

Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

April 15, 2015



Let's get to know those that work in the Courthouse!

The March Newsletter featured the picture of the little boy to the left. Did you guess Jarrod Fischer? Jarrod works in the Com Center. The following is a little personal information provided by Jarrod:

Start date with Dickinson County: October 1999. Currently the Dispatch Supervisor

Where born: Estherville, Iowa

Places Lived: Lone Rock Iowa, Currently Wallingford, Iowa

Hobbies, talents, special interests: I enjoy dispatching, currently dispatch in Dickinson, Emmet and Palo Alto County. I enjoy the Fire and Ambulance field, currently the Fire Chief of the Wallingford Fire Department, going on my 14th year as Chief. EMT for Wallingford EMS, Terril Ambulance, Lone Rock Ambulance, Algona Ambulance and Spirit Lake Rescue. I enjoy spending time with family, and friends, especially in Madison SD. I like to miniature golf, and grill out. My newest interest is bike riding got a new road bike last year and enjoy going on bike rides.

Favorite Travel Spots: Madison SD. Sioux Falls SD. Really don't travel that much.

Favorite Food: Steak and Italian.

Least Favorite Food: Brussel Sprouts, lima beans

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): I would bring (3 things): Food, cell phone with many batteries, tent

Something Few Know About Me: Never a dull moment.....

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: Dispatching with my fellow co-workers, and working with Police, Fire and EMS departments in Dickinson County. Also, spending time with family and friends and using the bike trails.

Let's talk about the County Benefits:

What are all the benefits currently offered to the Dickinson County employees and where do you find out more about them. Starting with the February newsletter, all the current benefits will be listed here and then each newsletter thereafter will have a more detailed explanation about at least one benefit.

So what are the benefits offered to you as a Dickinson County employee?

- Health Insurance – Blue Cross/Blue Shield through Iowa Association of Counties – featured in the February 2015 issue
- **Dental Insurance – Delta Dental – featured in this issue**
- Retirement benefit – Iowa Public Employee Retirement System (IPERS)
- Deferred Compensation Plan – Nationwide through National Association of Counties – featured in the March 2015 issue.
- Advantage Flex Plan- pretax offerings
- Personal Accident Insurance Program through Iowa Association of Counties (ISAC) - for those electing to take County Health Insurance
- Voluntary Accident Insurance Plan – CHUBB Group offered through Iowa Association of Counties – paid for by the employee
- Cancer Insurance – Short Term Disability & Hospitalization though AFLAC
- Cancer Insurance through American Heritage

Delta Dental – Dental Insurance:

Delta Dental of Iowa is a member company of the national Delta Dental Plans Association. Dickinson County employees have access to the nation's largest dental network and to a centralized claims processing system that assures prompt and accurate payment of their claims. Dickinson County currently provides the Delta Dental single policy at no charge to the employee and a family policy costs the employee \$44.17/month. The County spends over \$35,000 annually to provide this benefit.

The County's Delta Dental policy also provides a **vision program** with the following features:

- Discounts on eye exams
- Discounted pricing for lenses and lens options
- Savings on eyeglass frames and conventional contact lenses
- Unlimited us
- Discounts on LASIK and PRK
- Competitive pricing on contact lenses through Contact Lens by Mail.



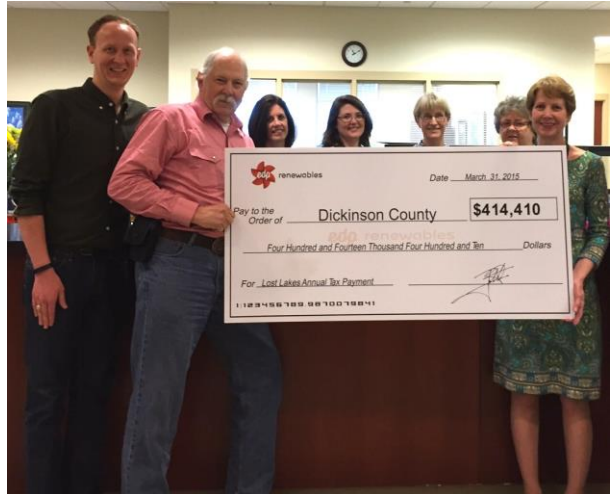
Lost Lakes Wind Farm

is located approximately 3 miles west of Milford on pristine agricultural and pasture land in Dickinson County. The land is mainly used to grow corn and soybeans and the Little Sioux River runs along the east side of the area. Lost Lakes Wind Farm includes farmland in Lakeville, Okoboji, Excelsior and West Port townships. The wind farm achieved commercial operation in December 2009 and includes 61 turbines.

The property taxes generated by the wind farm provide revenue for local schools, roads, police, fire protection and other government services.

(Picture to the right) John Taylor and Adam Renz of Horizon Wind Energy EDP in Houston, Texas (the company that operates the Lost Lakes Wind Farm) came from Houston on Tuesday, March 31 at 11:00 and presented the Dickinson County Treasurer with their "property tax check". Emily Bossard, Christina Ostovic, Pat Andersen, Jackie Carpenter, and Kris Rowley - Dickinson County Treasurer were happy to accept the check.

Iowa tax law give the wind turbine industry a tax break starting at 5% of their value and adding an additional 5% each year until the wind farm reaches 30%, where it remains. Lost Lakes Wind Farm is currently at 20%.



In addition, the development, construction and operation of the wind farms have generated a significant number of jobs in the area, as well as brought about the need for additional curriculum at **Iowa Lakes Community College**. The Wind Energy and Turbine Technology Program is a two-year Associate in the Applied Science program that provides hands-on, real-life experiences. This academic program at Iowa Lakes for wind turbine service technicians is one of just seven programs nationwide to receive the American Wind Energy Association Seal of Approval.

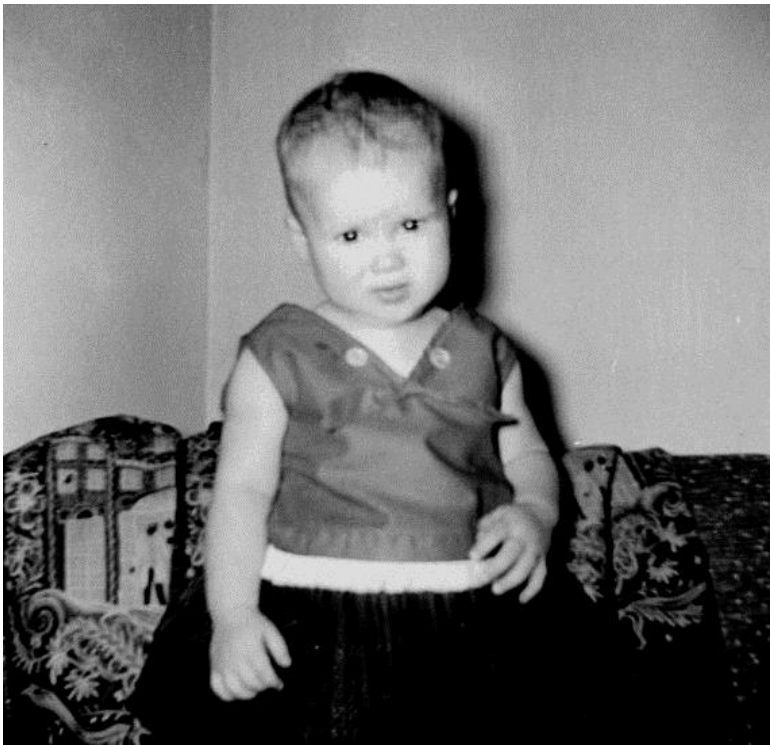
Rest and Rehydrate Wellness Program: Thank you to everyone who participated in the Rest & Rehydrate program from February 1st to March 31st. Of the 85 eligible employees, 63 participated!
Now let's GO Bananas! Just replace a high calorie snack with a fruit or vegetable. Your participation is not only a benefit to you but also can help to keep the County health insurance rates in check.

The perfect holiday Prime Rib

The day before you cook. Rub LB Jamisons Beef flavored rub and Lawry's Salt on your prime rib. Make sure you cover it all with the rub and Lawry's, use saran wrap, cover it and put back in the fridge overnight.

The next day when you are going to cook it, take the prime rib out of the fridge, try to have the meat at room temperature. Turn oven on at 450F. Place in oven uncovered for 20 minutes at 450F that will seal the top of the prime rib, turn the oven heat down to 275F, and cook 12 minutes per pound. When you are ready to eat, take it out 15 minutes before serving. Should be cooked MED to MED Rare. You can cover while it's resting

April Spotlight:



Get to know more about those who work for Dickinson County!

Find out more about this little girl in the May issue. In the meantime, can you guess who this is?

**Start where you are,
use what you have,
do what you can.**