



“Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.”

- Abraham Lincoln

November 4th, 2011

Appropriations

(Contact Lon Anderson at 1-5184.)

www.iowahouserepublicans.com

Inside this issue:

Revenue Growth Through October Above the REC Estimate

On Tuesday, November 1, the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) released the revenue figures for the first four months of FY 2012. Adjusting for the transfer of cigarette tax, revenue was up 3.4 percent compared to FY 2011, above the new estimate set by the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) in October.

FY 2013. The estimate is \$6.209 billion in net revenue, or 3.9 percent above estimated FY 2012. The Legislature has already appropriated \$5.155 billion for FY 2013, which includes fully funding 2 percent allowable growth for K-12, full funding of the property tax credits and 50 percent of the FY 2012 appropriations for most other line items in the budget.

On October 14, the REC lowered the estimate to \$5.974, or 1.3 percent compared to FY 2011. This is \$17.5 million less than the March estimate of \$5.992 billion, or 1.6 percent above last year.

House Republicans demanded last session that the one-time ending balance not be built into the budget and used to fund ongoing expenditures. The news from the REC confirms that this is the right approach.

When the \$76 million of cigarette tax is transferred to the Health Care Trust Fund, revenue was down by \$14 million,

The REC will meet again in early December to establish the official estimate for the FY 2013 budget. This is the estimate that the Legislature and Governor will use to build the budget for next fiscal year.

“...due to the strong ag economy...”

or -0.8 percent compared to FY 2011. However, adjusting revenue for this transfer, revenue increased by \$62 million, or 3.4 percent compared to FY 2011.

The primary driver of the revenue increase continues to be personal income tax receipts. Personal income tax receipts increased by \$43.8 million, or 4.5 percent compared to the first four months of FY 2011. This is at least in part due to the strong ag economy, which continues to benefit from high commodity prices.

Sales and use tax receipts were up \$25.6 million, or 3.5 percent compared to last year. Corporate income tax receipts were up \$28.9 million, or 27 percent compared to last year. Since corporate taxes are based on corporate profits, this is evidence that Iowa-based companies are very profitable at this point.

The REC established the first estimate for

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Agriculture

(Contact Lew Olson at 1-3096.)

Northey Announces \$360,000 for Storm Damage

On Monday, October 31, 2011, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey announced that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) has \$360,000 available to help repair conservation practices damaged by storm events during the 2011 crop year. The funding is available in sixty counties that were granted disaster designation by the United States Department of Agriculture. The designation applies to twenty-seven Iowa counties that were affected by severe storms; excessive rain and flooding during the 2011 crop year; plus thirty-three contiguous counties are also covered by the designation.

The maximum cost share rate for repairing practices will be 75 percent. The deadline to apply for the repair funding is December 30, 2011 and all repairs must be complete by June 30, 2012. Eligible Soil and Water

Conservation District offices will begin offering funding to repair conservation practices in these sixty counties immediately on a first come first serve basis. The \$360,000 is the

***"The funding is available
in sixty counties ...***

funding still remaining from the \$6.5 million the Department received in 2009 from the state bonding plan to support conservation efforts. The 27 counties included in this declaration are: Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Fremont, Henry, Jefferson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Mahaska, Marshall, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery,

Page, Polk, Tama, Taylor, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington, Wayne and Woodbury. The additional 33 counties were named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are: Adams, Appanoose, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Cass, Cedar, Cherokee, Clinton, Crawford, Dallas, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Grundy, Hardin, Harrison, Ida, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Muscatine, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Story, Union and Warren.

Northey Requests Nominations for Renewable Fuels Awards

On Tuesday, November 1, 2011, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) issued a press release noting that Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Northey is encouraging Iowa fuel retailers and gas stations to submit nominations for the Secretary's Renewable Fuels Marketing Awards. The awards recognize fuel retailers that have gone above and beyond in their efforts to sell renewable fuels. Awards are presented for both the marketing of ethanol and biodiesel.

Qualifying entities are those that market renewable fuels through creative efforts including, but not limited to: hosting special events highlighting their renewable fuels, development of creative signage, initiation of new advertisements or marketing efforts,

and efforts dramatically increase renewable fuel availability. Nominations forms can be found on the IDALS' website at www.iowaagriculture.gov. Completed nominations can be submitted via email at Dustin.VandeHoef@iowaagriculture.gov or mail at Henry A. Wallace Building, Attn: Dustin Vande Hoef, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines IA 50319. Nominations must be submitted by January 1, 2011.

The winners will be recognized during a meeting of the Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Stores of Iowa in Des Moines on January 10th, 2012. This is the fifth year for the award. Last year Kyle Krause of Kum & Go and Roger Baschke of Green Plains Energy Company were recognized.

Iowa leads the nation in the production of ethanol and biodiesel. According to the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, Iowa has 41 ethanol refineries with the capacity to produce nearly 3.7 billion gallons annually. Iowa also has 12 biodiesel refineries with a combined annual capacity of over 315 million gallons. The Iowa Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program offers cost-share grants for the installation of E85 dispensers, blender pumps, biodiesel dispensers, and biodiesel storage facilities. The grant program is managed by Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and more information can be found on the Department's website at www.iowaagriculture.gov.

Vilsack Announces Funding for Advanced Biofuels

On Monday, October 31, 2011, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced payments for 156 advanced biofuel producers across the country totaling \$44.6-million to support the production and expansion of advanced biofuels that included five Iowa businesses.

The funding is being provided through USDA's Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels program. Under this program, payments are made to eligible producers to support and ensure an expanding produc-

tion of advanced biofuels. Payments are based on the amount of biofuels a recipient produces from renewable biomass, other than corn kernel starch. Eligible examples include biofuels derived from cellulose; crop residue; animal, food and yard waste material; biogas (landfill and sewage waste treatment gas); vegetable oil, and animal fat. USDA is working to support the research, investment and infrastructure necessary to build a biofuels industry that creates jobs and conserves natural resources across

America.

One of two examples of the projects supported by these grants cited by the USDA press release involves a Dubuque business, Western Dubuque Biodiesel, LLC which received a \$487,871 payment. This biodiesel production facility produces 30 million gallons per year using soybean oil,

(Continued on page 3)

canola oil and tallow esters as feedstock. The operation is expected to save 18 jobs. The full list of Iowa businesses receiving these awards is as follows--

- Clinton County Bio Energy, LLC: \$131,831.49 for biofuel from waste products.

- Iowa Renewable Energy, LLC: \$138,360.72 for biofuel from waste products.

- Renewable Energy Group, Inc.: \$3,739,128.61 for biodiesel transesterification.

- Western Dubuque Biodiesel, LLC:

\$487,871.16 for biodiesel transesterification.

- Western Iowa Energy: \$658,243.95 for biofuel from waste products.

A complete list of the 156 awardees can be accessed at: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?content->

DNR Cautions that Contaminated Grain Should Not Be Fed to Wildlife

On Tuesday, October 25, 2011, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources issued a press release urging that care be taken when disposing of aflatoxin contaminated grain. In years with extremely dry weather farmers' grain can be contaminated with aflatoxins. Aflatoxin is produced by a type of mold that, at certain levels, is harmful or fatal to livestock and is considered a carcinogen to animals and humans. As a result, it is important that all farmers handle grain that has aflatoxin appropriately.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and

Land Stewardship as well as cooperatives and other grain buyers actively sample grains for aflatoxin so that food and feed remain safe. Aflatoxin usually occurs in a small area, and not uniformly through entire fields. If a producer has contaminated grain, what can they do with it? Farmers or feed manufacturers with questions can contact the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for more information about handling contaminated grain. Grain can also be disposed of by sending it to a landfill or plowing it deep into the ground. Other disposal methods, like incineration,

are acceptable but may be too expensive. Contaminated grain should not be fed to wildlife. Aflatoxin can be fatal to turkeys, pheasants, quail, songbirds and other migratory birds.



Commerce

(Contact Brad Trow at 1-3471.)

New Type of Universal Life Insurance Has Insurers Under Regulatory

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners has been in the news over the past year for the volumes of work they have been given as a result of the passage of the National Health Care Reform law. But the group has not taken its eye off monitoring other forms of insurance and now finds itself in a battle between with insurers over a new type of life insurance plan.

Most Americans have had a choice between universal life insurance and term life insurance. Term life pays a benefit if the insured person dies within a certain period of time. Universal life plans covers the insured person's entire life. Universal life plans also have a savings facet to them, which allow at least a portion of the insurance premium to accumulate with tax advantages. Universal life plans also give the insured some flexibility in terms of the amount of premium paid annually. It is a new approach to this flexibility that has created the controversy.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday that the NAIC has spent much of the year discussing the impact of a new variant of universal life plan. The new plans allow the insured to pay a very low annual premium to keep the universal plan into effect. Typical pricing for universal plans has been higher than term coverage. But the pricing for new universal offering allow the product to be competitive with term plans, and that creates a possible problem with the amount of money companies have to cover claims.

The amount of expected premiums from policies play a major factor in determining how much a company must have in assets to cover claims. The higher the anticipated premium payments, the less a company must have in its reserves. The Journal reports that the new plans may be allowing the insurers to hold lower reserves than would be the case with traditional universal plans. The companies are reported to be assuming higher premium income from

these new plans than what regulators would expect. And that has set off alarm bells for those charged with ensuring that insurers have sufficient capital to pay claims.

While NAIC has yet to take any direct action on the matter, the Journal reported that a task force of the organization has been examining what actions could be taken. These have included filing ethical complaints against those making the calculations. Companies offering the plans are fighting the contention that they are exploiting a perceived weakness in the existing rules. Action by the NAIC may not be forthcoming for months. But it is possible that both sides may skip that step and take the dispute straight to legislatures across the country.



Economic Growth

Governor Branstad Names Individuals to

On Monday, Governor Branstad signed Executive Order 75, which creates an 11 member advisory board called the Partnership for Economic Progress. This board contains some of the state's top CEO's and is designed to tap into the thoughts and experiences of these individuals to set an economic path for the state. The board is tasked with creating a comprehensive economic development strategy that will be carried out jointly by the new Iowa Economic Development Authority (which replaced the former Iowa Department of Economic Development), and the Iowa Innovation Corporation.

Both IEDA and the Innovation Corporation are creations of House File 590 passed during last session. The Partnership was originally part of the bill, but was scrapped as it went through the legislative process. Instead, the Governor created the board via executive order. The individuals on the board include:

- Bill Fehrmann, President and CEO, MidAmerican Energy Company
- Paul Schickler III, President, Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont business

- Larry Zimpleman, CEO, Principal Financial Group
- John Smith, Chairman of the Board, CRST International Inc.
- Toby Shine, President, Shine Brothers Corporation
- Mary Andringa, President and CEO, Vermeer Corporation
- Marti Rodamaker, Banker, First Citizens National Bank
- Ken Lockard, Chairman, Lockard Companies
- Tom Aller, President, Interstate Power and Light, Alliant Energy
- Roger Underwood, Co-founder, Becker-Underwood
- Clay Jones, Chairman, President and CEO, Rockwell Collins

The Iowa Innovation Corporation Board members were also announced by Governor Branstad. The Innovation Corporation is a non-profit corporation established for the

purpose of receiving and disbursing funds from the public or private sources to be used to further the overall development and economic well-being of the state. The Corporation will NOT receive any appropriations from the state, nor does it have the power to pledge the credit of the state, nor shall the state be liable for its debts or obligations. The individuals named to the Corporation Board include:

- Robert Riley, Jr., President and CEO, Feed Energy Co.
- Jamie Zanos, Vice President, North Iowa Area Community College
- Peter Hempken, retired, DuPont
- Scott Norvell, President and CEO, Master Builders of Iowa
- Cara Heiden, retired, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
- Sarah Hasken, Vice President and Corporate Secretary, AY McDonald Manufacturing Company
- Chris Nelson, President and CEO, Ke-min Industries Inc.

Education

Iowa Stays Average on NAEP

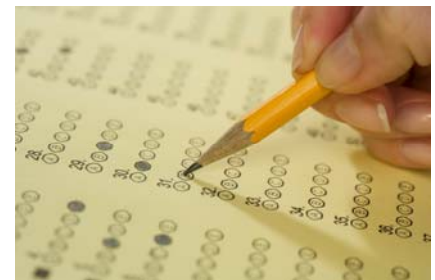
The Nation's Report card, the National Assessment on Educational Progress (NAEP), was released to the public this week. The results for Iowa? There's not much to report. Iowa has not increased nor decreased its scores to any large degree. For the most part, Iowa remains in the middle of the pack...average.

The headlines accompanying the report's release around the country show that, nationally, scores are up. The students in the US raised their reading and math scores over 2009's testing. But Iowa was not a part of that increase. In math, scores in 18 states were higher than in 2009 in 4th and 8th grades. But Iowa was not one of those states. Scores in math in some states showed a closing in the achievement gap. But Iowa was not one. And in reading, scores were higher in 12 states than in

2009. But again, Iowa was not one.

What may be more telling of Iowa's results is the long-term comparisons as the test reaches 20 years of data collection. Found in the press release that accompanied the report, Chairman of the NAEP, David Driscoll, mentioned Iowa several times, but they weren't positive mentions. He notes that as overall progress has been substantial over two decades, "at the other end of the list of score increases [in 4th grade math], Iowa and Maine have gained just 13 points," compared to the highest achievers gaining 32, 30, 28, and 27 respectively. In 8th grade math, Iowa had the smallest gain in the nation at just 2 points. In reading "several other states have stood virtually still – notably, Iowa..."

He summed it up well in one simple para-



graph: "Clearly, NAEP shows that some states have moved ahead strongly over the past two decades. Others have gained much less than the nation as a whole, and their relative standing has slipped, which has become a concern of state leaders, particularly in Iowa."

Here are Iowa's rankings:

Year	Rank	Score	Highest	Average	Year	Rank	Score	Highest	Average
4th grade math					4th grade reading				
2009	tied 16 th	243	252	239	2009	tied 27 th	221	234	220
2011	tied 20 th	243	253	240	2011	tied 24 th	221	237	220
8th grade math					8th grade reading				
2009	tied 26 th	284	299	282	2009	tied 26 th	265	274	264
2011	tied 24 th	285	299	283	2011	tied 29 th	265	275	264

Here are Iowa's scores by year:

	1992*	1996*	2000*	2000	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
4th grade math									
Iowa	230	229	233	231	238	240	243	243	243
Nation	219	222	226	224	234	237	239	239	240
Diff	11	7	7	7	4	3	4	4	3
8th grade math									
Iowa	283	284	—	—	284	284	285	284	285
Nation	267	271	274	272	276	278	280	282	283
Diff	16	13	—	—	8	6	5	2	2

	1992*	1994*	1998*	1998	2002	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011
4th grade reading										
Iowa	225	223	223	220	223	223	221	225	221	221
Nation	215	212	215	213	213	217	216	217	220	220
Diff	10	11	8	7	10	6	5	8	1	1
8th grade reading										
Iowa	—	—	—	—	—	268	267	267	265	265
Nation	—	—	—	—	—	261	260	261	262	264
Diff	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	6	3	1

*accommodations were not permitted

Iowa Natives at Regents Universities

At the Fiscal Committee meeting a few weeks ago which met at the University of Iowa and featured presentations by the Board of Regents and the three Regents Universities, among the interesting numbers presented was a slide from UNI showing the percent of Iowa students the university served. Expanding on that information, here are the results from all of our Regents universities.

University of Northern Iowa

UNI has a student population of 13,168 for 2011, which includes graduate students (around 1,900). 92% of UNI's students are from Iowa. They also note that 61% of UNI alumni still live in Iowa, while 68% of alumni under 45 live in Iowa, and 74% of alumni who graduated in the last 10 years still live in Iowa.

Iowa State University

ISU has a record student population of

"Iowans are 70% of ISU's undergraduates."

29,887 for 2011. Iowans are 70% of ISU's undergraduates, with 64% being from Iowa when graduate students are included. Roughly 12% of the student population is international students.

University of Iowa

30,893 students enrolled at Iowa in 2011. Just 58% percent come from Iowa, 25% from adjoining states, and 9% from the remaining states. International students from

104 countries make up 8% of the enrollment.

General Fund Revenues

UNI: 50% state appropriations (\$75 million); 48% tuition (\$72 million); 2% other

ISU: 39% state appropriations (\$164 million); 57% tuition (\$239 million); 4% other

Iowa: 34% state appropriations (\$210 million); 58% (\$365 million) tuition; 8% other

State Appropriations

The state appropriated about \$449 million to the university general funds for FY2012. UNI received about 17%, ISU received about 37%, and UI received about 47%.

Education Town Hall Meetings

Governor Branstad has announced additional Education Town Hall meetings that he will be hosting around the state on November 15th, further spreading information and collecting input on the Education Reform Plan he released on October 3. These 4 new meetings bring the total up to 21 since the plan's release. More are expected in the coming months.

The meetings are open to the public and are a great place to listen to the plan and voice any concerns or comments. It's also

a great place to listen to the concerns and comments of the citizens in that district.

The meeting times and locations are as follows:

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

- 10:00 a.m. Marshalltown High School, [Marshalltown, IA](#)
- 11:30 a.m. Reinig Center, [Toledo, IA](#)

- 2:30 p.m. Linn Mar Learning and Resource Center, [Marion, IA](#)
- 4:30 p.m. Cedar Falls High School, [Cedar Falls, IA](#)

Environmental Protection

(Contact Lew Olson at 1-3096.)

2012 EPA Brownfields Funding Deadline Approaching

On Wednesday, October 5, 2011 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a press release encouraging eligible entities to apply through November 28, 2011, for 2012 Brownfields funding.

These grant funds can be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, including hazardous substances comingled with petroleum. Available grants from EPA's Brownfields Program include assessment grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years; coalitions are funded up to \$1 million over three years);

cleanup grants (each funded up to \$200,000 over three years); and revolving loan funds (each funded up to \$1 million over five years).

Who should apply?-- Individuals from eligible local, state, and tribal governments; non-profits; coalitions; land clearance authorities; and quasi-governmental entities interested in a brownfields assessment, cleanup, or revolving loan fund grant.

Why apply?-- EPA's Brownfields Program encourages the redevelopment of America's

estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites. Brownfield sites include all real property, including residential, commercial and industrial properties. Cleaning up and reinvesting in these properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressures off undeveloped, open land, and improves and protects the environment. Brownfields redevelopments have included the conversion of industrial waterfronts to riverfront parks, landfills to golf courses, rail corridors to recreational

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trails, and gas stations to housing.

EPA's investment in the Brownfields Program has leveraged more than \$6.5 billion in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment

funding from the private and public sectors, and has created approximately 25,000 new jobs. For more information on the EPA Brownfields grant application guidelines go to: www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm.

DNR Conference on Arsenic in Iowa Groundwater

On Thursday, October 20, 2011, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a press release that a public meeting that will provide information and help for private well owners and others affected by arsenic found in Iowa wells will be available at a November 9th conference. A recent study reveals almost half of Iowa private wells contain detectable levels of arsenic.

The Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination (CHEEC) sampled 475 private wells in a statewide survey conducted from 2006 to 2008. Almost half showed some level of arsenic, and about 8 percent of those had concentrations high enough to exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard (10 ppb in public water supplies). Samples from more than 2,000 public wells, collected as part of DNR's Water Quality Monitoring program show similar results. However, public drinking water supplies have more

options for treating or blending water, and must provide water with less than the drinking water standard to their customers.

The conference will be held in the State Historical Building, 600 E. Locust St., Des Moines. Registration opens at 8 a.m. with opening remarks at 8:45 a.m. Registration is \$25 for the day and includes lunch. Forms and more information are available at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~confinst/arsenic/index.html>. Registration can be completed online or mailed in. The conference should be of interest to private well owners, well drillers, water treatment professionals, water quality researchers, public health and environmental health professionals, and the public. Walk-ins who want to attend just a session or two are welcome, but pre-registration for any all-day attendees is requested.

Exposure to high arsenic concentrations in drinking water has been linked to cancer, and cardiovascular and respiratory problems. Presenters will discuss the health effects of arsenic in drinking water, Iowa's research on its occurrences in the environment, and treatment options to remove or reduce levels in small water systems. The audience will have chances to participate by asking questions of experts, and discuss the issues with researchers and with policy makers in state government.

The conference is sponsored by the University of Iowa Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination (CHEEC), the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Geological & Water Survey - Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Human Resources

(Contact Brad Trow at 1-3471.)

Answer Expected Soon from US Supreme Court on Whether to Hear Health Care Reform Challenges

Supreme Court observers have reported that the nine justices last week officially received the numerous challenges to the federal health care law. This step begins the countdown for a decision by the Court as to whether or not they will hear one, some or all of the challenges to the constitutionality of the law.

Delivery of the challenges to the justices' chambers is the first step in a less than transparent process by which the Court decides what cases it will hear and which it will allow to stand as is. After reviewing the cases individually, the court will convene at their next scheduled conference to discuss what cases will be added to their agenda for the October 2011 term. This meeting will take place on Thursday, November 10. Under the Court's rules, it takes the support of four members of the Court to have a case placed on the docket for oral arguments.

Because the next day is Veterans Day, it is likely that the Court will not release its orders from the conference until the next Monday November 14. At that time, the Court will likely announce whether it is going to hear one of the cases or not. If the Supreme Court agrees to take the case, the next step will be to determine what issues it will consider in the case and when it will be argued.

It is important to understand that just because a case raises a certain issue, the Court is not bound to consider it. An example of this would be the California Medicaid dispute that was the first case argued in the current session. While the appeal to the Supreme Court was over whether California could reduce Medicaid reimbursement rates without federal authorization, the question that the Court directed for argument was over who had the right to sue in such a dispute

If the Supreme Court decides to hear the case, then a series of time deadlines begin to run for the parties to file their arguments with the Court. This process can take as much as 105 days from the day the Court issues its order. This would mean that the earliest one would expect oral arguments would be the end of February or early March and a decision by the time the Court ends its term in late June.

Judiciary

Class Action Lawsuits Force the NFL to Address

Football in America is a multibillion dollar business. This fall 13 of the 15 most watched shows on TV were NFL games. Fans tune in for big plays and big hits, but those big hits may be coming at a high cost for some players and potentially the National Football League. Several dozen former NFL players and their wives have filed suits across the country against the NFL alleging the link between powerful hits and long term brain damage. The outcome of these law suits could potentially alter the game of football forever.

Fans cheer for big hits, but do those big hits cause long term disability and even death? The American Bar Association Journal reports that, 75 players and spouses in California filed a case in California against the

NFL and helmet maker Riddell Inc. accusing both of hiding the link between continual hits to the head and brain damage. This case, and others like it, suggests that the NFL has ignored evidence available for the past 100 years connecting football to brain damage.

Several retired players strongly believe playing football has led to brain damage and are going to great lengths to prove their point. Many have agreed to donate their body to science after death. Currently 6 former players have agreed to have their brains donated to Boston University's School Of Medicine to study the long term effect of concussions on the brain. These studies may help protect future players through better helmets and other safety

improvements.

The NFL has been studying the effects of brain damage since the 1990s, but did not release much of this information until 2010. If these lawsuits proceed forward the NFL will have to defend why the information was kept from players and what if any impact it may have had on players' safety.

Currently, the largest lawsuits have been filed in California and Pennsylvania. As these lawsuits proceed, former and current players will be paying close attention to the evidence and the eventual verdict. Whatever the decision of the court, it is clear these lawsuits will have long lasting implications on the NFL and the game of football.

Labor

(Contact Louis Vander Streek 1-3626.)

Iowa's Unemployment Rate Inches Down

Iowa Workforce Development released September's employment numbers, and they showed that Iowa's unemployment rate is now at 6.0%, a slight reduction from the 6.1% it was at in August. Despite the drop in the unemployment rate, the state actually has 5,700 fewer nonfarm positions compared to August.

The industries that were affected the most include manufacturing (-1,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+1,400), leisure and hospitality (-2,300), and government (-2,100). Workforce Development said that 1,200 additional retail jobs helped the trade,

transportation and utilities category to add jobs. Compared to a year ago at this time, though, the state has an additional 18,000 nonfarm employment positions. Six of the eleven category areas have more positions than were present a year ago in September.

The counties that remain the most heavily affected by the economic downturn include: Hamilton (10.5% unemployment), Lee (9.6% unemployment), Wapello (8.6% unemployment), and Davis (8.1% unemployment). The counties in the best unemployment shape are: Lyon (2.9% unemployment), Sioux (3.3% unemployment), Shelby

(3.8% unemployment), and Kossuth (3.9% unemployment).

The September national unemployment rate held at the same 9.1% as it was in August. The country saw an additional 103,000 positions added in September, however the increase was largely due to the return to work of 45,000 Verizon workers who had been striking in August. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, 25 states saw a drop in September unemployment numbers, 14 states increased their rate, and 11 states remained the same.

Natural Resources

(Contact Dustin Blythe 1-3452.)

Iowa Students Compete in River of Words through Iowa DNR

Iowa student's ages 5 through 19 are encouraged to create and submit artwork and poetry for the 2012 international River of Words® competition. The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of their watershed and express their discovery through art and poetry.

Lisa Fascher, Iowa DNR River of Words® coordinator commented "The inspiration for

the student's artwork comes from experiencing the beauty of Iowa's natural resources. The natural world inspires them to create a work of art and their artwork inspires those who see it to appreciate Iowa's natural resources."

National winners will be determined, and then entries will be sent back to the Iowa DNR for statewide competition. Winning entries will be included in a traveling

statewide exhibition including the following locations: Blank Park Zoo, the Science Center of Iowa, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, the Knoxville Public Library and the State Capitol.

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If you have students in your districts that are interested for the 2012 contest, entries must be mailed to River of Words ® by December 1, 2011.

River of Words ®

PO Box 4000 J

Berkeley, CA 94704 USA

For more information, including complete contest rules please visit: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/riverofwords/>

Public Safety

(Contact: Amanda Freel, 1-5230.)

National Drug Fact Week

National Drug Fact Week began on Monday, October 31st and runs through Saturday, November 6th. This is a week designed to destroy the myths surrounding drug abuse. Programs are planned in schools and throughout communities to give teens an opportunity to ask questions and better understand the real dangers of drug use and abuse. Teens, parents and teachers can go online and visit <http://drugfactsweek.drugabuse.gov/> to find out about online opportunities and community events.

In honor of National Drug Fact Week, here are some facts you may not know about drug use and abuse from www.abovetheinfluence.com:

- Phencyclidine, also known as PCP, was originally manufactured as an IV anesthetic in 1950, PCP use in humans

was discontinued because of its intensely negative psychological effects.

- Ecstasy can cause you to become dehydrated or to drink too much water without realizing it. This can also be deadly because it upsets the salt balance in your body
- People who are high on ketamine (anesthetic) don't feel pain and can seriously injure themselves without knowing it.
- Mixing alcohol and cocaine is the most common cause of drug-combination related deaths.
- Inhalants (glues, nail polish remover, spot remover etc.) can kill you the very first time you use them.

- Between 1995 and 2005, treatment admissions for dependence on prescription painkillers grew more than 300 percent.
- 2006, more than 19% of drivers ages 16 to 20 who died in motor vehicle crashes had been drinking alcohol.
- Cocaine can cause heart attacks even in young abusers.

Talking with your children and educating them on the dangers of illegal, prescription and over the counter drug abuse is the best way to prevent tragedies and help ensure your child grows up drug free.

State Government

(Contact Kristi Kielhorn at 2-5290.)

No "Adult Chocolate Milk" in Iowa

Recently, the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Commission denied an appeal by the makers of "Adult Chocolate Milk" to sell the product in Iowa. Manufacturers had appealed to the commission after the Alcoholic Beverages Division staff previously denied the manufacturer's request to list Adult Chocolate Milk.

The 40-proof ready-to-drink product comes in a bottle reminiscent of an old glass milk bottle. It does not need to be refrigerated and it meant to be kept with other liquors.

One of the main reasons cited for denial of the listing was the name and marketing of

the product. It was thought too similar to actual chocolate milk that children drink regularly.

Presently, the division has about 1,400 products listed on its inventory. New products are considered every month (with the

"...40-proof ready-to-drink product..."

exception of October, November and December). Division staff reviews anywhere

from five to 35 new products each month.

Adult Chocolate Milk is on shelves in surrounding states like Nebraska, Minnesota, South Dakota, Missouri and several others. It is not however, for sale in most "control" states like Iowa.

More information about the product can be found on at adultchocolatemilk.com. live.

Transportation

(Contact: Kristi Kielhorn, 2-5290.)

Consumer Advocacy Group Makes Recommendations on Traffic Cameras

Last week, Iowa Public Interest Research Group (Iowa PIRG) released a report regarding the growing use of traffic cameras in Iowa. The report criticizes cities for giving up too much power to the out-of-state companies that administer them and for essentially privatizing a large part of traffic law enforcement.

Automated traffic enforcement programs have grown in popularity across the country—with active systems in 700 communities and about half of the states. In Iowa they are utilized in larger cities such as: Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Clive, Davenport, Muscatine, and Council Bluffs with others under consideration.

In Des Moines alone, cameras issued 1,776 violations in the month of September. So far, 1,129 citations have been paid to the

city for a total of \$73,778. Of that revenue, Des Moines pays Gatso USA flat fees of \$27 for each red light ticket and \$25 for each speeding ticket (or a total of \$20,506). This left the city of Des Moines with a net of \$53,282 for the city's general fund.

Some of Iowa PIRG's recommendations include:

- Putting public safety first in decisions regarding traffic enforcement
- Ensuring that contracts are free from political conflicts of interest
- Avoiding direct or indirect incentives for vendors that are based on the number of tickets or fines

- Retaining public control over traffic policy and engineering decisions, including cancellation of contracts if the public is dissatisfied
- Ensuring an open process with opportunities for public participation and a centralized database with information for the public

The full report can be found on Iowa PIRG's website at www.iowapirg.org.



Veterans Affairs

(Contact: Jill Jennings, 1-3440.)

Mental Health First Aid Training

The Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs, State Public Policy Group (SPPG), and the Iowa National Guard partnered to offer two Mental Health First Aid training courses to veterans stakeholders in October. SPPG coordinated the trainings as part of its work with the Commission on veterans' mental health initiatives, taught by certified instructors from the Iowa National Guard.

Mental Health First Aid is a 12-hour course that teaches how to recognize signs of a mental health issue, help a person through

a crisis, and direct them to professional help. MHFA prepares "regular" people to help in mental health emergencies. Learn more about the program at www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org.

Forty-eight people earned MHFA certification in these two trainings at Camp Dodge and in Iowa City. Participants included county veterans service officers, county veterans affairs commissioners, Iowa National Guard members, veterans service organization representatives, Iowa Commis-

sion of Veterans Affairs members, police officers, Family Readiness volunteers, and staff from non-profits and state agencies who serve veterans.

For more information about these trainings or SPPG's work on veterans' mental health, contact Jennifer Furler at 515-237-0324 or jfurler@sppg.com.

Central Campus Obtains Learjet for AET Coursework

Central Campus students in the Aviation Engineering Technology will get the opportunity to work on a fully operational C-21 Lear 35 in their course lab study at the airport. The district's aviation program is one of only three high school programs in the nation certified by the Federal Aviation Administration to teach aircraft maintenance, and the only one of its kind among the nearly four thousand school districts in several

Midwestern states. There are fifty-five high school and college students enrolled under the instruction of two teachers. A ceremony last week at the airport attracted students from the program, their families, some Iowa National Guard members, and U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley who helped the district obtain the surplus military transport plane from Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Upcoming Veteran's Events

November 5th- Veterans Admitted Free of Charge to Drake University Football Game VS Jacksonville University 1:00 @ Drake Stadium, 2719 Forest Avenue, Des Moines IA 50311.

November 8th- Opening Ceremony for "Remembering Our Fallen" Display, 9:00am Iowa Veterans Home, 1301 Summit St., Marshalltown IA 50158. "Remembering Our Fallen" was created to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Its legacy will be that these men and women will never be forgotten and that their names will be remem-

bered and spoken. Details available at <http://www.rememberingourfallen.org/> Display will remain from November 8th- November 12th.

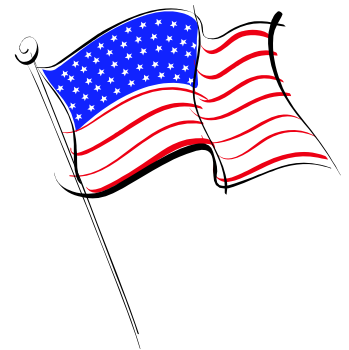
November 10th, 2011 United States Marine Corps (USMC) Birthday – 236 years, (November 10, 1775).

November 10th-13th -50% Discount for Military Personnel & Veterans at Papa John's Pizza Ordered Online IOWA-WIDE Must order on-line at <http://www.papajohns.com>, and use the promotion code "MILITARY IOWA."

November 12th-13th Sixth Annual Sleep Out for the Homeless Sponsored by Linn County Veteran Affairs and the Community Circle of Care Greene Square Park, Corner of 3rd Ave SE and 5th St SE, Cedar Rapids IA 52401 in support of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week The event will run from 5 p.m. November 12 through 6 a.m. November 13 regardless of weather conditions.

VETERANS DAY EVENTS-November 11th, 2011

- Company A 49th Regiment Iowa Veteran Volunteer Infantry "Governor's Own Rifles" will participate in several Veterans Day Events, including decorating graves of all identifiable veterans at Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines and posting uniformed sentries at the two Grand Army of the Republic Sections of Woodland to walk "silent posts" for most of the day.
- Iowa Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony at Iowa Veterans Cemetery- 8:00p.m. Iowa Veterans Cemetery Committal Shelter, 34024 Veterans Memorial Drive, Van Meter IA (located off of Interstate 80 at exit 113 Larry Spencer, former Prisoner Of War POW & current Commissioner on Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs, will speak. Music will be provided by the Van Meter High School Chamber Choir.
- Free Admission to the Des Moines Botanical Center in honor of Veterans Day. Des Moines Botanical Center, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines IA 50316, (515) 323-6294, botanicalcenter@botanicalcenter.com
- Veterans Day Services-10:00 a.m., Teamsters Hall, 5000 J Street SW, Cedar Rapids IA. Guest Speaker will be Mary Clapp, RNBSN; Veteran of the Year Award will be presented by the President of the Metro Area Veterans Council.
- Veterans Day Luncheon & Program, 11:00-2:00, "The Center", 714 S. Main St., Council Bluffs IA, Lunch is free for all veterans and will cost \$3.00 for their guest. Due to limited seating reserve your meal by November 3rd with Jo at The Center: (712) 323-5995 EXT. 224. The Program will include a guest speaker from Offutt Air Force Base, Presentation of the Colors, Special Entertainment, Door Prizes, and lunch. This event is sponsored by "The Center", Iowa Hospice, AseraCare Hospice, Comfort Keepers, Veteran Affairs of Pottawattamie County, NEMO.
- Veterans Day Open House-11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Sendak Room, Cedar Rapids Public Library, Westdale Mall, 2600 Edgewood Rd SW, Cedar Rapids IA All veterans are cordially invited to stop by this Open House held to thank veterans for their service to our country. Light refreshments will be served and each veteran will receive a small gift courtesy of the library. Donald Tyne, Linn County VA, will be present to share information about services available for veterans.
- Veterans Day Event at Fort Des Moines Museum 12:00a.m., Fort Des Moines Museum, 75 East Army Post Road, Des Moines IA 50315, This event will honor veterans, and will include a color guard, flag folding ceremony and music.
- World War II Veterans Day Commemoration, 2:00p.m., World War II Memorial on State Capitol Grounds, Des Moines IA Kevin Cooney of KCCI Television Des Moines Channel 8 will be the guest speaker.
- 31st Annual Johnson County Military Affairs Association Veterans Day Banquet, USO Show / Dance, 11 Nov 2011 5:30, Riverside Blue Top Golf & Casino Convention Center, 3184 Highway 22, Riverside IA, University of Iowa Veterans Center KEYNOTE SPEAKER WILL BE GENERAL CRAIG R. MCKINLEY, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, CHIEF, NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU. Music provided by the 34th Army Band until 10pm and a DJ with more current songs for dancing 10:00-12:00. Note 3 - Tickets to the event are \$35. Cadets and members of the military at E-4 or below will be charged \$25. Also we have some complementary tickets for recently returned or wounded service members and veterans



Colorado Voters Reject Raising Taxes

Voters in Colorado Tuesday overwhelmingly rejected a ballot measure that would have raised \$3 billion for education by temporarily increasing state income, sales and use taxes. The latest results show Proposition 103 going down in flames across the state, with 35% in favor to 65% against.

Under Proposition 103, the state's current income-tax rate of 4.63 percent would have been raised – for five years – to 5%. In addition, Prop 103 would have – for five years raised the state's 2.9% sales tax to 3%.

With Colorado a likely swing state in 2012, the debate of this ballot measure has been

closely watched over the question of whether more spending will stimulate the economy or increasing taxes will slow the recovery even further.

Supporters argued that the extra money generated would shore up K-12 and college education budgets. Opponents argued that increasing both the income and sales tax isn't fair, as few people could afford it and would hinder Colorado's recovery.

To give you an idea how bad this measure was struggling, even in liberal Boulder County the measure was barely achieving a majority and most Democrats, including

new Gov. John Hickenlooper would not back tax hikes at this time.

With the Federal Government over \$14 trillion dollars in debt, voters want to see government at all levels control spending first before asking them for more revenues – even when earmarked for education.