

Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

February 15, 2016



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

The January Newsletter featured the pictures of all those that were featured in 2015. Did you remember who they were?

Sue Duhn

Lori Pedersen

Kris Andera

Dallas Drexler

Mike Ehret

Amy Schmelling

Ann Miller

Roxie Reekers

Jarrold Fischer

Sasha

Andy VanSchepen

Emily Bossard

Thanks to everyone for agreeing to be a part of the 2015 Newsletters!



ACTIVE SHOOTER In the Dickinson County Courthouse:

ON FEBRUARY 9, shortly around 4:45 p.m., Sheriff Greg Baloun, Chief Deputy Tony Petersen and Deputy Josh Johnson went quickly through the hallways of the Dickinson County Courthouse, shooting off rounds of blank ammunition from 3 different weapons. NO ONE hurt, wounded or killed because this was a demonstration of what the sounds of an active shooter would be like and NOT the real thing! Prior to the exercise, Sheriff Baloun and Beth Will of the Safety Committee passed out earplugs so that the noise of the shots would not hurt anyone's ears. The demonstration was provided as a Safety educational exercise for those employees of the County who were interested and willing to stay after courthouse hours. No one other than County employees and Clark Reekers and his staff were allowed in the courthouse during the demonstration. After the exercise, Sheriff Baloun, Chief Deputy Petersen and Deputy Johnson met with everyone in the Community Room to discuss the demonstration and to answer questions. One of the interesting things that came out of the exercise is where there were pockets in the courthouse that could not or did not hear a thing. Also depending on where you are in the courthouse, the sound of gunshots might be



mistaken for something normal like simply a board dropping on the floor. It is now understandable why those folks in the San Bernardino, California, shooting first thought the sounds were something other than gunshots. Sheriff Baloun did say that since these shots were blanks that the sounds would not be as loud as the real thing. There is much more to be learned about how and what to do in the case of an active shooter or any kind of violence in the courthouse. The Sheriff did say, if you can call 911 then do it! Tell the Com. Center where you are, press the panic button and if you can get out of the building.

Additional Active Shooter Training is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2016. Spirit Lake Police Department will be providing a refresher of the ALICE training along with how that Police Department will be responding to the active shooter call. Two training sessions will be held in the Dickinson County Community Room in the Courthouse. The first session will begin at 9:30 am and the second session will begin at 1:30 pm. Each session will last about 90 minutes.



Dickinson County and Buena Vista County Become the

29th and 30th Home Base Iowa Communities:

On January 28, 2016, State officials announced that Dickinson and Buena Vista Counties received designation as Home Base Iowa (HBI) Communities. Northwest Iowa currently has the largest number of HBI Communities in the state and the Iowa Lakes Corridor region (Dickinson, Emmet, Buena Vista & Clay) is the largest organized group

of Counties to receive this designation. It truly takes a serious commitment to become an HBI community, and these counties have shown tremendous support for this initiative that welcomes veterans into their communities. State, county, city and business leaders, along with local veteran organizations, hosted the designation ceremonies at the Pavilion in Arnold Park.

The HBI program designates qualified communities based on four standards: 10 percent of hiring businesses within the community must become Home Base Iowa businesses, the community must develop an incentive package for veterans, provide an HBI signage plan to prominently display the designation, and a resolution of support from the appropriate local governing body. The Dickinson County Supervisors passed a resolution on December 1, 2015, in support of the Home Based Iowa Initiative.

Do you want your cake to taste like it came from a bakery?



Follow these steps...

1. Read the directions on the cake mix
2. Add 1 more egg (or 2 for an even richer cake)
3. Replace the oil with melted butter and double the amount.
4. Replace the water with an equal amount of milk.
5. Mix and bake according to package directions



Recipe for the Month taken from Facebook

February Spotlight:

Find out more about this County employee in the March issue.

In the meantime, can you guess who this is?



In honor of taxing season:

“Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.”

Ronald Reagan