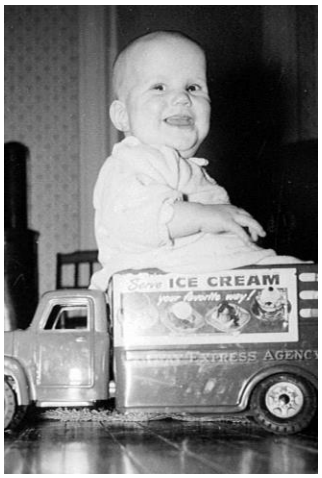
Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

November 18, 2014

Employee Spotlight!



Let's get to know our County employees!

The October Newsletter featured the picture of the little girl to the left. Did you guess Pat Anderson?

The following is a little personal information provided by Pat:

Start date with Dickinson County: Originally started in April of 2006, left and came back and became full time in September of 2011

Where born: Spirit Lake

Places Lived: Spirit Lake

Hobbies, talents, special interests: Reading, and cooking and eating the food she cooks

Favorite Travel Spots: Alaska is on Pat's bucket list

Favorite Food: Any food that has cheese, sour cream, cream cheese or sweetened condensed milk in it!

Least Favorite Food: Liver!

If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things): Her husband, as many books as she could carry and a bottle of wine.

Something Few Know About Me: Pat weighed over 200 lbs when she was a freshman in high school.

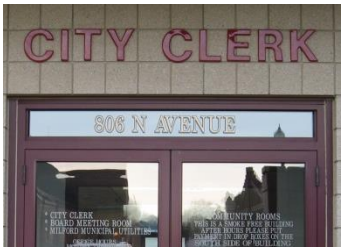
Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County: There are so many things to enjoy about living here. We are small town Midwest, but still have so many activities and opportunities because of the type of area this is. Pat is so proud when people comment about how friendly we are here and attribute most of that to our Midwest heritage.

E-911

At the advent of the E-911system, all homeowners had house number signs installed. It is imperative that home owners maintain their signs and make sure they are clear of any obstructions such as trees or bushes. They should be plainly visible from both directions and reflect well at night. If your sign is missing, damaged or has lost is reflectivity, please call 712-336-3987 for a replacement sign. Law enforcement officers, EMT's and fire departments rely heavily on these signs to find your home in an emergency. Keeping the signs well maintained and visible means a quicker response to you in an emergency.

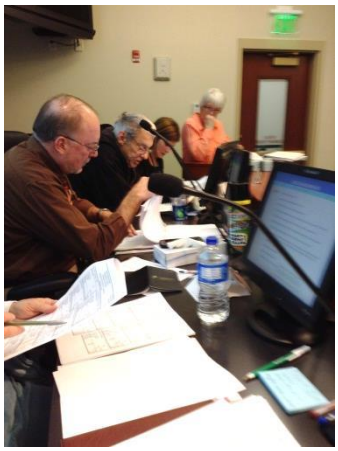
Dickinson County Auditor's Office - 2014 Election activities:

There is so much more than voting in your precinct or absentee, just ask the Auditor's office.
Starting with the 2010 census, the Auditor's office had to increase the number of voting precincts from 10 to 15 and these precincts must meet all of the State requirements. Few people know that Precincts can only be combined once between censuses or only once every 10 years. That requires much study and again any combining is regulated by the State.



So, right now Dickinson County has 15 voting precincts. See pictures above. Some of the buildings above have more than one precinct located within.

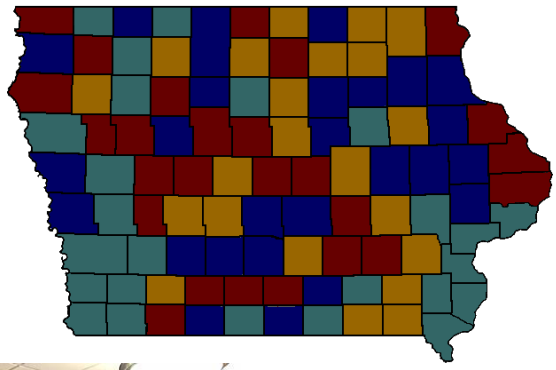
Then come the ballots: Prior to September 25, all ballots must be ready for the first day to vote in –person by absentee ballot at the Auditor's office. This year, there were 41 different ballots. From Sept 25 though 9:00 pm on November 4th, the auditor's office is receiving ballots. Oops, I should say, though noon on November 10th since mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than Monday, November 3th or earlier, and must be received in the Auditor's office by noon on Nov. 10th. On November 11th, the Supervisors canvassed the vote which requires the reading out loud of all votes cast by precinct or **57 pages** of election reports, reviewing the State required reports and a half hour of signing State documents.



Supervisors canvasing the vote

Here are a few stats related to the General Election:

59.2% of the registered voters voted in Dickinson County. 25% were Absentee votes.

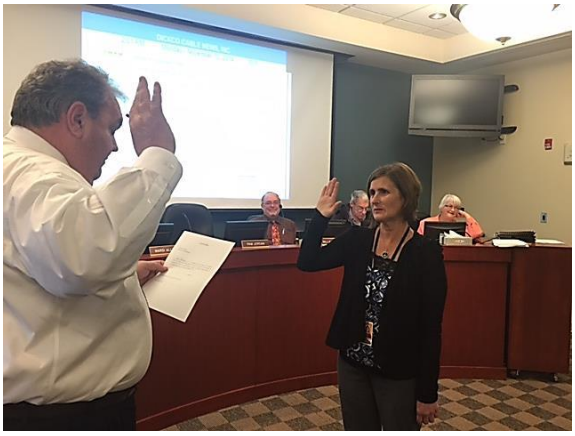


Voter turnout Percentages:

Blue Counties = 55.0% - 100%
Gold Counties = 53.0% - 55.0%
Red Counties = 49.0% - 53.0%
Lt. Blue Counties = 0% - 49.0%

Highest County turnout = Ringgold at 64.7%
Lowest County turnout = Wright at 31.8%

Statewide = 52.3%



Lori Pedersen is sworn in as Dickinson County Auditor

9 Things Happy People Don't Do:

This article was given to me and suggested that it be shared in the county newsletter. Although some of the article might be condensed for the newsletter, one thing happy people don't do will be in each of the next 3 newsletters. The article was written by Dan Baker, PhD of the Bottom Line Publications.

Number 9: Happy people don't dwell on past failures. *Unhappy people tend to be very failure conscious – they kick themselves endlessly for old mistakes. Happy people tend to remember their missteps as times when they learned important lessons or as small steps on the* ***larger journey of life!***

November Spotlight:

Get to know more about those who work for Dickinson County!

Find out more about this little boy in the December issue.
In the meantime, can you guess who this is?

Motivational quote for the month:

If you want it, work for it. It's that simple. – Ayn Rand