

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Study identifies outreach, Sunday hours for funding

BUS from page 1A

generate a projected \$3.7 million annually and add 3,500 hours of operation to the bus system, said Jason Wilcox of the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

The study recommended the 3,500 hours be used to add eight hours of bus services on Sundays or to increase service hours on weekdays. Buses currently do not run on Sunday. The weekday option would be more expensive but could cut wait

times from 40 to 20 minutes during peak riding hours.

The study concluded with a series of recommendations as the city moves forward with identifying funding for the CoMO Connect project. They include:

- Create consistent weekly routes and schedules and ensure Columbia Transit's website is easily navigable.
- Expand outreach to the public about how cost-efficient and convenient riding the bus can be.
- Research funding alternatives.

- Invite public comment on alternative funding options.
- Alter Columbia Transit's operational hours to accommodate hourly workers.
- Consider a reduction or waiver of the fee for low- or fixed-income riders if the utility fee is chosen as a funding option.
- Consider adding bus services on Sundays.
- Locate bus stops by frequently visited sites such as grocery stores, health care facilities and Columbia

Public Library.

"We have the recommendations in the report because we think they reflect the findings of the report," Scott Clardy, assistant director for the Health Department, said. "We believe the findings are accurate as far as health impact, but we also understand that the council takes more into account than just health impacts when making their decisions."

The study's outcome will be presented at additional city meetings in

the next six months before the council reaches a decision about funding.

"I think this should definitely be in the mix," Ian Thomas, Fourth Ward city councilman, said. "There are a number of ideas to increase the transit budget, and the transportation utility fee is just one of them."

If the council votes in favor of the utility fee, CoMO Connect could be implemented as early as August 2014.

Supervising editor is John Schneller: schnellerj@missouri.edu, 884-2103.

Band briefly braves the sadness of a dark week

ASHLAND from page 1A

junior, awoke to talk of a shooting.

The early word was that it took place near Meadows' house. McGeorge, an only child, texted Meadows to make sure the only brother he'd ever known was all right.

"And he didn't respond," McGeorge said.

As he does any day, senior Adam Runde rose to his alarm clock. He was about to get in the shower Tuesday when his mother knocked on the door, telling him school was canceled because of a threat.

It was someone from school, he was learning. Someone in his senior class.

On TV, news channels were showing a picture of a house he knew.

"I was begging, praying," Runde said.

"No," he heard his mother crying, "not Jacob." Not the boy Runde had befriended in the school jazz band after the family moved to town three years ago. Not the one who came for the family's weekly Bible studies. Not the one they later watched become baptized.

Landon Bartel heard about a shooting when he woke that Tuesday morning, and he thought everything would be all right. Everything always was in this little town.

The night before, the friend Bartel played with in the school band since sixth grade was texting him links to silly YouTube videos.

"People were starting to say they thought it was Jacob Meadows," Bartel said, "and I couldn't believe it."

Drum major Rebeka Lortz, a senior and friend of Jacob's since fifth grade, awoke to a stream of texts from other members of the marching band.

"It was very shocking," she said. "I was trying to piece it together in my head along with trying to keep

everyone together at the same time."

She was flipping through local news channels and scrolling through Twitter until the pieces formed.

Jacob Meadows was dead.

Authorities arrived to take him into custody early Tuesday morning for sending a text to a fellow student that said a "horrible disaster" would occur at school.

It was around 2 a.m. when Meadows shot himself. He was 17.

Later in the day, Lortz had the band over at her house. They made frozen pizzas. They shared stories of the one they came to know as "Jake the Great," the lanky and awkward one who had a way of making them all laugh even in the blaze and sweat of summer practices.

"I know he meant everything to us, and us the same to him," Lortz said. "I know high school isn't easy for anyone, and for someone like Jacob, it's especially tough, and I feel very confident in knowing that band was a very safe place for him."

They cried and offered one another tissues. They held each other.

And then, as hard as it seemed, they decided how they would honor him.

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Hours before kickoff, already in the heavy white uniforms they would march in with the cape dangling at the shoulder, his friends came to Ashland Baptist Church. They filled two rows of pews that were marked as being reserved for family.

At the front of the church, Jacob Meadows' family spent two hours greeting lines of people that stretched out of the building.

Projector screens flashed with pictures of a child at first, a boy with a toothy smile in a pile of fall leaves, and then older, playing an acoustic guitar, and then older, making sand



The Southern Boone marching band left Jacob Meadows' spot in the formation vacant during their performance on Friday.

castles on a beach, and then older, playing with a cat, and then older, playing his saxophone, still a boy with a toothy smile.

It's amazing, those closest to him said, how "Jake the Great" could hear music, digest the notes and the rhythms, and then play the song back so mechanically right. When Marjamaa became his fifth-grade band director, the boy was playing Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" over and over from the radio.

"Every time I think I'm better, that I've finally come to terms with things, I get hit again with emotion," Marjamaa said earlier in his office Friday. "When it's a surprise like this, it hits you harder."

Marjamaa was one who shared a eulogy at the memorial service. Another was Eddie Runde, Adam Runde's father, who welcomed Meadows to the family's home as if he were another part of it.

Runde mentioned the robin that Meadows rescued and cared for over the summer. He recalled a time at a party where Meadows came to him concerned over a group of kids pestering a small, helpless animal.

He talked about Meadows' dry sense of humor and how he laughed and made everybody else laugh. How

he absorbed himself in his music.

"I believe his humor helped him relieve some of the day-to-day difficulties he might've encountered," Runde said. "But he himself said that when he was playing music, that's when he was at peace."

Meadows' shelter, many said, was in the band room at Southern Boone High School.

"Band is a special place for many of these students, and especially for students like Jacob," Marjamaa said in his eulogy. "He found a belonging in band, and the students really took him in."

When it was his turn behind the podium, McGeorge reflected on his three years of friendship with Meadows.

They spent many nights jamming, he said. McGeorge on the bass, Meadows on the guitar.

They jammed for the last time Monday night at Meadows' house.

"At times, when I was broken down and sad, he'd always be there to help," McGeorge said at the service.

Bartel told those gathered how he wished to have spent more time with Meadows outside of school.

"I didn't realize it until just recently, but I always felt like a bigger brother to him," he said.

"Now, I wish," he said, his voice faltering at the podium, "I wish I would've given the time he gave me and the effort towards our friendship that he gave me. He truly was the best person that I knew."

When the eulogies were through, much of the band left the church. Outside, some were on their knees sobbing. Others held each other. The final part in their friend's funeral was approaching, but so was half-time, and they were to meet back in the band room.

They grabbed their instruments from the band room and strapped them on. They helped adjust one another's chinstrap on the helmet so that the hat's feather was straight and proud.

In the band room, it was all customary, normal.

And then they were out by the field.

"I was in denial of it all happening. I was like that for days," McGeorge said. "But, you know, I don't know if after today I'm really in that stage anymore."

They formed the circle.

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"I'd like you take a moment to bow your heads," Marjamaa started.

"It's been a hard week. A really hard week," Marjamaa continued in the center. "And you guys have been here for each other. And this is why I love band, why I love you guys."

He invited Meadows' fellow seniors to talk, and they did so around the circle, one by one.

They cried and said they loved each other. They said that what they were about to do would be difficult, but that they would do it together. They would do it for Jacob.

Once on the field, there would be a moment of silence. They would all put their helmets down and salute the gap left unfilled in the marching line.

They would be still on the field for a moment.

Then, they would make the music rise up.

They knew it was something they needed to do.

Supervising editor is Greg Bowers: bowersg@missouri.edu, 882-5729.

Payback for energy investment considered crucial

COUNCIL from page 1A

The city's Environment and Energy Commission, however, is recommending the council amend the proposal and accept the energy code in full.

"Our position is that keeping the national codes is good for Columbia, good for the consumer and good for the homeowner," energy commission Vice Chair Lawrence Lile said. "I even think it's good for the builder. There are people who disagree and would argue that it's of no benefit to increase insulation levels — an argument that I cannot understand."

The energy commission's proposal cited a study conducted by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, which found that a 2,000-square-foot home with a basement would save \$230 in energy bills each year if constructed to meet most recent International Code Council requirements. The alliance estimates this would mean city-wide savings of \$233,000

per year for Columbia.

The requirements for increased insulation in walls, attics and foundations would have generated the most savings in energy bills, Lile said.

"I've been presented with opinions from people who disagree but not been presented with rigorous economic analysis that shows anything but a benefit for the homeowners," he said.

Building Regulations Supervisor Phil Teeple, who compiled data used by the construction codes commission, said the efficiency alliance's study didn't specifically address the increased insulation requirements for walls, attics and foundations.

"We don't have any backup numbers that substantiate those claims," Teeple said. "The issue that remains is 'What is the rational payback for spending several thousand dollars more on a house, and how soon should you see that money back?'"

The construction codes commission deliberated over the energy code

for more than seven weeks before deciding the costs to meet the code's requirements outweighed potential energy savings. Citing a study by Texas A&M University, the construction codes commission said the amount of wall insulation required by the code council's 2012 standards would save only 3 percent of a home's energy bill but would cost \$1,500 to \$1,600.

"The (construction codes) commission found that the wall and attic insulation will not pay back in 10 years," Teeple said. "That is their standard for whether or not to make recommendations to City Council. The savings in energy bills would not be seen for 10 years after the cost of doing the extra work."

The International Code Council's recommendations adopted in the construction codes commission's proposal would already generate savings, including a requirement for structures to limit the amount of air exiting and entering the building that

would generate about 15 percent savings in energy bills, Teeple said.

Alliance to Save Energy associate Matt Kerns said the savings in energy bills outweigh the costs of installing more insulation. The alliance is a nonprofit organization that promotes energy efficiency worldwide through research, education and advocacy, its website says.

"They state they want to increase the energy efficiency of new homes, but the provisions in the code they're getting rid of are where the primary energy savings would be," Kerns said. "Even if it would cost slightly more to build, the savings the consumer sees from the energy code would significantly outweigh any added cost to the house. Many builders don't want to add costs to their construction, but that's not what's actually benefiting the homeowners."

Third Ward Councilman Karl Skala, a former chairman at Columbia/Boone County Environment and Energy Commission, said he was

inclined to favor full implementation.

"I've gotten lots of support to accept the full energy efficiency standards just the way they are," he said.

Skala worked with the construction codes commission on a debate of whether to implement the code council's 2009 energy efficiency requirements in 2010, which were eventually adopted. He said the building codes commission looking after construction costs is an honorable thing to do, but the costs should be compared to the savings.

"Frankly, in 2009, there was some discussion amongst staff that we would eventually adopt the energy code in totality; it was just a matter of whether or not we did it immediately or waited a year," he said. "It's not a matter of misrepresentation or inaccurate data. I think this is a matter of where you want to go and how quickly you want to get there."

Supervising editor is Zachary Matson: news@ColumbiaMissourian.com, 882-7884.

Owners show that automobiles can be built on limited budget

CHROME from page 1A

wouldn't give the sedated truck a second glance, unless they happened to take a peek under the hood.

Instead of the Ranger's standard 2.3L four-cylinder engine that produces a mere 112 horsepower, Patterson's Ranger features a modified 250 horsepower turbocharged and intercooled engine modeled after the iconic 1984-86 Mustang SVOs.

"When I tell people I have a turbo Ranger, they look at me weird," Patterson said.

Patterson purchased the truck from his father in 2009.

"My dad was too big for it

and didn't fit," Patterson said. "When I bought the truck, it was bone-grandpa stock."

After Internet research into what other Ranger owners had done, Patterson realized his truck's true potential. The popular choice among Ranger enthusiasts was to swap in a V8, but Patterson wanted to be unique. Instead, he chose to modify the Ranger's existing four-cylinder engine by installing Mustang SVO forged rods and pistons and a HX-35 twin-scroll turbo-charger from a Dodge Cummins diesel. A Hurst shifter was also installed for crisper, quicker shifts.

Despite modifications that

have more than doubled the vehicle's horsepower, Patterson's Ranger still logs 27 mpg on the highway and retains perfect street manners.

"Trailer queens have irritated me at car shows since I was a little kid," Patterson said. "I built this truck to be a driver. It's a great mix of power and handling."

The Grand Am GT

Tanner Davis, of Columbia, is another automotive enthusiast that brought his daily driver to the car show: a 2000 Pontiac Grand Am GT. While the majority of Grand Ams likely wouldn't receive any attention at shows, Davis' electric red Grand Am GT is anything but

ordinary.

While Davis recognizes that his Grand Am isn't much of a performance car, that hasn't stopped him from applying his tasteful design style to modify the car in other areas.

Equipped with an aggressive SC/T ram-air hood, 18-inch five-spoke wheels and a two-inch lowering kit, Davis' menacing GT serves as yet another example that unique cars can be built on a relatively small budget.

"Any car has potential, as long as you take care of it," Davis said.

Supervising editor is Zachary Matson: news@ColumbiaMissourian.com, 882-7884.



A pair of Chevrolet pickups from different eras stand on display at the Chrome and Bacon car show at Woodcrest Chapel on Saturday.