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## Education

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### If you grow it ... you could win

Hazen third- grader takes top prize for top cabbage in state

By ANDREA JOHNSON Staff Writer [ajohnson@minotdailynews.com](mailto:ajohnson@minotdailynews.com)

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The secret to Bridgett Grosz's cabbage-growing success is in the family.

Bridgett, a fourth-grader at Hazen Elementary School, was last year's state winner in the Bonnie Plants Cabbage Growing contest. The program, based in Alabama, ships cabbage plants to third grade classes around the nation and encourages them to grow their own cabbage plants to learn about gardening and the environment. Bridgett's third-grade teacher gave her and her classmates the choice to participate in the program and Bridgett took a cabbage plant home to grow.

"I grew it in my back yard with my dad," said Bridgett, the daughter of Todd and Tracee Grosz of Hazen. "My grandma gave me her special (fertilizer). It's a special kind of ... fish manure. It helped them grow."

At first the cabbage plant was starting to die of shock, but Bridgett said her grandma Annie Grosz's fish manure fertilizer perked it right up. It took about five weeks last year to grow the cabbage plant and harvest it.

It helps that the cabbage plants that are sent out have oversized heads that will help make a big impression on the budding young gardeners.

"I had fun," said Bridgett, who said she was "kind of shocked" that she won the state contest because so many other kids entered it. She won a \$500 scholarship that should mature to a \$1,000 college scholarship by the time she's ready to start college. The winner is picked through a drawing by the state agriculture commissioner.

Other area schools that participated included Beulah Elementary, Bob Callies Elementary School in Garrison, Center-Stanton Elementary, Goodrich Elementary, McClusky Elementary, Turtle Lake-Mercer, Washburn Elementary and Wilton Elementary.

#### Article Photos



Submitted Photo -- Bridgett Grosz of Hazen displays the award-winning cabbage she grew for the Bonnie Plants Cabbage Growing Contest last season, in this photo courtesy of Bonnie Plants.com.

#### Fact Box

Scholarship contest available to third-graders willing to plant

The Bonnie Plants Third Grade Cabbage Program will give a \$1,000 educational scholarship to one third-grader in each state who participates in a program.

The program is free. Bonnie delivers 2-inch cabbage plants to every registered participating school. Teachers distribute plants with instructions provided by Bonnie to their students to carry home and grow. At the end of the growing season, teachers pick a class winner based on size, appearance and maturity and that submission is entered in a state scholarship drawing.

Teachers submit one class winner's information to Bonnie's Web site ([www.bonnieplants.com](http://www.bonnieplants.com)) with a good quality picture, preferably digital. The nominee form and picture must be received on or before Sept. 10, 2010 online or mailed to Bonnie Plant Farm, 1727 Hwy 223 Union Springs, AL, 36089. The final drawing at the end of the season will be done by each state's agricultural commissioner.

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