

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Friday, November 17, 2023 | 6 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 195



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RECOVERY: FMHS Senior Teague Smith back from ACL tear for shot at state title

Smith ready for run



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison senior Teague Smith, shown here getting the upper hand early in his first match at the IH-SAA state wrestling tournament in February, is back from a knee injury and ready for his final shot at a state wrestling title. Below right, Smith gets a leg hold on his district finals opponent last season.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – There's not much that stings worse than being so close to greatness, but watching it slip from your fingertips.

Fort Madison senior Teague Smith has been setting his whole life up for a shot at a state wrestling title but has seen his dream dashed repeatedly.



SMITH

In this his final year as a Bloodhound, he hopes to grasp greatness with both hands. Smith has had success wrestling at all different levels over the past dozen years. The son of Fort Madison Head Coach Ryan Smith, who wrestled for Dan Gable at the University of Iowa, has a treasure chest full of medals from youth tournaments in a variety of wrestling styles.

But the one medal that he really wants has painfully evaded him.

Smith had been poised to qualify for the Iowa High School Athletic Association State Wrestling tournament each year of high school wrestling. But a last-minute loss as a sophomore



left him one spot out of the tournament, and then a severe injury to his left knee during a match early in the season ultimately derailed a run at the state title last season.

Smith had lost just two matches through the first part of the season as a junior and was ranked as high as 4th in the state at 170 lbs. before suffering the injury. Early thoughts were that Smith suffered a torn meniscus, which he tried to

See SMITH, page 6

ILLINOIS NEWS

Plymouth, Ill. woman killed in fire

PCC Staff

HANCOCK COUNTY - Sheriff Travis Duffy reports a residential fire in Plymouth, IL on November 15, 2023 led to a death investigation.

Deputies were notified that Tri-County Fire, Colchester Fire, and Augusta Fire were on scene for a structure fire at 103 E. Marion St, Plymouth, IL where they discovered an individual that was deceased.

When deputies arrived, they met with fire department officials and learned that they had responded to the structure fire and made entry into the residence where they discovered the resident was still inside. They extricated the resident and discovered that the resident was deceased.

Deputies investigated the scene and spoke with witnesses. The Hancock County Coroner was called to the scene along with an investigator from the Illinois Fire Marshal's Office.

The victim was identified as Amy L. Aleshire, age 58. An autopsy was conducted on November 16, 2023 and the preliminary results show Aleshire passed away of natural causes.

The fire itself remains under investigation. No foul play is suspected to have occurred.

UNEMPLOYMENT

State jobless rate up a tick at 3.2%

DES MOINES – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 3.2 percent in October, up from 3.1 percent a year ago. The state's labor force participation rate decreased from 68.6 percent to 68.4 percent but remains 0.3 percent higher than one year ago. Meanwhile, the U.S. unemployment rate rose to 3.9 percent in October, and the national labor force participation rate fell to 62.7 percent.

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WEATHER

FRI 17 Nov..... Sunny & chilly, 48° F/ 27° F
SAT 18 Nov..... Sunny & cool, 54° F/ 32° F
SUN 19 Nov..... Mostly sunny & cool, 56° F/ 40° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 11/15..... 15 16 26 34 51, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/15..... 5 6 15 20 48, Lucky Ball: 5
PICK 3 11/15 MIDDAY..... 3 8 2
PICK 3 11/15 EVENING..... 5 3 8
PICK 4 11/15 MIDDAY..... 2 7 7 5
PICK 4 11/15 EVENING..... 4 8 7 1
POWERBALL 11/15..... 3 4 51 53 60, Powerball: 6 Power Play: 3

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Iowa News/From the Front

State working to connect workers to jobs

JOBS - Continued from Page 1

The number of unemployed Iowans increased to 56,000 in October from 52,800 in September.

The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,679,900 in October. This figure is 8,300 lower than September and 13,600 higher than one year ago.

“October’s numbers demonstrate that national economic pressures and the federal government’s efforts to slow inflation are having an impact on Iowa,” said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development.

“As we enter the winter, when we traditionally see higher seasonal unemployment rates, we will most likely see these trends continue. However, there are still almost 65,000 open jobs on Iowa-WORKS.gov.

“I encourage any Iowan who is impacted by this economic slowdown to look first to IWD for assistance. Our team works every day to connect workers with employers, and we know these efforts are successful as evidenced by Iowa having the shortest average duration for unemployment claims in more than 50 years.”

Iowa establishments surveyed in October by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported adding 900 jobs to their payrolls, lifting total nonfarm employment to 1,585,100.

This gain helped counteract a minor loss of 1,500 in September and was largely the result of hiring in professional and business services and manufacturing within private sectors.

The gain includes an increase of 1,200 in government due to hiring in local government education as schools returned from the summer break. Overall, government has advanced by 3,900 jobs

annually.

Professional and business services added the most jobs in October (+1,400).

This monthly gain stops a string of job losses which began in April. While job losses have been evident in all segments of professional and business services, administrative support and waste management has been responsible for most of the jobs shed (-4,800). Hiring in durable goods shops helped fuel in increase of 900 jobs in manufacturing in October.

Nondurable goods factories saw minor hiring in October yet trails last year’s mark by 1,000 jobs. This sector saw minor losses last month. Smaller increases included leisure and hospitality (+300), which was primarily fueled by accommodations and food services, and private education services, which added a slight 200 jobs.

Conversely, job losses in October were led by trade and transportation (-1,400). Retail trade was especially weak this month (-1,300). This is the third consecutive loss for this sector which has now pared 2,500 jobs since July. Construction dropped slightly (-600), as did information and other services, each shedding 500 jobs.

Annually, education and health services have gained the most jobs (+6,000). Health care and social assistance industries have accounted for virtually all the jobs added over the last twelve months. Manufacturing is now second in terms of jobs added (+2,600).

Durable goods factories have fueled all the job growth over this time. Nondurable goods shops shed 1,000 jobs since last year. Professional and business services continues to struggle with maintaining staffing levels and has now lost 6,700 jobs versus this time one year ago.

Utility board paves way for solar plant in Washington County

DES MOINES – The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) today issued an order granting a certificate of public convenience, use and necessity to Goldfinch Solar Project, LLC, regarding the company’s application for a proposed solar electric generating facility in Washington County, Iowa.

Goldfinch Solar filed its application on May 2, 2023, for a proposed 200 megawatt (MW) solar generation facility under Iowa Code chapter 476A.

The IUB’s order in Docket No. GCU-2022-0002 also grants the company’s requests to waive a hearing and associated requirements for a procedural schedule under Iowa law and the factors the IUB considers under the IUB’s Administrative Code rules 24.6, 24.8, and 24.9.

The order additionally requires the company to: file a status report with an update on the time frame to acquire applicable permits within 10 days of the order, file a notice of construction within 10 days of beginning, file construction progress updates when the project is approximately 50 percent complete and fully completed, and file notice with the IUB at the conclusion of the project’s operation and decommissioning in compliance with its Decommissioning Plan.

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Lee County News/Classifieds



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Pictured below from left to right are: John Hellige, DuPont Plant Manager; Brittany Workman, DuPont Manufacturing Technology Engineer; Pam Bierwirth, United Way Board Member; Marla Clark, United Way Board Member; Dale Augustine, DuPont Mechanic; Mike Greenslaugh, United Way Executive Director; Matt Linnenbrink, DuPont EHS Manager; Tammy Workman, DuPont Administrative Assistant & Campaign Coordinator; Logan Roberts, DuPont Logistics Coordinator; Janet Lanning, DuPont Contract Administrator; Rob Nall, DuPont Quality Manager & Ink Chemist; Jay Schafer, DuPont Digital Inks Manufacturing Technology & Quality Leader.

KMS invites public to winter concert

KEOKUK - The Keokuk Middle School Bands will present an annual Winter Concert at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30, in the KMS Gym. The concert will feature the K-Det and Concert KMS bands.

Community members who still play band instruments are invited to join the bands and perform for the final two songs of the concert, which will be, "Sing We Now" and "Handel for Christmas." To perform with the bands, guests may get copies of the music from a student participant or by contacting KMS band director Krystal Bottorff at KMS. Guest players may practice the two songs during any of the following times from 9:37-10:26 a.m. on Nov. 17, Nov. 20-21, Nov. 27-28 and during the dress rehearsal in the KMS Gym from 10:35 - 10:55 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30, with both bands.

Guests are not required to practice with the students, however they may feel more comfortable performing the night of the concert if they do practice, Bottorff said. Although the student performers look forward to performing with the guest players, no matter the amount of practice. Guest players are welcome to sight read the night of the concert and there are some instruments available for those who do not have an instrument, but you must contact Bottorff as soon as possible, by calling or texting (319) 343-8146, or by email at krystal.bottorff@keokukschools.org.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING MINUTES
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
October 9, 2023**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, October 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

Present: Garry Seyb, Chuck Holmes, Tom

**HELP
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Lee County is taking applications for a Class VII Road Maintenance Foreman, to work at the Ambrosia Maintenance Shop. Duties will include planning, organizing, scheduling, directing, coordinating, and inspecting the work of road maintenance crews.

Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements. The wage range is \$29.18 to \$32.90.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them at engineer@leecounty.org.



Schulz, and Matt Pflug
Absent: Ron Fedler
All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Seyb amended the agenda, removing the Department Head report from EMS. Moved by Holmes, seconded by Schulz, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input: Ryan Drenner with Xiphos, gave the Board an update on the NuStar pipeline project.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve a Geotechnical Investigation for a new bridge over Monk Creek, Project #BROS-CO56(117)-5F-56, at a cost of \$11,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Seyb, to approve an exception to Personnel Policy Section 3.12, allowing more than three consecutive calendar months of unpaid leave for an employee. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the October 2, 2023 Board minutes and the claims for payment for the week. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve a position change for Scott Edwards, from Assistant Maintenance Director \$59,553.87/annually to Interim Maintenance Director \$67,494.39/annually, effective 10/4/23; a new hire for the Sheriff's Office, Blake Johnson, Deputy, \$25.25/hr., effective 10/11/23; a step increase for Coleman Ertzinger, Paramedic, from \$24.45/hr. to \$24.94/hr., effective 10/12/23 and a step increase for Katherine Printy, Paramedic, from \$22.96/hr. to \$25.42/hr., effective 10/10/23. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the month of September 2023.

Committee Reports:
Schulz reported on a Soil Impact Webinar. Holmes reported on a Ground-breaking Ceremony for Conservation's Outdoor Classroom and a Board of Health meeting. Pflug reported on the Board of Health meeting. Seyb reported that he attended the groundbreaking ceremony and he also attended the Keokuk City Council meeting.

At 10:20 a.m. it was moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

Garry Seyb, Chairman
Attest:
Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

**Claims paid
October 9, 2023**

Access Systems, equip	777.84
Advd Crctnl Hlthc, svs	13583.25
Airgas USA, splys	339.00
Alliant Energy, svs	7976.46
Amazon, splys	132.39
Anderson Massage, svs	1100.00
AP FBO Wrksrc, svs	764.08
Armstrong Tractor, svs	2229.84
Blades/Green, svs	3180.00
Blessing Health, svs	490.00
N Booten, exps	29.46
Bound Tree Med, splys	861.34
Brozene Hydrlic, svs	103.02
BTX IA, svs	390.00
Brngtn Multimedia, svs	299.00
Carroll Co Cnsrvtn, reg	62.50
CenturyLink, svs	8.41
Chem Gro, splys	276.81
City/Donnellson, svs	130.71
Comm Recreation, svs	1000.00
Cott Systm, svs	430.00
Cullen Pest, svs	315.00
Democrat Co, publ	1148.80
DM Co Auditor, svs	2100.00

S Dittmer, svs	240.00
RK Dixon, equip	3.81
Dodd Prtg, splys	41.38
Eastern IA Tire, tires	7194.24
Enderle Htg, svs	2171.92
FM Water, svs	208.50
Garratt-Callahan, svs	750.00
GRRWA, svs	221.82
H&A Holtkamp, rent	100.00
Hancock Co Hlth, svs	90.00
S Hansen, svs	601.25
Hartricks Lumber, parts	1.98
Home Thrpy Sol, svs	4057.90
Hmfrnt Prctv Grp, edu	190.00
Huffman Welding, equip	210.00
Iowa GEMT, svs	4650.84
IA Chap NENA, edu	300.00
IA Off/St ME, svs	6860.00
T Jacobsmeier, svs	200.00
Jet Gas, fuel	4038.71
Jireh Inc, fuel	2611.07
John Deere Fncl, svs	5.85
Johnson Co ME, svs	325.64
T Johnson, rent	600.00
Jones Cntrctng, svs	56710.37
Keltek, Equip	1023.22
Kempkers, splys	13.94
Keo Med Equip, splys	1062.93
Keo Hsing Athrty, svs	6709.38
Keokuk Water, svs	153.27

King-Lynk Fnrl, svs	2290.00
LeeCo Econ Dvmt, cntrb	50000.00
Lee Co Ext Svs, splys	225.00
Lee Co Sheriff, svs	6085.10
LeeCo Treas, costs	16591.71
Liberty Util, gas	33.61
Lynch Dallas, svs	2091.00
McFarland/Swan, splys	383.90
McKesson Med, splys	9.06
Mediacom, svs	245.02
T Menke, exps	13.90
MidAm Enrgy, gas	161.61
MtHamil Elvtr, splys	354.02
Mutual Whl, parts	416.00
NAPA Auto, parts	1443.19
Nelson Family Rx, rx	121.17
O'Reilly Auto, parts	50.60
OMG Midwest, svs	1570.05
Pilot Grove Bnk, splys	208.00
Powerphone, svs	3134.25
Prairie Farms, splys	486.80
Prvnt Child Abuse, edu	360.00
S Prochaska, svs	255.00
Quad-City Times, adv	990.20
Rainbo Oil, oil	4700.22
RicohUSA, splys	105.48
B Roberts, svs	534.00
RSM US, equip	330.00
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A Schiller, svs	500.00
ServiceMaster, svs	880.60
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Sidwell, svs	3460.00
D Smith, svs	8808.00
C Soice, rent	300.00
SE Dist ISAA, edu	750.00
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Stffnsmr Bro Repair, svs	480.84
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Truck Repair, parts	3163.75
US Cell, svs	602.32
United Rentals, equip	400.00
VB Co Register, pbl	600.00
Vertical Comm, svs	109.75
VGM Group, edu	936.00
Vigen Mmrl Home, svs	2590.00
L Wessel, svs	925.00
West Pt Lmbr, splys	5.99
West Pt Utility, svs	1462.35
Wex Bank, fuel	7589.09
Windstream, svs	259.90
Winners Circle, svs	120.97
M Wooster, svs	1600.00
Xiphos Tech, svs	23505.00
Zoll Med, equip	65901.52
1st Ayd Corp, splys	141.60
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From the Front

Hound battled back from knee injury in six months

SMITH - Continued from Page 1

wrestle through.

“Last year, I think I was ranked 4th with two losses. At CR Jefferson I won my first match and in the second match I took a kid down and my knee popped, and I knew something wasn’t right,” Smith said.

“I finished the period, and my leg just didn’t feel right. I tried to grit it out and get the match done. I ended up losing that match and was in my head after that. We weren’t sure what happened, and I decided I was going to finish the year no matter what.”

After getting his knee drained and taking about a week and a half off, Smith braced up the knee and wrestled through the pain. His style changed from being an aggressor off the whistle to a more defensive approach with the knee always in the back of his mind.

He made it through the season at about 70% of what he normally would be, but that was good enough to get him through districts and onto the state meet, where he said he still thought he was going to win the whole thing.

“I got the job done at districts. It wasn’t pretty and I wrestled some sloppy matches, but I got to state and my mindset the whole time was I was going to win the title. I truly believed I was going to win that state title,” Smith said.

“A couple things happened, and things didn’t go my way. I wasn’t at my best and I think I was too in my head and worrying about the knee.”

Smith ended up losing his first two matches both by 2-1 scores and was eliminated on the second day.

Following the tournament an X-ray showed his knee was structurally okay, but an MRI later showed he had torn his anterior cruciate ligament and partially tore the medial collateral ligament in the left knee.

“That was pretty devastating to hear. I didn’t think it would be possible to play football or wrestle again. I took a week off just mourning and then I got right back to work,” he said.

Smith was so determined to move on that he told his physical therapist he wanted to be back ready to play for his senior football season. Smith was ranked in the top 50 Iowa high school football players by the Des Moines Register, but precaution left him on the defensive side of the ball and the first time ever he hadn’t played on both sides.

Ryan Smith said the physical therapist was a little shocked at his son’s timeline.

“I just remember the first meeting with PT, [the doctor] kinda rolled his eyes when Teague said he wanted to be back for first game of football. He was a bit taken aback by that, but after a few sessions he was like ‘You might be right if you keep this pace,’” Smith said.

“I guess it’s a testament to his will to get out there [on the football field]. He was apprehensive at first and he went on the first down at Burlington and 10 games later, he didn’t come off the field for a snap of defense.

“He really wanted to be out there on offense, but I had to tell him to not push our luck.”

Smith followed the course set out by his physical therapist and Woodbury and credits them, along with Fort Madison Athletic Enhancement director and Head football Coach Derek Doherty, with getting him ready for competition in the fall. Which he was.

“I have to thank them. I wouldn’t be back ready to go it wasn’t for those guys,” Smith said.

“The week of Burlington, I remember sitting in the kitchen talking to Mom and telling her, ‘Mom, I can do this. I can play against Burlington.’ She was like, ‘I don’t know, let’s call Dr. Woodbury’, and he said I could test it. So I said ‘Let’s do it. I can’t have any fear.’ And that was the greatest feeling in the world - to run out on the field. I finally made it.”

The season caused Smith some additional emotional pain watching two of his teammates, Brody Cashman and Henry Wiseman, go down with the same injury.

“My heart broke for Brody and then when Henry Wiseman tore his, that really hit home with me. I grew up playing with him and I would give anything to get another second to play a sport with him,” Smith said.

Now, after sacrificing half of the football season by only playing on one side of the ball and avoiding the cutting, planting and hits to the lower body that certainly would have come from his traditional spot as fullback for the Hounds, Smith is ready for the mat.

And he wants to get back to the old Teague Smith, only better.

“I want to be better than I was, not just the same wrestler but better,” he said. “I wasn’t as good as I could’ve been last year. I can always build, so I can be better than that.”

“State Title. That’s been my goal since I was in kindergarten. I’m at that point where I gotta get that done now.”

Smith wasn’t cleared to wrestle during the summer so he’s dealing with some cobwebs of sort as the Hounds have only had about four days of real practice.

“Wrestling this past week, I’m getting some rust off. I’ve been doing everything, feeling good but I gotta build that trust in the knee. I trusted it for football but wrestling is different.”

Ryan Smith said that trust will come with repetition.

“Wrestling’s a little different from football. Football practice, you can control things. We don’t do a lot of full speed like the old days. So in that regard it was a little easier to get a feel for how the knee is going to hold up. But live wrestling is live wrestling.”

Smith will start the year wearing a sleeve and knee brace, but said he hopes to be able to shed that at some point in the year.

Either way, he said it’s “go time”.

Smith will be wrestling at 190 lbs. to start the season. The Bloodhounds start the year Nov. 30 with a dual meet at home against Quincy.

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