

May 2007

INSIDE



What's INSIDE

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Construction season in full swing • 3 | Preserving our heritage • 4 |
| Pothole 101 • 6 | Stay Alert, Stay Alive • 8 |
| Rolling with the changes - DL examiner of the year • 10 | New crash statistics Web site • 11 |
| Trophy Case • 12 | Family Happenings • 14 |
| Gerda's lucky day • 19 | Picking fruit saves lives • 20 |



ONE2ONE

WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

I have recently had the chance to see the world through the eyes of children and I highly recommend it. It is so refreshing to experience “wonder” again. We get so bogged down with daily reality – and sometimes even cynicism – that we do not appreciate the little things in life like we should. Small children force you to change all that.

My husband’s daughter and her two children – a three-year-old boy and ten-month-old girl – just visited us for five days. For me, their visit could not have come at a better time. April is a particularly tough month for me as it is the month my daughter died. That means that April has now become the month upon which I count the passage of time – everything for me is now tracked from April 2006. I no longer think of years as starting in January when the year changes, or in July when our state fiscal year starts, but I think of the year as starting and ending in April. Couple that with the final weeks of the legislative session, which is a big part of my work life; lingering winter weather; tax time; and the whole “April showers bring May flowers” weather pattern, and April can be a bleak month. I found out that the introduction of a three year old and ten month old into your life is the perfect antidote.

They did not bring toys since they flew, and we do not have much in the way of toys at our house. But a simple game of catch in the back yard and, even better, throwing rocks into the backyard pond, filled a whole afternoon for the three year old. He was thrilled with my stack of margarine tubs and wooden spoons – it seemed they could magically become all sorts of things to his great delight. And “kring-a-la” for dessert and peanut butter on a spoon (his grandpa’s favorite) are wonderful delicacies in his mind. What joy he demonstrates in eating them with his grandpa and us watching him!

For the ten month old, the pleasures are even more simple. Experiencing mac and cheese – the creamy homemade kind – for the first time brought squeals of delight and much arm waving. Sitting in the thick grass of our irrigated yard and running her fingers through the blades was joyful. And developing a relationship with “woo-woo” (ten month old for dog) was something to behold. The relationship went from fear to uneasiness to curiosity to companionship in the space of one day – from both the kid

and dog perspective. She loved the dog’s many squeak toys, which he forfeited for the visit, and he loved waiting beneath her chair for all the crumbs. Seeing her pet him when they were off by themselves and walk side by side was precious. She came to delight in the dog’s presence and he in hers.

And, finally, the zoo. Experiencing the zoo with small children is amazing. I should have tracked the number of questions asked – how, when, why, where? Being inquisitive and interested, yet respectful and awestruck all at once – what a great attitude to bring to an experience.

Now that the kids have left, I have had a couple days to reflect on their visit and it seems to me that I – we – can learn a lot from small kids. Go into new experiences open-minded and inquisitive. Be open to new relationships, even ones that seem a little uncomfortable at first. Delight in the small, simple things in life – things do not need to be grand and expensive to be fun. In fact, “things” are not nearly as meaningful as nature, animals, other people – just sharing time and experiences.

I hope that you, like me, can find time to reflect on the simple pleasures of life – take a step back from your busy, often stressful days and relax in some small joy. For me that will be remembering a three year old wrapped in his towel, still wet from his bath, running out for a hug. Or closing my eyes and sensing a ten month old’s little hand around my index finger as we walk.

Hopefully, these memories will replenish my wonder and joy until I get another “fix” of the kids in a few months. Experiences and memories like these serve as “refreshers” and help us continue forward with all of our responsibilities. I hope you get to be around small children soon...they are a great pick-me-up! And a great reminder of what is important in life. Welcome to Spring!

Nancy

Construction season is in full swing

Work on I-235 in Des Moines continues this year. This is the fifth and final season for construction of this roadway.



Once the snow finally left the state, Highway Division staff shifted into full gear for the construction season. That means more DOT employees, contractors and motorists are in harms way in work zones. In calendar year 2006, 723 work zone crashes occurred in Iowa causing 2 fatalities, 30 serious injuries and 107 minor injuries. "In Iowa, 48 percent of all work zone crashes are rear-end collisions," said Mark Bortle, DOT traffic safety engineer. "If drivers would be alert, slow down and wear their seat belts, the number and severity of work zone crashes would be significantly reduced."

Being well informed about the location of major work zones can also assist you in planning a safer trip. Visit 511ia.org on the Internet to view construction information in either text or map format. You can also call 511 for construction updates on the route you plan to travel.

For work zone delays throughout the U.S., visit the Federal Highway Administration's National Traffic and Road Closure Information Web site, www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm.

Iowa's major projects for the 2007 construction season:

I-80 in eastern Iowa: This summer drivers can expect closed or shifted lanes, but few delays, along I-80 in three counties east of Des Moines. The projects involve resurfacing of the interstate east of Grinnell, adding additional lanes around Iowa City and replacing the bridges over the Cedar River.

I-80 in western Iowa: Reconstruction of the U.S. 71 interchange, midway between Des Moines and Omaha, will have little effect on I-80 traffic with lane closures required only when crews connect the new ramp to the mainline pavement. Later phases of the project will involve replacing the bridges over U.S. 71.

I-35 south of Des Moines: The northbound lanes of I-35 will be closed for one mile between the Martensdale and St. Charles interchanges. Traffic will be placed in a head-to-head pattern to allow for replacement of the Clanton Creek bridge, removal of the abandoned railroad bridge and placement of new pavement in this area. Work should be completed this year, wrapping up a two-year project.

Construction season, continued on page 7

Preserving our heritage

Picture an average size room stacked nearly to the ceiling with boxes, folders and other containers full of old photos and documents with no organization and little identifying information. That is currently the storage situation for a large number of items in the DOT's historic photo collection. Although a small portion of the DOT's historic photos and glass slides have been scanned and are available on the agency's Web site, many more images and documents have yet to be cataloged.

About three years ago a committee led by Hank Zaletel, the DOT librarian, was formed by a group of interested DOT staff members including Peggy Baer from Rail Transportation, Sandra Larson and Carol Culver from the Research and Technology Bureau, Kelly Popp from Document Services, Mark Hansen from Transportation Data, Ed Engle from Materials, and Matt Donovan from Location and Environment. The DOT committee secured \$50,000 in transportation enhancement funds to begin a preservation project. Last year the DOT hired an Arizona consultant to evaluate current preservation efforts, develop a plan to improve handling of historic documents and improve accessibility to make these treasures available to the public.

A pilot project, currently being implemented, includes archiving the historical photograph collection from the early 1900s and paper documents created by the early road associations in Iowa. Early auto trails were a predecessor to the numbered system of highways. Some of these highways were being promoted by associations, which were required to register with the State Highway Commission. The documents in the DOT collection include rare items such as registration materials, corre-



spondence between the associations and State Highway Commission, posters, brochures, and other documents aimed to promote the associations in Iowa and the nation.

The project includes scanning documents into the DOT's electronic records management system (ERMS). Once the photos and documents are scanned, two temporary employees will be hired to enter descriptive information for the images. The images and associated information will be placed on the DOT's Web site and made available to the Iowa Digital Heritage Consortium, a statewide coalition of Web sites making historic materials available to the public.

The committee is also searching for any information that may be stored in the DOT's field offices. The group plans to scan the documents, place them in appropriate archival storage and

either keep the originals with the entire collection or return them to the field offices, depending on the wishes of the field staff. This way all DOT historic photos and documents can be identified and held electronically in one place.

"My hope for this project would be to have all DOT historic documents and photos scanned and archived to celebrate the agency's centennial in 2013," said Peggy Baer, director of the Office of Rail Transportation. "What a great birthday gift to ourselves to have the DOT's historic archives and photos preserved and made available to the public as we enter our second century."

For more information or to add items to the collection, contact Hank Zaletel at 515-239-1200 or hank.zaletel@dot.iowa.gov.

MAP OF RED BALL ROUTE



St. Paul to St. Louis

A direct overland highway well marked with "RED BALL" all the way.
In connection with Lincoln Highway at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, this route affords motorists the best route St. Paul to Chicago. Total distance, 211 miles. Marked ALL THE WAY.
Road is ready to accept for any of this schedule and other information to
ROBT. A. CARSON,
President, Organizer, and Promoter,
Johnson County Bank Building, Iowa City, Iowa.

Jefferson Highway Association

INTERNATIONAL
From Pine to Palm



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
100 E. 10th Street
ST. JOSEPH, MO.

Mason City, Iowa.
February 6, 1926

EDITH B. HESTER
Executive Secretary, Jefferson Highway Association
Box 212 W. 10th St.
Mason City, Iowa

Senator C. F. Johnston
State House
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear C. A.

I inclose, herewith, the last number of the Service Bulletin of the Iowa State Highway Commission which gives a very good analysis of the Good Roads program proposed by the State Highway Commission. The whole number is good from cover to cover, the cost of highway transportation being shown on page 3 and the cost of the Federal aid shown on page 15.

It is my belief that the voters of the State of Iowa should have the right to vote on the proposed \$85,000,000 bond issue at the November, 1926, election.

I would not ask any legislature to pass a bond issue at the present time, and I believe they should give the right to the people to decide this matter for themselves in November 26, and I hope that the proposition will receive your favorable consideration.

I was elected president of the Jefferson Highway Association two weeks ago. We are making the Jefferson Highway the best north and south road in Iowa. The traffic census of the Minnesota Highway Commission shows that the average daily traffic in the country north of Albert Lea in the last week in August, 1924, was 1175 automobiles. During

PART MEMBERS, LIFE MEMBERS			
H. T. SANDOZ	Des Moines, Iowa	WILLIAM HARRIS	Des Moines, Ia.
E. B. FORD	Des Moines, Ia.	EDNA D. FORD	Des Moines, Ia.
A. H. FORD	Des Moines, Ia.	A. D. HARRIS	Des Moines, Ia.
JOHN D. HARRIS	Des Moines, Ia.	JOHN D. HARRIS	Des Moines, Ia.



The Emblem of the Custer Battlefield Hiway

is the motorists' safeguard
morning-noon-night
all day-every day

A Membership with your Emblem and Membership in American Automobile Association is included. No additional charge.



Pothole 101

It was a very busy winter with snowy, cold conditions stretching into April for the first time in a number of years. With the wildly fluctuating temperatures, ample moisture and aging pavements, fixing potholes and addressing other structural damage to our streets, roads and bridges have been top on the agenda for DOT maintenance forces and pavement contractors.

Most potholes are caused by moisture getting into or underneath pavement. During the late winter/early spring freeze and thaw periods, moisture causes the asphalt or concrete material to shift, buckle or fracture. Vehicles traveling over these weakened areas dislodge the pavement material, leaving those dreaded potholes. Potholes can also occur on previously patched pavements where snowplow operations dislodge the old patches.

As a temporary fix, and to quickly minimize traffic impacts, DOT crews will

use cold-mix asphalt materials to repair potholes. These materials are readily available at maintenance facilities throughout the state. Using cold-mix material is a necessity during the winter months when Iowa's hot-mix asphalt plants are closed.

Although cold-mix patches can function well for repairing smaller potholes, large defects or heavily traveled roads often require further patching when warmer, dryer weather allows for permanent patching.

Either hot-mix asphalt or Portland cement concrete is used for permanent patches. These materials perform best when placed at temperatures well above freezing, so this work is usually completed in the spring and summer. The DOT typically hires contractors to construct these partial and full-depth patches. Permanent patches are also constructed within roadway sections when there are noticeable signs of localized pavement failure, such as

significant cracking or deteriorated pavement, which can eventually lead to potholes.

In a typical year, the Iowa DOT spends approximately \$3 million on permanent patching projects on the Primary Road System and nearly \$4 million on the interstates. Not all of these projects involve potholes; many are larger patching projects undertaken for other pavement failures that could eventually result in potholes.



(photo left) Martin Coughenour, equipment operator in the Ames garage, removes debris from an area to be patched.

(photo above) Martin Coughenour and Cheryl Hunter, equipment operators in the Ames garage, patch a pothole.

Construction season, continued from page 3

I-235 in Des Moines: Work continues this year on I-235, the capital city's central interstate artery. Major 2007 projects include bridge and interchange reconstruction downtown. Travelers should expect narrow, shifted or closed lanes, as well as closed on- and off-ramps, but slow-downs should only affect rush-hour traffic.

I-29 in southwest Iowa: Resurfacing of a nearly 10-mile stretch of I-29, from the Missouri line north to the Iowa 2 interchange, will involve a lane closure, but minimal delays.

U.S. 34 in southeast Iowa: Grading on the Fairfield bypass should be completed this summer. Traffic will be shifted to an on-site

detour early this spring to allow the remaining earthwork on the east interchange. Work on two bridges will affect highway traffic, one west of Fairfield where the new highway will cross existing U.S. 34 and the other south of Fairfield where the new highway crosses Iowa 1. A paving contract for U.S. 34 has not been let at this time.

U.S. 63 in southeast Iowa: Bridge work north of Ottumwa at the junction of U.S. 63 and Iowa 149 will affect traffic as approach work is completed. The Ottumwa bypass should be open by the end of this year. Traffic conflicts will be in the area of the U.S. 63 and Iowa 149 junction and at local county roads.

U.S. 71 in Cass County: Work to overlay U.S. 71 from the Montgomery County line to Cass County Road G-43 will cause traffic to be detoured west on Iowa 92 to Iowa 48, north on Iowa 48 to U.S. 6 and east on U.S. 6 to U.S. 71. The detour began May 1 and is expected to last until October.

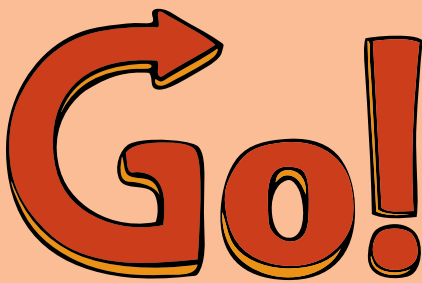
U.S. 275 near Council Bluffs: Traffic will be maintained, but possibly delayed, between the Missouri River and I-29 south of Council Bluffs as crews convert an outdated, two-lane highway to an urban, multi-lane thoroughfare.

Iowa 12 in Sioux City: At least one lane of traffic will continue in each direction during an extensive bridge rehabilitation of the four-lane Iowa 12 (Gordon Drive) Viaduct in central Sioux City.

Iowa 60 in northwest Iowa: Completion of the Le Mars and Sheldon bypasses should occur early in the construction season. The Sibley bypass is scheduled to be opened to traffic by the end of 2007, with some work on side roads remaining for 2008. The Minnesota DOT will be working on the section that crosses the Iowa/Minnesota border (Bigelow bypass) later in 2007 and through the 2008 construction season.

Iowa 175 in west-central Iowa (Sac and Ida counties): A 16.4-mile stretch of Iowa 175 from Ida Grove east to the west junction of U.S. 71 will be resurfaced. The Sac County portion will be closed to through traffic and detoured to other local highways.

These are just the major projects underway by the DOT this construction season. There are many smaller DOT projects, as well as county and city construction activities happening all around the state.



exploring the world
of transportation

Want a challenge?

Try to motivate a teenager to learn about transportation beyond asking you to borrow the car keys. While at the DOT we might be convinced the world revolves around pavement management and motor carrier issues, our high-schoolers might need a nudge to gain insight into why we are so passionate about highway, rail, air, transit, and trails issues.

A new e-zine called Go! is now online. Developed and maintained by the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) at Iowa State University (ISU), Go! is a free, online resource for teens and young adults that explores the world of transportation and the careers they can find there.

Feature articles have included teens in the DOT's snowplow simulator learning first-hand what it is like to be in the cab of a truck in the midst of a winter event, a quiz on traffic signs and signals, and a piece exploring transportation-related majors at ISU. There is also a monthly "mystery photo" that is a fun way to get teens thinking about transportation topics.

The layout is clean, simple and easily-navigated, with graphics designed to attract younger Web surfers. A free subscription will sign you up to receive an E-mail when a new edition is online, as well as allow you to register for periodic contests. To check out this new resource, visit go-explore-trans.org.

Stay Alert, Stay Alive

By Christina Andersen

As temperatures around the state heat up, so will the amount of motorcycle traffic experienced on Iowa roads.

The month of May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Designated by the U.S. Senate in 2004, Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month is an opportunity for the Iowa DOT, in cooperation with local motorcycle organizations and the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB), to educate motorists and motorcyclists about safe driving skills that will save lives. Stay Alert, Stay Alive is the message for this year's campaign. It's a message Iowa DOT Motorcycle Education Administrator Toni Kerkove hopes will resonate with all road users.

"For Iowa highways to be safer, all motorists need to take extra precautions to help ensure a safe trip or ride. Always take time to look both ways, stay alert to your surroundings and obey traffic laws. Stay alert and stay alive not only during Motorcycle Awareness Month, but every month of the year and together we can reduce the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities in 2007," said Kerkove.

In recent years, there has been a nationwide increase in motorcycle riding. Unfortunately, that increase has been accompanied by an alarming rise in motorcycle-related fatalities. In the past five years, national motorcycle fatalities have nearly doubled, while other vehicle fatalities have declined.

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month is a collaborative effort to prevent similar tragedies from occurring by encouraging motorists and motorcyclists to stay alert and practice safe driving habits. Two-thirds of fatal motorcycle crashes involve a motorcycle and another vehicle. The motorist either does not see the oncoming motorcycle at all or does not see the motorcycle in time to prevent a



crash. Motorists should remain on the lookout for motorcyclists at all times and keep in mind that motorcyclists will react differently to the same highway situation. For example, a piece of debris on the roadway may cause little concern to the motorist, but may cause a motorcyclist to swerve to avoid a deadly crash. In turn, a motorcyclist has just as much responsibility to watch for and remain aware of other vehicles. By avoiding a motorist's blind spot, wearing proper riding gear and using reflective or lighting devices, the motorcyclist can become much more visible to a motorist.

Iowa DOT employee Carol Houge has 37 years of experience riding a motorcycle, and knows how important it is to receive proper training and use good judgment when riding her 2004 Harley Davidson Sportster, 1200 Custom, which she describes as a "beauty." "While motorists have an obligation to watch for and respect motorcycles, the motorcycle rider has just as much responsibility to be watching other motorists. A motorcyclist should never assume they

have been seen, on the contrary, they should assume they haven't," said Houge.

In addition to visibility, motorists and motorcyclists have an obligation to drive safely and obey the laws. Allowing plenty of space between yourself and other vehicles gives drivers and riders more time to react to emergency situations and execute the proper maneuver. A motorcycle is entitled to the same privileges as any other vehicle on the roadway, and should be given a full lane of travel. "A motorcycle rider also has just as much responsibility and duty to obey all traffic laws," said Houge.

Speed was cited as a contributing factor in more than half of Iowa's motorcycle fatalities and more than one-third of the operators in fatal crashes tested positive for drugs or alcohol.

Other special focuses this month involve increased emphasis on training through the awareness of the Iowa DOT's Motorcycle Rider

**Stay Alert, Stay Alive,
continued on page 9**

Stay Alert, Stay Alive, continued from page 8

Education (MRE) programs. These classes, mostly held at community colleges or through private instruction from ABATE (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education) of Iowa, ARIES Inc., Bandy Motorcycle Training, and Riders' Edge, include a beginning rider course and an experienced rider course that may allow motorcyclists to bypass the rider portion of the motorcycle testing process, if the class is successfully completed. A motorcyclist can refresh riding skills by reviewing the Iowa Driver's Manual and Motorcycle Operator's Manual before renewing the motorcycle endorsement on the operator's driver's license.

"I definitely encourage people to take a rider safety class. However, just because a person takes a motorcycle safety class and passes the motorcycle test does not automatically make them a good rider any more than passing the driving test makes someone a good driver. It takes hours of riding and using good common sense to become a good rider," said Houge.

One lesson Kerkove hopes drivers and riders take away from Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month is respect. Being courteous, non-aggressive and cooperative can go a long way in preventing crashes. Next time you get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle or operate a motorcycle, remember motorcycle safety awareness and make the open road something everyone can enjoy.

To obtain a copy of the Iowa Motorcycle Operator's Manual, go to a driver's license issuance site, call the Office of Driver Services at 800-532-1121 or 515-237-3153, e-mail ods@dot.iowa.gov, or go to iowaMRE.com.



The motorcycle safety forum held March 9 in Des Moines brought together dozens of safety professionals and motorcycle enthusiasts to set a course for safer motorcycling in Iowa.

Top photo - The group learned about techniques for removing the helmet of an injured rider.

Bottom photo - Participants were asked to break into small groups to discuss and list the top safety priorities for riders in Iowa. At the end of the day, these lists were combined and prioritized. State safety officials will use these lists to initiate strategies for safer riding in Iowa.

Rolling with the changes

When Robert Kent began issuing driver's licenses more than 30 years ago, he was working on a typewriter. Today, he uses a new state-of-the-art computer system and has recently been named the 2006 Driver's License Examiner of the Year.

When he started in 1973 as a driver's license clerk under the supervision of the Iowa State Patrol, Kent was traveling to five counties (Kossuth, Hancock, Winnebago, Emmet, and Palo Alto) in north central Iowa to issue licenses. "All we had was a typewriter, and there were no pictures," said Kent. He added, "Driver's licenses were just evolving at that time as a means of identification."

Kent became an examiner in 1974, after promising the hiring supervisors that he'd work in that position for at least two years. At the two-year threshold, Kent proved he was up to any challenge when the DOT began issuing licenses which included a photo on a computer. In 2002, Kent settled in at the Fort Dodge DL station when the county treasurers in his territory began issuing driver's licenses.

Embracing innovation has been a cornerstone of Kent's character. He says a couple of the bigger challenges of his career were instituting the commercial driver's license requirements in 1990 and now the recent updating of the issuance system.

"Back in 1990, CDL testing was a big change," he said. "It was a major undertaking to license every truck driver in the state by the deadline, but we did it. We succeeded again a few weeks ago when implementing the new statewide issuance system."

Fort Dodge Driver's License Supervisor Mark Frein said, "The thing about Bob is he's very laid-back. He's extremely dedicated to his job, very easy to work with and adapts to change really well."

Kent and his wife, Jean, live in Algona. The couple have two grown sons, Aaron and Shelby, and a teenage daughter, Becca.



"Back in 1990, CDL testing was a big change. It was a major undertaking to license every truck driver in the state by the deadline, but we did it. We succeeded again a few weeks ago when implementing the new statewide issuance system."

*Robert Kent
2006 Driver's License
Examiner of the Year*

New Web site allows increased access to crash data

Ever wonder if a specific roadway is more prone to crashes from a specific cause? A new section of the DOT's Web site can help identify by county where crashes occur and the reasons behind those crashes. Data tables and maps included in the site are derived from information from accident reports.

"This information was developed and made available in an effort to more proactively address media and citizens' requests, while at the same time enhance our highway safety marketing efforts," said Michael Pawlovich, safety engineer in the Office of Traffic and Safety. "The information is designed to address citizen inquiries and illustrate how these widespread issues are not easily resolved. The topics, when taken as a whole, should help highlight the responsibilities and impacts of drivers and vehicles, and not just focus all the attention on the roadway. Also, based on the topics, multidisciplinary educational, operational or enforcement responses can be pursued, as opposed to only anticipating that road changes will produce improved safety."

While more categories are planned in the future, the crash categories currently on the Web site include the following:

- Impaired drivers, inattentive/distracted drivers, older drivers, speed-related, and younger drivers
- Animal (typically deer)
- Intersection-related
- Heavy truck and motorcycle
- Multi-vehicle cross centerline/cross median, multiple fatality and single-vehicle run-off-road

2001-2005 Rural Speed-Related Crash History for Montgomery County, Iowa



2001-2005 Rural Speed-Related Crash History for Montgomery County, Iowa

2001					
Crashes: 17	Fatal: 0	Major: 1	Minor: 4	Possible/Unknown: 4	PDO: 8
Injuries: 13	Fatal: 0	Major: 1	Minor: 6	Possible: 6	Unknown: 0
2002					
Crashes: 17	Fatal: 0	Major: 0	Minor: 6	Possible/Unknown: 3	PDO: 8
Injuries: 17	Fatal: 0	Major: 0	Minor: 12	Possible: 4	Unknown: 1
2003					
Crashes: 20	Fatal: 0	Major: 1	Minor: 3	Possible/Unknown: 5	PDO: 11
Injuries: 11	Fatal: 0	Major: 1	Minor: 3	Possible: 7	Unknown: 0
2004					
Crashes: 17	Fatal: 0	Major: 1	Minor: 5	Possible/Unknown: 7	PDO: 17
Injuries: 7	Fatal: 0	Major: 1	Minor: 5	Possible: 1	Unknown: 0
2005					
Crashes: 30	Fatal: 1	Major: 3	Minor: 4	Possible/Unknown: 7	PDO: 15
Injuries: 25	Fatal: 1	Major: 4	Minor: 8	Possible: 10	Unknown: 2
5-year summary					
Crashes: 101	Fatal: 1	Major: 6	Minor: 22	Possible/Unknown: 20	PDO: 52
Injuries: 73	Fatal: 1	Major: 7	Minor: 34	Possible/Unknown: 31	

The maps and data provide "snapshots" of local crash conditions and can be a valuable starting point for further analysis. "Hopefully, this information will cause people to consider how they might become safer drivers and discuss safety with their kids or parents. We just want people to be safe," said Pawlovich.

The map at the top of the page shows locations of speed-related crashes in Montgomery County from 2001-2005. The data table shows the same information in more detail.

(Note: PDO - property damage only)



Iowa Quality Initiative Structures Awards

The Associated General Contractors of Iowa and Iowa Department of Transportation announced the winners of their 2004-2006 Iowa Quality Initiative Structures Awards program at a luncheon March 7 in Ames.

The awards program recognizes those structures built in Iowa that demonstrated superior quality of workmanship in their construction and design. Those honored included the contractor, contractor's supervisor, inspector, structures designer, and owner. The subcontractors and material suppliers were also recognized for their superior support and quality contributions to each project. The following three DOT projects received awards.

1 Research Merit Award - Concrete beam bridge on local road system - "IBRC Project" in Boone County

Contractor: Peterson Contractors Inc., Reinbeck
Contractor's Supervisor: Joel Taylor and John Benjamin
Inspector: Scott Kruse, Boone County
Designers: Jim Nelson and Stuart Nielsen, DOT
Owner: Boone County

2 CIP concrete slab bridge on primary road system - Iowa 14 bridge over North Black Creek in Grundy County

Contractor: Taylor Construction Inc., New Vienna
Contractor's Supervisor: Eric Steger and Terry McDowell
Inspector: Dan Kopplin, DOT
Designers: Gordon Port and Steven Maifield, DOT
Administering Office: DOT - New Hampton construction

3 Transportation - Special structure on Primary Road system - 40th Street and 44th Street pedestrian bridges in Des Moines

Contractors: Cramer & Associates Inc., Grimes and United Contractors Inc., Johnston
Contractor's Supervisors: Chad Coalbank, Cramer & Associates Inc., and Jerry Jensen, United Contractors Inc.
Inspector: Steve Ulrich, DOT
Designer: HNTB Corporation
Administering Office: DOT - Des Moines construction



Research Merit Award
 (from left) Jim Nelson, DOT Office of Bridges and Structures; Justin Clausen, Peterson Contractors Inc. (PCI); Joel Taylor, PCI; Scott Kruse, Boone County; John Benjamin, PCI
 (Not pictured - Stuart Nielsen, DOT Office of Bridges and Structures)



Iowa 14 bridge over North Black Creek, Grundy County
 (from left) Dan Kopplin, DOT New Hampton construction; Krista Taylor, Taylor Construction; Ron Loecher, DOT New Hampton construction; Gordon Port, DOT Office of Bridges and Structures



40th Street and 44th Street pedestrian bridges, Des Moines
 (from left) Steve Ulrich, DOT Des Moines construction; Steve Sandquist, United Contractors Inc. and Robert Cramer, Cramer & Associates Inc.

Trophy Case, continued on page 13

Trophy Case, continued from page 12

Connie Page Woman of the Year



(From left) American Business Women's Association members Dani Dunham, Shari Caruth and Connie Page

The American Business Women's Association – Nevada Bicentennial Chapter recently named Connie Page as its Woman of the Year. Page, a secretary 3 in the Director's Office, was chosen for this honor on the basis of her dedication to the group, and the helpfulness and support she provides to new members. As a benefit of this honor, Page is invited to attend the ABWA's national leadership conference next fall in Greensboro, North Carolina.

TEAM SUPER prove they are winners



(front row, from left) Dave Skogerboe, Design; Dustin Skogerboe, COOP student, Traffic and Safety; Tim Simodynes, Traffic and Safety; Kurt Estrem, Design; Jim Nelson, Bridges and Structures (second row, from left) Keith King, ISU graduate student; Nick Humpal, Design; Jim Schoenrock, Design; Joel Bartlett, consultant and husband of Sally Bartlett from Design; Paul Flattery, Design (not pictured, Michael Pawlovich, Traffic and Safety)

TEAM SUPER is the 2006-2007 Ames City "C" League basketball champs, with a perfect 12-0 record. TEAM SUPER is comprised of DOT employees, two ISU students and one member who is an engineering consultant (and married to a DOTer). The group bested five other teams on the Ames High School and Ames Middle School courts.

Working with a "time weasel"

Anyone who has worked under a deadline knows the frustration that builds when co-workers fail to deliver on time. Use these strategies to gain cooperation from teammates who often weasel their way out of time commitments.

Let the weasel take the lead. As you plan your own timeline, bluntly ask, "When will you have your part of the project done?" If the person hesitates or hedges, politely persist. Say: "I know that you have a lot going on, but this project is really important. Instead of creating a deadline that would be unworkable for you, I would like you to tell me when you can have the work done."

Negotiate as necessary. If the person suggests an unreasonable or unacceptable date, explain why that won't work. Say: "As you know, other elements of the project will suffer if we wait that long. Given that reality, let's work out a compromise."

Formalize your agreement. Once the weasel agrees to a reasonable timeline, verbally repeat it: "So I will look forward to receiving your part of the project May 15." Then follow up in writing to cement your agreement. Hint: Add a little pressure by copying key players. When you let others know about the weasel's commitment, you make it harder to escape.

Reprinted with permission from *Communications Briefings*, April 2007

Learn to read others' body language

You can glean a great deal of information from a conversation when you pay attention to subtle, nonverbal clues. The following tips will help you develop your nonverbal listening skills.

Listen with your eyes, too. Watch others' facial expressions, eye contact, posture, and hand and feet motions, as well as body movement and placement. Every gesture communicates something you can use to improve your response.

Trust nonverbal cues. When a person is telling you one thing, but the nonverbal communication tells you the opposite, give the nonverbal cues more weight. Because nonverbal communication is often unconscious, it can reveal a great deal.

- Adapted from "Speak Volumes With Every Move," Donna Nebenzahl, *The Gazette* (Montreal)

Family Happenings

Location and Environment *Jean Jesse*



You can't tell by this photo, but **Jim Rost** was actually happy at his 60th birthday party March 15. The Location and Environment Office director's big day was celebrated by friends, co-workers and assorted other sneaky people who gathered to decorate Jim's work area and generally give him a hard time...all in good fun. Congratulations, Jim!

District 2 *Lu Mohorne*



Gabe Zitterguen, equipment operator at the Elkader shop, and his wife, Andrea, are the proud parents of a son. Vaughn Ashton was born Feb. 6 at 11:36 am. Baby Vaughn weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 inches long.

District 4 *Marlene Jensen*



Denny Castillo, equipment operator out of the Creston garage, retired March 30 after 17 years with the department. A retirement coffee was held in his honor at the Creston garage. Denny and his wife, Linda who retired last year from the DOT, will be spending time with their children and grandchildren. Linda also has a list of jobs all ready to keep Denny busy in retirement.

Design *Judy Lensing*



After 40 years of service, **Howard Thielen**, preliminary survey party chief, retired from the DOT Jan. 18, 2007. A retirement coffee in his honor was held Jan. 18 where reminiscences from his life on the road with preliminary survey were recounted. Norm Miller presented a clock and cash gift for Howard to use in pursuit of his many interests.

Thielen began his career in 1967 as an engineering aide on a preliminary survey crew. He spent his entire career working in the field and living on the road as he worked his way up to survey party chief. We wish Howard a happy retirement.

Materials *Brian Squier*



Kevin Jones (left) presents Cliff Dalbey with a retirement plaque.

Cliff Dalbey, materials technician 4, retired Feb. 23 after nearly 42 years with the department. A retirement coffee was held in his honor on his last day.

Planning and Modal Division

Mary Kay Reimers



Stefani Wonders, program planner 3 in Transportation Data, and her husband, Dan, are the proud parents of a second son. Jackson Randall was born March 6 at 12:23 p.m. He weighed 8 pounds and was 21 inches long. Jackson joins big brother, Ryan, who is 4.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who donated time while I was off with shoulder surgery required due to the accident I had almost two years ago. A special thanks to Jack Summers from Jefferson Construction for not only donating time, but also for helping me out at home when I needed it when I couldn't use my arm. I would also like to thank Tiffany Marlow for all her help with the multitude of paper work.

Dixie Makedonski
Des Moines Construction

In Memory

John G. Michaelson, 79, of Story City died March 13 near his acreage. Michaelson worked as a planning aide 4 in Advance Planning (now Systems Planning) at the DOT for 18 years, retiring in 1988. Michaelson is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marjorie, two daughters and their families.

The DOT staff at the Waterloo maintenance garage lost a friend and colleague with the passing of Equipment Operator Dan Huck on March 11, 2007.



Dan was 58 when he died from a sudden illness. He was president of AFSCME Local Council 61 and will be remembered as a good-humored jokester at the garage.

Huck was employed by the DOT for 22 years and enjoyed time with his family and friends, along with hunting, fishing, trapping, and high school wrestling. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served in Vietnam. He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and American Legion Post 714, both in Gilbertville.

Most of the Waterloo garage staff attended the funeral on Friday, March 16. They sat together, wearing ribbons that included the letters MOA in memory of this "Man of Action." As the procession left the church it was guided by the flashing lights on Huck's DOT maintenance truck.

Huck is survived by his wife, Alma, two daughters, a son, two grandsons, four step grandchildren, and two sisters.

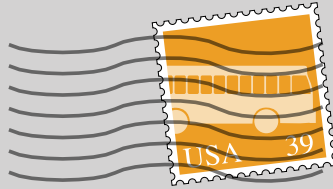
Donald L. Rust, 70, of Sheldon died Tuesday, March 13. Rust, formerly the highway maintenance supervisor in Sheldon, retired in 1998 after more than 35 years of service with the DOT.

Rust was a member of the First Reformed Church in Sheldon. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, tinkering in the garage fixing things, playing cards, helping his sons, and attending his grandchildren's activities.

Rust is survived by his wife of 50 years, Aleida, two sons and their families, as well as many friends and other family members.

Duane "Ike" Rohovit, 87, of Solon died March 12 at the Solon Care Center. Rohovit was a 43-year DOT employee, retiring from the Jefferson construction office in 1983. Rohovit was a former member of the Central Christian Church, Veterans of Foreign Wars and charter member of the BPO Elks Lodge 2306, all in Jefferson. In 2003, Rohovit and his wife, Bernice moved to Iowa City to be closer to their four children and their families. He enjoyed playing the banjo and gardening, and was a long-time Iowa Hawkeye fan. He had been a resident of the Solon Care Center since 2005.





Kudos!

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

To: **Ron Schwabke**, equipment operator, Highway Helper
From: Elizabeth Baird, Office of Policy and Legislative Services

I wanted to thank you for the wonderful assistance you provided when I was stranded on I-235 after my car had a flat tire. As I was just figuring out what to do, I looked in the rear-view mirror and there was Highway Helper! This was not just a simple tire change --- it was a cold night, getting dark, and traffic was exiting I-235 way too fast and too close for my comfort, even though my car was pulled off the road as far as possible. And after all that, you followed me to Quik Trip on Euclid to make sure my spare tire had adequate air. Highway Helper and your efforts are really a great service.

To: **Al Freidhof**, equipment operator, West Union garage
From: Crystal Mueller

In the lateness of the cold January month, a good Samaritan must have seen a peculiar early morning sight in a ditch some 100 yards out from the highway. He might have thought to himself, while scratching his head, could anyone be in the idled vehicle? Worse yet, could that person be injured? Realizing this, the man jumped out of his work vehicle to investigate the motionless red bumper lights in the distance. Upon reaching the vehicle, he saw a driver inside, a young woman dressed in nurse's clothes. The man must have had adrenaline rushing through his veins at this point, mixed with some fear for the victim. Maybe the man tried to pound on the car windows to alert the woman. Maybe he tried to open one of the car doors, but found them locked. Discouraged though the man was, he raced back to his work vehicle to summon medical help. After calling for help, I imagine the man raced back to the victim to be by her side until someone arrived. Within a short period, help did arrive. The police officer that responded to the incident jolted the victim, who was apparently unconscious. Soon, more and more help arrived and a game plan was initiated. The young woman had left side pain, back and neck pain, and was feeling cataleptic. She was put on a stretcher and taken to the hospital very slowly, due to the icy roads. Now, months after the experience, the woman continues to think about the good Samaritan and hopes he knows the strong impact he made on that day.

(Editor's note: Al Freidhof came upon Ms. Mueller's vehicle in the right-of-way during a snowstorm in February.)

To: **Quinta Miller**,
driver's license examiner,
Des Moines DL Station
From: Adrian McDowell

Thank you for the very helpful and courteous way in which you assisted me when I visited your office to have my driver's license extended. I know that it was complicated going through immigration. You have a very good staff beginning with the people at the reception area.

To: DOT employees in the Office of Facilities Support and Information Technology Division
From: Shirley Andre, Motor Vehicle Division director

On behalf of the more than 100 employees who worked in the basement of this facility for years, allow me to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to each of your employees who made our last few months in this place much more bearable.

While it is always chancy to "name names," **Lee Hammer** made the move possible by his insistent work with Chris Murray; then the communications folks - **Troy Carlson, Heather Sheehan** and **Steve Gray** got the wiring in place; then, what an incredible amount of work **Joe Pitts** did personally and with the others in getting everyone moved and operational in less than ONE DAY! WOW. **Bill George** and his support team were here late (and VERY early on Monday) to get us operational and that was no easy task! Through it all, the folks from Ames worked hard, cared about getting us what we needed and were willing to do whatever it took.

It is too easy to overlook the tremendous team effort it takes to make our organization work, but the move brought home to all of us how blessed we are to be a part of DOT.

(Editor's note: As you read in Director Richardson's column in the April INSIDE, a water leak at Park Fair Mall caused the Motor Vehicle Division offices to relocate. This is a letter thanking those involved in the successful move.)

These are just a few of the many cards, letters and e-mails received following the snowstorms that began Feb. 24. All DOT employees should be very proud of the effort put forth during this time.

To: All Iowa DOT
From: Philip Morrow, Onawa

Just wanted to let you know my opinion of what a great job you did on I-29 during and after the March 1 blizzard. A spectacular effort! I was traveling on Friday, March 2, south to Omaha in the late afternoon. We don't get FSNMidwest in Onawa and my Creighton Bluejays were playing a televised basketball game in the Missouri Valley Conference tournament in Saint Louis. Had to watch it! The drive was absolutely treacherous! Snow pack, ice and frequent whiteouts... well, you know how it was. An added problem was the lack of contrast, i.e., no definition of width, height and depth of drifted snow. I got nailed by a drift – and not a particularly huge one that spun me 90 degrees to the right, then back 180 degrees to the left (so I was still at a right angle to the road) ... and with each correction I spun back the opposite way to a posture that had me slip-sliding sideways down I-29. The forth and back spins were numerous, and I had plenty of time to say my prayers and be thankful for pocketing my cell phone as the prospect of winding up in the ditch seemed a foregone conclusion to what was ultimately looking like a very ill-conceived trip to watch a stupid basketball game.

But then the cumulative benefits of the steering corrections began to be evident and the sliding went from 90 degrees right or left to 45 degrees, and then to fishtailing that lessened with each passing second. Lo and behold, my nose was once again heading south and, most importantly, I was still on the highway. Wow! During the remainder of the trip, though somewhat stressful, I never experienced a recurrence of that type of episode.

NOW, here is the reason for writing to you. I drove back north to Onawa Saturday evening and I could hardly believe what a difference 24-hours made. I-29 was absolutely clear! It was amazing! The pavement was totally dry and there was not one speck of snow or ice on that 52-mile stretch. All of the traffic, and there was a lot more than the day before, was traveling at or near (or a little above) the speed limit. Like I said, what a difference a day makes. The conditions were safe and normal. It was simply amazing!

So, thank you for a super effort during tough weather and I hope all of you stayed safe and out of harm's way. Thank YOU!

To: Nancy Richardson, DOT director
From: Ian MacGillivray, retired DOTer

Thought you would like to see how well (very poorly) another state did with a winter storm. It might help in showing folks how well the department and state government in general did with our storms this year. The DOT's performance is a great credit to you and everyone in the organization. Well done.

(Editor's note: This note accompanied an article about the breakdown in operations at the Pennsylvania DOT during a snow event in February.)

To: **Phil Heinlen**, Rockwell City highway maintenance supervisor
From: William A. Davis, Calhoun County sheriff

I wanted to let you and all of your employees know how much we appreciate you and what an outstanding job you do for our community. If it wasn't for you and your crew, a lot of people would have been stranded in their cars for the duration of the recent snow storm.

As you well know, law enforcement was completely helpless to provide assistance. It was comforting to know that your crew was out there reaching these people when we couldn't.

Your crew is the best! Keep up the good work!

To: **Russ Brown**,
Anamosa highway maintenance supervisor
From: Bonnie Waldnerbach, Anamosa

I am writing a note to thank your crew who so bravely escorted the ambulance to Iowa City the night of a bad snowstorm on Feb. 24. I truly appreciate it. We sometimes forget about important services like the transportation department and all they do.

(Editor's note: This effort was coordinated through Anamosa hospital's ambulance service and David Janssen, equipment operator senior at the Anamosa shop. David arranged for Michael Bieber, equipment operator, to meet the ambulance at the junction of Iowa 151 and Iowa 1. At this time of night there was severe blowing and drifting occurring on the north-south roadway with very limited visibility. Iowa 1 to Mount Vernon was becoming questionable for vehicles, even emergency vehicles. The ambulance service was concerned with the conditions and contacted the DOT for assistance. They stated that the driver's sense of security was much higher with a DOT escort.)

Service Awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for May 2007

40 Years

Charles Henderson, Ottumwa construction

35 Years

Norma Black, Marshalltown DL station; **Ronald Jones**, Grinnell garage; **Philip Larson**, Right of Way; **Nancy McMenamin**, Construction; **Robert Olson**, District 5 Office; **Kenneth Stark**, District 2 Office; **Roger Van Dike**, Des Moines DL station

30 Years

Thad Boyington, Latimer garage; **James Brees**, Marshalltown construction; **Debra Kay Carney**, Driver Services; **Sheri Conn**, District 4 Office; **Steven Folken**, Marion garage; **Mark Hempe**, Information Technology Division; **Timothy Mathis**, Red Oak garage; **R.C. Roethlisberger**, Cedar Rapids garage; **Rodney Senner**, West Union garage; **Steve Staebler**, Cedar Rapids construction

25 Years

Donald Davis, Dubuque garage; **LuAnn Gibson**, Document Services; **Alan Helmers**, Fort Dodge garage; **Nancy Jean Rasing**, Driver Services; **Shelly Whiteing**, Right of Way

20 Years

Jolene Barnhart, Des Moines DL station; **Mitchell Dillavou**, Engineering Bureau; **Scott Dockstader**, District 1 Office; **Daniel Engstrom**, Maintenance; **Ronald Gleiser**, Le Mars garage; **David Hicks**, Right of Way; **Tim Jensen**, District 4 materials; **Michael Kingery**, Knoxville garage; **Janet Kout-Samson**, Employee Services; **Douglas Kueter**, De Witt garage; **Jose Ponce**, Knoxville garage; **Galen Richard**, Carlisle garage; **Laura Rieck**, Driver Services; **Robert Smith**, Marshalltown garage; **Cathy Timm-White**, Ames DL station; **Richard Verchota**, District 2 Office

15 Years

Terry Dunlay, District 6 materials; **Mahbub Khoda**, Materials; **Norbert Kotlers**, Bridges and Structures; **Mike Magers**, District 4 materials; **Mark O. Swenson**, Information Technology Division

10 Years

Jeffrey Buchheit, District 6 Office; **Brian Catus**, District 3 Office; **Debra Homewood**, Waterloo DL station; **Lacey Kifer**, Finance; **Christopher Leeman**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Gregory Mowery**, Council Bluffs construction; **Dennis Mueggenberg**, Information Technology Division; **Greg Mulder**, I-235 project office; **Matthew Schell**, Information Technology Division; **Brian Squier**, Materials; **Anna Schmidt**, Spencer DL station.

Personnel Updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for Feb. 23 to March 22, 2007

New Hires

Christina Andersen, information specialist 2, Media and Marketing Services; **Leah Berbano**, executive officer 1, Employee Services; **Devin Carr**, equipment operator, Sloan garage; **Jesse Denker**, program planner 1, Transportation Data; **Nichole Dugan**, information technology specialist 2, Information Technology Division; **Roger Dyke**, mechanic, Bloomfield garage; **Shelby Ebel**, program planner 3, Location and Environment; **Jeffrey Ford**, equipment operator, Jefferson garage; **Kyle Graff**, mechanic, Tama garage; **Joshua Halterman**, program planner 3, Motor Vehicle Division; **Leo Harlow**, equipment operator, Newton garage; **Douglas Knoll**, electrical engineering technician, Information Technology Division; **Michael Miller**, equipment operator, Council Bluffs-south garage; **Scott Mitchell**, equipment operator, Sloan garage; **Mark Nordholm**, parts worker, Procurement and Distribution; **Devon Wagner**, equipment operator, Waterloo garage

Promotions

Sheri L. Anderson, from administrative assistant 1, General Counsel Division, to administrative assistant 2, Operations and Finance Division; **Jason Arn**, from construction technician assistant to assistant survey party chief, Design; **James Galliard**, from design technician to design technician specialist, Design; **Ronald Gleiser**, from equipment operator senior, Sioux City-Hamilton garage, to highway maintenance supervisor, Le Mars garage; **James Hanson**, from garage operations assistant, Waterloo garage, to highway maintenance supervisor, Williamsburg garage; **Randy Jones**, from automotive service worker to mechanic, Maintenance; **Brandon Kimble**, from design technician to design technician specialist, Design; **Todd Landtiser**, from equipment operator, Oskaloosa garage to equipment operator senior, District 5 bridge crew; **Robert Mingus**, from assistant survey party chief, District 1 Office, to survey party chief, Design; **Robert Moffitt**, from equipment operator, Perry garage, to construction technician, Jefferson construction; **Wesley Riley**, from equipment operator, Missouri Valley garage, to construction technician senior, Maintenance; **Nancy Woody**, from equipment operator to equipment operator senior, Newton garage

Transfers

Burton Chaska, materials technician 4, within Materials; **Denny Eppert**, bridge inspector 1, within Bridges and Structures; **Kathy Hays**, clerk specialist, within Driver Services; **Jacquie LeClair**, clerk specialist, within Driver Services; **Amy Schleier**, design technician specialist, from Design to Location and Environment; **Dennis Witte**, equipment operator, from Oakdale garage to Malcom garage

Retirements

Frederick Burnett, bridge inspector 1, Bridges and Structures; **Clifford Dalbey**, materials technician 4, Materials; **Wendell Laing**, engineering office assistant 1, Chariton maintenance

Reporting was incomplete for retirements for the end of January. Additional retirements include the following.

Jeanne Heeren, secretary 2, District 6 Office; **Larry Johnson**, executive officer 1, District 5 maintenance; **Verlyn Scholbrock**, construction technician assistant, District 6 Office; **Howard Thielen**, survey party chief, Design

Gerda's lucky day



Equipment operators find items along the roadside all the time. While plowing a bridge on Iowa 376 in Sioux City, Tim Timmins saw an item on the first pass, then again on the second. On the third pass he stopped to remove what he thought was a piece of rubber from the roadway.

The item he thought was rubber was a ladies' billfold containing \$700, a checkbook, credit cards, and driver's license of Gerda Grothaus of Primgar. Timmins says he and the crew find billfolds on the roadside every now and then, but usually after robbers have removed the contents.

Timmins contacted his supervisor, Steve Botos, and took the billfold to the Sioux City police department where Grothaus had filed a report a few days earlier. The billfold and items in it were returned to Mrs. Grothaus and she in turn, sent the following (edited) note.

Tim,

Thank you so much for turning my billfold in to the authorities. Somehow I just had a feeling someone honest would find it and turn it in. I cannot thank you enough. The best thing is to know that there are people like you in our society. I was so afraid someone would find it and try to steal my identity. You can't imagine how I felt when I discovered that I had lost my billfold with that amount of cash in it. I go with my husband trucking and I do carry a lot of cash because of the cost of expenses on the road. My husband and I had both just had surgery and lots of medical bills, so you can imagine how frantic I was about losing that cash.

We have also found billfolds in restrooms in truck stops across the nation. We have always turned them in to the people working there. I guess it is true to say, "What goes around comes around." Thank you so very much. I have kept the torn up billfold in a plastic bag as a reminder that there are still good people out there.

God Bless you and your family.

Gerda Grothaus

P.S. We live on Highway 59 and we have great respect for the snowplow workers who work hard to keep our road open.

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.

Nancy J. Richardson, Director

Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services, Editor
Lynn Purcell, Office of Media and Marketing Services, Desktop Publisher
J. Cory Heintz, Office of Media and Marketing Services, Photographer
Christina Andersen, Office of Media and Marketing Services, Staff Writer
Printing Staff, Office of Document Services, Printing



**Iowa Department
of Transportation**

800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010 • 515-239-1372



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS ISSUE

On the cover: Pothole patching is a major undertaking this time of year.

Service Area	Correspondent	Phone
District 1	Kay Ridgway , Des Moines	515-986-5729
District 2	Lu Mohorne , Mason City	641-423-7584
District 3	Mary Beth Banta , Sioux City	712-276-1451
District 4	Marlene Jensen , Atlantic	712-243-3355
District 5	Brenda Hadley , Fairfield	641-472-6142
District 6	Sandi Byers , Cedar Rapids	319-364-0235
Bridges and Structures	Judy Whitney , Ames	515-239-1564
Construction	Nancy McMenamin , Ames	515-239-1043
Contracts	Peg Muxfeldt , Ames	515-239-1422
Design	Judy Lensing , Ames	515-239-1469
Driver Services	Noralee Warrick , Des Moines	515-237-3155
General Counsel	Vacant , Ames	
Information Technology Division	Colette Simpson , Ames	515-233-7728
Local Systems	Kathy LaRue , Ames	515-239-1081
Location and Environment	Jean Jesse , Ames	515-239-1225
Maintenance	Cindy Shipley , Ames	515-239-1824
Materials	Brian Squier , Ames	515-233-7915
Modal, Planning and Programming Divisions	Mary Kay Reimers , Ames	515-239-1661
Motor Carrier Services	Diann McMillen , Des Moines	515-237-3250
Motor Vehicle Enforcement	Kerry Kirkpatrick , Des Moines	515-237-3260
Operations and Finance Division	Sheri Anderson , Ames	515-239-1340
Research and Technology Bureau	Phyllis Geer , Ames	515-239-1646
Right-of-Way	Linda Kriegel , Ames	515-239-1135
Traffic and Safety	Linda McBride , Ames	515-239-1557
Vehicle Services	Thelma Huffman , Des Moines	515-237-3182



► *Motor vehicle deaths remain the number one cause of death for children and adults through age 34.*

Picking fruit saves lives

"The low-hanging fruit has been picked," said Tom Welch, state safety engineer. It's time to reach higher in the tree."

Welch's "fruit" refers to the methods and strategies used to prevent death and serious injuries on Iowa roadways. A multi-jurisdictional traffic safety group, formerly known as the Iowa Safety Management System and now called the Iowa Traffic Safety Alliance, has come up with a set of recommendations to continue the emphasis of highway safety in Iowa. The group's new initiative, Iowa's Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP), dovetails perfectly into the federal government's call for improved highway safety.

With safety as a cornerstone of the most recent federal transportation reauthorization bill, each state was called to develop a highway safety plan to identify and define effective safety policies and practices to significantly enhance highway safety in the state. Former Transportation Secretary

Norman Mineta quoted the cost of traffic crashes as approximately \$230 billion per year or about \$820 per person. Mineta pointed out that many of these crashes are preventable. That is where local safety initiatives can help.

Welch says the Iowa safety group includes members from the Iowa DOT, Federal Highway Administration, Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, several other state agencies, interest groups, and private citizens. They have worked for more than 11 years developing strategies and recommendations to improve highway safety. The federal government's recent requirement for a written plan is addressed by Iowa's long-standing method of tackling these issues. Welch said, "I've had the opportunity to speak all around the country about our multi-jurisdictional approach to highway safety. In this country, it's rare for so many state agencies, interest groups, academia, and citizens to work so closely on traffic

safety issues, and actually come up with specific and measurable strategies to address them."

Iowa has achieved much success in reducing fatalities and serious injuries on our roads. At 24 percent, the state ranks second lowest in percentage of alcohol-involved crashes. The state currently has a 90 percent seat belt usage rate, the 10th highest in the nation. The graduated driver's licensing system has produced a significant reduction in young driver traffic crashes and convictions. Yet, even with these significant advancements, an average of 440 people each year die on Iowa roads. This public health issue requires even more diligent attention to lifesaving measures.

As CHSP points out, "One Death is One Too Many." In the months to come, INSIDE will look at each of the eight target areas in CHSP in more detail.