



Seneca School fifth-grader Hunter Noel reads his essay for the audience.



Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Seneca School fourth-grader Eliza Ashley reads her Americanism essay for family and friends and the American Legion and Auxiliary leaders. In back, from left, Americanism co-chairmen Jessie Lewis and Sherry Feiger, Auxiliary president Ruth Harris and American Legion president Art Pereira.

ESSAYS

Continued from Page A1

Humbolt Elementary third-grader Vincent Raschio said the contest was "amazing."
"It helped me learn a lot about America," he said.

Each of the winners stood at the front of the room to read their essays, including McKenna Adair, whose essay centered on the importance of preserving freedoms for future generations, and Trinity Hutchison, who said Americans wouldn't have the freedoms they enjoy without those who've put their lives on the line.

Seneca student Hunter Noel said we're all soldiers, defending our freedoms.

Feiger said she appreciated the thought and preparation that went into the essays. "It's a great opportunity to give our kids a chance to speak about their country, what they believe and what they want," she said.

Results

Class I, grades 3-4
Monel Anderson, first
Vincent Raschio, second
Eliza Ashley, third

Class II, grades 5-6
Raney Anderson, first
Macy Carter, second
Hunter Noel, third

Class IV, grades 9-10
Samantha Floyd, first
Madi McKrola, second
Trinity Hutchison, third

Class V, grades 11-12
Annie Wall, first
Josh Carpenter, second
McKenna Adair, third

GOP

Continued from Page A1

but only for as long as they remained enrolled without interruption, according to the OCPP.

Almost 20 percent of people in Grant County are served by a community care organization as part of OHP, according to a state report. In 2014, 12 percent of people under 65 did not have health insurance in Grant County, the DHS reported.

If the AHCA was enacted,

the Oregon Health Plan would have lost 41.8 percent of federal funding, according to the OCPP. To continue funding those on Medicaid, the state would have had to nearly quadruple its contributions.

Republican proponents said the plan would take control of health care away from the federal government and give it to the states, giving citizens more flexibility on how they spend their money on healthcare.

The AHCA would have eliminated individual and employer mandate penalties,

established a Patient and State Stability Fund to provide states with \$100 billion to design programs that meet the unique needs of their patient populations and helped low-income Americans afford health care by providing a tax credit between \$2,000-14,000 a year for low- and middle-income individuals and families.

Women would not have been able to use tax credits to purchase a plan covering elective abortions.

Like Obamacare, the GOP replacement would have pro-

hibited insurers from denying coverage or charging more money to patients based on pre-existing conditions and allowed dependents to stay on a parent's plan until the age of 26.

Obamacare taxes, including taxes on prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, health insurance premiums and medical devices, would have been removed, according to the GOP.

"Under our plan, we preserve important provisions like protecting patients with pre-existing conditions while

GUARDIAN

Continued from Page A1

In the past, America has gone through its hardships like any country, but it has also gone through times of prosperity. History will repeat itself as it has in the past, for better or worse. Mistakes have happened, consequences that have had detrimental effects on our country and its people. It is our responsibility to learn about the mistakes of the past to prevent them from repeating. Without knowledge of our history, we cannot possibly recognize when, or if, a mistake is on the verge of being repeated. No one can prevent the unknown. With knowledge of our mistakes, we can base our decisions on what we know to be true and help our country stay in prosperity in the years to come.

America provides us with many liberties that cannot be achieved other places. Without cooperation and respect of the liberties of all our people and the laws of our

country, the liberties will not be there. The citizens of America have a duty to hold each other's rights up. Without knowing our liberties and rights, they can be taken away from us at any time without our knowledge. It is our duty to know our rights, and protect them. It is our responsibility to protect each other's rights. We must stand together. Division will only make us fall. Keeping up to date on current events, knowing how our government works, and understanding our history makes our views and opinions valid and allows us to make the responsible choices for America.

History will repeat itself as it has in the past, for better or worse.

It is the people of America that decide its outcome, and we cannot make the best choices without knowing the basics of our country and what is happening around us. Our generation is rapidly approaching voting age, if most are not there already. It is important for us to know about our country as we are going to become the future guardians of this country we call home.

implementing important reforms to provide states with greater flexibility, lower cost for families, and greater choice for patients," Walden, the chairman of the Committee on Energy & Commerce, said.

In Walden's district in rural Oregon, Medicaid enrollment through the Oregon Health Plan surpassed 30 percent in eight of the counties. About 129,200 people in the district are covered by the Medicaid expansion. The district's uninsured rate dropped from 17 percent to 8 percent under Obamacare.

Walden's district expanded Medicaid more than any other Republican district in the country, according to a report by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Over half of all children in Walden's district rely on Medicaid, and 30 percent of Oregonians in rural counties rely on the OHP, compared to 24 percent of residents in urban counties. Walden's district has the most residents, 29 percent, who rely on the OHP, according to the OCPP.

"Our analysis found that for every step of progress that Oregon made, the American Health Care Act will take Oregon three steps back," Gov. Kate Brown said. "Since 2014, we have made tremendous progress to ensure that

nearly every Oregonian has access to health insurance coverage. The ripple effect of pulling healthcare out from under Oregonians is widespread, from families, to doctors, to hospitals. I look forward to sharing their voices with Oregon and Congress." Under Obamacare, Oregon extended Oregon Health Plan coverage to approximately 400,000 Oregonians who lacked health insurance, and today OHP covers more than one in four Oregonians, including almost 40 percent of residents in some rural parts of the state, according to a report released by the state.

More than 95 percent of Oregonians, and 98 percent of children, now have health care coverage. The uninsured rate could triple if Obamacare's health insurance subsidies and Medicaid expansion are repealed, according to the state.

Obamacare also created a marketplace for people to find health insurance and subsidies. Over 155,000 Oregonians have signed up for health insurance through the marketplace since the end of January, according to the state.

The nonprofit Economic Policy Institute estimated Oregon would also lose a total of 42,000 jobs if Obamacare was repealed.

EO Media Group senior reporter Kathy Aney contributed to this report.

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