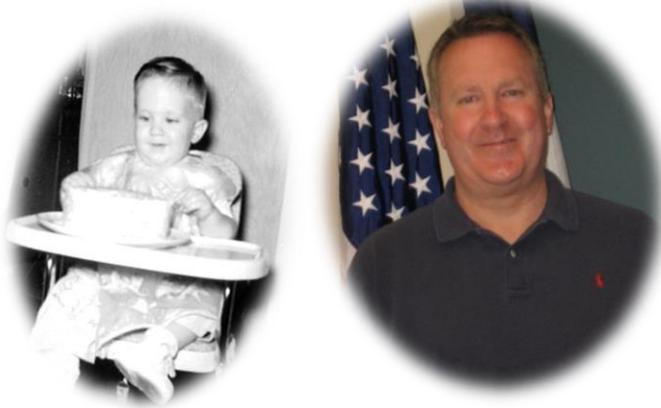


Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

May 15, 2013

Picture taken May 1, 2013 from the upstairs windows of the Dickinson County Courthouse and yes, if you have forgotten already, that is snow!



Employee Spotlight!

Let's get to know our County employees!

The April Newsletter featured the picture of the little boy to the left. He is Dave Kohlhaase. I won't share with you how Dave referred to himself as a little boy but you can ask him. Dave is the Dickinson County Planning & Zoning Administrator as well as the Environmental Health Administrator and the County Purchasing Agent.

Below is a little personal information supplied by Dave.

David Kohlhaase:

Start date with Dickinson County: March 1, 1995

Where born: Omaha, Nebraska

Places Lived: Omaha and here

Hobbies, talents, special interests:

My biggest interest in life is my family. I love spending time and doing things with my wife who is my best friend. I enjoy traveling to Chicago to visit our son DJ who lives and works there, and traveling to Arizona to visit our daughter Jamie, who is going to school there. I have a passion for Arabian horses.

Favorite Travel Spots:

Lake Okoboji, Arizona, and Florida.

Favorite Food:

Pizza at Big Freds in Omaha, Pizza at Delosa's in Florida, King Crab legs and a Porter House steak at Salt Rock Grill in Florida, Crusted Chicken Parmesan at our local Yesterdays, a cheeseburger and fries at In and Out Burgers in Arizona, a chocolate soda at the Sugar Bowl in Arizona, homemade ice cream at the Sugar Shack in Florida, and my wife's chocolate chip cookies. Love to eat!

Least Favorite Food:

Liver and Tuna.

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things):

- 1) A new yacht with modern equipment filled with gas and a helicopter on board.
- 2) One good man that is a captain, carpenter, handyman, mechanic, farmer, fisherman, chef and doctor that has all the equipment and tools to take care of me.
- 3) My wife.

Something Few Know About Me:

When I was young I broke the couch rocking. I wore out carpet rocking. I enjoy rocking in my rocker recliner if and when I sit at home. I don't sit much.

Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County:

Enjoy the lakes and everything that comes with it. My family vacationed here when I was growing up, my wife and I honeymooned here, my wife and I had a seasonal place here, and then 26 years ago we got to move here. This is our home. This is where our children were born and raised. I do root for Iowa and Iowa State (as long as they are not playing Nebraska). "Go Huskers!!"



Dickinson County Veteran's Affairs Office:

With Memorial Day coming soon it seems appropriate to have a feature article honoring those that have passed before us and those that lost their lives to protect our liberty and freedom. Spending some time with Ann Miller, Dickinson County Veterans' Affairs Administrator, a most recent event came to mind; the honoring of a local fallen soldier, SSG Steven Blass. Ann assisted with the planning and started the public



outreach by contacting local media. She also stood at the Dickinson Co. county line to salute and honor the Blass procession as it passed. It is believed that thousands joined in a united effort across the 3 county



lines to show respect and honor SSG Blass. Support from everyone was amazing and humbling to all. The Spirit Lake VFW met the funeral procession at the Superior corner, the Terril American Legion met the funeral procession at the corner of N14 and A34, and the Milford, Lake Park, & Spirit Lake American Legions all met the procession at the corner of A34 and Highway 71 in Milford.

The funeral procession was lined with County fire departments, youth groups like the Boy Scouts, church groups, businesses of all kinds and hundreds and hundreds of citizens. All were waving flags or had decorated their buildings, put up signs and/or covered their vehicles. Fence posts were covered with flags and supporting signs. Among many, the city of Milford put up their American flags, the Scoreboard Lounge donated 500 flags for the public and the Milford Commercial Club passed out flags to the public. Military graveside services were held at North Lawn Cemetery in Spencer. Services included an honorary flight of two Army helicopters over the interment. It is said that shortly thereafter two American Bald Eagles also flew over in honor of SSG Steve Blass and the liberty and freedom SSB Blass represented.

The Return of the Okoboji Osprey by Charles Vigdal



(you can read Charles' full article in the Dickinson County Conservation Newsletter).

While Osprey and the Iowa Great Lakes area share a long history, their modern story begins in the summer of 2000 when a pair attempted to nest on the baseball field lights at the Spirit Lake High School. Then in 2003 a truly exciting moment in Iowa's osprey history occurred with the successful rearing of young osprey at the nesting platform near the Spirit Lake Middle School wetland, the first ever recorded in Iowa! Osprey have, since then, established themselves as residents of our beautiful lakes, so be sure to check the skies as you may be able to spot one!

The Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – also known as the sea hawk,



fish eagle or fish hawk - is a large raptor that feeds exclusively on live fish by diving into water as deep as 3 feet.

Despite popular belief, osprey is not in the same family as hawks, eagles or falcons, but is instead in its own family, *Pandionidae*.

Weighing up to 4.6 lbs. with a wingspan as wide as 71 in, they have very distinct colors - black or brown feathers on the back with a white underbelly - helping them blend in with the sky and camouflage them from their fishy prey below.

In 2006, spurred on by the events of 2000 and 2003, the Dickinson County Conservation Board (DCCB), with the help many people, businesses, and nonprofits, were able to relocate osprey chicks to a hacking tower - a place where you take a juvenile bird to raise until it is able to fly – located near the DCCB Nature Center. To this day, more than 15 ospreys have been released in Dickinson County.

Inspired by the success of the Decorah Eagle Cam, volunteers felt that Dickinson County should have a camera focused on the nest at the Dickinson County Nature Center. In 2012 a fundraising commenced resulting in the installation of a state-of-the-art solar powered camera system custom built for the Dickinson County Nature Center. The extremely durable camera system is not only capable of full 360 degree pan and tilt movements, it also employs an infrared lighting system that allows visitors to view the nest 24 hours a day without disrupting its inhabitants. In March 2013, the Okoboji Osprey Camera was completed. The ospreys have laid their eggs and their young will fledge, or fly, by mid to late July. The osprey will stay in the area until sometime in September. You can see them by either viewing the live feed online, dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com or www.co.dickinson.ia.us (then department Conservation live web cam), by coming in to the



Nature Center and looking through one of our spotting scopes, or simply by looking to the skies and spotting a soaring osprey as it scans our waterways searching for its next meal.

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

