



Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

October 15, 2013

Employee Spotlight!

Let's get to know our County employees!



The September Newsletter featured the picture of the little boy to the left. Did you guess Dan Eckart? Dan has worked for Dickinson County as the County Engineer since 1994.

The following is a little personal information provided by Dan.

Start date with Dickinson County:

August 15, 1994

Where born:

Mankato, Minnesota

Places Lived:

Mankato, Brookings, SD; Cherokee, Ia.; Storm Lake, Ia.; West Okoboji, Ia.; Spirit Lake, Ia.

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Snow skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, golfing, jet skiing, boating, bicycling, Labrador retrievers, FOOTBALL,

Favorite Travel Spots: Black Hills, SD, North shore of Minn. Florida, Colorado, So. Padre Island, Cozumel, Mx

Favorite Food: Italian, vegetables, mom's homemade chicken soup

Least Favorite Food: There is not a lot that I don't eat. Octopus is horrible though!

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): Desalination machine, my wife, and either my dog or the professor from Gilligan's Island – he always made cool stuff.

Something Few Know About Me: I have owned different Labrador retrievers for over 37 years of my life.

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: Hike my Lab in the outdoors; enjoy the lake and activities with friends and family

DHS article for Dickinson Co. Courthouse Newsletter written by Eileen Skogerboe

By now, most of you have at least some recognition of the ACA – Affordable Care Act. This is a federal statute providing a significant government expansion and overhaul of the nation's healthcare system.

Key factors to the ACA include more affordable health coverage, better access to care, a stronger Medicare program, and consumer rights and protections such as:

- Insurers can no longer impose lifetime limits on essential health benefits/annual limits to be phased out by 2014.
- Ends coverage cancellations (companies can no longer drop you due to an error you made on your application)
- Ends pre-existing condition discrimination

Beginning on October 1, 2013, individuals are now able to apply and enroll in health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace at www.healthcare.gov. Coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace begins as early as January 1, 2014.

At the Marketplace, you can apply, compare all options available for you, find out whether you can get lower cost monthly premiums, and learn if you are eligible for free or low-cost health coverage. When you are ready to enroll, you will be able to decide how you pay for your premiums or get help with signing up for Medicaid or CHIP if you're eligible.

The Eligibility Integrated Application Solution (ELIAS), is our new, DHS integrated eligibility system that will provide eligibility determination for several State assistance programs – in accordance with requirements under the ACA. ELIAS is expected to "go-live" on Oct. 1, 2013, by implementing the ability to apply for healthcare benefits, with coverage to begin on Jan. 1, 2014. Members will submit applications in a variety of ways including paper, fax, telephone, and online portal. We anticipate that ELIAS will begin to accept and store applications on Oct. 1, 2013. It will automatically verify key information including income, citizenship, and family size, determine eligibility using automated rules, and issue notices.

The Affordable Care Act implements many changes which will hopefully increase the number of Iowans (and all Americans) who will be eligible for affordable health care coverage and who will participate in those coverage benefits.

Dickinson Co. Conservation gets award for Technology Outreach! Article provided by Charles Vigdal.

Dickinson County received a special recognition for its outstanding Technology Outreach in 2013, awarded by the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards (I.A.C.C.B.). This includes the popular new Dickinson County Conservation Board website, Okoboji Osprey Live Web Camera, new emailing system through Mailchimp and outstanding Facebook/Twitter outreach. A special thanks to Alissa Julius, Dickinson County Information Technology Director, Anitra Wolf, Blue Lake Websites, and Charles Vigdal, Dickinson County Naturalist. And thanks to everyone who made this website a success!



Employee Spotlight



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Find out more about this Dickinson County employee in the November issue. In the meantime, can you guess who this is?

Motivational quote for the month: The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person who is doing it. –Chinese Proverb