

Sign up for DISH Network  
**SAVE \$180**  
in your first year

**\$24.99/mo**  
FOR 12 MONTHS (with Agreement)  
FOR OVER 120  
TOP CHANNELS  
INCLUDING LOCAL CHANNELS  
(where available)

Plus:  
**FREE HDTV + DVR**  
FOR 3 MONTHS (while supplies last)

LIMITED TIME OFFER!  
Requires Agreement.

Why would you ever pay more for TV?

**Infinity Satellite Systems**  
202 W. Maple St., Maquoketa  
563-652-3474  
866-694-5580

**dish NETWORK**  
SATellite TV

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Mother's Day  
Specials**



Let your mother know she is special by getting her the gifts she'll love at these local advertisers.

Pages 11-16

Local	Pages 2-3
Family	Pages 4-5
Obituaries	Page 9
Classifieds	Pages 14-15
Sports	Pages 17-19
Agri/Business	Pages 20-21

**SUPPLEMENTS**

- Aldi
- Fareway
- Gasser True Value
- Lampe True Value
- Mediacom
- Menards

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**

- JC Ordinance 257 - Open Burning
- JC Board of Supervisors - April 20, 2010 meeting
- Delmar City Council - April 20, 2010 special meeting
- Public Hearing - City - Rural Development Grant
- E911 Management



**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

# More than 1,300 sign petition in favor of district reorganization

By KELLY GERLACH

The group advocating for reorganization of the East Central and Preston community school districts traveled to the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency on Monday, May 3. Its mis-

sion: deliver a petition asking the AEA to consider merging the two school districts.

About 1,370 residents of the two school districts signed the petition over the course of 10 days. That's almost double the student enroll-

ment of both districts.

Some 500 of those signatures came during a four-hour petition open house held in Miles on Thursday, April 29.

Residents attending the open house had the chance to ask more questions about the proposed merger. Reorganization committee member Laura Farrell said people asked how new district finances would work, property taxes, staffing levels and which buildings would be used if the new district came to fruition.

As attendees signed the petition, they read letters of support from the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, Rep. Tom Schueller and others.

The reorganization committee needed 338 signatures from East Central residents and 250 signatures from Preston residents to validate the petition. That's about 20 percent of the total eligible voters in each district.

Petitions immediately circulated following a public meeting April 22. The 400 or so people who attended that meeting heard from reorganization committee members and an attorney experienced in school district restructuring. They explained the difference between whole grade sharing and reorganizing. They briefly touched on the tangled web of school district financing, ending with reasons why East Central and Preston should merge.

The communities (which include Miles,

**REORGANIZATION, Please turn to page 16**



MSP Photo by Kelly Gerlach

About 500 Preston and East Central residents turned out at a petition signing open house to show their support in the merging of the two school districts.

# Main Street closed to through traffic

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Clean-up of Maquoketa's downtown fire debris continued this week as additional loads of the rubble were scheduled to be hauled from the site starting Tuesday, May 4.

Crews of B&G Construction of Burlington, the contractor on the \$268,550 project, removed almost two full bins of steel on Monday. The steel had been plucked from the remains during the project and set aside for salvage.

Crews also knocked down the remainder of what was left of the east wall of the buildings. The entire wall is gone except for a section about five feet wide, said Brandon Neilson, an engineer for Howard R. Green Co., which is overseeing the project.

Crews planned to excavate a portion of the 100 block of South Main Street in front of the site to shut off water and sewer service to the property at the main.

The street will be closed to through traffic during the excavation. Most of the width of the street will be excavated because the water main runs under the east side of the street and the sewer main is under the west side.

The street will remain open up to the excavation site for motorists wanting to park to patronize Main Street businesses.

Neilson said he won't know how long the street will be closed to traf-



Contributed photo

**A demolition worker with G&B Construction of Burlington holds up a large teddy bear found intact in the debris from the January 2008 fire that leveled four buildings in downtown Maquoketa. The bear was found in the debris of the former Sue's Hallmark store on April 27, the second day of the clean-up project.**

fic until after the street is excavated and crews determine the amount of work involved.

City Manager Brian Wagner told the City Council Monday night, May 3, that crews will attempt to maintain water service to businesses on Main Street, but that it

may have to be shut off temporarily. Businesses such as the Main Street Cafe and Great Wall restaurants and Smiles on Main dental clinic that depend on water have been notified, Wagner said.

Wagner also said Monday that a water line leading into the basement

of one of the businesses that was found to be running on Thursday was continuing to run despite demolition crews having crimped the pipe in an effort to stop the flow.

Neilson said last week that the

**CLEAN-UP, Please turn to page 3**