

# Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

February 15, 2013



## Employee Spotlight!

Let's get to know our County employees!



The January Newsletter featured the picture of the little boy to the left. Did you guess John Miller? John has worked for Dickinson County in the Engineer's office since 1983.

The following is a little personal information provided by John.

**Start date with Dickinson County:**

September 1, 1983

**Where born:** Spirit Lake, Iowa

**Places Lived:** Spirit Lake, Iowa

**Hobbies, talents, special**

**interests:** Woodworking, Home Remodel and Fix-it type Handyman Jobs, Gardening

**Favorite Travel Spots:** Cozumel, Las Vegas, Duluth Area

**Favorite Food:** I like almost everything, this belly didn't grow on its own!

**Least Favorite Food:** No real dislikes – maybe oysters.

**If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things):** a computer with music, a good friend (my wife), a ton of "How-To" books so I can try to figure out how to do everything I needed to....

**Something Few Know About Me:** I enjoy cooking, grilling, smoking meats (Not that good at it, but still enjoy)

**Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County:** Go for car rides around the Lakes, Watch people and traffic.

## New Staff in the Veterans Affairs Office:



The Dickinson County Commission of Veteran Affairs welcomes a new part time assistant, Monte Tiernan. Having grown up northwest of Des Moines, Monte has been enjoying the lakes area since she was 8 years old. She had an opportunity to move to Spirit Lake from Omaha 3 years ago and has been loving living in Dickinson County ever since. Monte enjoys being with her two sons, Jake and Mike who live in Nebraska. Her other pleasures include football, fishing, cooking and poker league. Monte was a network administrator managing Windows and Linux servers and earned the Microsoft Systems Engineer Certification, (MCSE). Monte joins the staff via the AARP Foundation's Senior Community Service Employment Program. Stop by the Veteran affairs office during morning hours to meet Monte and introduce yourself.

## “A.L.i.C.E.”

A.L.i.C.E. is a crisis training program that stands for Alert, Lockdown, Information, Counter and Evacuation. As another form of safety preparedness the A.L.i.C.E. program gives participants insight and response options when encountering an active shooter.



The pictures above are from the day of the Columbine shootings. The left picture is before the attack began. The right picture is after the **lockdown** alert was given. Note the students had moved to under their tables. Later security pictures show the gunmen in this room at 11:57 AM. There were a total of 15 deaths and 21 injured that day. We assume government buildings are immune to attack, yet over the past few years, there have been several instances of violent attacks, whether in government buildings or on military bases. Active shooters have managed to penetrate security in government buildings. A.L.i.C.E. training is a program that can help mitigate such events from happening.

A.L.i.C.E. provides options for those who find themselves or co-workers under attack from a violent intruder. A.L.i.C.E. **enhances** the traditional lockdown concept to provide the highest survivability possible in a violent intruder event. Topics covered in A.L.i.C.E. include policy considerations, rally points, effective ways to lockdown, counter, evacuate and the importance of giving timely alerts along with informational updates.

The Dickinson County Safety Committee is researching the possibility of providing A.L.i.C.E. training for the Courthouse. A survey of interest has been emailed to all Department Heads and Elected Officials.

## WELLNESS COMMITTEE:



On a much brighter note, Secret Santa seemed to have visited the Dickinson County Courthouse a couple of weeks ago. A flower and a sandwich were delivered to each member of the Wellness Committee on Tuesday. The note said **thank you** from the Dickinson County Employees. As a member of the Wellness Committee, I speak for all of the Committee by saying **thank you for your thoughtfulness!**

## **February Employee Spotlight**



**Let's get to know our County employees!**  
Find out more about this Dickinson  
County employee in the March issue.  
In the meantime, can you guess who this is?

## **Motivational quotes for the month:**

*If it's important to you, you'll find a way.  
Otherwise you'll find an excuse.*

*If you think you can or think you can't, you're  
right.*