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— M A Q U O K E T A —

SENTINEL-PRESS

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Due to a varying numbers 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

- JC Board of Supervisors
- Jan. 26, 2010 meeting
- Maquoketa City Council
- Feb. 21, 2010 meeting
- JC Sheriff Sale
- MSB vs. S. Cristoffersen
- The National Bank vs.
L. Volquardsen
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- Wendling Quarries
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- Diana B. Krabbenhoff probate

Our public notices are also published on the web at:

<http://www.publicnoticeads.com/IA/search/searchnotice.asp>

Senior guard Bickford puts career steals mark in record book



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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

- Jackson County
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- Maquoketa School District

Brass in Blue to perform March 12

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

A unit of the U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band is coming to Maquoketa next month to present a free concert.

The Brass in Blue, a 12-piece symphonic brass ensemble, will perform at 7 p.m. March 12 at the Ohnward Fine Arts Center in Maquoketa.

The group is a part of the Air Force Heartland of America Band based at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Neb.

The concert is sponsored locally by the Maquoketa Sentinel-Press.

While the event is free of charge, concertgoers must have a ticket, which are available at the Sentinel-Press office.

People planning to attend may obtain a ticket in person at the Sentinel-Press office, 108 W. Quarry St., or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Maquoketa Sentinel Press, ATTN: Tickets, 108 W. Quarry St., Maquoketa, Iowa 52060.

Tickets also may be obtained by filling out and sending in a coupon that will be included in an advertisement for the concert that will appear in the Saturday, Feb. 13, Sentinel-Press and subsequent issues.

The event will mark the Brass in Blue unit's first appearance in Maquoketa and the eighth appearance of a unit of the Heartland of America band in Maquoketa in the past 14 years.

The concert will be one of several performances the band will make during a late winter concert tour of eastern Iowa.

The two-hour concert, with an intermission, will feature a variety of music, including marches and patriotic, classical and temporary selections.

The Brass in Blue brings the military tradition of brass and percussion to the concert stage with



Contributed Photo

The U.S. Air Force Brass in Blue ensemble will perform a free concert at the Ohnward Fine Arts Center in Maquoketa at 7 p.m. March 12. The group is a part of the U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band based at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Neb. The group is comprised of 10 brass players, a percussionist and a vocalist.

the unique additional of a vocalist.

The group is comprised of 10 brass players, a percussionist and a vocalist. Selections will feature orchestral transcriptions, patriotic favorites,

jazz standards, new compositions and distinctive arrangements.

■ BAND,
Please turn to page 3

Assessor's office seeks 2% budget increase

By KELLY GERLACH

The Jackson County Conference Board proposes an \$853,291 budget for the county Assessor's Office for the next fiscal year, including 2 percent pay increases for the staff.

The Conference Board reviewed Assessor Deb Lane's budget request during a meeting on Feb. 4. The board scheduled a public hearing and final action on the budget for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa.

The new 2010-11 fiscal year budget takes effect July 1.

The board approved the budget as proposed by the assessor.

Lane proposed a 2 percent salary increase for everyone in the assessor's office. That proposal is in line, she said, with the 2 percent salary increase proposed last month by the Jackson County Compensation Board for elected county officials and deputies. She reminded conference board members that her staff received only 1 1/2 percent pay increases last year compared to 2 percent increases for county elected officials and 5 percent or more for courthouse unions.

Lane proposed an increase in her salary from \$57,130 to \$58,273.

Sue Hare, deputy and office manager, would see her salary increase to \$39,334 from \$38,563.

Deputy and office manager assis-

tant Janelle Bartels would see her salary increase from \$31,422 to \$32,050.

Chief deputy assessor Troy Patzner and deputy assessor Lee Karabin would receive a total of \$87,409 paid out of the special appraisers budget.

In initial board discussion regarding the assessor's budget, representatives from the county's 12 municipalities and from the county's school districts voiced approval for the proposed budget, including the 2 percent salary increase.

The Supervisors disagreed, instead recommending a 1 1/2 percent salary increase.

Speaking for the Supervisors, Jack Willey said they actually considered a more conservative offer of 1 percent. He said that although the county Compensation Board last month recommended a 2 percent increase for elected officials, "in all probability we will be decreasing that somewhat, too."

"We're being fiscally responsible, but I feel we shouldn't penalize the officers of this office at this time," countered Baldwin Mayor Bill Rohwedder.

"These are terrible, terrible times," Keeney added.

A motion by Keeney to approve the budget as presented was seconded by school district representatives

and approved unanimously.

If the proposed budget is approved, the property tax rate for the assessor's office will increase from 64 cents to 68. For taxpayers, that means an additional \$4 per \$100,000 assessed valuation.

In her proposed budget, Lane said she added an estimated 16 percent increase in health insurance costs. She said she was advised to figure in an at least an additional 10 percent.

Andrew Community School Board member Charlie Peters initially questioned what he considered an especially high estimate. He OK'd the percentage when he learned that any leftover money from that particular fund would revert to the assessor's general carryover fund.

The proposed budget includes a \$445,000 expenditure earmarked for the countywide residential reassessment scheduled to start this summer. Vanguard Appraisal Inc. of Cedar Rapids will be doing the reassessments.

Lane and the Supervisors quickly emphasized that the reassessment money "has been in reserves, so it's not brand new, so I'm pulling it up to spend it this year," Lane said. She added that the project cost remains the same as it was when it was bid out two years ago.

Other notable budget changes, according to Lane, included the

necessity of the auditor's office to pay its share of workman's compensation, amounting to about \$1,900.

She said her office will be expected to contribute its share of money to help pay for major electrical work needed in the courthouse. Lane listed that additional cost at between \$10,000 and \$15,000 over the next three to four years.

The assessor also built an extra \$7,100 into her budget for possible added postage costs. She told conference board members of pending legislation that would force assessors every two years to mail notices of valuation changes to property owners.

"Enough people feel they're not being notified when their valuations change, so the assessors' offices may have to mail out notices every two years with what the value is," Lane said, adding that she's "not really in favor" of the legislation. She said people can go online to find out their valuation or call the office. By law, assessors must also publish them in the county newspapers.

"There are enough ways in today's world to get notices (without mailing them)," Lane told the board.

The 2010-11 budget also includes

■ BUDGET,
Please turn to page 15