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- Aldi
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PUBLIC NOTICES

- David K. Snyder probate
- Jackson County Sheriff Sale
 - Citifinancial vs. S. Halverson
- Original Notice
 - Fronmmelt vs. Gordons Ferry Trust et al
- JC Board of Supervisors
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- Ryan Garien probate
- Water Discharge
- Maquoketa School Board
 - April 14, 2009 meeting
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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

Middle schoolers
raise money for
a personal cause

When the cause strikes a personal chord, Maquoketa Middle School students turn out in full force to help others in need.

Middle school students and the CARDS Club raised \$210 for the American Heart Association in honor of teacher Tami Eggers’ daughter, Kennedy.

On Jan. 20, Kennedy Eggers was born at the University of Iowa Children’s Hospital with a condition called transposition of the great arteries.

With this congenital heart defect, the baby’s aorta and pulmonary artery were reversed. The aorta received the oxygen-poor blood from the right ventricle, but it is carried back to the body without receiving more oxygen. Similarly, the pulmonary artery receives the oxygen-rich blood from the left ventricle but carries it back to the lungs.

Newborn Kennedy was in immediate heart failure and underwent open-heart surgery at one week of age. She was in the operating room for more than nine hours.

Today she is doing well. She is growing strong and healthy with her repaired heart.

On April 25, Kennedy and some of her supporters will travel to Johnson County to participate in the Johnson County Heart Walk.

The Maquoketa Middle School CARDS Club designated a day at the middle school to raise money for that heart walk. As a school, they were able to raise \$210, which will be used to help research congenital heart defects and eventually find a cure.



Contributed Photo

CARDS Club members Rachel Rohwedder, Destiny Dundee, and Shelby Yearwood present Tami Eggers with a check for \$210 for the American Heart Association. Eggers’ daughter was born in January with a congenital heart defect.

Facts to consider:

n Congenital heart defects are the number one birth defect. 40,000 children this year will be born with a birth defect. About 4,000 will not live to see their first birthday.

n About one in 120 babies are born with some kind of heart defect.

n Heart disease is the number one killer of children.

n There are about one million adults and 800,000 children living with congenital heart defects in the United States. Thanks to increases

in the survival rate, the number of adults rises by 5 percent a year.

n Of every dollar the government spends on medical funding, only a fraction of a penny is directed toward congenital heart defect research.

Congenital heart defects can happen to anyone, anywhere. Some babies are sent home from the hospital undiagnosed. Take the time to become educated about the signs and symptoms of congenital heart defect and heart failure. It just might have to save a child’s life someday.

City deals with recreation budget overrun

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The City of Maquoketa will have to dig deeper into its pockets to help support the Maquoketa Area Family YMCA, a City Council committee was told last week.

At the current pace, the city’s recreation budget, which includes the YMCA facility, will incur a \$35,000 cost overrun beyond the amount the city already subsidizes the YMCA at the end of the city’s current fiscal year on June 30, City Manager Brian Wagner told the council’s Finance Committee Wednesday, April 15.

He said YMCA officials are taking economizing steps that will cut approximately \$35,000 in expenses, but he said those savings won’t be realized until the 2009-10 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Wagner didn’t elaborate on what cost-cutting measures will be taken.

The committee recommended that the council make up the deficit from the city’s general fund reserves. The City Council unanimously approved the recommendation Monday night, April 20.

Under the management agreement in which the city contracts with the Scott County Family Y to operate the YMCA facility and the city’s recreation programs, the city is paying the Davenport-based YMCA organization \$200,000 per year for the first three years of the agreement.

Of that amount, \$125,000 is intended as an ongoing subsidy to help defray operating costs of the YMCA facility and the recreation programs. The remaining \$75,000 was intended to help cover start-up costs for the first three years of operation as membership numbers gradually

increased to a hoped-for goal.

The city has paid the Scott County Family Y two of the three \$75,000 payments. One payment remains. The city, however, must make up any cost overruns, under the management agreement.

The YMCA completed its first year of operation last October.

Committee member Jason Hute said the city has no choice but to pay the overrun.

Wagner noted that when other city departments have a budget overrun, the reserve in that department covers the additional costs.

Mayor Tom Messerli asked about the status of a recent membership drive. Wagner said the YMCA had hoped to add 100 new memberships, but failed to reach the goal.

He said YMCA Director Mark Proeschel told him that the Y is making changes so that next year “if nothing else changes up there and the fixes that they’re talking about between now and the end of the (fiscal) year are implemented, we won’t be looking at (paying) more than the \$200,000 the city is now subsidizing.”

Wagner said he didn’t know what steps the YMCA is taking to adjust the budget after the city makes its third and final \$75,000 ramp-up payment next year and that subsidy disappears.

Committee member Galen Saunders said he thinks that the YMCA has achieved its peak membership level.

“My personal opinion is they’ve maxed out on the membership and the city’s going to have to live with what membership is currently on hand,” Saunders told the committee.

“Hopefully business gets better and hopefully more people move to town and the economy

changes a little bit, but there’s a point where your membership level is going to level off. I think they’ve peaked and we’re going to have to look at how this thing can be operated after year three to support that.

“It’s ours; we have to stay behind it from here on out. So we’re going to have to do what we have to do with it,” Saunders said.

Rather than the \$75,000 ramp-up subsidy going away after three years as revenue from memberships and other sources increases as was planned, Messerli said he expects that the city will have to continue paying the \$75,000 subsidy “for quite awhile into the future.”

Saunders said he agreed.

After a year of experience, Wagner said YMCA officials have said that the indoor pool and recreation facility can operate as planned with 850 memberships. He said the YMCA currently has 750 to 760 memberships.

“Ninety or so memberships doesn’t sound like a lot, but it makes a big difference,” Wagner said.

He noted that YMCA officials at first thought 1,100 memberships would be needed to operate the facility at a break-even point, before the facility opened in October 2007. That number later was revised to about 900, and has been further decreased, Wagner said.

One bright spot is that with the closing of the outdoor swimming pool after last season, more swimmers are expected at the YMCA this summer.

“They really believe the swimming side of it will see a pretty big increase this year with the

■ BUDGET,
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