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Pen City Current

Sunday, Sept. 3, 2017 | 17 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 212

Bullying on the minds of community group

No school, city officials at Ivanhoe park gathering

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A group of about 23 people met in Ivanhoe Park

Thursday evening to discuss possible options to help solve issues associated with what they deemed as chronic bullying happening on and off school property.

The meeting was coordinated by Lisa Martinez, who said she wanted to hold the session for people to discuss possible solutions to the issues going on, highlighted by the recent suicide attempt of a 14-year old girl at the Fort Madison Middle School. "I did send a letter to

the superintendent telling her that I would love to volunteer my time in any way I could, but I haven't heard anything back from anyone," Martinez said. "I went through the handbook and policy, but it doesn't provide for anything the kids are doing good. Maybe

some recognition for the kids doing good things instead of bad. I also had an idea where I would like to do something where we had a weekly meeting where these kids can come and vent. The school is implementing a

See **GROUP**, page 6

Facilities, budgets topics at candidate forum

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Five candidates for the Fort Madison school board talked with about 18 members of the public Monday as part of a forum put on by the Fort Madison teacher's association.

Rachelle Dravis, a Fort Madison Community School District teacher and member of the association, moderated the event held at the Fort Madison public library.

Candidates Jillian Troxel, Gunther Anderson, Gayla Young, Renee Ehlers, and Tim Wondra answered some questions that had been submitted earlier to the candidates and then fielded questions from the audience.

Wondra and Young are seeking re-election to the board on the Sept. 12 ballot, while Troxel, Anderson, and Ehlers are both seeking a seat for the first time.

Troxel is a physical therapist at Fort Madison Community Hospital, Anderson works at Pinnacle and is a member of that union's executive board, and Ehlers works for the state of Iowa. Wondra co-owns Wondra Chiropractic in Fort Madison and Gayla Young is a teacher in the Danville school system.

Brad Menke has also taken out papers to seek election but wasn't able to attend due to a family



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left to right Jillian Troxel, Gunther Anderson, Gayla Young, Renee Ehlers and Tim Wondra, all candidates for Fort Madison School Board, answer questions Thursday night at a forum sponsored by the Fort Madison Education Association. Brad Menke, another candidate was unable to attend.

emergency.

Due to the nature of the forum, the topics of discussion are broken out below with each candidate's response below.

What are the strengths of the district?

Anderson - The staff. At a recent trip to Harvestville Farms, I saw one of the parents speaking with one of the teachers and one of the students just collided with the teacher and gave her a big strong hug. This student has a close personal attachment with his teacher. And the teacher just continued the conversation and I welled up. I wish I had that kind of relationship with my teachers growing up."

Ehlers. Staff is the greatest strength - the people in the trenches, the teachers, support staff, amazing janitorial staff, bus monitor. It's those kinds of things and those relationships. They have a vested interest in our children and our community.
Troxel - The people in the district, hands down, are its greatest strength. As a parent with my oldest in kindergarten we are just now getting to see those relationships develop. I remember during open house for kindergarten, I took my daughter and we didn't know where we were going. Mrs. Purchatzke came up and said her name and said to our daughter, 'I've been waiting to meet you for weeks!', and my daughter took her hand and off

they went and she didn't look back.

Wondra - We've got some good pieces in place here. My daughter's been through the district now. She's a sophomore and we didn't think it was possible to have a better teacher and then next year the same thing. I couldn't be more proud of being a part of this district.

Young - Surprise. It's unanimous. We do have the best staff from administration to everyone whether a para-associate or a bus driver. The people that work here want to be here. They want to be a teacher here, a bus driver. Hand in hand everyone in this district realizes that we are good, but that we can always improve. Every teacher I've come in contact with is always looking at how to change their delivery to the student. Always looking to improve.

What are the greatest challenges facing the district?

Ehlers - I think one of our challenges would be, first off the elementary schools, we have to figure something out. We've pushed twice for a bond that has failed. If we renovate one then children are misplaced during that time. Or do we continue to try and build a new school again. We have to do something. We can't keep putting money into something that isn't worth saving. We have to progress. We can't stay the same. If you put money into something, it comes back to you and we have to put money into these kids now.

Troxel - In a system like a school district there is a hierarchy in how information gets distributed. And information passes through filters on the way to the board room. The solution

is accessibility and communication. It's important to cultivate a relationship where communication takes place and all parties feel safe. We need to improve our intentionality from the classrooms to the boardroom.

Wondra - The budget is going to be the big issue. What's happened in Des Moines with school funding is either small growth or no growth and that trend is going to continue. We're going to have to be more efficient with our funds and continue to educate our leaders in Des Moines to not continue to cut our funding. The other thing that worries me is vouchers or savings accounts. Students now become much more mobile. If we lose students to other schools that funding goes with them.

Young - Definitely the financial aspect is our greatest challenge. Lately the state has really limited the amount of new dollars they're sending to our districts. It affects everything from bus monitors to our teachers to make sure they are continuing on the pay scale, to safe buildings to every aspect. The biggest thing we can do right now is spend 50 cents and get a hold of our legislators and beg them to extend the One-cent Local Option Sales Tax, which is the best way to fund brick and mortar improvements. That's set to expire in 2029 and when that goes we have to find a different way to fund our buildings.

Anderson - I look at it like a three-legged stool - school facilities, curriculum, and the staff are the legs supported by the budget and on that

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FOOTBALL FRIDAY

Hounds go 2-0 for first time since 2010

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Yep. There's something special going on at Richmond Stadium and the Hound faithful are rolling right along.

Head Coach Tony Shiffman and company have brought life and excitement to the Fort Madison football scene (and by the way, Central Lee brought a little of its own) as the



BARKER

two combined for 92 points in a 56-35 Hounds win Friday night.

The Hounds combined eight touchdowns, four from senior running back Alex Gully, and junior quarterback Lennon Barker threw for four more. The Bloodhounds took full advantage of seven turnovers by the Hawks to roll to the win.

It was the first time the Hounds have started 2-0 dating back to the 2010 season when they finished 5-4 on the year.

It didn't take long for the crimson and black to be standing on their feet. The Hounds kicked off and the Hawk's Adam Rooney scampered 11 yards on

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Tri-State Rodeo News

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

State Rep. Jerry Kearns (D-Keokuk) serves some pancakes hot off the griddle Saturday morning as part the annual Pancake Breakfast held on the Tri-State Rodeo grounds. The TRS rodeo got off to its Ready to Rodeo week Saturday with the Special Kids' Rodeo at 10 a.m.

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Lottery Numbers



IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS



9/1
4 13 31 50 64
Mega Ball: 12
Megaplier: 5



9/2
6 21 41 52 62
Powerball: 26
Power Play: 2

Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



9/2
8 9 10 29 37
Hot Ball: 15
Sizzler: 3



9/1 MID-DAY
1 4 3
9/1 EVENING
3 4 3

9/2 MID-DAY
3 1 5
9/2 EVENING
2 8 0



9/1 MID-DAY
3 9 1 0
9/1 EVENING
5 2 9 0

9/2 MID-DAY
2 7 5 2
9/2 EVENING
2 0 2 0

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Local News/State News

Iowa House now looking for student pages

Students must be 16 and needs parents OK



KEARNS

DES MOINES - State Rep. Jerry Kearns (D-Keokuk) announced this week the Iowa Legislature is looking for high school students to learn more about the legislative process by applying to serve as a Legislative Page in the Iowa House of Representatives for the 2018 Legislative Session.

Legislative Pages provide invaluable assistance to representatives and staff by running errands, delivering messages, and distributing bills and amendments. Pages also "staff" committee meetings and help the chairperson by handing out materials during the meetings. Pages will work with staff

and representatives in the Iowa State Capitol building.

The Iowa House Chief Clerk's office will be accepting applications until Friday, October 6, 2017. Guidelines to the program:

- Must be 16 years of age
- Applications are accepted for the Senate, House, or Legislative Services Agency
- Uniforms are provided
- Living arrangements are unsupervised and must be found on your own
- Students are responsible for transportation to and from the State Capitol
- This is a paid position. Some excused absences may be permitted
- Student is expected to be able to handle any school responsibilities
- Parental permission is required to participate in this program

For more details and how to apply go to www.legis.iowa.gov/careers.

Thursday water outage hits 330th Avenue

RRWA, utility crews work until 12:30 a.m. fixing cracked coupler

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Residents north of Fort Madison along 330th Avenue on the Rathbun water service were without water from about 8:30 p.m. to midnight Thursday night.

Bill Benjamin, a distribution supervisor for Rathbun Regional Water Association said Friday a coupler to a

3-inch main cracked and had to be dug up and replaced. He said there were about three Rathbun trucks in the area of the Iowa State Penitentiary from about 8:30 til just after midnight. He said additional utility trucks were on the scene to monitor the digging.

Larry Driscoll, Fort Madison City Works Director, said the city has a main in the area,

but no city services were disrupted with the break.

Benjamin said water had been restored to the area by midnight.

"It happens sometimes. I don't know if it was because the ground was so dry or what, but those things happen."

The Iowa State Penitentiary is on Fort Madison's water line so it was impacted by the water outage.

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From the Front/Local News

Students talk of suicide attempts at meetings

GROUP - Continued from Page 1

tip line and they put out a notice on that today. That's great and a step in the right direction, but maybe we need to give the kids a place and have adults there and let the kids vent."

Heather Byrd, pastor at Living Hope church, offered her space as a place for those meetings to take place.

"We run a recovery program for adults. We're looking at doing a teen program and we have the space for it, but I don't have the adult staff to do it, so I would need some help," she said.

"There's nothing for the kids in the middle school or high school to do. Being in this town I recognize the need. So I'm definitely open to any suggestions."

One of the parents said her child tried to commit suicide two times while attending Fort Madison Middle School.

"As far as schools go, the schools need to be a bit more aggressive," said Melissa Boyd of Fort Madison. "I read a little of what Erin Slater said and they talked about these two who went to seminars, but they need to be providing training to teachers and associates. Not just teachers - the associates have a lot of time with

the students. Thankfully, this girl had a friend who reached out to someone."

One of the parents in the group told a story of an incident with a child in the classroom. "Somebody out and out, in a middle school classroom said, 'you'd be better off dead' - and no one said or did anything when it was reported."

Boyd said the school needs to be keeping a record of things that are said or reported.

Other parents pointed to the bullying being done by the privileged and popular kids, and cliques of kids, and said the parents and janitors and teachers want to be the kids' friends instead of doing their jobs.

"Everyone keeps talking about the schools, most of this doesn't happen at the schools. It was so different back in my day it happened on the playground," said Heather Brown, another concerned parent and advocate.

"There's two different apps and I won't let my daughter have either one. If you go to that school you can belong to a Facebook group where you can say whatever you want, whenever you want, anonymously. So I randomly ask her for her phone, I've been doing it

for years and I go through it to check what she's doing and who she's talking to."

Several students were at the meeting as well, and their names will not be mentioned in this article. One of the students talked about the apps as a way for social bullying to take place.

Another student said they were punished for raising their voice in class to get someone to stop teasing them. The same student said bullying was so bad at school that they, attempted suicide.

"I was called the 're' word many times and was told that I suck and that I would be better off to go die in a hole."

The student said the Middle School has a new program called PACK which is an acronym for Pride, Ambitious, Courageous, and Kindness and as a part of the program students are supposed to use lunch time to speak well of each other and work on positive communications. But a parent said her daughter was made fun of because she was working the program.

Another student said the Yik Yak app is an anonymous comment app that some of the students are using as a vehicle for hateful comments, but it



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A little over 20 people met at Ivanhoe Park on Thursday night to discuss anti-bullying efforts in the community and school district.

was not addressed with the school until one of the members of the administration got mentioned in one of the posts.

"The things I heard were that people would post about raping people and I wouldn't use the app because I was afraid of what people were saying about me or my friends. But nothing was done... until someone said something about the administration, not the staff, but the administration," the student said.

"Then we had a whole big talk about it, but not one thing happened until the administration was talked about."

At Thursday's candidate forum for Fort Madison Community School district's board, the last question posed to the candidates was how the district should address

bullying.

Current board member and candidate Tim Wondra said bullying has always gone on and steps need to be taken at all levels.

"We need to do a better job of fighting it. Superintendent (Erin) Slater and several assistant principals went to a state training program. Now we're looking at an app where students can anonymously report bullying they've experienced and it will go to a company that will send it back to the administration. That's a good program, but the kids need to use it. They need to step up."

Candidate Gunther Anderson said the common response in schools is a zero tolerance policy.

"I like to look at things from every side and a common response for

schools is zero tolerance. Zero tolerance too often gets interpreted as zero investigation and I know from personal experience when accusations are made and discipline is handed out - you might be punishing the victim and the bully is sitting there with a smirk," Anderson said.

"They do not comprehend the harm they are doing. It's not cruelty, it's ignorance. They need guidance, but at the same time you can't single them out for guidance. I'm wondering if a pre-emptive program started very young is the way," Anderson said.

Renee Ehlers asked her fifth grade son if anyone had talked to him about what had happened and said he didn't know what had happened.

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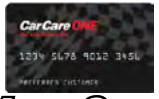
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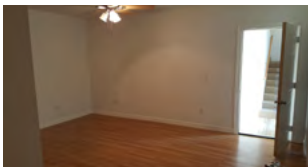
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2nd-ranked Lady Crusaders roll hosts Van Buren

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

KEOSAUQUA - The Holy Trinity Catholic girls volleyball team downed Van Buren on the road Thursday night to highlight Southeast Iowa Superconference action.

The 2nd-ranked Lady Crusaders (2-0) got some stellar serving from multiple players led by seniors Maya Rashid, who went 19-20 behind the line with two aces and Sam Hoenig, who was 17 of 17 starting the point. Junior Elysa Pothitakis was 15 of 16 with two aces as well. Pothitakis is 34 of 36 on the year with five aces. Taylor Boeding had a couple aces on 7-7 serving.

Van Buren was 7-1 coming into the game with their only loss a 0-2 setback at Wapello on August 21.

"We only missed three serves on the night and that helped keep Van Buren out of their system," said Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier.

"It was a fun game. We got to play some really long rallies. The scores may be a little lopsided, but Van Buren can put up a big block and they can dig so, it was fun for our kids to be able to go in and compete and know we can win against some really good teams."

Junior Emily Box, who leads the SEISC south in kills per set at 7.33 once again dominated at the net for the Crusaders. She had 21 kills on the night and leads the conference in kill efficiency at 52%. Senior Madison Mohrfeld had six kills followed by junior Taylor Boeding with five, Eryn Anderson with four, Hoenig had two and Rashid had one.

"Box had another big night for us and Maya did a great job distributing the ball to our hitters, but our stats were pretty evenly rounded after that and that's what we need and what we want," Freesmeier said.

Defensively, Pothitakis led the ladies in blue with 26 digs, Box had 21, Hoenig had 14, Rashid 11, Boeding had eight and Anderson had seven. Box also had four blocks on the night and Rashid had three.

The Crusaders host their first home match of the season Tuesday against WACO.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC's Maya Rashid (19) and Sam Hoenig, try to block a kill from West Burlington earlier this week. The Crusaders are 2-0 on the season after downing Van Buren in three straight on Thursday.

HTC boys take 3rd in Keokuk

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK - The Holy Trinity boys cross country team motored to a solid third place finish at the Keokuk Invitational meet Thursday afternoon.

HTC's Matt Hellige finished third in the meet that also included Class 3A powerhouse Illini West and Missouri's Clark County.

Head Coach Matt Mohrfeld said he was pleasantly surprised by the competition level of the Crusaders.

I was just real proud of every runner and really impressed with the level that we ran at," Mohrfeld said Saturday.

Hellige finished with a 3rd place overall time of 17:42 to pace the blue boys, who finished third with 80 points behind Illini West's 37 and Clark County with 57.

Blake Crabtree took 16th place overall with a time of 20:00 and Jacob Mohrfeld finished in 18th place with a 20:25 time.

Mohrfeld said he was impressed with how HTC was able to group those

mid-level finishes together.

Ben Abolt was just behind Jacob Mohrfeld with a 20:48 time good for 19th place. Adam Rauenbuehler - 21:02, Brant Holtkamp 21:23 and Josh Barr 25:43 rounded out the scores for the Crusaders.

"Matt Hellige finished 3rd overall and probably ran the best executed race of his life. He was calculated and ran his own race was very strategic and dropped some serious time from a year ago. He looked really good," Mohrfeld said.

"Blake Crabtree had a solid run. Jacob Mohrfeld really surprised me coming in third for the team and that was a performance that come out of the blue for us."

In the junior varsity event, Chandler Rung finished at 22:46 good enough for 2nd place. Wyatt Hellman clocked in at 25:48 for 5th place and Kyle Schetz finished at 26:32 in 7th place.

Philip Goldie ran the 1.5 mile middle school event for the HTC boys at 8:07 which was first overall in that meet.

Elliot Postulek finished the girls 1.5 mile run at 12:51 for 12th place.

The teams run Tuesday at Van Buren at the Riverview Golf Course.

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Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Monday & Tuesday, September 4 & 5 due to the Labor Day holiday

Breaking news will continue to be published to our website www.pencitycurrent.com and through our social media channels as it happens.

The e-Edition will resume publication on Wednesday, September 6.

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From the Front/Weather

Candidates discuss year-round school, Chapter 20

FORUM - Continued from Page 1

sits the student body. And in this district, the facilities' leg is too short and the student body is falling. One of the issues I heard for why it didn't happen was a lack of communication. I didn't personally feel that way, so I don't know if we can try again, but if I had a spot on the board I would make sure they have the information they need.

Where would you limit budget cuts?

Troxel - If elected I'm eager to learn more about the district's finance through personal development. I would not endorse any funding cuts that hurt our teachers or staff. At first look I've read that we've lost tens of thousands of dollars in the school lunch accounts. There's an inefficiency there and I can say I'm sure the FM school system isn't

the only district that has struggled with those accounts, but would also say there are other districts that are succeeding with that. That's one of the places I would look first.



WONDRA

Wondra - I'll give the unpopular answer on this one.. Nothing is off limits. Unfortunately when you put limits on this you put yourself in a box. When it comes to this kind of thing you have to think outside the box, be open to all kinds of ideas. But what I would push for is whatever has the least impact on the students. You do what you can that's best for as many students as possible.

Young - This is probably the hardest part of being a school board member. What are you going to do to balance the budget. My answer will not be the popular answer. It's the same as you do at home when your income drops, you don't say I'm not going to get groceries. You almost have to do an across the board tightening of the belt. That's not the popular decision. I believe you have to take into consideration what effects the least amount of students. One small area you can't cut is children with IEP or 504 plans that require full time associates.

Anderson - I'm gonna get rebellious with this one. I do not make decisions until I'm confident I've gathered as much information as I can. So until I have the budget in front of me I will not say what I will or won't do. I can't answer this question as I won't pretend to know more than I do.

Ehlers - I lack the knowledge of this budget, but I'm going to answer because I'm going to be honest. We can't have 35 kids in a class. The other issues are salaries and health insurance. We don't have a union anymore, we don't have seniority. How do we know our best teachers aren't going to go somewhere else. Our class sizes are pretty big and we can't cut anymore teachers. Even though the budgets are tight, there are groups that we can build stronger to help with some of these problems.



EHLERS

What is your opinion of Chapter 20 legislative changes?

Wondra - They suck and they need to go backwards. They need to go back to how it was before the governor came in and stripped it all out of there. It's a weakness right now. You lost a lot of

good teachers out of Wisconsin when they did that up there. If the trend continues you'll lose them here. That's one of the first things we need to see happen.

Young - It really put the staff in a precarious position. What the legislative branch thought was a good idea has backfired and you're almost at will now with the administrator. My day job isn't a board member, I'm a teacher so this is scary. Probably one of the lowest moments of things done in the legislature ever.

Anderson - It's disgusting to tell people what they can and can't negotiate on and it hurts both sides when you take away bargaining chips. It's helped no one.

Troxel - Five years ago when that change hit Wisconsin there was a mass exodus. Iowa is known for having great teachers and that's its strength.

Ehlers - Hopefully there will be a change and I would support that change.

What is the value of preschool in the district?

Young - Every child should be entitled to a preschool education. Our standards for what we expect our students to be able to do has become more rigorous. That's one of our goals at Fort Madison is to make curriculums more rigorous. A lot of children need two years of preschool to be successful.

Anderson - Preschool is useful even for the children who have a stay-at-home parent. That's incredibly uncommon today, but even for those children with that advantage, preschool helps give them that structure for social skills. You can't give that to them at home. It prepares them educationally and socially as well.

Ehlers - Preschool is very important. I work with a gentleman on child advocacy. When Central Lee opened up a new preschool with 80 slots I was like Oh my gosh we're gonna lose some kids because of all those slots. We need to be competitive. We lose one kid to Central Lee that's 6,200/year. By the time they're out of preschool and are ready for the next step they're gonna go to Central Lee.

Troxel - Having one child that just went through preschool and another that's getting ready, I'm a huge proponent. I can't say enough about how much that has helped their social development. For working families in a situation like



YOUNG

that it might be hard to get children to other facilities so it would great to have them in the schools.

Wondra - Preschools get the kids off to a very good start. Way back when I was kindergarten, you colored, tied your shoes, played on the playground, took a nap, and had your milk. Now kindergarten is closer to where 2nd grade was. The two in the district, the Carousel and YMCA programs, are two good programs and we should work on expanding that.

How do we solve inequities in elementary class sizes?

Anderson - Build a new elementary school.

Ehlers - You have to think about moving those kids and you don't want to move those kids. I would try to find the most reasonable solution to make sure you have the lowest amount of kids without uprooting them for just one year.

Troxel - The school district I came from was Rochester and graduated with 420 people. When I was in 6th grade I started at one school and the boundary lines changed and was transferred to another school. I know this district has a flexible boundary and there is a degree for parental request for open enrolling. The solution bigger districts have done is change boundary lines and certainly if we built another building that would solve the problem.



ANDERSON

Wondra - Easiest answer is to build a new school. Simple answer is take five kids and move them over, but the problem is uprooting kids who have gone through several years then transition them to a new school and then send them over to the middle school. Also an issue is multiple kids from the same family. One option would be to working with parents to possibly move the students and explain the issue and see if we could get volunteers to transfer over.

Young - Definitely one building would

solve most of those problems. Having enforced caps on class sizes. You're not going to have a kindergarten with more than 20 or a 3rd grade class with more than 25. Communication may help find parents willing to move to a different building. What will happen is people will start looking at class sizes in other districts and people will move to other districts if they feel their child will have a smaller class.

What is your opinion of year-round schooling?

Troxel - I certainly am open to it. Where I'm from in Rochester they did year round 9 weeks on 3 weeks off. I'm a daughter of a teacher and the educators that did that in that district loved it. If it comes down to a dollar and cents issue I would have to see those to compare



TROXEL

apples to apples and see how that would work. A red flag would be child care. Would daycare providers adapt to that.

Wondra - I'm all for looking at it, granted we have to have facilities to do that. I will not subject those kids to those elementary buildings at 130 degrees. Until we get facilities we can't look at year-round. It's still the same 180 days, but you have to balance that out with the education. That break over the summer the kids drop off. That first month, teachers spend time reteaching what was already taught the year before. With year round you'd have a lot less of that learning loss.

Young - Definitely. I am a proponent of year round school. It's the same 1,040 hours the state mandates, it would just be spread out. As an educator, I spend the first four to six weeks reviewing 2nd grade as a third grade teacher, but you definitely need the new building. When a student leaves in June they don't pick up a pencil or a book for the next 6 weeks minimum. Our educators are too valuable to spend so much time in reviewing of skills the students have lost. I'm a fan when we have the facilities.

Anderson - I love it, Obviously a lot of logistics need to be worked out, but it's no different than working out the logistics for nine months on and three months off. They've discussed 6 weeks of relearning and it's exhausting sitting at a desk listening to someone for nine months. After nine months straight, they've checked out. From a family perspective now you have three months every year and everyone's trying to squeeze vacation in. If you can do that for three weeks every nine weeks it's easier on family life.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 03 Sep Partly Cloudy
High – 80.0° F | Low – 69.6° F

MON 04 Sep Clear Skies
High– 85.8° F | Low – 69.1° F

TUE 05 Sep Light Rain
High– 69.5° F | Low – 56.8° F

WED 06 Sep Clear Skies
High – 65.3° F | Low – 47.6° F

THU 07 Sep Clear Skies
High– 71.7° F | Low – 53.9° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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From the Front/Sports

Hounds starting to feel it after 2-0 start

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 1

the first play from scrimmage. Quarterback Austin Gaylord threw down the right hash and Shaymour Redd-Donald picked it off, patrolling the right secondary, and returned it all the way to the 4-yard line before Gully punched it in on the next play.

But the Hawks, who had several long sustained drives on the night, took the kickoff and marched down the field in 8 plays using four different running backs before Adam Rooney popped it in from six yards out to tie the game at 7 all.

Senior Shance Redd-Donald brought the next kick off back over midfield to the Hawks' 48 and the Hounds offensive line and Gully went to work again. Gully took the first two snaps of the series for six yards and then broke off the right side for a 42-yard touchdown run. An AJ Nolting extra point made it 14-7.

The Hounds got the first defensive stop of the night on the next series when they bottled up Rooney on two straight plays and then held Gaylord to a 4-yard run to force the 4-and-out.

Central Lee returned the favor on the Hounds next possession forcing the Hounds to punt on 4th down. But Shance Redd-Donald came up with two big plays in the next series, including a 9-yard sack of Gaylord on 2nd and 6. On the next play, Redd-Donald picked off Gaylord and almost returned it for a pick six, but got pulled down at the 2-yard line.

The senior, an all-district player in 2016, said this game meant a lot to him this year.

"It meant a lot. I mean, they smoked us last year. This year we came out aggressive in the first half and then even came out a bit more aggressive in the second half," he said.

He said the success with Barker is good communication.

"I give him a little heads up before I run the route. He knows what to do and I go finish it for him," Redd-Donald said.

Barker said it's Redd-Donald's athleticism that makes the duo work.

"We've been at it for a long time now," Barker said. "He's just great at what he does, that's it."

Gully, who finished the game unofficially with

21 carries for 220 yards, scored on the next play for his third touchdown of the quarter and Nolting added the extra point to make it 21-7 Hounds.

After a couple of changes of possession that took the game through the first quarter and into the second, the Hounds were forced to punt on their first possession of the second quarter and the Hawks returned it to the Hounds' 47. Then Rooney took a sweep right and found no room, so doubled back to the left and outraced every Bloodhound to the other side of the field and down the left sideline for a 47-yard touchdown run to bring the Hawks within eight, 21-13.

Fort Madison got stuck again on a four and out with Barker punting from the shotgun. But Hounds defensive coordinator Luke Rickelman figured out the Hawks next series, forcing a punt to the Hounds' 36. The Hounds couldn't convert a first down on the next series and punted back to the Hawks who ran two plays and coughed up a pitch that was recovered by senior Lorenzo Riles who returned it to the 8 yard line.

Gully and Barker combined for 7 rushing yards on three carries to get the ball to the one, but the Hawks defense held and they took over at the one. A turnover would once again plague the Hawks, wiping out a nifty 15-yard cutback run from Rooney that gave the Hawks a first down. But on 3rd and 11, Gaylord lofted a dump pass over the middle that was bounced around by a couple of Hounds before senior Tyler O'Tool came down with it.

This time Shiffman baited the Hawks with a play action to Gully and Barker hit Shance Redd-Donald on a floater down the right side for the pair's first of three touchdowns on the night to give the Hounds a 27-13 lead with 1:18 left in the half. The Hawks ran a couple of plays after the kick and then let time expire on the first half.

The Hounds took the kick off at their own 15. Gully rushed for 20 yards on the next two carries, and sophomore Diego Lozano rattled off 11 yards on the next carry to get to the Hounds 45. Barker and Redd-Donald hooked

up again on the next play for a 55-yard scoring strike down the middle of the field. A botched snap led to a firedrill of sorts in the backfield and holder Barker found Riles in the back of the endzone for a two-point conversion and the Hounds were in business 36-13.

Shiffman said the Barker-to-Redd-Donald dynamic is good, and bad.

"It's a double-edge sword. It's good that they're connecting, but it's bad because we have so many other options," he said. "Every quarterback has a safety blanket and for Lennon that's Shance right now and Shance goes up and gets it and makes plays."

The Hawks put together another sustained drive and went 90 yards in 12 plays capped by a Rooney 15-yard run to close the gap to 36-21. But Fort Madison came right back again running Gully and Lozano five running plays before Barker and Redd-Donald hooked up again, this time on a 26-yard strike to the west endzone where Redd-Donald took a pop from a Hawk on his way down and held onto the ball falling backward and the Hounds up 42-21.

Central Lee still wouldn't go away and used a mix of four ball carriers in six plays before Gaylord got loose down the right side for a 43-yard touchdown run to keep it a two-score game at 42-28 with most of the fourth quarter left.

"I was a little nervous with that score in the fourth quarter," Rickelman said.

But the Hounds offensive line opened up some huge holes for Gully on the next series with a run of 15 yards on 1st and 10. Then he took the next snap, moved down the line looking for hole, and then popped through into the secondary and was off to the endzone to make it 49-28.

Gully said the offense was more productive this week than last week's win over Davis County where he rushed for 157 yards and three touchdowns.

"I'm seeing bigger holes, the offensive line is popping big holes and I'm just running through them as hard and as fast as I can," Gully said.

Following the kickoff, Gaylord dropped back



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Hounds QB Lennon Barker sets up to hit Shance Redd-Donald (2) who's streaking down the left side here. The two connected on a 55-yard touchdown on the play.

to pass on a first down and O'Tool picked off the attempt moving backward on a ball thrown over his head. Gully rushed again for 12 yards on the first carry and Lozano took the next four carries a total of 29 yards before getting held to no gain on 2nd and 6. Quentin Estrada then snuck through the line and into the endzone where Barker found him all alone for the Hounds' final score.

Central Lee again put on an offensive clinic with a 15-play, 57-yard drive capped off by a 7-yard strike from Gaylord to senior Aaron Wills moving left into the endzone.

Shiffman said he can see why Central Lee's attracting votes for a top-10 2A

team.

"Those are some really tough kids who hit hard and can play. I talked to Nick before the game and those kids he brings are tough, good football players. They're gonna make some noise in 2A."

He said at the outset with the scoring exchanges he was a little frustrated at execution, but he and the team settled in.

"We weren't executing as well as we should have. But I've got great coaches on the sidelines and in the booth and they reigned me in and we got going on the right direction."

Rickelman said the Hounds were able to capitalize on the Hawk turnovers.

"These guys are play-

makers. When these guys saw an opportunity, they took it. This was a very good running team and they've got some playmakers on their side of the ball. I would have liked to hold them tighter in the fourth quarter, but I'm proud of the way these kids played tonight," Rickelman said.

Unofficially, Shance Redd-Donald had four receptions for 105 yards and three touchdowns. Barker went 6 of 11 for 119 yards and four touchdowns on the night. The Hounds had four interceptions and recovered two fumbles on the night.

The Hounds travel to Oskaloosa on Friday night for their first road game of the season.

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