



A publication of the Wyoming FFA Foundation

WYOMING FFA TIMES

Fall 2014 Edition

Frank: Perfect practice makes perfect

By Trinity Lewis, Wyoming FFA Foundation



Shade Frank had a very busy, and successful, summer. Frank's smoke steer was the grand champion FFA market steer at the Laramie County Fair. That same steer went on to achieve reserve champion steer in the heavy weight II division at the Wyoming State Fair. Shade is currently in his sixth year as a member of the Big Country FFA Chapter; his commitment is evident in the awards he garnered this year alone. At the county level he won the Teddy Weekly memorial buckle for champion beef showman and at State Fair he placed fifth in FFA showmanship.

Shade says that there is no secret to success, "Everyone who succeeds in the real world knows that a strong work ethic and dedication are some of the most valuable tools to utilize in order to succeed. I woke up at 5:30 a.m. in the summer to get calves in the cooler room. I rinsed and dried each one of them at about midday and then in the evening I didn't stop practicing until I accomplished some goals I set for that night." He concluded by sharing one last bit of personal philosophy, "Whenever I practice anything I make sure I am focused specifically on that goal. I was always told that 'practice makes perfect,' but the reality is, 'perfect practice makes perfect.'"

Andreen 2014 National Officer Candidate from Wyo.

By Trinity Lewis, Wyoming FFA Foundation

Each year the Wyoming FFA Association selects one Wyoming FFA member to run for a National Officer position. Individuals desiring this position must submit an application and endure a rigorous interview process held by a committee of FFA Advisors. This year, Lisa Andreen will represent Wyoming as our National Officer Candidate.

The daughter of Dale and Valorie Andreen, Lisa was born and raised in Casper. Her two siblings,

Burt and Amy were both very involved in FFA and both achieved State Officer positions. Although raised in an FFA enthusiastic family, Andreen wasn't sure that the organization was a fit for her, "When it came time for me to enroll in my very first ag class, freshman year, I wasn't sure if that was really something I wanted to get into, but I figured I would give it a try. My first day of class

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2014 Blue Jeans Ball nets \$30k for FFA

Cheyenne, Wyo. — On Oct. 11, 2014 in Cheyenne, Wyo. approximately 280 FFA supporters attended the annual Blue Jeans Ball. Just over \$30,000 was raised for Wyoming FFA programs during the event.

"It was a great evening," says 2014 Blue Jeans Ball Committee Chair Scott Vetter. "Beginning long before the event, numerous volunteers were working to ensure its success. At the Blue Jeans Ball itself it was wonderful to see so many people from across Southeast Wyoming turn out to support Wyoming FFA. The Foundation is extremely grateful for this support for our pro-

grams." 2014 marks the fifth year in recent history that the Blue Jeans Ball has been held. This year's event marked the biggest turnout in the Ball's history and the most money raised for Wyoming FFA.

Volunteers spent Friday and Saturday decorating the building at the Laramie County Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds generously donated use of the facilities. "Volunteers spent two days hanging burlap on the walls and making the building look absolutely beautiful," says Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. "I want to specifically

thank the Anderson family and their business 'It's My Party' for their help decorating. Cheyenne based Fabric, Frosting and Frills, owned by the Child and Broda families, donated the dessert table and made a beautiful presentation with a nice selection of tasty treats."

Alterations were made to the 2014 auction with some very generous donors coming forward to enhance the offering. Pinnacle Bank sponsored a complete elk camp including canvas wall tent made by Sheridan Tent and Awning, cast iron and other camping gear. The Andreen family of Casper purchased

the package. Steve Barbour of northeast Wyoming donated a fly-over of Devils Tower, which sold to Tom Wilson. Laramie County Com-

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Evanston youth succeeds with sheep, one special dog

By Trinity Lewis
Wyoming FFA Foundation

Evanston, Wyoming is home to a sheep enthusiast through and through. Following in her mother's footsteps, Melanie Whitmore chose to show sheep. She began her sheep project in fourth grade and her operation continues to grow.

Melanie showed two market lambs and nine breeding sheep at her 2014 county fair. She's also marketing the sheep she raises, some going to other states. In fact, Whitmore sold six lambs in Utah, two in Idaho and ten to other families in Wyoming. She advanced to the Wyoming State Fair with nine sheep, only two of which weren't animals she raised. Two of Melanie's crossbred ewe lambs placed in the top ten at the Wyoming State Fair and her Hampshire ram was awarded the state champion ribbon.

That is not where her success ended. Melanie smiled as she detailed her placing, "Both of my market lambs earned sixth in their class and in the jackpot showmanship. I was division champion for market showmanship and I won the breeding sheep showmanship." She summed it all up by saying, "Overall this year, the live-



stock I raised continually do better than the year before."

Although extremely successful with her sheep, Melanie's prized blue heeler cross, Caulfal, has also earned applause. He won this year's title of supreme dog at the Uinta County Fair.

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280 guests were in attendance at the 2014 Blue Jeans Ball on Oct. 11 at the Laramie County Fairgrounds in Cheyenne, Wyo. Court Schilt photograph



PREZ SAYS

More than a Ball

The recent Blue Jeans ball was way more than a ball. It was an evening of Celebration for Wyoming FFA.

Held in Cheyenne on October 11 at the Archer field station this year's Blue Jeans Ball was a bit of a departure from where we've been in recent years and while it was held at a more "ordinary" facility, the night was anything but ordinary. I'm sure you'll read more about it in pages to follow, but I'm gonna give you some of the highlights I saw.

From my limited perspective the highlights started several months ago, shortly after the last Ball was complete. The Foundation board of directors spent some time reviewing the event and with the help of the state advisor came up with some twists to bring a new feel to the evening. That cooperation led to a new venue that would require quite a bit more attention to get it looking like a place to have a celebration. Foundation member Scott Vetter from Carpenter stepped up to chair the effort and the ball was rolling, as it were. Scott did a great job of marshaling local resources to make this all come together. Fast forward.

The day before the event there was beehive like activity at the Archer location. The Anderson family from Shoshoni, owners of It's My Party Wedding Planning, came in with great materials and ideas to transform the building. The Freeman family from Cheyenne spent most of the day there, along with State FFA Advisor Stacy Broda others from Cheyenne, and by evening, even someone from as far away as Gillette. They returned Saturday morning along with local FFA members to put the finishing touches on the décor. This small army of volunteers did amazing work.

Meanwhile in the background, Jennifer Womack and Trinity Lewis were getting auction items, programs, and other material ready for the crowd. Jennifer is a family oriented lady so wherever she goes, her husband, children, parents, sister and sister's husband are not far behind. By Saturday morning both families were working to setup displays, prep items and generally make sure the event would be first rate.

Later in the day the state officers showed up. They were there to greet guests, help with raffles and auctions, and put on a live display of what youth leadership in Wyoming is all about. These young men and women represent all 2300 members for the year and they do it well.

Once the evening got rolling there were over 280 friends of FFA in the room. It was a full house with some great food and even better conversation. Not only were there people from Laramie County there, but across the state too. Hanna, Casper, Gillette and more. Several years ago Rex Hamner and Grace Godfrey, advisors from Pinedale and Worland respectively, determined that they would support the ball each year no matter the location. This year was no exception as each of them made the long drive to Cheyenne along with family. The ball has become an annual reunion for many, and hopefully next year there will be a few more regulars at the reunion.

Where am I going with all this? Glad you asked. I believe Wyoming FFA is the premier youth organization in the state. It's that way because of a great many people, pulling together at different times and different places to make a difference for FFA members who in turn make a difference in Wyoming. The Ball is just one place where people work in cooperation in various roles to support Wyoming's FFA members. From the sponsors who bought tables to the buyers at the auction to the folks mentioned above who put the event together, it's a massive mission in teamwork.

That mission goes on all year. From the Golf tournament at state fair to the branding last spring in Gillette, there are thousands of good people in Wyoming and beyond helping make a difference in the lives of

See **PREZ** Page 11



Court Schilt
FFA Foundation President

Let's Talk FROM OUR MEMBERS

Barn project equals learning project for Devils Tower FFA members



Tessa Garman welds on a section of coral panels.

Devils Tower FFA students have been hard at work expanding the learning opportunities available within their "classrooms." The project was funded through local support and a grant funded by Powder River Energy via the Wyoming FFA Foundation.



Member Bryce Conzelman does the finish work on a section of concrete.



Two FFA members work to hang a new gate. Much of the work on the barn was completed by chapter members.



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Quick Info—

FFA BRIEFS

Ag teachers win tournament

Douglas — The Wyoming FFA Foundation once again teamed up with the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation to host a golf tournament during the Wyoming State Fair and Rodeo. Entries and support for the event remained strong. Results are as follows:

- 1st: Ed Merrill, Dave Hatten, Kevin Teten, Joey Johnson
- 2nd: Laura Drake, Tina Hunter, Joe Hunter, John Carey
- 3rd: Nick Siddle, Ty Berry, Craig Spatz, Damien Christensen
- 4th: Keith Geis, Brett Malm, Aaron Bentley, Joe Holtzclaw
- Closest to the pin #2: Evan Helenbolt
- Closest to the pin #5: Aaron Bentley
- Ladies closest to the pin #3: Jeanie Wolford
- Longest Drive #10: Justin Binfit
- Ladies Longest Drive #10: Catie Lohse
- Men's Longest Putt #16: Randy Mrsey
- Ladies Longest Putt #16: Laura Drake



The champion team at the 2014 tournament was Kevin Teten, Joey Johnson, Dave Hatten and Ed Merrill (not pictured).

Congratulations American FFA Degree recipients

During the 2014 National FFA Convention just over 30 Wyoming FFA members will receive their American FFA Degree. Several qualifications must be met, including having earned the State FFA Degree. Recipients must have also completed high school ag classes and a year of college ag classes. They must maintain detailed records on their SAE and have productively invested at least \$7,500 or earned \$1,500 and worked 2,250 hours beyond scheduled school hours. Congratulations to this year's recipients from Wyoming...

CASPER FFA

Lisa M. Andreen • Ali Symone Ballard
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Tori Carol Pike • Maegan Bryanne Robertson
Zoey Taucher • Kimberley Lynn Wolcott

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Lindsay Dannelle Utter

SNOWY RANGE FFA

William J. P. Wood

Clearmont beautifies school

Clearmont — On the weekend of Sept. 20-21, FFA chapters across Wyoming were challenged to complete a "Day of Service," somehow benefitting the community in which they live. Clearmont FFA responded by helping landscape their community's schoolgrounds. Their project was funded, in part, through a Cameco Cowboy State Challenge grant through the Wyoming FFA Foundation.

"We replaced around 1,800 square feet of landscape rock," says Clearmont FFA Advisor Lynne Latham. "We raked 25 year old scoria, old dirt included, out of the areas and replaced it with new stone. State Officers Lacy Nelson and Kyle Weber helped all day with the project."

Latham added, "Thanks to the Foundation for providing the funds to get this project started."



Clearmont FFA members spent Wyoming FFA's 2014 Day of Service improving the landscaping at their school.

Become an FFA CHAMPION!

Cheyenne — Join the Wyoming FFA Champions by subscribing to the Wyoming FFA Foundation's new monthly giving campaign. Enroll at <http://www.WyoFFAFoundation.com/donate.asp>. Make at least a \$5 per month contribution and we'll send you an FFA cap or visor and you'll receive a subscription to the *Wyoming FFA Times*.



"We're extremely excited about this new program and the opportunity it presents for all of us to champion the FFA program with a small monthly contribution," says Wyoming FFA Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Womack. "While \$5 doesn't make a huge difference in most bank accounts, combined it can make a very big difference for Wyoming FFA. We hope FFA supporters are as excited about growing this campaign as we are!"



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Pinedale FFA Advisor Rex Hamner and his family faithfully make the trip to attend the Blue Jeans Ball each year.



FFA Foundation Board Member Donn Randall and his wife Juli- anne led the way to the dance floor.



Cheyenne-based Fabric, Frosting and Frills, owned by the Child and Broda families, created the tasty and beautiful dessert bar for the evening.



Rod and Dena Anderson, center, and family were instrumental in decorating the venue for the 2014 Blue Jeans Ball. Their family operates a wedding planning business called It's My Party.



Joshua Womack, shown here with his dad, Chris, was designated puppy sitter leading up to the live auction.



Riley Vetter, daughter of Scott and Suzi Vetter, has learned the art of silent auction bidding at a very young age.



Foundation Board Member Diane Cox and her husband Curt made the trip from Casper to attend the event.



Wyoming FFA is lucky to have some very dedicated supporters like Wyoming Business Council Agribusiness Division Director Cindy Garretson-Weibel, left, and shown here with her daughter Brooke.



Katie and Tyler Schilt, children of Court and Susan Schilt, stand in line for prime rib catered by T-Joe's of Cheyenne.

JEANS continued from Page 1

munity College contributed the top-selling item, a two-year scholarship to the college purchased by Chad and Shawna Schaefer. The evening's first auction item was a Blue Heeler puppy donated by T.J. Wesley of Oshoto and purchased by the Keiter Family. Auctioneer Lander Nicodemus volunteered his time and talent to the event, doing an outstanding job at the mic. Foundation Chair Court Schilt and Wyoming FFA President Quade Palm served as the evening's emcees.

"A few people over the course of the evening asked how the FFA Foundation puts the dollars raised to work," says Womack. "We're devoted to enhancing the FFA experience for members

across the state. Some key examples of that include purchasing official FFA dress for students in need, helping students travel to and compete at the National FFA Convention and purchasing learning tools for Wyoming's agriculture education classrooms. The Foundation believes FFA has a profound impact on Wyoming's young people and work to put dollars behind that belief and enhance the program's potential impact."

The Blue Jeans Ball is an annual evening. Plans are underway for the 2015 event. If you'd like details on attending, to donate an auction item or to become involved in some other way, please contact the Foundation at 307-351-0730.

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LISA continued from Page 1

was exciting and refreshing and gave me a taste of something new and different from the typical syllabus and rules. I was intrigued. I got involved thanks to the encouragement from my brother and sister.” Lisa didn’t just stop at ag class, “I attended FFA Camp and other conferences such as WLC, FIRE/CPC, I ran for chapter offices and grew so much as a leader. I was blessed with the opportunity

to develop close relationships with the state officers while in high school and I got to see who they really were, their goals, their work ethics, their energy, their ambition, and positivity and I admired those characteristics and more. I grew a passion for the organization and wanted to be involved in its future and where it was headed.”

Andreen did become involved. She was



Lisa Andreen

immersed in FFA throughout high school during which time she competed in meats judging, creed speaking, livestock judging, parliamentary procedure, pub-

lic speaking, farm management and ag mechanics. Her meats judging team that won third at the National Western in Denver as well as at the National FFA Convention that fall. Andreen was part of a national gold emblem parliamentary procedure team and created a science fair project that won second in its category.

Her senior year in high school, Lisa was selected as the Wyoming FFA Parliamentarian. Upon completion of her year of service Andreen didn’t run for a National Office stating, “I decided I had committed to Livestock Judging at Casper College and I wanted to give that my all. I was once told, by my ag teacher, mediocrity is disgusting, so I try to avoid that.” Lisa is the first to admit that her decision not to run brought

feelings of remorse, “After I gave up that opportunity to run, I regretted it deeply and made sure that I wouldn’t make that mistake again, and started my application immediately after receiving it.”

Wyoming State Advisor, Stacy Broda is very excited about Lisa’s nomination, “Since being chosen as the Wyoming National Officer Candidate Lisa has been working hard preparing herself and fine tuning her strengths. She is a great young lady with a lot of potential. She is going to do good things for us at Nationals whether she comes home as a Nation Officer or not.”

If selected, Andreen already has plans for her focus, “One task I wish to accomplish as a national officer would be to help

members reach their maximum leadership potential. This may seem to be a generic answer, but I truly want to help the members realize exactly what I did my state officer year. No goal, want, dream, or desire is to good for anyone. And members shouldn’t try to for a lack of better words, ‘Doll themselves up’ to be who they think people want them to be. I want to help members realize that they need to be proud of the people they are and know that they are good enough. Once these young leaders can have pride in who they are they can have the courage and confidence to lead others, put themselves and their ideas out there, and make differences in the lives of others and the industry of agriculture.”

A MOMENT IN WYOMING FFA HISTORY
with State FFA Advisor Stacy Broda



Pictured are the Wyoming FFA Association representatives at the 30th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, MO in 1957. The first National Convention was in 1928 in Kansas City, MO at the Hotel Baltimore with 33 delegates from 18 states in attendance. Now the National FFA Convention is rotated between Louisville, KY and Indianap-

olis, IN with over 60,000 members and guests in attendance.

Interested in our Wyoming FFA History? Come see Wyoming FFA’s Blue and Gold Museum during the Wyoming State Fair. Do you have some old FFA photos or memorabilia and willing to share? Contact Stacy Broda at sbroda@yahoo.com.

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Cows, plows and winning – Cotton left a legacy of champions

By Teresa Milner

Cheyenne, Wyo. — Before there was the High Plains FFA, Frontier FFA or Big Country FFA, there was just the Cheyenne FFA. One program, one chapter that dominated the state in almost every competition for nearly a decade.

Jim Cotton is the former ag teacher and FFA Advisor for the Cheyenne FFA Chapter, teaching from 1969 to 1997. He was instrumental in building one of the most competitive and prolific FFA chapters in Wyoming FFA history, the

original Cheyenne FFA.

Like most farm and ranch kids growing up in Newcastle, Wyo., in the 1950s and 1960s, Cotton enrolled in FFA. Cotton started his supervised agriculture experience with a heifer and a flock of Columbia ewes, thanks to the Sears Roebuck Foundation flock program. Cotton was awarded several ewes from the foundation, then the first female offspring from his flock was donated to another FFA member, expanding the program and improving the genetics of the breeding herd.

“I pretty much dominated the state fair all the way through school,” Cotton said. “I also earned my state farmer (now the State FFA Degree). I was one of only 26 kids in the whole state selected.”

Cotton went on to attend the University of Wyoming, where he received what he called a “practical and relevant education from great teachers.” After working three summers for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cotton decided to become an ag teacher.

“I wanted a place of my own, some land where I could ranch and stay put,” he explained. “The BLM wanted a guy to move all over the country and I wanted stability.”

He found that stability teaching agriculture education at East High School in Cheyenne, embarking on a successful and storied 28 year career. He had help along the way with a number of co-teachers and co-FFA advisors, but much of what Cotton accomplished



Jim Cotton as a youngster at the Weston County Fair in Newcastle, Wyo.

he did as a solo teacher. And what he created was a judging powerhouse FFA chapter in Wyoming’s capitol city.

“I trained all the judging teams myself,” he said. “I think my biggest highlight would be winning eight consecutive sweepstakes awards from 1975 to 1982.”

That record of winning judging contests (now known as career development events, or CDEs), stood for more than 15 years before Cotton’s record was beaten by his former student, Randy Epler.

“I coached 23 state champion teams— seven agronomy, six livestock, four poultry, three meats, two dairy and one farm mechanics team in those eight years. Not many guys, can or will ever match that,” he said, the pride still obvious in his voice.

Cotton’s career also included 21 gold emblem individuals at the national level, two reserve champion poultry teams and numerous other top ten team finishes at national convention.

He was successful in operating Cheyenne’s “school farm,” a school-owned facility where town kids could house their livestock. For years, Cotton lived at the school farm, overseeing about 25 lambs and hogs and 50 head of yearling cattle each summer, teaching students how to care for their livestock. While best known for his skills as a judging coach, Cotton also prided himself on his ability to help coach students on animal fitting, husbandry and show ring success.

“At the time, Cheyenne was one of the only chapter to have the overall grand champion steer, lamb and hog at the Wyoming State Fair in the same year,” Cotton said.

During his time as an FFA advisor, Cotton saw the organization change from one centered around strictly production agriculture to one focused more on

leadership and career skills. “There aren’t as many farm and ranch kids in the program these days. I grew up and taught with a cows and plows mentality, and that’s really changed,” he said. “FFA has moved to what appeals to town kids. Being in Cheyenne, I had to teach to that. The leadership is great, but I hope FFA keeps that cows and plows component. It’s too important to agriculture not to.”

But whether town kids or ranch kids, Cotton said he is most proud of the students he was able to teach over the years.

“Many went on to teach ag themselves. I received many Proven Sire Awards, an award given to a teacher every time a student became an Ag Teacher. I had the most former students who went on to teach ag. They liked the program so much they wanted to be an ag teacher themselves.”

Those former students include current FFA advisors Ty Berry (Cheyenne High Plains), Troy Wiant (Buffalo Bill FFA), and Damein Christensen (Shoshoni FFA), as well as State FFA Advisor Stacy Broda.

“But it’s not just ag teachers,” Cotton said. “When you get to looking at my former students, it’s like a Who’s Who in America, or at least Wyoming.”

Cotton’s former students also include Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis, Wyoming Department of Agriculture Director Jason Fearneyhough, Wyoming Association of Conservation District Executive Director Bobbie Frank, and Wyoming Insurance Department Director Tommy Hirsig, as well as numerous other government leaders, bankers, veterinarians, doctors and agriculture producers.

“Without a doubt, my biggest accomplishment is the success of my students in their careers and their lives. I can’t take all the credit, but I’d like to think I had a hand in it somewhere along the way.”



Jim Cotton, far left, was part of the group from Newcastle that received their State FFA Degrees (then called State Farmer Degree) in 1959. Also pictured (left to right) are Stuart Childs, Bob Tavegie, Anthony Marchant, and Joe Podio.

COWBOY CHUCK & CHIP 4-MAN GOLF SCRAMBLE

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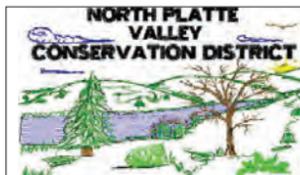
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Nels Smith credits FFA with a life of leadership skills

By Trinity Lewis
Wyoming FFA Foundation



"It still fits," laughs Nels Smith of his FFA jacket. He's shown here with his wife, Jeanette.

Sundance, Wyo. — FFA plays a variety of roles in the lives of America's youth. Some happen upon it their freshman year when they discover a class that looks fun and somewhat easy. These individuals are pleasantly surprised when that "fun class" turns into something much greater, something that changes their perspective and enhances their high school experience. Others, like Nels Smith, assume ag class and FFA will be part of their high school careers and are even more excited when it helps to give them direction and truly shape their future.

Nels Smith is the fourth generation in his family to farm or ranch in Wyoming. To Smith, FFA and vo-ag were simply a part of

school. In fact while in high school, Nels didn't realize there were any schools without ag programs. Nels moved from Sundance to Cheyenne for high school where there was only a 3-year vo-ag program. That was during a period of time when middle school was grades 7-9 and high school only consisted of a student's sophomore, junior and senior years.

"At that time there was only one public high school, Cheyenne High, East and Central came after I graduated in 1957," says Nels. Although he has been out of FFA for over 50 years, Smith is still influenced by the impact of the first ag class of which he was part and his first ag teacher, "J.O. Reed was my first ag instructor and the most influential. He used his Marine Officer approach to instill in us that FFA was an outstanding organization and that our conduct and performance were to reflect that, which they did."

Nels was the President of his chapter and later was the State Vice President. He received the American Farmer degree during his sophomore year at the Univer-

sity of Wyoming where he majored in animal science with a minor in business. Even while in college, Smith turned to the knowledge garnered from his high school ag class stating, "Most of my instructors were full professors and many were nationally recognized in their fields. Even with an agricultural college education of that quality, the information source that I turned to most often, at least mentally, over the next half century of ranching, was my Vo-ag notebook."

After college, Nels Smith went back to the family ranch in Sundance and eventually started Sundance Realty as a side business. In all of the years that passed after his FFA career, Smith never set aside the leadership skills he learned. He was one of the youngest individuals to serve as the Speaker of the Wyoming House of Representatives and the only chairman of the Legislative Management Council to serve as chairman during both Republican and Democrat majorities. He served as President of the Wyoming Taxpayers Association and the Wyoming Stock Grower's Association. Nels was also a member of Wyoming Public Service Commission, which led to service on

the executive committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and was requested to take the presidency of that organization which he declined because he knew it would take time away from his duties in Wyoming.

"I have been in a number of leadership positions over the years and the ability to meet the responsibilities of those positions and move on to other endeavors and leadership positions there is due almost entirely to the excellent foundation



Nels Smith served as a Wyoming FFA State Officer in the late 1950s.

I received in FFA," says Nels.

Nels is still a valued supporter of Wyoming FFA and leaves the future of agriculture

with this, "If I encourage young people, I hope it is by example and by support of FFA and its scholarship program."

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CHAMPION AG MECHANICS

SNOWY RANGE FFA

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CHAMPION ENV. NATURAL RESOURCES

BUFFALO FFA

Cahill Ellenwood, Wyatt Blakeman, Connor Oaks, Seth Thiele & Mr. Jake Evans



CHAMPION FARM BUS. MANAGEMENT

CASPER FFA

Ms. Ali Ballard, Sierra Hiser, Alix Smith, Kaylen Lewis & Hunter Romsa



Wyoming FFA members competed in seventeen Career Development Events at the 2014 Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne, Wyo. April 7-10. Based on their scores, they were selected to represent Wyoming at the National FFA Convention, Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 2014 in Louisville, Kentucky. We congratulate them and wish them the best of luck as they move on to the national level!



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CHAMPION AG ISSUES

SNOWY RANGE FFA

Jamie Hansen, Rylie Gardner, Keely Marshall, Colter Unwin, Samantha Garmon, Hunaid Nagaria
Not Pictured - Callie Clingman



CHAMPION POULTRY EVALUATION

BURNS FFA

Jessica Sowards, Cassady Malm & Rylee Anderson
Not Pictured - Matt Murphy



WEAVER RANCH

CHAMPION LIVESTOCK EVALUATION

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CHAMPION EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING



CHAMPION PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING



Rachel Derner, Burns FFA



CHAMPION FFA CREED SPEAKING



Madison Anderson, Ten Sleep FFA

RIDE FOR THE BRAND



Hulett FFA member turns shop skills into a thriving business

By Trinity Lewis
Wyoming FFA Foundation

Run down high school cars, FFA and an extremely creative mind have at least one thing in common - a thriving new business in Hulett, Wyoming, Tessa's Messes. Devils Tower FFA President and Hulett High School Senior, Tessa Rae is the owner of the business. Tessa Rae established Tessa's Messes as a solution, "I had some vehicle issues with both my car and my sister's... both

business has a lot of character and fun uniqueness. Beginning with tailgate benches, Tessa Rae handles both wood and metal products and likes to use both on the same projects. As she has developed her customer base and brand recognition, Tessa Rae has been able to shift her focus to handling more custom work like outdoor furniture and lawn decorations. She describes her

out." Tessa's Messes has a bright future. Garman's goals for the business are practical and strategic, "I see my business moving out of my Dad's shop..."

ness Tessa has had to constantly view things from a business perspective. She acknowledges that integrity is an integral part of her business, "It is so important

Rae offers this advice to other entrepreneurial youth efforts are more valuable than anything else and that



Tessa made this table, including a fire pit at the center, that earned overall grand champion shop project at the 2014 Wyoming State Fair in Douglas.



Benches made from upcycled tailgates are one of Tessa's specialties. She made this bench for Lusk-based WEBO Angus. The ranch is a wonderful FFA supporter, giving annually to the Foundation's Bulls for Blue and Gold.

of which were my fault. I learned the importance of the 'check engine' light and also that cars cannot drive across small bass ponds no matter how fast you are going. The damage was very expensive and if I wanted a vehicle I needed a way to pay for the new engine and so began Tessa's Messes." With a creation story like that, it is easy to assume that Tessa Rae's year-and-a-half old

customer service abilities, "Whatever someone asks me to build, chances are I am going to give it a shot!" This mentality is another contributor to this business that has now begun to soar. Tessa Rae has a knack for marketing although she may not be the first to say so. She does give her advisor, Jim Pannell, credit for being "probably my biggest advertiser. He's really helped to get the word

someday! I have talked to Mr. Pannell about expanding my business and moving it to town where more people will be able to stop in. I would like to eventually own some more of my own tools and machines." Tessa Rae currently uses a combination of her dad's tools, some from the ag shop and a few machines she has been able to buy herself. "I also see my business moving into a shop with a concrete floor...a girl can dream!" Tessa Rae said. Through her busi-

ness Tessa has had to constantly view things from a business perspective. She acknowledges that integrity is an integral part of her business, "It is so important to me that people are honest with me, that's when I learn the most and am able to make changes." Tessa explained. FFA members are known for reaching out to younger students; Tessa Rae is no different. She hasn't forgotten first-hand experiences that allow her to relate to younger students, "When I was a 7th grader I built a wooden saw horse in my welding class, I was terrified of sparks and what could go wrong. I love nothing more than to get younger kids involved in the shop and show them that it can be a lot of fun if you are willing to work and as an older kid it's important to show them that!" Tessa



Devils Tower FFA member Tessa Rae Garman has turned her shop skills into a thriving business called Tessa's Messes.

"It is truly okay to fail, don't be scared... it will happen and it will happen again if it has already. What is most important is that you get back up and learn from your failures. Your time and is something you should never forget." To learn more about Tessa Rae Garman and her business, Tessa's Messes, call 307-290-2882 or 307-283-2265.

Editor's Notes
Our apologies for being a bit tardy with this edition of the Wyoming FFA Times. We realize you'll be receiving it as Wyoming FFA Members are returning from the National FFA Convention. We'll do our best to get the post-Convention edition to your mailboxes in a timely manner!

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Commitment Runs Deep



South Dakota ranchers send thanks following winter storm Atlas

Editor's Note: *South Dakota ranchers sent this message near the one-year anniversary of the devastating winter storm Atlas. Wyoming FFA, given the funds raised by FFA chapters across the state, was among the recipients.*

As we near the one-year anniversary of winter storm Atlas, the ranching people and communities devastated by the storm would like to say "thank you" to everyone who rallied behind us and extended such kindness and generosity toward us over the course of the past year.

It is an indescribably humbling, blessed experience to be on the receiv-

ing end of such grace and giving as that which poured into western South Dakota and the surrounding area in the weeks and months following the storm. You have impacted our lives in the most powerful, positive way, restoring our faith in humanity and increasing our love and appreciation for our lifestyle and those we share it with.

To those who donated livestock or money to the cause, we did receive them but at times without the original donor's name attached. As you likely know, there is no greater gift to a rancher than a good bred heifer or cow, and while we found it difficult to accept such a

costly and incredible gift, they have made all the difference. The same can be said of the monetary donations that found their way to our mailboxes. We are the independent type, as you likely are, and we hold ourselves accountable for making it on our own. But, those dollars came at critical times for us and covered bills that would have been difficult to find funds for otherwise.

There are those who donated their craft to auctions to generate funds, the communities and individuals who organized and delivered amazing Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, and those who took the time to write, call or email personal words of encouragement. There were the peo-

ple who traveled to areas impacted to help rebuild following the storm, the businesses who donated their goods and services, and those who developed online resources to help both those impacted and those wishing to help.

This is only a smattering of the countless acts of kindness executed on our behalf. A glimpse into the hours individuals, families and companies put into helping us make it through the effects of the storm. Because of these efforts we are going to make it, and if you didn't hear it from someone personally, please take it from all of us – thank you! You have made a magnificent difference in our present and future success, and we thank God for each

and every one of you who took the time to help us in your own way. While we hope to never have to repay the favor, we stand ready with the example you set in our minds eye should the time ever

come. May God bless you and American agriculture.

Sincerely,

The ranching families and communities hit by winter storm Atlas in Oct. 2013

Scholarship app coming

Cheyenne — The Wyoming FFA Foundation will release its annual scholarship application shortly after the first of the year. Completed applications will be due back to the Foundation no later than Feb. 15, 2015. Scholarship recipients will be announced leading up to the 2015 Wyoming FFA Convention and invited to a special awards ceremony during that event.

Efforts are underway, pending funding, to release the Washington Leadership Conference scholarship at an earlier date. Registrations for the conference have been filling quickly, making it difficult for recent scholarship recipients to secure a spot at the event. This scholarship provides a travel stipend typically between \$750 and \$1,000 depending on funds availability.

For more information on the Foundation's scholarship program, email Jen Womack at Jen@WyFFA-Foundation.com

PREZ continued from Page 2

FFA youth. That's what the Wyoming FFA Foundation is all about: Working to partner folks who want to help with those who can use help. It's not always about being there to put up decorations or swing a golf club. There are a great many quiet sponsors who give financial assistance instead of time. They support public speakers, judging teams, proficiency awards, scholarships and more. If you are one of these folks I thank you. If you are not and would like to learn more about it I invite you to read this issue to see what FFA is about, then get in touch with us and see what we can do to work together for our fantastic FFA members.

I hope you're enjoying a pleasant and productive fall. God's blessings to you.

Thanks for stopping by. Until next time. Court

DOG continued from Page 1



Melanie Whitmore has found increasing success with her sheep project since first beginning as a fourth grader.

"We got Caulfal's mom from my brother and decided to have one litter of puppies before having her spayed." Melanie explained "Out of the litter of nine, Caulfal was the one I liked the best. His half blue, half brown eye didn't have anything to do with it either."

Whitmore is currently attending the University of Wyoming and shares her three keys to success, "Persistence, practice, and patience are the three keys that I have to remind myself of when I am getting animals ready for shows. It's also important to make connections with individuals who are willing to help you gain knowledge about your project and to have an eye for quality livestock." Although just getting her start in the college world, Melanie is ahead of many others on the path to career success.

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What's Happening
Calendar of Events
WYOMING FFA

- Nov. 11 Cowboy Classic, University of Wyoming
- Nov. 15 Chapter Plan of Activities, budgets and constitutions due
- Nov. 15 SAE grant applications due, NATIONAL FFA
- Nov. 18-22 NAAE Convention, Nashville, TN
- Nov. 21 Wyoming FFA Foundation tour, Cody area
- Nov. 21-22 FIRE/CPC Conference, Cody
- Feb. TBD State degree applications due to regional chairs
- Feb. 9 Chapter applications due in State Office
- Feb. 9 Regional star applications due in State Office
- Feb. 21-28 National FFA Week
- Feb. 23 Honorary State Degree Nominee Resumes due to state office
- March 2 State Agriscience Fair, Laramie
- March 9 Talent applications due in State Office for State Convention
- March 23 State Officer Candidate Applications Due
- March 23 Nominating Committee Applications Due
- March 23 State Vet Science Contest, EWC and Torrington/Lingle contests
- March 23 Marketing Plan due to Mr. Randall
- TBD Powell/Northwest College contests
- TBD Sheridan College contests
- March 28 State Proficiency Judging
- March 30 Ag Issues Portfolios due to Garrett Horton
- April 8-11 State FFA CDE's and Leadership Conference, Cheyenne
- June 9-13 Session 1, Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp
- June 16-20 Session 2, Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp

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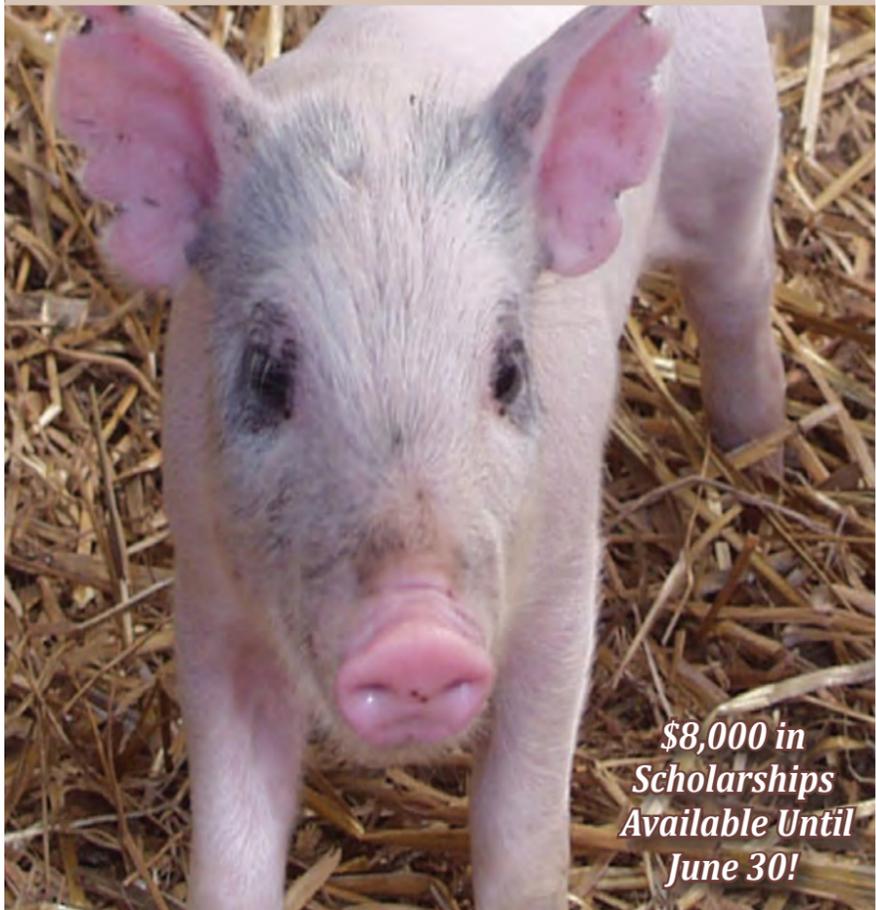
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