

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, October 21, 2022 | 7 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 181



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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## Honoring "GJ"

"GJ" Lozano gets a nod from Fort Madison with his initials painted on the Jim Youel Field for Friday's regular season finale against Burlington in Fort Madison.

## HAWKS PLAYOFF PREVIEW

# Business as usual as Hawks open 2A playoffs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON - Central Lee Head Coach Chuck Banks says this week's Hawks' playoff game at 11th-ranked Monticello is business as usual.

"It's a 2 hour-36 minute school bus ride. We're going to keep it normal," he said.

Central Lee travels to Monticello Friday for the first post-season game in Banks' three years as head coach.

"We're 2-2 on the road and going back to the philosophy that hard work is what pays off. The boys are excited, but they're definitely creatures of habit and we've been in this spot before."

He's not wrong.

The Hawks have traveled to 13th-ranked Centerville and perennial powerhouse Mid-Prairie, and hosted top-ranked Williamsburg. They're familiar with steep hills to climb.

It's not lost on Banks that those three teams outscored the Hawks 160-14.

It's also not lost on Banks that the majority of the Panthers' offense comes from junior Preston Ries, an Iowa Hawkeye commit.

"He's a special ball player. He has about 2,000 yards through the air and another 1,400 on the ground. We're going to have to key on him. We've molded our scheme this week on containing him and also keep (Tate) Peterson in check," Banks said.

Peterson is a senior wideout with over 1,000 yards in receptions and nine scores.

The Hawks will have senior Corbin Pohren back from a suspension following an incident in the Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont game. Pohren is second on the team in tackles with 46.5 behind Hunter Gregory.

Getting Corbin Pohren back after the E-B-F game. Is huge. That will help us set the edge again," Banks said.

The Hawks have played relatively inexperienced this year, but Banks said it was the last two years in a very tough 2A district that has prepared his squad for Friday's game.

See SUPERVISOR, page 7

See MONTICELLO, page 6

## 2022 ELECTION

# Schulz, Amandus have stark contrast

Candidates respond to questions on current Lee County issues

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The race for the Lee County Supervisor District 2 seat is heating up and Pen City Current posed five questions to both Tom Schulz, the Republican candidate, and Donna

Amandus, the Democrat seeking the seat.

The questions focus on hot-button issues currently facing supervisors and the county. Their answers are left in their entirety so voters can hear the full responses to each question.

**Question 1 - What, aside from obvious political affiliations, sets you apart from your opponent in terms of qualifications for county office?**

Amandus (D): What sets me apart



is I get things done. I work well with others, utilizing their strengths in areas where they excel and together we put the pieces of the puzzle together to make great things happen! It has been exhilarating to work with some very inspiring people, on the dog park, the pickleball courts, and even PAW animal shelter, just to name a few. I truly enjoy working with people and building coa-

litions to enhance our community.

Schulz (R): First I don't think you can completely separate party affiliation. My opponent has a long history of supporting the politics of the extreme left where my history is quite clearly center right. Having said that, what separates us is education and experience. I have a lifetime of experience working in and around government at the local, county, and state levels and the connections I have at those levels now will help me to serve the county quite well. My opponent has proven herself at being good at raising money from people to build parks. If she was running for county park builder that would be very



SCHULZ



AMANDUS

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## WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap  
FRI 21 Oct.....Sunny and warm, 77° F/ 53° F  
SAT 22 Oct.....Sunny and warm, 79° F/ 60° F  
SUN 23 Oct.....Mostly sunny and warm, 78° F/ 62° F

## IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 10/19.....8 30 35 44 52, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 2  
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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### MARY A. NELSON

Mary A. Nelson, 88, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. She was born on November 6, 1933 in Fairfield, IA to Seth & Frances Clarridge Nelson. She worked for many years as a secretary at the Sheaffer Pen Company. She was a member of the Union Presbyterian Church, Chapter BS P.E.O., Fort Madison Senior Citizens, the Elsie Paul Circle of the King's Daughters and she volunteered at the Fort Madison Food Pantry.



NELSON

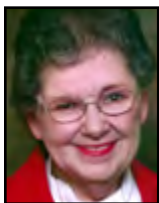
Mary is survived by: 6-nieces & nephews: Dale (Donna) Dingus of Omaha, NE, Dan (Jonna) Dingus of Denmark, IA, Mickey (Becky) Dingus of Sterling, IL, David Nelson of Dallas, TX, Diane (Dave) Lyon of Birmingham, IA & Linda (Doug) Mueller of Kansas City, MO. She was preceded in death by her parents, 1-brother: Donald Nelson & 1-sister: Shirley Dingus.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at Union Presbyterian Church in Fort Madison. The funeral service will immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor James Kannenberg officiating. Burial will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Maple Hill Cemetery in Birmingham, IA. A memorial has been established for Union Presbyterian Church. Online condolences to Mary's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com). King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the Nelson Family.

### JUDITH L. LONG

Judith Louise Long, 82, of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

She was born July 10, 1940 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Felix Leon and Mary Louise Bode Howell. Judith graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1958. She then attended the Gem City School of Business in Quincy, IL.



LONG

On March 5, 1960 Judith was united in marriage to Richard Leon Long in Keokuk. He survives.

Other survivors include one daughter, Gayle Long of Keokuk and one brother, John Howell of Keokuk.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one son, Randall Long, one step-son, Rick Long, one step-daughter, Debbie Long and two sisters, Sue Anderson and Dixie Howell.

Judith had been employed as a bookkeeper by F.A. Dunn, Seither & Cherry and most recently by the Keokuk Country Club for twenty-five years.

In her younger years, Judith enjoyed trap shooting. She also enjoyed traveling throughout the US and collecting Miss America clear pattern ware. Judith loved to be outdoors working in her yard and flower gardens. She was an excellent seamstress and made all of Gayle's dance costumes through the years.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be held from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with the family meeting with friends at this time.

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).

## OBITUARIES

### JAMES E. NIGGEMEYER

James Edward Niggemeyer, 83, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at Silver Maple in Carthage, Illinois.

Born on January 26, 1939, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Henry and Elsie (Krumpleman) Niggemeyer. On June 8, 1963, he married Mary Jane Watznauer at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Madison, Iowa.



NIGGEMEYER

He is survived by his wife; three children: Brenda Kay (Dan) Wilkens, Tena Lea Niggemeyer, Bruce Alan (Deanne) Niggemeyer; four grandchildren; four step grandchildren; five step great grandchildren and sister: Barbara (Fred) Otte.

He is preceded in death by his parents; one sister; four brothers; two step brothers and one step sister.

Jim was a United States Air Force veteran. He retired from Amax. Jim enjoyed camping, riding his bike around Fort Madison and drinking coffee with his friends.

His body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 22, 2022, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Madison, Iowa, with Father John Stack as celebrant.

Burial will be held at a later date.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.



### TERRI L. TUCKER

Terri L. Tucker, 61, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 7:34 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. She was born on January 24, 1961 in Burlington, IA to Raymond & Cheryl



TUCKER

(Schmicker) Brobston. She was a factory worker most of her life, lastly at Champion in Burlington, IA. She enjoyed gardening, fishing, horseback riding and all animals. Family was the most important thing to her.

Terri is survived by: 1-son: Johnny Tucker of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter (estranged): Christine Funk of Missouri; 2-granddaughters: Pandora Ferguson & Gwydion Hogg; 1-great grandson: Evan; her mother: Cheryl Brobston of West Burlington, IA; 1-brother: Todd (Colleen) Brobston of Cedar Rapids, IA; 1-sister: Dana Brobston of Burlington, IA, 1-special cousin: Pam York St. Paul, IA and numerous nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her father.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. No services are planned at this time. Online condolences to the Tucker family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

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## Bloodhounds Preview

### HOUNDS FOOTBALL PREVIEW

# Bloodhounds vs. Grayhounds has post-season implications

Hounds 11th in Class 4A RPI Index so win could catapult FM into post-season action

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The song seems to remain the same - for the Bloodhounds anyway.

Fort Madison takes on Burlington Friday in the final regular season game just like they did last year.

And just like last year, both team's post-season hopes are on the line. In 2021, the Grayhounds recovered a fumble in the endzone with about 90 seconds left to dash the Bloodhounds' hopes for a post-season berth.

"We don't have the same guys and they don't have the same guys. It was a little different last year where they had Bryant, but now they have three really good rushers - and a triple-headed monster," Doherty said.

"Bryant was going to get his yards and we had a game plan for that. We feel it was the quarterback that beat us last year, moving the chains at 3rd and long several times."

Doherty said the psychology of trying to make the playoffs weighed heavy on the Bloodhounds in 2021 after making the playoffs in 2020.

"It was more psychological last year. We felt like we were talking about the playoff opportunity and our kids played like they were trying to protect something. They didn't go out there and let it rip and that's 100% on me," Doherty said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison High School quarterback Aidan Boyer (5) passes the ball during their game against North Scott High School Friday, October 14, 2022 at Fort Madison's Richmond Stadium.

"The playoff opportunity made them freeze instead of playing with their hair on fire. Even though it's kind of de'ja vu, at the same time the teams are different. What we do is different and what they do is different."

Doherty said changing the mindset from 2020 starts with honesty among the players and staff.

With individual athletes and their reflectinos of last year and where they were at. Being honest with each other. At the end of the day, we're focused on

one football game. That's all we can take care of.

He said the message this week in practice has been that the Hounds are 0-0.

"When we play fast physical football, we're a lot of fun to watch. We'll reflect on the season later on and what we have to do to get over the hump with teams like North Scott and Liberty," Doherty said.

The Grayhounds will pound the ball at Fort

See HOUNDS, page 6

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## Sports

# Youel Field gets new paint job

**HOUNDS** - Continued from Page 3

Madison. Burlington has thrown the ball just 30 times all year, but has over 2,600 yards on the ground.

“Coach Krekel is a phenomenal coach and he really understands smashmouth football and he loves it. He coached me years ago and that’s the style of football he likes,” Doherty said.

“And they have guys that are built for that.”

BHS will run Nolan Simpson, Caden Schisel, and Gabe Robinson out of the backfield. The trio has combined for more than 2,100 yards on the year with Robinson the dual threat under center.

Simpson also leads the Grayhounds with 37.5 tackles. Trent Huffman is next up with 36.

Fort Madison has had a rough stretch falling to Iowa City Liberty 49-0 two weeks ago and then 49-14 last week at home vs North Scott.

It’s the same pattern from 2021 when the Hounds went 6-0 to start the year and then dropped two back-to-back against the Lightning and Lancers.

This year shapes up to be another donnybrook from the whistle, but Burlington gave Iowa City Liberty all it wanted last week, losing in the final seconds at Bracewell.

Fort Madison mixed things up a bit last week using Hayden Segoviano out of the backfield. The junior rushed for 49 yards and a touchdown on 14

carries.

Doherty said that could continue this week to give Teague Smith a breather and fresher legs, with both Smith and Segoviano anchoring the defense from linebacker spots.

“We’re excited about that and you’ll probably see Hayden in the backfield again this week,” Doherty said.

He said the coaches were waiting for someone to step up and give Smith a break, and Hayden raised his hand. Teague’s a competitor and I think that’s a great thing to have happening.”

Aidan Boyer has thrown for more than 1,200 yards and 13 touchdowns with just four picks. Fort Madison has three receivers with more than 300 yards including Leif Boeding, Henry Wiseman, and Kane Williams.

Williams leads the receivers with five touchdowns.

Daniel Sokolik and Ike Thacher, will anchor the defensive front along with Cory Arnette. Tanner Settles and Brody Cashman, out at edge rush spots, will try and contain the Grayhounds’ rushing attack.

Segoviano has 51 tackles and Settles has 42 to lead the Bloodhounds. Smith and Sokolik each have 33 tackles and Thacher has 32.5, but always seems to be chasing ball carriers around in the backfield. The junior has five tackles for losses and 11 sacks on the year.

Fort Madison also got some added decoration for the field for Friday night. Brian Morehouse and Chris Sorrentino spent Thursday night putting the Fort Madison emblem on the 50 yard line.

They also paid tribute to GJ Lozano, who’s been a part of the Hounds athletic programs for decades, by painting “GJ” on the home side of the field.

The Hounds/Hounds game kicks off at 7:30 p.m. Friday night Richmond Stadium’s Yeoul Field.

# Hawks not new to good teams

**MONTICELLO** - Continued from Page 1

“At the end of the day when we watch where we’ve come from like five months ago and see these guys buy into a system and thrive with it, that says something,” Banks said.

“This is a team that I look back a year ago and some of these guys were inexperienced - our teams would get down and stay down. This team kind of thrives on that.”

The Hawks will rely on the creative chaos that can happen when two quarterback slip under center. Cory Jones and Kayden Calfee can both take snaps and Jones can take off with the ball or step outside to run routes.

Chase Johnson will lead the ground game with 620 yards on the year. Jones has 269 and Gregory has 189 on the year.

Banks said the Hawks are resilient from the rough and tumble district action and this gives them a certain crust for good football teams.

“They’ve been knocked down and they got back up. Resilience. It’s been our message all year,” Banks said.

“My message has been ‘Look in the mirror and be a better man and a better football player than the day before’ and that’s stuck with them.”

“I’d like to say we play in arguably the toughest district in the state. Our guys have been in games with good squads. You look at the guy in front of you and win each play. If you lose one play you get back up and dust off and get back at it.”

Banks said he hopes this year’s success is a turning point in the program, regardless of what happens Friday.

“I’m definitely hoping that this gets kids in the weight room. If you look at (Landan) Lowenburg, Jones, Gregory, Johnson. It will determine a lot for us in the future. Getting that first win this year and a couple on the road is pointing us in the right direction,” he said.

“The kids are hungry and being able to come out and play in a quality district and make the playoffs in year 3 is huge for us.”

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## 2022 Election

# Supervisors open up about county issues

**SUPERVISOR** - Continued from Page 1

beneficial, but she is not. The job of a county supervisor is far more focused and, quite frankly, difficult. It requires a lot of analysis, the ability to take projects apart piece by piece, to analyze budgets and come up with alternatives that save money. I have been working with significant budgets and the budget process most all of my life. The financial pressures that will be facing our county are significant and seriously exacerbated by the policies of the Democrat party nationally. We will have to try to find ways to stretch our budget and find alternative means of helping fund our county projects and sometimes alternative means of financing. My experience with government, private industry, including some experience with EMS, will give me a unique perspective to face the challenges we are going to meet.

**Question 2 - Do you support a measure to create essential services in Lee County which would open the door for the county to levy a tax to help fund the ambulance service? Do you believe the funds should go solely to the ambulance service, or in part to volunteer fire departments.**

Amandus (D): I do support a measure to create essential services in Lee County. We must make sure that every citizen has access to emergency services, especially at the most vulnerable time when an ambulance is necessary. Our citizens deserve no less. With the hospital closure in Keokuk, it's critical for them to have emergency transportation. The county made a commitment to its people when it developed the ambulance service and we must fund it adequately. I believe the majority of funds raised from this measure should go to support the ambulance service. Where we have volunteer fire departments, those townships can levy for their needs on their own. However, when special circumstances come up, I believe the county should step up when it can to provide additional support, but it should not be an annual commitment.

Schulz (R): I believe that we should go through the entire process to allow us to do this, but only pull the trigger on this if we are unable to find some other means of funding. If it becomes necessary, it should be done at the minimum level to fund the essential service. As far as funding for volunteer fire departments, I would want to meet with each of these departments individually to determine if there were actual funding gaps that needed to be filled as these volunteer departments do have access to some funding the professional departments do not. They also have fewer regulations with regard to facilities, etc. I have said over and over again that public safety will be a priority, but I will see that every penny we spend is spent wisely.

**Question 3 - The county's financial health has taken a hit lately with payroll increases as a result of Back the Blue and the current ambulance service's increased demand with the closure of Blessing hospital, as well as other economically driven cost factors. State officials are predicting record increases in assessed valuations in 2023. As supervisor, would you vote to reduce the mil levy in the wake of increased assessments or utilize the assessment increases to make county funds healthy....or something in between.**

Amandus (D): I believe we need to have a solid

infrastructure in Lee County, roads, bridges, county buildings, safety, all these things cost and need to be secured for our citizens. At this time I can't say I'd definitely cut the mil levy, I'd need to see how the budget looks, what the needs are, and how the money would be spent. Nobody likes to see their taxes go up, but from my experience on the city council, nobody likes to drive on bad roads either. It's definitely a balancing act and, as someone who is a prudent spender with a frugal outlook, I would first need to see exactly how the county is sitting before I could completely answer that question truthfully.

Schulz (R): This is a simple question that will take a lot of work and complex analysis. The answer is obvious we should keep our tax rate at the absolute minimum amount to fund the business of the county. We are responsible for finding every penny that can be saved and every available source of alternative financing. This is going to require hard work and a whole lot of public input.

**Question 4 - Would you support bonding to pay for the remainder of the costs of the proposed Lee County Health Department/EMS building in Fort Madison if needed. The building is projected at about \$5.5 million and supervisors have already committed to funding the building to that level with remaining ARPA funds, CDBG funds, and possible USDA assistance.**

Amandus (D): I would support bonding (if necessary). If these past few years have taught us anything, it's that we need a solid health department. Our health department answered the call and did some amazing things during the pandemic and they continue to care for the citizens of our county in a professional, helpful, customer-focused way. Honestly, the Health Department has been looking for a solid home for over 30 years. We need to provide them ample space to do that in an effective and efficient manner. I don't think the average citizen realizes all the services and support that this health department provides, including the extra storage space they need just for all the records they are mandated by law to keep.

Schulz (R): The short answer here is probably yes, but I think there might be better methods by which to handle this. I still think there are opportunities for us to have this project work through a third-party nonprofit with more traditional funding to cover the shortfall with an arrangement between the county and the nonprofit to make the payments. I think this can be done and still show a significant savings based on our current rental arrangement for our health department.

**Question 5 - Zoning for utility projects has come up recently with new pipelines and solar fields and potentially other utility projects in the county. Do you favor a county ordinance governing zoning for utility projects? Why or why not?**

Amandus (D): I don't think zoning in the county for utility projects is a bad idea. I do not believe in eminent domain for these types of projects.

Schulz (R): I think instituting countywide zoning would be a disaster and cause a massive revolt from county citizens. What I have suggested, and what I believe we could do, is institute a type of special use per-

mit requirement. This could cover utility projects and possibly some other items such as subdivisions of more than a certain number of houses with a certain lot size. In other words, projects that would make a significant change in property use of a fairly large parcel. We need to find creative ways to give the citizens of Lee County more say so with regard to these types of projects. We will have to work with our state legislature to try to change some of the laws regarding eminent domain and also fine-tune the laws with regard to fair compensation to landowners utilizing some of the discoveries that are now provable with regard to long-term crop loss over the entire areas affected by construction. I think there are multifaceted ways for us to address this without some type of county-wide zoning. I have also endorsed the idea to explore the development of a new county comprehensive plan.

**The two candidates were also given time to talk about other issues and an open format and responded with the following comments:**

Amandus (D): Quality of life in our county is of major importance to me. I believe we haven't scratched the surface of the things we could do to enhance our county to make it an even better place to raise kids, operate a farm, open a business, and enjoy all the benefits of life along the Mississippi. I believe strongly in economic development, in our county conservation, and developing an even stronger workforce here. I would be following someone who has also come up from a city council background. I believe I have received great training in local government and have taken the initiative to improve myself in leadership, educational, and networking opportunities, which make me an even more qualified candidate. I am honest, ethical, and work well with others. I also believe it's important to work with other board members for the good of the entire county. Partisanship has no business in county government. I believe we work together for the common good.

Schulz (R): I am going to work hard to establish myself as the best-informed county supervisor. To be the most available and empathetic member of that body. I will represent the entire county, but maintain a special focus on my district as is my responsibility to the voters. I will work to build a greater liaison between county and city offices as well as a greater understanding of the budget challenges faced by each of these so that some level of coordination can take place to help maintain the lowest possible tax rates. I would like to see at least some of the county supervisor meetings take place in the evening so that those people that work the typical dayshift have the availability of attending meetings either in person or electronically.

Jobs and job training will also be a primary focus of mine. I have some experience at developing apprenticeship programs for the trades and there are professional organizations out there that can help do that so that we can have work-and-earn programs available as well as school-to-work programs available for our students. This, of course, is going to require the coordination between different government bodies as well as advocacy groups and our own economic development people. As a supervisor I will owe no allegiance to any special interest, only to the citizens of Fort Madison and Lee County.

