

# Local

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## EYF to reopen community center pool

By Megan Boehnke  
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The Emerald Youth Foundation will reopen the city-owned pool it has leased at the Dr. E.V. Davidson Community Center after investing \$20,000 in upgrades to the facility.

The faith-based organization whose ministry includes youth sports programs approached the city about leasing the

facility earlier this year and agreed to pay \$1 per year while also covering the pool maintenance. The city and the foundation will split the utility costs.

Mayor Madeline Rogero and Emerald Youth President Steve Diggs will celebrate the reopening with a ribbon cutting today.

"It's kind of a consolidation of our programs, plus having more

availability to get in and do other things," said Shara Shoup, chief operating officer for Emerald Youth. "We do swim team in the summer, but we don't have great options for them to practice in the offseason. This gave us a home."

The pool had been closed for roughly a year and a half, Knoxville city spokesman Eric Vreeland said, in part because of dwindling attendance and the cost of maintenance.

City Council approved the lease for the community center pool, near Austin-East Performing Arts and Sciences Magnet High School, at its Sept. 19 meeting. The foundation began using the pool for swim lessons in November.

The organization has used the holiday break to give the pool a face-lift, including a new coat of paint, said John Crooks, marketing and communications director for

the foundation. Emerald Youth received significant financial help from Faith Promise Church to upgrade the pool and cover startup costs, he added.

The foundation had used a number of pools in the past, including the downtown YWCA and the city-owned Ed Cothren off Western Avenue in Mechanicsville.

Emerald Youth serves up to 100 children a week with swim lessons and

about 350 people over the course of the year, Crooks said.

"We serve urban youth with faith, education and sports programs and we've woven into those a number of different initiatives and things we do," Crooks said. "Helping raise our urban youth to be leaders is just key to all of those things. We want to see our city's kids to rise up and be leaders and be successful adults."

## MC adds minor in green tourism

News Sentinel staff

Beginning in fall 2015, Maryville College will offer a new minor in outdoor studies and tourism.

The private Blount County college said the new minor will prepare students for careers in the "fast-growing industry" of sustainable tourism, with emphasis on its impact on the environment, said Bruce Guillaume, founder and director of the college's outdoor adventure program Mountain Challenge, who will coordinate the minor.

"Managing travel and adventure with their impacts on the environment is becoming increasingly important in the modern economy," Guillaume said. "The minor introduces students to those ideas."

The 15-hour minor includes five required courses, beginning with an introduction to outdoor studies and ending with an internship.

Through a partnership, Maryville College students will be able to take "Introduction to Hospitality and Tourism" through the University of Tennessee's Department of Retail, Hospitality and Tourism, and UT students can take "Sustainable Tourism" at Maryville College. That course focuses on fundamental concepts of sustainability that have applications in the tourism, leisure and event industries.

In 2013, Blue Ridge Outdoors magazine named Maryville College one of the top adventure colleges in the South, based on its Mountain Challenge outdoor-focused orientation program, its on-campus facilities, and its closeness to Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

"We needed a curriculum that would match that claim," Guillaume said. "Our new minor is unique in that it supports our new model of sustainability."

Guillaume said Maryville College plans to "grow" the outdoor studies and tourism minor into a major and offer more courses and opportunities.

Maryville College is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and a charter participant in the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System, which awarded a bronze rating to the school for sustainability on campus. The college also is a member of the GoGreenET Green Business Recognition Program and was selected as a Green Achiever in April 2012.

## Reader's Eye



SHARON MONETT/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SENTINEL

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Gallery: Reader's Eye images

Sharon Monett photographed a cardinal in the snow last winter. An avid photographer who specializes in bird photography, macros and abstracts, Monett is a transit information specialist at Knoxville Area Transit. More of Monett's work can be found at Facebook.com/SharonMonettPhotography.

WATCHFUL EYE



## Mystery shopper scam alert

News Sentinel staff

The offer to make extra money as a mystery shopper can be especially appealing during the holidays.

Such an offer also can make for an especially effective scam.

The Better Business Bureau of Greater East Tennessee has received eight consumer complaints within the past month of someone falsely using the name and P.O. Box of Mystery Shoppers Inc., a legitimate marketing survey company in Knoxville.

One victim in Ohio told the BBB: "They sent me a bad check for \$2,000. Now I'm overdrawn and can't pay the bank back the \$1,600 I forwarded."

Mystery Shoppers Inc. stresses they do not contact anyone who hasn't signed up with their company first. And the agency does not pay shoppers up front.

Ways to identify the scam:

- You received an unexpected cashier's check or an offer of a large payment from a company that may or may not be posing as a mystery shopping company;

- You are asked to send some of the money from the check to someone else, usually via Western Union.

Anyone with questions about the legitimacy of a job listing may contact the BBB, or the Mystery Shopper Provider Association at <http://www.mysteryshop.org>.

Anyone who has been victimized by such a scam may notify the Federal Trade Commission and the BBB.

## Legislation to help abuse victims at riskiest time

By Claire Wiseman  
Chattanooga Times Free Press

CHATTANOOGA — When family advocates talk about domestic assault, they mention one crucial period fraught with danger.

"The most dangerous time for any individual in a domestic violence situation is when they're about to leave," said Carmen Hutson, director of crisis services at the Partnership for Families, Children and Adults.

One organization hopes that changing the way divorce filings are made public could help protect spouses at their most vulnerable: when they're

trying to get out.

Last month, the Tennessee Bar Association announced it will pursue legislation that would allow more time between when a person files for divorce and when their divorce filing is published. Tennessee law now does not provide enough time for abused spouses to create an escape plan and file other necessary documents, such as an order of protection against an abuser, before that abuser can find out about the divorce proceeding, said Alan Ramseur, bar association president.

"She's getting out, but she hasn't thought about the fact that he may find

out about the divorce having been filed before she can get out," Ramseur said.

Ramseur said his organization will work to draft legislation and find sponsors. They're mindful of the need to honor open records laws too, he said, and will consult with various press associations to respect those laws.

Tennessee ranks 10th in the nation in the number of women killed by men, according to a report on 2012 homicide data released by the Violence Policy Center this year. Most of those women were killed by someone they knew, and the majority were in a relationship with their offender.

Experts say notice of a divorce could set an abuser off.

"That's the time when the abusing spouse is losing control, and domestic violence is about power and control. That's the time when they're losing the most control, and they get really desperate," Hutson said.

The Partnership works with the abused spouse to create an escape plan and a network of trusted friends and family, Hutson said.

From a legal standpoint, prosecutors say it makes sense.

"It's just brilliant legislation, as far as I'm concerned," said Darren Gibson, an assistant district

attorney in Hamilton County who exclusively prosecutes domestic violence cases.

Gibson said he's seen how potentially dangerous an abusive relationship can be when someone tries to leave.

General Sessions Judge Christie Mahn Sell, a former divorce attorney who campaigned on a platform that highlighted her work against domestic violence, said she liked the idea but didn't think it went far enough. She'd like to see divorce filings sealed completely and opened by request.

"It's a great first step, but I think it needs to go further than that," Sell said.