

FORD,

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he said. "I'm not a big 'sayings' guy or anything like that."

"My plan is pretty simple," Ford stressed. "It's to build the whole program. It's to build the whole program from the ground up."

"It's important to have as many kids as we can participate in football from kinder-

FOUNDATIONS

BUILDING TOUGHNESS

"I talked to the team about it the other day," Ford said. "I think it's important in life, not just in football, because you're going to face hard times, and we want to put out tough kids who can handle that, and do the right

DO

"If you take pride in the little things," Coach Ford said, "it'll lead to big things that you do really well. That's kinda what we're going to preach to the kids. Take pride in the team...your school...your community. It'll serve you well in life."

"That's the kind of



Coach Ford, center talked with school officials at a reception last week.

garten to 12th grade," Coach Ford said. "I'll be really involved with the youth league, I'll be involved with the middle school, obviously coaching the high school, I'll be involved there. It's really important to have a good, solid foundation, and make sure every kid that wants to play gets the opportunity to do so."

"As we go forward, it's about building culture," the new coach said.

Ford wishes to focus on three things:

thing when they become adults."

BUILD A BROTHERHOOD

"When people go through tough times together, they always have that bond with each other," the coach said. "No matter how old they get, or wherever they go, they'll always have that bond. That's something we want to create as much as we can on the football field, in the locker room, and in the weight room. And there will be tough times."

ALWAYS TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT YOU

culture we're going to build," Ford said. "Along the way, we hope to win a long of games and have a lot of fun. It's time to get started."

"We're real excited about Coach Ford," Russell County Schools Athletic Director Michael Carpenter said. "He comes very highly recommended. We're very excited about our coaching staff that's in place."

"We excited about the next chapter of Laker Football," Carpenter said.

PROGRESS,

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said. "We still haven't built that first apartment yet, but we've done about everything else."

Vaughn praised city officials for their collaboration and cooperation.

He said a casual acquaintance with Russell Springs Zoning Administrator Jeremy Coffey led to great strides toward business.

"He got me the information that I needed," Vaughn said. "Then the mayor stepped in. Whatever information, whatever numbers I needed...and their numbers have held up true...they have been on top of it."

"I guess what I'm saying is as far as Russell Springs goes, in my book, you all are definitely progressive," he told the council, "and your mayor and your economic development director for sure are trying to attract people."

"When you have investors like me from out of town and get that kind of response, it for sure makes you feel more comfortable here, and makes you want to do more here," Vaughn said.

Vaughn theorized when people come in and literally invest

in a city, "your tax base goes up...and it just helps all the way around."

"I can't say enough good about you all in Russell County," he told the council.

"We appreciate you investing in Russell County...especially Russell Springs," Councilman Tom Holt told Vaughn.

"We're glad you're here," Councilwoman Sherry Bottom Daniel said.

Vaughn said he is appreciative of the warm welcome he has received.

"That's one of the main reasons why I ended up here and doing so much," he said.

Vaughn also owns half of Midtown Plaza.

"We're getting invested here heavily," he said. "We're continuing to invest in Russell County."

In other business, the council voted to enter a contract with Envivo Health to provide free COVID testing.

Envivo will give "free COVID testing for all city employees, council members, volunteers for our fire department...and all citizens of Russell

Spring," Mayor Thomas said.

"It's free to anybody that wants to do it," the Mayor said. "It's no cost at all for the city, nothing at all."

The council voted unanimously to enter the contract.

Testing will reportedly be done at a facility on Lakeway Dr.

Councilman Larry D Skaggs said the testing may be of interest to citizens.

Mayor Thomas also announced the recent hiring of Amy Shirley as the new Safety Officer for Russell Springs.

The mayor said along with her new position, Shirley will still serve in an office management position for the Russell Springs Police Department.

"We've already had calls about how good she is doing out in the community," Thomas said.

The mayor said Shirley will be conducting duties such as funeral escorts, and enforcing parking in the city.

"I think that's something the city has needed for some time," Skaggs said.

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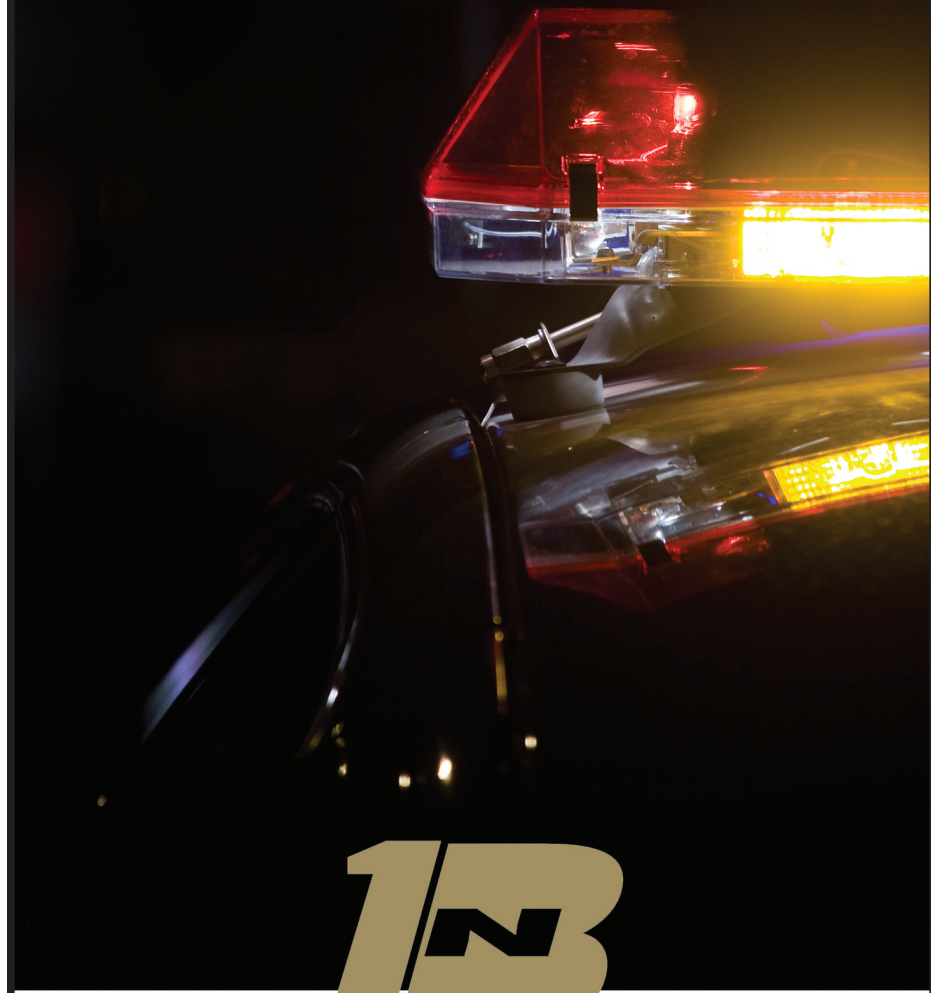
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