

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 | 6 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 15



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Smith era to end at FM

27 YEARS: Wrestling coach to step down following 2023-24 season at FMHS

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – “I knew five years ago this would be it.”

Those were the first words from Fort Madison Head Wrestling Coach Ryan Smith on Tuesday afternoon.

The Fort Madison School District announced Tuesday that they would be honoring Smith for his 27 years in the Bloodhound wrestling program at Senior Night Thursday in the Hound Dome. Smith told the district this would be his last year but was taken by surprise by the announcement Tuesday.



SMITH

In typical Smith style, he deferred the accolades.

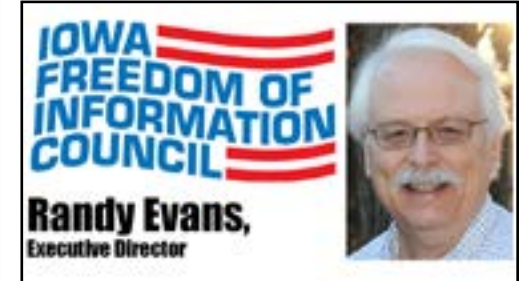
“I just don’t want this to take away from the kids,” he said.

Smith said he planned five years ago to step away from the wrestling program when his son Teague completed his senior year with the Hounds.

Teague Smith had his junior and senior years dampened by injuries to both knees and never got to take

See **RETIRE**, page 4

COMMENTARY



No appetite for discussion on gun control

Like many Iowans, my thoughts have been rather chaotic since the horrible news from Perry High School last week.

The events were so sad and senseless. A 17-year-old student was dead, having shot himself. An 11-year-old sixth-grader, known for his big smile and cheerful outlook, was dead from three gunshot wounds. Seven other students and school employees, including the high school principal, were wounded by the teenager.

Americans are numb to the number and frequency of school shootings and other mass killings. Our leaders appear to be paralyzed. Yes, they express their sadness and concern, but thoughts and prayers are not enough.

Also inadequate was the message Donald Trump had for Iowans when he expressed his concern about the Perry tragedy. “It’s just horrible,” he said. “But we have to get over it. We have to move forward.”

Beyond the mourning seen across Iowa, there is too little appetite for discussion about what our government intends to do to reduce the frequency of these mass shootings.

It is too easy to think of victims only in terms of those who are killed or wounded in these tragedies. But I found myself thinking back to the 12-year-old son of a friend of mine whose school was one of 30 in Iowa hit on one morning last March by a series of reports of an active shooter in local schools. Administrators quickly put their emergency plans in operation, and police and paramedics rushed to

See **EVANS**, page 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Fort Madison Marina is progressing quickly as workers continue to work on the facade and the exterior of the building. Tuesday’s snowstorm stopped work outside but workers continued to work on the inside of the building.

LEE COUNTY

United Way to offer Tax Assistance for tri-state area

LEE COUNTY - United Way of the Great River Region will begin its 10th year offering the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) as a service to the tristate community. United Way partners with the IRS, the Iowa Center for Economic Success and Fort Madison

Library to provide this program. United Way of the Great River Region is one of 21 organizations and 80 sites throughout Iowa. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is a nationwide service that offers free tax help to people who generally make \$64,000 or

less. The program also helps the elderly and persons with disabilities who need to file tax returns. The VITA program will run from January 23 through April 12, 2024. IRS certified volunteers and

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WEATHER

WED 10 Jan.....Mostly cloudy & cold, 30° F/18° F
THU 11 Jan.....Partly sunny & cold, 29° F/ 21° F
FRI 12 Jan.....Snow and blustery, 29° F/ 11° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/08.....12 21 37 39 45, Star Ball: 6 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 01/08.....9 19 25 33 43, Lucky Ball: 6
PICK 3 MIDDAY 01/08.....8 8 6
PICK 3 EVENING 01/08.....0 7 8
PICK 4 MIDDAY 01/08.....5 5 5 7
PICK 4 EVENING 01/08.....6 7 5 8
POWERBALL 01/08.....7 17 28 40 45, Powerball: 2 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

ELVIN BEACH

Elvin "Pork" Beach, 82, of Denmark, IA, passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2023 at 3:05 PM at his home.

He was born on May 15, 1941 in rural West Point at his home to Alfred and Virginia Martin Beach. Pork married Joanne Teel and they later divorced. He then married Vicki Swanson Enke on March 27, 1970 in Oquawka, IL. Pork owned and operated Beach & Enke Trucking and also PNB Processing/Augusta Quarry. He was a member of Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ, 3 Rivers Tractor Club, AHS SE Iowa Chapter, Wheels of Time and Big Creek Tractor Association. Pork loved restoring old tractors and going to tractor shows and truck shows. Pork loved being outside and working in his yard. He also loved his dogs, especially Tiny.

Survivors include his wife, Vicki Beach of Denmark; two sons, John (Rena) Beach and Jerry Beach both of Denmark; fourteen grandchildren; seventeen great grandchildren and one on the way; stepson, Kurt (Shannon) Enke of Denmark; stepdaughter, Tamara Beach of Wapello; daughter in law, Kelly Enke of Denmark; one brother, Ernie (Trudy) Beach of Denmark; sister in law, Lorraine Beach of Elko, NV; several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two daughters, Katherine Joanne and Julie Bergquist; two stepsons, Victor and Gene Enke; a son in law, Bob Bergquist; a brother, Jack and granddaughter, Tonya Beach.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Friday, January 5, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home where the family will meet with friends from 5-7 PM. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 10:30 AM at Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ with Rev. Chad Savage officiating. Burial will be in Denmark Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials has been established for Denmark Fire Department, Denmark UCC or St. Jude's Children's Hospital and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Volunteers key to tax help program

UNITED WAY - Continued from Page 1

staff provide free income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. United Way of the Great River Region operates by appointment only with both in-person and curbside options and has sites in Keokuk and Fort Madison. An intake and interview checklist will help determine if a taxpayer qualifies for the program. Federal and state returns will go through a quality review process and be submitted electronically."

We could not offer this program without the dedication of our certified volunteers," says Sue Prochazka who coordinates VITA. "The volunteers bring their experience and dedication not only to support the team but those served by the program."

We will start making appointments January 10. To make an appointment, individuals can call the dedicated VITA program cell phone at 319-520-6859 to leave a message to request an appointment. Staff and/or volunteers will review a list of what to bring. For more information about this program or to learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Sue Prochazka at 319-524-4504 or vc@unitedwaygrr.org.

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OBITUARIES

MARY L. SANDERS

Mary Lou Sanders, 82, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Monday, January 1, 2024 at 8:15 PM at the Keosauqua Health Care Center.

She was born on February 2, 1941 in Ft. Madison to Ernest and Marietta Mueller Kruse. Mary Lou married Gerald Sanders and they later divorced. She worked at Champion Spark Plug in Burlington, was co-owner of Mt. Hamill Tap for twenty years and lastly worked at and retired from Staats in Mt. Pleasant. Mary Lou enjoyed going to the river and watching the water and spending time at the cabin on the Des Moines River. Mary Lou loved going on drives, especially going to Dairy Queen.

Survivors include two daughters, Danette (Joe) Hayes of Montrose and Jackie (Danny) Boone of Mt. Hamill; three sons, Eric Sanders of Mt. Hamill, Mike Sanders of Mt. Hamill and Daniel Sanders of Grand Junction, CO; eight grandchildren, Elizabeth, Amber, Evelyn, Gavin & William Hayes, Brandon Kincaid, Payton and Madison Sanders; four sisters, Donna Remick of Altona, IL Kate (Francis) Doyle of Creston, Nancy Hartley of Kingsland, TX and Sue (Tony) Wolfe of Ft. Madison, several nieces and nephews; sister in law, Christie. She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Clifford and Gary; a sister, Betty Jean; brothers in law, Ronnie and Rick and a sister in law, Rosie.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial service will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 11 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Reverend Dean Graber officiating. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery, West Point. The family will meet with friends from 10 AM until the time of the service.

A memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

DONNA J. CLARK

Donna Jean Clark, 75, of Keokuk, IA, died Monday, January 1, 2024 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, IA.

She was born October 29, 1948 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Oval and Cena Weir Boltz. Donna graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1967. On November 3, 1968 Donna was united in marriage to David Clark in Keokuk. He survives.

Other survivors include one brother, Wayne Boltz of Keokuk, one sister, Carol Rose (John) of Keokuk and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, Bob Boltz, John Boltz and Roy Boltz and one sister, Louise Freesmeier.

Donna had been employed as a cosmetologist in her younger years and later as a dental assistant at Dr. Gerald Schleier's office. She had also worked as a waitress at several local restaurants over the years.

Donna loved animals and took in stray cats, dogs, ponies and goats, caring for them until they found loving homes. She enjoyed feeding hummingbirds and had fed hundreds of them through the years. Donna was an excellent baker and made blueberry pies and apple cakes for her family and friends to share. She also enjoyed hosting family lunches that included an abundance of great food and good times that filled the hearts of her loved ones with wonderful memories.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Tuesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Dave Barrett officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held prior to the service, Tuesday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends from 10- 11 a.m.

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

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Member **LION Publishers**
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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

WAYNE A. JORGENSON

Wayne Allen Jorgenson, 79, of Montrose, passed away on Saturday, December 30, 2023, at his home in Montrose.

Wayne was born on June 20, 1944, in Austin, Minnesota, the son of Arthur and Elizabeth (Craven) Jorgenson. He graduated from Humbolt High School in 1962, and on February 15, 1969, he was united in marriage to Lucille "Judy" Fern Owens in St. Paul, Minnesota. She preceded him in death on February 27, 2023.



JORGENSON

Wayne proudly served his country in the United States in the United States Army, receiving his honorable discharge at the rank of Sargent.

He then went on to be a lifelong employee of Armour-Dial, where he retired. He was a member of the American Legion in Farmington, Iowa, and enjoyed watching football, especially if the Vikings were playing. He was a man of many hobbies, which included solving puzzle books, hunting, fishing and woodworking. His projects could be found throughout the area, including a wood model of the Fort Madison fort. Wayne will always be remembered for his willingness to lend a helping hand to those around him.

Wayne is survived by three children: his daughters Tabitha (Harley Rader) Jorgenson of Montrose and Dawn (Jeff) Allen of Frederic, Wisconsin; his son Keith (Roberta) Jorgenson of Montrose; eight grandchildren: Brett (Terra) DeBrackeleire of Odessa, Texas, Merrissa (Jake Dawkins) DeBrackeleire of Keokuk, Blake (Andrea) Jorgenson of Montrose, Kyle (Liz Rubey) Jorgenson of Fort Madison, Landon (Ashley) Evenson of Oaks, North Dakota, Lindy (Josh) Anderson of Cumberland, Wisconsin, Logan Evenson of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, and Josh (Michelle) Gunning of Hamilton, Illinois; thirteen great-grandchildren: Joel and Evan DeBrackeleire, Josie and Jase Jorgenson, Daniel and Addlynn Dawkins, Owen and Maci Anderson, Jameson Evenson, and Abbie, Avery, Garrett and Rory Gunning; two brothers: Bruce (Roxanne) Jorgenson and Randy (Angie) Jorgenson; two sisters: Brenda (Dan) Murphy and Pam (Dave) Nickels; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.



Wayne is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Judy, and two sisters: Linda Whitaker and Cheryl Martinez.

Funeral services will be held at 12 pm (Noon) on Friday, January 5, 2023, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk. Military honors at the graveside will be rendered by the United States Army and American Legion Post #41. Visitation will be held on Friday, January 5, from 10 am to 12 pm (Noon) at the funeral home directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to the Farmington American Legion.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



Lunch Specials
Jan 8-12
11am - 1pm

Monday, January 8
Burnt Ends, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans

Tuesday, January 9
Chicken Fajitas, Spanish Rice

Wednesday, January 10
Ravioli Lasagna, Applesauce, Breadstick

Thursday, January 11
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, January 12
Spaghetti & Meatballs, Garlic Bread

OBITUARIES

ANNA B. PIERCE

Anna Belle Pierce, 84, of Warsaw, IL passed away Sunday, December 31, 2023 at the Montrose Health Center in Montrose, IA.

She was born March 9, 1939 in Warsaw, IL the daughter of George and Lillie Trautvetter Gerdes. Anna Belle graduated from Warsaw High School with the class of 1957 and later attended cosmetology school in Burlington, IA.



PIERCE

On September 18, 1960 Anna Belle was united in marriage to John Pierce in Warsaw. He preceded her in death on June 13, 2011.

In her younger years, Anna Belle had been employed as a hair-dresser.

Anna Belle loved working in her flower and vegetable gardens. She was a wonderful cook and made delicious meals for her family to enjoy. Anna Belle was an animal lover and had many pet dogs over the years. Anna Belle loved to travel with her husband throughout the United States on their motorcycle, making friends along the way.

She is survived by two daughters, Tena Hatfield (Clifford "Rusty") of Basco, IL and Jolene Ison (Steve) of Keokuk, one son, John Kennedy Pierce II of Warsaw, IL, two grandchildren, Gabrielle Hatfield and Stephanie Ison and one great-grandchild, Lorelei Shoup and one brother, Dean Gerdes (Marilyn) of Warsaw, IL.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents and one brother, George Gerdes.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

Pen City Current obituary policy

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

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From the Front

Smith plans on staying around wrestling, football programs

RETIRE - Continued from Page 1

the podium despite being ranked in the top 10 in Class 3A both seasons, and garnering many regional and national medals in youth wrestling.

Ryan Smith said the time is right to step back, but he said he's still going to be part of the program, in addition to the football programs, in some capacity.

Smith has been on Head Coach Derek Doherty's staff since he took over the program five years ago. He was a coach on the junior high football team for several years, as well.

"It's been a long time. I figured this would be a good time to go out," he said.

Smith has been the head coach for 26 of the 27 years, taking over for Mike Riley, who had the helm for about five years following legendary coach Mick Pickford who built the program over three decades. Riley was Pickford's assistant for much of that time.

"I was fresh out of college and was chomping at the bit and ready to be the coach. Mike saw that as a good time to get out himself," Smith said.

He said the move will give him time to step back and watch his other children from a parent's seat rather than a coaching seat. He's also looking forward to taking advantage of the easier schedule during winter to travel a bit.

Smith, and his wife Jill have two other children, Mara, a sophomore at FMHS, and Lila, an eighth grader who plays volleyball, runs track, and participates in show choir.

Mara has seen immediate success in the girls' wrestling program, qualifying for the IGHSAU State tournament in 2023. She advanced out of regionals when a qualifier suffered an injury allowing her to move into the state bracket at 113 lbs.

Smith said he's looking forward to watching her grow and said any coaching will be at Mara's request.

"It definitely gives me time to watch her as a parent. Whether she wants coaching or not is up to her. I haven't shown her techniques or anything, but have given her help more on the mental side of things," he said.

"She's been around it watching. Teague helps her a bit. Physically goes through things with her.



Fort Madison Head Coach Ryan Smith far right, back, shouts instruction to son Teague at the 2023 IHSAA State Wrestling Tournament in Des Moines. Fort Madison School District announced Tuesday that Smith will be retiring from his head coaching position at the end of this season.

"A lot of it's her mentality," he said.

Either way, he said he will enjoy being able to help in a different way than he has over the past quarter century.

The Smith legacy is one of humble approaches and rooting for the underdog. He said his favorite memories are those of the kids who weren't expected to have success. Smith stops short of listing the names of those who have seen success under his program, mostly out of fear of leaving a name off – no surprise to anyone who's spent time around the program and the coach.

"Generally speaking, some of my favorite memories were kids that weren't supposed to be successful. Seeing guys that weren't supposed to be state qualifiers and state place winners get there is as gratifying to me as the kids we expected to be there," he said.

"I've always been an underdog kind of a guy. I think not just of individuals, but teams that weren't supposed to win conference, but did. They pulled an upset and found a way. Those are my fondest moments."

The 2019 IHSAA Character Counts Coach of the Year said coaching has certainly changed over three decades. The mentality and approach to coaching kids today is a spectrum away from when he started in 1997.

"There's no doubt I've changed personally as a coach. If I coached like did 26 years ago, I don't know how many kids we'd have," he said.

"We'd go full bore every day and they'd belly ache but they'd come back. If you put the pedal to the medal like that now, you'd get more kids saying maybe this isn't for me.

"We work just as hard, but we work a lot smarter. That's the biggest thing."

Retirement from coaching doesn't mean you won't see Smith working a mat or sideline or even as part of coaching going forward.

"I'm just not going to be THE guy," he said. "I'm going to be around doing things at different levels."

One of the reasons for that is the relationships Smith has cultivated over the years.

"Put that at the top of the list," he said. "The most important thing is the relationships. Wins and losses come and go. Relationships last forever. Other coaches, kids through our program and through other programs, and following them and things they did with their career."

Smith has encountered 1,000s of student athletes over the 27 years with Fort Madison, and those relationships are as important as any.

"I've seen this day coming, but until it gets there you're like 'Wholly Cow this is about to be it'. But when you know, you know."

Smith still has several years left teaching before he fully retires but said he's excited to some winter traveling now that someone else will be at the helm of the wrestling program.

"I'd like to travel more in the winter. You're locked down, but now we can escape the snow and cold," he said. "I'm not going to get too far away from the sport. I'll always want to contribute, but this time more as a spectator."

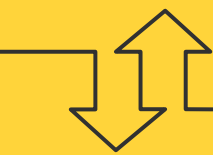
"I wanna see Bloodhound wrestling continue to flourish and I want to do whatever I can at different levels."

Smith said he doesn't think he'll be involved in the hiring of his replacement but has put the word out with coaches in the area.

"I don't think I will be. I'm putting the word out there and I want to attract as many applicants as we can. When we hosted our tournament, we had a coach's meeting and I let them know. I told them this was a great job for me personally and it's a great job in a great community with loyal followers."

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From the Front/Classifieds

Mental health is first step to reducing gun violence

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

the schools.
All of these reports turned out to be fake and no one was killed or injured. The unknown caller's intent was to create chaos for first-responders and school officials. But the fear and anxiety among students and staff was real.

My friend's son was one of the bigger/stronger kids in his classroom. His "job" that morning was to help barricade the classroom doors. But he confessed to his mother afterward he was too "shook" by the frightening events to carry out his task.

"Next time I'll do it even if I'm crying," he told her. Let that sink in. A 12-year-old boy feels like he let down his classmates and his teacher, and he promises to be more helpful the next time there is an active-shooter report.

The Legislature begins its 2024 session this week. Iowans should watch to see whether Gov. Kim Reynolds and Republicans who holds solid majorities in the House and Senate move beyond thoughts and prayers and debate increasing mental health services in our state — something nearly everyone agrees is an important step to reduce the frequency of gun violence.

Iowans also should watch to see whether the Reynolds administration and lawmakers begin any meaningful study of gun deaths in Iowa. Such a study could provide important insight to guide

government's response to this problem — if our leaders want to move beyond thoughts and prayers.

There is eye-opening information about gun deaths in a report last year by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Government officials in Iowa should mine this report and similar research for answers to questions about "why."

Questions like:

Why did Alabama, a state with a population of 5 million people, lose 1,315 people to gun deaths in 2021? The rate comes out to 26.4 firearms deaths per 100,000 people.

In contrast, why did New York, a state four times larger with 20 million people, have 1,078 gun deaths in 2021? The rate comes out to 5.4 gun deaths per 100,000 people.

Why was Alabama's rate of gun deaths the fourth highest among the 50 states, while New York's rate was the fourth lowest?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's data shows Iowa with 364 gun deaths in 2021, tying for the 11th lowest rate among the states. Iowa's gun death rate was 11.2 per 100,000 people.

The Alabama Reflector, a nonprofit news website, reported on the CDC's statistics last year and posed an all-important question: Why did a small state rank so high for gun violence?

The Reflector said New York, in contrast with Alabama, has an age limit for firearms purchases and has stronger background check and gun permit

laws. Research specialists believe poverty and a lack of social programs are two other factors.

"Guns are just really good at killing people," said Kerri Raissian, a professor of public policy at the University of Connecticut. "That is why people choose them, because they are good at killing people. When we reduce violence, we tend to reduce gun violence."

The Reflector said a report in 2020 from the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence found high poverty areas with fewer resources, economic opportunities and social mobility are at high risk from gun violence.

"What is creating both the higher rates and the higher risk of shootings, both in the shooter and being the victim, is the conditions in which the person is living in," Rutgers University public health professor Daniel Semenza told the Reflector.

None of this provides definitive answers to the "why" question nagging everyone after tragedies like the one in Perry. But we will never find ways to chip away at the heartbreaking toll of gun deaths if our government leaders' response does not go beyond thoughts and prayers.

What do we have to lose by bringing together the best minds to look for middle-ground steps forward?

Randy Evans is Executive Director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MAXINE E. CUMALANDER

Maxine Edna Cumalander, 97 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 5:20 am Saturday, January 6, 2024 at the West Point Care Center, West Point, Iowa. She was born January 3, 1927 at Adrian, Illinois, the daughter of John M. and Della L. (Mills) Vass. She first married Dale W. Reuther on September 15, 1945. He preceded her in death on October 13, 1977. She then married Louis C. Cumalander on March 22, 1985. He preceded in death January 5, 2005.

She had been a resident of the Montrose and Fort Madison areas since 1944. She worked for 20 years at Sheaffer Pen. Maxine was of the Presbyterian faith, and a life member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 1805, Fort Madison.

She is survived by two daughters, Sharon (Steve) Lampley of Ellerbe, North Carolina and Karen Sojka of Kalona, Iowa; one daughter-in-law, Pamela Reuther

of Fort Madison; six grandchildren: Ryan Koller, Jake (Brooke) Koller, Kallie (Kevin) Bills, Keri (Michael) MacDonald, Neil (Jenifer) Wolfe, and Brad (Ruth) Reuther; 13 great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, both husbands, two sons, Roger Reuther and Carl Reuther, three brothers, eight sisters, one grandson in infancy, and one grandson, Nicholas Reuther.

Her family will greet friends 2:30 - 3:30 pm Saturday, January 13, 2024 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A memorial service will follow and begin at 3:30 pm Saturday at the Barr Memorial Chapel, with Pastor Les Featheringill officiating. Private burial will be at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve Maxine's family and an online guest book can be found at www.barrmemorial-chapel.com.



CUMALANDER

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH A. REED

Joseph Albert Reed, 66, of Keokuk, IA, died Sunday, December 31, 2023 at Birkwood Village in Ft. Madison, IA.

He was born October 8, 1957 in Keokuk, IA the son of Basil "Red" and Norma Lee Kinkeade Reed. Joseph graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1976.

He was united in marriage to Penny Richtman. They later divorced.

Joseph had been employed by several auto parts retail stores in the area, including Peterson's, Car Quest and NAPA Auto Parts.

Joseph enjoyed watching television, especially The Three Stooges, Becker and John Wayne westerns. He was an avid Minnesota Vikings football fan and loved going to tractor pull competitions.

He is survived by one son, Ricky Reed of Keokuk and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister Carolyn Steele.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Ray Gilbert officiating.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m., Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with family meeting with friends at that time.

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

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