

Giving back to KAT employees

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"They are our favorite people we don't think about. They provide an essential service," said Councilor Brooks of Katoia Executive Associates and the Iron County Tourism Commission.

He was talking about Cascade Area Transit employees. Brooks had been pondering how he might show them some appreciation and he called

Councilman Andrew Roberts. The two men talked about it and decided on a meal for the employees and followed through with the idea Friday.

Brooks and Roberts began raising funds on Facebook and contacted Cascade Foodbank. "Full Worker Appreciation Day" was announced and Friday at 11 a.m. Brooks and Roberts met at the restaurant at 1100 Market Street to pick up individually wrapped and bagged

dishes or meal kits and lunch trays.

Christine Fodge, vice president of the Knappa-based Transit Union, joined the two men in talking to bag the 200 lunches with restaurant owner Jason Teno. The staff of the Foodbank spent many hours and offering support and bagging the food.

"I know Jason really wanted to give out to the community," Brooks said.

They worked to completely wrap the meals with KAT's

Human Resources Office and delivered the meals to the KAT office on Highway Avenue to be given out to employees.

Fodge said the bags of food would be picked up by transit drivers as they return to their work shifts.

Brooks said that a food raising effort to cover the cost of the food exceeded what was sought and the men had off as they loaded two vehicles to deliver a thank-you to the KAT workers.

Absentee voting expanded to everyone

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Until last week voting by mail in Tennessee was permitted only for registered voters who were 65 years old or older, traveling or had physical

or temporary disabilities or absences. The national Election Assistance Commission, which oversees the states and local election commissions, updated their website to let voters know how to request an absentee ballot.

Two weeks ago Washington County

election for the August 16 primary and re-election. The election commission is also aware by calling 888-233-2682.

In the election four years ago 600 absentee ballots were cast according to officials. The new election pres-

City human resources Department passes first reading

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Everette Mayor John Kinnaman's push to create a Human Resources Department passed in a split vote Tuesday. Several citizens, called into the 10 a.m. meeting to speak for and against the measure but a 7-2 vote passed the creation of the new department on the reading of Tuesday's only council meeting.

Mayor Kinnaman said the hopes the next city council meeting will be via the internet but he said that meeting could see the second and final reading of the ordinance.

Dr. Vickie Hayfield, Cost Service Unit Board Director, remarked that the proposed ordinance

creation of a new department, said the ordinance was "not written in a simple and straightforward manner."

The 20-year employees also said the creation of a new Human Resources Department would mean other duties to fill where they became the department person associated by the mayor.

Hayfield said the idea of "the most diverse" are not ever seen and that most of the city employees support it. The Cost Service Unit Board voted 3-2 against creation of the HR department.

However, the spokesman for the new department and the past president of the Everette Fire Central Order of Police supported the creation. They