

Task Force shares findings with school board

By Ken Lay

The Community Task Force on Reopening presented their findings to the Knox County Board of Education Wednesday.

Task force leader Dr. Jerry Askew spoke to the board after it met twice in five days between June 24 and June 29.

Safety is a primary concern according to Askew, President of the Alliance for Better Nonprofits.

"There are no risk-free options here. My hope is that they will look at data and science and they'll make the best decision to balance risk in any way that they can," Askew said. "The entire thing is an exercise in balancing risks."

"Everyone wants their kids back in school, well the



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Republican candidate for U.S. Senate Bill Hagerty visits with supporters at a campaign stop at Maynardville's Pete's Place Tuesday.

Bill Hagerty stumps

has 15 employees in a financial bind. His office was mostly untouched by county layoffs. Operating the office on greatly reduced funds lead Susano to ask the county for a loan. His annual payroll for himself and his employees is about \$1.6 million, mostly generated by filing fees. He said all his employees are essential in running the office.

After meeting with Mayor Glenn Jacobs and Financial Director Chris Caldwell they decided to request a loan of \$1.5 million, which Susano said he would use as needed.

"We're not short \$1.5 million but don't want to go back and ask for more if more is needed," he said, adding. "We're pretty thrifty." Susano said the amount was requested because no one knows how long COVID-19 will continue. He also said the loan will be paid back.

On the Knox County Commission Agenda the resolution authorizes "an Interfund Loan through the use