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“Living Evergreen” essay winners honored at fair

Snohomish County and Allied Waste honored six students during the Evergreen State Fair on Thursday for their winning essays in the “Living Evergreen” contest.

Divided into two categories – middle school students (grades 6-9) and high school students (grades 10-12) – contestants were asked to discourse on the growing need to be environmentally friendly. Some contestants focused on the changes they and their families had made, while others looked at solutions for a changing world, including business impacts on the environment.

“Contestants wrote very thoughtful essays on how we can improve our conservation measures and sustainable living practices,” Reardon said. “The winning essays demonstrated students’ individual concerns and innovative ideas for dealing with environmental issues.”

Middle school winners were:

- First Place - Tannim Salisbury, Twin Falls Middle School, North Bend;
- Second Place - Laurel Kroschel, Mount Si High School, North Bend;
- Third Place - Katie Snook, Centennial Middle School, Snohomish;
- Honorable Mention - Carmen Abbe, Roosevelt High School, Seattle.

High school winners were:

- First Place - McKenzie Baker, Stanwood High School, Camano Island;
- Second Place - Keely Cummings, Mariner High School, Everett;
- Third Place - Sara Rood, Granite Falls High School, Granite Falls.

First-place winners received a \$200 U.S. treasury bond and will have an opportunity to read their essays before Snohomish County’s elected leadership. Second-place winners received \$100 bonds, while third-place winners received \$50.

Students were asked to answer one of the following questions:

- What steps can you take in your everyday life to enhance and maintain the environment and improve sustainability?

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- What current technology and green-living practices do you and your family use today that helps improve the environment, and what impacts do you think this makes on the environment?
- What future technical advancements can you imagine for solving current environmental and sustainability challenges?

Reardon invited a panel of distinguished judges to join him, including Neal Pattison, executive editor of The Daily Herald; Jennifer Langston, editor of Sightline Daily of the Sightline Institute, a nonprofit sustainability organization; and Joe Casalini, development director for Allied Waste Northwest.

The judges were impressed at the caliber of entries considering that a summer essay contest meant no prodding by teachers to enter.

“These students wrote straight from the heart,” Casalini said. “Sustainability is something they truly think about and incorporate into their lives every day. It validates everything we do to promote green living to see our youth with such thoughtfulness about our environment.”

The Evergreen State Fair opens at 10 a.m. each day and closes at 10 p.m. except for closing day, Sept. 6, when the fair closes at 7 p.m. Carnival hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. except for closing day, when it also closes at 7 p.m.

For more information and a full listing of the fair’s promotions, go to www.evergreenfair.org or call 360-805-6700.

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