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■ Maquoketa Municipal Electric Utilities

■ Mayberry Maytag Appliance Center

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.



Maquoketa, DeWitt split two on softball diamond

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PUBLIC NOTICES

■ JC Board of Supervisors

- May 19, 2009 meeting

■ Delwood School Board

- May 18, 2009 meeting

■ Maquoketa School-Joint with Sacred Heart

- May 26, 2009 meeting

■ Maquoketa School Board

- May 26, 2009 meeting

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

Commencement held in new gym

By KELLY GERLACH

May 31, 2009, was a beautiful day for firsts – first graduation ceremony in the new gym and the first day of new lives for about 120 graduates.

Maquoketa Community High School’s 131st annual commencement exercises were held Sunday in the new 1,600-person high school gym. While not quite that many people attended the ceremony, seats were comfortably filled for the event.

The Class of 2009 lined up in the old west gym for what would likely be their final time together. There were plenty of last-minute mortarboard adjustments, hugs and tears as the reality of day dawned on everyone.

At 2 p.m., the seniors processed into the new gymnasium, dividing to walk down the two staircases on the west end of the gym. The protective silver floor covering rustled under their feet as they paired up again and proceeded to their seats in front of the stage. Their proud family members sat on reserved seats behind the class.

Senior Ali Simpson addressed the audience first with her speech “Growing Up Senior.”

She said she took a poll to see what career path her classmates wanted to follow when they were little children. The responses – the crocodile hunter’s wife, a pirate, a boxer, an astronaut and Supreme Lord and Commander of the Universe.

Those career paths diverged significantly since then, Simpson said, with classmates planning to become Spanish teachers, advertising specialists, law specialists, journalists and film directors.

Over the years, Simpson said, “We accomplished something that can’t be measured by grade point average or tassels...or a diploma. We received our education in life from each other.

“Our friendships were forged with hard work, devotion and the courage to go after what we want,” she continued.

Quoting lyrics from the Bon Jovi song “It’s my Life,” Simpson told her classmates that it’s now their lives and they decide what they want to do with them, no one else.

Senior Jeni Schurbon also added a little humor and poignancy to the 2009 commencement exercises with her Top 10 list of things she’d miss about high school. Her speech was titled “Cheese Sticks and Yellow Slips.”

At number 10 were the little yellow slips students receive from

the main office when the students must be called away during class. “They’re like a mini vacation,” she said.

Next, Schurbon recalled trying and succeeding – as a class, not just her – to get teachers off subject for entire class periods. She said it was especially easy when the subject was college.

Favorite lunches, including

MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

The 131st annual commencement exercises of Maquoketa Community High School were held Sunday in the new gymnasium. The Class of 2009 is the first to use the facility.

cheese sticks, took the number 8 slot, with Homecoming dress up days – especially cross dressing day – as another memorable high school experience.

Number 6 on Schurbon’s list of things she’d miss was the first day of high school. Why?

■ GRADUATION, Please turn to page 10

HUSCO employment projections revised

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Although the recession has dented its employment projections, HUSCO International Inc. remains as committed to Maquoketa as ever and is hiring more employees, company officials said.

HUSCO officials discussed their plans and led Maquoketa area legislators, economic development leaders and media representatives on a recent tour of their facility.

The event coincided with a meeting of the company’s board of directors at the Maquoketa facility.

“Even though some of the hiring numbers are down from what we originally discussed, all of the assets and all of the product lines associated with those (hiring) numbers have moved” to the Maquoketa plant, Scott Bower, manager of the Maquoketa facility told the visitors.

“So we haven’t changed any of our last-minute transfer strategies or anything. In fact, we’ve added to it.”

HUSCO International produces hydraulic and electrohydraulic controls for off-highway and automotive equipment, such as excavators and other earthmoving machines and forklifts.

The company, based in Waukesha, Wis., has been operating for the past year in the manufacturing facility built for Generac Power Systems at 104 Generac Drive in the Highway 61 Industrial Park at the south edge of Maquoketa.

The company has a staff of 27 at its Maquoketa plant, of whom 10 are

office employees and 17 are in production. Two shifts are in operation.

HUSCO is in the process of hiring an additional 11 employees, whom company officials hope to bring on duty this month. HUSCO received approximately 200 applications for

those positions.

Production is centered on four “cells,” or product lines. The basic parts for the controls are shipped to Maquoketa from foundries where they are cast.

They are assembled at the Maquoketa plant and from there are shipped to the customer’s assembly line plant for installation on the equipment.

Signs at the end of each cell displays a picture of the machine and the customer for the controls produced in that cell.

At the end of one cell, the sign showed a backhoe loader and skid steer loader for CNH Global, a company comprised of the former Case-IH and New Holland; skid steer loaders for Caterpillar and John Deere and a forklift truck for NACCO Materials Handling Group.

The privately-held company builds controls for machinery worldwide, including Kubota, a Japanese tractor manufacturer, and Sanya, a Chinese excavator company.

Company officials said they are pleased with the quality of the work-force they have found in Maquoketa.

“We have access to an excellent work force (in Maquoketa) and today that’s proven to be the case,” said Bob Mortensen, executive vice president and general manager of the Industrial Products division at HUSCO.

“We have no issues (with the work

■ HUSCO, Please turn to page 3

MSP photo by Douglas Melvold

Scott Bower, left, plant manager of HUSCO International’s Maquoketa facility, visits with Jackson County Supervisor Larry “Buck” Koos and Maquoketa Economic Development Director Stacy Driscoll during a recent tour of the company’s year-old Maquoketa operation. The plant employs 27 people and 11 more are being hired this month.