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STC BOYS WRESTLING QUALIFY 5 FOR STATE TOURNEY
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PHOTO BY VANESSA ROUDABUSH

Introducing the new South Tama County high school debate club and its founding members (back row L to R) Jameson Tamayo, Arcitx Houghton, Enrique Anaya, Alex Carrera, (front row L to R) Jennifer Manzo, Maria Lagunas, Maddix Sanache and Kira Henle with club advisor Glory Meyer (right).

Debates develop with STC's new after-school club

VANESSA ROUDABUSH | vroudabush@tamatoledonews.com

Students at South Tama high school have been itching to debate and have finally formed a new after-school debate club this month.

"I'm excited we finally have a debate club. This just popped up out of nowhere. I've heard about debate clubs all my life. My dad, mother, and older brother were in debate clubs, and now I get to be," said Arcitx Houghton, an STC student and new debate club member.

Fellow student Maddix Sanache agreed. "I thought it would be a fun activity and club to be in. I really enjoy the people in the debate club and our discussions. I get to share my [own] thoughts and opinions. I get to be heard. And I hope to improve my arguments and statements," Ganache said.

Teacher Glory Meyer helped spark interest in debating in her language arts classes.

"I have this warm-up activity we do every Wednesday, a daily discussion question. The kids loved it so much, they wanted to do it for the entire period, which we, unfortunately, can't do because we have to get to curriculum," she said. "I told students we could do this if there were a debate club."

After considering forming a debate club due to the student interest, Meyer jumped into helping form the proposal.

"I didn't plan on doing this initially. Especially since I'm a first-year teacher, but they all wanted to do it so bad that I was like, 'You should have that opportunity.' So, I drew up a proposal and presented it to Chelsea to get her input. She thought it was a great idea. Then we brought it to the school board meeting, and they approved, thankfully," Meyer said.

Students won't compete with other schools until the fall semester, but Meyer is focusing on teaching them the fundamentals, so they're prepared.

"I just want to ensure all the students know how to do a structured debate first. How to do their research, and what a structured debate even looks like. Getting through all those basics first and teaching them all the ins and outs before competing," she said. "I'm trying to make sure this isn't more homework for them. I want them to choose it, like it, and enjoy it. I'm making sure I'm making it fun and taking small steps."

But some of the students in the club are craving to compete.

"The prospect of being able to debate against other schools. Just go in, be given a subject, and jump into a spontaneous debate. It's a lot different going against people you've never met before, especially against different

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PHOTOS BY VANESSA ROUDABUSH

A view of approaching the front of a school bus, the bus driver engages the stop-arm. Amber and red lights are above the windshield, while cameras are located on the bus driver's side below the front stop sign, pointed towards the back, and on the back towards the top, facing forward, of the bus.

'We all, as a community, have to do what's safest for the kids'

Increase in drivers blowing through bus stop signs in Tama County

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Bus safety in Tama County has become an issue for schools, students, community members, and law enforcement, especially this year.

"Since Jan. 2, our office, as of today [Feb. 13], has issued eight citations for bus violations just for Tama County jurisdiction. That doesn't include the cities of Tama and Toledo," said Tama County Deputy Casey Schmidt. "We had three last year."

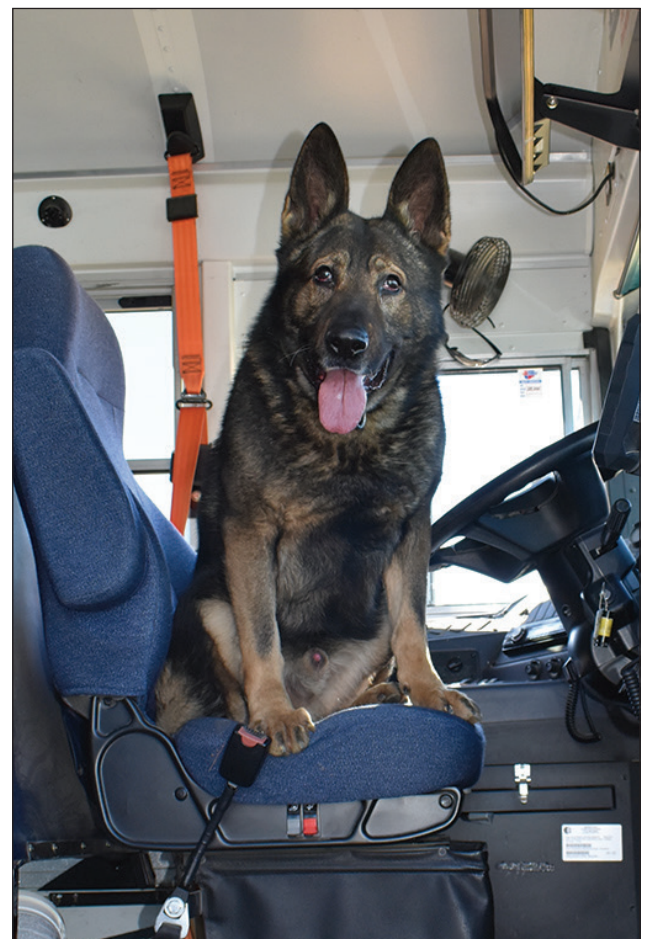
Schmidt added that people are sometimes surprised to learn how frequently such things happen locally.

"If people knew this was going on in their communities, their counties, on their school routes to their kids, people would be like 'WHOA!' You see it on tv, you see it happens in larger cities, but surely it's not happening here, but it is. I saw some close calls just last month," he said.

The increase in violations is due to the recent installation of cameras on school buses. All Iowa school buses are in the process of being equipped with camera equipment to capture drivers violating Kady's Law.

Kady's Law, also known as the "Keep Aware Driving - Youth Need School Safety Act," was passed after 7-year-old Kady Halverson of Kensett was killed by a motorist who ignored the bus' activated flashing lights and blew through

SAFETY | P 2



Tama County Sheriff's Department canine officer Tyson would like to remind drivers to slow down, stop and help protect students while they enter and exit school buses. Photo by Vanessa Roudabush.

STC seniors sign with MCC eSports



PHOTOS BY VANESSA ROUDABUSH

STC senior Caleb Cosgrove signed with MCC and is ready to tryout for the eSports team this coming fall.

STC senior Corbin Bergman signed with MCC and will be trying out for their eSports team in Spring 2024.

STC senior Wade Cosgrove signed with MCC and plans to tryout for the Tigers' eSports team in Fall 2023.

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On Tuesday, Feb. 14, the Marshalltown Community College eSports program visited South Tama County High School for a presentation and to sign up three senior students to join the MCC family.

During the presentation, STC students learned about the opportunities in the gaming sphere at MCC for scholarships, gaming

majors, and the potential to make eSports a profession. MCC Mario Kart Team Captain and 2022 National Mario Kart 8 DX Champion Amber Lawthers talked with students about her experiences in eSports.

"I thought I didn't want to be involved in anything in college. I just wanted to get my degree and get out, but then the eSports Program showed up. I was a walk-on to the eSports team

at MCC, meaning I didn't tryout during tryouts. I don't think they knew what they were signing up for," said Lawthers. "It led to me getting involved in college, and it's been really fun for me. I went undefeated in the [Mario Kart 8 DX] regular season, 28-0. I made it to the playoffs, winning the entire thing."

After students raced against Lawthers in Mario Kart, three STC seniors,

Corbin Bergmann, Wade Cosgrove and Caleb Cosgrove, signed up to attend Marshalltown Community College after graduating. They'll still have to tryout for the eSports team, but these hypercompetitive teens will spend the remainder of their senior career gearing up for the game.

"I'm super proud of Corbin, Wade, and Caleb. I'm happy for them and

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WEEKEND FORECAST:

Saturday: MOSTLY SUNNY
High: 40 / Low: 23



Sunday: MOSTLY SUNNY
High: 41 / Low: 28

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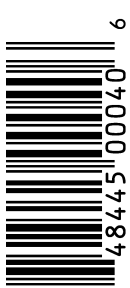
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