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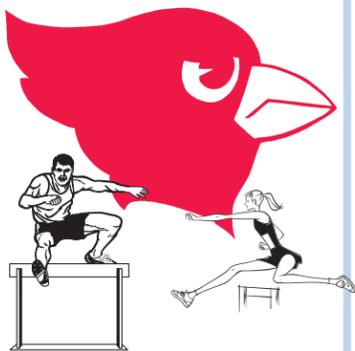
— M A Q U O K E T A —

SENTINEL—PRESS

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MCC offers summer outdoor activities

By KELLY GERLACH

Maquoketa's only outdoor pool won't be open until Memorial Day weekend but golfers already hit the links at the Maquoketa Country Club, which is searching for new members for 2010.

The country club opened for the season on March 22, just after what everyone hopes will be the last snowfall of the season. It is officially spring, after all. It remains open until the snow flies again in the winter.

The Maquoketa Country Club is perched atop a hill west of Maquoketa, visible from U.S. Hwy. 64. On the steamiest or windiest of days, swimmers enjoy a sunshiny dip in the pool and golfers tee off the nine-hole course. There's a great country view from all of the holes and the swimming pool.

A paid membership is required to take advantage of Maquoketa Country Club's amenities. Numerous membership levels exist, offering various levels of access to the golf course, pool, clubhouse and other benefits at affordable prices. Full annual memberships allow unlimited access to the grounds, including swimming, golfing, clubhouse, restaurant, etc.

The largest change is to the social membership, which includes unlim-



Contributed Photo

Enjoy camaraderie, nine holes of gold and even a little exercise at the Maquoketa Country Club. The club's course is home to Maquoketa Community High School golf meets like the one shown here. However, members can take advantage of couples events, men's and women's days, or they can turn their minds toward civic giving during local organization tournaments such as the Kiwanis Club golf outing.

ited swimming, full use of the clubhouse and bar area and six rounds of golf. Membership drive organizers said they doubled the number of times social members can play golf there, from three times to six times a year.

"Maquoketa Country Club is a local opportunity to be outside on a peaceful, beautiful golf course, and it's a safe place for families to share," said membership drive

organizers. "It's a place for everyone to get out on the course, take a dip in the pool. The country club gets everyone outdoors instead of keeping them indoors playing video games or watching TV. It promotes the Jackson County outdoors."

Since the Maquoketa municipal swimming pool officially closed in 2008, the Maquoketa Country Club boasts the only outdoor pool in Maquoketa. It's been a draw

for many new members who enjoy swimming and water games or simply lounging poolside – all in the bright summer sunshine.

The heated pool ranges in depth from 4 feet to 9 feet and is open from 1 to 8 p.m. daily, weather permitting, beginning Memorial Day weekend. No lifeguard supervises the pool, so all children using the

■ **CLUB,**
Please turn to page 9

County embarks on multiyear road project

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The first construction toward paving a seven-mile segment of gravel road in northern Jackson County will begin this month with the grading of the east portion of county road D-53, or Centerville Road.

The Jackson County Board of Supervisors on March 30 unanimously awarded a \$1.05 million contract to Scheckel Construction Inc. of rural Bellevue to grade 3.5 miles of Centerville Road.

The affected portion of the road extends west from St. Donatus to 253rd Avenue.

Centerville Road connects St. Donatus with Haxbylane Road in Dubuque County, providing a direct access to U.S. 61. Its western terminus is its junction with 230th Avenue and Haxbylane Road northwest of LaMotte.

The supervisors this year are embarking on a multiyear project to grade and pave the road.

The winning bid was under the engineer's estimate of about \$1.24 million, said county Engineer Clark Schloz.

A starting date for the project has not been set, Schloz said this week. His office was awaiting receipt of copies of the contract signed by the Scheckel firm, after which a preconstruction meeting would be held to establish a starting date.

The contract sets a deadline of April 26 for the project to be started and allows 115 workdays for completion.

The affected portion of Centerville Road will be closed to through traffic throughout the construction period, although the contractor must provide access to all residences and farms along the road.

The project will be paid for with 80 percent federal funding and the remaining 20 percent state road funding.

Bidding among the seven contractors that submitted offers was handled by the Iowa Department

of Transportation. The figures were close when bids were opened on March 16.

The Scheckel company submitted the lowest of seven bids for the project, \$1,052,108. Schloz noted that the difference between the top three bidders was only \$6,000 on a \$1 million-plus contract, or about one-half of 1 percent.

The difference between the winning bid and the next lowest bid, \$1,053,247 from J. B. Holland Construction Inc. of Decorah, was only \$1,139, about one-tenth of 1 percent.

Schloz said that was the second closest bid on a construction project that he could recall.

The only pair of bids that were closer occurred when Taylor Construction of New Vienna won the contract to replace High Bridge over Tete des Morts Creek on High Bridge Road northeast of St. Donatus with a bid that was a mere \$28 under a competing bid from Jim Schroeder Construction of Bellevue in the mid-1990s.

Supervisor Larry "Buck" Koos of LaMotte, whose district includes Centerville Road, expressed satisfaction with the bids.

"My hat is off to everyone who worked on this project," Koos said. He said the supervisors pushed Schloz and his staff to have the project ready for the DOT's March bid letting "because we know people are looking for work."

"I feel there's a reason the bids came in (as low as) they did. People need work and I'm glad to give them some," Koos said.

Schloz noted that all seven bidders were under the engineer's estimate.

The other bidders, in addition to those from the Scheckel and J. B. Holland firms, were Steger Construction Inc. of Dyersville, \$1.058 million and C. J. Moyna & Sons Inc of Elkader, \$1.084 million.

Also Connolly Construction Inc. of Peosta, \$1.116 million; Reilly construction Co. Inc

of Ossian, \$1.181 million and Tom Kueter Construction Co. Inc. of rural Bellevue, \$1.238 million.

The county's five-year road improvement plan calls for the west half of Centerville Road, which involves the 3.5 miles between 253rd Avenue and 230th Avenue to be graded and a bridge replaced in 2012. The east half would be paved in 2013 and the west half in 2014, according to the five-year plan.

The supervisors are dealing with archaeological studies of artifacts found along the proposed route on the west half.

In other business, Schloz said he is awaiting word on whether or not Gov. Chet Culver will sign a bill, passed by both houses of the state Legislature that would prohibit mowing of ditches along county roads until July 15, with certain exceptions.

The bill is designed to promote the populations of pheasants and other wildlife that next in ditches.

The bill would permit mowing within a mile of a city limits or occupied dwelling or at road intersections for sight distance.

The bill would apply to everyone, including state and county road crews and farmers and individual landowners.

County crews usually mow five to 10 feet from the shoulder of the road, Schloz said.

He said the county engineers association opposes the bill because of the difficulty in mowing after mid-July if no mowing could take place until then.

The bill is favored by the Izaak Walton League and the association of county conservation boards because it would protect wildlife habitat.

Schloz said he didn't know who would be in charge of enforcing the mowing rules if the bill becomes law.