



\$2,000 raised for Southeast Band at School Bus Races

The 2016 School Bus Races were held Saturday September 4. The Southeast faithful came to have fun, cheer on USD 247 bus route driver/bus racer Ken Snyder, and hopefully again win some money for the Marching Band to help pay for new uniforms.

A gorgeous night began with the Kids Bus Pull. Last year, students from each school district pulled a 13,500 pound school bus 100 feet, and Southeast took 1st place. This year, the distance was extended to 175 feet.

Snyder was down on the dirt track to cheer on the kids, who took up nearly every foot of the rope available.

"I saw a little itty bitty guy at the front of the rope and pointed to the far wall and I told him 'you see that wall? You don't stop runnin' till you hit that wall or all these kids behind you are going to run over you!'" Snyder said. "After the race he came up to me and said 'Did you see me? I didn't stop running!'"

A test of endurance, an organizer said afterward several schools started fast but lost steam around the 100 foot mark. Southeast was not one of them.

With a time of 18.31 seconds, for the second year in a row, Southeast took 1st place in the Kids Bus Pull, winning \$500.

Following the Kids Bus Pull, the parade of buses began. Every bus involved in the School Bus Races took a single lap around Humboldt Speedway, all at once. This is the fans best opportunity to see the decorations painted on each bus, and compare notes.

After the parade, it was time for the event Southeast was determined to win - the School Spirit Contest. One at a time each bus drives along the grandstand as their fans cheer and yell as loud as they can for as long as they can. Using a decibel meter located in the midfield organizers aren't looking for can blast out and be the loudest - the winner must be able to get loud, and stay loud for several seconds.

When the School Bus Races began in 2014, Brad Miner was still the principal at Royster Middle School in Chanute. Royster won the School Spirit contest that year. Last year, his first as the Southeast superintendent, Mr. Miner got Southeast



involved in the School Bus Races. The one contest he wanted to win was School Spirit. In what many Lancers in attendance deemed a controversial decision, Southeast took 3rd. After talking about it for a full year, this year Southeast came prepared.

"I was told we had around 500 Southeast people there," Snyder said. "I'd believe it. We took up one whole section, just a wall of blue, and I could hear 'em hollerin' on the backstretch, horns, cowbells, yelling. It was great."

With a reading in the 85 decibel range, Southeast took 1st place in the Spirit Contest, and the \$1,000 prize that came with it.

"I thought it was really neat that we won the Spirit Contest this year," said Southeast Band Director Danica Gibson. "We're the school that comes from the furthest away and we probably had the largest crowd of people."

In the Professional/Modified Class of the School Bus Races, Snyder took 2nd place in his first heat, then won his second heat, winning another \$50. After taking 3rd in last year's Championship Round, Snyder won this year—another \$300 for the Southeast Band.

Snyder's granddaughter, Southeast senior Elizabeth Fornelli, a drag racer herself, was at the finish line to greet him after his victory lap.

"I know he's wanted to win it and he's worked really for it, getting the bus ready all year," said Fornelli, who races dragsters. "It was a big accomplishment for him, and he's won many before."

During the break before the

Championship Round, a new event was held: a Chariot Race. Teams of eight students took turns pulling a rickshaw around the track relay style. Humboldt Speedway is an oval 3/8 of a mile long—about 50% bigger than a regular track around a football field—with high banks and a dirt track.

"Oh man," laughed Southeast senior Jacob Wyckoff. "It was very tiresome. My legs got tired. We ran pretty hard but towards the finish line it got pretty tiresome. It was a lot of fun though."

Freshman Bryce Petersen, sophomores Hunter Chrysler, Trenton Hartman and Josh Wyckoff, and junior Taylor Beckley, Alex Fleck and Shane Hendricks had all volunteered for the event. Jacob Wyckoff wasn't even supposed to be running.

"They needed another person so they picked me out of the crowd," Wyckoff said. "They started cheering my name until I got up and went down there. They made a big scene about it."

Southeast won their heat with a time of 1:58.53 and took 3rd overall—a \$250 prize.

"Everyone attending was positive, enthusiastic, and supportive of our students, Ken, and everyone helped make noise," SHS Vice Principal Debbie Clawson said. "Our students were polite, listened to directions, and the older students helped the younger students throughout the evening."

The band will wear their new uniforms and Snyder plans to drive the "Band Bus" used at the races through the Cherokee, Weir and McCune Homecomings parades.

Calendar of Events

(Subject to changes)

Wednesday September 7

11:30a-1:00p Senior citizens lunch at Weir Community Center
12:30p-3:30p Card Game Club at Chicopee Community Center
6:00p USD 247 School Board monthly meeting (moved up from September 12 due to scheduling conflict)

Thursday September 8

5:00p SHS Cross Country at Greenbush
6:30p SJHS PTO monthly meeting at SJHS
6:30p Cherokee City Council meeting
7:00p McCune Lions Club meeting

Friday September 9

5:00p Free Bean Feed at Albert Pouch Park for Cherokee Homecoming
7:00p SHS Varsity Football at Columbus

Saturday September 10

7:30a Breakfast at Cherokee American Legion
9:00a SJHS 7th Grade VB @ Columbus 7th Grade Tournament
11:00a Cherokee Homecoming Parade (Lineup at 9:30a)
2:00 p.m.—Cherokee Homecoming Tractor Pull (at North Vine)
8:00 p.m. Band performs at Cherokee Homecoming

Sunday September 11

1:00p Cherokee Homecoming Black Widow Tractor Pull at North Vine
4:00p Cherokee American Legion Meeting
5:00p 4-H Happy Hustlers monthly meeting at McCune Community Center
5:00p 4-H Prairie Ramblers monthly meeting in Scammon

Monday September 12

5:00p SJHS VB @ Frontenac
6:00p SJHS FB @ Pierce City
7:00p McCune City Council meeting
7:00p Weir City Council meeting

Tuesday September 13

11:30a-1:00p Come & Dine Lunch at Osage Church of Brethren
5:00p SHS JV Volleyball hosts Columbus at SHS
7:00p West Mineral City Council meeting

Wednesday September 14

Southeast FFA at Enomology/Nursery Landscape/Land competition
12:30p-3:30p Card Game Club meets at Chicopee Community Center

Thursday September 15

Southeast FFA: Bigger & Better
11:30a-1:00p Senior citizens lunch at Cherokee Community Center
4:00p SHS CC at Parsons (Big Hill Lake dam)
5:00p-7:00p Meat & Greet protein food pantry at First Baptist Church of Cherokee
6:00p SJHS Football hosts Oswego at SHS

Friday September 16

6:00p Free Chili & Bean Feed at Weir City Park for Weir Homecoming
7:00p SHS Varsity Football at Sarcoxie (MO)

Saturday September 17

SHS Debate: Independence Tournament
9:00a SJHS Volleyball at Frontenac Tournament
11:00a Weir Homecoming Parade (Lineup at 10:00a)

Monday September 19

Southeast FCCLA: Leadership Camp
5:00p SHS C Volleyball hosts Baxter, Erie & Riverton at SHS
5:00p SJHS Volleyball at St Mary's Colgan
6:00p SHS JV Football at Northeast

Tuesday September 20

11:30a-11:00p Come & Dine Lunch at Osage Church of Brethren
3:30p SHS Cross Country at Iola (JV)
5:00p SHS Varsity/JV Volleyball at Frontenac
6:30p Riders Meeting at Cherokee American Legion

Wednesday September 21

Southeast FFA: Greenhand Conference
12:30p-3:30p Card Game Club at Chicopee Community Center

Thursday September 22

4:00p SHS Cross Country hosts Southeast Invitational at Weir Baptist Camp
5:00p SJHS Volleyball hosts Jayhawk-Linn at SHS
6:00p SJHS Football hosts Jayhawk-Linn at SHS
7:00p McCune Lions Club monthly meeting

Friday September 23

Staff Development (no students)
5:00p Free Bean Feed at McCune Memorial Park for McCune Homecoming
7:00p SHS Varsity Football at Baxter Springs

Saturday September 24

SHS Varsity Volleyball at Cherryvale Tournament
Southeast Debate: Colgan Tournament
7:30a Breakfast at Cherokee American Legion
10:30a Grand Parade at McCune Homecoming
2:00p-3:00p McCune All-Alumni and guests meeting at McCune school gym
4:00p Scammon Community Family Fall Festival
5:30p McCune All-Alumni and guests dinner at McCune Community Center

Sunday September 25

Approximately 12p—Demolition Derby at McCune rodeo grounds for McCune Homecoming
4:00p Cherokee American Legion Joint Meeting

Monday September 26

5:00p SHS Varsity Volleyball at Baxter Springs
5:00p SJHS Volleyball hosts Girard at SHS

Tuesday September 27

11:30a-1:00p Come & Dine Lunch at Osage Church of Brethren
5:00p SHS JV Volleyball hosts Baxter, Riverton & St Mary's Colgan at SHS

Wednesday September 28

Southeast FFA: FFA State Land
12:30p-3:30p Card Game Club at Chicopee Community Center
6:15p-7:15p Cherokee Ruritan Meeting at Cooky's

Thursday September 29

4:00p SHS Cross Country at Pittsburg (4 Oaks Golf Course)
5:00p SHS Varsity/JV Volleyball at Frontenac

Friday September 30

Southeast Debate: Pittsburg Tournament
7:00p SHS Varsity Football home opener versus Frontenac, at SHS

Saturday October 1

Southeast Debate: Pittsburg Tournament
9:00a SJHS Volleyball hosts Southeast Tournament at SHS
6:00p Bingo Bash & Chili Feed fundraiser for SJHS PTO, held at SJHS

Sunday October 2

3:00p Auxiliary Meeting at Cherokee American Legion
6:30p Weir Civic Club meeting at Weir Civic Center

Monday October 3

5:00p SJHS Volleyball at Columbus
5:00p SHS JV Volleyball hosts Baxter, Riverton & St Paul at SHS

Mark Your Calendars September

- 10—Cherokee Homecoming Parade
- 17—Weir Homecoming Parade
- 22—Southeast Cross Country Invitational (held at Weir Baptist Camp)
- 24—McCune Fall Festival Grand Parade

October

- 1—Bingo & Chili Feed at Southeast Junior High
- 8—PSU Homecoming Parade
- 8—Columbus Days Parade
- 14—SHS Varsity Football Homecoming
- 12—FCA Fields of Faith at PSU (Hosted by Southeast FCA chapter)
- 27—SHS Varsity Football Senior Night
- 31—Southeast Elementary Halloween Parade

November

- 4—Carnival at Southeast Elementary
- 10—Local Veterans Day Brunch & Assembly hosted by Southeast High School
- 28—Pittsburg Christmas Parade
- 30—Columbus Christmas Parade

December

- 4—Scammon Christmas Parade (tentative)
- 6—Southeast Junior High & Southeast High School Christmas Concert
- 8—Southeast Elementary Christmas Concert
- 10—Cherokee Christmas Parade

And beyond...

- April 20—SES Spring Program
- May 12—SES Awards & Field Day
- May 12—SE Class of 2017 Senior Breakfast; and, SHS Scholarships & Awards Assembly
- May 13—SE Class of 2017 Graduation
- May 15—SJHS Awards Ceremonies
- May 15—8th Grade Promotion
- TBA—SJHS & SHS Spring Concert

