

Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

January 15, 2016



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

The December Newsletter featured the picture of the little girl to the left. Did you guess Emily Bossard?

The following is a little personal information provided by Emily:

Start working at Dickinson County: August 23, 2011

Where born: Sheldon, Iowa

Places Lived: Melvin, Sheldon, West Des Moines, Dubuque, Spirit Lake, and Milford

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Watching my son play sports, spending time with friends and family, enjoying the outdoors.

Favorite Travel Spots: Napa Valley & San Francisco

Favorite Food: Pasta

Least Favorite Food: I haven't discovered it yet.

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): My husband, plenty of wine and a corkscrew

Something Few Know about me: I know what an Orab is.

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: Boating in the summertime.

Favorite Recipe:

Creamy Chicken and Wild Rice Soup

4 cups chicken broth

2 cups water

2 cooked, boneless chicken breast halves, shredded

1 (4.5 ounce) package quick cooking long grain and wild rice with seasoning packet

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

3/4 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup butter

2 cups heavy cream

Directions

In a large pot over medium heat, combine broth, water and chicken. Bring just to boiling, then stir in rice, reserving seasoning packet. Cover and remove from heat.

In a small bowl, combine salt, pepper and flour. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Stir in contents of seasoning packet until mixture is bubbly. Reduce heat to low, then stir in flour mixture by

tablespoons, to form a roux. Whisk in cream, a little at a time, until fully incorporated and smooth. Cook until thickened, 5 minutes.

Stir cream mixture into broth and rice. Cook over medium heat until heated through, 10 to 15 minutes.

New Milford Shop: The Secondary Road Department is currently in the process of building a new maintenance shop facility at our Milford location. FEH Design of Sioux City was selected as the Architect for the building. A letting date for the project is scheduled for January 19th with a bid award scheduled the following week on January 26, 2016.



The new shop will be located on A34 just east of the Milford City limits on property already owned by Dickinson County. It will be on the north side of the road just east of the existing facility. This site was selected for several reasons. It was close to town - which is very important to staff members that have to get to the shop in adverse weather conditions. It also had utilities accessible. In addition, this site is suitable for a building to have all south facing doors for efficiency, and finally the property was already owned by the county, saving the cost of the land purchase.

The old shop facility (left picture) was a combination of 5 buildings and a couple of lean-to structures with a total of 7500 square feet. The buildings were mostly old, inefficient and converted to maintenance buildings over the years after being used for some other function. In recent years, several of the smaller structures have been torn down which reduced the available space. The new facility will have over 17,000 square feet, which will include a wash bay, mechanics bay, and a welding

shop. It will contain in-floor heat and a new hoist in the mechanics bay.

While the new shop discussions have taken place for the last 15 years, the road department has finally saved up enough money to be able to build this new facility without going into debt. We very much look forward to the new facility this summer!

Bad & Good News for Dickinson County's Health Insurance rates

December's newsletter contained information about premium rates as they have grown over the years.

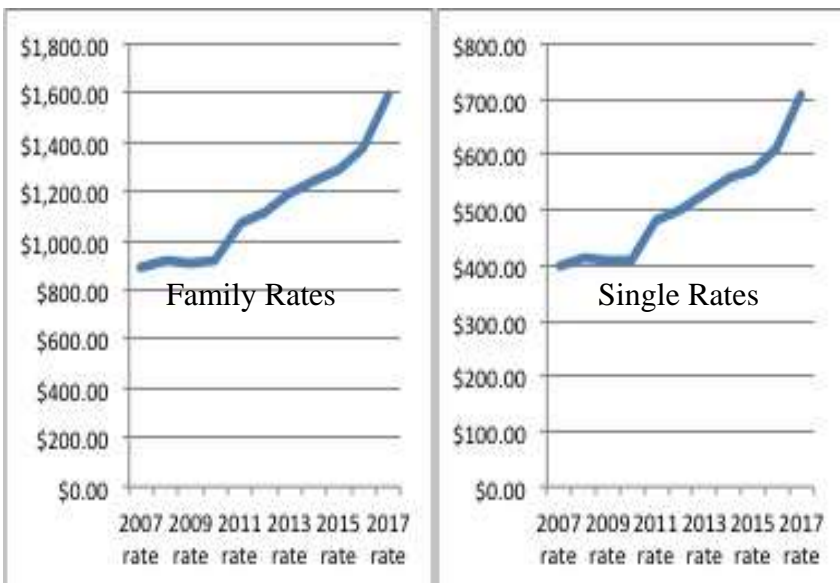
Both the family monthly rate and the single monthly rate have increased significantly. In the last 10 years the single premium rate has increased 54.27% and the family premium has increased 54.60%. The December newsletter also sent out big congratulations to those who participated in the Wellness Program. The County was made aware that those that participated in the Wellness programs earned the County a 5% reduction in the upcoming year's rates. CONGRATULATIONS again and a big THANK YOU to those that made that happen.

Now for the bad news, Dickinson County found out in late December that the County's rates will increase by more than 15% even

after the 5% Wellness discount. The rates Dickinson County will pay as of July 1, 2016, are \$708/month for Single and \$1,592/month for Family. That is the highest any County with ISAC's Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield is paying for plan 11.

Don't be confused because this article refers to plan 11. Dickinson County buys plan 11 and self-funds the plan 8 benefits for the employees.

Good news regarding the Cadillac/Excise Tax Dickinson County is in line to pay. Legislation has passed that will delay the Cadillac tax for two years. Without further legislative adjustment or repeal, the tax will now be scheduled to take effect beginning January 2020.



ACTIVE SHOOTER EXERCISE BEING PLANNED:

Some of you remember this headline on September 6, 2014:

MAQUOKETA, Iowa — A former Maquoketa city manager opened fire in the Jackson County Courthouse this morning before being tackled by a county supervisor and suffering a fatal gunshot wound during the ensuing struggle.

Or this headline:

Mass shooting – San Bernardino, California on December 2, 2015

The violence began around 11 a.m. at the convention building at the Inland Regional Center where employees with the county health department were attending a holiday event. Witnesses said at least two shooters opened fire, killing 14 people.

The Dickinson County Safety and Security Committee has put together several active shooter training classes for County employees over the last couple of years. It has become apparent we can no longer think that things like this will not happen in our facility. The Committee is now organizing an active shooter demonstration to be put on by the Sheriff's office. The purpose of the demonstration is to show employees what gunfire in the courthouse will sound like. The demonstration will take place after hours so that there are no customers in the courthouse and attendance will be strictly voluntary. After the demo, the Sheriff is planning on having someone available to answer questions. ALICE training will be provided in a few weeks after this demonstration.

January Spotlight - 2015 Year in Review:

Do you remember who these employees are?



**Emily's Favorite Motivational Quote: -
God doesn't give us what we can handle.
He helps us handle what we have been given.**