


The Community Page

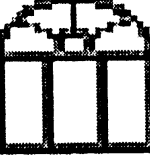


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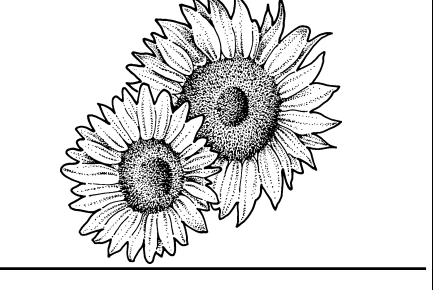
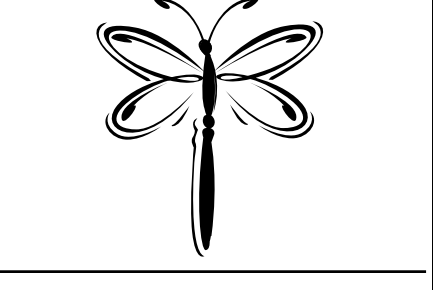
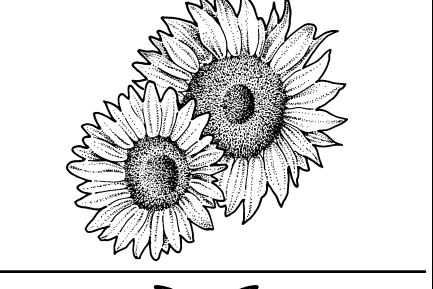
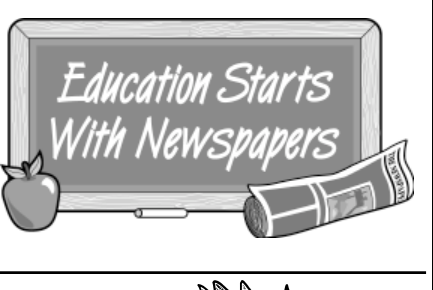
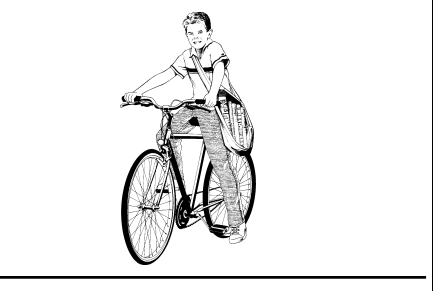
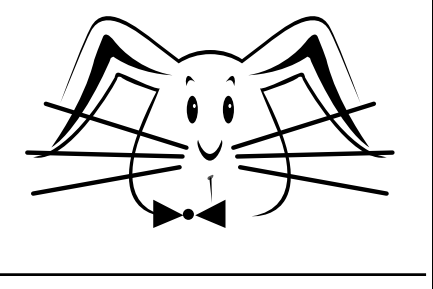
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Patriotism theme for two contests

Two local organizations have contests for students with patriotic themes. The Goodland Elks Lodge has been having an Americanism Essay Contest for nine years. The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its auxiliary have had the Voice Of Democracy program for 59 years.

Michael Smith, sponsored by the Goodland post and its auxiliary, was the third place winner in the Kansas State Voice of Democracy program. Michael Smith is son of Celia Smith and grandson of Margaret Diaz. Smith is currently a junior at Goodland High School. Smith received a \$500 scholarship.

The contest has participants write and record a three-to-five minute script on a patriotic theme. The topic was "How I Demonstrate My Freedom." Over 100,000 students participate in this program nationwide. The first place winner was Ted Hodges of Salina, who received a \$1,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C. and the Voice of Democracy Youth Conference in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The second place winner was Michelle Pomeroy from Newton.

The Elks Americanism Essay Contest theme was "What I Feel When I Look Up at the American Flag?"

The Division I (fifth and sixth graders) first place winner was Chantel Coates, fifth grader from North Elementary whose parents are Rick and Michelle Coates. Megan Els, fifth grader from McDonald in the Cheylin School District, was second place winner. Sadie Avila, fifth grader also from North Elementary and daughter of Mike and Kim Tompkins, was the third place winner.

The only entry in the Division II (seventh and eighth grade) was Cameron Crocker from Colby Middle School in Colby.

Each of winners received a \$50 savings bond and went on to compete at the district level. District winners compete at the state level and the state winners then compete at the national level.

The Elks had 77 essays from Goodland, Weskan, Bird City, McDonald and Colby. The essays were judged by two former teachers, Vicki White and Linda Knott. The essays had to be typed or printed in ink, not be longer than 250 words and written by students in the fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth grades.

The Elks Americanism Essay Contest theme was "What I Feel When I Look Up at the American Flag?"

Coates's essay: When I look up at the American Flag I feel the pain of the soldiers that fought for us. I feel the strength of everyone who has survived the tragedies in our world.

I see the tears the eagle cries. I see the Statue of Liberty holding up her torch tall and proud. I see people fighting to be free. I see people praying, thanking God for their life.

I hear the Liberty Bell ringing to make everyone happy. I hear people



Michael Smith at a recent school board meeting.

crying. I hear people laughing. I hear people playing.

I cry when I look up at the American Flag and I feel like I am lucky to be free!

Els' essay: I have many feelings when I look up at the American flag. Three of these feelings are sad, safe and happy.

The first way I feel is sad. The reason I feel sad when I look up at the American flag is because it reminds me of the men and women who have died over the years trying to defend our nation. Safe is the second way I fee when I look up at the American flag. When I look up at the flag I feel safe because I know there are troops everywhere trying to protect our lives. I also feel safe because it reminds me of my brother. He plans to go to the army. The third way I feel when I look up at the American flag is happy. The reason I feel happy when I look up at the American flag is because I am part of the United States of America. I am also happy because there are fifty states in our union.

In conclusion there are many ways I feel when I look up at the American flag. Sad, safe and happy are the three feelings I will always feel when I look up at the American flag.

Avila's essay: When I look up at the American flag I feel proud and blessed. The flag stands for freedom. I feel proud to be part of the U.S.A. and I am happy to be free and not a slave or a slave master. In the war the soldiers fight for us so we can be free and not go into war. I am proud of the soldiers.

Rosa Parks sat in the front of the bus, she was not supposed to because she was black. She didn't move, and her actions changed black people's lives. Things have changed from back then. Now we can believe in what we want, and do what we want. I think that in other countries people have it worse that we do. We should be happy that we are free.



Betsy Ross made the first flag and on the American flag there are 50 white stars which stand for the 50 states and the background is blue. There are 13 white and red stripes on the American flag which stand for the 13 colonies. Each person in each state is proud of two things. I think it could be about how proud they are to be an American, and to be free. I am happy to be in a free country.

Crocker's essay: When some people look at the flag of the United States of America all they see is white stars and red and white stripes. I see soldiers who died and are still dying for that very flag. I also see our freedom, and then I see the countries that are just developing freedom with our help. I see the wars rage, past and present. I see those Americans so poor they can't afford bread or anything healthy to eat not to mention a house or somewhere warm to sleep. That's what I see when I look at our flag, and I'll always see that.



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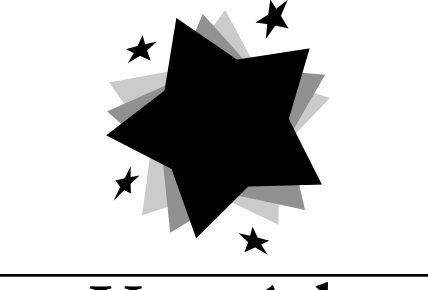
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