



Pen City Current

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 267

Resident says 1996 LCCB bylaws still in effect

Bylaws language makes document validity fuzzy

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - As the controversy surrounding Lee County duck hunting on the Mississippi River continues to gurgle, a West Point resident dug up some 1996 bylaws as part of peeling back the layers of the board and operations of the district.

At Tuesday night's regular Lee County Conservation Board meeting, about 15 hunters sat through the meeting and questioned the board again on duck hunting, but also deer hunting, uniforms, and the residency of district Director Nathan Unsworth.

Unsworth currently

lives outside the county in Burlington, but has told crowds at meetings and at Lee County Board of Supervisors meetings that he is looking for a place in the county. However, there is no current requirement for him to live in the county according to the Lee County Employee Handbook.

Rusty Robbins, of West Point, who has been critical of the operations of the district since the district blocked permanent duck blinds on county owned property, addressed the board and said he had come across a copy of the board's bylaws. During his comments to the board, Robbins said they came from a former board member.

“*I'd like to get things straightened out from before, let go of things from before, and let's look forward to the future.*”

-Rusty Robbins,
West Point resident

“I'd like to get things straightened out that happened from before, and let things go from before and let's look forward to the future,” Robbins said.

The bylaws Robbins presented to the board were from 1996 and they do include a section that would require Unsworth to find residency in the district within 90 days of his date of hire. However Unsworth said Wednesday that he has not been made aware of any bylaws utilized by the board and he's currently following

the county handbook which does not require county residency. He was hired back in March.

“I talked with the county attorney at 4 p.m. and I asked him if these were still in effect,” Robbins said. “He said, as he could tell, yes they are and the board needs to be going by these bylaws and if the board wanted to change them, they were free to do that.”

On Wednesday, Unsworth said he'd reviewed

See **BOARD**, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

13-year-old Boy Scout Life-ranked Blake Hemann is working toward his Eagle Scout rank and showed the LCCB his Barn Owl project at Tuesday's regular meeting.

Union to appeal ruling on collective bargaining

BY PCC STAFF

DES MOINES - AFSCME Council 61 President Danny Homan issued the following statement regarding today's filing of an appeal to Chief Judge Gamble's ruling on October 30th:

“Today we filed an appeal to Iowa's Fifth Judicial District Chief Judge Gamble's ruling denying summary judgment in our collective bargaining lawsuit. From day one, we have recognized the likelihood that this case would end up in the Iowa Supreme Court, and today's appeal takes us one step closer to that outcome.

“We have no timeline for knowing whether or not the Supreme Court of Iowa will hear our case, but we will never stop fighting for the rights of Iowa public employees. Republicans at the Capitol thought they could silence us by gutting the collec-

See **APPEAL**, page 3

Lee County may begin attack on poverty

Program looks at front-end training to avoid poverty

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - An international program aimed at solving generational poverty may be coming to Lee County.

The project, called Bridges Out of Poverty, looks at the specific issues facing communities, counties or regions and helps guide the implementation of plans to help combat the issues that are keeping those communities from climbing out of poverty.

Dennis Fraise, chief operating officer of the Lee County Economic Development Group, said the program could be beneficial in building a stronger workforce in Lee County.



FRAISE

Fraise became interested in the program after reaching out to Vern Reed for information about the Building Bridges - A Southeast Iowa Initiative in Burlington. The local program was started by Vern who is an At-Risk instructor at West Burlington High School, and his wife Cindy.

“Vern Reed started this program, He's the one that spearheaded it in Des Moines county and his initiative is for southeast Iowa. I thought it might be something applicable down here. We struggle with our unemployment rate and we look for ways to build our workforce,” Fraise said Tuesday.

“I thought Bridges, after meeting with Vern, was a really good program and addressed some of the things we're dealing with as well in helping people getting a leg

See **BRIDGES**, page 8

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Local News



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Rotarians, from left to right, Larry Smith, Matt LaFrenz, Tim Gobble, and Dave Poland run the spin bikes upstairs at the Fort Madison YMCA on Tuesday as part of a fundraiser. Spinners came and went through the day raising close to \$2,000 for the club.

Volunteers still needed for community dinner

FORT MADISON - The annual Fort Madison Community Thanksgiving Dinner is still looking for volunteers to help put on the event.

Anyone wishing to help can sign up for shifts on Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursday to help with a variety of tasks that help make the event a success year after year. Last year more than 900 meals were served to community members including those in the area who can't get out or cook for themselves.

To volunteer simply call 319-561-0535 and pick which shift you would prefer to help with. Tasks range from helping with turkeys to cutting pies, serving, delivery, clean up, and dining room help.

The committee is also taking orders for delivery by calling the same number. This is a free event put on by the sponsorship and contributions of many local organizations and volunteers.

Chamber to hold FM Day at Carver-Hawkeye

Tickets on sale now for 12/29 game against Northern Illinois

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - After a couple year hiatus, Fort Madison Day at Carver Hawkeye Arena is back! The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce has once again partnered with the University of Iowa Athletics to secure premium seating for the community to enjoy an Iowa Men's Basketball game. This year, we will cheer on the Hawkeyes as they take on the Northern Illinois Huskies on Friday, December 29th at 7:00 pm. Tickets go on sale Wednesday, November 15th at 10:00 am at the Fort Madison Partners office, located at 614 9th Street.

A number of businesses in the community have stepped up to help us provide a t-shirt with every ticket purchase. "We are excited to have the community sitting in the stands of Carver Hawkeye Arena all sporting a Fort Madison Day t-shirt!" exclaims Savanna Collier, Chamber Coordinator. Tickets will be available for \$10 for children and \$15 for adults. The Chamber is also partnering with Burlington Trailways to offer a bus ride to Iowa City for the game. Bus tickets will cost \$5 per person.

Tickets and t-shirts will be available before Christmas and will make the perfect gift for that Hawkeye fan in your family! To ensure prompt delivery, the opportunity to purchase tickets runs through Thursday, November 30th at 4 pm. Tickets ordered after November 30th are not guaranteed a t-shirt with their ticket purchase.

Other perks are being negotiated at this time with the Athletic Department at the University of Iowa.

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For the Record/Weather

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

11/13/17 - 4:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit & run in the 1700 block of Avenue H
 11/14/17 - 2:45 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3000 block of Avenue H
 11/14/17 - 11:47 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Jeremiah James Palumbo, 23, of Fort Madison at the North Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/14/17 - 10:43 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Dustin Chauncey Brecount, 36 of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of 20th Street

on a charge of possession of stolen property. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 11/14/17 - 2:34 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 900 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/13/17 - 12:00 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kashon Allen-Shyquill Tasco, 21, of Cedar Falls, in Hancock County, on two warrants for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.
 11/13/17 - 2:26 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tecarl Leroy Delano

Steele, 27, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Sheriff's office, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.
 11/13/17 - 5:03 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Samuel Dean Moyers, 33, of Burlington, in Des Moines County, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.
 11/14/17 - 3 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Adam Ray Sutton, 39, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of Avenue A, on a warrant for escape for custody by a felon and a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

11/14/17 - 7:23 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Charles Roy Hemphill, 51, of West Point, no arrest location given, on a charge of OWI-2nd offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

11/13/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one structure fire at 2020 Avenue E, six medical calls and gas investigation
 11/14/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one gas alarm and two false fire alarms.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 16 Nov



Clear Skies
 High- 38.2° F | Low - 35.0° F

FRI 17 Nov



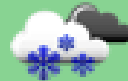
Moderate Rain
 High- 47.9° F | Low -44.7° F

SAT 18 Nov



Light Snow
 High- 40.2° F | Low - 28.2° F

SUN 19 Nov



Light Snow
 High- 28.4° F | Low -23.4° F

Mon 20 Nov



Clear Skies
 High- 30.6° F | Low - 27.2° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Homan says Iowans will keep the fight

APPEAL - Continued from Page 1

tive bargaining law, but they underestimated the power of working Iowans determined to reclaim their rights." On Oct 30, Gamble denied AFSCME's motion for a summary judgement against H.F. 291 and Homan said the union would continue to pursue the lawsuit. "Chief Judge Gamble agreed that 'AFSCME proved disparate treatment of similarly situated individuals

under H.F. 291. Some unionized public employees are granted privileges and immunities in the form of collective bargaining rights that are not equally granted to all unionized public employees.' He did not feel that we fully disproved the excuses given by the State for this unequal treatment by lawmakers," Homan said on the 30th.

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Board, director surprised by bylaws

BOARD - Continued from Page 1

the bylaws and said he hadn't seen them before and couldn't say what the current standing of the bylaws is.

"Some of this stuff is from the Iowa Code standard. This is from the 90s. Some of this could have been voted down at another point...I have no idea. Some is accurate and some of it's pretty good. But no I hadn't seen it," he said.

Unsworth said Robbins had asked for bylaws and he said he looked for them, but hadn't come across any copies in the files he's gone through. Unsworth said he's still going to operate under the guidelines of the Iowa Code and the Lee County Handbook.

After Tuesday's meeting, board Chairman Harry Sylvester said he was surprised by the bylaws and said he didn't recall seeing the document before either.

The document also has an article 10 that requires a yearly review of the document, however, Lee County Attorney Clinton Boddicker said it's a gray area whether the document needs to be approved annually.

Article 10 of the document reads - "These bylaws shall be reviewed by the conservation board each year at the November board meeting and approval or amendments proposed for revisions or corrections, amendments may be proposed at any regular meeting but must be again considered at the next regular board meeting, in open session, before adoption. Adoption shall require approval of at least four (4) board members."

The bylaws were approved by the board at its May 1996 meeting. The bylaws also have an Article 1, that reads "Chapter 350, 1994 Code of Iowa, is the governing authority, and the purpose, power, and duties as defined and set forth in said Chapter will control the functions of the conservation board, its employees and its facilities."

Connie Hudson, the district secretary said she came on board in 2014 and no bylaws have been voted on, amended, or reviewed since she's been recording the meetings. However Hudson said she would have to dig up copies of minutes from November meetings dating back to 1996 to know for sure what has happened with bylaws since that date.

Boddicker said he received a copy of the bylaws yesterday and said he has discussed bylaws with Unsworth, but the discussions focused on having bylaws as a good practice.

"I got a copy yesterday and I haven't read through them with a fine-tooth comb," he said Wednesday evening. "Code says the conservation board shall have authority to enact bylaws. I don't think there's anything that says that you have to have them. I've advised the board that they ought to have bylaws. I think I suggested it to Nathan about a month ago and until yesterday, I was under the impression there were no bylaws, until it was brought to my attention. I said as a matter of procedure bylaws are a good idea and they should look into having them."

Section 350.3 of the Iowa Code states the county conservation boards shall have the power to adopt bylaws, however no language in the code says bylaws are required of the boards.

Boddicker says he's been fielding lots of calls about board meeting procedures since the permanent blind flare up happened.

Two weeks ago Unsworth asked for committee members to volunteer to sit on a committee to visit the permanent duck blind issues. Wednesday was the last day to volunteer for the committee and Unsworth said he will review that list and set a date for a meeting.

In other action, the board

- heard from Life Scout Blake Hemann on a Eagle Scout project he's working on to provide a haven for barn owls. Hemann said he wanted to build 10 of the wooden houses around the county to help provide a place for the owls. He said the owls help keep rodents and insects under control. Hemann was asking for help in determining the best place to put the houses.

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From the Front/Lottery Numbers

Bridges program attacks the "disease" of poverty

BRIDGES - Continued from Page 1

up.”
Fraise and Fort Madison Partners Executive Director Tim Gobble, have started putting plans together to look at implementing the program locally. An initial meeting to discuss the program will be held Thursday and a planning session has been tentatively set for Thursday, Dec. 7, which would include half-day training sessions to get the process started in Lee County.

Fraise said the Bridges program is used across the country and even in some other countries.

“Our goal is to bring it to Lee County. It’s not my or Tim’s intention to lead, but we’ll be the catalyst and try to fill the room with trainees and see where it goes from there.

Reed said he and Cindy have been the unofficial At-Risk personnel at West Burlington for close to 20 years until Vern landed the job officially. He said the program makes it easier for those suffering with generational or situational

poverty to find answers.

“In some ways I became involved by accident. I run The Corners at WBHS that makes me the school’s at-risk dude,” Reed said. “I lobbied for this because we needed to do something for kids. But she and I have been defacto at-risk people for 20 years. The great thing here is that if kids know you are willing to care - they will find their way to you. When I became the official At-Risk with Corners, we heard about Getting Ahead training in Dubuque put on as part of the Bridges out of Poverty program.”

Reed said he attended the training session and was quickly convinced that the program was something that could be implemented in southeast Iowa. The Bridges program has Getting Ahead training sessions and Staying Ahead training sessions and celebrates the classes with graduations.

So he approached the West Burlington admin-

istration to help bring the program to Des Moines County.

“We think we needed all of this in SE Iowa,” Reed said. “Our superintendent Dave Schmidt asked us if we thought it could make a difference. When we told him we thought it could have an impact locally, the school gave us \$6,000 and brought a training to WBHS and out of the gate we had 100 people there and that was in December of 2015. Since then it’s exploded.”

He said he felt like it was the right information at the right time for many in the training session and subsequent training sessions, because it provides tools to attack the causes across class lines to make a difference.

“Bridges challenges us to look at poverty differently,” Reed said.

“That first training in Lee County will be the first big kickoff. We need to get as many people to that training, businesses, service groups, educators,

“
We need to get as many people, to that training...businesses, service groups, educators, as possible as it challenges the way we view poverty...”

-Vern Reed, Bridges advocate

as possible as it challenges the way we view poverty and offers solutions in the process. The other side is the high octane Getting Ahead in a just-getting-by-world. It’s very powerful with research and learning that helps a person understand what it takes for a meaningful life.”

Reed said the program is a southeast Iowa initiative and not just a Burlington, West Burlington or Des Moines County effort. He said he’s excited to see Lee County and possibly Henry County get programs up and running as well.

He said people from Lee County have been involved in some of the training programs in Burlington and he’s even had a class visit the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. “People in Lee County have been to training here

and Dennis reached out to me this summer to learn more and others reached out to us this fall to see how it would impact unemployment,” Reed said. “In that meeting we said ‘let’s make people more aware of what Bridges looks like and how we do business as a community’. And because our school paid for us to be trainers we can do this at low or no cost for the community.”

Funding for the program is obtained through service organizations, grants and local foundations. He said Kiwanis, Murray Trust, Great River Health Systems, Win-egard, and a variety of other groups have been integral in funding the initiative.

“For Lee County, the beautiful thing about Bridges is that you take research and learning and apply it to specific circum-

stances. Lee County’s program will look different than Burlington’s and Mt. Pleasant may look different than yours,” Reed said. “However, because we’ve been in the process there are some things we can do to help in regards to what it might look like. Our goal is to serve as the resource to Lee County. The reality is that we’re here to learn and help each other. To make a difference that can last instead of treating the symptoms of poverty.”

He said the program would be complimentary to, say LCEDG’s Manufacturing 101 program.

“That’s a great program, but if a person doesn’t have a better understanding of what it takes, as far as middle class norms and rules, just that class won’t help them enough,” he said. “Adding that other piece first is a great way to attack the problem. Before we didn’t have that tool-wise to make things better. We’ve just been dealing with the symptoms of what is the disease. We don’t mean ‘disease’ to place blame, but we deal with what it is. Bridges has taught us we can spend years on blame but if we don’t attack it nothing changes.”

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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 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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