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MAQUOKETA

SENTINEL-PRESS

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■ City of Maquoketa

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## Beef royalty honor first baby born in May with gifts

DJ Pehn Sotam received some special gifts by being the first baby born in Jackson County this month. May is National Beef Month, so Jackson County beef royalty presented the newborn and his parents with a baby outfit, toy and beef certificates. DJ was born at 8:42 a.m. May 9 at Jackson County Regional Health Center. His parents are Pehn and Lilly Sotam of Maquoketa. Shown at the time of the gift presentation are, front row, Lilly Sotam holding son DJ, and 2009 Jackson County Beef Queen Janell Johnson. Standing in back are Beef Princess Erin Moeller, Junior Beef Ambassador Nick Kilburg and Senior Beef Ambassador Evan Gibbs.

MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

# City leaders receive pay increases

**By DOUGLAS MELVOLD**

Maquoketa’s three top department heads will receive 3.75 percent pay increases starting in July, the Maquoketa City Council agreed this week.

The raises were among several actions taken this week by the council.

The council approved without discussion a recommendation of the council’s Personnel Committee to grant pay increases to city employees who are not members of a bargaining unit.

The 3.75 percent raises are the same percentage amount agreed on earlier to the city’s unionized employees. The raises will take effect with the start of the city’s fiscal year on July 1.

The raises will increase the salaries of:

- City Manager Brian Wagner from his current pay of \$89,571 to \$92,930.
- Public Works Director David Popp from \$55,034 to \$57,098
- Police Chief Brad Koranda from \$55,116 to \$57,183.
- Assistant Police Chief Craig Jackson from \$49,837 to \$51,706.
- Police Sgts. Robert Simonson and Kennie Sparks from \$45,684 to \$47,398.

Also given 3.75 percent raises starting July 1 were Judy Carr, deputy city clerk; Diane Frandsen, city finance director, and City Hall staff members Sue Ellison and Sarah Johnston and Karen Rubel, director of the city’s local-access cable television channels.

The council also increased by \$5 the limit city employees pay for group health insurance coverage. The cap applies to both single and family policies.

In other business, the council awarded a \$5,300 contract to Gil’s Tree Service of Maquoketa to cut down 10 trees on city rights-of-way. The business was the lowest bidder among four tree services that offered bids for all 10 trees.

Five of the trees are on South Niagara Street, three are on East Maple Street, and one each are on North Main and East Pleasant streets.

The council awarded another contract to Gil’s Tree Service, for \$1,500, to trim 15 trees in First Ward Park.

The council also awarded a \$1,900 contract to Davey Tree Expert Co. of Bettendorf to trim and install cables to give extended life to two large sugar maple trees in First Ward Park.

Council member Marsha Myers asked why the city “would put this much into saving two trees?”

Popp explained that the trees weren’t trimmed properly when they were smaller, and have grown up with major limbs that are split in a “Y” pattern.

■ CITY,

Please turn to page 3

# Memorial Day celebrations scheduled

Area towns will host a variety of Memorial Day services and events over the weekend. Following are just a few of the area observances meant to celebrate the women and men of the U.S. military.

**Maquoketa**

Maquoketa’s 2009 Memorial Day Program begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Maquoketa Middle School gymnasium.

The event is open to the public.

Clif Merrick, American Legion commander, opens the program, followed by the invocation led by past V.F.W. Commander Burton Romer.

Next will be the Pledge of Allegiance and memorial to all veterans. Those assembled will sing “God Bless America.”

Merrick will read the names of the new members added to the Avenue of Flags.

Mona Eastman, American Legion Auxiliary president, will read Logan’s General Order No. 11, followed by Richard Fix reading Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

The Maquoketa Community High School Band will perform.

Iowa Rep. Tom Schueller will offer the Memorial Day address.

The names of American Legion and V.F.W. members who died since Memorial Day 2008 will be read.

Tom Crouch will offer the benediction. High school trumpeters will perform Taps.

The American Legion and V.F.W.

Ceremonial Squads will lead the Salute to the Nation’s Dead at the G.A.R. Memorial in Mt. Hope Cemetery following the program at the middle school.

**Andrew**

The traditional Memorial Day service sponsored by the Andrew AMVETS Post 62 will be held Monday, May 25 at 1:30 p.m. in the Andrew Community School gymnasium. Guest speaker will be Iowa Sen. Roger Stewart.

**Miles**

The Miles Memorial Day Program will begin at 11 a.m. Monday, May 25 in the East Central High School gym.

Legion Auxiliary Color Bearers and Legion Color Guard will complete the advancement of colors, with the invocation by Post 677 and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Post Commander Dale Petersen will welcome those assembled and announce the Boys State representatives. Auxiliary President LaVora Flemming will announce Girls State representatives.

Carl Kueter will give the Memorial Day address, followed by 30 seconds of silence.

The East Central Band will perform Taps and the Star Spangled Banner, followed by the benediction and retirement of colors.

■ CELEBRATIONS,

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