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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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County projects continue progress

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Most of the work on the five projects for which Jackson County was designated one of Iowa's Great Places has been completed, the Jackson County Board of Supervisors was told last week.

Daryll Eggers of Bellevue reported on the status of the projects in the two years that the county has participated in the program to the Board of Supervisors on Dec. 23.

Here is a summary of the projects:

■ Maquoketa River Trail. Most of the work on that project was done last summer after the flooding and high water receded.

Two new canoe and public access points and signage sought in the original were completed, and two additional access points were completed from funds awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Eggers said.

That project also included the purchase of a plot of land on the Maquoketa River at Canton to construct a building for a vendor to rent canoes and for a campground.

At Lakehurst near Maquoketa, Alliant Energy erected a shelter for campers and is allowing access around the dam. A portage around the dam and canoe slides also are planned.

"That will turn out to be a really good water trail," Eggers said, noting that it will allow greater access to the Maquoketa River.

■ Bicycle trail. That project has two components. One was a 1.4-mile stretch of 63rd Street one mile north of Maquoketa with paved shoulders between the junction with U.S. 61 and county road Y-31, or the Caves Road.

That project is the first segment of a planned

trail system to connect Maquoketa to Maquoketa Caves State Park.

The second project is a 1.9-mile off-road trail connecting the existing four-mile Jackson County Recreational Trail at Spragueville with the one-mile Copper Creek Trail in Preston.

That project is under way after a state Resource Enhancement and Protection grant was received through the City of Preston.

■ Walkways for Life. One project involved improvements to sidewalks in Bellevue's downtown business district that included paving, lighting and rails to make the sidewalks handicappedaccessible.

"It was quite an engineering feat, but they did a nice job of it," Eggers said.

The other component was a trail along Mill Creek that starts at Eighth Street near the Car Wash and extends as a loop to Felderman Park.

The hard-surface trail is nearly completed. Seeding along the sides of the trail will be done in the spring.

■ Clinton Engines Museum. Eggers noted that the project to renovate the former Clinton Engines administration building in Maquoketa into a museum highlighting the former Maquoketa industry was dedicated this summer.

While development of the museum continues, the Great Places portion of the project is completed, he said.

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Bodenhofer home damaged in fire

A Baldwin home was damaged by a fire that broke out Tuesday, Dec. 30.

Maquoekta volunteer firefighters assisted Baldwin firefighters in putting out the fire that occurred at the residence of Kermit Bodenhofer on Tuesday afternoon.

Maquoketa Fire Chief Mark Bck said the fire is believed to have originalted in a first-floor bedroom occupied by Bodenhofer's grandson.

That bedroom received heavy fire, smoke and water damage, Beck said. While the fire itself was contained to that bedroom smoke and water damage was done to the rest of

the house.

There was no visible cause for the fire, Beck said, and no one was home at the time.

The last time the bedroom had been occupied was about two hours before the fire was reported.

Beck said Bodenhofer told thim that the family had been in Maquoketa and when they got home they arrived to find the house full of smoke.

Damage was estimated at \$10,000. Investigation into the cause of the fire was continuing

Maquoketa native utilizes medical knowledge in a return trip to Haiti

By KELLY GERLACH

A Maquoketa native returns to Haiti this month, teaming with other paramedics, doctors and nurses to improve living conditions with better medical care.

DJ Head, 36, of Denver, Colo. and formerly of Maquoketa, is preparing for his second trip to Haiti in mid-January. The mission: enhance lives through routine medical check-ups and procedures, then when time permits build a more permanent medical clinic there.

Head made his first trip to Haiti in January of 2008.

"It was an awe inspiring trip and something I've never seen before in my travels and I've traveled to 17 different countries," he said.

His medical career leading up to that first medical mission started at a relatively early age.

Head was born and raised in Maquoketa, son of Mick and Jeanne Head. Before he turned 17, Head showed an interest in becoming an emergency medical technician (EMT).

"With a lot of help and some prodding from Jackie Crowley, I was able to take the (EMT Basic) class. I needed to get a letter from Dick Wold (MCHS principal at that time) and special permission to take the class at such a young



Contributed Pho

DJ Head poses with a couple of young patients in Haiti. Head is a Maquoketa native now living in Denver, Colo. and employed as a paramedic with Flight For Life. He is preparing for his second Haitian mission, which starts in a few weeks, to bring medical care to the impoverished residents of the country.

age," Head explained.

Under the direction of instructors Kelly Schmidt and Larry Deppe, Head completed the class and had to wait about six months before he turned 18 and was eligible to take the state EMT board exam to become a certified EMT.

Passing the test, he worked part-

time on the ambulance crew at then Jackson County Public Hospital through his senior year.

"I was the youngest EMT they'd ever had and those guys, some of whom are still there, were awesome and totally took me under their wing. I learned a great deal from them," Head said. That experience directed him straight to paramedic school. Head continued college training and working for the ambulance as a paramedic until 1997, when he graduated and moved to Denver, Colo. to work as a street medic then medical supervisor for a busy 911 system.

"It was an incredible eye opener to go from an ambulance service where a gunshot wound meant someone shot their buddy while hunting. Here, they were shooting at each other on purpose!"

In 2001 he was hired as a flight medic with Flight For Life Colorado, the first civilian medical helicopter in the country. He was promoted to lead flight medic in 2003.

Head said his crew spends a lot of time flying in the mountains, especially during the winter, helping people suffering from a variety of ailments – skiing accidents, car accidents, pre-term labor, heart attacks, etc.

About three years ago, a Pueblo, Colo. surgeon named Jim Smith turned his savvy into a grant from the parent company that owns St. Anthony's Hospital in Denver, one

■ HEAD,
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