

JULY 2008

# INSIDE



## What's INSIDE

Flooding photos • 3-7

Memorial Day tornado • 8 | Iowa Veterans Cemetery • 9

Twinkle, Twinkle Muscatine bridge • 10

Family happenings • 11 | Flood kudos • 12

Underwood rest area christened • 16



## ONE 2 ONE

WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

### *Time again for a little bit about a lot of things....*

I have previously encouraged you all to take time away from work – vacation – to de-stress and re-energize. I did just that the last week of May when I went to Florida for a week. The only problem is I suggested my husband's daughter and two kids (ages 4 and nearly 2) join us for four of eight days. Now, I love them dearly, and really enjoyed being with them, but four days with three adults and two preschoolers in a two bedroom, 1,100 square foot condo may not be quite as stress-free and relaxing as the term "vacation" conjures up. I now need a vacation as a result of my vacation!

And speaking of traveling, in mid-May the Transportation Commissioners and I went to Washington, D.C. for our annual visits with Iowa's members of Congress. We have three new commissioners in the last few months and this, plus a June field tour in central and eastern Iowa, gave us a chance to get to know each other better. I always hate to see former commissioners leave, but then find new ones bring new energy and perspectives. I think it's the old fear of change thing rearing its head, but each group of seven takes on its own personality and they always have the same goal of doing what's best for Iowa. I again heard many good things about DOT employees and efforts from our members of Congress and their staff. Thanks to all of you!

My final travel comment is about "riding the rails." In late June I had the pleasure of spending the day on a roundtrip passenger train ride from Des Moines to Atlantic. It involved several of the key railroad companies in Iowa and we combined system inspection and flood recovery discussions with saying farewell to Office of Rail Transportation director Peggy Baer who retired that day. It had been a long time since I'd taken a train more than a very short distance. It was relaxing to leave the driving to someone else. I highly recommend a multi-modal approach to travel for a more relaxed, often less expensive and almost always more environmentally friendly way to get from here to there.

I also recently celebrated the passage of an amendment to Iowa law last session that significantly increases the fines for speeding in a work zone. It is intended to provide a safer work zone not only for DOT employees and other public or private sector employees, but also drivers. We had a great collaborative effort among Iowa DOT, Department of Public Safety, AFSCME, local government groups and private sector industry groups that led to its passage. We celebrated with a press conference, the day before the new fines took effect,

at our Sign Shop, where we also showcased the work of the Sign Shop and the important part signs play in transportation safety. We had a great media turn-out, plus all the partners were there. And the Sign Shop staff had the shop sparkling clean and did a great job of explaining what they do. Thanks to Sign Shop Supervisor Cory and the gang for hosting!

And what would my column be without some personal update? The ankle problem has now been diagnosed – posterior tibial tendonitis – and is now in both ankles. I think you're supposed to feel better when you know what it is – and I sort of do – but it's still a pain in the ...well, in the ankles. So, if you happen to see me with my feet up, I'm not loafing; it's doctor's orders!

And Riley, the Shih Tzu, is approaching the "million dollar man" mark, or at least the 10K mark. In the last two months he's been in an emergency hospital for two days (ka-ching!) and at ISU Vet Hospital for a day for diagnostic work (ka-ching!) They sent him home with five different oral and topical treatments (ka-ching!) and he goes back for a recheck the end of the week to see what's next (ka-ching!) But, boy, is he cute! And you may have heard the term "like herding cats" to explain a challenging situation, well try keeping a wet, sudsy dog still for 10 minutes while the medicinal shampoo does its thing. Yea, right, that's really doable!

Finally, I cannot complete this column without saying something about floods. Last month when I wrote my column post-tornado about people, not stuff, being what matters, little did I know that floods would give us a daily reminder of that in June. Truly gut-wrenching and devastating. If you are like me, and personally stayed high and dry, I encourage you to find some way to donate to assist others far less fortunate.

And, of course, DOT employees have been hard at work both managing the inspections on the transportation system and coming to individuals' and local governments' aid in many non-transportation ways. I could quote you lots of data about time spent, equipment hours used, missions accomplished, dollars spent, etc., but a recent E-mail summarized the DOT spirit better than data can. District 5 Engineer Brian Morrissey was reporting to me about DOT employees' efforts to assist the little town of Oakville. The Governor called me on a Saturday night, having just toured Oakville, and was struck by the tremendous devastation. And there was no usable road in or out so he asked what we could do to help. By the following Monday night, DOT had worked with locals to get access restored. Brian's report said, "Our people are remarkable in situations like this; they seem to thrive on helping people, as I hope many of us do also." Brian, I could not have said it better.

**Thanks DOTers!**

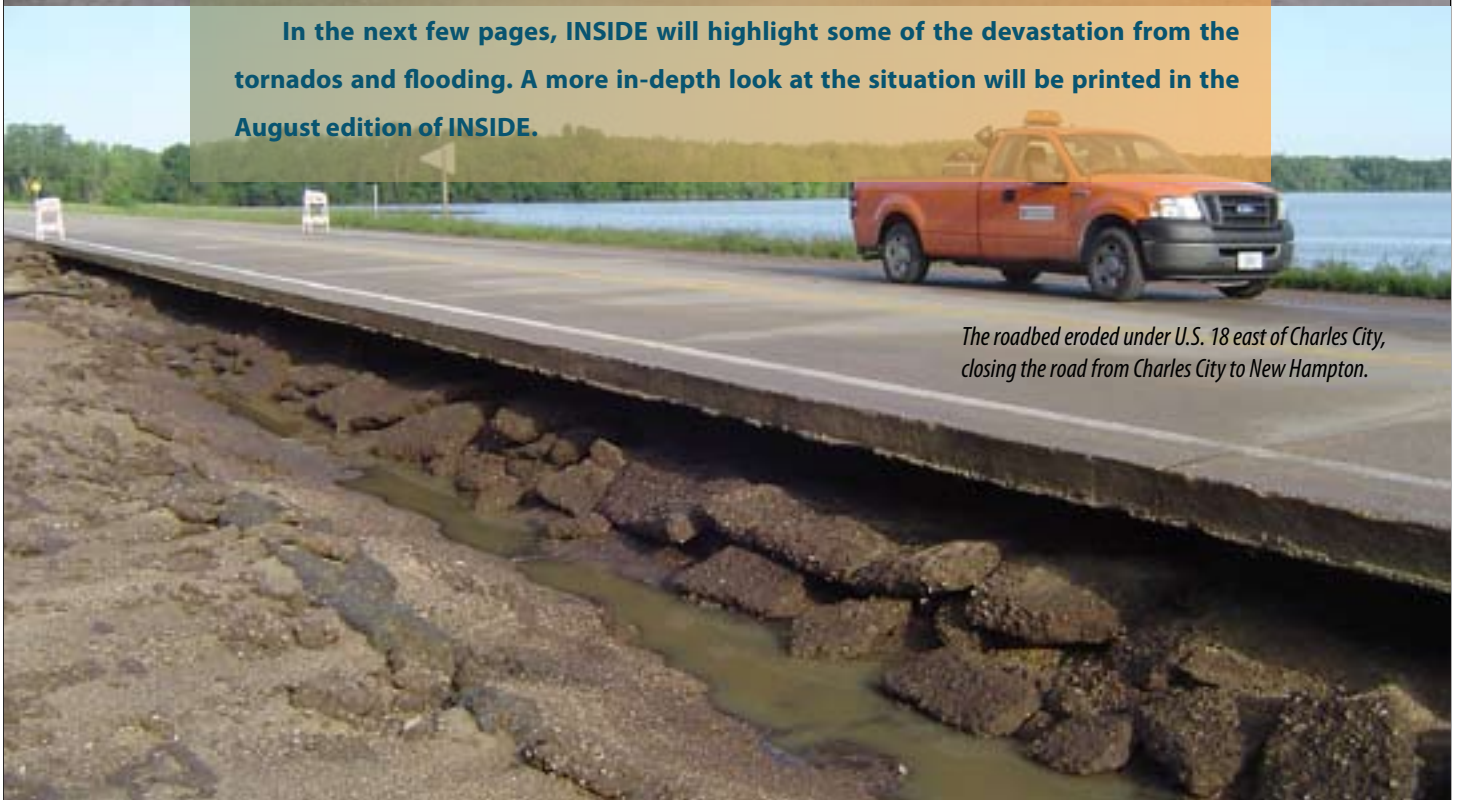


*The Cedar River rushes over Iowa 150 north of Vinton in Benton County.*

## Drenched, but not defeated

With the worst winter weather in recent history behind us, DOT crews looked forward to spring. Knowing that some flooding in low-lying areas was inevitable from the spring thaw, there was no way to predict the violent tornados and severe flooding we have experienced since a deadly twister ripped through Butler, Bremer and Black Hawk counties May 25. While the storms have directly impacted dozens of DOT employees, true to form, DOTers remain diligent to do whatever it takes to keep travelers in Iowa safe.

In the next few pages, INSIDE will highlight some of the devastation from the tornados and flooding. A more in-depth look at the situation will be printed in the August edition of INSIDE.



*The roadbed eroded under U.S. 18 east of Charles City, closing the road from Charles City to New Hampton.*



*Upper two photos: The Cedar River destroyed U.S. 6 from Muscatine County Road X-46 at Atalissa to Iowa 38.*

*Lower photo: The damage to Iowa 22 closed this road from Iowa 70 to Muscatine.*



*The Cedar River damaged Iowa 150 north of Vinton.*



*Upper right: A railroad bridge and box cars are submerged in the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids.*

*Center photo: U.S. 30 was covered with water from the Des Moines River, but did not sustain significant damage. (photo courtesy Susie McCullough, Transportation Data)*

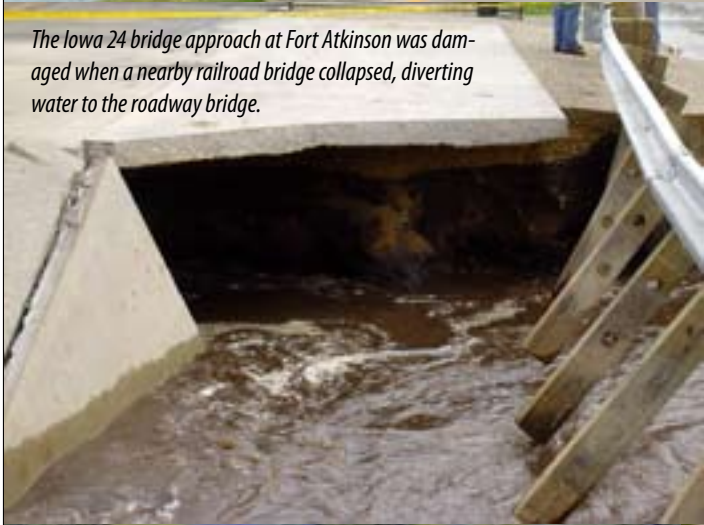
*Lower photo: The city of Des Moines braced for flooding, but escaped severe damage to the downtown area. (photo copyright James Moreland)*



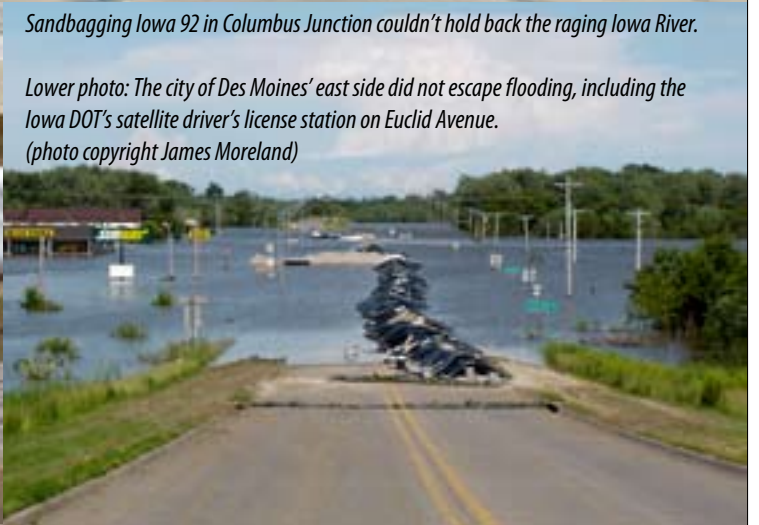
© James Moreland



The Cedar River overtook Interstate 80 between milepost 267 and 265.



The Iowa 24 bridge approach at Fort Atkinson was damaged when a nearby railroad bridge collapsed, diverting water to the roadway bridge.



Sandbagging Iowa 92 in Columbus Junction couldn't hold back the raging Iowa River.

Lower photo: The city of Des Moines' east side did not escape flooding, including the Iowa DOT's satellite driver's license station on Euclid Avenue. (photo copyright James Moreland)



© James Moreland



*Upper left photo: Ducks find a new swimming hole on a Coralville street.*

*Upper right and lower photo: The Waterloo maintenance garage became a sandbagging station when flooding from area rivers threatened homes, businesses and roads.*



# Memorial Day nightmare - the Butler County tornado

*More photos and details of the clean-up effort will be printed in a future edition of INSIDE.*



*Upper left photo: DOfTer Duane (Butch) Prange and his wife were in the basement of their home when the EF-5 tornado blew through Parkersburg and took their house with it. The large green dumpster in the lower left corner of this photo landed inches from where Duane was half buried in debris as the storm passed. Miraculously, the Prange's escaped the storm uninjured.*




*Upper right, center right and two lower photos: The May 25 tornado nearly leveled the south side of Parkersburg. Note the tree on the house in the center right photo - root end up.*



*The initial mission for employees from the Allison, Waverly, Waterloo, and Mason City shops was six days of debris removal, from sunrise to sunset each day. More than a month later, debris removal is ongoing in this area. (front row, from left) Maynard Bochman, Allison garage; Kip Siems, Waterloo garage; Russ Frisch, Waterloo garage; Devon Wagner, Waterloo garage; Bill Mangrich, Waterloo garage; Randy Taylor, District 2 maintenance; and Keith Corkery, Waterloo garage. (back row, from left) Butch Jacobs, Allison garage; Mary Hubbard, Waterloo garage; Brian Kiewiet, Allison garage; Ron Hardee, Waverly garage; Nick Wittie, Allison garage; Troy Dralle, Allison garage; Dean Bahe, Waverly garage; Kevin Adams, Waverly garage; Bart Lodge, Allison garage; and Rick Miller, Mason City garage. (standing closest to the truck, Jim Janssen, Waverly garage).*







## Roadside Design lends its green thumb to Iowa Veterans Cemetery

by Christina Andersen

**T**his July marks the dedication of the Iowa Veterans Cemetery (IVC), the first state-owned and operated veterans cemetery in Iowa. The 100-acre cemetery is located along Interstate 80, west of Des Moines in Dallas County near Van Meter. Construction of the IVC was funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' State Cemetery Grants Program, which was established in 1978 to assist states in providing grave sites for veterans in areas where national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy the state's burial needs.

Scott Gebhardtshauer, project manager for the federal grants program, learned of Iowa's expertise in beautifying the state's roadsides when he read an article in the publication "Greener Roadsides," written by DOT employee Mark Masteller. Gebhardtshauer was so impressed with the DOT's use of native species along Iowa roadsides, that it inspired him to consider how roadside design could benefit the IVC. Gebhardtshauer contacted IVC Director Steve Young, who then began working with Masteller and Steve Holland, both from the Office of Design's roadside development section. Masteller and Holland met with Young to tour the IVC site and examine site plans to improve the seed mixes and plant species.

Director Young has been impressed with DOT's responsiveness

and interest in the project. He reported to his counterpart in the federal government that, "The partnership between the Iowa Department of Veterans' Affairs and Iowa DOT has been the model for all future projects. Visitors to the cemetery from across the country will be immediately impressed."

Masteller and Holland proposed changes to tree species, seed mixes and wildflowers. "For the areas around the cemetery, short grass seed mixes were selected to minimize the amount of maintenance," said Masteller.

To date, seven acres have been seeded in cooperation with Dallas County. Approximately \$7,000 has been appropriated from the Living Roadway Trust Fund for seed mixes.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the capabilities of effective roadside design over a sustained period of time," said Holland. The entrance to the cemetery will be adorned with several species that will maintain color throughout the season, such as black-eyed Susans and butterfly milkweed. The plantings and IVC entrance sign will be easily visible along Interstate 80.

Construction of the cemetery began in late July 2007. When construction is completed, the cemetery will serve the state's veteran population, providing sufficient burial space for any eligible veteran, his or her

spouse and eligible dependents. The first phase involves the development of approximately 40 acres, which will include a main entrance feature, 12,110 total grave sites (9,850 four-foot-by-eight-foot standard grave sites, 500 double-depth grave sites, 770 columbarium niches for cremated remains, and 990 in-ground cremains).

The State Cemetery Grants Program funding is also providing for the development of an administration and maintenance complex, assembly area, committal service shelter, memorial walk, and supporting infrastructure. Phase 1 of the cemetery is estimated to meet the needs of eligible veterans and their families for 20 years. Phases 2-4 will be available for future expansion, ultimately serving up to 80,000 burials.

Director Young has expressed his warm feelings for his new DOT friends. Young stated, "The creation of new friendships evolving from this project has been a plus. Steve and Mark are just super guys to work with. The DOT should be proud of their professionalism and dedication."

The cemetery was dedicated July 3, 2008. At the time of the dedication, more than 1,000 veterans and eligible family members had already applied for future burial at the cemetery. Of this number, there were 71 remains pending immediate burial.

## Twinkle, Twinkle Muscatine bridge



by *Christina Andersen*

Like a diamond in the sky, the Norbert F. Beckey Bridge is sure to make all the stars shine with envy. Last May, spectators gathered from near and far to witness the debut of the new light-emitting diode (LED) lights installed on the Beckey Bridge, also known as the Iowa 92 and Muscatine bridge.

The original, privately owned Muscatine Wooden High Bridge opened in 1891. After a section collapsed in 1956, the repaired structure was purchased by the Muscatine Bridge Commission for \$883,845. Norbert F. Beckey was appointed to the Bridge Commission May 3, 1963, by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and later served as its chairman. Through the tireless efforts of Beckey and the Bridge Commission, the Iowa Highway Commission assumed responsibility of the High Bridge July 1, 1970, with the condition that a new bridge be constructed. The new Muscatine bridge was opened Dec. 8, 1972, at a cost of \$5.2 million. The bridge was rededicated the Norbert F. Beckey Bridge Sept. 15, 1980.

The bridge, which spans the Mississippi River from Muscatine to Illinois, now shines in a new light. The LED lights were mounted on the downstream, west side of the bridge, and are capable of illuminating more than 16 million shades of color that can be programmed to change individually or in concert. The entire span only uses about 4,400 watts of electricity and is capable of any type of lighting show. Travelers are treated to patriotic themes of red, white and blue, rainbow colors, and any other combination of color that can be imagined. A local favorite is the Muscatine High School "Muskie" theme, which features a yellow "M" formed on the diagonal beams, while the rest of the bridge is lit in purple, the school's colors. The high-efficiency lights are maintained and powered by Muscatine Power and Water. Muscatine Power and Water is also responsible for setting the color schemes. The lights will be on from dusk until dawn, 365 days a year.

The bridge lighting project was initiated by six students of the 2005 class of Leadership Muscatine, a civic projects and leadership class cosponsored by the Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Muscatine Community College.

Musco Sports Lighting donated the light fixtures, worth a total of \$250,000, and a \$100,000 grant from the Iowa DOT was used for the remaining costs, including installation. The lights were installed by Nelson Electric of Muscatine.



*Workers from Nelson Electric install lighting on the Muscatine Bridge.*

# Family happenings

## Driver Services

**Noralee Warrick**

After 31 years of service in the Office of Driver Services, Linda Lund was honored with a retirement party at the Ankeny campus April 30. Her family, including her grandchildren, were there to help celebrate. When Linda began at the DOT, she worked in the conviction arena, but most recently was a clerk specialist within the accident section of the Office of Driver Services. It is important to note that Linda survived and thrived in three different office automation updates and moves within her tenure here. Linda is a team player who you could always count on and possessed a vast amount of knowledge. Although we wish her the best, she is sorely missed!

## Information Technology Division

**Colette Simpson**



Heather Sheehan, of the communications office, was married to Ken Thompson of Nevada April 17 in a private ceremony at the Sandals Dunn's River Villagio Resort in St. Anne's

# Thank you

We are back from our trip to Disneyworld and we had the best time! It is truly a magical place and we will cherish the memories for years!



*Division. His wife, Mary, was diagnosed with cancer and donations were made for the family to have a trip to Disney World, which they took over spring break. Mary Feldhoff passed away Friday, May 2.)*

Thanks to all at the Iowa DOT employees who contributed and made this trip possible. I still can't believe all of the caring and prayers that we have received. Thank you just doesn't seem adequate!

Love to you all,  
Bryce, Mary, Jordan, Riley, and Isaac

*(Editor's note: Bryce Feldhoff is an information technology specialist 4 with the motor vehicle support team in the Information Technology*



The family of Roger Gould would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the entire DOT organization for their professional support and friendship of Roger. He loved working at the DOT – it energized and challenged him and he thoroughly enjoyed interacting with people, whether it was with co-workers, contractors, private business owners or citizens. He was very sad the day he had to retire because of his progressing ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.)

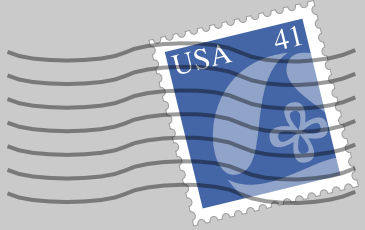
We would also like to say THANK YOU to everyone who participated in various benefits, such as the Annual Roger Gould Golf Benefit, organized by the Iowa ALS Chapter. In addition, many of his DOT co-workers participated in regular Saturday Work Days, which not only resulted in a multitude of tasks being done in and around our home, but more importantly, provided an informal social gathering where Roger could catch up on DOT news and spend time with friends.

Although the struggles encountered because of his ALS were numerous, there were many blessings as well. High on that list of blessings are the DOT folks who were with us throughout the years that his disease progressed and which ultimately took his life on April 26, 2008.

With gratitude,  
Cindy Gould and family

Bay, (Ocho Rios) Jamaica. They were joined by a small group of family and friends. After returning from Jamaica, the couple celebrated with family and friends at a reception in Ames. Heather is the sister of Scott Gustafson

of Facilities Support and sister-in-law of Jean Gustafson in Procurement and Distribution. Ken is the son of Deb Thompson of the Information Technology Division.



## Kudos!

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

To: DOT Director Nancy Richardson  
From: Jamie Cushman, Governor Chet Culver's Office

Please express on behalf of the Governor and Lt. Governor our true appreciation for what you and your employees are doing during this time of flooding and severe weather here in Iowa. It does not go unnoticed how critical the DOT's infrastructure and service is to the state as we plan the staging and implementation of measures to protect public safety. We know that many have been personally affected because of storms, and our thoughts and prayers go to those who have had loss. We are certainly not out of the woods yet here, but want to express our profound thanks on behalf of a grateful administration.

To: Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services  
From: Wanda Platte, Iowa Department of Public Safety

Send our thanks up and down your line for the great updates and for all the hard work that has been put forth by all the DOT employees involved in this mess. I know it has been a long haul, especially for a lot of the maintenance workers in the eastern third and north central sections of the state. I don't think anyone can really appreciate your work, really as much as dispatchers do. Thank you.

To: DOT Director Nancy Richardson  
From: Jim Wells, Iowa City

Just a note to let you know of my gratitude for opening up 380 this morning between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. My wife and some friends were flying out of the Cedar Rapids airport at 10 this morning. A big thanks to the crews that worked on this project. I'm sure I'm speaking for everyone that traveled that route. Hopefully, after this harsh winter and now the floods, things will slow down some for your department.

To: DOT Director Nancy Richardson  
From: Michael Pearson, Cedar Rapids

Thanks for all the great work during the flood. Thanks for placing the road status and gallery on the Web. These were the only sources of information on roads and really highlighted the condition.

To: DOT Director Nancy Richardson  
From: Steve Olson, AAA Colorado

Thanks for your very useful Web site. It has allowed us to keep our members updated as they travel through Iowa during this most difficult time which your state is going through.

To: DOT Director Nancy Richardson  
From: Barbara Hermansen

I am driving across Iowa next week from Illinois, headed to Nebraska, and because of the terrible flooding, found your Web site to find out the current conditions. I want to commend you on your very informative, user-friendly Web site, with such detailed and up-to-date information. I cannot imagine how hectic and stressful this time must be, and thank you for providing such a valuable service to travelers like me, especially during this challenging time. It is appreciated. Thank you, and my thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

To: DOT Director Nancy Richardson  
From: Rod Maier, Mokena, Ill

Please give the person my highest regards and a major pay raise for putting the pictures of I-80 online. This simple idea avoided a major problem on our end. We could see in real time what the status is and the hour that it opened up. Be assured we will be staying and spending our money in your state. A small part to assist during the flood issue. Thanks again.

To: Dena Gray-Fisher, Office of Media and Marketing Services  
From: Melanie Betels, Iowa State Patrol District #8, Mason City

Just want to tell you from someone using your info in the field, that you guys have done a GREAT job. Your updates and the hotline provided has been a lifesaver to me when assisting the public with travel questions the last couple of weeks. Well done!

## Opt-out strategies

**K**eeping your voice mail, E-mail in-box or household mailbox clear of junk mail takes just a few minutes and a few phone calls or clicks of your mouse. Here are some helpful Web sites and phone numbers to help you reduce the number of junk E-mails and junk mail you may be receiving.



### Reduce unwanted telemarketing phone calls

Register with the National Do Not Call Registry: 888-382-1222 or [www.donot-call.gov](http://www.donot-call.gov).

If you are called by a company that you do business with, ask to be placed on its internal "Do Not Call" list.

### Opt out of pre-approved, unsolicited credit card offers

Call 888-5-OPT-OUT / 888-567-8688 or opt out online at [www.optoutpre-screen.com](http://www.optoutpre-screen.com).

You can choose to opt out of credit offers for five years, through the Web site. Or you can opt out permanently by mailing the permanent opt-out form, available on the Web site.

### Reduce junk mail

Write to the Mail Preference Service. Include the name(s) and address of household members who do not want to receive junk mail. Tell them to put you on the opt-out list. You must renew your registration after five years.

Direct Marketing Association  
Mail Preference Service  
P.O. Box 643  
Carmel, NY 10512

Or opt-out online: [www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailinglist](http://www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailinglist)

A credit card is required for verification only. There is no fee for opting out online.

Abacus compiles a cooperative database of catalog and publishing companies' customers. When you order products from one catalog, that company is likely to sell your contact information to other catalog companies. To opt-out of the Abacus database, write to:

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Broomfield, CO 80038

Or e-mail [abacusoptout@epsilon.com](mailto:abacusoptout@epsilon.com)  
Include full name (including middle initial) and current address (and previous address if you have moved within the last six months). For more information, visit [www.abacusoptout.com](http://www.abacusoptout.com)

**Opt-out, continued on page 15**

## In Memory

Richard Eugene Kautz, 59, died Saturday, June 7 at Mercy Hospital



in Iowa City, surrounded by family. Dick was born Nov. 28, 1948, to Clarence and Lavina Kautz, living on the

family farm near West Chicago, Ill., through high school graduation.

He received his civil engineering degree from Iowa State University in 1970. On June 12, 1971, Dick married Pamela Conley. In 1973, they moved from Ames to Iowa City to continue his career with the Iowa Department of Transportation and start a family. After almost 37 years as an Iowa DOT engineer, he retired in February 2007. At the time of his retirement, he was the District 6 engineer. Dick leaves his wife; daughter, Sandra, and son-in-law Richard Echternacht; son, Robert Kautz; grandsons Connor and Ethan Echternacht; father- and mother-in-law, Ralph and Ferne Conley; close friends, Dennis and Sandra Glick; and many relatives, friends and work associates.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents and grandson Noah Echternacht.

## Service Awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for July 2008

### 35 Years

**Frederick Bartos**, District 5 Office; **Robert Clark**, District 2 Office; **Rynold Foss**, Program Management; **Wayne Hohl**, Altoona garage; **Stephen Larson**, Location and Environment; **Ronald Riedemann**, Atlantic garage; **John Smythe**, Construction; **William Zitterich**, Maintenance

### 30 Years

**Raymond Clark**, Creston garage; **Kirby Crabb**, Marion garage; **Sandra Fox**, Mason City DL station; **Rhonda Giebelstein**, Finance; **Richard Hanner**, Sloan garage; **Thelma Huffman**, Vehicle Services; **Barry Packer**, Davenport construction; **Jack Patterson**, Davenport maintenance; **Terry Rukgaber**, Burlington garage; **Larry Trende**, Decorah garage

### 25 Years

**Steven Brodie**, Maintenance; **Michael Kennerly**, Design; **Edward Lanferman**, Mount Pleasant construction; **Daniel Ohman**, Design; **Kenneth Patterson**, Oskaloosa garage; **Kenneth Peterson**, Martensdale garage; **Christine Roth**, Driver Services; **Gene Schmelzer**, Urbana garage; **Roger Walton**, District 6 Office; **Mark Wright**, Rock Rapids field staff

### 20 Years

**Robert Cassidy**, Finance; **Kenneth DeGood**, Oakdale garage; **Kelly Hamilton**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Marlo Howard**, Ida Grove garage; **Ronald Simmons**, Des Moines-north garage

### 15 Years

**Mark Dunn**, Research and Technology; **Luann Stowers**, Document Services; **Matthew Trainum**, Design

### 10 Years

**Shane Fetters**, Materials; **John Hart**, Jefferson construction; **Margaret Rowan**, Waterloo DL station

### 5 Years

**Michael Kelly**, Council Bluffs construction; **Christopher Poole**, Design; **Stacey Purscell**, Driver Services; **Amanda Tostlebe**, Finance

## Personnel Updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for April 18 to May 15, 2008

### New hires

**Jafar Al-Kofahi**, information technology specialist 3, Information Technology Division; **Wade Bartz**, design technician associate, Design; **Marshall Berg**, construction technician associate, Design; **Jason Clausen**, training specialist 2, Employee Services; **April Concepcion**, secretary 1, District 2 Office; **Richard Letner**, highway technician, Ashton garage; **Steven Messler**, design technician associate, Design; **Derek Peck**, program planner 1, Transportation Data; **Mellisa Peters**, driver's license clerk senior, Dubuque DL station; **Aaron Schwarz**, construction technician associate, Design; **Drew Smith**, highway technician associate, Rock Valley garage; **Andrew Sterba**, highway technician associate, Oakdale garage

### Promotions

**Don Dietz**, from highway technician associate to equipment operator senior, Waterloo garage; **Chris Grimm**, from highway technician associate to equipment operator senior, Grimes garage; **Glenn Hansen**, from highway technician, Onawa garage to highway technician senior, Sioux City construction; **Scott Mitchell**, from highway technician associate, Sloan garage to highway technician, Sioux City construction; **Allan Oberbroeckling**, from highway technician associate to highway technician, Anamosa garage; **John (Bruce) Schuck**, from public service executive 1 to public service executive 4, Motor Carrier Services; **Mark Stephens**, from garage operations assistant, Tama garage to highway maintenance supervisor, Marshalltown garage; **Jodi Thiessen**, from driver's license clerk to driver's license clerk senior, Davenport DL station; **Shane Tymkowitz**, from transportation engineer manager to transportation engineer executive, District 3 office

### Transfers

**Ruth Browning**, accounting clerk 2, Des Moines DL station to Finance; **Shawn Goetz**, design technician, from Design to Location and Environment; **Dawn Hackleman**, administrative assistant 2, from Des Moines DL station to Driver Services; **Layton Zbornik**, from engineering technician senior, District 2 Office to information technology specialist 3, Information Technology Division

### Retirements

**Eugene Denbeste**, highway technician associate, Sioux City-Hamilton garage; **Roger Elliott**, equipment operator senior, Fairfield garage; **Danny Harrington**, mechanic, Waverly garage; **Richard Jessen**, highway technician associate, Davenport garage; **Linda Lund**, clerk specialist, Driver Services; **Karen Magie-Crouse**, planning aide 3, Transportation Data

**Opt-out**, continued from page 13



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Network Advertising Initiative: [www.networkadvertising.org](http://www.networkadvertising.org).

For search privacy, take advantage of privacy-friendly search engines.

The Netherlands-based search engine Ixquick deletes search queries after just 48 hours. In contrast, the major search engine Google retains search queries for 18 months. Yahoo keeps them for 13 months. Web: [www.ixquick.com](http://www.ixquick.com).

The search engine Ask.com also offers a privacy feature. Go to [www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com) and click on AskEraser. Your search activity will be deleted from Ask.com servers.

To file your complaints about consumer privacy violations with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) call the FTC hotline at 877-FTC-HELP or log on to [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).

## Tell us a story

The Iowa DOT is collecting flood stories for future editions of *INSIDE*. Many DOTers were directly impacted by the flooding. Others spent long hours in clean-up efforts, assisted motorists with road closure and route information or many other tasks. We want to hear about your experiences during this historic time in Iowa.

One story told by Ken Morrow, District 5 maintenance manager is about the resolve of the folks needing to travel from Muscatine to Davenport with U.S. 61 closed. He said he saw many people riding bikes and walking on the closed section of road, rather than drive the suggested detour adding more than an hour to the daily commute. After walking the distance through the damaged section of road, they would be picked up on the other side and continue on their way.

Please send all stories and photos with descriptions (on CD, if possible) to:

Tracey Bramble  
Office of Media and Marketing Services  
800 Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50010

Stories can be e-mailed to [tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov), but please do not e-mail photos as the large file size can bog down the E-mail system.

# INSIDE

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

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**On the cover:** DOTers from several shops assisted in clearing debris from Parkersburg following the tornado May 25.

## Celebrating a western Iowa natural wonder

**A** celebration to christen Iowa's newest rest area and welcome center May 1 saw DOT Director Nancy Richardson and Iowa Department of Economic Development Director Michael Tramontina cut a grapevine, in lieu of a ribbon, to accentuate the natural surroundings of the facility.

The facility houses the fifth and final new generation welcome center to be built at border entry sites around the state. The building and grounds are themed to promote the local Loess Hills region, one of only two locations on earth to have the rocky, hilly features, at this depth, formed by soil deposited during the Ice Age.

Rest areas in Iowa provide services to nearly 18 million visitors each year. This facility is one of 11 new rest areas that have been built by the Iowa DOT over the last 10 years. Located in Pottawattamie County along Interstate 80 eastbound near milepost 19, this \$2.3 million project is unique in its focus on the natural surroundings. To highlight its great location, the building's roof line extends over

the facility to allow natural light to flood the space. Design of the building was performed by a team of engineers, architects and public artist David Dahlquist.

Outdoor amenities include walking paths, picnic areas and public art designed by David Dahlquist - including a set of black steel sculptures in the plaza in front of the building designed to mimic the shape of the Loess Hills. Inside the facility, travelers may pick up an Iowa map or other literature at the welcome center, grab a beverage or snack at the vending machines, and enjoy public art - including animal and landscape murals.

For more information on the Underwood Rest Area, visit the Web site at [http://iowadot.gov/maintenance/rest\\_areas/underwood/index.html](http://iowadot.gov/maintenance/rest_areas/underwood/index.html).



*(left) Iowa Department of Economic Development Director Michael Tramontina, Iowa DOT Rest Area Administrator Steve McMenam, Iowa DOT Director Nancy Richardson and Iowa DOT Chief Landscape Architect Mark Masteller cut the grapevine to celebrate the new rest area and welcome center on I-80 near Underwood.*

