

Sign up for DISH Network
SAVE \$180
in your first year

\$24.99/mo
FOR 12 MONTHS (with Agreement)
FOR OVER 120
TOP CHANNELS
INCLUDING LOCAL CHANNELS
(where available)

Plus:
FREE HBO® & COME!
FOR 3 MONTHS (with Agreement)

LIMITED TIME OFFER!
Requires Agreement.

Why would you ever pay more for TV?

Infinity Satellite Systems
202 W. Maple St., Maquoketa
563-652-3474
866-694-5580

dish NETWORK
SATellite TV

©2010 DISH Network. All rights reserved. Service available in select areas only.

— M A Q U O K E T A —

SENTINEL-PRESS

Volume 157, No. 3 ■ 24 pages Plus Supplements ■ Wednesday, May 26, 2010 ■ \$1.00 per copy

IN THIS ISSUE



State Track story and photos in this issue.

Additional photos can be found online at <http://msspress.jimdo.com>

Page 18

Local	Pages 2-3
Family	Pages 4-6
Obituaries	Page 8
Classifieds	Pages 15-17
Sports	Pages 18-19
Agri/Business	Pages 20-21

SUPPLEMENTS

- Aldi
- Lampe True Value
- Menards
- Theisen's

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

- Roger E. House probate
- Rose Mary McKenna probate
- Maquoketa City Council - May 17, 2010 meeting
- JC Solid Waste Agency - May 17, 2010 meeting
- MMEU - April 13, 2010 meeting
- Wayne L. Laufenberg probate
- JC Sheriff Sale - BAC Home Loan vs. J. Machel et al
- Public Hearing - 2011-2014 Transp. Imp. Program
- Andrew City Council - May 11, 2010 meeting

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

Dept. of Education advocates merger

By KELLY GERLACH

Merging of East Central and Preston community school districts would be an “inappropriate intermediate step” under “inappropriate...motivation.”

Those are among the findings of the Iowa Department of Education. The department released an updated and revised 17-page feasibility report regarding reorganization of East Central, Preston and Northeast school districts.

“Today, given the critical enrollment of the Preston and East Central districts and the eroding finance, particularly in the Preston District, it is doubtful reorganization would accomplish more than to buy time before another reorganization becomes necessary,” Del Hoover said in the report. Hoover is the deputy division administrator for the Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services with the Iowa Dept. of Education.

“This solution lacks long-term stability in education programs for students and creates a disruption to the current sharing among the three districts.

“This is an inappropriate intermediate step if the goal is to eventually join the Preston, East Central, and Northeast Districts. It is also inappropriate given that it was motivated after whole grade sharing negotiations between the Northeast and

East Central districts had begun earlier this year,” the report continued.

The revised study, first conducted in 2000 and again in 2005, plainly advocates merging all three districts, not only East Central and Preston as the grassroots Community Connections group wants.

Merger of the two districts, however, will be the main topic of a public hearing scheduled for 7 p.m. June 16 at the Ohnward Fine Arts Center, Maquoketa. The Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency, which is hosting the hearing, selected the center for its seating capacity and accessibility for large crowd of concerned residents expected to attend, according to Glenn Pelecky, chief administrator of the local Mississippi Bend AEA.

During the public hearing, members of the seeking the merger will present the petition calling for said merger. Those in attendance will be able to voice support or objections regarding the petition. By Iowa code, anyone objecting the petition must file objections on forms prescribed by the Dept. of Education, according to Pelecky. Iowa code does not require the same of supporters of the petition.

Pelecky said no objections had been

■ **DISTRICTS,**
Please turn to page 2



LAUREN EHRLER

Ehrler joins MSP staff

Lauren Ehrler of rural Andrew has joined the Maquoketa Sentinel-Press staff as an intern for this summer.

She will be doing general assignment reporting and photography among other duties.

Ehrler is a 2009 graduate of Andrew Community High School.

She has just completed her first year at Drake University in Des Moines, where she is studying electronic media: broadcast news journalism.

Ehrler is the daughter of Luann Ehrler of rural Andrew.

At Drake, Ehrler wrote for the student newspaper, *The Times-Delphic*, and worked on the Drake Broadcasting sales team for the Drake Relays. She was also involved in Delta Gamma sorority and Student Senate.

Corner building to be brought down

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Clean-up of Maquoketa's downtown fire site will continue with the razing of the building at the northeast corner of South Main and Pleasant streets, the City Council was told this week.

The council, at a special meeting on Monday, May 24, agreed to forego a fancier sidewalk finish in exchange for a reduced price for demolishing the building at 147 S. Main St.

That building is owned by the Maquoketa Industrial Development Assistance Service, or MIDAS, the city's economic development financing arm. Councilman Neil Morehead, who is chairman of MIDAS' board, said G&B Construction of Burlington had offered to cut its price for demolishing that building from \$52,000 it had quoted earlier to \$42,000.

In exchange, the council agreed to a condition asked by the contractor that the council drop its preference that the contractor replace the sidewalk adjoining the fire site with one containing a more decorative surface that city officials called a “California finish.” The council expressed that preference at its meeting on May 17, but agreed on Monday to drop the upgraded finish and instead have the contractor construct a sidewalk with a basic finish in exchange for the more favorable demolition price.

The MIDAS board previously agreed to award G&B Construction the demolition job for the \$42,000 price contingent on the council agreeing to the sidewalk change, which it did on a 6-0 vote. Unlike the city, the MIDAS board was not required to go through bidding process because it is not a public entity.

City Manager Brian Wagner noted that G&B Construction could offer the trade-off with the lower price because its equipment and crews al-



MSP photo by Lauren Ehrler

A bulldozer begins the job of spreading fill material as a dump truck finishes emptying its load at the fire clean-up site on South Main Street in Maquoketa on Monday, May 24. As the job reached the finishing stages this week, the Maquoketa Industrial Development Assistance Service said it hired the contractor, G&B Construction of Burlington, to demolish the building at the northeast corner of South Main and Pleasant streets. That project will begin as the clean-up project for the remainder of the site is being completed.

ready have been at the site for the past month demolishing the four commercial buildings that were destroyed in the South Main Street fire in January of 2008.

The new sidewalk, which will be one of the last details to be completed, will extend along the Main Street and East Pleasant Street right-of-way that adjoins the affected properties.

Demolition of the MIDAS-owned building is expected to begin in the next few days, Wagner said. Before the building can be fully demolished, some of the roofing materials must be removed, as they contain asbestos, Wagner said. He said the contractor may have to give the Iowa Department of Environmental Protection notice.

■ **DEMOLITION,**
Please turn to page 3