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# County Officials E-News

February 2013, Vol 41

*Promoting better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.*



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Hawkins County

Population: 57,784

County Seat: Rogersville

CTAS Field Consultant:

**Rick Hall**

From the 1840s through the 1870s, the marble industry developed in Hawkins County, and the area became famous for its pink and red variegated marble. Local furniture manufacturers used much of the marble, which was cut from various quarries and hauled to Rogersville on wagons pulled by sixteen- or twenty-mule teams.

For more information, visit:

[TN History for Kids](#)

## U.S. Department of Labor Offers New Guide to Military Family Leave

On February 5, 2013, the U. S. Department of Labor (USDOL) commemorated the 20-year anniversary of the signing of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA or the Act), by releasing

new regulations to implement amendments to the military leave provisions of the Act made by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. These new regulations: 1) extend the availability of FMLA leave to family of members of the regular armed forces for qualifying exigencies arising out of the service member's deployment; 2) define those deployments covered under these provisions; 3) extend FMLA military caregiver leave for family of current service members to include an injury or illness that existed prior to service and was aggravated in the line of duty on active duty; and 4) extend FMLA military caregiver leave to family members of certain veterans with serious injuries or illnesses. The USDOL's [website](#) contains the full text of the final regulations along with other information including [a fact sheet](#) and [guidance on military family leave](#) under the FMLA.



*ThreeStar Program Redesign*



TN Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) has recently announced the redesign of its ThreeStar Program. The goal of the redesign was to refocus on jobs and economic development; fiscal strength and efficient government; public safety; education and workforce development; and health and welfare.

From ECD's website:

*"Participation in the ThreeStar program will begin January 1, 2013, and will be based on an annual evaluation. Local community leaders and Joint Economic and Community Development Boards are encouraged to focus on three to five substantive areas essential to competitiveness in a global economy."*

For more information about the ThreeStar Program, please visit ECD's [website](#).

### Event Calendar

February 21 & 22 - How to Be Your Boss's Favorite

March 5 & 6 - Jackson Renewal

March 12 & 13 - County Government Day

March 14, 15, 19, & 22 - Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace

[CTAS Event Calendar](#)

### FYI: Affordable Care Act Information

The Affordable Care Act (federal health reform legislation) was signed into law in 2010, with the most sweeping changes beginning in 2014. The National Association of Counties (NACo) has compiled a wealth of information related to the Affordable Care Act on their [website](#).

### SunShot Initiative: Solar Summit



The Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative is a collaborative national initiative to make solar energy cost competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade.

Reducing the installed cost of solar energy systems by about 75% will drive widespread, large-scale adoption of this renewable energy technology and restore U.S. leadership in the global clean energy race. As part of the SunShot Initiative, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville is working to make it easier for Americans to go solar. By streamlining permit processes, updating planning and zoning codes, improving standards for connecting solar power to the electric grid, and increasing access to financing, the UT Team hopes to clear a path for rapid expansion of solar energy across four metropolitan jurisdictions in Tennessee, which may serve as a model for other communities across the nation.

The SunShot team is hosting a state-wide Solar Summit in Chattanooga on April 10 and 11, 2013. For more information and registration, please visit the [Summit's website](#).



County Government Day

March 12-13, 2013

Sheraton Downtown,  
Nashville

[Register today!](#)

UT County Technical Assistance Service

ctas.eneews@tennessee.edu

