Wondra, Troxel talk momentum, skill sets

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of three articles looking at candidates in the Sept. 12 election for the Fort Madison School District Board of Directors.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Preparing students for life after high school tops the list of the priorities for two candidates seeking a seat on the Fort Madison school board. Tim Wondra, who is currently the Vice President of the Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors, is seeking his third term on the board. Wondra said he wants to continue the momentum the board has with respect to development and programming. “My number one focus is to continue to improve the quality of education our students have and increase the opportunities our kids have to succeed in life,” Wondra said. “I feel we’ve made strides in the district in the past couple of years and I don’t want to lose that momentum.” He cited the construction and welding programs as well as a culinary class that was added last year as evidence of the district’s focus on preparing kids for life after high school whether it’s college or a trade. But Wondra said funding is the one thing that could get in the way of that progress if state revenues don’t improve and things get even tighter. “Teachers are underpaid. Almost everyone feels that way, but at the same time when that takes up 80% of the budget you have to be cognizant of what you pay,” Wondra said.

State pushes new school vaccine regs

BY PCC STAFF
FORT MADISON - The Lee County Health Department is partnering with local secondary schools to inform parents of a new requirement for vaccines prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Immunization, completed the administrative rules process to require meningococcal (A,C,W, Y) vaccine for students enrolling in 7th and 12th grades. The administrative rule change will be implemented at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

The change requires a one-time dose of meningococcal (A,C,W,Y) vaccine received on or after 10 years of age for children in grades 7 and above, if born after September 15, 2014; and two doses of the vaccine for children in grade 12, if born after September 15, 1999; or one dose if received when the child was 16 years of age or older.

Meningococcal disease is a very serious, life-threatening disease. It is caused by bacteria that can infect the blood, brain and spinal cord. The bacteria are spread through upper respiratory droplets, such as saliva. Meningococcal vaccines are very safe and effective at preventing meningococcal disease. The meningococcal vaccine is 85-100% effective at preventing infection from the sub-types of meningococcus found in the vaccine.

All students who meet the guidelines listed above will be required to show proof of the required number of doses of the Meningococcal (A,C,W,Y) BEFORE entering school in the fall. Questions about this new requirement may also be directed to the nurse at the child’s school or the immunization staff at Lee County Health Department.
Death Notices/For the Record

Michael Lee Doty, 70, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 08 Aug
Clear Skies
High – 77.1º F | Low – 59.1º F

WED 09 Aug
Mostly Sunny
High – 78.5º F | Low – 68.3º F

THU 10 Aug
Moderate Rain
High – 78.0º F | Low – 67.0º F

FRI 11 Aug
Light Rain
High – 73.4º F | Low – 58.2º F

SAT 12 Aug
Light Rain
High – 77.5º F | Low – 64.7º F

Death Notices/For the Record

Fort Madison Police report
08/04/17 - 12:00 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 400 block of Avenue D. According to the report, a male was seen entering the residence in the 400 block of Avenue D. He was last seen walking away at 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

08/06/17 - 10:48 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at 18th Street and Avenue H. According to the report, a vehicle struck a fence and lost control. The driver was taken to Lee County Jail and held. The report was filed at 10:48 a.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2017.

08/06/17 - 9:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue H. According to the report, a vehicle struck a fence and lost control. The driver was taken to Lee County Jail and held. The report was filed at 9:17 p.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2017.

08/06/17 - 7:05 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue H. According to the report, a vehicle struck a fence and lost control. The driver was taken to Lee County Jail and released. The report was filed at 7:05 a.m. on Monday, August 7, 2017.

08/06/17 - 4:01 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run accident in the 100 block of Avenue F. According to the report, a vehicle struck a fence and lost control. The driver was taken to Lee County Jail and released. The report was filed at 4:01 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2017.

08/06/17 - 3:19 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run accident in the 100 block of Avenue H. According to the report, a vehicle struck a fence and lost control. The driver was taken to Lee County Jail and released. The report was filed at 3:19 a.m. on Monday, August 7, 2017.

08/06/17 - 2:00 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage in the 200 block of Avenue E. According to the report, a vehicle struck a fence and lost control. The driver was taken to Lee County Jail and released. The report was filed at 2:00 a.m. on Monday, August 7, 2017.

08/06/17 - 1:43 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 1000 block of Avenue H. According to the report, a vehicle struck a fence and lost control. The driver was taken to Lee County Jail and released. The report was filed at 1:43 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2017.

08/06/17 - 12:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run accident in the 700 block of Avenue D. According to the report, a vehicle struck a fence and lost control. The driver was taken to Lee County Jail and released. The report was filed at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2017.

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CATFISH - Continued from Page 1

area. For more information please call: (319) 372-5471 or visit their website at: www.fortmadison.com. Host lodging for the event will be Boulder Inn and Suites, 4901 Ave. O, Ft. Madison, IA. For reservations call: (319) 246-1401. The number of rooms may be limited in some areas so it is recommended that participants make their reservations early.

In conjunction with the tournament, the Cabela’s King Kat Tournament Trail will hold the Cabela’s King Kat Kids event on Saturday, August 12 at Wilson Lake Park, 2195 220th Street, Donnellson, IA. The event is free of charge and open to all youth 12 and younger. Sign up is from 8 a.m. till 9 a.m. with the Kid’s Fishing Event starting at 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. All children will receive a prize just for entering. Bring your favorite rod, reel and bait and show your true fishing ability. All children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Prizes for winners will be given in two age groups, 8-7 and 8-12. The event is free to all children 12 and under with all participants eligible for a chance to win one of the six, Outdoor Promotions $1,000.00 scholarships to be awarded in October.

Outdoor Promotions and our anglers have contributed nearly $342,000.00 to the “Kids” Scholarships since 1997. We are very proud to be a part of the education process for the youngsters who participate in our tournaments as adult/youth teams and those who fish in the Outdoor Promotions “Kids Fishing Rodeos”.

This year’s King Kat Northern Championship will be held September 22 & 23, 2017 on the Cumberland River (Old Hickory Lake) at Gallatin, Tennessee. The Southern Championship will be held October 6 & October 7, 2017 on Lake Wateree at Camden, South Carolina. Be sure to check out our website at: www.kingkatusa.com and like our Cabela’s King Kat Facebook Page. Both sites contain new and exciting information on our events along with special information for catfish anglers everywhere.

Sponsors for this years events include Cabela’s, Adventure Products EGO Nets, RigRap, B’ M Poles, Minn Kota, Mercury Marine, Mustad Hooks, Driftmaster Rodholders, Gamma Line, Humminbird Electronics, World Fishing Network – WFN, Rippin’ Lips, Keep Alive, Cat River Anchors, Sunsect Sunscreen & Insect Repellent, Humminbird Lakemaster Maps, Digital EFX Wraps, Tentology, Crown Trophy, Gill Rainwear, Catfish Now and Whisker Wear.

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Post high school preparation could take center stage

ELECTION - Continued from Page 1

"You don't want to give big raises this year and then be forced to make cuts next year. That bumps up class sizes and you get 27-28 students per class and that's not good. I don't even think those elementary schools could hold that many students. Being wise with the budget has to be the biggest hurdle we face."

He said vouchers would also be a hardship on public schools making students very mobile.

"It makes it difficult to look into the crystal ball and see what you need for the next year because we always budget a year ahead ourselves."

But building a new elementary school in Fort Madison is also a priority with Wondra. He said one of his biggest fears is for the safety of the students.

"We've got to have a new one. Even remodeling those schools, as expensive as that would be, you're still not addressing the safety. The drop off locations at those schools are very dangerous. With all the distracted driving out there, we're just lucky a student hasn't been injured or killed."

The 18-year Fort Madison resident is co-owner of Wondra Chiropractic with his wife Laurie. The couple have one daughter at Fort Madison High School and Wondra said he's proud of the strides the board has made and the emphasis it's put on its own development.

"I think we've made great strides the past couple of years," Wondra said. "We felt this past year it was important that if we expect our staff to do professional development, we needed to do that, too, so we carved out the time to do that and be a better board. And...I think we did a darn good job finding a good superintendent."

He said he would also encourage all those seeking a seat on the board to realize how much time is required of the job.

"We don't get paid to do this. There are trainings, conventions, special sessions, and meetings. My fear is that we will get someone elected that won't show up...and that hurts the kids."

Jillian Troxel, who's lived in the district for seven years with her husband Andy, also said preparing students for life after graduation is a key priority of hers. The couple has a daughter starting kindergarten this year and a 3-year-old boy at home. Troxel has a doctorate in physical therapy and works at Fort Madison Community Hospital. She said she's just recently started thinking of running for the board.

"I had been contemplating this for about a month and was encouraged by some close friends," she said. "I'm the daughter of an educator and education was always a high priority in our home. But you get a new perspective when your kids are coming up through the school. As a working parent I want to do everything I can for not only my kids, but for all the other kids in the district for what life is like after high school."

Troxel said she thinks the current board has had great leadership for many years and the one thing that prompted her to run was to optimize representation of those parents with younger students in the district.

"I want to be involved with the direction the district takes in working with parents of younger students in the district."

She said she would like to see the board overcome some of the challenges she sees in communicating with the community and being transparent in their work.

"We have to work as a team to produce students that have job ready skills, interview skills, customer service skills. We need to build that in our young adults and that starts from the bottom up."

Like Renee Ehlers who is also seeking a seat on the board, Troxel has a spouse who is currently on staff in the district.

"I think having a spouse that works within the district helps to provide a unique perspective," Troxel said. "In the time Andy and I have been here as a family we've been able to build relationships with some great colleagues through the FMHS system."

She said as a whole the district is trying to support our teachers with tools and technology that would promote the type of learning environment that would prepare our students for the real world.

"When they walk out of high school with a diploma, we need to make sure they are prepared for what their adulthood would be. Higher education may be something they want to do before the working world, but as technology has evolved, I think it's hindered some of the social skills we need to be able to help our teenagers develop those other skills," she said.

She said she would continue to support the construction of a new elementary school in the district.

"I certainly voted in support of the new building," she said. "Schools are one of the first things young professionals look at when they come to a new area. I think our school district has made so much progress with visits by the governor and sate education director. We have all this positive momentum and I would like to see what I could do to keep that going."

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