

Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District 61st Annual Report



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2006 Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners were Ron Snyder (Burlington), Don Lounsbury (Pleasant Grove Township), Todd Heckenberg (Benton Township), Maureen Fosdick (Franklin Township), and Bob Hinson (Tama Township).

Personnel During 2006

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
Todd Heckenberg, Chairperson
Maureen Fosdick, Vice-Chairperson
Robert Hinson
Don Lounsbury
Ronald Snyder

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS
Arlyn Musselman
Bradley Weiss

OFFICE STAFF
Shirley Bradley, District Conservatorist
Courtney Myers, Soil Conservatorist
Dale Schmeiser, NRCS District Technician
Lori Heckenberg, District Employee
Jay Jennison, NRCS Student Trainee/
District Employee
Jamie Grimes, State & District Secretary

AREA OFFICE STAFF (Fairfield)
Bruce Trautman, Assistant State
Conservationist (FO)
Shawn Detmann, Area Resource
Conservationist
Kristina Harris-Hull, Area Program
Specialist
Mark LaVan, Area Resource Soil Scientist
Jesse Jackson Jr., Grassland Specialist
Sarah Anderson, Agricultural Engineer
Jerome Mail, Civil Engineering Technician
Kerry Richards, Computer Specialist
Kevin Andersen, State Private Lands
Biologist
Suzette Betts, Administrative
Management Assistant

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
& LAND STEWARDSHIP - DIVISION OF
SOIL CONSERVATION (Des Moines)**
Ken Tow, Director
James Gillespie, Chief Field Services
Bureau
Paul Valin, Field Representative

REVOLVING FUNDS ACCOUNT

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD regular
checking account from July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2005 \$3,332.64

Receipts:	
Miscellaneous Sales	12.50
Pop Machine Commission	44.89
Checking Account Interest	10.28
Donations	152.00
Cookbook Sales	3,127.05
Flower Sales	620.00
1M Reimbursement	2,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,966.72

Disbursements:	
Postage	208.60
Office Supplies & Expenses	19.00
Awards & Dinner Expenses	145.70
Commissioner Travel	1,098.35
Poster Contest Prizes	180.00
Cookbook Expenses	1,805.40
Dues	700.00
Subscriptions/Memberships	125.00
Scholarships	700.00
Flower Sales	310.00
Soil Loss Complaint	28.06
Memorial/Condolences	68.00
Soil Survey CD's	46.46
CDI Soil Exhibit	10.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,444.72
Balance On Hand, June 30, 2006	\$3,854.64

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD special
projects/payroll account from July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2005 \$6,994.47

Receipts:	
Account Interest	12.38
DSC Farm Bill	1,744.90
CDI	7,946.12
TOTAL	\$ 9,703.40

Expenditures:	
Federal Tax	2,195.97
State of Iowa - Tax	374.00
Unemployment Insurance	149.25
IPERS	728.40
Payroll preparation fees	150.00
Payroll	7,034.09
TOTAL	\$ 10,631.71
Balance on Hand, June 30, 2006	\$6,066.16

Expenditures and receipts of Des Moines SWCD PF
Biologist account from July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006:

Balance on Hand, July 1, 2005 \$ 0.00

Receipts:	
Lee County Pheasants Forever	1,000.00
Washington County Pheasants Forever	2,000.00
Washington County SWCD	2,000.00
Des Moines County Pheasants Forever	1,000.00
Geode RC&D	1,258.81
Pheasants Forever	2,681.67
TOTAL	\$ 9,940.48

Expenditures:	
Federal Tax	893.08
Administration Fees	21.41
State of Iowa - Tax	152.00
Unemployment Insurance	66.45
IPERS	392.47
Payroll preparation fees	50.00
Payroll	3,272.21
Lee County Pheasants Forever	848.81
Des Moines County Pheasants Forever	848.81
Washington County Pheasants Forever	1,697.62
Washington County SWCD	1,697.62
TOTAL	\$ 9,940.48
Balance on Hand, June 30, 2006	\$ 0.00

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES DURING 2006

January

- Election of Officers for 2006 resulted as follows: Chairperson - Todd Heckenberg; Vice Chairperson - Maureen Fosdick.
- Appointments for 2006 resulted as follows: Secretary - Jamie Grimes; Treasurer - Grimes; Co-Treasurer - Ron Snyder; Assistant Commissioners - Arlyn Musselman, Brad Weiss; RC&D Executive Board - Don Lounsbury, Fosdick (alternate); Flint Creek Advisory Board - Bob Hinson, Snyder (alternate); REAP - Heckenberg; Education/Contests/Awards Committee - Fosdick, Hinson, Snyder; Fund Raising Committee - All; Marketing Committee - Fosdick; Legislative Committee - Snyder, Lounsbury; Urban Conservation Committee - Snyder.
- Snyder attended the CDI Legislative Day held at the capital in Des Moines.

February

- Civil Rights were reviewed.
- Annual report was printed in Mediapolis News.
- Average costs were reviewed and adjusted accordingly.

March

- DSC Program Planner Tony Toigo discussed the Low Interest Loan Program at the monthly meeting.
- Flower bulbs were sold.
- Heckenberg and Hinson attended the REAP assembly at Starr's Cave Nature Center.
- Snyder attended the Spring Regional meeting in Bloomfield.
- Myers was a judge at the science fair at Westland Mall.
- Myers spoke with the Burlington High School Earth Science class.
- Lori Heckenberg started March 20 as a District Employee.

April

- Soil and Water Stewardship week was April 30 - May 7.
- Myers was a presenter at a career day at SCC.
- Hinson attended Flint Creek spring water monitoring testing with BHS students.

May

- Local winners were chosen for the Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program.
- Winners were chosen for the poster contest.
- A \$700 donation was given to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for a scholarship.
- Myers and Schmeiser did soils and tree planting demonstrations at the New London 6th grade campout.

June

- Jay Jennison started June 12 as a NRCS summer student trainee.
- The SWCD began selling locally reproduced soil survey CD's.

July

- The SWCD had a booth during the Des Moines County Fair, July 26 - August 1.
- A sign was installed by Soil and Water Conservation Society on Highway 61 south showcasing a Quail Habitat Buffer.
- CDI dues were paid.

August

- Snyder attended the Fall Regional meeting in Albion.
- Heckenberg and Bradley attended EQIP meetings.

September

- Fosdick and Heckenberg completed the annual audit of the District books.
- A winner was chosen for the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.
- A CRP mid contract management meeting was held at SCC.

November

- Snyder attended Annual Conference in Ames.
- Fosdick and Grimes decorated the Christmas tree at Westland Mall for the Boulevard of Trees.
- Fosdick was reelected as a SWCD District Commissioner and Jeff Burgess, Mediapolis, was elected to replace Hinson.

December

- Awards supper was held at Turn 2 Restaurant in Mediapolis.
- A local led EQIP meeting was held December 1.
- The SWCD paid registration fees to sponsor an Envirothon team from Mediapolis High School.
- Dues were paid for 1,000 Friends of Iowa membership.
- The SWCD agreed to handle administration duties for a Lake Geode Watershed grant.
- Grimes attended training for the new web based Financial and Reports Management System (FARMS) for SWCD programs.

2006 DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	Amount	Unit
Grassed Waterways/Critical Areas Established	20	Acres
Terraces Constructed	6,604	Feet
Water & Sediment Control Basins Constructed	92	Each
Field Borders Seeded	46,011	Feet
Wetland Restoration Completed	298	Acres
Wetland Creation Completed	7	Acres
Tree Planting Completed	36	Acres
Timber Stand Improvement Completed	36	Acres
Riparian Buffer Completed	3	Acres
Windbreaks Established	350	Feet
Farmstead Windbreak Established	1	Acres
Filter Strips Established	14	Acres
Ponds Completed	1	Each
Grade Stabilization Structures Completed	2	Each
Conservation Cover Established	295	Acres
Fence Installed	1,534	Feet
Continuous CRP Contracts Completed	42	Each
Continuous CRP Contract Acres	247	Acres
General CRP Contracts Completed	7	Each
General CRP Contract Acres	80	Acres
EQIP Contracts Completed	17	Each
WHIP Contracts Completed	4	Each
Conservation Plans Developed	18,374	Acres

Soil Survey Available on CD

Interested in the Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) on your land? The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has available a CD that contains soil information for Des Moines County.

The CD includes three sections:

- Soil Survey data tables such as prime farmland, yields, building site development, hydric soils, soil features and properties, engineering properties and more.
- An Interactive Soil Survey Program that allows you to figure the soils, CSR and topography for specific areas.
- A user's guide with step by step directions.

To inquire about prices, shipping, availability or additional information, please contact Jamie at the Des Moines County SWCD at 319-753-6221.



Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District 61st Annual Report

Water Wise

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Company and Conservation Districts of Iowa Auxiliary, sponsored the annual poster contest for all students in the county.

The 2006 theme was "Water Wise". The contest consists of five divisions - Division 1 is kindergarten and 1st grades; Division 2 is 2nd and 3rd grades; Division 3 is 4th - 6th grades; Division 4 is 7th - 9th grades; and Division 5 is 10th - 12th grades. Judging criteria included conservation message, visual effectiveness and universal appeal.

Additionally, each first place winner was submitted for regional competition. The posters from Brianna Schulz and Briana Hendricks were chosen as regional winners.



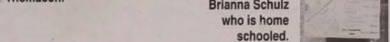
Division 2 winners were Ashlyn Watts, 1st; Andrea Larson, 2nd; Tyler Rogers, 3rd; and Abby Eberhardt, honorable mention. All were from Mediapolis schools.



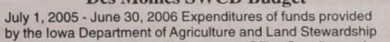
Division 3 winners were Molly Woodruff, honorable mention; Katelyn Pudenz, 3rd; Allison Hedges, 2nd; and Billy Massner, honorable mention. All were from Mediapolis schools.



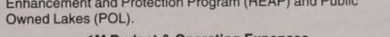
Division 5 winners were Briana Hendricks, 1st; Michelle Leftwich, 2nd; and Nicole Fenton, 3rd. All division 5 participants were from Burlington High School.



Other winners in Division 5 (all honorable mention) were Sam Stout, Mercedes Young, and Heather Thomason.



First place in Division 3 was Brianna Schulz who is home schooled.



Keyana Robinson, Grimes Elementary school, was an honorable mention winner in Division 2.

Des Moines SWCD Budget

July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006 Expenditures of funds provided by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) for Commissioner's Expenses, Office Supplies and Expenses, Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP), Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) and Public Owned Lakes (POL).

1M Budget & Operating Expenses	
Allocation	\$ 2,000.00
Commissioner's Expense	947.84
Office Expense (includes postage, supplies, soil loss complaint)	352.16
CDI Dues	700.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Practices 2006	
Allocation	\$22,050.65
Tree Planting, 32.3 ac completed	11,783.15
Timber Stand Improvement, 40.5 ac completed	3,037.50
Timber Stand Improvement, incomplete	7,230.00
Balance	-0-

REAP Forestry & Native Grasses 2006	
Allocation	\$ 2,760.00
Farmstead Windbreak, incomplete	2,010.00
Timber Stand Improvement, incomple	750.00
Balance	-0-

IFIP 2006	
Allocation	\$45,141.60
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 12 completed	16,250.17
Terraces, 3,580 ft. completed	9,780.08
Water & Sediment Control Basins, incomplete	11,093.42
Terraces, incomplete	8,017.93
Balance	-0-

IFIP 2005	
Allocation	\$48,262.13
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 34 completed	46,451.85
Grassed Waterways, .7 ac completed	968.91
Balance	841.37

IFIP 2004	
Allocation	\$20,915.72
Grassed Waterways, 2.5 ac completed	5,248.84
Water & Sediment Control Basins, 15 completed	15,608.38
Critical Area Planting, 1 ac completed	58.50
Balance	-0-

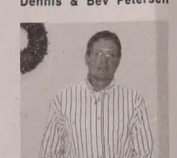
Public Owned Lakes 2006	
Allocation	\$ 8,197.15
Grade Stabilization Structure, 1 completed	8,197.15
Balance	-0-



Rick and Renee Baker



Dennis & Bev Petersen



Doug Cling

Local landowners chosen for Conservation Awards

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District selected local landowners as District winners for the 2006 annual Iowa State Soil Conservation Awards Program, which is co-sponsored by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee and Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI).

Rick and Renee Baker, owners, and Dennis and Bev Petersen, operators, both from Mediapolis, were selected as winners in the division for tenant operated farms on which the best conservation program has been established and maintained by the tenant and the landlord.

Doug Cling, Mediapolis, was selected as the winner in the division for owner-operated farms on which the owner-operator has established and maintained the most complete conservation program.

If you know a landowner or producer you feel is doing a great job of conserving natural resources, please call the Soil & Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221 to nominate them!



2006 recipients of the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation scholarship are Sylvia Brinton, Adam Burrell, Joshua Corman, Frank Eddleman, Jay Harris, Tanner Hartman, Derrick Leary, Jacob Markey, Kent Oliphant, Justin Pylcan, Cale Riley, John Woodruff and Kyler Thacker.

District Donates Scholarship

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District donated \$700 to the Tri-State Agricultural Education Foundation for the 2006 school year. Joshua Corman, Sperry, and John Woodruff, Danville, were the recipients of these funds.

The Foundation was established to assist students enrolled in agriculture programs at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is one of many local organizations who made contributions towards the scholarship fund.

Cost Share Available for Farmstead Windbreaks

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has cost share available for farmstead windbreaks through the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP).

Farmstead windbreaks consist of multiple rows of trees and shrubs established to protect structures from troublesome winds. Windbreaks also can increase aesthetic value, lessen noise, and provide wildlife habitat.

REAP is a cost share program for forestry practices on privately owned land used for agricultural production. Besides farmstead windbreaks, REAP can be used for timber stand improvement, tree planting, field windbreaks, site preparation for natural regeneration, and riparian forest buffers.

Since 1989, the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) has invested \$34 million into soil and water enhancement activities throughout Iowa. Locally, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District has received \$278,211.

Applications are accepted year round. If you are interested in signing up for REAP or have questions, contact the Des Moines County SWCD at 319-753-6221.



Linkins Receive Gary Wagner Memorial Award

Rodney and Carol Linkin, New London, were the 2006 recipients of the Gary Wagner Memorial Land Stewardship Award.

Rod and Carol's commitment to the land is shown through the projects they have completed that are beneficial for wildlife, soil and water conservation such as native grass plantings, food plots, terraces, and timber management practices. Through their hard work, the land will be left in better shape for future generations.

This award is given by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the assistance of the Des Moines County Conservation Board and Partners for Conservation Foundation. The Linkins received a \$250 cash award to be used towards a conservation project and a plaque recognizing their efforts.

Family and friends of Gary, to honor his memory and recognize his personal conservation efforts and to encourage others to follow his example, developed the Gary Wagner Land Stewardship award. The award is given to individuals demonstrating a personal commitment to the protection and enhancement of Des Moines County's natural environment.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must own property in Des Moines County, show long-term dedication and commitment to conservation and environment in the areas of wetlands, woodlands, wildlife, prairies, conservation awareness/education, and farming practices, and show commitment to conservation/environment through personal accomplishments, not professional work.

For more information about the nomination process, please call the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District at 319-753-6221.

MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 6B

Conservation Sign Comes to Des Moines County

by Courtney Myers, Soil Conservationist

In the summer of 2005, the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District submitted an application to the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Society to receive a free sign to highlight a conservation practice in the county. The site chosen is along Highway 61 south of Burlington and is owned by Jim Miller. Miller installed several acres of quail habitat field borders through the Conservation Reserve Program in 2005 and has a very visible stand of prairie grass along the highway.

In the spring of 2006, the District was awarded the sign, which was manufactured by Iowa Prison Industries in Anamosa. Other sites selected in Southeast Iowa were in Jefferson, Mahaska, and Johnson counties. A team of volunteers came to install the sign in the summer of 2006 and it displays a very popular practice in Des Moines County.



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MISCELLANEOUS

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Thanks for Your Help

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision that relies heavily on donations, whether it is cash donations from landowners or product donations from businesses.

Businesses donating goods to the SWCD during 2006 include:

- Target - gift card to give away during the Des Moines County Fair as door prize.
- Farm King - bird feeder and bird seed to give away during the Des Moines County Fair as door prize.
- Pizza Hut - personal pan pizza gift certificates to give as honorable mention prizes for the poster contest.

• Mediapolis News - generously prints our Annual Report every year.
• Des Moines County Fair Board - booth space at the county fair.
• The Remember Inn, Eland Agency, Southeast Security Savings Bank, Mediapolis Savings Bank, Caseline Credit Union, Danville State Savings Bank, Dadds Insurance, Bittersweet Treasures, and Kum'n' Go on Roosevelt St., Burlington, for promoting and selling our cookbooks.

The Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District thanks each and every one of you! If you would like to make a donation, please call the SWCD at 319-753-6221.

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More Soil & Water Conservation Reports

Cost Share Breakdown

Confused by all the different cost share programs available through the Des Moines County SWCD/NRCS office? The following are the cur-charges programs available for landowners. Federal programs are subject to change with the passing of each farm bill.

Iowa Financial Incentive Program (IFIP) - state program that offers 50% cost share or incentives for permanent (terraces, basins, waterways) and management (tillage, contour farming, field borders) conservation practices on privately owned agricultural land. Ranking and application are completed by the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners as funds are available. Applications are accepted year round. A 20 year maintenance agreement will be enforced on all completed applications.

Local Water Protection Program (LWPP) - low interest loan program available to landowners to install permanent conservation practices to control soil, sediment, and nutrient runoff on agricultural land. Loans can be from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and may be used in conjunction with other cost share programs. Applications for the low interest loan program are taken year round. A maintenance agreement for the life of the practice will be enforced.

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) - state program that offers 75% cost share for forestry practices such as tree planting, timber stand improvement, windbreaks, and conservation cover. Applications must be inspected and approved by the District Forester before the Des Moines County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners approves them based on the availability of funds. Priorities are developed by the SWCD. Applications are accepted year round. A 20 year maintenance agreement will be enforced on all completed applications.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) - federal cost share program that provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to develop and implement conservation plans that address specific natural resource concerns. Practices and ranking are developed by the local led committee. Practices include terraces, water & sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, and grazing practices. Applications are accepted year round but there is only one ranking of applications per year dependent upon the availability agreement for the life of the practice is entered.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) - federal cost share program to develop and improve fish and wildlife habitat on privately owned land. Practices include seeding, tree and shrub plantings, fencing, in-stream structures, and prairie restoration. Applications are accepted year round but there is only one ranking of applications per year (usually early spring). These applications are approved at the state NRCS office.

If you would be interested in applying for any of these cost share programs or have questions, please stop in the office or call 319-753-6221.

Sheriff's Report

02-11-07 16:34 155th Avenue, traffic accident, one vehicle, citation issued, no injuries; Driver, Casey Burnett Kershner, age 16, West Burlington, citation; Failure to Maintain Control

02-10-07 10:00 Des Moines County, warrant arrest, DMC/Parole Viol, Mark Eugene Turner, age 39, Burlington

02-09-07 07:19 Des Moines County, warrant arrest, DMC/Parole Viol, Robert Lee Sub, Robert Lee Sub, age 58, Burlington

02-09-07 15:40 Wal Mart, West Burlington, warrant arrest, DMC/Parole Viol, Henderson Co/FTA, Keith Shane Horn, age 31, Ft. Madison

02-11-07 13:51 Burlington Police Dept, arrest, Simple Assault, Bradley Alexander Hayes, age 24, Mediapolis, victim, 23 year old Mediapolis female

02-12-07 02:17 Hwy 34/4th W, citations issued, Driving Suspended, Expired Registration, Michelle Jo Chandler, age 46, Ottumwa, IA

02-09-07 Danville High School, citation issued, Theft 5, Tania Montana Hostetter, age 15, West Burlington, IA

02-12-07 02:07 Highway 34 Truck Stop, arrest, Driving While Intoxicated, Ryan Daniel Clark, age 30, Keokuk

Citations issued for Open Container, Eric Michael Palmer, age 34, West Burlington; Shane Michael Robinson, age 32, Poulso, Washington

02-12-07 16:30 Des Moines County, warrant arrest, DMC/OVI, William R.J. Wakeland, age 26, Rock Island

02-12-07 17:37 Highway 34, arrest, Driving While Barred, Possession Controlled Substance (crack), Possession Drug Paraphernalia, Debra Ann Volner, age 36, Mt. Pleasant

Low Interest Loans Available

The Local Water Protection Program (LWPP) is a new source of low-cost financing available to landowners. This opportunity is available specifically to assist and encourage landowners to address non-point source pollution of Iowa streams and lakes.

Iowa's largest contributor to water quality problems is polluted runoff. Although there are hundreds of sources of polluted runoff, the LWPP is intended to target those related to agricultural operations - specifically the delivery of sediment and nutrients into Iowa waters.

Virtually all practices eligible for state and federal cost share are eligible under the LWPP. These practices may include but are not limited to: terraces, grade stabilization structures, water & sediment control basins, waste storage structures, pasture and hayland planting, grassed waterways, filter strips, field borders, windbreaks and riparian tree buffers.

Practices installed through the LWPP must be built to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) specifications. Additional details about the loans include:

- Loans from \$5,000 to \$50,000
- Terms up to 10 years
- Can fund up to 100% of actual costs

• Interest rate up to 3% - fixed rate

• Funding is available when you need it

• Applications are accepted year-round

• No penalty for pre-payment

• Linked deposit loan structure

If you would be interested in applying for a loan, stop in the Des Moines County SWCD office or call 319-753-6221.

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Check it out at the Library

Winter Reading Program
There is less than 1 week left in this year's Winter Reading Program. The last day to turn in reading and to purchase prizes is Saturday, February 17!

The 5th week of Winter Reading went great. At the end of Week #5 we have:

- Registered children - 145
- Top readers for the week include:
Preschool - Wyatt Edmonds 93 books
Kindergarten - Benjamin Gerst 110 books
1st Grade - Emma Gordon 140 books
2nd Grade - Elizabeth Baker 62 books
3rd Grade - Zachary Gordon 59 books
4th Grade - Leah Baker 55 books
5th Grade - Brianna Crawford 42 books
6th Grade - Hannah Muff 114 books
7th Grade - Koli Johnson 17 books
8th Grade - Konnor Melf 43 books

Last Day to turn in books and buy prizes is Saturday. The winner of the "Guess How Many" (Jelly Beans) was: Kirsten Enckson with a guess of 648 and the actual number being 634. Way to go!

We have had 60 children reach their reading goal already and 6 have read enough to be in the Exceptional Reader Drawing (you must have earned more than \$500.00). The names are posted on the Winter Reading Program Bulletin Board. With less than 1 week to go, if you want to reach your goal...get to reading!

Preschool Story Time:

Preschool Story Time is being held weekly on Thursday mornings from 10:30-11:00 a.m. We have monthly themes that we will work on as well as we are doing lots of "hands-on" activities. Come and join us for loads of fun.
February - Animals
March - Weather
April - Fictional Characters
May - Games

Movie Night:

February's Movie Night will be on Friday, February 23 at 7 p.m. We will be showing: **Last Chance Detectives: Mystery Lights at Navajo Mesa** by Focus on the Family. At the edge of a small desert town, where a B-17 sits next to an old diner, a mystery has begun to unfold. At first it was just a strange voice on an old radio. Then came the disappearances in town that no one could explain. Now mystery lights have begun to appear in Navajo Mesa, and the local sheriff has grown strangely silent about it. But four residents of the town have decided to investigate...four friends who think they can solve the mystery...four everyday kids who call themselves...The Last Chance Detectives. Targeted Audience is 8 to 12 year olds. Time: 45 minutes.

Library Hours:
Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Tues., Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Mediapolis Public Library-128 N. Orchard St.-394-3895

It's Later ... continued from 3A

Remember in Mark 4, when the disciples and Jesus were in the boat and a storm arose and scared the disciples. They woke Jesus up and in verse 39, He told the storm to cease - to be still. If God had caused the storm, Jesus would not have rebuked it!!!

Our only hope of safety is to trust in the Lord. But, to make

that trust effective, we must SAY we trust God. SAY in faith, which means having no doubt. SAY without wondering if He really will, To be able to have that kind of faith, we must say it over and over and over until we do not wonder. Until we absolutely know that is what is going to happen! (That's faith!)

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Southeast Corner

Joan Smith - 394-9314

John and Marilyn Wagenbach went to Peoria on Friday to visit her brother Dale Graf, at the Skyline Home.

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Emma Gerst who passed away last Friday at Prairie Ridge.

Happy birthday to Betty Foley, Feb. 18; Hartzell Hillyard, Feb. 20; Ryan Jakes, Feb. 21.

Happy anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Wagenbach, Feb. 18; Mr. and Mrs. Rick Wirt, Feb. 20.

Mediapolis/Sperry News

First of all, an apology for errors in last week's column. I don't mind making a mistake, but to make three in one item! Jean Heimer's great-grandson, Hayden Hackmack, was born to Galen and Amie Hackmack of Raleigh, NC, Jan. 17. His grandparents are Scott and Kristine Hoschek of Burlington.

Joan Smith had an interesting phone call this past week from Diane Thompson of Sioux City. She is the daughter of Joe and Ruby Eberhardt of Sperry. After reading the article about Joan's 24 years of writing for the News, Diane made the connection between Dave Yoder who writes for the Sioux City Journal, and Joan Smith. East High School, Sioux City was in Okoboji this past weekend where the show choir of which Ethan Yoder is a part won 1st place with honors once again. That group must be really excellent, next stop Broadway! I think not.

Happy birthday to Zahra Zurmuehlen, Karissa Vijams, Kathryn Bloomberg, Abby Darbyshire, Jack Scheffer, Bob Elliott, Feb. 15; Richard Pfeiff, Feb. 17; Eric Levins, Darin Bush, Carol Copeland, Zachary Gabeline, Feb. 18; Richard Neal, Edna Walker, Patty Williams, Vicki Pfeiff, Feb. 19; Niki Rice, Renae Neal, Jonathan Swafford, Katelyn Wyss, Howard Reif, Feb. 20; Cassidy Woodruff, Kara McElhinney, Jocelyn Crew, Logan Lee, Trevor Prickett, Kara McElhinney, Feb. 21.

Happy anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Jason McLaughlin, Feb. 21.