

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and **Read** all over

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 | 9 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 153



www.pencitycurrent.com

PRE RODEO WEEK

Rodeo Royalty



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Blakely Piklapp, 6, from Huxley, Iowa is coronated as the 2022 Little Miss Rodeo Monday night at the Tri-State Rodeo grounds. At bottom left, Lane Reynolds holds on for a ride on his sheep during the afternoon session of the Mutton Bustin' competition, and below right, Ryan Van Fleet takes a fall off a calf out of Chute 2 at the Tri-State Rodeo Arena Monday afternoon.



Lil Spurs: Perfect weather sets stage for close to 250 kids to go buck wild

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The 2022 Pre-Rodeo activities week are all but wrapped up this week with the exception of the Chairman's Dinner on Tuesday night and Pee-Wee Barrel qualifying at the Saddle Club.

But mother nature smiled widely on the other events with cool temperatures and overcast skies highlighted the annual Pancake Breakfast and Special Kids Rodeo on Saturday.

Lisa Wood, who's been a part of the Special Kids Rodeo for more than two decades said the weather was beautiful for a group of special rodeo cowboys and cowgirls.

Wood said turnout was just a little under last year, but some things were changed up just a bit.

"We were almost at 200 kids, which is a little less than last year. We changed things a bit," she said "They didn't want us to pack the whole arena this year so we moved it around and

See **RODEO**, page 8

LOCAL NEWS

KFC delivers for PAW shelter project

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Colonel delivered Saturday to the PAW Animal Shelter near Fort Madison.

This wasn't your usual delivery service bringing a meal, although they did, KFC officials from southeast Iowa brought lunch, drinks, cake and a check... for \$10,000.

PAW Director Sandy Brown, who was at the shelter for a meeting Saturday and was just on her way out, came out to a surprise check presentation from Kathy Neff and several KFC officials from the area.

Brown grabbed Neff and cried when she showed her the award. It's one of KFC's Make A Wish grants that are given out each year to submitted programs based on an application and criteria.

Erin Rechtfertig, Area Supervisor with KFC and Andrew Sheaffer General Manager of the Burlington restaurant were on hand to present the check, along with lunch, some drinks, a cake and flowers.

"It takes a lot to make me cry," Brown said. "God is good, whew, I always know that and I should never be surprised. I just don't have a quote. I'm speechless and you know I'm never speechless."

Neff said she was notified of the grant program and said she knew the shelter had a lot of needs so she submitted it on behalf of their behalf.

"We got a notice from KFC telling us we could nominate people. I'm from here and I know how she struggles and I asked if I could do it, They said "yep", and we got one of 50 awards out of about 4,000 worldwide."

Brown, who wept and hugged Neff, who lives in Fort Madison and is a manager in the KFC system, said the funds will go to the new \$6.8 million shelter project. The funds will be added to the \$112,000 the shelter raised Monday with the Jordan's Way project.

As of Saturday at 10 a.m. according to the PAW Facebook page, the group had raised \$122,500 and were just \$2,500 short of their goal.

Neff said the shelter should get official notification of the funds on the Colonel's (Sanders) birthday, September 9th.

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

THU 07 Sep.....Sunny and warm, 83° F/ 59° F
FRI 08 Sep.....Sunny and warm, 84° F/ 61° F
SAT 09 Sep.....Mostly sunny and warm, 84° F/ 61° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 09/05.....2 30 36 39 46, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 09/05.....5 10 21 37 39, Lucky Ball: 12
PICK 3 09/05 MIDDAY.....0 5 9
PICK 3 09/05 EVENING.....5 6 8
PICK 4 09/05 MIDDAY.....14 7 6
PICK 4 09/05 EVENING.....2 4 4 3
POWERBALL 09/05.....4 7 32 55 64, Powerball: 25 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

FREDRICK E. VRADENBURG, JR.

Fredrick E. "Fred" Vradenburg Jr., 72, of Fort Madison, passed away on Monday, September 5, 2022 at 6:58 PM at his home.

He was born on February 17, 1950 in Keokuk to Fredrick E. Vradenburg, Sr. and Darlene M. Carle Vradenburg. On July 10, 1976 he married Carol Nelson in Kahoka, MO. Fred worked at Huffman Welding and retired after thirty-five years. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing pool, listening and singing to 60's & 70's music and was a mechanic and could fix anything he got his hands on. Most of all Fred loved his family, especially his grandchildren.



Survivors include his wife, Carol Vradenburg of Ft. Madison; two daughters, Jessica (Jerrod) Blum of Kahoka and Christina (Phillip) Eaves of Ft. Madison; one son, Scott Vradenburg Mann of Kermit, TX; nine grandchildren and one great grandchild; four sisters, Juanita Mullen of Montrose, Cathy Tschiersch and Karen Vradenburg both of Hot Springs, AR and Annette McCarty of Keokuk; two brothers, Mike Vradenburg of Washington, IA and Roger Vradenburg of Keokuk; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers; one sister and one grandchild.

Per his wishes, cremation as been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and there will be no services at this time. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynkfh.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.



**Lunch Specials
Sept 5 - 9
11am - 1pm**

**Monday, September 5 • NO LUNCH SERVED
Labor Day • OPEN 7:30 - NOON**

Tuesday, September 6

Tenderloin, Tater Tots, Jello Salad

Wednesday, September 7

Carved Ham, Loaded Potatoes, Sweet Corn

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
FRIED CHICKEN DINNERS**

**Friday, September 2
Grilling on the Sidewalk**

OBITUARIES

RORY S. EID

Rory Scott Eid, 57, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 6:56 p.m. on Sunday, September 4, 2022 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison. He was born on January 24, 1965 in Fort Madison, IA to Ervin & Elsie Reed Eid. He married Lisa M. Frey on August 25, 2001 in Fort Madison, IA. He worked in maintenance at the Formad Warehouse for almost 25 years. He enjoyed doing yardwork and especially riding his Harley Davidson. He had a great love for his family and was always willing to help with any project that anyone had to do.



Scott is survived by: his wife: Lisa Eid of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Emily Eid of Fort Madison, IA; 1-step son: Jerime Pope of Fort Madison, IA; 1-brother: Rick (Natalie) Eid of Fort Madison, IA; 3-sisters: Rona (Kenny White) Eid, Robyn McWhortor & Rochelle (Ronald) Stegall all of Fort Madison, IA; his mother-in-law: Phyllis Frey of Fort Madison, IA and 1-sister-in-law: Rhonda Eid of Fort Madison, IA. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 1-brother, Randy Eid and 1-nephew, Landon Eid.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Online condolences to the Eid family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

PHYLLIS J. NIXON

Phyllis Jeanne Nixon, 96, of rural Dallas City, Illinois, passed away at 10:16 a.m. Thursday, September 1, 2022 at her home.

Phyllis was born October 24, 1925 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of William Albert and Ruth (Fightmaster) Whittemore. She married her husband of 75 years, James Rae Nixon, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. He preceded her in death November 5, 2019.



NIXON

Mrs. Nixon worked for a short time at Sheaffer Pen in Fort Madison. She enjoyed raising her children and helping her husband on the farm anyway she could. She also enjoyed gardening and sewing; especially sewing western clothing for friends and family. She loved her pets.

Phyllis was a member of the former Dallas City United Methodist Church, where she taught Sunday School for many years. She was currently a member of the Durham United Methodist Church.

Survivors include two sons: Jim (Randy) Nixon and Timothy Nixon both of Dallas City; two grandsons: Rusty Nixon and Mike (Tammi) May and three great-grandchildren.

Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by one daughter: Diana Lyn May, three sisters and two brothers.

A graveside service for both James Rae and Phyllis will be held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, September 8, 2022 at Harris Cemetery, near Dallas City, Illinois.

A memorial fund has been established for the Durham United Methodist Church. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Mrs. Nixon's obituary at banksandbeals.com. Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Dallas City is assisting the family.

Touching the Community with Care

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PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

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Opinion

BESIDE THE POINT

Get in the game... or get off the field

I'm not a rich man, sometimes its a challenge just to remain a happy man.

As we get older the philosophies of life - the aches and pains - death, all on occasions smack you right in the mouth, and then run and hide only to peek around the corner at you regularly through obituaries, stories, and tragedy.

I don't ever want to be a rich man, I think it carries a heavy price and takes an even heavier toll.

We set up Pen City Current to be a mechanism where local people with news to share and business to peddle could do so at a very marketable rate and reach 1,000s of people. We're not pristine in that effort, sometimes things run awry, as is the case of just about any operation, group, or family.

But I try to contribute to the success of programs when and where we can and when we can afford it. It's part of being a good corporate citizen. Others can and do more, but when I think of the percentage of my income to those of other more established companies, I think we do okay.

Because...

We love progress. We contribute to school programs, PAW efforts, theater groups, and other entities to see progress. We don't begrudge those that make progress happen.

That's why it's so disheartening, and sometimes just a bit maddening, to see the traffic that follows our news on social media.

We had stories this week on the new vacant property ordinance that's going into effect, and the Block Building downtown. Everybody screaming that someone's out to make a buck.

Yeah... they are. Cool by me. Where are you?

People complain they didn't know about properties that were sold by the city to developers, yet the city is required to publish anything that has to do with real estate sales or acquisitions. The point is this, if you want to know... know. Do your homework.

It's amazing to me how much rumor is out there about everthing. Oh my God, the things I could write if I could just publish rumor. I would be a rich man. But how is it that the rumor mill dies when there's a property move coming?



The people that are being dragged unfairly through the mud on social media are

the ones who are writing the checks. The checks to fix up dilapidated property, to build a marina, to tear down abandoned, blighted buildings and either clear the lot for future development or even begin future development.

If they make money on that, it's simply an investment and it's a risk and they manage the risk and hopefully take a profit. That's pretty freakin' simple. And it gets more and more frustrating to hear from those that missed the boat or simply don't have the means to do those critical infrastructure needs.

I'm talking about the Mohrfelds and the Barkers and the many others out there without the bigger public exposure that do just that. They are cleaning up your town for you. They should get something for the work.

Some lady called me Monday while the Jordan's Way program was going on at the shelter. One that raised close to \$125,000. She said the Kris Rotunda, the founder of animal advocacy group, takes a percentage of the funds.

So.... what! Find a hobby.

Jordan's Way has opened the PAW shelter to close to \$200,000 in operating and new construction funds in two year. That money doesn't come if he doesn't come and he's got expenses and, wait for it.... invested in that program to help others. He should get paid.

There are other groups and families in this town that give and give and give and then get drawn and quartered in social media and the rumor mill. We have to recognize who the players are... and let them play. If you want in the damn game, get in the damn game.

Don't be the angry parent on the sideline yelling that your kid isn't in there because he doesn't have the tools to play. Get in the game or get out of the way.

And on games, Friday night was more emotional for me than I ever would have imagined. My nephew Hayden, whom I just adore, scored the first touch-down on swing pass from about seven yards out. I was thrilled and ticked off at the same time. Talk about weird emotions.

He came up and we embraced after the game and I wept for a minute. It's probably the last time I'll get to see him play, but there aren't many that were happier than me that Doherty's boys got it done 17-6 - But That's Beside Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at charles.v@pencity-current.com.

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Sports

HOUND FOOTBALL

Bloodhounds grind out win over WB/ND 17-6

Fort Madison gets standout defensive efforts with Segoviano leading the way

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It was Hero's Night honoring first responders and military personnel in attendance at Jim Youel Field on Friday night in Fort Madison, but there were a couple other heroes on the field at the end of the night that helped the Hounds secure a 17-6 win over West Burlington in non-district action.

The Falcons opened the scoring with a touchdown on an 85-yard, 12-play drive that saw the West Burlington Notre Dame convert three 3rd downs and two 4th down plays with a couple big penalties in the mix.

A personal foul on 4-9 in that drive helped keep the Falcons on the field and eventually score when senior Hayden Vandenberg caught a screen pass running right after and bulled in from 7 yards into the right corner for a 6-0 lead.

The Hounds had two key penalties in the drive. One was a personal foul that gave West Burlington new life on 4th and 9.

Fort Madison Head Coach Derek Doherty said he would love to go back and replay all the third downs where the Hounds shot themselves in the foot.

"Shout out to the defensive staff. They had these guys queued up in what we need to do West Burlington did a nice job on things that caught us off guard. But we felt



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Mateo Lozano chases West Burlington's Caden Schwenker during Fort Madison's 17-6 win over the Falcons Friday

we made the proper adjustments to get to third down and then we find a way to shoot ourselves," Doherty said.

The Hounds didn't shoot themselves too badly as they returned the favor on a four-yard Teague Smith 4-yard bull run off tackle carrying a few Falcons with him to tie things up at 6. Leif Boeding added the extra point for the lead with 10:32 left in the first quarter.

Both teams went 4-and-out over the next several series, but the Hounds would get the lead for good when Boeding hit his second field goal of the year against zero misses.

Quarterback Aiden Boyer completed a couple passes with just over 5 minutes left in the first period, and then three incomplete to set up 4th and 7 from the 20 yard line for a 10-6 lead.

Fort Madison would get the final score of the game in the third quarter when Boeding again kicked a partially blocked ball high and threw for a 27 yard field goal to make it 17-6.

No other team would score again, but the Falcons put together a nifty 9-play drive that spanned the 3rd quarter buzzer and the final period. The drive stalled at the 8, when a Cacen Schwenker pass fell to the ground giving the Hounds a turnover on downs.

Doherty said the Hounds have to learn from the penalties and control their own destiny.

"If we can go back and replay those third downs I really do believe it's a different ball game. We're happy with getting out of here with a win," Doherty said.

He said the Hounds are still looking for their stride.

"I mean were trying to find our stride here. We're not the team of the last two years and we knew what we had. We're trying to find that magic if you will. We may have to go back and reassess," Dennis Doherty, head football coach."

One the issues they may also reassess, is the play selection. Sophomore Teague Smith carried the workload out of the backfield, sharing carries with quarterback Aidan Boyer.

"Teague is a workhorse and we can feed him and feed him. He has no quit in him," Doherty said. "Segoviano - Hayden's come a long ways. We're really proud of him and his decision to play the way he has been. It's a mental thing with him and he's decided and he's played well," Doherty said.

"Hayden's come a long ways. We're really proud of him and his decision to play the way he has been. It's a mental thing with him and he's decided and he's played well."

Segoviano agreed.

"The first game I had a couple tackles and thought I did alright, but we're going up against a solid West Burlington team and I thought he did some good things," he said.

"I know my role is to have to play LI may not be an big offensive guy, but when I am on the field I'm going to give 110% for whatever helps my team.

Teague Smith said the coaching staffs were making things a bit difficult

"We kinda changed up what were doing at half time. We all just gritted down and got the job done. The line opened up some big holes and it's really nice to run behind those guys.

Smith said moving the offense around and going to the air splitting up the run and throw opened up some nice holes in the second half.

Boyer through for 113 yards on 14/20 passes. Smith led the Hounds on the ground with 81 yards on 13 carries a couple scores. Segoviano led the Hounds in tackles with 9, a sack for a 21-yard loss in the win.

The Hounds improved to 2-0 on the year and travel to Fairfield on next Friday.

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Sports

HAWKS FOOTBALL

Central Lee gets first gridiron win since 2019

Johnson goes for three scores as Hawks take down Cardinal of Eldon

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

CARDINAL - The Central Lee Hawks had big reasons to celebrate Friday after knocking off Cardinal of Eldon 34-14 on the road in Class 2A, District 6 football action.

It was the first win for the Hawks' program since Oct. 25, 2019 when they beat Davis County 28-6.

The Hawks jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the first quarter when sophomore Chase Johnson did what he does best and bulled in on short yardage with a 2-yard TD run.

Central Lee tried the 2-point conversion but it failed and the 6-0 lead held up through the first quarter. With 11:14 left in the second quarter junior Hunter Gregory took one off-tackle for five yards and a score. This time the 2-pointer pass from Cory Jones to Johnson was complete and the Hawks owned a 14-0 lead.



JOHNSON

But Cardinal came back with a couple touchdown runs of their own at the 8:01 mark and again with 1:51 left to tie things up at 14 with two successful PAT kicks.

The Hawks then worked the final drive of the first half down to the 10-yard line. Cory Jones found Johnson again and Johnson slipped into the endzone for his second TD of the night.

Gregory rammed in the 2-point conversion and the Hawks had a 22-14 lead going into the lockerroom.

Both teams went scoreless in the third quarter and then the Hawks put up a couple insurance touchdowns to cap things off.

Jones took a keeper in from two yards out, but the conversion pass was dropped for a 28-14 lead and then just 98 seconds later, Johnson ripped off a 17-yard scoring run for his third TD of the game to set the final at 34-14.

Johnson had 89 yards on 18 carries and Gregory complimented nicely with 73 yards on 14 tries.

Jones threw for 78 yards on 4/9 passing with a TD. Corben Pohren had 35 yards on one catch and Bo Herdrich had 30 yards on one catch.

On the other side of the ball, Gregory had 8.5 tacklets including five solo. James Hemingsen had six tackles and Blake Bergman had a sack for the Hawks.

Central Lee (1-1) returns home to take on Albia (1-1) in a 7 p.m. contest in Donnellson Friday night.

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PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
NEW CONSTRUCTION
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Notice to Bidders
Iowa Department of
Natural Resources**

Starting July 27th, 2022, the Department of Natural Resource will be accepting sealed construction bids via email. Sealed bids will be received by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, at the Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA, 50319-0034, or via email at constructionbids@dnr.iowa.gov until 11:00am, September 22, 2022 for the public improvement projects listed below, at which time they will be opened publicly. After the bid opening, bid results may be obtained by visiting the Department's website at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp>. In

addition to attending the bid opening in person, interested parties may also call in to the following number to listen to the bid opening: Conference call number: +1 (484) 416-2391 PIN: 133-543-968# In order to improve sound quality, please mute your phone by pressing *6. If you have questions, you can unmute your phone by pressing *6. Sealed bids sent via email must be sent to constructionbids@dnr.iowa.gov. All bids, and required documentation, must contain a scanned original signature. – Electronic signatures are not allowed. When emailing bid documents, the subject line of the email must state the following: Project Number, Project Name, and Bid Letting Date. Please ensure the first page of the emailed attachment, or first of multiple attachments, is

the bid proposal. No bids shall be accepted via FAX. Note: The United States Postal Service (USPS) does not deliver mail or packages directly to the address provided above but rather to the Capitol Complex Mail Room. Extra time should be allotted for proposals sent by the USPS. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources shall not consider bids if they are not received by the Department of Natural Resources mail room or reception staff, by the time and date described in this Notice to Bidders, regardless of whether the bid was mailed or received at the Capitol Complex Mail Room or other state government location prior to that time and date. Project documents, including drawings, specifications, proposal forms, and addenda items for the project are available at Beeline and Blue, at 2507 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines IA 50312. Please visit www.beelineandblue.com or contact (515) 244-1611 for more information. Alternatively, Bid Documents can be viewed or printed online at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/>

engreal/projectlist.asp. The Department shall comply with all public improvement procurement laws, as outlined in the plans and specifications and including but not limited to: Iowa Code chapter 26 related to public construction bidding; Iowa Code chapter 73 related to preferences; Iowa Code chapter 573 related to labor and materials on public improvements; rules promulgated by the Department of Administrative Services – General Services Enterprise as they may apply; rules promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission, as they may apply; and any federal statutes, rules and/or executive orders that may be associated depending on funding sources. Bidders shall comply with these laws to be considered and are encouraged to be familiar with public improvement procurement requirements and the bidding documents before submitting a bid. Each bidder shall accompany the bid with a bid security as defined in Iowa code section 26.8. Scanned copies of the bid

security will be accepted for those bidders submitting bids electronically. Additionally, the submission of an electronic bid security in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order, the original security must be mailed to the Department at the Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319 within (5) business days of the bid letting date. The bid security must be in an amount set forth in the bidding documents and made payable to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Failure to execute a contract for the proposed work and file an acceptable Performance Bond, in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price and a certificate of liability insurance, within thirty (30) days of the date of the award of the contract, will be just and sufficient cause for the rescinding of the award and the forfeiture of the bid security.

DES MOINES COUNTY PROJECT NO. 22-06-29-01
Geode State Park Reconstruct Beach/

Boat Ramp Parking Lot Proposal Guarantee: \$100,000.00
Completion Date: 09/29/2023
Project Description: This project consists of reconstructing parking lots with PCC pavement.

JOHNSON COUNTY PROJECT NO. 22-06-52-01
Lake MacBride State Park North Shore Parking Lot Expansion
Proposal Guarantee: \$25,000.00
Completion Date: 09/29/2023
Project Description: This project consists of constructing a PCC parking lot extension.

WARREN COUNTY PROJECT NO. 22-05-91-07
Lake Ahquabi State Park Beach and Shelter Restroom
Proposal Guarantee: \$25,000.00
Completion Date: 05/31/2023
Project Description: Lake Ahquabi is undergoing an extensive renovation of the entire Park and this project will add a restroom for the Beach at the existing Concession Building. Four new family-style restroom stalls will be added to the existing concession building. A new shower tower will be installed adjacent to this building. At the historic Beach Shelter, the restroom will be remodeled to make it more functional for the shelter patrons. The historic structure will also undergo a restoration, rotten beams and pur-lins will be replaced, and all wood stained, while stone will be carefully cleaned. New lights will be installed in the shelter and site lighting will also be replaced. Also, a new ADA kayak launch will be installed by the contractor an existing dock.

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Fort Madison, IA Housing Authority (FMHA)

Executive Director (ED)

For more information please go to <http://fortmadison-ia.com/390/Fort-Madison-Housing-Authority>

The FMHA ED serves as the primary source of housing expertise for the FMHA and reports directly to the Board of Commissioners.

Candidates for this position must possess strong leadership qualities, strong communication and collaboration skills, program management experience, and excellent planning and organizational ability. In addition, aptitude with both financial management and community relations is must as the FMHA ED must effectively and efficiently direct operational budgets, improve revenue, develop and implement the FMHA strategic plan as well as enhance relations with the community, internal stakeholders and vendors.

Education or Work Experience Requirements: Bachelor's degree, Associate's Degree and two years experience, or four years of related work experience.

To Apply: The Fort Madison Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer. Interested candidates must submit a writing sample and have the ability to discuss relevant experience during an interview. To submit resume and relevant writing sample, please email Rebecca Bowker, Chair Fort Madison Board of Commissioners, at Rejobo74@gmail.com.

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Lil Spurs Rodeo, Pageant Piklapp, Palmer win youth pageant

RODEO - Continued from Page 1

we utilized a lot of the shade from the new VIP area which was really nice.

Wood has a daughter with Down's Syndrome and has been part of the Special Kids rodeo for the past 22 years, 18 as chairwoman.

"This is like their own rodeo, they love it and they are all winners," she said.

This year the committee added some bouncier quarter horses instead of stick horses. There was also a larger stationary horse and then live horses for the kids to ride if they choose.

Wood said some of the kids are timid around the live animals so they always want to provide activities for those kids as well.

The Lil' Spurs Rodeo had a full slate of events and participants. A small hiccup took place when the EMS staffing on hand, which is required for the livestock events, had to leave for an emergency.

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren saved the day by bringing in the FM Fire Department to tend to the kids while the EMS staff was away.

Scott Meller, the chairman of the Lil Spurs event said 224 contestants signed up and they had to cap sheep riders at 180. He said that filled up weeks before the deadline. He added that the calf riding was up this year, but he said there were a couple that were tough to ride and a couple kids got thrown pretty good, but everyone was fine.

He said the arena dirt was very dry and hard from the lack of rain and with all the volunteers and animals on the dirt, it became packed down and the landings were a bit harder.

He said arena crew members came out and turned up the dirt to make things a bit softer.

Meller said the weather, which hovered in the mid 70s and overcast, was the best he had seen for the

pre-rodeo event in just about all his years volunteering with the event.

Volunteers are wheel that turns the events. Each buckin' shoot had about five volunteers plus all the livestock handlers and safety and security volunteers.

"I would say we had close to 75 people working on this event and they are really what makes it go. With all the those people and the nice weather, it really was one of our better events since I've been involved," Meller said.

The days activities were wrapped up with the Lil Miss Rodeo and All-Around Cowboy contest.

Blakely Piklapp, 6, of Huxley, Iowa was named Little Miss Rodeo. She is the daughter of Garret and Tami Piklapp.

First runner-up went to Avyston Hobby, 6 of LaHarp and 2nd-runner up was Everlee Britton 7, of Fort Madison.

The All-Around Cowboy winner was Lane Palmer, 7, of Keokuk. He is the son of Corey and Melissa Palmer.

First runner-up was Hunter Billings, 7, of West Point and 2nd runner-up was Clay Robeen, 6, White Hall, Ill.k



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

At left, Paislyn Berry begins to slide off the top of her mutton as she tries to hold on for a qualifying ride Monday at the Lil Spurs Rodeo in Fort Madison. At top a Lil' rider gets banged up and below, Lane Palmer gets sashed as 2022 All-Around Cowboy.



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