

FALL 2011

# INSIDE



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## Training brings DL examiners together

**H**ave you ever played telephone? One person starts with a comment. That comment is passed from person to person. Often the information communicated to the last person is far different from what the first person intended. Streamlining communication by getting all stakeholders in one room at one time reduces the chances of the “telephone” effect and allows everyone to hear the same message.

Because consistency in licensing Iowa drivers is key to the success of one core business at the Iowa DOT, delivering consistent communication to all examiners is essential. At this year’s Iowa DOT driver’s license examiner’s in-service, held Sept. 19-21 in Marshalltown, the message was heard loud and clear - change is coming.

Barb West of the Office of Driver Services, says the once-a-year gathering is critical with so many program updates coming in the near future. “The two-day agenda was packed with information all the examiners need to do their jobs more consistently every day.”

Online issuance and the coming acceptance of credit and debit cards were hot topics of discussion. Other agenda items covered new equipment, like backup cameras and park assist options, that examiners are dealing with during driving tests; and changes to the way commercial driver’s license (CDL) testing is conducted.

The meeting, funded by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), focused a significant amount of information on motor carrier issues. Among the FMCSA topics were the upcoming changes to federal regulations related to medical information necessary for a driver to obtain a CDL and the scheduling of all CDL drive tests through a Web-based system. West said, “The Web-based scheduling system is very secure and allows all DL stations and third-party testing sites, such as community colleges, to plan ahead for staffing and other resources. It will really help with our record-keeping because a driver’s testing information is stored in a national database that can be accessed by FMCSA or any authorized licensing agency.”



*Front row, from left: Shanna Kaufmann, Muscatine; Patty Hoffa, Waterloo; Connie Redig, Cedar Rapids; Vivian Streit, Mason City; Connie Kent, Ankeny; Michael Cooper, Ankeny; Chris McDowell, Ames; Marilyn Henderson, Ankeny; Bobbie Reed, Ankeny; Renee Devine, Ames; Norma Black, Marshalltown; Mari Shott-Goeke, Cedar Rapids; Julie Cox, Fort Dodge; Mary Ford, Driver Services; Kim Snook, Driver Services*

*Second row, from left: Kathy McLearn, Driver Services; Barb West, Driver Services; Pam Kendrick, Carroll; Rene Miller-Bunce, Cedar Rapids; Veda Molina, Ankeny; Nikki Martens, Dubuque; Amy Hill, Sioux City; Cheryl Johnson, Ottumwa; Beth Fiala, Council Bluffs; Tammy Adrian, Dubuque; Michelle Bush, Iowa City; Josie Bartley, Spencer; Char Waller, Ottumwa; Traci Sharr, Ankeny; Tracy Keel, Davenport; Sharon Bracelin, Ankeny; Johnie Peek, Burlington; Lugene Verploeg-Coop, Ankeny; Connie Velder, Fort Dodge; Sherri Ketelsen, Clinton; Colleen Kenkel, Council Bluffs; Rebecca Moritz, Sioux City*

*Back row, from left: Ken Barker, Carroll; Jose Maldonado, Ankeny; Bryan Nguyen, Ankeny; Dave Anderson, Iowa City; Brenda Bradford, Ankeny; Rianna Lane, Ankeny; Robin Halpin, Cedar Rapids; Lu Thiede, Davenport; Gina Abben, Waterloo; Missing from photo: Kari Juhl, Waterloo*

# Warm-mix asphalt takes off in Iowa

**W**hen a new pavement product or process comes along that appears to benefit all parties involved, the Iowa DOT, along with our industry partners, often leads the nation in research. That is the case with a nationally recognized new warm-mix asphalt (WMA) project in southwest Iowa.

The demonstration project on U.S. 34 west of Creston is part of a national NCHRP 9-49 study being led by Washington State University and Texas Transportation Institute to evaluate the moisture susceptibility and long-term performance of WMA. Norris Asphalt of Ottumwa is the paving contractor for the project that will compare the effects of two different chemical additives for hardness and moisture sensitivity to a hot-mix asphalt (HMA) control.

"This is a great opportunity to include a section of pavement constructed in Iowa with local materials in a national study. We hope to learn more about the behavior of WMA as the test sections are evaluated over time. Nationally, more than 32 million tons of WMA have been placed, with no failures reported. In Iowa, we have placed more than 300,000 tons of WMA with great results. We will be moving to a permissive specification for next year's projects, allowing the contractor to choose whether to use WMA or HMA," said Scott Schram, Iowa DOT bituminous engineer.

Brady Meldrem, president of Norris Asphalt, sees the advantage of WMA another way, "Yes, there is a fuel cost savings at the plant. Yes, there are some environmental advantages of using WMA, but the deciding factor for us was the better working environment for our employees. The drop in temperature of 50-100 degrees Fahrenheit, no fumes or smell, is better for our employees, and that is what matters to us."

On Sept. 7, more than 30 attendees witnessed the benefits of WMA first hand. The asphalt was produced at approximately 260 degrees Fahrenheit, a drop of roughly 50 degrees below hot-mix asphalt production temperatures and compacted behind the paver at 245 degrees Fahrenheit.



*A Norris Asphalt employee works on the warm-mix pavement on U.S. 34 near Creston.*

Previous studies of WMA have found that WMA takes less compaction effort to achieve density of the new pavement. "We are looking at the use of WMA as a win-win situation for both the Iowa DOT and contractors," continued Schram. "Equivalent or better quality material is being provided by contractors, with the added benefits of a friendlier work environment and reduction of greenhouse gases. We are able to rely on WMA during cold weather operations, as well as provide an added value at a reduced cost to taxpayers."



*Warm-mix asphalt temperatures can be 50 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit less than hot-mix asphalt.*



## Cultural Resources at the Iowa DOT

By 1966, when the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was signed into law, Congress recognized that progress could not come at the expense of history. For the first few years following enactment of the NHPA, many federal agencies were still learning just how to assess their impacts on historic properties. In the 1970s, the Federal Highway Administration delegated this responsibility to the Iowa DOT. This process includes researching impacts to historic properties during highway and other transportation projects, both at the state and local levels. Currently, four members of the Office of Location and Environment's cultural resources section are charged with investigating the impacts proposed projects, large and small, have on historic resources. Often termed "historic properties," these historic structures, districts and archaeological sites factor significantly into our heritage as determined by criteria created by the National Register of Historic Places.

*Senate Bill 3035, the National Historic Preservation Act, was signed into law Oct. 15, 1966. This landmark piece of legislation requires Federal agencies to evaluate the impact of all federally funded or permitted projects on historic properties (buildings, archaeological sites, etc.) through a process known as Section 106 Review.*

Randy Faber, who has been working in this field for 30 years, says this type of work has evolved to both protect the historic properties and advance the highway projects. "Back in the 1970s, we worked primarily with the University of Iowa to identify cultural resources. The cultural surveys were not extensive and projects were sometimes delayed when historic properties were discovered during construction. Now the department contracts with several private consultants, in addition to the University of Iowa; comprehensive surveys are completed in advance; and projects can be altered or the impacts mitigated to save planning time and attempt to preserve the historic properties."

Over time, Faber says, the work done in this office has become far more intense. He said much more information is gathered and technology has changed the way data is stored and shared. He said, "Almost everything we do now is related to geographic information systems. GIS data linked with the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) databases can be retrieved quickly when we need it. Although the major project corridors have been surveyed for cultural resources, only about 3 percent of the state has been investigated."



*The cultural resources team, from left: Matt Donovan, Libby Wielenga, Brennan Dolan and Randy Faber*

Faber works with Matt Donovan, an 11-year DOT veteran; Libby Wielenga, who has been at the Iowa DOT for four years; and Brennan Dolan, who joined the group last year. Each member of the group is responsible for the historic preservation survey work in a certain part of the state, and each person brings their own talents that can be utilized statewide, as needed.

Donovan has a background as an Iowa archaeologist and historian. Having degrees in both fields has provided him the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge base in cultural resources management. He is currently working toward his doctorate in history and archaeology at Iowa State University, where he focuses his studies on the history of Iowa archaeology. "Since I joined the Iowa DOT during the summer of 2000, I've had the chance to see and work with some great archaeological and historical studies brought about by our work here in the cultural resources section. When I tell people what I do for a living and where I work, they'll often say, 'I didn't know the Iowa DOT did that, but I'm glad they do.'"

Dolan's specialty is also field archeology. His background in private consulting and with other agencies has provided a broad range of experiences around the Midwest. Now being with the Iowa DOT provides him with stability to be near friends and family, but also some flexibility to work in the field. "We have completed a few small surveys this year, which allows us to be nimble and meet the needs of projects," he said. "I enjoy seeing a project all the way through from concept to completion. That's an element I did not have working in the consulting world."

Wielenga's background as an American historian and her knowledge of historic structures allows coverage of all aspects of the cultural resources field. "When a project may impact a historic property, whether archaeological or historic, one aspect of the process involves consultation," she said.

"I find it satisfying to collaborate with different groups

*Cultural resources, continued on next page*

*Cultural resources, continued from previous page*

and individuals to preserve the state's history, while also promoting the transportation needs for that community. It's sometimes challenging, but very rewarding when we can reach a balance."

One part of consultation done by the group is contacting all of Iowa's Native American tribes to see if they have an interest in or knowledge of the location proposed for a project. Faber said, "We have identified 32 tribes that have an ancestral or historical connection to Iowa. Some are more interested in our work than others, but in 2001 we began making a much more concentrated effort to contact the tribes and gain their input into the history of a given area."

The work done by this section varies, whether in the office dealing with the paperwork, in the field conducting surveys, or interviewing landowners and others who may have knowledge of the history at a certain location. While the process of identifying cultural resources and evaluating the impacts of a project on historic properties are strictly laid out in legislation, the group agrees that the variety of elements they come in contact with keeps the job interesting.

## I-74 bridge rehabilitation work progressing



*The Interstate 74 bridges over the Mississippi River are under rehabilitation this year. On the Iowa-bound bridge, as shown here, the right lane was closed for 38 calendar days and left lane closed for 33 days. Considering the high traffic volume on this bridge, the contractor received an incentive of \$1,950,000 for opening the bridge to two lanes of traffic before the maximum allowed 110 calendar days. (Photo by Roger Walton, District 6 bridge engineer)*

## Supervisors' Development Training Sessions

There was a different look to this year's Iowa DOT Supervisors' Development Training Sessions, held Sept. 27-28 at the Ramada on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines. For many, this was their first introduction to the new Iowa DOT Director Paul Trombino III.

Trombino welcomed the crowd, inviting them to explore new options and best practices, and calling on them to find new ways to measure performance and be accountable to the citizens of Iowa. Director Trombino explained to the group that, as a pay-as-you-go state, Iowa is in a better financial situation than many of our neighboring states that have borrowed money to accomplish transportation infrastructure projects.

During the conference breakout sessions, Iowa DOT supervisors attended meetings dealing with conflict management, ethics and conflicts of interest, and personnel topics including FMLA, ADA and workers' compensation. The fourth breakout was a roundtable discussion where the supervisors could bring any concern or comment to the entire Iowa DOT management team, including Director Trombino.

The following morning, two main sessions held the group's attention. The first, presented by professional speaker Randy Dean, focused on time and resource management, specifically managing e-mail. The group walked away with many time-saving tips. To cap off this year's meeting, Aaron Davis, known as "The Enthusiator," energized the crowd as they left the meeting motivated and inspired to take action back at their workplace.

*Iowa DOT Director Paul Trombino lays the ground rules for a roundtable discussion at the supervisors' training session.*



## New Web-based training courses available

The Technical Training and Certification Program recently added several new Web-based courses. These courses can be accessed at [www.iowadot.gov/training/index.html](http://www.iowadot.gov/training/index.html).

The process of taking a Web-based course is simple. Begin by establishing learning credentials (login and password). Once this is completed, an employee can take as many classes as your time allows. If you have already set up your learning credentials and forgot your password, call Chris Anderson at 515-239-1819 to have your password reset.

The new courses join close to 50 Web-based courses already available, including reviews for all the certification classes. Some of the classes already available include: math, plan reading, pipe inspection, preventive maintenance, self-consolidating concrete, and much more.

### New classes include:

**Chip seal best practices.** Included is information on chip seal, how they came into use, and how they are used as a preventive maintenance treatment for pavement. The course also includes material use, selection, compatibility and characteristics of chip seal design. There is information on equipment, construction practices, rolling operation, performance measurements and distresses.

**Roller-compacted concrete (RCC).** This course describes the characteristics of RCC pavement, how it works and the benefits. Included are the potential limitations, pavement selection considerations and typical uses of RCC. Materials required to produce a quality RCC mix, typical material testing, mix proportioning, RCC pavement design, well-graded aggregate and calculating thickness requirements are covered. There is information in the course on proper ways to handle and store RCC materials, types of mixing plants, batching and monitoring, and quality control. Subgrade and subbase preparation, pavers, joints, curing and general construction of RCC are all part of the course. This course is intended for intermediate to advanced level construction technicians who will be working with RCC pavements.

**Superpave for construction.** This course covers the benefits of using superpave compared to previous mix design methodologies, testing procedures and calculations. The course also includes the use of phase diagrams to calculate volumetric properties and factors that can influence key mass-volume relationships and calculations. This course focuses on the contractor or Iowa DOT's intermediate to advanced technician working on construction with superpave.



**Earth materials as engineering materials.** This training is an overview of the basic properties of earth materials or soil and their engineering properties as they relate to construction. The course discusses the types of soils, soil characteristics that effect engineering performance and the process of soil verification. It also includes the inspector's responsibilities as part of the contract specifications. This earthwork course would be applicable for anyone working with or inspecting earth materials for a project, from the basic technician to the advanced worker.

**Site preparation – earthwork series.** This training is designed to help an inspector understand the responsibilities of preparing the site for the start of the construction process. It includes clearing and grubbing responsibilities, processes involved during utility relocation, and the inspector's responsibilities during site preparation. This earthwork course would be applicable for anyone working on or inspecting site preparation for a project, from the basic technician to the advanced worker.

**Change orders, claims and dispute resolutions.** This course includes information on what constitutes a change in a transportation contract, different kinds of changes, authority behind change orders and regulations that impact changes. It also includes information on claims, determining validity, dispute resolution, and the best way to avoid disputes. This course would be most appropriate for the intermediate to advanced technician, but would be good information for anyone associated with highway claims, change orders or disputes on a project.

*Web-based training, continued on next page*

## French reciprocity agreement

**D**riving abroad got a little easier in late August when the Iowa DOT and French government exchanged a driver's license (noncommercial) reciprocity agreement. David Stutz from the Office of Driver Services worked with French officials to execute the agreement. He said, "This creates an opportunity for citizens of France temporarily residing in Iowa to exchange their French driver's licenses for an Iowa driver's license (noncommercial) without knowledge and skills testing. This is similar to how we exchange licenses for residents of other U.S. states. Iowans temporarily residing in France have the same benefit."

While the U.S. Department of State prohibits states from entering into binding agreements with foreign counties, this reciprocal exchange meets the requirements for a nonbinding arrangement.

Also present at the reciprocity agreement meeting was a representative of the German government. Iowa has had a similar agreement with that country's licensing agency since 2003.



David Stutz from the Iowa DOT's Office of Driver Services, (right) exchanges reciprocity agreement documents with a French official at the Iowa Statehouse.

### *Web-based training, continued from previous page*

**Bridge inspection safety.** This course covers the bridge inspector's safety practices, necessary construction site personal protective equipment, and potential safety hazards. This is a basic course and is intended for entry-level technicians, but is a good refresher for all technicians.

**Personal protective equipment (PPE) and high-visibility garments.** This course covers training or retraining in the proper use of PPE. It includes the proper care, useful life, limitations, and timely disposal of PPE. This is a basic course and is intended for entry-level technicians, but is a good refresher for all technicians.

The highly recommended Iowa DOT erosion and sediment control Web-based course is also available. Coming soon is the Iowa DOT structures course in Web-based training format.

For questions or comments about the Web-based training, e-mail [christie.anderson@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:christie.anderson@dot.iowa.gov) or call 515-239-1819.

## Support your co-worker's ideas



Whenever a co-worker or employee offers a suggestion or opinion, respond consistently. Follow these three steps.

- **Emphasize the positive.** No matter how crazy the idea, point out its benefits or praise the person for speaking up.
- **Identify drawbacks.** In a supportive tone, pose questions and raise concerns. *Example:* What happened when we tried that before?" not "We tried that before and it didn't work." Play the devil's advocate so employees weigh unfavorable outcomes.
- **Tweak and polish.** Virtually all ideas – good or bad – need sharpening. Help employees think in practical terms about how to improve the suggestion so that it is even better.

(Adapted from *Communications Briefings*, Special Issue)

## Life changes - a wellness success story

Last year, Allyssa Sweeney, right-of-way aide 4 in the Office of Right of Way, was at a turning point in her life. It was a struggle to make it through a day without feeling tired and stressed, to the point where she worried about how she would be able to take care of her kids at the end of the workday. At 200 pounds and coping with single motherhood to a one year old and a five-year old, Sweeney found her calling when a friend invited her to a benefit at Ames Racquet and Fitness Center (ARFC).

"After the benefit, I decided to check out a cardio dance class at ARFC," said Sweeney. "I fell in love with the class. It gave me a release from daily pressures and helped me see a more positive path for my life. The instructor was a huge motivator for me, and I don't even think she realized it."

Fitness and aerobics soon became Sweeney's passion. One year into her fitness journey, she's down nearly 70 pounds, is studying to become a certified fitness instructor through the American Council on Exercise and has recently been trained to teach a "GroupActive" class at ARFC. The one-hour class hits all the major components of a workout, cardio, strength, flexibility and core training. "In June, I attended training in Omaha to be able to teach this class," she explained. "This is the class that all new members are steered toward, but the intensity can be modified to fit a person at an intermediate fitness level. I want to be the kind of motivator for others that my first instructor was for me."

Juggling a full-time job at the Iowa DOT, a part-time job as a fitness instructor and being a single mom sharing custody of her two boys requires a lot of flexibility. Sweeney said, "The weeks I have my boys, I obviously can't spend as much time in the gym, but working out at home has already motivated them to try new things. We make working out a game and they enjoy that. I want them to see that living a healthy lifestyle is a big part of my life."

Sweeney's active lifestyle continues outside the gym, too. "At the end of October, I ran in my third 5K. I have also participated in the Mud Run and Warrior Dash, all this year."

Oftentimes, changing to a healthy lifestyle includes updating your diet. "I'm definitely more aware of healthy eating habits," said Sweeney. "I know what I should do, but I'm not always the best at following that. It's tough when I have the kids, because they are picky eaters and sometimes you just have to pick your battles. I'm sure we'll work on improving the way we eat as time goes on."

Sweeney continued, "I don't think I'm different from many of my co-workers," she said. "We all have a thousand things to get done in a day, and we could all benefit from making healthier choices. Treating fitness as a priority in my life has helped me in so many ways. My stress level is so much less when I get a good workout. I just want to share the lessons I've learned with others."

On her quest to help others, Sweeney is one of the founding members of the Iowa DOT's wellness committee. Watch DOTNET, local bulletin boards and INSIDE for updates on the committee's activities and how you can get involved and get started on a healthier lifestyle.

*From time to time, INSIDE will be printing employee wellness success stories to encourage healthy lifestyles among our co-workers. If you have a story to share, please contact Tracey Bramble at 515-239-1314 or e-mail [tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov).*



*Allyssa Sweeney in her element, the gym*



HyVee.

# Nutrition Notes

with Amy Clark



This is a great time of year to take advantage of one of nature's finest creations, apples. They have it all: great taste, good looks and nutritional aspects that just won't quit. An average, medium-sized apple contains just 80 calories, five grams of fiber, some vitamin C and antioxidants.

Among the antioxidants found in apples is quercetin. Quercetin is a phytochemical or nutrient that in essence creates "food as medicine." Quercetin promotes health in many ways. It improves cardiovascular health, reduces several cancer risks and has anti-inflammatory properties. It also has strong antioxidant activity that fights the free radicals in our bodies. Free radicals come from environmental factors such as pollution, radiation, cigarette smoke and herbicides. They wreak havoc on our healthy cells. They can cause disease and make us age more quickly. Recent studies even suggest that the antioxidants found in apples may improve your brain health.

Apples are a good source of fiber, which is important for cholesterol management and bowel function. Apples make a great snack for weight watchers because the fiber makes you feel full.

All of these, plus many more attributes, lead researchers to believe an apple a day may reduce the risk of strokes, cancer and cholesterol, while promoting healthier lungs, a pretty smile and a slimmer you.

The average American eats about one apple per week. Why not try to eat an apple a day and see how good you feel? There are hundreds of varieties of apples from which to choose. Some are sweet, others are tart, and some are crisp and crunchy, while others are soft and smooth. There is an apple to suit everyone's taste.

## Apple chicken stir-fry

Serves 4

### All you need:

- 1 lb cubed, boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- ½ cup sliced onion
- 1 cup sliced carrots
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 ½ tsp olive oil
- 1 cup Chinese pea pods
- 1 tbsp water
- 1 medium Golden Delicious apple
- 2 cups hot, cooked brown rice

### All you do:

1. Stir-fry cubed chicken in 1 tbsp oil in a nonstick skillet until lightly browned and cooked through. Remove from skillet.
2. In the same skillet, stir-fry onion, carrots and basil in 1-1/2 teaspoon oil until carrots are tender. Stir in pea pods and water. Stir-fry 2 minutes. Remove from heat.
3. Stir in apples. Add mixture to chicken.
4. Serve hot over cooked rice.

Nutrition information per serving: 220 calories, 24g carbohydrate, 2g dietary fiber, 4.5g fat, 20g protein, 60mg sodium

*This information is not intended as medical advice. Please consult a medical professional for individual advice.*



# Family happenings

## Design

Judy Lensing



**Ryan Miller**, and his wife, Kristy, welcomed their third child Aug. 18. Camden Beckett weighed 8 pounds, 10.5 ounces and measured 21 inches long. Everyone is doing well including big brother, Caden, 6, and big sister, Addyson, 3.

## Bridges and Structures

Judy Whitney



On Aug. 15, the Office of Bridges and Structures held a retirement coffee for **Bruce Brakke** in the Materials conference room. Brakke had been employed by the Iowa DOT since 1993 as the bridge inspection engineer. Prior to coming to the Iowa DOT, Brakke was the FHWA bridge engineer and worked closely with many Iowa DOT employees. Many current and previous state and federal employees were on hand to bid him farewell. Brakke says he plans to spend more time with his family, and especially his grandchildren.

To have your family happenings in **INSIDE**, contact your district, division or office representative listed on page 23.

## Operations and Finance Division

Sheri Anderson



**Rick Murray**, information specialist 2 in the Office of Multimedia Services, and his wife, Jana, welcomed their third son Aug. 31. Jarrett Alexander was born at 6:40 p.m. weighing 8 pounds, 14 ounces and was 22 inches long. Baby and mommy are doing well, and Rick got his hospital cafeteria food – so all is good in the Murray family. Jarrett joins big brothers Jory, 5, and Jace, 3 at home.

## Thank you

My husband, Steve, and I would like to thank everyone for their donation of leave following the birth of our son, Xander Thomas, born March 24. Your generosity took a burden off our family during the transition into parenthood for the second time around. We would also like to thank those who visited and sent well-wishes welcoming Xander. We are all delighting in the joyful chaos a newborn brings to a home, especially big sister, Jaedyn (4 ½), who is over the moon for her new brother.

Andrea and Steve Henry  
Office of Multimedia Services

*Family happenings, continued on next page*

*Family happenings, continued from previous page*

## Traffic and Safety

Stephanie Anderson



Somebody just had a birthday ending in "0." **Cory Anderson**, public service supervisor 3 in the sign shop, turned the big 4-0 Sept. 13. His wife, Jaye, wants to wish him good luck in the next 40 years and beyond.

## Motor Vehicle Division

Theresa Kern



**Trista Hills**, Driver Services in Ankeny, gave birth to a son Sept. 7. Guthrie Daniel Wilson weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 18 inches. Congratulations on the new addition!

## District 2

Lu Mohorne



**Stava Beatty**, highway technician associate in the Waterloo garage, and her husband, Troy, welcomed a daughter July 27. Baby Kaylee Jo weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 19 inches long. She is already the favorite of big brother, Tyler, 5.



Delilah (Lila) Lee Eilders was born Friday, Aug. 19, to **Miranda Eilders** and her husband, James. Mom Miranda works as a party chief on the District 2 land survey crew and proud grandpa is Ken Stark, District 2 land surveyor. Also waiting at home with lots of kisses for baby Lila is big sister Kenna Kaeann, 21 months.

## In memory

**David W. Moorhead**, 52, of Moorhead, died Friday, Aug. 26, from injuries suffered in a tractor accident. He was born March 12, 1959, to George and Darline (McCall) Moorhead, in Denison. He graduated in 1977 from East Monona High School. He then attended Iowa State University and received his Bachelor of Science in agriculture in 1981. While at ISU, he was a member of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. Following college, Moorhead returned to the family farm. Moorhead worked for the last 12 winters plowing snow for the Iowa DOT, where he was a trusted temporary employee, most recently at the Soldier garage.

Moorhead and his wife, Jeannie Bray Schmidt, were together since 1994, and the couple was married July 30, 2010, in Onawa.

Moorhead was a member of the Christian Church in Moorhead. He was baptized in January 1971. He served his church as a deacon and also the vice chair of the church board. He also served on the Moorhead Coop Board, East Monona school board, Amazing Energy Coop Board and was a member of the Farm Bureau where he held many positions. Moorhead was a member of the Monona County Cattlemen, Western Iowa Feeder Cattle, Spring Valley Township Clerk, Spring Valley Cemetery sexton, Jasper Masonic Lodge 223 in Onawa and the Sioux City Consistory.

He is survived by his wife, Jeannie; three stepchildren, Jesse Schmidt of Omaha, Danny Schmidt of Moorhead, and Katheryn (Tom) Rhymer of Sioux City; four stepgrandchildren, Sean, Sydney, Slade and Brayden Rhymer; mother, Darline Moorhead; brother, Paul (Cyndi) Moorhead; and nephew, Johnathan Moorhead, all of Moorhead; and many other relatives and friends.

**Billie Eugene Rutherford**, 69, son of Murl and Wilma (Hofman) Rutherford, was born June 29, 1942, in Des Moines. He passed away Thursday, Aug. 11, at his home in Guthrie Center. Rutherford was a lifelong resident of Guthrie Center, attending and graduating from Guthrie Center schools. His family owned and operated a successful business in Guthrie Center where Rutherford worked before serving in the United States Army from March 1964 until March 1966, fighting in the Vietnam War. Following his honorable discharge, he worked for Guthrie County for about three years. He then went to work for the Iowa DOT in 1970. He was a senior equipment operator and loved plowing snow. Rutherford retired in 2007 after 37 years of service.

He enjoyed refurbishing furniture and mirrors, doing carpentry work, family vacations, riding his motorcycle, and his dog, Rusty. He was a member of the First Christian Church, in Guthrie Center.

Rutherford was quiet, humorous and willing to do anything for the people he cared about. He was proud to be a father and husband, and loved his in-laws. Rutherford is survived by his wife; Della; children, Dana Rutherford and friend Cassie of Guthrie Center, Chad (Jessica) Rutherford of Des Moines, Kristi (Jay) McFarling of Ankeny, Mark (fiance Joni) Rutherford of Panora, and Nadine (Ryan) Gustin of Jefferson; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and twin sister Bettie.

**Robert "Bob" C. Hummel**, 87, of Whiting, Iowa, formerly of Sloan, passed away Thursday, Aug. 11, at a Sioux City hospital. Robert Curley Hummel was born June 15, 1924, in Cushing, Iowa, the eldest son of Ferdinand and Norma (Curley) Hummel. He loved growing up on the farm.

Hummel was baptized at St. John Lutheran Church in Cushing and graduated from Cushing High School. He was a World War II Army veteran, serving in Japan and the Philippines, reaching the rank of sergeant.

After his honorable discharge, he worked for Groth Trucking in Cushing. He met the love of his life, Shirley Mathers, and they were married April 2, 1949.

Hummel worked for Swift Packing and was a Swift explosion survivor. The couple later moved to Sloan, where he worked for the Iowa DOT, retiring in 1986 as a highway maintenance supervisor in the Onawa garage.

The Hummels enjoyed a wonderful life together. They were regular weekend campers when their children were young. Hummel was a highly skilled woodworker, making many gifts for Skien Lutheran Church. He loved to garden and golf, and was a member of Midwest Men's Senior Golf League. Hummel was a member of Skien Lutheran Church, serving as deacon and on the church council. He was a member of Smith-Rhodes American Legion Post 295 and proudly participated in numerous Memorial Day services. He also served on the Sloan Town Council.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley of Whiting; children, Kathy (Andy) Sieger of Whiting, Kevin (Denise) of Sloan, Linda (John) Gronert of Urbandale, Iowa, and Scott (Angelique) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; grandchildren, Carrie (Jon) Turnquist, Laura (AJ) Rieder, Heather Hummel, Nicole (Austin) Lee, Ben and Elizabeth Gronert, Mya and Noah Hummel and Ashton Harling; great-grandchildren, Brittany Turnquist, Hallie Lee and Grace and Alexa Rieder; a brother, David (Joan) Hummel of Danbury, Iowa; and brothers-in-law, Dan (Loretta) Mathers and Terry (Judy) Mathers.

*In memory, continued on page 20*

## New district engineers assume duties in southern Iowa



On Sept. 16, **Troy Jerman**, P.E., assumed his new duties as District 4 engineer. Jerman, a native of Anthon, has been with the Iowa DOT since 1989. He holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Iowa State University.

He began his career with the Iowa DOT as a co-op student in the Sioux City construction office in 1989 and then in the office of design in Ames. Jerman spent three years at the Cherokee construction office from 1994-1997. He then worked for six years at the Iowa DOT headquarters in Ames in the Office of Design, serving in the consultant coordination section as the field exam engineer. After being promoted to a senior transportation engineer in the Office of Traffic and Safety, where he spent seven years, Jerman was appointed last year as the assistant district engineer and later interim district engineer in the Iowa DOT's southeast District 5.

Troy and his wife, Renee, an administrative assistant 2 in the Office of Policy and Legislative Services, have three children, Karli, Teona and Ty.



**Jim Armstrong**, P.E., was named District 5 engineer, effective Sept. 16. Armstrong, who has been with the Iowa DOT since 2007, has served in southeast Iowa as the Iowa DOT District 5 local systems engineer and most recently as the District 5 construction engineer.

Prior to Iowa DOT service, Armstrong served as the Appanoose County engineer from winter 2001 to fall 2007. Armstrong also worked for the Missouri DOT from January 1990 to December 2001 as project development liaison engineer; District 9 design/planning engineer, design development engineer; and as design squad leader for District 1 office.

Armstrong holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Missouri, Rolla. Jim and his wife, Shannah, have four children, Leilah, James, Cloe and Clinton.

## TIPS FROM THE GREEN TEAM

### Five fall tips from the Green Team

#### 1. Compost your leaves and yard waste

Along with your food waste, you can compost leaves, grass, twigs, plant trimmings and more. Compost bins are easy to set up and require minimal effort to produce organic, rich soil by spring. Instead of dumping bags of leaves at the curb, add it to the compost bin, ensuring the matter gets recycled directly back into the earth.

#### 2. Plant bulbs

Planting perennials now will ensure beautiful flowers in spring. Flowers not only add to landscape beauty, they help to reduce storm water run off. Pesticides, petroleum, phosphorous and asphalt increase pollutants and temperature of water runoff, resulting in damaged water bodies. But gardens with native plants help to reduce the constant water runoff into area lakes, rivers and streams.

#### 3. Buy recycled clothing/give away what you don't need

Instead of buying a brand-new wardrobe every time the temperatures drop, rejuvenate your wardrobe with a few vintage or recycled finds instead. Clothing takes a serious toll on the environment - in production, shipping and some of it later taking over the landfill.

#### 4. Caulk the windows

Cooler days are just around the corner, so ensure that your home is more energy-efficient by caulking around cracks in windows and doorways. All of the little cracks and tiny holes equal the equivalent of about a 2-foot hole in the average home, according to CenterPoint Energy. By caulking those spaces now, you'll cut down on energy use and save money this winter.

#### 5. Do annual furnace maintenance and replace the filter

Cleaning and adjusting your furnace annually will ensure its operating efficiently, cut back on fuel use, and save you money this winter. It's inexpensive to do (will run you anywhere from about \$40 to \$100, depending on if you get the ducts cleaned, too), but will end up saving you hundreds of dollars in the long run.

*(Adapted from an article on [livegreentwincities.com](http://livegreentwincities.com))*



## Kudos!

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

To: Office of Driver Services  
From: Jerry Tamisiea, Spirit Lake

This letter is in commendation of your personnel at the Spencer and Spirit Lake driver's license stations. I hope their courtesy and professionalism is reflected in all of your people.

(Editor's note: Mr. Tamisiea appeared at the DL station in Spencer, where Driver's License Examiner Amy Sievers asked him to drive before his license could be renewed. A new examiner rode along to observe the process.)

To: Dena Gray-Fisher, Office of Multimedia Services  
From: Scott Sumpter

As a resident of Hamburg, who works in Omaha, I can't thank the Iowa DOT enough for all they have done during the past four months of flooding. I'm sure each and every office within the Iowa DOT has been struggling with shortage of manpower, money and whatever else, but I feel you have done an outstanding job in keeping the public updated with current road conditions and photos.

While it has been a very long summer for me and hundreds of others who had to evacuate their homes and still try to maintain a "normal" lifestyle, the DOT has been great!! Hearing that I-29 was open was music to my ears. While I know I won't be able access the interstate from Hamburg and will have to go either to Percival or Thurman, it beats traveling Iowa 275 to U.S. 34. Knowing that you are accepting bids for repair work on Iowa 2 to Nebraska City is also great news. I was prepared to travel the narrow back roads for at least a year, but now you have shattered those fears. Again, thanks for all the outstanding work this summer.

To: Paul Trombino III, P.E., Iowa DOT director  
From: T.J. Juskiewicz, RAGBRAI director

Each year we work with many people with the Iowa Department of Transportation to bring to the people of the State of Iowa one of the largest tourism events in the state. A recent study conducted by the University of Northern Iowa found that \$24 million of direct spending takes place during the week of RAGBRAI. This could not happen without the state's support of this annual event.

Key to our partnership is the safety of the people involved. Thanks to the involvement of the Iowa DOT we have consistently been provided the assistance to ensure the safest event possible. We at RAGBRAI and The Des Moines Register wish to express our thanks and appreciation for your efforts to once again fulfill our mission.

RAGBRAI truly could not continue without the Iowa DOT's and Iowa State Patrol's input to help select the bicycle route in early winter, map the support vehicle route, and assist whenever and wherever safety plays a role. We believe the safety of our guests is of the utmost importance to the ride.

For the past several years, the Iowa DOT's Office of Traffic and Safety has been instrumental in helping RAGBRAI avoid your department's planned construction, as well as major projects at the county level, before we decide our publicized route. Once the route is made public, the district planners in the proposed area help determine the safest possible routes that will not conflict with scheduled construction. Dakin Schultz, Scott Suhr, Mike Clayton, Catherine Cutler and Sam Shea were a huge help with this year's route.

RAGBRAI continues its standing as the oldest, longest and largest bicycle touring event in the world. We appreciate the support and resources from the Iowa DOT, and many state agencies that help make RAGBRAI a success!

Once again, thank you for the tremendous support and I look forward to working with you and the Iowa DOT to continue to make RAGBRAI a safe event for all to enjoy.

*Kudos! continued on next page*

*Kudos! continued from previous page*

To: Motor Vehicle Enforcement  
From: Scott Beam, Tipton

On July 15, my sister, father and I were traveling across the state when we had the misfortune of an automobile breakdown just east of Newton. Upon making contact with your department, we received very excellent and courteous, thoughtful assistance from Motor Vehicle Officers Robert B. Wittkowski and Troy Kuecker.

While my sister stayed with our automobile and made arrangements for towing it to the Ford dealership with assistance from one of the officers, the other officer took my father and I to the McDonalds at Loves Truck Stop. Both my father and I are physically handicapped and both of the officers were very careful and thoughtful for our comfort and safety.

We had too little opportunity to thank these officers for their assistance and I want to take this opportunity to do so. Both officers deserve special recognition for their services to us that day in the hour of our need. Thanks also to all who serve with them in the Iowa DOT.

To: Office of Driver Services  
From: Diane Finley

Just a note to tell you what a pleasure it was to be waited on by Dave Anderson at the Iowa City driver's license station. He was friendly and accommodating, while maintaining efficiency. I went with my daughter and granddaughter who was obtaining her instruction permit. Anderson was helpful through the whole process. With a good sense of humor, he answered my compliment about his job performance with a "My boss is watching."

(Editor's note: Dave Anderson is a driver's license examiner in the Iowa City DL station.)

To: Dena Gray-Fisher, Office of Multimedia Services  
From: Tom Michrina, Missouri Valley

The Iowa DOT has done a great job of keeping the public informed during the Missouri River flooding. The Iowa DOT has also done a terrific job of trying to keep the roads open and traffic flowing, including use of the TrapBags. I follow the DOT on Twitter and it really helps me stay informed. It has been difficult to get "real" information due to all of the rumors, but I've found the DOT has the most accurate information.

To: Captain Tom Bruun, Motor Vehicle Enforcement  
From: James R. Smith, South Haven, Mich.

I am writing to notify you of the outstanding, professional assistance that I (together with my three young nieces) received from Motor Vehicle Officer Jay Thornton on Thursday, July 21. Please note that I am a demanding, highly critical lawyer and businessman who rarely feels the need to follow-up and compliment someone in the manner I am doing so here.

On Thursday, July 21, I was driving from Chicago to Denver (where I had business) in a rental car. I was also taking my three young nieces along so they could visit with relatives in Denver that they had not seen in three years. While on Interstate 80 going westbound (approximately 35 miles west of Des Moines), I had a side wall blowout of the left-rear tire and luckily was able to safely pull over to the shoulder of the road. I opened the trunk to find that my rental car had no tire iron to take off the bad tire and install the temporary spare.

After spending about 30 minutes calling the rental car company and listening to their highly inefficient process for arranging for a tow truck to come out (all of which took place while we waited in the hot sun, approximately 95 degrees, and high humidity), my patience had just about come to an end and my nieces were becoming justifiably nervous about being on the shoulder with cars and trucks racing by.

Then Thornton arrived on the scene. He pulled behind us and turned his vehicle's lights on, which reduced the risk of our vehicle being hit from the rear. This was great comfort for me, given my concern for the safety of my nieces. In a calm, professional manner, Thornton asked how he could help. I explained that my rental car did not have a tire iron, to which Thornton then rummaged through a tool box in the trunk of his car and found a tire iron that luckily fit the lug nuts on my rental car. Thornton then, to my surprise, immediately began changing the damaged tire. After finishing the tire change, Thornton then gave us directions back to my rental car company's facility in Des Moines, using back roads instead of I-80 (given the quality of the temporary spare included with the rental car). Within minutes of his arrival, we were safely on our way back to Des Moines to exchange our rental car.

As a stranded motorist, I was (and remain) extremely grateful for Thornton's "Good Samaritan" actions which quickly, efficiently and safely got us on our way. His calm, professional manner greatly comforted my nieces who, as stated earlier, were beginning to get nervous. I found Thornton's professionalism to be first-rate and consider him to be an outstanding ambassador for the State of Iowa.

*Kudos! continued on next page*

*Kudos! continued from previous page*

To: Nancy Richardson (former DOT director)  
From: Rebecca M. Brewster and Steve Keppler,  
American Transportation Research Institute

Congratulations to you and your entire commercial motor vehicle enforcement team for being recognized as a Top Tier State in the recently released study Predicting Truck Crash Involvement by the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI). The success of your CMV enforcement team in reducing truck crashes has placed your state in the top 10 states nationwide.

ATRI's research details an objective performance measure based on the relative percent of CMV traffic enforcement in each state compared to the relative percent of truck crashes that occurred within that state. Based on the methodology described, Iowa placed eighth overall. This latest study is an update to ATRI's hallmark 2005 truck crash predictor research, which also identified Top Tier States; Iowa placed in the top 10 states in that report as well.

Understanding which commercial driver behaviors are most likely to lead to future crash involvement is a first step in mitigating those behaviors and ATRI's study does that based on an analysis of over 580,000 driver records. Equally important is the role of motor carriers and law enforcement in managing and enforcing driver behavior to limit the occurrence of those behaviors, and effectively reduce truck crashes. Your team's efforts on that front are clearly paying off and we are pleased to acknowledge your success as a Top Tier State in 2011.

To: Paul Trombino III, Iowa DOT director  
From: Susan Voss, Iowa Insurance Commissioner

We have not formally met, but I am the Insurance Commissioner for Iowa. I wanted to let you know about the great experience I had at the driver's license station on Euclid in Des Moines earlier this summer. I had my wallet stolen overseas and had to get a new license. I flew into town and went immediately to the station on a Friday. The women in the station could not have been more helpful and personable. It hardly took any time. And as I was waiting for the license, I watched them help many other Iowans both young and elderly. They were patient, efficient, helpful and polite. Needless to say, I was very impressed.

We often only hear about the "problems" with state government and its workforce. I wanted you to hear about a great experience with some terrific people. Please pass along my thanks for a job well done.

To: Iowa DOT  
From: Lisa Wiggins

I would like to thank your staff for their kindness and professionalism. I took my son to get his permit at the Ankeny driver's license station and was very happy with the experience, but I was most impressed by what I saw regarding another customer. An elderly gentleman was at the center and was having a lot of difficulty understanding and hearing. The woman assisting him was very kind and patient with him. It really impressed me to see the time she took with him. Even my son commented on it and expressed how nice she was to the man. Thank you.

To: Hope Arthur, Office of Multimedia Services  
From: Nathan Wilson, Office of Transportation Data

I just wanted to thank you for all of your hard work this spring. I know we kind of threw everything at you at once, after we found out we were going to have the summer program. Thank you for getting the maps printed as quickly as you did. That was awesome. Our whole office really appreciates your flexibility.

(Editor's note: Every year the Office of Multimedia Services' printing operation produces a large quantity of maps for the summer traffic count program for the Office of Transportation Data. The maps are typically printed well in advance of the summer program, but the unsure nature of the state budget caused a delay in deciding what printing would be necessary. Once a decision was made, the printing operation rushed all of the maps through at the last minute by using staff flex hours to run the equipment from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily until the maps were finished.)

To: Steve McMenamin, Office of Maintenance  
From: John Belknap, Madison, Wisc.

Total congratulations to the Iowa DOT. While driving from California to Wisconsin, I found out that California, Arizona and New Mexico have all closed rest stops except Welcome Centers. Semis had to park on exit/entry ramps along the interstate system. Kansas had a few rest areas open, but they were not maintained. Then I came to Iowa -- rest stops every 30 miles, all open, all spotlessly clean, all with attendants, all with WiFi. The buildings are attractively designed and equipped with vending machines. I stopped at an I-80 rest area after the Iowa football game Saturday, to avoid the traffic, and was so impressed. There was a worker, Nona, on duty all night. I would give Iowa DOT the blue ribbon in any national rest stop competition.

*Kudos! continued on next page*

**Kudos!** continued from previous page

To: John Vu, Cedar Rapids field office  
From: Linda Farrington, Central City

I was speaking with a friend the other day and she remarked about the work on Iowa 13 north and south of Central City and it made me think about how we just take for granted all the people involved in getting these types of projects done for us. Each of us likes to hear the words, "I appreciate the work you do," so would you please pass on to all those involved that we really do notice all the hard work of each and every one of you!

\*\*\*

To John Vu, Cedar Rapids field office  
From: Karen Lafler

Thank you for all the hard work that is being done on Iowa 13 near Central City. It is hot out there and they have to wear so much protective covering. They are also working such long hours for us. I really appreciate seeing the progress. It's inconvenient for a short time, but will make it a lot easier for us when it's done. Good job.

\*\*\*

To John Vu, Cedar Rapids field office  
From: Jane Webber

Just wanted to say thank you to the crew who has been working on Iowa 13. I live on Valley Farm Road in Central City and work in Marion. I travel Iowa 13 at least four days per week. We really appreciate all the hard work that is being done on the road to make it safer and much more user friendly. I just felt so bad every day coming home from work in my air conditioned car and all the workers are out in that unbearable heat. My hat is off to all the workers and thank you for all the work you are doing. Happy travels down Iowa 13.

To John Vu, Cedar Rapids field office  
From: Jared Douglas

I was involved in an automobile accident July 22 due to hydroplaning. The accident occurred on Interstate 80 at approximately marker 231 on the eastbound side. The Chevy HHR I was a passenger in hydroplaned at 70 mph and hit the new cable guard rails at approximately 65 mph. The rails slowed us down without a sudden impact and kept us from entering the median. I believe the new rails did a great job and probably kept me from sustaining serious injury. We had no injuries but the car appears totaled. Thank you to whoever is responsible for the new rails.

To: Nancy Richardson  
From: William R. Youngclas

On Tuesday evening March 15, my wife and I were driving back to Ames from Edina, Minn. after a meeting that didn't finish until after 10 p. m. We were heading south on I-35 and decided to stop at the last southbound rest stop in Minnesota. It was about 11:30 p.m. and we noticed there was an employee there working, which surprised us.

As we were nearly home I realized I had left my cell phone in the rest stop in Minnesota. Early the next morning I went to the cell phone store to "cancel" the phone and do whatever needed to be done. Unfortunately it didn't open until 10 a.m. I was too upset to just sit and wait, so I decided to call the Iowa DOT, as it is right here in Ames, and ask for advice.

A very helpful lady took my call, and although I explained to her that this problem happened in Minnesota and I just needed her counsel and advice (and sympathy) she worked diligently to find a helpful number in Minnesota. She could have simply given me a "generic" number in St. Paul for the DOT, but she stayed with it until she found a district contact out of Owatonna and gave me that number.

(Editor's note: Iowa DOT Receptionist Stacy Huston was the helpful voice who helped Youngclas find the correct person to call in Minnesota. The attendant at the Minnesota rest area had recovered Youngclas' phone.)

To: Motor Vehicle Enforcement  
From: Teresa Munn, Washington

Please accept my sincere gratitude and appreciation for taking the time out of your day to escort the bus bringing home the Iowa National Guard troops to Coralville July 28. My nephew was on that bus, along with others from the 133rd, and we were anxiously awaiting his safe return. There were tears of great joy as we saw your patrol car come around the corner with the other vehicles and the Patriot Riders because we knew the soldiers were just a few more feet away. Thank you so much and may God bless all that you do.

(Editor's note: Officers from Motor Vehicle Enforcement recently assisted with escorting several Iowa National Guard units to their homecoming ceremonies. This is just one of the thank you notes received for providing this service.)



## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TROPHY CASE

### Professional

**Scott Falb**, program planner 3 in the Office of Driver Services, recently received special recognition from the Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals (ATSIP) at their annual meeting in North Carolina. Falb was singled out for many years of dedication to the field of traffic records and highway safety. The award noted his knowledge, experience and tireless energy in elevating the quality of the safety data and records systems used today and the development and implementation of effective traffic safety programs.

f

Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Sergeant **Joe Colman** represented Iowa at the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) North American Inspectors Championship (NAIC) in Orlando, Fla. Colman joined 53 other inspectors from around the United States. Colman was a member of the winners in the team competition.



"We are proud to recognize and reward each of our 54 roadside inspectors from across North America who not only demonstrate their professional excellence and dedication to highway safety, but inspire others to do the same," said Stephen A. Keppler, CVSA's executive director. "Their enthusiasm and passion goes a long way in advancing commercial vehicle safety and saving lives due to the information, techniques and experiences they will share with others in furtherance of improving uniformity in the enforcement of highway safety standards across the continent."

"I applaud all the competitors who came from far and wide to be a part of this extraordinary contest. Their dedication to doing the best job possible helps us set the safety bar high for all inspectors and keeps trucks and buses operating safely on our highways," said Federal Motor Carrier Services

Administration Administrator (FMCSA) Anne S. Ferro. "Their tireless commitment to safety is not only inspiring to us all, it saves lives every day."

NAIC is managed by CVSA; funded in part by FMCSA and is successful due to strong industry participation and sponsorship. NAIC has been recognized by the American Society of Association Executives as an event that "Advances America."

f



**Phil Mescher, Garrett Pedersen and Hale Strasser (left to right)** are recent graduates of the Certified Public Manager (CPM) program at Drake University. In May, they were notified that each of their projects won the George C. Askew award. The Askew Award is given to acknowledge the efforts of those who have demonstrated exemplary work in the completion of their CPM projects, which are a vital component of each participant's training.

The CPM program is an intensive learning experience designed for supervisors, managers, executives, management staff and project managers from federal, state, county, and local governments. The program includes discussion, traditional classroom experiences and online learning. Participants also complete one job-related team project, which gives them the opportunity to apply theories, principles and/or techniques learned in the CPM program to a situation, problem, concern or opportunity in a public organization.

f

*Trophy case, continued on next page*



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**TROPHY CASE**

*Trophy case, continued from previous page*  
**Personal**



**Dan Christeson** and his wife, Sandy, hosted the seventh annual District 2 Golf outing at the Rockwell Golf and Country Club, on Monday evening, Aug. 1. Twenty-seven employees from the Mason City, Hanlontown and Garner garages; the District 2 Office, materials office and Motor Vehicle Enforcement; along with one retiree, participated in this golf party. A tee-shot from a traffic safety cone proved to be the challenge of the evening. The winning team, with a score of 2 under par consisted of **Craig Wood, Justin Heimers, Lisa Heimers and Mark Callahan.**

f

The annual District 4 golf tournament was held May 19 at the Lake Panorama National Golf Course. The two-person best shot contest was won by George Feazell and Eric Keiner with a 78. Attendees enjoyed lunch on the deck after the competition.



*Front row (from left): Scott Nixon, Dan Redmond, Bruce Flippin, Don Stevens, Gary Osby, Scott Suhr. Back row (from left): Jim Muetzel, George Feazell, Jim Jordan, Eric Keiner, Bill Fox, Dave Dorsett, Lee Shepard. Also participating, but absent from the photo, were Roy Guyer and Jim Murray.*



**Mike Seek**, sign fabricator 2 in the Office of Traffic and Safety, recently entered his scale model submarine in the 2011 International Plastic Modeler Society's national competition in Omaha. Seek's model was one of 2,300 entered by model builders from all over the United States and several other countries. Seek's model won third place in the 1/400 and larger scale, pre-1946 submarine category.

f



**Mike Malchow**, district 3 design technician, coached his daughters' U10 soccer team to a gold medal at the Iowa Games Saturday, July 16. The girls posted a record of 3-0-1 in the 6 vs. 6 division.

From left: Coach Mike Malchow, Brianna, Keeleigh Malchow, Maria, Megan, Mishaela Malchow, Abby, Jordan, Abby, Kirsten.

*Trophy case, continued on page 22*

*In memory, continued from page 12*



**William R. Johnson** died Friday, Sept. 16, at Avera Holy Family Health in Estherville of non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Johnson was born March 15, 1927, to Hans and Maude Johnson.

He received his education in the Estherville schools, dropping out to serve as a Seabee in the United States Navy during World War II on the island of Guam. Following his honorable discharge, he

returned to the Estherville area and graduated high school in 1947.

On March 17, 1951, Johnson was united in marriage to lone Tonderum. The couple made their home in Estherville. Johnson worked as a truck driver before becoming employed in 1951 by the Iowa State Highway Commission (later Iowa DOT). He became the supervisor of the Estherville maintenance garage in 1977 and retired in June 1991 after more than 40 years of service.

Johnson was an excellent swimmer, enjoyed fishing, camping, golfing and woodworking. He was a "do-it-yourself" person and would tackle anything. He finished the interior of the family home and also a lake home.

He had a great sense of humor and always had a joke or story to tell. One of his last greatest pleasures was going on the World War II Veterans Honor Flight to Washington D.C. He was a lifelong member of the VFW Post 338, where he volunteered at the Sunday night bingo and month stag for more than 30 years.

In 1998, the Johnsons moved to Spirit Lake on East Okoboji Lake. In his leisure time, Bill enjoyed golfing, boating, fishing, camping, swimming, and woodworking. Most important to Bill was spending time with friends and family. Bill was a handyman. He finished the interior of both their Estherville and Spirit Lake homes. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed telling jokes. He will be remembered for his smile and love of family.

Left to cherish Bill's memory are his wife or more than 60 years, lone of Spirit Lake; his children, Steven Johnson of Estherville; Richard "Rick" Johnson of Rock Springs, Wyoming; Susan "Sue" Johnson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; one granddaughter, Heather Johnson and great granddaughter, Laicie both of Spokane, Washington; sister, Clayta Sheldon of Englewood, and numerous nieces and nephews.

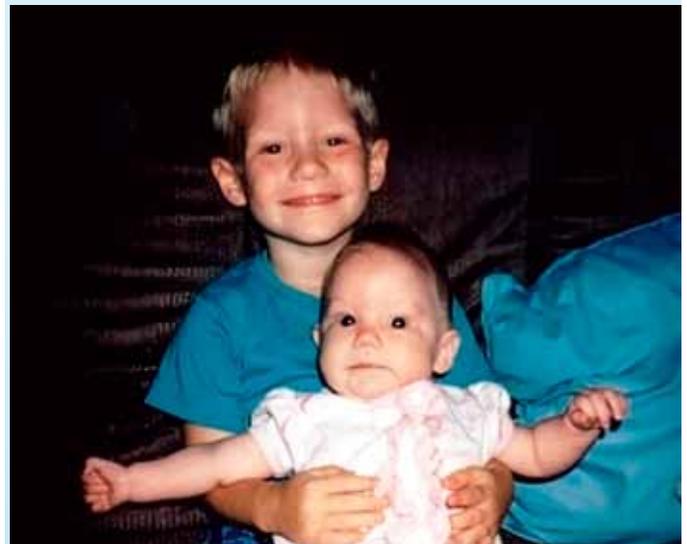
## kidisms!

**Ryan Ward**, Office of Public Transit, has a three-year-old daughter named Ella. Ella comes up with some interesting observations.

- My wife recently took the kids horseback riding in Colorado and Ella said, "I sure hope they have unicorns!"



**Vicki Stamper**, Office of Policy and Legislative Services, submitted this cute story.



When our son Jacob was 4-½ years old and our daughter Jenna Joy was about 10 months old, the kids were playing in the living room while I was making supper. Jacob came into the kitchen and put his little hands on his hips. Looking very exasperated, he said, "Mom, just take her back."

I said, "What?"

Jacob explained, "Mom she's in my stuff. Take her back."

I tried to explain we just can't take her back, but he was having nothing of it. He just wanted me to take her back and take her back NOW.

Needless to say, Jacob didn't get his way. Jenna Joy got to stay, but she was put in a playpen more often.

## Service awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for September, October and November

### 40 years

**Joseph Cook**, Britt construction; **Carl Fenceroy**, Information Technology Division; **Steven McCauley**, Materials; **Dean Meredith**, Pacific Junction garage; **Thayne Sorenson**, Bridges and Structures

### 35 years

**Sheri R. Anderson**, Maintenance; **Christopher Domeyer**, Manchester garage; **Barbara Espeland**, Information Technology Division; **Rex Evans**, Altoona garage; **Brian Gossman**, Materials; **Paul Hockett**, Materials; **Edward Kosina**, Cedar Rapids garage; **Katherine Martin**, Design; **Susan Schaudt**, Information Technology Division

### 30 years

**Sharon Bowers**, Right of Way; **Debra Coles**, Systems Planning; **Daniel Grote**, Ashton garage; **Larry Hopkins**, Bloomfield garage; **Colette Simpson**, Information Technology Division; **Bradley Steinhart**, Oskaloosa garage; **Kevin Streng**, Spirit Lake garage

### 25 years

**Douglas Bates**, Right of Way; **Mark Callahan**, District 2 Office; **Donald Carlson**, Davenport construction; **Susan Daniels**, Finance; **Gary Detrick**, Mount Pleasant construction; **Steve Duitsman**, Waverly garage; **Danny Fine**, District 6 Office; **Joseph Foreman**, Information Technology Division; **Jack Goodale**, Osage garage; **Tammy Hamilton**, District 5 maintenance; **Mark Hansen**, Transportation Data; **Brien Keltner**, Anamosa garage; **Kurtis Lawler**, Fort Dodge garage; **Christen McClain**, Des Moines construction; **Brenda McCuen**, Vehicle Services; **Gail Nordholm**, Local Systems; **John Reid**, Ottumwa garage; **James Rost**, Location and Environment; **Todd Siefken**, Materials; **Rondel Stephens**, Materials; **Clinton Watson**, Bridges and Structures; **Daniel Wolfe**, District 5 materials; **David Younie**, Right of Way; **Gary Zidlicky**, District 2 materials

### 20 years

**Kevin Adams**, Waverly garage; **Jeffrey Cunningham**, Des Moines field staff; **Larry Hargis**, District 1 bridge crew; **Pamela Kendrick**, Carroll DL station; **Cheryl Meyer**, Driver Services; **Michelle Teel**, Davenport DL station

### 15 years

**Terri Abbett**, Location and Environment; **Harold Adcock**, Bridges and Structures; **Bradley Agan**, Carroll garage; **Suzanne Amsbaugh**, Support Services; **Joe Anderson**, Right of Way; **Jolene Bersch**, Information Technology Division; **Tonya Bishop**, Vehicle Services; **Carl Duncan**, Sidney garage; **Mark Fevold**, Iowa Falls garage; **Theresa Fox**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Jeffrey Harness**, Chariton construction; **Douglas Harris**, Adair garage; **Cheryl Johnson**, Ottumwa DL station; **Scott Knudtson**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Thomas Maher**, DeWitt garage; **Todd McCullough**, Creston construction; **Jason Omundson**, Materials; **Jack Parsons**, Leon garage; **Benjamin Petty**, District 6 paint crew; **Peter Saeugling**, Dubuque garage; **William Sager**, Grundy Center garage; **Aaron Sandersfeld**, Williamsburg garage; **Timothy Trick**, Spirit

Lake garage; **Steven Ulrich**, Des Moines construction; **Steve Valentine**, Dubuque garage; **Lori Wilkens**, Des Moines construction; **Kevin Vogt**, Williamsburg garage; **Eric Weigel**, Design; **William Welchans**, Sidney garage; **Allan Yoshida**, Atlantic garage

### 10 years

**Cheryl Cowie**, Transportation Data; **Brenda Kramer**, Cedar Rapids DL station

### 5 years

**Justin Aldinger**, Iowa Falls garage; **Angela Barnes**, Marshalltown DL station; **Todd Blake**, Waukon garage; **Betty Butler**, Des Moines DL station; **Dan Christeson**, Mason City garage; **Debra Covington**, Information Technology Division; **Laura Craig-Buchholz**, Des Moines DL station; **David Dellamuth**, Williamsburg garage; **James Deppe**, Right of Way; **Ryan Greenley**, Boone garage; **Kurtis Grubb**, Oskaloosa garage; **Jeff Guthrie**, Newton garage; **Jeffrey Holmes**, Ida Grove garage; **Brandy Horsley**, Vehicle Services; **Kevin Klostermann**, Manchester garage; **Deborah Kraft**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Brandon LaFrenz**, Grundy Center garage; **Dallas Lundvall**, Council Bluffs-north garage; **Michael Lynch**, Council Bluffs-south garage; **Alton Mast**, Bloomfield garage; **Russell Neely**, District 1 bridge crew; **Dennis Oelberg**, Hanlontown garage; **Nathan Parker**, Maintenance; **Garrett Pedersen**, Systems Planning; **Lori Pflughaupt**, Research and Technology Bureau; **Stephen Rauch**, Coralville garage; **James Razor**, Maintenance; **Jason Schnorenberg**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Brian Smith**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Janet Vine**, Location and Environment; **Denise Witte**, Grinnell garage

## Quote of the day

"If I had to select one quality, one personal characteristic that I regard as being most highly correlated with success, whatever the field, I would pick the trait of persistence. Determination, the will to endure to the end, to get knocked down seventy times and get up off the floor saying, 'Here comes number seventy-one!'"

Richard M. Devos

## Personnel updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for June 24 to Sept. 29, 2011

### New hires

**Barbara Beck**, driver's license clerk senior, Iowa City DL station; **Robert Doerhoff**, equipment operator senior, Independence garage; **Bobby Duncan**, information technology specialist 4, Information Technology Division; **Tim Duncan**, transportation driver, Support Services; **Mark Dutra**, highway technician senior, Cedar Rapids construction; **Timothy Ehrich**, transportation engineer manager, Jefferson construction; **Tammara Essink**, clerk-specialist, Motor Carrier Services; **Travis Fox**, highway technician senior, New Hampton construction; **Douglas Hefel**, highway technician senior, Marshalltown construction; **Katherine Miller**, highway technician senior, District 2 materials; **Susanne Morgan**, driver's license clerk senior, Mason City DL station; **Nicki Rainey**, affirmative action compliance officer 1, Employee Services; **Holly Stauffer**, secretary 1, Jefferson construction; **Craig Steffensmeier**, land surveyor senior, District 5 Office; **Brian Stelken**, highway technician, Manchester garage

### Promotions

**James Armstrong**, from transportation engineer administrator to public service executive 6, District 5 Office; **Randy Barton**, from revenue auditor 3 to executive officer 2, Motor Carrier Services; **Mark Blasius**, from construction technician assistant, Design to highway technician senior, Marshalltown construction; **Jo Ellen Carter**, from engineering operation technician, Cedar Rapids field staff to engineering technician senior, District 6 Office; **Bruce Flippin**, from transportation engineer to transportation engineer manager, Council Bluffs construction; **Andrew Frey**, from information technology specialist 2 to information technology specialist 4, Information Technology Division; **Vanessa Goetz**, from transportation engineer intern, Materials to transportation engineer, Research and Technology Bureau; **Glenn Hansen**, from highway technician senior to construction technician senior, Sioux City construction; **Alexander Jansen**, from clerk specialist, Driver Services to administrative assistant 1, Motor Carrier Services; **John Jepsen**, from highway maintenance supervisor, Sioux City-Leeds garage to executive officer 2, Storm Lake maintenance; **Troy Jeraman**, from transportation engineer executive, District 5 Office to public service supervisor 6, District 4 Office; **Chad Lohrer**, from highway technician senior to materials technician 4, District 6 materials; **Linda Martens**, from right-of-way agent 2 to right-of-way agent 3, Right of Way; **Linda Narigon**, from transportation engineer, Design to transportation engineer specialist, Research and Technology Bureau; **Hugh Payne**, from materials technician 3 to materials technician 4, District 3 materials; **Larry Schropp**, from construction technician to construction technician senior, Cedar Rapids construction; **Joseph Schupanitz**, from highway technician, Cedar Rapids garage to highway technician senior, Cedar Rapids construction; **Tony Sebben**, from highway maintenance supervisor, Ottumwa garage to executive officer 2, District 5 maintenance; **Kip Siems**, from equipment operator senior to garage operations assistant, Waterloo garage; **Kevin Smith**, from highway technician associate to mechanic, Neola garage; **Wendell Wanek**, from highway technician senior to construction technician senior, Cedar Rapids construction; **Shelly Whiteing**, from right-of-way agent 3 to right-of-way agent 4, Right of Way

### Transfers

**Anthony Babcock**, from transportation engineer specialist, District 3 Office to transportation engineer manager, Cherokee construction; **Stephen Deck**, from highway technician to highway technician senior, Marion garage; **Nickolas Humpal**, transportation engineer specialist, from Location and Environment to District 2 Office; **Ron Lauer**, equipment operator senior, from Greenfield garage to Creston garage; **Khashi Reyes**, equipment operator senior, within Des Moines-north garage; **John Shimek**, from construction technician to highway technician senior, New Hampton construction; **Rodney Swailes**, from mechanic to highway technician, Muscatine garage

### Retirements

**Bruce Brakke**, transportation engineer executive, Bridges and Structures; **David Drummond**, motor vehicle sergeant, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **John Fleig**, transportation planner 2, Systems Planning; **Kathleen Grossman**, driver's license clerk, Carroll DL station; **Norman Hockett**, construction technician supervisor, Marshalltown construction; **Douglas Johnson**, equipment operator senior, Bridges and Structures; **Terry Meimann**, transport driver, Support Services; **Brian Miller**, garage operations assistant, Waterloo garage; **Stephen Semonell**, highway technician associate, Sloan garage

### Trophy case, continued from page 19

The Boone 10-to-11-year-old Little League Allstars beat teams from all over the state; and beat Davenport NW for the state title by a score of 12-3 July 28. Mike and Johnathan Herrick are the son and grandson of former employee Linda Herrick. Clay Cornelis is the son of Rob Cornelis in the Office of Bridges and Structures, and grandson of former employee Leon Cornelis District 1. Jayton Hull is the grandson of Gary Mackey in District 1.



Top row, (from left): coaches Shane England, Mike Herrick and Chris Hulse  
Middle row, (from left): Ty England, Colton Anderson, Jimmy Boustead, Johnathan Herrick, Evan Appenzeller and Dresden Wilson  
Front row, (from left): Clay Cornelis, Carter Dighton, Ryan Dow, Mason Hulse, Jayton Hull, Corbin Wafful and Jade Thompson

# Setting strong passwords

**D**oes it seem like passwords are taking over your life? To keep information safer, desktop computers, laptop, phone, iPod and many other devices utilize passwords. Experts say you should never use the same password for every device, and many suggest that you not keep a list of passwords. To top it all off, these experts also want you to combine what could be a complicated series of letters, number and symbols to make your passwords stronger.

Deb Covington, the Iowa DOT's information security officer, says these suggestions are not made to make your life more difficult, but to protect you in the event of a cyber attack. "Cyber attacks are being launched from every part of the globe, all directed at finding weak passwords so that banking and other sensitive information can be compromised, which can cause a lot of headaches for you down the road."

Iowa DOT computers have extra security built into the system, but creating strong passwords is still important. Added password strength is even more important at home when other security measures may not be as strong.

Easily identifiable patterns in passwords make them weaker. To strengthen your passwords:

- 1. Use a mix of lower case letters, upper case letters, numbers** (the Iowa DOT's system does not allow special characters in passwords). On work computers, use at least one number or letter in your password. At home, special characters can increase the number of possible combinations, increasing the strength of generated passwords of any given length.
- 2. Iowa DOT computers allow up to an eight character password.** For home use, a 16-character password is what some experts suggest. After all, if you can remember an eight character password, you should be able to remember two of them stuck together.
- 3. DOT policy requires and experts suggest, changing your password at least every 60 days.**
- 4. Avoid basing your password on popular culture, sequences of numbers (or keys on the keyboard) or sports.** Those passwords are much more common than you'd think.
- 5. Use a password phrase that's easy to remember**
  - Gwlg4aGP = Gee what I'd give for a Good Password
  - ih3K1H1D = i have three Kids, one Husband, one Dog

## 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 Multimedia 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:** Fall will quickly give way to winter.  
**Fall I-Spy clue:** The truck grill is ready for leaf season.  
**July/August I-Spy:** There is a whale tale in the water near the roadway.

Service Area	Correspondent	Phone
District 1 .....	<b>Lori Wilkens,</b> Des Moines .....	515-261-9500
District 2 .....	<b>Lu Mohorne,</b> Mason City .....	641-423-7584
District 3 .....	<b>MaryBeth 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
General Counsel .....	<b>Chris Crow,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1509
Information Technology Division .....	<b>Colette Simpson,</b> Ames .....	515-233-7728
Local Systems .....	<b>Gail Nordholm,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1528
Location and Environment .....	<b>Susie McCullough,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1225
Maintenance .....	<b>Cindy Shipley,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1971
Materials .....	<b>Brian Squier,</b> Ames .....	515-233-7915
Modal offices .....	<b>Cathy Mather,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1140
Motor Vehicle Division .....	<b>Diann McMillen,</b> Ankeny .....	515-237-3250
Operations and Finance Division .....	<b>Sheri Anderson,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1340
Research and Technology Bureau .....	<b>Lori Pflughaupt,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1646
Right of Way .....	<b>Tami Bailiff,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1216
Systems Planning .....	<b>Peggy Riecken,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1664
Traffic and Safety .....	<b>Stephanie Anderson,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1746
Transportation Data .....	<b>Jodi Clement,</b> Ames .....	515-239-1289

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

# And the band played on...

**From the July 30, 1924, Ames Tribune**

**F**ully 500 people visited Iowa's new highway commission office building last night at the open house and public reception given by the commission and employees.

At the entrance visitors were received by employees and ushered into the main floor assembly room where an orchestra played throughout the evening and where refreshments were served by young women employes of the commission.

Interest of the visitors and guests, however, was centered in the inspection of the building and in meeting the officials of each department. The printing room, in which blueprint maps are made, attracted most of the attention. The modern printing machine was working to capacity, turning out highway information maps of July 30 condition and the unique folder souvenirs of the opening. These were printed from a drawing made specially for the occasion. On the inside was a sketch of the highway building with the points of information about the structure listed on the opposite page.

The building was authorized by the fortieth general assembly, April 18, 1923, to be constructed at a cost of approximately \$125,000. The site was donated thru the generosity of Ames citizens.



*Iowa Highway Commission Building in Ames completed in 1924*

Construction began in August, and the building was first occupied June 1, 1924. Since then landscape architects have been busy completing the grounds, which now present a beautiful appearance and add to the impressiveness of the building.

Owing to the heavy load imposed upon the transformer from the city electric line to the building. It "blew out," leaving the building in total darkness. Quick thought upon the part of employes brought out the reserve stock of flashlights and spotlights so that later visitors saw the offices by that aid.

About the time of the "eclipse" a few couples had taken advantage of the excellent floor in the assembly hall and were dancing. The orchestra kept on with the music and soon the room was filled with dancers. No lack of entertainment was encountered the rest of the evening in this feature of the reception.

Officials stated today that two transformers had been installed in lieu of the one that failed last night, so that future events at the commission building would not be threatened with the "embarrassment" experienced last night.



*Driver experiencing some difficulties before paved roads, circa 1920s*

With the Iowa DOT's 100th anniversary is coming up in 2013, the Historic Archives Committee is looking to collect and catalog as much transportation history as they can between now and 2013. If there are items in your work area that might have value to the historic preservation effort, contact:

Beth Collins at  
515-239-1702 or [beth.collins@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:beth.collins@dot.iowa.gov).



*Early 1920s dump truck*