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- Nationwide Advantage vs.
 Noel E. Brown et al
- JC Board of Supervisors
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- MMEU
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- Russell Hayward vs.
 Robert Hayward
- Maquoketa City Council - Jan. 5, 2009 meeting



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MSP photo by Kelly Gerla

Andrew Community High School received a bronze medal for academics according to U.S. News & World Report's 2009 list of America's Best High Schools. It is the only school in Jackson County to be named on the list.

AHS earns national bronze distinction

By KELLY GERLACH

A small Jackson County high school earned an impressive national distinction.

Andrew Community High School was among several recognized in U.S. News & World Report's 2009 America's Best High Schools.

"We're very pleased to be included in this list. We've been thinking of ways to celebrate the honor," said William Hamilton, Andrew principal.

Andrew High School with was not specifically listed in the magazine's Dec. 15-22 issue featuring the schools. Hamilton learned of the honor from a letter he received from Brian Kelly, U.S. News & World Report editor.

"What makes me proud is that 21,069 schools were analyzed for this report, but still (U.S. New & World Report) put us in such a prestigious spot," Hamilton said.

The news magazine compiled the list by analyzing public high schools in 48 states using data from the 2006-07 school year.

Gold, silver, bronze and honorable mention ratings were awarded based on three criteria: standardized test performance, proficiency rates of all students and a challenging college-ready curriculum.

The bronze medal recognizes high schools that meet the first two criteria but not the third.

"These schools have demonstrated commendable performance on state tests but did not perform well enough on the college readiness index to merit identification as a top-performing high school," according to the letter from Kelly.

Hamilton said the high school does not offer the Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate tests that larger schools offer for college readiness.

"We prefer online courses and post-secondary

offerings. Our students can attend classes at Peosta or Clinton Community College, pass the tests and receive college credit for them while still in high school," the principal explained, adding that the district is satisfied with its college-readiness programs.

"Not only do our rankings highlight schools succeeding at the highest level, but the Best High School package also allows communities and states to compare schools at a local level and

measure why some are doing so well," the U.S. News editor said in a press release.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Jackson CountyCity of MaquoketaCity of AndrewCity of Baldwin

City of Monmouth
City of Delmar
Delwood School District
Maquoketa School District

Andrew's state test performance index was 90.8. Eleventh graders exceeded both the State of Iowa's reading and math proficiency levels by 16 percent in reading and by 10 percent in math

■ DISTINCTION, Please turn to page 3

Petition to pave 17th St. met with funding constraints

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Residents of the Prairie Creek subdivision petitioned the Maquoketa City Council last week to pave the remaining gravel portion of a road that is their access to the city.

They said the gravel portion of 17th Street, four-tenths of a mile long, raises clouds of dust, is hazardous because of the potholes and washboard effect and deters further development of the area.

Council members said, however, that the city doesn't have the money to do the project, at least in the near future.

The council was given copies of a petition containing 24 signatures of Prairie Creek residents asking that the city include the paving project in its 2009-10 budget.

Seventeenth Street intersects with 200th Avenue, or the extension of South Main Street just south of the Wal-Mart store and north of the U.S. 61-200th Avenue interchange. The

road extends east for about a half-mile where it joins 211th Avenue and leads to Timber Drive and Timber Court, the two streets in the Prairie Creek subdivision.

The subdivision includes 13 homes, with another under construction. Also nearby is the Prairie Creek Golf Course.

Wal-Mart Stores paved the portion of the road that abuts its property as part of its development agreement with the city. The unpaved portion lies between the paving done by Wal-Mart and the paved portion of Timber Drive leading to the development.

"The road is full of potholes, it's like a washboard and the dust is so thick that you can't see the vehicle ahead of you," Bruce Droessler of 805 Timber Drive told the council. "We feel it's a mess and only paving can resolve it."

Although no promises were made, Droessler

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