

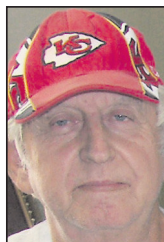
Write-in campaign underway for Andrews

Andy Andrews says he will accept the mayoral office, if elected

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He isn't campaigning, however others are on his behalf, and Fort Madison resident Loren "Andy" Andrews says he will accept the office should residents elect him as Fort

Madison's mayor on Nov. 7. "I took out nomination papers, and my wife and others urged me to run, but I never turned them back in," Andrews said. "People keep coming up to me asking if I'm running, so the word is out somehow." Fort Madison resident John Richers is one of those trying to urge voters to write Andrews' name on the ballot.



Andrews

"There are people that are not happy with either choice we have for mayor," Richers said Monday when informing the Daily Democrat of the write-in efforts. Mayoral candidates on the Nov. 7 ballot are incumbent Mayor Brad Randolph and challenger Chris Sorrentino. Randolph has served as mayor since 2012 when he was appointed after the death of Mayor Steve Ireland. He then went on to win a special election and two more two-year terms in 2013 and 2015. The upcoming city election is

Sorrentino's first time running for public office. Some may recognize Sorrentino's name from previous articles about the city's parking ordinance for commercial vehicles. Sorrentino asked that the council allow over-the-road truck drivers like himself to park their bobcats at their residences. The council did not go along with his suggestion, but Sorrentino has said that issue had little to do with his decision to seek office. So, what does Andrews think he can bring to the mayor's chair that the two declared

SEE WRITE-IN, PAGE 9

Sheriff seeks more jail space, more jailers

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MONTROSE — Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber says Supervisors have always been generous when he asks for assistance to beef up his patrol division. He hopes the same can be said this time.

In short, Weber said there is little space for more prisoners and not near enough deputies to watch those in custody at the jail.



Weber

"We are designed to hold 132 prisoners," Weber said. "Right now we have 92. And the bad thing is we only have three jailers to watch them. There are a lot of things that will get you in jail now that wouldn't have done it a year ago."

When asked why the overcrowding has recently become an issue, Weber explained. "Laws have changed," Weber said. "If you get caught driving without a license, you go to jail. Things have changed."

Weber said in a perfect world the jail would have enough room for quite a while, but legally, some prisoners cannot be housed with other prisoners. "For this reason we have to separate a lot of prisoners," Weber said.

Weber said the deputies he has on the streets are doing a good job patrolling, but it is difficult to pull them off the streets to help in the jail when someone is sick or needs time off.

"You probably read in the paper that on Monday we used every deputy in the county to hunt down a person going 100 miles per hour the wrong way on Highway 27," Weber said. "There would have been no way to pull anyone off that chase."

Weber spoke to the Board, going just short of asking for additional help. In a later interview he said he needed more jailers, saying one or two additional people per shift would be ideal. "I want to be careful about spending tax payer money," Weber said. "But I've said this before, my deputies' safety is of the utmost importance to me."

In other business, Supervisors approved a proposal for a geo-technical investigation for a bridge replacement on Abel Road.



SKYLER HOLTkamp/DAILY DEMOCRAT

Fourth grader, Jackson Guzman motions the robots arms into dropping the red ball into the square target, as Kaygreena Sterling and Zoey Fink (also in 4th grade) look on. Guzman led his group into constructing their robot at the Elliott Test Kitchen on Monday. The Robotics Exploration Class is a 10-week course the middle school students have indulged in to learn the basics about programming and constructing robotic technology. After the ball dropped, students enjoyed a meal of Cuban pork with potato wedges and strawberry cheesecake.

Robotic Rivals

Robotics students hold friendly contest

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Members of the Fort Madison Middle School Robotics Club faced off against each other in a friendly competition Monday at the Elliott Test Kitchen.

The robotics exploration class is a 10-week course for students in 4th - 8th grade. Throughout the course the students learned about coding to command the robots. This was Week 6 for the robotics club and they experienced their first induction into building a robot.

Fort Madison High School Robotics Club members assisted the younger students in constructing the robot. The goal of the competition was to construct a robot to place a red ball into a square base. A time limit was set for an hour and a half.

Two Fort Madison instructors, Michelle Bentler and Roxanne Puga, oversaw the class, but leading the two groups were FMHS students Christopher Brown and Jace Fedler. "I remember being in this position when I was younger," Fedler recalled.

But there were challenges towards directing the students' attention towards the robotics. "They're eager to do this," Fedler said, "It can be challenging and their ideas can be all meshed into a working robot."



SKYLER HOLTkamp/DAILY DEMOCRAT

Skarlett Hoover, 6th grade, smiles as her group members fumble around with constructing the arms of their robot. Kumar Wickramasingha hosts the 10-week event at the Elliott Test Kitchen. The class is used to introduce the science of robotics to the middle school students.

The tools the students had at their disposal was Lego robotics. These products were all acquired from the STEM grant that Bentler wrote which resulted in the program receiving about \$5,000 in electrical supplies.

"When we received the supplies we talked about what else to do with robotics," Said Bentler. "We created this class to introduce the younger students that there really is a club that builds robots."

Kumar Wickramasingha hosts the 10-week event and students from other programs come in and cook meals for the students.

Between the two groups competing, one mapped out a plan on how their robot would be constructed. The other group

grabbed a handful of supplies and began meticulously tinkering away into creating their robot.

When the time ran out, the group led by Fedler constructed a robot that dropped the red ball into the square target with ease. Their group had mapped out the plan. The other group was in its early stages towards being a functional robot.

While the groups were out assembling the fine tuned robots, Wickramasingha was running his fine tuned kitchen with his four students assembling a bountiful meal of Cuban pork sandwiches, with pickles, barbecue sauce and caramelized onions, served on artesian rolls – and strawberry cheesecake for dessert.



LESS DEBT

Tiffany Fullhart, the new food service director for Fort Madison public schools, explains how she reduced the amount of unpaid lunch debt from \$14,000 to \$6,000 in less than two months.

P3



EARLY SETTLER

Early settler Hans Barlien was honored recently by natives of his home country, Norway, and his adopted home, Lee County

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NOTABLE



LESLIE EDENS, an eight-year veteran of Connection Bank, has been promoted to branch manager of the Montrose branch office. Details on Page 2.

DEATHS

Allen C. Martin, 64, Keokuk

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