



ONE IOWA REPORT

Governor Chet Culver and Lt. Governor Patty Judge

June/July 2007

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www.governor.iowa.gov



Capitol for a Day

After the completion of the 2007 legislative session, Governor Culver announced his "Capitol for a Day" tour. The Governor's objective for "Capitol for a Day" is for him to travel to counties across the state to hold office hours and listen to Iowans' thoughts, ideas and concerns. During these events, the Governor is available to meet with Iowans and hear their ideas for the future of our state.



Governor Culver holds "Capitol for a Day" in Burlington with Rich Leopold, Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Governor will highlight legislative accomplishments on water quality and lake restoration, as well as announce a \$350,000 grant towards an important Lake Geode project.

Capitol for a Day continued on next page...

Iowa's Kids Big Winners this Session!

Although the 2007 legislative session was a success for the entire state of Iowa, arguably the biggest winners were Iowa's children. Through legislation passed on everything from the tobacco tax increase to anti-bullying laws, 2007 has been a great year for Iowa's youngest generation.



Just take a look at what we were able to do:

- The life-saving \$1-per-pack tobacco tax increase will potentially prevent 37,000 Iowa children from smoking.
- Through this same legislation, the state will be moving closer to funding health care programs and making Iowa the first state in the nation to provide health care for all children.
- This session, we invested more than \$8 million in Iowa's SCHIP program – HAWK-I – which will expand coverage to more than 12,000 new children. This comes at a time when most states are forced to cut funding for health care.
- As a former teacher himself, education continued to be at the forefront of the Governor's agenda. One of the Governor's top priorities was expanding access to preschool across the state. On May 11, 2007, the Governor signed HF 877 which will increase Iowa 4-year-olds' access to quality preschool from 4% today to 90% in four years.
- Legislation was also passed to forbid school employees, volunteers and students in Iowa from engaging in harassing or bullying behavior in the School Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Act.

Facing the challenges of tomorrow begins with investing in today's youth. Congratulations to Iowa's kids on a great session!

Welcome Google and Acciona

The Governor has attended two major economic development events since the legislative session ended – the groundbreaking for the new Acciona wind turbine plant in West Branch and the announcement that Google is going to build a server farm in Council Bluffs.



Iowa has become a leader in wind manufacturing, with three of the five North American turbine manufacturers locating in our state. We are also proud to be home of Clipper Wind and Siemens. The new Acciona West Branch facility is expected to create approximately 110 high-quality jobs which will bring new opportunities and greater economic investment to this community and region.



Governor Culver announces a new, \$600 million Google server farm is coming to Council Bluffs

Everyone knows Google, and Governor Culver was proud to announce a new, \$600 million Google server farm is coming to Council Bluffs. With this announcement comes more than 200 quality, high-paying jobs, and a signal to the world that Iowa intends to be a leader in this 21st Century economy.

- On the Flip Side...**
- Capitol for a Day
 - Natural Disasters
 - Taking on Wellness

Tell us what issues are important to you.

Contact our office at www.governor.iowa.gov or call 515.281.5211. We look forward to hearing from you!

Capitol for a Day

How does a "Capitol for a Day work?" The Governor travels to a city or town with a department director and holds an open, town hall meeting with Iowans to answer questions and listen to comments. During the meeting, Governor Culver officially proclaims the building where the meeting is held as Iowa's "Capitol for a Day."

The first "Capitol for a Day" was held on May 17 in Dubuque. While making stops throughout the Dubuque community, the Governor discussed the future of Iowa's economy and highlighted the amazing impact of the bio-economy upon our state, as well as the importance of historic tax credits in creating new jobs and greater opportunities for Iowa communities. During the stop, the Governor signed HF 892 – the Iowa Film Bill – which is designed to promote and develop Iowa's film industry.

"Capitol for a Day" events were also held on May 30th at the Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs and on June 7th in Fort Dodge at the Blanden Art Museum.

The Governor will continue the tours throughout the summer.



Governor Culver at Dankwardt Park in Burlington.

State Hit by Two More Natural Disasters

In May, Governor Culver toured Red Oak and Missouri Valley flood damage caused by the heavy spring rains. On May 18, the Governor issued a disaster declaration for several Western Iowa counties affected by the floods and, in addition, sent a letter to President Bush requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Iowa has since received the Presidential Declaration and FEMA has gone to work rebuilding these damaged communities.



Governor Culver tours the flooding of Western Iowa.



Lt. Governor Judge tours tornado-damaged towns in Eastern Iowa

In June, Lt. Governor Patty Judge toured Fruitland and Grandview in Eastern Iowa after major tornadoes touched down and left many Iowans homeless. The Governor once again issued a disaster declaration and sent a letter to President Bush requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

The Governor worked with the legislature to announce a program to assist low-income Iowans who sustained damage from these natural disasters. The program is enacted every time the Governor issues a disaster declaration and is run through the Department of Human Services. It allows Iowans who have sustained damage to apply for up to \$3,319 in state grants, and it is important to note that Iowans must save their receipts to receive funds. To date, \$192,141 have been granted to victims of natural disasters.

The Governor and Lt. Governor would like to thank the weather-damaged communities, their surrounding neighbors and local emergency coordinators for once again bonding together and rising to the challenges brought by these natural disasters.

Honoring Iowa's Fallen Soldiers

In January upon taking office Governor Culver signed his first Executive Order calling for flags to be flown at half staff throughout the state of Iowa to honor fallen soldiers. If you would like to be notified when orders to fly the flag at half staff are issued, please contact Ryan Dierks at ryan.dierks@iowa.gov or 515.281.5211

Lt. Governor Takes on Wellness

On June 14, 2007, Lt. Governor announced her Commission on Wellness and Healthy Living. Chaired by Dr. Selden Spencer of Ames, this commission will hold a series of town hall meetings across the state to look for new and innovative ways to improve the health of Iowans.

"I encourage all Iowans to join us this summer as we begin this conversation. We want to hear from you," said Lt. Governor Judge. "Help us develop new ideas and policy initiatives that will improve our state's health. Together, we can build a stronger, brighter, and healthier future."

Other commissioners include Kim Dorn from Oskaloosa, Art Silva from Sioux City, Maggie Tinsman of Bettendorf, and Sharon Yearous from Cedar Rapids. Town hall meetings will be held in July and August, with final recommendations presented to the Lt. Governor in October.