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MAQUOKETA
SENTINEL-PRESS
Volume 157, No. 47 ■ 24 pages Plus Supplements ■ Wednesday, October 27, 2010 ■ $1.00 per copy

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PUBLIC NOTICES

- Virgina Felton probate
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- Andrew School Board
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- Jackson County
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- City of Baldwin
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- Maquoketa School District

County plans to sell property

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The Jackson County Board of Supervisors has decided to put the former Michels Auto-Truck Stop property in Maquoketa up for sale.

The supervisors on Oct. 20 agreed to list for sale the property along U.S. 61 on the east side of the city.

At the same time, the supervisors approved another one-year lease of the property to Brad Deery Motors of Maquoketa. The auto dealer has leased the parcel for the past several years for parking and displaying vehicles.

The board approved the lease with the same payment and provisions as the current lease, with the dealership paying $455 per month.

Supervisors have said in the past that the lease payments are roughly equivalent to the property tax revenue the parcel would bring in if it were privately owned.

The current lease expires Sunday, Oct. 31. The new lease will take effect the next day and will extend for a year.

Supervisors Chairman Steve Flynn noted that the environmental issues with the property have been settled.

The supervisors recently received from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources a notice that no further action is required in an environmental cleanup effort that extends back 18 years.

The county received possession of the former truck stop and restaurant after authorities closed it in the 1980s for nonpayment of property taxes and federal and state gasoline taxes.

■ **PROPERTY, Please turn to page 15**

Preston opts to share courses

By KELLY GERLACH

Preston Community School Board members expect to decide this December where their high school students will take some courses during the 2011-12 school year.

Board members decided last week to explore a 28E course sharing agreement with three area schools. The board first wants Bellevue, Maquoketa, and Northeast districts to make presentations – preferably all on the same night – so parents can see what courses and other activities are offered at each district.

Preston does not want to commit itself to whole grade sharing with a neighboring school district. Sharing courses allows Preston to maintain a K-12 district and all the extracurricular activities that come with it.

Preston is not new to course sharing agreements. The district has shared courses with East Central and Northeast for about 20 years. However, East Central students in grades 7-12 will attend Northeast next year as part of a whole grade sharing agreement signed earlier this year. That ends East Central's agreement, and Northeast board members said they want to see Preston's future plans before committing to another agreement.

Preston board member Patti Hoffmann initiated discussions by proposing Preston negotiate only with Maquoketa to share courses. She said that about 30 people approached her about the district's future and "almost all said the best fit for our students would be Maquoketa."

Preston's four other board members disagreed with the limited scope of Hoffmann's proposal.

"We don't want to burn any bridges," said Craig Thines, board president. "We want to keep communication open."

Board members then discussed each of the options Lagerblade presented during a public forum one week earlier. The first option was the proposed merger of Preston and East Central into one new district, Easton Valley.

Thines and board member Sally Marvin made it clear that Easton Valley was their first choice for the future of the Preston Community School District. That merger option is temporarily off the table, however, because of a lawsuit East Central filed against the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency. A judge will hear oral arguments Nov. 9 in Jackson County District Court regarding the AEA's request to dismiss the lawsuit and allow Preston and East Central residents to vote on the proposed merger.

■ **SCHOOLS, Please turn to page 22**

Trick or Treat Information

Andrew: Trick-or-Treating will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31.

Bellevue: The annual Bellevue Rotary Club Halloween Parade and Costume Contest will be held Sunday, Oct. 31. Rotarians will pin numbers on costume contestants at the corner of Riverview and Park streets at 3 p.m. At 3:20 p.m., the Bellevue Middle School band and a police car will lead the parade down Riverview to Court Street and west to Bellevue Elementary School. If inclement weather cancels the parade, participants can get numbers at the gym.

Trick-or-Treat immediately follows from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Charlotte: Trick-or-Treating in Charlotte will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31.

Charlotte Haunted House will be held at the C.A.A.C. (the old school) on Hwy. 136 in Charlotte. Haunted house is open Friday and Saturday, Oct. 29 and 30 from 7 p.m. to midnight. Kid's Matinee will be Saturday, Oct. 30, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. with lights on, games, and costume contest. (During general hours, haunted house is not recommended for children younger than 6.) "Johnny Has The Keys" and "PBJ & Fred" will perform on Saturdays.

Delmar: Trick-or-Treat will be Sunday, Oct. 31, beginning at 5 p.m.

The Delwood Elementary School annual Halloween Party will be held prior to trick-or-treating, from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. in the school gym. This is for Delwood students in preschool through 6th grades.

DeWitt: Trick-or-Treat will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31.

LaMotte: Trick-or-Treat is 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31.

Maquoketa: Costumed youngsters hit the streets looking for candy Sunday, Oct. 31, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Springbrook: Trick-or-Treat is Sunday, Oct. 31, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Other area Halloween events

■ Trick-or-treaters are welcome to visit Crestridge Sunday, Oct. 31, from 4 to 6 p.m. to show off their costumes and received Halloween candy.

■ Monmouth Haunted House at the Monmouth School will be open Friday, Oct. 29, from 7 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 30, from 7 to 11 p.m., dance to Jammer from 8 p.m. to midnight, costume contest at 11 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 31, from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission charged, coolers welcome.

■ There is more fun to be had on Halloween then just dressing up in scary costumes and eating candy. On Oct. 31, the Jackson County Conservation staff will host an event at the Hurstville Interpretive Center to celebrate Halloween and learn a few things along the way.

Fun activities include seed counting, pumpkin anatomy, and pumpkin contests. The event will begin at 1 p.m. and all age groups are welcome to join. Participants are encouraged to wear their costume; snacks and drinks will be provided.

Pre-registration was required by Oct. 26 for those who wanted a pumpkin provided to them, but feel free to bring a pumpkin in to enter the contest. The contests include the biggest pumpkin, the scariest pumpkin, and the best decorated pumpkin.

The Hurstville Interpretive Center is located about one mile north of Maquoketa on Hwy. 61. For more information about Pumpkin Fest or any other fall programs, contact the Jackson County Conservation office at (563) 652-3783.

■ Halloween Spooktacular Party at the Maquoketa Area Family YMCA from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29. Event is open to all kids ages birth to 5th grade; need not be a member of the YMCA to participate. Event includes Halloween games, spooky storytelling, a fortune teller, a kid's haunted house, and snacks and prizes to take home. Event is free.

■ Kid's Bash at the Eagle's Club, Maquoketa, will be held Saturday, Oct. 30, from 1 to 3 p.m. Event includes cookies, punch, craft table, and games. Children of all ages are welcome to enjoy the fun.

■ Adult Bash will be held at the Eagle's Club Saturday, Oct. 30, from 8 p.m. to midnight. Event features the Big House Band, with 50/50 drawings toward Eagle's Auxiliary charities, guess the weight pumpkin contests, snacks, and spooky fun.

■ Maquoketa Art Experience is hosting an interactive Halloween art exhibit and costume party on Friday, Oct. 29, from 7 to 11 p.m. at 124 S. Main Street in Maquoketa. Death is the theme for this group exhibit featuring work by local and regional artists including Katie Duffy, Nikko Francois, Rose Frantzen, Chuck Morris, Evan Stickfort, Joe Turek, and Carey Welch. Interactive "Haunted Houses for your Head," boxes that you can stick your head into that are filled with images, sounds, and words suitable to the season, will be on display as well as installations, fortune telling, and more. A spooky jam session created by area musicians will also be a part of the night's events.

The public is invited to attend the exhibit and to contribute by bringing their own "Haunted House for your Head" to display at the exhibit. Haunted Houses can be delivered to Maquoketa Art Experience, 124 S. Main Street, prior to the event now through Friday between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. or can be brought to the event that evening. Costumes are encouraged.

For further information please contact Paula at Maquoketa Art Experience, 563.652.9925 or via e-mail maquoketaartexperience@hotmail.com.