



# Pen City Current

Wed., Sept. 13, 2017 | 13 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 219

## Fareway exceeds opening benchmarks

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR



"It's been a terrific grand opening. We exceeded all expectations and this community continues to be amazing in how welcoming they are," Braun said Wednesday.

He said the opening was a little different from other locations because this was the first store he's been a part of where there wasn't a Wal-Mart in the town.

"They're buying absolutely everything... even the oddball stuff. This is the first time I've been in a town without a Wal-Mart, so even things like pet odor remover spray is flying off the shelf. It's the random things that kind of sit and gather dust that are selling

See **FAREWAY**, page 2

FORT MADISON - Having been open just a mere two weeks, Fareway grocery manager Mark Braun said the company has surpassed opening projections for the store.

The Fareway Grocery opened on Wednesday, Aug. 30, in time for the Labor Day weekend and the annual Tri-State Rodeo.

## Troxel joins Wondra, Young in win

*Lee County votes in favor of SCC's 6-cent support levy*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR



TROXEL

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison School district voters have brought two incumbents back onto the board and elected one newcomer to take a seat on the board.

Results of Tuesday's school election show incumbent Tim Wondra won with the highest number of votes at 357, followed by first-time candidate Jillian Troxel with 327, and current board member Gayla Young with 315. Young

was a mere 11 votes ahead of Renee Ehlers who was seeking her first seat on the board. Gunther Anderson finished with 241 votes and Brad Menke finished with 210.

Lee County also overwhelmingly voted in favor of the 6-cent instructional support levy for Southeastern Community College 729-227. The Fort Madison district broke in favor of the measure 345 to 137.

Wondra, who's served as vice president for the past two years, said he was a bit nervous going into election night.

"I'm extremely happy and excited," Wondra said. "I was pretty nervous this time. We had some good candidates running. I felt the district would be in good hands with whomever won. I'm just glad I was one of them."

Wondra said with current board president Timm Lamb not seeking re-election



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Voters cast their ballots Monday afternoon at the Fort Madison Public Library for three open Fort Madison school board members and a 6-cent support levy. The levy passed and Tim Wondra, Gayla Young, and Jillian Troxel were elected to the board.

he would be open to a nomination for the President's chair.

"Yeah, it's one of those things of being the most senior member and I would look at it as my duty. Timm is leaving some very big shoes to fill and we'll have to do a damn good job to fill 'em," he said.

Wondra said the turnout was similar to the last election, but he would have liked to see more people cast a ballot.

"This is our children's future and we can only get 400 or so to come out and vote in a district this size?," he said.

Young said she too felt very comfortable with the group of candidates.

"No matter what happened, we had some very qualified candidates. If I didn't win the sun would still come up tomorrow, but I'm

still very passionate about how we move Fort Madison School District to be a district that people want to come to," Young said.

She said she still thinks facilities are a top priority and wants to continue working to find a safe and secure building for the staff and students.

"We can't bury our head in the sand. These buildings are not fine. Whether that mean renovations or building we need to go back to the drawing board and see what the people want. We have fantastic leadership and we need to continue to build on that," Young said.

She said the Chapter 20 changes could drive a wedge in some districts between the

See **ELECTION**, page 12

*Lamb steps back after close to half century*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Current Fort Madison school board president Timm Lamb has done just about everything inside and outside the walls of a Fort Madison School District building and on Sept. 25, he will step back from any official capacity with the district after 43 years.

Lamb did not seek re-election in Tuesday's race for the Fort Madison Community School District saying it's time to officially retire. He retired from teaching about eight years ago, took a year off, and then ran for school board and won. He served the last three years as the board president and the two years prior to that as vice president.

"I've got about 47 years in this district as a coach, Athletic Director, and other things," Lamb said.

See **LAMB**, page 11

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## Local News/Celebrations

# PORT plans October Boo-athlon

*Funds to help kick start Phase 3*

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON-PORT (Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails) of Fort Madison will be holding their fourth annual Spooktacular Boo-athlon fundraiser for recreational trails in Fort Madison. The Spooktacular Boo-athlon will be held on Saturday, October 21st starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Baxter Sports Complex.

The PORT of Fort Madison committee is pleased to announce that this year's event will not only incorporate the Phase I trail that runs from Ivanhoe Park to Bluff Road but also the newly completed Phase II trail that intersects Phase I and connects to 48th Street. Registration and the start of each race will take place at the Baxter Sports Complex.



This multi-faceted event is sure to bring out all the ghosts and goblins who run, bike or both. Events include: Kid's Race-one for children up through the age of 6 and a one mile fun run for children 6 and over; 5K Run/Walk; 10 mile Bike Race; Duathlon (Run/Bike Event). There will be kid's games, prizes, refreshments and fun. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes. Registration forms can be found online at [www.fmchosp.com](http://www.fmchosp.com) under the Community &

Wellness tab/PORT; on the PORT of Fort Madison Facebook page or by calling Kathy Benda at 319-470-7848. The Spooktacular Boo-athlon is a community focused fundraising event. Corporate Sponsors are being sought. Matt's Greenhouse will once again be the exclusive sponsor of the Kid's Runs. Ann Menke & Co. and Steffensmeier Welding will be the chip timing sponsors.

PORT of Fort Madison received multiple grants and donations to fund

the first two phases of the trail. Plans to begin Phase III are underway. Phase III will connect the Baxter Sports Complex to Fort Madison Community Hospital.

PORT of Fort Madison operates as a subcommittee under the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Fort Madison with the mission to improve and promote the walkability, run-ability and bike-ability of Fort Madison. For more information, contact Rachel Benda 319-371-5804.

## Birth Announcement

### GREYSON ANTHONY JACK McCARTY

FORT MADISON - Greyson Anthony Jack McCarty was born September 8, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital to Jaydiane Engeman and Dylan McCarty, both of Fort Madison. Greyson's grandparents are Lisa Engeman, Fort Madison; Jeremy Engeman, Fort Madison; and Lonnie McCarty, Keokuk. Great-grandparents are Sherry Stotts, Fort Madison, and great-great grandparents are Jack and Maxine Stotts, Denmark.

## No Wal-Mart makes sales different at Fareway

FAREWAY - Continued from Page 1

here that surprises me."

With the rodeo in town during the first full weekend, Fareway jumped in with donations to a pancake breakfast and some other events and even was able to get a semi and some employees, including Braun and Meat Manager Michael Hanna, to make the long parade trek on Saturday morning.

Braun said he was floored at the size and length of the parade.

"That parade was massive. For the size of town this is, I thought maybe 10 blocks and a couple hundred people lining the streets. I don't know what the numbers were but there were thousands and thousands of people. It was absolutely insane. We ran out of candy and cookies about halfway through and just when we thought we were about done, we hit the downtown area," he said.

One of the characteristics of the Fareway brand is their "To Your Car Service" and Braun said that is taking some adjustments for the customers.

"We're kind of retraining the customer. They aren't used to that and a lot of them are like, 'No, we got it,' but we tell them we don't have any cart racks outside so we can unload the groceries for them and then bring the cart back so they don't have to and that usually does the trick. It's just re-introducing that service to them."

He said overall things have run very smoothly but there was a run on ice and beer during the rodeo.

"That was the biggest flux we saw. Every day we got a little busier and now we're getting into more of a normal groove. But this community continues to be very welcoming. It's almost like a celebrity status as I go around the community."

Fareways' main grocery line is 372-2223 and the meat market has a direct line as well at 372-8145. The store is open Monday-Saturday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.



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## Local News/Lottery Numbers

# FMCH names Rickelman July Employee of the Month

Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Lynda Rickelman as their July Employee of the Month. Rickelman is the helpful, friendly face at the Main Information desk at FMCH. She has been with FMCH for forty years. Rickelman was recognized with this nomination:

This individual has been with FMCH for many years but her energy never expires. She greets everyone with a friendly hello, either in person or when answering the phone. Her current position allows her to be the one of the first people guests see when they enter FMCH and without fail uses AIDET, escorts and assists them thinking customer service and safety first. When asked she helps out Marketing, HR and the Foundation departments with special projects and mailings. She assists many department leaders with special projects, typing policies or helping out wherever needed. If we have a rider that has special needs or request she makes sure the van driver is aware of any concerns etc. She interacts with guests, patients, vol-

unteers, staff, and physicians; always sure to put her best foot forward. Her wealth of knowledge and her willingness to stay informed makes her a great resource for many people. Sometimes an individual like this person needs to be recognized not because of one situation but because every day she is here, she lives our standards of behaviors. She takes great pride and ownership in her role at FMCH and we are lucky to have her.

Rickelman expressed this about working at FMCH, "Everyone I meet makes a difference in what I do at FMCH including all of the FMCH employees, past and present. I love being able to help our patients, their families and my co-workers."

Rickelman enjoys spending time outdoors, camping, fishing or reading, with her husband, their two grown children and her five grandchildren.

The Employee of the Month is an initiative developed by the Reward & Recognition team. Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.



Left to right: Vicki Kokjohn, VP, Employee Operations; Lynda Rickelman; Jeremy Alexander, acting President/CEO, present Rickelman a plaque honoring her with the July FMCH Employee of the Month.

## FMCH offering flu shot clinics

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Although it seems hard to believe it is time to start thinking flu season again. Fort Madison Community Hospital is encouraging all community members to get their annual flu vaccine. This year's flu vaccine will help protect you from four identified strains of the flu virus that research indicates will be most common during the 2017-18 flu season. This year's vaccine is a quadrivalent flu vaccine that is designed to protect against four different flu viruses; two influenza A viruses and two influenza B viruses.

The CDC recommends that all persons receive the flu vaccine by the end of October, if possible before flu activity begins. It takes two weeks after you re-

ceive the flu vaccine for it to be effective and then will stay effective throughout the flu season. However, getting vaccinated later can still be beneficial.

Fort Madison Physicians & Surgeons Clinic is offering flu shots on a walk-in basis Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. starting September 6th through December 20th in the Main Clinic (times are subject to change based on demand). Flu shots will be offered to members of the community for a cash discounted fee of \$25.00 per shot payable at the time of service. Insurance will also be accepted and filed and it will become part of your medical record.

"The flu vaccine is an important part

See FLU, page 12



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



9/12  
26 37 41 54 65  
Lucky Ball: 3  
Megaplier: 4



9/12 MID-DAY  
9 3 2  
9/12 EVENING  
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## Social Media Roundup

# Social media chatter on proposed relocation of depot

*Editor's Note: The following is a partial list of responses that have been posted to Facebook in response to a Pen City Current editorial on an upcoming vote by the Fort Madison City Council to possibly move the current Amtrak Depot back to its original location in downtown Fort Madison. Also included is a post from City Councilman Brian Wright who asked his Facebook community for comments on the proposal.*

**Dave Bohnenkamp:** I am in favor of bringing the Amtrak depot to the downtown location. However, the threat of Amtrak pulling its stop from Ft. Madison is likely an empty one. This is the stop where they change engineers and is the midway point between Chicago and KC on this line. I doubt that they want to change that.

**Cheri Coin:** What about those who work for the railroad and ride Amtrak? Would it still be convenient for them to get off downtown and then go back to the west end to conduct business? And is there ample parking for riders?

**Joe Diaz:** There's quite a bit of parking by where the Emerald Lady used to dock, and a skywalk over the tracks, if there is not enough by the historic Depot. The depot we have now is nowhere near anything worthwhile, and looks like crap. The inside is dumpy and out of date. Rusty was supportive of tax breaks for a new hotel, but doesn't want to do this. The city council talks about wanting to bring tourism and business to FM....but doing something like this, that would actually bring travelers closer to the downtown area isn't worth investing in? Most people who get off the train now only see the tracks and the outdated depot. I hear complaints about the Fort not

bringing in money, so why not move the depot closer so at least those people can see it? Is there a bus stop for trailways and greyhound somewhere in town? Could they move that to a spot close to downtown? Put some better signage up pointing to the shopping there? People don't shop or visit what they don't know about.

**Everett Mungan:** How did the city end up with the old Depot? Is the city finished with paying anymore to make the Depot acceptable to Amtrak and Dot?

**Mick Loebach:** I'm not sure if this is a good use of taxpayer money. Don't we have an Amtrak station already? With the possibility of losing Amtrak altogether if our POTUS has his way, it should be postponed until you find out for sure that Amtrak will continue.

**Jason Huppert:** i do not comment much, but i have to ask. We just spent a half million on an intersection. Getting ready to spend 26 mil on a new 3 lane highway (yes 3 lane), that not a sole seems to mind (higher taxes) remind you. I was against spending the money on the depot at the time, but we spent the money, now is the time to finish it. If it was my gamble i would stick my 1/2 million on the depot at this point



PCC file photo

rather than an intersection to help local business.

**Jim Nagel:** If I was a visitor coming to Fort Madison by train, I wouldn't want to do business if when I got off the train the first thing that I saw and smelled was a sewage plant. Move the Depot to its original location!

**Penny Dowell Monroe:** Back in the day, there was a restaurant my sister worked in, the old depot. I remember going as a kid. Downtown could benefit. They could put a couple shops in the old casino building as well.

**Kris Russell:** I think if the truth be told Amtrak will likely have the same agreement with the City they currently have. Some of the councilmen are trying to start dissension to divert attention.

**Brian Wright:** I would like some feedback from those in Fort Madison in regards to the old depot in downtown being rented for Amtrak to stop there for passengers. Cost is approximately \$50,000 annually for the city to maintain and the city

See DEPOT, page 5

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<p><b>Sirloin Patio Steak</b>  <span style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">2/\$6</span>                  8 oz. Each</p>	<p><b>Hereford 81% Lean Ground Beef</b>  <span style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$2.11</span> lb.</p>
<p><b>Fresh Unbreaded Tenderloins</b>  <span style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">77¢</span> EA.  <small>Limit 30 please</small></p>	<p><b>Top Sirloin Steak</b>  <span style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$6.88</span> lb.</p>
<p><b>T-Bone Steak</b>  <span style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$7.99</span> lb.  <small>Porterhouse each \$8.99</small></p>	<p><b>Whole Sirloin Butt</b>  <span style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$3.99</span> lb.</p>

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# Social Media Roundup

## DEPOT - Continued from Page 4

is paid \$400 monthly by Amtrak. The city already spent approximately \$350,000 to renovate and will had spent another approximate \$350,000 to build and extend the platform for passengers. Grants have provided in the millions give or take. Amtrak said they would do a 20 year lease, but can opt out at anytime from said lease. Cost to city over that 20 years, \$1 million to maintain. Would you rather see that money spent on city projects benefiting the whole community such as, street improvements, infrastructure, parks improvements, other improvements? Let me know, I have a vote to cast soon and always vote for what is best for the city as a whole. Thank you, Councilman Wright.

The following are some of the comments on Councilman Wright's Facebook post:

Michael Chapman: I answer would be no! First off Amtrak's a business are we going to start providing buildings at \$400 rent to every person that wants to start a business Plus cover \$45,000 worth of others I want to start a bowling alley will the city pay me \$45,000 a year to start a bowling alley or maybe a roller skating rink

Nick Kruse: I'd rather see the money allot of other places

Cheston Monroe: That's so ridiculously crazy ! Where do they come up with these figures , what's it lined in gold. I mean c'mon now why does it cost that much , INSANE. If Fort Madison had that much money to throw around , the money needs to be thrown elsewhere.

Sherrri Freed Yasenchock: The Amtrak drop off is a great idea and might bring new people here but what about some new buildings like a fire station or new city hall. Just food for thought.

Janel Waterman: FIX OUR STREETS! UPDATE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN THE PARKS ON THE WEST END. IT LOOKS LIKE A NO BRAINER TO ME. ESPECIALLY, IF WE'RE LOSING MONEY AS IT APPEARS, AT THE RISK OF THEM BACKING OUT! WHO SIGNS THAT KIND OF AGREEMENT. THE CITY MADE THE RIVERFRONT BAR PAY \$700 A MONTH LEASE! AND LESS IS EXPECTED OF A MAJOR CORPORATION!! THIS IS WHY CITIZENS ARE LOSING FAITH IN OUR CITY'S ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS..

Kathy McCracken: Please support the new depot, Brian. So much time and money has already been spent to bring this project to fruition. I think it would be a wonderful asset to our riverfront area. Some quality-of-life projects are worth the cost, and this is one of them.

Matt Mohrfeld: I love the idea. Trains are a big part of who Fort Madison is. If you're not growing you're dying.

Scott Meller: We have a working depot at this time. I like the fact that the building was renovated and that it can be used in the future, but little to no money will be generated with the use of the new depot. Im not saying it needs to be profitable but it should be closer to self sustaining. With the proposed #'s I just don't think it makes a lot of sense at this time.

Shawn Fuget: Going to be interesting to see how many businesses is willing to stay open after 5 p.m. if this deal happens, and you probably should plan on it 7 days a week to.

Derrick Higdon: Fix the streets, tear down the dilapidated houses. Are town looks terrible to anyone who comes here.

Denise Fraise: We have traveled with Amtrak. I would think travelers would enjoy the riverfront view when they stop. It is just another way to enhance Fort Madison's tourism. Thank you Brian for asking your constituents

Shaun Allen: As an occasional train rider, I would be all for it. But with the cost and the ability to opt out its not worth it at this time. If some improvements can be made gradually it would be worth revisiting in a couple years.

Tom Schulz: I have heard that they're going to have to move out of their current location because the owner, Burlington Northern wants that building. I think it's somewhat important to keep Amtrak here and if that's true should be part of the decision process

Jared Cullen: Rework the numbers. It feels as if the city is being taken advantage of. If they can opt out at anytime, we shouldn't be left to foot the bill. Maybe take a percentage of \$ based on passengers getting on and off the train to help.

John Risinger: Finish it

Bobby Holtkamp: Financially, I think it's a bit much. For the beautification and the idea of visitors looking at our town, I love it. Even if they don't get out of the train, our riverfront is one of the best around and people would enjoy our stop. For that, my vote would be yes. (Side note, negotiations on the amount would be appreciated)

James G. Baier: Cut the best deal we can and secure AmTrak for the future. I vote yes.

Julie Vorhies: We'll hear those trains a coming, they're rollin' round the bend, on into River City, this mission must not end.

We restored the Amtrak Depot, to government amends

Let's rally for completion, bringin' those passengers in, on into 10th Street Station (Santa Fe Depot) for a historic end!

Drake Ireland: The voters of fort madison and those elected need to take a common sense approach to this. Investing goes one of two ways you either go all in and make something work in your favor or you sit back and lose and watch the growth of a town you know and love crumble. To the councilmen and the citizens of FM you need to make yourself heard. Many of the councilmen know how money works and some of them are very smart about it and know that this would be huge for fort madison and it's appeal to those visiting and those who live in FM. Vote yes, vote for Fort Madison. It's a step in the right direction for Fort Madison and it's citizens

Charles H. Ireland: You have to spend money to make money. It would be a shame if the depot did not go through, and how is it really an option to not move forward? The people of fort Madison deserve it based on the commitment that has already been made. It should be an overwhelming vote for yes, and everyone that has anything to do with leading Fort Madison should make it a personal challenge to try and build it up to sustain itself. Then, we can go the other way with it and make money. Risk vs. reward. Vote smart Brian

Libby Burdette: Is grant money actively being sought or has it already been? Is there an estimate on the amount of grant money that will offset the 350,000? I personally hope that the Depot does get moved to downtown. To me the issue of cost/maintenance should have been discussed and a plan should have been put into place before the money was put into the renovation. It's like saying I'm going to renovate a building downtown to apartments and then stopping halfway through because you realized the money could be spent somewhere else. It's really not fair to the residents that have been promised this for years now.

Readers can comment on Pen City Current's article [here](#) and the Facebook post [here](#).

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**307 9th Street**  
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**2709 Avenue M**  
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*Listing #20166516*



**1212 Avenue E**  
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**721 Maple Street, Donnellson**  
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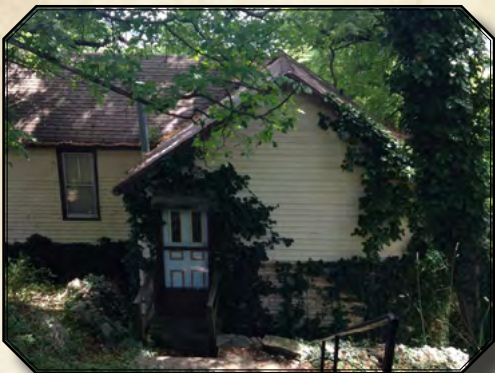
**604 Avenue E**  
4BR • 2BA • 1 car garage  
*Listing #20165688*



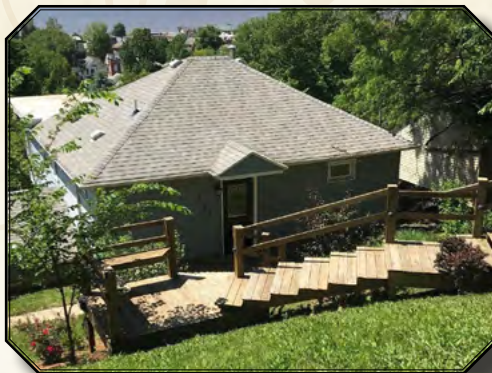
**2160 Grand Venture Avenue**  
3BR • 4BA • 3 car garage  
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**620 34th Street**  
2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage  
*Listing #20165503*



**536 Avenue C**  
2BR • 1BA  
*Listing #20166078*



**530 Avenue C**  
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**4911 Bluff Road**  
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**403 10th Street**  
5BR • 3BA  
Listing #20166615



**211 Main Street, Montrose**  
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## From the Front

# Lamb says he's learned from different roles

**LAMB** - Continued from Page 1

"You're idea of what it means to be on the board changes. As a teacher you'd say, 'Why are they doing this...or why are they doing that. But a lot changes when you sit in the other seat. You start to understand things.'"

One of the things that Lamb is most proud of as a board member is the re-connection of the board to the staff and the community. Lamb said there was sentiment that the board was disconnected and it was his goal to reestablish that connection.

"I've been excited to watch the board get back with the teachers and the community. We didn't pass a bond, but you see we had 25% to 30% of the voters turn out when typically you get 5 or 6%. But even with that 25% we had 56% say they wanted a new building and I think we're one of only four states that require that supermajority so I think we're doing a much better job at communicating."

He also said bringing the Lighthouse workshops through the Iowa Association of School Boards has helped the board redefine its objective and goal strategies. It also helped

the board work toward a goal of aligning its development with the staff and teacher development.

The Lighthouse sessions were part of a second monthly meeting that Lamb and the board brought back.



LAMB

"My first five years on the board we only met once a month, but I thought we should have a workshop and back when I was teaching they had those workshops. What we've accomplished in those workshops and in our Lighthouse sessions has been fantastic," Lamb said.

As a result of the ramped up efforts to increase communication between the board, the staff, and the community, the board was recognized as one of five selected state boards at the annual IASB convention in Des Moines. They were also written about in a national education magazine.

At the 2016 IASB convention, state education officials recognized the Fort Madison board for their efforts in personal

development and their focus on increasing the role the board plays in the district. Along with the awards, 6 of the 7 current board members received personal recognition for their individual efforts as well.

When the district first decided to move forward with trying to pass a bond referendum to build a new elementary school on the campus of the Fort Madison Middle School, the board had a public meeting and invited the community in to discuss the project, prior to voting on whether or not to put a referendum on the ballot.

"When we did that we got a write up in a national magazine commending us for our process and engaging the community in the discussion," Lamb said.

Lamb said he told the board he was leaving despite what happened with the bond. But he said now he can actually do more for the district with regard to the bond issues because there are rules prohibiting board members from soliciting specific votes on a bond issue, but can only encourage people to vote.

"I've had a wonderful 45 plus years here," he said.

"Sometimes I go back and sit and think of the things that have happened to me as a teacher, a coach and AD, and now as a board member and president. I don't have any regrets. We have a great superintendent and I guess on regret would be not being able to work with Erin (Slater) for another year, but I just don't have another four years left in me.

"I'll always be here for the district and, frankly, now I can do more to help with a referendum because I can go out and say more. As a board member there are laws against soliciting votes to pass a referendum. You just can't do it, but now I can be more of a voice for them."

He said now that he will be totally retired, Lamb said his wife Kate doesn't think he'll have enough to do, but Lamb said he will always be there to help the district where he can.

He said the board has great people on it and he would like to see them keep going in the same

direction. His only counsel was to listen.

"We have great administrators... great staff. Just listen to them. We're going in the right direction. I'm not sure I could tell them what they should or shouldn't be working on because it can change week to week, but listen to

what these principals and staff have to say, they're the ones that are in the trenches," he said.

"They bring stuff to us and we have to listen and then vote your conscience. But when you walk out the door, we all have to be supportive of the direction of the board."

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## From the Front/Weather

### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 13 Sep



Clear Skies

High – 79.1° F | Low – 59.7° F

THU 14 Sep



Clear Skies

High – 86.6° F | Low – 66.9° F

FRI 15 Sep



Clear Skies

High – 83.4° F | Low – 65.8° F

SAT 16 Sep



Light Rain

High – 84.8° F | Low – 71.4° F

SUN 17 Sep



Light Rain

High – 87.5° F | Low – 77.0° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

## For Troxel learning, listening are first priorities

**ELECTION** - Continued from Page 1

board and the staff and she doesn't want to see that happen.

"We can work together and find a compromise that everyone is happy with and be able to keep our staff from the most tenured teacher to the newest food service worker."

Troxel said she was thankful to have the opportunity to serve on the board and is hoping to learn from the board as she gets acclimated with the position.

"I'm just very thankful

to have the opportunity to serve the families of our community," Troxel said. "I can't speak highly enough of all the candidates on the ballot. This was a very close race and I learned insightful things at that forum last week. I left there feeling very confident that anyone at that table would have made a great board member."

She said the voter turnout was a bit disappointing and was hoping the bond elections would generate a higher interest level in the board elec-

tions.

"I hope as a board we can continue to work with the community and improve on those numbers. But I just look forward to collaborating with the current board members," Troxel said.

Ehlers said she was happy with how close the vote was and she was going to keep advocating for the children of the district. Ehlers is the current president of the Lincoln Parent Teacher Group and led the Kid's Committee on the last

two bond referendums.

"I couldn't have lost to three better people, so I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing and working hard for the kids in this district," Ehlers said.

"Those referendums losses were way tougher to swallow than this. But you can't give up. You have to keep advocating."

Troxel will be sworn in at the Sept. 25 board meeting and new officers will be nominated and voted on at that meeting as well.

## Flu shot can minimize or eliminate flu symptoms

**FLU** - Continued from Page 3

of your good health. It will help you avoid getting the flu; make the flu less severe if you do get it; and keep you from spreading the flu to your family and other people," expressed Heather Oppenheimer, Infection Prevention Nurse at FMCH, "Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalizations and sometimes even death. Even a mild case of the flu can leave you unable to work or perform normal daily activities for several days."

Fort Madison Community Hospital has implemented mandatory flu vaccines for all employees. All employees are required to receive the flu vaccine to help stop

the spread of flu and to protect patients, the employee and their families.

In addition to receiving the flu vaccine, everyone can take everyday precautions to stay healthy and help stop the spread of the flu. The influenza virus is spread mainly by coughing, sneezing and close contact so it is important that you wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer to stop the spread of germs; cover your coughs or sneezes by coughing or sneezing into your elbow; keep your hands away from your face – eyes, nose and mouth are key entry points for germs; stay away from sick people if possible. If you are sick with flu, stay home from work or school to prevent spreading influenza to others.

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