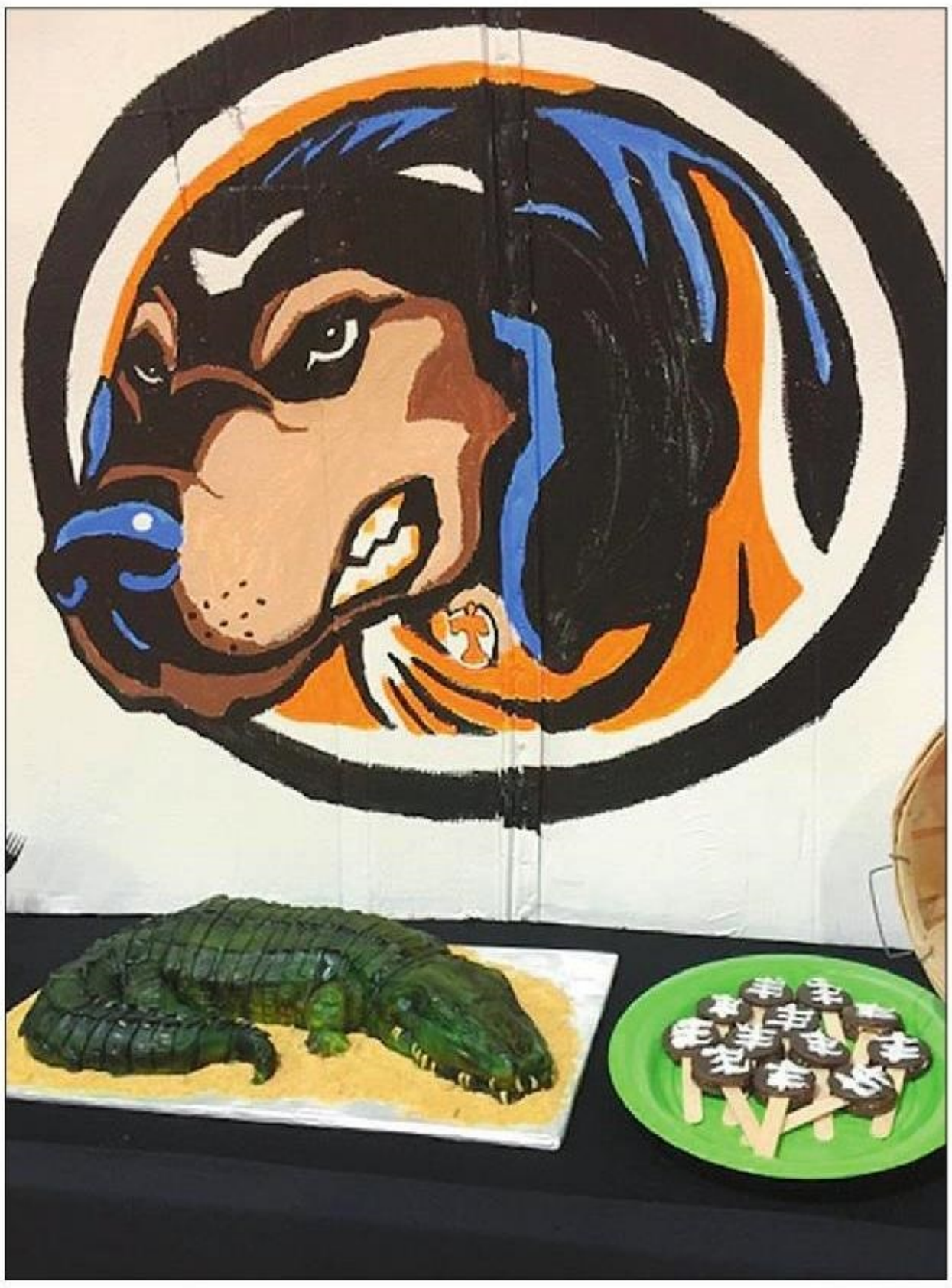


This picture of Smokey, painted by Traci Dolese, appears to guard the alligator cake and Moon Pie footballs. They were situated between the two tents of food, which were marked Florida and UT.



This football helmet, created out of balloons by Traci Dolese, served as a photo opportunity for guests.



This photo shows an overall view of the dining room in which Holston Home staff enjoyed a recent appreciation day.



This colorful orange and white display of balloons sets an entryway for guests to enter the dining hall of Holston UM Home for Children.

Making Moments And Memories

BY KATHY KNIGHT
ACCENT EDITOR

Making moments and memories was the theme of a special day recently at the Holston United Methodist Home for Children held for staff appreciation. The theme and games centered around "tailgating," which was carried out in the food, decoration and entertainment.

For the food, they set up a Florida University area and a University of Tennessee area.

"Each year in August, as one fiscal year ends and another begins, we take time to show the staff members how much they are appreciated," said Bradley Williams, president of Holston UM Home for Children. "This year we used tailgating in our fun and decor."

Although time was spent eating and playing games, the message of the day was serious and important.

"We talked a good deal," said Bradley, "about the importance of making moments and memories for our young people as well as our staff."

He recalled specifically talking about a young person who had been sent to another specialized program. He explained that the young person had run away from that program, returning to Holston Home.

"We are his home," said Bradley, "He came back to us because he knew he was loved and cared for here. He was coming back home."

He went on to point out that the structure of Holston Home is just a "place," like the homes others live in. But it's not just an environment, he said; it's an extended family.

Traci Dolese, decorator for the day, made a helmet of black and white balloons, centered with orange and white ones, as a photo background opportunity. She designed a scoreboard that included the names of each of the departments at Holston Home.

Yard line tablecloths covered the tables, which were centered with pom-pom-filled Mason jars painted to look like footballs. The tables sat on an astroturf-looking surface. Orange, white and black balloons were used throughout the venue.

Traci painted a photo of Smokey as a decoration also.

Ella Price prepared the food for the occasion. Her favorite entertaining is themed parties, so she said she was in her element.

She explained there were two tents of food, one for Florida, and one for UT. In between, there was an alligator cake made of red velvet so that it showed red when sliced.

Under the Florida tent, individuals found fresh fruit, Smokey's Weiners, shrimp and cocktail sauce and yogurt.

Under the UT tent one found Alligator Bites (mini chicken and waffles on a stick), a wings bar (featuring habanero pineapple-mango dip and buffalo wings), brisket sliders, beer cheese and pretzels, moonshine meat balls and football Moon Pies.

"It was so much fun to prepare and listen to the comments," laughed Ella, "It's a great bunch of people to work with."