

Service Projects Involve Beta Club Members

Being one of the oldest Beta Clubs in the state has not slowed down Jefferson County High School's intense dedication to service projects. "Each member is asked to complete ten service projects during the two years he's a member," explains Claudia Seals, Beta Club sponsor. She, along with co-sponsor Aimee Cogdill, oversees these projects.

Included in this year's projects are the following: a yard sale, Samaritan House, Campbell's soup labels, Diamond Club, Boxtops for Education, Food City receipts, Homecoming, Christmas Shoeboxes, wrapping Christmas Shoeboxes, and the Vesser Scholarship Fund.

During Old Time Saturday, October 1, the Beta Club members helped set up a yard sale at the Jefferson City Presbyterian Church. Members received one project point for each hour they helped with the activity.

"We have adopted the Samaritan House in Jefferson City as a year-long project," adds Mrs. Cogdill. "Each nine weeks members are encouraged to donate five items for one point of project credit." The focus for this nine weeks has been non-perishable food items.

Campbell's soup labels are collected all year. Twenty-five soup labels earn one project point. Hopefully these labels will enable the Samaritan House to buy a much needed van.

Since the baseball coach Doug Seals has a connection to the Beta Club, members have been asked to help the Diamond Club sell patriot baseball t-shirts and other items. Members are asked to donate one hour of time prior to home football games to receive one project point. Interested members are asked to sign up several days before the dates they wish to serve.

Maury Middle School has asked the club to save General Mills boxtops to help their yearbook staff purchase much needed equipment. One project point is awarded for each ten boxtops.

Three project points for each set of \$1000 Food City receipts are given to project participants. These receipts are given to the JCHS Science Department and will be redeemed for school items at the end of the project.

Beta Club members who represent the club during Homecoming events also receive project points depending on the event in which they participate.

Two projects center around the Christmas Shoeboxes. The first project involves preparing shoeboxes full of goodies to be sent to children overseas. This activity may entail the member working with another Beta member but does offer two points for each shoebox wrapped and filled. The second shoebox project is aiding area churches in wrapping boxes for older people who cannot wrap the boxes but are willing to fill them. One project point for every three boxes wrapped will be given.

Perhaps no service project has met with as much enthusiasm as the Vesser Memorial Scholarship Fund. Members are asked to help in the collection of monies going into the fund as well as make a contribution. This service project does not receive any points since members agree that the project is done out of an appreciation for the popular assistant principal who lives in members' memories.

"Beta Club is an honor society but it is also a service organization," states President Ben Wolfe. Wolfe's leadership team includes Matt Martin, Senior Secretary. Junior officers will be elected as soon as the junior member list is complete.

"It is the mission of the staff of Jefferson County High School to prepare responsible, productive citizens who are life-long learners."



**You may contribute to the
Vesser Memorial Scholarship Fund
Contact a JCHS Beta Club Member or
Sponsors Claudia Seals or Aimee Cogdill**

The Principal's Perspective

By Dale Schneitman

Staff Mourns Loss of Assistant Principal

One of the most beloved members of our faculty passed away over the summer. Louie Vesser served as assistant principal at this school for thirteen years working with many different school groups and hosting many program events.

Vesser was well known for his humor and anecdotes. However, he was a wonderful educator full of ideas as well as a passion for problem solving. Honored as the Assistant Principal of the Year for the State of Tennessee in 2004-2005, Vesser's leadership will be sorely missed.

Enrollment Climbs to over 2,200 Students

Many new faces greet us in the JCHS halls since our enrollment continues to climb. Of the fall's population of 2,200, freshmen account for 630 of the roll making it the largest class in the history of this school. During the last ten years our student numbers have doubled.

As a result, we have added four more portable buildings making

Staff Initiates Writing Improvement Plans

Once each month teachers of every discipline will engage their students in a school-wide writing period. Every teacher will incorporate persuasive writing techniques into his classes.

The first school-wide writing activity occurred on September 27. The exercise lasted twenty-five minutes. From this sample we hope to establish a base-line of every student's writing ability in order to track his/her improvement throughout the year.

We must improve our writing scores or risk being placed on a High Priority List at the end of this year when the February test results are released. Parents, you are asked to encourage your student's attendance during these crucial activities.

the total of eleven portables on our campus. Hidden from the public road view, each portable has two rooms which gives us twenty-two additional classrooms to provide classes for our students. One fourth of our student body is schooled in the portables during each period.

NCLB Act Dictates Accountability

As our school continues to grow, we are faced with what seems to be daunting situations in many areas. The federal guidelines of the No Child Left Behind Act serve to give directions to the public school's focus while dictating accountability.

Each state is responsible for determining benchmarks for compliance to these standards. The result being that all states must have methods of testing with various parameters for the federal equation.

In this process five subgroups are identified for targeted improvements. If a school in Tennessee has at least forty-five students in these areas, we must improve to a higher

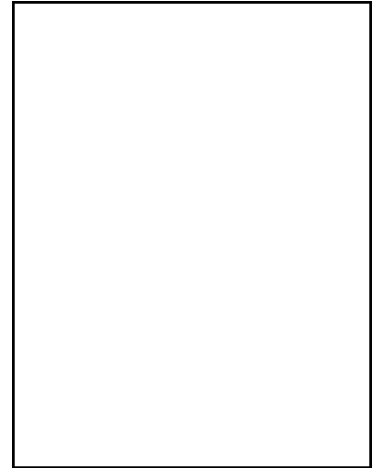
standard. These subgroups are categorized as economically disadvantaged, special education students, Hispanic-English language learners, and white.

Graduation requirements in Tennessee are centered around the Gateway Tests. Tests which affect English II (10th grade), Biology I and Algebra I. Our high school has scored very well in all three of these tests over the last several years. Despite these facts, there are other areas in which we have not done as well.

We were cited for a deficiency three years ago in the subgroup of economically disadvantaged which resulted in our being placed on the "target list." After improvements were made, we were removed from that target but was placed on the list for graduation improvement rate. The state requires a 90% graduation rate. During 2004-2005 our graduation rate rose to 90.2%, an increase which allowed our being removed from that target.

This year we have been targeted as having reading deficiencies. Our school was placed on the list by a combination of Gateway English scores and TCAP Writing Assessment scores. Given this situation our school has launched a campaign to improve our reading and writing scores.

Each February schools in the state assess junior English students' writing abilities. The test, referred to as the



**Principal
Dale Schneitman**

requires that the student write a persuasive essay on a state mandated topic. To improve our scores this year, each subject area teacher will work on writing skills.

No doubt, your child will discuss the increasing writing assignments, which are important not only for his writing skill improvement but also for the school's removal from this "Target list."

(continued on p. 5)

In Memory of Our Beloved Louie Vesser

By A JCHS Faculty Member

“Prior preparation prevents poor performance,” is a quote always associated with Louie Vesser. However, no amount of prior preparation could have prepared us for the passing of such an incredible person. On May 5, Vesser fell at his home, breaking his hip. After numerous complications, the man loved by the students, faculty, and community died on July 12, 2005.

Thirteen years ago a man with a robust personality, unsurpassed wit, and incomparable leadership abilities began his “reign” at Jefferson County High School. He entered with a roar of enthusiasm that was never squelched, and he made not only JCHS, but Jefferson County as well, a better place. The man was Louie Vesser—the problem solver, the fund raiser, the students’ advocate, the advisor, the care taker, the humorist, the humanitarian, the optimist, the disciplinarian, the husband, the father, the Christian, and, even at one point, the bus driver and sponsor of cheerleaders! Although Louie Vesser would never agree that he was regarded as “royalty,” that would be disputed by those who were entertained by his hilarious rendition of the real “King,” Elvis.

In the 21st century the buzz word is multi-tasking, and in the dictionary beside that definition should be the picture of Louie Vesser. Vesser’s typical day began with a prayer and ended with the same, but in between he would typically bring food to secretaries, host a breakfast for community leaders, plan a club meeting, raise money for an organization, counsel students, schedule guest speakers, meet with numerous teachers, call his wife to say, “I love you,” conduct an after school meeting, and then attend an athletic function.

Louie Vesser was instrumental in the development and implementation of such programs as the block schedule system, LINK, Youth Leadership, Patriot Events Council, Homecoming, Prom, FCA, Honors Day, Senior Celebration, Project Graduation, the Senior Play, Graduation, Night of the Patriots, and many other activities. Years later Night of the Patriots became a multi-faceted production by acknowledging outstanding alumni, Tennessee Patriots and veterans. Vesser was instrumental in changing Jefferson County’s Hwy 92 to the Veteran’s Memorial Hwy in commemoration of all who had so valiantly served their country. Vesser often stated how proud he was to be an American when he saw the many veterans at Night of the Patriots stand with tears in their eyes for the playing of their armed forces songs.

One of his greatest accomplishments was in 2000 when he arranged for a group of Jefferson County students known as the Tennessee stars to travel to Australia to perform for the pre-Olympic games in Sidney. Vesser provided various fund raising opportunities so that any student who had been chosen for the cast would be able to afford the trip to Down Under. Vesser not only joined the group at the airport to bid them farewell but had written each cast member an individual a note of encouragement and praise. To every project he brought new and creative ideas which made a difference in so many lives.

Louie Vesser left a legacy that is unsurpassed. Although he “reigned” at JCHS for only 13 years, he accomplished more in that time than most of us will in our entire lives. From his humorous anecdotes and wealth of knowledge to the kissing of a pig for the student body pep rally, he was a treasure at JCHS. One of his favorite mottos was, “It only takes a little more to be first class,” and Louie Vesser was not only first class, but in a class of his own.

The “King” may be gone from JCHS, but without a doubt, he is organizing the choirs, singing his gospel songs and smiling down from the heavens above. (If there is any fund raising and publicity needed, he has probably already been appointed head angel.) The spirit of the “King” continues to walk through the hallowed halls of Jefferson County High School. Hopefully, he is smiling at what he sees.

(Yearbook continued from p. 1)

Don't Forget

To Purchase

The

Spirit of 2006

The *Spirit of 2006* staff has been hard at work learning the principles of journalism and the technology skills that will enable the book not only to be in all color but also done completely on computer.

Senior members of the yearbook staff are Bryant Bales, Molly Brummett, Amanda Carroll, Dalla Crouch, Monique Hackert, Courtney Houpt, Meredith Milligan, Melissa Montfordt, Cara Rickard and Jesa Russell.

Junior members of the staff are Amy Allen, Megan Amburn, Kelly Barnard, Micha Doty, Alyssa Elearn, Jennifer Fielden, Jessica Fielden, Mary Finchum, Jordan Frazier, Ashley Gann, Betsie Garner, Kara Garrett, Abby Helton, Joshua Ivy, Julia Kindy, Lisa LaViers, Sean McCullough, Logan McDaniel, Alex McFall, Kristin Price, Lauren Sharpe, Casey Smith, Marie Tullidge, Jessica Wilson and Joshua Yardley.

“Members of the yearbook staff are chosen because of their superior writing skills, diligence, willingness to accept responsibility, and trustworthiness.” states Thelma Gann, yearbook advisor.

This year digital photographs, taken, cropped and placed on the pages by students will enhance the appearance of the book. “No longer will the book be at the mercy of hurried employees of Taylor Publishing Company.” Gann reports.



Cagle and France Join Administration Team

Most all Patriot parents are aware of the changes in the JCHS administration team since the announcement of former assistant principal David Holt's retirement last spring and Louie Vesser's death.

These positions have not been filled by new faces but rather the familiar faces of John Cagle and Nancy France from the JCHS staff.

Cagle, filling Holt's position as Director of Career and Technical Education, has been on the staff for 13 years. Teaching Marketing I and II as well as advertising, Cagle advised DECA. Formerly he announced football and basketball games.

Married to Cindy, he is the father of Laura, a student here at JCHS, and to Jacob, a Maury Middle School student. In addition to spending time with his

family, he enjoys coaching youth league baseball.

Always willing to lend a helping hand to students, Cagle expresses his enthusiasm for his new position. "I am very excited to have the opportunity to serve my alma mater in this new capacity."

"It will be my pleasure to work more closely with some of the best career and technical education teachers in the state," Cagle continues.

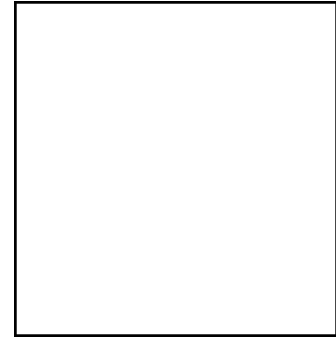
France, serving as interim in Vesser's position, has seen many former as well as present JCHS students as a counselor here for the past 22 years.

Having been in education since 1980, she taught at White Pine School, Whittle Springs Middle School, and the Knoxville Evening High School.

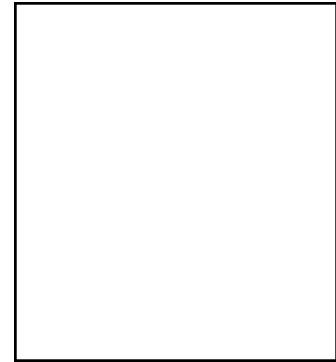
France's husband, G.W. shares her interests in golfing, skiing, hiking, and other outdoor activities. She is an enthusiast antique shopper and is always on the lookout for that unusual piece of memorabilia from America's past.

France states that she is enjoying her new challenge as she moves about the building daily with her many new duties. "The best part of being an assistant principal is that I am still counseling students," she says. "I am learning a great deal and the change is good. Everyone has been and is very supportive."

Other members of Principal Dale Schneitman's administration team are Rusty James and Monty Sharp. James has been in the field for 26 years. Sharp taught for ten years before coming to JCHS in 2000.



**John Cagle
Director of Career and
Technical Education**



**Nancy France
Interim
Assistant Principal**

SACS Approves School Improvement Plan

The Principal's Perspective (Continued from p.3)

Each year every school in our state must report to Nashville an update on the School Improvement Plan (SIP). This one year evaluation is developed from a five-year plan that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requires for a school to be certified and accredited. We have just completed this five-year plan. It has been evaluated and approved.

Our School Improvement Plan identifies two goals which we hope to achieve within the next four years. Each year during this period we hope to increase our graduation rate 1.2 percent. Additionally, we plan to increase Gateway Test and TCAP Writing Assessment scores. Currently we are working to improve our writing scores to a minimum of four. Scores range from a high of six to a low of one. A score of four is deemed proficient.

Patriot Students and Staff Embrace Spirit of Pride

We encourage you to be involved with this school by supporting these causes and most importantly your young men and women in their educational pursuits. We are very busy in our attempt to provide a quality education for our students. This staff and faculty have worked extremely hard over the last twelve months in crafting improvement plans for your child's education. There is a healthy spirit of pride and strong attitude of community service in this school. Our students are true Patriots in the strongest sense. We look forward to seeing you on November 10 for the Night of the Patriots which begins at 5:00-6:30 for parent conferences and 7:00 for the program.



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Career and Technical Education Prepare Students for the Future

By John Cagle

Principal:
Dale Schneitman

Assistant Principals:

John Cagle
Nancy France,
Rusty James,
Monty Sharp,

115 W. Dumplin' Valley Rd.
Dandridge, TN 37725
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The variety of **CTE** courses offered at **JCHS** is truly remarkable. Classes range from mechanics to health occupations. Students can learn masonry and carpentry skills as well as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. Several courses are offered under the umbrella of family and consumer science, from cooking to family and parenting education.

Many students who have taken courses in cosmetology have gone on to successful careers in salons across the state, and students from the marketing department enjoyed great accomplishments both in the workforce and in higher education.

The business department offers courses as varied as manage-

ment and web-page design. The **JCHS** agriculture education program is one of the strongest in **Tennessee**. With such a wide variety of courses from which to choose, a student can easily find his niche in the **CTE** department.

One of the most popular component of this program is the many career and technical student organizations. **Skills USA VICA, HOSA, DECA, FCCLA,** and **FFA** offer students the opportunity to apply knowledge learned in the classroom in fun, social environments. The organizations all incorporate community service into their calendars of activities.

HOSA leads several blood drives throughout the year, and **FCCLA** activities benefit

Christmas in **Jefferson County**. **DECA** has been recognized for its work for the **Muscular Dystrophy Association**. These student organizations offer students the chance to participated in competitions at the regional, state and national levels.

FFA students place third in state soil judging competition as well as second in horse judging. Cosmetology students from **SkillsUSA VICA** recently swept the competition at the **TVA&I Fair** with first place finishes in all three areas.

As a vital component of this comprehensive high school, we are proud of our success of enabling young people to become productive and responsible citizens.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
[HTTP://JC.SCHOOLS.NET/](http://JC.SCHOOLS.NET/)
