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MAQUOKETA

SENTINEL-PRESS

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MSP photo by Douglas Melvold

Among those featured at the Maquoketa Optimist Club's recent firefighters recognition dinner were, from left, Sheila Root and Sheila Lindstrom, who presented a program on Maquoketa Community High School's Club hOpe trip to Africa last summer; Maquoketa firefighter Bryan Hafner, who was recognized by the Optimist Club, and Optimist President Jamie Frett.

Organization honors volunteer firefighters

The Maquoketa Optimist Club recently honored Maquoketa volunteer firefighters at the club's annual recognition dinner.

Sixty-two firefighters, Optimist members, spouses and guests attended the event held at the Eagles Club in Maquoketa.

The club honored firefighter Bryan Hafner.

Hafner began his volunteer fire service in Grand Mound, where he served five years as a firefighter and first responder. He has been a member of the Maquoketa Volunteer Fire Department for six years.

He is certified as a firefighter II and as an emergency medical technician-B. He is serving his second year as the department's fire prevention officer.

Hafner is employed by Alcoa in Bettendorf as a fire inspector. As part of

his employment, he has received additional training in instant command, hazardous materials, rope rescue and confined space.

In his spare time he likes to kayak, ride his motorcycle, camp and occasionally take on a construction or electrical project.

Hafner resides in Maquoketa with his wife, Heather, who is a real estate agent, and their two children, Elaina, 5, and Charlie, 3.

The program for the event was presented by Sheila Root and Sheila Lindstrom, parents who helped chaperone the Club hOpe chapter of Maquoketa Community High School on their trip to Africa last summer.

They showed pictures and mementoes from the trip.

Preston prepares for weekend of holiday festivities

Celebrate "The Sights and Sounds of the Season" this weekend as the city of Preston presents its 19th annual Preston Holiday Festival.

The event will be held Friday, Dec. 3 from 5 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 2010 festival theme is "The Sights and Sounds of the Season" and that theme will be carried out as the three-day event unfolds.

More than 45 holiday-inspired trees (an increase from 2009) comprise the Parade of Trees, located inside Preston Town Hall. Commemorative ornaments will be for sale and raffle drawings will be held.

Holiday crafts and bake sale items will also be for sale. Local musicians will provide festive music, and chances will be available to win a locally handcrafted coffee table, holiday throw rug, and matching holiday decorations, as well as other prizes.

Santa Claus arrives at his Preston home at 5 p.m. Dec. 3, kicking off the holiday festivities. During the festival, Santa's house is located next to the Maquoketa State Bank building at 3 North Elliot Street. Santa will listen to children's wishes all weekend.

The local Girl Scout troop hosts a cookie walk and silent auction for holiday baskets inside the Preston Mutual Insurance office. The Preston Athletic Boosters will sell athletic apparel inside the Engel Agency office, where PAC 4 Kids will have a theme basket raffle.

Craft sales will be going on at various homes throughout town as well as the American Legion building at 104 N. Main St. and a backroom bazaar at Geno's. Craft sales will continue throughout the weekend event.

The Knights of Columbus #11222 soup supper will warm up festival-goers from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 3. The supper will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and includes soups, sandwiches, and desserts.

Additional Dec. 4 activities include a holiday story hour at the Preston Public Library from 10 to 11:30 a.m., including stories, crafts, and treats. There will also be a turkey and ham supper at the Preston Fire Station from 4 to 8 p.m.

Girl Scouts will serve homemade cookies and cider during the event, and local musicians will be performing at various times during the weekend.

2010 Holiday Festival Committee members include Caroline Bredekamp, Linda Budde, Silissa Eckhart, Dana Olson, Shirley Ritenour, and Jean Thola.

Decoration sales to support charitable program



Lonna Schurbon, Kay Meyer, and Ollie Anderton display a few of the holiday décor items that will be for sale during First United Methodist Church's second annual Gently Used Christmas Decoration Sale. The sale will be held Saturday, Dec. 4, from 8 a.m. to noon at the church.

By KELLY GERLACH

Setting up for Saturday's Christmas decoration sale at First United Methodist Church yields a thrill not unlike opening presents on Christmas. Boxes and bags are filled with surprises: teddy bears, angels, snowmen, reindeer, bulbs, lights, etc. Organizers find themselves imagining the decorations in their own home.

What could top that feeling of jubilation on Christmas morning? Bringing that feeling to others in need.

First United Methodist Church hosts its second annual Gently Used Christmas Decoration Sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 4, in the church, located at 1019 Wesley Dr., Maquoketa.

Tables will be filled with some new but mostly used holiday decorations. All are in good shape and ready for a new home. The sale offers the perfect

opportunity to change holiday themes and color decors without spending a lot of money.

Donated items include Christmas trees, angels, tree bulbs and ornaments, garland, indoor and outdoor lights, snowmen, village pieces, candles, tablecloths, decorative sleds and wreaths, towels, stuffed animals, etc.

The United Methodist Women's group will also have a number of homemade crafts for sale.

Coffee, rolls, and fellowship will also be available Saturday morning.

Money raised from the sale will be given to the Maquoketa Community Services Reach for a Star Program, a local program that ensures Jackson County children and seniors in need receive Christmas presents each year. Proceeds may also be used to help an area family in need enjoy the holiday spirit.