

JUNE 2010

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ONE 2 ONE

WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

We are saying a lot of goodbyes at work these days. Each year we also say goodbye to co-workers who leave for other jobs or retire, but this is different. So many all at once.

The State Employees Retirement Incentive Program (SERIP) is an opportunity that many employees just couldn't pass up. In fact, about 375 DOTers signed up, but a few have changed their minds along the way. Unless others change their minds before the June 24 deadline for leaving, 365 co-workers will leave the DOT under the SERIP program.

This is about 11 percent of DOT's current workforce retiring under SERIP, all leaving over a couple of months' time. If the employees average 25 years of state employment, this means we are losing more than 9,000 years of experience! Obviously this will impact the rest of us. It may change the way you do your work and we deliver our services; an organization that has that much experience walk out the door is bound to see some changes. But, most importantly we will miss our friends.

I know there are many lingering questions about what's going to happen as a result of SERIP. You may be wondering what positions are going to be filled and when. I don't have all the answers yet, but I want to share with you what I know. SERIP was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor in an effort to help the state address its budget situation. Iowa, like other state governments, is looking for ways to reduce state government expenditures as our country works its way through the recession that has been affecting state revenues. Downsizing state government is one of the tools being used to reduce state expenditures and SERIP is one of the ways being used to reduce the size of government.

The SERIP goal for the Executive Branch of state government is 50-50-50...50 percent of the eligible employees take part, 50 percent of the positions vacated by SERIP will be eliminated, and the salary costs of those leaving under SERIP will be reduced by 50 percent. As an agency, about 41 percent of our eligible employees are taking advantage of the program.

Administration of SERIP requires that agencies each submit a vacancy plan, for Department of Management's approval, that demonstrates attention to the remaining goals of filling no more than 50 percent of the SERIP vacancies and reducing the salary costs of SERIP positions by 50 percent. In evaluating which positions to fill, the DOT also worked toward the goals of minimizing the impact on the services we perform and making progress on the requirement to increase span of control, which was part of another piece of legislation passed this past session. Span of control is

the average number of employees supervised by each supervisor. DOT is currently at 12 to 1 and the legislation requires state agencies to get to 14 to 1 in the next year and 15 to 1 the year after that.

We submitted our initial proposed vacancy plan about a month ago and it was approved. We need to modify or tweak the plan a bit, but in general the highlights of the plan are:

- We will fill 178 of the 365 SERIP vacancies and leave 187 of the positions unfilled. This results in about 49 percent of the SERIP positions being filled, which is within the 50 percent goal of the program.
- There are 37 supervisory positions being vacated through SERIP. We plan to eliminate 18 supervisory positions and reclassify eight others to non-supervisory, resulting in a reduction of 26 supervisory positions. This will help us make progress toward the increased span of control goal.
- The plan reduces salary costs by approximately \$12 million, which is more than 58 percent of the total salary of all the employees leaving under SERIP.

We must also submit each position to be filled under the plan for individual approval before we can begin the hiring process. Each request requires certain information about how the position will be used and why it is important for it to be filled. We are hoping to refill the positions quickly, but it will likely take us a few months to get that

hiring completed. As is always the case when we have vacancies, we will all need to fill in and cover until positions are filled.

Although it is our intention to minimize the impacts of 187 fewer employees on the services we provide and our customers, that doesn't mean there will be no changes; some minor restructuring and other changes will take place. Primarily, the restructuring will include changes in who some employees supervise or report to and some employees may pick up some additional duties. Other changes will include things like slight changes in hours of operation or turnaround times for some services, and shifting additional aspects of some services and activities to an electronic method. Before these changes are implemented, affected employees will be informed.

Let me close where I started. This is a time of change as SERIP results in the retirement of 365 employees, with years of valuable experience, and the reduction of our workforce by 187 employees as a result. We will have new employees to support as they get up to speed. It may slightly impact who we work with and along side, the way we do our work, and to whom we report. But, it will not change the DOT commitment to high quality service. Thank you to all of you...those of you leaving for all your years of service and those of you staying for all your extra effort and support as we work through this transition.



2010 legislative session is a wrap

By Elizabeth Baird,
Iowa DOT legislative liaison

Governor Chet Culver publicly celebrated the signing of the annual Transportation Appropriations Act with a cast of onlookers in the lobby of Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines. The Act, Senate File (SF) 2381, appropriates the department's operating budget money for the coming fiscal year and also includes language that improves Iowa's motor vehicle safety restraint law, representing years of hard work by many Iowans.

Changes to safety restraint law

Employees of Blank Children's Hospital (Blank) have been long-time leaders in efforts to improve traffic safety laws for children. Expanding Iowa's existing safety restraint law to require youth under age 18 to be appropriately restrained when riding in a motor vehicle has been the focus for many years as Blank led grassroots lobby efforts across the state. Iowa DOT employees, who have worked with the folks at Blank and many other groups to promote this and other traffic safety initiatives, were delighted to celebrate with the governor as he signed SF 2381 April 28. Many legislators were among the advocates and celebrants at the bill signing.

Governor Culver signs Senate File 2381, appropriating the Iowa DOT's operating budget and updating Iowa's safety restraint law.

The new law is designed to save lives and prevent traumatic brain injuries. Studies show that when backseat passengers buckle up, the chances of dying in an accident drop by 60-70 percent, and a driver is twice as likely to be killed in an accident when there is an unbelted passenger in the backseat.

On hand for the bill signing were Isaiah Krull of Shell Rock and Jon Broneman of Waterloo. Krull was in a car crash as a teenager in 2008 while riding unbuckled in the backseat. He was in a coma for 10 days and went through months of rehabilitation for severe injuries. Since his recovery, Krull has been advocating for a better seat belt law in Iowa, including researching the topic, contacting his legislators, coming to the state capitol, and involving his family and friends. Broneman lost his first wife in a terrible head-on collision many years ago; his son Michael was in the backseat appropriately restrained in a child safety seat and survived the crash. Following that experience, Broneman and his family began working to improve Iowa's child and teen restraint laws and have actively advocated for nine years.

The Iowa DOT will be reaching out to young drivers over the next year to encourage their support of the expanded safety restraint law and a separate traffic safety law that makes it illegal for youth to use electronic communication or entertainment devices when driving.

Other legislative business

Iowa's legislators limited the 2010 legislative session to 79 days, well below the average session length. Despite the shortened session, nothing seemed to fall by the wayside, as everyone just scrambled a lot more to do what needed to be done. Although the main focus was on major initiatives such as government reorganization and budget, legislators

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were also paying attention to the record-breaking cold and snow outside the building. In what may be a first, legislators took time to adopt House Resolution 109 honoring and thanking the state, county and city road workers who spent thousands of hours “in bitter cold and treacherous snow” making Iowa’s roadways safe. A well-deserved kudos, indeed.

The DOT tracked nearly one-third of the bills signed by the governor (not to mention many more bills that were not enacted into law). The governor completed action on all legislation April 29. Here are a few of the key bills affecting the DOT.

- **House File (HF) 2452** – DOT-sponsored legislation that addresses driver sanctions, including the issuance of temporary restricted licenses and the use of ignition interlock devices by a driver whose license is revoked for operating while intoxicated
- **HF 2456** – prohibits all drivers from texting when driving and prohibits youth from using electronic communication or entertainment devices when driving
- **HF 2460** – allows the DOT to establish a small business set aside program for highway contracts
- **HF 2512** – allows commercial vehicles with certain configurations to carry up to 90,000 pounds on six axles or 96,000 pounds on seven axles when traveling on non-interstate highways in Iowa
- **HF 2518** – enacts public retirement program recommendations made last summer by a legislative advisory committee
- **HF 2531** – addresses FY 2011 Standings and Salary adjustment provisions and includes various policy provisions
- **SF 2062** – establishes the state employee retirement incentive program
- **SF 2088** – reorganizes state government with the intent of improving efficiency and saving money
- **SF 2246** – DOT-sponsored policy legislation related to motor vehicles and driver licensing
- **SF 2378** – makes appropriations to the justice systems and increases fines for scheduled traffic violations
- **SF 2381** – appropriates about \$350M in operating funds to the DOT for the coming fiscal year, FY 2011
- **SF 2383** – relates to the collection of debt owed the state and cities
- **SF 2389** – appropriates infrastructure funding, including for DOT modal programs, and includes I-JOBS Program bond funding

A complete summary of all legislation impacting the DOT, the 2010 Iowa Acts for the Iowa Department of Transportation, is available on the DOT’s Web site at iowadot.gov/policy-andlegislative. Call or e-mail Elizabeth Baird with any questions or comments at 515-239-1641 or elizabeth.baird@dot.iowa.gov.

A great deal has changed during my 14 years of working with the Iowa legislature. However, the one area that has never changed is the responsiveness of DOT employees, and quick, accurate and complete information you provide. As always, thank you!

10 ways to improve relationships



With so many DOTers retiring, continuing to build strong relationships with co-workers is key to maintaining the high level of work we all expect. Following these 10 tips is a great way to bolster relationships, both at work and home.

1. Respect others’ time and feelings.
2. Be dependable and trustworthy.
3. Consider others’ needs.
4. Listen with an open mind.
5. Show flexibility and make an effort to remove obstacles.
6. Demonstrate compassion for extraordinary circumstances.
7. Communicate expectations, boundaries and needs.
8. Act professionally and positively.
9. Convey that you care about the relationship beyond the current encounter.
10. Admit mistakes and take responsibility for errors.

Adapted from “How to Provide Exceptional Customer Satisfaction at Work and Home,” Nancy Stampahar, Silver Lining Solutions, www.silverliningsolutions.com

Reprinted with permission from Communications Briefings, June 2010

Every 15 minutes

Spencer teen Hannah Brockshus lays "dead" on the street as her parents and classmates look on following a simulated crash to drive home the reality of drinking and driving during the Every 15 Minutes program.

To say Amy Sievers, driver's license supervisor 2 in the Spencer DL station, is having an impact on her community would be a huge understatement. Sievers and Laura Manwarren, the emergency room trauma coordinator at the Spencer Hospital, spent 10 months planning an elaborate educational exercise called "Every 15 Minutes" for area high school students. Sievers said, "The nationwide program is used to promote safe driving and good driving decisions for teens. It is designed to focus on drinking and driving, but Laura and I decided that we would enhance the program to include information on texting, distractions and other teen issues."

In July 2009, Sievers and Manwarren took a class to prepare them to coordinate this two-day, multidisciplinary event. The planning began the next month. "This program offers real-life experience without the real-life risks," said Sievers. After months of planning, the two-day event began the morning of Wednesday, April 21, three days before the Spencer High School junior-senior prom.

A very realistic mock crash scene near the high school was complete with law enforcement, first responders, fire fighters and the parents of the "victims." One girl was pronounced dead at the scene, zipped into a body bag and removed in a hearse. Another was taken away in a medical helicopter. Two others were taken away in ambulances. The simulation also resulted in the arrest of a very popular girl as the driver of the other vehicle, apparently under the influence. She was taken away in handcuffs by law enforcement.

Sievers said, "Throughout Wednesday updates on the 'injured' students were announced. A 'grim reaper' removed students from class every 10 to 15 minutes symbolizing the fact that



every 15 minutes someone loses their life to a drunk driver. The students had their faces painted white, changed into an E15 Min T-shirt and returned to class. These 'living dead' students were not allowed to speak for the remainder of the day. A police officer and local radio announcer entered the classrooms and read the obituaries of those 'killed' to the class. "

At 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, all students gathered in the school gym for an ER trauma scene and a trial. At the assembly, the entire student body watched the ER scene unfold, complete with equipment from the hospital, as doctors fail to save the life of one of their classmates. His parents are there to speak with the doctor.

Once the trauma scene was complete, the assembly transitioned into a courtroom for the trial phase of the alleged drunk driver. Sievers said, "We also did something different than the standard program; we staged a prom prep party with an empty keg, empty beer and liquor bottles and had the kids pretend they were at a party. We videotaped it as if from one of the kid's cell phone, and used it as 'evidence'

at the trial." The trial was very realistic with a judge, attorneys, the drunk driver, and law enforcement officer participating as the driver was sentenced to 25 years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$300,000 in fines and restitution. After the trial, the student body was dismissed and could leave school.

"We kept the 31 kids involved in the exercise at a hotel overnight," said Sievers. "We took them to the jail and funeral home for tours. We had two speakers for the kids that night, a probation officer and one of her past clients. The kids were required to write thank-you notes to the 48 sponsors of the exercise and also write letters to their parents. Those notes began, 'Dear Mom and Dad, every 15 minutes someone in the United States dies from a drunk driving collision, today I died and I never got the chance to tell you...'. We then went back to the hotel to allow time for homework and down time."

A retreat for parents was held Wednesday night. Sievers said, "We told them how the kids were, and what they were doing. The parents' partici-

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DL examiners gather for training

For the first time in five years, all Iowa DOT driver's license examiners were able to gather in one location for training. The training, funded by the federal government, was held April 27-29 at Honey Creek Resort at Lake Rathbun to train, test and certify all Iowa DOT DL examiners as certified commercial examiners.

The program opened Tuesday with the presentation of this year's DL examiner of the year, Ken Barker. Because this group had not gathered in several years, the past examiners of the year were also honored. The 28 examiners at the conference represented 645 years of experience.

Motor carrier issues were the main topic of many presentations, including commercial driver's license (CDL) pretrip inspections, analytical assessments of the CDL driver's performance, CDL medical certification and a presentation by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Iowa's examiners are currently certified driving examiners with the American Association of Motor Vehicles Administrators for general examiner duties and as motorcycle examiners. The commercial certification will be the final phase of testing for Iowa's examiners.



Front row from left: Barb West, Driver Services; Shanna Kaufmann, Muscatine; Norma Black, Marshalltown; Bobbie Reed, Ankeny; Ken Barker, Carroll; Charlene Waller, Ottumwa; Connie Redig, Iowa City; Chris McDowell, Ames; Renee Devine, Ames; Cheryl Johnson, Ottumwa; Kim Snook, Driver Services

Second row from left: Kathy Ohorilko, Driver Services; Mary Ford, Driver Services; Connie Velder, Fort Dodge; Julie Cox, Fort Dodge; Rene' Miller, Cedar Rapids; Marilyn Henderson, Ankeny; Traci Keel, Davenport; Tammy Adrian, Dubuque; Amy Hill, Sioux City; Colleen Kenkel, Council Bluffs; Sharon Christensen, Ankeny; Connie Kent, Ankeny; Karen Ballard, Driver Services

Third row from left: Gary Schallau, Sioux City; Pam Kendrick, Carroll; Rebecca Moritz, Sioux City; Kari Pint, Waterloo; Lu Thiede, Davenport; Patty Hoffa, Waterloo; Jose Maldonado, Ankeny; Johnie Peek, Burlington; Sherri Ketelsen, Clinton

Back row from left: Dave Anderson, Iowa City; Gina Abben, Waterloo; Nicki Martens, Dubuque; Lugene Verploeg-Coop, Ankeny; Veda Molina, Ankeny; Matt Hovar, Ames; Bryan Nguyen, Ankeny; Brenda Bradford, Ankeny; Brenda Kramer, Ankeny; Traci Sharr, Ankeny

Iowa Transportation Commission elects new officers

Don C. Wiley was elected chair of the Iowa Transportation Commission at its May 11 meeting in Ames. Amy Reasner was elected vice chair

Don C. Wiley, chair

Term: May 1, 2010, to April 30, 2014



Wiley, a Republican, is the owner and president of Jean C. Wiley & Sons Inc. of Mount Pleasant, general contractors; president of Iris City Development Corp.; president of BSW, LLC, construction managers; vice president of Taft Wiley Inc., plumbing and heating; vice president of Wiley Nesbitt Inc., interior decorators and design; and a partner in various real estate and

development corporations.

Born in Los Angeles, Calif., Wiley has spent most of his life living in southeastern Iowa. He is a "Distinguished Alumnus" of Iowa Wesleyan College and a graduate of the U.S. Army Artillery Officer Candidate School. He is a decorated officer for his service in Viet Nam from 1971-1972.

Wiley is currently on the board of directors of the Henry County Bank in Mount Pleasant; a member and elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant; member and past treasurer of the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce; member of Business Recruitment of Henry County Economic Development; past president of the Mount Pleasant Evening Rotary Club; past master of the Mount Pleasant Masonic Lodge #8; and member of the Iowa Wesleyan College Board of Trustees. In 2004, Wiley was named "Citizen of the Year" for Mount Pleasant.

Wiley is married to Kathy Wiley, a speech language pathologist for Area Education Association 16. They have three adult children, daughter Gina and son Ted of Mount Pleasant, and daughter Anne of Colorado Springs, Colo., and four grandchildren and three step-grandchildren.

Wiley was recently reconfirmed for a second term on the commission. He has been a member since May 1, 2006, and was recently reappointed by Gov. Culver. His current term expires April 30, 2014.

Amy L. Reasner, vice chair

Term: May 1, 2008, to April 30, 2012



Reasner, a Democrat, is an attorney and shareholder with Lynch Dallas, PC of Cedar Rapids where she practices in the areas of employment and civil rights law, ERISA litigation, business and commercial litigation, insurance defense, OSHA compliance and enforcement, trade secret and noncompetition, and family law.

Reasner has a bachelor of arts degree in broadcast communications from the University of Iowa, and a Juris Doctor degree with distinction from the University of Iowa's College of Law. She was the recipient of the Iowa Bar Association's Graduating Senior Award (2001).

She is currently or formerly active in the following community organizations: Planned Parenthood of East Central Iowa board of directors (chair - 2007-2008); Linn County Trails Association board of directors (president - 2009-2011; vice president - 2007-2009); Junior League of Cedar Rapids board of directors; member of the Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids; and League of Women Voters. Reasner participated in the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce Leadership for Five Seasons program in 2005-2006, and was recognized in "40 under 40 Community Leaders" published by the *Corridor Business Journal* (2007).

Reasner was born in Phoenix, Ariz., and is a former broadcast journalist for KCRG in Cedar Rapids. Reasner is married to Wilford H. Stone, also an attorney at Lynch Dallas, PC.

Reasner has been a member of the commission since May 1, 2008. Her term expires April 30, 2012.

Note: Commissioner Barry A. Cleaveland was reappointed to serve on the Iowa Transportation Commission effective May 1, 2010, to April 30, 2014.

GeoNexus

The Iowa DOT's data mixing bowl

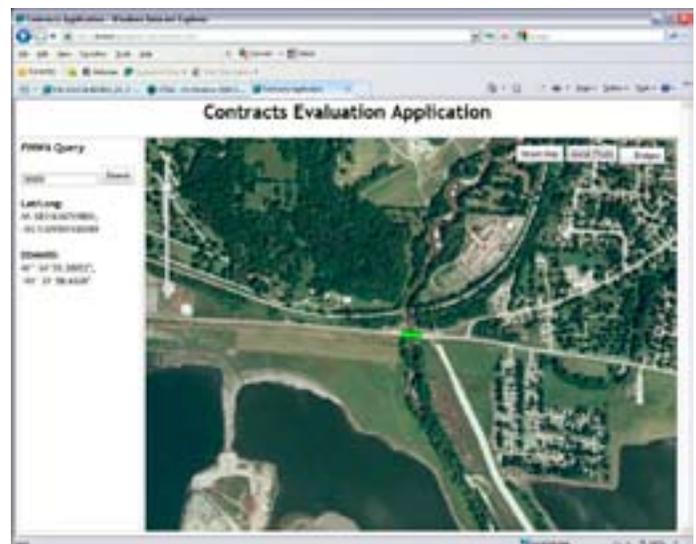
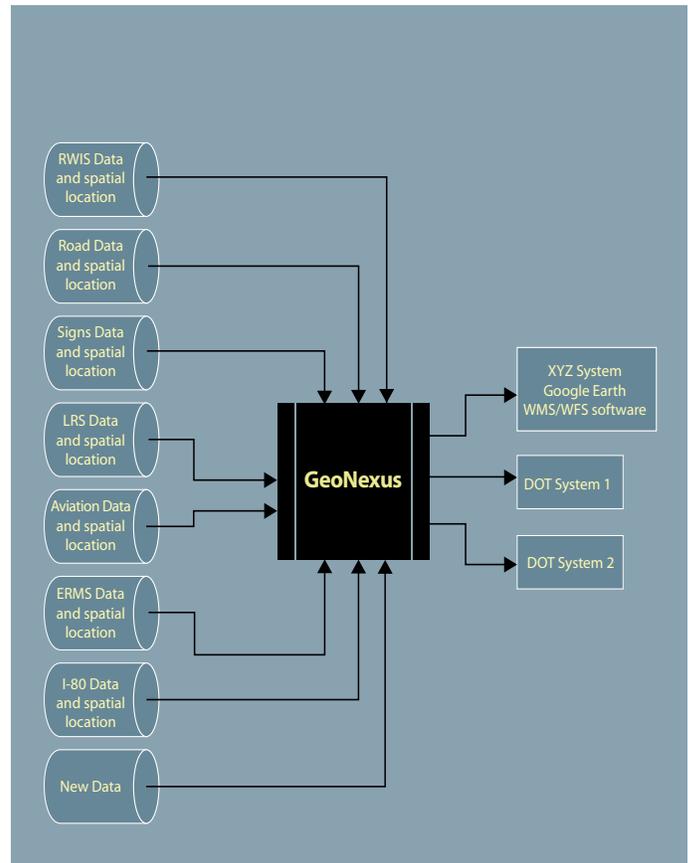
The Iowa DOT is streamlining and updating the way geographic information in various databases combines to provide business products. According to Eric Abrams, geographic information systems (GIS) coordinator in the Information Technology Division, Iowa DOT databases are like the ingredients in a recipe. "What we have been lacking in the past was a good 'mixing bowl' to easily combine this data," said Abrams.

The "mixing bowl" Abrams and his team have found is a geospatial service layer, which the DOT is calling GeoNexus. This service layer allows the ingredients (databases) to be combined to produce Web pages, desktop applications, maps or other business products with geographic information elements. He said, "Processing data, just like cooking, can use several of the same ingredients (databases), but the way they are mixed together determines the end product. Flour is necessary to make both cookies and bread, but the way the ingredients are processed determines the final outcome."

The Iowa DOT has a wealth of business data that has or can have a geographic component to it. The Iowa DOT has utilized ways to graphically show data in the past, but none were Web-based or as user-friendly as provided by GeoNexus. Because there is more business need for real-time and interactive maps, the Iowa DOT is using GeoNexus to provide a standard way to disseminate geospatial information. This standard approach, as in following any recipe, makes it easier to get to a consistently good and desired result.

Examples of work products enhanced by GeoNexus include an application allowing users to access all documents in the Electronic Records Management System related to a specific location, just by clicking that point on a map. Another application provides the latitude and longitude coordinates for every Iowa bridge with one click on a map or entry of the bridge identification number.

Abrams and his team have been working with several offices to prepare databases to be used as ingredients in the GeoNexus mixing bowl. "We can come up with a recipe for just about any office that could benefit from combining the office database with geographic data. The key is preparing the office database in a way that can be used by GeoNexus. That is not a complicated process, but one that must be completed before the correct end product can be achieved."



One of the applications using GeoNexus allows DOT users to find the latitude and longitude of a structure by simply clicking on a map.

Food drive wrap-up

The 2010 Central Complex Food Drive brought in nearly \$7,900 and 384 pounds of food for 17 central Iowa food pantries. The campaign was spread over two weeks this year, April 6-16, to allow for more events. Donations were accepted at sales of candy bars, used books, popcorn, cookies, cinnamon and caramel rolls, ice cream and walking tacos. The food drive total includes \$2,700 from the farmers' market and auction held last year. In addition to the central complex events, the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement also raised \$300 for the Des Moines Food Bank in April.

In an effort to continue fundraising events for the Iowa DOT's All for One Campaign that includes the food drive and Toys for Tots, a farmers' market will be held at the central complex the second Wednesday of July, August and September in the courtyard between the administration building and northeast wing. Questions about donating produce, crafts or baked goods for the farmers' market, should be directed to Rhonda Andresen at 515-239-1123. To donate, please bring items to the courtyard at 7:30 the morning of the sale.

The All for One committee is always looking for new ideas and volunteers to assist with fundraising activities. Check out the All for One pages on DOTNET for more information or call Danielle Griggs, All for One committee chair,

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pation is a major element in making this work. This is a huge undertaking, but they understood how important this could be for their kids." The parents were given stationery and were required to write a letter to their son/daughter with the same beginning, "Today you died, and I never got the chance to tell you..."

The "funerals" were held Thursday morning. Sievers said, "We brought two caskets, singers - the entire process - to the school. The parents of the children 'killed' in the crash read letters to their kids. The kids who 'died' during class read their letters to their parents. Chad Thomas, from ThinkFirst Iowa was our speaker after the memorial service. He talked about the consequences of making bad choices from the wheelchair he's been in since a car crash limited his mobility at age 18."

Sievers said, "The impact is so strong because everything is happening right in front of the students: the mock crash with five kids involved; the sound of the medical helicopter and ambulances; seeing one of the 'good' kids in handcuffs placed in the police car; the emotion of watching a dear friend zipped into a body bag and taken away in the hearse; and another friend life-flighted from the scene.

Sign up now for records and data management training



In the March INSIDE, you read an article about new training in records and data management for DOTers.

Two levels of this training are now available for enrollment. The first, **Records and Data Management for Custodians**, is for division and office directors, district engineers and/or their designees. The second, **Records and Data Management for Employees**, will be offered first to employees with local area network (LAN) access (E-mail accounts), then to all other employees.

Enroll in the appropriate course through the waiting lists in Skills and Training using the following course numbers.

- Records and Data Management for Custodians, COM 95130
- Records and Data Management for Employees, COM 95131

Once the waiting lists contain enough enrollees in an area or district, sessions will be scheduled at those locations.

From the crash to the ER scene to the trial to the funerals, for these kids to experience these real-life situations is incredibly impactful for everyone. The support from the community has been overwhelming. We continue to get calls and e-mails from parents thanking us for the program. They all say that this program was more than just a drinking and driving awareness event; it was an opportunity for them to re-connect with their children. I know as a mom, I can feel what these parents are feeling. I remember what it is like to be a teenager. Knowing that this scenario plays out in real life so many times breaks my heart. I know I'll never be the same."

Baby, it was cold outside!

For the fourth year in a row, Iowa DOT snowfighters battled snowfall totals higher than average. This was the third year where temperatures fell well below average for most of the winter season. A month-by-month rundown from the State Climatologist's Office includes the following.

December 2009 - At year's end severe weather affected the state as major winter storms walloped Iowa Dec. 7-9 and 23-27. Each storm brought well over a foot of snow to large areas of the state and as a major contributor to the second highest calendar month

statewide average snowfall on record (23.3 inches, second only to 25.5 inches recorded in December 2000).

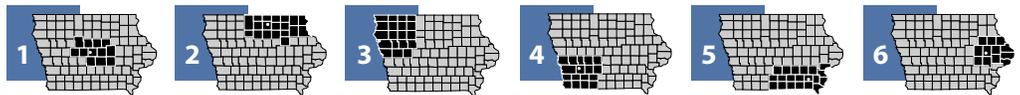
January 2010 - The new year brought near-normal snowfall totals, but much of it came from only two strong storms. Thanks to the near-record December 2009 snowfall, the season-to-date statewide average snowfall amount stood at 31.6 inches or 12.2 inches above normal for the fourth highest total on record at this point in the season.

February 2010 - The overall precipitation total for February was nearly normal. However, almost all of the

precipitation fell in the form of snow. The statewide average snowfall was 14.1 inches or 7.8 inches above normal to rank it as the sixth snowiest February among 123 years of records. Snowfall amounts were above normal statewide, with the greatest amounts coming across south central Iowa where Albia, Allerton, Chariton and Lamoni all reported monthly totals of about 20 inches. The largest storm of the month came Feb. 6-9 when a statewide average of 5.9 inches fell.

Cold, continued on next page

District summary



District	Lane miles	Salt (tons)	Salt brine (gal)	Calcium chloride brine (gallons)	Calcium chloride flakes (bags)	Sand (tons)	Total snow/ice hours
1	4,595	50,863	3,164,500	1,400	629	7,038	120,171
2	4,030	31,514	2,434,241	0	2,342	9,864	79,248
3	3,945	25,971	513,418	0	0	4,784	78,475
4	3,738	51,924	1,483,559	45,962	12	2,273	79,487
5	4,067	35,647	6,700,756	30,887	863	2,779	73,941
6	4,318	48,910	3,694,091	3,657	248	14,367	86,833

Statewide summary

	Salt (tons)	Salt brine (gallons)	Calcium chloride brine (gallons)	Calcium chloride flakes (bags)	Sand (tons)	Total snow/ice hours
Used 2009-2010 season	244,829	17,990,565	81,906	4,094	41,105	522,492
Annual five-year average use	219,974	12,777,515	89,955	1,738	26,094	371,976
Percent five-year average use	111	141	91	236	157	140

In Memory

Ruth Marie (Heldt) Hesse, 71, of Alta, died Monday, March 29, at Buena Vista Regional Medical Center in Storm Lake. Hesse was born, as she liked to tell it, in a barn in Arthur, Iowa to Charles and Ida (Sumpter) Heldt on Feb. 26, 1939. She graduated from Battle Creek High School in 1956. She was the love of William Richard Hesse's life. They were married on Oct. 19, 1958. They spent the majority of their years together in Battle Creek, and then later in Alta. She was a dedicated wife and mother, a strong and steady friend who lived her life with a positive attitude, hardly ever raising her voice and never speaking an unkind word. She always seemed to find the good in any situation or person. She was a hard worker and she dedicated more than 20 years to the Iowa DOT as a secretary and engineering office assistant in the Storm Lake maintenance office, retiring in 2001. She worked for a number of years at the family's bar and restaurant, the Venture Inn. She also worked at Citizens Bank and Vision Care Associates.

She enjoyed camping, bowling, dancing, trying her luck at the casino, and reading. She was a wonderful cook and many people were lucky enough to taste her famous potato salad as she so enjoyed preparing it for gatherings and reunions. She loved spending time with her family and friends laughing, talking, or playing games. She enjoyed traveling, and in the latter part of her life enjoyed being on the computer playing games, instant messaging, and even on Facebook.

She leaves behind her own legacy of unselfish giving and a true example of understanding and living a life of contentment to her husband, William Hesse; her four children, David Hesse, Dennis (Kelly) Hesse, Daniel Hesse, and Julie (Jim) Menke; thirteen grandchildren; soon to be three great-grandchildren; three sisters, Eva Heckens, Alice (Shorty) Carlson, and Jo Ellen Heldt; and many friends.

Cold, continued from previous page

Temperatures for the three mid-winter months of December, January and February averaged 17 degrees Fahrenheit or 4.5 degrees below normal, while snowfall for these three months totaled 45.1 inches, or 23.3 inches greater than normal. By the end of March, the seasonal snowfall total had reached 47.7 inches or seventh highest on record (greatest total since 1978-1979 winter). This has been the third consecutive colder-than-normal winter and fourth consecutive snowier-than-usual winter.

On the upside, the state climatologist notes April temperatures in Iowa stand as the warmest start to a spring season since 1985.



Quote of the day *Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.*

T.S. Elliot

Family happenings

Information Technology Division

Colette Simpson



Kurt and Erica Niggemeyer welcomed their daughter, Annabell Sophia, April 1, at 9:45 a.m. She weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long. Dad Kurt works in the Information Technology Division. The Niggemeyers have another daughter, Eleanor, who is almost 2.

Operations and Finance

Sheri Anderson



Julie and Matt Brown are the proud parents of a baby girl. Molly Opal was born April 19 at 7:50 a.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. Molly's mommy is a purchasing assistant in the Office of Procurement and Distribution.

TIPS FROM THE
GREEN TEAM

Earth day clean-up

Earth Day 2010, April 22, was the perfect day to clean up the grounds around the main complex. Approximately 30 people participated in planting six trees, trimming brush and bagging garbage. Leaves and old foliage from last fall were picked up to reveal the spring flowers and plants.

Renee Jerman, administrative assistant 2 in the Office of Policy and Legislative Services and organizer of the event, thought it was very successful and productive. She said, "Many thanks to Mark Masteller from Design and Joe Pitts from Facilities Support for their expertise in handling the trees, to Joe and crew for picking up the piles of bags and sticks, Office of Facilities Support for providing the yard tools, and to all that helped beautify the DOT grounds."

Preschoolers visit West Union garage

April in Iowa means field trips for many elementary school kids. Karen Bonte brought her preschoolers from North Fayette Community School to the West Union garage. She said, "Thank you to the Iowa DOT team for the great tour! Our kids identified many DOT trucks and workers the following week. They now know who keeps our roadways safe. Thanks again."



(above) Erin Pickering from Maintenance, back left, and Mark Masteller from Design, back right, clean up a flower bed outside the administration building. In the foreground, Heather Thompson from the Information Technology Division, right, and Scott Gustafson from Facilities Support, left, plant a tree.

(left) Mark Holm, Right of Way, cleans up the landscaping near the north annex.





Kudos!

These are letters that have been submitted to the editor. They may have been edited for length and continuity.

To: Gov. Chet Culver
 From: Congressman James L. Oberstar, chairman,
 U.S. House of Representatives Committee on
 Transportation and Infrastructure

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure continues to perform vigorous oversight of the transportation and infrastructure provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5) (Recovery Act) to ensure that the funds provided are invested quickly, efficiently and in harmony with the job-creating purposes of the Act. The critical information provided in your monthly reports has proved essential to the committee's efforts to understand how states and their local partners have delivered transportation and infrastructure projects and created urgently needed employment in the tight timeframes set forth in the Act.

During the 14 months following enactment of the Recovery Act, we have witnessed how the transportation and infrastructure investments of the Act have played a key role in putting Americans back to work. All states met the one-year deadline (March 2, 2010) to obligate 100 percent of their Recovery Act highway funds. Many states have also moved aggressively to put out to bid, sign contracts for and begin construction of Recovery Act highway projects.

Commendably, Iowa has consistently led the nation in putting to work its Recovery Act highway funds. Based on the state progress reports submitted to the committee in April 2010, your state ranks fourth out of 51 states based on an analysis of the percentage of Recovery Act highway funds put out to bid, under contract and underway. As of March 31, Iowa has begun construction of projects totaling 98.5 percent of the state's funding.

According to the state's submission, as of March 31, 2010, 98.5 percent of Iowa's Recovery Act highway formula funds are out to bid, 98.5 percent of funds are under contract, and 98.5 percent of funds are underway. Nationally, 93.9 percent of Recovery Act highway formula funds are out to bid, 81.7 percent of funds are under contract, and 74.2 percent of funds are underway.

I expect that your state will continue to successfully implement this program and serve as a model for other states around the nation. Together, we are creating and sustaining family-wage jobs, contributing to our nation's long-term economic growth, and helping the United States recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Thank you for your efforts.

To: *Des Moines Register*
 From: Gerard Matysik, Clive

I commend the employees at the Euclid Avenue driver's license station in Des Moines.

I recently visited the facility to renew my license and was thoroughly impressed by the personal, patient and understanding attitude of the employees. I was particularly impressed by several overheard encounters with elderly drivers.

I previously lived in Pennsylvania for many years where renewing your driver's license was a dreaded experience. Kudos for a great job.

To: Iowa DOT
 From: Marcia Canfield, Davenport

I just wanted to compliment your road crew this past winter as I thought they did an absolutely wonderful job keeping U.S. 61 between Davenport and Muscatine drivable. I meant to e-mail this sooner, but time just slips by so fast. It always feels good to hear that people appreciate a job well done. Please pass this on to that wonderful crew who worked through the day and night to make the roads safe for us. Job well done.

(Editor's note: This section of highway is maintained by the Muscatine maintenance garage.)

To: Iowa DOT
 From: Fran Schmitt, director,
 Gateway to Northeast Iowa Welcome Center

Thank you so much for erecting the "Welcome Center" signs along the Avenue of the Saints highway for our Gateway to Northeast Iowa Welcome Center in Nashua. Traffic has increased loads due to the proper signage. We are seeing lots more travelers using the Internet now that they know it is available here. Thanks again for the signage and all you do to keep our travels safe.

To: Iowa DOT's Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement
 From: Jim Michaelson, United Suppliers, Eldora

I would like to express my appreciation for your hazardous materials unit's work with industry through education of regulations. Officer Dave Drummond, along with Tim Knoll, did an excellent job of helping us understand the hazardous materials regulations and how to use the hazardous materials book. Programs like this help build a bridge between DOT enforcement and industry and helps us be more compliant.

(Editor's note: Dave Drummond is with Motor Vehicle Enforcement. Tim Knoll is a safety investigator with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.)

Personnel updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for April 2 to April 29

New hires

Tim Besco, highway technician associate, Oskaloosa garage; **Angela Bozeman**, driver's license clerk, Iowa City DL station; **Douglas Brown**, highway technician associate, Fairfield garage; **Todd Cline**, highway technician associate, Highway Division - Highway Helper; **Keyen Davis**, highway technician associate, Altoona garage; **Stephen Deck**, highway technician, Marion garage; **Wade Hamilton**, highway technician associate, Leon garage; **Thomas Herrick**, right-of-way agent 2, Right of Way; **Benjamin Kreger**, driver's license clerk senior, Iowa City DL station; **Floyd Mefferd**, highway technician senior, Sioux City materials; **Ron Osthus**, highway technician associate, Iowa Falls garage; **Walter Reed**, executive officer 2, Employee Services; **Gavin Stacy**, highway technician associate, Washington garage; **Mark Stocker**, highway technician associate, Highway Division - Highway Helper; **Patrick Thomas**, highway technician associate, Altoona garage; **Richard Thompson**, highway technician associate, Oskaloosa garage

Promotions

Bryan Bradley, from transportation engineer to transportation engineer specialist, Traffic and Safety; **John Chrencik**, from highway technician associate to equipment operator senior, Hanlontown garage; **Agata Janus**, from design technician associate to design technician, Design; **Shawn Lawson**, from highway technician associate to equipment operator senior, Williams garage; **Steve Maifield**, from transportation engineer to transportation engineer specialist, Bridges and Structures; **Jeffery Sandy**, from highway technician associate to highway technician, Burlington garage; **John Wilson**, from public service executive 2, Information Technology Division to public service executive 4, District 6 Office

Transfers

Randy Moser, highway technician senior, from District 6 bridge crew to Manchester construction; **James Teig**, communications technician 3, within Information Technology Division

Retirements

Gary Arp, highway technician associate, Marion garage; **Mark Brown**, highway technician associate, Latimer garage; **Max Cannon**, right-of-way agent 2, Right of Way; **Daniel Carlson**, store-keeper 3, Procurement and Distribution; **Ernest Corbin**, construction technician, Systems Planning; **Steve De Hart**, equipment operator senior, Donnellson garage; **Sandra Fox**, driver's license examiner, Mason City DL station; **Irene Herr**, engineering operations technician, District 2 Office; **Darwin Huls**, motor vehicle investigator, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Lee Lawson**, driver, Document Services; **William Lutz**, program planner 3, Systems Planning; **Rick McDermott**, highway technician associate, Atlantic garage; **Ven Mom**, typist-advanced, Driver Services; **Joan Nyguard**, right-of-way aide 4, Right of Way; **Richard Poole**, equipment operator senior, Marion garage; **Dean Potratz**, equipment operator senior, Clarion garage; **Kay Ridgway**, secretary 1, District 1 field staff; **Stephen Ruddy**, engineering technician senior, District 5 field staff; **Raymond Saathoff**, mechanic, Clarion garage; **Robert Schauf**, highway technician associate, Sigourney garage;

Service awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for June 2010.

40 years

Jeffrey Brown, Bridges and Structures; **James Curtis**, Davenport construction; **Russell Lucht**, Cherokee construction; **Howard Spencer**, Marshalltown construction; **Martin Tomkins**, Cedar Rapids construction

35 years

Roger Ashbaugh, Cherokee construction; **Lynn Deaton**, District 1 paint crew; **Kathleen Grossman**, Carroll DL station; **Gordon Port**, Bridges and Structures; **Kathy Ridnour**, Systems Planning; **Dwight Rorholm**, District 3 Office

30 years

None

25 years

Darryn Abben, Waterloo garage; **Nola Mortenson Barger**, Media and Marketing Services; **Sheila Lee**, Davenport field staff; **Richard Schnormeier**, Facilities Support; **Donald Verschoor**, Sioux City construction

20 years

Ron Loecher, New Hampton construction; **Kent Nicholson**, Design; **Tamara Nicholson**, Rail Transportation; **Sandra Pinta**, Information Technology Division

15 years

Barbara Bellizzi, Design; **Timothy Greenwood**, Right of Way; **William Gurnett**, Design; **Edward Kasper**, Contracts; **Roger Larsen**, Location and Environment; **Jacque LeClair**, Driver Services; **Stuart Nielsen**, Bridges and Structures; **Julie Steenhoek**, Information Technology Division; **David Weigel**, Right of Way

10 years

David Brown, District 5 Office; **Haiping Chen**, Bridges and Structures; **Debra Davis**, Des Moines DL station; **James Hauber**, Bridges and Structures; **Kathy Renteria**, Driver Services; **Robert Schatzke**, Information Technology Division

5 years

Nickolas Humpal, Design; **Nicholas Meurer**, Transportation Data; **Todd Sadler**, Employee Services; **Gerald Sydnese**, Facilities Support; **Steven Williams**, Information Technology Division

Retirements, *continued*

Joseph Shadle, design technician, Right of Way; **Deborah Steam**, secretary 1, Council Bluffs maintenance; **Larry Suntken**, soil party chief, Design; **Laura Tucci**, clerk-specialist, Driver Services; **Cynthia Turner**, driver's license clerk senior, Mason City DL station; **James Whetstone**, transportation engineer specialist, District 4 field staff; **Dennis Willadsen**, public service executive 2, Finance; **Charles Williams**, construction technician senior, Chariton construction

Mug shots



This mug comes from the Lorraine region in northeast France, which borders Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. Joe Reutter, transportation engineer in the Office of Bridges and Structures, brought

it back from his travels in the U.S. Air Force. Reutter was stationed at Toul-Rosieres Air Base, near the quaint village of Rosieres en Haye, in the region from 1962 to 1965. Also collected on his travels was this model of a Citroen Traction Avant, noted as the escape vehicle used in the movie "The Sound of Music."

Reaching the 35-year milestone

Policy 240.07 allows employees reaching 35 years of service to have a photo printed in *INSIDE*. Having a photo taken and printed is voluntary. Depending on when the employee chooses to have the photo taken, the photo will not necessarily appear in the same month the employee reaches the 35-year service milestone.



Debra S. Harris
Motor Carrier Services
April 2010



Dwight Rorholm
District 3
June 2010

INSIDE

INSIDE is developed to help keep all Iowa DOT employees informed about critical issues affecting them, recognize DOT employees for their excellent service and share interesting aspects in the lives of our co-workers. For more information, contact Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services, at 515-239-1314 or e-mail tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov.

Nancy J. Richardson, Director

- Tracey Bramble**, Media and Marketing Services, editor
- Lynn Purcell**, Media and Marketing Services, desktop publisher
- Christina Andersen**, Media and Marketing Services, staff writer
- Keven Arrowsmith**, Media and Marketing Services, photographer
- Nathan Miner**, Media and Marketing Services, graphic arts intern
- Printing Staff**, Document Services, printing



800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010 • 515-239-1372



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS ISSUE

On the cover: Summer in Iowa brings out motorcycles of all shapes and sizes.
June I-Spy clue: Steve Paul's Harley is not about to take off.
May I-Spy solution: The Principal Building in the back left corner wasn't there in 1921, and still isn't in Dallas County.

Service Area	Correspondent	Phone
District 1	Christine Hood , Ames	515-663-6371
District 2	Lu Mohorne , Mason City	641-423-7584
District 3	MaryBeth Banta , Sioux City	712-276-1451
District 4	Marlene Jensen , Atlantic	712-243-3355
District 5	Brenda Hadley , Fairfield	641-472-6142
District 6	Sandi Byers , Cedar Rapids	319-364-0235
Bridges and Structures	Judy Whitney , Ames	515-233-7917
Construction	Nancy McMenamin , Ames	515-239-1353
Contracts	Peg Muxfeldt , Ames	515-239-1422
Design	Judy Lensing , Ames	515-239-1469
Driver Services	Noralee Warrick , Ankeny	515-237-3253
General Counsel	Chris Crow , Ames	515-239-1509
Information Technology Division	Colette Simpson , Ames	515-233-7728
Local Systems	Gail Nordholm , Ames	515-239-1528
Location and Environment	Susie McCullough , Ames	515-239-1225
Maintenance	Cindy Shipley , Ames	515-239-1971
Materials	Brian Squier , Ames	515-233-7915
Planning, Programming and Modal Division	Cathy Mather , Ames	515-239-1140
Motor Carrier Services	Diann McMillen , Ankeny	515-237-3250
Motor Vehicle Enforcement	Anthony Batcheller , Ankeny	515-237-3218
Operations and Finance Division	Sheri Anderson , Ames	515-239-1340
Research and Technology Bureau	Tami Bailiff , Ames	515-239-1646
Right of Way	Mary Netten , Ames	515-239-1216
Traffic and Safety	Linda McBride , Ames	515-239-1557
Vehicle Services	Becky Sawatzky , Ankeny	515-237-3182

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.



Seventh Motorcycle Safety Forum focused on lifelong learning

“There’s always something to learn from each other,” said Toni Kerkove of the Office of Driver Services. Kerkove was the organizer of the Seventh Motorcycle Safety Forum, held April 30 at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames.

The theme of “lifelong learning” was demonstrated to more than 350 attendees. Dr. Daniel Thomas, a member of the board of directors of the Snell Memorial Foundation, spoke to the group about the safety standards for helmets, which generated great discussion. The Snell Memorial Foundation is known for its ongoing work in setting, maintaining and continually upgrading the most authoritative helmet standards in the United States and throughout the world. Dr. Thomas’ field of expertise is in occupational medicine and head, neck and spinal trauma, and he is the author and collaborator of more than 50 published papers in the scientific area.

Vicki Sanfelipo, registered nurse and emergency medical technician, talked about a new program called Road Guardians. The program teaches first responders better techniques for managing an accident scene where a motorcyclist is involved.

Pat Hahn, public relations/communications specialist for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, has been riding motorcycles for more than 20 years. His presentation keyed on the responsibility of motorcyclists to stay focused and be visible and aware of their surroundings. Kerkove said, “The group participated in an interactive test via Microsoft PowerPoint and found that to be very informative and interesting.

Kerkove says evaluations of the forum were very positive. She said, “We had many favorable comments about the topics chosen for the forum. Many people indicated they learned they needed to continue to improve and refine their observation skills, wear brighter-colored clothing, be educated and attentive, and use more movement when riding to be more visible.”

In addition to speakers, 25 vendors showcased motorcycle-related information and gear. A drawing was held to give away an Aluma motorcycle trailer and many other donated door prizes. Kerkove said, “I’d say it was a win-win for the task force and attendees. Overall, it was a huge success. We will host the eighth forum April 29, 2011, at the Scheman Building. This is a great way to kick off May – Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.”



Mary Stahlhut from the Iowa DOT’s Office of Traffic and Safety (left) talks about the “Ride Bright” awareness campaign with a conference participant.



(Above) Vendors at the conference were able to explain safety features to attendees.

(Below) Presenter Vicki Sanfelipo shows attendees her Road Guardians project.

