Margie Quin recalls the breakthrough with a bit of wonder lingering as she shared the memory: A handful of special agents listening intently to a newly rescued sex trafficking survivor who had just turned 18.

She was laying out the details of the murky world of code words and nuance that veil the encounter of a trafficking victim and a customer intent on having sex with a girl barely out of childhood.

“Every operation we ran was code-named ‘Someone Like Me’ and the reason is that a survivor really helped us, really helped us understand how this all worked,” Quin says of the 12 sting operations she led before retiring from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in 2018. “Had we not known that it would have taken us a long time to figure it all out.”

Someone like me. That was how the young girl referred to herself while thanking the agents for being willing to help “someone like me.”

“It was an epiphany; it was a turning point. It was like that moment everybody’s mind shifted and went,” Quin made a whooshing sound. “Omigosh, if we’re not out there for someone like her, who are we out there for? It was a game changer.”

Tennessee’s battle against human sex trafficking has been unfolding over the last decade. State leaders, law enforcement agencies and nonprofits serving victims have been trying to understand just what sex trafficking entails, how they can collaborate to help more victims and cut deeply into the demand.

Shared Hope International, which issues an annual report card on each state for its legal infrastructure to protect and help victims, says Tennessee raised its score from a 73 “C” in 2011, when it began issuing grades, to a 98 “A” in 2019. This year, Shared Hope is raising the bar for all states, noting Tennessee’s “lack of a specialized service response leaves...”
Attorney: ‘We all do what Atticus did’

Lessons learned from ‘Mockingbird,’ central character

By David Laprad

This is the second installment in a series of articles exploring the storylines and themes of films in which the U.S. system of justice plays a central role. In this entry, lawyers Steven Moore and Hugh Moore discuss “To Kill a Mockingbird” and its reflection on the character of criminal defense attorneys. Spoilers for the film are included.

“What kind of a man are you?” Bob Ewell bellows as attorney Atticus Finch descends the stairs of the Maycomb, Alabama courthouse in 1932. Ewell has learned that Finch will be defending the Black man accused of beating and raping his white daughter and is unable to contain his disbelief.

This early scene in the 1962 movie of author Harper Lee’s revered American novel “To Kill a Mockingbird” offers only a rumble from a distant gathering of dark clouds. The “thunderbolt,” as the late film critic Roger Ebert calls the courtroom trial in his 2001 review of “Mockingbird,” doesn’t drop until later.

But Ewell’s question echoes across the movie in scenes featuring Finch: What kind of a man is he?

To Finch’s young daughter, Scout, who narrates “Mockingbird” as an adult, he’s the embodiment of impeccable character. Seen through her eyes, he is, as many fathers are at one time, the man who hung the moon.

The American Film Institute agrees. In 2003, the organization named Finch the greatest movie hero of all time, perhaps because it believed the attorney’s strong moral fiber led him to a pursuit more valiant than the daredevil antics of Indiana Jones, John Rambo and James Bond.

Although Finch’s quest doesn’t take him on a hunt through a Nazi stronghold for the lost Ark of the Covenant, it does pit him against a profoundly malevolent foe—the deep-seated racism of the American South in the early 20th century.

This evil hides behind a facade of small-town gentility for most of the film. The fictional Maycomb is a place where front doors are never locked, children safely roam the streets at night and a client pays his debt to his attorney, even if he has to give him a sack of hickory nuts instead of cash.

It finally shows its face in a scene in which Finch refuses to let an armed mob break into the jail where the accused, Tom Robinson, awaits trial. As he faces the trigger-ready herd, he has no weapon to wield or armor to protect him, but he stands his ground and insists his client has a right to his day in court, regardless of the color of his skin and the nature of the accusation against him.

Finch’s courtroom defense of Robinson reinforces the nobility of his character. Facing a jury of 12 white men, he methodically deconstructs the state’s case and makes Robinson’s innocence seem as obvious as the smug smirk on Ewell’s face.

But Finch does more than plead with the men in the box to consider the facts. As he delivers his closing argument in a room filled with people who look like him, he dares to make clear that he does not think like them.

“She’s committed no crime,” Finch says of the alleged victim, Mayella. “She’s merely broken a rigid and time-honored code of our society—a code so severe that whoever breaks it is hounded from our midst as unfit to live with. She must destroy the evidence of her offense. But what was the evidence of her offense? Tom Robinson, a human being.”

Having established Robinson as an individual who deserves every right to live with, she fends off an armed mob that attempts to break into the jail where the accused, Tom Robinson, awaits trial. As he faces the trigger-ready herd, he has no weapon to wield or armor to protect him, but he stands his ground and insists his client has a right to his day in court, regardless of the color of his skin and the nature of the accusation against him.

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Summers firm donates $5 million to UT College of Law

The Chattanooga-based law firm of Summers, Rufolo and Rodgers has made a $5 million donation to the University of Tennessee College of Law.

The gift will support the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution, the Legal Clinic, the Douglas Blaze Professorship and scholarships for students interested in pursuing legal careers in advocacy.

Summers firm member Jeffrey Rufolo said the continued support of the firm’s clients made this and other gifts possible. “Philanthropic support for the UT College of Law is paramount to the long-term success and sustainability of the legal profession in Tennessee,” Rufolo says.

College of Law Interim Dean Doug Blaze says he hopes the gift will challenge others to offer their financial support to the school.

“We’re grateful for our partnership with Summers, Rufolo and Rodgers and their particular interest in advancing our students’ appreciation of legal advocacy,” Blaze says. “Partnerships like these are invaluable to us.”

The College of Law has named a classroom and will name the moot court program after the Summers firm.

College of Law graduate Jerry Summers founded the Summers firm in 1969.

Rufolo is a 1991 College of Law graduate; Jimmy Rodgers, Jr. is a 1994 graduate.

Other Summers firm attorneys are Marya Wegenga Schalk, a 2005 College of Law graduate, and Benjamin McGowan.

Source: University of Tennessee College of Law

From page 2

American legal process as he brings his argument to a close.

“In this country, our courts are the great levelers. In our courts, all men are created equal. I’m no idealist to believe firmly in the integrity of our courts and of our jury system. That’s no ideal to me; that’s a living, working reality!”

Finch’s willingness to stand up for what is just regardless of popular belief or his ability to win a case reflects what many legal practitioners believe, says Chattanooga criminal defense attorney Steven Moore.

But while Finch’s principled ethics might make him a prime example of a lawyer, Moore adds, it does not make him a hero.

“As old, old lawyers used to say, being an attorney is a calling, like being a preacher. Lawyers represent people no one else wants to represent. We’re just doing our job. We all do what Atticus did.”

This includes Moore, who’s represented defendants in more murder cases than he can count throughout his 40-year career.

While Moore has often been the proverbial best attorney his client’s money could buy, he’s also represented many appointed clients for a low fee, purely because he knows if a judge asks him to take a case, the defendant needs a seasoned lawyer who can mount a vigorous defense.

“If a judge calls me, there’s a reason, so I rarely say no.”

To illustrate why, Moore draws a comparison between these appeals for his services and the scene in “Mockingbird” which Judge John Taylor calls on Finch after dark to ask him to take Robinson’s case.

“He wants the accused to have adequate representation. It doesn’t matter how bad the case is, the accused is entitled to the best defense an attorney can provide.”

While Maycomb likely contains a dearth of lawyers willing to take Robinson’s case, Moore says he believes the judge approaches Finch because he trusts he’s a man of character who shuns racist ideals.

“The judge knew Atticus wouldn’t care that his client was a Black man accused of raping a white woman,” Moore notes. “That was the mentality of old lawyers.”

Knowing Robinson needs a strong advocate – and fully aware he’ll be unable to win – Finch readily takes the case. Even though the jury delivers a guilty verdict, Ewell resurfaces later to spit in Finch’s face for having the audacity to defend Robinson – and for implicating him in the injuries his daughter suffered.

This, too, is familiar territory to Moore. Although no one has spit on him for defending an accused killer, people have made their disdain for him crystal clear.

The most dramatic example occurred at the conclusion of the 2019 trial of Reginald Woods, who was charged with killing his girlfriend, Katrina Holloway, during an argument in 2017.

Moore argued the shooting was accidental – and the jury agreed. Upon hearing the verdict, Holloway’s family unleashed a verbal torrent on Moore, he says, necessitating their removal from the courtroom.

“I was sorry they lost a loved one,” Moore recalls. “But I had a job to do, and I did it to the best of my ability.”

Like Finch, Moore has never responded to attacks levied against him for representing a criminal defendant, but he does offer a caveat to high school and college age students who say they want to become lawyers.

“I tell them, ‘People are going to say things about you and the media is going to write things about you. If that’s going to bother you, do pros and cons in divorce court. A person’s life or liberty should not be placed in your hands.’”

Despite the arrows fired in his direction and the defendants his representation has helped to acquit, Moore still declines to compare himself or any other attorney to the story bound Finch.

“We don’t want to be heroes,” he concludes. “We just want to serve the community.”

Released in theaters in 1962, “Mockingbird” won Academy Awards for Best Actor, Best Screenplay and Best Art Direction. Its standing has only improved over the years, and in 1995 the

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Photograph

Founded in 1890, the University of Tennessee College of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a charter member of the Association of American Law Schools.
50 Years Ago

Saturday, Aug. 7 to Friday, Aug. 13

The Tennessee Law Enforcement Commission has turned down Hamilton County’s request for a grant to help finance a new jail but suggested the county file a new application next year, if any funds are available.

Memorial Hospital announced the award of a $4.5 million construction contract to Wilson & Street Construction Co. for the first phase of an $11-million rebuilding and renovation program. Sister Thomas DeSales, administrator, and John Grimmins Jr., chairman of the hospital board, said the first phase would include a two-story addition to connect the present north and east wings and the relocation and expansion of several departments and services.

The F. E. Uren Construction Co., of Soddy-Daisy, is the apparent low bidder for Fire Hall No. 16 to be constructed in Stuarts Heights. The low bid is for $190,217 and figures out about $25 per square foot. The high bid, submitted by T&C Construction Co., was $215,850.

Charles F. Hubbard of 6127 Brevia Avenue, East Ridge, vice president of the Hamilton National Bank’s installment lending department, died July 6 in a Dayton Beach, Florida hospital. He had been a resident of Chattanooga for the past 50 years and had been with the Hamilton Bank since 1929. He was the head of the Bank American Division at its inception. Mr. Hubbard was a member of the American Institute of Banking and deacon of the First Baptist Church, a member of the White Oak Lions Club and active in other civic affairs.

Richard W. Cardin, managing partner in the Chattanooga office of Arthur Anderson & Co., was elected treasurer of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce at a special meeting, July 6, by chamber directors. He succeeds E. W. Sizer, who has been elected vice-president of finance and membership. Sizer assumes the post recently vacated by F. L. Carter who resigned for business reasons.

The Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants will hold its 41st annual convention here Aug. 15-18, with headquarters at the Read House. S. Bernard Stone of the Chattanooga firm of Stone and Lansford, is president-elect.

Albert F. Aldridge, an assistant district manager in the Chattanooga branch office of American National Insurance Company, has been promoted to training consultant in the firm’s Southern regional office in Atlanta.

Federal funds totaling $2.7 million have been approved for the construction of a new three-story pediatric wing at Erlanger Hospital. It will replace the present T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital on Glenwood Drive. Presently under construction is a two-level emergency treatment and diagnostic center expected to be completed by the end of this year. The pediatric wing will go on top of this center.

Joesphine, former member of the public school system, has been named assistant manager for the Atomic Energy Commission’s Oak Ridge Operations.

The commission works to safeguard individuals from discrimination through education and enforcement.

Ikard, Jones fill City Hall vacancies

Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly this week appointed Mary Beth Ikard as the city’s director of communications. Kelly also appointed Karita Mosley, Jones to head up the city’s Community Development Department Partnership.

Ikard is the outgoing director of sustainability for Nashville Mayor John Cooper. She was originally appointed in 2015 by then-Mayor Megan Barry to advance policy on transit and transportation. Before working in the mayor’s office, Ikard led communications for the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for more than five years.

She also directed communications and marketing for Gov. Phil Bredesen’s Books From Birth Foundation, generating support for county affiliates of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

Ikard began her career in the press office for the late Indiana Gov. Frank O’Bannon and then moved into public affairs for the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

She holds a degree in journalism from Indiana University and Accreditation in Public Relations through the Public Relations Society of America. She also is a master of fine arts candidate with the Sewanee School of Letters.

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Jones is serving her second term on the Chattanooga County School Board as the District 5 representative. She is a Pitzer Fellow in Chattanooga Public School’s Office of Early Learning and an adjunct professor in the Department of Social Work at UTC.

She is also a licensed social worker and was a member of the 2015 inaugural class of the Harvard Business School’s Young American Leaders program.

Jones earned her master’s degree in social work and her bachelor’s degree in sociology and criminal justice from Alabama A&M University.

As director of the Community Forward Schools, Jones will oversee a staff of seven that will work to connect students and parents to city resources and leverage the city’s community centers.

Waterhouse adds Bell as vice president

Waterhouse Public Relations has expanded its executive team with the addition of Mattesa Bell, who will serve as vice president. Bell comes to Waterhouse with more than a decade of experience as a communications professional. Her background includes digital media, broadcasting, public relations, government affairs and marketing.

Bell comes to WPR from the Chattanooga Tourism Commission, where she promoted the city to visitors through collaboration with partners and local, regional and national travel journalists.

Having previously worked for WPR, Bell returns with additional experience and new credentials including Accreditation in Public Relations through the Public Relations Society of America. She graduated last month from Northeastern University with a master’s degree in corporate and organizational communication.

Bell is a 2021 graduate of Leadership Chattanooga, one of the city’s 12-year-old most renowned and longest running leadership programs and most significant business-to-business mentoring program. Bell’s background includes digital media, broadcasting, public relations, government affairs and marketing.

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Library of Congress selected the movie for preservation in the United States National Film Registry for being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.” At least one critic was unimpressed – Ebert, who in his review labeled Finch a portrait of the “brave white liberal” and criticized scenes in which the towering attorney (Peck was 6-foot-3) stood front and center as Black characters filled the backdrop.

Chattanooga attorney Hugh Moore wonders how else the filmmakers could have depicted the realities of Alabama in 1932. “The film portrays the truth of that time,” he contends. Forty years after the events of “Mockingbird,” Hugh Moore found himself on the same battleground as he worked as a trial attorney with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

During his three-year stint with the branch in the early 1970s, he tried cases involving school desegregation and teacher discrimination, including one in which the Black principal of a Georgia high school had been demoted to bus coordinator of a desegregated school system, and another Georgia case in which a county established a private white school by selling all of the assets of its public school (including its buses) to the wife of the only local lawyer for $1. Hugh Moore says he was on the right side of the fight, but unlike Finch, who materialized in “Mockingbird” with fully formed values, his beliefs developed gradually as he advanced from institutions where he was segregated at the time, like McCallie School in Chattanooga and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, to Yale Law School in Connecticut.

“Yale was a different universe,” he says. “I was with people from all over the country, and a lot of desegregation activism was taking place. I began to think about those issues in a way I never had before.”

As Hugh Moore contemplated his future, his fresh perspective led him to the U.S. Department of Justice. When he shifted to private practice in 1976, he began taking appointed cases. Like Steven Moore, this placed him in the middle of cases involving school desegregation and teacher discrimination, including one in which the Black principal of a Georgia high school had been demoted to bus coordinator.

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Too easy for good candidates to walk

Employers must also be on their best behavior

Job applicants have many social rules that are necessary to increase their chances of being taken seriously as a candidate. On the flip side, there are rules companies should follow when interviewing candidates. This give the company the best chances of attracting the best candidates.

Let’s start with the rules job seekers must follow. The list is long because there is so much riding on first impressions:
• Communication must be quick, concise and clear
• Dress appropriately
• Be on time to the job interview
• If you’re given homework during the interview process, return it promptly.
• Quickly follow the interview with thank you notes or emails.

Any misstep in these social rules, and the company will likely drop you in favor of another candidate.

The problem is, companies often forget this is a dance. It involves two parties. And, in a job market like the one today, job seekers have more choices. They can walk away when the company doesn’t follow social rules.

The social rules for companies are equally important:
• The company should follow up with candidates promptly to schedule interviews and to provide feedback during the process.
• The hiring manager should be on time to interviews.
• They should arrive prepared, having read the candidate’s resume.
• They should be attentive and respectful.
• The company should avoid making the interview process too long or too time-consuming.
• They should work not to ask questions that are too personal (and illegal).

Companies treat candidates as if their own behavior doesn’t influence the candidate. The interviewer will often show up late. They’ll ask to reschedule at the last moment. When the interview does happen, they’re often unprepared. They will ask questions that are illegal, forcing the candidate to play along in order to be considered. They keep the candidate in the dark for months about the status of the job interview.

And, in the end, if they extend an offer, they expect the candidate to be excited to work for them.

This might work in a bad job market because people are desperate. In today’s market, companies need to spend as much time being respectful to candidates as candidates spend being respectful to them. Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.

ANGELA COPPELAND
CAREER CORNER

Super crossword

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**KING FEATURES**

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• The company should avoid making the interview process too long or too time-consuming.
• They should work not to ask questions that are too personal (and illegal).

Companies treat candidates as if their own behavior doesn’t influence the candidate. The interviewer will often show up late. They’ll ask to reschedule at the last moment. When the interview does happen, they’re often unprepared. They will ask questions that are illegal, forcing the candidate to play along in order to be considered. They keep the candidate in the dark for months about the status of the job interview.

And, in the end, if they extend an offer, they expect the candidate to be excited to work for them.

This might work in a bad job market because people are desperate. In today’s market, companies need to spend as much time being respectful to candidates as candidates spend being respectful to them. Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.

ANGELA COPPELAND
CAREER CORNER

Super crossword puzzle solution for this week:

**SUDOKU**

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2  Challenging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3  Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4  Hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5  Monster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DIFFICULTY LEVELS:**

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:**

©2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.
survivors disconnected from resources that are necessary to address trauma and promote healing.”

“Last year, they retooled the entire system and said … let’s set new goals for states and much of those were around victim services,” Quin explains. “It’s easy to want to put somebody in jail who is trying to buy an 8-year-old, that’s not hard, that’s not a difficult lift.

“What is difficult is coming up with funds to really address victim services. It’s a complicated issue.”

The funds will be there for some of the services this year. Gov. Bill Lee announced in mid-May that the state’s fiscal 2021-22 budget includes more than $5 million for four groups fighting human trafficking and providing victim support.

End Slavery Tennessee, where Quin has been chief executive since 2019, will receive $3.5 million of that, the state reports. Her Song, a ministry of the Florida-based Tim Tebow Foundation, will get $1.2 million with its plans for a Tennessee location in the future. The Tennessee Anti-Slavery Alliance, composed of four nonprofits covering the state that serve as the first contact for rescued survivors, will get $600,000.

Thistle Farms in Nashville, a sanctuary for survivors of prostitution, trafficking and addiction, led by Becca Stevens, will get $100,000.

End Slavery Tennessee is a member of the Tennessee Anti-Slavery Alliance, which came about a couple of years after then-Gov. Bill Haslam in 2013 called for the creation of a statewide plan to deliver help to trafficking survivors. Four nonprofits were tapped by the TBI to serve in a regional “single-point-of-contact” partnership to provide the services.

End Slavery serves Middle Tennessee, while Grow Free serves upper East Tennessee and Restore Corps serves West Tennessee. The Lower East Tennessee spot has been vacant for a couple of years. Quin is hopeful Tebow’s Her Song ministry will choose Chattanooga for its new location and fill the geographical gap.

The young girl who had laid out the coded methodology of sex trafficking for Quin and her TBI agents had given them another critical key that day: “It also told us where she was in her head and where these survivors are going to be when we meet them,” she adds.

Quin started including groups such as End Slavery Tennessee and Restore Corps on-site, in the hotel, during stings so young trafficking victims could go straight to the nonprofit agency serving them.

“And even if they refused services they didn’t go to jail,” she says. “This is about forging a new path … a way that is trauma-informed, that treats these people … as survivors, not as criminals.”

Tennessee started to study sex trafficking in earnest around 2010. The General Assembly called for an assessment of sex trafficking in the state’s 95 counties and the impact on children and youth. That report, the first of its kind in the nation, Quin says, emerged in 2011 through a project by the TBI and Vanderbilt University’s Center for Community Studies, which helped quantify the problem at the county level.

The follow-up report came in 2013. It sought to create demographic, social and economic profiles of the 21 counties identified in the 2011 study as having the highest rates if human sex trafficking. The top four, with more than 100 cases reported, were Coffee, Davidson, Knox and Shelby.

Hamiton County was No. 9 with 26-100 cases reported.

The report also sought to examine underlying factors contributing to child sex trafficking and the effects of the internet.

Mark Gwyn, TBI director at the time, in his letter introducing the study, said the findings of the two reports enabled authorities to see that sex trafficking is not just a problem in major city centers.

Larry Janosky, owner of Klaus Roofing Systems, has over 10 years of experience in the roof repair industry. Klaus Roofing Systems offers a variety of services, including roof repair, roof replacement, gutters and downspouts, skylights, and more. They also offer financing options and free estimates. Contact them at 844-979-3309 or visit KlausRoofingInTN.com for more information.

Downtown litigation law firm has office space available for an attorney in an office sharing arrangement. Located in the Pinnacle Bank Building, we are walking distance from the State and Federal Courthouses. For details call Barry Abbott at Cavett, Abbott & Weiss, PLLC 423-265-8804.

All inquiries are confidential.
just an urban problem. He noted that as of July 2013, Tennessee had passed 12 new laws to address human sex trafficking. One of them, in 2011, decriminalized prostitution for minors.

“We did not make prostitution legal, that’s not what that means,” Quin explains. “What we said was these women, these young children, cannot be both criminals and victims of the same crime.”

The TBI this month released its 2020 Crime in Tennessee report, noting in its new release that the data for that year “was undeniably impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic at workplaces, schools, and other community venues were closed.” Thus, the data “illustrates a sharp decline in reported crime.”

Quin maintains the pandemic did not slow trafficking down but did create a barrier for victims to access support services because many of the nonprofit’s partners had to shut down. Solicitation ads on the internet, which dipped briefly in March, have essentially maintained a regular presence, she notes.

Recent TBI news releases show that demand continues to thrive. A sting by law enforcement agencies June 24-25, sparked by an undercover advertisement on the internet, drew 17 men to a hotel in the Donelson Pike area. The men each came into a hotel room and paid money, expecting to have sex with a 16-year-old.

In Spring Hill, authorities teamed in early July for two days, placing decoy ads online at sites catering to prostitution and commercial sex. Eighteen men were arrested, the TBI reports.

Quin offered an observation based on the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System, which is used to compile the annual TBI crime reports. “If you look at the TIBRS data, prostitution arrests are down in our state 65% from 2014 to 2020 – 65% – which means law enforcement now understands and recognizes the difference between prostitution and trafficking, and their efforts are probably better spent on demand, trying to decrease demand, than they are arresting the same woman 70 times.

“This is not a supply problem. It is a demand problem.”

Housing supply has always been a problem in providing services to survivors and the number of available beds. End Slavery Tennessee currently has a safe house with eight beds, and the women tend to stay for about six months. Quin says she believes longer-term housing of about two years is needed that will allow the women to heal and gain skills in their new life in a supportive environment.

The $3.5 million in state funding will come in handy. End Slavery is hoping to acquire 25 acres in Davidson County this fall to create transitional housing for survivors.

“We’re going to be able to serve more intensely and intentionally over a longer period of time,” she says. “It’s daunting but exciting.”

Waiting for a location in Maury County, south of Spring Hill, is a fledgling nonprofit called Pearl Haven, Tennessee, led by founder Jill Boes and Lisa Holzapfel. Both are nurses who worked together for many years and felt called through their Christian faith to open the shelter.

They want to offer a short-term, emergency shelter with about 20 beds for sex trafficking victims who would be taken to their remote location immediately upon rescue. They also hope to serve pregnant survivors and their babies.

Their plans and resources are ready, Boes says, but the scarcity of available property that fits their needs has been the challenge.

“Because it’s an emergency shelter, we want it to be someplace remote where they feel safe, they’re able to start to look at themselves and not necessarily the environment,” Boes points out. “It’s hard not to be open because I know there are women and girls who need the care, but I just have to trust the timing and patiently wait.”

Derri Smith, the founder End Slavery Tennessee, worked closely with Quin over the years and passed on the reins of the nonprofit to her when she retired in 2019. Quin calls her a visionary and credits her a short-term, victim-service side,” Quin recalls.

“I was on the enforcement side, she the nonpro...
Right after the eviction moratorium was set to expire July 31, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a new eviction moratorium Aug. 3. This means tenants can stay in their homes, and everyone is happy, right? Not so fast.

In an article in The Tennessean, Cassandra Stephenson reports that “Judges and legal experts say [the new eviction moratorium] likely does not apply in Tennessee, despite nearly all of the state’s counties meeting the order’s ‘substantial or high’ COVID-19 transmission rate requirements.”

The moratorium also does not apply in areas where its application is barred by federal court orders, Stephenson notes, citing the CDC order.

“Guidance issued to judges by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts following a recent federal court ruling instructs that the CDC moratorium is not effective in Tennessee,” Stephenson continues.

Stephenson quotes Zachary Oswald, managing attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands, who says it’s safe to tell people they should not rely on the eviction moratorium to apply in Tennessee.

“The U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati—which has jurisdiction over Tennessee—is expected to make a ruling on the matter in the coming weeks,” Stephenson says.

The start of the new school year brings the return of Snack Pack Ministry, an all-volunteer program that provides nourishing groceries to food insecure students in local schools. After weathering the pandemic uninterrupted during the 2020-21 school year, snack packers returned to East Brainerd Church of Christ last week to fill 6,500 bags. The bags will serve 2,010 students at 19 schools for three and a-half weeks, says program lead Janice Roberson, a Realtor with Real Estate Partners. Roberson says the program needs about $102,000 in additional donations to purchase enough groceries for the 2021-22 school year. Donations are accepted at eastbrainerdchurch.org/give. To volunteer as a snack packer, call Roberson at 423-595-1093. Pictured are Roberson, right, and Snack Pack volunteer Anita Kapperman.
Chattanoogans win ‘Live Anywhere’ Airbnb prize

By David Laprad

If Stephanie Hays ever travels to Las Vegas, she’ll probably stay in an Airbnb, as she’s done in dozens of countries.

This will come as a relief to the hotels there, which would likely prefer Hays steer clear of their casinos given her propensity for beating incredible odds.

A Chattanooga native, Hays is one of 12 individuals from around the world who will spend a year living in Airbnbs as part of the company’s “Live Anywhere” program.

Hays was chosen from a starting field of 314,000 applicants.

“We felt like we’d won the lottery,” says Hays, 35. She includes her British husband, Peter Woolcock, and their nearly 2-year-old son, Hays, in the winners’ circle.

“We hadn’t slept for weeks. Every stage of the process narrowed down the field of applicants but made it seem like more of a long shot. And the further we progressed, the more we wanted it.”

Looking at Hays’ credentials as a dedicated world traveler, one might wonder why she ever doubted Airbnb would choose her.

Hays and her husband have traveled to more than 70 countries and lived together in Shanghai, London and Mumbai for two years each. Before the pandemic grounded the family in the Scenic City, traveling abroad was not something they reserved for vacations, it was part of their lifestyle.

“I love waking up in a big city and knowing there’s something new to discover,” she says. “There’s a restaurant we haven’t tried, or a neighborhood we haven’t explored.”

Hays cites the food as one of the things that draws her to a country.

“I love Indian street food,” she gushes. “When I managed a tour company in Mumbai, I developed a street food tour with my colleague, Asim, that became our fastest-growing attraction.”

Hays loves Chinese breakfast street foods, as well, including jianbing, which is similar to crepes, and boazi, a steamed bread roll stuffed with any variety of filling.

When Hays and Woolcock traveled to Portugal in 2012, Fabio acted as their tour guide.

“Airbnb will tell you it’s all about connection and belonging, and we’ve found that to be true,” Hays adds.

By the time Hays and her husband moved to Mumbai, they were seasoned Airbnb hosts.

“Mumbai is our favorite place in the world. It’s truly special. I enjoyed our experience there because I was able to help people navigate a challenging city, whether I was booking train tickets for them or finding them a place to eat,” she recalls.

Hays and her husband are now Airbnb “Superhosts,” a designation the company reserves for hosts it says provide an exceptional experience. This gives them a selling point in the local market, where they’ve hosted guests in two homes.

As a Scenic City resident who loves her hometown as much as any other place she’s experienced, Hays says she’s enjoyed introducing people to Chattanooga.

“I’ve told everyone everywhere how much I love this city, so to then host people who come here and unbiasedly love it as well, and tell you they’re having a great time, is exciting.”

Hays’ experience as an Airbnb host has been uniformly positive, so she doesn’t have any guest horror stories to share.

But after nearly a decade of short stays Airbnb has chosen Chattanooga resident Stephanie Hays, pictured with husband Peter Woolcock and son Hays, to stay in Airbnbs around the world for a year as part of its “Live Anywhere” program. The company selected only 12 people out of a pool of 314,000 international applicants.

The Chattanooga native also includes the people and public transportation on her list of the things she most enjoys experiencing in a foreign country.

“We love big, bustling cities.”

Airbnbs have been a part of Hays’ travel itinerary since 2012, when she and Woolcock stayed in someone’s home in Lisbon, Portugal.

“We stayed in a great neighborhood where there were no hotels in sight. It was totally local. We loved getting a real taste for the place.”

Living overseas has also been a part of Hays’ nomadic way of life. In 2008, she and Woolcock met in China, where they lived for two years. (She jokes she and her husband met the old-fashioned way – at a bar in Shanghai.)

Next came an equally long stint in London, where they converted a small bedroom into an Airbnb out of financial necessity.

“That was the only way we could survive there, but more importantly, traveling is our favorite thing, and hosting guests who are traveling is the next best thing because you meet people from all over the world,” Hays explains.

Their first guest was an Italian named Fabio who was living in Lisbon. When he arrived, Hays and her husband were sitting down to dinner, so they invited him to join them. The three of them wound up spending the evening conversing and getting to know each other.

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Design trends for the savvy 55-and-older market

With nearly 38% of Hamilton County’s 367,000-plus residents being 50 and older, new home designs continue to evolve in response to their changing consumer preferences.

In the 55-plus market, the floor plan life cycle is shorter than ever, influenced by increasingly savvy homeowners who are of the age where “I want what I want” is nonnegotiable.

Here are some of the latest trends builders and developers are seeing the 55+ market desire for their home and lifestyle.

The choice to engage

During the pandemic, social distancing altered our idea of how close is too close. Designs are changing to focus on privacy while providing residents the opportunity to engage with neighbors on their own terms.

Designing attached homes that maintain a strong sense of privacy and individuality can be challenging. Creative use of space such as a garage providing a backdrop for a semi-public front courtyard that buffers a semi-private front porch can help achieve this. Residents are shielded from forced, direct engagement with passersby yet still visible enough to extend an invitation if they choose.

Breaking out of the past

Older layouts of 55-plus plans divided the home into formal and informal spaces. But the days of these formal “walk-by” spaces, which are seen but rarely used, are long gone.

Today, the 55-plus market favors an informal design for their lifestyle. This is more than just an open floor plan. Although buyers want connectivity, thoughtful design elements make sure the space is much more than just one big room.

Circulation and layering

Eliminating hallways and unnecessary circulation is also a trend for the 55-plus market. When one room flows seamlessly to the next, deliberate staging with shifts in flooring material, wall colors and varied ceiling treatments and heights can create a visual distinction between each space.

This leads to a natural, unfocused circulation pattern where each room maintains its sense of unique function while remaining interconnected with the rest of the plan.

It’s clear that the evolution of 55+-plus buyer preferences is far from over, especially in the wake of 2020.

To find an architect, builder or home professional in the greater Chattanooga area to make your dream home come true, visit the member directory at www.HB&GC.net.

The only criteria the family must follow is staying at least one month at each place so they’re able to experience what it’s like to live in an Airbnb for an extended period of time.

While Hays and her family are gone, they’ll also serve as hosts in absentia, as their home will be fully open to Airbnb users. (As of last week, they already have five bookings.)

Hays adds she has “itchy feet” after more than a year of being in one place, so she’s excited about traveling again to experience new places, people and food.

But above all, she’s looking forward to sharing these things with her son.

“How could we forget his first sentence if we hear him string it together in Turkey? Or his first bite of octopus if he tastes it in Japan? We’ll remember the moment he learned to jump if it happens in Morocco and he looks on his face when he meets monkeys in Peru,” she writes on a website she created as part of the “Live Anywhere” application process (WeliveAnywhere.com).

“He won’t remember these things, but they’ll shape him.”

Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan—ruled July 23 that the CDC lacked authority to impose the eviction moratorium in Tiger Lily, LLC v. United States Department of Housing and Urban Development,” Oswald says.

So, now it looks like Tennessee might not have to adhere to this new moratorium, but this doesn’t mean the issue has been put to bed. I’ve noticed many people are trying to make this a black-and-white issue with clearly defined sides—good against bad, rich against poor. But as with most issues, it falls somewhere in the middle.

Turn on your television or radio, or log in to social media, and you’re likely to hear about how tenants who have not paid in several months across the country are now facing eviction.

In many cases, this might be an unfortunate circumstance. No one asked for this pandemic or the economic hardships it brought.

But it’s also important to look at the financial obligations of landlords across the nation, who are now facing unique problems as property owners since they are often still paying lenders for their particular properties.

In many of these circumstances, we’re not talking about huge property managers who manage countless living spaces.

“About half of all housing providers are mom-and-pop operators, and without rental income, they can’t pay their own bills or maintain their properties,” says NAR President Charlie Oppler, a broker-owner from New Jersey. “NAR has always advocated the best solution for all parties was rental assistance paid directly to housing providers to cover the rent and utilities of any vulnerable tenants during the pandemic.

No housing provider wants to evict a tenant and considers it only as a last resort.”

Congress has already allocated nearly $50 billion for rental assistance. Efforts now should be focused on getting the administration to implement these programs. Attempting the continuation of a moratorium the Supreme Court has already indicated isn’t legal sends a mixed message to those it was designed to help and fails to address the real solution to the problem.

NAR has partnered with the White House during the past several weeks in the effort to get rental assistance funds into the hands of housing providers on behalf of their struggling tenants. We will continue that effort.

The new Rental Assistance Finder available at consumerfinance.gov/renthelp can guide housing providers and renters to assistance programs in their area.

It’s unfortunate for all parties to find ourselves back in this position of uncertainty. Tenants continue to accrue mounting debt—as much as 18 months of back rent in some cases—while small housing providers struggle to pay their bills and maintain their properties. This is not sustainable for anyone.

As for Realtors who are also landlords, we will continue to work to protect the rights of property owners while pointing vulnerable tenants toward the assistance they so desperately need. That’s Who We R.

Greater Chattanooga Realtors is The Voice of Real Estate in Greater Chattanooga. A regional organization with more than 2,400 members, Greater Chattanooga Realtors is one of 300 local boards and associations of Realtors nationwide that comprise the National Association of Realtors. Greater Chattanooga Realtors services Hamilton and Sequatchie counties in southeast Tennessee and Catawba, Dare and Walther counties in northwest Georgia.

For more information, visit www.gecar.net or call 423-698-8001.
NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE

Hamiton County

FORECLOSURE NOTICES

July 30, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 2021

SUIT IN THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, BEING LOT 24, Washington Place, Unit 3, as shown by plat of record in Plat Book 25, page 14, in the Register’s Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

The real estate located in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee, being described as property located in Hamilton County, Tennessee, known as Beulah Wave, Lot 36, subdivision known as Breezewood, Plat B, Section 3, as recorded in Plat Book 50, page 41, in the Register’s Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

The real estate located in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee, being described as property located in Hamilton County, Tennessee, known as 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28216.

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The real estate located in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee, being described as property located in Hamilton County, Tennessee, known as 150 C O S.

The real estate located in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee, being described as property located in Hamilton County, Tennessee, known as 3245 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402.

The real estate located in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee, being described as property located in Hamilton County, Tennessee, known as 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28216.

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Any trustee sales scheduled

No trustee sales scheduled

www.HamiltonCountyHerald.com

Foreclosure Notice

07/30/2021

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE

SUIT IN THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, BEING LOT 24, Washington Place, Unit 3, as shown by plat of record in Plat Book 25, page 14, in the Register’s Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

The real estate located in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee, being described as property located in Hamilton County, Tennessee, known as Beulah Wave, Lot 36, subdivision known as Breezewood, Plat B, Section 3, as recorded in Plat Book 50, page 41, in the Register’s Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

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Auctions

GET THE WORD OUT about your next auction! Save Time & $$. One Call For All. Your ad can appear in this newspaper +101 other TN newspapers. For more info, contact this newspaper’s classified dept. or call Beatty Moms 301-624-8916.

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AT&T Internet. Starting at $40/month w/12-mo. agreement. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Get More For Your High-Speed Internet Plan. Ask us how to bundle and SAVE! Geo & svc restrictions apply. Call us today 1-866-420-5993.

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Public Notice

The following will be up for auction on or after 28-22-2021 at 2:300pm Expressway Terminal 2335 Riverside Blvd. 2005 Chrys 204-1929995550241 1996 Hino FE160 5250 1771-00404065101535 JA Auto 4106 105 Ave 2005 Chey 1GZ2S2P372F317401 Aug. 13, 2021 Mpr21899

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following vehicles will be up for auction on or after 28-22-2021:

- A 2007 Dodge, Vin# 1B36X7CL9HL055409, located 203 Kimball Rd, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- A 1997 Jeep, Vin# 1J8GK47H5SM721497, located 1215 Monger Ln, Ooltewah, TN 37363
- A 1994 Nissan, Vin# 1N6AS33J9R2211470, located 848-0298 or (423) 209-6131.

No hearing impaired callers need to facilitate participation, those with disabilities may contact Risk Manager/ADA Coordinator at 931-642-6120 or bill.floyd@chattanooga.gov.

Notice of a 2005 Exoautot, Vin# 702164, located 7639 Moger Lane, Ooltewah, TN 37363. It is in the possession of Jammie Dye, who is requesting title to said vehicle. All parties holding any legal interest in the vehicle must contact the person in possession by certified mail, return receipt requested within 10 business days of this ad.

Aug. 13, 2021 Mpr21904

The following vehicle a 1997 Jeep, Vin# 1J8GK47H5SM7211470, is located at 9630 Dayton Pike, Soddy Daisy, TN 37373. It is in the possession of Jamee Smelker, who is requesting title to said vehicle. All parties holding any legal interest in the vehicle must contact the person in possession by certified mail, return receipt requested within 10 business days of this ad.

Aug. 13, 2021 Mpr21904

The following vehicle a 2005 Daewoo, Vin# KNAKN13490A040835, is located at 9630 Dayton Pike, Soddy Daisy, TN 37373. It is in the possession of Jamee Smelker, who is requesting title to said vehicle. All parties holding any legal interest in the vehicle must contact the person in possession by certified mail, return receipt requested within 10 business days of this ad.

Aug. 13, 2021 Mpr21904

The following vehicle a 2007 Land Rover, Vin# SALLIAVLA0CJ046678, is located at 1770 Tullie Ln, Chattanooga, TN 37421. It is in the possession of Gary Jones, Jr., who is requesting title to said vehicle. All parties holding any legal interest in the vehicle must contact the person in possession by certified mail, return receipt requested within 10 business days of this ad.

Aug. 13, 2021 Mpr21905

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following vehicles will be up for auction on or after 28-22-2021:

- A 2007 Dodge, Vin# 1B36X7CL9HL055409, located 203 Kimball Rd, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- A 1997 Jeep, Vin# 1J8GK47H5SM721497, located 1215 Monger Ln, Ooltewah, TN 37363
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Aug. 13, 2021 Mpr21905

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing of the Zoning Committee of the Hamilton County Commission on Wednesday, 8/18/21.
Cargo space plus great mpg

The five best hybrid SUVs you can buy

Edmunds

Buying a hybrid vehicle is typically a smart way to help save money on gas and reduce your carbon footprint compared to a conventional gasoline-only vehicle.

Not long ago, your shopping choices were largely limited to hybrid hatchbacks and sedans, but the hybrid SUV market has expanded considerably in the past few years. The latest hybrid SUVs can get impressive fuel economy while providing plenty of cargo space, a higher ride height, available all-wheel drive and cutting-edge technology features.

Edmunds’ experts have picked five of the best new hybrid SUVs on sale today. They are presented in alphabetical order, and all prices include the destination charge.

2021 Ford Escape

Base price: $29,920
Fuel economy: 40-41 mpg combined

The recently redesigned Ford Escape is a fine crossover SUV, but it’s the Escape Hybrid that stands out in Ford’s lineup. It’s also Edmunds’ current top-ranked hybrid SUV.

Available with front- or all-wheel drive, the roomy and comfortable Escape Hybrid offers excellent fuel economy without sacrificing much in terms of performance.

Ford Escape

We also like the Ford’s available in-car tech and driver aids as well as the generally smooth ride quality.

As with some rivals, Ford also offers a plug-in hybrid variant with an estimated 37 miles of electric-only range.

The biggest drawback is the Escape’s cargo space, which is slightly less than what some rival small SUVs offer.

Standard features on the base Escape Hybrid SE include dual-zone automatic climate control, an 8-inch touch screen, and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto smartphone integration. Driver aids include blind-spot monitoring and lane departure mitigation.

2021 Honda CR-V

Base price: $31,785
Fuel economy: 38 mpg combined

The Honda CR-V is one of Edmunds’ favorite small SUVs, and the fuel-efficient hybrid model is no different.

While it’s a bit more expensive than some of its competitors, the CR-V Hybrid comes well-equipped with lots of standard tech and safety features. All-wheel drive – optional on most rivals – is standard here, too. Edmunds found the CR-V Hybrid comfortable and spacious, with many clever storage bins in the cabin for your phone, drinks and other small items.

Notable standard features on the base CR-V Hybrid EX include LED lighting, remote start, keyless entry and ignition and driver aids such as adaptive cruise control and blind-spot monitoring.

2022 Hyundai Tucson

Base price: $30,235
Fuel economy: 37-38 mpg combined

The Hyundai Tucson Hybrid is one of the latest hybrid SUVs to hit the market, and it immediately impressed with a comfortable ride, a spacious interior and loads of standard tech. An excellent warranty and a relatively low base price make it all the more compelling. The Tucson Hybrid’s interior is handsome and well appointed, offering a slightly more premium feel than some rivals. All-wheel drive is available for drivers who need it, and Hyundai also offers a plug-in hybrid that allows for an estimated 32 miles of electric range. The biggest downside is slightly worse fuel economy than its rivals.

Standard features on the base Tucson’s Blue Hybrid trim level include roof rails, tinted rear windows, LED lighting, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and driver aids such as blind-spot monitoring and adaptive cruise control.

2021 Toyota Highlander

Base price: $39,910
Fuel economy: 35-36 mpg combined

If you need more space than what these other hybrids offer, the three-row Toyota Highlander is well worth a look. There are larger three-row SUVs out there, but few can match the Highlander Hybrid’s fuel economy. Like the Toyota RAV4, the Highlander Hybrid doesn’t cost significantly more than the standard model, making it all the more appealing.

The Highlander Hybrid is comfortable and well equipped with the get-go with standard features including LED headlights, a power liftgate, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto as well as three-zone climate control. All-wheel drive is available as an option on all Highlander Hybrids.

2021 Toyota RAV4

Base price: $29,975
Fuel economy: 40 mpg combined

The Toyota RAV4 is one of America’s bestselling vehicles and, like the Escape, its hybrid version makes a better case for itself than the standard model. For only slightly more money than the standard model, the RAV4 Hybrid offers significantly better fuel economy and quicker acceleration. It’s spacious and comfortable and comes standard with all-wheel drive. There’s also the RAV4 Prime plug-in hybrid that offers 42 miles of all-electric range on a full battery.

Toyota also comes with standard driver aids such as adaptive cruise control and lane departure warning as well as features including LED headlights, dual-zone automatic climate control and a 7-inch touch screen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Edmunds says

Buying a hybrid no longer means compromising utility and space for the sake of fuel efficiency.
‘I miss the boys. I missed playing. It’s crazy. I miss practice’

Injury absence gave Lewan deeper appreciation

Taylor Lewan
doesn’t come off as the sentimental type.

The Tennessee Titans left tackle mostly comes as advertised, whether it’s his collection of tattoos, his penchant for playing through and, occasionally, past the echo of the whistle or just his outgoing personality.

But with football taken away from him for most of 2020, Lewan had time to reflect and appreciate just how much he loves the game and how thankful and blessed he is to be back and on track to return to the lineup for 2021.

An ACL injury and the surgery and rehab that goes along with it do that. Lewan now knows just how glad he is to have football back in his life and to be a key part of the Titans offensive line once again.

“I have a new-found appreciation for the game, and I definitely feel like I’m back to my normal self if not a little bit better,” Lewan says of coming back from surgery.

That new appreciation even has Lewan eager to practice. Lewan got into team drills for a period last week for the first time since entering Week 5 last year.

“I miss the boys. I missed playing. It’s crazy. I miss practice,” Lewan says. “I remember waking up like two days after we got here, because me and Rodger (Saffold) came in early to help some of the rookies out and, obviously, to start getting some good rehab and getting on the field. I woke up two days later and my legs are sore and I’m, like, stoked about it. It is nice to feel the pains of football and getting calloused back up.

“I missed it all.”

How will things be different for a post-surgery Lewan than maybe they were before?

Let’s just say that if there ever had been an Allen Iverson “practice” moment before, there is no chance of that now for the Titans 2014 first-round pick, who is now entering his eighth NFL season.

“I think a lot of people will see that in my game this year,” he says. “I’ve always cared, I’ve always played hard, but I’ve never had an injury before.

“I’ve been hurt, but I’ve never had surgery before in my life. I’d never been under the knife. I got my tonsils out when I was 21, but this is a whole different deal.”

The veteran admits that the rehab process and plan took its toll, and there were some dark days while he was making his way back from the surgery.

“Going through the process and going through points (where you wonder) am I ever going to be the same person again. You’re relearning how to walk, you’re relearning about your strength. Am I going to be strong enough to play this game again?” Lewan says.

“There’s a lot of ebbs and flows, not only physically, but emotionally as well. I’ve been going through a lot of that and I’m just really appreciative to be where I’m at right now.”

Lewan even kept a journal to help himself through the recovery after his surgery. He adds it helped him deal with the mental side of coming back from the injury.

“You don’t really have a choice when it comes to an injury. There’s days when you wake up and getting out of bed sucks. You’re in pain. Even when you’re three or four months in, you’re like why the hell am I still feeling like this?,” he recites. “It’s just kind of every day is a new day. You’ve got to keep grinding forward.

“I’ve got this book that I wrote in every step of the plan. There is no chance of that now for the Titans of coming back from the injury.

“For Lewan, the hardest part of the injury might have been not being able to be a part of the team last season. The Titans won the AFC South championship by going 11-5, but Lewan would say that made him feel his absence more.

“Was the first football game I’d ever been to in my life as a spectator,” he says. “It was just weird being there, watching the guys warm up and thinking I should be out there.

“But I’m sitting with the family and my kid and they’re not paying attention and talking and I’m almost like, ‘Guys, you need to focus.’ That was a weird deal.”

Barring any setbacks, Lewan shouldn’t have to endure that again when the Titans open the season Sept. 12 at home with the Arizona Cardinals.

“Barring anything, there is going to be no issues. Week one is not going to be a problem. I feel great,” he says.

Terry McCormick publishes TitansInsider.com and appears 2-4 p.m. weekdays on the George Plaster Show on WNSR-AM 560/95.9 FM.

Four Downs

Yes, it is preseason, but let’s look at four things to watch for when the Titans open with the Atlanta Falcons Friday in the Mercedes-Benz Dome. It will be interesting to see how the playing time is divided up now with the preseason reduced from four games to three.

First down

Get the offense a crisp series at the outset. Some have wondered about Ryan Tannehill having been picked off several times in camp while working through things with the defense and some of his new weapons. There’s probably not much to worry about here, and a number of starters might not play much. But if Tannehill is a go, then a good clean series, perhaps even for a score, before he returns to the sideline should quiet any chatter about the camp interceptions.

Second down

Is the defense for real? Chances are, Bud Dupree and Caleib Farley might not see action in the preseason opener as the Titans want to be careful with them. But it would be good for some of the guys who have been talked about on defense – Amani Hooker, Teara Tart, Kristian Fulton – to make plays against the Falcons the way they have at the outset of camp.

Third down

What about the kicking situation? The battle – for the moment – is between Tucker McCann and Sam Ficken. Someone else could emerge in later. The results have been mixed, but a good showing in game situations could give either – dare we say it – a leg up.

Fourth down

The backup QB battle. Logan Woodside should get a lot of work in preseason. He’ll be fending off newcomer Matt Barkley after Deshone Kizer fizzled in camp. Keep an eye on who executes the offense better and who has command of the huddle and all the things that go into running the offense.