

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Homecoming 2021



FMHS 2021 Homecoming royalty were announced Thursday during a ceremony in Central Park. Homecoming Queen Hattie Schrepfer and Homecoming King Will Gager were crowned. The festivities began with the annual homecoming parade down Avenue G. Above are 2021 parade Grand Marshals Timm and Kate Lamb.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg



SEX OFFENDERS

Compliance check yields charges

One arrest made and deputies searching for another offender who cut off GPS monitor

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – A regular compliance check of individuals registered as sex offenders in Lee County has resulted in deputies looking for an offender who has allegedly cut off his GPS monitor.

According to a release from the sheriff's office on Thursday, 69 checks were made in Lee County resulting in one arrest, and charges pending against two who were found to be out of compliance with registration status.

A fourth individual is being sought for cutting off the GPS monitor on Wednesday, while authorities were looking for him to conduct the compliance check.

"Regular compliance checks are done in Lee County to assure that the public is aware these individuals do reside in our county, but are being monitored by this department very rigorously," Weber wrote.

"Since being elected Sheriff, these checks have been completed near Halloween as children could possibly knock on these doors unknowingly. We take the monitoring and apprehension of these individuals very seriously.

"One such individual is wanted for cutting his GPS off just yesterday while he was being sought for his compliance check. Any information that lends to his arrest and conviction could result in a reward from Lee County Crimestoppers.

The checks were conducted on Wednesday with the assistance of the Keokuk Police Department, Fort Madison Police Department, West Point/Donnellson Police Department, Montrose Police Department, and the Iowa State Division of Criminal Investigation.

See **HOMECOMING**, page 8

See **CHECK**, page 3

HOUNDS PREVIEW

River Kings next big test for No. 7 Bloodhounds

Hounds catch a Clinton squad playing their best football in several years

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Head Coach Derek Doherty has been around Bloodhound football since he was about five years old. He never envisioned a time where he thought Fort Madison would be playing Clinton in district play.

But the River Kings come to town Friday for the Hounds homecoming and despite their 1-4 record Clinton has, like all other teams Fort Madison has run into lately, shown steady improvement.

Burlington handed Clinton a 55-13 loss on Friday, but in a rain heavy atmosphere that was more conducive to a running game, where the Grayhounds have excelled.

Aside from that loss and a week one 14-0 shutout, the



DOHERTY

River Kings are putting up about 25 points a game, a stat that isn't lost on Doherty.

"This feels real familiar to us. They can take the top off and they do some inside run stuff with their quarterback and they have running backs that can get down hill," Doherty said. "This will be another big test for us, especially our secondary."

The River Kings #12 Jai Jenson has been running that offense since he was a sophomore and has seen the down side of things. Clinton won it's first game since Sept. 2018 this year when they shut out Maquoketa 28-0 in week two.

"Jai is toward the top of the state in passing. They are putting up points and it will be intriguing for our secondary. Washington exposed us a few times, and was that because they were run, run, run, and dagger or what? But I believe in our guys. Clinton is going to catch balls and make plays and we've gotta do the same," Doherty said.

Jenson spreads the ball around the offense almost as well as Hounds' QB Landes Williams. Clinton's senior has

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
FRI 01 Oct Hot with Light Rain, 86° F/ 64° F
SAT 02 Oct Warm and Rainy, 82° F/ 67° F
SUN 03 Oct Cooler and Rainy, 76° F/ 62° F

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Obituaries/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/28/21 - 11:12 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Tasha Marie Carter, 40, of Fort Madison in the 2700 block of Avenue N, on a charge of driving under suspension. 09/28/21 - 12:01 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited David Christopher Hemm, 26, in the 1800 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension. 09/28/21 - 6:09 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 09/29/21 - 4:46 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Terry Marvin Stewart, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 4600 block of Avenue J, on a charge of domestic assault with bodily injury and interference with official acts. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 09/29/21 - 6:42 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3400 block of Avenue N. 09/29/21 - 7:49 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2800 block of Avenue K. 09/29/21 - 10:34 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident near 303rd Avenue and Airport Road. 09/29/21 - 9:59 p.m. - Fort

Madison Police cited Ryan Blind, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 2100 block of Avenue E, on a charge of driving under suspension. 09/30/21 - 5:34 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/28/21 - 8:50 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shawn Leon Cheney, 44, of Versailles, Ill., in the 100 block of N. 7th Street on a warrant for violation of a no contact order and a charge of contempt. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 09/28/21 - 10:24 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Abre Allen Kay, 35 of Keokuk, in the 100 block of N. 7th Street, on a warrant for theft in the 1st degree greater than \$10,000. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 09/28/21 - 2:40 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sasha Lynn Flinkinger, 38, of Fort Madison on three warrants for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 09/28/21 - 2:46 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Adam Ray Sutton, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 100 block of North 7th Street, on six warrants for failure to appear. He was

taken to Lee County Jail. 09/29/21 - 1:37 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Samantha Joann Calvert, 50, of Quincy, at the sheriff's office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 09/29/21 - 4:52 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Eric Roger George Demuynck, 56, of Fort Madison, in the 700 block of Avenue F, on warrants for voluntary absence from custody and a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 09/29/21 - 6:07 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Obie Taylor, II, 42, of Burlington, in the 700 block of Avenue F, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail. 09/29/21 - 7:49 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at Primrose Rd. and 180th Avenue. According to the report a vehicle driven by Virginia Ethel Calvert, 79, of Donnellson turned west onto Primrose Road and struck a vehicle head on driven by Sunny Leigh Robbins, 39, of Donnellson. No injuries were reported. The report indicated Calvert was at fault, but no citations were listed on the report. 09/29/21 - 10:34 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's depu-

ties responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident at Airport Road and 303rd Avenue. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Kelly Ann Williford, 34, of Fort Madiosn was struck from behind by a vehicle driven by Christopher Joseph Wayne Richardson, 24, of Morning Sun. The report indicates Richardson was at fault in the accident, but no citations were listed on the report. No injuries were reported. 09/29/21 - 1:25 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a one-vehicle accident at the intersection of 340th Street and 180th Avenue. According to the report, Deputy Jacob Thomas Riley, 26, of Montrose was involved in a vehicle pursuit and due to visibility issues and loose gravel couldn't come to a stop before striking a road sign. No injuries or citations were reported. *Those listed above are charged with a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue

09/28/21 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to seven medical calls. 09/28/21 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to eight medical calls and one assist.

OBITUARIES

EDWARD L. SYMMONDS

Edward L. Symmonds, 94, of Dallas City, Illinois, passed away at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at his home.



SYMMONDS

Ed was born July 20, 1927 in Hancock County, Illinois, the son of James and Minnie (Courtois) Symmonds. He married Katherine Markey at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Carthage, Illinois, on December 31, 1947. She survives.

Mr. Symmonds was a Veteran of U.S. Army. He worked for 33 years at JI Case in Burlington, Iowa. He was a member of the Dallas City American Legion, Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus.

Ed was an avid Chicago Cubs fan. He enjoyed gardening, hunting, square dancing, and especially enjoyed being a father and grandfather.



Survivors include his wife of 73 years, Katherine; four daughters: Diana (Byron) Shaw, Rita (Tom) Schaefer, Teresa (John) Pieper all of Dallas City and Nancy (Mike) Gavin of Salem, Kentucky and one son: Ed (Kathy) Symmonds of Swisher, Iowa; eighteen grandchildren: Jeni Richardson, Heather Carter, Angie Bauer, Chris Thompson, Tiffany Prickett, Aaron and Amy Walker, John, David and Matt Gavin, Andy Schaefer, Alicia Glueck, April Hamma, Leslie Vermillion, Laura Phillips and John, Dan and Dylan Pieper; 43 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

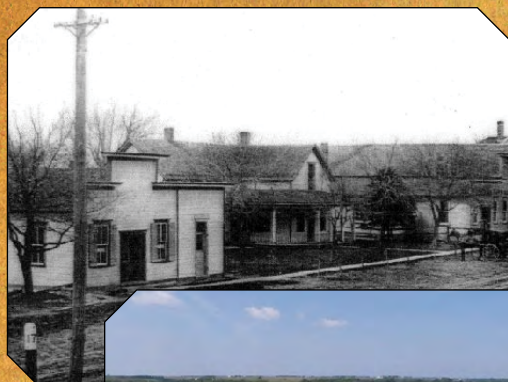
He was preceded in death by two daughters: Beverly Walker and Kathleen Bousman; two grandchildren: Eric Schaefer and Ashley Walker, one great grandchild Kendra McAllister, one son-in-law: Frank Walker and five brothers and three sisters.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, October 2, 2021 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dallas City with Fr. Tony Trosley as celebrant. Burial with Military Rites will follow in Gittings Mound Cemetery, rural Dallas City.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Friday, October 1, 2021 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. A rosary will be recited at 7:00 p.m. following visitation.

A memorial fund has been established for the Gittings Mound Cemetery and Dallas City Food Pantry. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Ed's obituary at bank-sandbeals.com.

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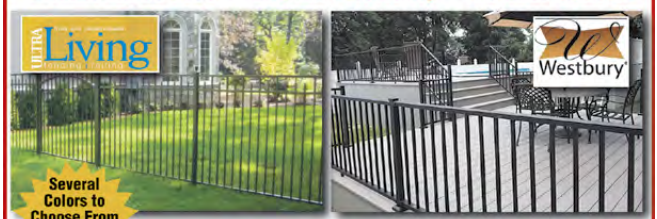
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Obituaries/Illinois News

Hancock County charges Quincy men with thefts

CARTHAGE - The Hancock County Sheriff's office is charging two Quincy men with allegedly stealing area catalytic converters.

Sheriff Travis Duffy reported that at about 9:43 a.m. Thursday, a property owner in rural Carthage, reported a suspicious vehicle and two suspicious males on his property.

Sheriff's deputies arrived in the 900 block of N. State Hwy. 94 and immediately encountered a White 2002 Ford truck that did not belong on the property. The occupants, Cory R. Mefford age 34, of Quincy, IL and Joseph D. Hardy age 33, of Quincy, IL were discovered to be in the process of committing theft at the property.

Mefford and Hardy were allegedly attempting to steal a catalytic converter from a vehicle on the property. They were also found to be in possession of burglary tools.

After an investigation it was found that the pair had stolen catalytic converters in different areas of Hancock County as well as in neighboring jurisdictions. They were found in possession of the stolen items.

Both subjects were transported to the Hancock County Jail where they were held on charges of Theft over \$500, Criminal Trespass to Real Property, and Possession of Burglary Tools.

This investigation is ongoing and further charges may be filed. All persons arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

LCISO does sex offender compliance check in county

CHECK - Continued from Page 1

Lee County Sheriff's Office sex offender registry compliance officers, Detective Sergeant Clint Wray and Deputy Wade Johnson, compiled the information that included four Lee County registered sex offenders who are currently incarcerated, three more have outstanding warrants, and one is believed to be living outside of the country.

"We appreciate the assistance by the public assuring the compliance is kept in these matters," Weber wrote.



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OBITUARIES

DALENE M. BOLTZ

Dalene M. Boltz, 91 of Cedar Rapids, IA formerly of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at The keystones of Cedar Rapids.



BOLTZ

She was born July 20, 1930 in Cedar Rapids, IA the daughter of Arthur C. and Hilda Schirm Grabau. In 1940 Dalene moved to Rock Island, IL where she graduated from Rock Island High School with the class of 1948.

Dalene was united in marriage to James B. Kettering in June of 1949. To this union four children were born, Susan, James, Lisa and Thomas.

She later was united in marriage to G. Wayne Boltz on November 1, 1970. Wayne brought two sons, Ronald and David.

She is survived by her husband, Wayne of Cedar Rapids, IA, six children, Susan Beckwith (Dennis), James Kettering, Lisa Klein (Rick), Thomas Kettering (Kris), Ronald W. Boltz (Bonnie) and David L. Boltz (Jennifer), sixteen grandchildren, Jennifer Beckwith, Emily Hasson, Matthew Kettering, Michele Neally, Stephanie Nye, Sara Reynolds, Beth Reott, Andy Klein, Tyler Kettering, Josh Kettering, Riley Kettering, Adam Boltz, Brian Boltz, Jesse Boltz, Madelyn Milliken and Wesley Milliken, and twenty great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one broth-

er, Dale Grabau and one grandson, Tucker Ramsey, and a daughter-in-law, JoAnn Kettering.

Dalene had been employed by Sheller Globe in Keokuk as an office assistant from 1960-1970.

She was a member of First Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Keokuk and the Disciples Women Morning Circle.

Dalene loved sewing, especially when her children were young. She enjoyed cooking for her family and worked hard to feed them.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Monday, at the First Christian Church of Disciples in Keokuk with Pastor David Turner officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 12 noon - 1:00 p.m., Monday at the church with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to First Christian Church in Keokuk, Care Initiative Hospice, 317 7th Ave S.E. unit 402, Cedar Rapids, IA or Alzheimer's Association, 1730 28th St. West Des Moines, IA 50266.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

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CIVIL SERVICE HIRING NOTICE Police Officer

The City of Fort Madison is seeking applicants to fill Police Officer positions. Starting- \$42,700. After 1 year - \$46,840. After 2 years - \$55,965. Benefits include, longevity pay scale; shift differential, paid training; Uniform allowance; paid vacations, holidays, personal & sick time; Education incentives & reimbursement, health, life, and supplemental insurance.

LE certified applicants are eligible for lateral entry and hiring bonus. DAQ.

Candidates must minimally be 20 years of age and have a high school diploma. Must also have an acceptable background history and valid driver's license. Will be required to successfully complete a POST exam and physical agility test in Fort Madison to enter the process. Testing standards can be found on the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy website at ileatraining.org. Noncertified applicants must attend the four-month academy paid for by the department.

TO APPLY: Contact jgray@fortmadisonpd.com or pick up an application packet at our lobby M-F 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. Application deadline is October 22, 2021 at 4:30 PM.



PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NEW CONSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sealed bids will be received by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Engineering Bureau, at the Wallace State Office Building,

502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034 until 11:00 A.M., October 21, 2021 for the public improvement projects listed below, at which time they will be opened publicly. In addition to attending the bid opening in person, interested parties may also call in to the following number to listen to the bid opening:

Conference call number: (617) 675-4444
PIN: 144 768 110 7295#

In order to improve sound quality, please mute your phone by

pressing *6. If you have questions, you can unmute your phone by pressing *6.

Please Note: emailed bids will no longer be accepted; all bids must be submitted via hard copy originals

If you intend to hand-deliver your sealed Bid Proposal and Proposal Guarantee Bond, you will need to enter the Wallace Building through the main entrance/front doors. This is the only entrance open to the public. Upon arrival, please use the phone by the sliding glass doors that lead to the front elevators, to call the front desk and a DNR Receptionist will come down to obtain the sealed bid documents and to date and time stamp them. On the bid opening day, a DNR Receptionist will be available in the lobby to receive sealed bid documents and to date and time stamp them upon arrival. No bids shall be accepted by FAX OR EMAIL. After the bid opening, information concerning bid results may be obtained by visiting the Department's website at www.iowadnr.gov.

Note: The United States Postal Service (USPS) does not deliver mail or packages directly to the address provided above but rather to the Capitol Complex Mail Room. Extra time should be allotted for proposals sent by the

USPS. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources shall not consider bids if they are not received by the Department of Natural Resources, either at its mail room or at its Fourth Floor Reception Desk, by the time and date described in this Notice to Bidders, regardless of whether the bid was mailed prior to that time and date or whether the bid was received at the Capitol Complex Mail Room or other state government location prior to that time and date.

Project documents, including drawings, specifications, proposal forms and addenda items for the project are available at Beeline and Blue, at 2507 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312. Please visit www.beelineandblue.com or contact (515) 244-1611 for more information. Alternatively, Bid Documents can be viewed or printed online at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp>

The Department shall comply with all public improvement procurement laws, as outlined in the plans and specifications and including but not limited to: Iowa Code chapter 26 related to public construction bidding; Iowa Code chapter 73 related to preferences; Iowa Code chapter 573 related to labor and materials on public improvements; rules promulgated by the Department of Administrative Services – General Services Enterprise as they may apply; rules promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission, as they may apply; and any federal statutes, rules and/or executive orders that may be associated depending on funding sources. Bidders shall comply with these laws to be considered and are encouraged to be familiar with public improvement procurement requirements and the bidding documents before submitting a bid.

Each bidder shall accompany the bid with a bid security as defined in Iowa code section 26.8. The bid security must be in an amount set forth in the bidding documents and made payable to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Failure to

execute a contract for the proposed work and file an acceptable Performance Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price and a certificate of liability insurance within thirty (30) days of the date of the award of the contract will be just and sufficient cause for the rescinding of the award and the forfeiture of the bid security.

BLACK HAWK COUNTY PROJECT NO. 20-03-07-02

George Wyth State Park
Trail Repair
Proposal Guarantee:
\$6,250.00
Completion Date:
6/30/2022

Project Description:
This project consists of removing HMA pavement and base and reconstructing the trail with PCC.

TAMA COUNTY PROJECT NO. 21-05-86-02

Otter Creek
Lake Restoration –
Phase 3
Proposal Guarantee:
\$175,000.00
Completion Date:
6/30/2023

Project Description:
This project consists of removing sediment from an existing sediment pond, construct an earth embankment, construct fish habitat within the lake bottom, mechanically dredge the main lake, improve the existing stream bed, and rebuild a granular surfaced parking lot.

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY PROJECT NO. 21-03-03-01

Yellow River State Forest
Little Paint Creek
Floodplain Restoration
Proposal Guarantee:
\$6,250.00
Completion Date:
5/14/2022

Project Description:
This project involves stabilization of Little Paint Banks, by reshaping the banks to 4:1 slope, establishing a flood plain bench, armoring the shoreline with class E revetment, installing two rock Weirs and planting native vegetation on all disturbed areas.

HELP WANTED

FENCE AND DECK INSTALLER

Must be 18 years of age or older. Construction experience required. Must be willing to work at least 40 hours a week. Have a valid driver's license. Vacation and 401k package offered after first year.

Apply in person at
Tri-State Outdoor Products
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West Point, IA
319-469-3636

NOW HIRING Lee County

Lee County is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of American Rescue Plan Act Funds Administrator/Grant Writer. Work involves oversight of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") funds, planning and coordinating County grant functions, including grant management and reporting for departments. Seek, identify, and research available grant resources. Work closely with County departments/offices to develop, write, and submit grant proposals.

Application form, background check documents and job description can be downloaded at www.leecounty.org or may be obtained at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison Iowa or by calling the Auditor's Office at 319-372-3705

Completed application and background check documents should be sent or delivered to Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor, 933 Avenue H, P.O. Box 190, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 or emailed to dfraise@leecounty.org. IPERS and benefits available. All applications should be received by the Auditor's office by 4:30 PM on Friday, October 1, 2021.

Lee County is an
Equal Opportunity Employer



HELP WANTED

Church Choir Accompanist Wanted

This person will accompany the choir for the 9:00am traditional worship service. A strong candidate will have experience in accompanying and have knowledge of a wide variety of musical styles. Piano/keyboard proficiency required. Candidate must have good organizational skills and have music prepared for practice held each Wednesday evening (September-May). Candidate will collaborate with both the Choir director and support First Christian Church's music ministry.

Please send cover letter
and resume to
First Christian Church
Attn: Personnel Committee
3476 Main Street
Keokuk, IA 52632



2136 Green Bay Rd
Wever, IA 52658
319-372-7852

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HELP WANTED

FORT MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY LIBRARY PAGE

The Fort Madison Public Library is seeking a year round library page. 10 hours/week August through May, 12 hours/week June and July. Tasks will include shelving books, helping to prepare for children's programming, assisting during children's program and cleaning up from children's programming. Must be 16 years or older and live within 10 miles of the Fort Madison city limits. Applications can be picked up and returned to the Fort Madison Public Library through October 1, 2021. Contact Sarah Clendineng at (319) 372-5721 if you have any questions.



Classifieds

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Sonny's Super Market is looking for someone with an open personality that enjoys learning. Do you like to make others smile? Do you know someone who does? Have you always wanted to try something new, but didn't want to jump off a cliff?

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Apply in person at



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From the Front

Hounds stout secondary could get a test Friday at home

HOMECOMING - Continued from Page 1

hooked up with seven different receivers on the year, four of whom have scored touchdowns and two, Zach Connell and Addison Binnie have more than 300 yard a piece. Connell's averaging 31 yards a catch.

"Defensively, we've got to limit their big plays. We feel like we've got another great game plan, but can we execute it. That will be the question. It will be another big test and we've studied and we're ready."

Jensen, a big QB at 6'3" and about 200 lbs., also leads Clinton in rushing with 204 yards and a couple scores. Tavian Bailey is next at 130 yards on the year.

The Hounds have been celebrating Homecoming Week and despite the distractions of the week, Doherty said his squad understands the priorities that are in place.

"We just hope it stays fun for them and doesn't get outside of that and become funny. We talked

about that in our meetings Monday that there's a difference between fun and funny, and this is a fun group," he said.

The Bloodhounds enter this week ranked No. 7 in Class 4A. North Scott is the top team in the state in 4A and looms three weeks out on the road for the Bloodhounds in district play. Burlington has moved up in rankings as well and sits at 12th in Class 4A, putting three of the six teams in the district in the top 12 in the state.

Doherty, who's traditionally as loquacious as anyone on football, keeps rankings conversation to a minimum.

"I think the kids are aware of that before the coaches even know. Social media in the world is wild and they definitely know. We just try to get a head of it," Doherty said.

"At the end of the day it's people's opinion and it doesn't win you football games. Clinton does not

care. They're not going to hand us anything because someone says we fit 7th on their list. I've dealt with this in the wrestling world. But rankings never won anyone a wrestling match. "We're the one's here building in the dark and we know what we're doing - and that outside perception isn't based on that."

Doherty said the word he used to describe Clinton is dangerous.

"We used that very word in meetings this week, 'dangerous.' This team is very dynamic offensively and defensively."

But the Hounds have a little dynamic working on their side of the ball as well. Williams has 1,100 yards passing and 10 touchdowns. Four of those have been to Kane Williams and four to Tate Johnson. Gavin Wiseman has a couple scores and some physical possession catches that have sustained

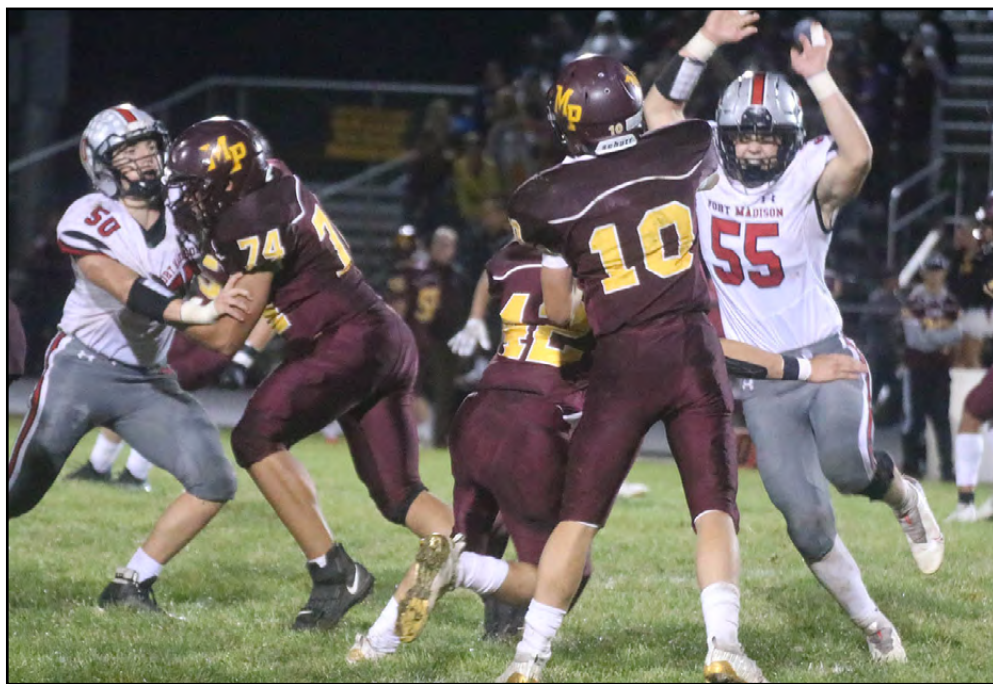


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Tate Settles jumps to block a pass last week from Mt. Pleasant's Carson Coleman. Ike Thacher (50) works the other side of the line. The 5-0 Hounds take on Clinton tonight at Richmond Stadium.

drives.

Landes Williams also has 339 yards and seven scores on the ground.

Defensively, senior Austin Ensminger is fifth in the state in interception return yardage with 109 yards and that excludes a 30-yard pick six that was nullified by a penalty earlier this year. As it stands the senior has three picks for a couple touchdowns. Ensminger also leads the Hounds in tackles with 32, including four sacks and 10 tackles for loss.

"His body of work is phenomenal. He doesn't miss weights. He does extras outside of the season doing other sports, and he understands wrestling makes him a better football player. We're so proud of him and everything he does," Doherty said,

"The kids follow him and I don't know that he fully understands the influence he has. Stats

show it, but I'm talking about how he brings the 'whole' up.

The Hounds are giving up an average of just 8 points per contest and have two shutouts on the year. They haven't allowed 100 yards rushing since week 1 and are giving up just 74 yards per game on the ground. The dawgs have given up 667 yards total through the air and have five interceptions.

But Fort Madison's defensive front has been chasing quarterbacks all season. The Hounds are ninth in the state in all classes with 50 tackles for loss. They also have 21 sacks, which is 11 above the next closest in Class 4A district 3 and 2nd best in the state in 11-man play. Class A Lake Mills has 22 sacks on the year.

Doherty said you can stack the stats all day, but when he took over three years ago it was

with a purpose and that was to build a sustainable program.

"We took this program over with a purpose. When I was trying to decide if I was going to apply or not, I reached out to Justin Menke and Jason Crooks and said if I'm going to do this, I need you guys with me," Doherty said.

"We took it over and we knew what we wanted to do with it. As far as those successes, it starts with our athletic enhancement program. Ninety percent of our players are in that program - and have been. We understand we're going to have to climb the rough side of the mountain and it will never be easy. That's just the culture here. Once you accept that, it's kind of freeing. Then it's all about development."

Game time at Richmond Stadium is set for 7:30 p.m.

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