays from Sept. 26-Oct. 17. For more info or to register, call UTM Parsons Center at 731.847.3880.

## Parkers Crossroads celebrates visitor center opening

Gov. Bill Haslam was in Henderson County on July 27 to celebrate the grand opening of the new Parker's Crossroads Visitor Center. The opening was packed with state, local and regional officials – as well as citizens from the area. Situated on a hill, the facility has a gift shop and Civil War exhibits from across Tennessee. The center is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, but closed on Mondays. Through September, it features the exhibit, "Looking Back: The Civil War in Tennessee."

Pictured at top right is Gov. Bill Haslam and Rep. Steve McDaniel at the dedication ceremony inside of the Visitor Center. Pictured at bottom right is Rep. Steve McDaniel, Sen. Roy Herron, and Gov. Bill Haslam cutting the ribbon—as Civil War cannons blasted nearby.



**Choose to  
ACCOMPLISH  
in 2011:**

**"Procrastination is attitude's natural assassin. There is nothing so fatiguing as an uncompleted task." ~ William James**

# All About Aging & Disability...



## Open Enrollment @ Area Senior Centers

Open enrollment or the Annual Coordinated Election Period for Medicare Part D is Oct. 15–Dec. 7 this year. New coverage becomes effective Jan. 1, 2012.

During the Open Enrollment period, current or newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries – including people with the Original Medicare – can review current health and prescription drug coverage; compare health and drug plan options available in their area, and choose coverage that best meets their needs.



Enrollment is scheduled at the following Senior Center locations:

- **Oct 14th** – Medicare Open Enrollment Kick off Event @ SWTDD Conference Room, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Oct 18th** – Chester Co. Senior Center Medicare Open Enrollment Event
- **Oct 19th** – McNairy Co. Senior Center Medicare Open Enrollment Event
- **Oct 20th** – Decatur Co. Medicare Open Enrollment Event
- **Oct 24th** – Scotts Hill Senior Center Medicare Open Enrollment Event
- **Oct. 25th** – Sardis Senior Center Medicare Open Enrollment Event
- **Oct 26th** – Hardin Co. Senior Center Medicare Open Enrollment Event
- **Oct 27th** – Haywood Co. Senior Center Medicare Open Enrollment Event
- **Nov 8th** – Selmer Senior Center Medicare Open Enrollment Event
- **Nov 9th** – West Madison Co. Senior Center Medicare Open Enrollment Event
- **Nov 14th** – Henderson Co. Senior Center Medicare Open Enrollment Event

Enrollment events also will be held at the SHIP/SMP office in Jackson. Call 731.668.6404 for more information.

## 'Hot August Nights' Trivia for Alzheimer's

August has been designated "Hot August Nights" trivia for Alzheimer's.

Assisted living facilities, nursing homes and businesses can plan and host a Trivia Night for Alzheimer's. Players pay \$5 per person to play for prizes and to help us in the fight against Alzheimer's. The Community Trivia Night is Thurs., Aug. 25, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 6-8 p.m. So get a team together and plan to play! For more information, contact Terrie Adkins, 731.668.6414 or [tadkins@swtdd.org](mailto:tadkins@swtdd.org).



## Harvey recognized for contribution by JCIL

SWTDD's Area Agency on Aging & Disability's new SHIP Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Harvey recently was recognized by Jackson Center for Independent Living for her contributions for the disabled community during the past ten years.



## Volunteer with SHIP

Become a SHIP/SMP volunteer who helps others with Medicare counseling, enrollment and fraud prevention.

Training is Sept. 8 & 13 in Jackson. To sign up, call 731.668.6416 or email [sharvey@swtdd.org](mailto:sharvey@swtdd.org).



## BEWARE of Possible Elderly Identity Theft

All Medicare beneficiaries who have Health Net and received notification of a security breach earlier this year should not take the threat of their identity being compromised lightly – because Social Security numbers were involved in this breach, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) info regarding the security breach.

The SHIP/SMP program encourages beneficiaries to take advantage of the two (2) years credit monitoring services offered, which includes fraud resolution, restoration of credit as well as identity theft insurance to protect their assets.

For more information or to have your questions answered, call Dorothy Montague, 731.668.6404.

## Prescription help for chronic illness sufferers

Assistance could be available for those who need help with their prescriptions



– although this source is only for those who suffer with chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, etc.

An application must be filled out with the Chronic Disease Fund. For more information, visit [www.cdfund.org](http://www.cdfund.org) or call toll-free 1.877.YOUR.CDF.

## Compassionate Allowances Conditions List Updated

The Social Security has an obligation to provide benefits quickly to applicants whose medical conditions are so serious that their conditions obviously meet disability standards. The Compassionate Allowances List (CAL) is a way to quickly identifying diseases and other medical conditions that invariably qualify under the Listing of Impairments based on objective medical information. Compassionate Allowances allows the Social Security Administration to quickly target obviously-disabled individuals for allowances based on objective and quickly-obtained medical information.

CAL conditions are developed as a result of information received at public outreach hearings, comments received from the Social Security and Disability Determination Service communities, counsel of medical and scientific experts, and research with the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Also, considered are conditions that are most likely to meet the current definition of disability. Social Security Commissioner Michael J. Astrue has held seven Compassionate Allowances public outreach hearings. The hearings were on rare diseases, cancers, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and stroke, early-onset Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, schizophrenia, cardiovascular disease, multiple organ transplants and autoimmune diseases.

Commissioner Astrue recently held an event at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington D.C. to announce the addition of 12 new conditions to the Compassionate Allowances list of conditions. This addition brings the number of Compassionate Allowances conditions to 100. For a complete listing of Compassionate Allowances conditions, visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances/>.



## Medicare Expands Options for Advanced Prostate Cancer

Medicare patients with metastatic prostate cancer can get a first-of-its-kind treatment just approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), under a final coverage decision issued by CMS.

Autologous cellular immunotherapy, known clinically as sipuleucel-T, is marketed in the United States as Provenge, for treating some forms of prostate cancer in seriously ill patients. The June 30, 2011, decision is effective immediately.

Provenge activates a patient's own immune system to defend him against prostate cancer. The treatment consists of a multiday regimen in which the patient's white blood cells are collected and exposed to proteins that direct the white blood cells to fight prostate cancer cells. After the patient's cells are treated, the patient receives his own cells back into his body to stimulate his immune system to fight the prostate cancer. This regimen is repeated over several weeks for a total of three treatments.

Prostate cancer is the most common nonskin cancer in men in the United States. The cancer forms in the prostate, a gland in the male reproductive system, which can spread to other parts of the body and threaten life. In 2009, an estimated 192,280 new cases of prostate cancer were diagnosed and an estimated 27,360 men died. According to the National Cancer Institute, prostate cancer is most commonly a cancer of older men, with most men diagnosed after age 65 and the median age at diagnosis of 72.

More information for patients and health professionals about FDA's approved uses of Provenge is online at <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/CellularGeneTherapyProducts/ApprovedProducts/ucm210037.htm>.

The final coverage decision is available on the CMS website at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?&NcaName=Autologous%20Cellular%20Immunotherapy%20Treatment%20of%20Metastatic%20Prostate%20Cancer&bc=ACAAAAAIAAA&NCAId=247&>.



*Sign-up for The Walk to End Alzheimer's  
October 15 @ Pringles Park in Jackson*

# SWTDD hires Regional Planners to serve its communities

(continued from page one)

development proposals; advice and assistance to administrators of zoning, subdivision regulations and other land use controls.

Shelton and Thomas also will provide training for planning commissions, boards of zoning appeal and local administrators; assist in providing information and interpretation on planning programs/activities to the public through meetings and conferences, news releases and presentations; and provide advice and assistance on matters relating to state, federal, and regional programs that affect planning and implementation. For more information about SWTDD's planning services, contact Shelton ([smerrrell@swtdd.org](mailto:smerrrell@swtdd.org) or 731.668.6430) and Thomas ([tskehan@swtdd.org](mailto:tskehan@swtdd.org) or 731.668.6429).



## SWTDD July Quarterly Recycling Report

By Jeff Reece

**A**ND THE NUMBERS ARE IN... Once again, we the people of the Southwest Tennessee Development District have shocked the world with impressive totals for recycling from January through June. Hard to believe, but SWTDD recycled 2,790 pounds of material during the first six months of 2011. That's almost a ton and a half, folks—and we're just getting started. We had our best month ever, in June 2011, collecting 664 pounds over five recycling collection days. Our goal, at the beginning of the year, was 4,000 pounds during the 12-month period. But now, our Psychic Friends are telling us that SWTDD will reach its goal sometime in late October—two months ahead of schedule!



## Financial help for farmers

**F**armers in Lauderdale, Crockett, Dyer and Haywood counties in Tennessee, and in Mississippi County in Arkansas, may be eligible for USDA natural disaster assistance after rain and flooding in April.

The department announced today that low interest emergency loans will be available to eligible farmers after President Obama designated the region a natural disaster area on July 29.

Farmers should apply at the Agriculture Department's Farm Service Agency office.



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32nd Annual



# HEALTH FAIR

# On The Right Track



# to Good Health

## Saturday, September 10, 2011 8 a.m.-Noon

### Free Screenings:

- Cholesterol
- Glucose
- Vision
- Bone density  
(People aged 50+)
- Body Mass Index
- Blood Pressure
- Foot Screening

# FREE!

*Free disposal of  
unused prescriptions*

*Special Areas For  
Children, Seniors,  
and Disabilities*



## **Carl Perkins Civic Center, Jackson**