

Local girls win Elks essay contest



Ted Glasco and Melanie Bock

The Goodland Elks Lodge held an essay contest this year titled "What Does Veterans Day Mean to Me?" The essay was not to exceed 250 words. It was judged on originality, development of theme, mechanics, and neatness. Madi Tice's Americanism essay was selected first. She will receive a certificate and \$50 from the lodge. Her essay will proceed to the district judging. Zoe Sundstrom's Americanism essay placed second. She will receive a certificate and \$25. Her essay will also be forwarded on for District judging.

"What an awesome honor for these two eighth students! I'm very proud of their accomplishments! My congratulations to them!" exclaimed Mrs. Holzwarth, middle school language arts teacher.

Following are the contest winners:

What Does Veterans Day Mean to Me?

November eleventh, does this date mean anything to you? This date is the day we thank those who served and risked their lives everyday to let us enjoy our lives. Without these men and women, we might not be here today. These men and women are called veterans.

"The Great War" or World War I ended when the treaty was signed on June 28, 1919. Seven months earlier, when fighting ceased the between allied nations and Germany which went into effect on the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. This is why November eleventh is the day we thank our veterans.

To me, Veterans Day is one of the most important days of the year. Why? Those people are our heroes. They should be the ones we look up to. Not many people give second thoughts about our Veterans. When you see a veteran wearing their uniform, what do you think? Do you think about how much he/she had gone through to still be living? Or maybe if they are with their family, do you think about how hard it was to leave? I think

veterans are not just physically tough, but they are mentally tough.

I wouldn't be able to leave and go to a country I knew nothing about. I would be very scared. Veterans deserve credit beyond explaining. November eleventh is an exceptional way to show them our thanks.

On Veterans Day do you stop and think about veterans? Veterans Day is the day to give thanks to the heroes of this nation in order to be free and enjoy living. This day gives thanks to the ones who died out on the battlefield. It also gives recognition to those who have made it home. That is what Veterans Day means to me. What does it mean to you?

Madi Tice

What Does Veterans Day Mean to Me?

What do you think when you hear the words Veterans Day? Do you think of Veterans Day as a holiday honoring veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces? Veterans Day is a remembrance of US veterans and victims of all wars. It is a day filled with pride for those who died in our country's service.

November 11 is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, an armistice between Germany and the Allied nations came into effect. In 1926, the United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I. Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day until June 1, 1954. The name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans.

The veterans who served in the army should be appreciated and never forgotten. My grandpa is a veteran who served in World War II. He flew planes carrying people who had been shot or hurt while battling to get help for their injuries. I have heard many interesting war stories from my grandpa. I am proud to call him a veteran because he served



Madi Tice



Zoe Sundstrom

my country to help it become a better nation.

On Veterans Day I think about the veterans who fought in a war. I think what it would have been like to get drafted and not be able to finish school, or to

enlist in fighting for our country. I appreciate all the veterans who fought in a war to make our country a free and wonderful place to live in. What do you think of on Veterans Day?

Zoe Sundstrom

Higher gas prices may increase utility bills

Natural gas prices have spiked in recent days, due to several weeks of record low temperatures and "polar vortexes" hitting large parts of the country. Gas combined with depleted natural gas storage supplies nationwide, the likely result will be higher gas bills for February and March.

"With all the cold weather last month in the Midwest and Northeast, gas storage supplies are at a five-year low, and forecasts for most of the country are calling for below normal temperatures," said Dixie Riedel, senior gas scheduler for Midwest Energy. "Our two main pipeline suppliers have put out critical notices indicating tighter supplies, and usage remains very high, so we're having to buy more expensive gas than last month."

Midwest Energy's January gas price averaged \$4.73 for January, so a home using 140 therms (about 14 million BTUs) used \$66.22 in gas. Early February daily prices for gas so far are about 90 cents higher than January; if those prices stay

consistent through February, the cost of gas for that same home would climb to \$78.82.

"We're seeing a lot of volatility in daily prices right now; we've seen prices on some pipelines above \$30 per million BTU," said Pat Parke, Midwest Energy's vice president of customer service. "Hopefully, daily prices will moderate later this month and we can offset these higher costs, but we wanted customers to be informed so they're not surprised when they open their February and March bills."

Bills vary by customer depending on the size and age of the home, number of gas appliances, number in the household, thermostat settings and levels of insulation.

Midwest Energy has in place a number of tools to help customers manage their energy bills, including energy assistance and efficiency tips, and several payment options. Details for these programs can be found at www.mwenergy.com or by calling 1-800-222-3121.

Couple announce their engagement

Melodie Jean Bock and Ted D. Glasco are announcing their engagement. They are planning an Oct. 4 wedding at Living Water Fellowship, Bird City.

The daughter of Charley and Roberta Bock, Cawker City, Melodie is a graduate of Waconda East High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from Fort Hays State University and a biblical degree in youth ministry from Victory Bible Institute, Tulsa, Okla. She is currently working on her master's degree in

school counseling. Melodie is a high school biology teacher in Norton.

Ted is the son of Lynn and Candy Glasco, Bird City. He is a graduate of Cheylin High School. A Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, he holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Kansas State University and a master's degree in Aerospace Science from Oklahoma State University. He is stationed at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and is currently deployed to Afghanistan.



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