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# Pen City Current

Friday, Sept. 1, 2017 | 15 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 211

## Rodeo, Pinnacle, Ruan join Miller's "Helping Hands for Harvey" effort

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - FMHS sophomore Lexi Miller and her family have rallied this community in support of relief efforts for Texas, but the effort is now taking on a life of its own.

The Tri-State Rodeo Operating Committee is putting their support to "Helping Hands for Harvey" by giving a \$5 voucher to anyone bringing a donation to



next Friday night's events and Pinnacle is gathering donations, as well, and

Ruan Transportation has agreed to haul the goods to Texas.

"We are very impressed that this young lady took the initiative to start

the collection of needed items for the people affected by the hurricane in Texas. We wanted to help her with this project and offer our support to the people of Texas, where rodeo runs deep," said Josh Denning, Chairman for the Tri-State Rodeo.

Items needed include: Non-perishable food items; diapers; wipes; dog food; toys for children; clothing; blankets; first aid kits; baby formula; and toiletries. Please make sure items are new

See HARVEY, page 14

## ISP adds October tour dates to help fund federal report

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Iowa State Penitentiary will be hosting additional tour dates of the Historic Iowa State Penitentiary site in October.

The previous tour held in May, drew over 3500 people to experience what it is like inside the famous stone walls. There will be two dates in October that the public can once again see inside the historic facility whose roots extend back to 1839.

The additional tour dates are being offered in an effort to raise money for a necessary report that will enable the Department of Corrections to eventually release the property to the private sector or nonprofit for further development. A Historic Structures Report (HSR) is prescribed by the National Park service and will formerly evaluate the site's property condition and will provide recommendations as to the adaptive reuse. The HSR is expected to cost \$150,000 to \$200,000.

"We are hoping to work cooperatively with the non-profit, Historic Iowa State Penitentiary, to obtain the necessary funds for the study," Bowker said Thursday.

She couldn't comment on whether or not the the two tours are projected to make enough to fund the study or if other revenue sources were available, but had said in earlier reports that the state has indicated they do not have the money for the study.

Tours dates have been set for October 7th and 8th and will cost \$15 per ticket for those 12 and over. Children under 12 will be asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

ISP Warden Patty Wachtendorf and Executive Officer Rebecca Bowker were at the front of the line greeting tourists of the historic Iowa State Penitentiary during the last tours held in May.

Tickets are only available online at <https://squareup.com/store/iowa-state-penitentiary/>. There is limited ticketing offered for each designated time. There will be no refunds and the tour will occur rain or shine. Guests are asked to plan accordingly.

There will also be souvenirs available for purchase online as well as the day of the event.

All proceeds will be dedicated to paying for the HSR.

The public is asked to direct questions to [ispinfo@iowa.gov](mailto:ispinfo@iowa.gov) or by calling 319-376-4842.

## FMPD to step up patrols for Rodeo OWIs, traffic controls on police radar

FORT MADISON - Next week Fort Madison will host the 70th annual Tri-State Rodeo. During this time the Fort Madison Police Department along with the Lee County Sheriffs Office and the Iowa State Patrol will providing services to the residents and guests of Fort Madison including traffic control and enforcement efforts.

Enforcement efforts will be conducted with assistance of the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau. These efforts will focus on Operating While Intoxicated as well as all traffic offenses.

The Fort Madison Police Department wishes all attendees to the Tri-State Rodeo to have a safe and fun event.

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## Education News/For the Record

# FMCS D releases statement on anti-bullying efforts

*School has two new tools to help curtail incidences*

(Editor's Note: FMCS D Superintendent Erin Slater released the following statement today regarding the school's new anti-bullying efforts. Slater said no additional interviews would be conducted at this time.)

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the student and her family. School district policy and federal HIPPA laws prevent any discussion of student records. It is a brave choice by her father to make this private medical issue public. It does allow the Fort Madison Community School District the opportunity to inform parents about our student safety services.

Fort Madison Schools employ full time counselors and social workers at all buildings available to students. This is free. Several Fort Madison students take advantage of these free services and have regularly scheduled appointments at no charge.

The Fort Madison Community School District

takes the safety of our students as our highest priority.

Bullying in any form is not tolerated in our school district. Unfortunately bullying can be difficult to identify and if a student or parent does not report the incident, staff cannot act. Also, any bullying committed by persons who are not Fort Madison School District students must be reported to the police or sheriff's department.

I along with three members of our district staff including our Fort Madison Police Department School Resource Officer attended the national school safety conference this past summer.

We will be implementing two new services as a result of this conference. We will establish a districtwide threat assessment team as well as piloting an anonymous tip hotline app to report any safety concern.

Implementation of these initiatives has already begun.

Once again, the Fort Madison community school district continues to be highly committed to the safety and security of our students and staff.

*Erin M. Slater, Superintendent of Schools*

### For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report	Lee County Sheriff's Report
08/30/17 - 6:24 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 900 block of Avenue E.	the 4800 block of Avenue O. 08/30/17 - 4:26 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Dalton Jerald McKeown, 21 of Fort Madison, in the 4800 block of Avenue O on a three warrants for interference and a charge of 5th degree theft. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
08/30/17 - 7:45 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3900 block of Avenue L.	<b>Lee County Sheriff's Report</b>
08/30/17 - 8:11 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2700 block of Avenue J.	No incidents/arrests reported.
08/30/17 - 2:25 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1500 block Avenue H.	<b>Fort Madison Fire &amp; Rescue</b>
08/30/17 - 3:37 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1600 block of Avenue H.	08/29/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call.
08/30/17 - 3:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in	08/30/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call.
	<i>All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.</i>



**Great River Regional Waste Authority**  
presents:



**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual PREserve Lee County**

**Lee County Recycling Event**  
Wed., Sept. 13th  
7am - 5pm  
at the Ft. Madison GRRWA Location

**Open to all residents of Lee County!**  
Commercial & Business Fees apply to all businesses who wish to attend

---

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**APPLIANCES:** Residents may recycle one (1) household appliance per family for free. Fees apply for each additional appliance.

**ELECTRONICS:** Residents may recycle one (1) screened electronic for free. Fees apply for each additional screened electronic.

**Acceptable Computer Equipment:** Monitors, Servers, Desktops, PC's, laptops, Netbooks, Macs, Tablets, Keyboards, Mice, Speakers, Modems, Routers, Cables, Hardware, All Components & Accessories.

**Acceptable Audio & Video Equipment:** TV's, Blu-Rays, HD DVD, CD & DVD, Laserdisc, Betamax, DVR's, Cable & Satellite Receivers, Digital & Film Cameras, Amplifiers, Speakers, MP3 Players, Cassette Decks, Turntables, 8-Tracks, Boomboxes, Microphones, Mixers Gaming Consoles, Handheld Systems, Games, Controllers, Headsets.

**Misc. Electronic Equipment:** Telephones, Pagers, Cell Phones, Mobile Accessories, Lithium Batteries, Rechargeable Batteries, Vehicle Batteries, Lamps, Personal Hair Care Appliances, Christmas Lights, Video & Cassette Tapes and Other Miscellaneous Electronic Equipment (NO ALKALINE BATTERIES)

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection:**

**Acceptable HHW Items:** Fertilizer, Herbicides, Pesticides, Insecticides, Swimming Pool Chemicals, Household & Auto Cleaning Products, Motor Oil, Antifreeze, Auto Batteries, Lithium & Rechargeable Batteries, Oil Based Paints, Paint Thinners & Solvents, Propane Tanks & More!



**Meet ROCKY the Recycler**  
3:00pm - 5:00pm!

**RECYCLE FOR KIDS!**

GRRWA will be accepting bicycles in any condition free of charge. Recycled bicycles will be refurbished and given to kids in need throughout our community!





GRRWA will be collecting eye glasses for the **Lions Club Recycle for Sight** program. Drop off your gently used eye glasses to help those in need.

**Great River Regional Waste Authority**  
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Fort Madison, IA 52627  
1-319-372-6140




**Charles Vandenberg, Editor**  
(319).371.1670  
editor@pencitycurrent.com

**Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager**  
(319).371.4125  
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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**Pen City Current**  
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P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

**Nissa Rung, Advertising**  
(319).520.8953  
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

**Shawna Ross, Advertising**  
(319).470.0622  
sross@pencitycurrent.com

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# Obituaries/Area News

## OBITUARIES

### ROBERT WILLIAM KRAMER, JR.

Robert William Kramer Jr., 76 years old, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 5:18 am Thursday, August 31, 2017 at his home. He was born July 28, 1941 in Clinton, Iowa a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Martin) Jacobs. He was adopted and raised by Robert William Kramer Sr. On March 29, 1958, he married Zella Bearbower.



KRAMER

Bob attended Clinton High School. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force. He was a self employed general contractor. He loved building and remodeling and helped others during natural disasters. He liked cars, playing pool, and wood carving. He was a Latter Day Saint.



He is survived by his wife, Zella Kramer of Fort Madison; two sons, Robert William (Tracy) Kramer III of Fort Madison and Scott (Linda) Kramer of Holiday, Florida; one daughter, Bette Royer of Fort Madison; one brother, Steve (Sheila) Kramer of Florida; one aunt Florence "Bug" Holle of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; 14 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and one cousin. He was preceded in death by his parents, adoptive father, one brother John Kramer; one daughter Brenda PeKerol; and one step grandson Devin Royer.

His body has been cremated. No formal services are planned at this time. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Kramer Family may be at [www.barrmemorial-chapel.com](http://www.barrmemorial-chapel.com). Barr Memorial Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

### Keokuk reports fake \$100s

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Keokuk Police Department has been receiving complaints from businesses about counterfeit one hundred dollar bills.

The bills have foreign writing in bright pink on the front and back of the bills. In some instances suspects have covered the pink writing by smearing black ink over the writing. The Keokuk Police



Department is asking area businesses and individuals to be observant when taking hundred dollar bills and inspect them accordingly.

Please direct all inquiries to Detective Whitaker with the Keokuk Police Department at 319-524-7704 or local law enforcement.



### IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

#### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm

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Lucky Ball: 12

**Pick 3 iowa**  
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5 8 1  
8/31 EVENING  
6 1 7

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6 7 5 7  
8/31 EVENING  
6 8 6 4

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## Tri-State Rodeo News

# Bullfighters ramp up Friday rodeo action

Courtesy of Tri-State Rodeo

FORT MADISON - If you need another reason to attend the Tri-State Rodeo Friday night event, this could be it. The Tri-State Rodeo in Fort Madison, Iowa will be hosting a Bullfighters Only (BFO) event on Friday, September 8th immediately following the rodeo competition. Three bull-

fighters, Dusty Tuckness, Dayton Spiel, and Tanner Zarnetski will use their skills to connect with the fighting bull to win points and prize money.

Bullfighters can earn up to 50 points for control, aggression, style and creativity – the fighting bull (Toro) can also accumulate 50 points for aggression, speed, staying

engaged with the fighter and agility – so it would be like scoring points for Dancing with the Stars. There are a total of 100 points possible. Each ‘fight’ is also timed. While each bout can last up to one minute, the bullfighters may “declare” any time after 40 seconds ending the fight without risking any point deductions.

If the bullfighter fails to reach the warning bell he is disqualified. Each bullfighter has two chances to fight the bull with his scores averaged for a total.

So let’s meet our contenders for the Tri-State Rodeo:

Dusty Tuckness: Hometown – Meeteese, Wyoming; 8x National Final Rodeo Bullfighter; 7x Bullfighter of the Year – currently ranked #3 BFO World Standings

Dayton Spiel: Hometown - Parade, South Dakota – currently ranked #6 BFO World Standings

Tanner Zarnetski: Hails from Terrell, Texas – Currently ranked #10 BFO World Standings

The fighting bull is categorized by its aggressive behavior. They are more athletic looking than other bulls, both male and female have horns and weigh anywhere from 1100-1600 pounds.

The Tri-State Rodeo is an annual event held in Fort Madison, Iowa. This year’s event will be held Wednesday, September 6th through Saturday, September 9th. Fast-action cowboy competition will be followed by

national music acts – Thursday, Cody Johnson, Friday, Smash Mouth and Saturday, Jon Pardi. The Rough Ryders will play

each night in the Coors Party Pavilion. For tickets call 319-372-2550 or go online at [www.tristaterodeo.org](http://www.tristaterodeo.org).

## FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

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**2017**  
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CORES FOR YOU IN HAMILTON, IL!  
DATE: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH  
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TIME: 10:00AM - 2:00PM  
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Team Staffing will be holding a job fair at Cores For You. There will be Plant tours, refreshments, on-site interviews, and multiple giveaways!!

**70TH**

# TRI-STATE **RODEO**

**ANNUAL**

**SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2017**

**Fort Madison, IA**



**Thur., Sept. 7**

**PRCA**

**Rodeo Action**

followed by

**Cody Johnson**

*Country Artist*



**Wed., Sept. 6**  
**CINCH Shootout**

The best cowboys  
in the country  
competing for  
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in prize money

**Fri., Sept. 8**  
**PRCA**

**Rodeo Action**

with

**Smash Mouth**

*rocking the stage*

**Sat., Sept. 9**  
**PRCA**

**Rodeo Action**

followed by

**Jon Pardi**

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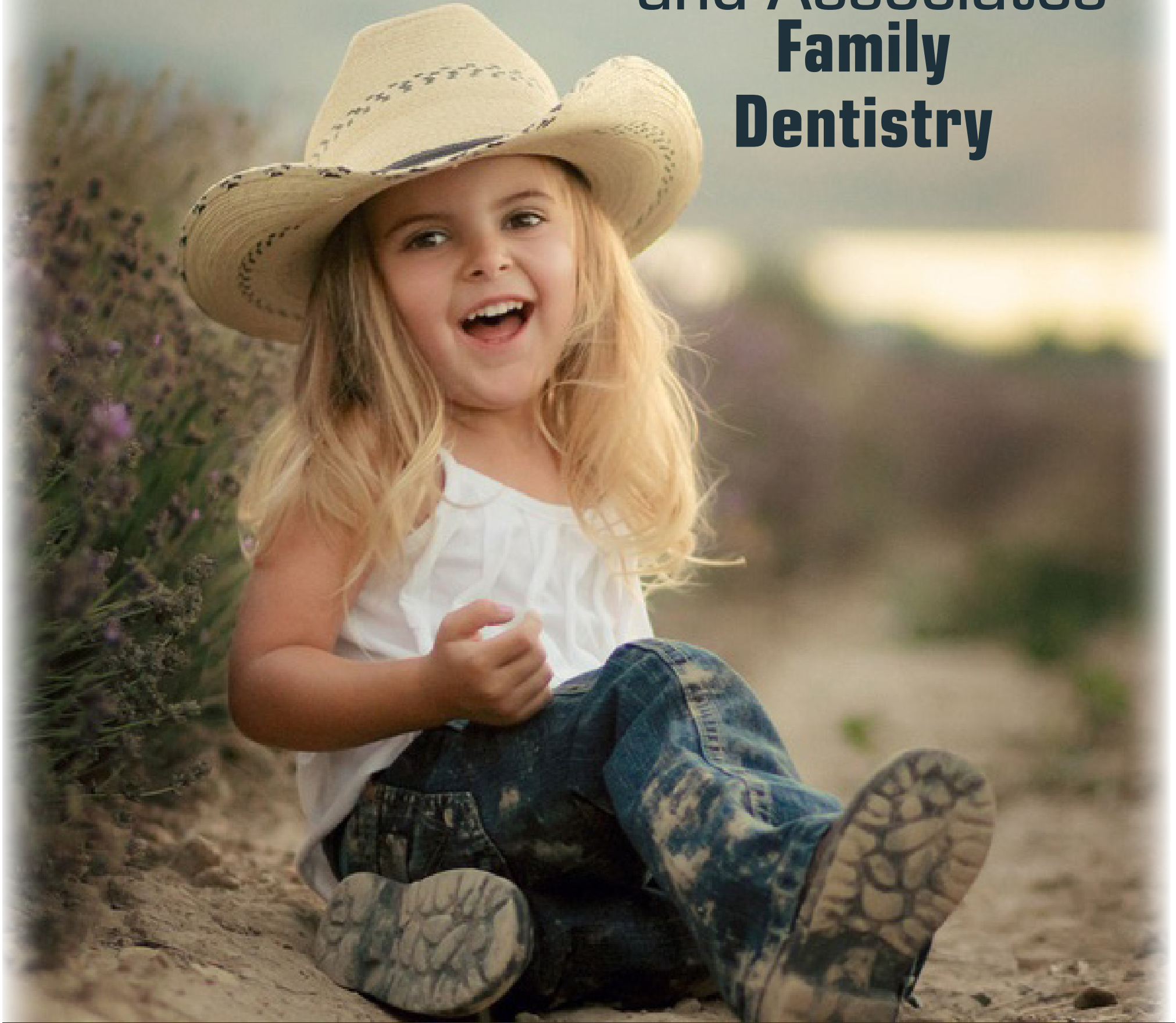
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## Sports

# Pheasant, quail numbers skewed

*Courtesy of Iowa DNR*  
**DES MOINES** - It happens about as often as a total eclipse, but results from the Iowa roadside pheasant survey, conducted during the first two weeks of August, are not lining up with what is being reported from the field and by landowners from around the state.

"Survey results indicate a statewide average pheasant population decline of 30 percent and quail population decline of 23 percent, but pheasant brood sightings are up statewide and quail are being reported everywhere in the quail range," said Todd Bogenschutz, upland wildlife biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources who coordinates the survey.

So what happened? The lack of dew in Iowa's ditches and fields during the survey timeframe is likely a major factor skewing this year's survey results, he said.

"Most of Iowa was listed as somewhere between being abnormally dry, in a drought or in a severe drought, during the survey. We need heavy dew

when we do our surveys because it's the dew that causes the hen to move her brood from the protective cover to the gravel road to dry off before they begin feeding," said Bogenschutz. "We coordinate our routes with that dry-off period. Without the dew, there is no reason for her to expose her chicks."

He said major factors influencing annual changes in pheasant numbers are overwinter hen survival, brood survival and nest success. In years when snowfall is less than 30 inches, pheasant survival is good. Warm, dry springs increase nesting success. A mix of the two will nudge the counts one way or the other.

Most of Iowa had a below-average winter and a wetter-than-normal spring. Based on those weather indicators, Iowa should have a stable to a slight decrease in the pheasant population.

"During the past 54 years, we've had three years with weather similar to this year, the most recent in 2015, and in two of those years our pheasant population was status quo

and one year it increased. This year's results do not agree with these past years with similar weather," he said.

"In a nutshell, drought conditions probably lead to a poor survey count in 2017," he said.

Bogenschutz said he expects almost a repeat of 2016 pheasant season, where hunters harvested about 250,000 roosters.

He said the drought is also likely responsible for fewer quail counted.

"I've been hearing from landowners and field staff who reported numerous males calling this spring, which indicates good winter survival. If a person has ever thought about hunting quail, they should head to southern Iowa this fall. This could be the best quail hunting we've had in

nearly 30 years," Bogenschutz said.

The complete August roadside survey can be found at [www.iowadnr.gov/pheasantsurvey](http://www.iowadnr.gov/pheasantsurvey).

Iowa is experiencing a gradual change in its upland habitat. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, between 1990 and 2016, Iowa lost nearly 3,000 square miles of small grains, hay land and land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - all potential pheasant habitat.

"That's equivalent to a strip of habitat 10 miles wide stretching from Omaha to Davenport. With the loss of small grains and hay lands to corn and soybean production, CRP is critical for Iowa pheasants," said Bogenschutz.

*Fort Madison United Methodist Church*  
 9th Street & Avenue E  
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### Rodeo Luncheon

Saturday, September 9th  
 Serving begins after the Rodeo Parade till 1:00pm

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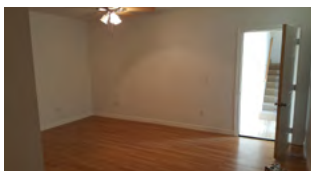
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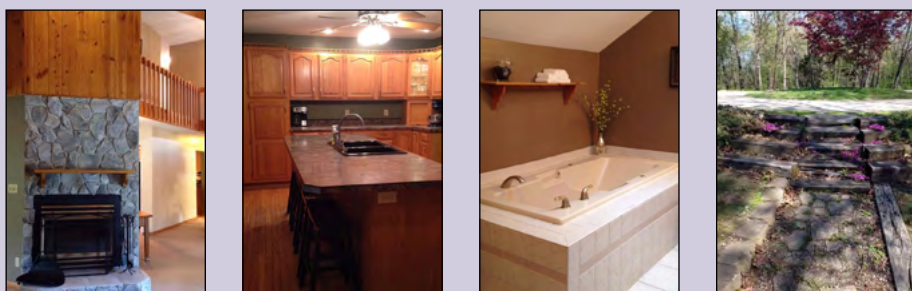
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# Sports/Weather

## Area Fishing Report - Aug. 31, 2017

*Courtesy of Iowa DNR*

### Big Hollow Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: The crappie bite has picked up some. Try in the flooded timber and down about 8 feet. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Go shallow in the early morning and late evening; as the day gets warmer flow them out to deeper water. Bluegill - Fair: Try around the jetties and the deeper sides of the island where the bluegills still have access to deeper water.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)  
The river level is holding

pretty constant right now. The water is fairly shallow, but small jon boats or jet boats still have enough water to navigate. Channel Catfish - Fair: Look for the deeper holes with brush piles; getting to them is the hard part.

### Lake Belva Deer

The lake is in pretty good condition. Water is fairly clear with just a little duckweed floating around from the marsh up above the lake. Bluegill - Good: Bluegill fishing has picked back up. They are still out in the deeper 10- to 12-foot

water, but with a few more cool nights expect to see them come in shallower. Channel Catfish - Excellent: Catfish are biting. Look for them in the upper end of the lake where the arm from the north connects to the main lake. Black Crappie - Good: Anglers are starting to catch crappies. They are still out in the 10-foot depth range vertical jigging or slip bobbers with minnows.

### Lake Darling

The water temperature is holding on to 78 degrees. There is a planktonic algae bloom, but a little wind or

rain will fix that. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Use soft plastics on the shallow edge of the drop-offs. Black Crappie - Good: The crappie fishing is picking back up. Most anglers are anchored out over the deeper habitat in 10- to 12-feet of water. Bluegill - Fair: Bluegills are still out in the deeper water; don't be surprised if you catch a few in shallow in the morning.

### Lake Geode

Bluegill - Fair: Bluegills are starting to work the outer edges of the water willow beds close to deeper water.

Largemouth Bass - Good: Work the outer edges of the water willow beds and around the fallen trees in the lake.

### Lost Grove Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Catch decent numbers of bass in shallower water during the early morning and late evening. They are deeper the rest of the day. Channel Catfish - Fair: Work the face of the dam and along the old creek channel below the causeway. Black Crappie - Good: Crappie fishing has improved. They are still out in the deeper water in the trees.

### Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

Another little bump at the end of last week from the rains, but the Skunk has dropped back down to level before the rains. It's a fun time to canoe down the Skunk right now. There are a lot of things to see that are normally covered up by water. Channel Catfish - Good: Use a canoe or kayak to get to the more distant holes. For more information on the above lakes and rivers, contact the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 01 Sep



Clear Skies  
High - 70.7° F | Low - 52.3° F

SAT 02 Sep



Clear Skies  
High - 71.8° F | Low - 62.7° F

SUN 03 Sep



Clear Skies  
High - 81.0° F | Low - 69.0° F

MON 04 Sep



Clear Skies  
High - 84.5° F | Low - 64.5° F

TUE 05 Sep



Clear Skies  
High - 66.3° F | Low - 48.0° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)



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# Helping Hands for Harvey has taken on life of its own

**HARVEY** - Continued from Page 1

or in good shape.

"I also want to thank our community partners for stepping up to be drop off locations for this project. Like the Tri-State Rodeo itself, it takes a community to make positive things happen," Denning said.

Amy Hayes, Lexi Miller's mother, said a Pinnacle official emailed her and will be donating 180 blanket kits and 23 cases of breakfast bars to the effort.

"An employee had forwarded the information to their offices and now they are collecting donations to make these blanket bags that have toiletries in them and can be handed out as kits," Hayes said. "The email said Pinnacle would be honored to donate those items to Lexi."

The effort began with Lexi approaching the high school, who found a staff sponsor, and started putting donation boxes in the school. Then, within hours, the athletic department agreed to have donation boxes outside each entry way to the football game and vehicles on hand to move the goods into a truck on the property.

Hayes said the Fort Madison Middle School is now also involved with asking students and parents to donate at that school as well.

Other places in the community where donations can be taken to receive the \$5 voucher for the rodeo include: Huffman Farm and Home, Ameriprise Financial-Josh Denning & Assoc., Kempker's True-Value, Lee County Bank, Connection Bank (Fort Madison and Keokuk), and Sub-Arena.

Vouchers can be used to purchase tickets at the Tri-State Rodeo ticket office located on the rodeo grounds or by calling 319-372-2550. The voucher will need to be turned in when picking up the tickets.

Several other locations including the schools, Shottenkirk, and 4B Tack are

also accepting donations for the efforts.

Hayes said that some news outlets are saying that clothing is not a good item to donate, but she disagrees.

"These people are losing everything, their clothing, furnishings, and what not. A news article said something about the groups don't know what to do with high heels and stuff like that. Give them to people so they can go to job interviews. Why are people so inside the box? I don't agree with that," she said.

But Miller is now the focus of a lot of media attention. Pen City Current interviewed Lexi on Monday but chose not to do a follow-up at this point so she can focus on school work and athletics and the fundraising effort. PCC will request a follow-up with her after the fundraising is complete.

Hayes said area television news groups, radio, and the Associated Press have all contacted her for interviews and features on her efforts in Fort Madison.

"This has snowballed quickly. We started on Monday and by Wednesday we had so many businesses wanting to help and so many places that are willing to have collection sites at their businesses. And a float is being planned for the Tri-State Rodeo parade next Saturday to collect donations from anyone who wants to bring them to the parade. Walkers will accept the donations and place them on the float.

She said logistics are still being worked out on storing the goods, but Ruan Transportation, with a hub in West Burlington, has agreed to ship all the goods to Texas as of 2 p.m. Thursday.

"Lexi, Jimmie, and I appreciate everyone's willingness to help and we can't say enough about how great this community's support has been," Hayes said.

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