

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
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Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department Announces Radon Poster Contest Winners

McCook – Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) announces their eighth annual local Radon Poster Contest winners.

“Congratulations to the outstanding students that entered our radon poster contest,” shares Denise Garey, Health Educator. “Our judges were very impressed with the originality, creativity and unique radon messages. We appreciate the talented students and dedicated teachers from several schools that created these excellent posters.”

Judges selected the following posters in this highly competitive contest:

- 1st place – Jessie Craig, 8th grade, Perkins County Schools
- 2nd place – Bailey Hidy, 6th grade, Hitchcock County Schools
- 3rd place – Miah Long, 8th grade, Perkins County Schools
- 4th place – Hannah Kempf, 8th grade, Perkins County Schools
- 5th place – Trynity Briggs, 7th grade, Perkins County Schools
- 6th place – Bryder Hickey, 8th grade, Perkins County Schools
- 7th place – Braxtynn Lans, 4th grade, Southern Valley Schools
- 8th place – Brecklyn Hammond, 4th grade, Southern Valley Schools
- 9th place – Meghan Bishop, 7th grade, Perkins County Schools
- 10th place – Ehme Linner, 4th grade, Southern Valley Schools

With so many exceptional posters submitted, we also include the following winning posters in our *Top 20 category*:

Hitchcock County Schools: Emmalee Garcia, Rachel Jarecke, Kolyn Gaston, Jeffrey Strohm
Perkins County Schools: Jeb Kohl, Sophia Perez, Dillon Overstreet, Nicholas Bendtsen
Southern Valley Schools: Hayden Taylor, Katherine Ann Eakin

The top 20 posters are currently displayed in the windows of McCook Abstract at 318 Norris Avenue to celebrate Radon Action Month. Poster judges were: Camy Bradley, McCook Abstract & Title Company; Mary Kircher, Welcome Home Realty/ MEDC Housing; Jill Morgan, Gateway Realty; Sarah Schneider, Kjendal Photography; Tamra Neel, Hillcrest Nursing Home; Becky Dutcher, McCook Housing Agency and SWNPHD staff members.

The goal of the poster contest is to raise awareness about the dangers of radon. As the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, radon is not well known. It is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that enters homes and buildings through the soil and cannot be detected unless it is tested.

In Nebraska, one out of every two homes tested has a high radon level (above 4.0 pCi/L). Increasing the number of homes with an operating radon mitigation system for persons living in homes at risk for radon exposure is another objective.

Photos of top posters can be found on our website at www.swhealth.ne.gov. Award presentations will be made at each school and shared on our Facebook page. For more information on the radon poster contest email educate@swhealth.ne.gov or call Denise Garey at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th Street, McCook – one block north of Arby's. You can follow us on Facebook.com/swnphd and Twitter@swpublichealth.

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