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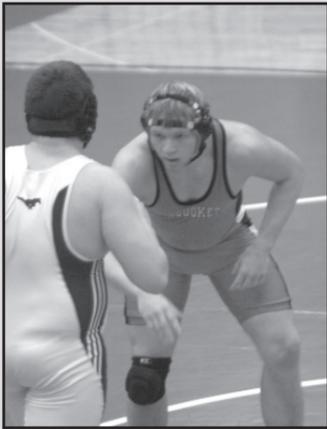
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— M A Q U O K E T A —  
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# Council waits to award contract

By **DOUGLAS MELVOLD**

The Maquoketa City Council has received bids for the clean-up of the downtown fire debris, but it can't award a contract.

City Manager Brian Wagner told the City Council Monday night, Jan. 18, that the city has the funds available to cover the cost, barring unforeseen expenses.

But as the two-year anniversary of the South Main Street fire passed this week, the city is awaiting the final paperwork that will allow the council to award a contract that would get the rubble from the Jan. 19, 2008 blaze loaded up and hauled away.

City officials also were awaiting a recommendation from the project engineers as to which bidder to award the contract.

G&B Construction of Burlington submitted the apparent low bid, \$341,000, among five competing offers when bids were opened on Jan. 14.

But Wagner told the council on Monday that G&B firm's bid did not include all of the required attachments.

Because of those missing documents, Wagner said he expects the project engineers from Howard R. Green Co. of Cedar Rapids, to recommend that the contract go to the second-lowest bidder, Lester Construction of Rock Island, Ill.

That firm bid \$376,154, which is \$35,154 above the apparent low bid. It's also \$18,154, or 5.1 percent, above the engineer's estimate for the job.

The bid includes demolition of the building and replacement of the sidewalk at 147 S. Main St., at the corner of South Main and Pleasant streets, which would be paid for by the Maquoketa Industrial Development Assistance Service.

That would leave the city's cost at \$328,554 under the Lester Construction bid.

Added to that would be the engineering cost

of \$50,650, for a total of \$379,114. That amount remains under the \$418,250 in grants, insurance proceeds and donations that the city has accumulated to pay for the clean-up.

"So unless some sort of change order happens that we're not aware of right now, it looks like the financing we have right now will more than cover the cost of the project and the engineering for it," Wagner told the council.

He said the board of MIDAS, which is the city's economic development financing arm, met earlier Monday and agreed that if the contract is awarded to the Lester firm, MIDAS will take on its portion of the project.

Meanwhile, in addition to the recommendation from its engineering firm, the city is awaiting completion of two documents.

One is signatures of two officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency needed a clean-up plan that was required as part of a \$200,000 grant from the agency that is the biggest piece of the financing package.

The other document is an agreement that is to be drawn up by the EPA and signed by officials of the State Historic Preservation Office. The latter agency is involved because one of the buildings, destroyed by the fire, which was occupied by Sue's Hallmark, was on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Jackson County Historical Society has requested that some ornate pillars that were in that building be salvaged from the fire debris.

The State Historic Preservation Office, however, has not yet received the documents.

Wagner said he contacted EPA officials, who told him the document that must be signed by the State Historic Preservation Office is being reviewed by an EPA attorney.

Wagner said he doesn't know if the SHPO will require that the pillars be salvaged or have the

city meet other requirements or none at all.

"The documents needing two signatures may come quicker, but I don't have a date by which we can expect them," Wagner told the council.

"So we're waiting for those approvals before we can come back and ask you to accept one of those bids. That's basically where we're at."

Wagner noted that the bidding rules specified that the bids must be good for 60 days.

The Lester Construction bid also includes replacement of the sidewalks adjoining the clean-up site. The project calls for the present sidewalks to be removed.

The sources of the city's financing for the project are the \$200,000 Brownfield clean-up grant from the EPA, an \$85,000 forgivable loan from the Iowa Department of Economic Development, a \$25,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, \$103,250 in insurance proceeds earmarked for property clean-up and \$5,000 in private donations being held by the Maquoketa Area Chamber of Commerce.

## Summit house fire extinguished

Maquoketa volunteer firefighters battled a fire that broke out in a residence at 601 W. Summit St. Thursday night, Jan. 21.

Firefighters were summoned at 8:11 p.m. to the brick structure, which at one time housed a nursing home.

One firefighter said the fire had gotten in the space between the exterior and interior walls.

Firefighters, equipped with air tanks, were seen entering the structure.

Further information was not immediately available Thursday night.

# Local nurse dedicated to helping Haitians

By **LOWELL CARLSON**

Cindy Broders, Bellevue, said she simply sat and cried in the early hours last week after learning of the massive 7.2 earthquake in Haiti.

"First you are in shock and disbelief. The first news was indescribable. Everyone we know and love there had family in Port-au-Prince. Fortunately, we have had contact from day one. I knew none of it would be left. Most of those buildings are just cement blocks with a little mortar."

There was a bit of good news. The clinic built by the humanitarian service group survived the quake in good condition.

The clinic is 55 miles southeast of Port-au-Prince and it is alright. It was not in the immediate quake zone and is built to American construction standards. Nothing was damaged.

"They let us know on Wednesday morning. Still, an architect told them to stay out of the building for four or five days," said Broders.

For the Bellevue nurse and board member of Serve HAITI the devastation of Haiti's four major cities and the death toll signaled a coming challenge for projects their group operates in country.

Since 2002, Broders and a num-



**Burn injuries like this child's** are not uncommon. Broders said an open fire is used to cook meals, often in a shelter behind the main dwelling. This toddler is recovering after it fell into a cooking fire. Broders has been going to Haiti with Serve Haiti since 2002.

ber of Bellevue area volunteers and other members of the organization have spent weeks at a time in the Grand-Bois region working to provide health care, potable water, nu-

trition and education services high in the mountainous area.

The Haiti volunteer is scheduled to go back to the health clinic at Grand Bois Feb. 2

The scale of destruction Broders believes will signal an exodus

■ **BRODERS,**  
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