

**FOOTBALL**

Earliest day of practice as set by the WIAA

**GIRLS GOLF**

Earliest day of practice as set by the WIAA

**GIRLS SWIMMING**

Earliest day of practice as set by the WIAA

**FOOTBALL SCRIMMAGES**

\* Lancaster hosts Benton/Scales/Mound/Shullsburg & Ithaca (5:00)  
\* River Ridge @ Viroqua with Bangor & Iowa-Grant (5:00)  
\* Potosi/Cassville Intra-Squad Scrimmage & Family Night (6:00)

**VOLLEYBALL**

Earliest day of practice as set by the WIAA

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Earliest day of practice as set by the WIAA

**BOYS SOCCER**

Earliest day of practice as set by the WIAA

**Burks & Kielley compete at NHSFR**

BY A.J. GATES  
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**GILLETTE, WY**

Competing at the National High School Finals Rodeo is always a great way to conclude the high school rodeo season, and for four local cowboys and cowgirls a trip to the NHSFR was icing on their cake.

Held in Gillette, Wyoming competition at the 75th National High School Finals Rodeo began on Sunday, July 16, and conclude this past Saturday, July 22.

Making the trip to Wyoming were Laine Burks of Lancaster, Brody Kielley of Glen Haven and Jesse Vesperman and Wyatt Heer, both of Platteville.

Burks competed in barrel racing and goat tying at the National Finals, where she placed 28th of 182 competitors in goat tying and 55th of 195 competitors in barrel racing.

In the goat tying competition, Burks ran a time of :08.71 in her first go-round on Tuesday, which placed her

Rodeo | SEE 2B

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

“The next time I cry about golf it will only be with joy. It’s not worth crying over golf for any other reason. After all, it’s only a game.”

**RORY MCILROY**

**GOLF**

**Ihm appears on par to making dream come true**

Lancaster native longs to play in British Amateur Championship

BY A.J. GATES  
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**PEOSTA, IA** – Golf, what a wonderfully frustrating sport.

For us hackers out there, all it takes is one or two good shots during a round to keep us going back, thinking next time we’ll do even better and make even more good shots.

For the scratch golfers, it’s about testing their skills against either the course or their competition, or often times both.

It’s addictive, enticing, frustrating, challenging, and rewarding all at once, which is exactly why it is played by so many people of all age groups all over the world.

For Jim Ihm of Peosta, Iowa, golf has always been a big part of his life, and that of his entire family.

A 1980 graduate of Lancaster High School, Ihm has waged his war with Father Time, and in doing so, has set a pretty lofty goal for himself, one that will test him mentally as well as physically.

More about that a little bit later.

Jim is the son of Floyd and Beverly Ihm of Lancaster, who for years resided at 421 Golf View lane along the fourth fairway of the Lancaster golf course.

During the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s the Ihm children spent countless hours at the Lancaster golf course, often times leaving the house in the morning and not returning until dark.

“That’s where it all started,” Jim said of his love for golf. “As a youngster growing up, the golf course was my home away from home. I was over there all



Jim Ihm, a 1980 graduate of Lancaster High School, has been playing golf ever since his childhood days growing up along the fourth fairway of the Lancaster golf course. Now 61 years old, he is on a quest to qualify for the U.S. Senior Amateur Championship and eventually the British Senior Amateur Championship.

the time. Emmett Terwilliger was a good friend of ours and a good friend of the family, I played a lot of golf with him. It was just a great place to grow up and to learn the game.”

As a sophomore on the LHS boys’ golf team, Jim was a member of the 1978 state qualifying squad and later took his talents to the

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where he earned two varsity letters and was the WSUC (Wisconsin State University Conference) champion during the 1982-83 season.

Since his college days, he’s won three club championships at Lancaster (1988, 1989, 1995), seven at Thunder Hills in Peosta, was

the Dubuque City Champion four times, and has won The Bradford at the Meadows two times.

Which all leads us to his recent goal, or goals.

“My goal is to qualify for another USGA (United State Golf Association) event, but my goal is also to qualify again for the U.S. Senior Amateur, but then, I want to go there and I want to make the cut,” Ihm said.

“I figure I’ve got about a three to four-year window, where my game will still be at a level that can compete,” he added.

At 61 years old, some might be wondering why Ihm waited as long as he did to pursue his dream of playing in a U.S. Senior Amateur. The simple answer to that is his kids, his very talented kids at that.

His oldest son Mike was a sensational golfer in high school, while his youngest son Steven and daughter Amy both played collegiate golf at the University of Iowa. Jim and Laurie were right there at nearly every match.

Steven, who was a three-time All-Big Ten golfer for the Hawkeyes, went on to

play professionally on the PGA’s Latin American Tour, the Korn Ferry Tour, the PGA Canada Tour and the Forme Tour.

He’s played in the John Deere Classic three times and the Bryon Nelson Classic once. He’s also played with professionals such as Jordan Spieth, Wyndham Clark, Steve Stricker, Zach Johnson, Adam Schenk and Sepp Straka to name a few.

Amy has quite an impressive golf resume as well. While at Iowa, she became only the second women’s golfer in program history to qualify for the NCAA regionals, and to this day still holds the program’s lowest scoring average.

“I should have probably competed more at the state level, but I had the time of my life following my kids in their careers,” Ihm said. “That was a five-year cycle where we were going all over the country following them, and it was just the time of our life. It was so fun.”

Ihm’s quest to qualify for the U.S. Senior Amateur began in August of 2021,

Jim Ihm | SEE 2B



In this photo, which ran in the Grant County Herald Independent on June 4, 1980, Jim Ihm (fourth from right) and members of the Lancaster boys’ golf team pose for a photo after winning the regional meet. Other team members included: (from left) Jerry Ihm, Doug Miles, Aaron Evens, Jim Ihm, Tim Farrey and coach John Girtman.

**Sharp-tailed grouse hunting remains closed for 2023**  
Waterfowl Hunters Expo is Aug. 26, in Oshkosh

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that although the spring population survey results indicate a slight increase, the sharp-tailed grouse hunting season remains closed for 2023. Permits and applications will not be available or accepted this year.

Each year, the sharp-tailed grouse advisory committee, consisting of interested conservation groups and DNR wildlife biologists, uses spring dancing ground surveys to evaluate the population’s size and make a recommendation about a hunting season. Based on the review of spring population data and lek distribution, concerns remain around the long-term viability of the sharp-tailed grouse population.

The recommendation to keep the sharp-tailed grouse hunting season closed follows the review of spring 2023 survey data, historical

data trends and scientific models that indicate a potential marked decrease in population viability if hunting were to occur this fall. 2023 will be the fifth year the season has been closed.

Although fall permits will not be issued this year, sharp-tailed grouse will retain their status as a game species, per state law. The DNR is continuing to focus on habitat management efforts that will increase population levels across their primary range. Those passionate about Wisconsin’s strong and historical tradition of sharp-tailed grouse hunting should be encouraged by the significant partnerships in the northwestern part of the state. Sharp-tailed grouse enthusiasts can watch for public involvement opportunities during the Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Plan update process, which is currently underway.

DNR staff are hopeful that the population

will continue to respond positively to ongoing focused habitat management efforts to restore the pine barrens and young forest habitats that sharp-tailed grouse depend upon for survival.

More information on sharp-tailed grouse hunting and management in Wisconsin and where to watch for public involvement opportunities on the management plan is available on the DNR’s Sharp-tailed Grouse Hunting and Management webpage.

**Unique Event for Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunters**

For those interested in waterfowl, the DNR is once again partnering to host the Waterfowl Hunters Expo on Aug. 26, 2023, at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh.

The Waterfowl Expo’s one-of-a-kind experience is open to waterfowl hunting enthusiasts of any age. The expo will feature hands-on exhibits for attendees to try and buy the latest in outdoor products and presentations from industry experts, habitat managers and waterfowl scientists. The event is family and dog-friendly, setting the stage for hunters to come together and experience everything waterfowl.

The Waterfowl Expo is also the new home of the state Waterfowl, Turkey and Pheasant stamp competition, as well as the state duck and goose calling contests.

More event and ticket information is available on the Waterfowl Hunters Expo website.