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Christian Ventura of High Bridge Named “2018 Junior County Historian”

Flemington - Hunterdon’s Junior Historian for 2018 is Christian Ventura of High Bridge Elementary School, selected for writing the best essay in the contest sponsored annually by the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission. Second place honors went to Austin Fritz, of Tewksbury Elementary School.

The 2018 competition drew 81 entries from seven school districts and one home school. Awards were presented by J. Matthew Holt, Freeholder Director of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Carrie Fellows, the Commission’s Executive Director. The awards ceremony took place in the historic Hunterdon County courthouse in Flemington during the May 15 meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Essays are submitted by third or fourth grade students in participating schools, according to which grade level studies local history. In order to be entered into competition, essays must describe a historic place, and source citations are required.

The Grand Prize winner, Christian Ventura, receives a gift card for \$100, a certificate, and a trophy designating him as the 2018 Hunterdon County Junior Historian. His essay, “The Taylor-Wharton Steel Company” described the history, local, regional and national significance of the company, the families who owned it, and the types of products it produced. His teacher, Mrs. Lynn Hughes, was recognized by the Commission and Board of Chosen Freeholders; her class’s essays exemplified the type of research and understanding of historic places the Commission hopes students will gain through this program.

County Second Place winner Austin Fritz receives a gift card for \$50, a certificate and trophy. Austin’s essay, “The General Store in Mountainville” described the community gathering place and how it has served in various ways since it was built in the mid-19th century. Austin is a fourth grader in Mrs. Wilkinson & Ms. DeGrau’s class at Tewksbury Elementary School.

First Prize winners in each of the participating districts were presented with a certificate and a First Place medal. Five Second Place certificates and medals were also awarded, and seven Honorable Mention certificates were presented. All entrants received a Certificate of Appreciation. Winning essays were selected by a panel of members of the Retired Teachers Association. Photographs of the winners and downloadable copies of the top two essays may be viewed at the County’s website: <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/c&h/essay.htm>. A list of winners follows.

The Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission supports and develops programs to promote interest and participation in, and understanding of local arts, culture, history and historic events.

**THE MOST HISTORIC PLACE IN MY TOWN
2018 ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS**

HONORABLE MENTION – DISTRICT

Delaware Township School

Ms. Laura Ferrante, Teacher

Leo Rivera, *Liver Eating Johnson*

Franklin Township School

Mr. Jeffrey Weinhold, Teacher

Stella Frigiola, *Camp Buck vs. Technology*

High Bridge Elementary School

Mrs. Lynn Hughes, Teacher

Aedan Dorwart, *High Bridge Public Library*

Ashley Krushinski, *High Bridge Middle School*

Chloe Anne Sahulka, *Allen and Turner Iron Works*

Isabella Marie Sahulka, *Solitude House*

Tewksbury Elementary School

Mrs. Nugent & Mrs. McCabe, Teachers

Petra Karnaugh, *The Cokesbury Methodist Episcopal Church*

SECOND PLACE – DISTRICT

Califon Borough - Califon Public School

Mrs. Medea, Teacher

Hayden Sacro, *Rambo's*

Delaware Township School

Ms. Laura Ferrante, Teacher

Azra Cotte, *Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge*

Franklin Township School School

Mr. Jeffrey Weinhold, Teacher

Joseph Hubert, *The Uplands*

High Bridge Elementary School

Mrs. Lynn Hughes, Teacher

Sky Bueb-Karp, *The American Hotel, High Bridge, NJ*

Tewksbury Elementary School

Mrs. Nugent & Mrs. McCabe, Teachers

Braeden Mulroony, *Something I Have Always Wondered About*

FIRST PLACE – DISTRICT

Califon Borough - Califon Public School

Mrs. MaryJane Medea, Teacher
Georgia DeCoster, *Yesterday*

Delaware Township School

Ms. Valerie Wheatley, Teacher
Gavin Drew, *The Rosemont-Raven Rock Bridge*

Franklin Township School

Mr. Jeffrey Weinhold, Teacher
Maddy Brisby, *St. Anne’s Catholic Church*

High Bridge Elementary School

Mrs. Lynn Hughes, Teacher
Christian Ventura, *The Taylor-Wharton Steel Company*

Lebanon Borough School

Ms. Suzanne Lawn, Teacher
Holden Schipper, *Blue Star Highway*

Tewksbury Elementary School

Mrs. Wilkinson & Ms. DeGrau, Teachers
Austin Fritz, *The General Store in Mountainville, NJ*

Home School

Ms. Maria Naccarato, Teacher
Jonah Duckworth, *Changewater Train Trestle*

2nd PRIZE – COUNTY

Tewksbury Elementary School

Mrs. Wilkinson & Ms. DeGrau, Teachers
Austin Fritz, *The General Store in Mountainville, NJ*

GRAND PRIZE – “2018 HUNTERDON COUNTY JUNIOR HISTORIAN”

High Bridge Elementary School

Mrs. Lynn Hughes, Teacher
Christian Ventura, *The Taylor-Wharton Steel Company*
