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**SENTINEL—PRESS**

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Due to a varying numbers of supplements purchased by our advertising customers for insertion in *The Maquoketa Sentinel-Press*, subscribers in some areas may not receive all the supplements listed.

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## Voices heard in Andrew

By KELLY GERLACH

Residents of the Andrew Community School District strongly prefer whole grade sharing to no district at all. And they'd prefer to share their high school students with neighboring Maquoketa or Bellevue school districts, or both.

Although no formal action was taken, the school board will now further study the whole grade sharing process. That is expected to begin March 8 during a community meeting in the school gymnasium. Del Hoover, Iowa Department of Education, will discuss the intricacies of whole grade sharing, what it is and how it works. The school board and public will also have the chance ask questions about the process.

District Superintendent Kent Hammer Monday, Feb. 8, presented findings from a survey sent to district residents and high school students. The survey listed five possible options for the future of the district and asked recipients to rank the options in order of preference.

Hammer said about 280 district residents and 78 students returned surveys, about half of the total surveys distributed. Of the respondents, 170 people selected studying and preparing for whole grade sharing as their first choice.

Hammer said he wasn't surprised so much by the results as by the margin of difference.

"This was certainly an overwhelming majority," Hammer said. "I was surprised by the difference in the runner-up (Option 3 explained below) at about 12 percent to whole grade sharing at about 65 percent. That's five times greater and gives the board a definite direction."

The second place option with 32 first-place votes was Option 3. That option meant making more difficult budget cuts, possibly including cuts to the preschool program, extracurricular programs for the junior and senior high school, specials (music, art and physical education) at the elementary, high school electives and shortened school days for faculty.

Under Option 3, Andrew would make budget cuts to continue operations, likely until all the district's money was gone.

The third place option with 27 votes was Option 5, fundraising. Members of the Andrew Booster Club recommended this option last November as a way to keep the district operating as is. The club raises \$10,000 or more each year to help pay for extracurricular activity expenses. But Hammer told the club that about \$150,000 would have to be raised each year to make that option even remotely feasible.

In fourth place with 26 votes was Option 1, operating the district as long as possible with current staff and program offerings. Under this option, the district would continue to drain its funds until, likely within two years,

■ **ANDREW, Please turn to page 2**



MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

DeWitt artist Lynn Wartgow stands in front of favorite spontaneous photographs – an unrehearsed photo of her Labrador guarding her photography equipment. Wartgow's photographs are on display now through the end of March at the Ohnward Fine Arts Center in Maquoketa.

## Artist's reception set for Feb. 13

By KELLY GERLACH

DeWitt photographer Lynn Wartgow's photographs from nature and the studio are the featured artist's exhibit at the Ohnward Fine Arts Center, Maquoketa.

The exhibition runs Feb. 1 through March 31, with gallery hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday and during Ohnward events.

Meet the artist during a special reception Saturday, Feb. 13, at the center. Refreshments will be provided.

"My work evolves as I start working with it," said Wartgow, a Wisconsin native who now lives in DeWitt.

She began her artistic foray into photography five or six years ago, focusing on her love of nature and animals. That love is evidenced by unique photos of the Labradors she has as pets, the farm scenes, landscapes and flowers.

"I love the power of flowers," she admitted.

"Odd as it sounds, this is why I love photography. When I'm taking pictures I stop, I wait and anticipate, I savor the moment, I smile, I wonder, I become grateful for all the beauty that surrounds me. I breathe deeply and let the image fill me," she wrote in her artist's statement on her Web page, [www.mayziepics.ifp3.com](http://www.mayziepics.ifp3.com).

She works strictly with a digital camera. "It gives me an opportunity to learn on a

curve that's not so expensive," she teased.

While she finds inspiration in the nature that surrounds her, she also enjoys the challenge of shooting studio shots in her basement-turned studio. She has created scenes and meaningful images in her studio – images that others fall in love with and subsequently purchase – and is often commissioned to create an accompanying piece.

"It puts me on a mission to create something new," Wartgow said with a gleam of creative mischief sparkling in her eye.

In addition to photography, Wartgow operates Mayzie Pics, a framing business for the public. Her creative spirit shines through there as well.

"I love color and texture in my matting," she said, pointing to a couple of her framed photographs on which she used linen and fabric as the mat.

"What causes you to stop and pay attention to your world, that's what you savor. Otherwise you miss so much. With a camera in your hand, you can capture it. Every photo is a memory I love and I love that. I love that," Wartgow said.

Wartgow's photographs will be on display and for sale at the Ohnward Fine Arts Center now through March 31.

Exhibits inside the Drew Gallery change every 60 days, revealing the various talents of artists from across the area.

## Few comments offered at session

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Comments from just two residents were received, leaving the Jackson County Board of Supervisors plenty of time to urge constituents to press for more road funding during last week's public information meeting on the county's five-year road improvement plan.

The 50-minute session, held Feb. 3 at Maquoketa City Hall, is conducted each year to gather comments and suggestions on projects to include in the fifth year of the road construction program.

The supervisors took no action and said they would make a decision as part of their deliberations in forming the county's 2010-11 budget.

County Engineer Clark Schloz asked that the supervisors have a decision by the end of February.

Jim Koos of rural St. Donatus urged the supervisors to continue with plans to pave county road D-53, or Centerville Road, on which he lives.

Centerville Road connects St. Donatus with 230th Avenue north of LaMotte and Haxbylane Road in Dubuque County, which extends to U.S. 61.

Plans call for the eastern portion of Centerville Road, between St. Donatus and 253rd Avenue, to be graded this year.

Koos asked about the archaeological explorations that have occurred on the road. Schloz noted that the archaeological research is required for any road construction projects that receive federal funding, as does the Centerville Road project.

Four sites have been identified as significant, and studies are being done to determine the ex-

tent of the artifacts that have been found.

Schloz said he is checking with the Iowa Department of Transportation to determine if the county can fund the project entirely from state farm-to-market funding drop the archaeological survey requirement.

Supervisors reiterated earlier views critical of the process, saying that the archaeological surveys are a waste because once the research is completed, nothing is done to preserve the artifacts. They are the property of the landowner, who can do whatever he or she wishes with them.

The archaeological surveys add cost and time to any road construction project, supervisors

■ **ROAD PLANS, Please turn to page 3**