MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Small Business Series Highlights Weigel's Convenience Stores

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Bill Weigel, owner of Weigel's Convenience Stores, as part of his small business series. Founded in 1931, the Knoxville-based company began as a dairy, but now offers food and fuel for shoppers in East Tennessee.

Mayor Jacobs' bi-weekly small business series is comprised of video interviews airing Wednesdays on the county and Mayor's various social media platforms. The discussions offer folks the chance to talk about what they do; highlight their work; and share any future plans.

Weigel has seen his family operation grow over the decades. Beginning as a dairy and going through multiple transitions from dairy home delivery and drive-thru farm shops to walk-in convenience stores and self-serve gas stations.

"There are times I should've given up obviously, but I guess you just keep going," said Weigel. "There's always something you've got to do next to stay up and gasoline was that. Now food service is the next thing up, so you just got to keep changing with the times."

In addition to fuel and various convenience items, Weigel's stores now offer made-to-order foods from their kitchens as well as bakery goods delivered daily. Still, Weigel believes dairy is what sets his 71 East Tennessee locations apart from other convenience stores.

"The dairy is a big part of our company. It differentiates us from other convenience stores and we're proud of our milk. It's a big deal for us." said Weigel.

The Mayor and Weigel further discussed why staying in East Tennessee is the best thing for his business and how perseverance and flexibility as an entrepreneur can pay off in the long run. To hear more of what was said during the interview, check out the video.

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