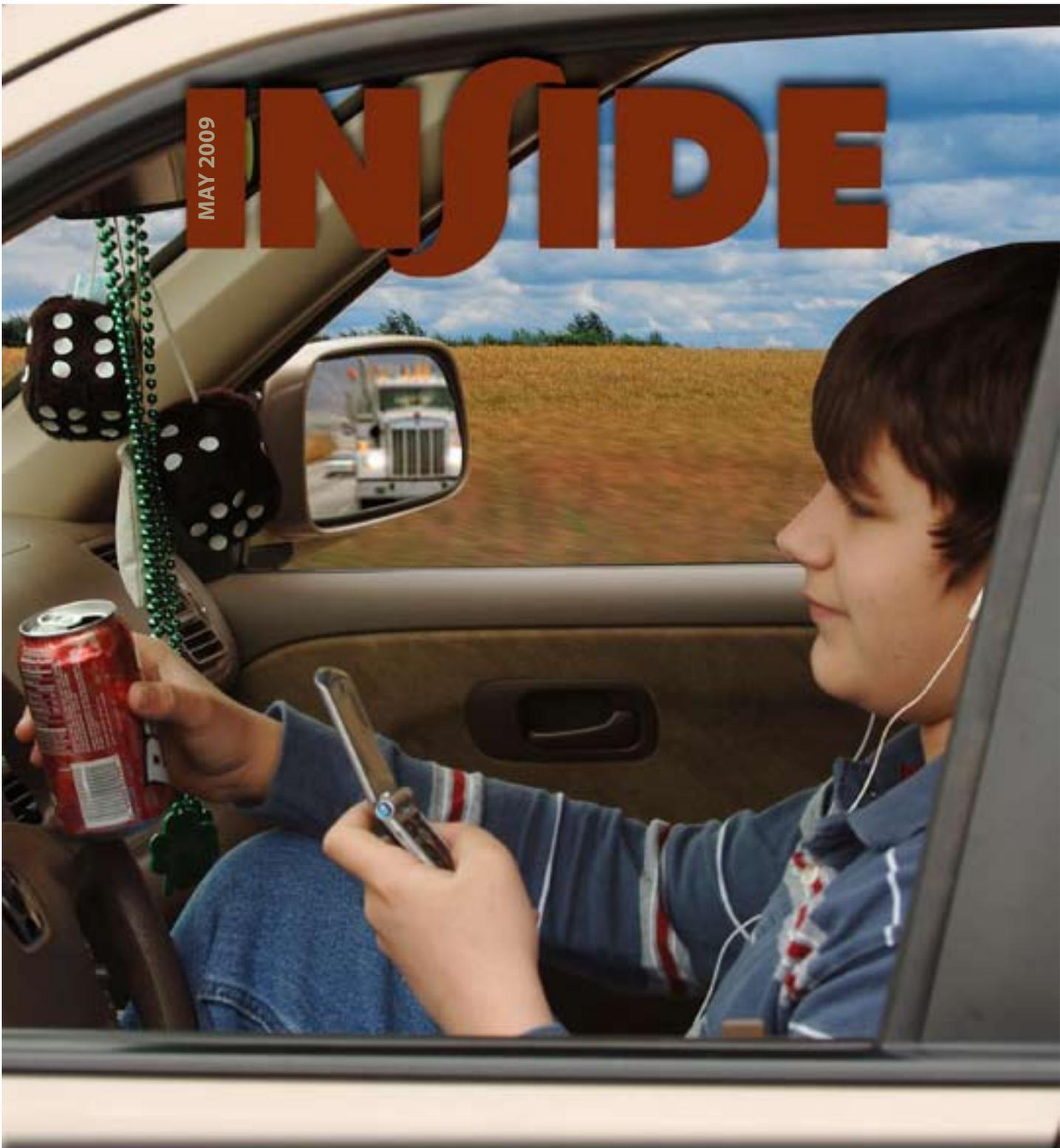


MAY 2009

# INSIDE



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## ONE 2 ONE

WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

**E**ach month as I sit to write my column, I reflect over the past 30 days. I'm often surprised by how many things occurred that have some sort of a meaningful message in them. This month was no exception.

I learned I'm claustrophobic, or something like it. I had an MRI to diagnose a back problem. When the doctor wanted to order it, he asked if I was claustrophobic. When I called to schedule it, the receptionist asked if I was claustrophobic. When being prepped for the procedure I was asked if I was claustrophobic. Well, I didn't think so, until they all kept asking me if I was! It was all I could do to get through the experience. Maybe what I really learned is something about the power of suggestion...

I learned time makes some things small. I returned to my high school for the first time since I graduated a long time ago. You know that old adage about everything seeming bigger and grander in one's memories? Boy, is that true...

And I experienced a vivid reminder that the intensity of some things that happen never eases. I made the annual trek to Eugene, Oregon, to participate in the presentation of the Nicole Richardson Outstanding Pro Bono Award to a University of Oregon Law School third year student who devoted considerable time and effort to programs and opportunities that served individuals in need of free legal assistance. This is a truly bittersweet experience for me. The memory of my daughter is so palpable where she studied to be a lawyer and grew into a caring, accomplished, driven woman – I feel a sadness I cannot describe. Being part of helping another promising law student become a public defender as part of Nicole's legacy is uplifting. These two conflicting feelings make for a couple days of emotional struggle.

I was reminded the future is bright. I went to my god-daughter's First Communion. It really doesn't matter what the event is, but there is something hopeful about such rites of passage. Innocence and optimism abound. Looking at all those scrubbed, angelic faces, it's impossible to not be hopeful about the future.

I learned retirement is very good for the body, mind and spirit. I had dinner with newly retired former division director Neil Volmer. He was fit, energized, and happy. I got the impression it did not take him long to adjust, but he is very much a "look forward" kind of guy. It also didn't hurt any that he and his wife immediately moved to a new home in Arizona so he spent the bulk of the winter in the Arizona

sun and warmth and didn't have any of that Iowa winter "beat-down" from which to recover.

Let me close with some work events that made an impression. More than usual, this past month I was reminded of the importance of our customer service approach. I get letters...lots and lots of letters...from citizens with questions, opinions, compliments, concerns or complaints about something we have or have not done. Some are positive, but as is often the case, people tend to contact me more when they are dissatisfied than when they are pleased. I cherish the good ones – often write back to thank people for thanking us – and we put as many as possible in INSIDE. Look next month for one from Governor Culver regarding his visit to central complex, and one from a state legislator regarding his experience at a driver's license station and from a citizen who liked some added features on the new Iowa map.

On the other side of the scale are the less positive ones. While these can be all the way from "why did you waste taxpayer's money applying salt brine this specific day," to "why are you doing this road project instead of that one," to "why did you replace perfectly good grass with native plantings," to "why do you let elderly people still drive," the majority of less-than-positive correspondence stems from our regulatory activities. Letters concerned with why we do or do not suspend driver's

licenses, ticket overweight trucks, control access of highways, take land, or purchase other than low bid to name a few, are relatively frequent. Fortunately, there are almost always good answers to these letters of concern.

Tougher contacts to respond to are the ones who express concern about our personal interaction with them. These are concerns about our attitude, the time it took us, things we said or the way we behaved. That is where I rely on all of you to realize how every encounter, whether in person, through e-mail or regular mail, or by phone, leaves an impression about the DOT. And for those of you involved in regulatory activities, the challenge is greater to be service-oriented when the news is often not welcome news. I thank you all for your efforts to treat those you interact with in a professional, respectful, and helpful way, I can tell you it matters. The impressions you make affect how people feel not just about you, but about all of us at DOT.

I guess the overall lesson I share with you this month is the value of reflection. It's amazing how much happens in our lives each month and the lessons we can learn to impact things going forward. I have no choice; I have to – I mean get to – write this monthly column, which forces me to reflect. I suggest you try it too...it's amazing the gems you can find.

## Loree Miles appointed to Transportation Commission

The Iowa Transportation Commission welcomed its newest member May 12 for a four-year term. Loree Miles, a Democrat, is chief executive officer of Miles Development, LLC, a hotel development and management company, and a franchisee of three Value Place hotels, two located in central Iowa and one in Loveland, Colo.



She is a graduate of Hoover High School in Des Moines and attended the University of Northern Iowa.

Miles was the national marketing director of RSM McGladrey Inc., one of the nation's top business, accounting and tax consulting firms. She was also vice president of marketing for Hawkeye Bank and Trust.

She currently serves as vice chair of Anawim Housing of Des Moines; board member of Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa; and chair of Value Place Strategic Partners Alliance.

Loree Miles lives in West Des Moines with her husband David, managing director of The Miles Group, LLC and president of the Iowa Board of Regents. They have two adult sons: Erik Raker, Des Moines; and Michael Raker, Falls Church, Va.; and two granddaughters.

## Lowe named new Motor Vehicle Division director

Mark Lowe's job as special assistant attorney general to the Iowa DOT was going well.



In the year since Lowe took over the post, he had come to know the agency and enjoy the people who work here. So, when Iowa DOT Director Nancy Richardson approached Lowe about an upcoming opening as director of the Motor Vehicle Division, Lowe says the opportunity was too good to pass up. "It is a unique challenge," said Lowe. "I just couldn't say no."

Lowe, a licensed attorney, says he knows there will be challenges in the new job he took over April 1, but he is ready to dig in. He said, "In my legal career, I've often been advising while others are 'doing.' This gives me the chance to get on the 'doing' side of things."

As a lawyer, Lowe says he feels comfortable working in the highly regulated world of motor vehicle issues. While in the Attorney General's Office,

Lowe says he had the opportunity to work with all four offices in the Motor Vehicle Division and developed a sense of what the division does and the issues it faces. He said, "Shirley Andre did an excellent job running this division, and it is a tremendous challenge to follow her. I hope I can continue her excellent work, and add to the job my own base knowledge of legal resources, procedure and interpretation."

Prior to his work at the Iowa DOT, Lowe was an associate and then shareholder with Hopkins & Huebner, P.C. in Des Moines. He has also served as associate general counsel for Norwest Financial and, prior to law school, as a planner at the Region XII Council of Governments in Carroll, Iowa. Lowe is a 1988 graduate of Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in community and regional planning. Lowe earned his law degree from Drake University in 1993. He was editor-in-chief of the Drake Law Review and was one of the top 10 students in his Drake graduating class.

Lowe enjoys spending time with his four children, dabbling in a little art work, playing guitar, and competing in road races and triathlons. He and his family live in West Des Moines, where they are active in soccer, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, YMCA Adventure Guides, and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Lowe serves as an usher and on the Health Ministry at his church, and in the coming year will lead the Greater Des Moines YMCA Adventure Guides program by serving as its "Navigator."

## Commissioner Blouin reappointed

Michael Blouin, a Democrat from Dubuque, was reappointed to a four-year term on the Iowa Transportation Commission beginning in May 2009. Blouin has served on the Commission since January 2008 when he replaced Thom Hart.

# National Bike Month reminds Iowans to share the road

Increased sunshine, temperatures and gas prices have many Iowans taking to the road on two wheels this spring. With National Bike to Work Week set for May 9-15, the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is reminding motorists and bicyclists to safely share the road.

In addition, the DOT offers the *Iowa Transportation Map for Bicyclists*, which highlights bike-friendly routes. The map identifies bike trails and traffic levels on all paved roads, and includes insets of Iowa's 16 largest cities. It is available online at [www.iowabikes.com](http://www.iowabikes.com) or by calling 515-242-4705 or 800-345-4692.

Even with the safest routes mapped out, bicyclists are killed on Iowa roadways every year and hundreds more sustain injuries.

Here are steps bicyclists can take to reduce risks.

- Obey traffic signs and signals. Bicyclists must follow the same rules of the road as drivers of other vehicles.
- Never ride against traffic. Motorists are not looking for bicyclists riding on the "wrong" side of the road. State law requires bicyclists drive like drivers of other vehicles.
- Follow lane markings. Do not turn left from the right lane. Do not go straight in a lane marked "right turn only."
- Do not pass on the right. Motorists may not look for or see a bicycle passing on the right.

- Keep both hands ready to brake. You may not stop in time if you brake one-handed. Allow extra distance for stopping in the rain because brakes are less effective when wet.

- Wear a helmet and never ride with headphones.

- Use hand signals. Hand signals let motorists and pedestrians know what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy and self-protection.

- Choose the best way to turn left. There are two choices: (1) like an auto, signal to move into the left-turn lane and then turn left; or (2) like a pedestrian, ride straight to the far side of the crosswalk, then walk your bike across the roadway.

- Establish eye contact with vehicle operators when making maneuvers. Never assume other drivers have you in their line of sight.

- Look out for road hazards. Watch for parallel-slat sewer grates, gravel, sand or debris. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.

- Use lights at night. The law requires a white headlight (visible from at least 500 feet ahead) and a rear reflector or taillight (visible up to 300 feet from behind).

Motorists have a responsibility to be aware of all other vehicles on the road. The following are tips for motorists to safely share the road with bicyclists.



- Do not honk at bicyclists. This may startle the bicyclist and cause the person to lose control of the bike.

- Use extra caution when passing a bicyclist. Move entirely into the left lane; do not pass a bicycle on a two-lane road if oncoming traffic is near.

- Be aware of quick motions by the bicyclist; they may have to swerve to avoid road hazards, such as potholes, debris, drainage grates, and railroad tracks.

- Be careful when opening a vehicle door on a roadside or street. Road widths often force bicyclists to ride close to parked vehicles where they may be injured by an opening door.

- When in doubt, yield to bicycles.

## Reported bicycle/vehicle crash data by injury severity

Year	Fatalities	Injuries	Major	Minor
2004	7	481	53	200
2005	11	417	45	184
2006	5	468	42	215
2007	7	452	42	217
2008	5	454	48	255
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>1,071</b>

## Moving Iowa Forward Conference

The leaders of Iowa's transportation and economic development communities joined forces to explore the complementary nature of the two disciplines at the Moving Iowa Forward Conference April 8 in Des Moines.

Iowa DOT Director Nancy Richardson and Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) Director Mike Tramontina welcomed speakers and attendees from Iowa's truck, rail and port services industries, businesses using Iowa's transportation system, economic developers, and government leaders. Conference speakers spurred discussion of the crucial connection between transportation and business development.

Keynote speaker for the conference was John Horsley, executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), which advocates transportation policies on behalf of states and provides technology leadership to improve the nation's transportation system.

Horsley's presentation, "From Stimulus to Highway and Transit Authorization," gave a glimpse into the intent of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009 as a temporary patch for the crisis in transportation funding and that updating the way the federal government views infrastructure funding is the key to a sustainable transportation system.

The need for a multimodal approach to reauthorization with accountability for results was highlighted during Horsley's presentation. He quoted projections that suggest truck traffic will double by 2040. He said the increase would put an enormous strain on our environment and aging highway system, and he called for the development of funding for a national multimodal freight plan.

Horsley suggested that this is a critical year in American transportation. He said keys to future success include: keeping the federal Highway Trust Fund solvent through reauthorization; wisely expending the funds set out in the Recovery Act; formulating a new, multimodal reauthorization bill; and funding our transportation system at sustainable levels.

The afternoon break-out sessions included green logistics, risk management, and shipping globally to and from Iowa. Transportation plays a key role in green logistics and strategies, leading to higher expectations of carrier environmental performance. Speakers addressed how carriers are responding to the green challenge. Attendees also heard about how uncertainties in the economy and natural environment lead to challenges in transportation.

The emerging wind industry session was popular among conference attendees. Iowa's location in the center of the country and available choices in shipping for manufacturers are key

factors to this market. This session addressed how Iowa's transportation system supports this growing industry.

Dan Sabin with the Iowa Northern Railway spoke about development and expansion of the Manly Terminal, located in the heart of the "biofuels belt" in north central Iowa. The terminal provides storage and ethanol delivery flexibility from producers to all possible competitive markets as efficiently and inexpensively as possible. The Manly Terminal also services the wind turbine market.

Clare Bertel of Siemens Energy, a manufacturer of wind-turbine blades, towers and nacelles spoke about the growing industry in Iowa and how Iowa has become a leader in wind energy generation and transportation of wind turbine components.

He explained that moving the 148-foot (45 m) long, 12-ton blades by truck was a logistical challenge. By using the national rail network, Berte said that Siemens Energy avoids traffic, sharp curves, weight-limited bridges, and other road hazards.

Improving infrastructure on Iowa's rail system, Berte concluded, allows expansion of our transportation capacity and provides significant efficiency and environmental benefits.

This is the second annual conference sponsored by the Iowa DOT and IDED. It was attended by government officials, transportation industry representatives and shippers.

## Can you see me now?

**R**ide proud, dress loud. That is the message the motorcycle safety community is sending to all Iowa motorcyclists. This year's motorcycle safety forum was themed "Gear-up 4 Safety" and focused on what riders can do to be more visible on the road.



More than 400 attendees heard that evidence is mounting, in the age of multitasking, showing operator distraction

and inattention are leading causes of motor vehicle crashes.

Toni Kerkove from the Iowa DOT's Office of Driver Services says, "Being proactive when behind the wheel or in the saddle, and driving or riding defensively are always good survival strategies. Seeing and being seen are major elements of a viable survival strategy." And there is credible research to suggest this to be true.

A major study conducted during 1993-1996 in New Zealand investigated a correlation between rider conspicuity and crash-related injury. The study concluded, "Wearing reflective or fluorescent clothing and white- or light-colored helmets, and using headlights in daytime could reduce serious injuries or prevent death from motorcycle crashes by up to one-third."



### Conspicuity

A term used to define the condition of being visible, easy to notice or obvious; the ability of an object to draw attention to itself, even if no one is actively searching for it. Rider conspicuity, therefore, is the ability of a motorcyclist to draw attention to themselves, even though other drivers may not be actively looking for them.

In a vast number of crashes involving a motorcycle and another motor vehicle, one factor seems to surface with alarming regularity --- the motorcycle rider was either not seen at all by the operator of the other vehicle or seen too late for the crash to be avoided. Sadly, the all-too-frequent outcome of an unplanned 'meeting' like this is a life-altering injury, or worse.

So, how does one become more visible when riding? There are plenty of ways to become more noticeable in traffic.

- 1) Wear a fluorescent/reflective safety vest and/or bright-colored jacket.
- 2) Wear a white- or light-colored helmet.
- 3) Carefully position your vehicle in traffic.
- 4) Add a headlight modulator to your motorcycle.
- 5) Instead of breaking to slow or stop, flash your vehicle's taillight several times before you begin to slow.
- 6) Use reflective materials on your helmet, clothing and motorcycle.
- 7) Make noticeable vehicle movements.
- 8) Add auxiliary driving lights or fog lights to your motorcycle.

Riding gear is not about making a fashion statement. It is about being as visible as possible to prevent a crash from happening, and serious injury or death should a crash occur.

Tom Welch, Iowa DOT safety engineer, said, "We're finding increased evidence that younger drivers are becoming more distracted by activities such as talking on the cell phone or texting while driving. In addition, motorcycles are less visible to older drivers. They may also have difficulty judging the speed of an approaching motorcycle, especially at night."

For more information on motorcycle safety, log on to [www.iowamre.com](http://www.iowamre.com).

*Attendees at this year's motorcycle forum show their true colors, wearing bright gear to be more conspicuous to drivers.*



## *Bishop celebrates 45 years of DOT service*

**L**arry Bishop, highway technician associate in the Davenport garage, wanted to be a farmer with his dad. When he approached his high school graduation, his father thought a more stable plan might be to get the younger Bishop on with the Iowa Highway Commission in Atlantic where they were building the interstate. Stability has proven to be the case, as Bishop celebrates 45 years with the department this month.

"The first month on the job in May 1964 I was out with a survey crew cross-sectioning a borrow pit," said Bishop. "I thought that was all the Highway Commission did." But he soon found out there were a vast array of tasks to be mastered. Bishop remained a temporary employee until October 1965. "They kept me on as temporary thinking I was going to get drafted," he explained. "The month after I became a permanent employee I did get drafted and was gone until November 1968 in the Army."

Returning to Atlantic after his military service, he worked

for another four years until the construction office downsized. He then moved on to maintenance in the Council Bluffs-north garage. In Council Bluffs he met his future wife, Carole. "My wife really wanted to move to Michigan, but I told her I'd go as far east as Davenport, so that's where we ended up in 1977," said Bishop. "I've been here now for 32 years. I was a mechanic for a while, but that didn't work out, so I've been an operator ever since. In that time I think just about everything has changed. The way the system is run is so different. There are a few guys I have developed close friendships with who have been here with me the whole 32 years."

Bishop says part of the reason he stays with the DOT is his love of the outdoors. "I really like to be outside. I also work part-time mowing and doing maintenance on

the playground in my neighborhood, I really enjoy that," he said. "And I'm very happy to see spring come around every year. Winters are hard. My wife died about two and a half years ago and that was very difficult. It was a struggle to get out of bed and come to work every day. But with some help, it's getting easier."

In his off time, Bishop enjoys following NASCAR racing and meeting new people. "Two of my three grown daughters are in Michigan and the other lives near Chicago with my grandson, so I don't talk to them much. I was pretty much on my own. Since it's not a lot of fun to go for walks or go out to eat by yourself, I'm getting back into dating and have met a wonderful woman named Rebecca.

With a possible second marriage in his future, Bishop is looking forward to the next phase of his life. "I'm not sure when I'll retire," he says. "Before I met Rebecca, I was thinking about 2012, but all that may change depending on what we decide to do. For now, I'll just keep my options open."



## 2009 Food Drive wrap up

The economy is rough on just about everyone. With that in mind, this year's central complex food drive to benefit 17 regional food pantries was more purposeful than ever in helping families in need. The Motor Vehicle Division in Ankeny jumped on the bandwagon with their own events and raised money for the Food Bank of Iowa in Des Moines. The 2009 Food Drive started out with a previous balance of \$125.30 coming from people who paid late for auction items last year, and added another nearly \$12,000 to the fund this year.

While the official 2009 Food Drive was held April 6-10, large-scale fund-raising started in February as candy bars were sold from Valentine's Day through St. Patrick's Day in both Ames and Ankeny. The Office of Design held events outside of the designated week and raised \$969.35 at a February bake sale and silent auction. The Office of Procurement and Distribution

continued their traditional "Peep Show" during the Easter season, raising \$43 by selling pieces of a cake decorated by Peeps candies.

Employees gave generously during the 2009 Food Drive week. The cinnamon roll sale sold 24 dozen rolls in less than 30 minutes, and auction bidding was brisk all week. There were so many books donated for the book sale this year that the left-over items were taken to Hastings and resold to add \$170.33 to the food drive total. Because of a cost increase from the cookbook printer, the amount raised by this activity did not generate any additional funds for the 2009 Food Drive, but did pay all the costs associated with printing 250 of the books. The totals for each 2009 Food Drive activity are as follows:

- Previous balance - \$125.30
- Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day candy - \$733.00
- Peep cake - \$43.00
- Cinnamon rolls - \$309.00
- Popcorn/books - \$1,177.50
- Cookies/books - \$811.14
- Hastings (resold donated books) - \$170.33
- Auction - \$7,273.00
- Office of Design activities- \$969.35
- Grand total - \$11,611.62

Enough food and personal care items were collected to give two boxes to each of the 17 central Iowa food pantries. The cash collected will enable the DOT to send a check for approximately \$683 to each of those organizations.

The Motor Vehicle Division offices in Ankeny formed a subcommittee for this year's food drive and raised more than \$1,400 for the Food Bank of Iowa location in Des Moines.

Events held for this fund-raising effort included:

- Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day candy - \$189.00
- Green bake sale for St. Patrick's Day - \$212.52
- Green carnations for St. Patrick's Day - \$117.00
- Candy jar guesses - \$53.50
- Baked potato bar - \$445.50
- Ice cream social - \$79.00
- Donuts, coffee and cookies - \$207.12
- Great Apeels coupon cards - \$110.00
- Grand total - \$1,413.64



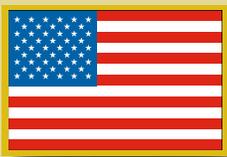
### 2009 Central Complex Food Drive

**Chair** - Kathy LaRue, Local Systems  
**Committee members** - Rhonda Andresen, Construction; Tonya Bishop, Motor Vehicle Division; Tami Bailiff, Research and Technology Division; Barbara Bellizzi, Design; Darla Best, Employee Services; Tracey Bramble, Media and Marketing Services; Julie Brown, Procurement and Distribution; Danielle Griggs, Materials; Dixie Magden, Document Services; Cathy Mather, Policy and Legislative Services; Zhaia Mergen, Media and Marketing Services; Deanne Popp, Local Systems; Ron Schappaugh, Design; Amy Schleier, Location and Environment; Patricia Schwarz, Bridges and Structures; Vicki Stamper, Highway Division bureaus; Maggie Suckow, Right of Way; Janet Vaughan, Facilities Support; and Judy Whitney, Bridges and Structures

**Motor Vehicle Division subcommittee** - Annette Greene, Motor Carrier Services; Carol Iske, Driver Services; Tina Lewis, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; and Pattie Wermers, Motor Carrier Services



The purchasing section of the Office of Procurement and Distribution accepted donations for pieces of a cake decorated with Peeps candies.



## ★ Bob Briggs, unlikely movie star

**A**dd movie star to the list of accomplishments for Bob Briggs, former Iowa DOT equipment operator in the Mount Pleasant garage. But, while the cause behind the movie is noble, Briggs would rather have not been one of the stars. "Broken Minds" premiered April 24 on the Web site [www.intheirboots.com](http://www.intheirboots.com). The documentary tells the stories of four veterans who survived traumatic brain injuries, their daily struggles and triumphs.

"Bob's success story is at the end," said Brigg's wife, Michelle. "The first few profiles aren't as positive as Bob's."

The film crew from Brave New Films spent two days at the Briggs' Hillsboro home, talking to Bob, Michelle and the couple's children Ashlea, 9, and Cody, 5. Michelle said the crew spent most of the time following Bob around and talking about what his life is like now and what he is able to do. On the way to the airport, the crew stopped by the Mount Pleasant shop to get some shots of the snowplow Bob was so proud to drive.

Briggs, who retired from the Iowa DOT following his April 2005 injury in Iraq, is slowly making his way back to accomplishing the daily tasks most of us take for granted. After much therapy and rehabilitation, he achieved a milestone a few weeks ago, getting his driver's license back. "When he was training to get his license back with one of the medical people, they had a disagreement over what a sign meant. It turned out Bob was right. He was pretty proud of that," said Michelle.

"He still doesn't sleep well," explained Michelle. "But when he feels good he helps me around the house, does a lot of yard work, putters around in the garage, and trains for an annual 110-mile Faces of America bike ride from Bethesda, Maryland, to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to raise money for injured veterans and their families."

Michelle notes that Bob's fourth "Alive Day" was April 16. This is the anniversary of the day he suffered his brain injury in Iraq. The family thanks everyone from the Iowa DOT and other state agencies for their support in the past, present and future. Michelle says, "We have seen a lot of other injured vets who did not have the support we have. That is one of the reasons we continue to help other injured vets. Your support made so much of a difference in Bob's recovery."

*(below) Bob Briggs, former Iowa DOT employee was injured in Iraq four years ago.*

*(bottom) A film crew from Brave New Films came to Briggs' home to help him tell his story in an Internet documentary.*



# Family happenings

## Operations and Finance Division

*Sheri Anderson*



Christina Andersen, information specialist 2 in the Office of Media and Marketing Services, and her husband, Dennis, are the proud parents of Noah Warner. Baby Noah fooled everyone by coming almost four weeks early on April 1. He weighed in at 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long. Big brother Nathan, 17, and big sister Haley, 13, are looking forward to passing down their vast knowledge to their new little brother.



Patty Valline, reproduction equipment operator 2 in the Office of Document Services, retired March 31 after 34 years with the Iowa DOT. In retirement, Valline plans to spend time outdoors camping and fishing, and hanging out with her children and grandchildren.



Jenna Carlson, human resource technician associate in the Office of Employee Services, gave birth to a baby boy Feb. 14. Mason James weighed 4 pounds, 3 ounces and was 17 inches long. Jenna and Mason's daddy, Ben, are proud of their new addition.

## Driver Services

*Noralee Warrick*



Bryan Nguyen, driver's license examiner in the Ankeny DL station, and his wife, QuocAnh Le, are the proud parents of a baby boy born March 31. Alexander entered the world at 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20 inches long. Alexander was welcomed home by big sister Kailyn, 3.

## Information Technology Division

*Colette Simpson*



Heather Thompson, communications technician 3 in the Information Technology Division, and her husband, Ken, are the proud parents of Jackson Gerrald. Baby Jackson was born Feb. 25, weighing 4 pounds, 6 ounces and was 17 3/4 inches long. After spending 16 days in the neonatal intensive care unit, a healthy Jackson went home to lots of attention from big brothers, Tyler, 20, and Logan, 13, and big sisters, Samantha, 16, and Madison, 9. Jackson's grandma is Deb Thompson in the Information Technology Division. His uncle is Scott Gustafson in Facilities Support and aunt Jean Gustafson works in Procurement and Distribution.

## District 2

*Lu Mohorne*



Nancy Paulson, materials fabricator inspector in the District 2 materials office in Mason City, and her boyfriend, Todd, are the lucky winners of a wad of cash from the Iowa Lottery. The couple pooled their money to buy \$40

*Family happenings, continued next page*

**Family happenings**, from previous page in assorted lottery tickets and came out winning \$30,000. Splitting the winnings down the middle, Paulson said she's going to buy a laptop computer, pay off some bills and put the rest away for a rainy day. Congratulations, Nancy!

## District 5 Marlene Jensen



Dewight (Junior) Jones, bridge inspector 1 for the District 5 bridge crew, and his wife, Sheri, had twin boys March 12. Left is Tyler Jackson who arrived first at 12:25 p.m. weighing 6 pounds 9.5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Right is Nate Anthony, who arrived at 12:26 p.m. weighing 5 pounds, 7.5 ounces and was 18 inches long. In the middle of it all is big sister Lexie Caroline, 4. Congratulations Dewight and Sheri!



Randy Dunkelberger retired Dec. 29, 2008, after 35 years with the State of Iowa. He began his work in June 1973 working with the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division. He was a clerk for **Family Happenings**, continued page 13

## In Memory

Harold D. Dolling, 87, of Ames, passed away in his sleep Sunday, March 1. Dowling retired from the Iowa DOT as chief landscape architect for roadside development. He was a member of the Polk County Soil Conservation Commission, Toastmasters and a 55-year member of Collegiate United Methodist Church. He was a veteran of the United States Army, serving in World War II. He will be missed by two sons, David and Roger; and one daughter-in-law, Maria. He was preceded in death by his wives, Betty Jean and Mary Dolling.

Loyal Burnet Coates, 84, died Wednesday, March 4, at the Nora Springs Care Center. He was born Aug. 31, 1924, in Nashua, the son of Loyal Dale and Myrtle B. (Bennett) Coates. He graduated from Nashua High School in the class of 1942. Loyal served in the United States Navy during World War II as a radioman gunner in torpedo planes flying off the U.S. S. Bunker Hill in the South Pacific. He was honorably discharged Dec. 11, 1945. Coates was united in marriage to Dorothy Warye Dec. 16, 1944. In 1946, he started working at the Nora Springs Creamery and Locker, later becoming owner and operator. After selling the creamery in 1966, he worked as a surveyor for the Iowa DOT, retiring in 1986. Coates loved woodworking, crafting gemstone jewelry and stone artwork, taking care of the "woods," and spending time with his family and friends. He also served on the Rock Grove Cemetery Board. Coates is survived by his wife, Dorothy, of Nora Springs; and children, Kim (Pat) Coates of Elkhart, Ind., and Kathy (Dewey) Koch of Nora Springs; grandchildren, Aaron (Kimberly) Coates, Ryan (Kate) Coates, Brian (Tricia) Koch, and Heather (Ben) Hucka; 10 great-grandchildren; sisters, Marlys Graham of Surrey, British Columbia, and Marilyn Myall of Thousand Oaks, California; along with many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Ronald J. Terry, 81, of Dubuque, died Monday, March 16. He was born Aug. 5, 1927, in Logan, Iowa, son of Arthur B. and Grace Harris (Sanders) Terry. He married Wava Peck June 17, 1951, in Mechanicsville. Terry served as a seaman 1st class with the United States Navy during World War II. He worked as a maintenance engineer for the Iowa DOT in Dubuque for 38 years until his retirement in 1988. He also worked as a consultant with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for 10 years. Terry was a member of the Grand View United Methodist Church, Tri-State Garden Club and Dubuque Chorale at the University of Dubuque. He also was a R.S.V.P. volunteer. Surviving are his wife, Wava, of Dubuque; four children; eight grand children and six great-grandchildren.

Marion E. Smith, 84, of Nevada, died Thursday, March 19. Smith was born Aug. 29, 1924, in Collins, the son of Orrin and Sarah (Gilley) Smith. He graduated from Collins High School in 1942. Smith served in the United States Army during World War II and the Korean Conflict. He was united in marriage to Dorothy Dawson Jan. 29, 1954, at the EUB parsonage in Zearing. Smith worked for the Iowa DOT in the Office of Design as a draftsman in the soil design section, retiring in 1990. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Nevada, and the American Legion, William F. Ball Post 48. Smith loved his family and granddaughters. He enjoyed animals, fishing, working with numbers, spending time with family and friends, and feeding his pet squirrels that came to visit every day.

*In Memory*, continued page 13



## Kudos!

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

To: Iowa DOT  
From: Amy Knapp

I want to THANK Bill the Highway Helper for stopping to help me. My low fuel light was on, but I was in a hurry and didn't take time to stop for gas. I ran out of gas and pulled off the road. While I was calling someone for help, the Highway Helper truck showed up. Bill was more than helpful and got me some fuel to get me going again. I was headed to work in Altoona, but stopped for fuel first! My hat is off to the Highway Helper Program. Keep up the great work and thank you!

(Editor's note: The Highway Helper mentioned in this letter is Bill Lane, highway technician associate.)

To: Vehicle Services  
From: Michael Vaughan

Thank you for helping me find and update the history of Iowa license plates. The person I talked to was Dorothy, so a special thanks to her for getting the project going. Your information greatly helped me know the right colors on some of the plates I have that are very rusty. I hope to repaint them to their original colors. I'm hoping to get my grandchildren interested in the collection and some day it will be a nice inheritance for them.

(Editor's note: The employee mentioned in this letter is Dorothy Schooling, receptionist in Vehicle Services.)

To: Theresa Kern, Driver Services  
From: Ron Harden

I want to thank you for the quick and professional manner in which you took care of the situation. I did check with the police and, without the extension in my possession, they considered me to be driving without a valid license, even though under Iowa law, the license was valid with the grace period.

(Editor's note: Mr. Harden was in Las Vegas and called in to the information center in Ankeny where he was told how to request an extension on his license. So he faxed in the request to Theresa Kern, secretary 2, who issued the extension and faxed it back to him.)

To: Iowa DOT  
From: Denise Koblitz, Fargo, North Dakota

Please extend my gratitude to all of your highway road crews for the wonderful way they clear the roads. I am very grateful for the long hours and hard work they put in during treacherous winter weather so that I can travel as safely as possible. Bless each and every one of you!

To: Kim Snook, Driver Services  
From: Gerald E. Thompson

I want to commend the efforts of Sandra Ross of the Ankeny driver's license station for a very useful response to a complex problem. The public is well-served by her efforts and her serious approach to her work.

(Editor's note: Sandra Ross is a driver's license supervisor 2 in the Ankeny DL station.)

To: Motor Vehicle Enforcement  
From: Carolyn Anderson

We wish to thank Sergeant James R. Smith for coming to our rescue on Thursday, March 12. We were returning to Sioux City on Interstate 29 when we got a flat tire. My husband (age 75) was struggling to get the tire off and he wasn't being successful due to his age and arthritic fingers. Smith worked with him and they managed to get the flat tire off and put the spare tire on. We were so thankful to him. Then he stayed to help me find my glasses, which I had managed to lose in the tall weeds in the ditch next to our car. Please know that we were so thankful to Smith for all his help.

(Editor's note: James R. Smith is a motor vehicle enforcement sergeant.)

## **In Memory, from page 11**

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, of Nevada; a daughter, Terry Seibert, of Story City; two granddaughters, Shannon and Kristie; and two sisters, Gertrude Hunt, of Nevada, and Gloria Carpenter, of Nevada.

James Edward Frette, 59, of Story City, died Monday, Jan. 5. He began working at the Iowa DOT June 1, 1967, and was a materials technician 3 in Materials at the time of his death. He is survived by his best friend, Eileen Buchanan, of Marshalltown; his father, Bennett Frette, of Story City; two daughters, Tanya (Doug) Hilkert, of Clearwater, Florida, and Tricia (Jason) Cunningham, of Ankeny; two sisters, Denise Johnson, of Grimes, and Debra (Doug) Pospisil, of Ames; and four grandchildren, Alexander, Luke, Madison, and Gus. He was preceded in death by his mother, Dolores Frette.

## **Family Happenings, from page 11**

four years in Sioux City and a supervisor in Hartley for 10 years. In 1988 he began his work for the Iowa DOT as an equipment operator in the Ida Grove maintenance garage. He worked there for three months before transferring to the Sheldon garage and then on to the Ashton garage. The last eight years he has been working with the performance measurement crew. After his retirement from the Iowa DOT, Randy is keeping very busy with Internet gun sales, working on his new home in Moville and spending time with his grandchildren. District 3 wishes Randy a long and healthy retirement, and thanks him for his many years of outstanding service with the DOT.

## **Thank you**

*I would like to thank my co-workers, friends and family for such an awesome party. I appreciate all of the cards, gifts, E-mails, phone calls and visits to wish me well. Thank you all again from the bottom of my heart.*

Patty Valline  
Reproduction equipment operator 2  
Document Services



## **Boone County Relay for Life**

**6 p.m., Friday, June 5**  
**6 a.m., Saturday, June 6**  
**Goeppinger Field**

*If you would like to join the DOT team, contact*  
**Susie McCullough at**  
**susieben9289@yahoo.com**  
*or*  
**Kelly Bunting at agsheltie@mchsi.com**



## **Preschoolers visit Mason City garage**

**T**he Mason City garage welcomed approximately 40 preschoolers April 1. Chris Suntken, engineering technician senior from the District 2 Office, and Dan Servidio, highway technician in the Mason City shop, hosted the kids. Servidio talked to the children about the truck he used to clear snow and ice during the winter. All children received coloring books, crayons, a Frisbee and booster seat information provided by the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau's Boost Your Booty campaign. The kids were excited about the opportunity and enjoyed looking at the truck and being able to sit in the cab. The teachers reviewed the safety materials with the children in their classrooms.

## Personnel updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for Feb. 20 to March 19, 2009

### New Hires

**Michael Fjelland**, mechanic, repair shop; **Ping Lu**, transportation engineer intern, Bridges and Structures; **Danielle Mulholland**, transportation engineer intern, Design; **Reese Polich**, mechanic, repair shop; **Elizabeth Van Zomeren**, executive officer 1, Statewide Emergency Operations

### Promotions

**Douglas Cox**, from construction technician to construction technician senior, Britt construction; **Kevin Klostermann**, from highway technician associate to highway technician, Manchester garage; **Amanda Martin**, from transportation planner 2, Systems Planning to transportation planner 3, Rail Transportation; **Scott Schram**, from transportation engineer intern to transportation engineer specialist, Materials

### Transfers

**Joel Schlueter**, from mechanic, Avoca garage to highway technician, Atlantic garage

### Retirements

**Larry Badgett**, equipment operator senior, District 4 paint crew; **LuVerne Birt**, highway technician associate, Sac City garage; **Ronald Kiner**, sign fabricator 2, Traffic and Safety; **George O'Donnell**, motor vehicle captain, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Donald Poole**, equipment operator senior, Onawa garage; **Marlyn Struecker**, highway technician associate, Algona garage; **Thomas Vaughan**, executive officer 2, Systems Planning; **Alan Whitmore**, highway technician associate, Missouri Valley garage

### Did you notice . . .

the jester's face on cover of the April INSIDE? How about the shamrock hidden on the March cover? Lynn Purcell, information specialist 3 in the Office of Media and Marketing Services and the creative mind behind the look of INSIDE, likes to have a little fun now and then. So flip back to the cover; what can you find this month that may be just a little out of place?

## Service awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for May 2009

### 50 Years

**Clinton Zieman**, District 3 Office

### 45 Years

**Larry Bishop**, Davenport garage

### 40 Years

**Dennis Erikson**, Manchester construction; **Garry Leahy**, Osceola garage

### 35 Years

**Stephen Twohey**, Materials

### 30 Years

**Jean Borton**, Design; **Karen Carroll**, Transportation Data; **Steve Hubler**, Des Moines construction; **Jeffery Sandy**, Burlington garage; **Richard Starks**, Marion garage; **Terrence Zimmerman**, Coralville garage

### 25 Years

**Joseph Brown**, Council Bluffs-south garage; **Robert Close**, Marshalltown garage; **Kathy Hays**, Driver Services; **David Jensen**, Bridges and Structures; **Harold Wulf**, Design

### 20 Years

**Newman Abuissa**, District 6 field staff; **Donna Buchwald**, Local Systems; **Catherine Cutler**, District 6 Office; **Mary Godwin**, District 6 materials; **Cheryl Humphrey**, Driver Services; **James Schertz**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **John Selmer**, District 4 Office

### 15 Years

**Wendy Rehm**, Information Technology Division; **Carla Rominger**, Driver Services; **Gary Vais**, Greenfield garage; **Cedric Wilkinson**, Davenport construction

### 10 Years

**Tammy Adrian**, Dubuque DL station; **Stacie Bryant**, Council Bluffs DL station; **Laurie Carnahan**, Public Transit; **Jodie Collins**, Driver Services; **Suzanne Flom**, Sioux City DL station; **Michele Frank**, Aviation; **Jason Holst**, Design; **William Ihnen**, District 4 materials; **Randy Kaeffring**, Coralville garage; **Shanna Kaufmann**, Muscatine DL station; **Kevin Killpack**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Brett Kloss**, Bridges and Structures; **Wes Mayberry**, Design; **Kurt Miene**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Kelly Owen**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **John Perrott**, Britt construction; **Daniel Redmond**, District 4 Office; **Tom Robinson**, District 5 Office; **Phillip Smith**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Tawnya Sullivan**, Transportation Data; **Dung Ta**, Design

## Ultra-high performance concrete bridge completed in Buchanan County



(top) Buchanan County is home to the first North American highway bridge built with the latest technology in ultra-high performance concrete (UHPC). The new Jakway Park Bridge replaced a structure built in 1910.



(left) The bridge opened to traffic Nov. 26, 2008. Officials from the Federal Highway Administration, Iowa DOT, Iowa State University, Buchanan County, and local governments joined the contractor, concrete manufacturer and adjacent property owners to cut the ribbon April 15, 2009.

# 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](mailto:tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov).

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**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS ISSUE**

**On the cover:** Don't be like Jake. Distracted driving is a leading cause of crashes for teen drivers.

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District 1 .....	<b>Kay Ridgway</b> , Des Moines .....	515-986-5729
District 2 .....	<b>Lu Mohorne</b> , Mason City .....	641-423-7584
District 3 .....	<b>Mary Beth Banta</b> , Sioux City.....	712-276-1451
District 4 .....	<b>Marlene Jensen</b> , Atlantic.....	712-243-3355
District 5 .....	<b>Brenda Hadley</b> , Fairfield.....	641-472-6142
District 6 .....	<b>Sandi Byers</b> , Cedar Rapids .....	319-364-0235
Bridges and Structures.....	<b>Judy Whitney</b> , Ames .....	515-233-7917
Construction .....	<b>Nancy McMenamin</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1353
Contracts.....	<b>Peg Muxfeldt</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1422
Design.....	<b>Judy Lensing</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1469
Driver Services.....	<b>Noralee Warrick</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3253
General Counsel.....	<b>Chris Crow</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1509
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Planning, Programming and Modal Division .....	<b>Mary Kay Reimers</b> , Ames.....	515-239-1661
Motor Carrier Services.....	<b>Diann McMillen</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3250
Motor Vehicle Enforcement .....	<b>Anthony Batcheller</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3218
Operations and Finance Division .....	<b>Sheri Anderson</b> , Ames.....	515-239-1340
Research and Technology Bureau .....	<b>Tami Bailiff</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1646
Right of Way .....	<b>Linda Kriegel</b> , Ames.....	515-239-1300
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Vehicle Services.....	<b>Becky Sawatzky</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3182

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## **“Restrain Yourself” winners announced during National Youth Traffic Safety Month**

**S**pring is an awakening season. It is an adventurous and exciting time for teens, with prom, graduation and summer break just around the corner. As the number of teens on the road increases, so does the safety risk for teen drivers, passengers and others sharing the road. That is why the Iowa DOT co-sponsored a statewide teen driver safety campaign “Restrain Yourself” and is unveiling the winners during May, National Youth Traffic Safety Month.

For the past nine months, the Iowa DOT and its partners (KDSM Fox 17, AAA of Iowa/Minnesota, ThinkFirst Iowa, Iowa Traffic Safety Alliance, and Radio Iowa) have sponsored “Restrain Yourself.” The public safety campaign challenged teens to produce public service announcements (PSAs) that encourage their peers to “Restrain Yourself” from distracted driving or impaired driving, and “Restrain Yourself” by wearing seat belts and driving safely in work zones.

The PSAs were posted on the campaign’s Web site, where more than 50,000 public votes were logged from March 27 to April 20. Once voting ended, the top three video vote getters, including the eventual winning entry, were posted to the Iowa Teen Driver Safety page on Facebook. The winning video entry will be aired May 20 during the finale of American Idol on KDSM Fox 17. The winning audio PSA will be broadcast on Radio Iowa’s 61 stations.

Iowa DOT campaign coordinator Tracey Bramble said, “Two things come across loudly in these PSA entries. One, Iowa teens are very creative. Two, they understand the underlying causes of unsafe driving.” Unfortunately, the typical teen still believes “other people” are

killed in vehicle crashes, a perception that continues to perpetuate unsafe teen driving behaviors.

According to the coalition known as the National Organization for Youth Safety (NOYS), an average of 10 teens die every day in motor vehicle crashes in the United States. The group lists motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of death for 14- to 24-year-olds. Safety is not an accident; it is a process of making good decisions, like the following.

### **Seat belts**

Statistics from NOYS show 68 percent of youth killed in traffic crashes were not wearing seat belts. Teach your young drivers to buckle up every trip and ask their teen passengers to do the same. In a survey, NOYS found that 69 percent of teen passengers would buckle up if asked to do so by a teen driver. One simple click could have saved the lives of hundreds of our sons, daughters, grandchildren, and friends.

### **Distractions**

Put your cell phone away when you climb behind the wheel and encourage your teen drivers to do the same. Studies by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and University of Utah’s Human Factors and Ergonomics Society showed that while hands-free devices allow drivers to keep their hands on the wheel, the concentration level put toward a telephone conversation poses the most risk of causing distractions.

The human brain can only process so much information at a time, and research from

the University of Iowa’s Human Factors and Vehicle Safety Research Program shows teenagers can process even fewer inputs than adults, making distracted driving a leading cause of crashes for our teens.

### **Impaired driving**

No one should get behind the wheel if impaired by alcohol or other drugs, but teens are even more susceptible to impaired driving crashes due to lack of experience and a feeling of invincibility.

**Restrain Yourself**