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Four MCHS wrestlers qualify for state competition

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Contributed Photo

Volunteers unload donated food for shelter animals

A troop of volunteers built some muscles while helping animals at the Jackson County Humane Society. Doug Miller donated the use of his truck and associated expenses to make two trips to Davenport to pick up five pallets of pet food from Nestle Purina, which donated the food. Miller's grandkids and three Confirmation

students from Sacred Heart Church spent a Sunday unloading the pet food and carrying it upstairs to the animal shelter's storage area. Pictured with the bags of pet food are, front from left, Doug Miller, Matthew Baker and Austin Baker. In back are Alycia Horcher, Travis Reagan, Nicole Atkins and Luke Kutsch.

Officials seek tax support for road plan

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Narrow bridges on several Jackson County roads need to be widened or replaced and at least two county roads should be upgraded, the county Board of Supervisors was told last week.

The comments and suggestions were aired at the annual five-year road improvement plan public meeting held Wednesday night, Feb. 11, at Maquoketa City Hall. Approximately 40 people attended

The county Board of Supervisors hosts the annual meeting to give residents an opportunity to offer suggestions for additions to the plan. The supervisors will add projects for the 2013-14 fiscal year as part of their budget-making process this spring.

The supervisors took the opportunity to urge residents to write to Gov. Chet Culver and Jackson County's two state legislators to advocate an increase in the state gasoline tax.

A House committee is considering a tax, but Culver has been an opponent in the tax increase. Supervisors said a gas tax increase is necessary

to help the county maintain its road structure.

County Engineer Clark Schloz said a one-cent increase in the gas tax would generate approxi-

increase in the gas tax would generate approximately \$22 million a year. Of that amount, Iowa counties would receive 22 percent, and of the counties' allotment, Jackson County would get 1.06 percent.

"We do need additional sources of revenue to keep up with the needs we have," Schloz said.

"I believe we need a gas tax increase," said Supervisor Larry "Buck" Koos. "It's the fairest way to take care of our infrastructure."

Schloz also noted that the county has submitted two resurfacing projects that would be done under the federal job stimulus funding.

One project is an asphalt overlay on Hurstville

Road north of Maquoketa and continuing on county road Y-53, or Esgate Road, between 85th Street and 91st St.

The other project is asphalt paving of county road D-55 between LaMotte and Zwingle.

The most recent information received is that the county is eligible for up to \$561,000 in stimulus funding, Schloz said.

Plans for the projects have been submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation. Construction contracts are scheduled to be awarded in April, he said.

He said his office began work on the projects in December, after county officials learned about the possible federal stimulus program under President Obama's plan to revive the economy.

Koos noted that while the supervisors would have preferred to place a bridge project on the stimulus plan, the plan didn't give the engineer's office sufficient time to have the project ready for seeking bids.

With the resurfacing projects expected to be

■ ROADS, Please turn to page 2

Webers die in two-vehicle accident north of St. Donatus

Two Dubuque residents died and three others were injured in a two-vehicle collision that occurred last weekend on U.S. 52 north of St. Donatus.

The accident occurred at 2:56 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, on 52 in Dubuque County approximately one-half mile north of the Dubuque-Jackson County line at Weber Road.

Dubuque County sheriff's deputies said a vehicle being driven south on 52 by Brandon Reddick, 18, of Muscatine crossed the center line and collided with a northbound vehicle driven by Kole Patters, 15, of Dubuque.

Two passengers in the Patters vehicle died as a result of injuries sustained in the collision. They were identified as Donald J. Weber, 71, of Mary Ann Weber, 66, both of

Dubuque.

Patters was transported to Mercy Medical Center in Dubuque for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Reddick was airlifted from the scene to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City by Air Care and was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

A passenger in the Reddick vehicle, Krystal Clark, 17, of Muscatine, sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to Mercy Medical Center in Dubuque.

Deputies were assisted at the scene by Key West Fire Department and Ambulance, Bellevue volunteer firefighters and ambulance, Jackson County sheriff's deputies and Bellevue police.