

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### **Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department Announces Poster Contest Winners**

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

“Congratulations to the 312 outstanding students that entered our radon poster contest,” shares Denise Ringenberg, Health Educator. “This is the largest number of entries in our history. We appreciate the talented students and dedicated teachers from nine different schools that created these excellent posters.”

Judges selected the following posters in this highly competitive contest:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Claire Maaliao – 8<sup>th</sup> grade - Perkins County Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Jaden Dietlein – 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Perkins County Middle School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – JoAnn Neel – 7<sup>th</sup> grade – McCook Junior High School
- 4<sup>th</sup> place – Sunny Sramek – 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Hitchcock County Schools
- 5<sup>th</sup> place – Felicity Petty – 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Victory Christian Academy in McCook

With so many exceptional posters submitted, we added an ***honorable mention category***.

- Cord Frink – 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Arapahoe Elementary School
- Landon Towne – 5<sup>th</sup> grade – McCook Central Elementary School
- Kori Uerling – 5<sup>th</sup> grade – McCook Central Elementary School
- Ashley Briggs – 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Perkins County Middle School
- Laura Dreiling – 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Perkins County Middle School
- Tyler Thelander – 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Perkins County Middle School
- Morgan Turner – 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Perkins County Middle School
- Taylor Turner – 7<sup>th</sup> grade – Perkins County Middle School
- Bailey Wood – 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Perkins County Middle School
- Makayla Schoen – 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Southern Valley Schools

Posters will be displayed in the windows at 318 Norris Avenue through the month of November, except the top five posters sent to the state contest. Poster judges were: Camy Bradley, McCook Abstract & Title Company; Phyllis Graham, Edward Jones Investments; Melanie Goodenberger, Golden Plains Realty and Melanie Jones-Wier, DDS, Bison Dental and SWNPHD board member.

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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).

An additional Top 30 posters list and photos of award winners can be found on our website at [www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov). To request a listing email [educate@swhealth.ne.gov](mailto:educate@swhealth.ne.gov) or call Denise Ringenberg at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, McCook – one block north of Arby's. You can also follow us on Facebook & Twitter.

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