

Bugler raising money for Taps trip

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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Makayla DaMoude of Imperial, here with her trumpet, is raising money to be able to play her bugle for a 150th Anniversary celebration of “Taps.”

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Fourteen-year-old Makayla DaMoude of Imperial has a wish. She wishes to be a part of the 150th anniversary celebration of “Taps” in Virginia this summer.

A trumpet and bugle player, DaMoude is busy raising money for the trip, which will also involve her parents, Russ and Davon, and brother Joel.

She is selling Tupperware to pay for the flight and lodging for the event, June 22-24 at Berkeley Plantation in Charles City, Va.

“Birth of an American Tradition” will celebrate the birth of America’s national song of remembrance with Civil War re-enactors depicting the Union Army at rest at Harrison’s Landing, following the Seven Days Battles in late June 1962.

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Living history programs will feature the music of fifes, drums and bugles, including the commemorative sounding of Taps.

DaMoude is a member of Bugles Across America, which will be performing concerts during the weekend.

The Chase County Schools eighth grade student picked up a trumpet in fifth grade, and is a member of the junior high band.

She taught herself to play the bugle after her parents purchased one at the Fanning Labor Day Sale in Imperial. It is a "field trumpet" in the key of E.

Bugles can have one, two, three or no valves in the key of G, E or F. Trumpets have three valves.

DaMoude said she's "trying to learn other instruments so I can pursue my dream of becoming a band teacher." She really likes teacher Agnes Strand, who listens to her playing prior to concerts or funerals.

That's right. DaMoude has played Taps at funerals in Elsie and Madrid, and at CCS on Veterans Day, since 2009, when she played for an uncle's funeral.

"I was a little scared at first," she said. "Taps is a very moving song." Her mother added that DaMoude is very "honored and touched" when she's asked to play at funerals.

The CCS student's favorite type of music is jazz. "I like everything we play at school," she added. But, "concert band doesn't give me as much thrill as pep band does."

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To raise money for the trip, DaMoude has been walking all over Imperial approaching people to purchase Tupperware, of which she receives 40 percent of the profit for certain items.

She has raised \$300 so far. Her mother anticipates that she needs to raise \$2,500 for the four family members.

A man in Madrid has indicated that he will donate the cost of recycled aluminum in February. Anyone wishing to donate aluminum cans may drop them off at 1344 Grant, the DaMoude's house.

The web site for ordering Tupperware is <http://bit.ly/buglegirl>, then click on "Makayla DaMoude to Virginia." Or, call her at (308) 882-4732.

For years people believed a rumor that "Taps" originated from a paper found in a dead Confederate soldier's pocket by his Union soldier father.

According to the Internet, historians now believe that "Taps" came from Brig. General Daniel Butterfield at Harrison's Landing in Virginia in 1862.

Why does she want to play Taps in Virginia? DaMoude said, "It sounds like such a great experience, to go to and be a part of history."