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Mayor Jacobs Announces New Video Series with Small Business Owners

KNOXVILLE, *Tenn*.—During his latest video series, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will highlight businesses by conducting interviews with owners and operators, providing them the opportunity to talk about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their families and employees, and helping them share any plans they hold for the future.

The series starts today, and a new vignette will run each week on the county and Mayor's various social platforms. The media is free to upload the videos.

This week's vignette features Mayor Jacobs interviewing George Ewart, owner of Dead End BBQ on Sutherland Avenue.

"We had no idea what this would entail and how long it would last," Ewart told the Mayor in a sit down interview in his restaurant. "Every day I would get a call . . . from anyone connected to us and we were told that we're not going to get this or we have to change this."

Soon into the pandemic, Ewart was forced to slash his staff from 52 employees to 6.

He also noted that the food supply chain constantly changes: "Farmers are losing money; truckers are losing money; and the processing plants are losing money. We've been out of every single meat at one time in this restaurant."

Mayor Jacobs emphasized Ewart's point, saying, "That's the thing about the economy—it's all interconnected. It has all these interconnective pieces so when something goes sideways in one place there's all these other things that happen that you don't think about," the Mayor said.

To hear more of what was said, check out the video.

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