Humbolt Elementary student places third in Americanism essay contest



Maleah Archibald, left, receives an award from the American Legion Auxiliary's Sherry Feiger for placing third in the state

Archibald addresses veterans issues

By Steven Mitchell Blue Mountain Eagle

A Grant County student, Maleah Archibald, placed third at the state level in the Americanism essay contest.

Nearly 100 students participated in the American Legion Auxiliary's annual contest.

The local contest, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Ellis Tracy Unit 77, had students grappling with how to address the health and well-being of veterans, the military and their

Coordinator Sherry Feiger said Ellis Tracy Unit 77 participated in the statewide competition, but the pandemic has made it difficult to recognize this year's essayists.

For the fifth- and sixth-graders locally, Jessica Surchorski's students placed first, second and third. Maleah Archibald's essay took the top spot, followed by Hannah Cole and Eliza Bailey.

Feiger said the first-place essays went on to the state competition.

'Addressing our veterans'

by Maleah Archibald

We need to address the health and well-being of veterans in the military and their families. We can help them overcome their stress and disabilities. When they come back from the military, they and their families have trouble with health issues, finding health care, injuries, finding work, homelessness and death. We can help them!

We need to make sure veterans get all of the health care they need. Some care that they need is not available for them. We need to have all of the health care they need close to them and accessible for them. Wherever they live they should be able to get help. They should get that because they served for

PTSD is one of the health issues veterans have. It is a disorder where a person has a hard time recovering after being in awful events. Between 11 and 20% of veterans have PTSD. We should make sure they are able to get therapies, medications and go to specialists.

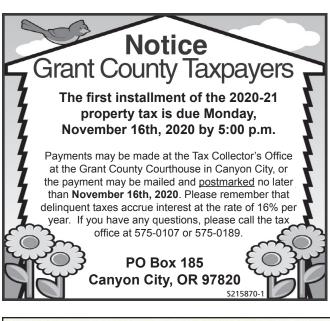
Veterans also come back from war and can't find jobs. They need to support their families. We should make up an organization that is run by veterans so they can easily get jobs once they come back from the military.

Another problem is that some veterans come back and they are homeless. One-third of homeless Americans are veterans. When they come home we need to make sure they have a home. We could make up an apartment for veterans (if they don't have a home) that they can stay in when they get back from the military.

When they are in the military it is also hard. They have to fight. We could help them by sending them care packages. We could also donate to the USO. The USO helps the military workers and their families.

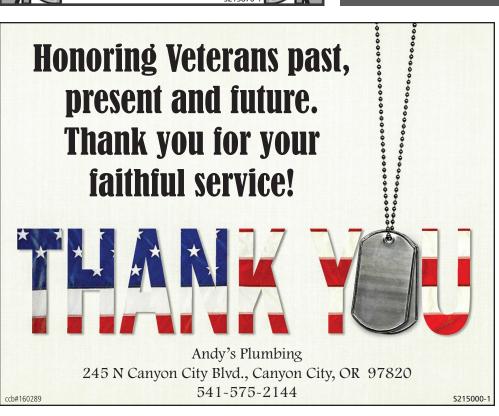
In World War II 420,000 U.S. soldiers died. Many military workers die today. Their families are left by themselves. Their families should be able to get the help they need no matter the cost. They should be able to have food, homes and health

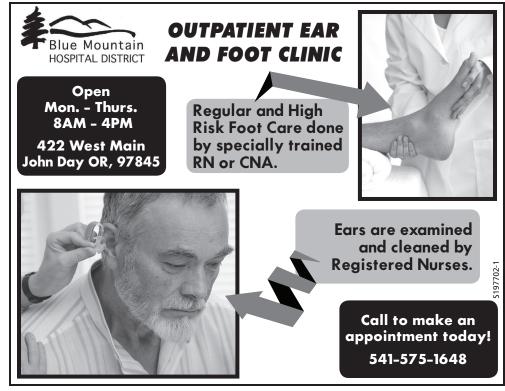
Veterans are important. They served for our country. We need to make sure that they and their families get what they need to live. We need to them with their health issues, finding health care, injuries, finding work, homelessness and death. As you can see, we need to address the health and well-being of our veterans, military and their families.













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