

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Wednesday, December 22, 2021 | 7 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 8



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## FM knocks off No. 5 Demons



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison senior Miles Dear celebrates with teammates after the Hounds knocked off Class 3A No. 5 Washington on Tuesday night.

### **RANKED HOUNDS:** No. 9 Fort Madison downs previously unbeaten Washington

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds probably got the biggest win in the last seven years under Head Coach Ryan Wilson.

The Class 3A No. 9 Hounds knocked off previously unbeaten Washington 56-46 Tuesday night in Fort Madison to take sole possession of the Southeast Conference lead at 4-0 with a 7-0 overall record.

The win was certainly the biggest for Wilson.

“I would say that, yeah,” he said. “That’s a big one.”

After Fort Madison surrendered a 3-0 early lead,

senior Reiburn Turnbull took a step off an inbound pass on the left wing and buried a 3-ball to tie things up. And the Hounds never looked back.

Washington’s Kasen Bailey would score on a short jumper to make it a 6-5 game and that’s all the points the Bloodhounds would surrender the rest of the period, while rushing out to a 20-5 lead.

The Hounds are averaging about 16 points in the first quarter this year and Wilson said that big lead was a huge confidence builder for the Hounds.

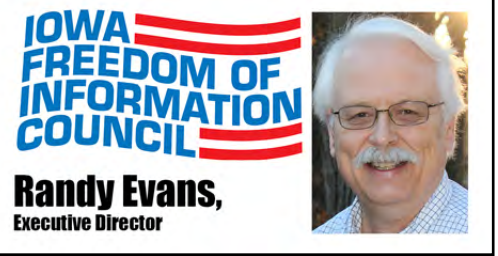
“Anytime you can get out and have a good lead like that gets the crowd and the

See **HOUNDS**, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Bloodhounds’ Phillip Goldie (30) takes a jump shot over Washington’s Lance Sobaski in the second half of Tuesday night’s game.



## Good deeds can recharge all of us

When I walked out the door at the Des Moines Register for the final time on Dec. 12, 2014, there was an unfinished piece of work tucked away in a box of assorted stuff I carried.

The folder contained a few dozen newspaper clippings, press releases and notes to myself I had collected.

There was a common thread in all of this: They dealt with events across Iowa to raise money or provide other assistance for people in times of need.

I had hoped for several years to travel to a few of these events and then weave all of this raw material into a column for the front of the Sunday Register opinion section that I edited. But retirement caught up with me.

This idea grew out of many years of seeing the coffee cans next to countless cash registers, where customers could leave donations for a local fund-raising effort. The idea also was fueled by the signs taped to the doors and windows of many small-town businesses about some fund-raising gathering that was coming.

As a young reporter, I had covered several “good neighbor deeds” when farmer friends pitched in to plant the crops, or bring in the harvest, for a neighbor who was sidelined by sickness or injury, or whose widow was distraught with grief and anxiety after the farmer’s death.

The folder I carried home that Friday evening in 2014 included a clipping about the traditional election day Swiss steak meal that members of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Albia served to raise money for parish activities. There was a note about the annual sweet corn feed at the Izaak Walton League clubhouse in Des Moines.

See **EVANS**, page 7

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### WEATHER

WED 22 Dec..... Scattered Clouds, 38° F/ 23° F  
 THU 23 Dec..... Clear Skies, 51° F/ 32° F  
 FRI 24 Dec..... Overcast, 60° F/ 42° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 12/20..... 17 21 31 35 45, Lucky Ball: 6  
 PICK 3 12/20 MIDDAY..... 8 7 7  
 PICK 3 12/20 EVENING..... 9 8 0  
 PICK 4 12/20 MIDDAY..... 7 1 9 9  
 PICK 4 12/20 EVENING..... 1 2 2 0  
 POWERBALL 12/20..... 2 13 23 34 66, Powerball: 2, Power Play: 4

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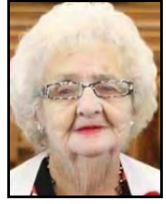
# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### MARY A. GOETZ

Mary Ann Goetz, 86, of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, December 19, 2021 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA.

She was born November 16, 1935 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Jess and Mary Neal McFadden Savacool. Mary Ann graduated from St. Peter's High School with the class of 1954.



GOETZ

On May 5, 1956 Mary Ann was united in marriage to Jack F. Goetz at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Keokuk. He preceded her in death on July 21, 2019.

Mary Ann had been employed by General Mills and Sullivan's in her younger years.

She was a member of All Saints Catholic Church, Ladies of Charity and the Altar and Rosary Society.

Mary Ann enjoyed a good game of Bingo and liked to scroll through Facebook regularly. She was an avid garage sale and thrift store shopper with a good eye for a bargain. Mary Ann was faithful at sending out cards to her family and friends for all occasions. She was a dedicated volunteer at St. Vincent's and Cardinal Stritch for many years. Above all, Mary Ann adored her grandchildren and the time she spent with her family. She was an enthusiastic fan of all her grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's activities.

She is survived by five children, John Goetz (Kim) of Keokuk, Dan Goetz (Vicky) of Excelsior Springs, MO, Martha Riney (Randy) of Keokuk, Father Marty Goetz of Burlington, IA and Joseph Goetz (Amy) of Keokuk, grandchildren, Jennifer Goetz, Austin Goetz, Matt Goetz (Jan), Sara (Tyler) Owen, Jessica Goetz, Michael Goetz (Ashley), David Riney (Leigh Ann), Daniel Riney (Kelli), Martin "Chuck" Riney, Jessie Clark (Brandon), Nickie Lynn (Jesse), Patrick Goetz and Allie Hayden, twelve great-grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents and one daughter-in-law, Karen Goetz.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk with Father Marty Goetz officiating. A private family burial will be held in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held after 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends from 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. A Rosary will be prayed at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Keokuk Catholic Schools or the Ladies of Charity. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

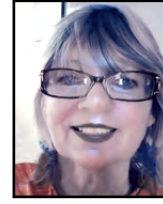
Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

## OBITUARIES

### DEBORAH G. BREAKBILL

Deborah "Debbie" Gail Breakbill, 59, of Keokuk, IA passed peacefully surrounded by loved ones after battling many years of cancer.

She was born August 16, 1962 in Chicago, IL the daughter of Robert and Janice Stidham Richardson. In January 2000, Debbie was united in marriage to Kirk Breakbill in Carthage, IL. He survives.



BREAKBILL

Other survivors include one son, Blake Breakbill (Samantha Quelland) of Des Moines, IA, one daughter, Savannah Breakbill (Emily Carlisle) of Des Moines, IA and two grandchildren, Bradley Schaff and Brayden Breakbill. She is also survived by one brother, Darrell Creque, two nephews, Brandon Adams and Danny Creque (Telia), one niece, Megan Adams, one great-nephew, Brooks Creque, two brothers-in-law, Mark Breakbill (Shelly) of Rome, GA and Tim Breakbill (Julie) of Keokuk and her mother-in-law, JoAnna Breakbill of Keokuk.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Danny Creque.

Debbie had been employed by several local businesses through the years, including Dairy Queen, Peters Dairy, CHMI, St. Louis Gear and Keokuk Steel Castings.

After leaving her hometown, the wanderlust in her took her on many other adventures, residing in Alabama, Texas and Las Vegas. Debbie had a passion for sunshine, the ocean and palm trees. She loved spending time in the swimming pool and going for Jeep rides. Debbie enjoyed life to the fullest and was one of a kind. Her beautiful heart and soul touched the lives of everyone she encountered.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be held from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA followed by a service at 7:30 p.m. with Rick Crabtree officiating.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### DAVID L. KRUSE

David L. Kruse, 66, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at his home. He was born on August 27, 1955 in Fort Madison, IA to Joseph & Jeanne Wilkens Kruse. He was a welder and enjoyed fishing, flying kites, shooting pool, playing poker, going to festivals, drinking a beer, and especially spending time with his grandchildren.



KRUSE

Dave is survived by: his significant other: Brenda Daniels of Fort Madison, IA; 5-children: Rachael (Earl Vincent) Atwater of Niota, IL, Crystal (Scott Miller) Fields of Fort Madison, IA, Jessica (Jesse) Genck of Donnellson, IA, Damien (Memorie) Kruse of St. Joseph, MO & Paul Fields of Fort Madison, IA; 22-grandchildren; 1-great granddaughter on the way; 1-sister: Connie (Bob) Sylvester of Milton, FL; 3-brothers: Bernie (Kathy) Kruse of Reno, NV, Tim (Carol) Kruse of Des Moines, IA & Mike Kruse of Fort Madison, IA. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Online condolences to Dave's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.king-lynk.com](http://www.king-lynk.com).

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# For the Record/Ag News

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police report

12/17/21 – 10:25 a.m.  
 – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue M.  
 12/17/21 – 11:35 a.m.  
 – Fort Madison police arrested Jacob William Klesner, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 1800 block of Avenue L, on a charge of domestic assault with bodily injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 12/17/21 – 11:47 a.m.  
 – Fort Madison police arrested Matthew Allan Marshall, 46, of Fort Madison, in the 5800 block of Avenue O, on warrants for 3rd degree burglary, possession of burglary tools, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, drug tax stamp violations, and parole violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 12/17/21 – 11:47 a.m.  
 – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5800 block of Avenue O.  
 12/18/21 – 3:09 p.m.  
 – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 100 block of Richards Drive.  
 12/18/21 – 3:26 p.m.  
 – Fort Madison police responded to a report of

larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue K.  
 12/18/21 – 6:05 p.m.  
 – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1200 block of 48th Street.  
 12/18/21 – 7:37 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Billy Joe Stephenson, 40, no hometown reported, in the 1400 block of 38th Street, on a charge of driving under suspension.  
 12/18/21 – 11:58 p.m.  
 – Fort Madison police arrested Justin David Wills, 37, of Fort Madison, in the 4600 block of Avenue J, on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 12/19/21 – 4:23 p.m.  
 – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 200 block of Avenue F.

### Lee County Sheriff report

12/17/21 – 11:11 a.m.  
 – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Kyle Max Ray, 33, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a court order hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 12/18/21 – 7:47 a.m.  
 – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested David James Markell, 25, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of 7th Street, on warrants for driving under sus-

pension, provide proof of financial liability, failure to maintain control, failure to use seat belts – adult, and 1st offense OWI. He was taken to Lee County Jail where he was later released on bond.  
 12/19/21 – 10:31 a.m.  
 – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested John Dale Wyatt, Sr., 48, of Keokuk, in the 2100 block of Johnson Street Road, on 2 warrants for violation of a domestic no-contact order and a warrant for 3rd degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
*Those listed above are arrested or cited on a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

## USDA extends organic program deadline

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the deadline for agricultural producers who are certified organic, or transitioning to organic, to apply for the Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP). This program provides pandemic assistance to cover certification and education expenses. The deadline to apply for 2020 and 2021 eligible expenses is now Feb. 4, 2022, rather than the original deadline of Jan. 7, 2022.

“We listened to feedback from our stakeholders and are happy to provide organic producers, and those transitioning their operations, enough time to learn about the program and complete the application,” said Zach Ducheneaux, FSA Administrator.

Signup for OTECP, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), began Nov. 8.

Certified operations and transitional operations may apply for OTECP for eligible expenses paid during the 2020, 2021 and 2022 fiscal years. Signup for the 2022 fiscal year will be announced at a later date.

For each year, OTECP covers 25% of a certified operation's eligible certification expenses, up to \$250 per certification category (crop, livestock, wild crop, handling and State Organic Program fee). This includes application fees, inspection fees, USDA organic certification costs, state organic program fees and more.

Crop and livestock operations transitioning to organic production may be eligible for 75% of a transitional operation's eligible expenses, up to \$750, for each year. This includes fees charged by a certifying agent or consultant for pre-certification inspections and development of an organic system plan.

For both certified operations and transitional operations, OTECP covers 75% of the registration fees, up to \$200, per year, for educational events that include content related to organic production and handling in order to assist operations in increasing their knowledge of production and marketing practices that can improve their operations, increase resilience and expand available marketing opportunities. Additionally, both certified and transitional operations may be eligible for 75% of the expense of soil testing required under the National Organic Program (NOP) to document micronutrient deficiency, not to exceed \$100 per year.

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**Charles Vandenberg, Editor**  
 (319).371.1670  
 charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

**Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager**  
 (319).371.4125  
 lee.v@pencitycurrent.com

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# Sports

# Bloodhounds head into break perfect at 7-0

**HOUNDS** - Continued from Page 1

bench into it and gets our confidence going," he said. Miles Dear, Turnbull, and Phillip Goldie all had six points in the run. Goldie's two came off nifty interior passing from Dayton Davis and then Dear on the next possession.



WILSON

Senior Tate Johnson would bury a 3-ball in front of a standing Hounds side of the gym at the buzzer for a 20-5 first quarter lead.

Then things got a bit tight as Wilson's squad went cold from the floor connecting on just one of the next 12 shots from the field. But a stifling defense, led by Landes Williams and Miles Dear at the top, helped keep the Demons in check until Fort Madison could pop the lid off.

The Hounds' defense held Ethan Patterson, who had been averaging right at 20 points per contest, to just five points on the night.

Bailey led Washington with 18. Fort Madison was led by Dear with 19 and Davis with 15.

A Davis bucket inside at the 4:27 mark was the only field goal for Fort Madison in the 2nd period. Dear had a couple freethrows just prior to the end of the half to give Fort Madison a 24-14 lead with 1:13 left. Patterson would get a couple freethrows at the end of the half to cut the lead to eight at the break.

The Hounds seemed to be stuck in the mud out of the lockerroom, as well, as they missed four straight



DAVIS



DEAR

and Dear battling and keeping the ball live in the lane. Despite not converting on the trip, Washington wouldn't convert on their next possession.

Turnbull, who battled foul trouble and couldn't get anything going in the game, made the back end of a couple of freethrows that seemed to end the Hounds' shooting drought. They would make five of their next 10 shots to push the lead to 12 at 37-25, on another Goldie bucket on a cross-lane pass from Dear.

A marathon of a 4th quarter saw clock stoppages about every 20 seconds with Washington trying to foul to get back in the game. Some up front pressure didn't payoff for Washington as the Hounds were able to navigate a full court press while committing just two turnovers and going 12 of 16 from the free-throw line down the stretch.

Washington was able to get within 7 at 48-41 with about a minute left, but couldn't shake the Hound core of seniors.

Davis, taking the ball out of bounds on a change of possession, found Matt Hopper open at the other end on a three-quarter court pass. Hopper converted with about 40 seconds left to give Fort Madison a 54-44 lead and take the wind out of the Demons' sails.

Davis and Goldie played most of the second half with three fouls. Turnbull fouled out with four minutes left in the game and just six points.

Davis said fouls change his defensive philosophy, but he doesn't give up on rebounds.

"It changes my mindset defensively to be smarter and not reach, but I try to stay aggressive rebound-

ing whenever I'm in there," he said.

Davis, who was tops in Class 3A in rebounds with 72 on the year, added 18 Tuesday night. He said the Hounds just keep attacking when shooting goes cold like it did in the second and third period.

"When that happens, we have the mentality to get to the basket more and then we start heating up again," he said.

Fort Madison slipped into the AP's top 10 in Class 3A for the first time in Wilson's tenure.

Dear said it's a nice designation, but the goal for the Hounds is to win every game they play and win at state.

"It's nice, but all we're looking for is a win every single game we step into. At the end of the day, we want to go to state and win there," Dear said.

But he said the win over the Demons was huge for the team's confidence.

"It's humongous. It puts us 4-0 and No. 1 in the conference. We just heard they were No. 5 in the state, so it feels good as a program to beat them. Obviously we're super excited about how the season is going and we're going to keep it going," he said.

Wilson said the senior experience of his rotation is yielding results and that showed again Tuesday night.

"These guys took their licks last year as juniors and they've went through it and they matured and have made some adjustments and you can see that. We're just better now. We're better as leaders and more mature," he said.

"But we've got to start being able to play more guys. But that senior leadership, whether our program or anyone's really, you expect them to be mature and ready, and they were tonight."

Behind Dear's and Davis' combined 34, the Hounds got nine points from Goldie, six from Turnbull, five from Tate Johnson and two from Hopper.

Fort Madison blew up South Shelby in Quincy on Saturday night behind Turnbull's 26 points. The Hounds held South Shelby in scoring to just single digits in the final three quarters and allowed just 11 in the first quarter.

Davis had 22 points in the win. Dear had 16 and Johnson finished with 12.

Fort Madison is now off for the holiday break and come back with a key Southeast Conference matchup on the road at Mt. Pleasant on Jan. 7.

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## From the Front

# Remember those less fortunate during the holidays

**EVANS** - Continued from Page 1

There were details about pancake breakfasts at volunteer fire departments across Iowa. And community potlucks, the ham ball dinners, the spaghetti feeds and the soup suppers being held hither and yon. The goal with each of these events was to raise money for new gear for local firefighters, or to assist someone struggling with cancer, or to help a local family with an unexpected mountain of bills resulting from some adversity.

These clippings, press releases and notes represented a geographic and gastronomic journey across the fund-raising fabric of Iowa that I hoped to take Des Moines Register readers on.

The importance of such a trip was obvious to me a decade ago. These days, it is more important than ever before.

For all of the division we see and hear about in our nation, this discord has not snuffed out the willingness in people to set aside our own challenges and differences and pitch in when we see friends and neighbors — and even strangers — who are struggling and need a helping hand.

That was one of the takeaways from the tornadoes that devastated communities in Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee a few weeks ago.

The pictures of flattened homes, businesses and churches ignited once again the spirit of assistance that is behind the soup suppers and bake sales we see in our own communities when there is a need. This time, instead of a taking pot of chili or a pan of brownies, we have seen Iowans pack a caravan of cars and trucks with supplies for the storm victims. We have learned of people from Cedar Rapids, a city brought to its knees

last year by the derecho, who headed south this month to feed people left weary by the deadly tornadoes.

That was one of the takeaways we saw last week when high winds and tornadoes chewed their way across Iowa. At dawn's first light, people showed up with their trucks and chainsaws to help with the cleanup.

In each of these instances, there was no expectation of compensation. Instead, it was simply a matter of what has come to be known as "paying it forward."

My friend Michael owns a small business. During 2020, the pandemic forced him to lock the doors. There was no revenue coming in. There was no work to be done. But he continued paying his employees, and they never missed a paycheck.

"They needed the money more than I did" — that was his simple explanation when people learned of his kind deed.

I remember another friend, Dave, telling about one particular Christmas, or maybe it was Thanksgiving, when he was a child.

Dave was itching to sit down with his extended family for one of those scrumptious holiday meals that fill a farm house with warmth, good company and wonderful aromas. But before anyone could share in the bountiful spread, Dave's dad asked him to help with an

important errand that was the first priority.

Dave's father carefully loaded a couple of plates with generous portions of meat, vegetables, salads and dessert. He then covered the plates with foil.

Dave's questions went unanswered. Instead, he was instructed to hold the plates as the two of them headed out in the family pickup truck for the drive into town to deliver the meal.

There were more questions when Dave realized they were not going to some family friend. Instead, they were headed to a down-on-his-luck man who lived alone.

The lesson Dave took away from the experience has stuck with him for more than 50 years. The lesson is one we all should remember.

There is always someone who has it worse than we do, and the world is a little kinder if we take time to share what we are blessed with with those who are not as fortunate.

That is always a good lesson — and we don't have to wait for tornadoes, floods and fires to put that lesson into action.

Dave's dad knew that.

Randy Evans is executive director of Iowa Freedom of Information County and can be reached at [DMReviews2810@gmail.com](mailto:DMReviews2810@gmail.com). Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.



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Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Friday, December 24 through Friday, January 1. Our special 2021 Year In Review editions will publish Monday, January 3 through Wednesday, January 5. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

*As we take time for our family this holiday, we thank you for your support and patronage and wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*

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