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# MAQUOKETA SENTINEL-PRESS

Volume 155, No. 85 ■ 16 pages Plus Supplements ■ Saturday, March 14, 2009 ■ \$1.00 per copy

## IN THIS ISSUE



**club hOpe organizes  
collection of over  
56,000 band-aids**

Page 16

Local	Pages 2-3
Editorial	Pages 4
Family	Pages 5-7
Sports	Pages 10-11
Obituaries	Page 14
Classifieds	Eastern Iowa Bizzzy Bee

## SUPPLEMENTS

■ **Eastern Iowa  
Bizzzy Bee**

■ **Menards**

■ **Taco John's**

Due to a varying number 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

- Mortgage Foreclosure
  - Citimortgage Inc. vs. Brian Bramer
- Arlene Burkey probate
- Arletta Burken probate
- Maquoketa City Council
  - March 3, 2009 special meeting
- Delmar City Council
  - March 5, 2009 meeting
- Public Notice
  - Donatsch Home Occupation



Our public notices are also published on the web at:

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

## OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

- Jackson County
- City of Maquoketa
- City of Andrew
- City of Baldwin
- City of Monmouth
- City of Delmar
- Delwood School District
- Maquoketa School District

## Andrew celebrates Dr. Seuss' birthday

Andrew Community School celebrated two special reading events recently.

On Friday night, Feb. 27, the annual Read Around the Clock overnight in the gym was held and Read Across America was held Monday, March 2, which is the anniversary of Dr. Seuss' birth.

Read Around the Clock is held annually for students and parents in grades 2-4. It begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and ends at 7 a.m. on Saturday. This year's theme was Catch the Reading Bug.

The overnight event celebrates reading with storytellers, presenters, individual reading times and activities. This year 43 students and 21 adults participated.

2009 presenters included Ron Jones, Bellevue State Park ranger, shared two books, a river otter and bob cat pelts and told about a dangerous bug - the emerald ash borer; Kim Deppe, nurse practitioner at Maquoketa Family Clinic, read two books about germs, parasites and illness and gave the readers tissues and combs; Vanessa Vanis, AmeriCorps member from Jackson County Conservation, brought Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches and talked about other insects; and Matt Kepple, Andrew art teacher, read humorous picture books about a fly and a spider and gave the readers the opportunity to draw bugs.

Saturday was National Tooth Fairy Day. Jennee Clasen, Andrew senior, woke the readers at 6 a.m. with bubbles and tinkling music, dressed as the tooth fairy's ambassador.

Dr. Abby Gehl from Smiles on Main was the final presenter. She shared books and information about dental hygiene on Saturday morning. She

gave each student a toothbrush and toothpaste.

On Monday K-6 students and staff celebrated Read Across America, which is a national event that celebrates literacy. Students and staff wore stripes to honor Dr. Seuss, the author of favorite children's books such as "The Cat in the Hat,"



Contributed Photo

Jennee Clasen, Andrew senior, served as the Tooth Fairy's ambassador for Andrew

"The Lorax" and many others. Green eggs and ham was served for lunch.

School-wide D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) time was held. State speech contest storytellers Anne Bruno, AHS junior, and Katelyn Till, AHS sophomore, told their stories to the students.

students taking part in an overnight reading adventure.

## Package assembled for Main St. cleanup

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The Maquoketa City Council this week took steps to line up the financing package for the clean-up of the downtown fire debris.

The council, at a special meeting Monday, March 2, approved a plan outlined by Mayor Tom Messerli.

The council authorized the mayor to seek to spend \$5,000 in private donations for the fire clean-up to have the city's engineering firm draw up bid specifications for the demolition and removal of the debris.

He also asked the boards of three area economic development organizations to meet and determine whether or not they would provide gap financing for the clean-up if asked.

"It's getting into the spring of the year. Now is the time to be implementing this activity down there and get this done this year for sure," Councilman Galen Saunders said.

The council approved Saunders' motion to approve the plan outlined by Messerli for cleaning up the pile of debris from the Jan. 19, 2008 South Main Street fire that destroyed buildings occupied by three businesses and damaged two others.

Messerli reported that a licensed testing business has tested the debris and determined that the debris is contaminated with asbestos "from the top to the bottom."

"Time, snow, rain, water has not washed the asbestos away," the mayor said. "It is still there, according to the (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) and that is how we have to deal with it. There's no getting around that."

The testing was arranged through the city's engineering firm, IIW Engineers & Surveyors of Dubuque.

The asbestos testing results mean that that the removing will require special handling at greater expense.

The most recent estimate of the cost of demolishing the remaining standing walls and removing the debris is \$340,000, a figure the city obtained from a contractor last year.

Messerli said he recently asked two contractors to provide rough estimates in order to have more up-to-date approximations of the cost.

The city so far has been assured, or nearly so, of receiving \$218,250 in funding for the clean-up. All is from non-city sources.

That total consists of \$103,250 in claims from the portion of the property insurance designated for debris clean-up carried by the three owners of the downtown parcels, an \$85,000 forgivable loan from the Iowa Department of Economic Development and a \$25,000 grant from the DNR.

Department of Economic Development officials announced recently that the forgivable loan has been approved. City officials said the \$25,000 DNR grant has been tentatively approved, but have not received word of final approval.

Those funds would leave a \$121,750 gap left to be filled, using the \$340,000 estimate, Messerli noted.

The city also is awaiting word from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding its application for a \$200,000 grant. The city expects to receive word on the outcome of that grant in April or May.

"We don't know where we stand with that," Messerli said of the EPA grant application. "We do know we are one of many people vying for this money. We don't know how much of this we may get."

Messerli told the council the city needs to have financing in place to cover the estimated \$121,750 shortfall in case the EPA grant application is turned down.

Messerli said he has discussed the city borrowing funds from the Jackson County revolving loan

fund, which provides low-interest financing for business start-ups and expansions in the county.

He said the revolving loan fund could lend the city between \$100,000 and \$125,000 at a low interest rate. He said the city would pay interest on the loan until the property is cleaned up and sold, at which time the principal would be paid back.

"That would be a way to do this without tapping our budget or dipping into our reserves. Three percent interest on \$100,000 is not that much," he said.

Two other sources of gap financing may be Timber City Development Corp. and the Maquoketa Industrial Development Assistance Service. Both organizations generally are involved in industrial financing.

Messerli said he has asked that the boards of both those organizations meet and determine whether or not they would be interested in helping finance the clean-up if needed.

Timber City Development board members said at the organization's annual shareholders meeting last month that they would be willing to help finance a downtown project if needed.

Councilman Neil Morehead, chairman of the MIDAS board, said that board would meet Wednesday evening, March 11.

He said he would propose that the board contribute \$100,000 to \$125,000 in financing, if needed, possibly at no interest, with the idea that the money would be paid back when the property is sold.

The council has said that after it is cleaned up, it plans to place the property for sale for development.

Messerli urged the MIDAS board also to have the building it owns at the northeast corner of

■ **CLEANUP,**  
Please turn to page 2