Bullying on the minds of community group

No school, city officials at Ivanhoe park gathering

BY CHUCK VANDEMBERG
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 like to do something where we had a weekly meeting where these kids can come and vent. The school is implementing a..."

Facilities, budgets topics at candidate forum

BY CHUCK VANDEMBERG
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 moderated meeting, held the event at Fort Madison public library. Candidates Jillian Troxel, Gunther Anderson, Gayla Young, Renee Ehlers, and Tim Wondra all 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 Pineapple and is a member of that union's executive board, and Ehlers works for the city of Fort Madison.

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.

"What are the strengths of the district?"

Anderson - The staff. At a recent trip to Harrisville Farms, I saw one of the parents speaking with one of the teachers and one of the students just colliated 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 talked about. I wish I had that kind of relationship with my teachers growing up.

Troxel - The staff is the greatest strength - the people in the classrooms, the teachers, support staff, amazing janitorial staff, too. It's those kinds of things and those relationships. They have a real 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. Purchase 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..."
State Rep. Jerry Kearns (D-Keokuk) serves some pancakes hot off the griddle Saturday morning as part of 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.
Lottery Numbers

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:38 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Powerball®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:20 pm</td>
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9/1
4 13 31 50 64
Mega Ball: 12
Megaplier: 5

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

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Iowa House now looking for student pages

Students must be 16 and needs parents OK

DES MOINES - State Rep. Jerry Kearns (D-Kearney) 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 word until 12:30 a.m. fixing cracked coupler

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
P/C EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Residents north of Fort Madison along 330th Avenue on the Rathbun water service were without water service 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.
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 twice while attending Fort Madison Middle School. “As far as schools go, the administration was not addressed the right direction, but the thing happened 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. Superintendents (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 preemp- tive 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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Above, Lexi Miller, who’s organizing Helping Hands For Harvey, flips the game coin to kick off the FMHS v. Central Lee football game. The pictures at right show some more of the action from Friday night's 56-35 handling of the Hawks.

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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.

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Candidates discuss year-round school, Chapter 20

THUR 07 Sep


due some of those problems. Having enrollment decreases in 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. This will happen when someone at district level in other districts and parents will move to other districts if they feel their child will have a smaller class.

What is your opinion of year-round? Troxel - I certainly am open to it. Where I'm from in Rochester they did year-round 9 weeks on and 3 weeks off. I'm a daughter of a teacher and the teachers over there that did that in that district said it's worked. It is a way to come in at a slower pace and I would have to use those applications to apply to and see how that would work. An add bag would be child care. Child daycare providers adapt to that. Wondra - I'm all for it. At a glance we have to have facilities to do that. I will sub those kids to those elementary building at 150 degrees. Until we get facilities we can't look at year-round. We have a job of trying to balance that as much as we can. To break over the summer the kids stop off. That first month, teachers spend nine weeks of their vacation working on that. With the year-round you would have a lot less involved of that. Troxel - Obviously a lot of it is extended to the community and I don't think it would be spread out. As an educator I spend the first four to six weeks reviewing the class and if you had to do those summer months then you definitely need the new building. When the students come in the June you don't pick up a portfolio or a book for them. Just to give parents enough time to spend more in summer in reviewing of skills the students have lost. Troxel - I love it. Obviously a lot of the educators need to be worked out, but it's so different than working out the logistics for nine months on and three months off. That will give parents some time to spend with their kids and get them up to speed and it's exhausting sitting at a desk listening to someone for nine months. After nine months straight, they're checked out. From a faculty perspective you have three months to work and everyone's trying to squeeze vacation in. Jon says that for the first nine to nine weeks it's easier or family ilia.

WONDER - you put yourself in a box. When it comes to this kind of thing you have to take it to the level. The district's finance through my district. I would make sure if we can try again, but if I had a spot on the board I would make sure they have the information they need.

I'm sure the FM school system isn't endorse any funding cuts that hurt our more about the district's finance through the facilities' leg is too short and the

Wondra - Preschool get kids off to a very good start. When back when I was kindergarten, you colored, bed your shoes, played on the playground, tied your nap, and had your milk. New kindergarten is closer to where 2nd grade was. In the second district, theCarousel and YMCA programs, are two good programs and we work on expanding that.

What is your opinion of elementary school? Anderson - Build a new elementary school. Ehlers - You have to think about teaching how kids and you want to move those kids I would try to find the most reasonable solution to make sure you have the same amount of kids without upzoning them for just one year.

TROXEL - Five years ago when that change hit Wisconsin there was a mass exodus. How 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 pre-school 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 to make our curriculum more rigorous. A lot of children need two years of preschool to be successful. Troxel - 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 the social skills. You can't give that to them at home. It prepares them to make the social skills. Ehlers - Preschool is very important. I work with a Gardnerian on child advocacy. When Central Lee opened up a new preschool with 80 seats I was like Oh my gosh. We're going to lose some kids because of all those seats. We need to be competitive. We lose one to Centennial that's 6,000/yr. By the time you're out of preschool the next wave is coming in and we have to keep making sure the problem.

WONDER - Definitely one building would have to see the problem. ANDERSON - Easy answer is to build a new school. Simple answer is a new school and move them over, but the problem is unsavory kids who have gone through several years then transition them to a new school and then over to the middle school. Also an issue is multiple kids from the same family. One option would be to work with parents to possibly move the students and explain the lease so we can set up a site. We could get volunteers to transfer over. Young - Obviously one building would

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Hounds starting to feel it after 2-0 start

Hounds - Continued from Page 1

the first play from scrim- mage. Quarterback Austin Gaylord threw down the right hash and Shaymou Redd-Donald picked it off, patrolling the right sec- ondary, and returned it all the way to the 4-yard line before Gully punched it in the next play. But the Hawks, who had some long sustaining drives, crumbled the kick and marched down the field in 8 plays using four different run- ning 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 back off 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 se- ries 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 that plays ended down at the 2-yard line.

The senior, 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 communi- cation.

"I give him a little heads up before I run the route. He knows what to do and we 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 his 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 and 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 lined out the Hounds 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 lined 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 Hounds, wiping out a nifty 15-yard cutback from Rooney that had 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 bait- ed the Hawks with a play action to Gully and Barker but Shance Redd-Donald on a floater down the right side for the pair’s first of three touchdowns on the night. The Hounds then 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 ratted 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 left a free drill 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 Riles connection is dynamic and good, but 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 to- gether 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 back 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 back 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 in the fourth quarter,” Rickel- man said.

But the Hounds offen- sive 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 for another touchdown.

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 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 se- nior Aaron Wills moving left into the endzone. Shiffman said he can see why Central Lee’s attract- ing votes for a top-10 2A team.

“These are some really tough kids who hit hard and can play. I talked to Nick before the game and those kids bring is tough, good football player- ers. They’re gonna make some noise in 2A.”

He said at the outset with the scoring exchang- es 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 playmak- ers on their side of the ball. I would have liked to hold them tighter in the quarter, but I’m proud of the way these kids played tonight,” Richel- man said.

Unofficially, Shance Redd-Donald had four re- ceptions 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.

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