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PUBLIC NOTICES

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- City of Andrew
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MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

Crowds gather for Sunshine playground opening

Snow showers ended last weekend just in time for Sunshine Preschool and Daycare to cut the ribbon on its new natural playground. Sunshine children, employees and board members crowded together in the biting wind Oct. 10 to celebrate the official opening of the playground, which was made possible through a grant from Jackson/Clinton County Empowerment and the volunteer efforts of numerous people and groups in the community. The playground incorporates various elements of nature and the surrounding landscape to provide children not only with a place to play but also a place to learn. Sally Davies, Sunshine executive director, said the playground remains a work in progress but the center is pleased with how it has turned out so far.

Found artifacts alter bridge plans

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Plans to replace a Jackson County bridge east of Andrew may have to be altered after prehistoric artifacts were found near the site.

County Engineer Clark Schloz told the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, Oct. 13, that an initial archaeological study near the site produced a stone used to make tools and other pieces that the study said are thought to date from 8500 to 1500 B.C.

The study was done at the site of a bridge that carries county road E-17 over Brush Creek one mile east of Andrew.

The county is planning to replace the narrow 20-foot wide bridge with a 30-foot span and straighten the approach to the bridge from the west to improve safety.

Because federal funds will foot 80 percent of the estimated \$800,000 cost of the bridge, the county had an archaeological study done of the proposed site of the new bridge as required by federal rules.

Schloz said the study probed an area northwest of the present bridge. He said researchers found a "hammer stone," a rounded rock that was used to make other tools, and other small pieces of rock the study said dated back to prehistoric times.

Supervisors looked at photos of the artifacts and expressed skepticism and sarcasm over the authenticity of the items.

Supervisor Steve Flynn said the items look like ordinary rocks.

"You can find that stuff in any creek bed," Flynn said.

"If those aren't (ordinary) rocks, I don't know what they are," agreed Supervisors Chairman Jack Willey.

"You've got to be kidding me," said Supervisor Larry "Buck" Koos as he looked at photos of

the rock artifacts.

"I don't suppose the guys who found these are watching (the meeting on local-access cable television), but if they are, you've got to be kidding. Come on, guys."

Koos added, "We understand that these federal rules were put in there for a reason." He said the supervisors would not disturb a major artifact such as the remains of an Indian village or burial mounds.

"But when we're talking about pieces of rock that in their imagination they think are prehistoric—the Earth is prehistoric. Maybe we shouldn't dig a posthole anywhere.

"It gets a little ridiculous and in challenging times, like we're in right now, and we have to spend money on archaeological studies, it's getting a little carried away. It's gone a little too far, in my opinion," Koos added.

"It's getting to the point that it's almost impossible to put a road in any more," Flynn said.

The \$2,700 archaeological study was per-

formed by Wapsi Valley Archaeology Inc. of Anamosa. No one representing the firm attended the meeting.

Schloz said the supervisors have the option of having a second phase of the study done at additional cost to further investigate the site and whether the bridge could be built on the preferred alignment, appealing the initial findings or aligning the bridge to avoid the site.

Schloz said it's still possible that the bridge could be "squeezed in" to the desired site, but he said he wouldn't know for certain until he knows the exact area of the archaeological site.

He said he wanted to avoid doing a phase two study because of the cost involved.

Schloz had hoped to build the bridge at a new site near the present bridge so that the present bridge could be kept open to traffic during the construction and avoid detours and traffic delays.

■ BRIDGE,
Please turn to page 3

Absentee ballots now available

Absentee ballots for upcoming city elections throughout Jackson County became available starting this week, M. Joell Deppe, Jackson County auditor and elections commissioner, announced.

Voters in any of Jackson County's 12 municipalities may cast ballots anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday through Nov. 2, the day before the election, at the county audi-

tor's office in the Courthouse in Maquoketa.

Voters also may vote by mail. To do so, voters must fill out a form to request a ballot and must submit the form to the auditor's office.

Forms are available at the auditor's office and may be downloaded from the Iowa secretary of state Web site. Voters also may call the auditor's office and request that a form be sent to them.

Marked ballots may be returned by mail or in person to the auditor's office.

If being returned by mail, the marked ballot must be postmarked by Nov. 2. If being returned it must be returned by the time the polls close at 8 p.m. Nov. 3, Election Day.

Voters with questions are asked to contact the auditor's office.