

**dish**  
NETWORK  
AUTHORIZED RETAILER

PACKAGES STARTING AT

**\$19.99**  
A MONTH

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

**Infinity Satellite Systems**

202 W. Maple St., Maquoketa  
563-652-3474 • 866-694-5580

All prices packages and programming  
subject to change without notice.

— M A Q U O K E T A —

**SENTINEL-PRESS**

Volume 156, No. 63 ■ 24 pages Plus Supplements ■ Wednesday, December 23, 2009 ■ \$1.00 per copy

**IN THIS ISSUE**



Enjoy establishments close to home and help in their economic recovery.

Page 7

Local	Pages 2-3
Family	Pages 4-5
Obituaries	Page 15
Sports	Pages 16-17
Agri/Business	Pages 18-19
Classifieds	Pages 20-21

**SUPPLEMENTS**

- Aldi
- 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**

- Corliss C. Baty probate
- Maquoketa School
  - Dec. 14, 2009 Special Meeting
  - Dec. 14, 2009 Special Meeting
  - Dec. 14, 2009 Reg. Meeting
- Maquoketa City Council
  - Dec. 15, 2009 Special Meeting
- MMEU
  - Nov. 17, 2009 Reg. Meeting
- JC Board of Supervisors
  - Dec. 8, 2009 Reg. Meeting
- EIRUSS
  - Dec. 16, 2009 Reg. Meeting



Our public notices are also published on the web at:

<http://www.publicnoticeads.com/IA/search/searchnotice.asp>

**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

# County crews don't tow vehicles

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Jackson County secondary roads crews work hard to keep the 841 miles of county roads passable throughout the winter months, but they don't perform towing services except under emergency circumstances.

County Engineer Clark Schloz explained the policy during a meeting of the county Board of Supervisors on Dec. 15.

Schloz said his office had received a complaint on Dec. 11 that a county secondary roads truck had towed a car out of the ditch along U.S. 61.

Schloz disputed the report, saying it wasn't a county truck that pulled out the vehicle.

"Our policy is not to tow cars out of ditches because of the possibility of us damaging vehicles further and being liable for that," Schloz told the supervisors.

He said exceptions are made in emergency situations or if a request is made by law enforcement officers.

He also said a secondary roads driver may stop to check on a car in the ditch to see if people are in the vehicle and need assistance.

"If they're out there in a blizzard and it'll be an hour before first responders can get to them, we will help in that situation," he said.

But outside of urgent circumstances such as those, "as far as towing people out of the ditch,

that just doesn't happen," Schloz said.

He also reminded rural residents that hard-surface roads get top priority in spreading sand and salt when hazardous driving conditions exist, such as during freezing drizzle or sleet.

"The trucks that spread (sand and salt) on hard-surface roads are the same trucks that spread on gravel," Schloz said.

"We give priority to hard-surface roads; we need to get them in shape before we move onto the gravel," Schloz told the supervisors.

If residents who live along gravel roads "are not seeing (county trucks) the first thing the next morning when we've got freezing drizzle out there, in the majority of instances we're taking care of hard-surface roads."

Supervisor Larry "Buck" Koos also reminded residents that there may be times during a winter storm when crews are pulled off the roads if conditions are deemed to be too dangerous.

He noted that road crews remained on the job during the recent snowstorm on Dec. 9, but said county crews in other parts of Iowa were pulled off the roads.

Nevertheless, Koos said he received calls from rural residents "saying they couldn't make it to work and were wondering where we were at.

"You've got to remember, folks, when there is a blizzard warning, you're out there on your

own risk and you should think twice and see if it's really feasible for you to make it to work," Koos said.

"We may not have our trucks out there if it puts our drivers in danger.

"You have to realize that in those situations, we're not going to get every road open by 7 o'clock in the morning," Koos said.

Supervisor Jack Willey said in most cases, he feels the public appreciates the job the secondary roads crews do.

"Our secondary road crew does a great job," Willey said. "They should be commended. You know that it's going to take some time but eventually, as soon as possible, they're going to get there."

If the roads are impassable, he said the supervisors will take other action, such as closing the Courthouse for the day, as they did on Dec. 9.

"We didn't want our employees to be out there because the weather was not fit to do that," he said. "You're taking your life in your own hands when you go out there in that weather."

Koos and Supervisor Steve Flynn said they also have received comments complimentary of the job county road crews have done during the early arrival of winter weather.

■ CREWS,  
Please turn to page 23



*From the Maquoketa Sentinel-Press staff.*