

SEPTEMBER 2010

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ONE 2 ONE

WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

Are you ready for some football? I know I am, but I'm a sports fan. Some who know me may even say I'm a sports nut. I love college football...and basketball...and wrestling...and major league baseball...okay, so maybe I am a sports nut! Obviously I am only involved as a spectator; there are reasons too numerous to mention as to why I am not a participant in any of these sports. Fact is, other than coed, city league volleyball when I was younger, the only sport I've participated in as an adult is golf.

Even as a kid I didn't participate in a lot of organized sports, but I grew up in a different time as relates to children, especially girls, and sports. There were summer recreational and neighborhood softball games, and ballgames during recess on the playground. But once I got to high school, that all ended. I attended a small parochial high school that didn't have any girls' sports, at least that I remember, and didn't even have a lot of boys' sports...only basketball and baseball, as I recall. I'm embarrassed to admit that I was, alas, a cheerleader because that was the sports-oriented thing that was available.

So, in a way it's interesting that I am such a sports nut. It probably goes back to my parents, both of whom liked sports. My dad played adult softball on a traveling team well into my childhood and I remember many a night sitting in a small town ballpark watching him play and my brother as bat boy. And my brother was—and still is—a darn good athlete. He was a varsity starter in three sports in high school and was a pitcher on his college baseball team...again I remember spending a fair amount of time watching him participate. And, for whatever reason, I grew up the proverbial tomboy, much more interested in throwing a ball around, rough-housing, playing in the dirt than I was ever interested in the stereotypical girl things of my day.

Some people dismiss sports as frivolous, a waste of time. I don't agree. Other than flat out enjoying the intricacies and social aspects of my favorite sports, I like sports for the messages they provide and the lessons they teach. I think we can learn a lot from team sports that translates into our work and personal lives, like:

1. The value of teamwork. As they say in the sports world, "there is no I in team." It's all about working together toward a common goal.
2. Everybody has a specific job description and set of duties. Things work best for the whole group when everyone performs at their individual best.

3. Good team members back each other up. Sometimes someone can't play because of health or personal issues. Others on the team have to be ready to step in and cover those duties...the "next guy in" motto of my favorite team. Or sometimes a team member struggles to do their job, for whatever reason, and another team member tries to help out, to cover.

4. A good group of managers or coaches can help a team have focus and purpose and everyone pushing in the same direction more often leads to success.

5. A good game plan is essential. It's important for everyone on the team to understand what the desired result is and what actions the group intends to take to get that result. It's the old having-everyone-on-the-same-page concept.

6. Mistakes are inevitable, but we can learn from them and they can be overcome. Mistakes sometimes only slow the pace of the group or team achieving the desired results; other times they can even cause a setback or "penalize" the team. But, in all cases, the team lives to try another day, either in this game or in the next.

7. Not everyone on the team gets the same attention and praise. Some team members are on the front lines or hold positions that are more noticeable (think quarterback, running back or receiver) while others toil in the trenches or behind the scenes (think center, lineman or holder). How much attention a person gets—or doesn't get—does not equate to their importance to the team. The placekicker

gets noticed, but you need a good long snap and hold to make it all work!

8. Working in a public environment has its rewards and its challenges. When a crowd is watching, your good moves get lauded and your mistakes get booed. Whether that "crowd" is people in the stands or citizens, media and other interest groups, there are special challenges and rewards for doing a public job. Being both grounded and resilient helps one stay on an even keel whether being applauded or booed.

I could go on with the parallels, but you get my drift. While a sports event is just a game, whether a player or a spectator, there are a lot of life lessons that can come from sports. I think that is a part of why I like sports as much as I do...that and the tailgating!

Speaking of sports, for those of us who follow college football, there is a game of note taking place Sept. 11 in Iowa. Which brings me to a final lesson I've learned from sports...there is a fine line between being cocky and being confident. So, while I am cautiously confident that my favorite team will be victorious this Saturday, I learned long ago not to predict a sure victory. A lot of things go into achieving success on the football field...skill, work ethic, desire, weather, luck, team chemistry...and the same can be said of success at work. As for Saturday's big intrastate rivalry, you'll get no smack talk out of me!

Nancy

Texting, talking and tickets

Driving is very familiar territory for most adults. Most of us have been behind the wheel of some sort of motor vehicle since we were teenagers. This familiarity is colliding with our multitasking world, resulting in deadly consequences due to distracted driving.



A myriad of distractions take our attention away from the very serious and complicated task of controlling a ton of metal barreling down a highway at 70 mph. Iowa lawmakers enacted legislation effective

July 1 banning all drivers from text messaging while driving, and further restricting the use of cell phones and other handheld electronic communication and entertainment devices like iPods for novice drivers.

For adults

For drivers age 18 and older with unrestricted licenses, the new law makes it illegal to read or write text messages while operating a motor vehicle, except when the vehicle is parked and off the traveled portion of the roadway. While not recommended, adults are not restricted from talking on cell phones while driving or from using other handheld electronic devices. This law is considered "secondary enforcement" for adults, which means a law enforcement officer must suspect another law is being broken to stop an adult driver who may be texting. A violation of the texting law is not considered a moving violation for an adult driver with a full license.

For novice drivers

The law is quite different for drivers with restricted licenses. Drivers operating under an instruction permit, minor school license, intermediate license or license issued to teens not attending school are prohibited from using any electronic communication or entertainment device, including cell phones and MP3 players, for any reason to talk, text or listen to music. This law is "primary enforcement" for holders of these types of licenses, which means a law enforcement officer can stop a young driver if a cell phone or other device is being used and no other laws are being broken. While the violation itself is not a moving violation, it is a violation of the restrictions of the license, so the teen risks losing driving privileges for 30 days for the first violation.

Enforcement

While this may not be the perfect solution to address one of the main distractions drivers are faced with, and driver compliance will be essential, any step in the direction of saving lives is welcome. Enforcement of the law will be complicated, but Iowa law enforcement agencies are dedicated to making Iowa highways as safe as possible. From July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011, law enforcement will be issuing warnings for violations of this law. Beginning July 1, 2011, full enforcement and penalties will begin.

Iowa DOT and DPS join forces for public awareness



As part of the law, the Iowa DOT, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Public Safety, is charged with increasing awareness of this new law, as well as the new law that now requires persons 18 and younger to be belted in all vehicle seating positions.

The Iowa DOT has developed a Web site with complete information for both adult and novice drivers at www.iowadot.gov/CurbItClickIt. Detailed promotional materials for the Curb it-Click it campaign were also handed out at all driver's license stations, the Iowa State Fair and other venues. These materials can be obtained by contacting Vicki Stamper in the Office of Multimedia Services at 515-233-7964.

As a second part of the public information campaign, the Iowa DOT and DPS, as members of the Iowa Traffic Safety Alliance, launched another "Sweet Ride on the Safe Side" campaign. This campaign uses a Web site (sweetridecontest.com) to attract teens to watch a video, take a quiz and register to win a new car supplied by Charles Gabus Ford. The educational site's focus is on the new texting ban and includes information on updated passenger restraint laws. The campaign kicked off at the Iowa State Fair Aug. 19 and will conclude March 29, 2011.

(Note: Employees of sponsor agencies and their relatives are not eligible to win.)

James Bond ... Jason Bourne ... Deb Covington ...

Ok, so maybe Deb Covington, the Iowa DOT's information security officer, has not quite achieved master spy status yet, but recent training proves she has potential.

Periodically the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) holds an eight-week training, called the Citizens' Academy (CA), to build relationships in communities across the country. Covington was invited to participate in the training earlier this year in Des Moines, due in part to her participation in a group called InfraGuard, a public/private partnership between the FBI and organizations with an interest in infrastructure protection. Covington said, "Working in this capacity with the FBI is about developing relationships, both between the Iowa DOT and FBI and between the Iowa DOT and agencies represented by my classmates in the Citizens' Academy."

While the Iowa DOT has a long-standing relationship between its motor vehicle enforcement officers and the FBI, the relationship with the Information Technology Division is relatively new. In the rapidly changing world of information technology, Covington says she welcomes partners who can share in protecting the technology infrastructure and data stored and generated by the Iowa DOT. "Because of the contacts that were made, the Iowa DOT is now connected to many subject-matter experts, both from the FBI and my classmates in this training, should we ever need their assistance," said Covington.

Another perk for the Iowa DOT because of Covington's association with the FBI is training seminars for employees. She said, "I can work with the FBI to coordinate a specific training/presentation for them to provide to the Iowa DOT.



Deb Covington enjoyed the weapons and firearms training portion of the Citizens' Academy.

They provide excellent training and presentations on cyber security, threat assessment, negotiation skills and much more."

Being involved in protecting the Iowa DOT's information technology is an intellectually challenging job, but it is not usually physically demanding. During the FBI training, Covington was able to flex both her intellectual and physical muscles. "The training included information on negotiating, cyber crime, counterintelligence, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, civil rights issues and, my favorite, weapons and firearms training," said Covington. "In the back of my mind I always thought about becoming involved with the military in some way, but never pursued it, so I really enjoyed the hands-on firearms training and demonstration by the SWAT team. It was intense, but very cool. While I enjoyed all the sessions, the main benefits from this experience are the future opportunities, as a FBI CA alum, to partner with the FBI on various public safety initiatives and learning opportunities as technology evolves."

Covington continued, "This was a fabulous experience. I plan to continue to be actively involved with the FBI CA alumni. I am looking forward to opportunities to visit the FBI field office in Omaha, FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C. and FBI training facility in Quantico, Virginia."



FBI Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun presents Deb Covington with a certificate of completion of the Citizens' Academy.

iTRAM -- travel demand modeling with a GIS twist

This is the next in a series on how the Iowa Department of Transportation is using geographic systems to better serve the public.

Traffic forecasting affects every aspect of the Iowa DOT's core business activities. The ability to accurately predict future transportation needs continues to improve as different types of data sets can now be combined in a more geographic and useful way, including socioeconomic information like housing and employment data, traffic count information and aerial photography, to model future travel demand on Iowa's roadways.

Historically, future traffic volumes have been predicted by analyzing past trends observed in traffic count data and then applying those trends into the future. This methodology was practical at the time, but had limitations as past trends are not always realized in the future, especially in areas where new development is predominant.

Adam Shell of the Office of Systems Planning said the basic transportation planning process, developed for urban areas in the 1950s, remains standard practice, but with several enhancements in the way data is used. The urban methodology relies on forecasts of where development will occur and the magnitude of those developments. So forecasts are focused more on what will happen in the future, rather than what has happened in the past.

Shell says traditionally there are four steps to transportation modeling.

1. Trip generation – how many trips are there?
2. Trip distribution – where do those trips go?
3. Mode split – what mode of transportation is being used?
4. Traffic assignment – what route is being taken?

Travel demand modeling in Iowa has for the most part been an activity reserved for larger urban areas in the state. Unfortunately, traffic forecasting based on historic traffic trends tells only part of the story. Shell said, "The benefit of using a travel demand model is it allows us to see the potential impacts of growth and development, such as increased employment, housing and population. It gives us the ability to do what-if scenarios of the potential growth in traffic and then properly size new corridors or expand on existing ones."

In 2009, the Iowa DOT began using a different approach to the standard rural forecasting process, using the new Iowa Travel Analysis Model (iTRAM). iTRAM is built in a special software package, TransCAD, that has a full complement of geographic information system tools. iTRAM incorporates census and other socioeconomic data to anticipate areas of population growth and predict the impact on the transportation system. Shell said, "iTRAM development began in 2007 in coordination with a consultant, and was first used in late 2009." He continued, "This is a different twist on the old modeling basics of the 1950s. For iTRAM, we do not use traffic counts as the core input into the modeling process, but instead use data defining where people live and work. Where people live and work changes, so being able to track trends and predict these changes will allow us to better plan for future transportation needs."

While all nine of Iowa's metropolitan planning organizations now use travel demand models, Shell says he thinks transportation planners for rural

areas will now see a major benefit in using iTRAM. "Using the housing and employment data from the census and data from Iowa Workforce Development, we can get a much better sense of where people are traveling and are able to anticipate growth much more accurately in rural areas. We can also begin to include transit and rail in these models, and not just model vehicle trips."

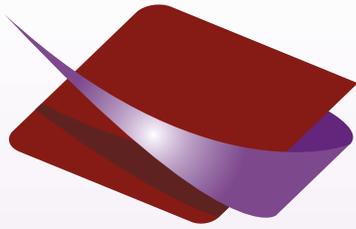
While the imported housing and employment data are a new element, Shell points out the iTRAM is still based on the data provided by the Iowa DOT's geographic information management system (GIMS). "The GIMS data we use involves analysis of entire corridors or statewide traffic. We don't drill down to specifics like turning movements at an intersection. GIMS is used to get a big picture look at current traffic patterns," he said.

The new modeling process is already being used for interchange justification reports and was recently enlisted to provide an estimate of out-of-state travel data at Iowa rest areas. Shell said, "The data can also be used to look at what we call 'special generators' or specific locations where people want to travel like casinos, airports, hospitals and malls," said Shell.

Shell says, "iTRAM is evolving. In the future it will be used to predict freight movement and has already been useful in determining potential for passenger rail travel along certain corridors. The next step in the evolution of iTRAM is to build a freight component. Shell said, "We have applied for a grant from the Federal Railroad Administration to help pay for a component that will include the freight network."

Urban Youth Corps

Putting teens to work improving infrastructure



Finding ways to do more with less continues to be a challenge, not only at the Iowa DOT, but at the agencies tasked to maintain other transportation systems such as recreational trails. Establishing priorities is the first step to meeting those challenges. While it may seem like the Iowa DOT is mostly focused on large road and bridge construction projects or transit, aviation, rail and water transportation policy issues, assisting with development of Iowa's growing network of recreational trails continues to be a priority.

One summer program providing assistance with trail maintenance and other transportation projects within state parks and other recreational areas is the federally funded Urban Youth Corps (UYC) program. While UYC aims to improve transportation, it also provides valuable work experience for at-risk teens. Kids involved in the UYC program, many working their first jobs, get to be outside, learn the value of a good day's work, make new friends, and develop skills that can be used throughout their lives, all while assisting with trails work that might not otherwise be accomplished. The program was established to offer meaningful full-time, productive summer work in transportation settings for individuals from the ages of 16 to 21; give participants a mix of work experience and on-the-job training that includes a minimum of five hours per week of the participant's time for basic life skills, education, training and safety; and provide youth an opportunity to develop citizenship values and skills through service to their communities.

The Iowa DOT is in its 14th year of administering UYC. This summer's projects supported many outdoor activities with seven agencies hiring 30 young people through the program. Each UYC project is designed to provide a transportation-related service to citizens, including providing facilities for pedestrians and bicycles; landscaping and scenic beautification within highway rights of way or in proximity to transportation facilities; preservation or rehabilitation of historic markers, buildings, structures or facilities having significance to transportation; and preservation of abandoned railway corridors. Each successful applicant group must provide local matching funds of at least 30 percent of the project cost.

The short-term, summer work performed by UYC participants is often time-consuming and tedious. All participating agencies say the work accomplished by UYC participants would be in danger of remaining undone without the program. In Iowa City, crew leader, Jon, and assistant crew leader, Ryan, are both second-year UYC participants. They are leading a team of six teens in trail maintenance on the popular Woodpecker Trail at the Coralville Reservoir. "The trail wasn't sloped correctly," said Jon. "So when it rained, water created ruts that were very dangerous for hikers. Earlier this summer I came out here in the rain and observed how runoff affected the trail. We devised a plan and started to dig a



This hand-dug trench will enhance safety on the Woodpecker Trail near the Coralville Reservoir by diverting rain water that used to damage the trail surface.

UYC, continued on next page

UYC, continued from previous page

trench along one side of the trail for the water to safely run off. We used the soil, mostly clay, from the trench to slightly build up the other side of the trail so the water will run into the trench and not wash away the trail. The trail, with the subtle slope toward the trench, is now much safer for hikers.”

Because most participants are under age 180, the majority of the work is done by hand because program safety guidelines prohibit the use of power tools, except by a trained adult. “It is hard work,” said Jon. “But we’ve learned to come together as a team and help each other out.”

In Iowa County, a tenacious group of four tackled the establishment of a new trail near the county’s recently opened nature center. Heather, 19, is the only team member old enough to handle chain-saw duty. Heather is headed into her second year of college pursuing a forestry major. She said, “This experience has really helped me focus on what I might want to do for a career.”

A career is just what Carrie Bond found following her UYC experience in Mahaska County. Bond, who has worked for the Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) for four years following her summer as a UYC participant, hopes the program can help others like it helped her. Projects in Mahaska County this summer included trail and sign maintenance, as well as some engineering and problem-solving work. “Because it has rained so much this summer, we’ve had a lot of flood cleanup work to do,” said Bond, who oversees the MCCB’s UYC program. “Clearing brush and debris, and removing weeds, mostly by hand, have taken up a lot of our time. This is work that our regular full-time staff just would not have time to do, which means some flood-damaged trails might have remained unusable by the public without the help of the UYC participants.”



Heather, a second-year forestry major, clears trees in preparation for a new trail.

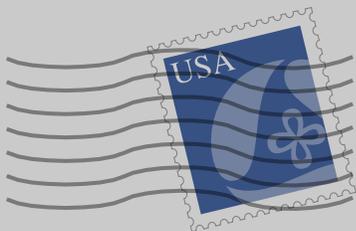
While increasing the quality of the transportation systems offered at state and county recreational sites may not be the top priority of all Iowans, there is no doubt the work accomplished by UYC participants improves these systems and is valued by those hikers, bikers and nature lovers who use the facilities.

The seven agencies working with the UYC program this year are listed below.

- Dubuque County Conservation Board with four participants
- Friends of Hartman Reserve with five participants
- Iowa County Conservation Board with four participants
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation with four participants
- Mahaska County Conservation Board with three participants
- Optima Life Services/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with eight participants
- Region XII Council of Governments with two participants



Bond (left) and Taylor, an 18-year-old UYC participant from Oskaloosa, clear weeds on a retaining wall at a trail in Mahaska County.



Kudos!

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

To: Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT director
From: Charles F. Wasker, Des Moines

Sandra Ross is a true professional in every way, both personally and administratively. She administered the tests even-handedly and personally made it clear they were not an advocacy. Your organization could not have a better representative to the public. She is the epitome of what a public servant should be. It was a pleasure meeting her.

(Editor's note: Sandra Ross is driver's license supervisor 2 in the Ankeny DL station. She assisted Mr. Wasker in driver's license testing.)

To: Iowa DOT
From: Mary Kay Dial, Polk County Senior Services

I want to express an appreciation of gratitude to the service that was provided to the Polk County congregate meal site during the month of June. A special thanks to Mary Schaer, Quinta Miller, Kathy Schultz, Bill Bartelson and Bobbie Reed. Thanks again. It was great getting to know and working with everyone.

(Editor's note: The employees mentioned above are supervisors and staff from the Ankeny and Des Moines DL stations. They offered a "Choices, Not Chances" presentation at senior meal sites around Des Moines and Polk County in June.)

To: Pat Harmeyer, Office of Support Services
From: Kristin Bowen, Iowa State University Extension

On behalf of the Iowa State University Extension, I would like to personally thank you for being an exhibitor at the Third Annual Iowa Veterans' Procurement Conference. Your participation made the event a huge success. We hope you will consider participating again next year.

To: Jon Allen, Onawa maintenance area
From: Burgess Health Center

Thank you for your generous donation to Burgess Health Center's Third Annual Big Blue Run. This year's run/walk was our biggest to date. We have received positive comments about how nice it is to have an event like this in Onawa.

We'd like to share a few highlights: largest crowd ever with more than 250 walkers and runners; first-ever kids fun run with 59 kids participating; television news coverage by KPTH with Steve Long as the event MC; radio promotion and live broadcast by DSUX 105.7 FM; Monona County 4-H Foundation pancake feed that raised money for its scholarship fund; and first time for proceeds raised to go to a community project.

We will donate \$1,700 in proceeds to Got 2 Move for new outdoor playground equipment in Onawa. We appreciate sponsors like you who value their community by supporting local events like the Big Blue Run. Your efforts allow us to promote the importance of adults being active and healthy.

(Editor's note: Jon Allen reports the Big Blue Run borrowed more than 100 traffic cones to mark the walk/run route. The cones were returned to the DOT at the conclusion of the event.)

To: Iowa DOT
From: Sandy Dodson, Minneapolis, Minn.

I would like to profoundly thank Greg Kruser from the Maquoketa garage for finding and returning my lost purse. I have been unemployed for 18 months, am a single parent and was returning from settling my mom into an assisted living facility in Galesburg. Losing my purse, cash, identification, etc., was devastating. Greg's phone call that he had found my purse was both unexpected and amazing. I applaud his honesty and extra efforts to contact me and mail my belongings. Thank you, Greg!

(Editor's note: Greg Kruser is a highway technician associate in the Maquoketa garage.)

To: Iowa DOT Web site
From: Doug Nuss

I live in Oelwein and drive to Cedar Rapids for work. There is a bridge on highway 150, about one mile north of the Rowley exit that needs the approaches re-blacktopped. I heard they are repairing the bridge now. It is getting to be a pretty good jolt when going over.

Response to Mr. Nuss from Art Gourley, district field engineer in Dyersville:

The bridge you are referring to (Iowa DOT bridge #1034.9S150) is tentatively programmed for replacement in 2013. I drove over the bridge several times yesterday and thought the south approach rode relatively well, but the north approach is rough. I discussed this with Bill Federspiel at our Independence garage and he indicated the shop would do some hand leveling to improve the ride.

From Mr. Nuss to Gourley a few days later:
Awesome job on approaches to bridge. Thanks

To: Iowa DOT
From: Bob and Di Sinclair, Blairsburg

This is to inform you of a very nice "good deed" performed by two of your employees. On June 24, as we were traveling south on Interstate 35 between Ames and the Elkhardt exit, the left front tire of our vehicle went flat and was ruined by the time I got stopped on the shoulder. By the time I got the jack out, D.J. Robinson and Brad Fleming were stopping behind us with their arrow sign flashing to divert traffic to the inside lane. They insisted on changing the tire for us and disposing of its "carcass." D.J. and Brad were very efficient and cordial and we are very grateful for the excellent assistance. Thanks again.

(Editor's note: D.J. Robinson and Brad Fleming are highway technician associates in the Ames garage.)

To: Iowa DOT
From: David Mazgaj and Jill Leimkuehler, Cedar Rapids

On Wednesday, July 21, we had a flat tire on our camper on U.S. 151 North near the intersection of Skyline and Monastery Road (County Road D-41) near Dubuque. We received help from two Iowa DOT workers. They changed the tire and escorted us to a place to get a new tire for our camper. My wife and I are very grateful for their efforts. Thanks again for your help. My wife and I have an increased appreciation for the Iowa DOT workers when we see them on the road.

(Editor's note: The employees who helped David and Jill were Marty Goedken and Joe Kilburg, highway transportation associates from the Dubuque garage.)

To: Mary Ford, Driver Services
From: Nancy Casey, Infinity Financial Group, West Des Moines

I want to express my sincere gratitude to you, Renee Devine and Tracy Hodges in Iowa City for all you have done to help one of our clients obtain his Iowa identification card. When someone does something wrong, you usually hear about it. In this case, you all did something extremely "right," and I wanted you to know how much we all appreciate it. You put our client's health above protocol and went the extra mile to be of great service to him.

Tracy has called me several times to keep me informed of how the process is going. The communication between Tracy, our client and me has been outstanding. Please pass along to her my sincere appreciation for a job well done. Thank you all for seeing the big picture to help someone who truly needed it. It has been a pleasure working with such kind and devoted public service specialists.

(Editor's note: Renee Devine is a driver's license examiner in the Ames DL station. Tracy Hodges is a driver's license supervisor 1 in the Iowa City DL station. The client mentioned is a home-bound individual who needed a state-issued ID card. Devine and Hodges were able to assist him.)



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TROPHY CASE

Professional acknowledgements



(left) Luana Stoneking, award recipient from the city of Ames; Judy Lehman, city of Cedar Rapids and IPPA president; Pat Harmeyer, award recipient from the Iowa DOT

Pat Harmeyer, public service executive 3 in the Office of Support Services, was recognized and received an award at the Iowa Public Procurement Association (IPPA) conference June 10 in Iowa City. The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) is recognized for setting high standards of professional purchasers; the IPPA chapter is sponsored by NIGP. The Iowa chapter was established in 2009, and due to Harmeyer's diligent efforts, is now considered a mid-size chapter, an amazing accomplishment for a chapter that has only been active for one year.



The Association of Iowa Archaeologists has named **Matt Donovan**, historic preservation specialist in the Office of Location and Environment, as president of the organization for the 2010-2011 term.

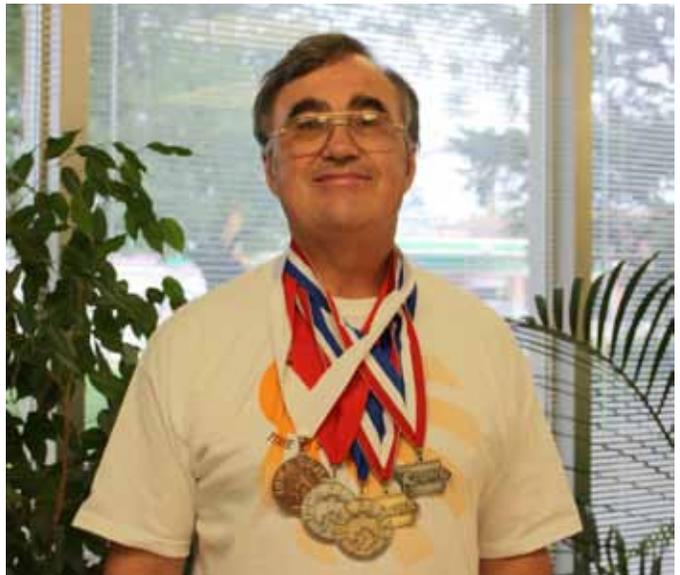


Kim Snook, director of Driver Services, was named an "Extra Miler" in the 2009 State Ombudsman's report. The report says the four people noted are public employees recognized as special because they deliver top quality service. The report honored Snook "for be-

ing extremely responsive to our inquiries and very customer service-oriented. She takes a 'hands-on' approach to handling complaints and explains clearly the agency's position."

Snook received a certificate for this honor and a personal thank you letter from William P. Angrick II, Iowa's citizens' aide/ombudsman.

Personal awards



Jim Kelly, compliance officer 1 in Contracts, participated in the Iowa Senior Olympics in June and Iowa Games in July in the 60-64 age group. In the Senior Olympics, Kelly received a silver medal in the discus and gold medal in the shot put. In the Iowa Games, he received a bronze medal in the long jump, silver medal in the discus and gold in the shot put.

More Iowa DOT retirees

The following retirement items were submitted by the retirees' work units. All retirees left under the State Employees Retirement Incentive Program.

District 2



On June 24, the Manchester construction office bid farewell to (from left) Ronald Batterton, construction technician senior, 42 years; Dennis Erikson, construction technician senior, 41 years; Larry Goranson, construction technician, 39.5 years; Steven Bellmer, construction technician supervisor, 26 years; and Michael Francois, construction technician, 39 years.

The Manchester construction office appreciates their 187.5 years of service and accomplishments. We wish them many happy retirement years.



Bill Anderson retired as a highway technician associate in the Clarion garage in March after more than 18 years of service.



Mark Brown retired as a highway technician associate in the Latimer garage on April 29 after more than 30 years of service.



Larry Golden retired as an equipment operator senior in the Clarion garage June 24 after more than 19 years of service.



Arlen Olson retired as a highway technician associate in the Latimer garage June 24 after more than 19 years of service.

No photo available

Dean Potratz retired as an equipment operator senior in the Clarion garage April 29 after more than 21 years of service.



Steven Poshusta retired as a highway technician associate in the Decorah garage June 24 after more than 34 years of service. While at the Iowa DOT, Poshusta worked in both maintenance capacities and as an inspector for construction projects.

No photo available

Ray Saathoff retired as the mechanic in the Clarion garage April 29 after more than 30 years of service.

Retirements, continued on next page

Retirements, continued from previous page



Larry Trende retired as a highway technician associate in the Decorah garage June 24 after more than 32 years of service.

He started work for the Iowa DOT in the Cresco garage in 1978. Trende transferred to Decorah during the 2002 reduction in force, but continued to plow snow out of the old Cresco garage. Trende also worked for District 2 materials office as a shared employee from 2002 until his retirement.

District 3

No photo available

Steve Conley retired March 30 after more than 38 years of service. Conley began working full-time for the Iowa State Highway Commission July 1972, when he was hired as an engineering aide 1. He was promoted to engineering aide 2 in January 1975. Conley decided to try something different and transferred to the Cherokee garage in July 1982 to work as an equipment operator. By May 1984 he decided to return to Cherokee construction. Conley was promoted to construction technician 1 in April 1989. In April 2002, he was promoted to construction technician senior.

No photo available

Ray DeWall retired June 24 after 22 years of service. He began working for the Iowa DOT in June 1988 as an equipment operator 1. He was based out of Pocahontas and reported to staff in Humboldt. He was later permanently assigned to the Pocahontas garage. In June 2001, DeWall was reclassified to equipment operator and to highway technician associate in June 2007. In his spare time he enjoys playing golf.

No photo available

Chuck Mann retired May 27, just shy of his 39th service anniversary. He began working for the Iowa State Highway Commission in July 1971 when he was hired as a highway maintenance man assigned to work at the Spencer garage. In June 1976, Mann transferred to the Cherokee garage as an equipment operator. Mann also served as a shared worker with construction during the summer months.

In memory



Mark Kerper, age 55, of Ames, died Saturday, July 17, in an automobile crash in Dubuque County. Kerper was born July 31, 1954, in

Sherrill, the son of Anthony and Lola (Jaeger) Kerper. He graduated from Wahlert High School in Dubuque. He then attended Loras College and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville before attending Iowa State University. Kerper received his degree in civil engineering in 1977 and began his career at the Iowa DOT that same year. He married Karen Allen July 12, 1980. The couple lived in Ames where Kerper worked in the Iowa DOT's Office of Location and Environment. Kerper had several hobbies, including hunting, fishing, cooking, gardening, listening to the Rolling Stones and enjoying time with his wife, two daughters and other family members. He also sat through countless dance recitals, gymnastics meets, and UNI and ISU football games.

Kerper is survived by his wife, Karen of Ames; daughters, Shannon and Mandy, both of Ames; his father, Anthony Kerper of Sherrill; twin sister, Marilyn (Rick) Klein of Dubuque; brothers, Randy (Marsha) Kerper of Altoona, and Russ (Julie) Kerper of Dubuque; and father-in-law, Robert Allen of Ames; sisters-in-law, Marce Allen and Christine (Charles) Baxter; and brother-in-law, Steven (Lisa) Allen.



Dennis Hudson Ehlert, 69, died Sunday, July 11, at his rural Cambridge home. Ehlert was born May 12, 1941, to Hudson and Mamie (Voss) Ehlert in rural

Woodbine. He graduated from Woodbine High School in 1959 and attended Iowa State University and Wayne State College.

Ehlert married Lorraine Hawn Aug. 14, 1965, in Missouri Valley. The couple was blessed with five children. They made their family home on a farm in rural Cambridge for the past 35 years. Ehlert enjoyed hobby-farming, working at Joy and Johnson Auction in Ames and following his children's activities. He loved to travel with his family, coordinate events and spend time with the ones he loved. He was the true patriarch for his entire family.

Ehlert worked for the State of Iowa for 31 years, two years with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and then the remainder of his career with the Iowa DOT's Motor Vehicle Division. He retired from the DOT in 1998. In 2001, the Ehlerts spent time in Woodbine where they cared for Dennis' mother, Mamie. While in Woodbine, Ehlert was an active participant of the community and a member of the men's choir, The Notables. Ehlert was a devoted member of the Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames and became an active member of the Nevada Golden Kiwanis Club. He loved being close to his family and grandkids.

Ehlert is cherished by his wife and best friend, Lorraine; he was "Dad" to four daughters and a son: Christine (Amy) Ehlert of Ames, Stacie (Nick) Heridge of Nevada; Jeremy (Jamie) Ehlert

In memory, continued on next page

In memory, continued from previous page

of Grimes; Jennifer (Matt) Zeka of Clive; and Katherine (Travis) Ehlert-Johnson of Boxholm. Ehlert was "Papa" to eight grandchildren: Carter, Samantha, Hudson, Salem, Amelia, Jack, Quinn and a new baby granddaughter on the way.

Jack N. Olson, 75, of Cherokee, died Tuesday, July 20, at his home following a courageous battle with cancer. Olson was born May 20, 1935, in Cherokee, to Leonard and Emily (Phipps) Olson. He was raised and lived his entire life in Cherokee. He graduated from Wilson High School in 1953. He went to work for the Iowa State Highway Commission on June 1, 1953, as a diesel mechanic. He served in the U.S. Army from Feb. 14, 1955, to February 1957 following the Korean War.

Olson was married to Dorothy Werner on Dec. 1, 1962, in Sioux City. He was a volunteer fireman for the Cherokee Fire Department for 39 years and served as fire chief from 1990 to 2007. He was a part-time emergency medical technician and paramedic for Sioux Valley Memorial Hospital (Cherokee Regional Medical Center) for 29 years. He retired from the Iowa DOT in November 1995.

Olson was on the original 911 board and the EMS Board. He was baptized, confirmed and a lifelong member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Cherokee. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, trapping, firefighting, taxidermy and radio-controlled model airplanes, and was interested in history.

Olson is survived by his wife, Dorothy; three daughters: Keisha (Rick) Todd of Holstein; Keila (Mark) Glienke of Alta; and Kerisa (Wayne) Pingel of Cherokee; his mother, Emily Olson of Cherokee; seven grandchildren; and many other friends and family members.

Orme M. Wiltse Jr., 71, of Charles City, died Wednesday, June 16, at the Floyd County Medical Center. Wiltse was born Feb. 7, 1939, in Floyd County, the son of Orme and Viola (Freebury) Wiltse Sr. He attended the Charles City High School. On July 23, 1960, he was united in marriage to Loretta Jean Whitmarsh at Lyle, Minn. Orme served in the U.S. Army from 1962 to 1964. He was employed by the Iowa State Highway Commission and Iowa DOT at the Charles City garage from 1967 to 1997.

Orme was a member of Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church and a lifetime member of the V.F.W. and American Legion. His interests included driving his new car, fishing, and asparagus and mushroom hunting. He loved to visit his grandchildren and great grandchildren, have morning coffee with his two sisters, and spend time with his dogs and his wife, Lori.

Living family members include his wife, three sons: Richard (Kathy Deel) of Colorado Springs, Colo; Randall (Minesa) of Charles City and Ryan of Charles City; two daughters: Deb (Randy) Aynes of Middle Town; and Renee (Reams) Smith of Keokuk; four grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and many other family members and friends.

Family happenings

Traffic and Safety

Stephanie Anderson



Mike Seek and another fan at Star Wars In Concert at the Iowa Events Center July 5

On June 26, Mike Seek, sign fabricator 2 in the sign shop, journeyed with his daughter to Trek Fest in Riverside, Iowa. They went to participate in a quest for the Guinness Book of World Records for the most people in Star Trek costumes. The record was broken with 153 people. On July 5, 2010, Seek donned his costume to attend Star Wars In Concert at the Iowa Events Center. He said it was the most fun he had ever had at a concert.

Personnel updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for July 9 to July 22

New hires

Richard Brand, mechanic, Repair Shop; **Joseph Burns**, highway technician associate, Coralville garage; **Bill Cornelius**, design technician specialist, Design; **Bret Crim**, information technology specialist 2, Information Technology Division; **Jeffrey Duncan**, construction technician assistant, Design; **Douglas Egesdal**, highway technician associate, Grundy Center garage; **Crystal Hayes**, motor vehicle officer, Motor Vehicle Division; **Andrew Hick**, highway technician associate, Perry garage; **Angela Nepereny**, driver's license clerk, Des Moines DL station; **Troy Palmer**, mechanic, Repair Shop; **Jose Perez**, information technology specialist 2, Information Technology Division; **Melanie Pilgrim**, secretary 2, Highway Division; **Jeremy Purvis**, transportation engineer intern, Marshalltown construction; **Judith Roy**, driver's license clerk, Des Moines DL station; **Jason Scherf**, highway technician associate, Coralville garage; **Jess Smith**, mechanic, Repair Shop; **Vladimir Tereshchuk**, information technology specialist 4, Information Technology Division; **Corey Thumma**, highway technician associate, Coralville garage; **Anne Turcotte**, transportation planner 1, Systems Planning; **Ryan Ward**, executive officer 1, Public Transit; **Christopher Wicklund**, motor vehicle officer, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Blake Wittrock**, motor vehicle officer, Motor Vehicle Enforcement

Promotions

Moses Borntreger, from highway technician associate to highway technician, Ames garage; **Kristin Brostrom**, from transportation engineer intern, Design to transportation engineer, Bridges and Structures; **Dennis Perrin**, from mechanic, Marion garage to highway maintenance supervisor, Cedar Rapids garage; **Ryan Sundine**, from highway technician associate to highway technician, Boone garage

Transfers

James (Brien) Keltner, highway maintenance supervisor, from Washington garage to Anamosa garage; **Barry Sieh**, engineering technician senior, within Local Systems

Retirements

None

Service awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for August and September 2010.

August

40 years

Sam Moussalli, Materials

35 years

None

30 years

Kathy Matthews, Spencer DL station; **Michael Rummelhart**, Design

25 years

Shannon Anderson, Ames maintenance; **Charles Belgarde**, District 5 field staff; **Ronald Caudle**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Brian Cudworth**, Ottumwa garage; **Rebecca Goodman**, Martensdale garage; **Leland Gritton**, Tipton garage; **Scott Hanson**, Contracts; **Dale Harmon**, District 5 Office; **Tom Jungers**, Ashton garage; **Todd Moline**, District 1 Office; **Mark Plueger**, Le Mars garage; **David Ramirez**, District 6 Office; **Wesley Riley**, Maintenance; **Kirk Romsey**, Design; **Charles Seeland**, Manchester construction; **David Smith**, Leon garage; **Glenn Uglum**, New Hampton construction; **Brian Wiedenhoef**, Davenport garage

20 years

John Drilling, Sac City garage; **Steve Gent**, Traffic and Safety; **Kurt Harvey**, Systems Planning; **Peggy Phipps**, Traffic and Safety; **William Schmidt**, Anamosa garage

15 years

Aaron Dahl, Greenfield garage; **Brian Iles**, Mount Pleasant garage; **Allen Lehman**, Bridges and Structures; **Vickie Simmons**, Motor Carrier Services; **Brian Westergaard**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement

10 years

Vicki Brown, District 4 Office; **Heather Thompson**, Information Technology Division

5 years

Erika Eckstein, Vehicle Services; **Billie Hoch**, Motor Carrier Services; **Christine Hood**, Ames maintenance; **Julius Jepsen**, Cherokee construction; **Huy Luong**, Design; **Georgnia Stone**, Des Moines DL station

September

45 years

Wayne Brensell, District 3 field staff

30 years

Dick Mattox, Council Bluffs garages; **James McGlynn**, Support Services; **Steven Paul**, Information Technology Division; **Mary Schaer**, Driver Services

Service awards, continued on next page

Service awards, continued from previous page

25 years

Kevin Bennigsdorf, Cherokee construction; **Eileen Buchanan**, Right of Way; **Daniel Chipera**, District 2 Office; **Dixie Harrison**, Ida Grove garage; **Alan Lightfoot**, Jefferson construction; **Stanley Nolta**, Bridges and Structures; **Kathy Ohorilko**, Driver Services; **Clyde Tobey**, Davenport garage

20 years

Marcia Campbell, Mount Pleasant construction; **Philip Jensen**, Des Moines maintenance; **Fronzell Pankey**, Materials

15 years

Mary Andrews, Marshalltown DL station; **James Brundies**, Davenport construction; **Dawn Hansen**, Cedar Rapids maintenance; **Kevin Lewis**, Newton garage; **Bob Peters**, De Witt garage; **Tanner Thomsen**, Support Services

10 years

Dennis Altman, Cherokee garage; **Julie Brooks**, Support Services; **Russell Cornelius**, Carroll garage; **Matthew Gergen**, Waverly garage; **Robert Kirchner**, Donnellson garage; **Timothy Livingston**, Des Moines garage; **Norman Nickel**, Des Moines garage; **James Schnoebelen**, District 6 Office; **Robert Welper**, District 2 Office

5 years

Christina Bell, Des Moines DL station, **Nichole Martens**, Dubuque DL station; **Steven Milligan**, Design; **Roger Mortvedt**, Information Technology Division; **Jeffrey Mumm**, Design; **David Thies**, Transportation Data

TIPS FROM THE GREEN TEAM

Green paint options

Conventional paint contains volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Some people suggest painting with low- or no-VOC paint is a healthier, greener option. Certain characteristics set low-VOC and no-VOC paints apart from standard, conventional paints:

- **Different materials.** Instead of synthetic materials, solvents and pigments, low-VOC and no-VOC paints can be made from natural materials. These often include milk proteins, clay, limestone, berries, minerals, soy and essential oils.
- **Environment.** Using low-VOC or no-VOC paints can reduce the amount of harmful VOCs released into the atmosphere and ozone layer. These paints may have less odor and fumes than standard paints. Plus, they are less hazardous to the ground and water supply when discarded.
- **Health.** Because of their reduced toxins, low-VOC and no-VOC paints are sometimes recommended for people with sensitivities and allergies.



Adapted from
www.greendivamom.com

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.

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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS ISSUE

On the cover: Balloon travel, while not very practical for commuting, is an excellent way to see the Iowa countryside.

I-Spy clue: Reflections are not always a mirror image.

August I-Spy solution: There was no I-Spy in August.

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.....	Theresa Kern , 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
Modal offices.....	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
Systems Planning	Peggy Riecken , Ames	515-239-1664
Traffic and Safety	Stephanie Anderson , Ames.....	515-239-1746
Transportation Data	Jodi Malin , Ames.....	515-239-1289
Vehicle Services	Becky Sawatzky , Ankeny	515-237-3182

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Isaiah's survival story

It was only a mile or so to the next farm field. Two years ago, when Isaiah Krull, then 16, climbed into the back seat of his friend's car on the way to the next detasseling job, he thought, "I don't need to wear a seat belt; it's only a mile or so." When Isaiah woke up several weeks later in the hospital, memories of the crash that nearly took his life were cloudy at best.

Isaiah and his two friends had been detasseling corn near the northeast Iowa town of Reinbeck. It was a hot, dusty day when the three teens finished one field and prepared to move on to the next. Isaiah said, "The other two got in the front seat and put on their seat belts because that was the law. Because I was in the back seat, I didn't put mine on because I didn't have to."

On the way to the next field, the dust was so thick the driver never saw the converted school bus, until it was too late. Isaiah said the front seat passenger in the vehicle instinctively put his head between his legs, just as the window above him was shattered and the top half of the car severed. "That saved his life," said Isaiah. "I bounced around the back seat and ended up with many injuries, but I was lucky to be alive. I think I'm alive today to share the message that everyone needs to wear a seat belt, no matter where you are in the car and no matter how old you are."

Isaiah, a 220-pound football player at the time of the crash, thought restraints in the back seat were only for children. "I always thought little kids should wear seat belts. It is easy to see where they might be thrown around if they didn't have seat belts. But I thought I was too big for that. I was wrong." Upon impact with the bus, Isaiah's body was projected forward, tossing him toward his friends. The roof of the car came down and sent him back to the back seat. When emergency responders arrived at the scene, he was airlifted to Covenant Hospital in Waterloo, where he remained briefly, and then he was airlifted to Iowa City due to the severity of his brain injury.



Following the crash, Isaiah had to relearn most basic functions.

He said, "My injuries were caused by flying around during the crash and hitting my head. If I had been wearing a seat belt that day, I probably would have been fine, just like the driver."

As a result of the crash, Isaiah suffered a fractured right cheek and severe traumatic brain injury. He spent 10 days in a coma, a month in the Iowa City Children's Hospital, and then another two and a half months at a rehabilitation clinic in Chicago where he had to relearn how to walk and talk. For much of that time, he was fed through a feeding tube. "They told my parents that they didn't think I would ever be able to do much," said Isaiah, now a student at Hawkeye Community College.

Isaiah joined lawmakers, law enforcement officers and Iowa DOT officials to promote stricter seat belt laws. On July 1, a new restriction was put in place that all individuals under age 18 must be restrained regardless of vehicle seating position.

But Isaiah is not done yet. "This was a first step," he said, "The next time around the law needs to be for everyone, including adults, to wear seat belts. I don't want anyone to have to go through what I've been through."

Isaiah spent 10 days in a coma following the crash.