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Bylaws language makes document validity fuzzy

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

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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. (See APPEAL, page 3)

“I’d like to get things straightened out from before, and let things go from before, and let’s look forward to the future.” -Rusty Robbins, West Point resident

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.

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On Wednesday, Unsworth said he’s reviewed the board’s bylaws and has found no need to change them. (See BOARD, page 4)

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 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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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.

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.

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Homan says Iowans will keep the fight
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 unequal treatment by lawmakers,’ Homan said on the 30th.

Lee County
Sheriff’s Report
11/13/17 – 12:05 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Kyle Allen, 21, of Bondurant, in the 300 block of Avenue A, on a warrant for theft.
11/13/17 – 1:00 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies 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 burglary in the 1100 block of 4th Street.
11/14/17 – 10:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jerome 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 - 10:34 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a car theft in the 100 block of Avenue G.

SUN 19 Nov
Light Snow
High– 28.4º F | Low – 23.4º F

Homan says Iowans will keep the fight
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**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 had 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 hadn’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.

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.
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis is now seeing patients on Wednesdays in the downtown Fort Madison office.

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BRIDGES - Continued from Page 1

Bridges program attacks the “disease” of poverty

"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 uninsured people," 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 pro-
gram 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 do to help in regards to what it might look like. Our goal is to serve as the re-
source 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 Manufac-
turing 101 program. "That's a great program, but if a person doesn't have a better understand-
ing 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-

"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."

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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