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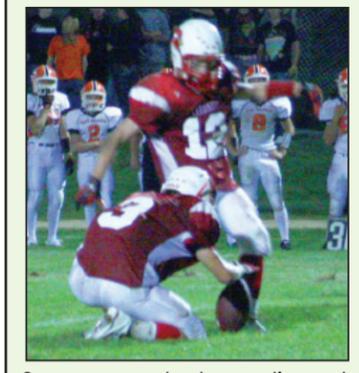
— M A Q U O K E T A —

SENTINEL-PRESS

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IN THIS ISSUE

Cards prevail over Hawks in season opener



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Page 12

Local	Pages 2-3
Family	Pages 4-5
Sports	Pages 12-14
Classifieds	Pages 16-17
Agri/Business	Pages 18-20
Obituaries	Page 21

SUPPLEMENTS

- Aldi
- Fareway
- Gasser's True Value
- Menards
- Walmart

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

- Scott Davis probate
- JC Board of Supervisors
 - Aug. 3, 2010 meeting
 - Aug. 10, 2010 meeting
 - Aug. 17, 2010 meeting
- Official Notice
 - ITC Midwest
- Public Hearing
 - Maq. Airport Common
- Andrew City Council
 - Aug. 10, 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

Dining open to public

By LAUREN EHRLER

Maquoketa area residents now have another option if they want to dine out in the evenings.

Vashelle's, located in the Maquoketa Country Club, is open to the public every Monday through Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m. Vashelle's will also be available to open for special occasions or meetings.

The restaurant's Italian-inspired menu features sandwiches, pasta and homemade pizza and calzones, according to owner Vicki Haan.

"I wanted to open a restaurant that was nice enough that people feel like they are eating out yet casual enough that people feel they can eat out," Haan said.

Haan said that all of the menu items with sandwiches around \$8, pasta ranging from \$9.50 to \$11.95 and a 16" two-topping pizza costing \$10.95.

Besides regular menu items, Vashelle's also has a different special every evening. Specials range from pork chops, ribs, some fish, steak and prime rib. Other nightly specials include "Kids

Eat Free" on Mondays and "All-You-Can-Eat" spaghetti on Tuesdays.

Guests can also enjoy house salad and homemade soups at Vashelle's. Homemade bread and oil is served as an appetizer to every customer. Haan said that almost everything they serve is homemade, using as many local and fresh ingredients as possible.

Haan said that while the recipes are hers, Vashelle's is really a family operation. Her daughter-in-law manages the restaurant, one of her sons is a chef, another son helps out cooking and with the pizza, all of her children serve and her husband Keith steps in wherever needed.

Vashelle's has done special events in the past and hopes to continue them in the future, such as donating 10 percent of Vashelle's grand opening sales to the Jackson County Hospice and coordinating with the Maquoketa Country Club for a Jimmy Buffett night. Haan also said she plans to have live instrumental music in August.

Haan is from Colorado where she had a catering

business. When she moved to Maquoketa, she noticed a need for another restaurant. She began developing a business plan for a downtown lunch eatery, which is still in progress.

While in that process, she also saw that there was a need for nice, Italian restaurant in Maquoketa. Although she didn't set out to create an evening restaurant, she saw the opportunity to utilize the Country Club dining area and create a nicer evening restaurant as a "win-win."

The Maquoketa Country Club board had been interested in renting out the dining room space and while under this lease agreement with Vashelle's, will no longer be serving food. However, the bar, golf course and pool at the Country Club still remain private.

A wall has been erected to separate the dining area from the bar. Diners at Vashelle's, however, can still purchase alcoholic drinks through the restaurant as a part of an agreement between Vashelle's and the Maquoketa Country Club.



MSP photo by Douglas Melvold

Simple pleasures

Eleven-year-old Kyle Davison enjoys a late summer day on the swing suspended from a limb of a huge century-old ash tree in the front yard of his family's farm north of Maquoketa. Kyle is the son of Joel and Renee Davison.

Resident makes request for pavement

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

A rural Maquoketa man has asked the Jackson County Board of Supervisors to consider paving a stretch of gravel road north of Maquoketa.

Richard Batey asked the supervisors on Aug. 24 to consider paving a 3.3-mile portion of 200th Avenue and 92nd Street.

From Rockdale Road 1 1/2 miles north of the city limits, 200th Avenue runs north for about 1 1/2 miles, where it meets 92nd Street. That portion of 92nd Street ends at a T-intersection with 233rd Avenue.

Batey, who has lived at 8043 200th Ave. for the past 17 years, noted that much residential development has taken place in that area in recent years.

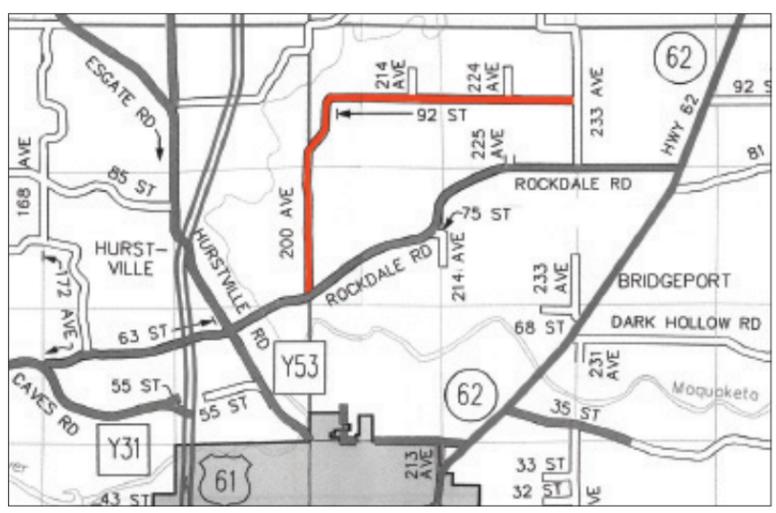
He said the area is one of several locations in Jackson County in which "we've seen residential pockets develop in rural areas of Jackson County. This area has become a residential pocket."

He said he recently counted about 43 residences in the 3.3-mile stretch of 200th Avenue and 92nd Street.

Supervisor Larry "Buck" Koos and county Engineer Clark Schloz said the number may be even higher.

Batey argued that with many newer homes in the area, "you're talking about a fairly high (property) tax revenue per mile."

He noted that few of the homes



Map shows the length of 200th Avenue and 92nd Street north of Maquoketa that Richard Batey, who lives on 200th Avenue, has asked the Jackson County Board of Supervisors to consider paving. Supervisors said they lack funds for the project but said they would consider a cost-share arrangement with residents paying assessments to cover a large portion of the cost. The area has seen much residential development in recent years, Batey noted.

along the road now are part of commercial farm operations.

With the increased development, traffic on the road has significantly increased, he observed.

County Engineer Clark Schloz said traffic counts taken in 2009 show an average of 190 vehicles per day travel on the portion of 200th Avenue between Rockdale Road and the junction with 92nd Street.

On 92nd Street east of 200th

Avenue, the traffic count drops to about 70 vehicles a day.

Batey asked if the supervisors have considered paving the road. He said the road is well maintained by county secondary roads crews, but said he thought it must require additional maintenance because of the amount of traffic. He said the route contains one steep hill that requires much maintenance and extra gravel.

Batey said he suspects the main-

tenance cost of that section of road is higher than any other portion of gravel road in Jackson County of similar length.

He argued that by paving the road, the county would recoup savings in reduced maintenance costs.

Koos said the supervisors have discussed paving 200th Avenue and 92nd Street in the past. But he and Schloz noted that the road does not qualify for federal funding as a designated "farm-to-market" road. Funds to pave the road would have to come from local property and sales taxes, they noted.

"Our problem is we don't have the money to do these projects," Koos told Batey.

If the residents of the area want to have the road paved soon, they could consider entering into a cost-share arrangement with the county. Under that plan, the residents along the affected road would pay a portion in special assessments and the county would pay a portion.

Supervisor Jack Willey suggested that Batey arrange a gathering of residents of the area and discuss whether they would be interested in carrying the idea further by meeting with the supervisors and Schloz to discuss the potential for a cost-share project.

He said Schloz could develop

■ PAVING,
 Please turn to page 2