

JUNE 2011

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# PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE

WITH DIRECTOR PAUL TROMBINO III, P.E.

## The Road to Safety Starts with You.

**O**n June 7, I had the opportunity to provide the opening remarks at the New Employee Orientation training. I probably should have been sitting in the audience rather than providing an overview of the Iowa Department of Transportation. Having just begun my position with the Iowa DOT May 9, I feel very connected to this new group of employees as we are all starting our careers together at the department. In this month's column, I want to share with everyone the themes I spoke about with these new employees – safety, information/inconvenience and diversity/opportunity.

I borrowed the title to this article from the bottom of an E-mail from one of our safety folks - "The Road to Safety Starts with You." All DOTs have a focus toward safety – employee, work zone, vehicle, traffic, driver, rail, air, pedestrian, bicycle, etc. The first theme I focused on with the new employees was "employee safety," as I believe it is our most important job at the DOT. As director of this wonderful organization, there are many things I have an interest in and vision for in the future. I am very confident we will meet the transportation challenges of the future. But, at the end of every day, more than anything else, I want every employee to return safely to their family and friends. Many of our jobs put us at risk to be injured or worse; so, please, always be diligent of your surroundings and conscious of your coworkers, and keep safety first. You are the DOT's most important asset. Fundamentally, there is no higher goal than making sure you go home safely each day. Yes, the Road to Safety Starts with You.

The second theme I shared with the new employees is what I call "information and inconvenience." We are in an age of information that is real-time. The public uses the transportation system for convenience, to get to work, take their kids to school, see the doctor, visit family, etc. They expect accurate, real-time information about any inconvenience, whether that is traffic congestion, maintenance restrictions, weather events, or construction closures or detours. By having accurate information early, motorists have the opportunity to adjust their travel route or incorporate the delay into their travel schedule. Our role is to provide information about inconvenience as early as possible. Ultimately, we build trust by sharing accurate and timely information with the users of the transportation system.

The third theme was "diversity and opportunity." I believe in the mission of the DOT – delivery of transportation services that support the economic, environmental and social vitality of Iowa. There are many diverse roles, responsibilities and activities involved in fulfilling our mission. There are a plethora of opportunities for employees to grow as individuals, learn different skills and gain experiences during our careers at the DOT. My personal career path has involved working in multiple DOT divisions, different cities and, now multiple states. The DOT offers many opportunities to diversify your skill sets and experience, and obtain training to broaden your background. Please do not hesitate to seek training opportunities or broaden or alter your career path. There are many pathways to explore, if that something you desire.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication and professionalism. Please be safe in all that you do.

# Iowa Transportation Commission elects officers

At its meeting in Ames May 10, the Iowa Transportation Commission elected Amy L. Reasner as chair of the group and Loree R. Miles as vice chair.

**Chair Amy L. Reasner**

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



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

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

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

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

**Vice chair Loree R. Miles**

**Term: May 1, 2009, to April 30, 2013**



Miles, a Democrat, is chief executive officer of Miles Development, LLC, a hotel development and management company, and a franchisee of three Value Place hotels, two located in central Iowa and one in Loveland, Colo.

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

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

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

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

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## Rose joins Commission

The Iowa Transportation Commission welcomed its newest member May 10 for a four-year term. David Rose, a Republican from Clinton, was a teacher before owning



and operating a retail business and manufacturing business in Clinton. He now operates a real estate business and trucking company.

Rose grew up on a farm in Clinton County. He is a graduate of Northeast High School in Goose Lake and the University of Northern Iowa with a bachelor of science in education degree.

He has been involved in local governmental affairs in Clinton throughout his life, serving on several boards, including the Clinton Community School Board, Clinton Regional Development Corp., Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce and Iowa/Illinois Highway Partnership. He has been very involved in promoting economic development and transportation projects in the Clinton area, making trips to Des Moines and Washington, D.C.

Rose is married to Suzanne, a retired teacher. They are the parents of three children, Kara of Long Grove, Kirsten of Cedar Rapids and Lance of Eagle, Colo. They also have five grandchildren.



# DOT rushes to the rescue following Mapleton tornado

**W**hen a devastating EF4 tornado hit Mapleton April 9, 60 percent of the town was destroyed or damaged. Luckily, due to an active early-warning system, no one was killed and only a few minor injuries were reported.

Once the storm was over, the clean-up began. Iowa DOT maintenance staff from the Onawa, Soldier, Sloan, Correctionville, Ida Grove and Denison garages joined forces and spent more than a week clearing streets, hauling debris and doing whatever else was needed to assist the town of 1,294.

Jon Allen, highway maintenance supervisor for the Onawa, Sloan and Soldier garages, said, "We spent a total of seven days in Mapleton, all about 10-hour days starting the day after the tornado hit. We received a lot of very nice comments from the people in the Mapleton area about how quickly we responded and how hard the DOT employees

worked to help the city." He continued, "It was amazing how our people have learned how to approach such a disaster over the last few years, assisting in other areas with floods and other disasters. Our employees knew right off how to approach the debris and control the traffic. They even knew, for the most part, how the debris had to be separated for hauling. They definitely proved that the DOT is more than capable and willing to help with disaster cleanup in a safe and efficient way."

Dixie Nelson, highway maintenance supervisor in the Correctionville, Ida Grove and Denison garages, said, "The people of Mapleton were very appreciative of the assistance we were able to provide. I had people express to me that the DOT didn't abandon them, even though the Iowa DOT had closed the garage in Mapleton a few years ago.

*Tornado, continued on next page*

*Front row (left to right) Ross Wood, Jeff Holmes, Ross Rusch, Pat Thoreson, Kevin Bohm, Mitch Schwarz, Cole Cobb, Randy Mildenstein, Ralph Hansohn, Ed Launderville  
Second row (left to right) Dave Hipnar, Pete Seuntjens, Rob Ankerstjerne, Jay Nelson  
In loader, Marlo Howard*



## ***Tornado, from previous page***

As is the case in any emergency, our response was quick and effective. Even if we don't have a physical presence in a community, the DOT will be there to help in an emergency."

Employees who helped out in this cleanup effort (either on-site or in the garages maintaining equipment) included Dixie Nelson, Jon Allen and their crews:

**Correctionville garage:** Cole Cobb and Jim Albers

**Denison garage:** Dave Hipnar, Mitch Schwarz, Ralph Hansohn, Ross Wood, Ross Rusch, Pete Seuntjens, Kevin Bohm and Wayne Copeland

**Ida Grove garage:** Randy Mildenstein, Jeff Holmes, Marlo Howard and Rob Clark

**Onawa garage:** Leana Shull, Todd Cogdill, Chris Collison, Bryant Maack, Kenny Venteicher, Scott Jordan (District 3 bridge crew), Clayton Kluver and Sam Webber

**Sloan garage:** Jay Nelson, Rich Hanner, Dan Wickersham, Lowell Larson, Devin Carr, Scott Mitchell (Sioux City construction), Steve Semonell, Jason Warren and Robert Ankerstjerne

**Soldier garage:** Donnie Koch, Patricia Thoreson and Brent Kulhman

The Iowa DOT equipment used in the cleanup included: a track excavator; six loaders, three with grapple buckets; 16 heavy-duty trucks; three pickups with chain saws; and several portable changeable message boards.



*DOTers from six garages pitched in to help their neighbors in Mapleton.*



*Iowa DOT crews were in Mapleton for more than a week to assist with clean-up.*

*The town of Mapleton in Monona County was devastated by an EF4 tornado April 9.*





# Under the Golden Dome: The 2011 session

*By Elizabeth Baird, Iowa DOT legislative liaison*

**B**y the time you read this, perhaps the 2011 legislative session will have come to a successful conclusion and we will have all moved on with our lives.

But, when this column was written in mid-May, the session was in the third week of overtime and many legislators had gone home, leaving legislative leadership and the Governor's Office at the statehouse to negotiate.

As Iowans watched the difficult ending of the 2011 session play out, it was easy to forget that legislators on both sides and the Governor's Office grappled this year with a number of major issues. These included property taxes, levels of education funding for preschool through college, the size of government and how that choice impacts the services that can be delivered, how to redesign Iowa's adult mental health delivery system, how to redesign the state's economic development/job creation efforts, and more. The Legislature also approved congressional and legislative redistricting, a process that is done every 10 years after the federal census results are issued.

## Budget

As of mid-May, none of the major budget bills had been sent to and signed by Governor Branstad. As promised, he promptly vetoed the first one-year budget bill he received, which happened to be the DOT's FY12 budget. (Usually, it is nice to be first, this just was not one of those times.)

After that, the House proceeded to pass two-year budgets and the Senate passed one-year budgets.

The question of a one-year versus two-year budget seems somewhat esoteric. However, there are deep philosophical and political undertones – a desire for better long-term planning and budgeting, concern about how power is shared between the executive

and legislative branches, and the difficulty of accurately forecasting second-year revenues.

As of mid-May, the DOT's operating budget had been reintroduced by the House as a two-year budget, HF 683, but had not been debated by the full House. HF 683 reflects the budget as requested by the department and governor. For FY12, HF 683 appropriates \$346 million to the DOT and 3,109 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. For FY13, the bill appropriates \$350.8 million to the DOT and 3,109 FTE positions.

Modal program funding was included in HF 648, the infrastructure bill, which was passed by the House as a two-year budget, but amended by the Senate (one-year budget with several changes), and returned to the House on May 2. Significant differences included Senate support for passenger rail funding (the House struck all previous passenger rail funding), a reduction in public transit vertical infrastructure funding, and an increase in recreational trail funding.

The Senate, House and governor took very different approaches to increases in employee salaries. As passed by the Senate, SF 533 required that state agencies fund collective bargaining agreements from available resources (no money was appropriated). Increases were not authorized for noncontract employees. The House amended SF 533 and eliminated language related to salary increases for collective bargaining and noncontract employees. The governor, in HSB 247, funded collective bargaining agreements and authorized increases for noncontract employee classes at the same levels. The one point of agreement: No one provided any additional funding for salary increases.

## Policy

The DOT sponsored only one piece of legislation this year. SF 205 was signed by the governor on April 12 and takes effect July 1, 2011. Most provisions amend Iowa motor vehicle law, including changes that implement commercial driver licensing requirements, make technical corrections and make various minor policy changes. One provision amends a long-standing Iowa Code requirement that the DOT annually submit a transit coordination report. The requirement was changed so the report is submitted every other year and is a more useful document.

A few of the other policy bills considered include eminent domain (died), contractor indemnification (passed), requirements for ignition interlock devices (died), parking for persons with disabilities (died), and special registration plates (passed).

## What is next?

As always, the Office of Policy and Legislative Services is preparing a detailed wrap-up of legislation passed and enacted into law. The summary, 2011 Iowa Acts for the Iowa DOT, will be posted on the DOT's website and DOT-NET later this summer. In the meantime, please contact either Elizabeth Baird or Renee Jerman with any questions.

Staff throughout the department is always very responsive to the demands of the legislative session, and this year was no different. Renee has done an outstanding job providing very detailed and accurate information on a daily basis to our employees about new legislation and chamber action, and doing much more. And, whether commenting on legislation, providing information in response to legislative requests, or meeting with legislators at the Statehouse, DOT staff does it well. The effort pays off as legislators recognize the value of the agency and the professionalism of our employees.

# Motorcycle safety forum hosts 300

The Iowa Traffic Safety Alliance, a diverse partnership of highway safety practitioners in engineering, enforcement, education and emergency services, facilitated the eighth annual Iowa Motorcycle Safety Forum April 29 at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames.

The forum brought together more than 300 stakeholders, including individuals representing the Iowa Motorcycle Rider Education Program, Iowa departments of Transportation and Public Safety, and motorcycle associations, along with enthusiasts, riders and dealers.

The theme for this year's event was "Ride Bright – Be Smart Be Seen." The focus was on "conspicuity," which means easily seen or noticed; readily visible or observable; and attracting special attention.

There are plenty of ways motorcyclists can increase their safety, including being more conspicuous to other roadway users and continuing on a path of lifelong learning, which could include participation in a rider training course designed to help motorcyclists hone their riding skills.

This one-day, interactive forum highlighted safety displays, rider training, vendor booths and other motorcycle-related exhibits. Forum attendees participated in breakout sessions, including presentations from Imre Szauter, American Motorcycle Association (AMA) - Government Affairs; Harry Dietzler, attorney specializing in motorcycle justice; Slider Gilmore, two-wheel trauma expert; and David Hough, AMA Hall of Fame inductee for motorcycle journalism and motorcycle skills course designer.



## By the numbers

- Motorcycle fatalities have increased significantly, both in Iowa and nationally, since the late 1990s.
- Iowa has more than 200,000 licensed motorcycle operators and more than 125,000 registered motorcycles.
- Preliminary data shows 60 people were killed last year while driving or riding on motorcycles in Iowa. This total is close to the recent high of 61 in 2007 and is nearly a 24 percent increase from the 2009 total of 49.
- Average annual motorcycle fatalities continue to increase among riders age 45 and older.
- Typically, about half of Iowa's motorcycle crashes involve another vehicle, and about nine of 10 motorcycle fatality victims were not wearing a safety helmet.



Forum attendees spent part of the day viewing exhibits related to motorcycle safety.



## Sweet Ride winner

**T**he Cedar Rapids Xavier prom was coming Saturday and 17-year-old Nico Luerkens was looking forward to taking his date to the dance in style in his brand new Ford Focus.

On May 4, Luerkens was the lucky winner of the 2010-2011 Sweet Ride on the Safe Side contest. He and 4,102 other Iowa teens logged on to [www.sweetridecontest.com](http://www.sweetridecontest.com) to learn about Iowa's updated motor vehicle laws applicable to teens, including illegal use of handheld devices while driving and required use of seat belts in all seating positions. After watching an educational video and successfully completing a short quiz, the teens registered to win a car courtesy of Charles Gabus Ford.

Getting the word out to Iowa teens included promotions on KDSM Fox 17, Facebook and Twitter, at Iowa high schools and information published in the programs of Iowa high school athletic events. These nontraditional means of reaching Iowa's younger drivers were successful as more than 16,500 unique visitors logged on the website from August 2010 to March 2011, and more than 45,627 views of the safety video were recorded.



Mary Stahlhut, Iowa DOT program coordinator for the Iowa Traffic Safety Alliance, said, "Last year's law changes relating to teen drivers are an important step forward in eliminating senseless deaths due to distracted driving. This contest helped raise the awareness of younger drivers to the dangers of distracted driving and consequences of violating the new laws once tickets begin to be issued July 1."

Sweet Ride on the Safe Side was supported by the Iowa Traffic Safety Alliance, a partnership that includes the Iowa departments of Transportation and Public Safety. Other conference sponsors included KDSM-Fox 17 and Charles Gabus Ford, along with many other organizations and businesses.



*Sweet Ride contest sponsors join Nico Luerkens (fourth from right) with his new car.*



*Sweet Ride on the Safe Side contest winner Nico Luerkens of Marion in his new car.*



*Mary Stahlhut, Iowa DOT Office of Traffic and Safety, and contest winner Nico Luerkens show off their "texting kills" thumb bands.*



# 48th Annual Iowa DOT Golf Tournament

Saturday, July 9  
Four-person, best shot

## Location

Indian Creek Country Club, two miles south of Nevada

## Time (shotgun starts)

Morning - 8 a.m.

Afternoon - 1:30 p.m.

## Entry fee

\$25 per participant

\$10 Cart

\$8 Lunch

## Prizes

Flight prizes and skill prizes will be awarded.



## Details

The 48th Annual Iowa DOT Golf Tournament is open to all Iowa DOT and FHWA employees, former employees, retirees, family members and guests. Participants may enter as a foursome or as individuals. Groups will be assigned for unmatched participants. Prizes will be awarded based on flights of the four-person best shot scores. Entries will be accepted until July 6 or until tee times are filled.

Entries cannot be accepted over the phone. Fees must be included with entry forms. Checks should be made out to the Indian Creek Country Club. Rental golf carts are available for an additional charge. Do not contact the golf course to reserve a cart. Indicate on the entry form if you wish to reserve a cart(s) and/or purchase lunch. Soft spikes only. Outside food and beverages are prohibited. Food and beverages are available at the clubhouse.

## Send this entry form and fees to:

Sherry Newsome  
Indian Creek Country Club  
63012 260th St.  
Nevada, IA 50201

**Preferred tee time (circle one):**      8 a.m.      1:30 p.m.

Participant name (\$25)	Lunch (\$8)	Cart (\$10)	\$Total
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

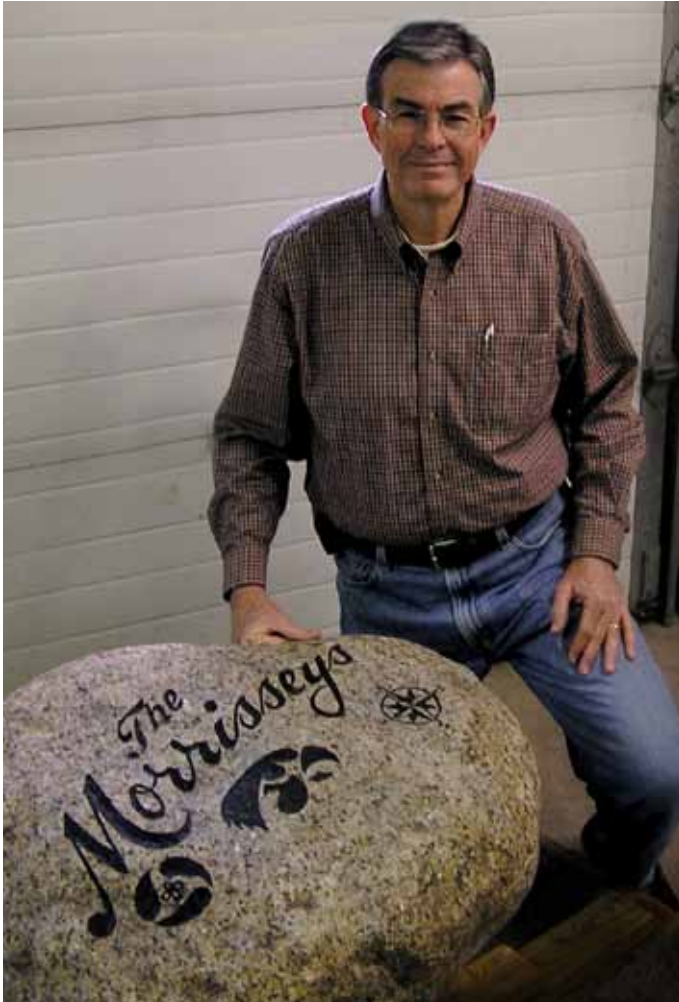
**Total enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact person's e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

## Family happenings

### District 5

Brenda Hadley



**Brian Morrissey**, District 5 engineer, retired effective April 21. A party was held in his honor April 13 at the District 5 materials building in Fairfield. Attending to honor Morrissey were DOT co-workers and retirees, family, local county engineers, consultants and surveyors. Highway Division Director John Adam spoke to the crowd about how much he had appreciated Morrissey's work. Troy Jerman, assistant District 5 engineer, presented Morrissey, an avid Hawkeye fan, with a small rock with an Iowa State Cyclones sticker on it. Jerman told Morrissey that due to the poor economy, the office only collected enough money to buy this small rock. Then he showed him a picture of his actual gift, a large rock to place outside his home that had "Morrisseys" painted on it, along with the Hawkeye logo, Iowa DOT logo and a picture of a compass. Ames area employees were able to celebrate with Morrissey at a reception at DOT headquarters March 31.

## Thank you

I would like to say thank you to my friends and co-workers for their prayers and acts of kindness during my husband Don's illness. Thank you for all the support I have received since his passing.

**Terri Henry**  
Facilities Support



## In memory



**Michael Richard Kruger**, 37, died April 14 at the Cherokee Regional Medical Center. Kruger, the son of Eugene and Ida Mae (Bechler) Kruger, was born Aug. 11, 1973, in Rock Rapids. His childhood years were spent in the George area where he graduated from George-Little Rock High School in Little Rock, Iowa. He attended Iowa State University and graduated with a degree

in civil engineering in 1996.

Kruger was united in marriage to Angela (Angie) Trei June 1, 1996, in Little Rock. To this union three children were born, Carson, Chloe and Caela.

Kruger worked for the Iowa DOT in Mount Pleasant from January 1997 to June 2003. Kruger and his family then relocated to Aurelia where he continued his employment with the DOT as the resident construction engineer in Cherokee.

Kruger was an Aurelia school board member, an Alta Aurelia Cydog football coach, and an assistant fifth grade boys Alta Aurelia Warrior basketball coach. He was also actively involved with the Aurelia Youth League, enjoyed hunting, and was a huge Minnesota Vikings and ISU fan. He had the love of sports and any activity that involved his children. He leaves behind his hunting sidekick Dakota, dog Dudley and cats Bubba and Bella. He was a devoted husband and dad who will forever be remembered and loved.

He is survived by his wife, Angie of Aurelia; three children, Carson, Chloe and Caela of Aurelia; parents Eugene and Ida Mae Kruger of George; sister Stacey (Michael) Krull of Denver, Colo.; in-laws Alan J. and Cora Trei of Little Rock; sister-in-law Georjette (Joel) Korthals of Sibley; brother-in-law Alan D. Trei of Little Rock; nieces and nephews Paige Krull of Denver, Colo; Brooke, Bret, Brent and Brecklynn Korthals of Sibley; several aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.







**Bonnie Lee Vetter**, 75, of Spencer, died March 31 at the Spencer Hospital. Vetter, the daughter of Harold Lee and Irene (Brumley) Louscher, was born on Sept. 29, 1935, in Harris, Iowa. She graduated from Lake Park High School. On Valentine's Day the following year, Feb. 14, 1954, she married her high school sweetheart, Gene Paul Vetter. To this union four

children were born: Brad, Terry, Todd and Jill.

After living in Storm Lake and Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Salt Lake City, Utah, the couple settled in Spencer in 1968. Upon their arrival in Spencer, they began their family-owned and operated business, Vetter Moving and Storage. It truly was a family business in that every member of the family contributed. They still laugh and share stories of those early years. As a business owner, Vetter joined the Spencer Chamber of Commerce and later served on the Spencer City Council. The couple became members of the Iowa Movers and Warehousemen's Association where Bonnie served as the secretary for years and served a term as president. Bonnie later chaired the Midwest Group of the Independent Moving and Storage Agents, covering Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, and North and South Dakota.

With the experience and knowledge she gained from these organizations she was appointed to the Iowa Transportation Commission by Gov. Branstad in 1992, serving from 1992 to 2000, and was elected chair in 1999. Bonnie was also an active member of the Iowa Motor Truck Association and in 1997 was appointed as the first, and only, female president. Bonnie also served on the board of directors for the Iowa Transportation Museum in Newton.

In addition to her service commitments, Vetter was a member of the Grace United Methodist Church. She enjoyed singing and was a member of the choir and Clef Club. Vetter was an amazing seamstress and had a passion for cooking and entertaining. She always set a beautiful table. Vetter played a mean game of bridge and loved the challenge of a good round of golf. She was a devoted daughter, wife, mother and grandmother.

Grateful for having shared her life is her husband, Gene Vetter of Spencer; her children: Brad (Cindy) Vetter of Dallas, Texas; Terry (Katherine) Vetter of Kalama, Wash.; Todd (Lana) Vetter of Sioux Falls, S.D.; and Jill (John) Vuchetich of Minneapolis, Minn.; her 10 grandchildren; brother, Kent Louscher and his fiancé, Donna of Brookline, Mass.; and sister, Doan Luc of Parsippany, N.J.



**George Francis Perrin**, 79, of Carroll, and longtime Ames resident, died Saturday, April 9, at the Carroll Health Center.

Perrin was born April 2, 1932, in Cherokee to George and Margaret (Halford) Perrin. He graduated from Wilson High School in 1955. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and attained the rank of airman first class, serving during the Korean War. He married Mary Deane Hosmer on Oct. 1, 1955.

He enrolled at Iowa State College in Ames, majoring in fish and wildlife management. He was employed as a materials technician for the Iowa DOT from 1960 until retiring in 1999. He enjoyed nature, wildlife, ISU athletics and whichever team Bret Favre was playing for. He was a lifelong supporter of the Animal Rescue League and National Audubon Society and a member of the St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Ames.

He is survived by his eight children: Mike Perrin, Chris (Becky Voas) Perrin, Rick (Kristi) Perrin and Deb (Tim) Ordal, all of Ames; John (Marg) Perrin, Lisa (Ray) Eddins, Chuck (Kelly) Perrin, all of Carroll; and Craig (Raul Olsen) Perrin of Harlingen, Texas; 17 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Also remaining to honor Perrin's memory is long-time friend, Dixie Makedonski, a DOT employee in the Des Moines construction office.

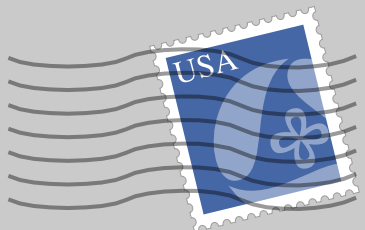
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**Judith Ann Lett**, 62, of Des Moines, died April 28. She was born Oct. 3, 1949, to Arthur H. and Eloise Grace (Wheatley) Lett Jr. in Atlantic, Iowa. Lett lived on the family farm in Adair County until the family moved to Seattle, Wash., when she was four years old. Her family returned to Iowa and settled in Des Moines, where she graduated from Roosevelt

High School. Lett worked for the Iowa DOT for 42 years, most of that time in the Office of Driver Services. She retired in May 2010 after 42 years of service. She was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her brother, Lyle (Sherry) Lett of Des Moines.





## Kudos!

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

To: Kim Snook  
From: Kurt Lux, Carroll

This letter is composed in regards to Toni Kerkove with the Office of Driver Services in Mason City. Recently, my associate, Mike, and I were presented with an opportunity that entailed corresponding directly with Kerkove. I personally dealt with her over many issues related to the Deluxe Driving Academy.

Kerkove "walked" me through everything at least once, and in some cases twice, which I'm sure some individuals would consider a waste of their time. In all of the phone calls and questions that I directed toward Kerkove, she always conducted herself in a very professional and positive manner. I feel her efforts and representation of the Iowa Department of Transportation were done with great dignity.

It was a pleasure working with her; I know in the future when we need her assistance I will be just as impressed. Congratulations on an employee who truly represents who they work for, and themselves, in this manner. I would be proud to have such an employee.

(Editor's note: Toni Kerkove is the program manager for Iowa's driver's education programs. Lux is the owner of the Deluxe Driving Academy.)

To: Nancy Richardson  
From: John Swander, Carroll

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the members of your department for the valuable assistance given to me last month. I have told dozens of friends and acquaintances the story of how Theresa Kern and her colleagues in Driver Services "rescued" my trip to Europe and Africa.

I was on the second day of a month-long trip when my pocket was picked on the Metro in Barcelona. I was particularly concerned about the loss of my driver's license, because large portions of the trip involved driving rental cars from one town to another. I found the phone number to call the Iowa DOT on your website. Unfortunately, I did not note the name of the person who answered the phone, but she guided me through the emergency replacement process. I faxed the required information and received a temporary license by fax from Theresa Kern that same afternoon.

The temporary license was accepted by rental car agencies in both Europe and Africa. The rest of my trip went exactly as planned.

I owe a big "thank you" to Kern, the woman who helped me on the phone and people who manage the website. My personal disaster turned into an efficient and pleasant rescue.

(Editor's note: Theresa Kern is a secretary 2 in the Office of Driver Services.)

To: Christina Andersen  
From: Gerald Schnepf, executive director, Keep Iowa Beautiful

What a great job you did on the Keep Iowa Beautiful membership brochure. You did an excellent job of colors, layout and graphics. It is TRULY appreciated. We will watch the new members flow in!

(Editor's note: Christina Andersen is an information specialist 3 in the Office of Multimedia Services. She designed a membership brochure for Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB) as part of the Iowa DOT's ongoing partnership with KIB.)

To: Iowa DOT  
From: William Axline, Monmouth, Ill.

Recently, I stopped at the first Interstate 80 rest stop eastbound from Nebraska. It was the nicest facility, cleanest, and the attendant was very helpful and outgoing. Congratulations.





## Five easy ways to improve your health

**W**e are constantly bombarded with messages on how to live a healthier lifestyle. The airwaves are filled with offers to help us lose weight fast, shake our muscles into shape and prevent chronic illness. Living a healthier lifestyle is really much simpler than we are led to believe, according to Paul Karazija, M.D., Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield chief medical officer. According to Dr. Karazija, we have the power to make changes at any time. Here are five easy (and free) things you can start doing today.

### 1. Lose 5-10 pounds

“Nearly all of us could stand to lose a little weight, and even 5-10 pounds can make a significant difference in our health,” Dr. Karazija says. “Losing weight can improve blood pressure, lower cholesterol and blood sugar levels, and make it easier to exercise.”

### 2. Find simple ways to exercise

When was the last time you parked in the far corner of the parking lot? Or took the stairs instead of the elevator? It is the simple things, according to Dr. Karazija, that help promote a continually active lifestyle.

### 3. Eat one more serving of fruits and vegetables each day

Most of us have a hard time dieting, and one of the main reasons is that we feel restricted in what we can – and cannot – eat. One way to ease into healthier food habits is simply to include more fruits and vegetables in our diet.

Fruits and vegetables generally have no fat, and are high in fiber, vitamins and other nutrients. Dr. Karazija suggests adding a salad, or including fresh or frozen vegetables with your dinner entree. Fresh fruit can be incorporated into our diet as part of breakfast, or as snacks throughout the day.

### 4. Keep track of your preventive exams

Now that we are losing weight, moving more and eating better, we cannot forget about taking care of the rest of our bodies. Many of us do not receive the preventive medical services we should, Karazija says, starting with an annual physical exam from our primary care provider. Other services (depending on age) include screenings for breast, prostate and colon cancers; blood testing to monitor cholesterol and blood sugar levels; and getting an annual flu shot.

Wellmark’s Preventive Care website <http://bit.ly/gwNNmh> has guidelines listing the types of care screenings and exams needed for your particular age (including your children) and gender.

### 5. Volunteer

Volunteering will not necessarily help you lose weight, exercise more or eat right. What volunteering does is contribute to our sense of purpose, which in turn can improve our relationships, community and overall outlook on life.

*(Reprinted from the Iowa Department of Administrative Services’ Benefit News)*



# Central Complex Food Drive 2011 a success

Once again, Iowa DOT employees showed their giving spirit in support of the 2011 Central Complex Food Drive. Ames-based events raised \$10,692.51. Funds remaining from the former PROUD Committee added \$356.94 to the Food Drive account and an equal amount to the Toys for Tots campaign for 2011. A total of \$649.90 was sent to each of the 17 central Iowa food pantries.

Along with the cash, this year's "Just Build It" competition (see photos below) raised the stakes on food donations. Between the sculptures and donation boxes, 1,273 pounds of food was donated. Monsanto matched the pound total of food with cash for Story County food pantries.

Food Drive Chair Judy Whitney, from the Office of Bridges and Structures, said, "We had a few new events this year that really went well. The pizza lunch was a big success, as was the jewelry sale held earlier in the year."

Whitney says the greatest need on the All for One Committee, which includes the Food Drive, Toys for Tots, Farmer's Market, Coat Drive and other activities, is volunteers to serve. "Fresh ideas are always welcome on the All for One Committee," she said. "Right now the biggest need is for three people to step up to chair and co-chair next year's food drive, and co-chair the upcoming Toys For Tots campaign. This volunteer effort doesn't take much time, but the benefits to the communities are significant."

To find out more about joining the All for One Committee, go to DOTNET [http://dotnet/all\\_for\\_one/volunteer.asp](http://dotnet/all_for_one/volunteer.asp).

- One in nine lowans fear they may not have adequate resources to feed their families.
- One in six Iowa children does not have enough to eat every day.
- 342,934 lowans live at or below the poverty level.



Office of Right of Way - north annex



Office of Systems Planning



Electronic records management system support team



Office of Bridges and Structures



Offices of constructions, maintenance and materials



## Personnel updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for March 18 to April 14, 2011

### New hires

**Heather Nelson**, administrative assistant 2, Driver Services

### Promotions

**David Brown**, from land surveyor, District 5 Office to land surveyor senior, District 6 Office; **Alex Crosgrove**, from materials technician 3 to materials technician 5, District 3 materials; **Jason Kohl**, from construction technician senior, Council Bluffs construction to engineering technician senior, District 4 Office; **Eric Lack**, from equipment operator senior to highway maintenance supervisor, Des Moines-north garage; **Shelly LeFleur-Ostrum**, from clerk-specialist to administrative assistant 1, Vehicle Services; **Hayder Salehoglu**, from materials technician 3 to materials technician 4, District 6 materials; **Clyde Tobey**, from equipment operator senior to garage operations assistant, Davenport garage; **Danny Wichhart**, from equipment operator senior, Creston garage to construction technician, Creston construction

### Transfers

**Frederick Schmidt**, from highway technician senior to materials fabrication inspector 1, District 4 materials

### Retirements

**Jeffrey Leyda**, motor vehicle investigator, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Jeffrey Ruppert**, equipment operator senior, Coralville garage; **Samuel Schweitzer**, highway technician associate, Independence garage

## Service awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for June 2011

### 40 years

**Donna Banker**, Finance; **Jerome Steward**, Cedar Rapids maintenance; **Joseph Thoman**, Manchester construction

### 35 years

None

### 30 years

**Mark Carter**, District 6 bridge crew

### 25 years

**Mark Brandl**, Davenport construction; **Todd Hanson**, Materials; **Barton Hofeldt**, Davenport construction; **Steven Kennedy**, District 1 materials; **Michael Lynch**, Rockwell City garage; **Janice Queener**, Motor Carrier Services; **Nyle Sheetz**, Mount Pleasant construction

### 20 years

**Raymond Hacker**, Williamsburg garage; **Arnold Laures**, Waukon garage

### 15 years

**Denise Said**, Driver Services

### 10 years

None

### 5 years

**Jason Dale**, Research and Technology Bureau; **David Evans**, Bridges and Structures; **Marybeth Still**, Motor Carrier Services

# 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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**Christina Andersen**, Multimedia Services, desktop publisher

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**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS ISSUE**

**On the cover:** Summer is motorcycle time for many in Iowa.

**June I-Spy clue:** Pre-trip inspect your motorcycle to get those gremlins out.

**May I-Spy solution:** There is a flower in the center of the light.

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.

## Nancy says good-bye

It's never easy to say good-bye. On April 28 many past and present DOT employees took the opportunity to bid Nancy Richardson a fond farewell. The reception was a time for old friends to reconnect and reminisce about Richardson's 37 years in state government.

In retirement, Richardson, who has been the Iowa DOT's director since November 2005, will continue to foster a world-class transportation system in our state by co-leading the Governor's Transportation 2020 Citizen Advisory Commission through the end of 2011.



Joe Pitts, Facilities Support, with Nancy

## One 2 One columns now available

Since she was appointed DOT director in November 2005, Nancy Richardson has written a monthly column for the Iowa DOT employee newsletter, INSIDE. In employee surveys taken since the column's inception, DOTers around the state consistently ranked One 2 One as a favorite piece of the publication.

The Office of Multimedia Services has compiled all of Richardson's columns into a hardbound book. The book is available for \$29 plus shipping from the publisher at: <http://www.lulu.com/product/hardcover/njr/15578181>.



Shirley Andre, retired director of the Motor Vehicle Division, with Nancy



Nancy showing off her book (see upper right corner of this page) to Dung Ta (left) and Yanxiao Jia (center), from the Office of Design