



# Pen City Current

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 2



Courtesy photo

Paperpak LLC, located at 1722 53rd Street in Fort Madison recently held a toy drive for Christmas for Kids. Pictured above are some of the Paperpak LLC employees with the over \$600 in donated toys.

## Boddicker to take judicial seat on Jan. 8

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK - According to a press release from the Iowa Judicial Branch website, current Lee County Attorney Clinton Boddicker will take over as an Associate District Judge in Iowa's Judicial District 8B on Jan. 8.

Boddicker was appointed to the seat on Friday by judges of the district to replace retiring District Judge Gary Noneman, whose caseload was primarily in south Lee County. Boddicker was one of three names that were forwarded to district judges out of a nominating committee on Monday of last week.



BODDICKER

According to Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, the Lee County Board of Supervisors will need to appoint someone to replace Boddicker, who's been in office for close to six months. He beat current Assistant Lee County Attorney Ross Braden in an election in May. However, Fraise said that appointment can't take place until Boddicker turns in his resignation to the county.

"He hasn't done that yet," she said this morning.

Braden was appointed county attorney by the supervisors following the retirement of Mike Short in February.

Fraise said an election would not be needed in this case and the appointment of the supervisors would hold up until the fall general election, unless an attorney who isn't appointed by the supervisors to fill the position, petitions the board for an election. If that were the case, the election would in all likelihood be held in conjunction with a Fort Madison School District referendum, in which the district is looking for a bond referendum to build a new school.

The other general election would be a primary election in the summer.

Rick Larkin, chair of the board of supervisors, said the county will probably put out a notice of the pending appointment to get a list of names of attorneys who would be interested in the position, but added that would have to happen quickly as Boddicker becomes a judge in four weeks.

Braden said he was certainly interested in picking up where he left off.

"I'm absolutely interested in filling the vacancy as county attorney. I really enjoy what I'm doing. I've got the experience in the office and I would look forward to picking things back up if that's what the board and the people of Lee County want," he said.

## Conservation district to update bylaws

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - A committee has been formed to take a look at refreshing a set of bylaws that was recently turned over to the Lee County Conservation Board.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the board, District Director Nathan Unsworth said it would be a good thing to have functioning bylaws in place but recommended a committee be formed to go over the bylaws. The bylaws were presented to the board by West Point resident Rusty Robbins, who has been actively pursuing documents relating to the district's operations since permanent duck blinds were banned on the district-owned property on the Mississippi River.

Unsworth said Lee County Attorney Clinton Boddicker couldn't tell whether or not the bylaws were still valid, but said they are a good idea and need to be

updated.

He said he couldn't find any other more recent or past bylaws and can't find any minutes of the bylaws being approved. The documents don't show a voting approval on them.

"Last month we received some bylaws that were presented to the board and we've reviewed those a little bit," Unsworth said. "I think they're a good thing and other counties have bylaws that I've learned of after following up on these and doing some research. We need to look at these and make some changes to things that need updated."

The bylaws that Robbins turned over to the board last month were from 1996 and said the bylaws needed to be reviewed each year.

"I know this question will come up but I cannot find a record of these being passed because we can't find

See **BYLAWS**, page 8

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## Area News/Local News

# LCEDG tells supervisors workforce is biggest priority



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County Economic Development Chief Operations Officer, Dennis Fraise, talks with Lee County Supervisors Tuesday afternoon during an update of the group's activities.

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - With Lee County's current unemployment rate at 4.1, county economic officials still say the area's workforce, or lack thereof, is still a major challenge to employers.

The Lee County Economic Development Group gave a presentation to the Lee County Board of Supervisors at a workshop Tuesday following the board's regular meeting.

Joe Steil, the CEO of LCEDG, told the board that even at that 4.1 percent, Lee County is still the poster child of unemployment in the state.

Supervisor Don Hunold asked him at that rate, the county still faces an obstacle when considering a lot of

hiring is one person already employed going to another position at another place.

"It's more of an 'I think I'll go try that for a while,'" Hunold said. "We're taking from one place to another and that's not good for business either, how do we overcome that?"

Steil said on the surface it would look like Lee County should be targeted by industry because of the available labor, but he said the numbers need to be examined more carefully.

"With the unemployment rate at 4.1% one has to recognize we're still the highest in the state of Iowa. I guess I look at it as if they are strictly relating that 4.1 to having employees available we should be the primary target in Iowa," he said.

See **WORKFORCE**, page 8

# Fareway customers can help fill food banks with eggs



BOONE - Iowa Egg Farmers, in partnership with Fareway Stores, Inc., are conducting a buy two, give one promotion. From Monday, December 18 through Saturday, December 23, when a customer buys two dozen eggs at any Iowa Fareway location, a dozen eggs will automatically be donated to the Food Bank of Iowa. The campaign aims to give back to individuals that are food insecure in the communities Iowa egg farmers live and serve.

"We are proud to partner with Fareway on this donation to help the Food Bank of Iowa by providing eggs, an economical protein and essential food," said Kevin Stiles, Executive Director with the Iowa Egg Council.

According to the Iowa Egg Council, eggs are one of the few foods that naturally contain vitamin D, which is important for bone health and immune function. Additionally, eggs provide an essential nutrient for fetal development, cell and eye health, and contain 13 essential vitamins and minerals.

"We encourage customers to purchase two dozen eggs of any brand during the campaign period," said Reynolds W. Cramer, Fareway CEO. "The Food Bank of Iowa will directly benefit from the customer's purchase with a matching donation, up to a grand total of 21,600 dozen eggs."

"Eggs are a great, nutritious source of protein, and a donation like this is a big thing for the Iowans we serve," said Michelle Book, President and CEO of Food Bank of Iowa. "We are so grateful for our partnership with the Iowa Egg Council and Fareway."

Nutritional information provided by Egg Nutrition Center, [www.eggnutritioncenter.org/topic](http://www.eggnutritioncenter.org/topic)

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## Obituaries/Sports

### OBITUARIES

# DALE WINFIELD PARSONS

Dale Winfield Parsons, 88 years, of Donnellson, Iowa died at 9:03 pm Monday December 11, 2017 at The Madison, Fort Madison, Iowa. He was born August 24, 1929 in Ohio, a son of Theodore and Lelah (Russell) Parsons. On July 2, 1955, he married Charlotte Bassett in Cleveland, Ohio. They moved to the area in 1973. Dale was a truck driver for Fruehauf. He was a member of the Teamsters Union and was a local union steward. Dale had been a Mason for more than 50 years and was a member of the Fort Madison Masonic Lodge #13 A.F. and A.M. Upon his retirement, he drove Shriner kids and their families to hospitals all over the Midwest.

He is survived by two sons, Daniel (Katie Anderson) Parsons, of Donnellson, Iowa and Douglas (Holly) Parsons, of Columbia, Missouri; one daughter, Linda (Tom) Mullen, of Keokuk, Iowa; five grandchildren: Casey Mullen, Brandy Stoll, Brandon Parsons, Abby Parsons, and Connor Parsons; and two great grandsons, Dacey Price and Carter Stoll. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

A Graveside and Masonic Service followed by burial will begin at 1:00 pm Thursday December 14, 2017 at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison, Iowa, with Pastor Dean Graber officiating. A memorial has been established for the Shriners Hospitals for Children, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Parsons family may be made at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).



PARSONS

# Danville nips Hounds at wire

BY PCC STAFF

DANVILLE - A bucket in the final minute of the game sent the Fort Madison Bloodhounds home with a loss on the road at Danville.

The Bears came back from a 5-point deficit at the end of the third quarter to beat Fort Madison 62-61 with the Hounds holding a 61-60 advantage with less than a minute to play.

The Hounds held leads of 17-12 at the end of the first quarter and 32-28 at halftime and had their biggest lead of 10 points with two minutes left in the

fourth quarter before Danville came racing back and outscored Fort Madison 16-9 in the final period.

The Hounds were paced by seniors Treavor James-Kokjohn with 19, Kaleb Cresswell with 18, nine points each from Logan Rashid and Brandon Keester, and two points each from Sheymouhr Redd-Donald and Parker Denning.

The Hounds now take on sixth-ranked Mt. Pleasant to open Southeast Conference play on Friday night in freshman/junior varsity/varsity boys basketball action at home. The freshman game tips off at 4:45 p.m.

### CURRENT-LEE

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Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



12/12  
8 23 24 25 27  
Lucky Ball: 9  
Megaplier: 2



12/12 MID-DAY  
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12/12 EVENING  
4 7 6



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Sports

# Lady Hawks strong second half downs HTC

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON - The Holy Trinity Catholic girls basketball team were able to slow down undefeated Central Lee through the first half, but a tough third quarter allowed the hosts to walk away with a 63-48 win in Southeast Iowa Superconference girls basketball action.

The Crusaders trailed by only five points at the end of the first half 19-24 led by Taylor Boeding and Madison Mohrfeld's five points each. Head Coach Tony Johnson had the Crusaders in 3/4 press and then slipped back into a zone defense that seemed to slow the high-scoring Hawks down.

HTC got a quick free throw from Boeding to start the game at 1-0 but then committed six straight turnovers which resulted in seven points for Central Lee, before Mohrfeld put in a rebound off senior Brett Schneider's shot to get the Crusaders back within three.

The Hawks got a bucket from Emily Fuller, who had 12 points on the night working inside, to go up 9-3, but the Crusaders went on a 6-0 run capped by a Schneider layup to tie the game. MacKenzie Northup scored inside with :35 seconds left and

HTC turned it over on the next possession. The Lady Hawks were able to get the ball down to Fuller again, who scored at the buzzer to make it 13-9 at the end of one.

The Hawks nipped Holy Trinity 11-10 in the second quarter. Central Lee was paced by Anna Krehbiel's six points. Krehbiel finished with 22 on the night to lead all scorers.

HTC went cold from the field in the third quarter, missing on 11 shots and committing five turnovers, and Central Lee raced to a 41-26 advantage.

"The first half we were pretty good, but the third quarter killed us," Johnson said. "We didn't get any scores and didn't get any offensive rebounds and didn't get very many defensive rebounds either. They dominated us on rebounds and got all the loose balls... and then we went four minutes without scoring."

The Crusaders would get as close as four when Mohrfeld hit the back end of two free throws. Makenna Hall hit a three after a Fuller bucket and then Krehbiel started to heat up. She converted a bucket with just about four minutes left, Boeding hit a 3-pointer to answer, and then Holy Trinity went cold, committing four turnovers and missing their last seven shots of the quarter to trail by



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC senior Mya Lawlor sweeps in for a layup in Tuesday night's 48-63 loss to Central Lee.

15 26-41. Krehbiel scored the first four points of the final period off two more HTC miscues before Sam Hoenig hit a three pointer from the right side. Mya Merschman countered with a three for the Lady Hawks and then Brett Schneider put on a scoring clinic knocking down 14 points in the final five minutes of the game, but not before Central Lee had stretched its lead to 20 at 32-52.

Schneider hit two 3-pointers, three baskets in transition, off steals and then converted a couple free throws to cap the scoring for Holy

Trinity. Despite the wild run, HTC only cut the lead to 15. Northup hit a bucket and got a foul call converting the free throw to push the lead to 21.

Johnson said he changed up the zone defense a bit in the second half, but didn't get the same result.

"We changed it to a different one in the second half but we didn't react to it very well. You can't run the same thing for four quarters, you gotta change it up. We just didn't adjust very well to it. But we'll be alright. We'll go home and get ready for Danville on Friday," he said.

Schneider finished with

17 points for the Crusaders and Mohrfeld finished with nine. Taylor Boeding had eight on the night, while Emily Box chipped in with seven, Hoenig scored six, and Eryn An-

erson had one. The Crusaders fall to 3-4 on the season and have a varsity girls/boys double header on Friday at Shottenkirk gym with a 6 p.m. tip-off for the girls.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC senior Sam Hoenig lets fly with a 3-point in the second half the Crusaders' loss to Central Lee on Tuesday.

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**Sports**

# Central Lee stymies Crusaders' early ambitions

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON - Holy Trinity's very young team came and gave Central Lee's senior dominated squad a scare Tuesday night... but just a little one.

The Hawks varsity boys basketball team has seven seniors and two juniors and rolled to a 67-49 win over visiting Holy Trinity Catholic Tuesday night in boys basketball action, but not before the Crusaders gave Central Lee coach Evan Swanson something to yell at his team for.

Sophomore Reed Fesheke opened the scoring with a 3-pointer from the right side baseline. HTC then took advantage of three consecutive missed shots by Central Lee, two turnovers and two buckets inside from sophomore Matt Hellige against 6'5" Evan Doyle to race out to a 10-0 lead. The run forced Swanson to call a time out and get in the ears of his veteran squad.

The move brought both teams back to reality as the Hawks returned the favor three fold and blew to a 30-8 run the rest of the first half.

Holy Trinity didn't score after the timeout until Hellige hit his third basket with about seven minutes left in the first half.

"It's just part of growing up. We came out with all the confidence in the world and had them on their heels," said head coach John Hellige. "Good teams like Central Lee will respond with a run and we're just not quite there yet where we can go back and forth on runs."

The third quarter was much of the same for the Crusaders with Central Lee controlling the temp and outscoring HTC 17-7. The Crusaders committed seven turnovers in the period, including four in a row, while Central Lee scored nine points to push the lead to 23. Hellige started the scoring dumping one inside but the Crusaders would go almost six minutes without a score until Fesheke hit a couple free throws. Adam Rauenbuehler hit a 3-pointer and the converted two free throws of his own to make it 27-47 going into the final period.

Fesheke would get hot from long-distance in the final period, but it wouldn't be enough to erase the 20-point deficit. He started with two 3-pointers after the Hawks' Isaac Moeller converted a bucket to the start the final eight minutes. The Hawks' Jared Brisby hit on a bucket and then Moeller converted again off an HTC turnover, but Fesheke came back with a short jumper from the middle of the lane. Blake Crabtree swiped the inbound attempt by Central Lee and converted an easy layup and then Fesheke hit another 3-pointer in transition on the Crusader's next possession to cut the lead to 15 with 4:08 left in the game.

The Hawks' Jacob Fraise scored for the Hawks inside and then scored again when Central Lee, who was still in a press, stole the ball on a pass up the court.

The two teams traded buckets the rest of the way to the buzzer, highlighted by seven points from Hellige.

"I really saw a lot of positives," John Hellige said. "I think we battled really hard in the second half. Their press really didn't hurt us, but we're making errors in the half court and that's expected with a young team, but we're going to get there. That's a strong team starting big seniors and we're still very young."

He said Hellige had trouble dealing with the taller Doyle in the paint after the first 10-0 run so they changed things up a bit.

"We talked to Matt at halftime and told him not to try and shoot over Doyle. He did a pretty good job of that, but he tested the waters a little bit. We told him to just be confident and try to get into their bodies a little inside," Hellige said.

Fesheke led all Crusaders with 19 points, followed by Hellige with 15. Rauenbuehler finished with six points, while Brant Holtkamp had five, Jake Eaves had three, and Crabtree had two to round out the scoring for HTC.

Doyle had 19 for the Hawks and Fraise had 14.

The Crusaders host Danville Friday night in a girls/boys varsity doubleheader beginning at 6 p.m.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC junior Adam Rauenbuehler penetrates the lane on a fast break Tuesday in the Crusaders' 67- 49 loss to Central Lee in Donnellson.

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From the Front/Area News

# LCEDG talks value of training, education

**WORKFORCE** - Continued from Page 2

“The key question is and (LCEDG COO) Dennis (Fraise) and I have talked through this many times, but how does the state go through their equation process to come up with numbers. There is a portion of the world out there not counted in those numbers. Those that have fallen off unemployment, haven’t signed up, or are just tired of looking. How big of a factor is that that could create potential employees,” Steil said.

“We’ve shown great progress, but we still show as the poster child for unemployment in the state, and that’s where we’re positioned. We try to drive that number down, but we’re focused on the trained and trainable people that make the difference.”

He said many of the programs LCEDG has helped jump start with the local schools, even down to LEGO Robotics with the younger students, have a focus of understanding the soft skills of a job, such as being on time, dressing appropriately, and being ready to work when they show up.

“It’s the soft skills. I’ve got a check in my pocket on Friday, so do I really feel like going in on Monday? Ok, these folks live it every day. They’ve got a key position on a line or something because there’s not someone to take that seat and the whole line suffers. So that hurts meeting their deadlines and their profits,” Steil said.

Dennis Fraise, COO of LCEDG, said it’s vitally important that the staff keep focusing on training and skills opportunities.

“One of the things they’re looking for in looking to Lee County is things like SCC’s new industrial training center in Keokuk, which is a great asset, and CBIZ in West Burlington also does a great job. You have the training in place and it’s important that we spend time on those things.”

Steil said bringing education officials from multiple levels together with economic and industrial leaders is

imperative right now.

“Taking education officials to the same table and having them talk the same language is important. We took industry leaders to school and school teachers and guidance counselors to industry, and clearly what we walked away with was that the dots weren’t connecting. Educators were assuming what industry needed and they weren’t correct,” Steil said.

He also said SCC is going to be coming out with new programming that addresses today’s environment and SCC’s President Dr. Michael Ash is working on curriculums based on a list of disciplines that area industries are looking for.

LCEDG board member Matt Morris said the communication between the LCEDG and industry is better than it’s been in several years.

“Right now the communication with existing industry I think is the best

it’s been in years,” Morris said. With the various events they do and the meetings where they bring educators and industry together and that’s just been phenomenal. We all get really excited about the pictures of the hard hats and shovels but at the end of the day it’s the existing industries where we see most of our growth and, if we were not giving them what they want, what’s to say they keep making investments in the county,” Morris said.

Rick Larkin said as he travels around the state he’s seeing the trend of a lack of skilled workforce throughout the state.

“In my travels around Iowa, you look at the newspaper and there are a lot of communities talking about workforce development. This is not something that’s just happened in Lee County and the Midwest, this is all over the country finding skilled workers. This group predicted 10 years ago we were going to have a labor shortage. I’m glad to see this work and it will pay a dividend in the future,” Larkin said.

“*Right now the communication with existing industries is the best it’s been in years.*”

-Matt Morris  
LCEDG Board Member

# Committee formed to review, update district bylaws

**BYLAWS** - Continued from Page 1

an official record of that. We are looking diligently but we are running out of places to look. These guys here said some files got ruined downstairs because of water,” he said.

He said Iowa code has changed and some of the bylaws as presented reflect that older code and would need to be updated.

“The county attorney said it’s easier to get them set the way we want them set and then have him take a look at them,” he said.

Board chair Harry Sylvester said he did see a couple things like expenditure rules and salary requirements that need to be updated.

“I saw but a couple three things in here. All the expenditures and stuff - all that is outdated the pay grades are obviously out of date. Your pay grade - I don’t think you want to start back at \$27,800,” he joked with Unsworth.

Unsworth said his research shows that other counties in the state do have bylaws and that outline the expenditures

and pay structures better than the bylaws they were looking at.

The board also discussed future appointments to the district board. At Tuesday morning’s meeting of the Lee County Supervisors, the board took up an appointment to the board but tabled the appointment to further review applications. The board considered the appointment of one of three applications they received from County Auditor Denise Fraise.

Supervisor Gary Folluo told Fraise he thought the supervisors were to get all the applications and then make a recommendation from them, not a preselected list which had been the practice of the past.

“This is all there is,” Fraise said. “They don’t really come out of the woodwork to apply.”

Sylvester told the board that he hoped with the updated bylaws and with direction from the supervisors, the board could get processes for appointments cleaned up by next year.

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**WED 13 Dec** — Light Snow  
High – 40.7° F | Low – 29.3° F

**THU 14 Dec** — Light Snow  
High – 32.1° F | Low – 28.6° F

**FRI 15 Dec** — Light Snow  
High – 30.1° F | Low – 27.3° F

**SAT 16 Dec** — Clear Skies  
High – 50.4° F | Low – 47.5° F

**SUN 17 Dec** — Light Rain  
High – 40.4° F | Low – 25.3° F

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