

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Friday, September 18, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 171



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Bell ringing at Brush College



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

An open house has been planned as part of a fundraising effort to raise \$10,000 to refurbish the bell tower on the Brush College one-room school house on 330th Avenue. The event is set for Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE: NLCHS planning Sept. 26 open house at one-room schoolhouse

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Names like Gehle, Hasenclever, Winke, Smutzer and Wilmesmeier hang in the air and are still written on a decades old chalkboard in the front of the room.

A heavy wooden organ sits with less than expected cobwebs, and rows of desks that had older students to the teacher's right, and younger to the left, fill an empty room that for some reason still smells of old books and wood and fresh country air.

The Brush College one room school house on 330th Avenue just north of 190th Street, is remarkably still conducive to a spring day of learning for a class of 30.

Andy Andrews, the perpetual steward of the North Lee County Historical Society, opened the building Thursday afternoon for a quick look before the Society opens the building for an Open House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26.

The open house is to showcase the good bones and history of the brick building sitting on just a tenth of an acre on the west side of 330th Avenue, just up from 190th Street off the west shoulder.

Andy Andrews of the North Lee County Historical Society A brightly painted red water pump, that Andrews says "will" be operational for the open house makes a nice warm napping

See **SCHOOL**, page 8

BROADBAND

Few days remain to comment on state broadband

DES MOINES, Iowa — There are only a few days left for the public to give feedback on the 2020 broadband availability map. Public comment on the new DRAFT 2020 broadband availability map is available until September 21, 2020. The new map was created through partnership with Connected

Nation and makes it possible for Iowans to pinpoint broadband service in their area by simply inputting an address.

The state's Office of Chief Information Office has received comments from many Iowans in the past that previous maps showing which companies provided service to their area were

inaccurate. This is the public's opportunity to let us know about broadband service in your area. The information in this new map was reported by broadband providers. We need the public to help us fact-check service in their area and help us find errors and ways to

See **SURVEY**, page 2



Big Ten move could be stunning

Gary Barta noticed it when he saw others as he was walking through Iowa's football facility on Wednesday.

The Hawkeyes' athletics director called it "a spring in their step."

Kirk Ferentz got to be the one to deliver the news to his players that, yes, there would be a fall season in the Big Ten.

"Totally different demeanor and tone," the coach said.

Wednesday's decision by the league to play the season was welcome news after a month of tumult within the conference to postpone a fall football season, kicking the can down the road toward a winter or spring season.

But it's been one giant mood swing within the conference since July, a testament to the unpredictability of the COVID-19 virus, but also a testament to the inconsistent, swaying leadership of the Big Ten.

In July, it was "we're going to play a conference-only schedule" that was seismic throughout the rest of college football.

On August 5, it was a 10-game schedule that was ambitious in its length and start time, and creative in the open weeks that would allow for any postponed games to be played.

Then, six days later, the plug on the season was yanked, and even that was a roller coaster, from the stunning news that the decision was coming, to reports that there was at least some confidence in a delay, to the final decision that, according to Big Ten commissioner Kevin Warren days later, wasn't going to be revisited.

As parents, players, and coaches revolted in what is usually a unified league, Warren and the presidents and chancellors who made the decision not to play gave the appearance of the shakiness of command.

Which is why, as the rumblings began that the conference was again shifting course, Ferentz said he "stayed numb" to everything. He's a coach who

See **BOHNENKAMP**, page 8

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WEATHER

FRI 18 Sep	Clear and Cool, 66° F/ 49° F	
SAT 19 Sep	Clear and Cool, 66° F/ 44° F	
SUN 20 Sep	Scattered Clouds, 70° F/ 47° F	

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LOTTO AMERICA 09/16	12 15 21 48 52, Star Ball: 4, All Star Bonus: 3
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PICK 3 09/16 EVENING	9 6 0
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POWERBALL 09/16	10 17 31 51 53, Powerball: 1, Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

HENRY E. COLLINS JR.

Henry Edward Collins Jr, 72 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 7:58 am Thursday, September 17, 2020 at his home. He was born January 22, 1948, a son of Henry Edward Collins Sr. On August 15, 2016, he married Marjorie (Reynolds) Wilson. He was an avid Chicago Cubs fan.



COLLINS

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Collins of Fort Madison; two children, John Henry and Linda; four step-children: Dwight Wilson of Farmington, Iowa; Tina Wilson (Chris Hageman) of West Burlington, Iowa; Terry Wilson of Keokuk, Iowa; and Daniel (Diana) Wilson of Fort Madison; 12 step-grandchildren and three step-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents. Per his wishes his body has been cremated. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Collins family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Monday deadline for broadband feedback

SURVEY - Continued from Page 1

improve the map.

A better more accurate map will help the OCIO make better decisions regarding broadband grants and also give providers insight into services areas that hold expansion potential. The broadband map has links at the top of the map to provide immediate feedback through a public comment section and a provider comment section. Iowans have until September 21, 2020 to submit their feedback on the map before it is finalized. As OCIO is seeking as much public input as possible, feel free to share this information on social media.

The State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer administers broadband programs designed to increase access to high-speed Internet services in under served and unserved areas of the State of Iowa. For more information on this new service map and link to the map go to: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/draft-2020-state-iowa-broadband-availability-map>.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/15/20 – 8:39 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of 12th Street.
 09/15/20 – 11:21 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
 09/15/20 – 2:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Hayley Rayes-Barrera, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 1300 block of 21st Street on a charge of violation of a no contact order. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 09/15/20 – 6:41 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3000 block of Avenue H.
 09/16/20 – 12:09 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Chris Chandler, 39, of Fort Madison, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 09/16/20 – 5:14 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Bradley Glenn Traman, 34, of Fort Madison in the 1200 block of Avenue F, on a charge of probation violation and driving while barred. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 09/16/20 – 7:30 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue A.

09/16/20 – 2:21 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of Avenue D.
 09/16/20 – 2:54 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Kevin Bower, 60, of Fort Madison, in the 300 block of 12th Street, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and maintaining a drug house.
 09/16/20 – 2:57 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue N.
 09/16/20 – 4:50 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue H.
 09/16/20 – 9:51 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Brandon Frazier Valley, 27, of Burlington, in the 1100 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 09/16/20 – 11:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Julie Drenner, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 3100 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 09/17/20 – 2:39 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Heather Michelle Hayes, 27, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on charge of driving while barred. She was released on a promise to appear.

09/17/20 – 2:49 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Brandon Ray Raszler, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 300 block of Seventh Street, on a warrant for unauthorized use of credit cards. He was released on a promise to appear.
 09/17/20 – 5:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 100 block of 2nd Street.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/16/20 – no activity reported.
 09/17/20 – 12:29 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Anthony Douglas Fox, 37, of Wayland, Mo., at the intersection of Hwy. 218 and 200th Street, on a charges of possession of a controlled substance. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

09/15/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls, one fire alarm, one burn complaint and one false alarm
 09/16/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls, two assists, one pepper spray decontamination and one burn complaint.

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Scene Around the Area



The United Way of the Great River Region presented additional funding to the Keokuk Catholic School for COVID-related needs last week. Pictured left to right Tammy Panther, Karen Siefken, and Dave Dion (far right) present Darren MacArthur, KCS principal with the check.



The United Way of the Great River Region presented additional funding to Dallas City school for COVID-related needs last week. Pictured left to right UWGRR's Dave Dion, Karen Siefken, and Amy Graham present a check to Dr. Michelle Lee and Allisa Tucker.



The United Way of the Great River Region presented additional funding to LaHarpe Community School District for COVID-related needs last week. Pictured left to right UWGRR's Dave Dion, Karen Siefken, and Amy Graham present a check to Dr. Michelle Lee.



The United Way of the Great River Region presented additional funding to Nauvoo-Colusa School District for COVID-related needs last week. Pictured left to right UWGRR's Dave Dion, Karen Siefken, and Amy Graham present a check to Superintendent Kent Young.

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Sports

Top-ranked Crusaders cruise in win over VB

Stage set for No. 1 vs. No. 3 as HTC clashes with New London on Saturday morning in Keokuk

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The matches are coming at a frenzied pace now and that’s just the way Holy Trinity Catholic volleyball coach Melissa Freesmeier likes it.

With Saturday’s loaded Keokuk tournament just two days away, the Crusaders are starting to hit their stride despite some sluggish starts in a 25-21, 25-16, 25-13 sweep of Van Buren in Southeast Iowa Super-conference volleyball action Thursday.

Now the Class 1A top-ranked Crusaders ready for a Keokuk tournament that features No. 3, and undefeated New London (5-0), Central Lee and Notre Dame among others.

Freesmeier said the season is in full swing and this pace benefits the Crusaders.

“Absolutely, it gives the kids something to be excited about and hopefully improve every night – that’s our goal.

Holy Trinity had a hard time shaking the Warriors early on in each set as Van Buren held leads off the whistle in two of the three sets.

In the first frame the two battled through seven ties with the last coming when freshman Mary Kate Bendlage sent kill long for 12-12 tie. Bendlage was 13-15 attacking with four kills on the night in full rotation.

The freshman said she doesn’t feel the pressure of being a newcomer to the No. 1 team in the state.

“I feel like the seniors are always wanting everyone



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Freshman Mary Kate Bendlage (13) is getting plenty of playing time and thrives under the leadership of the Crusaders’ upper classmen.

to do their best, but everyone on the team has talent and we’re all close to each other so there’s no pressure here,” she said.

“Just knowing that everyone we go against is out to get us, and knowing the team is taking me under

their wing is really comforting. I’m not scared to go out on the court. If you mess up, you take a butt chewing from coach and get back out there.”

HTC would handle things from there. Up 14-12 Freesmeier called a time out and out of the break Holy Trinity would open up a four point lead at 20-16. Van Buren would close the gap to 3 on a kill by senior Kalyn Tuttle. But a series of a couple of errors at and a double put HTC up 24-21 before Kassi Randolph smacked on down the left line for the winner.

Van Buren put the Crusaders in a hole the 2nd set 0-4 but Randolph serving again brought the girls around. Pothitakis came from the outside and scored a kill to the center floor to tie things at 4.

The Warrior would catch a lead again at 10-9 when the Crusaders’ Randolph, Pothitakis and sophomore Brooke Mueller had consecutive attacks sail out.

HTC would outscore Van Buren 16-6 the rest of the way. Pothitakis would get three kills in the final six points, and Randolph had a nifty save falling down at the net to keep the set point alive.

Holy Trinity got down 1-7 to start the third set when a Claire Pothitakis swat went long right. But the senior rebounded on the next point with a push kill that found wood in Van Buren’s middle.

Maria Rauenbuehler then scored six straight with the Warriors misfiring on four of four attacks in the run. A kill by Bendlage gave the Crusaders a 10-8 lead before Randolph took HTC on 17-3 run including 4 aces to put the game out of reach 21-10.

A Pothitakis kill at 24-13 put the match away.

Freesmeier said she like to see the girls get a better start. The Crusaders struggled slightly out of the gate against Fort Madison and Notre Dame earlier this week.

“We’re talking about how we get them to respond quicker and then put on the gas, but Van Buren did some great things. They were swinging well and Manning is just everywhere,” Freesmeier said.

“We’re not real smooth right now, but we’re doing some things we’ve been working on. We served really well – only missed three tonight. In the last couple games it’s been a lot more than that, so were better tonight in that department.”

Pothitakis was 26 of 31 attacking with 15 kills. Randolph was 18 of 18 serving with four aces, 14 assists, five kills and two blocks. Bailey Hellweg was 18 of 19 serving with three aces and eight digs on the night. Rauenbuehler had 25 digs from the libero spot.

Saturday’s tournament at Keokuk starts with a bang at Keokuk Middle School with a 9 a.m. match-up with New London. The Crusaders take on Keokuk at the High School at 9:45, Notre Dame at the Middle School at 11:15, meet up with Van Buren again at 12:45 and then finish up with Central Lee at 2:15 p.m.

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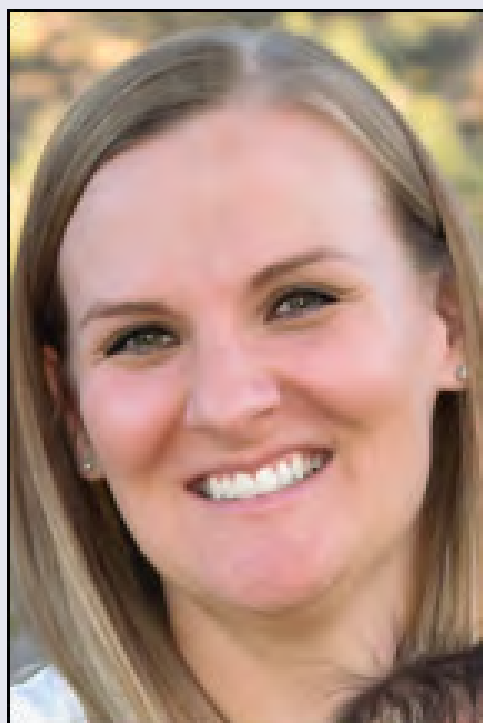
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Sports

Gager, Gilpin take 2nd at Timm Lamb Invite

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison junior Will Gager said he's happy to be running.

He was so happy that he motored to a 2nd place finish in the boys A division at Thursday's Timm Lamb Invitational held for the third year in a row at Fort Madison Middle School, after moving from Rodeo Arena in 2018 due to flooding.

Gager finished at 17.04.8 with a 5:31 pace behind Washington's Lance Sobaski, who had a speedy 16:42.8 and a 5:24 pace.

Gager said he's just out running and trying to make the most out of each run because he wasn't sure there would even be a season.

"It felt really nice. I'm not sure the coach changed things or not, but it felt really good running as a team today," he said.

"At the beginning I felt really glad we could experience this again. Going into the season I didn't know if we'd even have a home meet. But seeing my team coming up behind me today, that was just the best."

Gager said catching Sobaski wasn't on his mind.

"I don't really care who's in front of me, I'm just trying to get to state. Hopefully there is a state, but that's my goal."

He said his 17:04 was his personal best on the Middle School course.



Austin Miller was second across for the Hounds at 17:26.0 and had a nice push to the finish line to pass about seven runners in the final 400 meters.

"I wasn't feeling very well on the first lap and then I saw Will and wanted to get as close to him as I could so I just kicked it into gear," Miller said. The boys finished second overall with 63 points, 14 behind front runner Muscatine. The Muskies had three of the top seven runners.

After Miller, senior Anthony Barnes took 12th place, and Hayden Wolfe came across in 17th and then Fort Madison slipped to 26th when Nathan Bowen crossed the barrier to round out the scoring runners for the Hounds.

Tate Settles was 33rd and Alex Steffensmeier finished 44th.

Paetyn Wiegand, just a freshman this year lead-

ing the Hound varsity runners, said she needs to work on her kick before the finish. She said she starts that at about 400 meters, but Thursday she fell a bit short.

Wiegand finished in fourth place overall with a time of 21:44.7, just 31 seconds off the pace of Fairfield freshman Malena Bloomquist.

"In practice we train to not get beat at the finish line and today I didn't do that very well," Wiegand said. "That's something I still need to work on."

Two Muscatine girls finished 2nd and 3rd just 3 seconds apart as the Muskies took the girls



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Central Lee senior Amanda Gilpin, right, races ahead of Burlington Notre Dame's Hadley Augustine at the end of the girls' run at the Timm Lamb Cross Country Invitational Thursday at Fort Madison Middle School. At left, Will Gager (2456) smiles after finishing 2nd.

Division A title with 46 points. Fort Madison finished fifth with 79 points.

Jordyn Burch was second across for the Lady Hounds with a time of 23:06.4 good enough for 14th place overall. Ellie Schulte and Raquel Schneider finished 18th and 19th overall. Maddie Rashid finished 24th to round out the scoring runners for the Fort Madison. Lily Scott and Mylah Blanchard were 27th and 28th for the

Hounds.

Central Lee's Amanda Gilpen set a new personal best for the third year at the Fort Madison run and finished 2nd in the 3-team B division.

"This year has been a quite a bit easier. Our coach is marathon runner and he's been having us do sprint workouts and things and changing things up a bit," she said.

Gilpen's time of 21:10.2, was a full 1:31 off the pace set by Danville-New

London senior Addison Parrott.

"I was trying to maintain a speed like her, Obviously I can't do that. Hopefully in the conference meet I'll be able to catch up with her," she said.

The Hawks Brianna Gruntmeir and Addy Brumble finished 19th and 20th. Sidney Gruntmeir came across in 22. Adrienne Britt was 26th overall and Emmy Liu finished in 33rd place.

FMCH Pediatrics Welcomes Dr. Bryan Blacker



Fort Madison Community Hospital is pleased to welcome Dr. Bryan Blacker. Dr. Blacker is a Board eligible Pediatrician and will join the FMCH Pediatric Clinic on Monday, August 3, 2020.

Dr. Blacker is coming to FMCH after completing his Pediatric Residency at the University of South Dakota. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Nutritional Sciences from Brigham Young University and his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University Of New Mexico School Of Medicine.

Pediatricians specialize in the health care of children from preventive to diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic diseases. They collaborate with the child's parent or guardian to deal with the physical, emotional and social development of their children.

Dr. Blacker will see patients from newborn through the teenage years in the clinic along with Dr. Kolleen Burnett, Dr. Libby Balbort, Dr. Greg Gorski and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Susan Holtkamp.

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Salary range is \$42,307 to \$62,691 annually.

Minimum Qualification Requirements

- Graduation from high school, GED, or equivalency.

For additional information, please [click on this link to view the job description](#) ([Download PDF reader](#)).

Additional Qualification Requirements

All applicants must be able to successfully pass the following:

- Psychological tests
- A background investigation check.
- A post-offer health screen administered by an institutional physician.
- A urinalysis screen for drugs.
- All new employee training during the probationary period, including local orientation, new employee orientation, and emergency preparedness training.
- Designated positions in this job class require applicants to obtain a Commercial Driver's License and endorsements within a period of time as determined by the appointing authority at the time of hire.

To apply, click the following link: <https://doc.iowa.gov/about-us/about-institutions/iowa-state-penitentiary>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Position – Fort Madison Housing Authority (FMHA) of Fort Madison, Iowa, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director to lead the Authority in its management of its Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program. The FMHA administers 134 units of Public Housing, 70 Housing Choice Vouchers, and management / maintenance of 22 units for the Lee County Housing Initiative Program.

The Executive Director is responsible for all aspects of its Public Housing and Voucher Program including but not limited to supervising a staff of six employees.

The qualified applicant should possess a wide range of skills in public housing operations, office management, accounting, customer service; computer proficiency and the ability to function courteously with residents and employees. The applicant must be PHA certified or certifiable within one year of employment.

Salary is negotiable and the Housing Authority offers an excellent benefit package and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Interested applicants must submit a resume and cover letter marked Confidential to:

Chairman of the Board, Fort Madison Housing Authority, 1102 48th Street, Suite #1, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Or email to: fortmadisonha@mchsi.com

Deadline for resumes: October 15, 2020

Merschman Fertilizer has a job opening at the Fort Madison Iowa facility. This terminal handles dry and liquid fertilizer used in the surrounding tri state area.

Job description: To assist in the receiving, production, and shipping of dry and liquid fertilizer products. Job applicant should have experience or be able to be trained in the operation of skid loaders, fork lifts, and articulating loaders. The ability to do preventative maintenance and general repairs to the facility and equipment is desirable. Some overtime is required especially during the spring and fall season. Salary will be based upon experience and education.

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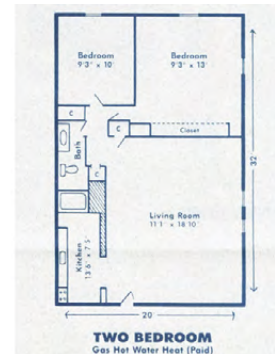
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From the Front

Daily testing was the game changer

BOHNENKAMP - Continued from Page 1

likes order, doesn't like drama, but this is a whole new story.

"It's always weird not having targets, timelines," Ferentz said.

"We're all creatures of routine. But when you compare it to some of the things that have happened across the country, and in our state, we're all pretty fortunate. We're all healthy.

"There's a lot of opportunity out there in front of us. We're just going to try to make the best of this as we can. I'm just really appreciative we're going to get a chance to compete in October."

It will be a nine-games-in-nine-weeks sprint, a schedule that seems tenuous because of the strict safety protocols within the conference.

There will be daily testing, with stringent policies for those who test positive for the virus. It was a challenge during the summer when there were few other students on Iowa's campus — Ferentz acknowledged there were positive tests among players throughout the summer — but now the campus is full again, with a mix of online and in-person classes.

And even with daily testing, there's no "bubble" to keep the

players and coaches protected.

"I'm confident we have a plan in place to get it done if it's possible," Barta said.

"But I'm also like the rest of us — I'm watching what's going on around the country.

"There are things beyond our control that we'll have to wait and see."

Barta and university president Bruce Harrelld were among the few voices within the conference urging patience back in August when the decision was made to postpone the season.

The final voices that mattered were the medical experts from around the conference who said it was possible to play.

The fact that there can be daily testing with a cheaper cost than even a month ago proved to be a "game-changer."

"Having the availability, the reliability, the opportunity to test daily, was a game-changer for this decision," Barta said.

"Now, what we have to do is put that into operation."

The conference won't admit it, but seeing other Power 5 schools playing last weekend, and with limited schedules ahead, wasn't good for optics.

The Big Ten, it seemed, wanted to be the wait-and-see leader for college football, and while some followed, many stayed on the same course, comfortable with their safety protocols.

It will not be a perfect season. If all 14 Big Ten teams play all of their games, it will be stunning.

Now Ferentz has five weeks to get his team ready. They haven't been in pads and helmets since walking off the field in San Diego after winning the Holiday Bowl last December.

"Everybody's got the same challenge," he said. "We don't have any wiggle room. We don't have any room for an average day or bad day. We have to make every play count, every snap count, knowing that we won't be at the same volume as usual.

"As the schedule reads right now, if we can stay on course, that's probably the biggest challenge. We'll find a way to be ready. It may not be perfect, but we'll find a way to be ready. Hopefully we'll be really competitive and a good football team at some point. Hopefully sooner than later."

Sooner than later is better than nothing at all.

John Bohnenkamp is a national and state award-winning sports reporter and contributor to the Pen City Current.

Open house, fundraiser set for Brush College schoolhouse

SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

spot for a Woodhouse's Toad on the cool Thursday afternoon.

The whole scene runs one back 80 years to when 1st through 6th graders all bundled into one of more than 100 Lee County one-room school houses, according to Andrews. Now there are just two that have been restored.

"They used to say you went to high school, after you went to College," Andrews laughs under his all-too-familiar bib overalls and camo Kansas City Chiefs hat.

The historian said he thinks the name Brush may have come from the family of George Brush, but some think, as a sign erected near the school as part of a 2011 Eagle Scout project reveals, the name comes from the "surrounding flora".

"They have a family bible in Connecticut that says the Brush Colleges in this area were named after that George Brush family," Andrews said.

But a I wide-eyed look, smile and a nod says there's no proof of that.

The open house is part

of a renovation for the school's bell tower. NLCHS volunteers Mark and Austin Haas have been working on the bell and got it ringable again after it had seized up. Now a red nylon cord drapes down the front of the building for people to ring, what Andrews calls, the Jaybird bell.

The bell was apparently brought over from the Jaybird school that was torn down in the central part of the county. Andrews said someone stole the bell after this Brush College was closed.

"We think it sits up here in somebody's front yard," Andrews chuckled pointing to the north.

"We had to get the bell off the Jaybird School which was next to Sheaffer Golf Course. So that bell come off the Jaybird School in 1966 when a major restoration took place here."

Sometime before 1871, a log cabin was built as the college and then in 1877 land was purchased from Martha and William Richards to build a one-room brick building. At some point after 1935 someone built an enclosed front porch on the large top step that goes into the building.

Teachers ranged from a 17-year-old Grace Roger

(later Lange), in 1897, to B.H. Pranger who was director at the school starting in 1907 with students numbering in the 50s ages 6 to 13. Dorothy Cook and Lucille Staff, and other names like Kellems, Benson, Schroeder, Steples, and Parrish all led instruction.

Andrews said for decades schools would come out to the old school for field trips and tours, but those days are fewer now as funding woes plague school systems and field trips are more of a thing of the past.

Andrews said Robert Hasenclever, a student in the building at one time is scheduled to be on hand to help with the open house and talk with visitors.

Andrews hopes to raise \$10,000 to repair the bell tower and said about \$2,000 has been secured so far. Other needs would include replacing some old wood pane windows and sealing up the front porch ceiling.

Information on how to donate can be found by contacting the historical society by email at nlchs@iowatelecom.net or by phone at 319-372-7661, or by mail at 904 10th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627.



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