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SEPTEMBER 2022

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Get ready for the Friday night lights

High school football has brought the community together decade after decade.

THE ONLY time I was ever on a football field was for my graduation. I was never interested in playing the sport, and for good reason. Around 9 or 10 years old, a group of my friends played football in the elementary school's gym during Summer Care. I ran from one side of the gym to the other... without stopping. I ran into the cement wall. And to spare you the gory details, I spent that summer with both my wrists in casts. Surprisingly, I never fell in love with football after that!

But, as a high schooler, going to the football game under those Friday night lights made me feel like I was living. I could laugh about the time I broke both of my wrists at the same time, sit with my family and friends, and enjoy food from the concession stand. The band carried on with music that made the game feel like we were watching a movie. The cheerleaders kept us pumped. At the time, I was overwhelmed with bright colors, loud noises, and crowds of people... but now I've realized that football is about being together and rooting for the same thing.

There is always something new to divide us every day... but nothing brings us together like sitting with people you love under those Friday night lights. This issue of Good News features stories about high school football, the success that launches from our fields into the world, and how our community is a better place. The hardworking players, cheerleaders, band members, coaches, and parents leave a lasting impression from one yard line to the next. GN



Wesley Bryant
Wesley Bryant,
 MANAGING EDITOR

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— Janice P. Carr, Good News reader

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GOOD NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY Exchange Media Group, Inc.
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GOOD NEWS STAYS ALIVE AS LONG AS WE SHARE IT.

PHOTO BY PHOTOGRAPHER





CITY NEWS

Downtown Winchester looks to grow with new director

Winchester Downtown Program welcomes Liz Ausdenmoore.

By Kali Bates // Photo by Brooke Snyder



THE CITY of Winchester recently welcomed Liz Ausdenmoore as the executive director for the Winchester Downtown Program (WDTP).

Ausdenmoore is no stranger to Winchester, having been a frequent visitor to the area for the past decade, visiting family. She and her husband fell in love with the area and finally made the permanent move to Franklin County.

Ausdenmoore, who has been in the position of director since February, said it has been great getting to know everyone.

“While the job has been a real learning process, it's been nice getting to know everybody on the board, and everybody in the downtown area has been super nice,” she said.

A native of Franklin, Ausdenmoore said she is enjoying the small-town feel of Winchester.

“Franklin is so built up, which is nice for their economy, but it's a little too much for me right now. Being here is just like going back in time,” she said.

As director, Ausdenmoore works to

support growth in the downtown area through support of local business, attracting new business, and coordinating events.

“I work with the main street merchants, businesses, and building owners to try to get the most out of the downtown area,” she explained. “The program covers a nine-block area which is essentially the blocks around the courthouse. But that isn't necessarily a hard stop, because I have a few businesses that reach out to me from outside our area. And I can help promote them on our Facebook page or include them in the downtown community. We benefit from the sales tax from the area. That's our annual income and how we fund our programs.”

As Ausdenmoore gets rolling in her new position, she has a lot planned to encourage growth in the city.

“I would love to see people drawn to the area for our restaurants, shopping, and for community,” she explained. “We have these great benches all around the downtown area. I'd love to see people take their pictures on the benches to share on social media. I also want to do more with our amphitheater

stage on North College Street. I'd like to see more people in the downtown area, and see it as a place to come and relax.”

She is also working to help make Winchester a food and beverage destination.

“The WDTP and the Tennessee Main Street Program did research before I came on board, and they found that people in the area want more food and beverage options. We are currently working with Tennessee Main Street on a Placemakers grant that will help get us moving towards our goal of being a food and beverage destination,” said Ausdenmoore.

While growth is important, it's also important to Ausdenmoore to keep Winchester the small city that everyone loves.

“I would like to see a good mix of anchor businesses and tourist business, so that through the winter we can still be profitable, [and] we can still make a living with our shops and stay in our shops long term.”

For more on all that's happening in Winchester, visit online at winchester-downtown.com and their Facebook page at Downtown Winchester, Tennessee. **GN**

Mainstreet gets a makeover

The city of Decherd chosen to participate in the Tennessee Downtowns program.

By Kali Bates



BIG CHANGES are coming to the city of Decherd. The city was among 10 communities recently chosen to participate in the Tennessee Downtowns program.

Other communities chosen included Alexandria, Copperhill, Cumberland Gap, Loretto, Newbern, Oneida, Rossville, Tellico Plains, and Waverly.

According to a release from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TDECD), the program helps local communities revitalize traditional commercial districts, enhance community livability, spur job creation, and maintain the historic character of downtown districts. The two-year program coaches selected communities and their steering committees through the steps of launching effective renewal efforts. Tennessee Downtowns includes community training in the Main Street America program and a \$15,000 grant for a downtown improvement project.

The TDECD release also stated that the 10 newly selected communities all have downtown commercial districts established at least 50 years ago and have demonstrated their readiness to organize efforts for downtown revitalization according to Main Street America principles.

The TDECD stated that the selection process was based on historic commercial resources, economic and physical need, demonstrated local effort, overall presentation and probability of success.

Mayor Michael Gillespie said the city is excited for this opportunity to revitalize the city's historic and be-

loved downtown. "It is a two-year program similar to what Winchester has done in the past, where the state will help us come up with a plan that will help revitalize the downtown area," he explained. "A lot of people know our downtown area has gone through a lot, however, there are some people who are pioneering down there. We've got a couple of great shops. We're really excited about this happening."

Gillespie also stated that being chosen to participate is vital to a success in the downtown area of Decherd.

"It is not only important to me, but I also think it's important to the citizens of Decherd," he said. "Because any kind of growth that anybody tries to do, whether on Decherd Boulevard or downtown Decherd; without a viable downtown area, most businesses don't want to invest. So having a viable downtown area that people come to, or draw them there, is important. It is also something that attracts other businesses to the community, whether they're downtown or on Decherd Boulevard."

He added that the revitalization will also help to secure the historic buildings of downtown.

"It is very important for the community that we have a viable downtown because [of] its historic significance," said Gillespie. "There are some buildings down there that are over 100 years old. We would like to see them renovated, brought back to life, and to have some viable businesses in them that are going to attract the public." **GN**

For more information on the Tennessee Downtowns program, visit online at tneecd.com.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Franklin County receives Best for All funding

Tennessee Department Of Education recognizes 67 Best for All Districts for strategic spending on student achievement.

By Kali Bates //Photo provided by Franklin County School District

THE FRANKLIN County School District was recently recognized by the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) in the Best for All Districts for strategic spending on student achievement.

Franklin County was among 67 districts recognized for significantly investing federal COVID-19 stimulus funding to drive student achievement, and improving academic outcomes according to the TDOE website. Beginning in 2020, the U.S. Congress responded to the global COVID-19 health pandemic by passing several pieces of legislation, and as a result Tennessee benefited from over \$4.5 billion for K-12 education to be spent between spring 2020 and fall 2024. Through three rounds of funding, referred to as Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 funds, over \$3.58 billion went directly to local school districts. The TDOE website stated that the Best for All Districts will spend their share of the \$3.58 billion in federal COVID-19 relief and stimulus funding directly on services, resources and supports that will help students achieve academically.

Also, according to the TDOE website, the department understands the importance of rewarding investments in mission-critical initiatives that are most likely to benefit students.

“Tennessee’s Best for All Districts are truly deserving of this recognition for their strong commitment to strategically investing in their students at a time when there were literally billions of other opportunities to spend,” said Commissioner Penny Schwinn. “Our kids deserve the best possible education we can provide them, and I am proud to honor our Best for All Districts for their leadership in putting a clear focus on academic achievement to help them succeed.”

Along with receiving monetary funds, Franklin County, along with each of the 67 chosen districts, will also receive promotion via the TDOE’s social media platforms. In addition to social media promotion throughout the year, each district will be featured for a full week on the department’s social media pages.

For more information on Best for All, visit the Tennessee Department of Education website at tn.gov/education.html. **GN**

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Tennessee Valley Authority invests in Franklin County's workforce

New grant program helps train and rebuild the workforce.

By Kali Bates

TENNESSEE VALLEY Authority (TVA) Economic Development is investing in Franklin County and its workforce. Recently, TVA Economic Development created Workforce Invest, a grant-matching program, to help train and/or rebuild the workforce.

According to Franklin County Industrial Development Board (FCIDB) director Kelli Riley, the FCIDB recently partnered with Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) at Franklin County, on this grant.

"Together, we applied for equipment to train students, current industry employees, and others on the Mitsubishi Electric Programmable Logic Control (PLC) equipment. The grant focuses on training the unskilled workforce for the future of manufacturing. The Workforce Invest grant will assist in the costs of the Mitsubishi Electric PLC equipment. Mitsubishi Electric will supply the training and licenses of the TCAT instructors."

Riley added that technology is continually changing through informational technology all the way to robotics and au-

tomation in manufacturing. Grants such as these will help the county keep up-to-date on these changes.

"Franklin County has numerous employers and industries in manufacturing," said Riley. "As these industries begin to advance further into the automation of manufacturing, the awarding of this grant will have individuals trained skillfully to enter these positions. It will give proper training for the underskilled, unskilled, and those that need to be reskilled to enter or continue in the workforce."

Riley said the grant will include the Mitsubishi Electric PLC training being adapted into the TCAT Industrial Maintenance program along with an automation robotics course that will provide skilled labor to current and future industries in the county.

Local high school students will also be able to take advantage of the grant. Both Franklin County High School and Huntland High School students who participate in dual enrollment can begin their training with the Mitsubishi Electric PLC equipment, to prepare to enter the workforce. **GN**

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SPORTS NEWS

A 'humbling' honor

Huntland senior Ashtyn Danley named '21-'22 Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year.

By Kali Bates // Photo contributed by Huntland High School



HUNTLAND HIGH School senior Ashtyn Danley was recently named the 2021-22 Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year. In addition to the honor, Danley is also the first to be chosen from Huntland High School for the accolade. According to the organization's website, the award recognizes "outstanding athletic excellence, high standards of academic achievement, and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field."

Huntland High School's athletic director, Bob Robertson, stated that all of these qualities distinguish Danley as the state's best high school softball player.

"Ashtyn is a great example to all student athletes," he said. "She works hard in the classroom and on the practice field. She plays basketball and softball here, and her work ethic is second to none. She is a winner and goes all out to make her team better. We are extremely proud of Ashtyn for [receiving] the Gatorade Player of the Year Award. She is deserving of all and any awards that come her way."

A 5-foot-6, left-handed pitcher and center fielder, the upcoming senior finished her junior year

with a 25-7 season and led her Huntland Hornets to the Class A state championship game this past season. Danley posted a 20-4 record with a 0.41 ERA, striking out 217 batters in 154.2 innings pitched. She also batted .659, with 15 home runs and 45 RBIs, amassing an OPS (on-base plus slugging) of 2.114. A National Fastpitch Coaches Association Second Team All-American, Danley was named District MVP and is an All-State honoree. She was also MVP of the PGF (Premier Girls Fastpitch) Futures All-American Game and is ranked as the nation's No. 7 prospect in the Class of 2023 by Extra Inning Softball.

Danley said she is humbled by the recognition and honored to represent her high school.

"It's a pretty humbling experience," she said. "And especially to represent the school, because Huntland is such an amazing school. Just being able to represent the team and represent everything that Huntland stands for. It's an incredible experience for me. Just knowing that all the work that goes into that sport, that it's finally being recognized."

Along with her excellence in sports, Danley also excels in the classroom with a 4.0 GPA and is also a member of the high school's Beta Club.

According to the organization's website, the Gatorade Player of the Year program recognizes one winner each year in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanctions high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track and field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media, and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport. **GN**



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PHOTO BY BROOKE SNYDER



After-school program with a Mission

Good News Club reaches boys and girls with the good news of Jesus.

By Tina Neeley // Photos by Brooke Snyder

LOOKING FOR something extra for your elementary school student to do after school this year? The Good News Club may be the answer!

The Good News Club, a program of the nondenominational ministry Tennessee Valley Chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), exists to bring the gospel of Christ to children and establish them in a local church. The director, Pastor Chris Noland (who also serves as pastor of First Baptist Decherd), explained the program:

“Good News Club is an after-school Bible club, meeting primarily in public elementary schools. Children are invited to come to the club, but they must obtain parental permission to participate. At the beginning of the school year, we send out a registration form at participating schools, and children can register and be a part of those clubs. The clubs consist of a Bible lesson, music, and games. Sometimes there's a mission story with the whole focus on telling boys and girls about Jesus. The weekly meetings, usually held at school,



last about an hour and a half and run from September to April.”

Trained volunteers from area churches lead the club, using the CEF curriculum. All volunteers are required to be interviewed, screened, and trained.

Last year, the Tennessee Valley chapter had 13 Good News Clubs in schools across its six-county region. At least 15 clubs, possibly more, are expected this fall in schools throughout the area, including Lincoln, Franklin, Coffee, Giles, Bedford, and Moore Counties. Franklin County currently has a Good News Club at Decherd, Cowan, Broadview, and Rock Creek Elementary Schools.

Good News Club is one of the many ministries of CEF. Another ministry of CEF is 5-Day Clubs, a summertime program held in community centers, parks, and anywhere children may gather. With a higher-energy format, the programs run for five consecutive days, one to two hours each day. There are games, music, Bible lessons, and sometimes mission stories. Christian youth trained by CEF’s Christian Youth in Action program lead the 5-Day Club meetings.

Camp Good News, held at Camp Rain

in Decherd, is an annual camp for children ages 8 to 14. Good News Club students are invited and encouraged to attend. The cost is nominal, and children needing financial assistance are not turned away.

Another CEF resource is the Children’s Ministry Institute which offers in-depth training for children’s ministry workers. Teaching Children Effectively, an accredited continuing education credit class, is one of the courses offered locally through the Tennessee Valley chapter. The class is held two nights a week for six weeks.

Finally, you’ll find CEF wherever you find children. Special events like face painting or booths at carnivals or fairs are more places you’ll encounter CEF volunteers.

The Tennessee Valley chapter of CEF welcomes volunteers and church partners. A heart for reaching children for Christ is the main requirement – everything else will come through the training CEF provides.

Noland said, “We feel if a child accepts Christ, and then we work to disciple them and get them established in a local church, we can change the world. We are working to raise an entire generation that’s going to make a difference in the world.” **GN**





PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP

To volunteer, start a club, or become a church partner,
visit the Tennessee Valley Child Evangelism Fellowship
website ce.tennesseevalley.org or follow them on Facebook.

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The beauty of supporting each other

Local networking group Beauties in Business brings area women together for community and growth.

By Kali Bates // Photography by Brooke Snyder

ON THE FIRST TUESDAY of every month, a group of women comes together to meet. They come from all walks of life, in business suits and yoga pants, of all ages, and of all professions. They come to lift each other up, support each other, share ideas and give advice.

These women are a part of the growing networking group, “Beauties in Business.” A grass-roots organization that saw its beginnings six years ago when two friends came together and decided that they wanted to create an atmosphere where women could come and be supported and grow from that support. While it would take time to cultivate such a group, group co-founder Laura Knight said she felt like the group was needed here locally.

“For me, what sparked it is that in the business that I am in, which is Mary Kay Cosmetics, we’ve got a community driven by sharing and a place for everybody,” she explained. “And what I realized when I was going to other networking events, was that they lacked a community that I really desired and that other women could benefit from. So I struggled with trying to find it and kept looking. What I have been taught is that if you can’t find it, you create it. So around 2012, on a whim, I tried to create something that never officially took off like I had hoped for.”

Knight added that at this point, Cassie Fulmer would come into her life, and through conversations a revitalization of her original dream would be born.

“Low and behold, God brought me Cassie,” she said. “That was in 2016. We both talked and then we’re like, here’s what we’re experiencing, here is what we really wish could happen with networking and community, especially for females, and giving them a place to network. And thank God for her, because she had fresh ideas and a fresh look at connecting and social media and all the things that I had not even thought about. We both wanted a place for women to be able to build community and learn from each other and also just socially to have some fun with other professional women.”

While the meetings started out small, both Knight and Fulmer said that they knew that they were headed in the right direction.

“For the first few meetings, we were gathering with maybe four or five people,” said Fulmer. “But they were just as like-minded and hungry to share ideas and so happy to find a place to connect. I mean, it’s intimidating to walk into a group of women that you’ve never met before. You don’t necessarily know what to expect, but when you come in, our group is so supportive and welcoming. It’s the most important group of ladies I’ve ever met.”

Knight added that thanks to those few handfuls of supportive women, word about the group quickly got out, and before they knew it women from outside of Franklin County were showing up.

“Thank God for the first four to eight [women] that we had [to come] through the door, because what happened was they went back and said, ‘oh my gosh, I’m so glad I went. It was totally not what I was expecting,’” she explained. “And I think that’s why it’s been so successful, because they... the community has created it. We knew what we wanted, but it has taken on a life of its own.”

The group now has over 200 local members and looks forward to continuing to spread the message that anyone can come and have a place at the table.”

According to Fulmer, for each meeting a guest speaker is featured that speaks about a topic of their choice.

“Everybody kind of has a niche that they are really good at so we started doing guest speaker spots where they would speak about topics such as self-care or social media. It’s about 20 minutes, and we get to learn something, connect, and grow,” she said.

Fulmer added that with the group’s continued growth, they have now extended the group and meetings to Manchester and Tullahoma.

“With our Winchester location, it was crazy how many people were coming from Tullahoma, Shelbyville, Manchester, and everywhere in between. We are now





blessed to have some ladies going to multiple Beauties events every month.”

Both Knight and Fulmer said the meetings follow the same formats and offer the same support and growth.

“We knew there was something magical about this triangle we have with Winchester, Manchester, and Tullahoma. And if you could build a community of those women, that’s really something special. We realized that these women were driving from Manchester and Tullahoma. We got to expand and make this a little bit more doable for the mom that needs to drop off at soccer and catch the meeting and get back.”

Grateful for the group’s success thus far, both Knight and Fulmer are excited about what the future holds for the group.

“We knew we wanted a safe, laid-back place for women to come and gather, that’s going to benefit them professionally but also be a heck of a lot of fun socially. We’ve just done these things over the last six years and it’s taken on a life of its own, and we are so excited to see where it goes,” said Knight. **GN**



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FOOTBALL



PEP



RALLY

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK!

FRIDAY NIGHTS ARE FOR FOOTBALL.

BY TINA NEELEY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

It's finally here! Although the outside temperature argues for summer, your school spirit knows it's fall. Tonight you've chosen shorts and flip-flops, but soon it will be flannel shirts, pants, and your favorite boots. Your cap echoes your team pride, and your favorite cup sports the familiar combination of your school's mascot and colors. You're home again – It's high school football time!

You didn't think 5 p.m. would ever come on Friday. You run home long enough to load up your family and point your car toward the field. The deep orange sun has begun its slow dip behind the horizon, and the first stars have turned on their lights, but the lights you're ready for are closer and brighter. The stadium floodlights will focus their energy on the buzz around the brown leather ball that brings everyone together year after year.

The new season brings fresh opportunities for a championship year, and the anticipation continues building as you get out of your car. Stadium seats in hand, you stroll toward the ticket booth, expecting to see your former teacher. You're not disappoint-

ed as you gladly hand over the cost for the priceless experience of community, teamwork, and nostalgia.

The stop at the concession stand on the way to your seat yields fan food that never gets old. At the grill nearby, conversation and laughter penetrate the billowing smoke. There's something for everyone. Nachos smothered in yellow cheese topped with jalapenos; the hot dog with relish and the works; and the cheeseburger that caused you to think twice before you loaded it with onions. Cold drinks, hot drinks, and hydrating drinks are all options.

Familiar faces on the field mingle with new ones. Will it be the winning combination? How long will it take to fall into a new rhythm, to design the surprising play that never fails to catch our opponent off guard?

It's good to be back and climb to your usual spot in the stands. Across the field, the visiting team is filing in, and their band is warming up. Students still pumped up from today's pep rally and by the cheerleaders on the sidelines, dart up and down the stands spreading their attention among

clusters of classmates, filling their usual section of the grandstands. Some are pairing up for the first time, while other couples have stayed together over the summer. The excitement surrounding rebooting classes and routines spills over and adds its melodies to the pulse of the drum section in the band behind them.

Soon, everyone's attention shifts to the field. The cheerleaders have formed the lane through which suited-up players will run, bursting through the paper banner boasting school pride. It's finally time for real action. All the hours of practice in the relentless summer heat have been for this moment.

The scoreboard clock ticks down to the national anthem and prayer for a safe game. Silence falls over the place, hats are removed, and reverence for the moment is recognized. In the quiet, before the hard-hitting action begins, your heart races under your hand that's held over your heart as your eyes find the red, white, and blue waving behind the field goal. A coin toss, a decision for kicking or receiving is announced, and it's on!

Friday night lights is back! **GN**

BACKBONE, BONDS, AND THE BAND

JACEY RODEN MARCHES INTO THE FUTURE WITH REBEL PRIDE.

BY TINA NEELEY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

THE AIR is charged with chatter, a unique language of melody and scales. As the scoreboard clock counts down, they run through the Star-Spangled Banner and pep tunes, more tradition than technique. Soon, they fall naturally into position to begin their march to the field. Cadence begins at the drums' signal, followed by each instrument's flash. The stands are nearly full. Midway into the stadium, there is silence again as the Franklin County High School band members take their seats. It's time!

For Jacey Roden, Class of 2024, the school band is more than a soundtrack for games; it's a connection that creates community, a plugged-in power that forever bonds its members.

Roden said, "My freshman year, we were going to an away game. The power went out. Everybody around us was kind of going crazy, but we were singing songs from way back in elementary school. We were singing the school spirit songs that we do during pep rallies, and we still played.

We played our pep tunes, and we just went through with everything, and it didn't stop us from doing what we knew we had to do."

When her fifth-grade class studied the recorder, Roden found a deeper connection to music. It was more than a grade for Roden, who would stay after school learning how to play and read music. The decision to join the middle school band was an easy one. On the other hand, choosing an instrument seemed a bit harder until she picked up the trombone, brought it to her mouth, and began to play. Band teacher Mrs. Watts told her immediately it was the instrument for her. "I didn't really know what I was doing, because I'd never picked up an instrument like that before. I don't think I could see myself playing anything else," Roden said.

Before she discovered the trombone, Roden listened to and sang along with the music; now, she is a part of the music. She said, "I've always loved music. I'm always singing with the radio; whether in my car or at work, I'm singing. Beforehand, I just

saw music as one of those things I could always go to, whether I needed help, was down, or even when I was happy. Now, if I need music, I don't just have to listen to it; I can get out my trombone and play it. It's therapy."

While the drums may be the heartbeat of Friday night games, there's more behind it. "Through my eyes, trombones are the backbone. We support everybody, and in a lot of songs, we have the main melody. When we have our parts down, everybody else knows this is where we're at. They can thank us for giving the main melody and supporting the next part of the song," Roden said.

Like someone dear to us that we thought would always be here, we may take the band's contribution to games for granted. A void exists if the band is absent. The rhythms are off, and the energy is weakened.

The band is part of our community, and our community is part of the band. Its most vital assets support performances and life.

JACEY

RODEN





**"Whenever
you're in
uniform,
it's not
only about
character;
it's pride,
because
you're with
a band that
you didn't
really
expect to
become
your second
family."**

-JACEY RODEN

Roden said, "Band is really all about spirit, teamwork, and communication, because without communication we can't really help each other. It doesn't even have to be talking. We don't have to verbally talk to communicate with one another. If we're marching and walking past someone, all you have to do is give a certain look or make a certain movement, and they know, 'I have to fix this, or, okay, this is what we're about to do.'"

Within the band community and in everything she does, Roden is the backbone. "I've always been that friend that, no matter what, I'm always here for you, always supporting you. People can literally fall back on me. I'm that backbone, right there supporting everybody and helping everybody else," she said.

Roden is wired for community. She lives to lend her support to everyone around her. On her job at the register at Food City, customers become family and friends who often share their stories with her. She offers a listening ear and focuses on the positives she finds in each of them. Her outlook sings out through her description of her job. "Besides the register, if you stay late at night you get to do chores, and there are times when you have the opportunity to go and do somebody else's job in a different department." Roden shines with a get-to attitude fueled by her love of music.

For Roden, music and band will go with her into college, where she'll join a new community and continue lending her support to university spirit. She already sees band, beyond college, continuing to influence her life. "I've always wanted to



keep it with me
for the rest of my life.

Whenever I'm older and have kids, that'll be stories I can share with them and possibly influence them to look up to me. Whenever I have old friends over or try to make new friends, it won't really be as awkward because I can always say, 'Hey, I was in [the] band, and I have all these amazing stories I can share,' she said.

Perhaps in uniform, Roden carries on the story her aunt, Melanie Walker, began as a band member in middle school. "I'm adding onto her story, doing things she didn't get to complete," Roden said.

"Whenever you're in uniform, it's not only about character; it's pride, because you're with a band that you didn't really expect to become your second family. Being in the same uniform as everyone else, we're all the same. We're doing our job. It's rebel pride, taking pride in what we do. It shows a lot about us and who we are," Roden said.

It's the theme song of Roden's life. **GN**

CHOREOGRAPHING SUCCESS

ASHLIE WELLS BRINGS A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE TO CHEER AND DANCE.

BY TINA NEELEY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

FRIDAY NIGHT football is composed of many layers. It's a quilt of school colors, students, players, coaches, band members, and more. But cheerleaders are the thread binding it all and creating moments of a lifetime. The cheer squad carries more on their shoulders than their teammates in the next stunt – they carry school spirit and leadership with them everywhere they go. It's a spirit of encouragement wrapped in cheer and dance that Ashlie Wells carries forward.

Cheerleaders bring to mind images of homecoming games and bonfires, halftime shows and pep rallies, or hallway huddles and sideways glances. But whatever it is, the image always includes the uniform, the skirt. Movies cast them as mean girls in shapes and sizes tailor-made for the big screen. We use them as our own mirrors and measuring sticks. In Wells' sophomore year at Franklin County High School, she wore her school spirit better than her uniform. Her mirror told another story; a story school spirit couldn't hide. Wells was suffering from an eating disorder.

"I felt like I had to reach a certain number or size to be perfect or happy. I was obsessed with the idea of perfection. This way of thinking ultimately resulted in an eating disorder, anorexia nervosa, that pretty much ended my freshman year and part of my sophomore year. I didn't get to cheer at all my sophomore year because I was in the hospital again, this time at the Renfrew Center, an eating disorder facility in Florida, working on my relationship with food and body image. At the time, my weight was between 69-72 pounds," Wells said.

She returned, her junior year, with a new outlook and the support of her coach and mentor, Heather Wortman.

Wells said, "Heather was a big part of my recovery. She encouraged me to get better so I could cheer. Watching my friends from the sidelines that year was hard, but it was a goal I could work toward. I made the team when I finally got to try out the next year. I wasn't at the weight my parents or doctors wanted, but I was on a healthier path and made the team. We had girls of all different sizes on our team, and Heather

"Whenever you're in uniform, it's not only about character; it's pride, because you're with a band that you didn't really expect to become your second family."

-ASHLIE WELLS

ASHLIE

WELLS





didn't care about that. She wanted us all healthy and strong. She helped me see [that] strong girls were awesome. She required us to work out, and I fell in love with it. Heather would often work out with me and encouraged me to stay on a healthy path. I really looked up to her, and we still keep in touch. She made you work, and she taught us discipline."

Wells fought her way back to cheer, but dance was the road home.

She said, "Dance has always been my favorite. I did body movement therapy/dance therapy at Renfrew. It's what helped pull me out. I've never been really good at talking about my feelings. At Renfrew, I didn't want to talk about anything. But they put me in body movement therapy where they have you move across the floor and do these exercises. After watching for a while, I started to participate and found it was a way to get it all out without having to speak. It was what my soul needed. Now I get to choreograph dances for our studio and other people. I like being able to tell a story. Through dance, you can express how you feel, and you can tell a story, and that really helped pull me out. The prospect of being able to cheer/perform again got me on the path to recovery, and dance gave me a different way to express myself. It was a private way of dealing for a long time; now I get to share that with my dancers."

Today, Wells is the assistant cheer coach at North Middle School and has also coached high school cheer. At her Winchester dance studio, Center Stage

Dance Company, she is positioned to help reshape the self-image of the students on her dance teams.

"I feel the reason I went through what I did was so I could be there to help other girls, to use what I went through as a platform to help other people. So through cheerleading and dance, I've had the opportunity to mentor girls and tell them, 'Your size doesn't matter. You can do anything that anybody else can do, and you're beautiful the way you are.' God has put me in the studio and involved me in mentoring cheerleading so that I can be that voice. I feel like He uses me through that," said Wells.

It's a winning combination. Wells' competitive dance teams have gone to National Finals the last two years and brought home national championship titles both years. Her cheer team came home as Camp Champs this summer.

While championship titles are nice, Wells dials the team into the bigger picture. She is forever coaching, whether at home, in the gym, or studio. She and her husband, Corey, have three children together. Their son, Brock, is 17; their older daughter, Summer-Grace, is a 13-year-old North Middle cheerleader; and their newest addition, Waverly, is almost a year old.

Wells said, "My daughter is a two-time All-American in cheer, who loves being involved with the school and is all about school spirit. Summer-Grace loves dress-up weeks, pep rallies, and game days, but I've also tried to teach her the importance of being a leader in the

school. I've told her, 'You're not a skirt. You are here to be an example and a role model for your school.' She works hard, and that's what I expect from my kids and students. You're here to be the embodiment of school spirit, but you're also here to be a leader. That's what Heather taught all of her cheerleaders, and I have carried that into the way I coach."

Good leadership changes the reflection in the mirror.

"We're not made like carbon copies. I pray that with God's help, I can encourage the girls to embrace their uniqueness and empower each other. Unfortunately, kids (and some adults) have a tendency to break each other down, but I hope to encourage them enough to break the cycle," she said. "At dance and cheer, we try to replace jealousy with recognition of each other's gifts. I pray they learn to appreciate and admire each other's gifts as well as their own. I want them to know they each have their gifts from God. I needed that reminder when I was their age," Wells said.

Bonds are still formed, and memories of a lifetime are still made with hard work and a healthy, positive self-image. Wells is at home holding the mirror and cheering on the students in her life. GN

For more information on eating disorder recovery, go to renfrewcenter.com. Center Stage Dance Company is located on the square in Winchester, phone (931) 691-9043, and on Facebook @wearecsdc.

CARRYING THE TORCH BACK

COACH TRACY HAYWORTH COMES FULL CIRCLE.

BY TINA NEELEY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE SNYDER

VROOM, VROOM. He raced forward without thinking of his surroundings, not into oncoming traffic but into the view of the Tennessee/LSU game. A quick swat on his young behind sent him driving away from the small black and white TV they'd gathered around. The noise of the fans took over the room. Suddenly he was transported from the racetrack of his imagination to the stadium as everyone in the room jumped to their feet, shouting as Tennessee rallied. It was no longer a television set; it was the portal to his future. Tracy Hayworth wanted to be in the center of that enthusiasm.

"It was like I was standing in a coliseum somewhere. I want to do what makes people do that, I thought. I wanted that attention. I've never said anything different. My mom and dad were both great mentors in my life. They always told me I could be whomever I wanted to be. I always wanted to be two things: a professional football player, and a child of God. I'm still a work in progress with God," said Hayworth.

The pursuit of a career in the NFL began on the fields of Franklin County High School (FCHS) in a culture still merging, following desegregation. While things were awkward and unnatural at times in the

classrooms and workplaces, football transformed the community under the Friday night lights.

Hayworth said, "Going to school in the '70s, everything wasn't the same for everybody at that time. Everyone had different struggles and may have seen things differently, but one of the things that brought us together, if you played that game, once you walked between those chalked lines we were each other's brothers and all of that didn't matter. During our time, it was a big factor in creating the love amongst our cultures that allowed us all to come to a common ground with each other enough to understand each other. When we stepped back off the field, that helped to pull our community together because the community saw how well we were together on the field."

At FCHS, Hayworth was, in his own words, "a bit all over the field," but things came into focus his senior year when he was the starting tailback in an undefeated season. He made the all-district team and was recruited by coaches Phillip Fulmer and Ken Donahue for the University of Tennessee. At Tennessee, Hayworth played for four years (was not redshirted), was team captain, and made second team ALL-

SEC. Coach Johnny Majors and his staff taught more than football; they taught the game of life.

"I think football and life go together. Coach Majors told us, 'I'm not only going to teach you about the game of football, because every one of you in this room is going to be a professional in the game of life. I'm going to teach you how to persevere and be the best athlete you can be in this football game. I'm going to teach you to be the best player and athlete you can be in the game of life.'" Hayworth added. "I've been mentored on the relationship between football and the game of life ever since I've been in the game."

In the 1990 NFL draft, Hayworth was a seventh-round pick by the Detroit Lions, where he played six seasons as a left linebacker on the team considered the best in Lions' history. The Lions were four-time NFL central division champions during this time, and Hayworth played in three playoff games, and the NFC championship game in 1991.

Following his NFL career, Hayworth played three years in arena league football. Like most professional football players, the desire to continue to play never dies - it just changes its field position. Hayworth

TRACEY

HAYWORTH





"I've noticed, in the hardest times of my life, when things got rough for me, if it wasn't for the training we were put through with Johnny and his supporting staff, I don't know if I'd have made it."

-TRACEY HAYWORTH

went on to the University of the South as an assistant coach for six seasons and six seasons as an assistant coach at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri. He came closer to home as head coach at Grundy County High School in 2018. Finally, in 2021, Hayworth came full circle, back as an assistant coach and defensive coach of FCHS.

"I still feel like I'm in a fairy tale. It feels great because I've been trying to get back to have a chance to give back. It's something I've wanted to do since the very first day I walked out of the pro program."

Walking out of the pro program was the hardest season of the game of football for Hayworth, but the game of life goes on.

"I've noticed, in the hardest times of my life, when things got rough for me, if it wasn't for the training we were put through with Johnny and his supporting staff, I don't know if I'd have made it. The training, love, and mentorship they showed made you want to try to exemplify them and be like them, so you get back into the game and give that back. Even if it's to those who may not be fortunate enough to attend college and possibly professional football, because everyone will be part of the game of life."

FCHS gives him plenty of opportunities to give back, both on and off the field.

"I'm extremely proud to be able to be a part of a team that is so talented. And it's not only the football team but getting to be with all the kids. Hopefully I can mentor just one of them in the game of life because all of them will play that game. If I can help coach that whole student body,

if I can reach one of them on how to be successful, how to get up when life knocks you down, how to deal with the peaks and the mountains – if I can just reach one of them. To feel like I've had that opportunity to do that and come back again, I've had a blessed life. I just thank the Lord for the opportunity to be where I'm at."

And to every student walking the FCHS halls, Hayworth's game of life heart for them is the same. "Follow your dreams, because I have lived and followed my dream. I have been very, very, very blessed. I believed I could reach my dreams with God's blessing and a lot of hard work. And whatever you do in life – how you love, how you work, how you play, how you hug someone, how you love your family, whatever it is you do – do it every day to the fullest, like it's your last time, 'cause one day you're gonna be right.'" GN



GAME DAY PARTY Recipes



By Julia Eads

**For all the rowdy fans who burn
just as much energy as players do.**

THE ELECTRIFYING atmosphere under Friday night lights is majorly fueled by loyal fans scattered across stadium seats. Young children with painted faces, parents with cushioned seats, and grandparents with binoculars, all assemble together to chant and cheer on their adored teams. These fans supply players with the strength and much-needed spirit to trudge forward one more down, again and again. But who fuels the fans? Where do they get their charge from? Tailgate party foods, of course! Below we have shared a few of our favorite pregame recipes. Try them this fall.

*Submit your recipes to be included in Good News Magazine
and the Exchange Cookbook: www.southernaprons.com*

Party Ham Rolls



Submitted By Ruth Cochran

Ingredients

1 c. butter, melted
3 T. prepared mustard
3 T. poppy seed
1 sm. onion, grated
3 pkgs. party rolls
1 lb. ham, shredded
2 c. Swiss cheese

Directions

In a small mixing bowl, combine butter, mustard, poppy seed, and onion. Slice rolls in half with an electric knife. Remove tops and spread both sides with butter mixture. Place ham and cheese on the roll bottoms. Cover with top halves. Bake in foil roll container at 400° for 10-15 minutes.

Sheet Pan Nachos



Submitted By Sheri Elder

Ingredients

1 onion, chopped
1-2 lbs. ground beef
dash of chili powder
dash of garlic powder
dash of paprika
dash of black pepper
dash of salt
1 bag nachos
1 can black beans
1 c. cheese, shredded
2 tomatoes, chopped
lettuce, shredded
1 container sour cream, 10 oz.

Directions

In a greased skillet, brown onion and ground beef. In a small mixing bowl, combine chili powder, garlic powder, paprika, black pepper, and salt. Add to ground beef mixture. Mix well. On a sheet pan, layer nachos, ground beef, black beans, and cheese. Bake at 350° until the cheese has melted. Next, layer tomatoes, lettuce, and sour cream.

Buffalo Chicken Dip



Submitted By Cindy Crosslin

Ingredients

1 pkg. cream cheese, softened, 8 oz.
1 can chunk white chicken, drained, 10 oz.
1/2 c. buffalo wing sauce
1/2 c. ranch salad dressing
2 c. Colby/Jack cheese, shredded

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350°. Spread cream cheese into an ungreased, shallow, light baking dish. Layer with chicken, wing sauce & salad dressing. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake uncovered, 20-25 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with baguette slices, tortilla chips, or celery. GN

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FAITH

Picking your teammates

Who do you want in your corner?

By Julia Eads

MOST OF the greatest athletes in the world are not solely championed due to their physical abilities. Instead, they are recognized for their capabilities to see beyond themselves. They are known for their abilities to bolster up the teammates surrounding them. For example, great quarterbacks can see the entire field and anticipate even the slightest movements from their teammates. They make adjustments as needed, to make the whole team shine. Point guards, or floor generals, are the same way. They work hard to look after their team by creating scoring opportunities for their teammates. What about you? Do you have life teammates that see where you are, can anticipate where you're headed, and will help you with a win? There is an Old Testament story that tells about a man named Moses and a few of his "teammates."

The story occurs right after the entire Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin. The Israelites were traveling in the desert

from place to place as the Lord had commanded them. Moses was their primary leader. While they were traveling, a group called the Amalekites came and attacked them (the Israelites) at a place called Rephidim.

Exodus 17:9 tells us that Moses told his successor, Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

As Joshua went down into the valley to fight the Amalekites, two other men, Aaron and Hur, went on top of the mountain with Moses. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites would prevail. As soon as he lowered his hands, the Amalekites would gain traction. Moses was growing weary, as this went on for quite some time. However, Moses' teammates, Aaron and Hur, recognized his struggle and provided support without being asked. The two men took a stone and put it under Moses. Moses sat on it while Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands so Israel would prevail to victory. **GN**

COACH'S CORNER:

In life, it is essential to have teammates. Who is it you are surrounding yourself with? Are they willing to lift you up? Are they only bringing you down? Are you sacrificially lifting others up and helping them gain a win? Make adjustments where needed. It's the fourth quarter and the clock is ticking.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."

Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."



GOOD TIMES

"There's nothing to do in a small town." We hear it often, but is it true? There are Good Times every weekend in Franklin County. It doesn't matter if it's a s'more at a bonfire, a lazy day with a book by the window, or exploring the town with the people you love most—there is something to do.

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SAY YES.

PHOTO BY BROOKE SNYDER



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Enjoy a night of music

under the stars

Winchester's summer music series invites the public to enjoy the sights and sounds of summer.

By Kali Bates // Photography by Ashleigh Newnes



S UMMERTIME IS the perfect time for many things. Barbecuing, swimming, fireworks, ice cream, just to name a few. It's also the perfect time for outdoor music. Grabbing a couple of chairs or a blanket and heading out to listen to music is a seasonal must. There is nothing better than relaxing while listening to a band play in the background amongst an orange and pink sunset. It's a perfect picture of summertime in the South.

Capturing this poetic summer scene is Downtown Winchester who kicked off their summer music series in June at the city's amphitheater that is located just off the downtown square. The event and its coordinators are inviting the community to not only come out and enjoy live music by local performers, but to also enjoy local food trucks and check out all the great local businesses that the downtown area has to offer.

Liz Ausdenmore, who serves as the executive director for the Winchester Downtown Program, is the festival's

coordinator. She said the series was created to highlight the plethora of musical talent in the area and to take advantage of a perfect spot to highlight that musical talent.

“Winchester is known for the Dogwood Festival, and they had some great music here over the years,” she explained. “However, between COVID and some other factors, the amphitheater stage hasn’t been used much in recent years. Every time I came through town, I would never see anything taking place there. When I stepped into this position, my first thought was to get something going on the amphitheater stage. I also wanted to do something to bring the community together. We have a lot of people within walking distance, [and] they could just walk down there and bring their chairs and enjoy some music.”

As of its inception in June, the festival has featured performances by local bands and performers, such as Shine, Dave Watson with Robyn Taylor, One Word, and Georgia Crossroads. The series will wrap up with the Cookie Time Jazz Quartet on Friday, Sept. 23. All performances have taken place from 6 to 10 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month.

The event has also brought out local food trucks, such as Lupita’s Tacos, C&J Dogs and more, Crazy Daisies, and Eastbrook Coffee Co., just to name a few. Ausdenmoore said she hopes to see the series continue to grow with more musical acts, food vendors, sponsorships, and attendees.

“We’ve had a great response so far, and I’m hoping that maybe next year we can do it twice a month,” she said. “Right now it’s free, thanks to sponsors such as Southern Tennessee Regional Health Systems, and we’d like to keep it that way.” **GN**



For the latest on up-to-date happenings with the music series and other downtown events, you can visit online at winchesterdowntown.com or their Facebook page at Downtown Winchester, Tennessee. For more information about sponsorships, contact Ausdenmoore at (931) 962-3393.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

An afternoon at Tims Ford Nature Center

Photos by Ashleigh Newnes



Recently, at Tims Ford State Park Nature Center, families learned about local wildlife and birds of prey, as well as historical weaponry and how to make and use it.





Truck and tractor pull returns

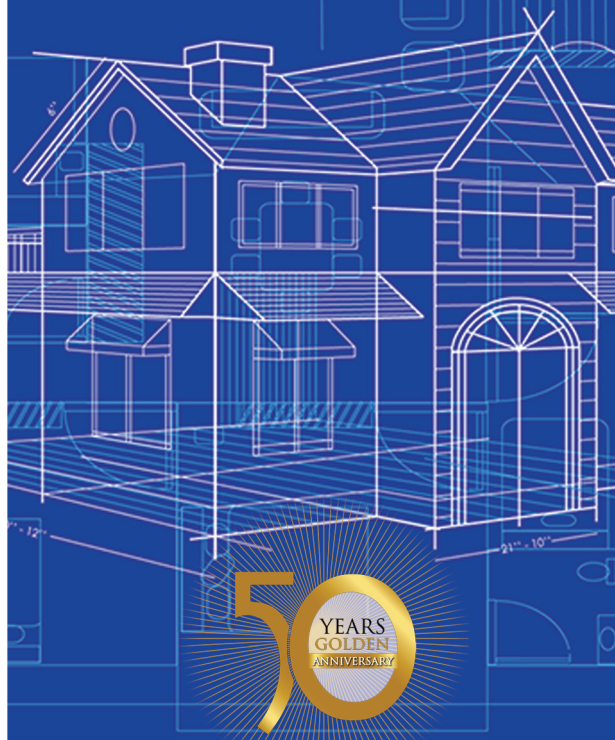
Photos by Brooke Snyder

The Lady Hornets soccer team directed parking and welcomed supporters to the Mid-South Huntland Truck and Tractor Pull on July 8-9 in Huntland. The roar could be heard from miles away.



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Good News MAGAZINE

EVENTS CALENDAR

August 6

9:00 am **Food Giveaway - Second Harvest**

Winchester First Baptist Church
108 S. High St.,
Winchester

3:00 pm **Cline Apothecary Herbal Clinic (Skin Health)**

Sewanee Community Center
39 Ballpark Road
Sewanee

Clinical Herbalism is a bridge that covers the gap between when lifestyle changes alone aren't enough to bring about significant improvement but medications might not be necessary yet.

Interested in signing up? Space is limited, so please sign-up at www.clineapothecary.com/herbal-clinic

8:00 pm **Battle On The Mountain Concert**

50 Circle E. Lane,
Belvidere

Come see my live performance at Circle E Guest Ranch atv park Battle on The Mountain Music fest 2022.

August 14

10:00 am **Friends and Family Day**

Wilder Chapel Road
Decherd

Friends and Family Day with Alabama Crossmen
www.alabamacrossmen.com/

2:00 pm **Fall Heritage Festival Beauty Pageant**

Cowan Center for the Arts
301 Montgomery St.,
Cowan

Age Divisions:
Baby Boy
(Newborn - 4 years)
Baby Girl
(Newborn - 1 year)
Wee (2-3 years)



Tiny (4-6 years)
Petite (7-9 years)
Junior (10-12 years)
Teen (13-15 years)
Miss (16-21 years)
Mrs. (18-80 years)
Married or Single

Link to pageant page:
www.fallheritagefestival.org/pageant.html

Questions or need additional information?
Contact Yvonne Stewart, host and coordinator, at (931) 308 - 5754 or email at missmusicrow@gmail.com

September 3

10:00 am Marketplace Consignment Sale
Monterey Station in Cowan

Marketplace Consignment Sale is Franklin County's largest infant, child, and teen/junior consignment twice-a-year Pop Up Shop!

September 6

6:00 pm Beauties in Business - Ladies Networking Night
Camino Real, Winchester

Ladies Networking Nights are a free laid-back gathering for female small business owners and businesswomen in general who have a desire to share their knowledge, build relationships, learn from their peers, and grow together.

For more events and to submit an event visit:

www.GoodNewsMags.com/events
or call (800) 247-7318



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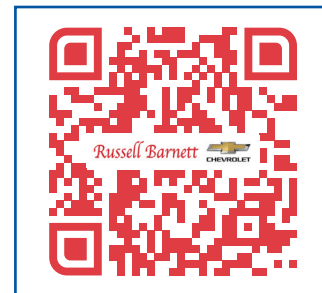


"Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."

~ Lou Holtz



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