

Overturned tanker
closes U.S. 61 **3A**

Senior swims to
all-MVC honors **1B**

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TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

High 52° Low 22° Unseasonably warm, **6B**

TUESDAY

January 29, 2013 • Dubuque, Iowa • 75 cents

news in brief

Dubuque earns 'River City of the Year' award

The city of Dubuque will be presented with the "River City of the Year" award by Iowa Rivers Revival during a public reception Wednesday, Jan. 30, morning.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Grand River Center, meeting room No. 4. The presentation of the award will take place at 10:15 a.m. with a virtual tour of some of Dubuque's leading features from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Robin Fortney, of Iowa River Revival, will present the award to Mayor Roy Buol.

That will be followed by the virtual tour titled "Sharing Dubuque's Story," which includes video and presentations on Dubuque's sustainability model, focused efforts to celebrate the river, Bee Branch Creek restoration, stormwater management and wastewater treatment.

Iowa Rivers Revival is a statewide river advocacy group. It works to engage Iowa individuals, organizations, communities and government leaders in river awareness, responsibility and enjoyment.

Senior's Lynn works his way to MVC crown **1B**

Israel conducts air strike in Syria **6C**

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TELEGRAPH HERALD

High 5° Low -9° Windy, 5D

THURSDAY

January 31, 2013 • Dubuque, Iowa • 75 cents



Robin Fortney, of the statewide advocacy group Iowa Rivers Revival, praises Mayor Roy Buol on Wednesday at the Grand River Center

after Dubuque was named the recipient of the organization's River City of the Year award. **Video: THonline.com**

DAVE KETTERING • *Telegraph Herald*

Recent wave of success celebrated

Dubuque receives the River City of the Year award from an Iowa group.

BY ANDY PIPER

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Citing Dubuque's reconnection with the Mississippi River as the inspiration that sparked the city's renaissance, Iowa Rivers Revival presented Dubuque with its River City of the Year award Wednesday at the Grand River Center.

"To kind of return your vision to the resource that basically formed you, as the oldest river city that is what is really meaningful," said Robin Fortney, a founding member of the statewide advocacy group dedicated to preserving and improving Iowa's 30,000 miles of rivers and streams. "It is an incredible story you are writing for yourselves and for the rest of the state. You really are a role model."

Fortney said Dubuque's application was above any the group has received since it formed in 2006. Previous award winners in-

clude Charles City, Cedar Falls, Coon Rapids, Elkader, Webster City and Central City.

Dubuque highlighted its many river and water-quality projects, such as turning 90 acres of brownfield into the Port of Dubuque. It also touted its Smarter Water partnership with IBM, the riverwalk and trail system, including the Dubuque Water Trail for paddlers, the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project, Catfish Creek watershed management, water-quality enhancement efforts, such as erosion control and permeable pavement, low-impact development strategies and the rebuilt Water & Resource Recovery Center.

"As we turned our back on the river that is a time when we had a bleak future," Planning Services Manager Laura Carstens said. "When we celebrated the river, we've really been able to make a lot of the progress we've seen today."

Fortney said the Bee Branch Creek project caught her attention.

"We've been putting streams underground

as long as there have been civil engineers, I suspect," Fortney said. "To be able to see the value of daylighting the creek and see it as a solution to bring a lot of positives to the community is amazing."

Carstens said it would take five Bee Branch sewers to equal the capacity of one Bee Branch Creek.

"It gives you a sense of how much more efficient the natural environment is as far as runoff, evapotranspiration and infiltration," Carstens said.

Bob Wagner, of the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, said it is amazing the number of people who visit the museum who have no idea of the magnitude and impact of the river's watershed.

"They come here to see the Mississippi River, and they have no idea the Mississippi drains 31 states and two Canadian provinces," Wagner said. "That's huge. One of our main missions is to educate people about this tremendous watershed and the fact that almost all of it goes into the Gulf of Mexico."