



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 2007 Edition

A publication of the Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation

Wyoming FFA Stars shine brightly at state convention

By Teresa Cole, Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation

It's the FFA's version of the 'Sweet Sixteen' – the State Star Competition. The Star Awards are the highest

award a member can earn at the state level for achievement in their respective supervised agriculture experience, or SAE. From the more than 125 state degree candidates who applied, one finalist from each of the five regions is selected as the regional star farmer, star in production or star in agribusiness.

The 2007 Stars in Placement were Jess Evans, Wind River FFA; Robynn Nehl, Gillette FFA; Heidi Rosenbaum, Casper FFA and Kimberly Kuhn, Cheyenne High Plains FFA. The 2007 Stars in Agribusiness were Chris Davis, Chief Washakie FFA; Jessica Jaycox, Snowy Range FFA; and Lyle Carroll, Kaycee FFA. The 2007 Star Farmers were Elizabeth Elisa, Lander FFA; Star Whitt, Thermopolis FFA; Tyrell Perry, Clear Creek FFA; Kaylee Krebs, Saratoga FFA and Sage Askin, Douglas FFA.

From this pool of candidates, the State Stars in each area are selected. The Wyoming FFA Association crowned its State Stars as part of the 2007 Wyoming State FFA Convention, held April 18-21, 2007 in Cheyenne.

State Star in Agribusiness
Lyle Carroll, Kaycee

Carroll founded his own fence building company as his supervised agriculture experience. This successful business has led him to employ members of his family, mainly his younger brother, and to purchase a pick-up truck, flatbed trailer, and a plasma cutter for use in his extensive projects. Carroll has also continually been employed as a ranch hand, and uses that opportunity to practice his skills and learn new ones. He plans to become a certified welder and to expand his fencing

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Heidi Rosenbaum of Casper is presented her award for State Star in Placement at the recent Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne.



Lyle Carroll of Kaycee is presented his award for State Star in Agribusiness at the recent Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne.

Al Snyder: A great supporter

By Jennifer Womack, Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation

"I'm from Wyoming, I just happen to live in Wisconsin," says Dr. Al Snyder.

A past state officer of the Wyoming FFA Association, Wyoming FFA Camp's founding father and one of Wyoming FFA's most dedicated supporters, he's a prime example of the type of leaders Wyoming FFA is known to produce. He's a veterinarian, a hypnotist, a UPS Store owner, a software company founder and, most of all, a friend to all who know him.

"I worked with Al Snyder for over 17 years on varied levels as counselor and co-director doing non profit work at FFA camp, as well as doing sales, education and consulting in a company headed by



Al," says Wyoming FFA Foundation Court Schilt of Cheyenne. "During that time I learned a great deal about treating others with respect and putting my own interests second to that of the group. Dr. Snyder has been a great inspiration in my life and though we haven't always agreed, he taught me to always keep pointed at the objective, to attack issues, not people. Al is a person of singular character and truly one of the most selfless people I know. The ripple effect of his contributions to Wyoming FFA will be felt for generations."

Al began his days in FFA as a member

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New State FFA Officers named

New Wyoming State FFA Officers were named during the recent Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne. Shown here, they are: (Back Row) Secretary, Beth Wood, Snowy Range; President, Nancy Thoman, Wind River; Reporter, Kayla Lynch, River-



ton; Parliamentarian, Kaycee Eisele, Cheyenne High Plains; 3rd Vice President, Lisa Burns, Thermopolis; 2nd Vice President, Saige Albert, Powell. (Front Row) Sentinel, Burt Andreen, Casper; Treasurer, Con Trumbull, Casper; Vice President, Matt Bowen, Thermopolis. Congratulations to the new officer team and best of luck in your work over the course of the coming year!

Volunteers sought for database

By Seth Heinert, Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation

Calling all able bodies, minds, homes, vehicles, etc... We share a common family throughout this state that is connected through the FFA. It's part of our culture here in Wyoming to lend a helping hand, or pickup, when a neighbor asks. It's just an unwritten code we follow. That is part of what makes this a great place to live; knowing that there is always someone nearby who is willing to lend a helping hand.

Well, the Wyoming

FFA Foundation is looking for the resources of the people across the state. We want to put you on reserve. We're looking for people who are willing to help with specific events, such as the State FFA Convention or Wyoming State Fair. We can also use help with transportation issues. So, if you have a vehicle and would be willing to drive for the foundation to haul things from time to time, we can use you. We also need folks who are will-

ing to lend their home for a night should a foundation member or Wyoming State FFA Officer be traveling in an area and not want to stay in a hotel.

These are just a few examples of ways you can help the Foundation. Please take a moment to contact Seth Heinert, volunteer coordinator, with "how you would like to help the FFA Foundation." He can be reached at 402-499-9072 or sethheinert@hotmail.com.

From the President...

You can't take it with you.

Recently my wife and I were working on one of life's less pleasant tasks, our will. What to do with our money, (should there be any), our earthly possessions and our children in the event of our untimely demise. I don't think there are too many people who really like planning for that sort of event. You just do it because you have to.

While we were considering what to do if this or that happened we came to a couple of conclusions. First, we don't believe we are ready to go yet, and

See COURT on PAGE 5



Court Schilt

periodical

Label

periodical

Foundation Members

Send an email to wyoffafoundation@juno.com, or give us a call at 866-333-3838

Stacy Broda

This is Stacy Broda's fourth year serving on the Foundation board, and she currently serves as Vice President. She is no stranger to Wyoming FFA as she started as a member in the Cheyenne FFA, went on to serve as a state FFA officer and taught agriculture for three years at HEM High School in Hanna. She now works on her family's ranch outside Cheyenne where she and her husband live. She enjoys gardening, cooking, spending time with family and serving on the foundation board as it enables her to still be a part of a great program that provides so much for today's youth.



Cari Sue Covolo

Cari Sue Covolo has been teaching agriculture education at Mountain View High School for the past seven years. She's a graduate of Utah State University and received her master's degree from Lesley University. She and husband Joseph Covolo have one daughter, McKinlee Sue Covolo. Covolo



enjoys working on family ranches in Utah and Wyoming, Shorthorn cattle and horses. "I love teaching because it involves two passions in my life – kids and agriculture," says Covolo.

Seth Heinert

Seth Heinert, co-founder of Cross Anchor Presentations, has been presenting workshops and keynotes for six years. His experiences have taken him to 48 states and three continents, motivating and serving along the way. Seth speaks and facilitates conferences. His passions are singing, the outdoors, and spending time on his family's ranch in Northeast Wyoming, where he was raised. Currently Seth is a full time student at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln where he is pursuing a Masters degree in leadership education with the dream of teaching high school agriculture science education.



Seth holds a BS in Animal Science from the University of Wyoming. His work experience includes everything from summer help on a wagon train in Jackson Hole, Wyoming to a graduate assistantship in the College of Engineering at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Seth is passionate for life and loves to be involved.

Gil McEndree

Gil McEndree is Branch President for Pinnacle Bank in Worland, Wyoming. A Springfield, Colo. native, McEndree attended college in Sterling, Colo. and later graduated from CSU in Fort Collins with a degree in Ag Business.

Following graduation, McEndree spent two years working for a credit union before going to work for Pinnacle Bank in 1996. Over the past 16 years, Gil has worked in a number of different locations, gaining a great deal of experience. The one defining factor in all of these locations is agriculture. Each of the communities depended on agriculture as a huge part of their local economy.

Gill and his wife Sarah have three children.

Jennifer Womack

Jennifer Womack began her days in FFA as a member of the Bearlodge FFA Chapter in Sundance. She credits the FFA program with doing a great deal to prepare her for life after high school and providing a source of motivation and numerous opportunities. Jennifer is editor of the *Wyoming Livestock Roundup*, a weekly agriculture newspaper based in Casper. She and husband Chris, an alumnus of the Lander FFA Chapter, reside in Douglas with their two sons.

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Court Schilt

Court Schilt is a former Laramie FFA member who hasn't managed to let go of FFA yet. Over the years he has worked as a technical assistant to the state convention, served on the state alumni, and spent 23 years as a counselor, co-director, or director of the Wyoming FFA Leadership Camp. He joined the Foundation board in 2004. Currently he lives near Cheyenne where he and his wife raise three future FFA members. If you have any overstocked fish ponds or streams feel free to contact Court about assistance with removal of unwanted trout. Court works for the state of Wyoming Dept. of Workforce Services.



Lesley Pearson

Lesley Pearson, CPA, teaches accounting and economics at Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad, Colo. A native of Lander who began her days in FFA with the Lander FFA Chapter, she served as a Wyoming State FFA Officer from 1995-1996. She joined the Wyoming FFA Foundation Board in 1998 and currently serves as the group's executive treasurer. She's also a counselor at Wyoming FFA Camp.



Eddie Carpenter

Raised in the small ranching community of Iraan in West Texas, where his parents still reside, Eddie Carpenter is well qualified to serve on the Wyoming FFA Foundation board of directors.

He believes that FFA is one of the best organizations to prepare the youth for their adult lives because it teaches youth valuable skills in agriculture, finance, public speaking and technical proficiency.

Carpenter began working in the oil and gas industry in 1973 as a lease operator and became Operations Lead for the Wind River Basin Team when EnCana Oil and Gas, Inc., USA acquired Tom Brown in 2004.

Eddie and his wife Sheryl have two children, a son that lives in Riverton and a daughter in Fairfield, Texas.



Supporting FFA... a great feeling

—Court Schilt, Wyoming FFA Foundation

Recently, I was given the opportunity to address the state convention. I haven't had a chance to speak to that many FFA members for quite some time, so I was looking forward to the opportunity. The only problem I had was, what would I say to them?

What would I say to them to tell them who the foundation is? What we do? Why we do it? What could I say to them to let them know that we are in their corner? I was helping with the convention so I took a few minutes here and there to jot down some notes. I'd like to share with you some of what we talked about.

I say we talked about because I like to talk with FFA members instead of to them. I asked how many of them enjoyed the dinner sponsored by the foundation the first night of convention. There was a large round of approving applause. We fed nearly 650 members the first night, thanks to the generosity of foundation sponsors.

Following that we visited about what FFA members like. I found that most of them like to compete in the various contests and proficiency areas FFA offers. They enjoy getting help with travel to national convention and the assistance provided through the Foundation voucher fund and they seem excited about scholarships. In short, the 800 plus members in attendance all sounded appreciation for the help the foundation offers. Foundation members should be happy to know that their help is appreciated.

During our conversation

I asked them if they could finish a sentence for me using the words, "in me" when I pointed to them. They told me they could. Then I asked if anyone knew why the foundation supported the activities we talked about. There was no answer so I made the statement, "The foundation supports the activities of FFA members because we believe..." and I pointed to the members. They responded, "...in me." "The foundation exists because they believe..." "...in me." "We create relationships with donors because we believe..." "...in me," they replied. As a part of the foundation I want to thank you for believing in them. I wish you could have been in the room to feel the energy these youth put out. It was electrifying.

Next I asked them if they knew who the foundation was. I was surprised at the loudest answer I heard. When I asked that question one member hollered rather loudly, "you are." That gave me pause, if only briefly, and gave me a new direction for our visit. I responded by telling the group I am not the foundation, I'm just a person, just a member of the foundation board of directors. I can't be the foundation because the foundation supports the Wyoming FFA Association and I'm just not capable of doing that by myself.

However if they wanted to see a part of the foundation they could look in their convention program starting on page 20. On that page starts a list of more than 450 sponsors. Since the list was submitted in mid March, there have been several new sponsors added.

You see the foundation of the FFA is not the board, it is the people who donate time, talent, materials or money. Those are the Foundation of Wyoming FFA.

A feed dealer in Manderson, a rancher in Newcastle, a banker in Worland, and hundreds of others. These are the financial foundation of Wyoming FFA members. National companies, local merchants, small businesses, former FFA members and more are the support system that makes it possible for the board of directors to help champion teams travel, feed dinner to 650 members and teachers, help purchase jackets or pay dues, and help send members to college.

If you are a supporter of the foundation, you ARE the foundation. I can't tell you how thankful I am for your participation in what we do and what a privilege it is to serve as the chairman of the board. We have come a long way, and have a long way to go yet.

In the present day it seems the speed of life increases exponentially to

the point that we don't take time to properly recognize those around us for all they do. So please know as you read this that your efforts and/or funds are truly appreciated. Thank you so much for your belief in the youth of Wyoming FFA.

Finally, in wrapping up our visit, I talked with them about our current major project, Animals and Art for Education. While it has stumbled some it is moving forward and does show great promise. I let the members know we plan to have Auctions this summer and fall in Cody, Douglas, Sundance, Torrington, and Cheyenne and that more information will be coming out on that project as plans firm up.

It was really quite an opportunity to visit with the members. On behalf of the foundation board I want to thank you, the foundation, for keeping us in a position to support these fine youth, and allowing me to visit with them.

Room to grow. There are still many projects and programs the FFA members do that could use the kind of help the foundation offers. If you are not a foundation sponsor at this time and you would like to be, or know someone who we should contact, please let us know. Send an email to wyoffafoundation@juno.com, or give us a call at 866-333-3838.

Folks, may the goodness of spring rain down upon you. Thanks again for your efforts to support Wyoming's Future Farmers, leaders, bankers, teachers, cattle producers, and more.



Wyoming FFA Foundation awards college scholarships

By Stacy Broda, Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation

It's that time of year again when flowers are starting to bloom, the grass is getting greener, high school seniors are looking on to graduation and the Wyoming FFA Foundation is awarding scholarships.

This year the foundation took a different approach to



Kaycee Eisele

its scholarship application and included several different scholarships on one application. FFA members had the opportunity to apply for the Wyoming FFA State Officer Scholarship, the General Foundation Scholarship, Tri-State Generation Scholarship, the Nickie Linnabur Memorial Scholarship, and the F.A.I.R. Posse scholarship. Sponsors of these scholarships were given the options of choosing their own recipient or having the Foundation scholarship committee choose the recipient. The Foundation received 18 applications this year and the committee's comments

were none other than complementing on the quality and professionalism these young individuals put forth on their applications. Thanks go out to fellow scholarship committee members Lesley Pearson and Maxine Weaver for their time reviewing the applications and recipient selections.

The Wyoming FFA Foundation received donations of \$1000 for our general scholarship fund. Many donated to this cause and it is much appreciated. The following donors we would like to recognize for donating \$100 or more to the scholarship fund: Lyle & Dianna Neal Of Lodge Grass, Mont.; The Prairie Rose, Inc. of Cheyenne; and Steve James Ranch & Cutting Horses of Daniel.

Tri-State Generation



Mary Elizabeth Wood

offered a \$1000 scholarship for an FFA member to attend Washington Leadership Con-

ference. Unfortunately no one applied for that scholarship, so Tri-State gave the Foundation permission to use



Forrest Smith

those funds for college scholarships.

On behalf of the F.A.I.R. Posse, who provides a \$500 scholarship, the Foundation was able to select an FFA member to receive that honor. The Foundation also distributes funds for the Nickie Linnabur Memorial Scholarship, which awards one \$1500 scholarship to a Powell FFA member. The funds from this scholarship are generously provided by Jake Clark's Mule Days Charity Pool.

The following FFA members received a \$400 scholarship from the Wyoming FFA Foundation and Tri-State Generation. Kaycee Eisele is the daughter of Mark and Trudy Eisele of Cheyenne. She is a member of the High Plains FFA Chapter and plans to obtain a teaching degree in agriculture education. She has competed in the Livestock,

Sales and Service, Parliamentary Procedure, and Speaking Career Development Events. Kaycee's SAE consists of market and breeding beef.

Mary Elizabeth Wood is the daughter of Dale and Mary Wood of Laramie. Mary would like to obtain a degree in agriculture education and psychology with a minor in Spanish. She has served as a chapter officer, competed in several different proficiency award areas as well as the Livestock, Parliamentary Procedure and Speaking Career Development Events.

Kimberly Kuhn is the daughter of Michael and Vicki Kuhn of Cheyenne. She is a member of the High Plains FFA Chapter and plans on attending the University of



Ashley Phillips

Wyoming to obtain a degree in Agriculture Communications and Agricultural Law. She has competed in the FFA Creed Speaking Contest, as well as Parliamentary Proce-

dures and Sales and Service Career Development Events.



Kim Kuhn

Lindy Lowndes is the daughter of Edward and Karla Lowndes of Casper. Lindy plans to attend Casper College and then attend the University of Wyoming where she will obtain a degree in Radiology. She has competed in Dairy, Livestock, and Agronomy Career Development Events and has served as chapter officer.

Ashley Phillips is the daughter of Daryl and Amy Phillips of Cheyenne. She is a member of the High Plains FFA Chapter. She will attend Casper College after graduation where she plans to participate in livestock judging, and then will transfer to the University of Wyoming to receive a bachelor's in pre-veterinary medicine. Ashley has served as a chapter officer and been a member of the Livestock and Parlia-

mentary procedure judging teams.

Ashley Phillips also received the scholarship awarded by the F.A.I.R. Posse. Ashley has attended the Wyoming State Fair since she was eight years old, where she has shown goats and lambs. Ashley also holds the title of the champion 4-H and FFA dairy goat showman.

Forrest Smith is the recipient of the \$1500 Nickie Linnabur Memorial Scholarship. Forrest would like to receive a degree in business to help further and establish his business, Gluten Free Oats. He has competed in the Sales and Service, and Agricultural Mar-



Lindy Lowndes

keting contests.

If you or someone you know is interested in funding a scholarship or adding your current scholarship to our application, please contact the foundation. Special thanks to all those who made this year's scholarships a success!

When you invest
in Wyoming's future,
there's no telling
what will grow.



Wyoming is rich with natural resources, and agriculture is among the state's most valuable. To help ensure this will always be a place where it thrives, EnCana is proud to support organizations like FFA, 4-H and Ag in the Classroom and their mission to teach Wyoming youth the importance of agriculture in our state's future.

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National FFA scholarships awarded to Wyoming kids

Wyoming FFA members bring in \$12,000 in money for college

By Lesley Pearson, Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation

Twelve Wyoming FFA members were awarded a total

ship of numerous businesses nationwide.

Ford Motor Company sponsored ten of the awards to Wyoming FFA members through the Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough FFA Scholarship Program. Recipients included

a \$1,000 scholarship through the Ford Trucks/Built Ford Tough scholarship program.

The Nationwide Foundation sponsored a \$1,000 schol-

Lindley of the Snowy Range/Laramie FFA chapter. Congratulations to all of our Wyoming FFA scholarship recipients!

As reported on the National FFA website, each

year the National FFA Organization awards more than \$2 million in scholarships to members through this scholarship program. Scholarships are given for a wide variety of

experiences, career goals and higher education plans. Different awards may be used at colleges, universities and post secondary agricultural programs.



Justin Chamberlain
Casper



Amy Berry
Cheyenne



Kristen Lee
Baggs

scholarship award for Becky Lembitz of Burns FFA. Garst Seed Company sponsored a \$1,000



Burt Andreen
Casper

scholarship award for Michala

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company in the future.

State Star in Placement Heidi Rosenbaum, Casper

Rosenbaum worked nearly 2,000 hours for Rosenbaum Livestock over the last four years of her FFA career. Her involvement and responsibilities have grown tremendously - she now works in nearly every area of production on the ranch. Rosenbaum also owns five beef cows and two heifer calves. This aspiring kindergarten teacher says she will always find the time to continue raising Angus cattle. She plans to attend Black Hills State University majoring in elementary education.

State Star Farmer Kaylee Kerbs, Saratoga

Kerbs' interest in raising sheep started when she was very young. She now has 63 head of Suffolk sheep, 34 head of cattle and 10 head of hogs. With so many animals waiting to be fed on the ranch, it's amazing that Kerbs finds the time to participate in the countless extra-curricular activities she is a part of, including serving as the Saratoga FFA Chapter president. Kerbs plans to attend Casper College in the fall, majoring in agriculture business and participating in livestock judging.

By combining the SAE career entrepreneurship, job placement or hands-on production agriculture component with classroom instruction from instructors and leadership development from the FFA, students like Kerbs, Carroll and Rosenbaum are able to make a positive

impact on their own and other's lives.

The Wyoming FFA is a youth organization of more than 2,000 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit www.wyomingffa.org for more information.



Kaylee Kerbs of Saratoga is presented her award for State Star Farmer at the recent Wyoming FFA Convention in Cheyenne.

of \$12,000 in college scholarships this spring, through



Kaycee Eisele
Cheyenne

the National FFA scholarship program. The National FFA scholarships are provided through the generous sponsor-

Burt Andreen (Casper FFA), Amy Berry (Cheyenne Frontier FFA), Justin Chamberlain (Casper FFA), Kaycee Eisele (Cheyenne High Plains FFA), Kaylor Good (Moorcroft FFA), Kristin Lee (Baggs/Little Snake River FFA), Robynn Nehl (Gillette FFA), Matt Pearson (Wright FFA), Shawna Praeuner (Newcastle FFA), Ethan Young (Gillette FFA). Each of these scholarship recipients was awarded



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Visit us at the Wyoming State Fair, August 11-18. Shop at the Wyoming Products Pavilion, check out Wyoming's best hay at the Hay Show exhibit, visit our booth in the Ag Industry Resource Center and buy some fresh produce at the Farmers' Market on Saturday, August 18.



Seasonal Ag Photo Contests

The Wyoming Business Council is sponsoring seasonal ag photo contests. Submit your best ag photos before the first contest deadline on May 15.

Cash prizes will be awarded! For more information contact Terri Barr or visit www.wyomingbusiness.org, click on Business Assistance, then on Agribusiness.



Activities Newsletter and Ag Trade Directory

Contact Terri Barr to subscribe to the Activities quarterly newsletter or to receive your free copy of the Wyoming Farm, Ranch and Agribusiness Trade Directory.



"Working for Wyoming Agriculture"

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Auctions for late summer, fall 2007



Chances are you've seen them...horses, cows, pigs, boots and hats. All were painted with unique designs and are on display across the Cowboy State. The pieces

feature artwork by some of Wyoming's finest artists thanks to the support of many Wyoming businesses and individuals.

Plans are underway to

auction the pieces off beginning in August and stretching throughout the fall. Auctions are planned for Afton, Cheyenne, Cody, Douglas, Sundance and Torrington. The Douglas auction will take place during the 2007 Wyoming State Fair. The Sundance auction is July 28. The Cheyenne auction is Sept. 29.

This is the biggest fundraising project in the history of the Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation. Foundation members are optimistic funds raised during the auctions will allow growth in the services and opportunities the Foundation offers Wyoming FFA members.

The horse pictured within this article is on display at the Covered Wagon

Motel in Lusk. The pig, appropriately called "Ham and Eggs" is also on display in Lusk. If you'd like to bid on these items or others around the state, please contact the Foundation. Watch for additional information on upcoming events and auctions as plans are finalized.



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second, there are a lot of things to consider when you're doing this.

Part of what we considered, and the reason for putting this note in the newsletter, is what we would want to happen if we went on and the kids stayed here. Certainly we'd like to make sure there was someone named to take care of them, and we'd like to make sure both the kids and the caretaker had some financial assistance. As we looked at the situation, however, some other lights began to come on. What about other things/organizations we believe in that we'd like to make sure are around for our children? Should we do anything for them? How about organizations we championed, should they get some final benefit from our toil?

We decided they should and after much contemplation and calculation came up with what we thought was a reasonable way to take care of the kids, caretakers and organizations we hold dear. While I won't tell you everything, I will tell you that Wyoming FFA will be remembered.

I know that our decision would not fit everyone, but I urge you, if you are planning for this part of your life, to consider the organizations you wish to serve

future generations. Hopefully FFA will be in there, your church, 4-H, March of Dimes, who knows. I just know we can't take it with us, and I want to be sure my children have love, shelter, food, clothing, and access to some of the life shaping experiences I had.

After I wrote the bulk of this I ran it past a friend who is more knowledgeable about the English language. She pointed out too that there are companies that will allow folks to buy a life insurance policy and name a charitable institution as the benefactor. This might be a more cost effective method of getting greater support to the organization(s) you champion.

Whether you're considering a will, a trust, or some other instrument to guide those left behind; or already have one in place, if you would like to provide some remembrance to the Wyoming FFA Foundation we would be happy to work with you to get the papers in order. Visit with a financial planner, or other financial professional about your options. Think it over. If you have questions please call 866-333-3838.

Here's wishing you will have a long and healthy journey.

Fund appeal to be mailed soon



Spring has arrived and the Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation will soon begin its annual fund appeal. Please consider helping the Foundation invest in tomorrow's leaders by making a financial contribution this year.

The National FFA Organization's mission is to develop students' potential for career success, premier leadership, and personal growth. FFA is the best organization around to help prepare Wyoming youth in agriculture for future success. Help us help Wyoming youth by participating in the annual fund appeal!

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*We believe in the future of agriculture. . . .
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- ◇ College scholarships—\$4,750 awarded statewide; scholarships also awarded at county levels
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- ◇ Proud financial supporter of the FFA
- ◇ "Ag Books for Kids" program for Wyoming elementary schools
- ◇ Leadership training opportunities for members
- ◇ Educational seminars for members and the public

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Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation



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of the Natrona County High School Chapter in Casper. "I was chapter treasurer, then president, then state treasurer and then state president," he recalls. "Back in those days you could serve two years as a state officer." State convention the year Al was elected president of the association was held in Casper.

It was after that convention that a group of FFA members, including National FFA Officer Peg Armstrong, were gathered and Al recalls they were "shooting the breeze." Al says, "One of us said we should have a camp." It was April and by June the first ever Wyoming FFA Camp was born and held near Ten Sleep.

With short notice for planning, Al says attendance was light at the first gathering. "We only had 16 kids show up," he recalls of the event he remembers as one of life's biggest disappointments. "Leo Anderson was the speaker and the gathering included several past state officers."

Not one to be stopped short in his tracks, Al gave the event a second shot the following year. "When you have a dream, you want to make sure it has a full chance to become a real-

ity," says Al. At the second annual event, there were 60 people in attendance. Wyoming FFA Camp has since grown to two week-long sessions to meet demand and is held in the mountains above Lander.

"I'd like to think that Camp has had an impact both in terms of the quality and substance of state officers," says Al. "I'd also like to think it's had an impact on the number of National FFA Officers Wyoming has had." Wyoming has had more National FFA Officers than any other state its size and more than larger states.

"Bookkeeping, leadership, public speaking... pretty much the whole thing," says Al when asked how he personally benefited from FFA.

Upon graduating from high school Al studied Ag Education. "When I got into vet school, my goal was to go back and teach agriculture education." Upon graduating vet school, he became a practicing veterinarian. "I became involved in FFA at the state and national level in lieu of teaching," says Al.

"I haven't practiced in 15-16 years," he says. In the interim he started a company that sells computer software to vet clinics and

became a licensed hypnotist. He's since sold the software company and puts on between 60 and 70 hypnosis shows a year. He also has a UPS store in Wisconsin.

Attendees at Al's shows receive more than entertainment; they walk away better people. When he travels to Washington State for their FFA Convention later this spring, he'll be taking along his sister Grace. Many who've attended Wyoming FFA Camp have met Grace and heard her talk about life with Downs's syndrome. It's a discussion that helps FFA members grow in a way no other lesson can offer.

"Knowing what an impact FFA had on me," says Al, "I feel like I owe something back. I want to make sure that opportunity was available to other FFA members. I've witnessed, first hand, the impact on state and national officers."

"I hope people in Wyoming realize that even though they live in a small town, the whole world is out there. If you're from Wyoming, a small town, wherever, the whole world is still out there and available to you."

"Some people are wired differently," says Schilt. "I don't know that Al could sell ice to Eskimos, but I

am sure that if there were a need for it, Al would partner with them and teach them how to make it on their own and get it to all who need it. He is a builder of people."

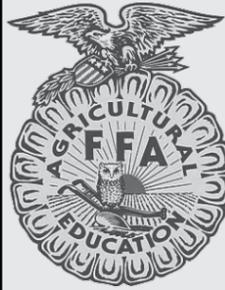
Al won't be moving back to Wyoming any time soon. He says his busy travel

schedule requires access to a more central airport. In the meantime, he'll continue his role as one of Wyoming FFA's biggest fans.

"When I was owner of the software company," recalls Al, "I solicited people with an ag education background. It's not just

about facts and figures, but they knew how to solve problems. They had a good solid work ethic and strong communication skills."

"I'm always proud of Wyoming FFA and what they accomplish," says Al. Wyoming FFA is, likewise, proud of Dr. Al Snyder.



A Favorite Poem

Attendees at Wyoming FFA Camp receive inspirational material, food for thought if you will, in their camp packets. Of the below poem, Court Schilt said, "Often during my time at FFA Camp both as a camper then counselor, Al would recite the following poem on the last night of camp. He would have the room at rapt attention, and there, by the light of a candle or an old fashioned slide projector, share with us a glimpse into what made him serve. We are blessed indeed."

The World is Mine

Today, upon a bus, I saw a very beautiful woman and wished I were as beautiful
When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg and wore a crutch. But as she passed, she passed a smile.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two legs; the world is mine.

I stopped to buy some candy. The lad who sold it had such charm.
I talked with him, he seemed so glad. If I were late, it'd do no harm.
And as I left, he said to me, "I thank you, you've been so kind.
It's nice to talk with folks like you. You see," he said, "I'm blind."
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two eyes; the world is mine.
Later while walking down the street, I saw a child I knew.
He stood and watched the others play, but he did not know what to do.
I stopped a moment and then I said, "Why don't you join them dear?"
He looked ahead without a word. I forgot, he couldn't hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine. I have two ears; the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go. With eyes to see the sunset's glow.
With ears to hear what I'd know. Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.

— Unknown



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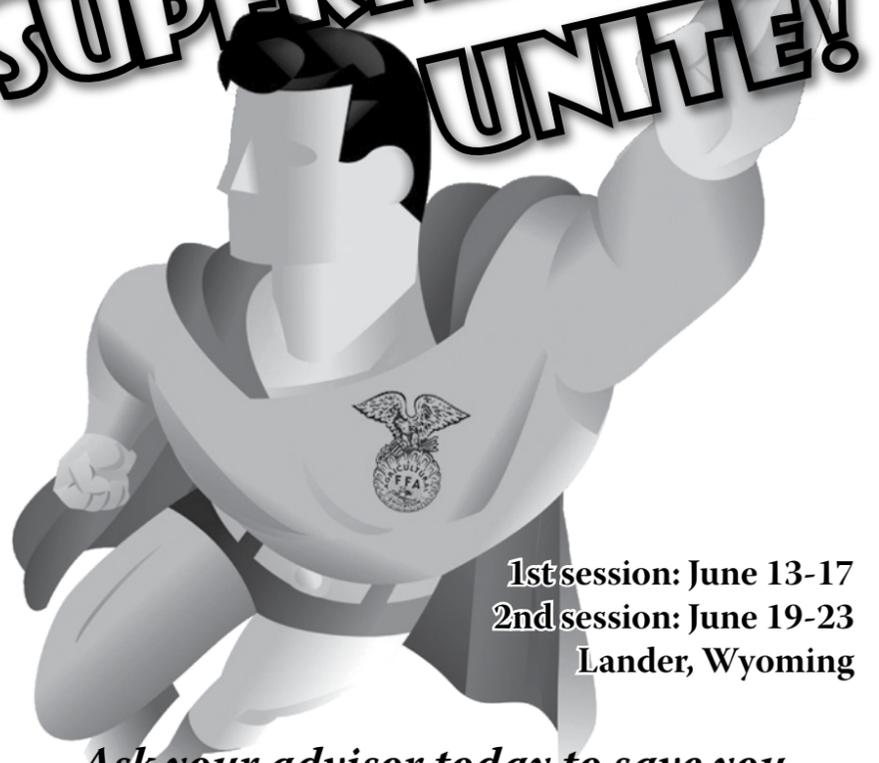
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Where are they now?

Former Wyoming FFA members are doing some great things across Wyoming and the nation. Let us know where you are for the next edition of the Wyoming FFA Times by

e-mailing Jennifer Womack at roundup@starband.net.

Justin Mills

Raised on a ranch 25 miles northwest of Sundance, Wyo., Justin attended school in Hulett, Wyo. graduating in 1993. While in high school he was actively involved in football, basketball, FFA, and student council. Upon graduation from High School, he attended Northwest College in Powell, Wyo. for three years majoring in Agriculture Education and minoring in coaching. While at Northwest College he continued his activity in FFA where he served as the 1994-95 Wyoming State FFA 3rd Vice-President, then later receiving his American FFA degree in the fall of 1995. Justin continued his education at the University of Wyoming graduating with a degree in Agricultural Education in 1998.



While attending college and for two years thereafter, Justin worked for IDEXX (I-Dex) Informatics traveling around the U.S. and Canada installing computer systems in veterinary clinics and training staff on how to implement the new technology.

In August of 1999, Justin moved to Billings, Mont. to work as a Marketing Specialist for the Northern Broadcasting System, the parent company of

the Northern Ag Network and the Northern News Network. In the fall of 2002, his position changed and he moved to the microphone to take over the role of the Associate Ag Director, bringing a Wyoming perspective to the Northern Ag Network. In 2005, Justin received the "Horizon Award" from the National Association of Farm Broadcasting, an award recognizing the most outstanding young ag broadcasters in the nation.

In June of 2006, Justin accepted the position of General Manager for the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE). More commonly known as the NILE Stock Show and ProRodeo, the NILE is a non-profit 501 C5 organization established in 1967 and dedicated to the promotion of livestock, agricultural education, and respect for western heritage. As general manager, Justin oversees the workings of the NILE, including management of the annual Stock Show and Rodeo in the fall as well as the PBR NILE Invitation in April of each year.

Since living in Billings, Justin is actively involved in the Ag Committee for the Billings Area Chamber of Commerce, was a basketball referee for five years, and is currently the spokesperson for the Montana Ford Stores appearing in numerous TV and Radio commercials. To relax, Justin enjoys fishing, golfing, getting home to the family ranches, playing guitar at church, and spending time with his family.

Currently Justin, his wife Myla (My-la), and sons Ethan (4yrs), Chase (2yr), and Maddie (3 mth) reside in Billings, Mont.

Kerin (Castle) Clark

Kerin Clark serves as the media and member relations director for the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. Her responsibilities include serving as editor of the monthly newspaper, media relations, website development, leadership development programs, county field services and Young Farmer & Rancher Coordinator. Clark began her career with the Wyoming Farm Bureau nearly thirteen years ago as an intern. She now works from her home in Torrington.

Raised on a cow/calf operation north of Laramie her agriculture roots run deep. Her family still ranches there today and this summer they will celebrate 120 years.

She was an active member of FFA and was honored to serve as the Wyoming FFA State 2nd Vice President in 1993-94. In 1996, she earned her American FFA Degree. Clark credits her FFA experiences for providing her the lifelong skills that apply to her work today.

Following her service in FFA, Clark earned the title of Miss Rodeo Wyoming 1997. She proudly represented her home state and the sport of rodeo to people of all ages. She was a top ten finalist in the Miss Rodeo America Pageant.



Clark received an agricultural communications degree from the University of Wyoming in 1998. She and her husband, Jake, reside in Torrington where Jake is the Eastern Wyoming College Rodeo Coach. They have two children: Kadra, 5; and Kyler, 2.

FFA members invited to camp

Wyoming FFA members will have the opportunity to take their leadership skills "to Infinity and beyond!" this summer at the Wyoming State FFA Leadership Camp.

FFA members from across the state will come together, super powers and capes in tow, for this year's "Superheroes Unite" themed event. The camp, held at the Fremont County Youth Camp near Lander, will soar into its 30th anniversary this year. More than 150 high school and junior high students attend leadership camp each year. Sessions will be held June 13-17 and June 19-23, 2007.

High in the Wind River Mountains, students will focus on developing leadership skills essential to achieve the FFA mission of developing premier leadership, personal growth and career success. A mix of past state FFA officers, members and other caring individuals make up the camp counselors and staff. Visit www.ffacamp.org for more information.

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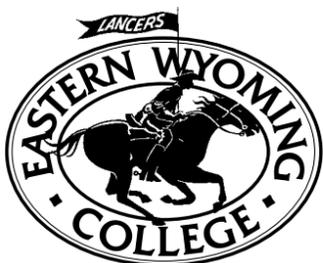
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Foundation feeds convention goers with the help of FFA supporters

By Court Schilt, Wyoming Future Farmer Foundation

Pizza, Pasta, Subs, salads and sodas were the fare on hand for the third annual State FFA Convention dinner offered by the Foundation. Through the generosity of sponsors, the foundation was able to feed more than 625 members and advisors.

This year's dinner, held the first night of convention, was hosted by Primos Pizza of Chey-

enne. Not only did Primos supply great, hot food, but they did so at a huge discount. Since opening just a few short years ago Primos has shown they are very supportive of youth.

The dinner was held in the LCCC arena. It offered members a chance to unwind, have a bite, and catch a breath, while not having to board the bus and have another fast

food experience. After loading up with baked lasagna or a sub sandwich, a slice or two and a salad, members took a cold drink and headed for the bleachers where they could enjoy some down time and visit about the day's events, plan for the next competition, or catch up with

friends from other chapters.

Dinner sponsors this year include, Rocky Mountain Power, Saturn of Cheyenne, Peterbilt of Wyoming, Cheyenne Kiwanis Ag Committee, Cheyenne Frontier Days, Wyoming Business Council Agribusiness division

and the Little Ol' Print Shop of Cheyenne. If you make contact with any of these generous sponsors please let them know their efforts are greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to dinner coordinator Lindsey Gee of Cheyenne for her efforts in putting it all

together. From menus and plates to gathering volunteers and cleaning up afterward, Mrs. Gee, a former Wyoming FFA officer, was invaluable. Along with volunteers from Cheyenne Kiwanis and a few other local folks she made this a fantastic event.

Again, thanks to all.



Calendar

June 1 National Officer applications due in State Office

June 11-15 WVATA Summer Conference, Powell

June 13-17 First session State FFA Leadership Camp

June 19-23 Second session State FFA Leadership Camp

June 16-20 NLCSO Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota Associations, Cody

July 2 National band and chorus applications due

July 15 National chapter applications due, Indianapolis

July 15 All proficiency applications due, Indianapolis

July 24 Foundation Golf Tournament, Hulett, 1 p.m. \$70/person

July 28 Animals and Art for Education Auction, Sundance

Aug 11-18 Wyoming State Fair, Douglas

Aug. 18 Animals and Art for Education Auction, Douglas

Sept. 29 Animals and Art for Education Auction, Cheyenne

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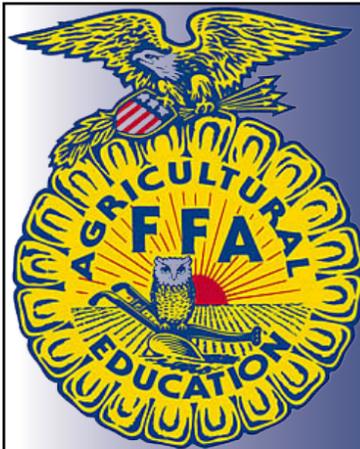
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