



HARDIN COUNTY NEWS BRIEFS

Change Hours For Post Office Lobby

Postmaster Bob Tillman announced this week that effective December 16, the lobby of the Post Office in Eldora will be closed at noon on Saturdays. Residents can receive their mail in the lobby from 7 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays. Mail placed in the outside box will be picked up at 4:45 p.m. on Saturdays, Tillman said.

Kappa Christmas Tree

There are still red balls remaining on the Christmas tree located at The Playground in Eldora, sponsored by the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority. Residents are encouraged to select one of the paper balls which contain the age and sex of a child and something he or she would like for Christmas, either clothing or toys. Gifts are to be returned to The Playground by Friday, December 15 so that they can be distributed by the Department of Human Services to children at Christmas.

Change For COATS

Harold Clark will be driving the COATS, car December 11 through December 28 while Harry Harrison is on vacation. Clark's phone number is 858-5804.

Holiday Vespers

A traditional Christmas vespers service will be held at the First Congregational Church in Eldora on Sunday, December 17 at 4 p.m. which is open to the public.

Featured on the program is the church chancel choir which will be performing the cantata, "A Song for Christmas" under the direction of Pat Whitmer. Linda Welter is accompanist and Kim Estes is narrator.

Spec 'n' Dicken Supper

The Timothy Christian School's annual Spec 'n' Dicken Supper will be held on Monday, January 8. Serving will be from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at the Timothy Christian School two miles west of Wellsburg. More details will be announced later.

New Phone Number

There is a new telephone number at the Hardin County Clerk of the District Court office in Eldora. The number is 858-2328. The office is no longer accessible through the county courthouse switchboard.

County Courthouse Sponsors Special Tree

The Hardin County Courthouse is again decorating the courthouse Christmas tree with mittens, stocking hats, scarves, and - new this year - socks. These items will be distributed from the county office building during the WIC and Maternal and Child Health Clinic on December 20 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to donate items to help decorate the tree may bring them to the courthouse anytime Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. prior to December 20.

Extension Council

Regular meeting of the Hardin County Extension Council will be held on Wednesday evening, December 13, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Cheryl and Max Clark home, 1121 Silgum Road, Iowa Falls, according to Gary Stenzel, Extension Council chairman.

\$100 Scrip Winner

Della Peters of Eldora is winner of the last of the \$100 scrip prizes offered by the Eldora Chamber of Commerce Christmas committee. She has until Friday, December 15 to claim the prize.

Inside Today

Mirror, page 2
Ribbon Cutting, page 3
Lifestyle, page 4
Union-Whitten Page, page 13
Sports, pages 14 & 15
Classifieds, page 16

STS Fights Only 'Tip' Of Crowded Units Problems

Recent disturbances among inmates and staff at the State Training School in Eldora are just the tip of the iceberg of problems related to crowded living conditions, according to Steve Huston, STS superintendent.

"We've lost 44 beds of our regular living units due to the remodeling," Huston said. "Add to that the fact that we are 40-plus over capacity and things are bound to happen."

The training school at Eldora received state-wide attention when the disturbances became public and the overcrowding was cited as reason for the fights. Huston indicated last week that efforts were being made to contact probation officers to consider the juvenile equivalent of early parole for some students considered to be at low risk.

This week Huston added that they are encouraging social workers who are dealing with students about to reach their age of majority - 18 years - to see if community placement can be completed early.

"We know these incidents have called attention to the crowded conditions here," Huston said. "It emphasizes the importance of our five-year plan for making capital improvements and it emphasizes the need for a legislative cap on the number of people sent to our correctional institutions."

He noted that the staff at the training school do not have the authority to move boys out of the institution, but can try to make changes which will relieve some of the tension caused by the overcrowding. Some of those include changing staffing patterns, increasing staffing levels while trying to decrease the population.

"There comes a time," Huston said, "that conditions are so overcrowded in the living units that additional staff makes no difference." Units which were built to hold 30 boys are now housing 47 at a time.

Huston wants to reduce the number in the living units to at least 185 as soon as possible - the capacity at the present time is 200, with over 240 inmates currently at Eldora. However, once the five-year capital improvements plan is complete - if funding is available as needed - the total capacity will be closer to 148. This would be made possible through the housing of some youngsters at Toledo which is also undergoing some planned physical changes.

"In the meantime, as the remodeling continues," Huston said, "the overcrowding will continue to be a problem. It is really a problem when we are sent more kids than we have living spaces available."

Huston said the incidents show a real need for a legislative capacity for corrections facilities, and working for that end is a goal for the next Iowa legislative session. Until the capital improvements are completed and a cap placed on the number of inmates at STS, living conditions will, no doubt, be somewhat uncomfortable.

\$500 Jackpot To Be Given Friday; Homes Tour Slated

Winner of a \$500 scrip jackpot prize will be announced on Friday, December 15 as the final in a series of drawings sponsored by the Eldora Chamber of Commerce.

Local shoppers have this week to register for the jackpot prize in participating Eldora Christmas stores.

Also scheduled this Friday is judging of the home lighting contest, to be completed by the Eldora Ambassadors. A total of \$70 in scrip prizes will be awarded.

Special feature of the weekend is the Eldora Tour of Homes, sponsored this year by Happy Joe's. The tour includes six residences in the community and will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Maps of the tour sites are available at Happy Joe's and these will serve as tickets to the tour

homes. No one is allowed inside without the map. Proceeds from the event are to be designated for charity.

Home included this year are Ardis Olson, Tony Voss, Jacque Stonebraker, Deb Dye, Susie Jones and Gloria Schae.

Everyone in the area is encouraged to view the display of uniquely decorated trees in the Eldora mini-mall. Vote for your favorite with canned goods or paper products. All items will be donated to the Hardin County Food Shelf and the winning business or industry will receive \$50 in scrip as a prize.

Remember as well that Santa Claus will be at Santaland at the mini-mall on Friday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

MICA Capacity Grows; 500 Families Involved

Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) has quadrupled its capacity to work with families on self-sufficiency goals during the last year. Reporting on behalf of the Adult Policies Committee, Chris Hunter, Grinnell, told the agency's board of directors that because of the acquisition of three new research projects, MICA can now engage approximately 500 families from throughout the five county area in family development activities.

Updating the board on the progress of the experimental projects, Hunter noted that the agency is beginning the eighth month of operating the state-funded Family Development Self Sufficiency (FaDSS) project. One hundred twenty-three female-headed families who have received Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits for two years or more have been selected to receive family development services under the auspices of this project. Staff is currently completing the assessment phase of the family development process with the

FaDSS enrollees, assisting them in uncovering strengths of the family unit upon which they can start to build their futures.

He indicated that the state Department of Human Services has identified an additional group of families with similar characteristics to form a control group with which it will compare progress towards self-sufficiency made by FaDSS families who are receiving family development interventions.

County Family Development teams are beginning to receive referrals for the Office of Community Services (OCS) experimental projects. This project will measure the impact of connecting families with developmental services at the time they first apply for AFDC benefits. The project afforded resources to provide training in nurturing interview techniques for the Department of Human Services income maintenance workers in Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek, and Tama counties. The workers are now using those methods to conduct intake activities in a manner which reaffirms the applicants' self-esteem, and are referring new AFDC applicants to MICA for family development services.

Hunter explained the duration of time these new AFDC families stay on welfare will be measured against the duration of time incoming families stay on AFDC in counties with similar populations as the four counties, but in which no developmental services are made available for families.

The Comprehensive Child Development Program, which will combine family development and child development practices to impact ninety-eight families whose income meets or falls below the poverty guidelines and which

(Continued on page 3)

Top State Conservation Awards To Gary Walters, Hardin SWCD

The Hardin Soil and Water Conservation District and its chairman Gary Walters have both been recognized with top state-wide conservation honors.

Walters, of rural Eldora, has received the Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners Award.

And, the Hardin Soil and Water Conservation District is one of four Iowa districts named grand award winners in the Goodyear Conservation Awards Program.

Plaques were presented to Walters and the Hardin District during the 43rd annual meeting of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners in Des Moines late last month.

Hardin and Jones Soil and Water Conservation Districts were recognized as Goodyear winners in the northern section of Iowa and Audubon and Page as winners in the southern section.

The Iowa districts were among the 100 top prize winners nationwide in the com-

PHOTO ON PAGE 3

petition, sponsored by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in cooperation with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

An independent judging committee of state agricultural leaders selected the winners on the basis of the districts' accomplishments in soil and water conservation.

Each district is this week being represented by a member of the board on the grand awards tour, an all expenses paid vacation study trip to The Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, Arizona. Carroll Hobson and his wife Catherine are representing the Hardin District.

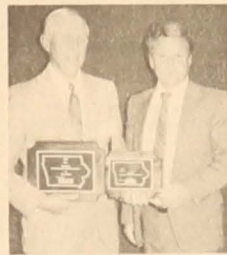
Walters, long active in the area of conservation, farms 658 acres of which 162 are in oaks and 44 are in soybeans. 44 acres are in oaks and 59 acres are in the Conservation Reserve Program. His farming operation also includes 1,400 head of pigs.

Walters utilizes a variety of conservation practices on his farm, including conservation tillage on oaks and corn stubble tillage to soybeans; no-till corn into soybean stubble; ridge-tilling both corn and beans from 1980 to 1987 and contour farming on the sloping land.

Grasslands replace the end rows on two spots at Walters' farm and there are 7,000 feet of grassed backslope terraces at 8,105 feet of narrow based terraces. It utilizes grassed waterways and has seven water and sediment control basins.

A total of 105 acres of the Walters' farm are in forest reserve and he had wildlife food plots in 1987-89. He also participated in a wildlife habitat pine tree planting project in 1987.

Plus, Walters and his wife, Ruth, "strip crop" the garden area on a slope -



Gary Walters, left, of rural Eldora has been honored as Iowa's Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner. He is pictured receiving his award from Wallace Farmer Editor Monie Sesker during the annual meeting of the Iowa Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners in Des Moines. Walters was selected for the award from nine nominees, one from each region in the state.

alternating garden vegetables, fruits and lawn grass strips.

Walters has served 14 years as a commissioner, currently occupying the chairman's position. Previously he was chairman in 1980, 1981, 1983 and 1984, vice chairman in 1977 and 1979 and treasurer in 1985 through 1988.

He has served on the education committee, the conservation tillage committee, the personnel committee and the stewardship committee as part of his responsibility as a Hardin County Soil and Water Conservation District commissioner.

The current chairman is a charter member of the Hardin County No-till

Ridge-till Club and he has attended over 95 percent of the regional and state association meetings of SWCD.

A long-time member of the Pine Lake Wildlife Club of Eldora, Walters is also a former member of Ducks Unlimited. He was also active on the Hardin County Land Use Committee when it was in service.

Walters is a life-time member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora and a former member of the board of directors of Hawkeye Bank and Trust in Eldora. He now serves on the advisory committee at Security Bank in Eldora.

He is a six-year member of the board of directors of Lawn Hill Cooperative in New Providence where he served as secretary for two years and chairman for one year.

Walters is a member of the Hardin County Farm Bureau, Hardin County Historical Society, University of Iowa Alumni Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, Hardin County Pork Producers and Iowa Pork Producers. He is a former member of the Hardin County Republican Central Committee.

In nominating Walters for the Outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioner Award, Carroll Hobson of Eldora, commented, "We are proud to nominate Gary Walters for the Outstanding Commissioner in this region. He has done outstanding work as both chairman of the education committee and chairman of the district."

"He tills land that is particularly difficult to manage and does it well. He has a par excellent soil conservation program going there. His no-till program has been an example to the area around us for all to see and emulate."

Walters and his wife, Ruth, have two children, Mark Jesse, 29 of New Providence and Dawn Fratzke, 27, of Jesup.

Market Beef Weigh-In Set For Hardin Youth

Hardin county 4-H and FFA members are reminded that dates have been scheduled for the market beef weigh-in this holiday season.

Linda Jass, 4-H and Youth Leader, announced that the weigh-in dates have been finalized and are:

- December 23, Ackley Sale Barn, 9-11 a.m.

- December 29 at the Hardin County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. to 12 noon;

- December 30 at the Hardin County Fairgrounds from 10 to 11 a.m.;

- January 6 at the Hardin County Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Cost to weigh-in the market beef animals is 75 cents per tag and a parent or guardian's signature on the Market Beef

ID form.

Any 4-H or FFA member who wishes to carry a market beef project and exhibit at the Hardin County Fair must have the animals tagged, tattooed and weighed at the stations prior to January 15.

Beef project members who wish to exhibit at the Iowa State Fair can do so by checking the correct box on the new market beef identification form.

Members may weigh-in a total of six head of market beef and may be either a steer or market heifer. Four head may be shown at the county fair as long as one or more are in the carcass class.

Additional information on the weigh-in process is available at the Hardin County Extension Service office in Eldora.



Santa, Rudolph Await Area Youngsters

Santa Claus and Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer await young visitors at the Eldora Santaland at the mini-mall. Santa will be available to visit with youngsters each Friday evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and each Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at available to visit with youngsters each Friday evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and each Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at his special quarters in the community. He plans to make visits here for the next two weekends as he prepares for the holiday gift-giving season. Santa's appearances are provided through the Eldora Chamber of Commerce Christmas planning committee, who is also recommended that stores remain open on Friday evenings until 8 p.m. and Sundays, 1-4 p.m. as well as the week of December 18-23 for shopping convenience.