

# Supervisors to look at board applications

Issue arises when hunter asks why his application wasn't considered years ago

> BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - A discussion on duck blinds at the county supervisor meeting on Tuesday morphed into an issue of how applications for the Lee County Conservation boardmembers get handled.

At the regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, Rusty Robbins of West Point said his application from years back was never considered by the board, because the board had never seen them.

"I'm t'd off about putting my application in several years ago and it never got to the board. Those applications need to come here. He (Lee County Conservation director Nathan Unsworth) can have some input but you guys need to see them, too. I think I'm a pretty responsible person to be able to make a decision for the whole system, not just a few people."

After the meeting, Robbins said that he had turned his application into the conservation board and apparently the board then forwards the applications to the Lee County Auditor's office, who then forwards them to the supervisors.

However, several supervisors indicated

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## County pushes for talks on blinds

LCCB chair props door open on issue

> BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - An uproar from county duck hunters spilled into the Lee County supervisors meeting Tuesday morning.

A conversation at the end of Tuesday's Lee County Board of Supervisor's meeting, initiated by supervisor Matt Pflug, extended the meeting and



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Dr. B. Marie Brady-Whitcanak stands next to her current project, a mural that she will be displaying on the west side of her building at 740 Avenue G. The mural will be put next to a second mural of a similar theme on the west side of the gallery building.

Whitcanak's bucket list favors city

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

home for artists in residence who want to work in Fort Madison.

"I've had the B&B, the Victoria Bed and Breakfast and fine arts studio for 15 years but I was so busy with the B&B that it got too far away from its original intent to host artists to stay there and paint locally," she said Tuesday. "From my experience traveling overseas, artists want to stay where they are painting." "But the B&B was getting too far from the art, so I thought a a main street gallery would not only provide more visibility because it's also up the street from my Painter's Garden at 421 Avenue G, where I have large public murals and the rose garden, and Painter's Patio for painters to paint with a pretty good view of the river." Whitcanak also serves on just about every preservation commission in Fort Madison including the North Lee County Historical Society, the Fort Madison Preservation Commission, the Old Fort Commission and the Historic ISP Corporation. She said with all the districts in Fort Madison that are on the National Register of Historic District, a cohesive plan could tie everything together.

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prompted a discussion between supervisors, the hunters and Lee County Conservation Board chairman Harry Sylvester and LCCB Director Nathan Unsworth.

Rusty Robbins, a duck hunter from West Point, addressed the board at the beginning of the meeting during the public input section and voiced his concern about the new guidelines that will make permanent blinds a thing of the past after the 2018 hunting season.

The issue has been highly emotional, including some profanity-laced

See **BLINDS**, page 14

FORT MADISON -She's a doctor, an entrepreneur, an artist and some would say a visionary. But it's somewhat of an understatement to call her focused.

Just a few minutes listening to Dr. B. Marie Brady-Whitcanak, or "Marie" as she likes to be called can be exhausting. Eye contact is at a premium with her because as she talks her she pulls at plans in her mind centered on a vision she is sharing for an Art/ Cultural District for downtown Fort Madison.

Whitcanak recently opened the Victorian Art Gallery on the corner of 8th and Avenue G in Fort Madison's Main Street district and showcases her own work and some of others she encountered in her travels. She is an adjunct professor of philosophy, psychology and political science at Kaplan University, Carl Sandburg University and Spoon River College.

She said she opened the art gallery because the Bed and Breakfast she owns at 422 Avenue F was becoming more of a B&B than her original intention of a

"The downtown district seems to lend itself to an

## **From the Front**

# Hunters claim former director filtered applications

#### **BOARD** - Continued from Page 1

they are not getting the applications - that they just approve recommendations from the conservation board.

"We don't see the applications anymore. We should," said Supervisor Gary Folluo.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, who's on vacation and wasn't at the meeting, sent an email to all supervisors and media following the meeting. Nikki Sugars, who works in the Auditor's office, was filling in for Fraise at the meeting.

"The Board receives all applications submitted for independent boards in their weekly packet at the time when there is an opening," Fraise wrote. Folluo wrote in a return email to all the parties that he didn't recall getting those applications..

"I don't recall getting applications prior to when we vote on the recommendation of conservation. Since Ron (Fedler), Don (Hunold) and Matt (Pflug) have come on the board I don't recall getting applications so we can review them? We may have gotten their recommendation and a runner up but I can't place any others. I remember (sic) the conversation BOS had about letting conservation do interviews and make a recommendation to the



remember agreeing to it." Folluo

wrote in the return. Fraise sent a follow up email in which she wrote she has always sent the board the applications she has and there have never been more than one or two.

Robbins said that was part of the problem with how the board is picked.

"That's why you don't get in," Robbins said. "They pick who they want on the board because they do not - and I'm going back to Tom

Buckley - he did not want nobody in there that was going to buck the system and that's not right to the public. It's not right to the hunters."

Folluo said he was going to have Lee County Attorney Clinton Boddicker look into the situation to see just what the Iowa code says about the board of supervisors' role in appointing the conservation board members.

"Before this we took your recommendations and acted on it one way or another. I'll have to get with the county attorney and sort it out. We always approved it but it was off a recommendation from the conserva-

They pick who they want on the board because they do not - and I'm going back to Tom Buckley - he did not want nobody in there that was going to buck the system."

> -Rusty Robbins, West Point resident

tion board."

Pflug agreed that the appointments were always off a recommendation.

"From the get-go we should be able to look at those applications and vote up or down, but before this we took your recommendations and voted yes or no," Pflug said. "Basically we set their budget and once

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we set that budget for them it's been hands off. All applications go to the auditor's office. But you go through them," Pflug said to Sylvester and Unsworth.

The Lee County Conservation Board is made up of five board members each serving five-year terms with a new board member appointed each year.



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## **Pen City Current**

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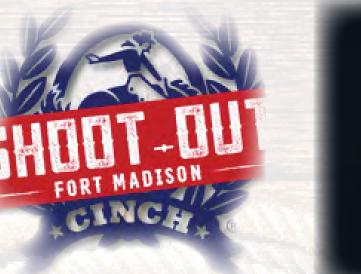




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## For the Record

#### For the Record

#### Fort Madison **Police report**

08/21/17 - 2:17 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue F. 08/21/17 - 11:03 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block of Avenue G. 08/21/17 - 11:12 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 2100 block of Avenue L.

08/21/17 - 11:16 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft at 1200 block of 40th Street. 08/21/17 - 12:49 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue M. 08/21/17 - 12:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue D. 08/21/17 - 2:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to

a report of a larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 08/21/17 - 10:11 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Kelly Francis Skelton, 52, of Fort Madison, at the police department on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's report 08/21/17 - 11:48 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Tyler Jordon Sturm, 27, in the 3500 block of Johnson Street Road, on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 08/21/17 - 12:46 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandy Lynn Sturm, 26 of Keokuk in the 2500 block of Johnson Street Road, on a charge of domestic assault with bodily injury. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

08/21/17 - 11:48 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shara Burnham McDonough a.k.a Shara Delores Ferrel, 46, of Oskaloosa, in the 3100 block of Hwy 218 on a warrant for 1st degree theft greater than \$10,000. She was released on bond.

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

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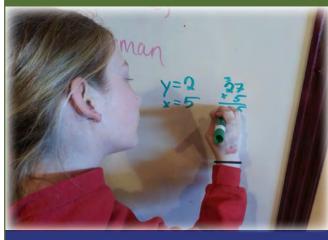




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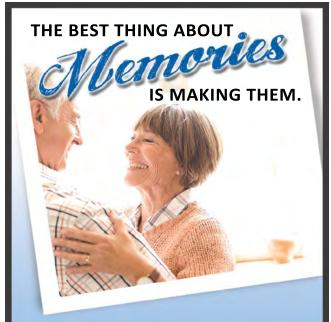
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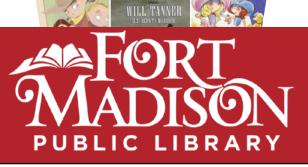
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## **Public Notices/Classifieds**

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE** MINUTES August 18, 2017

The Great River Regional Waste Authority met on August 18, 2017 at the administration building in Fort Madison at 6:30 A.M. to conduct a regular monthly meeting. ALL VOTES UNAMI-MOUS UNLESS OTHER-WISE INDICATED.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 A.M.

Present: Brad Randolph, Marc Lindeen and Roger Bryant. Rick Larkin and Gary Adam were absent.

Motion to approve the July 21, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Bryant, seconded by Lindeen.

Public Comments: None Motion to approve the General Manager's report made by Lindeen, seconded by Bryant.

Motion to approve the Business Manager's report made by Randolph, seconded by Lindeen.

Discussion and approval to purchase a 2015 Jeep Patriot from Jim Baier Ford for \$13,995.00. Motion to approve made by Randolph, seconded by Lindeen.

Motion to approve the Expenditures made by Lindeen, seconded by Randolph.

Motion to adjourn made by Randolph, seconded by Bryant. The meeting ad-

journed at 7:13 A.M. The next
Commission meeting will be
held on September 15, 2017
at the administration building
in Fort Madison, Iowa at 6:30
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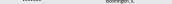
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# Sports Moyers wins weekends' 2017 Kempker Open

Below are the results of the 2017 Kempker Open held at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Saturday. The event was an 18-hole tournament with those in the championship flight playing an additional 9 holes.

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1ST ADAM MOYERS (104) 2ND JIM BUTLER (107) 3RD TJ WIDBIN (108) 4TH JAMIE ROBBINS (109) 5TH JAKE ARMSTRONG (109) 6TH KACIE BROEG (110) 7TH JACK VANAKEN (113) 8TH JIM NELSON (113) 9TH NICK PARRISH (115) 10TH RYAN LUTTENEGER (115) 11TH JORDAN HUBBS (119)

FIRST FLIGHT 1ST JOE STEWART (76) 2ND ERIC WARD (76) 3RD DOUG FRENZ (76)

SECOND FLIGHT 1ST SCOTT MELLER (81) 2ND WAYNE MACLEARN (81) 3RD CHAD THORNTON (81)

THIRD FLIGHT 1ST FRED KNOCH (84) 2ND GARY WAGLER (84) 3RD RANDY MOYNER (85)

FOURTH FLIGHT 1ST SCOTT NICKEL (89) 2ND ABRAM SILVEY (89) 3RD CRAIG BROEG (90)

Senior Divison

FIRST FLIGHT 1ST ERIC BARKER (70) 2ND JOHN KORB (71) 3RD TOM TINCHER (76) 4TH TERRY VAN AKEN (76)

SECOND FLIGHT 1ST RANDY THORNTON (83) 2ND ROBERT WASHINGTON (84) 3RD TOM SKEWES (84) 4TH DAN BEIK (85)

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## **Local News**

# Her vision includes east side major museum, hotel

#### **GALLERY** - Continued from Page 1

art and cultural district. I thought I could be one step closer to that opening up here." she said.

With the gallery now open, Whitcanak runs that, the B&B and teaches "on the ground" at Carl Sandburg, while the other teaching is through the online universities.

When coupled with her art venues, Fort Madison has the Fort Madison Area Arts Association, Artist Trax Studio on Avenue H, Artisan Next Door, the Old Fort Players, Top Hatter's Dance Studio and Frame 'N Art, the historic district downtown has many businesses that are arts and culture related.

"The goal is we're trying to develop an arts and cultural district in the historic district and that's more than just visual arts," Whitcanak said.

She's currently helping coordinate and sponsor an open house and Music Festival on Oct. 7.

'I'm going to sponsor an open house with wine and cheese reception at this gallery from 3 to 5 p.m. We're trying to develop an October Music festival as a fundraiser for area school music boosters, but there are some

conflicts with the high school being in Ottumwa that night, But hopefully we can get some students from the middle school and maybe Illinois to help put that on."

"Right after that, the tourism group is trying to organize the first of ghost tours or haunted tours at the Old Fort. Not sure if they will call that a haunted tour or haunted house, but they'll bring those plans to the Old Fort Commission."

Whitcanak said she's trying help create an identity for the district.

"It's like a bucket list thing," she said. "You have a certain amount of time left in a lifetime and what do you want to do with it. This is what I want to do with it. People haven't even begun to identify the potential here yet."

Her visions and conversations have even included focusing a hotel or convention center type facility on the east end of town, possibly in the former Sheaffer Pen building, coupled with a major state or even national museum.

"If we an get a major museum or unearth the fort and take down those single story buildings to



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Whitcanak explains some of the acrylic works that she's done that are in display at the gallery.

have parking on the other side of Sheaffer Pen and then develop a major museum there," she said. "The state is certainly interested, but I think it could be a national museum because of this being the beginning of the history of Iowa...we've got the 1812 battlefield. There's enough here to build on," she said.

As far as her retail outlet, Whitcanak says she holds tutoring sessions and sells paintings out of the gallery. She also will

be bringing in different specialists to hold sessions.

The first of which is on Oct. 14 which is a session by Shirley J. Sanders. Whitcanak is scheduling two 3-hour workshop, one from 9 to 12 that is almost full and the second from 1 to 4 p.m.

Whitcanak can be reached at the gallery at 372-6842 or by email at victoria.bmarie@gmail. <u>com</u>.

## Randolph sponsors Friday's Party on the Patio

BY PCC STAFF FORT MADISON -Fort Madison Partners will be joining forces with the Baxter Sports Complex to provide free community events at the Baxter Sports Complex. This event is an opportunity to come out and see

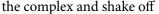
that work stress with your friends. We will feature free music from 5-7:00 pm with food and beverages for purchase.

Our Premier Sponsor for the Friday, August 25th event is Randolph Dental with music by Kerry Murray, from Kayambee; music Sponsored by: Artist Trax Studio and special food and beverage specials can be purchased from Baxter Sports Complex. Come out and relax on the patio with your friends and help support our community. Party on the Patio, is an

event benefiting community-wide beautification efforts. If you have questions- please call the Fort Madison Partners office at 319-372-5471. Save the date for the September and October events: September 15th and October 6th.



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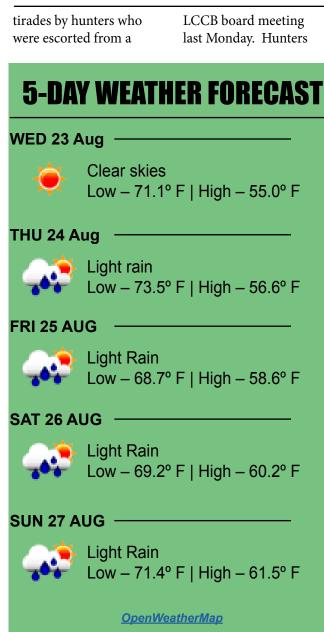
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## **Local News/Weather**

# County not sure it has standing in duck blind issue

#### **BLINDS** - Continued from Page 1



risk losing generations of traditions of hunting, and have a concern for safety on the Mississippi River in boat blinds. Board members voted to change the permanent blind guidelines to coincide with Iowa Department of Natural Resources due to a group of hunters not following the guidelines on getting the blinds out of the water.

Pflug asked Unsworth to elaborate on the decision to end the permanent blinds.

Unsworth outlined the system implemented five years ago with people getting permanent blinds through a lottery system. He said there were issues getting the blinds out on time so the board revisited the issue last year with a three-year contract. The past year there were still some issues with hunters following guidelines, so they board voted to phase out the permanent blinds and allow boat blinds only.

"At that point we had some feedback from hunters that it wasn't enough

time so we decided to give them another year to prepare for that change," Unsworth said.

"Here's the problem: these guys aren't duck hunters," said Pat Armstrong, a Fort Madison hunter. "They only give us two weeks to get those out. If you don't quit hunting two weeks before, you won't get out. You're gonna get frozen in back there. But the Ortho pocket, I've been hunting since '55 there and I've built a lot of blinds out there and you build a good one, it will last five years."

Sylvester said hunters have always been told they can call the board and ask for an extension. He said the board has met with duck hunters over the years to come up with guidelines that work for everyone.

"But no matter what we come up with, they didn't follow the rules," Sylvester said.

Supervisor Ron Fedler asked if there were any federal or state guidelines that govern the issue.

Sylvester said the board went against the Iowa Department of Natural Resources recommendations.

"We decided we would try to work with permanent blinds and the DNR didn't even want us to do that. Every year we'd meet with duck hunters and try to work out guidelines and things that would work for everyone and they just wouldn't follow the rules."

Sylvester pointed to occasions when the conservation district had to go down and pull out blinds that had broken loose and floated down river.

"We've had maintenance people go down the river and pull blinds out of the river and we don't have the manpower to do that. So we're just looking at going back to the DNR rules on the river."

Pflug asked if there wasn't a way to reach a compromise with the hunters. "Listening to what they're saying, going forward is there a way - with these guys, is there chance

to sit around and try to work out something." Sylvester left the door

open to possibly taking one more shot at working with the hunters.

"By extending the permanent blinds a year, that gives us time to do stuff like that," he said.

Unsworth reminded the supervisors that per state code, the conservation board has authority to set their own policy.

"Public input is the time for these folks to bring issues to us and then for us to go back to and do our homework and make recommendations," he said.

Fedler said he wanted to look into what authority the board had to intervene.

"As far as rulings, we need to check into whether we have any authority at all, which I don't think we do, to overrule their decisions."

After the meeting, when asked if the decision by the LCCB was a done deal, Unsworth hesitated and said, "We'll see."







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