

EDUCATION

STRAIGHT A'S

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about students from and in our community.

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Christianson honored for winning essay

VFW REPORT

Falls High School ninth grade student Grace Christianson was honored recently for her Voice of Democracy Essay. The theme of the essay was “Why I’m Optimistic About Our Nation’s Future.”

The Voice of Democracy is a program by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and Ladies Auxiliary.

Christianson’s essay was advanced to District judging. She received a plaque, certificate, VOD backpack and \$100 for her first-place local finish.

The Voice of Democracy is open to all ninth through 12th grade students and the Patriot’s Pen is open to sixth through eighth grade students, whether in public, private or home schooled.

Annually, more than 50,000 students apply for this scholarship which provides \$2.3 million to winners.

The top National Essay is awarded \$30,000 as well as a trip to Washington, D.C. The 2014-15 Voice of Democracy theme will be “Why Veterans Are Important to Our Nation’s History and Future.” The Patriot’s Pen theme will be “Why I Appreciate America’s Veterans.”

The following is Christianson’s winning essay:

‘Why I Am Optimistic About America’

“I am a slow walker, but I never walk back,” is a quote from Abraham Lincoln that explains why I am optimistic about America. Although America has issues, we are moving forward as one nation. I am optimistic because of what we do right, the

education we have, and that we are always progressing towards a bright future.

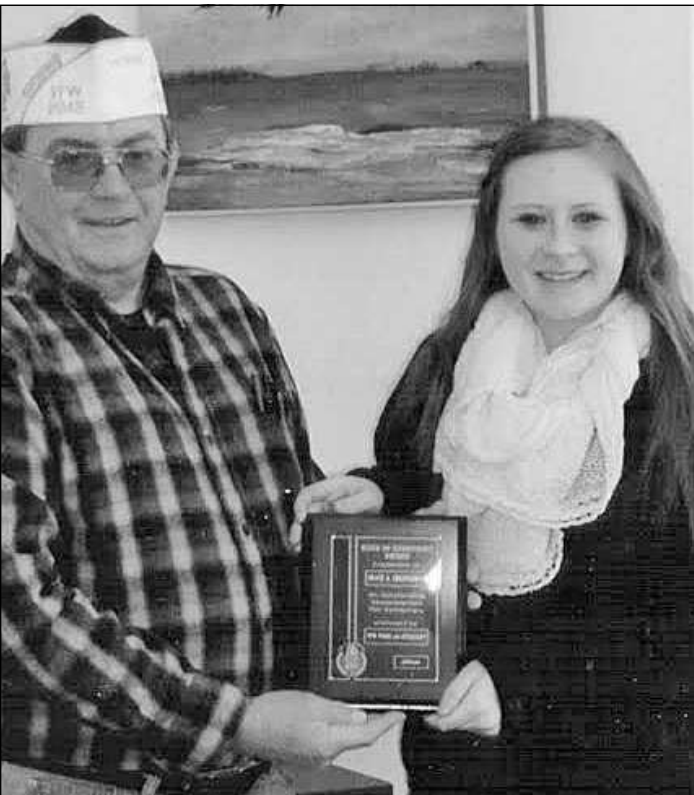
First, I am optimistic because of what we, American citizens, do right. America is a democracy. The people choose the laws, the leaders, and the future of America. America is a balance between different opinions, which causes people to care. With people who genuinely care about our country, we are guaranteed a positive future.

Next, what we have that makes us a great country is we are always educating ourselves. This pushes us to think positively about the future of America. Scientists are constantly creating new cures and vaccinations to make sure all citizens are healthy. Our nation’s leaders are quite intelligent and prepared for anything, we are certain that our country is in great hands. We also have America the na-

tion. Our country is led by one person, but is created by us all. We as citizens choose what is to come of our great nation.

Lastly, we are always progressing. The Declaration of Independence was signed July 4, 1776. America is 237 years old and has not been invaded or destroyed; we have survived through 237 years of wars from within our borders and outside them. We have been through so much already, nothing could bring America down.

The reason I am optimistic about America is simply one statement: we are the United States of America. We were only small communities that united to become a strong and independent country. For that reason alone, I believe that America’s future will be an amazing and successful journey forward. Americans may be slow walkers, but they never walk back.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Voice of Democracy chairman Terry Randolph is pictured with Grace Christianson, who was honored for her Voice of Democracy Essay first-place local finish.

Survey provides insight into young people

Nine out of 10 eleventh graders plan to attend postsecondary education

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPORT

Minnesota students are planning to attend college in greater numbers, are drinking less soda and alcohol, are smoking less marijuana and fewer cigarettes, and about 82 percent of high-school juniors in Minnesota reported spending some time texting on typical school days.

These are just some of the findings of the just-released 2013 Minnesota Student Survey.

More than 160,000 Minnesota students in grades five, eight, nine and 11 took the voluntary survey. High school students received the full version of the survey, while fifth- and eighth-grade students received shorter surveys more appropriate to their age. The survey — conducted every three years since 1989 — covers numerous topic areas, several of which are new to the 2013 version. These areas include new or revised questions on bullying, student engagement, economic hardship, dating violence, sexual behaviors, nutrition and texting while driving.

The survey was created by the Minnesota Departments of Education, Health, Human Services and Public Safety in an effort to better understand issues youth are dealing with on a daily basis.

When comparing results from previous years, it should be noted that districts taking part in the survey vary from year to year, that this was the first year that the survey was administered to some students electronically and many questions were new or revised this year. Trend information can be seen with a closer look at responses from ninth grade students from school districts that participated in consecutive administrations of the survey between 1995 and 2013.

The full set of statewide data from the survey is available at <http://bit.ly/MNStudentSurvey>. Initial trends and highlights from the new and updated topic areas are below. Additional analysis will be performed in the coming months by various agencies focusing on different populations of students, risk and protective factors, trauma and mental health.

College Plans

About 70 percent of students in eighth, ninth and 11th grades plan on attending a four-year college or university right after high school. Another 8-16 percent of high school students plan to attend a two-year community or technical college.

After School Activities

Six percent of ninth graders and 34 percent of 11th graders usually go to a job after school, although most students go home or to someone else’s home right after school. More than half of fifth graders (54 percent) are home alone, unsupervised at least one day a week after school.

Safety at School

Students feel safe at school. In fact, 93 percent of fifth graders; 92 percent of eighth graders; 91 percent of ninth graders; and 94 percent of 11th graders reported that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I feel safe at school.” These numbers have remained roughly the same since the survey began in 1995.

Bullying

Between 5-12 percent of

students across all grades and both genders reported being harassed or bullied at least once in the past 30 days for the following reasons: race, ethnicity or national origin; religion; gender; because you are gay or someone thought you were; or physical or mental disability. However, nearly 1 in 4 students in grades five, eight and nine reported being harassed or bullied because of weight or physical appearance.

Between 11-15 percent of students in each grade have experienced cyberbullying at least once in the last 30 days.

Economic Hardship

Between 3-5 percent of eighth, ninth and 11th graders reported being homeless, along with their parents, at some time during the past 12 months. Between 1-2 percent of students reported being homeless and on their own.

Five percent of students across grades reported they have had to skip meals in the past 30 days because their family did not have enough money to buy food.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Local students named to president’s list

Local students were named to the president’s list for the 2013 fall semester at Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

To earn this award for scholastic achievement, a student must complete 12 or more college-level credits for the semester with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The highest attainable average is a 4.0.

International Falls students named to the list were

Reva Renollet, Nicholas Scholler and Shelana Ysen; and from Littlefork, Nick Horne and Travis Junker.

Foss named to dean’s list

Rachel Foss, of International Falls, was named to the fall 2013 dean’s list at The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth.

Dean’s list members have achieved a 3.75 grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale.

Foss is majoring in business and tech studies intended.

FIND DEALS

in

The Journal Classifieds

This is Northwoods Eating

Breakfast Specials

Mon.-Sat. \$6.29 • Sunday \$7.29

Mon. Big Moose Skillet with hashbrowns

Tues. Breakfast Sandwich with hashbrowns

Wed. French Toast w/eggs & sausage or bacon

Thurs. Blueberry Pancakes w/eggs & sausage or bacon

Fri. Biscuits & Gravy w/eggs & hashbrowns

Sat. Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with ham & eggs

Sun. Blueberry Cream Cheese Crepes with eggs & ham

Dinner Specials

Mon. Half Chicken Dinner \$10.99

Tues. Full Rack of BBQ Ribs \$17.99

Wed. Pan Fried Walleye \$14.99

Thurs. Mozzarella Girsale w/Marinara Sauce \$10.99

Fri. Fishermen’s Catch \$16.99

Sat. Rib Eye Steak \$17.99

Sun. Chicken Kiev \$11.99

Dinners include choice of potato & salad. Choice of soup for \$1.00

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CONGRATULATIONS!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH ANNOUNCED AT INDUS

The following students have been named “Students of the Month” at Indus School based on their exemplary behavior and attitudes, academic achievement or special achievement, and uniqueness. Four students are chosen from these groupings on a monthly basis: Grades 10-12, Grades 7-9, Grades 4-6, Grades K-3.

Students recognized in January for December in Elementary are:

Ja’Kiah Gregory

Third Grader Ja’Kiah Gregory was nominated by her teacher, Julie Talmage, who says, “Her friendly smile and kindness to everyone make her a joy to have in class! She is a hard worker, and even when frustrated, she knows she has to stick with it and doesn’t give up. I admire her perseverance...way to go!”

Nissa Thomas

Sixth grader Anastasia Noyes was nominated by music teacher Stacy Ottemann because she is “always prepared for class and goes above and beyond for what she needs to do for her and her classmates. She is always there to help out whenever it is needed.”

High School Students of the Month are:

Jonah Fuller

Sophomore Jonah Fuller was recognized by math teacher Chelsey Reinarz “for the excellent job he does with the elementary students at after school tutoring. He takes his time explaining concepts and is very patient. He’s been a great role model for the younger students.”

Chanaya Wheelock

Sophomore Chanaya Wheelock received recognition from Family & Consumer Sciences teacher Lois Lewis for doing well academically, showing friendship to others, and taking an active role in Student Council.

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ORDINANCE #954

AN ORDINANCE AWARDING BID TO ISTATE TRUCK CENTER, 11152 COURTHOUSE BLVD, INVER GROVE HEIGHTS, MN 55077 AND J-CRAFT, 52182 EMBER ROAD, LAKE CRYSTAL, MN 56055 TO FURNISH ONE (1) 2014 FREIGHTLINER DUMP TRUCK WITH BOX AND ATTACHMENTS FOR THE CITY OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA STATE BID AMOUNT OF \$130,147.33

The City Council of the City of International Falls, Minnesota, does ordain as follows:

SECTION I. That in accordance with the State Bid process for the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment for the contract of supplying a 2014 Freightliner Dump Truck with box and attachments for the City of International Falls, Minnesota, and all other acts required by law performed, and that in reply thereto, bids were received and, after due consideration, the City Council deemed low bid of Istate Truck Center, 11152 Courthouse Blvd, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 and J-Craft, 52182 Ember Road, Lake Crystal, MN 56055, in the amount of \$130,147.33 being the most favorable bid, and said bid was duly accepted subject to passing of the Ordinance.

SECTION II. That Mayor and City Administrator are hereby authorized to enter into contract with Istate Truck Center, 11152 Courthouse Blvd, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 and J-Craft, 52182 Ember Road, Lake Crystal, MN 56055, for the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment for the contract of supplying a 2014 Freightliner Dump Truck with box and attachments for the City of International Falls, Minnesota, in accordance with approved specifications and submitted, and the filing of Istate Truck Center, 11152 Courthouse Blvd, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 and J-Craft, 52182 Ember Road, Lake Crystal, MN 56055, of a performance bond for the faithful performance of this contract, said low bid being on file in the Office of the City Administrator.

SECTION III. This Ordinance shall be in effect after passage, approval and publication.

Passed its first reading this 6th day of January, 2014.

Passed its second and final reading this 21st day of January, 2014.

Robert W. Anderson

Robert W. Anderson, Mayor

Attest:

Betty Bergstrom, Interim City Administrator

Published: Saturday, January 25, 2014

Legal