HELP NEEDED LOCAL NEV

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2013 THE TENNESSEAN

REWARD OFFERED: The family of a man who was killed is offering \$5,000 for information. On 2B

The Tennessean and Hands On Nashville have teamed up to offer monthly volunteer projects. Go to Tennessean.

HandsOn NASHVILLE

com/volunteer to sign up and see videos from projects.

Voucher issues ripple far

Vanderbilt panelist urges lawmakers to focus on goals, best use of money

By Lisa Fingeroot The Tennessean

When deciding whether to support Gov. Bill Haslam's school voucher proposal, state lawmakers will need to consider if ultimately allowing 20,000 students to take advantage of

vouchers is really the best use of public money, a Vanderbilt University professor said Thursday.

Voucher plans that allow public money to be spent on private school tuition usually create more questions than answers, professor Claire Smrekar said Thursday during a pan-el discussion sponsored by the League of Women Voters in collaboration with Vanderbilt's Peabody College.

The decision is complex and depends on the goal, whether the plan can meet the goal, and whether it is a good use of public money, she added.

If, for example, the goal is to help poor students in under-performing schools, officials might decide the money would be bet-



CLOSER LOOK To see profiles of every school in the state, go

to Tennessean.com/ Education. Subscribers, go to Tennessean.com/activate to access additional content.

ter spent on economic development and an array of public school choices.

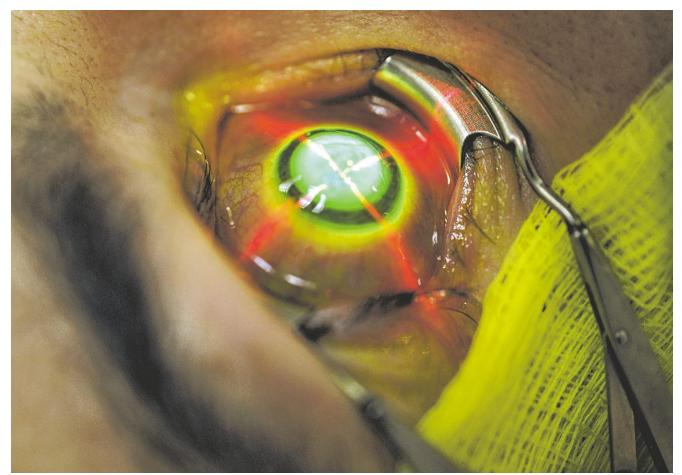
Smrekar would not give a personal opinion on the pending Tennessee proposal.

The plan Haslam announced in late January, the Tennessee Choice & Opportunity Scholarship Act, would give vouchers to as many as 5,000 students across the state to use in the next school year. By fall 2016, that number would increase to 20,000.

To be eligible, kids would have to be attending a school ranked in the bottom 5 percent

» VOUCHERS, 2B

ADVANCES IN VISION



Dr. Ming Wang uses a new machine that fixes a type of eye problem with corneal cross-linking. Wang is performing eye surgery on Sean Leonard. PHOTOS BY SHELLEY MAYS / THE TENNESSEAN

Eye study offers hope for discharged sailor

Child abuse task force pushes for consistency

Suggestions also include better collection of data, joint training, fairer system

By Tony Gonzalez The Tennessear

A dozen highly detailed recommendations for ways to better protect Tennessee's children were delivered in a report to lawmakers last week, but whether they'll trigger improvements isn't as clear as in years past.

The findings of the Joint Task Force on Children's Justice/Child Sexual Abuse suggest many changes that need the backing of the recently reorganized

Tennessee General Assembly, where some reassigned lawmakers are still coming up to speed on child and family issues.

The 100-page report seeks more statewide consistency in child protection and suggests ways that the key players in child welfare — includ-



ing law enforcement, health providers and the Department of Children's Services - can work together better.

"I hope there will be a serious look at e report) and some recognition of the involvement," said Bonnie Beneke, task force chairwoman and executive director of Tennessee Children's Advocacy Centers. "These are people from all across the state, from all different professions. ... They've taken it very seriously and want others to take it seriously and to work with us as we move forward.'

Experimental therapy uses vitamin, UV light to treat sagging corneas

By Tom Wilemon

The Tennessean

» EYE, 6B

Chris Clinard is counting on a new treatment for vision loss to give him a second chance at a career in the U.S. Navy.

The 18-year-old from Clarksville, Tenn., was 21/2 weeks into basic training when a military ophthalmologist determined he had keratoconus, a diagnosis that led to a medical discharge. His cornea, the transparent film that covers and protects the eye, had thinned and begun to sag, causing vision distortions that would worsen.

"I'm kind of happy that the Navy did find it," Clinard said.

The timing was fortunate because he was able to enroll in a clinical trial of a treatment to strengthen corneas with vitamin blasts and ultraviolet light. The treatment, called accelerated cross-linking, is done with a surgical device called the Avedro KXL system. He received the treatment in his left eye in December and will undergo another round in his right eye this spring at Wang Vision 3D Cataract & Lasik

Dr. Ming Wang participates in a clinical trial of a treatment to strengthen corneas with vitamin blasts and ultraviolet light. The treatment is called accelerated cross-linking.

"I'm kind of happy that the Navy did find (the vision disorder)."

CHRIS CLINARD Study participant

SEE VIDEO Go to Tennessean.com to

view the new surgical procedure using UV light and riboflavin to stabilize vision. Subscribers, go to

Tennessean.com/activate to access additional content.

About 40 people, including doctors, attorneys and DCS employees, make up the task force, created by lawmakers in 1985. The group often spurs changes - in laws, DCS policies and methods for investigating abuse and caring for children.

But whom the report speaks to this year re-mains somewhat unclear because of the legislative reordering, say Beneke and Carla Aaron, DCS executive director for child safety and a task force member.

Aaron said DCS doesn't have formal discussions about the report scheduled with lawmakers, but she's "poised to talk about it."

DCS has already taken action on some ideas, Aaron said. As detailed in the first half of the report, last year's task force recommendations led to new child protection train-

» DCS, 6B



SPECIAL REPORT ON DCS

Go to Tennessean.com/dcs to read more about the problems plaguing DCS, including miscounts of child deaths.



Gov. Bill Haslam blamed media outlets for the high bill. GEORGE WALKER IV / THE TENNESSEAN

Haslam: Fee for DCS records will stand

He blames \$55K tab on legal costs from media lawsuit

By Chas Sisk

The Tennessean

Gov. Bill Haslam suggested his administration would not back away from its \$55,000 tab to produce records from the Department of Children's Services, even after the agency's new leader said the estimate seemed "a little high."

Haslam said during and after a luncheon appearance Thursday before the Tennessee Press Association that news organizations brought the issue on themselves by refusing to drop their suit calling for disclosure of the case files of children who have died after being brought to the attention of child welfare workers.

The records have not yet been made public, and no organization has been billed for their release, Haslam said. He dismissed a suggestion that, as governor, he could decide himself to waive or reduce the fees.

"That's what the chancellor will determine," Haslam said. "Should we waive it for every-

thing that comes down the road?"

Davidson County Chancery Court Judge Carol McCoy ruled last month that DCS must release the forms its employees fill out when a child dies, and she said the department must provide redacted copies of all files on children who die.

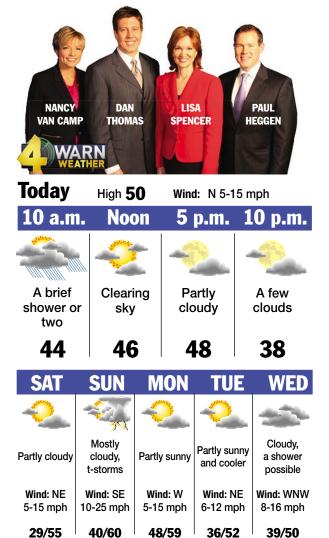
The ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by The Tennessean and joined by other media outlets in the state seeking greater access to records on child fatalities. McCoy said the records should be public under state law and ruled that the state must pay newspapers' court costs for pursuing the case.

Haslam referred to those legal expenses and blamed media outlets for the high bill, saying they could have narrowed their request. He said lawyers for the plaintiffs refused to settle the case before it went to court.

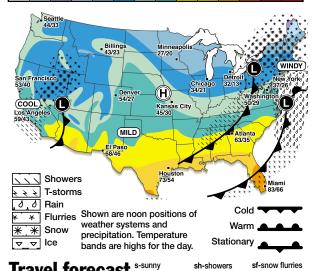
"There was a corporate decision made to go to trial on this,' Haslam said. "The chancellor came in and what she said, we're fine with. She's the one that said tell us what it will cost. It's in her seat."

Lauran Sturm, an attorney for the Waller law firm who

» RECORDS, 2B



National forecast Fri., February 8, 2013 -10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s



sn- snow

Travel forecasts-sunny
pc- partly cloudysh-showers
r-rain
t-thunderstormssf-su
sn-si
sn-si
t-thunderstormsNational-cloudy-cloudy-cloudy-cloudy

	Today	Sat.	Sun.		Today	/ Sat.	Sun.
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albany	28/17/sn	25/0/pc	27/14/s	Salt Lake City	39/25/sn	33/18/sn	30/16/sf
Albuquerque	58/33/s	43/24/c	43/26/pc	San Antonio	73/54/pc	73/60/c	77/51/pc
Anchorage	32/25/sf	37/26/sn	34/25/sn	San Diego	59/47/sh	58/47/pc	58/48/pc
Atlanta	63/35/c	60/41/s	59/51/pc	San Francisco		54/38/s	55/39/s
Atlantic City	46/29/r	33/16/s	38/25/s	San Jose	52/35/pc	55/34/s	58/34/s
Austin	72/48/pc	71/59/c	75/43/t	Seattle	44/33/pc	45/31/pc	48/31/s
Baltimore	46/29/r	37/22/s	47/34/s	Tampa	76/56/pc	77/57/s	80/61/pc
Billings	43/23/pc	37/23/pc	31/17/c	Tulsa	56/35/s	53/45/c	64/34/sh
Birmingham	60/34/c	63/46/pc	63/54/t	Wash., D.C.	50/29/r	40/27/s	46/35/s
Bismarck	30/12/pc	24/10/pc	24/-1/sn	W. Palm Bch	83/65/pc	77/66/pc	77/67/pc
Boise	40/21/sf	35/23/c	35/19/pc		1		
Boston	34/22/sn	28/10/sn	32/19/s	Interna	ιτιοπά		
Christn, S.C.	66/41/pc	62/38/s	62/53/pc		Todav	Sat.	Sun.
Charlotte	58/31/pc	58/30/s	56/41/pc	City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Chattanooga	58/31/sh	57/37/pc	55/42/c	-			
Cheyenne	49/22/s	35/18/sn	29/9/sn	Amsterdam	38/27/pc	36/27/c	35/28/c
Chicago	34/21/pc	34/27/pc	42/30/r	Athens	56/44/sh	58/47/pc	59/42/s
Cincinnati	42/22/pc	40/30/s	53/41/r	Auckland	75/61/pc	75/61/s	75/63/s
Cleveland	35/18/sn	25/15/s	41/35/pc	Bangkok	95/79/s	93/77/t	93/78/t
Columbus	39/21/sf	34/26/s	49/38/c	Beijing	24/12/s	34/14/s 31/21/sf	28/10/c
Dallas	64/46/pc	63/53/c 47/23/c	68/42/sh 37/15/sn	Berlin	35/26/sf 69/61/sh		30/22/c
Denver Detroit	54/27/s 32/13/sn	47/23/0 28/17/s	38/33/c	Bermuda Bogota	64/51/t	68/56/sh 63/48/r	62/56/pc 61/47/r
Fort Myers	32/13/SII 80/60/pc	20/17/S 81/59/pc	30/33/0 81/60/pc	Brussels	38/25/c	37/27/c	36/30/c
Hartford				Buenos Aires	36/25/0 86/70/s		
Honolulu	34/19/sn 81/66/pc	25/3/sn 81/67/pc	31/13/s 79/69/pc	Cairo	73/53/s	87/72/pc 70/50/s	92/73/pc 70/52/s
Houston	73/54/pc	71/63/c	78/60/t	Calgary	34/17/pc	38/13/sf	32/17/pc
Indianapolis	38/22/pc	39/30/pc	48/37/r	Copenhagen	35/26/c	29/23/sn	27/23/sn
Jackson	66/39/pc	67/54/pc	74/50/r	Dhahran	79/53/s	79/56/s	79/56/s
Jacksonville	70/47/pc	66/44/s	70/53/pc	Dublin	43/36/pc	46/37/sh	41/34/r
Kansas City	45/30/s	51/40/pc	54/28/r	Geneva	34/14/c	33/26/sf	37/33/sn
Knoxville	53/30/sh	53/33/pc	54/42/pc	Hong Kong	65/56/c	66/60/pc	71/63/pc
Las Vegas	54/38/pc	51/36/pc	51/37/c	Jerusalem	65/47/s	61/46/s	61/44/pc
Little Rock	58/33/s	56/49/pc	71/40/r	Johannesburg		81/59/t	80/58/t
Los Angeles	59/43/sh	60/43/pc	62/45/pc	Kabul	54/29/s	52/28/s	48/25/s
Louisville	46/28/pc	47/35/pc	53/44/r	London	41/34/pc	46/38/c	44/36/r
Madison	30/15/pc	33/24/pc	41/28/i	Madrid	52/30/pc	50/29/pc	52/37/pc
Memphis	55/34/pc	58/51/pc	64/45/r	Mexico City	77/46/pc	76/47/pc	75/45/s
Miami	83/66/pc	79/67/pc	78/67/pc	Montreal	14/9/sn	18/0/pc	21/10/s
Milwaukee	30/19/pc	33/27/pc	40/29/r	Moscow	36/27/sf	32/26/c	35/33/sn
Minneapolis	27/20/s	36/29/c	40/24/i	Nassau	83/68/s	80/67/pc	78/67/pc
New Orleans	74/54/pc	69/62/pc	76/64/t	New Delhi	72/42/s	74/44/s	75/45/s
New York	37/26/sn	31/18/s	36/31/s	Paris	41/30/pc	42/37/r	44/39/r
Oakland	54/36/pc	55/37/s	57/35/s	Rio de Janeiro	87/74/pc	88/75/t	90/77/t
Oklahoma City	57/38/s	54/46/c	62/33/pc	Rome	46/35/s	49/29/pc	46/34/s
Omaha	42/26/s	48/34/pc	46/23/r	St. Petersburg	32/30/c	37/32/sn	35/26/sn
Orlando	80/54/pc	76/54/s	77/56/pc	St. Thomas	83/73/pc	83/73/s	83/74/s
Panama City	70/50/pc	69/52/s	68/60/pc	San Juan	83/71/pc	85/71/s	85/73/s
Philadelphia	40/28/sn	33/19/s	38/30/s	Seoul	19/3/s	26/13/pc	31/11/s
Phoenix	68/44/s	56/40/c	59/44/pc	Singapore	86/76/r	88/77/r	87/77/t
Pittsburgh	37/17/r	30/17/s	45/36/pc	Stockholm	32/23/sf	27/21/c	24/20/sn
Portland, Me.	27/15/sn	21/6/sn	28/9/s	Sydney	89/66/s	89/68/s	82/66/t
Portland, Ore.	46/33/pc	47/31/pc	49/30/s	Tokyo	46/34/pc	47/36/pc	49/39/s
Providence	38/20/sn	27/7/sn	30/15/s	Toronto	25/8/sn	27/9/s	35/25/c
Raleigh	58/34/r	52/28/s	55/41/pc	Vancouver	44/34/c	42/31/s	43/33/pc
Richmond	56/30/r	46/25/s	52/33/s	Vienna	37/27/pc	35/25/c	34/26/s
Sacramento	53/30/pc	54/29/s	59/29/s	Warsaw	37/26/c	33/27/c	32/25/c
St. Louis	45/31/s	49/40/pc	58/37/r	Zurich	34/23/sf	30/21/sn	34/31/sn

Barometer at 7 a.m. .. 29.98 in.

Yesterday's aqi: Particulates

Moderate

RealFeel Temperature®

d AccuWeather.com index con erature based on eight weathe

24 hours ending 5 p.m. 0.00"

Normal month to date 0.98"

Normal year to date 4.73"

Surplus for year 2.60"

Sunrise today 6:42 a.m.

Sunset today 5:21 p.m.

Sunrise tomorrow .. 6:41 a.m.

Winds

498.85 ft NNW 6-12 mph

355.26 ft N 8-16 mph

AccuWeather.com

As of 7 a.m. yesterday

Lake Barkley 355.55 ft N 8-16 mph

Lake Level

Cordell Hull

Ky. Lake

Fri.

42

ting of effec

Sat.

32° 53°

... 0.19"

. 0.79"

... 7.33"

Air Quality Index

Today's aqi forecast

Precipitation

Deficit for month

Month to date .

Year to date

Sunrise/set

8 a.m

5 p.m.

Task force wants to revisit past findings

» DCS FROM 1B

ing across the state. And DCS has a major effort under way, called In Home Tennessee, to match the needs of at-risk families with local services.

"I'm pleased that a lot of the action steps involve (DCS) partnering with a lot of the stakeholders," Aaron said.

Front-line work

In the report, the task force lays out ideas for joint training for the varied groups involved in child welfare, methods for collecting better data, ways to make the legal system fairer, and approaches to raising awareness of child sexual abuse. The report found that child protective investigative teams, which exist in each county to make decisions about criminal abuse charges, do their work inconsistently. The task force wants to revisit findings from 2010 and 2012 about those teams. And officials said they've scheduled training for the teams.

Improving the quality of Child Protective Services work within DCS the front-line work that investigates abuse and leads to decisions about taking children into custody — also figures prominently in the recommendations.

The report asks for better lessons for new hires, mentoring by experienced employees, and "*I'm pleased that a lot of the action steps involve (DCS) partnering with a lot of the stakeholders.*"

CARLA AARON

DCS executive director for child safety and a task force member

more instruction for working with children and parents with mental illnesses.

Beneke and Aaron say some new training initiatives may already be helping, and Gov. Bill Haslam's recommendation of increased pay for frontline workers could help improve DCS casework.

Another recurring theme is fairness in the legal system.

The task force wants some paperwork simplified for families dealing with custody issues without attorneys. And the experts want clarity about the appeals process that adults use when they believe a judge improperly "indicated" them for child abuse — a type of family court finding that stops short of a criminal conviction but still impacts an adult's eligibility for working with kids, maintaining custody and fostering.

Contact Tony Gonzalez at 615-259-8089 or tgonzalez@ tennessean.com. Follow him on Twitter @tgonzalez.

Eye study needs more volunteers

»EYE FROM 1B

Center in Nashville. The treatment also is offered for corneal ectasia, a similar disorder that can occur after Lasik surgery.

Wang Vision and Loden Vision Centers are the only ophthalmology practices in Tennessee participating in the study, but Loden has not begun recruiting patients, according to ClinicalTrials.gov.

Five people have undergone the procedure at Wang Vision, which can enroll 35 more patients.

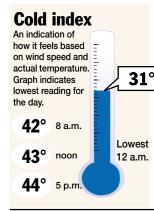
Patients will undergo UV light for eight minutes, four minutes or two minutes plus 40 seconds in the randomized study. They will receive droplets of the vitamin riboflavin in their eyes while undergoing the treatment.

The study aims to determine the quickest and best way for administering the UV light.

The treatment has already been approved in Europe, where medical scientists first observed that people diagnosed keratoconus who with spent more time in the sun did not suffer as much vision loss as those with the disease who weren't outdoors as much, said Dr. Ming Wang. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration opened the clinical trial in July and expects it to be completed by December 2014, with an estimated nationwide enrollment of 4,000 patients.



Nashville today



Temperature (°F)

Yesterday's high/low	. 64/41
Normal range, today	50/30
Record high, today 77 i	n 1937
Record low, today6 i	n 1895
High one year ago	47
Low one year ago	36

Moonrise/set

0		\bigcirc				
New	First	Full	Last			
Feb 10	Feb 17	Feb 25	Mar 4			
Moonrise today 5:09 a.m.						
Moonset today 3:56 p.m.						

Tennessee lake levelsLakeLevelWindsOld Hickory444.36 ftN 7-14 mphPercy Priest484.30 ftN 7-14 mphCenter Hill634.12 ftNNW 7-14 mph

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2013

Local forecast provided by WSMV-TV Channel 4

Disorder is common

Keratoconus, the naturally occurring disorder, is much more common than the complication from Lasik, Wang said.

"We see patients anywhere between two to three, sometimes four patients, every week," Wang said. "It's not an insignificant disease prevalence. This is the genetic form patients born with a weak cornea genetically. Over time, the weak cornea cannot hold the weight of the intraocular fluid, so the cornea sags forward."

Advanced cases of the disease often require corneal transplants, which carry the risk of a patient rejecting the organ, Wang said. Another treatment, implanting Intacs, a device that Wang characterizes as "a Wonderbra for the eye," also can pose problems.

"You put a segment in the eye and it is a foreign body." Wang added, "Extrusion of the Intac system can cause a lot of problems."

The cause of keratoconus has not been established, but there is evidence that it is hereditary and that it is linked to frequent eye rubbing, according to KC Support, a help organization for people diagnosed with the disease and their families.

Contact Tom Wilemon at twilemon@tennessean.com or 615-726-5961 or follow him on Twitter @TomWilemon.

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