An independent candidate is vying for one of the two seats on the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors.

Jeff Andersen, 47, a business owner, is throwing his hat into the ring as an independent. He was not part of the June 7 primary which narrowed the Republican ticket from six to two candidates, Dawn Vogel and John Kurtz, and Dennis Fuller the Democratic nominee.

Andersen said what motivated him to enter local politics is a sense of urgency that working families like his need better representation.

“I thought people needed a younger voice to represent them, so that’s why I filled my papers,” Andersen said. “After that, a lot of discussion followed and that’s exciting, I could be a great asset for the community.”

Andersen and his wife, Angie, a real estate agent, own The R&R Café, at 315 First Street East, and the next door women’s boutique called Fabulous Fridays.

Meanwhile, he has worked at the Mental Health Institute of Independence for 23, starting as a nursing aide in 1999, and six years later, moving to his current position of an activities therapist.

Andersen graduated from East Buchanan High School in

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On June 15, the birthday of Independence, community members gathered to mark the milestone of their native town, despite the rain. It was a momentous occasion, long awaited as the town was founded 175 years ago. But there was another reason which made the event even more special.

The town’s former mayor, Bob Hill, one of the planners of the event, was looking forward to giving the celebratory speech, but passed away unexpectedly on April 21.

When the event rolled around on Wednesday, Mayor pro tem John Kurtz stepped into the role and addressed the approximately 100 community members who had gathered on Main Street in front of the Allerton Brewing Co. and in front of the Chamber of Commerce stretching all the way across the bridge.

While toasting the community, Kurtz paid tribute to Hill, who had served on the City Council for 14 years.

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Fireworks will be one of the main highlights of the Celebrate Indee Festivities

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Celebrate Indee is a two-day festival to be held on July 3 and July 4. It kicks off at 4 p.m. July 3 until around 10:30 p.m. July Fourth begins with the morning parade and there will be events like a kids’ fun zone, a packed entertainment schedule with area bands and the community band followed by fireworks over the Wapsipinicon River, among other events (see schedule for details).

The events planned for the Celebrate Indee celebration revolve around family, friends, and fireworks. There is live music and food from vendors near and far as well as several bounce houses, face painting and much more.

Celebrate Indee is a free event for everyone.

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The project has been in the works for seven, going on eight years. Red work is expected to last until early November on the IA-150 highway reconstruction project.

$6M reconstruction on IA-150 continues

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INDEE KICKS OFF ‘CELEBRATE OUR SPIRIT’ EVENTS WITH BRIDGE CEREMONY

Kurtz pays tribute to late Mayor Bob Hill, first mayor; Daniel Lee