Watch groups talk city crime stats

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Over some hot dogs and beverages, about a dozen Fort Madison residents gathered in Old Settler’s Park to talk crime and neighborhood watch groups.

Representatives from the 34th Place, Lincoln, and Dry Creek Neighborhood Watch groups spoke to the group about getting a neighborhood watch started in their area of the town.

Larry Lee Stewart, of the Lincoln group, gave a detailed description of criminal activity in the area, including small crimes like property damage and larcenies to violent crimes. His violent crime information comes from a Federal Bureau of Investigation database and outlined where in the community there are hot spots of crime.

Steve Howard, with the 34th Place group, has helped get the other two groups. He told a story about a vehicle that was moving through the area a couple years ago the group brought to the attention of authorities who were able to catch the man and put him in jail on multiple counts.

“This thing works,” Howard told the group.

See CRIME, page 4

Local first responders held the flag during the playing of the national anthem at the Fort Madison High School football game. The game was dedicated to all first responders and emergency response personnel.

State board sets new testing standards

DES MOINES – The State Board of Education this week approved performance levels that determine how many students met expectations on Iowa’s new state test, the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP).

The board adopted performance levels based on a recommendation from a committee of Iowa educators and the test’s developer, Iowa Testing Programs at the University of Iowa. The recommendations were shared during Thursday’s board meeting, along with statewide test results based on the performance levels.

“Our students must be ready to meet the demands of the 21st century,” said Gov. Reynolds. “Iowa’s new state test introduces higher expectations and new measurements to better assess student progress as well as improve accountability in our education system. Partnering with educators and students, our state will continue to ensure access to STEM, computer science and work-based learning programs to better prepare our young people for their future success.”

“These recommendations are a testament to Iowa teachers who hold high expectations for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level,” Iowa Department of Education Director Ryan Wise said. “Having challenging statewide academic standards and a state test that better measures progress in meeting the standards will help prepare students for the demands of postsecondary education and the workforce,” Wise said.

ISASP replaced the former Iowa Assessments, with students taking the new tests for the first time in the spring. The English language arts and math tests were administered to students in grades 3 through 11, while science tests were given in grades 5, 8 and 10.

The new state test went beyond the traditional paper-pencil format and multiple-choice questions to include an online format and an assessment of student writing.

Student performance on the ISASP was scored at three levels: Advanced, Proficient and Not Yet Proficient. A committee of 185 Iowa educators met in July to develop performance levels based on standards for the demands of postsecondary education and the workforce.

Student performance on the ISASP was scored at three levels: Advanced, Proficient and Not Yet Proficient. A committee of 185 Iowa educators met in July and participated in a nationally recognized process to better prepare our young people for their future success.

See STUDENTS, page 8

Sports:

Hounds falter in 2nd half, Mt. Pleasant too big for Central Lee.

SUNDAY, SEP. 15, 2019 | 8 PAGES | VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 195
Clippers run away from Hounds in 2nd half

Hounds were down by just one in the third quarter

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – From the looks of things on the opening kick off, it was gonna be a long night for the Bloodhound football team Friday night.

But as it turned the Hounds played some of their best football of the year in the first half of a 35-13 loss to Clear Creek-Amana at Richmond Stadium/Yoel Field. Fort Madison won the toss and elected to receive on a night honoring our areas first responders, but the Hounds didn't respond, and left the kick-off laying in the grass as if it was punt, allowing the Clippers to recover and start at the Fort Madison 22-yard line.

With the Hounds squandering the coin toss and the Clippers offense starting the game just 22 yards off of paydirt, the Hounds were in trouble early.

But a quick pass from Ryan Navarra to TJ Bollers was met viciously by Kaeli Maestro. The 5’8”-200 lb linebacker put his shoulder into Bollers on the Clippers first possession forcing Bollers to cough up the ball and it was recovered by Galem Maclean at the Clear Creek Amana 41-yard line.

Fort Madison then put together it’s best drive of the night going 59 yards in the next 16 plays. At 1st and goal from the nine yardline, junior quarterback Will Larson tried to slice in from the four and ran into a stiff Clipper line.

Coach Derek Doherty called a time out and put in a play of the 2nd half, as well. 

On 4th and 11, Head Coach Derek Doherty called a timeout and put in a play that had Parker Denning open inside the pylon down the left side, but Larson overthrew his target, a common theme for the night for Larson.

Clear Creek-Amana put together a six-play drive and Fort Madison would miss the point after.

Fort Madison would get a nifty return on the kick off of Brock Calif, all the way to the Hounds 49. Fort Madison would go four-and-out after the kick and were forced to punt, and Clear Creek-Amana would find the endzone on the second play on a 51 yard touchdown toss from Navarra, but an illegal block on the play sent the Clippers back to the drawing board.

Nine plays later Navarra hooked up with sophomore Harrison Rosenberg for a 25-yard pass, again with Rosenberg running down the right sideline cutting and making Bloodhounds miss on the way to take a 14-6 lead.

Fort Madison would get a nifty return on the kick off from Brock Calif, all the way to the Hounds 49. Fort Madison ran five plays and then let the game clock slip down to 1:23 before calling a time out on 4th and 1 at the 23.

The Hounds ran a play-action keeper to the right side, but Larson couldn't find enough room to convert a first down and the Hounds forced a clearing kick.

Fort Madison quarterback Will Larson scoots in from a yard out to bring Fort Madison within 1 at 13-14 in Friday night's 35-13 loss to Clear Creek-Amana. Larson's dad Randy, second from far right in the gray shirt, watches on the sideline.

The two teams would trade possessions capped by a sack by Lozano on a 4th and 4 play, where Navarra tried to escape to his right, but the speedy Lozano, tracked him down to end the drive.

Fort Madison would run six plays highlighted by a 13-yard reception from Larson to Quentin Schneider, who reined in the ball after diving for it to the right. But the Hounds couldn't keep anything going, which would be the case in most of the 2nd half, as well.

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turned it over with 1:18 left in the first half.
CC-A would then run eight plays in the 1:18 throwing on all but one, where Navara slipped away around the end for a 15-yard gain. One 3rd and 10 from the Hounds 28 Navara again found an open receiver down the middle, but laundry was thrown on the field again and the play was nullified. The Clippers ended up turning it over on downs and the score would stay 14-6 at halftime.

Doherty said Clear Creek made some good adjustments at halftime to take away the short lateral passing game that was opening some lanes for Hound receivers.

"Credit to them for running routes and making plays," Doherty said. "We had some receivers open tonight, too. Football is about execution and if we execute on some things, maybe this is a different conversation."

The Hounds made some changes of their own in the lockerroom. Romeo Maestro, jumped a route from his outside backer spot and picked off a pass on the Clippers first play from scrimmage to open the half.

Larson would gain a couple on 1st and 10 and then hit Michael Mosena in the flat and he would gallop 31 yards to set up a 1st and goal at the 7. Three plays later, Larson would run an option left off a play-action and would tuck the ball in and slip past the Clippers defense into the endzone to make it 13-14.

But that's all the Hounds would put on the board, while the Clippers would handle the rest of the scoring in the 2nd half. Navarra would cap a 12-play 63-yard scoring drive on CC-A's next possession.

The Hounds held at 2nd and 1, and 3rd and 1, but then Navarra would slip into the endzone on a read option to the right on 4th and 1 for a 21-13 lead.

The Clippers also got rushing scores from sophomore Gage Freeman on a 24-yard breakthrough for a 13-28 lead and then Cole Pfister would break free for a 15-yard score with about 9 minutes left in the game to set the final score 35-13.

Romeo Maestro continues to lead the defense with 7.5 tackles, a sack and an interception on the night. Bryce Britton had eight tackles and four for losses.

"Bryce Britton, that's a guy that's probably not going to get a lot of credit but he played his tail off," Doherty said. "That's a kid that has bought into everything we do. He got his number called tonight, he was a captain, played with his hair on fire and I'm proud of him."

Larson went 17-33 for 134 yards. He also had 11 carries for 27 yards and the score. Fort Madison had just 59 yards on the ground and 204 yards of total offense.

"They dragged us into some deep water and we just didn't have enough bodies," Doherty said.

"We're looking a 1-0 after next week I mean that's what we've said all along. One week at a time and I firmly believe in that mentality. Nothing we can do about this loss other than learn from it. Losing sucks, but if we don't learn anything and grow from it, it's just a loss."

The Hounds (2-1) return to Richmond Stadium next Friday when the Burlington Grayhounds come calling. The Grayhounds (1-2) knocked off Clinton 33-26 Friday for their first win of the season.
Mt. Pleasant just too much for Central Lee

Central Lee happily looking forward to some 2A games

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

DONELSON – Nick Ehret looked over at the celebrating Mount Pleasant football team, and the Central Lee coach knew his team wouldn’t see the size of play-ers the Panthers had for the rest of the season.

“I hope not,” Ehret said with a laugh. “Not that I’m aware of.”

The Hawks’ 55-7 loss on Friday night was the program’s 14th consecutive defeat, but Ehret saw signs that, with West Burlington-Notre Dame ahead next week followed by district play, there was improvement.

“We did some good things,” Ehret said. “That’s just a very good team, big and physical. But yeah, we did some good things.”

The Hawks (0-3) trailed just 14-0 at the end of the first quarter before the Panthers (2-1) dominated with a 41-point second quarter.

“Defensively, I thought we did some good things,” Ehret said. “But I just thought we got overwhelmed at times.”

Central Lee has played Fort Madison (Class 3A), Mediapolis (Class 1A) and Mount Pleasant (Class 3A) to start this season, teams with larger numbers than the Hawks.

WB-ND is a Class 2A team, and then the Hawks play their final five games against opponents in 2A District 6.

“We’re getting to that point where we’re sick of (losing),” Ehret said. “Now they have to do something about it.”

“We’re playing teams we feel we can compete against. We match up well. But we still have to go out there and play. Nobody is going to roll over for us. Everybody’s got weapons we have got to stop. But we’re happy to be through these first three weeks.”

Mount Pleasant’s opening scoring drive took just 57 seconds, capped by a 24-yard touchdown pass from Brody Bender to Rylan Seberg.

The Panthers fumbled in Central Lee territory on their next possession, but the Hawks couldn’t move the ball. Bender then threw a 71-yard touchdown pass to Chase Williamson on the ensuing possession for a 14-0 lead.

Ehret said the Hawks showed improvement after last week’s 82-14 loss to Mediapolis.”We played hard tonight, which was definitely an improvement from last week in how we played,” Ehret said. “Our attitudes were better.”

He knew the Hawks had survived their early games. “We had three tough teams to start the year. We did,” Ehret said. “But we’re through it.”

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Sealed bids clearly marked “BIDS FOR CITY WIDE CLEAN UP” will be received at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 811 Avenue E, P.O. Box 240, Fort Madison, Iowa, until 10:00 A.M., on September 25, 2019, for the following: Supplying all equipment, fuel and other materials for the Fall 2019 Citywide Clean-up held on October 10-11, 2019.

Any bids received after this time will be returned unopened.

All bids properly received will be opened and publicly read aloud in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

The City of Fort Madison reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any or all bids, to waive reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor technicalities, and to accept that proposal which the City Council deems to be in the best interest of the City.
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to determine the recommended performance levels, which define the range of scores for each of the three performance levels. The process was led by Pearson, a vendor of Iowa Testing Programs.

The committee also reviewed the impact of the performance levels when applied to 2019 assessment results before recommending them to the State Board of Education.

On Thursday, board members reviewed the same "impact data," which represent statewide proficiency rates for each grade level, subject area and subgroup of students, such as students from low-income backgrounds.

2018-19 Statewide Student Proficiency Rates

"This is a different, more challenging test that is better aligned with Iowa’s academic standards," Wise said. "These results set a new baseline for future progress on the test. They should not be compared to results from previous years because the test is new and different."

Results by school and school district will be available in October. Parents will receive individual student results from their schools.

Iowa’s academic standards and assessment complement other state education efforts and achievements, including:

- The nation’s highest graduation rate (91 percent).
- The nation’s most extensive teacher leadership system, which taps into the expertise of top teachers to strengthen teaching around them and raise student achievement. In 2018, Iowa saw a significant increase in school districts reporting they met student achievement goals.
- A focus on connecting students with future careers through a statewide expansion of work-based learning opportunities, computer science instruction, career and technical education programs, and a statewide science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiative.
- An early literacy screening system to catch and address reading problems in kindergarten through third-grade students early on. Since 2015, the share of students who met or surpassed benchmarks has climbed nearly 7 percentage points.
- A school accountability system that includes a focus on postsecondary readiness and student engagement and safety in addition to student achievement and growth.

“Iowa has the right roadmap in place to prepare all students for success in high school and beyond,” Wise said.

STUDENTS - Continued from Page 1

A full moon lights up the sky and the American flag Friday night at Richmond Stadium. Fort Madison firefighters hung the flag at the stadium in honor of area first responders.