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 judg- es 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.

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 supervi- sors 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 ap- pointment to get a list of names of attorneys who would be interested in the position, but added that it would have to happen quickly as Boddicker becomes a judge in four weeks.

Braden said he was certainly interested in picking up the position and said he was interested in the position, but added that it would have to happen quickly as Boddicker becomes a judge in four weeks.

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 recom- mended 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 purs- uing 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 Bod- dicker couldn’t tell whether or not the bylaws were still valid, but said they are a good idea and need to be updated.

"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," Unsworth said.

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 the 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 supervi- sors 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.

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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 recom- mended 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 purs- uing 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 Bod- dicker 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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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 availability 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
**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 Basset 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. After his retirement, he drove Shriners 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 Columbus, 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, Daceyen 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.

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**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 16-15 in the final period.**

The Hounds were paced by seniors Treavor James-Kojoek with 19, Kaleb Cresswell with 18, nine points each from Logan Rashid and Brandon Keester, and two points each from Sheymoore 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.
DONELLSON - 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 re-bound off senior Brett Schneider’s shot to get the Crusaders back within three.

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 15 26-41.

Krehbiel scored the first four points of the final period off two more HTC miscues before Sam Hoening 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, Hoening scored six, and Eryn Anderson 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.
Central Lee stymies Crusaders’ early ambitions

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON - 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 advan-
tage 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 Swan-
son 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 of 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 had them on their heels, “ said head
crusher vs. Crusaders.

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.

The Crusaders gave Central Lee coach

SOPHOMORE REED FESHEKE OPENS THE SCORING WITH A 3-POINT SHOT FOR HTC.

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

Fesheke would get hot from long-dis-
tance 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.

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The Crusaders host Danville Friday night in a girl’s/boys varsity doublehead-
er beginning at 6 p.m.

The third quarter was much of the same for the Crusaders with Central Lee controlling the temp and outsorcing 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.
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WORKFORCE - Continued from Page 2

“...and have the trained and trained staff keeping the state's industries the best it's been in years.” - Matt Morris

LCEDG Board Member

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 out unemployment, haven’t signed up, or are just tired of looking. How big of a factor is 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 why 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 I do 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 on a line or something because there’s not someone to keep making the investments in the county,” Morris said.

Rick Larkin said as he travels around the state he’s looking at. “They don’t really come out of the woodwork to apply. “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 supervisor, the board could get processes for appointment 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 said he did see a couple things like expenditures and salary requirements that need to be updated.

“I saw 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 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 Follluo 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.

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

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 13 Dec

Light Snow
High – 40.7º F | Low – 29.3º F

THU 14 Dec

Light Snow
High – 32.5º F | Low – 28.6º F

FRI 15 Dec

Light Snow
High – 30.1º F | Low – 28.6º F

SAT 16 Dec

Clear Skies
High – 50.4º F | Low – 47.5º F

SUN 17 Dec

Light Rain
High – 40.4º F | Low – 25.3º F

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