



Pen City Current

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018 | 9 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 209



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

And the tradition goes on

The Mexican Fiesta was once again drawing large crowds to authentic foods, music, and dancing on Friday. The 97th year of the event almost didn't happen but a group of volunteers put the event back together this summer and crowds responded lining Avenue Q Friday evening for the pageantry of the grand march and coronation of the Fiesta Queen and Princess.



At bottom right, Nikilah Garza of Chicago is named the Mexican Fiesta Queen Friday. Garza is the daughter of Darrel and Vanessa Nash. Olivia Kraus, right, with Garza, was named Fiesta Princess. She is the daughter of Adam Kraus of Keokuk and Sharlyne Rael of Fort Madison.



Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg,
Pen City Current - Editor

TSPR's funding dilemma adding to news hurdles

I've been following the recent news where Western Illinois University has directed budget cuts at Tri-State Public Radio's three radio stations and its Audio Information Services (AIS) as of March 1, 2019.

It's not a small sum. The university pulled all their financial support from the radio, which serves as outreach service of the College of Fine Arts and Communications at WIU. The university's funding represents \$454,000, which is about half of the radio group's annual funding. The rest comes from financial contributions and grant money from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

General Manager Jonathan Ahl has hosted several outreach forums in the past four weeks, including one at the Fort Madison Public Library on Thursday evening in front about a dozen advocates. TSPR staff has been holding the forums since the announcement was made this summer.

The removal of funds not only puts the radio station in a precarious position, it also follows a trend of reducing staffs that are charged with gathering local news. Most area newspapers have downsized their news staffs in an alarming trend that should be of greater concern than whether or not we'll have "Wait... Wait Don't Tell Me" on Saturday morning. (Which we must keep. That's my favorite Saturday morning radio time when I'm traveling.)

Ahl said it's very likely that Tri-State Public Radio, which serves all or parts of 20 counties in western Illinois, southeast Iowa, and northeast Missouri, will have to cut their staff in half by July 1. He said staff salaries are guaranteed through June 30. He also told the group that TSPR has no intention of stopping programming or halting service.

The TSPR stations include WIUM at 91.3FM which covers predominantly west-central Illinois and Burlington, WIUW at 89.5FM which is heavy in Lee Coun-

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CURRENT-LEE

Fort Madison Depot Farmer's Market

Every Monday local vendors have farmer's market options available at the Old Santa Fe Depot on the Riverfront in Fort Madison. The farmer's market runs every Monday until Oct. 8 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the parking lot west of the depot.

Veteran's Breakfast at Sunnybrook

Each month on the third Tuesday of the month, Sunnybrook Assisted Living hosts a Veteran's Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at 5025 River Valley Road in Fort Madison.

Chamber Ladies Golf Outing

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Ladies only golf outing will be held Sept. 21 at Sheaffer Golf Course. To register email the chamber at chamber@fort-madison.com.

Corporate Games

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Corporate Games will be held Oct. 5. This fun and competitive afternoon pits local manufacturing and industry teams against each other in a battle of wits and skills at the Baxter Sports Complex.

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OBITUARIES

GENE A. GERHARDT

Gene A. Gerhardt, 82, of Niota, Illinois passed away at 8:45 p.m. September 11, 2018 at West Point Care Center in West Point, Iowa.

He was born on March 20, 1936 in Niota, Illinois, the son of Walter and Helen (Morrill) Gerhardt.

Survivors include: one son: Greg Gerhardt (wife: Rinskje "Reny" de Leeuw) of Nicholasville, Kentucky; one sister: Darlene Hartweg of Hamilton, Illinois; his former wives: Violet Gerhardt-Williams, Sherry Diaz, and Virginia Gerhardt. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; daughter in law: Paulette Gerhardt; sister: Bonnie; and brother: Bill Gerhardt.

He was a graduate of Nauvoo High School. He was a lifelong farmer and an avid horseman. Gene had a special talent with horses and enjoyed training and riding. He was a champion Western rider and enjoyed fishing here in the states and in Canada. Gene was affiliated with Appanoose Faith Presbyterian Church.

Gene's body has been entrusted to Schmitz - Banks and Beals Funeral Home for cremation.

A memorial service will be held at a later date with burial at Nauvoo City Cemetery.

In lieu flowers a memorial has been established for the Brain Restoration Center in care of Greg Gerhardt of 105 Parker Lane, Nicholasville, Kentucky 40356.

Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.sbbfuneral-home.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.



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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



9/14
23 30 40 43 66
Mega Ball: 13
Megaplier: 4



9/14 MID-DAY
8 6 0
9/14 EVENING
9 6 9



9/14 MID-DAY
0 9 2 3
9/14 EVENING
9 1 8 5

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Opinion

WIU's cuts to TSPR will hamper news coverage

POINT - Continued from Page 1

ty and extreme northeast Missouri and just across the river in Illinois; and WVKC at 90.7FM in Galesburg. Ahl told the group due to budget cuts, the Galesburg office may close, but the signal will still be carried.

Our local on-air reporter Jason Parrott is no stranger to hard news and peeling back the layers of government. He knows how to build, and has built, solid relationships with area sources and gets at the news. He keeps us abreast of what's happening in our courts, during our elections, and in our schools. Parrott's been with TSPR for some time and it's only speculation as to whether he would be a part of the remaining staff. But I can't think of any source I know or work with that would be happy seeing Jason not doing what Jason does.

It's never been more apparent to me that readers look to media to solve some of their problems. After all, we're the one's who know how to dig, right? And although I don't agree that we should be the only ones keeping an eye on public officials...that is part of the gig.

With WIU pulling the strings and not providing any real information as to why they are doing it in this fashion, rather than a more manageable step down of say, five years, perks up the sensations of this friendly neighborhood reporter.

Ahl is in a tough bind because WIU is technically still his employer, but officials have said they want the radio station to be self-supported. Surely WIU officials would see that a stepped-down approach, if even required at this point, would be better than literally trying to pull the table cloth and leave the dishes.

The other head-tilting issue is that Ahl and TSPR

officials had prepared a three-year cost-cutting plan to present to WIU President Dr. Jack Thomas, but not only were they not invited to any meetings, they were not allowed to attend any meetings. So either the administration was done discussing the idea and slammed the door, or costs weren't the only reason they were cut.

Ahl told the Fort Madison group, the radio station filed Freedom of Information Act requests with the university for all emails and any formal and informal documented conversations with administration officials regarding the stations' funding. He said documents have been received and the staff is pouring over them now for some indication of what transpired.

Newspapers locally, regionally, and nationally are cutting news staffs like we're the cancer of their economic woes, and our ability to continue to keep local residents apprised of news is getting harder and harder by the day. Don't think for one second these people don't realize that. We have issues in Fort Madison right now that are working their way through state agencies because it is our job to shine a light on how our schools, cities, and counties are being run locally. It's even more critical on a state and national scale.

Ahl won't tell you that a well-worded letter to the administration is a good idea. He can't. I will. Our readership doesn't go too deeply into Illinois so taking advantage of an election year probably is not served properly here, but for Illinois residents it would certainly be worth letting candidates on the east side of the river know your displeasure at this very moment with what's going on in Macomb.

Dr. Jack Thomas, 209 Sherman Hall, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455. Western Illinois University - (309) 298-1824; J-Thomas2@wiu.edu.



Also, donations to the university through alumni or other programs can be targeted to specific programs where they must be

used. Maybe your donation should now just go to Tri-State Public Radio. News is a commodity as far as I'm concerned. It has a targeted value to each individual reader and that value is based on consumption. Maybe for a while anyway, your money is better spent on that commodity. And you get "Wait..Wait...Don't Tell Me!"

In full disclosure, I graduated from WIU. Folks like Deckle McClain, Don Black, and Rick Clemons taught me to be a journalist. I wonder where they'd come down on this.

Oh, and back in the city limits, a couple great things happened this week. A group of steadfast volunteers pulled the Mexican Fiesta out of the ashes and packed the two-block area on Avenue Q this weekend with authentic food and music for the 97th year. It had been listed as canceled as late as July 18th.

In another demonstration of will, FMCSA Activities Director Jeremy Swink, former FMHS track coach Timm Lamb, current coach Brian Mendez, and Fort Madison Middle School Principal Todd Dirth salvaged the Timm Lamb Cross Country Invitational Thursday evening. The event was set for its traditional home of Rodeo Park, but heavy rains last week had the grounds in insufficient shape for the run. A makeshift course (that may not be so makeshift going forward) was mapped out to make the event a reality. Kudos.

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Sports

Hounds even season at 2-2 with loss at BHS

“
I don't know who we are. I don't know what kind of a team we are.”

-Tony Shiffman,
FMHS Head Coach



Senior Harley Pen-namon (81) can't contain BHS quar-terback DJ Pugh (3) on a sweep run in the first quarter of Friday's 31-0 loss on the road. The Blood-hounds failed to get into the endzone for the second straight week. Below, se-nior Trey Kuntz (9) gets in front of the Grayhounds' Carlton Martinez-Hale, while Mike Mosen (1) trails the play.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON - On Friday night at Bracewell Sta-dium the Hounds ran into too much Taven Harris, too much DJ Pugh, and too much purple and gray.

The Burlington Grayhounds threw just two passes on the night, but ran at the Fort Madison Bloodhounds all night for 348 yards as the Hounds fell 31-0 in non-dis-trict high school football.

The Hounds pulled out an exotic to open the game when senior quarterback Lennon Barker threw laterally to junior running back Diego Lozano, who then found Parker Denning streaking down the right sideline. Denning hauled in the pass, and in turning to run got tangled up, and was dropped for a 21-yard gain.

Junior tailback Kaeli Maestro then found a gap for seven yards, but got nothing on the next carry. Barker hit Dom Frantz for a 4-yard gain and another Hound first down. After a short gain on 1st and 10, Barker missed the next three pass attempts including a 4th and 8 from the Grayhound 30 and the ball went over on downs to Burlington.

The Grayhounds and Head coach Zach Shay did just what they have done all year. Taven Harris and more Taven Harris. The 5'10" senior carried six times on the Grayhounds' first possession including a 19-yard touch-down run, 11, 70 yard drive to open the scoring.

Harris would finish with 34 carries and 245 yards on the night.

Senior lineman Danen Settles said the Bloodhounds lost the battle at the line of scrimmage.

“We started out good, but we then got high and they were lower than us and drove us back,” he said “We couldn't stop the run - and that was our goal to stop their run.”

FMHS would only gain 16 yards and one first down in their next set before a Bloodhound punt would pin the Grayhounds at their own 15. Burlington would mix up runs by Harris and quarterback DJ Pugh through the end of the first quarter and to start the second, but Fort Madison would get a stop at the Bloodhound 40 and force a punt.

The Bloodhounds looked to have something brewing on their first possession of the second quarter when Barker found Parker again for a 39-yard gain the first



play of the possession. Mike Mosen took the next throw on 1st and 10 from Barker for 18 yards. A hold-ing penalty would kill the momentum, however, as Fort Madison found themselves facing a 1st and 22. Maestro got a couple on a run up the middle, but then Barker would take a three-yard loss on a sack and then throw incomplete on 3rd and 23 forcing a timeout.

An illegal procedure flag made it 4th and 28. The punt snap went over Barker's head but he picked it up and raced to his right getting off a pooch kick that pinned Burlington at its own 8. Harris would carry 10 times for 58 yards over the next 4:45 seconds and bulled in from the 1-yard line to put BHS up 14-0.

A short kick gave the Hounds the ball at their own 40, but three quick passes that hit the dirt gave the Grayhounds the ball with 1:03 left. Pugh, found senior Reece Wissinger behind the Fort Madison secondary and hooked up for a 73-yard touchdown pass on the first play of the set to send the Bloodhounds into the

See HOUNDS, page 8

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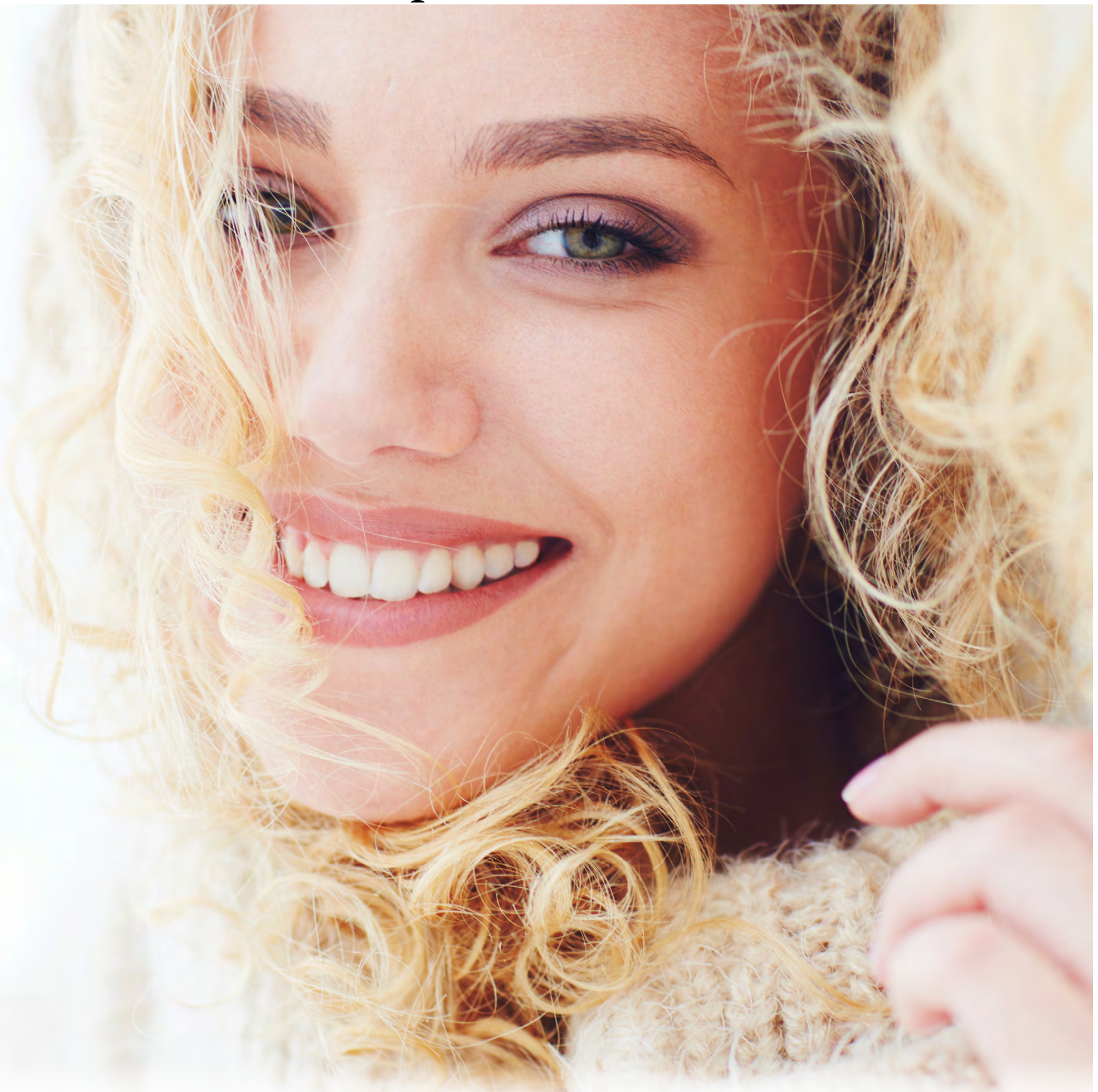
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY,
September 18, 2018
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA
AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 Consider Approval of September 11, 2018 Board Minutes
 Consider Approval of Claims
 Public Input
 Discuss and Consider Approval to Forgive Real Estate Taxes on 602 Concert Street, 811 Exchange Street, 722 North 9th Street, 1221 Timea Street, 604 Grand Avenue, 827 Bank Street, 30 South 12th Street, 26 South 12th Street, 227 South 7th Street, 619 Main Street, 623 Main Street, 625 Main Street, 629 Main Street, 707 Blondeau Street, 728 Fulton Street and 811 Concert Street, All in the City of Keokuk
 Consider Approval of Victim/Witness Coordinator Position in County Attorney's Office Presentation of Conservation Annual Report
 Consider Approval of Tax Suspension for Property Located at 402 Avenue A, Fort Madison Personnel Actions:
 A. New Hire-Maintenance Department (Replacement) Reports:
 A. Auditor's Report of Fees Collected
 B. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected
 C. Sheriff's Report of Fees Collected
 Commission or Committee Reports
 Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME

Workshop to follow

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 County Website: www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
September 17, 2018
6:00 P.M.
Finance: Hotop / DiPrima
AGENDA

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
 II. Recognition of guests
 III. Reading of Foundation documents
 IV. Monthly communications
 A. Student Rep Report – Olivia Koechle and Alyse Schmidt
 B. Curriculum Corner - Middle School Acellus Overview
 C. "Did You Know?" Report
 E. District Presentations
 V. Approve the agenda
 VI. Consent Agenda
 A. Minutes
 1. August 20, 2018, regular meeting
 B. Financial reports
 1. August Balance Sheet
 2. August Revenue Sum-

mary
 3. Expenditure Report
 4. Student Activity Report
 C. Accounts payable
 1. August General Account Board Bills for Approval
 2. September General Account Board Bills for Approval
 3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval
 4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval
 D. Consider personnel resignations
 1. Janie Warner, associate at Middle School
 2. Jean Chesnut, associate at Middle School
 3. Ruth Applegate, secretary at Central Office
 4. Debbie Augustine, secretary at Central Office
 5. Todd Watts, delivery driver, food service
 6. Marcia Keran, bus driver
 7. Christy Powell, bus associate
 8. Norene Eid, bus monitor
 9. Carol Salladay, bus monitor
 E. Consider employment of personnel
 1. Willie Johnson, bus driver
 2. David Richards, custodian at the Middle School
 3. Debbie Green, key club advisor (1/2)
 4. Jason Crooks, assistant High School football coach
 5. Charles Knipe, 8th grade volleyball coach (1/2)
 6. Sharlynn Upton, 7th grade volleyball coach (1/2)
 7. Luke Rickelman, assistant football coach (1/5)
 8. Derek Doherty, assis-

tant football coach (1/5)
 9. Jason Crooks, assistant football coach (1/5)
 10. Justin Menke, assistant football coach (1/5)
 11. Casey Yager, assistant football coach (1/5)
 12. Debbie Wiseman, freshman class sponsor (1/2)
 13. Jennifer Helling, TLS facilitator
 14. Carrie Schneider, TLS facilitator
 15. Liz Pollpeter, TLS mentor
 F. Consider contract modifications
 1. G. Consider leave of absence
 H. Consider open enrollment requests
 I. Other reports
 1. Director _____ moved and director _____ seconded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.
 VII. Action Items
 A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
 1. B. Superintendent – Erin Slater
 1. Consider approval of policy changes
 a. 700 - Purpose of Non-Instructional and Business Services
 b. 704.1 - Local - State - Federal - Miscellaneous Revenue
 2. Consider approval of lane changes
 3. Consider approval of the FFA request for travel from Bonnie Peterson-Slee to attend the National FFA

Convention in Indianapolis, IN
 4. Consider approval of Current/Past/Future Fund-raisers within the Athletic Department
 5. Consider approval of the agreement between the district and Southeastern Community College for joint enrollment courses
 6. Consider annual Board appointments
 a. Kim Harmon, Title IIA, Title VI, Title IX, ADA and 504 coordinator
 b. Kim Harmon, compliance officer (Step II) of grievance procedure as it relate to discrimination issues
 c. Erin Slater, child abuse (Level 1)/harassment alternate investigator (Level I), AAO/EOE officer
 d. Kim Harmon, child abuse (Alt. Level 1)/harassment investigator (Level I)
 e. Kevin Moon, asbestos coordinator
 f. Sandra Elmore, insur-

ance trustee IEBP
 g. Reconsideration committee
 i. Licensed employee – Mary Hellige
 ii. Media specialist – Michelle Bentler
 iii. Administrator – Kim Harmon
 iv. Community member – Janice Burch
 v. High School representatives – Kate Young, Lilli Scott and Logan Rashid
 h. Affirmative Action Officer - Erin Slater
 i. Bus Driver Testing Program - Kevin Moon
 7. Consider personnel matters
 C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
 1. VIII. Selection of temporary chair for organization meeting
 IX. Adjourn 2017-2018 Board sine die

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Sports/Weather

4th-ranked Solon up next at home for Bloodhounds

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 1

lockerroom 21-0. FMHS got a four and out when Pugh dropped the snap in shotgun but recovered for a 6-yard loss, forcing a Grayhound punt that just barely got over midfield. From their own 46, Barker led the Bloodhounds down the field, completing four screen passes, two to senior Trey Kuntz. Maestro went for 14 yards on a couple carries, but then coughed up the ball at about the five with the Grayhounds recovering. Burlington went all the way down to the 8 on an eight play series and settled for a field goal to push

the lead to 24-0. Following the kick to the Bloodhound 13, Barker missed on 1st and 10 and then completed three passes for about 14 yards giving the Hounds a first down, but the next series saw two incompletions, a sack, and a punt. Harris took six of the next seven carries and flew in from 13 yards out to set the score. Head Coach Tony Shiffman, who was short for words after the loss, said the Bloodhounds have to find an identity going forward. "I don't know who we are. I don't know what kind of team we are," he

said. "We go two games shuttin' em out, and then we haven't scored a touchdown in two games and it doesn't get any easier in district play. We gotta figure out what kind of team we are and how we're going to respond to this." Shiffman, who's Hounds play at 3A wouldn't let Burlington's 4A class size figure into the result. "That didn't have anything to do with it. There's plenty of 2A and 3A schools that go out and beat bigger schools," he said. "We got in a hole big and couldn't dig our selves out of it. We didn't

perform to the level that I thought we could. Maestro led the Hound with 38 yards on 12 carries. Barker was 15 of 28 for 161 yards and no interceptions. Denning led the Hounds in receiving with 94 yards on five catches. Mike Mosena and Dom Frantz combined for 7 receptions and 55 yards. Lozano led the Hounds in tackles from his inside linebacker spot with 13.5 including three for losses. Fort Madison (2-2) returns home next week where District 5 matchups begin with perennial power Solon who's ranked 4th in state in class 3A at 4-0.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 16 Sep Clear Skies
High— 87.3° F | Low – 71.2° F

MON 17 Sep Scattered Clouds
High— 86.5° F | Low – 72.8° F

TUE 18 Sep Light Rain
High— 84.7° F | Low – 67.1° F

WED 19 Sep Heavy Intensity Rain
High— 68.5° F | Low – 65.9° F

THU 20 Sep Light Rain
High— 87.4° F | Low – 77.9° F

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