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Bank robbed in Andrew; teller unhurt
Police looking for two black males in a dark SUV

By SARA MILLHOUSE

At 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 2, youngsters in Andrew were just getting out of school. Country kids boarded buses while some children living in town walked home.

At 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, two men were robbing the Maquoketa State Bank branch in Andrew with a "small, silver handgun," making off with an undisclosed amount of cash.

As of Thursday night, authorities were looking for two black males, ages 20-21, driving a dark sport-utility vehicle.

The single teller in the bank was unhurt in the robbery.

An 11-year-old Andrew student saw what he identified as a dark green Chevrolet Blazer with Illinois license plates parked on Main Street near the bank,



Photo by Sara Millhouse

Law enforcement blocked East Benton Street in Andrew with caution tape Thursday evening while Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Criminal Investigation officials checked out the scene of the robbery at Maquoketa State Bank in Andrew that afternoon.

which is located at 11 S. Benton St., while he was walking home from school.

He knows the vehicles usually parked in the area, and this wasn't one of them.

Later, he noticed faint burnouts rounding the cor-

ner north from the bus barn near where the vehicle had been parked.

The Blazer was not parked near the bus barn when the bus superintendent left at 3 p.m. or when he returned from his route at

3:40 p.m., reported Jackson County Sheriff Russ Kettmann.

Inside the bank, the narrative is less clear, according to Andrew town marshal Steve Schroeder, speaking Thursday. The

robbery probably took only minutes, he said.

Surveillance footage available at www.kcrg.com shows two suspects entering the front door of the bank and talking to the teller for about two minutes. One, doing most of the talking, gestures with folded papers in his hand.

Then the suspect closer to the door pulls a gun out of his left pocket and leans over the counter, brandishing it toward the teller. The two walk out of sight behind the counter. Surveillance footage shows them opening and taking money from a drawer.

Then they're out of sight behind the counter for about 30 more seconds before leaving through the front door, each carrying some-

■ **ROBBERY,**
Please turn to page 19

County declines building purchase offer

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The Jackson County Board of Supervisors this week declined an offer from Maquoketa entrepreneur Gary Drew and his wife, Marilyn, to purchase the former S&H Fabricating building in Maquoketa's Timber City Industrial Park.

Supervisors said on Tuesday, Aug. 31, that the Drews' offer of \$208,000 for the vacant industrial building was too low and there were no guarantees that additional jobs would be created by the sale.

The supervisors voted 3-0 to send a letter to the Maquoketa couple thanking them for the offer but saying they were turning it down. The board will return a \$500 check the Drews had included with the offer

as an earnest payment.

The offer had been delivered to the supervisors on Aug. 17. They tabled action at their Aug. 24 meeting because Supervisor Steve Flynn was absent.

The Drews initially had set a deadline of Aug. 25 for the supervisors to respond. They later agreed to extend the deadline to Sept. 29.

Gary Drew had proposed moving his biodiesel fuel processing operation, Energy Tec LLC, from its present rural location north of Maquoketa into the 53,000-square-foot former S&H Fabricating building at 1201 E. Summit St.

Drew said in an interview last week that he wanted to expand his production beyond the limits that

were set as part of a zoning change granted by the supervisors for the rural property last year.

He said the entire operation, including storage tanks, would be located inside the building. He said the plant would create no odor or noise and have no other adverse effects to the area.

"I appreciate the offer, but at this time I'm not interested in accepting the offer," Flynn said.

Supervisor Jack Willey said it upset him that it appeared that "Gary is doing us a big favor" by offering to purchase the building.

Drew said in the interview that the sale would put the building back on the property tax rolls and that the supervisors could use the pro-

ceeds from the sale to help pay for a couple of unexpected big-ticket expenses, repairing two breaches to the Green Island levee and replacement of the main electrical feed to the Courthouse.

The supervisors were told also on Tuesday that the county is not responsible to pay for the levee repairs.

Willey noted that the amount of the offer is far below the \$1.2 million for which the 3.93-acre site had been appraised a few years ago. The supervisors in the past had set an asking price of \$875,000 for the property.

■ **BUILDING,**
Please turn to page 21

Green Island Drainage District to pay for levee

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Jackson County is responsible for repairing two breaches in the Green Island levee, but county funds will not be tapped to help pay for the job.

Jackson County Attorney Chris Raker and Assistant County Attorney Sara Davenport reported their findings of who is responsible to pay the local portion of the cost of fixing the levee, which was damaged by the late July flooding.

Davenport told the supervisors that the levee is owned by the Green Island Drainage District. Thus the local portion of the cost to repair the levee must come from the drainage district, which consists of 39 landowners.

County Auditor M. Joell Deppe said the drainage district currently has approximately \$91,000 in its fund.

Supervisors said earlier that according to rough estimates, the local share of the cost could run to \$200,000.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said that the local matching funds for the project must be paid before the work begins.

Corps representatives told the supervisors last month that they hope to make the repairs this fall.

Davenport said the county could loan the needed funds to the drainage district. The county would be repaid over two years through a special assessment to drainage district landowners.

The responsibility for overseeing the process falls on the Board of Supervisors because the drainage district has no governing board of trustees, Davenport said.

The supervisors discussed the project last month with Maj. Phil Valenti of the Corps of Engineers, the project engineer for the repairs, and Darron Niles, project manager.

They gave rough estimates of the cost of the project at \$490,000 if clay material is used to repair the levee breaches and \$575,000 if sand is used.

Early estimates showed that approximately 22,500 cubic yards of clay material would be needed to make the repairs and if sand were used, 33,000 cubic yards would be needed.

The costs don't include design work and engineering.

Valenti told the supervisors that the county would be responsible for 20 percent of the cost.

When asked if the levee has to be repaired, Davenport said that if the drainage district does not participate in repairing the levee, the repairs won't be made.

"If you don't fix it now and it gets worse, you're on your own," she said.

Valenti and Niles said they hope to find enough clay material near the site of the levee breaks to make the repairs.

As an alternative, they said that sand could

■ **LEVEE,**
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