

around town

the communities of east lake county.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007

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EAST LAK

Flag

Continued from A11

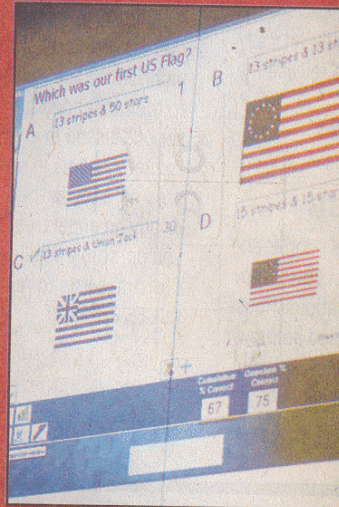
According to JROTC instructor Col. Scott Buhmann, the program was entirely put together by the cadets. "They planned it and conceived it. What better way to motivate than to go to the schools to teach an appreciation for their country and the flag."

The tools to help carry out the concept, such as videos and flags were donated by Hobart American Legion Post 54. Buhmann said the lesson fits in with JROTC's primary mission of "helping young people be better citizens."

Joan Martin Elementary School Principal Flora Keslim said an added benefit is introducing younger students to JROTC. "We're exposing our kids to the kind of programs that are available at the high school. They're good role models, definitely." She added that one of the reasons the fifth grade was chosen for the program is because they are responsible for raising and lowering the U.S. flag in front of the school each day.

One of those role models is freshman cadet Amjad Umrani. Having come to the United States from Pakistan four years ago, he was once a fifth grader at Joan Martin. He said there was no flag etiquette program at that time. "I feel so motivated because I want to teach them and motivate them - teach them things they don't know. I love this country."

In fact, the Hobart JROTC program was reborn just three years ago after a 25-year absence. The Joan Martin Elementary School visit is just one of several programs undertaken recently by Hobart's JROTC classes.



JON L. HENDRICKS PHOTOS | THE TIMES

Proud of the red, white and blue

Flag etiquette taught to Joan Martin Elementary fifth-graders

BY GREGG DOFFIN
Times Correspondent

HOBART | Look around and you'll see plenty of examples of bad flag etiquette. Those who need some flag education might consider asking fifth-

graders at Joan Martin Elementary School.

The class recently received several hours of instruction on the proper treatment, display and history of Old Glory, presented by members of the Hobart High School Jr.

ROTC Unit.

A dozen JROTC cadets in full uniform schooled the fifth graders and offered hands-on experience with things such as the proper way to fold the U.S. flag.

See FLAG, A13

ABOVE LEFT: Joan Martin Elementary School fifth-graders Cain Strickley, left, and Stephen Kessel try to answer questions about the United States flag using an electronic remote system during a flag etiquette program presented last week by Hobart High School's Jr. ROTC Unit. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The answer to a question about the history of the U.S. flag is displayed on a projector for students at Joan Martin Elementary School in Hobart. As part of a program presented by Hobart High School Jr. ROTC cadets Nov. 30, fifth-graders were quizzed about what they had learned.