

MV approves budget, contracts, calendar

BY MIKE PUTZ
mike.putz@wcinet.com

The tax levy will be reduced after the Maquoketa Valley School Board approved their 2025-2026 budget April 23.

At an earlier budget hearing, the board proposed a levy rate of 9.75330 per \$1,000, based on a 3% State Supplemental Aid (SSA) number from the Iowa Legislature, dropping the Maquoketa Valley levy four cents from last year.

Instead, the legislature approved a 2% SSA figure, which will reduce Maquoketa Valley's rate even lower, with the final figure determined by the state's Department of Management.

The board also approved the collective bargaining agreement with the Maquoketa Valley Education Association (MVEA). The two sides were in the second year of a two-year agreement which called for a 5% increase, amounting to a total package of approximately \$260,000.

The board approved compensation recommendations for administrative and classified staff for the 2025-2026 school year. The superintendent will be paid \$157,500, which is broken down as \$137,500 for superintendent and an additional sharing incentive of \$20,000.

Classified staff will receive their step and lane as well as a 3.5% increase. Paraprofessionals completing their paraprofessional certification will receive an additional \$1 per hour.

The board approved the 2025-2026 school calendar. The first day of classes for students will be Monday, Aug. 25, with the semester ending Friday, Jan. 9. The second semester will begin Tuesday, Jan. 13 and end Wednesday, May 27.

Graduation will be Wednesday, May 20.

Police Report

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office reported:

Rene Moncada Vega, 23, Cascade, arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and driving under suspension.

Tarik Amin Chowdhury, 23, Cedar Falls, arrested for reckless driving.

Nikki Lynn Whelchel, 47, Farley, arrested for burglary in the third degree and driving under suspension.

Abraham Jude Jurgens, 25, Hopkinton, arrested for OWI — first offense.

Appreciation luncheon held

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon, held April 23 at the Delaware County Fairgrounds Community Room, recognized several employees of area businesses.



Mike Putz • Staff Photos
Anna Brade receives recognition for 37 years of service at the Delaware County Fairgrounds.



Julie Engelken (Community Savings Bank) and Craig Ingamells (Gosling & Company, P.C.) are recognized for 35 years of service.



Joyce Lux, left, celebrates 30 years with GNB, while Sandra DeMoss, right, celebrates 35 years with GNB.



Amy Wilson is recognized for 25 years of service with Regional Medical Center.



Celebrating 10 years of service are, from left, Robyn Fry (Manchester Press), Dawn Habel (Lake Design & Décor), Jenni Merkes (Gosling & Company, P.C.), Alison Kass (GNB) and Ben Engelken (F & M Bank).



Recognized for 20 years of service are, from left, Sarah Meyer (KMCH Radio) and Nichole Quint (Regional Medical Center).



Celebrating 15 years of service are, from left, Connie Wheeler (Lake Design & Décor), Katie Hubbard and Deann McDonald (F & M Bank).

TURBINE: Discussion centers around turbine noise study

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they generated power and ran noisily while it was raining, they won't use that," she said.

"That's a sidestep because they aren't following the pro-

tolocol they said they would follow when we signed the easement for them to do the repower and they are not following the permit from Delaware County."

Beswick said Greenbacker

officials she has spoken with said noise redaction software, which could help with reducing noise, will not be available until August or September.

"They are at the point of saying something and not pro-

ducing it," she said "I'm asking you as supervisors to please not accept that noise study they did because they didn't follow the protocol when they got the permit. Let them know they have to abide by county

ordinances just like everybody else."

Supervisors will direct the Delaware County Assistant Attorney about reaching out to Greenbacker concerning the issue.