

Senate OKs Davenport Tax Change

DES MOINES—It took the Iowa Senate about five minutes Thursday to decide that Davenport city officials should make their tax assessment and collection schedule conform with the rest of the state.

The upper chamber voted 45-3 to approve a rule requiring city officials to adopt a tax schedule similar to the rest of the state by July 1, 1980.

Only Sen. Martin Hale, R-Carver, Richard Drake, R-Bloomington, Bill Craft, R-Davenport, and Forrest Adair, R-Edgar, voted against the measure.

Sen. Norman Rodgers, D-Adair, chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, said during the city's conferral to the rest of the state.

Meanwhile, it could cost \$1 million for Davenport to switch its method of collecting taxes, Mayor Charles Wright said Thursday.

Wright said he would prefer legislative study this year on the effect of making the change.

The mayor said he had talked to Rep. Robert Hines and Greg Coughlin, both D-Davenport, who said they would talk to other legislators about the issue.

"It's going to cost somebody some money" to make the switch, Wright said, but the exact cost has not been determined, he added.

The key difference in Davenport's tax collection system is that it assesses values not just 1 to 100, but 1 to 1000.

Another change that could result from the state order would be to alter the payment schedule for city tax bills. Davenport requires all taxes to be paid in the fall. In the rest of the state, property owners can pay half the tax bill in the fall and the other half in the spring.

Changing to that schedule would reduce the amount of tax money the city has on hand to invest. During the last fiscal year, the city received \$800,000 from investing its funds, Hinesman said. He did not know how much of that could be attributed to increased property tax funds and how much to other money, such as federal grants.

Revenue from investments goes into the city's general fund, reducing the amount of taxes needed to support the budget.



A wider repairs jail bars at the Scott County Jail Thursday after three juveniles saved their way free, escaped through, and apparently jumped about 15 feet to the ground. One of the youths later turned himself in. (Times photo by Bruce Hennessey)

Escape

Continued from Page 1

room area in the juvenile section and were seen there at 11 a.m., when mail was delivered, Paulsen said.

But when jail employees went to the room at 12:30 p.m. to pick up dinner dishes, the youths were gone, Paulsen said.

Two other juveniles were in the same day room area but did not leave in the break.

The three escaped the day room by cutting through two civil bars, three-fourths to one-half thick, thick of the bars were cut at bottom, where they meet the floor of the room.

The bars there were not back to allow "just enough room to squeeze through," Paulsen said.

The youths then made their way across a catwalk to a barred window on the north side of the jail. That side of the jail can't be seen by persons in the sheriff's department in the county courthouse, which is in the same day room area but did not leave in the break.

called just across a parking lot south of the jail.

The youths repaired the sawing and bending process a bar in the window, squeezed through the opening and apparently jumped more than 15 feet to the ground and fled, officials said.

ALTHOUGH the opening in both sets of bars were very narrow, the youths escaped the day room by cutting through two civil bars, three-fourths to one-half thick, thick of the bars were cut at bottom, where they meet the floor of the room.

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Center's Fate Up To Cities

By David M. Vogel of the Times

It may take five to 10 years of study and politics before a civic center project for the Quad-Cities reacts the stage of groundbreak, area officials were told Thursday.

And while that work is completed, an estimated \$40 million construction cost for the projected rise with inflation.

Jack Weeks, president of the Quad-City Development Group, which paid \$25,000 for the first phase feasibility study of the civic center, said the future of the project now rests in the hands of the officials.

"AS FAR as a leadership role," Weeks said, "we have completed our responsibility. The proposal is basic to us and every 10 to 15 years we would be happy to assist in the future, but the leadership must come from elected officials."

Fewer than a dozen of the elected officials agreed to the meeting, Weeks said, but he said that those who did agree to the meeting would be happy to assist in the future, but the leadership must come from elected officials.

Weeks said he will call a meeting of the mayors of the area's five largest cities and the chairman of the Quad-City Development Group's board of directors at a meeting today to recommend to the Illinois legislature that it build off on a proposal to pour \$50 million into a fund to assist building convention centers.

Instead, Weeks said, the legislature would be to support a 2 percent tax on every dollar spent for the civic center in Illinois, but not in the Quad-Cities.

Warehouse Fire Destroys TVs

Four television sets and six tape recorders were in the Supreme TV & Appliance warehouse, 427 Pershing Ave., Davenport, were destroyed Thursday night in a fire.

The fire began in the basement at about 8:30 p.m., and spread to the first floor where the merchandise was stored, Fred Pindler, assistant fire chief, said.

The fire probably was started by sparks lodged in the neck of a television set, Pindler said.

THE DAILY JOURNAL

ROCKFORD, Ill. (UPI)—The winning numbers drawn Thursday in the Illinois State Lottery's World Big Pay Day drawing were 332, 34, 8, 17.

Winning numbers in the \$1 Gold Strike game were 26, 33, 27, 34.

Bettendorf Picks Librarian

Page Clow, assistant librarian at the Moline Public Library, was appointed new director of the Bettendorf Public Library Thursday.

Mrs. Clow, 34, was picked from a list of 80 applicants from 30 states. Norman Kohnen, chairman of the library's board of trustees, said she was the only local candidate getting the job.

Kohnen said Mrs. Clow will start her new duties June 8 after signing a two-year contract for a salary of \$17,000 the first year and \$18,500 the second year.

The selection of Mrs. Clow ends a three-month search that began when Terry Blake left the director's post in January to take a job as a library director in Saginaw, Mich. after three months and a controversial year in Bettendorf.

"My reaction is pure joy," Mrs. Clow said. "I am just so pleased to be able to direct a library like Bettendorf."

"It is a new and progressive and a beautiful place for people to come to," she said.

"I am really happy the long ordeal is over," Bettendorf said. "I am pleased that we could find an experienced person who is familiar with the area and knows as many library people as the two-county area."

Blake's stay in Bettendorf was marked with several controversies, including the "screw the taxpayers" incident.

Blake made that statement to a television reporter who questioned him about the library's financial situation.

Setting The Record Straight

The Juggernaut scheduled for May 13 by the Westside Assembly of God Church, Davenport, will be held at Rock Island High School Stadium.

The site was used incorrectly in a dissemination provided by church officials and published in Thursday morning editions.

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