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And in five years, she hopes to be providing economic data for the region that leads to improved fundraising and access to small grants plus she'd like Project 731 to have a presence in all the counties of northwest Tennessee.

Role models for investing in the community to help raise the quality of life were easy for Whitney to come by. Her parents were examples and teachers.

"They instilled a pride about loving where you live. The put a lot into the area," she said citing her mother's work on the softball board that led to the installation of a batting cage and her father's push to have girls' only soccer.

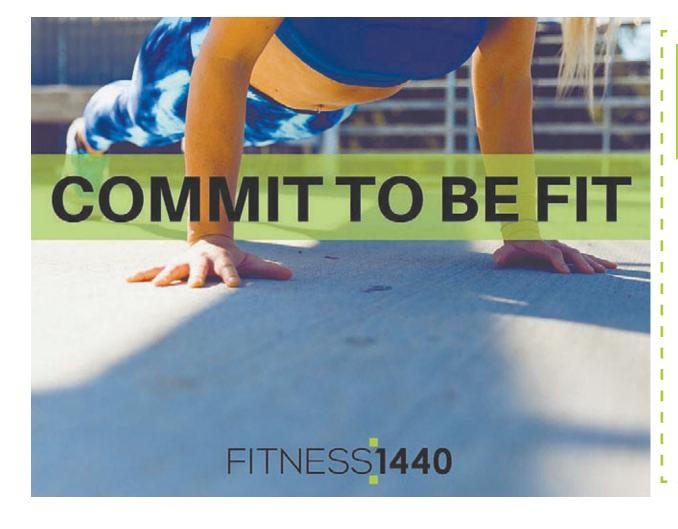
"I had played on a girls-only team, and my dad was big on a girls only here," she said of her initial return to Martin. "He got a list of girls and made me call every single one of those girls and tell them about the league. He may have paid me a quarter," she remembered.

"My mom was a career-driven woman, and she always instilled a great work ethic," Whitney reveals. "She was a great mom, but one thing I wish she had told me is that it's not going to be as easy as she makes it look. You don't see the struggle. She made it look easy. Every day there's a decision about what to sacrifice today to make it work."

As she trains for a marathon, runs a new nonprofit, maintains a fulltime job and creates the kind of family experiences that she hopes will instill in her daughters the same love of community she was given, Whitney is reflective when it comes to what women want.

"I think women want to be appreciated for their contributions to society and to their household and community, to know what they are doing is making a difference," she said. "I tend to think women want to know that they can do it all and they are appreciated for what they do when they do it all."

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