



The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties

September 2008

Flood Relief Debate
Are Property Taxes the Answer?



BUDGET WITH CONFIDENCE

Reduce your risk through Life Cycle Costing.

When you require bidders to put Life Cycle Cost data in their proposals, you'll get the information you need to budget accurately, manage expenditures wisely, reduce risk and use limited resources effectively.

To include a Life Cycle Cost requirement in your next RFP (Request for Proposal), talk to Ziegler Cat and visit www.govbidspec.com. The site includes:

- Bid specifications for hundreds of machines, generator sets and work tools
- Life Cycle Cost Bid forms and Scheduled Maintenance Calculation forms
- Forms that you can download, edit, print and attach to your RFP documents

Working with Ziegler Cat, you can invest with confidence, knowing the products and services you procure will deliver an excellent return, today and in the future.

www.zieglercat.com

www.govbidspec.com

The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIP), National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) and National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) endorse the use of Life Cycle Costing as a preferred procurement method.



www.zieglercat.com

1500 Ziegler Drive NW
Altoona, IA 50009
515.957.3800
800.342.7002

3366 5th Ave South
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515.576.3161
800.342.1848

11490 265th Street
Mason City, IA 50401
641.423.7240
800.342.1849

308 North Lawler
Postville, IA 52162
563.864.7461
800.526.0889

5300 Harbor Drive
Sioux City, IA 51111
712.252.4401
800.342.1847

© 2008 Caterpillar
All Rights Reserved

CAT, CATERPILLAR, their respective logos, "Caterpillar Yellow" and the POWER EDGE trade dress, as well as corporate and product identity used herein, are trademarks of Caterpillar and may not be used without permission.

Iowa County

September 2008 * Volume 37, Number 9

The Iowa County: The official magazine of the
Iowa State Association of Counties
501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 244-7181 FAX (515) 244-6397
www.iowacounties.org
Rachel E. Bicego, EDITOR

Feature -	
Tax Relief for Flood Victims: What Makes Sense?	4-5
<i>Peter S. Fisher, Iowa Fiscal Partnership</i>	
Fighting the Flood Aftermath	6
<i>Representative Christopher Rants</i>	
Legal Briefs	7
<i>David Vestal</i>	
Capitol Comments	8-9
<i>Linda Hinton</i>	
Technology Center	10
<i>Robin Harlow</i>	
Lincoln Letters	11
<i>Grant Veeder</i>	
Case Management	12
<i>Dan Vonnahme</i>	
ISAC Meetings	13
<i>Stacy Horner</i>	
Counties in the Spotlight	14-15
NACo News	16
Miscellaneous	17-18
Calendar of Events	20



ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties. *The Iowa County* (ISSN 0892-3795, USPS 0002-150) is published monthly by the Iowa State Association of Counties 501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q, Des Moines, IA 50309-4540. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines, IA 50318. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Iowa County*, 501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q, Des Moines, IA 50309-4540. Subscriptions: \$25 per year.

ISAC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mike King - Union County Supervisor

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Gary Anderson - Appanoose County Sheriff

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Chuck Rieken - Cass County Supervisor

3RD VICE PRESIDENT

Marjorie Pitts - Clay County Auditor

ISAC DIRECTORS

Tim McGee - Lucas County Assessor

Paul Goldsmith - Lucas County Attorney

Linn Adams - Hardin County Community Services

Steve Lekwa - Story County Conservation Director

Derek White - Carroll County Emergency Mgmt.

Michael McClain - Jones County Engineer

Jon McNamee - Black Hawk County Environmental Health

Wayne Chizek - Marshall County IT/GIS

Terri Henkels - Polk County Public Health

Nancy Parrott - Jasper County Recorder

Harlan Hansen - Humboldt County Supervisor

Wayne Walter - Winneshiek County Treasurer

Joe Buffington - Henry County Zoning

Kim Painter - Johnson County Recorder (Past Pres.)

Grant Veeder - Black Hawk County Auditor (NACo Rep.)

ISAC STAFF

William R. Peterson - Executive Director

Lauren Adams - Financial Administrative Assistant

Rachel E. Bicego - Marketing/Comm. Coordinator

Nathan Bonnett - Public Policy Specialist

Cindy Chappelle - Case Management Specialist

Hanna De Groot - Public Policy Specialist

Deb Eckerman - Case Management Services Manager

Robin Harlow - Technology Project Manager

Linda Hinton - Government Relations Manager

Brad Holtan - Accounting Manager

Stacy Horner - Meeting/Event Administrator

Linda Kemp - Case Management Specialist

Jenna Kunstle - Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

Tammy Norman - Office Manager

Jackie Olson Leech - Case Management Specialist

Jay Syverson - Fiscal Analyst

David Vestal - General Counsel

Dan Vonnahme - Case Management Specialist

Sam Watson - Information Technology Specialist

ISAC's Mission:

To promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

ISAC's Vision:

To be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

Tax Relief for Flood Victims: What Makes Sense?

By: **Peter S. Fisher**

Iowa Fiscal Partnership



As county treasurers begin to mail bills for property taxes due in September, some people have asked why they should pay taxes on a property rendered uninhabitable by Iowa's floods of 2008. This has led some policy makers to suggest state action to suspend or eliminate property taxes for property owners affected by flood, or to provide broader tax cuts in flooded counties. Clearly, many families in Iowa have been devastated by flooding, including its impact upon their property. At the same time, seeking to address the impacts through the tax system is not likely to be an efficient or effective response.

First, cities, counties and school districts have already passed budgets relying on these taxes, and in addition may face enormous unanticipated costs for flood recovery. Local governments can ill afford to forgive these taxes, and the state will have large responsibilities to provide matching funds for hundreds of millions of dollars of federal aid. Furthermore, property is periodically re-assessed so that it reflects the actual value of the property. Where property value has been dramatically reduced as a result of the flood, that will be reflected in future tax obligations. In short, property taxpayers affected by the flood are not, in the long run, being required to pay property taxes on more than the value of their property, compared with others not affected.

Of course, that does not mean that many of these property owners have not suffered serious financial hardship and deserve public support. It simply means that the property tax system is not likely to be an efficient or effective way to provide that support. A homeowner whose \$100,000 home has been damaged beyond repair and now has property worth at most \$20,000 is likely to face major needs in relocation and replacement in the tens of thousands of dollars. Elimination of a September property tax payment of \$600 to \$800 at best addresses only a fraction of this need. Other forms of relief are much more important to this homeowner and the homeowner's family. Similarly, commercial property tax relief would not differentiate between a business suffering minor inconvenience and one forced to close down as a result of the flood.

It is important to evaluate relief proposals by first thinking about principles that should guide any flood-related relief. In order for relief proposals to be efficient and effective, they should be targeted, timely and transitional, as well as simple and fair. They should target relief at those affected by the flood, and those whose property value was damaged the most and those who have the least available means to address the damage themselves should get the most relief. Measures should

be timely: People need immediate financial help. They should be transitional: Relief measures should be limited to the period necessary to provide relief and aid in recovery and not be ongoing. In particular, this is not a time to use the flood as an excuse to promote an agenda of broad-based tax cuts that permanently reduce local government revenue needed to finance rebuilding efforts. Relief should be simple to administer and to apply for, and it should be fair, focused on those with the most need. Those for whom rebuilding will be most problematic – the elderly and low-income families – should be helped first. Public resources are scarce and adherence to these principles is needed to ensure that relief is provided in the most cost-effective fashion.

Proposals to grant property tax forgiveness would be nearly impossible to administer in a manner that truly based relief on need (as well as only touching on the relief some families do need to rebuild their lives). Consider two homeowners, Fred and Martha, who each own a home worth \$150,000 that was flooded. Fred has no flood insurance, the home was heavily damaged, and he cannot occupy it until major renovations occur, if at all. Martha's home sustained relatively minor damage, but she was insured and the home will be repaired by October and reoccupied. Fred suffered a \$150,000 loss, Martha no financial loss on the home itself. It makes no sense to provide both with the same public aid in the amount of one year's property taxes, yet it would be very difficult to structure a property tax relief provision that distinguished between these two homeowners or recognized the many gradations that would come in between. This is neither a fair nor effective way of targeting limited funds in a way that will promote rebuilding. Furthermore, property tax relief does nothing to help the many renters who had no wealth in the form of a home to lose, but who nonetheless lost all of their possessions. In some if not most flooded areas, renters outnumber homeowners.

Even providing for deferral of property taxes is problematic and likely to be complicated. Deferrals impose additional burdens upon local governments to fund their own annual budgets (which would entail additional administrative costs in efforts to borrow money to cover the amount that is deferred). They also require subsequent collection efforts that can be complicated by locating those property owners who have moved as a result of the flood. It makes much more sense to assess the actual impacts and needs of those affected by the flood on an individual basis, and then determine the total amount of help that needs to be provided, taking into account

all their living-expense needs (relocation, replacement of damaged personal property, emergency food assistance, temporary relief caused by the loss of employment, and upcoming obligations that require payment, including property taxes).

Guiding Principles - Disaster responses must be:

Timely

- Focused relief efforts need to occur when people are experiencing the disruptions and have immediate need for relief (recognizing the phases that families are likely to experience in dealing with loss).
- Rebuilding opportunities need to be presented when there is a readiness and capacity to take advantage of the opportunity to rebuild.

Targeted

- Rebuilding efforts need to be focused upon those impacted by the disaster, with a particular emphasis upon those for whom rebuilding will be most problematic (low-income and limited resource families).
- Rebuilding efforts need to involve those impacted in the planning and, to the extent possible, make use of their own skills and talents in rebuilding.
- Rebuilding efforts need to pay attention to 21st century demands and pay particular attention to “green” strategies and to inclusion in responding to an increasingly diverse Iowa population.

Transitional

- Although rebuilding efforts will take years, most policies should be designed as temporary and not permanent ones.
- Accountability for results requires that clear, time-specific goals and objectives be established for investments.

While it may be appealing to offer property tax forgiveness as a response to the flood, this is neither an efficient nor an effective response to real needs. In fact, tax policy in general is recognized as a very poor vehicle for dealing with disasters, including floods, other natural disasters like hurricanes, or human disasters like theft or arson.

Proposals to provide broad tax cuts to all those residing in a flood-affected county, of course, make even less sense. Consider the owner of a multimillion-dollar apartment complex in Linn County that escaped the flood. The owner now finds the apartments in high demand due to the severe shortage of housing caused by the flood and may raise rents to take advantage of the situation. The property was thus made considerably *more* valuable by the flood, not less valuable. Why should taxpayers fund a tax rebate check to this apartment owner? Even less sensible are proposals to suspend sales taxes. There is no targeting whatsoever in such a proposal; residents of non-flooded areas or counties, even tourists, will benefit from such a tax suspension, which then robs the state and localities of revenue needed to match the federal flood-relief dollars coming in and to finance recovery.

Iowa should avoid the easy path of providing tax cuts that, while they may provide a little relief to some individual property owners with real needs, inevitably will be largely untargeted and will waste scarce resources on many without real needs or who do not require public help. Iowa should focus attention instead on real solutions that can be timely, effective and efficient in providing help where it is most needed. Tax expenditures should be held to the same review and standard as state or community appropriations of public funds.



McFarland Park, Story County
Photo by: Rachel E. Bicego

about the cover

McFarland Park is a natural history theme area that also serves as a home for our conservation education program and headquarters for the Story County Conservation Board. We'll be kicking off our 50th Anniversary as a board on October 5, at our Fall Festival at McFarland Park from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. We'll have food, crafts for kids, and live outdoor music by author, singer, and song writer Doug Wood. I might add that Doug is a personal favorite of mine and a great 12-string guitar picker. The whole show is free thanks to our Conservation Partners organization. We'd love to have readers of *The Iowa County* magazine join us for the celebration.

-Steve Lekwa, ISAC Board of Directors and Story County Conservation Director

Fighting the Flood Aftermath

By: Rep. Christopher Rants

House Republican Leader



Mother nature has presented our state with some of the greatest challenges we have faced in years. Whether it be the tornadoes or the flooding that has ravaged our communities, Iowans have been hit hard this summer. The financial impact of these events demand that we look for ways to help Iowans recover. That means we must explore all options to rebuild lives and communities including property tax relief.

As we all know, property taxes are due at the end of September. For many Iowans who lost their homes in disaster affected areas this is tantamount to kicking a person while they are down. Even though their homes may have little or no value today - the taxes are on pre-flood valuations.

There will be many affected who simply can't, or won't pay that tax bill leaving the local governments with a serious shortfall in revenue.

The state needs to be willing to help these communities and their residents with both short and long term solutions. We should not be afraid to utilize our budget reserves to help Iowa families and businesses get back on their feet. And part of that answer is to consider helping with September's property tax bill.

One idea would be to allow property taxes on destroyed homes in flooded areas to be waived and then utilize the state's reserve funds to make the local governments budgets whole. Currently, there is over \$600 million in the state's "rainy day" account and using some of that money now is appropriate. Clearly guidelines for eligibility would need to be established

This is a short-term solution. But this act would give disaster-affected Iowans time. Time to decide if they are able to rebuild and repair their homes and businesses. Time to get their financial houses in order.

It is easy to be critical of any plan that seeks to provide relief - are the recipients worthy, who has to foot the bill, etc... But

this is not just about individual home owners. This is about local governments as well that have already expended millions of dollars and are about to experience an unprecedented cash flow crunch when people start defaulting on their property tax payments. The state needs to be a partner in preventing that disaster as well.

It is well documented that Iowa's commercial property tax rates are already a deterrent to business growth in our state. The Iowa Taxpayer Association has found that Iowa's commercial rates are the third highest in the nation. This will only compound the problems of getting businesses back up and running.

Many of our larger corporations have committed to rebuilding, but we need to be concerned about the mom and pop operators, the small businesses that are the engine of our economy. The cost of rebuilding will be on top of current property taxes due. For many it may be more than they can bear. That is why we must consider taking actions to relieve the property tax burden over the long term.

Drawing businesses back to downtown Cedar Rapids and Waterloo will take time, but it will happen. In places like New Hartford and Oakville, economic recovery will be much more difficult. We must consider new approaches to attracting and retaining businesses in our communities.

One idea is to allow for flood and disaster affected businesses that rebuild and add improvements to be granted an automatic property tax abatement for a number of years on any assessable value gain due to the rebuilding or improvements. The abatement would be for any increase in valuation that might occur.

These are but two of the many ideas that deserve discussion and debate in a special legislative session dedicated to flood recovery efforts.

Counties in Pictures Photo Contest

A picture is still worth a thousand words, even in the age of digital photography. Share the moments when your county was at its finest through the 2008 NACo Counties in Pictures Photo Contest.

You'll be able to vote for your favorite photos online in the NACo members-only website this fall. Finalists will be featured in a special spread in County News. Twelve exceptional pictures will be selected by NACo staff to appear in a 2009 Calendar that will be available for purchase.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: September 30, 2008

Please find Submission rules and guidelines at www.iowacounties.org under "New and Noteworthy" or at www.naco.org. Questions? Jack Hernandez at 202.942.4250 or jhernandez@naco.org.



Counties Need to Monitor Employees' Computer Use

Pornography: On August 1, Iowa newspapers reported that the Van Buren County engineer was indicted for possession of child pornography. Investigators reportedly seized county-owned computers as part of the federal investigation.

An increase in child pornography on the internet has led to a major federal law enforcement response. Since early 2007, cybercrime, including child pornography, has been the FBI's third-highest priority, behind counterterrorism and counterintelligence.

This case, where county computers may have been involved, should serve as a warning to county officials. Because counties, like all employers, face legal liability for allowing employees to access child pornography on their computers at work.

By now, most counties have policies in place that prohibit employees from using computers for illegal purposes, and allow employers to monitor the use of computers by employees. But having a policy is not enough. All counties need to actually police employee use of county computers. And any evidence an employee's use of the internet at work to view child pornography requires an immediate response.

I have no reason to believe that any Van Buren County officials had any knowledge of anything inappropriate that may have been going on in the county engineer's office. But the point is, county officials need to be vigilant because misuse of internet access by employees in the workplace can expose employers to liability.

The leading case on this issue is *Doe v. X.Y.C. Corp.*, 887 A.2d 1156 (N.J. Super. 2005). In that New Jersey case, an employer who failed to take appropriate action upon learning that an employee was using company computer to access pornographic websites was held liable.

In *Doe*, the employer was put on notice several times that the employee, an accountant, was accessing pornographic websites via his work computer. A number of employee reports, and the employer's own investigation, revealed that the employee had visited child pornography web sites. But the supervisors took no other action other than instructing the employee to stop. The problem continued until the employee was arrested on child pornography charges, and it was discovered that he was using the company computer to submit nude photographs of his 10-year-old step-daughter to a child pornography website. The photographs had been taken without the step-daughter's knowledge. The employee eventually admitted

By: David Vestal

ISAC General Counsel



downloading more than 1,000 pornographic images while at work.

The employee's wife then sued the employer on behalf of her daughter, alleging that the employer's failure to report the employee to law enforcement caused the injuries to her daughter.

The trial court found for the employer. But the appeals court reversed. Noting the federal criminal laws against such conduct, the court held that the employer had a duty to report the employee's conduct to law enforcement, and also take effective employment action, up to and including termination.

The court held that the employer could be liable: "We hold that an employer who is on notice that one of its employees is using a workplace computer to access...child pornography, has a duty to investigate the employee's activities and to take prompt and effective action to stop the unauthorized activity, lest it result in harm to innocent third parties."

The appellate court concluded that the employer's failure to fulfill this duty could have caused the step-daughter's injuries, and held that if the trial court found that this was indeed the case, the employer could be held liable for the step-daughter's injuries.

The *Doe* case emphasizes how important it is for counties to have an effective internet policy that addresses the use of county-owned computers. At a minimum, such policy should:

- inform employees that they should have no expectation of privacy when using the county's computers;
- prohibit unauthorized or illegal activities on the county's computers; and
- announce that any use of the county's computers is subject to monitoring.

So what should you do if you suspect an employee has child pornography on a county computer? *Doe* talks about three separate duties on the part of the county as an employer:

- the duty to investigate the employee's activities upon notice of an employee's improper computer use;
- the duty to take prompt and effective action to stop unauthorized computer activity by an employee; and
- the duty to report an employee's illegal child pornography activities to the authorities.

...continues on page 15

capitol comments

2008 Election

Changes in the make-up of the Iowa State Legislature can have a major impact on the fate of legislation of importance to county officials. In addition to the Governorship, the Democrats currently control both the Iowa Senate and the Iowa House by margins of 30-20 and 53-47, respectively.

There are 125 seats up for re-election in November, but only 89 of the races are contested by candidates from each of the two major parties. Although parties have until August 15 to nominate legislative candidates by convention, there appear to be 36 seats that will be uncontested by one of the major parties. The Republicans hold the advantage in this regard in the Senate with only one Democrat seat uncontested to the six Republican seats with no Democratic candidate. The reverse is true in the House where the numbers are 18 seats with no Republican candidate to 10 seats with no Democratic candidate.

There are some contests that are being closely watched based on the fact that they may have significant impact on the ultimate makeup of the legislature when it convenes in January 2009. Articles by John Deeth on the Iowa Independent website along with a variety of factors including number of years of incumbency, percentage of registration advantage in the district, and whether the seat was a recent win for one party served as the basis for choosing the races to highlight. The information on party registration advantages was provided by the Secretary of State's office on August 4.

House Races to Watch



District 9: One term incumbent McKinley Bailey (D-Hamilton), a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan and pictured left, is challenged by Stratford Republican talk show host, Jamie

Johnson, pictured right. There is a 6% Republican registration advantage in this district and Republican leadership is intent on winning this seat back. (D-5640, R-6707, I-7169)



District 13: This seat is open due to the retirement of Bill Schickel (R-Cerro Gordo). Republican Mason City Council member Scott Tornquist, pictured left, and Democrat Sharon

By: Linda Hinton

ISAC Government Relations
Manager



Steckman, a Mason City teacher and pictured right, are vying for the seat. (D-7476, R-4426, I-8032)



District 18: One term incumbent Andrew Wenthe (D-Fayette), pictured left, is challenged by Republican businessman, Austin Lorenzen, pictured right, from Denver.

(D-5535, R-5823, I-8191)



District 21: One term incumbent, Tami Wiencek (R-Black Hawk), a former television anchor and pictured left, is challenged by Kerry Burt, a former Hawkeye

football star and pictured right. The District has a Democratic registration advantage. Wiencek beat long-serving Democrat, Don Shultz, in 2006. (D-6402, R-4291, I-6741)

District 23: Three-term incumbent Dan Rasmussen (R-Buchanan) is challenged by retired Independence teacher and coach, Gene Ficken. Rasmussen narrowly won the seat in 2006 with 51% of the vote. (D-6712, R-4630, I-8789)



District 36: This seat was left open when Swati Dandekar (D-Linn) chose to run for a senate seat. Democrat Gretchen Lawyer, pictured left and a teacher by profession,

is running against Marion City Council member Nick Wagner, pictured right. Wagner garnered 47% of the vote when he ran against Dandekar in 2006. (D-7683, R-7383, I-9591)

District 39: Representative Dawn Pettengill (R-Benton) was elected to this seat in 2006 as a Democrat and switched allegiances during the 2007 session. She is challenged by Democrat Terry Hertle of Vinton in a seat the Democrats would like to recapture. (D-6171, R-5562, I-8895)



District 59: Republican corporate attorney Chris Hagenow faces off against Democrat Windsor Heights Mayor Jerry Sullivan in the seat left open by Representative Dan

Clute's (R-Polk) retirement. (D-7998, R-8301, I-6058)



District 75: One term incumbent Eric Palmer (D-Mahaska), pictured left, defeated veteran Representative Danny Carroll (R-Powshiek), pictured right, by 700

votes in 2006 after losing to Carroll in 2004 by a 51% to 49% margin. Grinnell College votes were significant in 2006. This rematch promises to be close again. (D-7165, R-6526, I-7492)



District 80: Two term incumbent, Nathan Reichert (D-Muscatine), pictured left, faces off against Muscatine City Council member Robert Howard, pictured right.

Reichert won 60% of the vote in 2006 against opponent Muscatine County Sheriff Greg Orr and the area seems to be trending Democratic, but this seat was once held by David Stanley and Iowans for Tax Relief may play an important role in this race. (D-6188, R-6466, I-7106)



District 84: One term incumbent, Elesha Gayman (D-Scott), pictured left, upset Jim Van Fossen in 2006 by a 273-vote margin. She is challenged by

Walcott farmer and Farm Bureau member Ross Paustian, pictured right. (D-6601, R-5769, I-9681)

Senate Races to Watch



Senate District 18: Three-term Representative Swati Dandekar (D-Linn), pictured left, faces off against Republican Joe Childers, a Marion banker and

pictured right, for the open seat left vacant by the retirement of Republican Mary Lundby (R-Linn). (D-22228, R-19969, I-28239)

Senate District 22: Former Grassley and Latham staffer, Jarret Heil faces Marshall County deputy sheriff and former Marshall County Democratic Chair, Stephen Sadders of State Center, for the seat left open by the retirement of Senator Larry McKibben (R-Marshall). McKibben's margin of victory was 800 votes in 2004. (D-18734, R-18486, I-24851)

Senate District 38: Senator Tom Rielly (D-Mahaska) faces a challenge from Republican Michael Hadley of Richland, a 30-year local fire chief and active Farm Bureau member. This seat was a Democratic gain in 2004. (D-20462, R-18337, I-25302)



Senate District 40: First term Senator Jim Hahn (R-Muscatine), pictured left, who moved to the Senate in 2004 after six terms in the House, is challenged by Democrat

Sharon Savage, also from Muscatine and pictured right. (D-18989, R-17609, I-25409)



Senate District 42: First term Senator Frank Wood (D-Scott), pictured left, faces challenger Davenport alderman Shawn "the Hammer" Hamerlinck, pictured right. Wood

defeated incumbent Brian Sievers by only 480 votes in 2004. (D-12899, R-11639, I-18859)

Building a Better Plan

Last month I provided a simple outline of constructing a business continuity plan. This month I want to give examples of what we can do to improve not only the planning but the maintenance of these plans.

The disasters of May and June will be on the the County Technology Clearinghouse (CTC) agenda in August. I feel that the CTC can play an important role in building a platform not only for providing information, but providing potential services to counties to insure that plans are in place and operational.

One of my recommendations will be that the CTC establish a consolidated resource center that brings together the various aspects of emergency planning. This platform will need the direct input of our county emergency management to be effective. To move us ahead quickly, I will suggest that we follow the model of the Municipal Research Center of Washington (<http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/PubSafe/emergency/EM-Planning.aspx#COG>) as an initial collaboration site.

This site highlights:

- emergency planning topics;
- National Incident Management System (NIMS);
- Continuity of Operations (COOP);
- Continuity of Government (COG);
- personnel;
- assessment;
- proclaiming a disaster or emergency;
- obtaining services, supplies, and materials; and
- debris removal after a disaster.

We have the pieces, but in various places. What is important is that we provide a service that all counties can access and use. Additionally, it will be important that a mechanism be put in place that will help counties maintain their readiness and provide resources to bring all counties up to needed standards.

ETC/CSN Update

The Community Services Network (CSN) has made great strides on several fronts.

Funding: The funding has been secured from the Iowa Access Council and a legislative appropriation to complete phase 1 and 2 of the project. These phases will not only replace the current CoMIS, but provide connectivity and data exchanges that do not exist today. The Case Management piece of the CSN will occur after the rollout and as soon as we are comfortable with the operation of the core pieces of CSN. The Case Management CSN Committee will address the funding

By: Robin Harlow

ISAC Technology
Project Manager



of Case Management as a separate funding stream.

Schedule: The contractor (Spindustry) working on the project is on schedule. We will begin testing the first phase in the late fall with the expectation that the beta counties will be operational prior to the first of the year. Phase Two (claims, claims adjudication, and data exchanges) will be brought on line during the winter. A rollout schedule will be developed that will allow us to bring 15 to 20 counties on line every 45 days. All counties will be on the CSN by July 2009.

Training: The CSN training committee is working on a curriculum for training all users of the system. More information on training will be provided at the CPC annual meeting in September. If you have not made plans to attend the annual meeting, please re-consider. Important CSN information is expected to be provided at this meeting. The committee is working to identify training sites and equipment needs. The core of the training will be to have the users use their own data in the classes. This will be helpful in understanding the changes in the data entry process and editing.

Data Exchanges: ISAC has been working with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to bring the monthly Medicaid billings into the Electronic Transaction Clearinghouse (ETC). This will allow the ETC to securely transmit the billings to the counties. Currently 16 counties are receiving the information via CDs. We look to have all counties receiving the information electronically by the October 2008 billings. Counties will use their secure file transfer site to retrieve their files. Counties currently receiving the data via CDs will continue to receive the data in the current file layout, but retrieve them via the secure file site. New counties will receive both a PDF (Acrobat Reader) and a text file of the data. This will allow the counties to print out the report or if they choose, work with their local IT staff to load the data file into CoMIS for processing. As a county goes live with CSN, these transactions will be reviewed and adjudicated within CSN.

Migration: It is set to begin in late August or early September. ISAC has been working with DHS to build a data integrity tool to assist in correcting data prior to migration. Data will need to be corrected or edited in order to meet the validation process in CSN. The intent will be to make sure we have valid data in CSN in order to run and test the state required reporting in December. We will first move FY 05 through FY 08 data, and then as a county is made active in CSN, we will move the FY 09.

Senator James Harlan: Friend of Abe

By: **Grant Veeder**

ISAC NACo Board Representative
Black Hawk County Auditor



Last month we recalled the rocky relationship between Abraham Lincoln and Iowa's junior senator, James Grimes. Lincoln had a much more congenial connection with Grimes' senior counterpart, James Harlan.

Born in 1820, Harlan was an Illinois native who grew up in Indiana. He moved to Iowa in 1843, where he worked as a school teacher and a lawyer before becoming head of the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute, later Iowa Wesleyan College, in 1853. He was elected senator in 1855 and quickly became one of the prominent anti-slavery Republicans in the passionate days leading to the Civil War.

Harlan first met Lincoln shortly before the latter's inauguration, when Lincoln came to the Capitol and asked him for advice on cabinet selections. Lincoln specifically asked whether he should appoint Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania as Secretary of War and Salmon P. Chase of Ohio as Secretary of the Treasury, or the other way around. Lincoln's final decision (using the above configuration) matched Harlan's assertive recommendation, leading Harlan years later to write in an autobiographical manuscript, "... I soon had reason to think, and still think, that my advice was effective in settling that question." It is likely that Lincoln had already made up his mind on the issue, so he may have been appealing to Harlan's vanity more than sincerely consulting him. Either way, he had taken the first step in building a friendship that would have a lasting effect on both men and their families.

Once the War Between the States had begun in earnest, Harlan was one of the radicals who called for emancipating the slaves and allowing them into the armed forces, and gave a speech to this effect on July 11, 1862. Lincoln announced his Emancipation Proclamation (which included a provision for arming ex-slaves) on September 22, but this time Harlan was rather more modest about his role. Regarding the effect of his speech, he wrote, "Whether, or not, it had any influence on the President's mind, is not for me to say."

Also in 1862, Lincoln appointed Samuel F. Miller of Keokuk to the Supreme Court. (See the "Lincoln Letter" article in the April, 2008 issue of *The Iowa County* magazine.) Harlan lobbied heavily for this appointment, and felt that he swayed Lincoln's decision. "I think [Miller] was indebted to me, more than to any one man living, for this great distinction," he wrote. Lincoln contemplated several changes in his cabinet after his re-election in 1864. Prominent Methodist interests actively pushed Harlan's name in connection to the Interior portfolio.

Harlan was reluctant to leave the Senate, but accepted Lincoln's offer believing he could be of more use in the Department of the Interior.

The friendship between Lincoln and Harlan was evident from the frequency with which they were seen together on public occasions. Most noticeably, Harlan escorted First Lady Mary Lincoln at her husband's second inaugural on March 4, 1865, and at that night's ball, the Lincolns' eldest son, Robert, was escort to Senator Harlan's daughter, Mary. Harlan was also present when the president gave his final speech. Lincoln spoke from a White House window to an exultant crowd shortly after Lee's surrender to Grant. The audience then called for Harlan, who favored them with a few words.

Present in the crowd that night was John Wilkes Booth, who shot Lincoln to death three days later, on April 14. A shaken Harlan served on the Congressional committee that accompanied Lincoln's body on a long, circuitous train ride back to Springfield, Illinois. He was also chosen president of the Lincoln Monument Association.

Lincoln had appointed Harlan as Secretary of the Interior before the assassination, but he didn't take office until May. Harlan soon found himself at odds with Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson, and he only stayed in office about a year. However, he entered the position determined to "get the pack of thieves now preying on the Govt. under its auspices out of power." His housecleaning (which included the termination of clerk Walt Whitman, who purportedly worked on his book *Leaves of Grass* at his desk) earned him the bitter enmity of many former government workers and their friends.

The Iowa legislature returned Harlan to the Senate after he left his Interior post in 1866, but to get there he had to step over several other interested parties who had expected him to be out of the running, including the incumbent, former governor Samuel Kirkwood. This caused lingering dissatisfaction that, combined with ongoing allegations (most if not all scurrilous) of corrupt practices while Secretary of the Interior, prevented Harlan from winning any more elections, though he ran for re-election to the Senate in 1872 and was mentioned as a possible candidate in other campaigns as late as 1895.

Meanwhile, love blossomed between Harlan's daughter Mary and Lincoln's son Robert, and they were married in 1868. Rob-

...continues on page 15

Riding the Storm Out: Revisited

On my last visit to this column, I was lamenting the long, hard winter that we had been experiencing and was looking forward to the April showers leading to May flowers. As they say, be careful what you wish for – because it just might happen. April showers gave way to May downpours which led to June deluges, floodings, levee breaches, and wide-spread evacuations. After the Flood of 1993, I seriously thought that I would never see anything like that again in my lifetime – I was wrong! Although Des Moines overall fared better than it did in 1993, the state-wide level of destruction, disruption, and heartbreak was even more widespread this time around. As we talked with various agencies, we kept hearing stories of the challenges that Mother Nature had thrown their way. But emerging from these stories was also an accounting of how these agencies and their colleagues stood up and responded.

In the middle of this crisis, I had the opportunity to talk with a few members of a client advocacy group. They expressed concern over some stories they had heard of clients who were displaced by the flooding and the disruption they had experienced in their supportive services. Fortunately, several others at this social gathering were also involved with Targeted Case Management (TCM) agencies. We told these advocates of some of the experiences we had witnessed or heard of, including:

- TCM agencies using zip codes to identify clients in areas most prone to be affected by the flooding in order to triage contact priorities;
- Case Managers helping refer clients to those resources available to help all those in need due to the weather-related crisis (including assistance from General Relief, community and faith-based food pantries and clothing distribution centers, FEMA, etc.); and
- Case Managers who donated personal time to help with community efforts such as sand-bagging, delivering drinking water in needed areas, and helping clients whose homes had flooded with the daunting (and smelly) task of sorting through all their personal possessions.

Jan Heidemann (CPC/TCM Supervisor) from Bremer County was good enough to share some perspectives of how the timelines unfolded for their agency, that shares office space with Community Based Services (CBS), a local service provider:

6/9/08 – received notice that flooding in Waverly was imminent. They assist CBS in moving four clients and their belongings from basement apartments to the garage and upper level of the apartment building.

6/10/08 – floor drains in their office back up, resulting in three

By: Dan Vonnahme

ISAC Case Management
Specialist



to four feet of water in the basement. Electricity is disconnected due to concerns of electrocution. Several Case Managers have difficulty reporting to the office site due to washed out bridges and roads.

6/11/08 – essential office equipment for both TCM and CBS (computers, copiers, records, etc) is moved to the designated “command center” in the Bremer County Courthouse. Cell phones are designated as the primary source of phone communication, although a temporary number at the Courthouse is also offered.

6/17/08 – river recedes enough to begin initial steps to move back. This consists of debris removal and inventory of damaged property/equipment at the office.

6/23/08 – land-line phone service and electricity are re-established in the main office.

7/30/08 – through incremental steps, everything is now back in main office. Jan reports that they are getting closer to “standard operating procedures” with each passing day.

Jan reports good cooperation and teamwork with local providers (including CBS) to insure the safety and welfare of the clients served. She reports multiple clients were temporarily moved/relocated during the high water period. Most have now moved back to their original residences, but two persons lost everything in the flood. They continue to work with these clients and their providers and families to help them to get re-established and to cope with their losses. In addition to all the other hardships listed, Jan reports one difficulty, it seemed ALL agencies and services (including state offices, mail delivery, etc.) had their own set of disruptions to deal with, which makes basic communication even more challenging. Also, like many of us, she reports that “living out of boxes” can severely hinder one’s ability to find things quickly.

The speed and scope with which the communities were consumed by the floods was absolutely unfathomable. But the response was amazing – it was like watching trees sprout up in the path where a bulldozer had just plowed through. But this is not just a testimony of what Case Managers do; it is a testimony to what Iowans do: work together! It was Case Managers, community service providers, CPC’s, county boards of supervisors, emergency management officers, and state and federal officials pulling each other out of the muck and the mire. It was about people, both local and extended, helping restore a sense of place and community for those affected by the crisis. There is still much work to be done and much time that needs to pass before the scars of this disaster fade. But in the immortal words of Red Green, “We’re all in this together.”

ISAC meetings

ISAC's *Fall School* of Instruction

ISAC Fall School of Instruction
November 19-21, 2008
Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center

Educational Seminars

Friday, November 21, 9:30 – 11:30 am



Achieving Balance in Life – Participants face many conflicting and competing demands for their time at work, home, and in their community. This demand overload places significant stress on individuals who want to satisfy all

those making demands. The speaker will present techniques that participants can use to balance the many competing demands on their life, help them sort out their priorities, and begin to achieve a sense of balance.

Are Biofuels the Answer to America's Energy Crisis?

- We all know Iowa has long been a leader in corn and soybean production for human and animal consumption. The more recent trend to divert a large portion of the statewide yield to biofuel production has spurred a vigorous debate on the potential economic and environmental costs.

A panel of experts will discuss the nature and extent of the biofuel industry in Iowa and whether turning food into fuel is in our best interest.



Disasters of 2008 – What have we learned? – This discussion will feature a panel of state and county officials discussing the lessons learned from the disasters of 2008.

Understanding the IRS Regulations Regarding Taxable Income

- If you use the courthouse Xerox machine for personal tasks, is that taxable income that needs to be reported to the IRS? Your county pays for your meals while on county business. Are



By: Stacy Horner

ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator



these payments taxable? You take a county car home every evening. Is the use of the vehicle taxable income?

The answers to these questions may surprise you...To get the definitive answers to these questions, and many more, ISAC has lined up Kristy Maitre from the Des Moines office of the IRS. So before you run into a problem with the IRS, come to this session and get your questions answered.

Keynote Speaker



The Iowa State Association of Counties is looking forward to hosting Joe Dittmar as the 2008 Fall School Keynote Speaker during the ISAC General Session on Thursday, November 20. Joe Dittmar is a 9/11 World Trade Center attack survivor and will present "Lessons Learned from a Date with Destiny/A Historic and

Inspirational View of 9/11/01."

On September 11, 2001, Joe Dittmar was attending a business meeting on the 105th floor of the Two World Trade Center. He was one of only seven survivors of a meeting of 54 insurance executives. Joe Dittmar's eyewitness account of the sights, sounds, and scenes from inside and outside the World Trade Center complex on 9/11/01 presents an intriguing and gripping perspective on what really happened before, during, and after the terrorist attacks. His experience of that day gives an informational, historical, inspirational, and even motivational insight into one of the most incredible events in U.S. and World history.

*Information for this article was taken from Joe Dittmar's website, www.wtceskp.com.

Hotel Accommodations

As many of you know, a number of the ISAC hotel room blocks in the Coralville/Iowa City are full and many others are filling quickly. For the most up-to-date information on hotel availability, rates, contact information, and amenities, please visit the ISAC website, www.iowacounties.org.

Questions? Contact Stacy at shorner@iowacounties.org or 515.244.7181.

counties in the spotlight

Appanoose County to Receive Funds

Appanoose County will be rewarded funds for two projects through the Iowa Great Places grants - The Appanoose County Trail system and the rehabilitation of the Ritz Theatre.

Iowa Great Places is an initiative that combines state government resources with local assets to help Iowans make their communities, regions, districts or neighborhoods great places to live, work and raise a family.

The Appanoose County Trail system will be awarded \$137,245. The grant funds are going to be applied to sections of a trail system which will connect 66 miles of trails that begin at Honey Creek State Park. The Ritz Theatre in Centerville will be rewarded

a total of \$142,755 for rehabilitation. The Appanoose County Coalition for the Arts is planning to expand the current capacity of the theater and to include art gallery space.

In total, \$2 million in grants will be awarded to 13 projects in seven Iowa Great Places – Appanoose County, Charles City, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Decorah, Perry, and Valley Junction.

Funding for the grants was approved by the Legislature for infrastructure projects. The grants were awarded through a competitive application process.

“I am very proud to announce these Iowa Great Places grants for these wonderful communities,” said Governor Culver. “The strength of our state rests in Iowa’s historic towns and cities, and with the new funding, these seven communities will have the resources they need to become Great Places.

Historic County Record Salvage During the Floods

Cott Systems, a leader in technology solutions for land records management, and the Linn County Iowa Recorder’s office are partnering to keep county land records safe and accessible to the residents of the area. Joan McCalmant, County Recorder of Linn County, was prepared for the June floods in the Cedar Rapids area while the floods left county buildings and some land records under water, McCalmant had just implemented an electronic offsite backup system and web hosting solution for all records within the last year—ensuring the safety of Linn County’s historic records. Access to land records (deeds) is especially important during a time of natural disaster because homeowners need a copy of their deed to file for assistance from FEMA.

When McCalmant learned they were being evacuated from the county building, she and her staff had a few hours to prepare. The county team carried out over 400 historic books containing county birth and marriage records from their vault and moved equipment and other records to tabletops.

“I’ve been working in this office since 1986, and this was the most difficult thing I’ve ever dealt with. I had no servers and no access to my recorded images initially. We only had our handwritten records and many of them were soaked with water,” explained McCalmant.

The county purchasing office worked quickly to secure temporary office space in a mall about a week and a half after the flooding. The county’s records technology partner, Cott Systems was

ready to help McCalmant get up and running in her temporary office as soon as possible. Rich Stern, Systems Technician of Cott Systems, copied Linn County’s information from the Cott server and rebuilt a new server for the county in approximately 70 hours. Stern then loaded up his car and drove to Cedar Rapids from Ohio with the new server, extra printers, and workstations to be used as ‘loaners’ at no charge to the county.

“Surprisingly, I was one of the first county offices to be back up and running after the flood. We had our disaster recovery plan in place for less than a year and it was a good insurance policy,” explained McCalmant.

The recorder’s office indexing system was up and running in about a week and a half, but the online access to recorded documents which allowed people to look up their own deeds and print a copy if needed for FEMA application never went down and was accessible throughout the flooding.

Cott’s E-backup System ensures that mission critical data and records are securely stored electronically in a secure offsite location. Because Linn County was also utilizing Cott’s Web Hosting, they were able to maintain an internet presence while their offices were under water.

“We were very lucky to have Cott’s E-backup system and Web Hosting and we’ll be working in the temporary location for at least a year, but at least we have our records. Our water damaged books are being freeze-dried for optimal restoration. We were grateful to get our system up and running quickly, because it allowed people to move forward with their lives,” noted McCalmant.

counties in the spotlight

State Historical Society Awards Grants

The State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) announced it awarded 32 Resource Enhancement and Protection Act and Historical Resource Development Program (REAP/HRDP) grants totaling \$626,275 to 30 organizations and individuals across the state for historic preservation, museum and documentary collections projects.

Through REAP, local government units, various organizations and private individuals can receive funding for eligible projects. REAP/HRDP provides grants to preserve, conserve, interpret and educate the public about historical resources. The grant awards announced require organizations to supply matching funds.

Winneshiek County has earned, the largest grant awarded in recent allocations from the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The county earned a \$100,000 grant to save three historic Winneshiek County bridges from demolition and showcase them on the new Trout Run Trail that encircles Decorah.

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah was also among the recipients earning a \$15,141 grant to develop a Vesterheim cyclical maintenance plan and manual to include all of the buildings, structures and grounds on the museum campus in downtown Decorah. The museum plans to contract with Dr. Thomas A. Woods to develop the materials.

Nearby Clayton County received a grant for \$14,700 for rehabilitation efforts at the Lakeside Ballroom and \$11,893 for window restoration and replacement at the Franklin Hotel.

SHSI also awarded five 2009 HRDP/Country School Grants totaling \$22,125 for the preservation of one-room or two-room buildings once used as country schools in Iowa.

lincoln letters

...continued from page 11

ert Lincoln became a prominent lawyer and served as Secretary of War to Presidents Garfield and Arthur and was Minister to Great Britain under Benjamin Harrison. He practiced law in Chicago for many years, and Mary Harlan Lincoln usually took their three children, Mary ("Mamie"), Abraham II ("Jack"), and Jessie, to spend their summers at her father's home in Mount Pleasant.

James Harlan died in 1899 with his daughter and Robert Lincoln at his bedside. The intimate details of his friendship with Abraham Lincoln perished with him. His biographer had asked in his later years that he write a magazine piece on the private side of their relationship, but Harlan had responded, "I fear I cannot trust myself to write on a subject so close to my heart."

Robert and Mary were their parents' only offspring who had children. Their son Jack died in 1890 at seventeen. His sisters Mamie and Jessie, who both spent some time as residents of Mount Pleasant, had three children between them, all of whom died without issue. When Jessie's son Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith died in 1985, the direct lines of Abraham Lincoln and James Harlan were extinguished. The Harlan-Lincoln House still stands at the corner of Broad and Main in Mount Pleasant and may be toured by appointment.

legal briefs

...continued from page 7

Employers, including counties, may have a common law duty to act when they have knowledge of an employee viewing child pornography on a workplace computer.

The *Doe* case is the first appellate decision in the country on this issue. So no one knows for sure what an Iowa court would do if faced with the same facts. But *Doe* clearly provides strong incentive for counties to adopt and strictly enforce policies regulating employee use of the internet.

If there is any evidence of an employee violating these policies, the county should undertake a prompt and thorough investigation. If the investigation reveals that an employee has been visiting child pornography sites, county officials should consult with the county attorney about the need to inform law enforcement authorities.

Live Free and Die: New Hampshire is the only state that has no adult seat belt law.

Parting Ponderable: According to the newsletter *Lawyers USA*, "experts estimate that around 10,000 players and on-lookers are injured annually by golf shots gone awry." There was no breakdown on how many of those errant golf shots occur at the ISAC golf tournament.

NACo Annual Conference

By: **Grant Veeder**

ISAC NACo Board Representative
Black Hawk County Auditor



The 2008 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference occurred from July 11 to 15 in Kansas City, Missouri at the Kansas City Convention Center. There was a somewhat larger than usual Iowa delegation, thanks to the Midwest venue this year. The conference center is enormous, going on for blocks and blocks, and even extending over the interstate. Indoors or outdoors, we got plenty of exercise.

As vice-chair of the Elections Subcommittee of the Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs (FIGA) Steering Committee, I chaired the subcommittee meeting in the absence of Beverly Kaufman, County Clerk of Harris County, Texas, who has resigned as chair. FIGA has a new NACo staffer, Steve Traylor, replacing Alysoun McLaughlin, who went to work for the Pew Charitable Trusts. However, Alysoun attended our Elections Subcommittee meeting because Pew is conducting a project known as Make Voting Work, and she is working hand-in-hand with NACo's Stephanie Osborn. You should have received an ISAC Update in July that invited you to participate in this project – you are eligible for funds! The study hopes to get real-life data on innovative practices in elections, such as use of vote centers. You can contact Alysoun at amclaughlin@pewtrusts.org.

The Elections Subcommittee also considered a number of resolutions about the ongoing struggles with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). We are pleased to report, however, that our biggest concern from last year, the Holt Bill, underwent an extensive rewrite, largely due to the efforts of NACo members and staff. The Holt Bill would have expanded the federal requirements for the administration of elections, but thanks to thousands of contacts from election officials to members of Congress, the bill now makes most of its procedures voluntary. It's a great example of the power of local individuals tied together by a national organization, and it should give you faith that your efforts can make a difference, at both the national and state levels.

When the Board of Directors met on resolutions, there wasn't a lot of controversy, but there was considerable debate on a resolution about NACo's support of the Clean Water Act. A group wanted the act to go beyond protection of navigable waters, so that all waters of the U.S. would be protected, but others argued that giving broadened authority to the federal government would take jurisdiction away from states, counties, and cities, and cause them to have to deal with an onerous and costly permit system for any project impacting a waterway. In the end, the NACo board and membership supported leaving the term "navigable" in.

As usual, there were a variety of interesting speakers at the

general sessions. David Walker, CEO of the Peterson Foundation and the former Comptroller General for the United States, painted a gloomy picture of the nation's finances due to war and entitlement programs, and showed a trailer for the foundation's upcoming film, "I.O.U.S.A.," which is being compared to "An Inconvenient Truth." Screenwriter Michael Cory Davis showed the public service announcements that he has filmed about women forced into enslaved prostitution with the tacit support of society.

British archeologist Brian Fagan weighed in on the climate change issue, asserting that regardless of man's involvement, the preponderance of evidence proves that global warming is occurring, and he compares our times with the warming period a thousand years ago that led to severe droughts. Ashley Rhodes-Courter, who spent years in the foster care system, astounded listeners with her resilience after many horrendous experiences as she called for people to get involved in the lives of foster children.

In my somewhat biased opinion we saved the best for last, the final speaker was historian and news commentator Doris Kearns Goodwin, who spoke on her outstanding analysis of Abraham Lincoln and his cabinet, the epic bestseller *Team of Rivals*. (Soon to be a major motion picture, with Liam Neeson as Lincoln and Sally Field as his missus.)

This year's election was pretty anticlimactic after all of last year's hubbub. It's not that we were anticipating another scandal-ridden affair with wrongdoing alleged by proponents of opposing candidates, it's just that the much-discussed response to last year's situation resulted in some new election procedures, largely related to the credentials process and the practice of proxy voting. With only one candidate running for second vice president there was no opportunity to see how well the recently-approved procedures would work. A rumor flashed around that there would be a nomination from the floor just so the new apparatus could be tested, but it came to naught. The following officers were elected in an atmosphere completely devoid of suspense: Don Stapley (Maricopa County, AZ) is the new president, Valerie Brown (Sonoma County, CA) is the new president-elect, Teresa Altemus (Gloucester County, VA) is the first vice president, and Glen Whitley (Tarrant County, TX), who lost in last year's disputed race, is second vice president.

Next year, we'll be in the Music City – Nashville, Tennessee. Hope to see you there!

Responding Through Training

**By: Center for Domestic Preparedness
Public Affairs**

Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Center for Domestic Preparedness trains emergency response providers from State, local, and tribal governments, as well as the Federal government, foreign governments, and private entities when appropriate. Since its establishment in 1998, the CDP has graduated more than 380,000 responder-students.

“There has been substantial growth in the last 10 years,” said Donnie Belser, course manager for the incident command courses. “Our success says a lot about the commitment from everyone who works here. It’s one team that contributes to CDP excellence.”

Located in Anniston, Alabama, the CDP offers 38 courses that address everything from radiation contamination and “all-hazards” incident management to pandemic influenza and healthcare leadership. The CDP is a vital component of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Preparedness Directorate and is the nation’s only congressionally-chartered Federal training facility for live chemical / nerve agents – also known as chemical weapons of mass destruction – for civilian emergency responders.

“The CDP offers emergency responders a unique experience to receive hands-on training to respond to hazardous incidents whether accidental or intentional,” said Denis Campeau, acting associate director of training and education. “Most training environments are in lecture or book form, we take it a step further and put the emergency responder in an environment that builds confidence and their ability to perform.”

Courses range from a few hours to a few days in length and give students an opportunity that is hard to match elsewhere.

“Because of what we teach first responders, there is no substitute,” said Belser. “We train with the real nerve agents to instill confidence in the equipment they use, and give them the tools they need to perform during a disaster - either manmade or accidental.”

The students fondly refer to the nerve agent training site as “the COBRA”, which stands for Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological Training Facility. The experience enables graduates to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from incidents involving chemical weapons and other hazardous materials.

“The COBRA training facility was out of this world,” said John Williamson, a firefighter and emergency medical technician from Ohio. “This was the best training I have ever had

in my 20 years of serving in the public safety field.”

“We don’t just teach from a manual,” said Mellione Richards, course manager for three core courses involving hazardous materials. She added, “To coin a phrase, they ‘train like they fight’, with actual toxins, using the proper equipment. Times are changing and our students want the training in order to be more prepared and to save lives.”

Although practical application with toxic agents is a highlight of some courses, classroom instruction offers expert advice from instructors and students alike who have served on the frontlines day after day in hometown America. The center uses the latest techniques and procedures and some of the best equipment available during the courses of instruction.

Instructors at the CDP must have a minimum of 10 years of operations experience to be considered for a position. Instructors come from various backgrounds, and are carefully selected, to prove credibility before students who may be in harm’s way at any moment.

“We want to make sure our first responders who train here have all they need to protect their communities and feel confident and prepared,” said Campeau. “We all want the nation’s emergency responders to have the capability to protect their cities, counties, and communities.”

At the CDP, training for state and local responders is fully funded by FEMA, a component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Round trip air and ground transportation, lodging, and meals are provided at no cost to responders or their agency or jurisdiction.

In 2000, the CDP’s training delivery system expanded to include non-resident (mobile) training program and in 2001, the indirect (train-the-trainer) training program. As of July 21, 2008, the CDP has delivered 90,145 course completions to date in this fiscal year and 379,753 course completions since the CDP was established. Some students take multiple courses – hence the focus on course completions.

The non-resident training concept takes training to jurisdictions across the nation, featuring advanced, hands-on training provided to multidisciplinary audiences. In coordination with State Administrative Agency (SAA), the host jurisdiction pro

...continues on page 18

miscellaneous

Township Trustee Training Keeps Local Officials in Iowa Up-To-Date

By: Steve Adams

ISU Extensions Community Development Specialist



Truly the grass roots of the Iowa legislative process are best exemplified by the more than 4,800 trustees and clerks in 1,600 townships across the state. Townships function as legal, taxing entities within each Iowa county. The primary duties of township trustees are to help settle fence disputes, maintain pioneer cemeteries, and provide fire and emergency medical service to their constituents. Ensuring that trustees and clerks are adequately trained and aware of their general responsibilities is an ongoing challenge for the faculty and field staff of Iowa State University Extension Community and Economic Development (CED).

Due to regular changes mandated by the state legislature and various case law challenges brought through the Iowa courts, the roles and responsibilities of the township trustee and clerk are ever changing. Therefore, meeting the ongoing demands for training is a critical issue, not only for the trustees and clerks, but for county attorneys, auditors, and supervisors. Considering the rapidly changing face of legislation and case law, ISU Extension CED personnel recommend training on at least a semi-annual basis to keep elected officials current with their responsibilities.

Working on this project for ISU Extension CED are Donovan

Olson, program coordinator, and Steve Adams, community development specialist. Other technical assistance is provided by Roger McEowen, associate professor of agricultural law and director of the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation (CALT) at ISU, and Erin Herbold, CALT staff attorney. Their job is to develop an appropriate and time-sensitive delivery method for the trustee and clerk training.

Currently, training is coordinated with the county auditor and consists of a three-hour, personally facilitated, short course on the roles and responsibilities of the township trustee and clerk. The cost for such a one-on-one program is \$25/person, which covers the cost of the training manual, travel, and other production costs. Other training options under consideration are a DVD training series that can be viewed individually or as a group by the trustees and clerks or statewide training either at a Central Iowa location or via the Iowa Communication Network.

To schedule a township trustee and clerk training or to offer feedback on the training options, contact ISU Extension CED at 515-294-5263. Training can also be scheduled online at the Community and Economic Development Program Builder Web site: www.extension.iastate.edu/programbuilder/.

miscellaneous

Responding Through Training

...continued from page 17

vides the venue and the responder students—and the CDP training teams provide everything else needed to train. There are approximately 50 Mobile Training Teams spread across the nation each week during this fiscal year, featuring courses that are one to three days in length.

“No other federal training agency offers what the CDP does,” said Campeau. “Responders serve as the Nation’s first line of defense and deserve the highest quality training available. The instructors are some of the best in the Nation and come from a variety of emergency response backgrounds.”

The CDP provides America’s emergency response providers with skills to manage incidents - making America a safer place. Preparing a nation to prepare itself and respond to emergencies are just a few of the goals accomplished each week.

“During my career, I have attended over 50 advanced police related training courses and this was the best presented,” said Sgt. Frank Nunez, CDP student, from the Orlando Police Department. “The staff was superb in presenting the material and also ensured every student understood what was presented.”

To learn more about the Center for Domestic Preparedness, visit <http://cdp.dhs.gov> or call 866-213-9553. Article provided by the FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness, Public Affairs.

Advertisers Index

Aerial Services, Inc.
 Alliance Water Resources
 Barker Lemar Engineering Consultants
 Calhoun-Burns & Associates, Inc.
 Cost Advisory Services, Inc.
 Delta Dental of Iowa
 IPAIT
 JEO Consulting Group, Inc.
 Jerico Services
 Kuehl & Payer, Ltd.
 Nationwide Retirement Solutions
 Snyder & Associates, Inc.
 Solutions, Inc.
 Speer Financial, Inc.
 The Sidwell Company
 Trileaf Corporation
 Waseca County, MN
 Ziegler CAT

Please support our advertisers!



WASECA COUNTY, MN PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE – PROGRAM SUPERVISORS

Waseca County (MN) Public Health Services is seeking Public Health Nurse – Program Supervisors. Coordinate, manage, and implement public health programs across the lifespan – family health or senior services. Regular hours. No on-call. 12 holidays per year. Excellent benefits! Work with a great team in a wonderful community. Requires Baccalaureate degree with current MN RN licensure, ability to obtain MN Public Health Nurse Certification, and valid MN driver's license. Supervisory background and public health experience also preferred. For application materials, please visit our website at www.co.waseca.mn.us or contact: Coordinator's Office, Waseca County Courthouse, 307 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, 507.837.5341, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, M-F, marilyn.wilkus@co.waseca.mn.us

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.
 "An Equal Opportunity Employer"

AN IOWA COMPANY
 SERVING
 IOWA COUNTIES



**FOR COST ALLOCATION AND
 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

Contact Randall (515-778-9397)
 or Jeff (515-238-7989)



JERICO SERVICES, INC.

Dust Control Chemicals Base Stabilization
 Salt Wetting Equipment Sand Pile Mixing Ice Control Chemicals
Liquidow® Calcium Chloride
 Indianola, IA Weeping Water, NE
 (800)397-3977 (800)422-4820
www.jericoservices.com

Aerial Services, Inc.

Mapping Your World® since 1967

Full-service Geospatial Solutions

- Aerial Photography & Orthos
- GIS Services
- 3D Mapping
- Advanced 3D Visualization & Obliques
- Ground-based LiDAR
- Aerial LiDAR



www.AerialServicesInc.com
 Cedar Falls, Iowa



1725 N. Lake Ave.
 Storm Lake, Iowa 50588
 Phone 712.732.7745

1609 Hwy. 18 E
 Algona, Iowa 50511
 Phone 515.295.2980

423 West Main Street
 Sac City, IA 50583
 Phone 712.662.7859

Email Address: mrk@kpltd.com

**CONSULTING ENGINEERS
 LAND SURVEYORS
 MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS**

**WATER • WASTEWATER
 TRANSPORTATION • BRIDGES
 SWIMMING POOLS
 DRAINAGE • LAND SURVEYING
 EXECUTIVE SEARCHES
 MANAGEMENT STUDIES**

calendar

September

- 10-13 Records Annual Conference
(Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Okoboji)
- 18-19 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Creston)
- 18-19 CCMS Strengths Training
(Holiday Inn Northwest, Des Moines)
- 25 ISAC Steering Committee Meetings
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

October

- 14 CCMS Administrators Training
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 21-23 Environmental Health Fall Conference
(Marshalltown)
- 22-24 CCMS Fundamentals Training
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 23-24 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

November

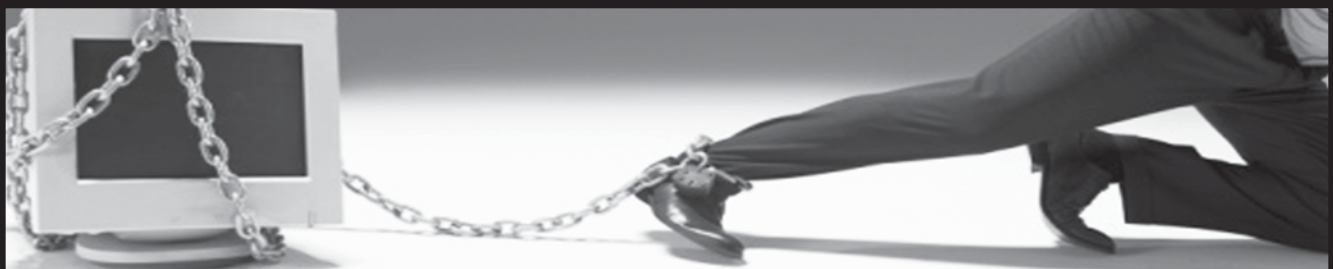
- 6 CCMS Advanced Training
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

- 19-21 ISAC Fall School of Instruction
(Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center)
- 19 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center)
- 19 CRIS Board of Directors Meeting
(Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center)
- 20 CCMS Board of Directors Meeting
(Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center)

December

- 2-4 Engineers' Annual Conference
(Scheman Center, Ames)
- 4 District 2 Supervisor's Winter Meeting
(Elk's Lodge, Charles City)
- 10 District 4 Supervisor's Winter Meeting
(Location TBA)
- 11-12 New County Officers School
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 19 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled thus far in 2008, agendas and meeting notices can be found on ISAC's website. A majority of ISAC's meetings offer online registration. If you have any questions about the meetings listed above, please contact Stacy Horner at (515) 244-7181 or shorner@iowacounties.org.



Feeling Stuck?

Gain extra time and money with "Solutions", Inc. Managed Services.

Today's complex IT environment often requires significant amounts of time and money spent struggling with essential daily IT management. "Solutions", Inc. Managed Services is designed to alleviate this burden so that you can focus on activities that will contribute directly to the financial health of your business. Let us keep your personal computers and servers running efficiently by executing daily performance and monitoring activities.

Call today for more information or to set up a "Solutions", Inc. Managed Services demonstration.

PHONE: 712-262-4520
SPENCER, IOWA
WWW.GMDSOLUTIONS.COM



SOLUTIONS

IT'S MORE THAN
OUR NAME.
IT'S WHAT WE PROVIDE.



Environmental & Property Consultants

Environmental Consulting Services

Phase I Site Assessments • UST/AST Closure • Tier 1
Tier 2 • Corrective Action Design • Remediation • Tier 3
Site Monitoring • SPCC • Secondary Containment • Asbestos Testing and
Abatement • Indoor Air Quality Assessments

Call for **FREE** consultation and proposal

1-515-986-5151

Trileaf Corporation
5613 Gateway Drive, Suite 500
Grimes, Iowa 50111



Engineering
Architecture
Surveying
Planning

724 Simon Avenue
Carroll, IA 51401

712.792.9711
www.jeo.com

Iowa | Nebraska | Wisconsin



View Project Profiles at www.alliancewater.com

As water and wastewater problems grow, more and more of our local communities are realizing that they may be up that famous creek:

- ☐ capital improvement projects
- ☐ technical challenges
- ☐ shortages of licensed personnel
- ☐ government regulations
- ☐ revenue shortfalls.

Alliance Water Resources is a national leader in solving exactly these problems. When you're up the proverbial creek, call (573) 874-8080 or visit www.alliancewater.com




A partner committed to your success



- Flexible solutions to build your unique program
- Service when, where and how you want it
- Education that motivates employees
- Confidence we'll deliver on our promises

Contact us today!

 **1-877-677-3678**

 **nrsforu.com**

©2006, Nationwide Retirement Solutions, One Nationwide Plaza, Columbus, OH 43215. Nationwide®, On Your Side, and the Nationwide framemark are federally registered service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

Securities offered through Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, member NASD, NRV-0100AO 0705



Nationwide®
Retirement Solutions

On Your Side®



SPEER FINANCIAL, INC.

PUBLIC FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS SINCE 1954

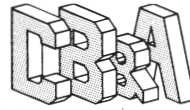
Lowering Your Borrowing Cost With:

- Independent Financial Advice.
- A Team of Financial Specialists Responsive to Your Schedule.
- Expertise in Credit Techniques and Rating Agency Presentations.
- Innovative Approaches Tailored To Your Tough Financing Problems.
- Preparing Long-Term Financing Plans.
- Aggressive Marketing of Competitive Bond Sales To Generate Many Bids.
- Your Effective Advocates With Underwriters in Negotiated Placements.

**Please Call Vice President
Larry Burger in our Iowa Office**

Suite 608 • 531 Commercial St. • Waterloo, IA 50701
(319) 291-2077 • FAX (319) 291-8628

Suite 4100 • One North LaSalle St. • Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 346-3700 • FAX (312) 346-8833



CALHOUN-BURNS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
1801 FULLER ROAD / P.O. BOX 65859
WEST DES MOINES, IOWA 50265-0859

STRUCTURAL • HIGHWAY • CIVIL

BRIDGES

RESIDENT ENGINEERING

HYDRAULICS

BUILDINGS

BRIDGE INSPECTION

STREETS

CULVERTS

BRIDGE RATING

HIGHWAYS

PHONE (515) 224-4344

FAX (515) 224-1385



SNYDER & ASSOCIATES
Engineers and Planners

IOWA:

Ankeny (515)964-2020
Atlantic (712)243-6505
Cedar Rapids (319)362-9394
Council Bluffs (712)322-3202

MISSOURI:

Maryville (660)582-8888
St. Joseph (816)364-5222

Municipal Engineering
Bridges
Urban and Regional Planning
Surveying
Environmental Services
Geographic Information Systems
Energy
Water Resources Engineering
Transportation
Land Development
Landscape Architecture
Right-Of-Way Services
Construction Observation
Graphic and Media Services

www.snyder-associates.com

thinking beyond engineering.

Knowledge.

Providing investment management through money market and fixed income vehicles:

Money Market Investments:

- IPAIT Diversified Fund
- IPAIT Direct Government Obligation Fund

Fixed Term Investments:

- CD Placements
- Government/Agency securities

We have made it our business to understand the investment needs of public agencies and have successfully managed public funds since 1987. IPAIT effectively provides useful products and services, and offers peace of mind through:

Safety / Liquidity / Competitive Returns

Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust
Contact Ron Shortenhaus, 1-800-872-4024
www.IPAIT.org

ISAC Sponsored. WB Capital Management Inc., Investment Advisor.

ISAC's Fall School of Instruction

2008 *Fall School* of Instruction
Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
Coralville, Iowa
November 19-21, 2008

REGISTER TODAY at www.iowacounties.org



BARKER LEMAR
PETROLEUM SERVICES



ATTENTION: COUNTY ENGINEERS | CONSERVATION | ROAD DEPARTMENTS

BARKER LEMAR ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS INTRODUCES NEW PETROLEUM MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICE PROGRAM. WELCOME WALLY MOORE, MANAGER OF BARKER LEMAR'S PETROLEUM EQUIPMENT SERVICE PROGRAM. WALLY HAS OVER 15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN SERVICING THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICE PROGRAM

- PUMP AND DISPENSER REPAIR
- ATG REPAIR AND ALARM MONITORING
- SUBMERSIBLE PUMP REPAIR
- CALIBRATION OF PUMPS AND DISPENSERS
- DISPENSER CARD READER REPAIRS
- ELECTRONIC LEAK DETECTOR AND ATG ANNUAL TESTING
- FILTER REPLACEMENT SERVICE

OUR QUALITY COMMITMENT TO YOU:

- WORLD CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE
- PROFESSIONAL, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND COURTEOUS STAFF
- DIRECT CONNECT TO DISPATCH BY PHONE OR EMAIL
- SAME DAY RESPONSE AND ON SITE REPAIR
- LICENSED AND EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS
- MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY ON ALL PARTS





WALLY MOORE | WMOORE@BARKERLEMAR.COM
 THOMAS E. DRAUR, P.E. | TDRAUR@BARKERLEMAR.COM
 1801 INDUSTRIAL CIRCLE | WEST DES MOINES, IOWA | 50265
 515.256.8814 | 800.707.4248 | 515.256.0572[F] | WWW.BARKERLEMAR.COM

Iowans trust their smiles
to Delta Dental.

More Iowa employers – and the people who work for them – smile with the plans of Delta Dental. And with more than 90% of Iowa's dentists participating in Delta Dental networks, employees get access to the best dental care available. You can trust us on that.



Delta Dental of Iowa 2401 S.E. Tones Dr. Ankeny, IA 50021 800-544-0718 515-261-5500 deltadentalia.com

WE LOVE TO SEE *your* SMILE®



Developing solutions... delivering results.

Cadastral mapping expertise

Geodatabase conversion services

Digital Orthophotography & LiDAR

Map maintenance services

Digital document capture

GIS website design & hosting

Parcel Builder™ software

FARMS™ software

Iowa Office - West

13 Heritage Place
Sioux City, IA 51106
320.267.0820
mobbink@sidwellco.com

Iowa Office - East

P.O. Box 71
Decorah, IA 52101
563.380.2010
smoellers@sidwellco.com

Main Office

675 Sidwell Court • St. Charles, IL 60174
877.SIDWELL • www.sidwellco.com

