

2010 SPRING SOCCER

Pre-School
through 8th Grade
Team Photos

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MAQUOKETA SENTINEL-PRESS

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in observance of
Memorial Day**



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MCHS Class of 2010 earns diplomas

By KELLY GERLACH

There's nothing normal about the Maquoketa Community High School Class of 2010. And the close-knit class likes it that way, marking the event with bear hugs off the floor and even an impromptu cartwheel by one graduate.

The school's 132nd annual commencement exercises were held Sunday, May 30, at 2 p.m. It marks the second year the event was held in the new school gymnasium.

Tearful family, friends and community members packed the gym to watch 159 students receive their diplomas.

"It's the second graduation in this beautiful facility and I think we just barely built it large enough," quipped district Superintendent Kim Huckstadt during his address.

Seniors Jill Heinrich and Evan Collister presented final thoughts to their classmates.

"Why be normal?" was the theme of Heinrich's speech. She reminded everyone that the Class of 2010 is the largest class to graduate in quite a number of years. She said her classmates "were a challenge to teachers" and extra teachers were required to handle the large class sizes.

She described her class as lively. She said the sheer size of the class forced the district to add lunch periods to accommodate everyone. The district also had to add books and desks to accommodate the class.

Heinrich asked her classmates to challenge themselves in whatever future endeavors they pursue.

"I challenge you to follow your own path, follow your dreams. And above all, I hope you ask yourselves, 'Why be normal?'"



MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

Linda Keitel, left, and Jill Heinrich stride proudly to their seats in a packed Maquoketa Community High School gymnasium with the Class of 2010. In her address to the class later in the ceremony, Heinrich asked classmates, "Why be normal?"

Collister searched for the perfect one-word description of his class. Exhausting his thesaurus, he settled on "family."

He said he's lived in Maquoketa his entire life and said it was, "so easy to make friends in this class. I see each person as much more than just

a classmate...At the end of the day we're always friends."

Collister and classmate Anika Ehlers roamed

■ COMMENCEMENT,
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Public outcry prompts upcoming meetings

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Jackson County supervisors said this week they want to meet with the Jackson County Conservation Board over the latter group's apparent delay in addressing the employment status of conservation Director Daryl Parker.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, June 1, said they would ask county Attorney Chris Raker to schedule a joint meeting for next week, possibly on Wednesday, June 9.

All three supervisors said they had received numerous comments from constituents in recent days who referred to a letter to the editor in the Saturday, May 29, issue of the *Sentinel-Press*.

The letter, from Steve and Melissa Bormann of Maquoketa, accuses Parker of kicking their then-10-year-old son, Brandon, in the shin when he and other youths were attending an event at the Hurstville Interpretive Center in July of 2009. The letter said Parker should be fired.

The letter urged concerned readers to contact conservation board members and supervisors to express their views.

Parker has been on administrative leave with pay since April 2 after the board learned that he had been charged with felony child abuse in Sauk County, Wis., Circuit Court in February.

He is accused of kicking a 15-year-old boy while both were involved in a game of laser tag at a resort at Lake Delton, Wis., on Feb. 19. The case is pending.

Supervisors said Tuesday they had been approached by numerous constituents during the weekend who referred to the Bormann letter and asked about the seeming inaction to address Parker's employment status.

Supervisors said they explained to constituents that the county Conservation Board, not the supervisors, has supervisory authority over the

director. Supervisors said some constituents suggested nevertheless that the supervisors step into the situation.

Meanwhile, the conservation board on Thursday afternoon, June 3, scheduled a special meeting for 6 p.m. Monday, June 7. The sole business items on the agenda are a closed session to discuss hiring outside legal counsel, followed by an open session for board action.

Conservation board Chairman Gerald Millwright of LaMotte said Thursday night that he was aware of the supervisors' discussion on Tuesday but said the discussion did not prompt the special meeting. He declined to comment on the Bormann letter or the situation with Parker.

After the conservation board placed Parker on administrative leave, the board, at a special meeting on April 23, agreed to seek to hire an attorney with expertise in employment law to advise them on a personnel matter. The conservation board has not addressed the issue since the April 23 meeting.

"I was approached several times over the weekend and in the past about why this board isn't taking some steps regarding the incident in Wisconsin and also regarding the letter," said Supervisor Jack Willey.

Willey said he told the constituents that while the supervisors appoint the conservation board members, "they handle and direct all conservation activities. And they also are the ones that hire and employ the director...As far as hiring and firing anyone on that board, we have no say in any of that activity."

"There wasn't anywhere I went this weekend that I wasn't approached about this," Willey added.

Supervisor Larry "Buck" Koos said the conservation board "needs to be dealing with it."

The conservation board "need(s) to address this letter and I think they need to sit down and come up with a game plan as far as what their moves are going to be," said Supervisor Steve Flynn.

"I think we need to sit down and have a hear-to-heart talk with them and tell them what our concerns are, what the people feel and we need to try to come up with a conclusion," Willey said.

"The letter really concerns me and concerns the people in our area. We need to express to them the importance we put in this."

This issue of the *Sentinel-Press* contains two letters to the editor from conservation board staff members who said they were present when the incident the Bormanns were referring to occurred. They defended Parker and took issue with the Bormanns' allegations.

Later in the meeting, the supervisors discussed the issue with Raker, who agreed to set up a joint meeting.

Raker, who advised the conservation board to hire an attorney experienced in employment law, said he had expected the conservation board to have acted by now and said he didn't know why no action had been taken.

"This has gone from a very private matter to one where people are wondering what is going on," Raker said.

Willey asked Raker if there was any way the supervisors legally could "step in and relieve them (conservation board members) of their responsibility if the board continues to be unresponsive to the concerns everyone in Jackson County has."

"How long do we continue to let the conservation board members dictate what happens? When

■ MEETINGS,
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