



Tennsco Family Picnic Sept. 26

a quarterly newsletter for the employees of Tennsco Corp.

# nuts & bolts

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Tennsco employees donate blood in Plant 2 breakroom

## 59 donate at blood drive

It was the blood drive that almost didn't happen. But true to form, Tennsco employees responded quickly and in great numbers.

A breakdown in communications between the American Red Cross and Tennsco's department of Human Resources meant that Plants 2 and 3 didn't get word they were hosting a blood drive July 7 until the afternoon before. That meant no one on first shift

See Blood Drive, page 2

## Scholar dollars influencing events around world

### Dickson honoree lands coveted Fulbright Scholarship

When Wyatt Harper was named Tennsco's 2005 scholarship recipient, the story said the company was investing in the community's future. Little did Tennsco leaders realize that community would stretch from America to across the Atlantic.

As summer draws to a close, Harper, now a college graduate, is preparing for a year abroad in Romania as a Fulbright Scholar, one of the most prestigious honors a college graduate can receive.

He'll be teaching at a university in Bucharest, the capitol of Romania. He'll also research how the country has transitioned from a communist country just 20 years ago to a capitalistic economy. "It's interesting how they have entered the world economy," Harper said. "It's cool to see a country go from having nothing to being a part of the European Union."

Harper leaves Sept. 15. He is a little nervous, though. "I just graduated from college, and now I have to teach a college class," Harper said with a chuckle, on American culture and how the U.S. political system works. He'll teach in English, but to survive in Romania he's taking intensive language courses.

Harper credits Tennsco for making his education possible and jump-starting a life involved in world affairs.

See Scholar, page 6



## Families growing

Three Tennsco families have celebrated the arrival of babies over the last few months. Newborn babies of Tennsco employees receive a \$50 savings bond from Tennsco.

Cooper Lane Singleton, son of Travis and Tristian Singleton, born 5/13/09, 8 lbs. 2 oz.

Eduardo Jesus Manjarrez, son of Jose De Jesus and Bonnie Manjarrez, born on 5/11/09, 9 lbs.

Ainsely Kate Forester, daughter of Nick and Mary Ruth Forester, born on 6/4/09, 5 lbs 13.5 oz.



**TOUTING TENNSCO** ■ Tennsco representatives made sure the members of the American Library Association knew the name Tennsco and how Estey shelving is serving communities across the nation. The group manned a Tennsco/Estey shelving booth at the association's gathering at McCormick Place in Chicago. Pictured (L to R) are Brandy Lewis, David Blair, Al Treiber (Estey Customer out of the Chicago Area), Hal McCalla, Chris Blankenship and Stuart Speyer.

## Blood drive

Continued from page 1

had been alerted and given the opportunity to sign up to donate.

Scrambling, HR Vice President Phil Corbin called some of the supervisors at home that night. "I just asked if they could poll their employees first thing in the morning to see who would be willing to give so we could schedule them in a way that would least interfere with production."

The next morning, Maintenance Supervisor Eugene Harness, Plant 2 Manager Roy Stinson, Larry Dunn and Tommy Russell came in before the shift started and helped the Red Cross

workers unload their truck and set up in the breakroom.

"Roy, Hensley Perkins and all the supervisors did a great job of getting around to their employees and getting names to me," Corbin said.

Blood donations began at 8 a.m. and plant workers filled the appointment slots. "In fact, we ended up with more volunteers than could be accommodated," Corbin said. "So once again, Tennsco employees responded to an urgent need and responded quickly.

"I really appreciate those who stepped up and put forth the extra effort to make it happen," he added.

A total of 53 people donated during the drive. Of those, 29 were first time donors.

# The face of Tennsco

John Beard makes friends, smooths installment issues

To many customers, he's the face of Tennsco. Over the years, John Beard has developed friendships, walked customers through problems, responded to urgent installations and generally been Tennsco's representative during the make-or-break installment phase.

He's also been a facilitator between the various Tennsco plants as he helped juggle delivery dates, changes and inventory movement.

"It's important to have someone in the field who presents himself well and represents the company in a calm, even-handed manner," said Engineering chief Mike Webster. "And that is John Beard.

"He's had to finesse things and diplomatically figure out solutions for problems the customers have made for themselves in many cases."

Beard also serves as a "tester" of sorts, Webster said. "During installations, he experiences what the customers do. He generates continuous improvement ideas and brings those back to the plants."

"We have an excellent crew back here in Engineering," Webster said. "Anytime there's a kink in the flow of product to the customer on through to the installation, we have to respond in a positive way. John doesn't have a lot of direct supervision. He has to think on his feet, solve problems and represent the company well... which he does."

Webster pulled customer testimonials from his file.

Michelle McNutt from Bechtel Jacobs Co. in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, praised the "happy demeanor, professional work habits" and efficiency of Beard and others as they resolved shelving issues at a Department of Defense facility.

Sharon Latham from the Tennessee Department of Children's Services in Covington, Tennessee, wrote to say Beard "was wonderful to work with – very helpful and very polite – went out of his way to be accommodating!!"

Michael Lane Penrod from the Wood County District Public Library in Bowling Green, Ohio,

praised Beard and others as "extremely polite, helpful and professional. I am quite impressed with how efficiently they were able to get this project done, with minimal disruption to the library, too... I am impressed with their work."

Webster said in the current economic conditions, anything that gives a company an edge is important and deserves emphasis. "John gives us that edge, and makes it more likely that the customer will order from us in the future," Webster said.

Beard has a total of 16 years of experience with Tennsco and about 30 total years in customer service. He's been a representative for engineering in the field for the last seven years.

"John has the longest stint with us as an installer, which tells a lot about his character since it's a demanding position," Webster said. "It's a hard job... fixing problems you didn't create."

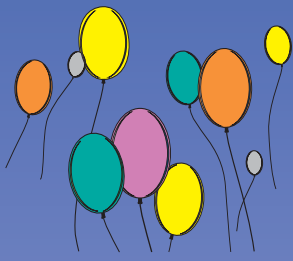
Beard admitted he sometimes just has to let customers unload on him. "I like things to be done right and I like to be a part of Tennsco putting its best foot forward, but I also think it's important to be flexible. When I started, someone told me to do this job as if it was my own business."

He said the best part of the job is meeting people all over the country who are doing business with Tennsco "and becoming friends with a lot of them."

Beard figures in a week's time, he's interacting with 50 to 60 customers. His most fun deliveries and installs are those to non-profit organizations that, in many cases, are the benefactors of Tennsco generosity in the form of free shelving and storage units.



John Beard (standing) and Mike Webster look over plans for an installation



## They got bonuses

The following employees received a \$50 cash bonus for perfect attendance as of 3/31/09.

### Plant 1

Bobby R. Griffin  
Gary C. Cable  
James Amon Cotton

### Plant 2

Thomas R. Mathis  
Albert W. Primm  
Johnny W. Halliburton  
Martika L. Seay



Pictured (L to R) are First Flight winners: Woody Adams, Shawn Price and Jon Greer. Not pictured is Kevin Brazzell



Pictured (L to R) are Second Flight winners: Tommy Fambrough, Alan Fambrough, Mark Powers and Janet Powers

## Golfers compete in 18th Tennsco tourney

A total of 24 players took to the links at Willow Ridge Golf Course in McEwen May 30 and competed in Tennsco's 18th annual golf tournament.

Winners of the flights were as follows:

1st Flight, First Place—Jon Greer and Shawn Price.

1st Flight, Second Place—Woody Adams and Kevin Brazzell.

2nd Flight, First Place—Janet Powers and

Mark Powers.

2nd Flight, Second Place—Tommy Fambrough and Alan Fambrough.

Prizes were also awarded on each par 3 hole as well as for longest drive.

Tennsco's Safety Director Woody Adams organized the golf scramble. He said the date and place of next year's tournament have yet to be determined.

**EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES** ■ This listing of employee anniversaries includes those celebrating a five-year interval.

### April 09 - June 09

| PLANT | NAME                 | MONTH | NO. OF YRS | NO. OF YRS |
|-------|----------------------|-------|------------|------------|
| 3     | Murrell, Mark L.     | 5/84  | 25         | 25         |
| 3     | Stafford, Larry D.   | 6/84  | 25         | 25         |
| 3     | Upchurch, Matthew R. | 6/04  | 5          | 5          |
| 4     | Jackson, Larry G.    | 6/84  | 25         | 25         |
| 5     | Adcock, Jacob C.     | 6/04  | 5          | 5          |
| 5     | Gordon, Wendell N.   | 5/89  | 20         | 20         |
| 5     | Jones, Alvin         | 6/94  | 15         | 15         |
| 5     | Kimmons, Darryl R.   | 5/94  | 15         | 15         |
| 5     | Valdez, Wanda K.     | 5/04  | 5          | 5          |
| 6     | Modena, Quentin L.   | 4/99  | 10         | 10         |
| 6     | Rochelle, Denise     | 5/99  | 10         | 10         |
| 1     | Choate, Noel Wade    | 6/84  | 25         | 25         |
| 1     | Fortner, Joey L.     | 5/04  | 5          | 5          |
| 1     | Herndon, Clint E.    | 5/99  | 10         | 10         |
| 1     | Manley, Phillip N.   | 4/79  | 30         | 30         |
| 1     | Sanders, Gene R.H.L. | 5/84  | 25         | 25         |
| 1     | Story, Rickey L.     | 5/79  | 30         | 30         |
| 2     | Castenholz, Todd L.  | 6/04  | 5          | 5          |
| 2     | Crants, Arista L.    | 5/99  | 10         | 10         |
| 2     | Vaughn, Ricky J.     | 5/84  | 25         | 25         |
| 3     | Hodges, Billy G.     | 6/94  | 15         | 15         |

# Retirees had 84 total years with Tennsco

After 41 years of work, packer/assembler Leonard Modena's passion for Tennsco hasn't diminished.

Modena retired June 25 with effusive praise for his co-workers and Tennsco Chairman Les Speyer, his friend.

"I started at Plant 1 in 1968. When I first came on board there were 98 people working at Tennsco," Modena said. "The big draw was that everyone was nice, I liked the people and we worked well together. I got to be good friends with Mr. Speyer. He believed in working with us and I thought highly of him. He believed in listening to you and in the long run he got the problem solved."

Modena said the exceptional working environment at Tennsco was "rare" for companies.

He started as a painter then a packer/assembler, later moving over to Plant 2 where he stayed the rest of his career. "I had the chance to be a supervisor, but I liked what I was doing and I was cut out for that. I tried to do a good job while I was there," he said.

During Modena's career, Tennsco grew from one to six plants and hundreds of employees. He saw a multitude of new lines and products come into being.

In retirement, Modena has already done some traveling but had settled in back home to get some chores done around the house. "I'm enjoying it. I don't have to worry about clocking in. I thank the Lord for strength and faith to get along."

Wife Anna is glad he's home to stay. Chuckling, Modena said he told her he was going to get his "to do" list finished before he started on her list for him.

Tennsco noted the



Modena was all smiles at the reception in his honor

retirements of two other long-time employees over the summer.

Curtis Ahlheit retired on May 28 after almost 25 years as a fork lift operator at Plant 2. Curtis joined Tennsco in September 1984.

Raleigh Earl Davidson retired on May 29 after 18 years as a tool and die maker at Plant 1. Davidson hired on in May 1991.

Davidson is doubly deserving of some rest. He's a disabled veteran of the Vietnam War. For his injuries, Davidson was awarded three Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.



Curtis Ahlheit



Raleigh Earl Davidson now.....and then





# Tennsco Supplier of the Year Finalist

National Business Furniture has named Tennsco one of two runner-up suppliers for its Supplier of the Year award for 2008. NBF is a leading office furniture company with offices that span the U.S. The award is based on nine different criteria ranging from "Consistent Shipping" to Quality of Product."

## Scholar

Continued from page 1

"From a practical perspective, I wouldn't have even gotten that chance without the scholarship. I wouldn't have been able to go to Sewanee without the generous support of that scholarship. It's an expensive school," he said.

Receiving the scholarship "gives you confidence. At times I felt mediocre, but Tennsco puts its faith in you...these people believe in you, and it makes you have confidence in yourself. I've been given a lot. I wanted to make Dickson proud," Harper said.

That, he has done. Harper graduated with a 4.0 at Sewanee and was named the valedictorian of his class. He has a major in economics and a minor in history with an emphasis on Eastern Europe.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of

other countries." With this goal as a starting point, the Fulbright Program has provided almost 300,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential—with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns, according to the program's website at [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org).

The program was established in 1946.

As a "Fulbrighter," Harper will be an ambassador for the United States. "I'll be there to set a good example...to show that Americans are good people," he said.

Harper was a stand-out in high school, logging more than 1,000 hours of community service during his years at Dickson County High School. He's continuing that tradition of service by delaying a perhaps lucrative business career with UBS investment bank in New York to go overseas.

Harper interned with UBS last summer and the firm offered him a job upon graduation. Company officials have allowed him to delay his start date until June 2010.

"It was a really tough decision because I wanted to make some money," Harper said, "but Mom and Dad (Eileen and Wyatt Harper Sr.) are excited. They were really supportive."

As for down time in Romania, Harper is looking forward to attending some soccer games. "I will definitely go to some big matches," he said, envisioning "a packed stadium and screaming for Romania!"



Wyatt Harper prepares for his upcoming year in Romania



Patricia Carrera, daughter of Modesto Carrera and Rosa Mota, Creek Wood HS



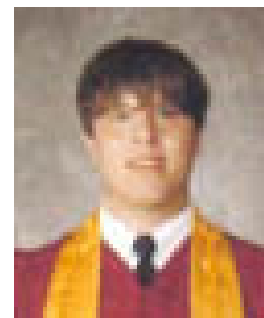
Betsy Chapman, daughter of Mike and Susan Chapman, Dickson Co. HS



Anthony Del Ray, son of Ray "Pineapple" Hagler, Dickson Co. HS



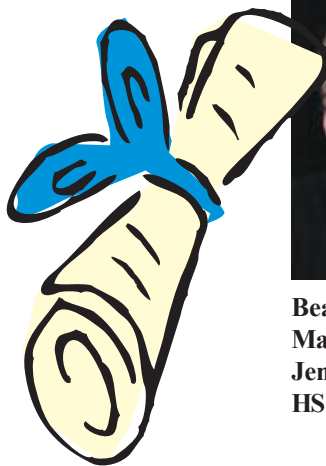
Nick Edwards, son of Curtis and Barbara Edwards, Hickman Co. HS



Caleb Michael Greene, son of Mike and Kristi Greene, McEwen HS

# Congratulations! 2009

Many Tensco families celebrated a milestone recently... the graduation of their child or grandchild from high school. Congratulations to all the 2009 graduates!



Beau Jensen, son of Matt and Stephanie Jensen, Creek Wood HS



Ryan O'Neil Kimbro, son of Roger Kimbro, Susan Moore HS (Altoona,AL)



Lauren Micah Miller, daughter of Jimmy R. Miller and Tracey M. Miller, Dickson Co. HS



Kristen Monsue, granddaughter of Priscilla Powers, Dickson Co. HS



Emily Morris, daughter of Johnnie Morris, Dickson Co. HS



Ashley Neely, granddaughter of Brenda Crozier, Dickson Co. HS



Jessica Pickering, daughter of Robin Slaughter, Dickson Co. HS



Natalia Thompson, daughter of Billy and Lindajo Black, Dickson Co. HS



Victoria "Tia" Thompson, daughter of Gerald and Sharon Thompson, Dickson Co. HS

# HS Scholar to use law degree helping others

Tennsco's scholarship winner for 2009 plans to build on the skills she learned in high school community service as she seeks a future making "a difference for those in need."

Megan Owens graduated from Dickson County High School in May with a 4.0 grade point average. She's the daughter of Mike and Rhonda Owens. This fall she'll enroll in The University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Her plan is to major in history, and then go to law school.

She expressed her thanks to the Tennsco family. "Thank you for helping me get through school," Owens said. "The scholarship is going to help out a whole lot."

Owens was the bronze medalist for her class and was ranked in the top four percent of the 331 graduates. She was president of the Interact Club, Cougars Against Tobacco and also held leadership positions on the student council, Sub-Deb, the school's "Got G.A.M.E." Commission (a school program to encourage good grades and attitudes among students) and the Youth Leadership Board.

Owens said she drew much satisfaction and experience from her term in the Leadership Dickson County program. "I learned how to use resources around me to accomplish my goals and how working together as a team is the best way to accomplish common goals," she stated in her scholarship application.

Owens was a part of the Youth Leadership group that produced an acclaimed brochure, website and video to help recruit teachers for Dickson County schools.

She has been a two-year Beta Club member, was awarded the Wendell Hudson History Award, was named to Who's Who Among American High School Students for four years



Tennsco President Stuart Speyer congratulates Tennsco Scholar Megan Owens

running and was a nominee for the Girls Citizenship award. Owens has been a member of her church's youth group for several years, having been involved in several service projects.

Through her service work, Owens said she learned that it's everyone's responsibility to give back to their community. While excelling academically and in public service work, Owens also worked at Sonic.

As the Tennsco scholar, Owens will receive a \$10,000 award, payable in four annual installments of \$2,500, provided she maintains a 3.0 grade point average in college. If Owens earns a 3.5 GPA in any year, she will receive a \$750 bonus for the following year for a maximum possible award of \$12,250.



Tennsco Corp.  
201 Tennsco Drive, Dickson, TN 37056-1888  
615/446-8000

Stuart Speyer ..... President  
Phil Corbin ..... Vice President, Human Resources  
Gary Fouts ..... Editor, gf grafix