

TOP STORY: KFC’s \$10K donation to animal shelter tops September posts

# Colonel delivers for PAW

Sept. 3, 2022  
Facebook reach: 34,103

FORT MADISON - The Colonel delivered Saturday to the PAW Animal Shelter near Fort Madison.

This wasn’t your usual delivery service bringing a meal, although they did, KFC officials from south-east Iowa brought lunch, drinks, cake and a check... for \$10,000.

PAW Director Sandy Brown, who was at the shelter for a meeting Saturday and was just on her way out, came out to a surprise check presentation from Kathy Neff and several KFC officials from the area.

Brown grabbed Neff and cried when she showed her the award. It’s one of KFC’s Make A Wish grants that are given out each year to submitted programs based on an application and criteria.

Erin Rechtfertig, Area Supervi-



sor with KFC and Andrew Sheaffer General Manager of the Burlington restaurant were on hand to present the check, along with lunch, some drinks, a cake and flowers.

“It takes a lot to make me cry,”

Brown said.

“God is good, whew, I always know that and I should never be surprised. I just don’t have a quote. I’m speechless and you know I’m never speechless.”

# Explosive device shuts down Fort Madison neighborhood

Sept. 16, 2022  
Facebook reach: 6,301

FORT MADISON - An improvised explosive device discovered during a police investigation on Thursday forced the evacuation of several homes in Fort Madison.

According to Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff, at about 1:45 p.m.

Thursday, a Fort Madison detective was working on an investigation in conjunction with the Dept. of Human Services, at a residence in the 2900 block of Avenue H when the homemade explosive device was discovered in a camper on the premises.

The officer made contact with a resident on the property living in the camper in back of a home and noticed

drug paraphernalia.

“He then contacted the Lee County Attorney’s office and subsequently did a search of the camper and found a homemade explosive device,” Rohloff said.

“When he noticed it, he took a quick photograph and backed out, and then contacted the state fire marshal’s office.”

# Hound runners qualify for state cross-country meet

Oct. 19, 2022  
Facebook reach: 17,142

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 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.

## TOP SPORTS

# Hounds get big win over Grayhounds

Oct. 21, 2022  
Facebook reach: 20,065

FORT MADISON - Some will say Gerard “GJ” Lozano was an angel on the Bloodhounds’ shoulders Friday night.

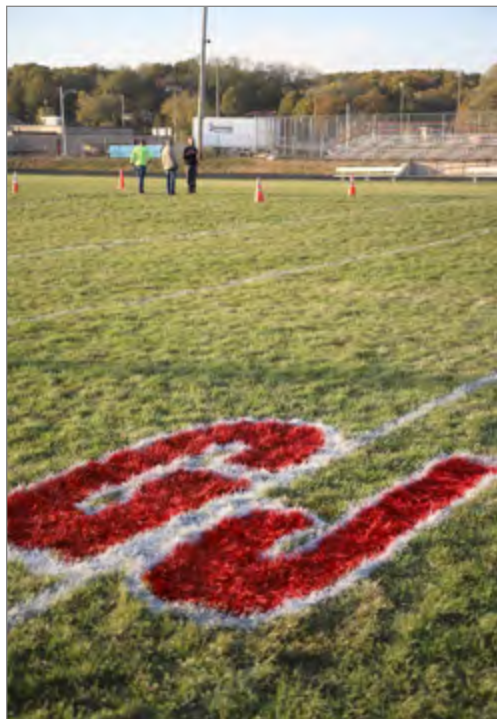
Lozano, a long-time sports booster and father of senior Matteo Lozano, very well could have been looking down with his initials freshly painted on Jim Youel Field, as the night belonged to the Fort Madison Bloodhounds.

The Hounds shook off back-to-back losses to knock off the Burlington Grayhounds 28-24 in the Class 4A District 3 regular season finale and all but locked up a post-season spot.

The night came down to a final drive with Hounds down 24-21 with 5:14 left on the clock, eerily reminiscent to last year’s loss when Burlington scored on their final possession to knock the Bloodhounds out of the playoffs.

But this story had a different ending.

Burlington had just scored on a Caden Schisel 1-yard run to take a 24-21 lead. The kickoff went to the right sideline and the Hounds let it bounce, thinking it would go out of bounds, but it stayed in and went into the endzone for a touchback.



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## WEATHER

THU 05 Jan.....Cold with chance of snow, 34° F/ 22° F  
FRI 06 Jan..... Mostly sunny and cold, 36° F/ 25° F  
SAT 07 Jan.....Cold with chance of snow, 37° F/ 27° F

## IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/03.....14 24 34 45 47, Lucky Ball: 1  
MEGA MILLIONS 01/03.....25 29 33 41 44, Mega Ball: 18 Megaplier: 4  
PICK 3 01/03 MIDDAY.....5 8 7  
PICK 3 01/03 EVENING.....3 6 1  
PICK 4 01/03 MIDDAY.....5 4 0 7  
PICK 4 01/03 EVENING.....93 5 1

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2022 – A Year in Review: September - December

We Remember Our Loved Ones Lost in 2022

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Betts James “Jim” Albert Billings Sharon Merle Billups Florence “Flo” E. Bishop James “Joey” Bishop Mary Elizabeth Bishop Janet Lee Blanchard Lisa Bleim Gina Louise Blindt Kathleen Mary Blint Kathy M. Blint Ronald L. Bode Jimmie E. Boecker Jack Verdell Boeddeker Richard Joseph “Dick” Boeding William “Bill” Bernard Boeding Cheryl Lou Boline Michael A. Bollin Gerald Edward Bolster Emma Janell Boltz Harold J. Bonar Ruby Jean Boulton Aaron Patrick Bowen Reverend Jerald Wayne “Jerry” Bown Brenda Sue Boyer Terry James Brackenbury Donna Marie (Bradford) Snyder Eugene Joseph Brandt Michael Wade Brennan Barbara Anne Briggs Douglas Keith Briggs Scot Alan “Big Dog” Brisby	James Edward Brockman Imogene L. (Graf) Brookhart Gary Howard Brown George K. Brown Steven “Steve” Kent Brownlee Eric D. Brumbaugh Russell Adam Buckingham “Russell Rush” Leafa Mae Budke Peggy Joanne Bundy Connie R. Bunker Shirley Bunker Nancy L. Bunnell Peggy J. Burch Janet Lee Burford Phyllis Marguerite Burke Jeanne Marie Burner Rodger L. Burnett Karen Kay Cochenour Busby Sarah Alice Butz Robert “Rob” Cadwallader Darin Leon Cale William “Bill” James Calhoun Mary “Janet” Cameron Shane Mathew Carrell Bessie C. Carter Dennis Duane Cass Gabriel Lee Chaney Steven Clark Chaney Peggy J. Christy Randall Leonard Chumbley Clifford E. Clark Donnie “Don” Lee Clift Robert Francis Cochran Anna Lee Conrad Margaret “Sue” Cooper Forrest Gregory Coppage Shirley Jean Corman Alfred D. Cox Christopher “Chris” Joseph Crowell Mary Kathleen Cummings Parmeter Samantha Erin Curley Minnie Ethel “Mrs. C” Curtis Stacie Lynn Curtis Michaela “Mickey” Joan Daly Charles “Chuck” Irwin Danielson Kimberly Danker	Carol Frances Daughters Lawrence Dale “Larry” Davis “LD” Alice Mae Anna Davison Neva J. Deiling Tamara Denison James Stephen Denning Bradley Michael Dettmers Donald P. Dodge Martha Rose Dohman Nancy K. Doss Vickie Kay Doty Betty Irene Dougherty Robert E. “Bob” Dougherty, II Dennis Roger Dowell Haley Jade Doyle Alice J. Driscoll Rusty Duffy Albert Eugene Dunn Patricia “Patty” Arlene Dunstan Margery May Durbin Fred L. Dyer Donald Allen Eason Todd A. Edwards Betty Eid Franklin L. Eid Rory Scott Eid Timothy A. Eidem Mary Kay Elliott Russell “Rusty” William Elliott II Charles Ellison, Jr. Sherry Lee Emdia Paul Engelmeyer William Francis Ewers Fred J. Ewing Mildred L. Ewing Mark “Squeek” Randolph Ewinger Glenda Rose Ferguson-Moeller Mary Lou Ferneti Jacob Bruce Fett James Benjamin “Benji” Fett Frederick H. “Fred” Figge Larry Flambeau William Kenneth “Kenny” Fogle Sharon Folker Shari Lee Foresman Norman Lewis Forster Lani L. Foster	Judy A. Francek Mary Ann Francis John Stephen Franklin Dolores V. 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Hardin (Pettigrew)	Anita Jean Harlan William “Bill” M. Harshbarger Mickelle D. “Micky” Harter Robert K. Harvey Joy C. Hasper Tina Renee Hattan Donald Lee Hayes Marsha A. Hayes Larry Max Heater Paulette Joan Hedges Norma Jean Heins Joshua William Heitman William E. “Bill” Heller Maria L. Hellweg David Helmick Edna Marie Hemm Larry Wayne Hemmie James A. Hennigar Tracy Eugene Hensley Sherry L. Hertzler Ruth Elinor Heston Sara L. Heston Larry Eugene Hickman Paul Eugene Hileman Anita “Sue” Hill Loren Michael “Mike” Hnizda James Hobbs Robert Rex “Bob” Hodson Bonnie Jene Gunn Hoenig Warren D. Hoenig Barbara Joyce Hoewing Joan Marie Hogan Larry J. Holland Blanche Elizabeth Holmes Cheryl “Sonny” Selby Holmes Marilyn Sue Holmes Dale G. Holterhaus Emeline and Francis Holtkamp Lawrence Dee Hopp Deborah Horton John “Darrell” Hoskins Anton “Tony” Joseph Houser Merle Taylor Houston, Jr. Kenneth “Louie” Louis Howell, Jr. Michael Francis Howes Doyle Hoyer Cynthia Sue (Hoyt) Colwell Randy Lynn Huett John Husak Shirley Joann Husak Harold Homer Husted
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2022 – A Year in Review: September - December

We Remember Our Loved Ones Lost in 2022

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Dale Richard Hyatt	Sharon Lee Lorentzen	James Edward Niggemeyer	Duane Rolland Russell	Gene Smith	Fredrick E. “Fred” Vradenburg Jr.
Martin Dale Jacobs	Ardelle May Lowe	Phyllis Jeanne Nixon	Larry Dean Russell	Marjorie L. Smith	Richard W. “Dick” Wagner, Sr.
James “Brian” Jairl	Gerard J. “GJ” Lozano	Ralph Eugene Norris, Sr.	Michael LeRoy Russell	Roberta “Bertie” F. Smith	Robert R. Wagner, Jr.
Tommy Ray Jenkins	Lois Lucille “Shorty” Luton	Roland Henry “Slick” Northup	Charles Harlan Ryland	Wanda D. Smith	Rolland Eugene Wagner
Ruby Phyllis Jones Hallinan	Blakeleigh Myra Lynch	Kayden Andrew Nott	Kristal Lee Ryun	Patricia L. Smutzer	Paula Jane (Walker) Stein
Troy Jay Jackson	Joseph Patrick ”Pat” Maag	Lucas Arthur Nye	Donald William Sallen	Kenneth LaVern “Kenney” Soper, Sr.	Delpha Elizabeth Wallingford
William “Bill” Lee Jefferson, Jr.	Lowell Frederick MacLearn	Jody Dean Oppenheimer	Doris Sallen	Kathleen A. “Kathy” Spiesz	Gladys Ann Wallingford
Anna “Jean” Jinkens	Charles Edwin “Ed” Maggard	Michael John Orlandini	Germaine Ann Sammons	Lindy Lou Starks	Doris J. Walljasper
Alice Marie (Gilliam) Johnson	Kimberlee A. Mansheim	LaVerna (Palmer) Alarie Moore	Elizabeth Jean “Jeanie” Sampson	Geraldine E. St. Clair	Wayne Ralph Walljasper
Donna May Johnson	Kim Sheree Mapes	Kenneth A. “Doc” Panther	Gary J. Sanders	Donald Albert Stecher	David Michael Walsh
Regina R. “Sis” Johnston	Frances Izola Markey	Dale Willard Parish	Kimberly Ann Sanderson	Elizabeth “Betty” Steele	Clarence Dennis “Stretch” Ward
Anna Mary Jones	Karen Marshall	Evelyn Irene Parker	George A. “Tony” Sargent	Houston	Carol Ruth Watson
Donna Jean Jones	Mary Virginia Marshall	Dale Parren	Kyle Edward Savage	Peggy Ray Steele	Travis Weigand
Donna Ruth Jones	Joseph “Joe” Dean Martens, Sr.	Judith Owen Patterson	Judy Ann Searcy	Ronald Thomas Steeples	Earlene Lanell Weiss
Thomas Burton Jones, Jr.	Scott Owen Martin	Sharon Kathryn Patton	Ruth Ann Schiedel	Melissa K. Steffen Hobbs	Floyd Welch
Vera “Lucille” (Jones) DaVolt	Kevin Lee Martindale	Mary Catherine Peacock	Joseph “Joe” W. Schier	Patricia “Pat” Rose	Harold B. Wellman
James “Jim” Randall Judy	Judy Ann Martens	Barbara E. Peitz	Donna R. Schleisman	Steffensmeier	Charles “Charlie” Welsh
Genevive Wollam Kamer	Shirley Ann (Mason) Phillips	Myrtle Mary Peitz	Leland Edward Schlicher	Robert J. Steffensmeier	Ralph Bond Wentzien
Dr. Satyanarayana Kantamneni	Cindy LeAnn Masterson	William H. “Bill” Pence	Jessica “Jessie” Nicole Schmid	Bessie May Stevenson	LaVerne Westercamp
John A. Kayser	William Q. Mathis	Kathryn M. Perry	Crowell	Gary Joseph “Joe” Stiles	Justin Luke Westermeyer
Karrie L. Keester	Arleen Verla Matta	Cory Douglas Petersen	Mary Ann (Schmitz) Garrelts	Jerome “Jerry” Stoltz	Walton “Wally” E. Wetzels
Lorenzo “Rennie” Louis Kelley, Jr.	James Franklin May, Jr.	Mary “Jean” Peterson	Philip G. Schmitz	Maxine L. Stotts	Sharon Grace Wheatley
Amanda J. Kelly	James B. McCarty	Irene Elaine Petty	Reece Elwood Schmitz	Mark K. Stringer	Timmie Lee White
Ralph W. Kempf	Deanna M. McClarnon	Marvin Lester Pezley	Mindy Louise Gilbert Schofield	Dorothy Agnes Stuckwisch	Donald Clyde Wilkens
Robert James Kennedy	Kenneth Archie McCoy	Clark Evan Pfeiferling	Celine D. Schroeder	Jerrold Peter “Jerry” Stukerjurgens	Carol Lynn Williams
Eric Todd Kern	Thomas George McCuskey	Kenneth N. Pickerel	Dixie Schroeder	Peggy Ann Stutenberg	Crystal Renee Williams
Myles Edwin King	Jackie Laverne McGee	Otto M. Pinto	Lavern “Bernie” F. Schubert	Linda Sue Szawiel	Sallie Jo Williams
Colleen June Kirchner	Peggy Arlene McGee	Ann M. Pohlpetter	Warren Raymond Schultz	Ricky Taylor	Robert “Bob” Marvin Wilsey, Sr.
Delores Ann “Susie” Knoch	Carl L. McGlasson, Sr.	Carmen M. Pohlpetter	Donald Eugene Scott	David Eugene Thomas	Dale Kenneth Wilson
Leroy Glenn Knoch	Carolyn R. McKay	Carolyn Marie Pohlpetter	Robert Dale Seabold	Genevieve Thompson	Gerald A. Wilson, Sr.
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Brandi S. Koering	Jean Meinhardt	Rita Pomeroy	Harold “Dean” Seltzer	Loretta Ann Tillman	Brooke Wisener
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Anna Mae Korschgen	Bertha Mary Merschbrock	Betty Jean Prock	Ronald Lynn “Sharky” Shark	Barbara J. “Barb” Troutman	Mildred Darlene Woods
Joseph A. Kraus	Tiffany Danielle (Merishon) Bangel	Ramona G. Proper	Geraldine R. Shibley	Lela “Margaret” Troutman	Mary O. Woodworth
Viola Jane “Vi” Krebill	Kathy Jean Meyers	Consuelo “Chelo” Puga	Henry George Shipman	Terri L. Tucker	George L. Worley
Elizabeth L. “Betty” Kuhljuergens	Delores Theresa Mickelson	Dylan Lee Pugliese	Carl Elmer Shirts	Sue Ann Turner	Paula Louise Wright
Douglas “Doug” Maurice Lambert	Charles H. “Charlie” Miller	Harold W. Pundt	Melanie Sue Shipley	Claude C. Turpin, Jr.	Robert J. Wustrow
Jason D. Lampe	Darrell W. “Tony” Miller	Terry R. Queen	Richard Fredrick Siegle	Jackie “Jack” Leon VanFleet	Marion Edwin York
Roger D. Languell	Debra Jean Miller	Richard Francis “Dick” Radel	Roberta N. Siegfried	Janice Kay VanGinkel	Elliott Wayne Young
Michael H. Larsen	Kathryn Ann Miller	Dorothy Irene Rasan Menke	Gail Marlene Six	Henry “Hank” Earl Varner	Marilynn Kay Young, “Pink Rose in the Desert”
Wanita R. Lassman	Paul Ludvik Mills	Gregory Lee Rea	Martha Leona Six	Carlos “Charlie” Vasquez	Patricia Ann Young
Kenneth “Bob” Laubersheimer	Pauline Maridon Mills	Kenneth Wayne Rechkemmer	Ardelle H. Skillern	Betty Rose Vaughn	Sandra Kay Young
Frank C. Lawler	Marcella “Sally” Moeller	Donna Kay (Reed) Horne	Jacqueline Slowick	Frances S. Vikturek	
Mark William Leonhard	Mary J. Moore	Mary Ellen Reed	Aljean “Al” Smith		
Robert “Bob” L. Leffler, Sr.	Michael “Frog” Moore	Eric Matthew Rhodes			
Jon C. Lemon	Margaret Elizabeth “Lizzy” Ann Mortimer	James A. Richart			
Michael “Mike” Patrick Lemon	John Edward Moss	Robert Lee Riddle			
Karen Sue Linquist	Becky Mueller	Doris Irene (Reid) Robertson			
Debra (Debbie) Little	Betty L. Muerhoff	Darlene Janette Reu Metcalf			
Shirley Ann Little	Mary Belle Mullikin	Ned Otis Rhea			
Simone Lloyd	Jeffrey Ernest Munford	Barbara D. Rhode			
Wymond “Stubby” Loder, Jr.	Julie Ann Muñoz	Michael Rae Roach			
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Harry “Joe” Loffler	Matthew P. Myetich	Lindy Lee Roberts			
Roger Herbert Loges	Matthew P. Myetich	Gary Ross Rockelman			
Alexis Marie Long	Dale Kim Navntoft	Peggy Ann Rockhold			
Gayle Ann Long	Lawrence Charles Neff	Belva Carleen (Rohrbough) Tinklenberg			
Judith Louise Long	Durell Noland Nelson	Sherman Wayne Rohrbough			
Richard Leon Long	Joan I. Nelson	Dalton Robert Rose			
	Mary A. Nelson	Karen Ruble			
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Tuesday, January 3

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Wednesday, January 4

Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

Thursday, January 5

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, January 6

Beef Stroganoff, Roasted Veggies



2022 – A Year in Review: September - December



HTC girls head to state after win over BND

Oct. 26, 2022  
Facebook reach: 13,343

BURLINGTON — The final point of the biggest match of Holy Trinity’s volleyball season fell softly to the Johannsen Gym court, and a season’s worth of frustration — heck, two seasons worth — was buried in the Crusaders’ celebratory pile.

“This team,” coach Melissa Freesmeier said, “deserves this.”

Holy Trinity’s 23-25, 25-23, 25-17, 25-21 victory over two-time defending state champion Notre Dame in Wednesday’s Class 1A regional final was the Crusaders roaring through their biggest roadblock, an SEI Super-conference South Division rival that had defeated them seven consecutive times and eliminated them from the postseason the past two seasons.

“To beat this team, I’m speechless,” said junior outside hitter Mary Kate Bendlage.

“It means that we had the heart to do it,” said senior middle hitter Kayla Box. “We knew we could do it.”

“Honestly, right now, there’s no words for this win,” senior outside hitter Brooke Mueller said. “We wanted it, and we knew we could do it.”

“And we did it.”

Next gen Holtkamps take over local outlet

Oct. 14, 2022  
Facebook reach: 10,860

FORT MADISON - Sitting in one of the display furniture sets at Holtkamps Floors, Decors, & Furniture in Fort Madison, Sandy and Dave Holtkamp look around with a sigh of relief, and maybe sadness.

But no regret.

The two started Holtkamp’s Flooring 34 years ago Oct. 11, and built a business that stood the test of time before turning it over to their son Bobby and his wife Jessica about five years ago.

Today Dave and Sandy celebrate the three and half decades of business in Fort Madison with a celebration starting at 4 p.m. at the family business at 2331 Avenue L with beverages and hors d’oeuvres.

About five years ago Dave and Sandy reached an agreement to sell the business to their son, Bobby, and his wife Jessica (Panther) Holtkamp.

But the couple hung around for another half decade to be the support mechanism as Bobby and Jessica turned the page.





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2022 – A Year in Review: September - December



Rump finishes 8th in first-ever state run

Oct. 29, 2022  
Facebook reach: 6,366

FORT DODGE - Fort Madison freshman Avery Rump said she didn't really have a plan heading into Saturday's girls Class 3A state cross country meet in Fort Dodge.

But now she does.

After having the eighth fastest time in the event at John F. Kennedy Park, her plan is to come back.

Rump, got out of the starting grid well and after the first 100 yards down the opening funnel, she had already positioned herself in the top 10, a spot she would hold the rest of the way around.

But one thing she didn't get done was catch Washington's Iris Dahl. The two had been battling in a friendly rivalry all year.

But Dahl put up a personal best 19.20.71 to take 7th place at the meet. Avery was just behind at 19:23.08.

Ballard's Paityn Noe set a new state

record as the first girl to ever break 17 minutes with her 16:48.58.

Avery said the state meet and the course are now one of her favorites. The 64-degree sunny weather didn't hurt things, either.

"That was actually a lot better than I expected it to be. It was one of my favorite races. And it was great weather - I just loved it."

She said her thoughts during the run were simple.

"Iris is beating me," she said.

"I tried my best to not let her beat me, but she did. I'm glad it was my friend and not just some random person. I'm so happy for her, she's such a great person."

Rump said earlier that a reasonable goal would be to finish in the top 15 and she didn't expect to finish in the top eight. Regardless of the ending, she has a plan going forward.

"I want to do this again."

Pothitakis hits 30 years in family dentistry in SE Iowa

Oct. 26, 2022  
Facebook reach: 13,343

FORT MADISON - Just over 30 years ago Dr. Mark Pothitakis walked into his very first dental office and took care of his very first patient.

That was 1992 in the small southeast Iowa town of New London.

Now Pothitakis owns six offices in five communities and, at 59 years of age, is just settling in for the last decade or so.

His son Nicholas is about two years from graduating from University of Iowa Dental School, and will be joining his father in the

business.

Mark said he loves his career and how it has developed. The business acumen he got from his mother Inez and father Nick, who ran the Palms Restaurant in Fort Madison for decades, has positioned him to now enjoy his career and push for 40 plus years in business..

"I think I have at least another 10 years or so in me. You never know what tomorrow brings, but I'm just enjoying the patients and the staff and the communities," Pothitakis said Wednesday.

Pothitakis started in

1992 in New London and then purchased his first office in Burlington in 1999. Since then he's opened additional offices in Mediapolis, West Burlington, and two locations in his hometown of Fort Madison.

**YMCA Winter Sports Sampler**

WHO: Ages 3 to 6 Years

WHEN: January 10th - February 2nd

WHERE: Fort Madison Family YMCA

DEADLINE: January 4th, 2023

REGISTER ONLINE

There's Snow  
Place Like Home  
for the Holidays.

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, December 22 through Monday, January 2. Our special 2022 Year In Review editions will publish Tuesday, January 3 through Thursday, 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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2022 – A Year in Review: September - December



FM trio leads Grayhounds to state swim meet

Nov. 9, 2022  
Facebook reach: 8,997

FORT MADISON - The fall sports season isn't over for Fort Madison - not quite yet.

With the Fort Madison Bloodhound football team qualifying for the playoffs for the first time in more than three decades and about a dozen cross-country kids running at Fort Dodge, there's one more event to showcase the talents of Fort Madison kids.

Senior Jordyn Boyer, junior Olivia Kraus, and sophomore Elli Boyer are three of the four legs on the Burlington High School 200-freestyle relay team.

The three join freshman Olivia Ritter of West Burlington on the team that qualified with a 1:44.86 time at the state qualifying in Clinton last week. The will now swim Saturday afternoon at the IG-HSAU State Swimming and Diving Meet in Marshalltown.

The time erased a 27-year-old event record for the Grayhounds, one of the squad's main goals for the year and one that elicited emotion from the girls at the meet.

"The last person usually swims back, but I jumped out of the pool and we all started crying and hugging because we knew we broke that mark," Jordyn said.

"But everyone was looking around us and didn't know what was going in."

The girls will race on Saturday afternoon and will compete in the 1st heat in lane 6.

Kraus said it would be a long shot for the girls to place in the top 10, but a top 20 finish could be attainable if they can win their heat.

"If we can each cut a second off, I think we can get to the top 25 or even top 20," Kraus said.

The Grayhounds are seeded 28th out of 32, but the amount of time separating the eight teams in their heat is just .98 of a second.

Hounds fall to Go-Hawks in first round of playoffs

Oct. 28, 2022  
Facebook reach: 963

WAVERLY - It's been 33 years since the Fort Madison football team got to a state-recognized playoff game.

And the first one in more than three decades didn't go the way the Hounds or Head Coach Derek Doherty had imagined.

The Class 4A No. 2 Waverly-Shell Rock Go-Hawks bullied Fort Madison to a 49-7 loss that ended the Hounds' season at 7-3.

Doherty said the Go-Hawks were the most physical team he's seen in a while and Fort Madison just couldn't catch up.

"We came here to win. They were who we thought they were. We knew they would be physical and they would be fast. They aren't getting all the praise for nothing," he said.

"We didn't concede. It didn't go the way we wanted it to, but I'm extremely proud of how far our guys have come. But then

you look at how far we have to go if we really want to get where we say we want to go."

Waverly-Shell Rock set the tone early, scoring 14 points on their first four offensive plays.

The Go-Hawks' Tyler Gayer took the first play from scrimmage 50 yards left off tackle to the Fort Madison 22. He got the call again on the next play for 14 yards and then McCrae Hagarty bulled his way through the Hounds' line for an eight-yard TD.

Fort Madison would start at their own 20 and go four and out and then Waverly-Shell Rock's Asa Newsome took it 50 yards on the first play after the punt for another score and a quick 14-0 lead.

The Hounds would be taken down on four plays and the Go-Hawks went to work again going five plays with Gayer scoring from four yards out for a quick 21-0 lead with 5:42 still left in the first quarter.

County seeing opioid settlement funds

Nov. 16, 2022  
Facebook reach: 7,253

LEE COUNTY - Lee County opioid settlement funds are starting to trickle into the county.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors' meeting, Supervisor Garry Seyb said the funds are being held in an interest bearing account until a clearer picture reveals itself on how the funds can be used.

Seyb told the board the opioid money seems to be

coming into the county faster than expected, but the decision to put it in an interest-bearing account is the right way to go.

"Taking that money and putting it in an interest-bearing account and sitting it there until we get a clearer picture is the best way to go. What we've seen over the last year is we've got a lot of things to consider, the ambulance service, the healthcare building... a lot of things coming on," Seyb said.

The county has received several opioid payments, the most recent a \$41,000 payment this week, and was informed of an additional \$8,700 this week from another company.

The funds are settlement funds from manufacturers, distributors, and pharmaceutical companies engaged in providing opioid medications to the public.

The county was originally estimated to get close to \$725,000 over an 18-year period. Seyb said he's hearing that money could be coming forward.

However, several states, including Wisconsin, are considering selling the settlement payments to financial institutions in exchange for discounts or fees estimated at between 12 and 15%.

Group Benefit Partners joins with larger firm

Nov. 1, 2022  
Facebook reach: 4,806

FORT MADISON - Group Benefit Partners (GBP) is excited to announce effective January 1, 2022, they have officially become an AssuredPartners Agency. Founded in 2009 in Fort Madison with statewide expansion over a decade resulting in 6 offices and 35 employees, GBP gained the reputation as a premier regional employee benefits and health insurance agency.

AssuredPartners (AP) was founded in 2011 and has experienced explosive growth over their 11 year

existence by acquiring many of the nation's most successful independent insurance agencies. Today, AP represents nearly \$2 Billion in annual revenue and more than 7,500 employees. With resources available in every sector and specialty in the expansive world of insurance and risk mitigation, AP will provide many new tools to GBP clients and the communities they serve.

"We're thrilled to have found a partner that will give us the ability to further accelerate the value we are able to provide our clients," says GBP Co-Founder Justin Pieper.

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2022 – A Year in Review: September - December

FMHS fields first girls’ Hound wrestling team

Nov. 4, 2022  
Facebook reach: 10,516

FORT MADISON - The first season of state-recognized high school girls’ wrestling could see a very interesting start for the Bloodhounds.

Head Coach Kyle Doherty, who’s been around the Fort Madison wrestling culture, and some would say family, for most of his life, was selected last month by the school district to lead the inaugural program. Doherty is a two-time state qualifier for the Hounds and was a 2006 state runner-up his senior year at 125 pounds.

Doherty said he’s very impressed with what he’s seen so far. And said the Lady Hounds could be a force out of the gate.

“Actually, four days in I’m very impressed with how far the action and the physical part of wrestling has come for these girls,” he said.

“They’re starting to learn the dos and don’ts as far as rules and basic moves.”

One of the girls on this first-year team has a name with a big pedigree on the mat.

Emily Steffensmeier is on the squad and she has multiple state champions in her family, including Uncle Gary Steffensmeier who was a runner up national champion for UNI, and cousin Harlan Steffensmeier. Her brother Ryan also qualified for state.

“You can see she already brings something to the mat, even though she’s never wrestled competitively,” Doherty said, “She will chime in.

“But it’s slow rolling in what they can and can’t do in certain positions. But they are receptive to it and that makes it easier for me.”

Doherty said wrestlers with some experience and that could be competitive right off the bat would be Steffensmeier, Anna and Myla Blanchard, Hailey Kemper, Maddie Emmett, and Lexi Whaley.

He said four girls worked out with Derek Doherty in the spring and got a little bit of a jump start, but everyone else is kind of starting from scratch.

The Hounds are fielding 20 wrestlers in the first year and will compete in 13 of 14 weight classes.



Doherty, Settles picked for Shrine Game

Dec. 31, 2022  
Facebook reach: 13, 232

FORT MADISON - Tanner Settles will be the first Fort Madison Bloodhound to play in the Iowa Shrine Bowl since 1998.

Settles was selected to play in the senior state All-Star game that is slated for July 23rd at University of Northern Iowa.

The senior linebacker, who had 58.5 tackles this season, will be joined on the south squad by Fort Madison Head Coach Derek Doherty.

Doherty was selected to be the running backs’/receivers’ coach in 2023.

The week-long event starts Sunday, July 16 with training camps with the game played on the following Saturday.

The players and staff stay on campus for the week building up to the game with the South Squad taking on the North squad.

“I’m super excited about that. We move in on Saturday during ‘dead week,’ Doherty said.

“We train all week multiple times and then play on Saturday.”

Doherty said the rosters have yet to be finalized because some athletes have yet to accept the invitation.

Settles is the first Bloodhound to be picked for the game under Doherty and the first since Scott Herren was picked in 1998.



Tanner Settles (55) will join Head Coach Derek Doherty in the 2023 Iowa Shrine game to be held at UNI on July 23. Settles is the first Hound to play in the game since 1998.

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# 2022 – A Year in Review: September - December



## Career Center attracting kids from all over the county

Nov. 29, 2022  
Facebook reach: 1,347

MONTROSE - Hammering, welding, imaging and even the best paper airplane were part of a final phase of experiences for area eighth and ninth graders Tuesday morning.

At the Lee County Career Advantage Center in Montrose, about a 130 students from all three county public schools participated in a capstone session where seven different industries and organizations gave hands-on

demonstrations to students, including Lee County Sheriff's office, Roquette, Iowa Fertilizer Plant, SCC, Lee County Conservation and more.

The students engaged in three different sessions over a month aimed at opening their eyes to future careers right here in southeast Iowa.

Don Weiss, the curriculum director at the center said the ambition is to open the students eyes to what is happening locally in terms of career and career technology. "We want to make the

kids aware of all the career opportunities that are available in southeast Iowa so they don't feel like to succeed they have to run off to Cedar Rapids or Des Moines. There are plenty of career opportunities right here," he said.

"There are advantages to living here. We don't have the traffic, cost-of-living is less, and it's a lot more of a relaxed experience."

He said this is just the first step in the evolution of the center. Students need to see the different things that are taking place.

## FM's Spear wins \$10K on lottery ticket

Nov. 23, 2022  
Facebook reach: 33,225

CLIVE, Iowa — A southeast Iowa woman has won a \$10,000 lottery prize.

Martha Spear of Fort Madison won the fifth top prize in the Iowa Lottery's "Cash Creator" scratch game. She purchased her winning ticket at Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh, 2632 Ave. L in Fort Madison, and claimed her prize Friday at the lottery's Cedar Rapids regional office.

Cash Creator is a \$2 scratch game that features eight top prizes of \$10,000 and overall odds of 1 in 3.82. For more infor-

mation about this game, and the number of prizes still available, visit [ialottery.com](http://ialottery.com).  
About the Iowa Lottery: Since the lottery's start in 1985, its players have won more than \$5.3 billion in prizes while the lottery has raised more than \$2.2 billion for state programs. Today, lottery proceeds help our state in multiple ways. They support Iowa veterans and their families through the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund. They help the families of Iowa peace officers, firefighters and corrections employees who die in the line of duty. And they provide help for a variety of significant projects through the state General Fund.



Nov. 29, 2022  
Facebook reach: 1,347


Fort Madison firefighters responded to a fire in the 1700 block of Avenue L on Nov. 29, 2022. The fire was contained to the first floor, but police had to pull a male victim from the fire through a window.

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2022 – A Year in Review: September - December



Emmett entertains Ave. E with digital holiday display

Dec. 21, 2022  
Facebook reach: 14,216

FORT MADISON - He lit up Avenue E on Halloween and now he's lighting it up for Christmas.

Fort Madison's Matt Emmett of 804 Avenue E has used his own ingenuity, a heavy, heavy dose of motherboards, tech gadgetry, and even 3D printers to create a winter digital wonderland music show for passersby on the city's east side.

Emmett was born and raised in Fort Madison and moved back to Fort Madison with his family this year.

He's a computer scientist by trade but is quickly making a name for himself in circles of progress in the community.

"I simply love Christmas lights," he said. "My dad drove us around every year looking at Christmas lights. One of my absolute favorites was the late Mike Man-ka of Fort Madison. He had an amazing display. When I came across comput-er-controlled displays on the news, I was

curious and started researching how to do it. The rest is history."

Emmett said this is the fourth year of creating a Christmas display and set out to create his own in Fort Madison this year.

The show he's created, which is comple-mented by radio station 87.9 FM is made up of four components: the individual lights, the controllers the show computer and the sequence software.

"I'm not going to lie, its fairly compli-cated. These types of shows don't use normal Christmas lights. The lights in my show are called RGB Pixels. RGB stands for Red, Green and Blue," he said.

Emmett said the RGB pixels differ from regular lights in a couple of ways. First, each light actually is made of three sepa-rate lights, red, green and blue. Together, the lights can create millions of colors. Another way they differ is that each light has three wires instead of two. The third wire tells the pixel which color and inten-sity to display.

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Lady Hounds win first game of season for former coach Sargent

Dec. 2, 2022  
Facebook reach: 1,999



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FORT MADISON - Flowers were laid on the empty chair that should have held former Fort Madison Coach Tony Sargent Friday night in the Hound Dome.

Then the Fort Madison Lady Hounds went out and got a big 41-36 win over Mt. Pleasant to move to 3-0 on the year.

Head Coach Toni Sargent was emotional before, during, and after the game taking over where her father left off and ushering in the big Southeast Conference win.

"He was on my shoulder," she said after the game. "We came out to Glory Days. He played that every day before a

game. We played it as he took his last breath.

"I was prepared. It was our first home game and I knew it would be an emotional night, for not only me, but for the girls."

Senior Irelynd Sargent, Tony Sargent's other daughter on the floor, said she was emotional at the start, but then racked up Fort Madison's first seven points.

"It was hard at the beginning and we all wanted to win it for him. My adrenaline was pumping and I was like we cannot lose this game. It's our first home game and first conference game and we just wanted to do it for him," Sargent said.



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# 2022 – A Year in Review: September - December

## Eastin named city's new director of tourism

Dec. 30, 2022

Facebook reach: 8,891

FORT MADISON - A familiar name in the hospitality business in Fort Madison has been selected to lead the city's newly created tourism effort.

Chi Eastin, the current manager at the Kingsley Inn in Fort Madison, has been picked by the city's new Tourism Board as the new director effective Jan. 16.

"We've been without a director for a while," Eastin said. "As a city we have a lot of catching up to do in making our place known."

She said her main focus is getting acclimated with the new board and its direction and priorities, and then getting to work bringing people into the city.

The ongoing marina project and the relocated Amtrak depot are two of the

entities she wants to build around.

She also is looking south to the successful programming that has gone on there for the past 20 years in the direction of Keokuk Area Convention and Tourism Bureau Director Kirk Brandenberger.

"Keokuk been doing a great job. Kirk has done that job for two decades and I want us to get to the equivalent of that," Eastin said.

Getting more people to come and stay in Fort Madison than we've had is a top priority of mine. The depot is one year in and the marina is coming into focus and we can capitalize on that."

Eastin was the power behind the city's wildly popular Railcam video feed that was part of the Kingsley Inn's marketing program. She said those types of initiatives are what the city needs, along with a full-time person marketing the city.

## Plans to move softball to sports complex

Dec. 19, 2022

Facebook reach: 7,375

FORT MADISON - According to Fort Madison Activities Director Jeff Lamb, Bloodhound softball will be moved to the Baxter Sports Complex this summer.

Lamb told a group of six, including Baxter Sports Director Jeff Woodside, board members Larry Smith and Bill Schulte, Denmark Ball Association President Jared Durbin, and former FMHS baseball coach Dick Burch about the decision Sunday night at a meeting at the sports complex.

Current Fort Madison baseball coach Ron Walker and softball coach Jared Rehm weren't in attendance, and both said they weren't aware of the meeting.

The meeting had been posted on the Fort Madison Activities Facebook page for anyone who wanted to be a part of the

discussion.

Lamb said baseball is set to be moved out to the complex in the summer of 2024.

"My goal hasn't changed since the fall, so I want our softball to be out here this summer and our baseball to be out here next summer," Lamb said.

He said softball will be a fairly easy fix and can be done quickly.

Woodside said the district and the sports complex already have a good relationship with the soccer program.

"From the facilities standpoint, it's an excellent chance to expand that partnership," Woodside said.

"It's an excellent opportunity to do so."

Durbin, who is in his fifth year with the Denmark Ball Association, said the boys' youth program that has used the high school diamond will be impacted by the move.

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