Duck hunters meet again over permanent blind issue

MONTROSE - Lee County duck hunters pulled out guns of a different sort Wednesday night when a group brought a sitting U.S. Congressman and a candidate for state office to hear complaints about the status of hunting in Lee County.

U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack stood in front of about 25 hunters at the Ivor Fowler Center in Montrose Wednesday, along with Jeff Kurtz, the Democratic candidate for Iowa House District 83, and U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack were also on hand to listen to the conversation.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

Lee County duck hunters pulled out guns of a different sort Wednesday night when a group brought a sitting U.S. Congressman and a candidate for state office to hear complaints about the status of hunting in Lee County.

U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack stood in front of about 25 hunters at the Ivor Fowler Center in Montrose Wednesday, along with Jeff Kurtz, the Democratic candidate for Iowa House District 83, and U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack were also on hand to listen to the conversation.

Loebsack said preserving hunters' rights and making sure they have land to hunt on is part of Americans' culture and history.

Kurtz said he was moving around during the day and did stop-and-contact reports have come in, and officers were unable to locate or identify the subject.

"We cruised the area and did stop-and-contact with people in the vicinity, and we couldn't ascertai- tain who he was or where he disappeared to," Sittig said. "Our reports don't indicate if the suspect was young or old.

Prison to hold fall tour

FORT MADISON - Iowa State Penitentiary announced Wednesday morning that another tour date for the Historic Iowa State Penitentiary facility has been set for the fall.

Public tours will once again be available on Sat-urday, Oct. 27th. Visitors can choose from the morning session that runs from 9 a.m. to noon or choose the afternoon session from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now at www.iowastatepen.com.

No active leads in Tuesday search for man with gun

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison police spent about an hour Tuesday morning looking for an unidentified man with a gun in the central part of the city.

A LeeComm dispatcher sent police to the 2300 block of Avenue L, where a call had come in about a man with light brown, longer hair walking on Avenue L toward Pizza Hut carrying a pistol with a long barrel.

Police Chief Tim Sittig said at different times one to three officers including the Fort Madison School Resource Officer were in the neighborhood and surrounding areas looking for the man.

"We were on the scene for about an hour look- ing for him. If he was out there and intended to do harm, we wanted to get to him before that could happen," Sittig said.

The incident prompted Fort Madison Community School District to place Richardson Elementary School on a lockdown during the search. Sittig said police were not at the school, but were out look- ing for the suspect after the building was secure.

Sittig said police were not at the school, but were out looking for the suspect after the building was secure.

He said it doesn't appear there was any threat di- rected at the school.

He said no other active reports have come in, and officers were unable to locate or identify the subject.

"We cruised the area and did stop-and-contact with people in the vicinity, and we couldn't ascer- tain who he was or where he disappeared to," Sittig said. "Our reports don't indicate if the suspect was young or old.

"I'm not going to weigh in on it as it's a local issue, but I do support our hunters. I do everything I can for Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever and all those groups. It's good for me to hear from these groups as it reinforces my support for them as hunt- ers." Loebsack said preserving hunters' rights and making sure they have land to hunt on is part of Americans' culture and history.

Kurtz said he was happy to see movement and a cordial discussion on the issue.

"My take is that we moved. That's what we wanted to do," he said. "For one thing, the county controls most of this and we'll do what we can. We can't solve every- thing in one meet and we'll take one bite of the apple at a time. But I think we had a little bit of movement."

Kurtz said he was moving around during the day with Rep. Loebsack and ran into a woman who had her social security cut about 18% which had a huge impact on her livelihood.

"This is important, I understand that, and we've made some movement which is great. But let's keep things in perspective," Kurtz said.

Nathan Unsworth, the director of the Lee County Resource Officer were in the neighborhood and surrounding areas looking for the man.

We were on the scene for about an hour looking for him. If he was out there and intended to do harm, we wanted to get to him before that could happen," Sittig said.

The incident prompted Fort Madison Community School District to place Richardson Elementary School on a lockdown during the search. Sittig said police were not at the school, but were out looking for the suspect after the building was secure.

He said it doesn't appear there was any threat di- rected at the school.

He said no other active reports have come in, and officers were unable to locate or identify the subject.

"We cruised the area and did stop-and-contact with people in the vicinity, and we couldn't ascer- tain who he was or where he disappeared to," Sittig said. "Our reports don't indicate if the suspect was young or old.

"I'm not going to weigh in on it as it's a local issue, but I do support our hunters. I do everything I can for Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever and all those groups. It's good for me to hear from these groups as it reinforces my support for them as hunt- ers." Loebsack said preserving hunters' rights and making sure they have land to hunt on is part of Americans' culture and history.

Kurtz said he was happy to see movement and a cordial discussion on the issue.

"My take is that we moved. That's what we wanted to do," he said. "For one thing, the county controls most of this and we'll do what we can. We can't solve every- thing in one meet and we'll take one bite of the apple at a time. But I think we had a little bit of movement."

Kurtz said he was moving around during the day with Rep. Loebsack and ran into a woman who had her social security cut about 18% which had a huge impact on her livelihood.

"This is important, I understand that, and we've made some movement which is great. But let's keep things in perspective," Kurtz said.

Nathan Unsworth, the director of the Lee County
The Hounds on the other hand spread the ball to 11 different offensive players, including senior quarterback Lennon Barker, in the win over Central Lee.

Wideout Dom Frantz led the Hounds with 132 yards officially on five receptions. Shiffman said he was happy that Frantz saw the reward from the work he'd put in all summer.

"Coach (Derick) Doherty and I were joking with him Monday - he's one of those football players that when he puts the pads on he looks about 10 times more athletic than when he doesn't have his uniform on. He's worked hard and I'm glad he had the success he did last week," Shiffman said.

Barker officially threw for 304 yards on 21 of 35 passing with no touchdowns and no interceptions. Barker did score twice off tackle on 2-yard dives. After the game, Barker said he needed to work on his timing as several receivers had throws go just over their fingertips.

"I think that's more of a testament to Mediapolis than a negative against West Burlington," Shiffman said.

"They're young but (Coach Jay Elders) was prepared for that. Against that flexbone, we have to play assignment football and not make mistakes."

Shiffman said the Falcons' strength is their defense with some good size linemen and a really solid linebacking corp. But if you get in their secondary, they've got some good size linemen and a really solid linebacking.

"It's one of those things where you're going on air on Tuesday and Thursday, but it's tough to get your timing down when there's someone in your face. But we did some work on that."

Kaeli Maestro and Diego Lozano are sharing time carrying the football, with Maestro getting the starting nod last week. Shiffman said he's fine with the duo sharing the load as it keeps Lozano, who also starts at linebacker, a bit fresher.

"With Diego going both ways, it's a lot better to bring him in off the bench as the second hitter than trying to wear him down."

Lozano, who averaged just over eight yards per carry, scored on a 10-yard touchdown in the third period after having to bounce outside to the right, made contact, and then spin out of a tackle and headed to the endzone. Maestro ended with 42 yards on nine carries.

"He had a couple really good runs and broke a 20-yarder," Shiffman said of Lozano. "He could take that spot back by the end of the year, but it's great to have options. Last year we just fed Alex Gulley the ball."

The Hounds had 12 different players make solo tackles against the Hawks and had 40 assists. Shiffman said that reflects the Hounds swarming to the ball on each play. He said the team rarely goes with live hitting in practice.

"It's just those guys getting to the football. It's an effort thing and when the lights are a little brighter, they're gonna get to the ball a little better. I look at a lot of successful teams that don't ever hit in practice. It's something when you get to 2A and 3A football in Iowa and you only got 50 teams that don't ever hit in practice. It's something when you get to 2A and 3A football in Iowa and you only got 50 kids in the programs and 30 dressing, you just can't beat the stout out of these kids."

He said players like Sam Hayes and Danen Settles never leave the field unless it a kickoff.
Agreement in jeopardy as hunters air concerns

BLINDS - Continued from Page 1

Conservation District, attended the meeting, but declined to speak at the gathering and said he was just there to listen to the concerns.

The group decided to set a date for the next meeting on Sept. 26 at the lVor
Fowler Center to discuss the concerns individuals have as to why the current agreement won’t work.

A committee comprised of duck hunters, advocates, Unsworth, and a representative of the Lee County Conservation Board, met for about six months and hammered out a compromise agreement that allowed permanent duck blinds on the river. The board had indicated that 2017 would be the last year of permanent blinds because the board said hunters were not following regulations. They also said the Iowa Department of Natural Resources does not allow permanent blinds on any state property.

Shirley Hoenig, who was on the committee, said the agreement fell apart because conservation staff picked 12 locations for permanent blinds that were not conducive to good hunting locations and therefore didn’t execute the agreement in good faith.

“They’re crappy spots, plus it’s rough out there. Shallow water is good for hunting because that’s where the ducks want to land,” Hoenig said. “They want all these boat blinds and they say a boat blind is fair to everyone. But I say how’s that fair to everyone when not everyone can afford a $17,000 boat blind. Those boats are expensive.”

She said the committee reached an agreement where the district would allow 12 blinds and the conservation staff picked the locations.

“When they did that, I thought - I’ve been meeting with this group since November and we finally made a decision in May. I’ve wasted…wasted every Wednesday that I went to those meetings and spent two or three hours,” Hoenig said.

Billy Burchett, a hunter from Montrose, said he has one of the places that the hunters are upset about but didn’t take part in the lottery drawing in June which determined who got what location.

“The reason we didn’t draw was that there is a $250 charge and there are four pages of stipulations and if you violate anything you surrender your money. And we had to have it out by the end of the season and often we don’t see the ducks until the end,” Burchett said.

Burchett said the other sticking point is that the hunters helped pay for the county’s land and now they can’t hunt on it.

“It was purchased with funds we all pay for out of our habitat stamp money,” he said. “It’s like saying ‘Hey, boys, let’s all go in on something, everybody pitch in $25.’ Then I go buy it and then I say ‘I’ve got it’s mine and you can’t use it’. So that left a bad taste in my mouth.”

Lee County Conservation areas ready for dove season

LEE COUNTY - Dove season begins this Saturday in Iowa. Lee County Conservation would like to remind area hunters that LCC has several dove fields prepared for the season. This year, Sugar Creek Bottoms, Turkey Run Wildlife Area, North Heron Bend, and Amborn-Pagin all provide opportunities for dove hunting. Each area contains sunflowers, wheat, or a combination of the two.

Dustin Johnson, Wildlife Management Assistant for Lee County Conservation, hopes the fields will produce results for hunters. “Considering the dry weather, the sunflowers and wheat turned out great to excellent on many areas,” Johnson said. “I would recommend concentrating on the areas with sunflowers first and then trying the areas with only wheat like Amborn-Pagin as the season progresses.”

Dove hunters will have limited access to North Heron Bend on Saturday, Sept. 1st due to a youth dove hunt being held on the property. The area will open to all hunters in the afternoon following the youth event.

For questions about dove hunting and other hunting opportunities on Lee County Conservation areas, please call the Lee County Conservation Office at (319) 463-7673.
Lady Hounds roll Panthers in home opener

Pumphrey, Hutson lead FMHS over Panthers

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After a tough Saturday tournament where the FMHS girls volleyball team played six matches in one day, the Hounds looked fresh in a three-set win over Mt. Pleasant Tuesday at home.

Fort Madison knocked off Mt. Pleasant 25-11, 25-6, 25-21 in front of a rowdy student section in the first conference game of the year for both teams.

The third game got close after Head Coach Kent Bailey began subbing in some of the younger girls, but eventually went back to the starters when things were headed for a fourth game.

“I did not want to go to a fourth game,” Bailey said. “It was hot in here and it’s one of those nights where kids can cramp up and I was hoping we wouldn’t do that. Our young kids played well and I was hoping they could finish that up, but unfortunately they didn’t.

The first game was close through the first seven points as the teams got settled in with the Lady Hounds taking a 4-3 lead. Then senior libero Josie Pumphrey got hot from behind the line and took the run Fort Madison on a nine-point run featuring back-to-back kills from Kaeli Hutson at 8-3 and 9-3. The run continued with Braxtyn McTighe putting down a set points as the teams got settled in with the Lady Hounds taking a 4-3 lead. Then senior libero Josie Pumphrey got hot from behind the line and took the run Fort Madison on a nine-point run featuring back-to-back kills from Kaeli Hutson at 8-3 and 9-3. The run continued with Braxtyn McTighe putting down a set.

The second game of the Hounds’ three-game sweep over Mt. Pleasant Tuesday at home. Pumphrey was 23-25 serving with six aces on both nights! Pumphrey finished with 23-25 from the service line with six aces. She also had 11 digs to lead FMHS. Bailey had 27 assists which was tops for the Hounds. Bailey credited the back row with keeping the offense moving.

“I thought our back row did a great job passing the ball and covering the floor, and made Lauren’s job easier setting the ball. And then our hitters took care of the night,” he said.

“The varsity squad is now 4-3 overall and 1-0 in the conference. The junior varsity won their match 25-13, 25-13 and are 1-0 on the year. The freshmen won 25-16, 25-18 and are 2-0 on the season. The varsity traveled to Quincy for a Saturday tournament and the freshmen play in the Mount Pleasant tournament on Saturday.

“I thought our back row did a great job passing the ball and covering the floor, and made Lauren’s job easier setting the ball. And then our hitters took care of the night,” he said.

“The varsity squad is now 4-3 overall and 1-0 in the conference. The junior varsity won their match 25-13, 25-13 and are 1-0 on the year. The freshmen won 25-16, 25-18 and are 2-0 on the season. The varsity traveled to Quincy for a Saturday tournament and the freshmen play in the Mount Pleasant tournament on Saturday.

Prep Class

ACT PREP CLASS
Sundays, 6-8pm; Dinner served at 6
There’s still room! Join us this Sunday!

Test Kitchen
807 Avenue St, Fort Madison
www.testkitchen.org

Generations of Great Service!
• 24 Hour Service
• Never An Overtime Charge
• Best Price & Quality Guaranteed!

Visit us Online: www.yourheatandairguy.com
Like us on Facebook!
HELP WANTED

BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TECH

Lee County Maintenance Department is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Building and Grounds Maintenance Tech. Applicants must have good mechanical skills and will be performing labor indoors and outdoors in all weather elements. Basic understanding and work experience in mechanical and electrical systems, HVAC, plumbing, painting, grounds keeping (including mowing and snow removal), power equipment operation and maintenance and best safety and construction practices. Must be capable of performing duties inside the Lee County Correctional Facility Complex, working with and around inmates. Application forms can be downloaded at www.leecounty.org. A job description can also be found on the website. Completed application should be sent or delivered to Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor, 333 Avenue H, P.O. Box 190, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 or emailed to draise@leecounty.org. All applications should be received by the Auditor’s office by 4:30 PM on Friday, August 31, 2018. Lee County offers an excellent benefits package. Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Call to schedule your personal tour
319-372-8021

Protect your bottom line with The Power of AgMax®

Large commercial and individual operations have unique insurance needs. AgMax offers tailored insurance products to accommodate the unique needs of commercial agriculture operations and related businesses, including:

- Producers who process, retail or direct market
- Specialty crop and livestock operations
- Equine and kennel operations, including boarding, breeding
- Hunting and other farm-based recreation

Contact me today to learn how I can help you maximize your insurance protection.

Contact: Larry Holtkamp
319-372-9145
1301 37th St
Fort Madison, IA 52627

FARMERS MARKET

Every Monday • 4-6pm
Fort Madison Depot • 814 10th Street

Fresh fruits & vegetables
Homemade pastries & pies
& so much more!

PHOTO CORRECTION / BUSINESS CARDS

Client satisfaction is our goal.

We have a great selection.
As life changes, so do your needs. Let State Farm Bank® help with a mortgage that fits your life and your budget. Let us help you make the right move.
Bank with a Good Neighbor®.
CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THANK YOU FOR DODD PRINTING your insurance protection.

FARMERS MARKET

Every Monday • 4-6pm
Fort Madison Depot • 814 10th Street

Fresh fruits & vegetables
Homemade pastries & pies
& so much more!

1301 37th St
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Larry Holtkamp
319-372-9145

Agritainment and agritourism
Hunting and other farm-based recreation
Equine and kennel operations, including boarding, breeding

Protect your bottom line with The Power of AgMax®

Large commercial and individual operations have unique insurance needs. AgMax offers tailored insurance products to accommodate the unique needs of commercial agriculture operations and related businesses, including:

- Producers who process, retail or direct market
- Specialty crop and livestock operations
- Equine and kennel operations, including boarding, breeding
- Hunting and other farm-based recreation

Contact me today to learn how I can help you maximize your insurance protection.

Contact: Larry Holtkamp
319-372-9145
1301 37th St
Fort Madison, IA 52627

INTIMATE AND MEANINGFUL
Bridal & Baby Showers
Anniversary & Birthday Parties
Receptions & Retreats
Unforgettable Celebrations

BOULDERS INN & SUITES
4901 AVE O FT MADISON IOWA 319-246-1401
EVENTS © BOULDERSINFFORTMADISON
Shiffman wants to keep spreading the ball around

The Hounds’ Harley Pennamon plays pass defense in the 2nd quarter of last Friday’s win over Central Lee.

Play responsibly.

Help CRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!

Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm 800-216-2370 Call for an appointment

Backyard composting improves soil quality & makes for healthier plants!

These backyard compost bins were made by students at the Keokuk Christian Academy & are now available for purchase.

Contact the administration building at 1-800-216-2370 to purchase one today!