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## Students Honored for Financial Literacy

*Free Press Staff Reports*

Vermont students who have added financial literacy to their reading, writing and arithmetic skill set were honored recently in Montpelier.

State Treasurer Beth Pearce and Lt. Gov. Phil Scott recognized the students achievement in two statewide financial literacy programs last week. As part of the national Be Money Wise Financial Literacy poster contest, Vermont students were recognized for their creative work in designing posters around the theme, "Be a Superhero! Save Money!" Ten elementary school students also were congratulated as winners of college saving accounts through the Reading is an Investment Program. The program promotes reading and financial literacy.

"My office works with Vermonters of all ages to promote increased understanding and practice of sound money management skills," Pearce said. "While these children may not be fully aware of this, they are learning skills that will be with them throughout their adult working lives into retirement."

Students placing in the elementary school division were: first place, Savannah Chism, Bethel Elementary School; second place, Zach Schaw, Williston Central School; and third place, Brittany Caron, Good Shepherd Catholic School, St. Johnsbury. Students placing in the middle school division were: first place, Acacia Wheeler, home-schooled student, Swanton; second place, Anna Dieffenbach, Bethel Elementary School; and third place, Kristen Tirrito, Waterville Elementary School. High school division winners are: first place, Jaime Cherem, St. Johnsbury Academy; second place, Zach Cochran, St. Johnsbury Academy; and Tamar Wheeler, home-schooled student, Swanton.

Students placing first in each division received a \$100 U.S. savings bond and their school a \$100 cash prize. The Vermont Bankers Association provides all of the prizes. The contest is also sponsored by the nonprofit GreenPath Debt Solutions. There were 182 posters entered in the competition.

In the Reading is an Investment program, students are required to read three books about money from a targeted reading list and complete about six hours of free reading. The completed reading log is sent to the Treasurer's Office to be included in a drawing for 10 \$250 college savings accounts provided by the Vermont Student Assistance Corp. The 10 students winning college savings accounts were: Isadora Beck, Bristol Elementary School; Hannah Bertrand, Franklin Central School; Aaron Cole, Readsboro Central School; Eva Frazier, Hinesburg Community School; Korbin Hughes, Bristol Elementary School; Emma Medor, Swanton Elementary School; Ian Parent, Williston Central School; Gianna Pezzetti, Rutland Town School; Myah Rocheleau, Swanton Elementary School; and Mariah Witham, Swanton Elementary School.

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