

Students design app to promote school success

'Fayette success' app offers pathways to post-graduation options

By DAVID GREEN

It's not that Bryce Conklin and Jason Stuckey had any interest in developing a smartphone app.

Let's just say that they were commissioned for the job, or as Fayette school technology coordinator Becky Short puts it, they were "volun-told."

Superintendent Erik Belcher wanted an app that would help students plan their future and the two seniors made it work, with the help of Ms. Short.

The app, now available for download through iTunes and Google Play, is called Fayette Success—the result of a brainstorming session.

"I think we were throwing names around and we put those two words together and they stuck," Bryce said.

It only makes sense, says Ms. Short.

"That's the goal of this app—to make students successful."

The app went live Friday on iTunes, but it's still a work in progress. It's fully functional, but there are still a lot of finishing touches to add. Bryce, who handles the graphics, already has plans to lighten the color of the app's "skin" and there are many more icons to add.

"We're working to make it more visually appealing," Bryce said, "and to clean it up some."

"We want to make sure people actually want to use it," Jason added.

The project started with the design of a website that includes the features that would later appear on the app. Creating the website was the toughest part overall.

That was the group's sandbox, Ms. Short said, the place where facets of the project could be tried out and played with.

That's where Bryce introduced many of the graphic elements to see how they would appear.

"Since I was doing all of the graphics," he said, "I had to decide what to use that would be the simplest, but still tell what was there."

At first the boys thought about an easier approach to the challenge.

"Originally we thought we would run everything to the website," Jason said, but that idea was later rejected in favor of a fully-functional app.

Ms. Short, with her knowledge of coding, played a big part in that, along with the design of the website. Many elements from the website were pulled directly into the app.

The app includes nine features, starting with College which includes a link for FAFSA information, a list of Ohio colleges and—when completed—ACT and SAT testing dates and information.

The Career icon takes the user to Fulton County and Ohio jobs information and the Military link leads to



SUCCESS—Fayette seniors Bryce Conklin (left) and Jason Stuckey worked with school technology coordinator Becky Short to develop a phone app to help students find success beyond high school. The app is available for downloading, but the boys still have finishing touches to add.

DAVID GREEN/Observer photo



the websites of branches of the Armed Services.

The Guidance link allows students to schedule an appointment with the school counselor, Janna Ballmer, and the Graduation Pathways link lists graduation requirements. The Calendar icon leads to a schedule of academic dates such as testing times.

The app also includes a "Call Us" link that connects with the high school office, a Forms link that's still being worked on, a Twitter link that leads to the school's account, and an icon that links to the school website.

Overall, Bryce said, the app provides a variety of resources

to offer a pathway to graduation, and for life after graduation, Jason added.

There's still work ahead in order to reach a finished state that's satisfactory to Bryce and Jason, but they've come a long way in learning how the process works.

"I think it made them more aware of how much work goes into it," Ms. Short said.

She also added an old adage that rings true to the creators: "To be successful, you have to have a lot of failures."

They've made a few missteps along the way, but in the end they found success.

Tickets available for Crowell shows

Tickets for shows in the Crowell Opera House's 2017 season are now available.

The 2017 Broadway Season includes five full-length musicals and the premiere of a new work by Michigan playwright Terry Hissong.

The Crowell, which has been undergoing major renovations, will reopen in May with a series of three concerts. Tickets to those shows have been on sale since Jan. 18.

The regular season will begin in June with the musical "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." The July production will be "In the Heights," a musical by "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda. Then in August, the Crowell will stage "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," a comedy with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

The live-stage version of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" will be produced

in September, and the Crowell's holiday show will be "Meet Me in St. Louis."

The season also includes the world premiere of Hissong's "The Family Digs" in October and a one-night concert titled "Branson on the Road" on Nov. 11.

Tickets for most shows range from \$15 to \$35.

The Crowell is located at 129 E. Maumee St. in Adrian. For more information, go to crowell.org.

FULTON COUNTY CRIME STOPPER

Law enforcement authorities are investigating a theft at 3850 Co. Rd. A near Swanton.

On Jan. 7, suspects stole a 2005 dark purple, Peterbilt 379 conventional semi, license plate number PWE1506, vin. number 1XP5DB9X25N841896. The vehicle says "Expeditus" on the sleeper, with an image of a knight's helmet. On the auxiliary power unit there is

a picture of the grim reaper. On the hood, near the headlight is DOT number 2345004, MC number 802331 and truck number 4086. The value of the item stolen is \$30,000.

Contact the Fulton County Crime Stopper hotline with information that could lead to the arrest and incarceration of the person(s) involved. Calls are confidential and anonymous and

a reward of up to \$1000 cash is available. The number to call day or night is 800/255-1122.

Law enforcement officials are asking the public to be alert to help stop late night break-ins and thefts. Vehicles should be locked and suspicious vehicles in the neighborhood should be reported with a description and license number.

FULTON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

Seniors who love to sing are invited to join in the light-hearted camaraderie of the Fulton County Senior Center choir. All experience levels are welcome. Practices will be on Mondays at 1 p.m. in the dining area of the Wauseon site (240 Clinton St, Wauseon) beginning March 7. The choir will occasionally

perform at other Senior Center sites, nursing homes and more.

Line dancing classes will return at 1 p.m. Mondays beginning March 6. These classes combine fitness and fun for both the body and brain. Classes will offer not only country music line dancing, but also different styles of

music. All experience levels of dancers are encouraged and new dancers may join at any time. Classes meet in the Wauseon site gymnasium at 240 Clinton Street, Wauseon.

There is no charge for these programs. Call Beth Ricker-Flory at 419/337-9299 for more information.

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