

Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

March 15, 2016



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



The February Newsletter featured the picture of the little boy to the left. Did you guess Matt Vahlsing?

The following is a little personal information provided by Matt :

Start working at Dickinson County: Matt started working with Clark & Roxy on 5-10-10

Where born: Midway Hospital, St. Paul, MN.

Places Lived: Stillwater, MN., Austin, MN., Sibley, IA., Estherville, IA.

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Fishing and Shopping

Favorite Travel Spots: Thunder Bay Canada, North Shore, Loess Hills and Upper Up.

Favorite Food: Tacos and Olive Garden

Least Favorite Food: Seafood

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): Fishing pole, Cell phone and a tent.

Something Few Know about me: Having a Corrections Degree, worked as a corrections officer, worked at Mayo St. Mary's as Surgical Tech, Worked at CMHI in Cherokee, Did Security for State on a College Campus, Ran Track and Cross country skied in High School, Played soccer in college

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: Go the Art Museum and go to car shows.

Favorite Recipe: *HOMEMADE Eggs*

Matt's favorite Motivational Quote:

“Get Busy Living or Get Busy Dying”

Nathan Roth from the Spirit Lake police department shown below giving the ALICE program to Dickinson County employees.



A.L.I.C.E.

The 1st Active Shooter Response Program

The ALICE program was authored by a seasoned law enforcement officer to keep his wife, an elementary school principal, safe after the tragic events at Columbine. Since these humble beginnings, ALICE continues to be the leading active shooter response program in the country due in large part to the law enforcement community.

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training prepares individuals to handle the threat of an Active Shooter. ALICE teaches individuals to participate in their own survival, while leading others to safety. Though no one can guarantee success in this type of

situation, this new set of skills will greatly increase the odds of survival should anyone face this form of disaster.

Anywhere, anytime – Newton, Iowa

Newton Daily News

Published Monday Feb. 29, 2016

By Abigail Pelzer.

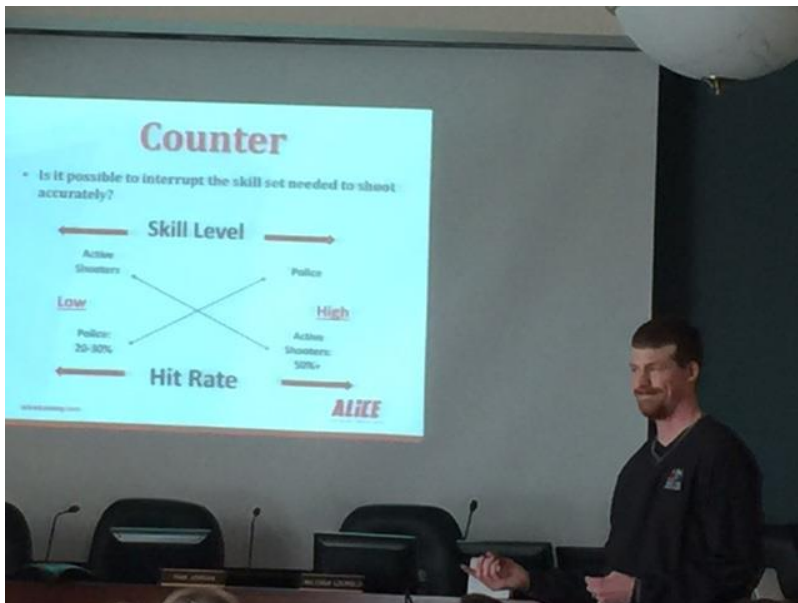
The gunman's screaming was the first thing they heard, followed by the sound of shots fired. They were in a staff meeting in a conference room and knew they had to act quickly. Shutting the door and crawling underneath the table seemed the most logical strategy, but he found them. All but two were shot. As they exited the conference room the Jasper County Sheriff's deputies explained the dangers of simply hiding from a violent intruder. This was part of their ALICE (**A**lert, **L**ockdown, **I**nform, **C**ounter, **E**vacuate) training they received on Wednesday, February 24, 2016. By Thursday afternoon, February 25, 2016, after this training, the latest mass shooting occurred in Hesston, Kan. killing three and injuring 14 others.

"We heard a pop, pop, and we thought it was just metal falling on the ground, and then the doors opened, people started screaming, coming out," the witness told KSNW. "We really didn't know what was going on."

"Everybody says it can't happen here." "And here we are. It happened here."

This is why the Dickinson County Safety Committee believes ongoing Active Shooter and A.L.I.C.E. training is so important. It can happen here!

Dickinson County had its second annual A.L.I.C.E. training on February 18, 2016:



As you can see, just one week after the Dickinson County training, a mass shooting took place in Hesston Kansas, population 3,736. Everyone needs to know how to react to any armed aggressor. Here you see Nathan Roth from the Spirit Lake Police Department giving A.L.I.C.E. training to Dickinson County employees. Although Nathan said the police department would probably respond in 5 minutes or less, a LOT can happen in 5 minutes. Dickinson County employees should not feel that just because the Sheriff's Office is located in the courthouse, that Deputies would be on the scene instantly. There is a good change that the Deputies would be out of the building patrolling miles away. The A in A.L.I.C.E. is Alert – refers to the way you learn about the threat and how you communicate the danger to others.

The L in A.L.I.C.E. refers to Lockdown - If you are unable to get out of the building, you may have to go into lockdown mode. Block the door with what ever can be used. Gather together and make a plan of action should the

aggressor make it into your lockdown area. Every room has something that can be used to distract or defend against the aggressor's attack...books, water bottles, fire extinguishers, pens & pencils, anything you can throw or push at the aggressor.

The I in A.L.I.C.E. refers to Inform - Once you have LOCKDOWN the room, dial 911, tell the dispatcher all you know about what is going on.

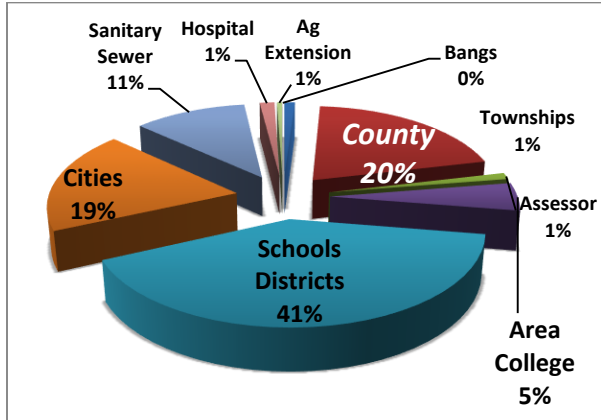
The C in A.L.I.C.E. refers to Counter – If you unable to get away, you may have to defend yourself. You may be able to distract and disrupt the aggressor's plan and put the aggressor on the defensive. You may be able to disarm and subdue the aggressor.

The E in A.L.I.C.E. refers to Evacuate – Get out and get away. Evacuate with your arms above you head so you are not mistaken for the aggressor.

The Dickinson County FY'17 Budget was approved on March 8 2016.

A 53 page PowerPoint presentation is available for your review on the County website. It includes data and charts with history on information about valuations, expenses, revenues, payroll (as seen in the chart below), health insurance, tax levies, dollars levied and much more. Below are is an example of things included:

Where do your property tax \$s go?



OUT OF THE 99 IOWA COUNTIES, DID YOU KNOW?

Dickinson County has the 12th highest assessed value in Iowa.

Dickinson County has the 12th highest taxable value in Iowa.

Dickinson County has the lowest General Fund levy rate in Iowa.

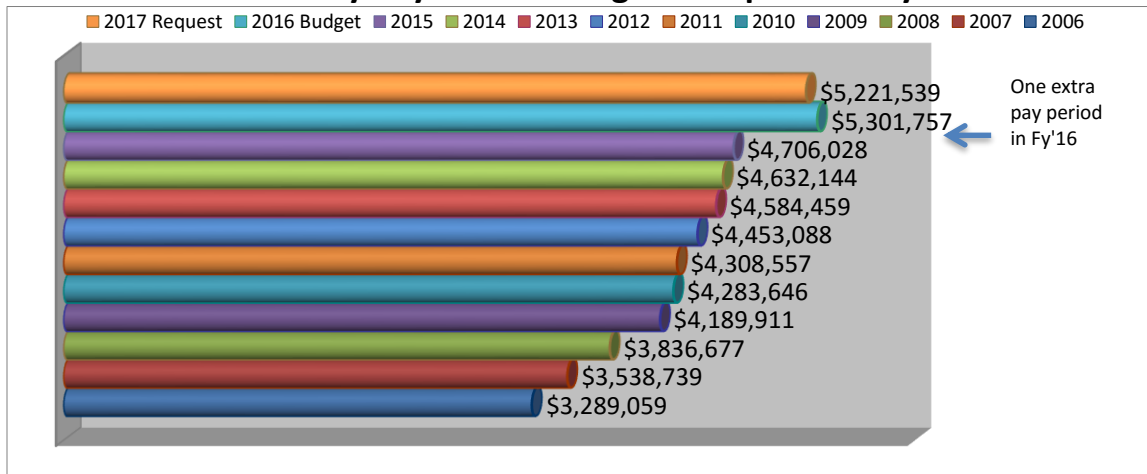
Dickinson County has the 2nd lowest Rural Fund levy rate in Iowa.

Dickinson County has the lowest Countywide levy rate in Iowa.

Dickinson County is 25th in the amount of property taxes levied in Iowa.

Dickinson County is 9th in the State for the % of untaxable values due to TIF?

Total Dickinson County Payroll including fica & ipers over years:



March Spotlight:



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