Service groups ready for Glo-craziness

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The 2nd Annual Glo 5K Crazy for Education run put on by the city's four service groups will kick off Saturday night at the Baxter Sports Complex.

Runners will leave the Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. with last-minute registrations and bag pickups beginning at 6 p.m. Proceeds from the run benefit the educational programming of the Elliott Test Kitchen in downtown Fort Madison.

Runners get ready to take off from Baxter Sports Complex at dusk in the 2018 Glo Crazy for Education 5K. Registration is open for this year's event which will take place Saturday, April 6 again at the sports complex. PCC file photo

Fort Madison Kiwanis member and organizer Shirley Hoenig said there is still time to register today online at https://www.pencitycurrent.com/2019/04/03/ and registration can be done on the day of the race at the complex.

Last year's event raised close to $3,800 for educational programs with more than 150 runners tackling the 5K that starts at the sports complex and goes along the P.O.R.T. trails east to Ivanhoe Park where runners loop around the park and then head north to Bluff Road, turning west to 48th Street down to a loop at Fort Madison Middle School and back to the sports complex property.

Hoenig approached the service clubs in 2017 about the idea of the 5K. She said last year's event went very well.

"The Glo Crazy for Education committee felt that things went very smoothly last year considering it was our first year and none of us had been involved in planning a 5K before," she said.

"This year we have made plans to improve lighting along 48th street and at the start/finish line. We're really excited about the project that Michael Mohrfeld, owner of Mohrfeld Electric, and Nathan Harter, Key Club and Robotics Club member, are working on," Hoenig said.

Hoenig said the goal of the clubs is to see the event grow each year and generate substantial funding for the Test Kitchen and its growing student base.

"This year they are working with about 200 students in after-school and weekend sessions. Meals are served after all sessions and this takes money," she said.

The Elliott Test Kitchen is an innovative student-driven program in downtown Fort Madison. Director Kumar Wickramasingha, provides a environment for learning with up-to-date technology and support from teachers in the Fort Madison public and private school systems.

Programs center around ACT exam prep, robotics labs, STEM projects and homework assistance. During sessions at the Test Kitchen, students also learn to prepare and serve full meals under the direction of Kumar, who is a renowned chef and former restaurateur.

"The path and finish are line are illuminated with lights in bags and LED lights. This year a new light finish line is being constructed for even more flares as runners make their way across the finish line. Medals will be awarded to the top finishers in each division.

FORT MADISON – A parking lot at the west end of Riverview Park might work as an RV camping area.

At least that's what the Fort Madison Parks and Recreation Board heard at Wednesday's regular meeting at City Hall.

Larry Driscoll, the city's Public Works director, told the board that he wanted to apply for a grant of up to $150,000 to look at turning the upper parking lot, which is just north of where the old Riverboat casino used to dock, into a campground for recreational campers.

No tent camping would be allowed.

Driscoll said camping is growing in the area and there are several other RV camping areas in southeast Iowa that are usually full in the summer.

"You see the RV park in Mt. Pleasant and it's full all the time. There's nothing to do there, I just think they like to camp," Driscoll said.

Driscoll said campers have access to the catwalk over the tracks and could get downtown and visit the stores and restaurants there.

"I think it would be more utilized down there than you see at Rodeo Park," Driscoll told the board.

"I think it would pretty cost effective, too. You've got water there, sewer there, and we got concrete there.

All we'd be doing is creating some green space around the RVs. There is some questionable turning points that are tough, but that doesn't mean we couldn't cut a road down to the lower parking lots so you can get out easier."

The recommendation would require a resolution from the City Council to allow Driscoll to apply for the grant.

"That's something I think's worth looking at and talking about," Board member Jim Decker said.

Driscoll said he could apply for a state recreational grant which would cover 95% of the cost to rehab the area for camping. The city would also see revenues from camping fees.

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Board looks at riverfront RV campground

Parking lot west of Riverview Park being considered

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

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Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 1800 block of Avenue H. 04/02/19 – 4:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2300 block of Avenue J. 04/02/19 – 5:22 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue I. 04/03/19 – 8:18 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3600 block of Avenue L. 04/02/19 – 2:32 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3600 block of Avenue L. 04/03/19 – 9:05 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 1600 block of Avenue D. 04/03/19 – 1:20 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Justin Russell Raszler, 31, of Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of Avenue H, on warrants for failure to obey stop sign and leaving the scene of an accident. He was also charged with driving while barred, no vehicle insurance, and possession of methamphetamine. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/01/19 – 11:58 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Matthew Jay Wells, 18, of Fort Madison at the intersection of 303rd Avenue and Academy Avenue in Denmark, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/01/19 – 11:58 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Tyler Joseph Allen Thompson, 25, of Fort Madison at the intersection of 303rd Avenue and Academy Avenue, on a charge of failure to maintain control. He was released upon citation.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report 04/01/19 – 2:32 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 400 block of 2nd Street. 04/01/19 – 12:18 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a car accident on 270th Avenue. A vehicle driven by Bethany Denise Metcalf, 43, Fairfield, struck a vehicle driven by Britany Lee Flockhart, 18, of Keokuk. Metcalf was cited for failure to yield the right of way after attempting a turn from the northbound lane across the southbound lane and, according to the report, striking Flockhart’s vehicle. No injuries were listed on the report. 04/03/19 – 2:38 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Dustin Lee Helmick, 19, of Montrose, was struck by a vehicle driven by Danny Willard Perry of Crawwell, Mich. Willard was stopped at stop sign and, according to the report, backed into Hawkins. No citations or injuries were listed on the report. 04/03/19 – 9:28 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on 270th Avenue. A vehicle driven by Bethany Denise Metcalf, 43, Fairfield, struck a vehicle driven by Britany Lee Flockhart, 18, of Keokuk. Metcalf was cited for failure to yield the right of way after attempting a turn from the northbound lane across the southbound lane and, according to the report, striking Flockhart’s vehicle. No injuries were listed on the report. 04/03/19 – 5:15 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Travis William Peterson, Sr., 39, of Mount Pleasant, on two charges of OWI-2nd offense, and leaving the scene of an accident. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 04/03/19 – 6:48 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Anthony Clinton Long, 35, of Burlington, at the sheriff’s office on a temporary hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report 04/01/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two assists and two medical calls. 04/02/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls and odor. 04/03/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls, two false alarms, one report of smoke and one car accident.

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
OBITUARIES

BRANDON SCOTT FITZGERALD

Brandon Scott Fitzgerald 14, of Keokuk, IA died Monday, April 1, 2019 at Unity Point Keokuk.

He was born April 20, 2004 in Ft. Madison, IA the son of Bryan Fitzgerald and Patricia Hummel.

Brandon was a student at Ft. Madison Community Middle School in Ft. Madison, IA. Brandon enjoyed playing GTA and Call of Duty and hanging out with his friends. He also enjoyed riding bikes and listening to music. He loved his four legged friend, Zoey.

He is survived by his mother, Patricia Hummel of Keokuk, his father, Bryan Fitzgerald (April Lake) of Montrose, IA, four brothers, Brett Montgomery and Darrin Fitzgerald both of Keokuk, Cory Porter of Ft. Madison, IA and Drew Dean of Quincy, IL, one sister, Jessica Fitzgerald of Montrose, IA, maternal grandmother, Mae Mohler of Ft. Madison, IA, paternal grandmother, Linda Richmiller of Liberty, IL, paternal grandfather, Richard Mudd and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Keokuk with Pastor Milo Van Yeldehuizen officiating.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

DORIS EVELYN CONGDON

Doris Evelyn Congdon, 94 years, of Wever, Iowa died Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at the Klein Center, West Burlington, Iowa. She was born May 24, 1924 in Pontotoc, Illinois, a daughter of George Sr. and Estella Mae (Lightner) Bergmeier. On December 21, 1940, she married Glenn Edward Congdon Sr. in Kahoka, Missouri. He preceded her in death August 20, 2002.

Doris was a homemaker and a farm woman in every sense of the word. She could be found milking cows, feeding animals, driving tractors and grain trucks, gardening, canning and preserving fruits and vegetables, cooking and baking. She enjoyed mushroom hunting and berry picking. In later years she had a food wagon and offered homemade cooking and baking to several auction groups, including Steffenmeier Auction and The Auction Barn in West Burlington. Doris’ real purpose was her family. She made sure her children went to school and church. They felt her love and gentleness. The farm was a place of peacefulness for all!

She is survived by one son, Dr. Larry (Kathie) Congdon, of Granite Bay, California; three daughters: Virginia J. Layer, of Burlington, Iowa; Peggy M. (David) Estrada, of Wever; and Bonnie A. Congdon (Dot Drummond), of Wever; two daughters-in-law, Betty Congdon, of Fort Madison and Lee Congdon of St. James City, Florida; one former daughter-in-law, Penny Atlee of Palms Spring, California; ten grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, several step grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren; two sisters: June McVeigh of Nauvoo, Illinois and Virginia Bass of Eugene, Oregon; one sister-in-law, Peggy Bergmeier of Illinois, numerous nieces and nephews, and her constant companion of 6 years, miniature poodle, Bailey. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two sons, Glenn E. Congdon Jr. and Jerry E. Congdon, one granddaughter, Gena Layer, and two brothers, Rodney Bergmeier and George Bergmeier Jr.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 – 4:00 pm Sunday, April 7, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A Funeral Service will be held at 10:30 am Monday, April 8, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, with Reverend John Simpson officiating. Burial has been established for the PAWS or the Klein Center Memorial Fund, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the Congdon Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.
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WEST POINT – Mr. and Mrs. Matt and Heather Halbrook are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Pearl Mackenzie Halbrook, on April 1, 2019, at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

She is joined at home by sister Jewel.

Grandparents are Jeanne Kisor of Keokuk and Great-great grandparents are Gladys Martins of Colfax.

FORT MADISON – Stephanie Frantz and Josh Ringer, of Fort Madison, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Prudence Ekko-Ann Ringer on March 29, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

She is joined at home by sister Jewel.

Great-grandparents are Dan and Mary Ringer of Davenport, and Steve and Lynda Ringer of Independence.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

FORT MADISON – Mr. and Mrs. Tyler and Katie Ringer, of Fort Madison, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Prudence Ekko-Ann Ringer on March 29, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

Owen Randolph Andrews on March 22, 2019 at the Quality Inn & Suites, doors open at 7 a.m. to browse the expo displays and a buffet breakfast will be available starting at 7:30 a.m. ($10/per person Fort Madison Area Chamber member employees, $15/per person non-members).

Eligible businesses will be based on the following criteria:

- Is organized for profit
- Has a place of business in Fort Madison
- Is independently owned and operated
- Is not dominant in its field on a national basis

The Small Business of the Year and the Micro Business of the Year awards are presented and all nominees are acknowledged during the Annual Salute to Small Business Breakfast.

The Salute to Small Business Breakfast, sponsored by Huffman Welding & Machine and Huffman Farm & Home, will be held on Thursday, May 9th at the Quality Inn & Suites, doors open at 7 a.m. to browse the expo displays and a buffet breakfast will be available starting at 7:30 a.m. ($10/per person Fort Madison Area Chamber member employees, $15/per person non-members).

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Wilson Lake gets another 1,000 trout

DNR puts 500 rainbow, 500 brook trout in Lee County lake

PCC STAFF

DES MOINES – The following is the weekly fishing report from the Iowa Department of Transportation for the week beginning Thursday, April 4, 2019.

Big Hollow Lake
A few boats have been out, mostly to get out. Large-mouth Bass – Slow: Catching a few bass along the dam and around the rip rap around the islands.

Environmental Discovery Park North Pond
The spring trout stocking was last Friday; 1000 trout (500 brook trout and 500 rainbow trout) were stocked. You must have a fishing license and a pay the trout fee to fish for and/or possess trout.

Lake Belva Deer
Water temperature was 45 degrees on April 3. Water clarity was about 29 inches. Largemouth Bass – Slow: On a sunny day, target the north side of the upper end of the lake where the shallow water was covered in rock.

Lake Darling
Water temperature is between 46 and 47 degrees in the afternoon. Water Clarity is about 26 inches. Channel Catfish – Slow: If it rains this weekend when it’s warm, target where the water comes through the in-lake silt dams; using nightcrawlers or cut bait. Largemouth Bass – Slow: Anglers are starting to pick up a few bass along the rocks and shallow brush piles by the main boat ramp.

Lost Grove Lake
Water temperature is in the low to mid-40’s. Largemouth Bass – Fair: Can be good during the sunny afternoons in the shallows. Work slow; the water is still plenty cold and so are the bass.

Wilson Lake
The Spring Trout Release was last Friday; 1000 trout (500 brook trout and 500 rainbow trout) were stocked. You must have a fishing license and a pay the trout fee to fish for and/or possess trout.

For more information on the above lakes, call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Mississippi River Pool 19
Pools 16-19 are above flood stage and rising. Recent predictions have the river cresting on Sunday/Monday, but forecasts may change with predicted rain. Many of the boat ramps are closed due to flooding. We have not received any fishing report information this week due to the high water conditions. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

YMCA agrees to run pool again

Board member Sue Pieper said she wouldn’t want people taking up residency at the lot and then trashing the place. Driscoll said the city would collect a fee, and people could stay most of the year, but they would take the units out over winter.

In an unrelated issue, Driscoll said the Fort Madison YMCA is on board with managing the city pool for another year. He said before the YMCA took over management of the pool, the city was spending up to $75,000 per year and those costs have dropped to about $45,000.

He said the city had some maintenance to do this year that will cost a little more, including replacing some expensive pumps.

“We’re actually replacing two high service pumps that service the slide and recirculation. We’re doing some slide work and metal work with Huffman Welding to get that back up to snuff,” Driscoll said.

He also updated the board on the P.O.R.T. trail and indicated work should start on Phase 3 of the P.O.R.T. trail, from 48th Street to Fort Madison Community Hospital, in July.

Wilson Lake gets another 1,000 trout

DNR puts 500 rainbow, 500 brook trout in Lee County lake

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Got a news tip?
HTC Presents Little Shop of Horrors
Holy Trinity Catholic presents Little Shop of Horrors this Friday & Saturday, April 5 & 6 at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Shottenkirk Gymnasium. Admission is $5 with children 10 & under being admitted for free. Tickets are available at Holy Trinity Catholic High School or at the door.

CURRENT-LEE Expressions Art Auction
The annual fundraiser for the Fort Madison Area Arts Association is set for April 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison.

Glo Crazy for Education 5K
The Glo Crazy for Education 5K run will take place April 6th beginning at 8 p.m. at Baxter Sports Complex in Fort Madison. Registration begins at 6:30 and refreshments are available at the Sports Complex after the run. Fort Madison Service Clubs Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary and FMHS Key Club organize the event. To register click here: https://www.pencitycurrent.com/2019glorun/.

FMHS Boosters Spring Craft Show
The boosters will hold their annual spring craft show will be held April 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the FMHS gym and MPR. More than 70 vendors have signed up for this years show.

Xplosion Pancake breakfast
The Xplosion 10U youth baseball team will be holding a pancake breakfast at Buffalo61 in Fort Madison on April 6, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Proceeds help defer costs of the traveling baseball team.

Senior Health Clinic
The Lee County Health Dept. will be holding senior health clinics on April 9th at Hillview Village in Fort Madison from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Hillview Village.

Lunch & Learn/Family Fun Night
For those interested in starting a child care center are invited to Lee County Health Dept. Lunch & Learn at Iowa Wesleyan College from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. on April 12. A family fun night will follow with a free family concert with Tom Pease from 4 to 6 p.m.

United Methodist Ham Dinner
The Fort Madison United Methodist Church will host it’s annual Ham Dinner on Palm Sunday, April 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Menu will included ham, party potatoes, corn, green beans, salads, desserts, rolls and beverages. A free will offering is appreciated.

Fort Madison Community Clean up
The Fort Madison Chamber will be holding it’s annual Community Clean up on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to noon. with registration at Central Park. Free lunch will follow in the park. Call the Chamber at 372-5471 to register and for details.

Holy Family Parish breakfast
Roling Hall will be the site for a Easter Sunday, April 21, pancake breakfast beginning at 9:30 a.m. A free-will donation will help defray costs of the HFP youth attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

FM Partners Paint-A-Thon
Volunteers are need for the annual Paint-A-Thon taking place April 22-27 in Fort Madison. Contact Fort Madison Partners at 372-5471 to volunteer.

BSC Auction, Social Tour
The 2nd annual event will be held on April 27, 2019 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Baxter Sports Complex with transportation by SEIBUS. Dinner will follow by Fat Jimmy’s Smokehouse and the auction begins at 7 p.m.

Salute to Small Business Breakfast
The Fort Madison Chamber will be holding it’s annual Salute to Small Business Breakfast on Thursday, May 9 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at Quality Inn & Suites.

Soroptomist Princess Tea Party
The annual Princess Tea Party is set for Saturday, May 11th at Quality Inn & Suites in Fort Madison. Ages 3-5 will attend from 10 a.m. to noon, while 6 and up will attend from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Registration deadline is April 5. For more information email Dr. Lauri Wondra at laurisorop@gmail.com.

Jack Morris Memorial Golf Outing
The annual Fort Madison Chamber Golf outing will be held June 14, 2019. Sponsorships are available. Contact Fort Madison Partners at 319-372-5471 for more details.

We have great news!
$1,000 Grants for New Students
Holy Trinity Catholic Schools are pleased to announce that we have $1,000 grants for incoming students (grades 1-12) transferring from another school. These are one-time grants awarded to students for their first year of attendance at HTC.

We have a limited number of spots available in each grade level so grants will be issued on a first come, first served basis. The New Student Grants can be used in conjunction with all other forms of tuition assistance, including STO Grants, Foundation Grants and scholarships. Our kindergarten students receive a new student discount, so the grant program will not apply.

We welcome you to learn more about the excellence and affordability of Holy Trinity Catholic Schools.
Please contact Shelley Sheerin at 319-372-2486, ext. 7

www.holytrinityschools.org