Amtrak will run Sunday service

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A spokesman for Amtrak has clarified that train service for Fort Madison residents will be available on Sunday after work on the Fort Madison Burlington Northern-Santa Fe bridge is completed Saturday, despite a service change document that indicated service will be down for two days.

Marc Magliari, a spokesman for Amtrak, said Thursday there was some confusion in the statement made by City Manager David Varley at Tuesday's City Council meeting that the Southwest Chief wouldn't be running on Sunday.

"There will not be westbound or eastbound service out of Fort Madison on Saturday because of the bridge work, but eastbound from Fort Madison to Chicago and westbound from Fort Madison to Kansas City will be running on Sunday," Magliari said.

"We apologize for the inconvenience, but..."
Autistic students see learning through different lenses

AUTISM - Continued from Page 1

"With some of our kids with autism, it’s obvious that something’s wrong. But with others, that's no so obvious and people can be judgmental because they don’t understand.”

-Teran Buettell, GPAEA school psychologist

born with autism at 1 in 68 and the prevalence for school-aged children is 1 in 50. Autism services in the United States cost $236 billion annually with about $65 billion spent on school-aged children.

Patton said some of the students she works with have barriers to interaction with other students and staff.

"We’re here to try and break those down," she said. “It was kind of a negative thing we ran into that kind of got us fired up, really. We want everybody to be aware of how awesome our kids are. We ran into a situation where a student said something negative about our kids and it just broke our hearts. We just really wanted to make sure that everyone is aware of these kids. They're just like you and I, but they are unique too.”

About 40 people packed into the Richardson library to hear about the struggles of the students and how learning can be a challenge for teachers and students alike.

"How do we learn things growing up, how to be polite, act in a crowd, and behave at school?” Buettell asked. "By watching other people...we model behavior.

A lot of those things we don’t teach explicitly. But kids with autism see the world through a different lens. They don’t have that lense that allows them to see it that way, so they don’t pick things up the way we do. With some of our kids with autism, it’s obvious that something’s different. But with others, that’s not so obvious, and people can be judgmental because they don’t understand.”

“What I’m hoping you learn as you go through these centers is that our kids with autism have capabilities that we sometimes underestimate. But they also have limitations and we overestimate what they should be able to do. We need to have patience and suspend our judgment and we need to teach them. They still have feelings and they still want to fit in.”

LaFrenz said in the classroom, the autistic students can learn just like the other students, but some of the communication becomes difficult as the autistic students may not pick up on some things, but pick up on others, and that’s an awareness hurdle for teachers.

“We really wanted to bring to light how great these kids are and how much they have to offer, and we want them to be seen as an important part of the community,” LaFrenz said.

About 40 members of the community including teachers, students, and specialists met Thursday night at Richardson Elementary School to bring awareness to the autistic students in the district.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 06 Apr
Light Snow
High – 28.3º F | Low – 19.0º F

SAT 07 Apr
Partly Cloudy
High – 28.7º F | Low – 19.2º F

SUN 08 Apr
Snow
High – 29.3º F | Low – 29.3º F

MON 09 Apr
Snow
High – 33.4º F | Low – 26.2º F

TUE 10 Apr
Clear Skies
High – 35.0º F | Low – 20.1º F

From the Front/Weather

Chicago, KC service will be running Sunday

AMTRAK - Continued from Page 1

riders can make their way to Burlington, Galesburg or Quincy for trains on Saturday”

Varley gave Pen City Current a copy of the service change notice from Amtrak that indicated Southwest Chief Trains 3 and 4 “will not operate between Chicago and Kansas City” April 7 through April 8.

"That’s different from the bridge closure” Varley said “It’s only closed Saturday, but the document we have says the train service will not be available April 7 through April 8th.”

BNSF crews will be doing repairs to the bridge on Saturday beginning at 6 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m. according to Andy Williams, a spokesperson for BNSF.

For additional information on Amtrak service, passengers are encouraged to visit Amtrak online at Amtrak.com or by calling 800-872-7245.

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Pen City Current
Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Charles Vandenbergen, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenbergen, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
sross@pencitycurrent.com

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Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7

FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy.

Lee County Bridges group to hold Keokuk community-wide meeting April 16

The steering committee is hosting the next community-wide Bridges out of Poverty training in Keokuk on April 16th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church located at 1101 Blondeau Street. The Public is invited to attend

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for $15. Add a photo for $5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of $10 per 25 words and $3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

These four beauties were part of a group of about a dozen does in a field just south of Chalk Ridge Road Thursday night.
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - The Holy Trinity boys soccer team is getting in their conditioning early this year.

For the second time in three matches, the Crusaders found themselves in overtime, this time against visiting Mediapolis in South Park at West Point.

After a scoreless first and second half, the teams entered the first of what would have been two 10-minute OT periods. But the second period wouldn’t be needed as HTC junior Adam Rauenbuehler found a ball lying in the grass with 2:23 left in the first OT and booted it across the Bulldog defense into the right side of the net.

“We got a cross set off the front and the ball across the corner of the net. It was a heck of a goal,” Culbertson said. “I guess we’re kind of used to it already,” he said. “We didn’t really want it, but HTC goalie Reed Fehseke had a quiet night holding the shutout with just four saves.

“There we had seven shots, “ Culbertson said. “Aden Alred, Rauenbuehler, and Blake Crabtree all had two shots with a combined six on goal.

“We’ll get a lot of shots off, but couldn’t get any to find the cords. Mediapolis got a few breaks into the net, but HTC goalie Jason Rees had a quiet night holding the shutdown with just four saves.

“Reed said he was also impressed with the ball control at midfield.”

“We’ve really been working and harping on our center and midfielders holding the middle of the field and we did good job of that tonight. It was a good game.”

The Crusaders are 3-1 on the season with their first OT win and confident going into overtime as they’ve struggled getting a lot of shots off, but getting this many shots off early in the season is a confidence booster for all of us.”

With most of the match being played on the HTC side of the pitch, the Crusaders were able to get a lot of shots off, but couldn’t get any to find the cords. Mediapolis got a few breaks into their end, but HTC goalie Jason Rees had a quiet night holding the shutout with just four saves.

“Reed said he was also impressed with the ball control at midfield.”

“We’ve really been working and harping on our center and midfielders holding the middle of the field and we did good job of that tonight. It was a good game.”

The Crusaders are 3-1-0 on the season with their only loss 3-0 to Knoxville in the championship of the Fort Madison Invitational Saturday. The Crusaders beat Fort Madison 2-1 and Central Lee 2-1 in overtime, before losing in the finals. They travel to Bunting on Saturday.

Rauenbuehler goal lifts HTC

HTC’s Reed Fehseke falls to the ground in front of a loose ball that in the next second would be booted into the net for a game-winning goal by Adam Rauenbuehler in the Crusaders 1-0 OT win over Mediapolis.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC
Dear Editor,

There were lots of reasons Fort Madison school district voters rejected the elementary school bond referendum. It would behoove supporters to contemplate some of them before bringing this up for a fourth round of voting. Although I had (and still have) reservations about the latest proposal, I actually voted for it. But that was only after weighing pros versus cons based on all the information made available by those who shared their thinking on the subject – albeit mostly at the last minute. My decision was a close call – I’d estimate it was (in my mind) a 57 to 43 percent ratio favoring the proposal. I’d much prefer having a 90 to 10 comfort ratio.

For what it’s worth, I didn’t let emotion affect my vote. However, I’d be willing to bet many voters did – both yes and no voters. More on that later. No doubt many yes voters found it hard to understand how anyone could vote no, and vice versa. That being said, I believe some referendum supporters who shared angry feelings publicly made a BIG mistake. I’m referring to the ones who stated in no uncertain terms that they pretty much deemed non-supporters to be stupid, ill-informed, hateful, selfish, etc.

Showing such a lack of respect for the other side is not an effective way to gain support for anything. There were important points being made both ways. I would suggest that those who couldn’t accept any of the other side’s points or concerns as having validity were themselves very short-sighted to say the least.

NOBODY likes to be suspected the majority of supporters and non-supporters alike weighed the overall pros and cons from their own perspective just as I did, and voted accordingly. But, where votes were based solely on emotions and/or on only 1 or 2 factors or issues, I would respectfully suggest that such an approach when voting on any public measure (or in any election) is generally not a good idea.

We owe it to ourselves and to posterity to learn as much as we can before voting on anything, and to be as honest and considerate as we can be when sharing facts and viewpoints with others beforehand. Especially when sensitive issues are involved – i.e., pretty much every time.

Once we’ve absorbed all the information we can gather, it’s possible we can still be uncertain about which way to go. In that case, there’s a good chance sincere prayer will enable us to resolve our discomfort and vote with a clear conscience. That’s what I had to do.

Fred Bindewald
Fort Madison
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Lee County Health Department is seeking a Licensed Massage Therapist. This is a contracted position. Massage Therapist will provide the client and caregivers with massage therapy for pain relief and relaxation. Some documentation is required. Licenses are required for Iowa and Illinois, or being willing to obtain the license. Submit resume to Margaret Cook via mail to LCHD P.O. Box 1426 Ft. Madison, IA 52627 or email cook@lee-countyhd.org. Resume deadline is April 30th, 2018. Lee County Health Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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We value home time as well! Our drivers are through Fort Madison a couple times per week and off on weekends! Call or E-Mail us today!

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II. Approve the agenda
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V. Receive oral comments
VI. Adjourn

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- Rotating 12-hour shift schedule allows for generous days off
- High school diploma or equivalency required, trade school preferred
- Quality training provided for those willing to learn but must pass a written and practical mechanical aptitude test

If you are interested in more information about this exciting opportunity visit silgancontainers.com/careers or contact:

Tim Ewing, Plant Human Resources Manager
319-372-4891 x4760
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If you are interested in more information about this exciting opportunity visit silgancontainers.com/careers or contact:

Tim Ewing, Plant Human Resources Manager
319-372-4891 x4760
tewing@silgancontainers.com

Silgan Containers is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Birth Announcements

JACK KNUSTROM

FORT MADISON - Mrs. and Mr. Julia and Brent Knustrom have announced the birth of their son Jack Thomas Knustrom on March 26, 2018 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital. Jack is welcomed home by Tate and Linnea. Great-grandparents are Mike and Sally Knustrom of Fort Madison, Liz Swanson of Warsaw, Ill., and Dan Swanson of Keokuk.

JAXSON NICOL

KEOKUK - Ashley Dean and Jacob Nicol have announced the birth of their son, Jaxson Samuel Nicol on March 27, 2018 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

The Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

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Also, the Montrose Riverfront, Inc. will be holding their Farmer’s Market Kick-off Breakfast of pancakes, sausage scrambled eggs, juice and coffee that morning from 8:00-10:30am along with some demonstrations. Breakfast is $4 for adults, and $3 for those under 10 years of age.

“Montrose is excited to partner with Live Healthy Iowa again this year to offer this fun and healthy event,” said Emily Biddenstadt, Live Healthy Lee County member. “Partnering with the Lee County K9 Association has been great. I hope people come out to learn more about what this committee is doing.”

Live Healthy Iowa and Live Healthy Iowa Kids provide challenges and events throughout the year to promote healthy and active lifestyles. To learn more about these programs and find more information about the Live Healthy Iowa 5K, please visit www.livehealthyiowa.org or call (888)777-8881.

About Live Healthy Iowa

Live Healthy Iowa, formerly Lighten Up Iowa, was created in 2001 by the Iowa Sports Foundation as a strategic health initiative to address the state’s growing obesity problem. Live Healthy Iowa brings together friends, families, businesses, and communities in team-based wellness challenges designed to promote positive lifestyle change. In 2017, more than 230,000 adult and youth Iowans took part in a Live Healthy Iowa challenge or event. To learn more, visit www.livehealthyiowa.org.