

Local veterans gathered Monday evening, Nov. 11 to share a meal and fellowship, while also remembering those who served before them, during the annual Veterans Day soup and bean feed held in the Legion Hall.

The event also acknowledges the winners in the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essay contests, as well as outstanding teachers.

Bailey Miller of Oshkosh, an eighth-grader at Lewellen Middle School, won the Patriot's Pen essay contest.

This year's theme was "What Patriotism Means to Me."

The Patriot's Pen contest is open to students in grades six through eight.

Miller received a certificate and \$75, and her essay advances to the district competition.

Perkins County Schools student Courtney Ostermiller won the Voice of Democracy essay contest.

Placing second and third, respectively, were Kaitlyn Gamble and Ashley Kempf, also of Perkins County Schools.

This year's theme was "Why I'm optimistic about our nation's future."

Ostermiller received \$100, and Gamble and Kempf received \$50 and \$25, respectively.

Ostermiller's essay advances to the district contest.

Ogallala Public Schools educators Rose Holechek and Jennifer Jones were the recipients of the Teacher Awards.

Holechek, the Ogallala Middle School counselor, and Jones, an Ogallala High School science teacher, were recognized as outstanding educators.

Both women advance to the district level of competition.

Boy Scout Troop 852 and Girl Scout Troop 107 assisted with the meal.

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