

Two Northwest Missouri Citizens Honored

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Two northwest Missouri citizens have been honored for their assistance in the apprehension of three armed bank robbery suspects March 21st.



Commanding officer James McDonald of the highway patrol troop at St. Joseph and Nodaway County Sheriff Darren White honored Bobby Smith of Elmo and Kevin Rankin of Maryville.

The robbery occurred at the Citizens Bank and Trust in Burlington Junction.

According to law enforcement, Smith witnessed two masked men enter the Citizens Bank and Trust and immediately phoned Sheriff White and advised him of what he just witnessed. When the two men left the bank, Smith followed the suspects while keeping the Sheriff informed of their location. Officers from the Highway Patrol and Nodaway County Sheriff's office responded to the area and a manhunt ensued.

Shortly after the bank robbery occurred, the Maryville Department of Public Safety contacted Kevin Rankin, manager of the Maryville Municipal Airport, and requested assistance. He provided an aircraft and piloted authorities to aid in the search. Once the suspects were located from the air, Rankin flew his plane at treetop level, directly above the suspects until officers could arrive and take them into custody.

Captain McDonald presented an Honorary Trooper Certificate to Bobby Smith and a Certificate of Achievement to Kevin Rankin. Sheriff White honored both with plaques. Presentations took place at a luncheon held (June 25th) at the American Legion building in Burlington Junction.