Wilkins remembered for sweetness, impact on people

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison community lost an icon in music education on Wednesday, but local peers and friends look back on his life with a nod to the accomplishments and joy he brought to the city and its schools.

Former Central Lee, Fort Madison, and Fort Madison Aquinas music teacher Craig Wilkins died Wednesday evening at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

According to his obituary from King-Lynk Funeral Home and Crematory, Wilkins was born on April 9, 1946 in Fort Madison to Don & Dorothy Sue Wilkins. He married Patricia R. Bell on August 20, 1967 at the Sharon Church in rural Farmington. He was the band director at Aquinas High School from 1968 to 1976 and band director at Iowa Falls High School from 1977 to 1978. He then worked at Fort Madison High School from 1996 to 2007. The family will receive friends from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday March 25, at the Union Presbyterian Church in Fort Madison. The funeral service will immediately follow at 5 p.m.

"It was a sweet little gift toward the end of my classroom career that Craig came into my life."

-Allen Chapman, Friend and peer

Fareway ahead of schedule

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With a lack of any real tough winter weather this season and mild temperatures, Fareway Grocery is slightly ahead of its schedule to open in Fort Madison.

Corporate Outreach and Communications Director, Emily Toribio said Thursday the building plans are slightly ahead of schedule because of the mild weather and the company is now looking at a late August or early September opening. In December, Toribio said the company was hoping to open in the fall.

"We actually did a sponsorship with the rodeo last year," she said. "It's a great event. We provided a lot of meat products as well as items for the chili supper, but nothing's been discussed for this year yet."

With the number of people in town for the rodeo, she said it would be good if they were opened by then, but, again, it all depends on the construction schedule.

"Right now crews are getting all the roofing done and up next will be the plumbing and electrical work and when that's done they will begin pouring the floors," Tribio said.

The building is planned to be 19,000 square feet located at 1820 Avenue H. A construction worker with Lynch Roofing helps guide a load of roofing materials from a truck to the roof of the future Fareway building on Monday afternoon.
10 lb. Box Asian Catfish Fillets $29.95

Limit 2 Boxes Please.

Homemade Breaded Pork Tenderloins 10/$10

Limit 30 Please

Unbreaded Pork Tenderloins $77¢ ea.

Limit 30 Please

New York Strip Steaks $5.99 EA.

8 oz.

TAX TIME FREEZER SPECIAL

1/2 Beef

200 lbs. - Cut Wrapped & Frozen - $897
All Cuts Boneless Except T-Bones
Chuck Roast, Arm Roast, Ribeye Steak, Brisket, Round Steak, Swiss Steak, Sirloin Tip Roast & Steak, Rump Roast, Sirloin Steak, T-Bone & Ground Beef

1/2 of 1/2 Beef

100 lbs. - Cut Wrapped & Frozen - $447
All Cuts Boneless Except T-Bones
Chuck Roast, Arm Roast, Ribeye Steak, Brisket, Round Steak, Swiss Steak, Sirloin Tip Roast & Steak, Rump Roast, Sirloin Steak, T-Bone & Ground Beef

Front 1/4 Beef

100 lbs. - Cut Wrapped & Frozen - $439
All Cuts Boneless
Chuck Roast, Arm Roast, Ribeye Steak, Brisket & Ground Beef

Hind 1/4 Beef

100 lbs. - Cut Wrapped & Frozen - $477
All Cuts Boneless Except T-Bones
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1/2 Hog $139
64 LBS.

Whole Hog $268
128 LBS.

$2.00 OFF
3 lb. Box Snack Sticks or Wieners
4 Varieties
Expires: 4-3-17

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Friends, peers look back on Wilkins’ career

WILKINS - Continued from Page 1

He just had a great manner. I am really pushy and he would sort of talk me down from my tree and let me not be so pushy: “

“He just had the best manner around students ever. He was able to get them to do great things and always keep this really sweet, caring manner and I so admired that. I am a choral and vocalist through and through, he was a great instrumentalist and a great singer and he could do it all. He filled in a lot of gaps for me. I think for those 11 or 12 years we were together any youngster in the music department - vocal or instrumental - they experienced some really good teaching and fine, fine performance opportunities.”

One of the first major performance opportunities for Wilkins was taking the Aquinas High School marching band to the 1972 Olympics in Germany.

“He first job was at Aquinas High School. He built that program from nothing to a fine band and fine marching band. They performed at the ’72 Olympics. For them to perform there and be a part of that... in the ’70s for an individual school to take a performing group, that was a trailblazing thing to do. That’s just the way he was. He was always willing to take on a big project. His bands, his show choirs, did traveling to Disney World, New York City, Washington D.C. He just gave some tremendous experiences to southeast Iowa students.

Chapman said Wilkins’ legacy will live on in the people who are now part of the booster programs at Central Lee High School, Fort Madison High School, Holy Trinity High School, and those respective communities. “I guess his legacy is that there are two generations of students in southeast Iowa who were part of ensembles that he would have directed in one of the high schools. And those are the people I see as the boosters for those music programs. His legacy is love of music and education. It will live on,” Chapman said.

Current FMHS principal Greg Smith remembered Wilkins’ soft approach with staff and students alike. “Craig was an intelligent, creative professional,” Smith said. “He nearly always had a smile on his face even when the work load was tremendous. He was loved and respected by his students and their parents and brought out the best in both. In the midst of the chaos that high school vocal music can become, I will always remember the twinkle in his eye and the orneriness that he had. I think that’s what made him such a great teacher.”

Fort Madison Middle School band instructor Lisa Knipe spent many years with Wilkins as a peer, and more importantly, a friend. “In 1995, I had survived teaching band at Ft. Madison Middle School for five years, had been married to Jeff Knipe for three years and we were expecting our first child. I thought those were big events, but God does have a sense of humor. He placed Craig Wilkins into my life,” Knipe said.

“I had been watching Craig and his bands at Central Lee and was impressed with their performances. Ft. Madison just happened to have an opening for a high school band director. I put my plan in place to snag him away from Central Lee. As my students know, I’m used to getting my way.”

She said Wilkins gave the FMHS band program a boost and helped bring competitive marching and jazz to the school.

“We were all excited to host the first Ft. Madison Marching Band Classic in Richmond Stadium. But that wasn’t enough. Craig brought a new event to our little river town with the Big Band Dance night. Craig and I got a kick out of watching our middle school and high school students attempt dancing with a partner.”

Heather Madsen, who teaches music in Fort Madison, thinks of Wilkins as another father. “I first met Craig in 1989 when he started teaching choir at Central Lee. The high school choir program had deteriorated to almost nothing,” Madsen said. “I believe there were 11 students enrolled in choir and I was not one of them. Craig found out that I played the piano and he hunted me down in typing class and asked/told me to get my schedule changed because he needed an accompanist. I did exactly that and had the privilege of watching him turn the choir program completely around. Craig was the reason I made it to school every morning. He was an amazing teacher and mentor.”

“I continued accompanying for a few years after high school and when I was 21 I started dating his son. We were together for 15 years and had one son together. We did later divorce but my friendship with Craig continued. So not only got the experience of having him as a teacher, but also as a father-in-law. He was an awesome dad to me over the years and an amazing grandpa to my son. I decided when I was about 30 to go back to school and pursue my music education degree. Craig’s and Patty’s continued support and unconditional love made it possible for me to finish my degree. It meant a lot for me to follow in his footsteps and it wouldn’t have been possible without him.”

Wilkins is survived by his wife Patty Wilkins of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Ann (Mike) Thomas of Donnellson, IA; 2-sons: Robb (Carrie Sunden) Wilkins of Fort Madison, IA & Scott (Tiffany) Wilkins of Fort Madison, IA; 3-grandchildren: Ethan Wilkins, Leo Thomas, Lily Thomas and 1-brother: Dennis (Kathy) Wilkins of West Point, IA. He was preceded in death by his parents and 1-infant brother, Gene.
Wage vote set for Tuesday

Supervisors host forums in FM, Keokuk

Lee County - The Lee County Board of Supervisors will be holding two public discussions on Tuesday before casting the final vote on increasing the minimum wage in Lee County to $8.20. The current wage of $7.25 has been under assault by the Raise the Wage Committee for more than six months. The group put an ordinance in front of the board three weeks ago. Board Chair Rick Larkin pulled a vote on the county ordinance on March 7 saying he hadn't heard a report from the committee and wasn't going to put it up for a vote without discussion.

On March 14 and 21 the board voted 4-1 to advance the ordinance, which needs three approvals on three readings. On Tuesday, the board will have meetings at the Newberry Center Senior Center at 9 a.m. in Fort Madison and at 1 p.m. Heritage Senior Center in Keokuk. The board will be holding public hearings to renew the lease agreements with both senior groups before holding discussions on the minimum wage. The final reading of the ordinance will be held after discussions at the Heritage Senior Center in Keokuk. Supervisor Ron Fedler has cast the only dissenting vote on the

See FORUMS, page 8

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884 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot
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Listing #20164622 • $92,500

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528 sq. ft. • 5,600 sq. ft. lot
Super deal on this cream puff home, offering 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, new roof, newer windows, siding and REALLY nice garage!
Listing #20164597 • $29,900

3 BR • 2.50 BA • 2 car garage
1,194 sq. ft. 10,400 sq. ft. lot
Great family home is move-in ready. Nice-sized kitchen with all appliances, dining area, and nice living room all on the upper level. Completely re-modeled family room with a wood burning fireplace on lower level. Many updates include newer flooring, roof and HVAC system.
Listing #20164531 $114,900

3 BR • 2 BA • 1 car garage
2,260 sq. ft. • 6,784 sq. ft. lot
Lots of new! Semi open floor plan, new flooring, great open basement family space, and many updates including heat/air units, kitchen back splash, counters and more! Fenced in back yard with stamped concrete patio and awning. Call today to see this great home in a quiet neighborhood.
Listing #20164544 • $139,900

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Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Convening Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Newberry Center, 728 Avenue G, Fort Madison, IA 52627
AGENDA
Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Public Hearing for Purpose of Renewing Lease Agreement with Heritage Senior Group Consider Approval of Renewing Lease Agreement with Heritage Senior Group
Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2017-17, setting public hearing for 4/4/2017 at 5:30 P.M. on the sale of City-owned property known as 15th Place and 16th, 17th and 19th Streets south of Avenue P.

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ON 15TH PLACE AND 16TH, 17TH AND 19TH STREETS SOUTH OF AVENUE P.

On motion, Council approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Title 9, Chapters 7 and 14.

On motion of Mayor Randolph, term of Larry Wright to the Board of Adjustment, term expiring 9/11/2018; and Mayor’s appointee, written; Mayor’s appointee, ordinance amending Title 9, Chapters 7 and 14.

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On motion, Council approved the purchase of a cold planer from Sinclair Tractor in the amount of $12,000 for the Public Works Department.

At 6:25 P.M., on motion, Council adjourned until Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Bradley A. Randolph,
Mayor

ATTEN:

/s/ Melissa L. Blind, City Clerk

EXPERIMENTAL AGREEMENT

FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL
March 21, 2017

The Fort Madison City Council met in adjourned session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Randolph presided. Council Members Greenwood, Wright, Rink, Lair and Cangas were present. Council Members Andrews and Cangas were present.

On motion, Council approved the agenda as written. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 3/7/2017, as written; Mayor’s appointment of Larry Wright to the Board of Adjustment, term expiring 9/11/2018; and Payment of Claims.

On motion, Council approved the second reading of an ordinance vacating 15th Place and 16th, 17th and 19th Streets south of Avenue P. On motion, Council approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Title 9, Chapters 7 and 14. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2017-17, setting public hearing for 4/4/2017 at 5:30 P.M. on the sale of City-owned property known as 15th Place and 16th, 17th and 19th Streets south of Avenue P.

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**Full/Part-Time Stylist**

Kate's Cuts is looking for a 10-25% & dependable full/part-time stylist. Chair rental ($15/day), will accept walk-ins. Stylists receive 15% of their retail sales. Please call Kate if interested at (319)637-5000.

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**ORNOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa will meet in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, at 5:30 p.m. on April 4, 2017, at which time and place hearing will conduct and hearing the City-owned property known as 15th Place and 16th, 17th and 19th Streets south of Avenue P, legally described as:

- Lots One (1) and Two (2) in Block Seventeen (17), Fairgrounds Addition to the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, Lee County, Iowa.

You may appear at the hearing to express your views concerning the above. Written statements may be submitted to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 3, 2017. Any person who desires to be heard before the hearing is closed. Melinda L. Blind City Clerk
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Roofing Companies and Residents Receive Discounted Tipping Fees When RECYCLING Asphalt Shingles Properly!

State Republicans still trying to nix county’s ability to move wage

FORUMS - Continued from Page 4

issue saying the wage should be set by the federal or state government and not locally because it’s not enforceable across the county. Proponents of the measure say there’s hypocrisy in that mentality because the state setting a wage different than the federal wage is no different than allowing counties to set a different wage than the state.

If the measure is passed Tuesday it will not be effective until May 1, 33 days from now. A current bill, House File 295, is moving its way to a full Senate debate and, if approved, would negate any county minimum wage increases and reset the wage to $7.25. The bill was passed out of the State Government Committee of the Senate on Wednesday before noon.

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Burlington Dental Associates
319-753-2515

JOB FAIR
THURSDAY
MARCH 30, 2017
9:00 am - 11:00 am & 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

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319-667-5830

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319-667-5830

SWM Steffensmeier Welding & Mfg., Inc.