

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Thursday, October 20, 2022 | 7 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 180



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HOUNDS OFF TO STATE



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Nolan Guzman celebrates with Riley Tripp outside the finish line at the Washington Golf and Country Club Wednesday evening. The Hounds qualified for the Oct. 29 state meet with a 3rd-place finish Wednesday. Below right, freshman Avery Rump makes a turn at the halfway point in the girls' run.

RUMPS ADVANCE: Freshmen twins qualify for Oct. 29 meet at Fort Dodge

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WASHINGTON - Four freshmen pulled the Hounds to a strong showing at the Class 3A cross-country district state qualifier Wednesday in Washington.

The afternoon was led off by the strong 3rd-place finish of Avery Rump, who finished with a 19:17.9 at the Washington Golf and Country Club.

Then twin-sister Addison Rump finished at 14th with a 21:20.8, making state by about 12 seconds.

In the following boys' run, freshmen Mason McLey and Riley Tripp wiped out about a dozen runners in the final 400 meters to finish 14th and 15th. McLey finished at 17:08.3 with Tripp at 17:14.2.

Fort Madison finished with 109 points behind Mt. Vernon-Lisbon (60) and Western Dubuque (63).

"I told the kids at the beginning of the year to look at last

See **STATE**, page 8



TASK FORCE

Keokuk man gets prison on federal drug charges

DAVENPORT, IA – John Herman Soper, age 50, of Keokuk, was sentenced today, October 19, 2022, to 19 years in prison following his plea to the charges of Possession with Intent to Distribute 50 Grams or More of Methamphetamine and Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition.

According to court documents, on October 30, 2021, law enforcement responded to a reported disturbance related to Soper threatening a person with a firearm. Officers were aware Soper had active arrest warrants and was involved in recent shots-fired incidents. Officers located Soper and searched him and his vehicle. Soper was in possession of a loaded handgun, cash, and approximately one-quarter pound of ice methamphetamine. Officers had information from numerous sources that Soper was obtaining pound quantities of ice methamphetamine.

Because of his prior serious drug convictions, Soper qualified as an Armed Career Criminal and a 15-year mandatory minimum sentence applied. One of Soper's prior convictions included a previous federal conviction for Conspiracy to Manufacture Methamphetamine.

United States Attorney Richard D. Westphal of the Southern District of Iowa made the announcement. This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Fort Madison Police Department, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Keokuk Police Department, Lee County Narcotics Taskforce, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence, and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. In May 2021, the Department of Justice launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fostering trust and legitimacy in our communities.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

REGINA R. JOHNSON

Regina R. "Sis" Johnston, 80, of Fort Madison Iowa, passed away at 7:50 p.m. Monday, October 17, 2022, at The Madison in Fort Madison, Iowa.

She and her brother, Raymond, were born the twins of Richard Lee and Genevieve



JOHNSON

Rose (Vogel) Johnston, on December 4, 1941, in Washington, Iowa, Survivors include one brother: Carl Johnston of West Point, Iowa; one sister: Marilyn (Maurice) Neuweg of Springfield, Illinois; two sister in-laws: Janet and Liz. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; six siblings: Ernest "Ernie", Merrill "Francis", Raymond, Robert, Roberta and Joseph; sister in-law: Bonnie.

Sis attended St. Mary's Catholic High School she received her G.E.D. in 1969. She was a member of Holy Family Parish in Fort Madison and a fifty year member of the Eagle's Club. She worked for the Sacred Heart Hospital for two years, Troy Laundry, Sheaffer Pen Co. for forty-six years, she did part time bartending for sixteen years and worked at Jacks/Shop-Ko for twenty years. Sis loved to dance and go roller skating.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friday, October 21, 2022, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point, Iowa.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, October 21, 2022 at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Father Dan Dorau and Father John Stack as concelebrants.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

A memorial has been established in her memory for the Fort Madison Food Pantry. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL P. LEMON

Michael "Mike" Patrick Lemon, 79, of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, October 16, 2022 at his home.

He was born December 10, 1942 in Keokuk, IA the son of William Leslie and Marguerite Jean Dunham Lemon. He graduated from Cardinal Stritch High School in Keokuk with the class of 1960 and then attended St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA.



LEMON

Mike was a veteran of the United States Air Force and proudly served his country in Vietnam.

On June 1, 1968 Mike was united in marriage to Martha Ann Schmid in Keokuk. She survives.



Other survivors include three step-sisters, Donna Neff, Barbara Walter (David) and Janet Carter all of Keokuk, brother-in-law, David Schmid (Susan) of Keokuk, one sister-in-law, Mary Kay Waldhaus of Quincy, IL and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two step-fathers, Morris R. Diamond and Harold A. Carlson and one step-sister, Susie Dobson.

Mike had been employed by Patterson Dental as a sales representative for thirty-three years, until his retirement in 2002.

He was a member of the Keokuk Elks Lodge #106, the Moose Lodge in Davenport and was an honorary life member of the Knights of Columbus in Keokuk.

Mike enjoyed playing golf in his younger years. He collected model die cast cars, tractors, trains and planes for many years.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, at All Saints Catholic Church in Keokuk with Reverend David Brownfield, Ph.D. officiating. Burial with military rites will be held in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held prior to the service, from 10-10:30 a.m., Friday, at the church with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to All Saints Catholic Church or Lee County Hospice.

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

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

RITA POMBERG

Rita Pomberg, 94, of West Point, Iowa, left this world at 4:32 a.m. Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.

She was born on June 2, 1928, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Harold and Anna (Hellige) Grimwood. On October 22, 1949, she married Stan Pomberg at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Madison, Iowa (this Saturday they would have celebrated seventy-three years of marriage). After their marriage, they resided on the family farm near West Point, where they raised five children.

Rita's kind and loving spirit is survived by her husband: Stan; five children: Larry Pomberg of West Point, Iowa, John (Lisa) Pomberg of West Point, Iowa, Linda Ketcham of Marshalltown, Iowa, Linette (John) Boden of Norwalk, Iowa and Wayne (Angela) Pomberg of Kingwood, Texas; fourteen grandchildren: Jeremy Pomberg, Logan Pomberg, Yolanda (Joe) Aring, Robin Pomberg, Dawn Quick, Tyler Pomberg, Mikayla Pomberg, Mike (Kerri) Ketcham, Mark (Natalie) Ketcham, Stephanie (Jason) Adamoyurka, Nathan (Krystal) Boden, Maria (Dakota) Kittle, Andrew (Hilary) Boden and Daniel Boden; eleven great grandchildren: Trevor, Derek, Makenzie, Lexi, Zoey, Jack, Cole, Wyatt, Isabelle, Elizabeth and Catherine. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Harold and Anna; brothers: Ronald, Raymond and Roy Grimwood; sister: Ruthie Casaley; son-in-law: John Ketcham and sister-in-law: Marcy Grimwood.

Rita graduated from St. Mary's Catholic Central High School in Fort Madison. She was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, the Altar and Rosary Society of the church and the past St. Anne's Circle Daughters of Isabella. She worked at Sacred Heart Hospital and Sheaffer Pen Co. for five years. During the summers, she spent many days gardening, canning fruits and vegetables for the family. She made the best homemade angel food cakes and pies. Rita worked alongside Stan to help farm, milk a herd of dairy cows, plant, harvest and she would take countless meals out to the fields. Rita loved to be with her grandchildren, teaching them to play cards, bake and help with farm chores. Rita and Stan did a lot of traveling in the United States and other countries. Her father came from England and they traveled to see where the Grimwood family lived before coming to the United States. Rita will be forever in her family's hearts and she will be dearly missed.

A visitation will begin at 12:00 noon Sunday, October 23, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A parish rosary will be recited at 2:00 p.m. and a Christian Wake Service will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, October 24, 2022, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her memory for St. Mary's Catholic Church or West Point Fire and Rescue.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

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OBITUARIES

JOAN M. HOGAN

Joan Marie Hogan, 86, of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 11:11 a.m. Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at her home surrounded by family.

Joan was born April 24, 1936 in Wausau, Wisconsin, the daughter of Raymond Anthony and Rue (Anderson) Falk. On June 25, 1955 she married Ronald Ambrose "Doc" Hogan at the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo. He preceded her in death October 27, 2021.



HOGAN

Mrs. Hogan is survived by one brother: Ray (Sue) Falk of Rosemont, CA; four brothers-in-law: Leonard Hogan of Niota, IL, Patrick Hogan of Ft. Madison, IA, Jim Boyles of Niota, IL, and John Boyles of Powelton, IL; five children: Ron (Amy) Hogan of St. Louis, Missouri, Don (Jeanne) Hogan of Ft. Madison, Iowa, Judy (Pat) Hayes of Palmer, Alaska, Susan (Tom) Walljasper of Ft. Madison and Debra (Jim) Hurt of Augusta, Illinois; 18 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, one grandson: Thomas Walljasper, three sisters: Connie Falk, Mary Boyles, and Linda Boyles.

Joan was a graduate of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic High School in Nauvoo and later received her associates degree from Carl Sandburg College in Carthage. Joan worked many places throughout her life, including Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Grade School, Federated Store and Hotel Nauvoo all in Nauvoo and retired from Sheaffer Pen Company in Fort Madison. She also worked as a Weight Watcher lecturer in three states for many years and was the head cook at Camp Eastman.

Joan was community minded in many ways. She enjoyed making wedding cakes for family and friends and homemade donuts for Halloween. Her children have many memories distributing homemade donuts throughout Nauvoo. She was active with the Southeast Iowa Council of the Boy Scouts of America, where she served as a den mother, den leader coach and Training Chairman, as well as, cooking meals for Boy Scouts at Camp Eastman, near Hamilton, Illinois. She received The Pilot Award and The Silver Fawn Award, the highest award given to women at that time associated with Boy Scouts of America. Joan had a love of learning and teaching that lasted her lifetime. She loved family time which included camping, canoeing, riding motorcycles and playing Mimi's rules of rummy, and family included everyone who met her. Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Friday, October 21, 2022 at Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

A graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, October 22, 2022 at the Appanoose Township Cemetery, near Niota, Illinois, with Fr. Tony Trosley and Pastor Mark Anderson officiating. A meorial fund has been established for the Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School. To leave a tribute for the family, please visit Joan's obituary at sbbfuneralhome.com.

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Sports

HTC advances to Region 8 semis

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - Melissa Freesmeier figured her Holy Trinity volleyball team would find the holes in Sigourney's defense.

It took the Crusaders a game, and then they started to roll.

Holy Trinity added a second sweep to their 2022 postseason resumé on Wednesday, rolling to a 25-21, 25-9, 25-17 win in a Class 1A Region 8 quarterfinal.

The ninth-ranked Crusaders (27-15) advance to play host to next Monday's semifinal against WACO (27-6). It's an all-SEI Superconference final four in the regional, with Notre Dame facing Winfield-Mount Union on the other side of the bracket.

The Crusaders were barely tested in Monday's sweep of Wayne, but Sigourney (23-8) challenged them in the first game.

"Nobody's going away at this point of the season," Freesmeier said.

Sigourney stayed close in the first game before the Crusaders closed it out with back-to-back points.

"Set one, we were a little slow getting started," Freesmeier said. "They came in with a nothing-to-lose attitude, and they were digging stuff up. I knew that if we kept pushing at them, we would get things to fall, and that's what happened."

The second game was a dominating show for the Crusaders' hitters. Eighteen of their points came off kills, with junior Mary Kate Bendlage leading the charge. Bendlage, who had 16 kills in the match, had five in a 7-0 second-game run that put Holy Trinity up 8-2.

"She took some big swings for us, just kept pushing," Freesmeier said.

Holy Trinity led 18-8 before the Crusaders went on a 6-0 run, with three kills from Presley Myers in that stretch. She then had a kill on game point.

The Crusaders erased Sigourney's hopes, opening the third game with an 11-1 run. Sigourney got to within 23-15 before Holy Trinity closed the match on kills from Bendlage and Kayla Box.

Holy Trinity had some fun in the third game. Junior Natalie Randolph, out for the season with a knee injury, was back on the bench after undergoing surgery last week and missing Monday's match. Freesmeier made sure on both Sigourney timeouts in the third game to bring the team over to where Randolph was sitting so she could be included.

"She is a big inspirational leader to these kids," Freesmeier said. "She gave the pre-game speech on Monday night via FaceTime. We were glad to have her here tonight, so she could be here for the kids. She brings a lot to this group. They look up to her as a leader, and having her with us is going to make all of the difference in the world."

"I know it's huge for us and the staff, and the girls were excited. A lot of them didn't know she was coming tonight. We weren't sure. She's here for good, and ready to keep this thing going."

Bendlage added 13 digs and one assist, and was 13-of-14 serving with one ace. Kayla Box had seven kills and four blocks. Teagan Snaadt had one kill and eight digs. Taegan Denning had one kill and six digs, and was 12-of-12 serving with one ace. Myers had 13 kills, two digs and a block. Brooke Mueller had six kills, one assist, 15 digs, three blocks and was 7-of-7 serving. Anna Bendlage had 36 assists, 9 digs, a block and a kill, and was 10-of-10 serving. Alexa Dingman was 6-of-7 serving. Laura Mehmert was 22-of-23 serving with three aces, and added three digs.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Mary Kate Bendlage gets one of her 16 kills on the night in the second set of HTC's sweep of Sigourney in Class 1A Region 8 quarterfinals Wednesday night.

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From the Front

Freshmen-loaded teams make state meet at Fort Dodge

STATE - Continued from Page 1

year's state qualifiers and final results and see how many freshman are in that race," Mendez said.

"Why not us? It's been that way all season for us. Why not us?"

But it was the rest of the Bloodhound boys who also made up tremendous ground over the final mile to push the Hounds to the state meet as a team for the first time since 2012.

"They like to pack run and I told them we're either going to break that pack up or the pack-running has to be done in the front," Mendez said. "All season they did that. This might be the only team that I've had that, from Fairfield on, we improved every race. You just don't have that."

McLey was all smiles after the race and said he and Tripp pushed each other around the course.

"I was just following Riley and he said 'let's go get this next group,' so we went and did it," McLey said.

"We did not expect this. We thought it was cold and we would do well, but instead we did great. In the last 400 meters, we picked it up a ton, and Riley stayed right with me."

Tripp said that turned into the strategy mid-run.

"Whenever we saw someone close in front of us, we would tell each other to get this one and we would go do that," he said.

"I really wanted to finish in the top 15, but thought I could realistically get in the top 20, so I'm really, really happy."

Sophomore Jacob Shottenkirk finished in the top 20 at 19th with a 17:18.07. It was the kick of Shottenkirk and Nolan Guzman that helped pushed the Hounds over as they nipped 4th place South Tama by just two points.

"I had a lot of energy built up. I left it all on the course and I wanted to run as hard as I could and just leave it all out there," he said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison head boys' and girls' cross country coach Brian Mendez celebrates after being told by the Iowa Association of Track Coaches official that the boys' team had finished in the top 3 to qualify for state.

"This year we were just hoping to get it, but were really thinking next year. This surprised us all."

Nolan Guzman finished 27th and Peyton Lambert finished 34th, while John Cottrell and Castille Johnson were 44th and 70th, respectively.

Avery and Addison Rump both had aspirations of making state coming into the meet.

"I was hoping for a top five," Avery said. "At the starting line, I took a bunch of deep breaths. I didn't feel the nerves at the start - but more confident and powerful."

"My uncle (Ryan Rump) tells me when I feel scared I should do a power pose and that's kind of what I was doing."

She said she tried to conserve energy on the downhill

of the course by striding out her run at the same pace. Rump held second place for the first mile, but was overtaken by Center Point's Emma Wilkerson at about the halfway mark.

She said her plan going forward will be determined by the coaches and her father, Matt Rump.

Matt Rump said following the event that he was thrilled both his girls made it and leading up to the event, they will just go at the advice of Head Coach Brian Mendez.

Avery said she was just looking forward to the challenge of the race in Fort Dodge's Kennedy Park on Oct. 29 with a simple goal - to have fun.

"I feel like I'm just going to have fun at that meet. It will be the last meet of the year and I just want to go all out."

Addison said she was aware of her place during the run because she heard people telling other runners where they were.

"Going into the final chute, I knew I was 13th because I had just run passed someone, and as far as I knew, she was the only one around me," she said.

She said wanted to finish in the top 15 at qualifying and just get to state.

"I know I'm not ranked as high as Avery, and I don't know what the talent level looks like, but it will be fun and I can get to know the course for my sophomore, junior, and senior years."

"I'm proud of them all," Mendez said. "We knew the only way Avery wasn't getting in was if she didn't run. Addison was suffering a little leg pain, but we knew she had it in her."

The Fort Madison girls finished 5th overall with 132 points behind Mt. Vernon-Lisbon, Washington, Center Point-Urbana, and Davenport Assumption.

Hadley Wolfe was third for the Hounds with a 30th place finish. Behind her were Allison Lamb (36th), Alexa Walz (54th), Jordyn Burch (57th), and Emma Berry (71st).

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