



Supporting Wyoming FFA to ensure the program's ability to continue making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Wyoming FFA Times

Spring/Summer 2009 Edition

A publication of the Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation

2009-2010 Wyoming FFA leadership selected

This year's State FFA Convention concluded with the retirement of an amazing officer team and the installment of a new group of promising individuals. The new state officers come from all over Wyoming and bring a wide variety of personalities, talents and capabilities to the officer team.

"My family has always been a part of agriculture and my family has also been involved in FFA and I want to continue that tradition and carry that passion for something so great and pass it on to others."
— Tate Bauman, Parliamentarian

Tate Bauman is a talented showman from the Cheyenne High Plains FFA Chapter and has exhibited his market swine on the local, state and national level. Tate owns and operates his very own swine business and plans to keep that going throughout the rest of his life. Tate has participated on numerous CDE teams over the course of his high school career and just this year, participated on the champion meats judging team. During his term as the state parliamentarian, Tate hopes to inspire and motivate students to achieve greatness just

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2009-2010 Wyoming FFA Officers, from the left: Jared Oldham, Tressa Lawrence, Catlin Caines, Taylor Haley, Emily Voigt, Grant Pulse, Laurel Prusak and Tate Bauman.

State Star

Shoshoni FFA member competes with beef, ranch projects

By Christy Hemken
Wyo. Livestock Roundup Shoshoni—Steele Pingetzer can trace the roots of his FFA projects, a Red Angus cowherd and family ranch work, back through his family to his great grandfather's arrival in Wyoming. Pingetzer was named the State Star in Ag Placement at the Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne on April 18.

"I got into raising cattle when I was younger, when my dad talked me into buying my first cow. That's how the whole thing got started, and I kept breeding and adding to my herd until I reached my current herd of 30 head of cattle," says Steele, who says he was nine years old when he purchased that first cow.

"We needed to pay Steele for irrigating and raking hay when he was young, and I suggested he use the money to get a heifer and start a herd, whether he wanted a red one or a black one," says Steele's father, Bob Pingetzer. "We thought he should start to build some cows so when he got to college he'd have some income to support his schooling, and it's grown from there."

In addition to managing his cowherd, Steele also works for his family's 6 Iron Ranch, which is co-owned by his parents, Bob
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Record-setting scholarships awarded to Wyoming FFAers

By Stacy Broda
Wyoming FFA Foundation

Cheyenne — The Wyoming FFA Foundation and its partners were pleased to award 15 scholarships this year at the State FFA Convention. Applications were due March 1 with a record number — 41 — turned in from all over the state. The scholarship committee consisted of Codey Stocks, John Broda, Lesley Pearson, Tammy Bauman, Teresa Cole, Meghan Jeffries and Stacy Broda.

The Foundation would like to thank its partners for believing in the youth of Wyoming and furthering their education by donating and providing scholarship monies. Wyoming FFA Foundation Scholarship Committee chair Stacy Broda says, "These scholarships would not have been possible if it weren't for individual, group and corporate donations. With the state of our economy we are proud to provide financial assistance for Wyoming FFA members and award them for choosing to further their education."

The following scholarships were provided by our partners.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission donates \$1,000 each year to bring one of Wyoming's FFA members closer to the federal legislative process. This scholarship award will be used for travel and registration costs to attend the Washington Leadership Conference. Russell Goff from the Shoshoni FFA Chapter will attend this conference. He has been in FFA since he was a 7th grader, has worked in their program's green-

house and many local floral shops, was a member of the state champion Ag Issues team and has been a member of the National FFA band.

The Friends of Agriculture, Industry & Recreation (F.A.I.R. POSSE) awards a scholarship each year to a Wyoming FFA member who has been an exhibitor at the Wyoming State Fair for at least two years. Kaycee Vollmar received \$750.00 to help her attend Casper College. She has shown at the state fair since 2004, plans to become a USDA meat grader, has judged livestock internationally and hales from the Casper FFA Chapter.

The Nickie Linnabur Memorial Scholarship is provided by the Clark's Mule Days Charity Pool. Nickie was a 16-year-old girl who worked for Mule Days and died in an automobile accident. In her memory we present a \$1,500 scholarship to a Park County FFA member. Skylar Sheets from the Powell FFA is the 2009 recipient of this award. He has competed in Ag Mechanics and plans to attend Wyo Tech where he'll enroll in their diesel mechanic program.

Encana Oil and Gas generously donated \$4,000 to the scholarship program. The Wyoming FFA Foundation awarded \$2,000 of this money to high school seniors who will attend college next fall. The remaining \$2,000 was awarded to past Wyoming FFA members already enrolled in a Wyoming college.

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Russell Goff



Skylar Sheets

Bauman cousins earn top FFA honors

By Jennifer Womack
Wyoming Livestock Roundup

Cheyenne — The 2009 Wyoming FFA Convention, held mid-April in Cheyenne, will be a gathering Cheyenne's Bauman family will long remember. Cousins Tate Bauman and Chance Bauman received top honors during the April 18 awards presentations.

Chance, the son of John and Patsy Bauman, raises and shows purebred Charolais cattle, a project that earned him recognition as the 2009 State Star Farmer. His cousin, Tate, raises and sells show pigs. Tate's business earned him recognition as the 2009 State Star in Agribusiness. Tate also ran for a seat on the 2009-2010 Wyoming FFA Officer Team

and was chosen as Parliamentarian during the recent convention.

It's not the first time the

Baumans — cousins, classmates and friends — have seen dual successes. The

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Cousins Tate Bauman, left, and Chance Bauman recently received top honors at the Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne. They're also leaders of their High Plains FFA Chapter in Cheyenne where Tate is President and Chance is Vice President. Courtesy photo

Buffalo FFA: 2009 top Wyo FFA Chapter

Buffalo — To top off what Buffalo FFA Chapter President Tressa Lawrence calls an "amazing year," the group took home the 2009 Top Chapter title at the state FFA convention mid-April.

She credits the title to the chapter's community service projects over the past year, as well as participation from the chapter's individual members, of which there are nearly 50. "The Top Chapter award goes to the chapter with the best balance as far as community service and involvement," she explains.

Buffalo FFA Advisor Jake Evans says the award focuses on student develop-

ment, chapter development and community development. "The award looks at developing leadership skills, career skills and personal growth," he says.

"We did so much community service this year, because the community gives so much to us as a chapter, and they support us in trips to nationals and awards for our members. They're constantly giving to our chapter, so we like to give back to them through community service and outreach," says Lawrence.

Along with Lawrence as president, Wendy Arndt serves as vice president and
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periodical

periodical

From the Prez

Greetings fellow FFA supporters. As I start to write this bit I don't honestly know where it's going to go. I have a feeling it'll be like a big fella going through a barbed wire fence. We'll touch on a lot of points, but keep movin' right along. C'mon, let's see where we're headed.

It has been a year of mixed blessings for the Wyoming FFA Foundation. We've worked our way into some wonderful partnerships with EnCana, Walmart, Bearpaw Embroidery and Stallion Trucking, and we've started some new ventures like the Wyoming FFA online store. We've had to say good-bye to some great board members, but thankfully not to all the support they give.

When I say partnership in this article I'm referring to a couple of different groups of supporters. There are those who let us work with their funds to get monies directly to chapters, and those who are providing continued support of a large scale program. The first such partner to come along side was EnCana Oil and Gas. After a meeting last fall they gave us money, which we were able to turn into grants for chapters wanting to increase their enrollment, improve equipment, or those in need of help in improving the educational experience for their members. What a joy it was to go through the applications and select chapters to get assistance with greenhouses, rebuilding tractors, managing sheep flocks, upgrading welders, environmental monitoring, and much more. Through the generosity of EnCana the Foundation paid out over \$20,000 to Wyoming FFA Chapters. Additional funds from them helped increase the number and amount of scholarships we were able to award at the April convention, as well as building up our "voucher fund." The voucher fund is a cash account set up some years ago to help members with the cost of membership. (Dues, white shirt, black pants, FFA Jacket, etc.) If an advisor contacts us concerning a student in need, we do what we can to fulfill the need. It's truly rewarding to be a part of a board that gets to do that, and to work for you, the foundation of supporters that make that possible.

The next partner to come along on such a grand scale was Walmart Foundation. An association we hope to build on, we were able to secure funds from them for the Walmart Community Service, Green Living Grant program. They have given us \$20,000 to award to chapters for community service or "green living" projects. So far we've been able to award over half the funds to help build a town park in Rock River, planters in Meeteetse, and more. There were also additional funds to help the professional Agriculture teachers of the Wyoming Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (WVATA) begin a mentoring program to continue to improve the quality of the Ag. Ed. program throughout the state.

I mentioned partnerships with Stallion Trucking and Bearpaw Custom Embroidery. Both these great supporters are back for the second year of helping us to raffle a 4-wheeler or in this case a UTV. We have a Polaris UTV that will go to the lucky winner drawn on the last Saturday of State Fair. Stallion and Bearpaw are teamed up this year with Clear Creek Construction and Basic Energy Services

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Court Schilt
FFA Foundation President

Let's Talk FFA

Featuring outgoing FFA President Ty McNamee

Signing Off From an Amazing Experience as FFA President



To sum my year up as a State Officer is a difficult task. But I can definitely say it flew by fast and I know our entire team and I learned and grew a lot from all of our experiences!

Starting out the year with Blast Off, which is a State Officer training/orientation, was challenging but fun! We learned a lot about what it takes to be a State Officer. Our team was realizing it takes a lot of hard work to make sure we were always at the top of our game. Then along came our summer activities. What a busy and crazy time! Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp is always an awesome place to go during the month of June, and our team was blessed to get to attend and help run both sessions. It was one of the first experiences where we were put with FFA members, and we learned so much from them. In between those sessions, however, our team took full advantage of attending the National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLC SO). At this conference we were able to work together and know what it takes to achieve goals, as a team. And our State Officer team was finally turning into a "family," as we still like to call ourselves. The rest of the summer was full of activities, including the FFA Foundation Golf Tournament, State Presidents Conference in Washington, D.C., and FFA Chapter Officer Retreats. Our team got into the swing of things and for sure got used to a busy schedule during this time of the year!

Our summer ended and our school year began just as Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo came along. At this annual event, the State Officers ran our own exhibit hall, assisted advisors with registration of their students, enjoyed the company of FFA members and helped run all of the FFA livestock shows at the fair. It was hard work, but we put all of our energy out there trying to make it a success! As we went to school, it was odd for our team not to constantly be around one another. Some of us were in Cheyenne, some in Laramie, some in Casper, and some even in Riverton. But we slowly learned that we all could still stay close friends and there were always more FFA functions to attend. More officer retreats, high school homecoming parades, and Christmas tree hunts were just the beginning to all that our officer team got to attend during our months at college, and I know we all had a blast!

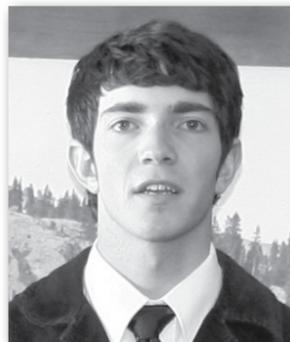
Amidst all these exciting events, the State Officers also had the large task of putting on an annual leadership conference for freshman and sophomore FFA mem-

bers, the F.I.R.E. Conference. However, from past recommendations, our team had new ideas we wanted to bring forth for this event. We put on the regular F.I.R.E. for the younger members, but we also added a new part, Chapter Presidents Conference (CPC). At CPC, junior and senior FFA members were given the chance to voice their opinion about the future of our organization. They had roundtable discussions, wrote down their ideas, and visited with the State Officers. It was a new opportunity we hope will become tradition as it truly was shaping the future of Wyoming FFA.

Soon enough Christmas break and Chapter Visits rolled along. I know that our team was nervous to visit our assigned chapters, but we all set out across the state visiting schools, putting on educational workshops, and even getting some fun time in with FFA members. It was such an awesome thing that we got to know advisors and students on a personal level throughout Wyoming. Right after our chapter visit time, our team had the honor of also meeting our Governor, Dave Freudenthal. We were thankful that he made time in his schedule to visit with us and sign a proclamation declaring National FFA Week in Wyoming!

All of a sudden, our year as State Officers felt like it was coming to a close. We had only two months left, and our biggest event we would put on during our year was approaching fast. The Wyoming State FFA Convention gathers FFA members from across the state to compete in contests, attend upbeat sessions, mingle with friends, and celebrate the last year's accomplishments. And our team was focused on making sure our convention would be the best it could possibly be. We met numerous times to discuss the inner workings of this event, and on April 15th the 82nd Annual Wyoming State FFA Convention began. The whole team was nervous, but we felt that it was a true success this year! Once again, we had so much fun with the FFA members and we felt like we put our entire heart and soul into this finale to our year. We also wanted to thank everyone who attended and supported State Convention!

The 2008-2009 State Officer's team year has come to a close. We were all so sad to see it pass, but so happy that our year went well and we can now see the future of Wyoming FFA. All of us want to thank those who supported our team and the FFA organization. It's truly been a great time and we will never forget this experience!



By Ty McNamee, FFA
Association President

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FFA Foundation dinners proves to be a continuing success

By Court Schilt
FFA Foundation

Cheyenne — Better every year. The fifth annual convention member dinner was a fantastic event. Coordinator Lindsay Gee said they started with 700 plates. By the end of the dinner they were serving some of the guests in empty pizza boxes.

The dinner is turning

into a convention staple. Through the generosity of several returning partners including Rocky Mountain Power, Cheyenne Kiwanis Agriculture Committee, Laramie County Farm Bureau, Wyoming Business Council – Agribusiness Division, and a new Foundation partner, Wyoming Farmers Union Service Association and several pri-

vate donors, FFA members are treated to a great dinner without having to load busses and navigate Cheyenne at “rush hour.” There is ample time for food as well as some down time for members to catch up with friends from other chapters, get their mind ready for the next contest, or just “veg” out and relax for a few extra minutes.

The dinner, held in the



arena at Laramie County Community College, is presented by Scotty's Pizza Factory in Cheyenne. Scotty's goes way beyond the extra mile to give students any or all of pizza, pasta, sub sandwiches, salad

with choice of dressing and a drink. Sean Allen, Co-owner of Scotty's takes a personal interest in every detail of the food served, making certain FFA members have a good experience. Working in close coordination with Scotty's is the Cheyenne Kiwanis Club Agriculture committee. They not only support the dinner financially, but also send volunteers to serve members and shuttle warm food from the restaurant. They all go above and beyond.

This year's dinner had some special guests drop by and offer words of encouragement to the members in attendance. Randy Teeuwen from EnCana, Sheila Wakefield of Farmers Union Ser-

vice Association, FFA Foundation Executive Director Scott McDonald, and a very special visit from Wyoming State Auditor Rita Meyer. Each of these distinguished guests joined us for dinner, addressed the crowd and visited one on one with FFA members.

Special thanks to those who make the dinner happen — the crew and owners of Scotty's Pizza Factory and Lindsay Gee and Cheyenne Kiwanis Agriculture Committee. If you're in Cheyenne looking for a good family meal at a good price, give Scotty's a try. You won't be disappointed.

Here's looking forward to next year.

Carpenter thanked for contributions to FFA

Riverton — The Wyoming FFA Foundation Board of Directors wishes Eddie Carpenter and his wife Sheryl best of luck as they move from Riverton to East Texas. Over the course of Eddie's tenure on the Board he's made outstanding contributions to Wyoming FFA.

“I love to work with the youth in the communities,” says Carpenter. “I feel the more time we spend with the youth to keep them off of the streets and out of the drugs and alcohol, the better chance they have for a productive and rewarding life.”

Carpenter served on the Wyoming FFA Foundation Board for over two years. The request to serve was something he says he welcomed. “I truly believe in the FFA Organization and the youth of the state. FFA is not an organization that only deals with the raising of animals, but an organization that prepares the youth for life as they graduate and become an integral part of the communities in which they live. The FFA organization develops future leaders for agriculture, business and the political arena.”

“The FFA Foundation board that is currently in place is on the board for all the right reasons,” says Carpenter. “The Board believes in FFA and truly wants to see the Foundation move forward and support more Scholarships and projects each year. It has been an honor to work with the FFA Board and the FFA organization across Wyoming. I am going to miss the interactions with the youth of Wyoming, but my wife and I will continue to support the FFA Foundation.”

“The FFA Foundation is heading in a great direction with more financial support each year,” says Carpenter. “The Foundation continues to offer more annual scholarships in addition to supporting an ever-increasing number of FFA chapter projects across the state.”

Wyoming FFA Foundation President Court Schilt describes Carpenter as one of those rare individuals who can stick their hand in a bucket of water and leave a hole when they pull it out. “Eddie's contributions to Wyoming FFA are greatly appreciated,” says Schilt.

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TEAM *continued from page 1*

as he was inspired as a youngster.

Emily Voigt, from the Cheyenne Frontier FFA Chapter, has taken over as the Wyoming State Sentinel. She is an 18-year-old senior at Cheyenne East High School and a

“I want members and all of Wyoming to get something out of FFA.” — Emily Voigt, Sentinel

member of the Frontier FFA Chapter. Emily's involvement in FFA is very big. She has been on at least one CDE team every year since her freshman year and she also is an accomplished showman in both the sheep and pig barns. This year Emily hopes to better the Wyoming FFA Association by working hard with her team

members to encourage more involvement and get the word out there to people who don't know about the FFA organization.

Newly elected Wyoming State Reporter Grant Pulse also hails from the Cheyenne High Plains FFA Chapter. Grant is a well-rounded individual who, on top of being part of the FFA, is an asset to the Cheyenne American Legion Post 6 baseball team as a pitcher. He has been showing market lambs since he was eight years old and has won Grand Champion at both the county and state fairs. Over his high school FFA career, he has competed in the green-hand quiz bowl, meats judging, sales and service and farm management CDEs. Grant hopes to follow in his older

sister Ronda's footsteps as a state FFA officer and inspire and motivate members across the state.

Laurel Prusak of the Clearmont FFA says that her favorite part about the FFA is getting to meet a lot of new people. She has been a part of her chapter's sales team and really

“I want to get members and non-members more familiar with all of the possibilities FFA brings.” — Laurel Prusak, Treasurer

enjoys that particular CDE. She says that she wishes to serve as a state officer because she wants to inspire and motivate individuals and give them the love for the FFA that she possesses, and will be serving as this year's Wyoming State Treasurer.

The Wyoming State Sec-

retary for 2009-2010 is Taylor Haley of the Snowy Range FFA. This talented Horse Judger was ecstatic to become secretary. She has wanted to be a state officer since she met

“I love the FFA and want to help it grow and to influence the members to be all they can be.” — Taylor Haley, Secretary

Jessie Berry her freshman year. She has always wanted to be a part of this great organization and be a role model for others. This year Taylor hopes to encourage member participation, as well as increase membership within Wyoming.

Lander FFA's Jared Oldham is this year's 2nd Vice President and has a great passion for all of the judging CDE events. Jared also enjoys showing livestock at the county and state fairs every summer.

He ran for a state office with hopes of changing at least one,

“I want to be an inspiration to members by making them more involved in their chapters and inspiring them to strive to become the FFA members and people they can be.” — Jared Oldham, 2nd Vice President

if not many, member's lives for the better. Jared also wants to help members of the Wyoming FFA to better realize the opportunities that the FFA has to offer. He is very excited for the year to come and with the help of his fellow officer team he hopes to accomplish everything with fun and memorable events that will last a lifetime.

“I have learned much and grown so much from my experiences within FFA. I now feel this this is my opportunity to give back and help others reach their full potential.” — Tressa Lawrence, 1st Vice President

This year's Wyoming State 1st Vice President is Tressa Lawrence of the Buffalo FFA Chapter. For her, being elected a State FFA officer was an incredible and even

surreal experience; weeks after taking office, she says she is still in shock. Serving as a state officer has long been the dream of this cattle show-girl, and Tressa hopes to help members realize their potential through the FFA as the organization has helped her realize her own.

Catlin Caines, hailing from the Paintrock FFA Chapter, is this year's Wyoming State President. For him, becoming a state officer is an incredible opportunity that was made better by being able

“Everything about the organization — the advisors, the competitions, the challenges, the members, the officers, the service, the involvement, the influences — all just impacting my life until it hit me like a brick: I wanted to be a part of that impact on the lives of others.” — Catlin Caines, President

to share the experience with an amazing team. He says the feeling of becoming an officer is unforgettable and indescribable; even the memory still gets him. This year Catlin hopes to meet as many members as possible and encourage them to take the initiative to become better leaders.

TOP *continued from page 1*

and Paige, and his grandparents.

Both the cowherd and the ranch work have earned Steele recognition within FFA, and this year he takes them to State FFA Convention as entries in Beef Production Entrepreneurship, which is the cowherd, and Beef Production Placement, which is his ranch work.

“What I do with my cowherd is research the bulls I want to use and figure out which bull I want to use to breed my cattle. Any calves that I don't like are fattened and sold to a Wheatland feedlot, while I keep the bull calves I like and sell them in the Wyoming Beef Cattle Improvement Association sale. The heifers I like I keep to breed in a couple years to keep expanding my herd,” explains Steele.

In 2009 Steele's bulls ranked in the middle of 45, but in 2008 he placed in the top 10. “He was right in the top end of things last year,” says Bob. “This year his calf was bred a little different than last.”

Steele is a senior this year at the Shoshoni high school, and next year plans to attend Central Wyoming College. He'll study there for two years to obtain a pre-engineering degree, after which he'll transfer to the University of Wyoming to earn a mechanical engineering degree.

“I'll probably also minor in rangeland management and take some ag classes,” says Steele, adding that he'd really like to return to the family operation following school.

“In the summer with 6 Iron I do a lot of haying, helping with most of the swathing and the baling. I help out as a hired hand on the farm during the summer, and the last few months we've been calving,” says Steele.

“For the ranch he's put in over 200 hours of time each of the last four summers cutting hay,” says Bob. “He helps set water, move cows, plant corn and work fields. He's very capable with any job on the ranch.”

In the future, Steele says he'll continue growing his cowherd, looking at different bulls and the potential to AI some of his cattle. “I'd like to try some AI instead of using bulls that are available because they're close by to access a greater variety of cattle,” he says.

“Steele has a great work ethic, and he works really hard and spends a lot of time on his projects,” says Shoshoni FFA Advisor Crystal Woehlecke, adding she expects him to be very strong at State in Beef Placement, with as many hours as he's put in. “He's got well over the maximum amount of hours they need to compete.”

Steele estimates that over the five years the application covers he has several thousand hours on the ranch between the 6 Iron and his cowherd. “That's what I do and how I make my money,” he says.

“I've worked with Steele the last four years, and I know he puts in the time on his family's ranch and I'm very proud of his accomplishments,” says Crystal.



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FUNDS *continued from page 1*

Shelby Weyrich of the Southeast FFA received a \$500.00 scholarship to attend Eastern Wyoming College. She hopes to share her love of art with students as an art teacher. Shelby shows cattle and competed in the agronomy CDE at national convention.



Shelby Weyrich

Rock Creek FFA also received a scholarship for \$500. Kristy plans to major in animal science/pre-vet at the University of Wyoming. She is chapter president, competed at nation-



Kristy Bowers

als in the agriculture mechanics career development event, and has an SAE of market beef and market lambs.

Brodie Epler from the Southeast FFA received a

\$1,000.00 scholarship. Brodie plans on obtaining a degree in agricultural busi-



Brodie Epler

ness, has competed in numerous events at national convention, is student body president and says his involvement in agricultural education began at birth.

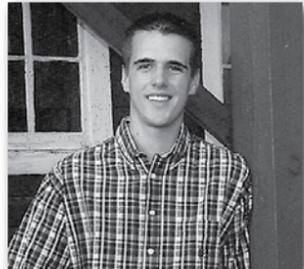
Justin Palm received a \$500 scholarship and is currently a college freshman at Sheridan Community College. Justin is majoring in ag business and has his FFA background from the Bow River FFA Chapter. While going to school in Hanna he was a chapter FFA president, has participated in FFA camp and competed in many career development events.

Katelynn Mentock received a \$500 scholarship and is currently attending the University of Wyoming where she studies pre-pharmacy. Katelynn is a college freshman and was a member of the Sheridan FFA. She says FFA got her highly involved in community service programs and projects that made her grow as an individual.

Megan Dirks is a freshman at the University of Wyoming majoring in animal and veterinary science. She is a past chapter president of the Hulett FFA and says her love of agriculture and FFA is what has fueled her success. Megan also received a \$500 scholarship.

Walter Wilson is a past FFA member from the Burns FFA. Walter is majoring in international agricultural economics at the University of Wyoming. He is interested in working with self-sustaining agricultural operations and says FFA was more than a club to him it was a lifestyle. Walter received a \$500 scholarship.

The Wyoming Associ-



Walter Wilson

ation of Fairs also partners with the Foundation to award a \$500 scholarship to a student already enrolled in college. This recipient has been chosen by the committee but will be announced at state fair during the pig wrestling.

The foundation received \$1,750 in donations this year for our general scholarship fund. The following four scholarships are provided from this fund which was made available in part by

the Jim Jeffres Memorial and other individual donations.

Ashley Berg hales from the Southeast FFA and received a \$500 scholarship. Ashley plans to attend LCCC and major in radiology. She enjoys showing cattle, and has competed in the livestock and agronomy career development events.

Keylee Saylor is from the Casper FFA and also received a \$500.00 scholarship. Keylee started her own program called Everything Equine, which promotes the horse



Ashley Berg

community to get more active with their horses. She has competed at several national and world horse shows and plans to major in equine reproduction.

Tressa Lawrence was awarded a \$500.00 scholarship and is a member of the Buffalo FFA. Tressa has a career goal of being trained to artificially inseminate as well as embryo transfer. She plans to attend Casper College and start a degree in ag business with an animal science emphasis.

Shelby Atkins is from the High Plains FFA and received a \$250.00 scholar-

ship. Shelby enjoys working with her horse, has shown at fair, plans to join the Army



Keylee Saylor

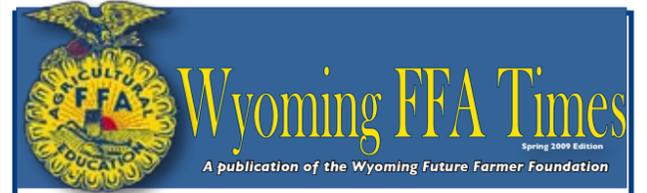
National Guard and works at a car dealership.

The Wyoming FFA Foundation would like to extend



Tressa Lawrence

an invitation to all upcoming members who will be seniors as well as those past members enrolled in college to fill out an application. The application is always available after Christmas on our website at www.wyoffafoundation.com.



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FFA *continued from page 1*

Kelsey Willey has been the chapter's secretary.

"Our chapter has come together and worked hard and shown up to community service events," says Willey.

"To obtain Top Chapter we have to fill out an application, which is reviewed by the state FFA officers and we interview with them and they visit our area so we can show them the things we've worked on," says Lawrence.

One project they were able to highlight is a barn they recently constructed, along with fencing and land, that enables students who live in town to participate in livestock projects.

"The barn gives the opportunity for town kids to take an animal and learn responsibility and all about the hard work that goes into an animal," says Lawrence of the facility that was finished last year. "We're finishing the fencing now. It's our pride and joy."

Another big project for the Buffalo chapter is the Ag Team Day, which is a statewide contest hosted by Buffalo that helps develop teamwork and leadership skills, while having a "really fun, competitive time," says Lawrence. The day's events include a fencing contest, feedbag relays, a hay-stacking contest and a Polish tractor pull. "We put a lot of work and effort into it, but it always turns out really well," she adds.

Lawrence credits this year's freshman class with a part of the chapter's success. "We pulled in a lot of really strong freshman this year, and that will be a big help to our chapter in the future. I'm really proud of our freshmen this year."

"This year we had a lot of new freshmen that really stepped up, and that helped our chapter a lot," says Willey. "If we bring in a lot of Green Hands that want to be involved in FFA, that reflects on our chap-

ter."

"It's amazing how much we've come together this year," notes Lawrence. "We made an honest effort to include everyone, and a lot of the younger members felt more accepted so we were able to succeed as a whole."

"We worked so hard for this title for four years. This didn't just happen overnight," says Lawrence. "We've become so successful with a lot of our outreach and involvement in the community that we were able to make it to number one."

Evans says that for the past four years it's been the leadership team's goal to reach Top Chapter.

"We've always shot for number one, and we've been a Gold Emblem Chapter the last four years, and that's top 10 in the state," notes Lawrence. "We've always been motivated and right there at the top, and not quite getting it has made us push a little hard because Buffalo's never been number one chapter before. As more momentum built up we pushed harder, and that motivated our younger members to as well."

As the three seniors, who will all attend Casper College next fall, count down their last days in high school the chapter isn't resting quite yet. They have yet to hold their ag day for third-graders, help with branding crews and raising money through working with a local catering service.

"Every senior dreams of seeing their chapter as number one in the state, and we can leave satisfied, knowing ours will be ok after we leave," says Willey.

"It was an amazing year for us," says Lawrence. "We try to keep busy. When people ask, we say, 'What free time? We're in the ag shop.'"

Christy Hemken is assistant editor of the Wyoming Livestock Roundup and can be reached at christy@wylr.net.

Attorney Jackson Stewart a Wyoming FFA success story

Casper — Casper attorney with True Companies, Jackson Stewart is a Wyoming FFA success story.

Serving as National Western Region Vice President in 1981 and 1982, Stewart says prior to that he spent two terms as a Wyoming State FFA Officer. "I was state president and second vice president," he recalls. "Back then you could serve two terms."

Prior to serving as a state and national officer, Stewart had a great deal of experience with the FFA. His father, Jack, was the long-time advisor in Douglas.

After graduating from Douglas High School in 1979, Stewart attended Casper College where he was a member of the Livestock Judging Team. He graduated, with honors, from the University of Wyoming in 1984 and began pursuing a career as an FFA advisor at Wind River High School from 1984 to 1986. Returning to school he graduated, again with honors, with a law degree in 1984. In 1989 he received a diploma in International and Comparative Law from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

Stewart operated a private practice in Gillette from 1989 to 1995 and was the Wright attorney from 1995 to 1996. In 2001 he joined True Oil Companies as a corporate, in-house attorney and continues to work in that capacity.

Stewart and his wife of 22 years,

Renee, have three children — 12-year-old Wilson, nine-year-old Sheridan and four-year-old Afton. They're beginning to participate in 4-H and Stewart hopes to see them involved in FFA in the years to come.

"I use skills learned in Ag/FFA every day in the legal profession and in my private life," says Stewart. "Public speaking, oral reasons, analyzing minute details, decision making (judging), carpentry skills, designing projects, financial record keeping, application analysis and completion are all things I use nearly every day. Standing on one's feet, analyzing a situation, drawing distinctions, critically evaluating facts, answering clients' or judges' questions and speaking to all of that with little time were learned in FFA public speaking, being an FFA officer, proficiency award interviews and oral reasons."

Stewart says, "I think ag class and FFA are applied academics. I get a bit frustrated when they hold up college prep classes as the end all and the be all. The ag program and FFA are what pull everything together into a practical life experience where you can apply the math, the English, the recordkeeping and more. I think the program is probably the top program a kid could take in high school whether they want to go to college or they don't."

HONOR *continued from page 1*

graduating seniors also fill the top two elected positions in their High Plains FFA Chapter at Central High School in Cheyenne. Tate is Chapter president while Chance is the Chapter's Vice-President. Another role they share — they're both fans of Wyoming FFA and the opportunities it has provided them.

"I like going to the shows and talking to prospective buyers," says Chance. "I want to go to auctioneer school and become a livestock auctioneer. I someday want to be on the marketing side of things." FFA, he says, has given him the confidence to step out and market the cattle his family produces using a great deal of embryo transfer. It's an approach Chance says allows the family to preserve its best genetics.

Chance says his involvement in FFA and the support of his parents has given him a "head start" on his lifelong dreams. "I have to take it to the next level and attend livestock auctioneer school and learn more about the business and livestock side

of things."

FFA, he says, has equipped him with some of the tools necessary to achieve his goals. "FFA taught me premier leadership, personal growth and career success," says Chance. "I've been affected as a person by the quality of leadership I've learned through the organization." He says FFA is an organization that's given him the confidence to tackle the skills needed for day-to-day operations like "making new friends and sticking my hand out and introducing myself to new people."

Tate Bauman, whose parents are Brett and Tammy Bauman, is the 2009 State FFA Star in Ag Business. Tate launched his business selling show pigs when he was 14 years old and worked toward continual growth since that time. His customers are eligible to participate in a futurity that includes both a free meal and whatever information and advice they may need on receiving maximum benefit from their swine project.

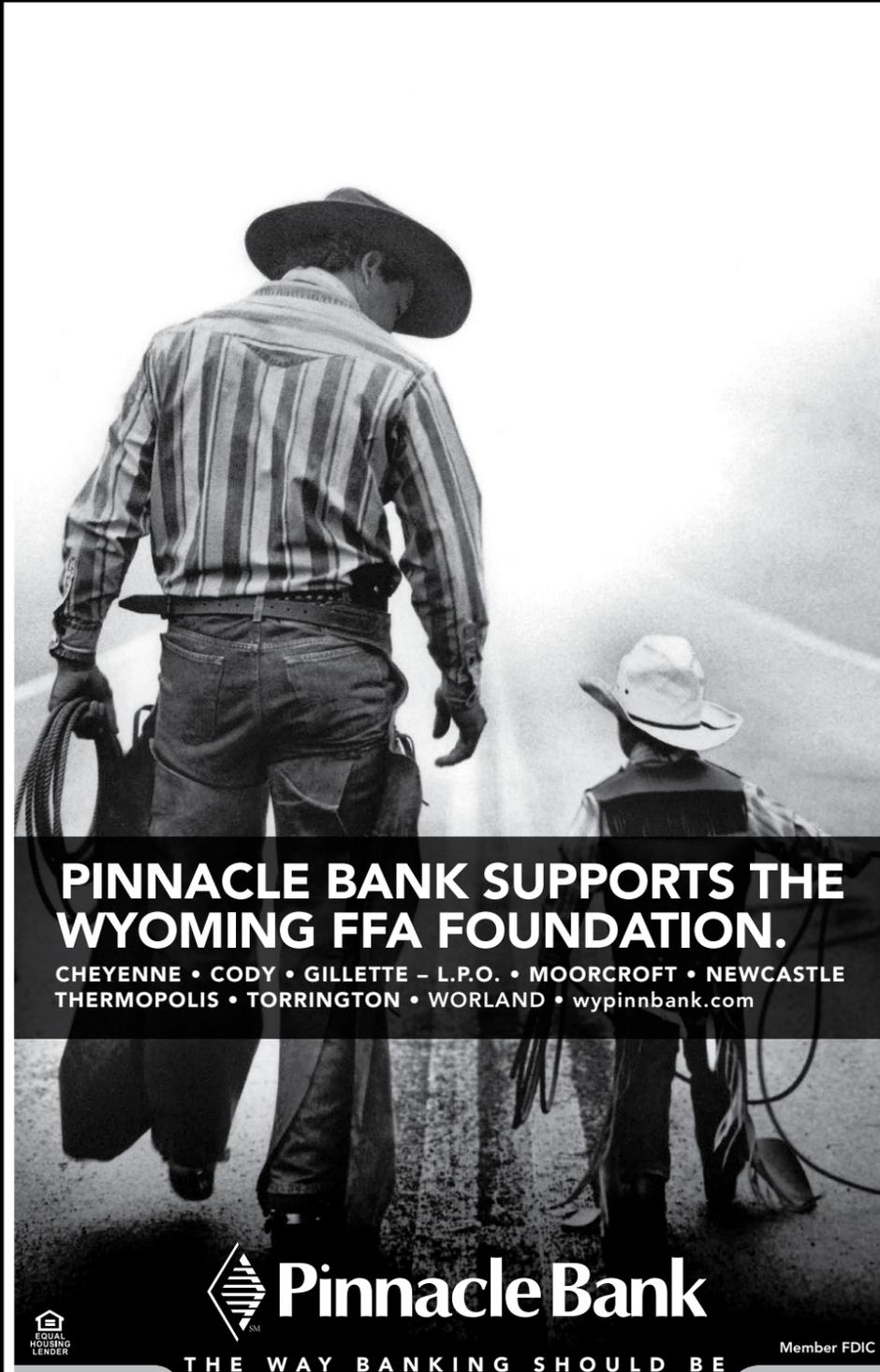
"I'm running a business, but I'm also helping kids," says Tate. "I'm work-

ing to make sure they have the best quality livestock and that they do well with that livestock wherever they go." Tate says he likes to see the look on the kids' faces when their experience in the showring goes well.

Tate says all eligible individuals should join FFA. "It's not just about cows, sows and plows anymore. It's about teaching kids about the future of American agriculture and how the industry is going to keep feeding the nation. The program is creating leaders of tomorrow." Tate will attend Laramie County Community College in the fall to study Agriculture Business.

"Mr. Berry doesn't remember cousins winning state star awards in the same year," says Chance. Having two winners from the same FFA Chapter is an equally noteworthy occurrence.

Chance's dad, John, is an alumni of the FFA as is Tate's dad Brett. Tate says their grandfather was also involved in the program. Tate's mom, Tammy, is a member of the Wyoming FFA Foundation.



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Extemporaneous speaking champ prepares for everything

Cheyenne – It was a battle of words and a test of the mind. After the speeches fired and the dust cleared, the best of the Wyoming FFA extemporaneous speaking contest emerged victorious.

The top four of the 2009 Wyoming FFA State Convention extemporaneous speaking contest were announced on Thursday, April 16 at the first session of the convention in the Cheyenne Civic Center.

Sarah Saulsbury, 16, of Casper FFA won the contest and will represent Wyoming at the National FFA Convention in October. She wowed

the judges with her speech on “federal labeling issues and organic farming and ranching.”

Saulsbury’s FFA career began when she decided she wanted to learn more about the agriculture industry. Although she didn’t grow up in agriculture, she signed up for agriculture education classes and soon delved into the Casper FFA Chapter’s public speaking contests. After trying her hand at the FFA Creed and public speaking contests, this high school junior wanted something new.

“I wanted something

more challenging than memorizing a speech,” she said. “I wanted more of an adrenaline rush.”

She found what she was looking for and found out she was good at it. Saulsbury cleared the hurdles and qualified for the state contest. To prepare, she practiced standard introductions and conclusions based on the topic areas provided before the contest. Her goal was to make sure she captured her audience. She said this is one of the most challenging parts of the contest because she never knows what expertise one of the judges might

have.

Saulsbury said she was nervous and excited for her speech at state.

“Speaking is such a rush,” she said. “I’m scared and excited all at the same time. It’s an amazing feeling.”

For Saulsbury, her big win at state meant a lot of hard work had paid off. She said it was also encouraging to know she was considered a good speaker.

“Public speaking is my passion and it’s reassuring that I am on the right track,” she said.

And the next stop on the track is National FFA Convention in October. Saulsbury said she will focus on doing as much research as possible, because the National level doesn’t provide a list of predetermined topics.

“I’ll have to be ready for anything related to ag,” she said.

Following close behind in the State FFA Extemporaneous Speaking Contest in 2nd place was Emily Voigt of Cheyenne Frontier FFA with “the future of fossil fuels and how it will affect Wyoming’s future and our economy.” Third place went to Kaitlynn Glover of Casper FFA who spoke about “the changing perspectives of producing and marketing home

grown or home made products in the U.S. (local farmers markets).” Libby Lankford of Snowy Range FFA rounded out the top four with her speech, “solar and wind energy as an alternative to purchased power sources for use at the farm/ranch.”

The top four winners were narrowed from a pool of 10 finalists from the five regions in the state. All state contestants have made it through the local, district and regional levels of the speaking contest. Two state finalists from each region are selected at the regional speaking contests.

Extemporaneous speaking is designed to develop agricultural leadership and knowledge through public speaking. The contestants draw from a list of predetermined agriculture topics in areas of agriscience and technology, agri-marketing and international agriculture relations, food and fiber systems or urban agriculture. They research all the topics prior to the contest and give speeches based on their researched knowledge.

Saulsbury said the contestants have 30 minutes to prepare their speech after drawing a topic. They are allowed to bring a limited amount of research, but are not allowed to bring anything

prewritten. Each speaker presents a four to six minute speech and is questioned for five minutes.

Extemporaneous Contest Supervisor Bill Pannell has been overseeing the contest for four years. He says public speaking and other FFA Career Development Events (CDEs) provide tremendous value to the students who participate. He explained that the State of Wyoming has a career readiness certification program that focuses on three “WorkKeys” recognized nationally. Pannell says CDEs give members these skills and make them more desirable to employers.

Saulsbury also sees a lot of value in speaking contests. She said extemporaneous has helped her grow and she is now able to handle audiences, can process information better and has the confidence to provide a standpoint on an issue. The state champion says she hopes other FFA members give speaking a try.

“Go for it,” she said. “It is challenging and takes a lot of work and courage, but it does something prepared speaking doesn’t do. You have to be ready for anything.”

Liz LeSatz is a correspondent for the Wyoming Livestock Roundup and can be reached at elesatz@hotmail.com.

COURT *continued from page 1*

to help us raffle this bigger vehicle. It’s a win-win program for chapters as they get to keep part of the proceeds of every ticket they sell with the balance coming back to the Foundation to help support other programs. If you are interested in purchasing the winning ticket, or one close to it, please contact your local chapter or the Foundation at the number inside the front cover of the newsletter.

Partnerships and new ventures go hand-in-hand when working with Bearpaw. Owner Sheryl Carpenter is a great supporter of Wyoming FFA and agreed to work with us on creating our own online store to sell Wyoming branded FFA clothing. It’s been a great exercise in communication and coordination to get the merchandise put together and the site up and running. Please check it out sometime at www.wyomingffa.org/WyoFFAStore/. It’s a great place to get yourself or your FFA member some Wyoming FFA gear. Items can also be customized for your local chapter.

Along with these partnerships it has been a great year for the Foundation with many of our longer term supporters coming back to help again. Weaver Ranches supports the livestock judging team, and Northern broadcasting the public speaking just to name a couple. With the shape of the economy what it is, it has been a leaner year than we had hoped for growth of programs, but you have managed to make almost every request for help from an FFA chapter or member get a positive response. Thank you for that help. Five, 10 or 20 dollars, or a thousand, it all helps to build Wyoming FFA and keep it a strong Association. Wyoming FFA IS TOP NOTCH.

As stated earlier there were mixed blessings this year. As a board we had to say goodbye to some great friends and fantastic board members. Early this year Jennifer Womack, managing editor of the *Wyoming Livestock Roundup* and creator of this fantastic newsletter, resigned from the board to devote more time to her family. I’ve met them and I can’t blame her. I do appreciate her husband and boys letting us have her for as long as we did. From the board, and on a personal level, I wish

Jen the best of everything she encounters. I’ve known her since she was an FFA member and can easily state that I would be thrilled if one of my children grew up like her. Thank you, Mrs. Womack. You are a treasure.

Later in the spring we got news of the parting of another great board member, Eddie Carpenter. Eddie was the operations lead for EnCana in the Wind River operations area. He did such a good job his bosses have lured him back to his native Texas to run their East Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana operations. Eddie brought to the board a sincere desire to help FFA members, a belief in youth and a “keep working till you get it done” attitude. He moves and shakes and may be one of few people I know that could pull his hand from a pail of water and leave a hole. He’s been that good to work with. Thank you Eddie, and Sheryl, for all you gave to Wyoming in your short eight years here. Look out Texas!

Consequently, we do have some room on our board now. If you are a believer in the value of the FFA program with a desire to build the Foundation to support tomorrow’s FFA members, please give us a shout. Or, if you know of a business in your area that might be interested in partnering with the Foundation please let us know. We work for FFA members. It’s a great job.

As summer comes on I hope you’ll keep in mind those folks and businesses that support the organizations you care about. Do your business locally with White Horse Country Store in Thermopolis, or Pinnacle Bank in Worland. Huckfeldt Trucking, or Neiman Sawmill, or Versatile Ag. Systems Well Service, or The Bull Steakhouse, or any one of the many Foundation sponsors. Supporting them enables them to return the favor.

Well, that’s about it for going through the fence this time. Thank you Foundation supporters for the chance to work with you and thank you FFA members for the chance to work for you. It truly is rewarding.

Until we meet again
Court Schilt, Chairman
Wyoming FFA Foundation

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Wyoming FFAers presented state's top degree for excellence

The Wyoming FFA Degree is the top honor bestowed upon members of the Wyoming Association. Below is a list of this year's

139 recipients, organized by their hometown chapters.

Little Snake River
Joseph Herold
Alaina Mikesell

Jenna Samp
Jaymie Sheehan
Zach Herold
Buffalo
Chance Kirkeeng
Tressa Lawrence
Kelsey Willey
Burns

Kelsey Eklund
Kodi Page
Casper
Caleb Bunce
Kaitlynn Glover
Jim Owens
Mike Owens
Ethan Purvis

Keylee Saylor
Kaycee Vollmar
Chief Washakie
Jacob Schneider
Chugwater
Jess Dee Gillaspie
Taylor Van Why
Clearmont
Laurel Prusak
Cody
Taylor Bednarz
Sawyer Coggins
Colton Hodson
Kaitlyn Keltner
Katie Payseno
Douglas
Whitney Darr
Jill DeGaugh
Catey Hobza
Encampment
Danial Barkhurst
Chad McKinney
Trevor Vorn
Frontier
Kayla Foster
Haley Fox
Josie Harding
Paula Rector
Emily Voigt
Gillette
Kassandra Ford
Kylie Gregory
Megan Kluz
Weston Mueller
Cassie Watson
High Plains
Shelby Atkins
Chance Bauman
John Tate Bauman
Grant Michael
Pulse
Ashley Sopr

Chris Stayer
Cody Wood
Hulett
Megan Bowles
Cortney Goodvin
Kaycee
Alecia Cushman
Jayson Foley
Diamond Forbes
Taylor Koch
Lander
Levi Lozier
David Miller
Jared Dwayne Oldham
Laramie
Ian Austin
Sean Davis
Taylor Haley
Libby Lankford
Lovell
Casey Ellis
Cody Gifford
Kris Hutchinson
Jake Leonhardt
Wes Mangus
Jonathan Wakelin
Lyman
Eric Gillies
Tracy Schear
Meeteetse
Blaise Allen
Clayton Dettner
Alix Hagen
Evan Haywood
Kris Ward
Moorcroft
Kaydee Millay
Good
Aubry Gray
Trinity Faith Hol-
land

Garrett Austin Traylor
Meghan Kathryn Trigg
Mercedes M. Wagner
Mountain View
Ashley Anglen
Michelle Johnson
Shay Murray
Morgan Vercimak
Amber Henry
Newcastle
Caley Buckert
Jason Whitney
Paintrock
Kelsie Anson
James Caines
Keonna Herman
Pine Bluffs
Chance Madsen
Stetson Montgome-
ry
Jordan Neal
Pinedale
Luke Egle
Zach Egle
Jake James
Powell
Sara Banning
Daniel Dalke
Christina Dietz
Shelby Moore
Sarah Pascoe
Riverton
Kayson Cooper
Kaitlyn Griffing
Jordan Nichols
Carla Moss
Rock Creek
Kristy Bowers
James Strauch

Rocky Mountain
Kj Blackburn
Sara Bowman
Lane Friedly
Emily Harris
Pat Hoffman
JR Vezain
Saratoga
Wyatt Hill
Sheridan
Matthew Burtis
Shoshoni
Chance Gonka
Steele Pingetzer
Southeast
Ashley Berg
Jake Buckhaults
Brodie Epler
Robby Gurney
Callie Schafer
Shelby Weyrich
Sundance
Katie Whalen
Thermopolis
Celina Stewart
Torrington
Agustus Cross
Jace C. Daly
Jamie Hageman
Whit Peterson
Celsie Steinmetz
Shane Viktorin
Wheatland
Marel Bunker
Kara Hatten
Joe Kennedy
Ryan Lay
Wind River
Michelle Steinhoff
Wright
Sabre Moore
Makayla Porter

Bearpaw of Riverton a top FFA partner

Riverton — Now in its sixth year serving the Riverton community, Bearpaw Custom Embroidery is a noteworthy sponsor to and partner with the Wyoming FFA Foundation.

"Our main service is embroidery," says business owner Sheryl Carpenter. "We have a line of different items and we also do embroidery on items our customers bring to us. We have several promotional type items."

If you have artwork the company can work with it, but Sheryl adds, "We do design work if you need a design for your company. If you have an idea we can build it for you and get it ready for advertising purposes on different garments and promotional products."

Despite Sheryl and husband Eddie's (a former Wyoming FFA Foundation member) recent move to Texas, Sheryl plans to keep the store in Riverton. "I have some really great people working in my Riverton store and I'll travel back and forth some." She operates a store in New Mexico under a similar arrangement.

"We try to maintain a standard of quality service," says Sheryl. "Our motto is a quality product in a timely manner. We like to work with people and take on

challenging and interesting projects."

Most recently Sheryl and Bearpaw Custom Embroidery partnered with the Wyoming FFA Foundation on a line of FFA clothing available through the Foundation's website.

"This new venture with Bearpaw is another example of good people coming together for FFA members," says FFA Foundation Chairman Court Schilt. "Since the day Eddie Carpenter joined the Foundation Board, he, Sheryl and Bearpaw have been incredible, unwavering supporters. They are all true champions of youth and FFA."

The Wyoming FFA Foundation and Bear Paw Embroidery have partnered in an exciting new online store of Wyoming FFA themed clothing.

Wyoming FFA Supply is a project that gives FFA chapters and the community a place to shop for gifts and supplies. Bear Paw Embroidery of Riverton produces and ships the products once purchased online. They also have an integral part in choosing products that appeal to FFA members and the public. This program is a great way for Wyoming FFA to get their name to the public statewide and generates business for Bear Paw Embroidery.

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ACROSS THE STATE.

THANK YOU