New app will track school buses

“Here Comes the Bus” app will give parents bus info

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The wheels on the bus go round and round, but now you’ll know where they get close to you. Not only will a new app that is being rolled out by the Fort Madison Community School District allow residents on district routes to see when the bus is going to arrive, it has a bunch of other bells and whistles, too.

Transportation Director Richard Hand outlined the program the district is testing from Synovia Solutions. The app will be able to be downloaded onto resident phones, iPads, etc and uses GPS technology to ping the buses location every three seconds.

Hand gave the presentation to the Fort Madison School Board as part of Wednesday’s regular school board meeting at the district’s central office. Hand said he’s still in the process of learning the program, but researched several companies and thinks he’s found the best fit for the district.

“It lets the parent know by an app on their phone when the bus will be at their student’s stop,” Hand told the board. Hand said he can set the parameters to shoot a text to the parents when the bus is five minutes out.

“If instead of the student waiting out at the end of a long lane, they’ll get a text saying the bus is five minutes out. That’ll be really helpful for families that live clear out at the end of the routes.”

The app is a free download on cellphones or computers and residents will have to have a district code and password given out by the district to access information. Hand said that’s a security measure to keep those outside the district from knowing where buses are specifically.

He said messages can also be sent out if a bus breaks down letting families know the bus will be arriving later. Additionally, the system comes with dashboard mounted tablet scanners on each bus. Students will have a bus pass with a bar code on it and the student will be scanned on and off the bus. If the student is supposed to be on the bus, a green indicator light will activate, if the student is not.

Fort Madison School District Transportation Director Richard Hand explained the technology behind the district’s new “Here Comes the Bus” app that is being tested by the district now.

FORT MADISON – The Relay for Life of North Lee County is pleased to announce 2018 American Idol winner Maddie Poppe will headline this year’s event, to be held Friday evening, September 27, 2019 at Fort Madison High School.

The event will include a similar structure to past events, however, the traditional luminaria ceremony, which will begin at 8:00 PM, will include music performed live by Ms. Poppe.

A concert performed by Maddie Poppe will follow in the high school gym at 9:00 p.m., featuring songs from her newly released album “Whirlwind.” Tickets for the concert are $40, and are available by visiting the Relay for Life of North Lee County website, at www.relayforlife.org/northleecounty. Cash payments will also be accepted in person at Fort Madison Community Hospital in their Community Relations Department. All proceeds from the concert will benefit the American Cancer Society and go towards this year’s event goal of $60,000.

“We’re extremely excited to make this big announcement,” said Angie Budnik, the Relay for Life of North Lee County committee chairperson.

“Our Relay for Life event has a rich history of honoring those who have battled this dreaded disease, and this year we’re determined to increase the awareness of the strength this group of courageous people possess. This year’s theme, “Idols of Strength,” is a true representation of this goal, and we’re thrilled to be able to have last year’s American Idol champion come to our event to help us celebrate the strength possessed by the cancer survivors throughout our community.”

Maddie Poppe introduced herself to Southeast Iowa with an announcement video that has been posted on the Relay for Life of North Lee County Facebook page. You can learn more about her music from her website, at www.maddiepoppe.com, or by downloading and listening to the album “Whirlwind.”

“My goal in life is to make people happy through music,” Poppe said. “It’s the most rewarding experience, and that’s why I choose to bring my passion to the Relay for Life this year.”

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Lee County Conservation
to hold duck blind drawing

LCCCD to lottery a
dozen duck blind
spots on county
owned property

BY PCC STAFF

MONTROSE – Lee County Conservation will hold a Duck Blind Drawing on Thursday, June 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the Lee County Conservation Center. The blind locations will be located on the county-owned islands near the river channel. There are 12 blind spots on the county-owned islands near the river channel. There are 12 blind spots on the county-owned islands near the river channel. There are 12 blind spots on the county-owned islands near the river channel.

The annual permanent blind rules for the county-owned islands were developed and recommended to the Lee County Conservation Board by the Duck Blind Committee in 2018. This will be the second year a drawing has been held for these blind spots. If a blind is not selected at the drawing, the spots will then be offered on a first-come-first-serve basis. Hunters interested in the blind drawing are encouraged to visit www.leecounty.org to review the blind rules and the map of the blind sites prior to the drawing. For more information on the blind drawing, hunters should call the Conservation Center at (319) 463-7673.

Live Healthy Lee County picking up produce next week

LEE COUNTY – Live Healthy Lee County will be at the Fort Madison Farmers Market from 5:30-6:00pm on Monday, June 24th to pick-up any donated produce for their Produce Box Project. Anyone with donations is welcome to bring them to the market, and LHLC will take the donations to one of the participating sites.

If you can't make it to the market, and have a donation feel free to drop it off in the yellow produce boxes at one of the following locations: Southview Apartments (Keokuk), Hillview Village (Fort Madison), Mississippi Terrace (Keokuk), Newberry Center (Fort Madison), Park View Apartments (West Point), and River Terrace (Keokuk). Denmark Star Park also has a community table.

“Our tenants have really enjoyed getting the fresh produce. Many of them stay close to home or don't have the transportation means to get to the farmer's market so being part of this project has been great for us,” states Andrea Hernandez, Tenant Services Coordinator at Hillview Village.

For more information on the Produce Box Project contact Emily Biddenstadt, Lee County Health Department Outreach Coordinator, at (319)372-5225.

OBITUARIES

NANCY MARIE ANDERSON

Nancy Marie Anderson, 68 years, of Denmark, Iowa died at 7:00 pm Sunday, June 16, 2019 at the Great River Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. She was born June 14, 1951 in Fort Madison, Iowa, a daughter of Floyd F “Bud” and Ruth Marie (Spiekermier) Grossman. She was a 1969 graduate of Fort Madison High School. Nancy worked for 20 years at General Electric in West Burlington, Iowa. She loved spending time with her seven puppies: Cyrus, Zeva, Givonna, McGee, Dinozzo, Pawey, and Basil. She also enjoyed gardening and crafting.

She is survived by her companion and “man friend” of 24 years, Jerry West of Burlington, Iowa; two daughters, Tami (husband Aaron) Schumann of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa and Tennesse Anderson (husband David Kuhn) of Woodbury, Minnesota; one son, Joshua Anderson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; one brother, Randy (wife Tamara) Grossman of Fort Madison; six grandchildren: Kassidy and Kyler Box; Andy, Lauren and Riley Kuhn; and one nephew. She was preceded in death by her parents and one nephew.

Her family will greet friends from 1:00 to 2:30 pm Friday, June 21, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Her ashes will be placed at her gravesite at Denmark Cemetery, Denmark. A memorial has been established for PAWS, contributions may be made at the funeral home. Online condolences to the Anderson Family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

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OBITUARIES

SHARON ELIZABETH BROWN

Sharon (Sheri) Elizabeth Brown, 84, of Keokuk, IA, passed away on Tuesday, June 18th, 2019, at her home with her husband, family and friends at her bedside.

Sheri was born March 13, 1935, in Summitville, IA, the daughter of Edgar and Lorrayne Case Brandenberg. Sheri was united in marriage to H. Wesley (Wes) Brown on September 6, 1952 in Keokuk, IA.

Sheri is survived by her husband Wes, her daughter Marlys McKaig of Kansas City, MO; her son-in-law Doug McKaig (deceased); her grandson Brandon McKaig of Minneapolis, MN and Luke McKaig of Kansas City, MO; Justin Brown and Nathan Brown of Tempe, AZ; and great-granddaughter Ava McKaig of Kansas City, MO.

Sheri was preceded in death by her parents Lorrayne and Edgar Brandenberg and two brothers.

Sheri was a graduate of the University of Iowa High School, Iowa City, IA, class of 1953, where her husband likes to point out that she was a married homecoming queen.

Sheri was an active member of the St. Joseph’s Hospital Auxiliary, having served as president. She was a long-time member of All Saints Catholic Church, volunteered for Birthright of Keokuk, worked on committees for Keokuk Main Street, Inc., was Secretary/Treasurer of Keasling’s Pharmacy and Gifts for 55 years where she also served as manager of the Hallmark Gold Crown and Gifts department and was an ambassador for Keasling’s inside and outside the store throughout those years. She was an avid and fierce bridge player.

Visitation will be held from 5 – 7 p.m., Thursday at Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at the Keokuk National Cemetery.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m., Friday at All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk, with the family meeting with friends at that time, followed by a Vigil Service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF) — a charity supported by her favorite comedian, Ray Romano, or to St. Vincents School of Keokuk.

Sheri was an avid and fierce bridge player. She was a long-time member of All Saints Catholic Church, volunteered for Birthright of Keokuk, worked on committees for Keokuk Main Street, Inc., was Secretary/Treasurer of Keasling’s Pharmacy and Gifts for 55 years where she also served as manager of the Hallmark Gold Crown and Gifts department and was an ambassador for Keasling’s inside and outside the store throughout those years. She was an avid and fierce bridge player.

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Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.
Mayhem on tap for FMHS fundraiser at Buffalo61

BY ETHAN LILLARD
PCC SPORT

FORT MADISON- Many current adults grew up watching wrestling and still follow it to this day. And why not? From snakes and guys riding out on Harley's, all the way to dudes walking through a mist of fire sparks and jumping through tables, wrestling has always been a form of entertainment that finds a way to relate to its audience.

Central Empire Wrestling out of Wellman, Iowa picked the perfect way to relate to the Fort Madison audience it will perform for this Saturday at Buffalo 61. Holy Trinity alumn Noah Cutler, or Ricky Love as he's better known on the mat, will be the featured wrestler in the main event Saturday. Along with Love, the event will feature former University of Iowa Hawkeye football player Steve Manders, world renowned wrestler Rory Fox, the 'World's Strongest Little Man' Chad Strong and many others.

"I think we provide a family-friendly atmosphere," Central Empire Wrestling promoter and owner Austin Bayliss said. "There will be something for everyone. We do a really good job of interacting with our fans, interacting with the people who book us and the communities."

The whole idea for the event stemmed from Fort Madison baseball Head Coach Ron Walker attending a CEW event last fall. During the event, he met with Bayliss and got to talking about their shared love of baseball and wrestling. The next thing you know, Walker was calling Bayliss trying to coordinate CEW and the baseball team for a fundraising event.

Walker then met with long-time friend, fellow wrestling enthusiast and Buffalo 61 owner Chase Gibb. With Buffalo 61 in Fort Madison, the parking lot space to put on an event of this size and Gibb wanting to give back while also providing a form of entertainment even he himself enjoys, it only made sense for Walker and Gibb to tag team for a fundraiser.

"Rumor has it Coach Walker or Chase Gibb might be getting fitted for some tights, but we don't now that for sure," Walker said with a grin on his face. "You don't wanna miss what's going to happen."

"Since I turned 40 I've noticed that certain parts of my body are starting to ache that haven't ached before, " Gibb said about whether he would climb into the ring Saturday. "But, that being said, you never know what's going to happen."

Along with Walker and/or Gibb, the winner of ticket sales among the baseball team may also have a role in the events that unfold. "Some of the baseball players will be involved," Bayliss said. "I don't know the exact dynamic of that yet, but my understanding is they have been selling tickets and some of them will be rewarded with an opportunity in conjunction in the event."

While not every baseball player will be a part of the fundraising event, the whole idea for the event stemmed from Walker and Gibb wanting to give back while also providing a form of entertainment even they themselves enjoy. The event will feature former University of Iowa Hawkeye football player Steve Manders, world renowned wrestler Rory Fox, the 'World's Strongest Little Man' Chad Strong and many others. The event will provide a family-friendly atmosphere and will be held at Buffalo 61 in Fort Madison, Iowa.
FORT MADISON – The 22nd Annual Fort Madison Wrestling Camp of Champs is set for July 14-16th at the Fort Madison wrestling room.

The camp this year will feature Nelson Brands, a 3-time state champion, two-time freestyle All-American, and a member of the University of Iowa wrestling team; Guy Patron, Jr., a three-time All-American at Loras College; and Eddie Smith, a two-time U23 Greco-Roman All-American and an All-American at Loras College.

The three-day camp will run from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday; and 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday. Cost is $30 and due to space limitations only the first 50 wrestlers will be accepted. Wrestlers entering 3rd through 12th grade are welcomed at the camp.

Wrestlers must bring and be responsible for their own gear. Headgear is recommended but not required and street shoes are not allowed on the mats.

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The registration deadline is July 1 in order to receive a free camp shirt and shorts.

For more information contact Coach Ryan Smith at ryan.smith@fmsd.org.
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Apartments for Rent

Parents will know when buses are close

BUSES - Continued from Page 1

not on the right bus, a red light will display. "Now we'll have better control of our bus loads which should help us maybe cut a route or two down the road," he said.

"The bus drivers are going to have to pay attention to the students scanning on and off. Parents will also get a notification when the student scans off and the app will show were they got off." He said all the buses are equipped with the scanners now and there is a spare set. The school district doesn't own the equipment, it's a lease agreement with Syenovia and the school isn't on the hook for maintenance. He said the technology also has mechanical features that will alert the driver and Hand when there is a mechanical issue with the bus. He said it can also monitor speeds of buses so if he were to get a complaint on a driver, he can immediately pull up data that would verify or contradict driving behaviors.

Hand said the data is carried by Verizon and it is possible in some areas where a ping may not get registered or if the cell service is having issues it could drop the pings and lose track, but it would be very similar to cellphone service.

The original test showed 366 hits back to server on a test run to Houghton and back. Hand said he can see individual startups of buses, the diagnostic checks drivers must do on each start up and other information, that before, he had to manually audit. "I can be a better manager with the drivers because it's impossible to be out there when 19 routes start up. And if I am out there, we're all going to do it exactly as we were supposed to," Hand said. "Now I don't have to be out there, I can take a look at this every once in a while and say 'Ok, we got a problem here, let's make sure we're doing this correctly so we can be safer. That's what it's all about.'

Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said Hand has done a tremendous job in offering improvements that help the safety and security of students and provide information to parents. She said the project has been several years in the making.

In other action, the board:

• approved the 2019-20 school district fee schedule. Textbook/electronics fees will increase $6 for elementary, $13 for middle school and $10 at the high school. The district is eliminating the elementary and middle school $6 student planner fees.

• approved the district’s group insurance premium renewal which included a $45,000 increase in worker’s compensation premiums. In total, premiums will go up $56,000 effective July 1. The bump in workers compensation was due to a couple of recent accidents, district manager Sandy Elmore said.

• approved salary contracts, bargaining agreements and handbooks for all district staff.

• approved the final resolutions to refinance the districts sales tax bonds on the new middle school, which Elmore said could save the district about $1.2 million over the next 10 years. The bonds are also callable at anytime, so if the district comes into extra money they can pay off the bonds early.

• approved 2019-20 meal rates. All school lunches and milk will go up by .10 per meal. Pre-school through 5th grade will be $2.45 per lunch. Sixth grade through 12th will be $2.70. Adult meals will be $3.85 and all milk will be $2.70. The school district comes into extra money they can pay off the bonds early.

BURLINGTON YOUTH TRIATHLON

BURLINGTON YOUTH TRIATHLON

Sunday, June 23, 2019
9am Race Start • Dankwardt Park Pool
Register as an individual or a team!

Distances based on age group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 7-8</th>
<th>Age 9-11</th>
<th>Age 12-14</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bike 1.7 mi.</td>
<td>Bike 3.3 mi.</td>
<td>Bike 4.9 mi.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Run 1/4 mi.</td>
<td>Run 1/2 mi.</td>
<td>Run 1 mi.</td>
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<td>Swim 50 yd.</td>
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Presented by Great River Health System

Online registration at www.getmeregistered.com
More race info at www.facebook.com/BurlingtonYouthTriathlon

Burlington Youth Triathlon presented by Great River Health System

Parents will know when buses are close

Ham Field day will run 24 hours at Rodeo Park

RADIO - Continued from Page 1

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 21 Jun
Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 69.9º F | Low – 67.4º F

SAT 22 Jun
Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 83.9º F | Low – 74.4º F

SUN 23 Jun
Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 80.8º F | Low – 68.3º F

MON 24 Jun
Moderate Rain
High– 75.7º F | Low – 64.0º F

TUE 25 Jun
Clear
High– 80.8º F | Low – 68.3º F

Pen City Current - Friday, June 21, 2019 - 9