



**Arbor Day planting:** The Odebolt-Arthur student's in Lori Lapel's fifth grade class planted a Quaking Aspen in the Odebolt Memorial Walk RV Park on Arbor Day, April 24. Lorne Miller of the Ida County USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provided the instructions. The Ida County Pheasants Forever organization provided the trees. Each of the students was given a tree to take home and plant. The Odebolt Memorial Park Board representative was Elaine Rex. For more pictures, go to [www.idacountycourier.com](http://www.idacountycourier.com). (Courier photo by Deb Loger)



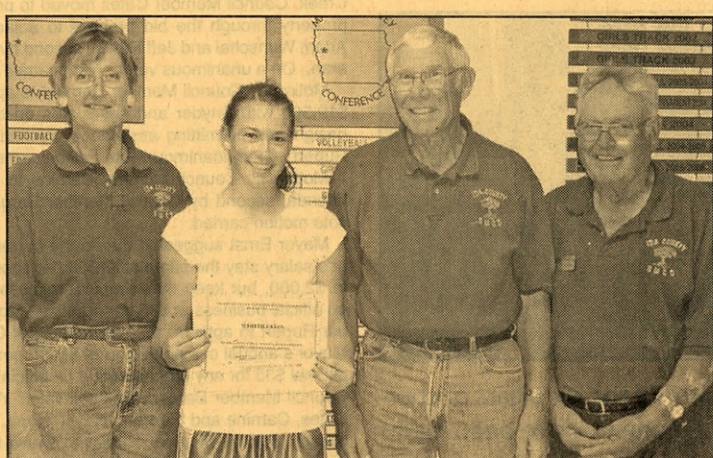
**Tree planting:** Lorne Miller of the Ida County office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service instructed students from Staci Rohlk's BC-IG fifth grade class in the proper way to plant a bare root tree as part of Arbor Day activities Friday. The tree was planted on the BC-IG Middle School grounds in Battle Creek. Each student received a Quaking Aspen tree to take home and plant. Ida County Pheasants Forever donated the trees. For more pictures, go to [www.idacountycourier.com](http://www.idacountycourier.com) (Courier photo by Mike Thornhill)



**Conservation award:** Bill and Pat Wellendorf of Ida Grove are winners of the Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) Conservation and Wildlife Enhancement Award. The Wellendorfs have taken a piece of land and created one of the first working wetlands in Ida County. It includes two small ponds with water control structures, with stop logs to fluctuate the water level. They have enhanced the area by adding native grass filter strips, trees and numerous conservation practices, including terraces, waterways and residue management on cropland to protect the area. From left are: Lloyd Rickers, SWCD vice chairman; the Wellendorfs, Wally Johnson, chairman; and Joyce Johnson, assistant commissioner. (Photo submitted)



**Art awards:** Cathi Taylor, BC-IG K-6 art instructor, above, and Lynn Davis, Galva-Holstein K-12 art instructor were each awarded the Conservation in Education Award. The two teachers have been instrumental in the success of the Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) annual soil and water conservation poster contest. Above, with Taylor are Wally Johnson, Joyce Johnson and Lloyd Rickers of the SWCD. Below, Joyce Johnson is with Davis. (Photos submitted)



**Posteraward:** Mariah Cates of Ida Grove was presented a \$35 prize recently from the Grinnell Reinsurance Company for winning the regional division of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) poster contest. The theme for the 2009 contest was "Dig It: The Secrets of Soil." With Cates are Joyce Johnson, Wally Johnson and Lloyd Rickers of the SWCD. (Photo submitted)

