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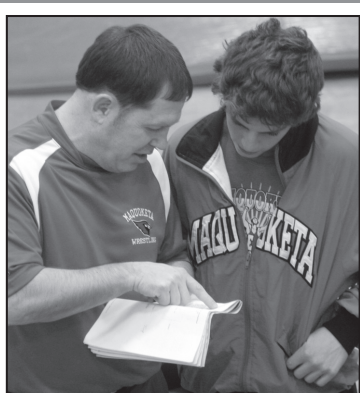


— M A Q U O K E T A —

SENTINEL—PRESS

Volume 155, No. 74 ■ 20 pages Plus Supplements ■ **Wednesday, February 4, 2009** ■ \$1.00 per copy

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The WaMaC Conference wrestling tournament was an almost 11-hour affair that spread about 200 wrestlers from 16 teams across six mats, using both MCHS gymnasiums.

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

- Erna A. Christiansen probate
- JC Board of Supervisors
 - January 20, 2009 meeting
- Andrew City Council
 - January 13, 2009 meeting
- Maquoketa School Board
 - January 26, 2009 meeting
- JCRHC
 - Quarterly Report Oct.-Dec. 08



Our public notices are also published on the web at:

<http://www.publicnoticeads.com/IA/search/searchnotice.asp>

Chamber installs new board members

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The Maquoketa Area Chamber of Commerce last week installed its leadership for the year, announced winners of its two highest awards, honored longtime merchant Jake Bickford and reviewed the organization's accomplishments during 2008.

The activities took place at the chamber's annual meeting, held Jan. 27 at the Decker House restaurant.

Approximately 51 chamber members attended the hour-long breakfast.

Kathy Seyfert accepted the gavel from chamber President Dr. Don Schwenker and will head the chamber for this year. Seyfert is vice president and branch manager with Iowa Bank.

Schwenker had served two one-year terms as president. He was the first chamber president to serve two consecutive terms since Lowell Haas in 1964 and 1965.

Alliance Pipeline was named recipient of the chamber's President's Award for its community service.

And Schwenker was presented with the Executive Director's Award for his service to the chamber.

Two members were welcomed as new board members. They are Mark Burke, team leader for Alliance Pipeline, and Ron Schaeffer of Mazak Corp. Both

will serve three-year terms.

They replace Schwenker, who had served on the board for four years, and Carri Gilson of Sedona Staffing Services, who completed a three-year term.

Holdover members of the nine-member board are Katie Brown, Marissa Weis of the Comfort Inn, Marla Franzen of Maquoketa State Bank, Autumn Pino, principal of Maquoketa Middle School, Tom Devine of the Maquoketa Area Family YMCA, and Sally Davies of Sunshine Preschool and Day Care.

Schwenker presented the President's Award, which recognizes contributions to the community made by a longtime activity chamber member. Honorees are chosen by the chamber president.

Burke accepted the award on behalf of the Alliance Pipeline staff.

Schwenker noted that the Maquoketa office oversees a section of the natural gas pipeline that extends between Manchester and its terminus at Tampico, Ill., near Chicago.

He noted the company's many community contributions in the past year.

"It seems like anytime you need a hand, they're there to assist, anytime you need something, they're there to support it," Schwenker said.

■ CHAMBER,
Please turn to page 3



MSP photos by Douglas Melvold

Incoming, outgoing and holdover members of the Maquoketa Area Chamber of Commerce board posed after the chamber's annual meeting last week. In front, from left, are incoming President Kathy Seyfert, Marisa Weis, Carri Gilson, Marla Franzen and Katie Brown. In back are, from left, Ron Schaeffer, Sally Davies, Don Schwenker, Mark Burke and Tom Devine.



Maquoketa business people honored at the Maquoketa Area Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting last week were, from left, Jake Bickford, who was given a lifetime membership in recognition of his more than 50 years as a Main Street merchant and chamber member; Stacy Driscoll, chamber executive director; Don Schwenker, who completed two terms as chamber president and received the Executive Director's Award, and Mark Burke, team leader for Alliance Pipeline, which received the President's Award.

School board approves upcoming calendar

By KELLY GERLACH

The Maquoketa Community School District will again begin classes early enough to end the first semester before Christmas vacation, repeating a practice it started during the 2008-09 school year.

After hearing positive feedback from the high school principal and curriculum director, school board members Jan. 26 unanimously approved acceptance of a 2009-10 school calendar that would start classes earlier.

The board examined two calendar drafts before making a final decision.

Under the second calendar draft, which was approved, staff members return to school Aug. 17. Students follow two days later on Aug. 19, with a 1:30 p.m. early dismissal Aug. 19 and 20.

First semester classes for 2009-10 will end Dec. 22, with classes resuming Jan. 4. The last day of school will be May 21, 2010 and graduation is slated for May 30 that year.

The first draft presented to the school board would have started classes two days earlier, on a Monday instead of a Wednesday, which is how the 2008-09 school year began.

"At the elementary, teachers like to start classes mid-week versus the beginning of the week so that the students can ease into the process," explained Helen Snell, district curriculum director.

"It's hard (for kindergarteners)," said Cardinal Principal Joan Bollman. "They're tired. They've been totally free all summer, then they're (in school) and under rules all day. This way they

get a couple of short days, a long one and then two days off."

The approved calendar includes this provision, with school beginning on a Wednesday, not a Monday.

Semesters are not a factor in the district's elementary schools.

District Superintendent Kim Huckstadt noted that the approved calendar would conflict slightly with the Iowa State Fair, which begins Aug. 13 and runs through Aug. 23. But he said the district's schedule still allows time for families to attend the fair.

Graduation will be May 30, 2010 - one week earlier than traditionally scheduled - in the new gym. This puts the commencement ceremony on Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, which the district has tried to avoid in year's past because it sometimes conflicts with other ceremonies in the area.

Prior to the calendar's approval, school board members did question the unequal number of semester days outlined by the calendar. The first semester includes 84 days versus second semester's 93 days.

Given recent winter weather and the number of cancellations, board members asked if it was fair to teachers that first semester classes would be cut nine days short.

"If we get one or two snow days before Christmas, we can make it work," said Mark Vervaecke, high school principal. "If it's more, I don't know if the benefits of ending before Christmas is worth it."

Vervaecke said he had surveyed his staff and faculty to learn if they noticed any benefits to ending the first semester before Christmas. His poll showed that an overwhelming majority preferred the change, which was implemented this school year.

The calendar was also approved by the Andrew, Delwood and Sacred Heart schools. The Maquoketa school district shares faculty and services with those districts.

In other school board news:

Board members approved a \$405,000 budget to make district-wide improvements. The money will come from the district's physical plant and equipment levy fund (PPEL).

Technology replacement and upgrades comprise the most costly of expenditures on the PPEL budget. Those expenses are estimated at \$100,000, with possible partial funding coming from the Delwood Community School District.

Spending an estimated \$85,000, the district will turn the high school's east gravel parking lot near the band room into a hard-surface lot. This is the second-costliest expenditure on the PPEL budget list, followed by the purchase of a new 65-passenger school bus for about \$75,000.

Other expenditures on the list include updates to plumbing and fixtures, carpeting, more outside lighting, repaired railings, new or refurbished lockers and \$25,000 for a feasibility study to examine the cost of upgrading the heating and cooling systems throughout the district.

Some \$80,300 would remain in the PPEL fund to pay for unexpected repairs.