IHSAA names Smith 2019 Character Coach of the Year

22-year coach will be honored at halftime of 4A boys semifinal March 7

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – He’s hung medals around the necks of some of the best wrestlers to go through Fort Madison. And now the IHSAA is hanging one around his.

Fort Madison’s head wrestling coach, Ryan Smith, has been selected to receive the Iowa High School Athletic Association’s Character Counts Coach of the Year award. He’ll receive the award and recognition at halftime of the Class 4A state basketball semifinal game on March 7.

Smith has spent the last 22 years of coaching in the Fort Madison High School system, 21 as head coach of the Bloodhound wrestling team.

The award recognizes coaches in the state who embody the association’s six pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

Smith said he was honored with the award and was taken aback a little when he got the call.

“I’m a little squeamish about things like this,” Smith said. “The guy called and I was in class and couldn’t take the call and he left a message to call him back. I thought maybe I was nominated for something, but I didn’t really get that I had actually been picked.”

He said the honor is more of a collaboration of things than any one single person’s accomplishment.

“I think I give most of the credit for this to my parents and the upbringing they gave me and my siblings,” he said.

“But I think also a big part of it is what we try to promote here at Fort Madison. It’s not just the sports and competition…we try to prepare these athletes for what’s in the real world.”

Chapman digs in with Show Choir

SMITH

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A familiar face graced the ever-buzzing rooms of the Fort Madison High School Music Department Thursday night.

With the 30th edition of the FMHS Show Choir Invitational this Saturday, Taylor Stoddard, head of the FMHS vocal music department, stepped back into the room of the program, stepped back into the room of risers at the request of Chapman.

“Taylor called and I thought maybe I was nominated for something, but I didn’t really get that I had actually been picked.” Chapman said.

“I’m a little squeamish about things like this,” Chapman said. “Taylor called and said he had a couple competitions coming up and asked if I could come in, watch the kids, and give them a couple pointers and do a little cheerleading session with them,” Chapman said.

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In the 80s, Chapman, with his wife Sandy, who taught vocal music at the junior high level, started teaching vocal music at FMHS in 1978 and built what became “Swing-Spot”, the competition side of the program, stepped back into the room of risers at the request of Chapman.

“It’s kind of registered in the real world. ” Chapman said. “I think I give most of the credit for this to my parents and the upbringing they gave me and my siblings.” Chapman said.

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Obituaries/Lee County News

DONALD BLAIR RICHARDSON

Donald Blair Richardson, 74, of Nauvoo, Illinois passed away at 3:00 a.m. Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Mississippi Valley Health and Rehab Center in Keokuk, Iowa.

Born on October 9, 1944, the son of Neil and Evelyn (Rose) Richardson. On May 10, 1969, he married Evelyn Yvonne Billings in Coralville, Iowa. Survivors include his wife; Evelyn; two daughters: Angie (Eric) Mitchell of Crestview, Florida and Stacie (Iané Gina) Richardson of Leominster, Massachusetts; six grandchildren; Ethan, Erin & Matthew Mitchell and Gregory, Luce, & Ella Franconeri; three brothers: Daniel (Jeanette) Richardson of Arkansas, Wisconsin, Dennis (Susan) Richardson of Ellsworth, Wisconsin, and David Richardson of Baraboo, Wisconsin; two sisters: Rose (Glenn) Peterson of Arkansas, Wisconsin and Judy Richardson of Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents; grandparents; numerous aunts and uncles; one sister-in-law; Linda Richardson; and his father and mother-in-law, Owen and Vera Billings.

Don was a member of the Community of Christ in Nauvoo, Illinois. He was a tour guide for Joseph Smith Historic Sites for nine years. He was a school counselor in Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri, and he retired in 2007. He was a United States Army Veteran serving in the Vietnam Era. A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at the Community of Christ in Nauvoo, Illinois. You are invited to wear blue, Don’s favorite color. There will be a time of food and fellowship following at the church. Burial will be at a later date in Arkansas, Wisconsin. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to the Joseph Smith Historic Site, Hope Lodge of St. Louis, Missouri, Outreach International or a charity of your choice. Schmitz – Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.sbbfuneralhome.com.

MARY FRANCES REES

Mrs. Mary Frances Rees, 74, of Ferris, IL, formerly of Dallas City, IL passed away at 1:19 a.m. Friday, February 22, 2019 at her home. Mary was born on January 19, 1945 in LaHarpe, IL the daughter of Paul Noland and Grace Loretta Byers Markay. On September 21, 1980 she married James “Jim” Rees in Springfield, IL. He survives.

Mrs. Rees was a 1963 graduate of the St. Mary’s Academy in Nauvoo. She was also a graduate of St. John’s School of Nursing. She worked for 30 years as a psychiatric nurse at the Hancock County Mental Health Center in Carthage, IL. She enjoyed spending time with her family, fishing, reading, embroidery, and watching True Crime. Mary was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dallas City. Survivors include her husband, Jim, six children, Wayne (Julie) Garrison of LaHarpe, Linda McCarter of Tolono, IL, Laura (Tom) Hardy of Hamilton, IL, Belinda Davis of Tucson, AZ, Andy (Mary) Rees of Richmond, VA and Jay (Diana) Rees of Springfield, IL, 17 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one brother, Leon (Charlote) Markay of Belleville, FL and two sisters, Katherine (Ed) Symmonds of Dallas City and Dorothy Johnson of Dallas City. She was preceded in death by her parents and five brothers, Frank, Tony, Joseph, John and Lester Marke

Evansdale man nabbed by task force

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of Christopher Peak of Evansdale IA on a felony drug charge. Christopher Peak, 28, of Evansdale, Iowa was arrested on February 21st, 2019 by the Lee County Sheriff’s Office. Peak is charged with delivery of more than five grams of methamphetamine, a class B felony. If convicted Peak faces up to 25 years in a state correctional facility. The arrest of Peak stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Lee County Sheriff’s Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Fort Madison Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

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Current-Lee/Health News

FORT MADISON – The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to en City Current.

State Farm – Thomas Klann Agency announces February “Quotes for Good”
State Farm – Thomas Klann Agency is excited to help out another Non-Profit Organization in our community. In February 2019 we will be giving back to Lee County K-9 Association by donating $5 for every new Auto Insurance Quote in the month of February 2019. So tell all your non-State Farm family/friends/coworkers to reach out to us for a quote and share this event to spread the word! If you are a current State Farm auto insurance customer, reach out to us for a Life Insurance or Disability Income conversation and we will donate $5 for that also. Contact Jess or Sam at 319-372-5982, 2623 Ave L, Fort Madison, or email: jess@fortmadisoninsurance.com or samantha@fortmadisoninsurance.com.

See CURRENT-LEE, page 8

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.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 24 Feb
Light Snow
High– 25.1º F | Low – 11.5º F

MON 25 Feb
Snow
High– 11.1º F | Low – 7.5º F

TUE 26 Feb
Light Snow
High– 46.0º F | Low – 40.0º F

WED 27 Feb
Light Snow
High– 23.1º F | Low – 8.7º F

THU 28 Feb
Light Snow
High– 9.4º F | Low – 2.1º F

Lee County Health holds clinic for immunizations Thursday

Flu vaccine, lead testing available
FORT MADISON - Lee County Health Department will hold a Children's Immunization Clinic Thursday, February 28, 2019 at Lee County Health Department, located at #3 John Bennett Dr., Ft. Madison from 12 noon until 5:30pm. The facility is located on the OLD Iowa State Penitentiary grounds.
The clinic is open to children who have no insurance, are insured by Iowa Medicaid/MCO or those who have private health insurance that does not cover the cost of vaccines. No appointment is necessary. Written parental consent is required for minors to receive vaccinations when in the care of another adult.
Free lead testing is available for ALL children ages 6 mos. to 6 years that reside in Iowa. Additionally, flu vaccine will be available for all ages. Please call 1-319-372-5225 with questions or visit our website at www.leecountyhd.org.

New Year. Fresh Start.
Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We’re looking forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

Here are just a few ways you can help:

• Don’t put plastic bags in recycling bins
• Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
• Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
• Place all recyclables loose in bins
• Don’t recycle wrapping paper
• Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste

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Fort Madison, IA
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Kirkuk, IA
1-319-524-6175
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Visit Us Online! www.grrrwa.com facebook.com/grrrwa
From the Front

30th annual FMHS Show Choir Invitational Saturday

CHAPMAN - Continued from Page 1

building a program that could compete with any program in the state... and quite possibly the nation. Sandy died seven years ago. I had an ace in a hole... my wife Sandy was brilliant. She was really great getting the 7th and 8th grade kids to look at this and give it a whirl. She was the daughter of a football coach and had grown up around football and baseball practices," he said, frequently gazing through Stoddard’s office window to the students rehearsing just outside.

"She could speak the jock language really well," Chapman, an Ottumwa native, graduated from Ottumwa High School in 1967 and received his music degree in 1971 from Iowa Wesleyan. He stretched that to a master’s degree in voice from Truman State University in 1985. After leaving Fort Madison in 2003, Chapman worked in different capacities, mostly part-time in the area Catholic system including the former Marquette High School and then Holy Trinity Catholic. He also did stints with Southeastern Community College and Western Illinois University.

Chapman now tours the Midwest and occasionally other parts of the country as a show choir savant of sorts to other school programs, as well as serving as a judge wherever he’s asked.

"I just really enjoy being around young people. Kids are kids and I get so much more from them than they get from me. It’s a very energizing thing to be around 15-, 16-, and 17-year olds. They have an energy and enthusiasm that most people my age don’t have," Chapman said.

In the 80s there were only a handful of competitions in the state and Chapman ushered in the program in Fort Madison and showed the rest of the state what smaller schools were capable of. He said he was told by a long-time choral director in the state, that he and Sandy single-handedly put state music departments on notice.

"It had not gone on here before. Within two years we started competitions. I was kind of an over-achiever," he said with a chuckle. "One of the best compliments ever given to me was from a long-time choral director in Iowa, who said that San and I were a ‘kick in the pants’ to all high school directors in Iowa."

With Chapman putting together a string of wins and championships at what competitions there were in and around Iowa, he said the people started sniffing the wind and seeing that invitations could be a good revenue source for school music programs.

"The other big show ticket was the Dinner Theatre. Chapman said that became such a draw that people would actually camp out for tickets. "Those were a sold out deal, where people would literally camp out on Avenue G through the 80s and 90s waiting for tickets. It was a whole lot of fun to see that happen and I like to think that we were pretty good.”

He said it wasn’t uncommon for the Bloodhounds to dominate at the bigger events, a tradition that wasn’t lost on those bigger school music departments. "We won our share of contests and we are always on the small side of the schools we competed against...the Des Moines schools, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Davenport schools, were always one size down from them, but I always chose to not worry about that and just go for it," he said.

One of his fondest memories is a doll he was given by students from an Iowa City high school. "I have an Allen Chapman action figure at home that was given to me from Iowa City kids. I’m sure it was some burger chain doll they made to look like me," Chapman said.

"He was roly poly and holding a hamburger, but they dressed him up like me and it’s just too good to throw away.”

He said the Fort Madison program needs consistency and Stoddard is shaping up to fill that role nicely.

"You can quote me on this. I really enjoy Taylor, I like his energy, his enthusiasm, and I think he’s a special one," Chapman said.

"I really hope he’ll stay here for a while. Things are moving in a nice direction this year. He’s the fifth high school vocal teacher since I left. I really hope he stays because consistency is really so important in building a successful program."

In the better half of 60, Chapman says age isn’t a factor in his life. As long as the phone keeps ringing, he keeps answering.

"I’ll know when the time comes that I’ll need to back off," he said. "When the phone doesn’t ring or I don’t get the invites or the emails, then I’ll know I’m kinda done. But as long as people tell me that I’m still able to engage them and give them some ideas and inspiration...that’s where I’m gonna be.”

Although the requests are paid and Chapman travels the country helping with competitions, he it in an advisory role or as a judge, he said his passion drives him, not others picking up the tab.

"I still really enjoy it," he said. "It’s not about the money; it’s something that I really enjoy. I’m not a mechanic... and I’m not a gardener. I’m a one trick pony. I’m a decent singer and I can get younger singers to fire up. And I can detail and mean car.”

The annual SwingSpan Show Choir Invitational is set for this Saturday at FMHS. The annual Dinner Theater will take place on March 22, with a Murder Mystery theme. Tickets are on sale at Dana Bushong Jewelry, 805 Avenue G, in Fort Madison.

Allen Chapman gives encouragement to this year’s SwingSpan ensemble at Thursday night’s rehearsal session. The annual Fort Madison Show Choir Invitational is this weekend and is in its 30th year.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC
FMHS’s head wrestling coach for the past 21 years, Ryan Smith, was named the IHSAA’s 2019 Character Counts Coach of the Year last week. Smith will be honored at halftime of the Class 4A boys semifinal on March 7.

SMITH - Continued from Page 1

"I think we might use it to send some athletes to a leadership camp in the Des Moines area...It focuses on integrity and what’s next for these kids, and I think that’s a big part of what we try to promote here."

-Ryan Smith
FMHS Wrestling Coach

As part of the award, the ISHAA will present FMHS with a $1,000 grant funded by the Iowa Institute for Character Development and the Iowa Games.

Smith said there’s been some preliminary discussion on how best to use the grant.

"I think we might use it to send some athletes to a leadership camp in the Des Moines area. We’ve talked about that. It focuses on integrity and what’s next for these kids, and I think that’s a big part of what we try to promote here."

Fort Madison High School Activities Director Jeremy Swink sent in a nomination for Smith. Swink is in his first year in the position and sent the nomination Jan. 24.

A celebration is being planned for Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Media Center.

Swink said just working with Smith for not even a year, he could see he embodied what the award stood for.

“Ryan has shown the determination, dedication, and responsibility necessary to be a successful and effective leader in our school and community,” Fort Madison Athletic Director Jeremy Swink wrote in his nomination.

“His goal as the wrestling coach and Spanish teacher is much more than to teach his students the curriculum or the proper technique of a single leg, but to teach them life-lessons that someday will enable them to be the best person they possibly can be.”

Smith grew up in Dubuque and attended Wahlert High where he was a multi-sport athlete participating in football, wrestling, and baseball.

Smith then attended the University of Iowa, where he wrestled as a Hawkeye for legendary coach and U.S. Olympian Dan Gable. He earned a degree in Spanish there graduating in 1995.

He went on to get his teaching certificate in 1997 from Loras College in Dubuque.

Smith took his first teaching job that year in Fort Madison Schools as the high school Spanish teacher and varsity wrestling coach. He served under head coach Mike Riley for one year and then took over the program. He’s also had stints as the junior high football coach and helps with the high school football and athletic enhancement programs.

His lives in Fort Madison with his wife Jill, and the couple’s three kids, Teague who is 13, Mara, 10, and Lyla, 8.
PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY, February 26, 2019
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval Agenda
3. 9:01 a.m. Public Hearing for Proposed Sale of 1225 25th Street to City of Fort Madison
4. Consider Approval of Resolution Approving Sale of 1225 25th Street to City of Fort Madison
5. Approve Tuesday, February 19, 2019 and Thursday, February 21, 2019 Board Minutes
6. Consider Approval of Claims
7. Public Input
8. Consider Approval of First Reading of ATV/UTV Ordinance for Lee County
9. Consider Approval of Contract for Pavement Widening on X25, J40 and W62
10. Consider Approval of Contract for HMA Resurfacing/CIP Recycling on J48
11. Consider Approval of Preliminary Lee County FY 2020 Budget and Set Public Hearing
13. Receive and File Management Annual Update for Pomberg Farms
15. Commission or Committee Reports
16. Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING
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County Website: www.lee county.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County Conference Board has scheduled the public hearing to adopt the 2019-2020 Assessor’s budget for Thursday, February 28th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lee County Sheriff’s Office Conference room, 2530 255th St, Montrose, Iowa. The agenda will include:
1. Approve the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the January 24th, 2019 meeting.
3. Motion to approve Assessor’s office employee’s change from a 35 hour work week to a 40 hour work week beginning 7/1/2019.
4. Public hearing for the Assessor’s budget. (Roll call vote)
5. Adoption of the approved 2019-2020 Assessor’s budget. (Roll call vote)
6. Appoint Examining Committee
7. Adjourn

County Website: www.lee county.org

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at the Council Chambers of Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison concerning the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget. Copies of the detailed proposed budget may be obtained or viewed at the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk and at the Library.

You may obtain further information or express your views concerning this issue either in person or through an authorized representative at the public hearing, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 206, by E-mail at mblind@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on March 5, 2019.

Melinda L. Blind
City Clerk

City of Fort Madison
Iowa

The Budget Estimate Summary of proposed receipts and expenditures is shown below. Copies of the detailed proposed budget may be obtained or viewed at the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk, and at the Library.

The estimated Total tax levy rate per $1000 valuation on regular property is 3.00375

You may obtain further information or express your views concerning this issue either in person or through an authorized representative at the public hearing, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 206, by E-mail at mblind@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on March 5, 2019.

Melinda L. Blind
City Clerk
Griffin, staff gets auto honors

FORT MADISON – Nannette Griffin, Owner of Griffin Muffler & Brake Center, located at 535 Ave G Fort Madison, IA completed the necessary requirements to earn her Accredited Master Automotive Manager (AMAM) designation. Nannette Griffin was recognized during a formal graduation ceremony on May 4, 2018, in Orlando, Fla. Nannette Griffin, of Griffin Muffler & Brake Center, was awarded Automotive Management Institute's Accredited Master Automotive Manager last summer. The designation represents a standard of professionalism in auto service management.

The AMAM designation represents a standard for professionalism in automotive service management. The Automotive Management Institute (AMI) awards it to industry professionals who successfully complete at least 180 credits in seven core education areas: Financial Management, HR & Personnel Development, IT Management, Leadership, Operational Management, Risk Management and Sales & Marketing.

Diedra Wixon, Service Advisor for Griffin Muffler & Brake Center, completed the necessary requirements to earn her Accredited Automotive Manager (AAM) designation. Wixon was recognized during a formal graduation ceremony on March 2, 2018, in Overland Park, KS. The AAM designation represents a standard for professionalism in automotive service management.

Blood Drives
The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will be hosting a blood drive Feb. 26th in the gym at Holy Trinity Catholic High School from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Fort Madison Community Hospital from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the lower level conference room.

Evening with Chuck Long
Former Iowa standout and NFL quarterback Chuck Long will be at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Thursday Feb. 28, 2019 for a presentation, including a social hour and dinner with doors opening at 4:30. The social hour and dinner will be from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Long will speak at 6 p.m. with a question and answer to follow. For more information, contact Ryan at 319-528-6214 or by email at mcmillan@sheaffergolf.com

RiverFest Line-Up Reveal Party
The 2019 RiverFest Line-Up Reveal party will be held on March 2 beginning at 8 p.m. RiverFest's 2019 entertainment lineup will be revealed and Ghost of Judas will be playing. Raffles, Ticket sales and giveaways are planned for the event.

United Way Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser
The United Way of the Great River Region is hosting its 9th annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Hawkeye Restaurant on March 11. Carry out or dine-in options available. Serving times are from 5 p.m. to 6:30, and 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information contact Director Karen Thie at 319-524-4504.

St. Patrick’s Day celebration
The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce will be holding a St. Patrick’s Day celebration on March 16 including a parade, games, music and fun. Parade entry forms are available by contact the Chamber at 319-372-5471.

Fort Madison YMCA's Shamrocked 2019
The 2nd annual Shamrocked will be held on March 16 starting at 8 a.m. with a free-will donation pancake breakfast, followed by a Bike & Brew after the St. Patrick’s Holiday Parade. For more information, contact the YMCA at 372-2403.

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater
The Fort Madison High School Music Department will be presenting its annual Dinner Theater on March 22-23. Doors open at 6 p.m with the show beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets available at Dana Bushong's at 805 Avenue G.