



## Perry volleyball wins Jayette Tournament

SPORTS, 1B

# PERRY CHIEF

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022 | THEPERRYCHIEF.COM

VOL.41 NO. 41 | \$1.00

## Domestic violence deaths dip

### Officials: Iowa has had 12 killings so far this year

**William Morris**  
Des Moines Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Domestic violence deaths are on the decline this year in Iowa. Officials would like to see them decline further still.

Between January and August, 12 people were killed as a result of domestic violence, the Iowa Attorney General's Office announced this week. That compares to 17 deaths over the same period in 2021.

Iowa had seen a spike in domestic violence fatalities over the prior two years, according to figures collected by the Attorney General's office.

There were 17 deaths in all of 2020, at that time the most Iowa had seen in a decade.

2021 was more violent still, with 20 deaths in total.

The deadliest year on record since 1995 was 2006, with 22 killings.

State officials have attributed the 2020 and 2021 increases to the stresses on families during the COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2021, Sandi Tibbetts Murphy, director of the Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division, noted that people in unsafe relationships had fewer options to cope with them under lockdown conditions.

**"I think it's safe to say, yes, access to services and support is easier now that the pandemic is slowly fading away."**

**Sandi Tibbetts Murphy**  
Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division director

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## Tips for protecting yourself and more in cold weather

**Francesca Block**  
Des Moines Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

When cool breezes start to turn to frigid gusts, it's important to bundle up and be prepared. In addition to digging out your puffy coat or going out and getting a new, cozy scarf, there is more to do to keep you and your belongings safe during periods of frigid temperatures.

Experts have offered their recommendations on how Iowans can best protect their pets, their plants, their pipes, their cars and themselves for cooler temperatures on the horizon.

### Provide for your pets

It's important to consider how chilly temperatures can impact the health of each member of the family, including pets.

Joe Stafford, director of animal control service for the Animal Rescue League of Iowa, said pet owners should consider their animal's size, breed and age when deciding how long to let their pets outside.

"A malamute wants the cooler temperatures where a short-hair, single-coated, smaller breed, like a Chihuahua, could have a bigger risk and threat in these temperatures," he said.

For those who prefer to keep their furry friends outdoors, Stafford recommended pet owners provide adequate housing to protect them from harsh weather conditions. Organizations such as the ARL may be able to provide some outdoor shelters for those who cannot afford them, Stafford said.

Those with questions or concerns about their animal's well-being or winter readiness can contact the ARL or the Des Moines Police Department's non-emergency number at 515-283-4811, Stafford said.

### Take your plants inside

If temperatures are dropping near or below freezing, it might be time to bring your plants inside.

While some vegetation fares OK in the cold, Kimberly James, a production horticulturist with the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, said many plants, including any foliage and house plants, do not like temperatures below 50 degrees.

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Perry players watch the action during a homecoming game against Des Moines Hoover on Sept. 16 in Perry.

PHOTOS BY ALLISON ULLMANN/THE PERRY CHIEF

## Community looking for answers after football season ends early



Perry head coach Bryce Pierce said he and his coaching staff will gather to discuss ways to encourage more kids in the school to play football to avoid this situation in the future.

### Team forfeits remaining games over small roster

**Sean Cordy**  
Special to the Perry Chief

The Perry Community School District's decision to suspend its varsity high school football program for the remainder of the season due to a small roster and injury concerns has left some people in the community saddened and confused and school leaders searching for answers.

The district announced the decision Wednesday after the team's roster shrank with each passing week.

"It was a difficult decision, but we wanted to keep the student-athletes'

safety first and foremost in mind," said district Superintendent Clark Wicks.

The timing was perhaps even more painful for the players and community because the team had already achieved a major milestone this season: It broke a five-year losing streak, sparking communitywide celebration.

It's not unusual for a few varsity high school football programs in Iowa to curtail their seasons each year because of dwindling roster numbers and worries about injuries. But such difficulties typically involve smaller schools. What's unusual in Perry's case is that it plays in class 4A, which includes schools with the second-highest enrollments among Iowa's seven classes.

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### ELECTION 2022 U.S. SENATE DEBATE

## Grassley, Franken argue abortion, inflation

**Stephen Gruber-Miller**  
Des Moines Register  
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. Senate candidates Chuck Grassley and Mike Franken clashed over abortion, inflation, health care costs and a range of other issues in their first and only televised debate Thursday night.

The incumbent, Grassley, is a Re-

publican seeking his eighth term in the Senate. He faces a challenge from retired U.S. Navy Admiral Mike Franken, a Democrat, in the Nov. 8 election. Early voting begins Oct. 19.

Thursday night's hourlong debate on Iowa PBS is the only scheduled debate between the two candidates.

A July Des Moines Register/Media-com Iowa Poll showed Grassley leading Franken by 8 percentage points, 47% to

39%. That margin is narrower than in any Iowa Poll matchup involving Grassley since he was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1980.

As of July, the most recent time candidates reported their fundraising totals, Grassley had about \$4 million in the bank compared with Franken's \$1.1 million.

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