

The Wyoming Leader

Fall 2005



"As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person."

~~Paul Shane Spear

STATE LEADER NOTES.....



Johnathan Despain

In the marketing world, the phrase "perception is reality" is used widely. The notion is that what people see and believe to be occurring is *their* reality. The same holds true in a couple of different ways you may be familiar with – working with youths and views of the 4-H program. I want to touch briefly on both.

Any young person who joins the 4-H program does so with a unique set of experiences, backgrounds, needs, wants, etc. No two are the same. You may relate to

the example of young people who come to various project meetings but just don't seem to "fit in" with others. They do things independently. Ever asked yourself why?

The physical and emotional environment they have at home, school, etc., can play a part. How the individuals view themselves, others, and the world around them can play a big role in their perceptions. Regardless, they are living *their* reality based on *their* perceptions.

As a volunteer, you have the opportunity to educate, share, and teach these young people that their reality can be different or even better. You can help them "see" opportunities and know they can grasp them if they choose, and you'll be there to support them. You get to help shape, mold and, yes, even develop, young people into our next generation of civic and community leaders, political figures, and neighbors.

Secondly, the viewpoints and opinions anyone has of

the 4-H program are based on what they personally experience or witness or what they have been told. If we only talk about which ribbons or awards young people earn, if we only talk about who won what, if we only talk about the sale checks and we don't talk about what is being learned, then we are missing an opportunity to communicate to others the values and principles of 4-H.

The 4-H program is the intentional application of learning experiences for the development of youths into capable, caring, and competent adults. That's why your role as a volunteer is so important. The young people watch and learn and even mimic what they see and, most of all, learn from your example. Your reality can become theirs!


Johnathan Despain
State 4-H Program Coordinator

Park County archery program experiences phenomenal growth

By Robert Waggener,

*Editor, Office of Ag
Communications and Technology*

Even gas prices haven't kept pace with the phenomenal growth in the Park County 4-H archery program. There were seven 4-Hers in the program six years ago. Today, there are nearly 100.

"The program has exploded. If we have a great project area, that means we have a great volunteer leader," says Melissa Johnson, the county's 4-H program associate.

Cody resident Pete Foley is the primary leader for archery and its main club, the Sure Shots.

"He has an outstanding personality, is very motivated, and is excellent with the kids. He can get down to their level," Johnson says. "He knows how to keep the older members motivated and focused, and he knows how to pique the interest of the younger members. He understands youth development."

Members of the Sure Shots hold monthly meetings from February until July, when the state shoot is held. They also participate in weekly shoots at Sunlight Archery Supply in Cody.

"I try not to look at the growth in our program because the numbers would scare me, but I have lots of good help and the community is so behind us. We have kids carpooling 20 to 30 miles to

come shoot with us. We have town kids; we have ranch kids; we have home-schooled kids. If you have fun, the kids will come," says Foley, who emphasizes that fun and games are secondary to safety and education.

"We usually have 10 or 15 kids on the line at one time, so you need plenty of leaders watching them," Foley says.

"We constantly stress safety. That comes first. We also go over how to interact positively with one another. The young people are learning to be polite and kind," he adds. "Fun comes after safety and respect, and how accurately they shoot will eventually follow."

Participants learn shooting skills while releasing arrows at balloons and paper targets indoors and three-dimensional targets outside.

Sara Banning, president of the Sure Shots and a freshman at Powell High School, says Foley is patient with each member and helps remind them of little but important things like slowing down while shooting.

"He has a positive attitude, shows keenness of the sport, has strong leadership capabilities, and believes in the 4-H program. On one occasion, Pete traveled all the way from his jobsite in Jackson



Archery leader Pete Foley

just to attend a 1 1/2-hour 4-H meeting in Cody," Banning says.

Foley, who builds log homes, became involved in 4-H and later FFA when his children, Kacey and Brandy, were growing up.

"Even though Pete's children are now grown, he is still showing very good support of 4-H," Banning notes. "I started archery in Powell when I was 8 years old, and when I found out that Pete began leading a successful archery program in Cody, I joined. The archery program has taught me that if you really love doing something and you stick with it, you can really improve your skills. I am also intrigued by the animals that Pete has harvested over the years and hope to one day hunt with a bow."

Foley started with the archery program six years ago. At that time, there were seven 4-Hers in the club.

"I felt there was a need to help the program grow in Cody and around Park County. I really do enjoy working with kids. I guess I'm a kid myself as I have fun with them on the range. I think I get way more out of the program than they do," he says with a smile.

In an effort to reach out to even more youths, Foley began an archery program this year for



Volunteer 4-H leader Pete Foley, back center, and members of the Sure Shots Archery Club pose for a picture at an outdoor range near Cody.

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Celebrate 4-H accomplishments and look forward to opportunities

By Warren Crawford,
*State 4-H Youth Development
Specialist*

As the 2005 4-H year draws to a close, we have the opportunity to look forward to the new year with a sense of renewed optimism and confidence that the 4-H program is making a difference in the lives of the youth and adult participants.

For me, the new year begins having just participated in the state shooting sports award trip to Raton, New Mexico, and finalizing the plans for our state leadership team retreat and training.

The Raton trip is awarded to senior members who finish in the top 10 in one or all the disciplines at the 2005 state Shooting Sports contest. This award trip is unique in that the youth winners have the opportunity to travel, shoot a variety of firearms at a variety

of targets, and make friends from around the state, all with no formal competition involved. I think I can speak for all the youths involved in saying this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that garners lifelong memories.

Another opportunity I enthusiastically look forward to each year is working with the new State 4-H Leadership Team. This year's team was selected through an application and interview process in conjunction with the Wyoming State Fair and through an election process during the annual leadership conference in June.

The team members include Jessie Bennion and Aimee Stafford, Lincoln County; Beth Wood, Albany County; Cami Andrie and Carrie Saur, Campbell County; Erica David, Sublette County; and Dan Ramsey, Washakie County. The team retreat is an opportunity for members to get together to hone their leadership skills,



Warren Crawford

establish goals for the year, and set the groundwork to develop into a cohesive team.

I encourage all of you to take the time to celebrate the accomplishments the members and leaders have achieved throughout the year and think about the fantastic opportunities that lie ahead.

On the Web: www.uwyo.edu/CES/wyo4h/4-HWebsite/Staff/Crawford.htm

Park County archery

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pre-4-H students in grades kindergarten through third.

"We started out with 11 kids, and I believe the program is going to go nuts. I already have people calling me for next year's program, which starts in February," Foley says.

Johnson says the group has become known as K-3 and has become a great recruiting tool for 4-H. In addition to archery, there is a K-3 rabbit club and a general pre-4-H group.

"Pete and the other volunteers believe that if you get young kids involved, they will stay in the 4-H program longer. If you get them interested in an activity, they will stick with it," she says.

Foley and other volunteers meet with K-3 archery participants on Friday afternoons, and on Friday evenings and Saturdays the Sure Shots and other archery members gather at Sunlight Archery Supply.

"At practices, it's obvious the kids are shooting to their levels and abilities. They are very

respectful of the range rules. It's a good, supportive atmosphere and has become a family affair," says Johnson, who emphasizes the skills the young people are learning will carry over into their adult lives.

"The group is learning about youth-adult collaboration, teamwork, and camaraderie. They participate in community service projects with Sunlight Archery, and they are learning parliamentary procedure and time management skills," she says.

Husband-wife leaders hit the mark in shooting sports

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program and 4-H in general might not be the same if not for the efforts of Washakie County 4-H leaders Sharon and Mason Kelly.

Both have volunteered numerous hours to 4-H. Sharon is the longest-employed extension secretary in the system, and Mason has been involved with shooting sports for many years and attends the Wyoming trip each year to the NRA Whittington Center near Raton, New Mexico. The Kellys were awarded the “State Partner in 4-H Award” in 1999.

“If it’s Monday, it must be archery; if it’s Tuesday, it must be .22 or air rifle... pretty much sums up the social life of Sharon and Mason Kelly,” notes Phyllis Lewis, Big Horn Basin area educator. “They are at the shooting sports facility four to five days a week, during the week.”

Sharon Kelly has led the following projects in her 29 years of leadership: shooting sports, foods, clothing, junior leaders, and home improvement.

She was born into 4-H. Her mother was a 4-H leader and county fair superintendent, and Kelly is the secretary of the Big Horn Basin Ag Ambassadors. She is also the head of the computer department at the Wyoming State Fair, is secretary-treasurer for the H Diamond W Youth Camp Board at the 4-H camp for Washakie and Hot Springs counties, and is the Washakie County Fair Board secretary.

A grandson may reduce the amount of time she could give for 4-H. “I feel this has been



Washakie County 4-H leader Mason Kelly presents Maggie Paris with a trophy during the 2005 Wyoming State 4-H Shooting Sports competition.

such a big portion of our lives and almost all of our spare time that it would really be too bad to not do all of the 4-H things,” she says, “but I would like to spend more time with our 5-year-old grandson, Zach.”

Mason Kelly has led shooting sports, horse, and junior leader projects in his 23 years of leadership. He attends 4-H camp every year and is a member of the maintenance crew at the Wyoming State Fair, where he is also arena maintenance coordinator, and performing maintenance at the H Diamond W Youth Camp. He also helps junior leaders take down, maintain, and reinstall golf course signs.

He said high fuel prices may force the couple to reduce their amount of 4-H activities.

“They are a loving and giving couple,” says Amber Wallingford, Washakie County 4-H program associate. “In a Young Authors contest here in Worland, one 4-Her dedicated



Mason Kelly observes as range officer for the .22-caliber rifle shoot competition.

Wyoming 4-Hers craft saddles, learn about commitment and hard work

By Robert Waggener

Editor, Office of Ag
Communications and Technology

Have you ever wanted to build a saddle? Two Wyoming 4-H members did just that, and their advice is to find a mentor skilled in saddle making and then figure on spending up to 150 hours to finish the project.

Chris Georgen of Big Horn completed his saddle in approximately 130 hours, while Lacy Rose of Lingle logged 141 hours to finish hers. Both saddles won blue ribbons at this year's state fair.

"I am real proud of Chris. This was his first saddle, and it turned out pretty darn good. He worked on it throughout the winter and spring," says professional leatherworker Clinton Fay of Sheridan, who volunteered to mentor Georgen throughout his project.

"Chris is one of those kids you just really like to help. He tries to learn; he tries to get better every day. He has a good attitude, and he works so hard," Fay says. "It's nice to be lucky, but the harder you work the luckier you get. That attitude will help him down the road no matter what he does."



Using tools he inherited from his late grandfather, 4-H member Chris Georgen of Big Horn works on his saddle.

Rose, the daughter of Kerri and John Rose, turned to her father for help. "Dad got into leather making several years ago, and he made a saddle three years ago. That inspired me. I thought, 'Hey, that's kind of cool. I want to try that,'" says Rose, a 2005 graduate of Lingle-Fort Laramie High School who is now a freshman at Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington.

Goshen County 4-H Program Associate Daleena Babcock says, "Lacy's saddle is a beautiful piece of work. She is a great artist, and she has a lot of freehand drawings of horses and oak leaves in it. The saddle is very detailed; I can't imagine the work that went into it."

Georgen, a junior at Big Horn High School, got involved in leatherworking while growing up in Miles City, Montana. "Being raised in a ranching atmosphere, I always thought it would be fun to make leather things, and my dad told me that his father did leather and that our family still had all the tools."

Georgen joined 4-H when he was 10 and participated in leatherworking, aerospace, and livestock projects. Since moving to Big Horn, he has also become active in shooting sports, and dog, swine, and horse projects. "I do the market swine project to help defray my leather expenses," he admits.

Fay says Georgen had to save money to start the project as the materials for a saddle generally run from \$1,000 to \$1,200. "He wanted to craft a saddle before he was too old for 4-H. That's forward thinking."

While participating in the dog project with 4-H leader Jody Fay of Sheridan, Georgen learned that Fay's husband, Clinton, ran a leather business and might be able



Lacy Rose stamps oak leaf patterns into leather. Rose, who is a talented artist, drew the leaf patterns as well as running horses for the saddle she crafted.

to teach him how to build a saddle.

In the spring of 2004, Georgen and his parents, Sam and Dan Georgen, asked Fay if he would be willing to help. Fay had previously assisted 4-Hers with smaller leather projects and knew that a saddle would involve many hours. He agreed to the request after getting a feeling that Georgen was committed to the project and wanted to learn.

"Saddle making is a difficult skill to pick up, and it takes a lot of work," says Fay, who started working with leather a couple of decades ago. "I spent a lot of time with Chris learning how to handle the knives and edgers, learning how to hold them and operate them safely. With a saddle, you have to think safety, comfort, and aesthetics, in that order."

Georgen picked up things fast because he works hard at learning, Fay emphasizes. "I didn't do any of the work for him. I would offer pointers, like teaching him how to use the tools. I demonstrated leather-making techniques and the

4-Hers craft saddles

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Chris Georgen's saddle drew plenty of attention at the Sheridan County Fair.

proper order to do things. He's one of those people who cares about doing his best. That's something I don't see very often in leatherworking because people want things finished in a hurry," Fay says.

The project taught Georgen a great deal about himself. "I learned that I can do anything that I set my mind to. In 4-H, I have also learned organization and leadership skills that are helping me in school. I think that the skills I learned working on my saddle will help me a lot because that is the career I would like to pursue."

In addition to his honors at the county and state fairs, Georgen this year won the prestigious Ann Stohlman Award from the *Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal*. The international award is presented annually to a young leatherworker.

Georgen says he plans to use his roping and working saddle but not until he is finished showing it. "I have put it on one of my horses, and I sat in it. It seemed to fit me and my horse well. I am planning to ride it next year for fair, but I

haven't used it yet because I'm sending the saddle to Colorado for a show."

Leatherworking can be an interesting hobby or a great profession, Fay notes.

"It can be a lot of fun even if you are not going to make a living at it. No matter how you approach leather making or other hobbies or professions in life, you can learn the attitude that I am going to do the best job I can do today. If you learn that, it will carry on to everything else in life, from mowing your lawn to your profession. The people who learn that attitude will be successful," Fay stresses.

Georgen says Fay and other 4-H leaders have been a great inspiration. He cited his leather leader in Montana, Shirley Rolf, and other leaders in the Sheridan area including Jean Strauser, Ken and Kathy Andrews, and Mark Burtis (shooting sports), Kathy Woods (horse), Terri Kane (swine and record keeping), and Barry King (leatherworking).

Rose was involved with two 4-H clubs in Goshen County and thanked Pollie Madden and Dwaine Scott of Torrington for their guidance.

She is pursuing a veterinary technology degree, but she plans to continue leatherworking and being involved in 4-H as a volunteer. "I love the cowboy way of life and drawing horses, and I've learned that I can incorporate those into leather making," says Rose, who has made glass coasters, belts, a briefcase, and a logbook cover for her father, who is a truck driver.

Her saddle project was progressing slowly until her father, ironically, got temporarily laid off from his job. "That wasn't good financially, but it was kind of nice that he now had the time to help," explains Rose, who was able to turn to Dad for advice. "One of the

hardest things was forming the leather over the swells of the saddle. It took a lot of strength and a lot of time. During the swells, I was thinking, 'Oh gosh, we're never going to get through this.'"

Rose drew her own patterns for the saddle including running horses and oak leaves. "I haven't used the saddle yet, but I've sat in it. It's real comfortable. Right now, it's sitting in the living-room. I am scared to get the first couple of nicks in it, but once that happens, it will be OK."

Rose turned 19 on Oct. 3, and though she is now too old to participate in 4-H, she plans to become a shooting sports leader and an assistant for the Rough Riders Drill Team, a horse drill team that she participated in.

"4-H taught me a lot about responsibility. When you are dealing with horses and shooting sports, you have to be responsible. My parents didn't do things for me; I did them myself, and that helped a lot. They offered advice, and I hope to share that advice and advice I've gotten from my 4-H leaders with others," Rose says.



Lacy Rose's artistic and leatherworking talents are evident in the saddle she made.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Donations to Wyoming State 4-H Foundation can take many forms

By Steve Mack

State 4-H Foundation Director

The Wyoming State 4-H Foundation and the Wyoming 4-H program have made it through the busy “fair season.”

It is now time to concentrate on the business of raising funds for the future of 4-H. As the holiday season approaches and thoughts turn to charitable giving, the Wyoming State 4-H Foundation would like to remind you that donations to the 4-H program, either at the county or the state level, are tax deductible.

There are many ways to give to the foundation. We gladly accept cash or checks as donations for awards, trips, scholarships, or any of the many 4-H camps or contests. Wills and trusts are another way to help. These types of donations are often used to create endowments that will generate a yearly income that can be

used well into the future and will benefit 4-H members both now and for generations to come.

The Wyoming State 4-H Foundation also accepts gifts of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds. There are occasions where the donation of a security (with a lost cost basis) is very beneficial to the individual taxpayer. Gifts of this nature often help you avoid paying taxes on capital gains and thus is beneficial to the charity and eliminates the need to pay the IRS extra.

The Wyoming State 4-H Foundation is in existence to help with the funding of the Wyoming 4-H program and its educational efforts. Thanks to the state 4-H office, county 4-H associates, and the many dedicated 4-H volunteer leaders, 4-H in Wyoming is growing stronger than ever and needs your financial support to continue. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the 4-H foundation



Steve Mack

and the many philanthropic avenues available, please contact the Wyoming State 4-H Foundation at (307) 766-2528, e-mail me at smack@uwyo.edu or mail to Department 3354, 1000 E. University Ave., Laramie, WY 82071.

On the Web: <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/wyo4h/Foundation.htm>

Washakie County 4-H leaders hit the mark in shooting sports

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her essay on how nice Mason is and how much fun he is to be around. He has good rapport with youth. That young author won an award for her essay.”

Says Jim Gill, Big Horn Basin area educator, “When the subject of 4-H comes up in Washakie County, Mason and

Sharon Kelly’s name will be mentioned nine out of 10 times.

“They’re the catalyst for some of the great works and accomplishments of so many youths throughout the county and South Big Horn Basin.”

Wallingford adds, “Here in Washakie County, we would be

lost without the help, support, advice, and encouragement from Mason and Sharon.”

On the Web: http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/UWces/Washakie_main.asp

4-Hers stare down muscle impairment to romp through life

By **Steve Miller**, *Senior Editor and Writer, Office of Ag Communications and Technology*

Fifteen-year-old 4-Her Emmalee Allen and her 12-year-old brother, Zak, of Farson haven't let a neuromuscular disorder that stiffens joints restrict their zest for life.

Emmalee will say when prompted she was born with dislocated hips and how she wore a full-body cast. She has had several knee surgeries, and Zak has had recent knee surgery to add more flexibility.

Emmalee would rather talk about other, more important things. She might be a little bit of an adrenaline-rush junkie.

"I don't even realize the disease in my life," the daughter of Denise and Dean Webster notes. "I just got my driver's permit. I used to barrel race, and I'm going to learn to scuba dive."

Their stiff walk makes their disability obvious, says Roxanne Tomich, the siblings' leader in the 50-member Wyoming West 4-H Club of Eden Valley. "But their personality overcomes that very quickly," she adds.

"I can't say enough about their parents Dean and Denise and their grandparents. The kids are immersed in love and caring everywhere they go. No one pays any attention to their disability."

Emmalee participated last summer in the rope challenge course at Colorado State University, a trip taken during the Wyoming Youth Leadership Camp. Participants are challenged in unfamiliar



Emmalee Allen (center) participates in the rope challenge course at Colorado State University.

situations, like walking and swinging on ropes 30 feet off the ground.

"It was awesome," she says with delight. "I had so much fun. I was pushed to the limit. I was sort of a scaredy-cat, and I didn't know if I could do it but I did. It felt like you were free

“I've only been in 4-H three years, and already it's been a life-changing experience..”

falling. It was horrible but so much fun! I had an adrenaline rush. I was shaking horribly, but at the end I was so glad I did it. If I hadn't, I would have beaten myself up about it.”

The siblings have arthrogryposis, a neuromuscular condition that mainly affects the nerves, muscles, and tendons around joints. The joints cannot

bend because the muscles are stiff. They also have a feature rarely seen with the joint limitation – a droopiness of the eyelid called ptosis. They have had slings placed in their eyelids so when they lift their eyebrows their eyelids open. The two have even had the syndrome named after them – the Allen Syndrome. Arthrogryposis occurs in about one in 3,000 births.

Big deal, Emmalee might say. There are other things afoot.

"I've only been in 4-H three years, and already it's been a life-changing experience," she says. "It's one of the greatest things ever. As a little kid, I was never great at anything. But I have ribbons hanging on the wall. Last year, I won senior grand showmanship with my lamb at the county fair. People in 4-H are so cool. They understand and accept me. I went to the state fair and, by the end of the week, everybody was so friendly.”

There was hardly any adjustment having Emmalee



Sheep, photography, being a junior leader and presentations are some of Emmalee Allen's 4-H projects and activities.

4-Hers stare down muscle impairment to romp through life

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and Zak join 4-H, says Tomich. “The reason 4-H is so wonderful is that it is very inclusive,” she says, and adds there are 120 students who attend Farson schools, and she has 50 of them in her club. “You don’t have to be athletic. Leadership does not require athletic ability. It’s the dynamic competence these kids have that we demand in 4-H.”

The siblings’ mother says they are an active family, and her children have participated in soccer, baseball, track, wrestling, basketball, swimming, volleyball, snow skiing, snowmobiling, and rodeo. Both got a special achievement award last year from the Wyoming Junior Rodeo Association.

“I have never discouraged them from trying something just because I didn’t think they could do it,” says Denise Webster. “They have big hearts and will give it their all.”

The syndrome is not genetic, and having siblings with it is unusual. Zak, who has been a 4-Her since the fourth grade.



Emmalee Allen just got her driver’s license, has barrel raced, and wants to learn to scuba dive.

“I look at my sister as someone to look up to,” says Zak, who plays basketball at the junior high he attends and plans on participating in USA Wrestling at Farson. He earned eight wrestling medals last year and even had a pin, says his mom. His goal was just to score a point.

“Just seeing all the things my sister is doing I tell myself ‘if she can do that, I can probably do that,’” notes Zak. “She really encourages me a lot. It goes both ways. Since she encourages me, I encourage her a lot.”

When Emma won senior grand showmanship with her lamb, Zak was beaming with pride, “and when Zak won intermediate reserve showmanship, Emma was equally proud of her brother. Their hard work paid off!” says their mother.

Emmalee had several projects this past 4-H year; however, it was her presentation that captured the attention of state fair-goers and judges.

“I did it on arthrogryposis,” she says. “There were a lot of things I didn’t know. It wasn’t like I did it off the top of my head. I did a lot of research.”

She is constantly asked what’s wrong with her, and she thought her presentation would allow her to tell many people at once. “Now, it’s easy to tell people what happened,” she says. “Before, I’d get a question and I’d think ‘oh, how do I explain this?’ Sometimes I didn’t have my facts straight. It’s easier now to say what happened and tell them about my condition.”



Zak Allen has not let arthrogryposis keep him from wrestling, playing basketball and participating in 4-H with his lamb project.

She placed sixth and will give her presentation at the Western National 4-H Roundup in January at the Western Stock Show in Denver.

This presentation will be another pushing of the envelope.

They’ve been pushed since they were young, says Emmalee.

“My step-dad is the greatest,” she says. “When he was little, he was in a wreck and he’d been on both sides of the fence. He went from being a popular kid to the bottom. If we have trouble at school, we can come home and talk to him. We have chores like everyone else. For example, we are out there moving sprinkler pipe. He doesn’t see the syndrome. Sometimes if I have a bad day and feeling sorry for myself, he’ll say ‘no, get up there. None of that.’”

Unique table earns rave comments for Goshen County 4-Her

By Steve Miller, Senior Editor and Writer, Office of Ag Communications and Technology

Travis Yeik's woodworking skills are becoming so well-rounded that a unique spiral coffee table drew rave reviews at this year's Wyoming State Fair.

The free-standing table earned a purple ribbon and lots of attention from adults. Yeik, son of Byron and Deb Yeik of Veteran, says comments from people who saw the table proved the most satisfying part about the project.

"It feels great to be congratulated on a project you care about and spent a lot of hard work and many hours on," he says. Yeik worked 130 hours on the project and paid about \$300 for oak.

The table features half-moons top and bottom spiraling into each other. Yeik, a member of the Red Bill 4-H Club of Veteran, has progressed during his six years crafting wood items for 4-H. He made a simple book holder the first year, a cutting board the second, a cribbage board the next, then hanging shelves, a hot dog on a plate curiosity, and an entertainment center last year.

His parents are leaders of the club, and Byron says his son has always looked for unique projects. "That's what really

turns his crank," Byron says. "A couple years ago, he made a project of little games where you drop a marble and it goes around the pegs. It is a hard, detailed project, hard because of the close tolerances you need."



Travis Yeik obtained plans for this spiral coffee table off the Internet then added his unique touches.



Last year he made an oak entertainment center but put his own touch on it by not using any metal. He used biscuit fasteners and dowels.

"I've been improving," the Southeast High School senior says. "It's kind of my own style. I wanted something more challenging and maybe worthwhile for more than a hobby – maybe a career."

Seeing his spiral table take shape was the most satisfying aspect of the project, he says. "Sometimes I felt as if I wasn't getting very far but then, at the end of the day, I could actually see how far I had gotten," he notes.

Table plans on the Internet intrigued Yeik, who has never taken a woodworking class. "It looked cool to me. I thought it looked challenging because I didn't know how they did it," he says. "I looked at their plans and then went on my own. I didn't go by their measurements."

The project looked simple on the Internet, says Bryon, but became harder and harder as work progressed. "But it was his project and he took it on."

Yeik crafted the middle

portion first by making a pattern then cutting the narrower boards. The middle boards were about an inch-and-a-half wide while the top and bottom boards were about five-and-a-half inches wide.

"I wanted to get the most out of the wood possible," Yeik notes. Each 10-foot by 6-inch oak board cost \$24.

"Putting it together and getting all the measurements the same was the big part. The first part was the curve and the wedges in the top part of the table next, he explains. "I had to make them perfect so they would all fit within the angles. There were a lot of measurements. I had to get those exact."

Yeik applied golden oak stain and four coats of satin polyurethane to finish the project. He chose golden oak to match his other wood projects.

Wyoming 4-H Horse Program undergoing changes to meet needs

By Stephen Schafer

State 4-H Youth Development Specialist

4-H just celebrated its 100th birthday, which is quite an accomplishment when we consider the changes that occurred during that period of time.

We went from moving across the country on horseback to flying to the moon in a spaceship, and we moved from paper communication to the Internet. It logically follows that 4-H must have also changed; otherwise it would not still be in existence.

The Wyoming 4-H Horse Program is also undergoing changes to meet the ever-changing needs of the youths it serves. Currently, the 4-H Horse Program loses most of its male members and a fair number of its female members around the age of 12. Over the last year, the Wyoming 4-H Horse



Steve Schafer

Committee has been working to come up with ideas to counteract this loss. Ideas being considered and pilot-tested have included revising the Levels Program to make it more fun and less of a testing and stressful situation but also keeping it educational and beneficial for the youths who participate.

Other ideas have included adding more action events (such as tie-down roping, break-away roping, cutting, etc) and/or working events (such as ranch horse activities) to the Wyoming 4-H Horse Program. The response to these proposals and pilot tests have been quite favorable (not 100 percent but very positive), so these concepts are moving forward especially since the input from 4-H members has been quite positive for these changes.

The first purpose of this message is to inform everyone of what is being considered and discussed within the Wyoming 4-H Horse Program.

The second purpose is to request additional input or ideas and to see if a county is interested in pilot-testing any of these concepts, especially the action events or working events.

On the Web: <http://www.uwyo.edu/ces/wyo4h/4-HWebsite/Staff/SteveS.htm>

Unique table earns rave comments for Goshen County 4-Her

(Continued from page 10)

He began work on the table about three weeks before the Goshen County Fair and wasn't sure he was going to be able to finish in time.

"I pushed pretty hard, partly because I had so little time to do it, and I get sidetracked easily and bored," Yeik says. "I had to push myself into doing something that was frustrating,

such as sanding and cutting, when I wanted to do other things."

He's says he's still learning woodworking skills, and the challenging projects hone his abilities. "Lots of people were confused about how I did it, and they congratulated me," Yeik says. "A lot of people wanted to buy that table."



Travis Yeik of the Red Bill 4-H Club of Veteran also showed dairy cattle at the Wyoming State Fair.

Leaders council plans changes in empowerment, training and roles

Kay Moyer

President, Wyoming State 4-H Leaders Council

Full is in the air and excitement is building for all the 4-H activities to begin. I am Kay Moyer, your newly elected Wyoming State 4-H Leaders Council president. The Wyoming State 4-H Leaders Council is feeling the changes in the air, too. At last spring's strategic planning meeting, we heard the concerns and believe a change is needed.

The changes will be in the support and direction we will take. We will focus on leader empowerment, training and expansion of the leader's role in the 4-H program.

First, we want to empower leaders to become involved with the council and let their voices be heard. We want to improve communication and let everyone know what the council is and what we are all about.

My vice president is Mike Moon from Carbon County. Mike has served on the council as a district director for many years. My secretary comes from Campbell County and is Glen Terry. This is Glen's first term on the council, and we hope to see him continue for a long time. The treasurer is Marius Wilson from Laramie County. Marius has served in many different roles on the executive council from historian to district director. The historian is Jane

Hill from Carbon County. This also is Jane's first term.

The district directors are: Northeast, Bonnie Ballou from Crook County; Northwest, Garnet Schatz from Park County; Southwest, Micki Thoman from Sweetwater County; and Central District, Barney Cosner. The southeast district director position is vacant, but I do have a lead or two in some folks who are interested in the job.

District directors are the communications bridge between the executive council and 4-H leaders. They are in your area, and you can contact them by calling their respective county extension offices.

The training part of our plan involves district training this fall. We would like to see the training be interactive and informative. We want hands-on training, if that is what is

needed, or informational with two-way communication.

The state leaders conference in February is a wonderful opportunity for leaders to network and see what other leaders in the state are doing. 4-H is the largest trainer of youth who become outstanding citizens. We need our outstanding 4-H leaders to have the tools needed to complete that task.

Our final goal is expansion of the 4-H leader's role. We are not suggesting leaders take over leadership at their local extension office. We are suggesting the current leadership expand the roles of the leaders. We have many talented people in our midst. We need, as a council and 4-H leader body, to gently tap those resources to make the youths we work with the best young leaders we can put forth.

WYOMING 4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Event	Date	Location
National 4-H Congress	November 24-28	Atlanta, GA
Western 4-H Roundup	January 5-8, 2006	Denver, CO
National 4-H Conference	March 25-30	Washington, D.C.
Meats Judging	TBA	Laramie
Wool Judging	June 2-3	Casper
Gold Conference	June-TBA	Laramie
Horse Camp	June 16-18	Douglas
Citizen Washington Focus	June 18-24	Washington, D.C.
Horse Judging Contest	June 27-28	Rock Springs
State Shooting Sports Match	July 7-9	Douglas
Sportfishing Camp	July 17-20	Uinta County
Wyoming State Fair	August 12-19	Douglas
Livestock Judging Contest	State Fair	Douglas
Vegetable Judging Contest	State Fair	Douglas
Fashion Revue	State Fair	Douglas
Presentation Contest	State Fair	Douglas
Shooting Sports Awards Trip	September-TBA	Raton, N.M.