



COURTESY

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 American Essay Contest winners included, in front, Irma Wehrli (from left), Judy Ripple, Kynlee Bogie, Timothy Steele, Kazzeley Vernon, Darien Cooper, Daelyn Cooper, Witness Hatch, Katheryn Coleman; back row, Olivia Medeiros, William Matheney, Madison Cruess, Kaiden Berg and Mason Garling.

Auxiliary honors patriotic essay winners

Staff report

Fourteen Columbia County students were honored by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 for their patriotic essay writings.

The Legion Auxiliary's annual Americanism Essay Contest for students in the Columbia County School District recently con-

cluded with the winning essays read at the gathering of winners, parents, teachers and Auxiliary members. Those winners included Kaiden Berg, Kyle Bogie, Katheryn Coleman, Daelyn Cooper, Darien Cooper, Madison Cruess, Mason Garling, Witness Hatch, William Matheney, Olivia Medeiros, Judy Ripple, Timothy Steele, Kazzeley Vernon and

Irma Wehrli.

The Auxiliary essay contest is open to students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. The essay contest helps to promote the Americanism work of the Auxiliary, which includes activities to perpetuate American ideals and to uphold the principles of American democracy. This year's essay topic was

"Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."

The local essay winners will now compete with other Floridian youth at the Department of Florida American Legion Auxiliary. The winner will go on to the national Americanism chairman for nationwide competition.