



# MAQUOKETA SENTINEL-PRESS

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Local	Pages 2-3
Editorial	Pages 4-5
Family	Pages 6-9
Sports	Pages 16-17
Obituaries	Page 21
Classifieds	Eastern Iowa Bizzzy Bee



## Good Luck Cardinals

2010-2011 Wrestling Team, Schedule and Cheerleaders

Pages 14-15

## SUPPLEMENTS

- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Eastern Iowa Bizzzy Bee
- Mayberry Maytag Appliance Center
- Menard's
- Wal-Mart

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

- Donald S. Davis Sr. probate
- EIRUSS - Nov. 30, 2010 meeting
- Dillon Romer probate



## 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

# Drunk-driving charge sent back for new trial

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The drunken-driving conviction of a Maquoketa area man has been thrown out because Maquoketa police didn't allow him to call a family member after his arrest, the Iowa Supreme Court has ruled.

In a ruling issued on Nov. 24, the high court reversed the rulings of a Jackson County District Court judge and the Iowa Court of Appeals and returned the case to Jackson County for a new trial.

The Supreme Court said police violated Scott Allen Hicks' right to make a phone call as he was being booked into the Jackson County Detention Center in August of 2008.

Jackson County Attorney Chris Raker declined this week to comment on the court's ruling.

He said he hadn't yet determined whether or not he will retry Hicks.

Raker said he would have to evaluate the limited amount of evidence that he would be allowed to present at a second trial after the Supreme Court's ruling suppressed a portion of the evidence that was presented at the trial.

Maquoketa police Sgt. Kennie Sparks stopped a vehicle driven by Hicks, 47, of 20486 22nd St., shortly after 2 a.m. on Aug. 23, 2008 for speeding and improper use of lanes.

Sparks had noticed in his rear-view mirror Hicks' vehicle rapidly approaching his unmarked squad car and weaving on the road.

Sparks let Hicks pass him, then stopped him in the 700 block of South Main Street after determining that Hicks was exceeding the 25 miles-per-hour speed limit.

Court records show that Hicks displayed signs of being intoxicated, including having an odor of alcohol, watery, bloodshot eyes and slurred speech. Two open, partially full cans of beer were found in the car.

After failing sobriety tests and admitting to Sparks that he had "had too much to drink," he was arrested, transported to the law center, held in the detention center for the rest of the night and was released the next morning.

He was charged with driving while intoxicated, second offense, interference with official acts and an open container violation.

The interference charge resulted after police said Hicks "became agitated and combative toward officers" and had to be placed on the floor to be handcuffed and held in a restraint chair.

Hicks' attorney filed a motion to suppress all

■ TRIAL, Please turn to page 3

# Skunk sprays police officer

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

A Maquoketa police officer's encounter with a wandering skunk last weekend ended badly for both parties.

Officer Jason Thomson received two or three direct shots of skunk spray as he tried to evict the animal from a Maquoketa resident's garage and neighborhood.

Shortly afterward, the skunk took a direct shot from the officer's handgun with predictable results.

The stinky standoff began early Sunday afternoon, Nov. 28, after Kent Shouse noticed a skunk hiding under a workbench in a corner of the garage at his residence at 1705 Swagosa Drive.

Shouse called police at about 1:15 p.m., saying he understood the department "had something to help" deal with the situation.

Shouse was told to leave the garage door open and the skunk likely would leave on its own, recounted Police Chief Brad Koranda.

When that didn't happen, Thomson was dispatched to the scene. Using a shovel, he tried to coax the stubborn critter out and eventually had to push it from its hiding place.

That's when he got the first dose of spray from the skunk, which then promptly skittered next door and crawled under a neighbor's deck.

Undeterred, Thomson continued his efforts to get the skunk out in the open. He finally did so and dispatched the animal in a field south of the residences, but not until he absorbed another couple of shots of spray, Koranda said.

After the encounter, Thomson took a shower at the Maquoketa Fire Station and changed clothes.

Koranda said he feared at first that that all of the clothing and gear that Thomson was wearing at the time may have to be discarded and replaced.

He estimated the cost of a re-outfitting at \$1,200, including a winter coat, full uniform, bulletproof vest, boots and the officer's leather belt complete with gun, Taser and other equipment.

Koranda said, however, he thinks the uniform, equipment and all can be saved after the department received numerous calls from area residents with suggestions for removing the stink.

He said callers have suggested commercial products available for removing skunk odor and a type of osmosis cleaning equipment.

Because Thomson drove the squad car back to the law center after the incident, the department also has had to air out the car and treat it.

Koranda speculated that the animal was sick, which accounted for its reluctance to leave the garage or to run off when provoked.

He said the incident marks the first time in his memory of an officer being sprayed by a skunk.

"We're not animal control officers," Koranda said. He said residents who find an unwelcome critter in their garage should open the garage door, put out some food and the animal in most cases will quickly leave.

Meanwhile, Shouse said he is trying to get the odor out of his garage and the house, where it also has seeped. He and his wife, Margo, hired a professional cleaning service to come and treat the house.

Shouse said he was grateful for the officer's efforts. He said Thomson "didn't want to shoot him in the garage, which I appreciated."

The incident, however, wasn't the first time in recent months that skunks have caused consternation for Maquoketa public officials.

An infestation of grubs in the soil at Goode-now Field during the football season in September killed the grass and left brown spots in several areas on the gridiron.

The condition of the turf was made worse by skunks invading the field at night to feed on the grubs, which to skunks are a gourmet meal.

As the affected areas were being treated with chemicals and reseeded, school officials briefly considered back-up plans to move a home game to another site if necessary.

The treatment solved the problem without having to disrupt the schedule.



RACHEL SONS

# Benefit set for MCHS graduate

Health Occupations Students of America from Maquoketa Community High School hosts a benefit for 2010 MCHS graduate Rachel Sons.

The public is invited to the benefit, which will be held Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the cafeterias/commons at the high school. The spaghetti supper will include garlic bread, dessert, and drink.

Raffles will be held for a DVD player, children's bicycle, pillows, extension ladder, etc. The list continues to expand as more items are donated.

Rachel Sons, a 2010 MCHS graduate, was affectionately dubbed "Little Miss Sunshine" and "bubbly" in the high school halls. She displayed a positive attitude and spirit that was infectious, putting smiles on everyone's faces.

Medical ailments caused one of Rachel's kidneys to cease functioning. She was not a candidate for dialysis, so she was immediately placed on the organ transplant list.

A cadaver kidney became available in mid-November, and Rachel was called in for a transplant Nov. 19.

Rachel's health improves daily. She returned home Dec. 1 and hopes to attend the Dec. 7 benefit.

Proceeds will help the Sons family pay for medical and travel expenses.

The benefit is a HOSA-driven initiative to assist a former classmate and her family.

# Holiday basket auction planned

Find the perfect holiday gift basket at the Jackson County Historical Society's Holiday Basket Auction & Soup Supper.

The historical society fundraiser will be held Dec. 14 in the Clinton Engines Museum, Maquoketa. The public is invited to attend.

Chicken noodle, potato, chili, and taco soup will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. Meal also includes homemade breads and desserts.

Dine to Christmas music by Anne Knight on the keyboard.

Join in the live bidding at 7 p.m. A variety of themed holiday baskets will be up for auction to the highest bidder. Resident auctioneer Steve Morehead and assistant Tom Schueller will take charge of the bidding.

The historical society is accepting donations of gift baskets to be auctioned off. Please contact the Jackson County Historical Society for more information or to make a donation.