Lee County Conservation Board

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - An area economic development official is set to take a spot on the board for the Mid-America Port Commission on Tuesday.

At Tuesday’s meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, the board will vote on naming Joe Steil, the CEO of the Lee County Economic Development Group, to the Mid-America Port Commission.

The commission is a tri-state compact that works to position Illinois, Iowa and Missouri in strong positions with national and international companies looking to expand or locate in the area.

Steil said positions on the board rotate through a six-county Iowa coalition including Lee, Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Van Buren and Wapello counties. Dan Weidemeier, a representative on the Southeast Iowa Regional Airport Authority is another Iowa representative on the tri-state group.

According the Mid-America Port Commission’s website, the commission is governed by a nine-person board with three commissioners from each state. Two commissioners from each state are appointed by the county board chairs from their respective state and the other is appointed by the Governor of their state. Illinois Commissioners are appointed from the Mid-America Intermodal Authority Port District. Commissioners are allowed to serve two – six year terms.

See STEIL, page 6

Workers with Schickeladanz Construction look at work from a high point on the old Lee County Bank building. Workers were working on the building from many sides on Monday as Barker Financial Group rehabs the buildings for upper apartments in the near future.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Keokuk man arrested on arson, drug charges

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Keokuk Police Department has arrested a Keokuk man on felony arrest warrants and additional felony and misdemeanor charges. Michael Wayne Land, age 29 of 1503 Concert Street was arrested on 8-13-17 at 3:40 am in the 1500 block of Concert Street. Land was arrested on warrants for intimidation with a dangerous weapon, a class C felony, possession of a firearm by a felon, a class D felony, and threatening to commit arson with an explosive incendiary device, a class D felony. The arrest warrants were obtained following two separate investigations in March 2017.

Land was also charged with possession of marijuana 3rd offense, an aggravated misdemeanor, possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor, and interference with official acts, a simple misdemeanor. These charges stem from an investigation following Land’s arrest on 8-13-17.

He is being held at the Lee County Jail pending a court appearance. If convicted, Land faces up to 27 years in a state correctional facility.

He is presumed innocent until/unless he is proven guilty. The Keokuk police department said no additional information will be released on the case at this time.

See DUCKS, page 6

Duck hunters storm out of LCCB meeting over rules change

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - A move by the Lee County Conservation Board to extend permanent duck blinds for one more year to give area duck hunters a chance to adjust to new rules was met with hostility Monday evening.

About 50 hunters attended a special meeting Monday night at the Lee County Conservation Board building in Montrose to hear the changes to the proposed regulations.

Board member Sandra Fullhart-Snyer told those in attendance that there wouldn’t be a time for public comment at the meeting. The board held a meeting on Tuesday where duck hunters had a chance to talk about a rule change that would prevent permanent duck blinds on LCCB property after 2018, with some hunters being able to keep the permanent blinds until 2018 and some not, depending on whether they had been abiding by the rules.

The district said hunters who have been following the program guidelines will be allowed to keep their permanent blinds under the 2016 agreement regulations through the 2018 waterfowl seasons. However, those that weren’t playing by the rules will have boat-in only privileges on district property. At Monday’s meeting, the board extended the permanent blinds for all spots through 2018, but after that season no permanent blinds will be allowed.

“You guys have gotten a year’s notice so you can’t say we didn’t give you enough time,” Fullhart-Snyer told the room. “We’re basically just doing this so you know.”

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Obituaries

ADALENE M. VONDERHAAR

Adalene M. Vonderhaar, 100, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Sunday, August 13, 2017 at the Donnellson Health Center. She was born on May 29, 1917 in Muscatine, IA to Morton & Emma Gullick Sharp. She married Thomas V. Engelhard on August 1, 1939. He preceded her in death on November 16, 1961. She married Alvin J. Vonderhaar on November 25, 1967 in Iowa City, IA. He preceded her in death on November 30, 1992. She retired in 1979 from the former Iowa State Bank. She was a member of the Fort Madison United Methodist Church and King’s Daughters.

Adalene is survived by: 2-daughters: Sue (Marvin) Holtkamp of Donnellson, IA & Deborah (Pat) Engelhard of Plymouth, MN; 2-step daughters: Joan (Peter) Redmon of Arlington Heights, IL & Carolyn (Leroy) Diecker of Cleveland Heights, OH; 1-step son: Jay (Colette) Vonderhaar of Bettendorf, IA; 2-grandchildren: Eric (Shawnee) Holtkamp of Bondurant, IA & Jennifer Kempker of Fort Madison, IA; 2-great grandchildren: Anna Sorenson of Ft. Madison, IA & Deborah (Pat) Engelhard of Plymouth, MN; 3-great grandchildren: Jim & Peggy Burch of Ft. Madison; 40-great grandchildren; 22-great great grandchildren; her parents, both husbands, 2-sisters & 1-brother.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A private family graveside service will be held at a later date in Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for P.A.W. Animal Shelter & Crematory. A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

CHARLES W. COX

Charles W. Cox, 83, of Fort Madison passed away at 5:58 PM on Sunday, August 13, 2017 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington. He was born on February 6, 1934 in Arkansas to John and Sadie Ferguson Cox. Charles worked for Coca-Cola and retired after twenty seven years of service. On January 30, 1982 he married Karen Burch in Pueblo, CO. Charles served in the US Army. He was an avid bowler and sports fan.

Survivors include his wife, Karen Cox of Ft. Madison; his children; Charles Cox, Jr. of Colorado Springs, CO, Larry Cox of Pueblo, CO, David Cox of Phoenix, AZ, Terrie Jo Pauk of Monument, CO, Scott Cox of Las Vegas, NV; James Timothy of Manitou; CO and Tamara Palumbo of Ft. Madison; forty one grandchildren; twenty two great grandchildren and one great great grandchild; his father and mother in law, Jim and Peggy Burch of Ft. Madison. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. There will be no formal service at this time and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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Fort Madison
Police report
08/11/17 - 2:42 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to 900 block of Avenue G, for a report of a property damage accident in which an unknown driver struck a vehicle parked at a residence. A report was taken to a juvenile detention center without bonding pending a hearing.

08/11/17 - 7:06 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Matthew Wayne White, 44, of Keokuk in Polk County, for charges of driving while barred, possession of marijuana, and possession of methamphetamine. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a pre-trial release.

08/12/17 - 1:01 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to 2100 block of Avenue E. in Fort Madison at the Lee County Jail on a warrant for parole violation and charges of driving while barred, possession of marijuana and possession of methamphetamine. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

08/12/17 - 9:07 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Garrett Austin Pumphrey, 18, of Fort Madison at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a charge of false reporting to a public entity. He was cited and released on a promise to appear.

08/13/17 - 12:12 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to 1400 block of Avenue D in West Point in the 400 block of Avenue D in Fort Madison at the Lee County Jail and released on a pre-trial release.

08/13/17 - 1:42 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Terry Eugene Wixom, 51, of Fort Madison at the intersection of 29th Street and L., on a warrant for parole violation and charges of driving while barred, possession of marijuana and possession of methamphetamine. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

08/13/17 - 12:59 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Dale Melvin Hall, 78, of Keokuk, for a warrant for 3rd-degree child endangerment. He was cited and released on a pre-trial release.

08/13/17 - 4:36 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Thadius Pearl Hester, 36 of Keokuk at the Lee County Sheriff’s office on a judge- ment entry. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

08/13/17 - 11:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested a 16-year-old male from Minneapolis on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was held at the juvenile detention center without bonding pending a hearing. Those listed above are pre- sumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report
08/12/17 - 9:07 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tyler Matthew Hotop, 30, of West Point in the 400 block of Avenue D in West Point, on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.

08/13/17 - 12:59 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Colin Blakely Squire, 27, homeless, in the 2500 block of Hilton Road in Keokuk, on charges of failure to maintain control, failure to provide proof of insurance, driving while suspended, failure to use child restraint, manner of conveyance, possession of a controlled substance and child endangerment. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a pre-trial release.

08/13/17 - 4:36 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 16-year-old male from Minneapolis on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was held at the juvenile detention center without bonding pending a hearing. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison police arrested Jeffrey Lee Rainis, 40, of Fort Madison on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Department report
08/11/17 - 11:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Harvey Lee Tumer, 52, of Keokuk in Polk County, on a warrants for 3rd-degree burglary, unauthorized use of a credit card less than $1,000 and operating a vehicle without owner’s consent. He was taken to Lee County Jail and then released on a pre-trial release.

08/12/17 - 5:52 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Thadius Pearl Hester, 36 of Keokuk at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a judge- ment entry. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

08/12/17 - 7:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to 2100 block of Avenue E., in Fort Madison to a report of a property damage accident in the 900 block of Avenue E.

08/12/17 - 11:35 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to 2600 block of Avenue H. in Fort Madison for a report of vandalism in the 1000 block of Avenue F.

08/12/17 - 12:01 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to 1000 block of Avenue D. a report of a larceny/theft in the 1000 block of Avenue F.

08/12/17 - 7:06 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Colin Blakely Squire, 27, homeless, in the 2500 block of Hilton Road in Keokuk, on charges of failure to maintain control, failure to provide proof of insurance, driving while suspended, failure to use child restraint, manner of conveyance, possession of a controlled substance and child endangerment. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

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FTZs can be powerful tools

The port was established in 1999 to be a catalyst for economic growth in the tri-state area. The commission is focused on helping businesses compete globally, create short & long-term high-paying jobs, and help attract new businesses and industries to the region.

Steil said Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) can be an important opportunity in the port's work in the future.

"What I'm aspiring for is to leverage economic development opportunities that can be of benefit to our manufacturers," Steil said. "A Foreign Trade Zone is one tool that can really benefit some of our manufacturing entities throughout the tri-state area."

He said the FTZs can be very attractive for potential new companies as well as for current manufacturers.

"Obviously I'm very focused on what is good for Iowa. Wherever we can reduce or not be charged double on duties would be terrific," Steil said. "Exporting finished products and goods that are imported and kept on the FTZ property can be exported without customs duties. There are advantages called Inverted customs duties, where you pay a duty, but there are two types of duties in play and you only pay whichever is lower. So financially it's a benefit to the company as well."

He said other FTZ benefits could include duties that can be eliminated or waste or scrap as an acceptable part of the manufacturing process, as well as zone-to-zone duty elimination for goods that are transferred to another FTZ.

Steil said with the approval of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, he would begin his term on the board and begin doing the diligence to hit the ground running.

Hunter's say tradition has been wiped out

The board then made a motion to extend the permanent blind program for one year and then result back to LCCB rules, which prompted all those in attendance to get up and walk out.

On the way Jeff Junkins stopped and criticized the board.

"I've set here three years listening to this and we've had issues with hunters dating back to 1937. They didn't even listen to us," Junkins said.

They didn't even listen to us."

Robert Stotlar, Fort Madison said he too thought boat-in only blinds were too dangerous.

"I'm not taking my kids no way. They just ruined tradition dating back to 1937. They didn't even listen to us."

Don Hunold, a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors who is a liaison for the board, said he understands the tradition, but said this land was purchased back in 2012 and no one approached them about the concerns.

"You get 25 mph hour wind and 6-foot curls...if you're lucky enough to get a duck you have to unanchore and get it and then other people are shooting...you're gonna get peppered...someone's gonna get hurt or killed."

Robert Stotlar said he thought the board had a different motive.

"I think they want to make it into a refuge where there's no hunting, that's what I think," he said.

Don Hunold, a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors who is a liaison for the board, said he understands the tradition, but said this land was purchased back in 2012 and no one approached them about the concerns.

"I was raised right here and my grandpa is flipping over in his freakin' grave right now listening to this..." said Jeff Junkins of Montrose.

The motion passed 3-1 with board member Mark Holland voting against the move. After the meeting Junkins said he should apologize for his outburst, but didn't apologize for his opposition.

"The passion of it is I was raised here," he said. "My grandpa and grandma lived right there in that house. The change is they want to do away with permanent duck blinds. I'm 55 and I've hunted ever since I can remember. My grandpa took me down right there on the bank and he taught me. Couple years ago the conservation started drawing spots for a blind and I backed away from it. Now I've got a 5-year old grand-son who wants to start hunting. I don't care if I ever shoot another duck. I've shot plenty, but now I have to bring him out here in a john boat rocking in these winds on that river. No way!" Junkins said.

Junkins said the issue was one of tradition and didn't know what he was going to tell his grandson.

"I've lived here my whole life and you could go out there anytime and you could count mallards with nests. That's conservation. What are we talking about?" Junkins said.

Those blinds have hatched out more ducks than any of these plastic houses they got out there. It gets me all tore up because I can see my grandpa. He hunted his whole life. It goes real deep. I don't know what I'm gonna tell my grandson. I'm not going to do that with him in a boat.

William Stotlar, Fort Madison said he too thought boat-in only blinds were too dangerous.

"I'm not taking my kids no way. They just ruined tradition dating back to 1937. They didn't even listen to us."

Don Hunold, a member of the Lee County Board of Supervisors who is a liaison for the board, said he understands the tradition, but said this land was purchased back in 2012 and no one approached them about the concerns.

"I've set here three years listening to this...and we've had issues with hunters throughout. And it's not just one person...it's several. And if you look at the other 98 counties we're doing what everyone else is doing. I think when they heard at the last meeting that we owned the waters those hunters didn't have a chance. So we listened and then gave them another year. I think that's pretty fair."