

Reward of \$50,000 offered for information leading to conviction

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Postal Inspectors are following up on leads related to the alleged robbery attempt and assault of a Champion Post Office employee on Nov. 26.

And since the Postal Inspectors in the area last week to investigate left Chase County, a \$50,000 reward has been offered seeking information on the possible suspect.

A press release from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service said inspectors are continuing to follow up on leads generated during the investigation, and their search for a suspect continues.

“A reward of up to \$50,000 is available for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual responsible for the attempted robbery and assault of the postal employee,” reads the news release.

Marjie Buls was working at the post office Nov. 26 when she said a man entered the building on Champion’s main street and demanded money.

He allegedly held a box cutter to her throat, but fled the building when she got away. No money was taken, according to a report from Chase County Sheriff Kevin Mueller, whose office initially investigated.

Buls suffered a two-inch cut to her neck that was not life-threatening, according to the sheriff’s report.

As many as eight Postal Inspectors were in the area last week on the investigation, according to reports.

Dave Margritz, a Postal Inspector in Omaha, said Tuesday offering rewards are “fairly routine” when such incidents happen.

He said they have received some calls to the toll-free phone number put out last week seeking information about the incident.

“We are following up on leads but nothing has broken open,” he said.

“You never know. We never rule anything out. We look at all angles,” he said.

The Postal Inspectors in Chase County left late last week. Margritz said the case remains under investigation and he didn’t rule out that inspectors would be back to follow up on leads.

People with information are asked to contact the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455, select Option 2 and advise that they have information on the Champion Nebraska Post Office robbery.

The poster describes the alleged suspect as a Hispanic male in his mid-30s, 5’3” to 5’6” tall, medium build with a mustache. Imperial Postmaster Jerry Lines said he hung the poster on the entryway window Monday.

The reward poster was sent system-wide, Margritz said, which includes all area post offices and others in the state.

