

4-H Forever Green



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CONTENTS

- Change = Challenge + Opportunity Page 2
- Jan Hiller Retires Page 2
- WSUE 4-H Alumni Profile Page 3
- Muttley Crew 4-H Helps Animals in Need Page 3
- Lincoln County Teen Becomes 4-H Governor Page 4
- Slavik Community Garden Project Bridges Cultures Page 4
- 4-H Foundation Purse Page 5
- Rise to the Challenge Page 6
- Mason County Teens Present Projects at Bronx Zoo Page 7
- Physics Lesson is a Blast Page 7
- From the President Page 8



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4-H Network News Covers the 43rd Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas

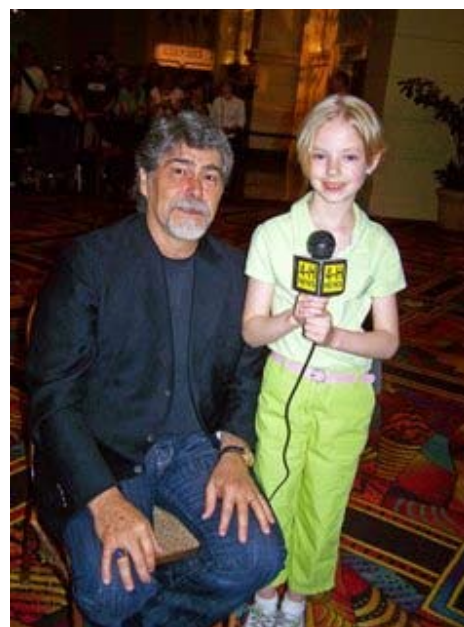
Renowned Artists—4-H Alumni Featured on New Clover Country CD

By Betsy Fradd, WSU Extension

Claire Turner was calm and composed and not the least bit star struck when she had the opportunity to interview some of the nation's top country artists. The nine-year old 4-H'er from Jefferson County was among the elite who secured a press pass at the 43rd Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas in May due to the recent release of the Clover Country CD. The CD, the first of its kind, is a country music collection featuring famous 4-H alumni.

Claire accompanied by her mother,

Continued "Las Vegas" p. 5



Country music star Randy Owen and Jefferson County 4-H Network News reporter Claire Turner at the 43rd Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.



Flocks of fun

Robbie Crabb, Ian Woolen, and Morgan Smith along with other Mason County 4-H Forestry teens admire the flamingos at the Bronx Zoo in New York. See story on page 7.

©Wildlife Conservation Society/
Julie Larsen Maher

Change = Challenge + Opportunity

By Pat BoyEs, Director,
WSUE 4-H Youth Development

As you might suspect, I spend a great deal of time thinking about, reacting to, managing, and re-thinking change because of my job as a university administrator responsible for our state's largest youth development organization. I am often amused with the term "managing change" when applied to 4-H administration because it assumes planning and control are built into the organization.

Obviously, folks who subscribe to this concept of change do not have children or animals. I personally have more experience with change over which the organization has very little control, like legislation, federal budgets, and shifting economic tides. My challenge has always been to avoid a knee-jerk response and follow a more proactive approach. For me, managing change is best seen as a matter of moving from one set of circumstances (and/or way of seeing) to another, specifically from the problem

state to the solved state. To sooth myself during these transition periods, I often replace the word "problem" with "opportunity."

The unplanned problem currently challenging the 4-H Foundation is the resignation of our Executive Director, Megan Riebe. Megan has accepted a senior fund development position at Gonzaga University in Spokane. And while I wish Megan all of the best in her new adventure, this is truly an organizational opportunity that I wish was not being presented to me. During her four years of leadership with the Washington State 4-H Foundation, Megan conducted masterful work reorganizing the Board of Trustees, recruiting new and dynamic board members, securing new donors, and creating greater opportunities for our 4-H members. As a direct result of Megan's efforts, we now have greatly increased support for Washington 4-H'ers traveling to the National 4-H Congress! Megan's dedication and professionalism to building new resources for young



people will be greatly missed.

This change in Megan's career requires that Washington State 4-H leave its current status behind and transition through a (relatively) organized process to our future status. In the weeks and months ahead, I will be working with the trustees to build upon Megan's excellent leadership to generate an even brighter future for our 4-H program.

Thank you, Megan, for your outstanding service to Washington's 4-H'ers; please never doubt that you have expanded their opportunities to shine!

Jan Hiller 4-H Youth Development Specialist Retires after Decades of Service

By Betsy Fradd, WSU Extension

She's made a positive difference in the lives of over a million children while working primarily with adults. For Jan Hiller, a 30-year 4-H Youth Development Extension Specialist, her 4-H life personifies who she is at her core. Raised on an Iowa farm, she remembers 4-H clubs when they were gender specific.

"If girls wanted to have animal projects they had to join a boy's 4-H club," said Hiller who initially helped her brother with pigs until age 10 when she was eligible to enroll in a girls club that featured only food, clothing, and home furnishings as projects on a three-year rotation. Many demonstrations, fashion reviews, State Fairs, and leadership positions later, Hiller, with a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics Education from Iowa State University, became a County Extension Home Economist in Iowa. She then went on to devote three decades as a 4-H Youth Development Extension Specialist at Washington State University in Pullman.

Her focus has always been to better the lives of children and teens by developing curriculum and programs and then working with adult volunteers and staff to prepare them to interact directly with youth.

"I've always enjoyed working with adults to help them have the knowledge and skills needed to prepare youth for an

increasingly complex world," said Hiller.

4-H colleague Jerry Newman has worked alongside her during her tenure at WSU. "Jan deeply understands the roles of the volunteer and extension professionals and developed materials to produce a premier volunteer program in Washington," said Newman.

Hiller's major accomplishments include serving on national teams that created training programs for county staff and 4-H leaders: TAXI (Taking Anyone into Expanded Involvement), Training Trainers to Teach, and Volunteers For the Future. These programs helped 4-H volunteers develop and upgrade their skills in working with youth. More recently Hiller was instrumental in creating E-Learning for 4-H Volunteers. These online interactive modules provide 4-H information for prospective volunteers and 4-H leaders to learn at their own convenience and pace.

"It's Jan's genuine interest in the success of others that has made her such a marvelous mentor to all of her colleagues," said Pat BoyEs, Washington State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Director. "Her work has been



Continued "Hiller" p. 6

WSUE 4-H Alumni Spotlight:

Trent Stewart

Trent Stewart spends his day as a lead operations manager for Microsoft managing a team of people who work on community and learning applications and web sites within the company. The 31-year old, who began 4-H when he was in kindergarten, was a member of the Rainbow Riders club in Thurston County and later became a Thurston County Ambassador, a Washington State Ambassador, and was on the planning committee for the 4-H Know Your Government Conference for three years. Trent also participated in developing the plan to digitize all 4-H curriculum to make it available on the Internet and disks at the National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C. He is a voracious traveler, enjoys cooking and photography, and remains dedicated to youth development through his involvement as a trustee in the Washington State 4-H Foundation.

What did you most enjoy during your twelve years in 4-H?

Learning! My passion for learning new things was completely satisfied by the true breadth of opportunity that 4-H provided. I started with showing horses, then dogs, photography, arts, rocketry, leadership, public speaking, cooking, and the list goes on and on. Next to learning, my favorite activity was public speaking. I had a huge number of opportunities to speak to groups large and small and every time I felt like I was in a different universe of excitement.

Staying involved in 4-H has been important to you. What are your current responsibilities?

When I was 21 I was asked to join the



Trent Stewart at the top of Mailbox Peak near Snoqualmie Pass at an elevation of 4,841 feet. The 3.2 mile hike ascends 4040 feet. A mailbox planted into the rocks at the summit holds a journal with notes from other hikers. Trent made the climb several times to prepare for his climb of Mt. Rainier.

Washington State 4-H Foundation as a trustee. After three years of serving on the board, I was elected as the Chairman and President of the organization. During my tenure on the board, I've helped hire the Executive Director, revamp the Foundation's mission and objectives, and bring on several new board members as well as finding some great partners of 4-H to help fund the 4-H programs of today and tomorrow.

Which 4-H life skills have assisted you most professionally?

All of them. Leadership, responsibility, conflict resolution, managing, goal setting, keeping records, stress management, self esteem, giving, thinking, and resilience. You name one and I can tell you how I've applied it within my professional career and how it's made me more successful. Also, my sense of self-confidence was something that I really developed through 4-H, working and meeting other people and achieving my goals. I can honestly say that I would be nowhere near as successful had it not been for the time that I spent learning and developing within 4-H.

Have you noticed 4-H changing over the years?

I love 4-H because it does change. It

changes to the passion and interests of those who choose to participate. 4-H adapts to our society in where it's growing and what interests today's youth. Our community is becoming more diverse, we're more dependent upon technology and the Internet to communicate with our family and friends. But 4-H, at its core, is the same as it has been over the last century—developing today's youth to be tomorrow's leaders.

How do you think 4-H can meet the needs of youth today?

We need to meet youth on their level and make sure that we're providing opportunities that excite them in today's ever-evolving world. We need to help them see all of the opportunities that are available outside of gaming consoles, cell phones, and the Internet.

What is one of your best memories of 4-H?

I was often an instigator of good, wholesome fun and there was much of that to be had in the horse barns. In my horse department in Thurston County, there were a little over 300 people, six of which were boys. It always seemed as though I had dozens of older sisters around the barns. As any younger brother would do, I did my best to cause some trouble and have some fun. It usually included a bucket of water, a high pressure hose, or a water weenie to soak my target. But when you are as outnumbered as I was, they always got the best revenge!



Muttley Crew 4-H Helps Animals in Need

Throughout May and June, King County 4-H Muttley Crew members collected over two hundred gently used towels and fleece blankets for cats and dogs waiting to be adopted at local animal shelters. The 4-H club promotes pet adoptions and offers support and education once families have selected a new pet.

Muttley Crew is active in the 4-H program with showmanship, obedience, agility, tricks, dog bowl, and educational presentations.

Pictured: (Front row L to R) Tessa Loudiana holding Leeza, Haley Williams, and Bailey Collins holding Billy. (Middle row L to R) Steven Johnson, Noelle Merclich, and Amanda Zietzke. (Back row L to R) Russell Johnson and Adam Armijo holding Baby.

Lincoln County Teen Becomes 4-H Governor

Attends Conference Featuring First Lady Laura Bush

By Betsy Fradd, WSU Extension

They came with campaign buttons, yard signs, and enough energy and enthusiasm that would impress the most seasoned politicians. The nearly 300 attendees at the annual WSU 4-H Know Your Government (KYG) Conference took politics in their own hands as they lobbied, gave speeches, and asked 4-H teens for their vote to elect the next KYG Governor.

Twenty-one teen delegates vied for the position and came to Olympia prepared to discuss issues including transportation, energy, immigration, and health care. During the four-day event youth created a Know Your Government platform that took stands on those topics as well as education, the economy, the environment, and safety.

Michael Seidel, an 18-year old delegate from Deer Park, has been to the 4-H conference three times. "Many adults



Caleb Klein was elected to serve as the next Know Your Government Governor. One of his first activities was to attend the Helping America's Youth Conference in Portland.

think young people don't care about politics but we're paving the way,"

said Michael. "The 15- to 18-year-old demographic has opinions and we know a lot about what's happening," he added.

The candidates were narrowed to three with Caleb Klein from Edwall, Thorpe's Gabby Eddings, and Alex Bistrevsky from Spokane Valley taking the top spots. After more speeches and an extensive question and answer session the final vote was cast with Klein receiving the final nod. One of his first activities was attending the Helping America's Youth Conference in Portland that featured First Lady Laura Bush.

The 4-H Know Your Government Conference serves to strengthen the connection between youth and the political and governmental process through education, experience, application, and inspiration. Since it began in 1977 over seven thousand teens have participated in the conference statewide.

Slavik Community Garden Project Bridges Cultures

Cultivating Success 4-H Club Receives Chevron Community Pride Award

Potatoes, cabbage, and strawberries. The mix proved appealing to both the young and young at heart for the Cultivating Success 4-H Club in Spokane. The club, now in its third year, was honored with the Chevron Community Pride Award for its work bridging generations and cultures through the Slavik Community Garden Project.

4-H youth attended a four-week gardening workshop and met with nearly 100 Slavik seniors who planted primarily vegetables in over 40 plots. The culmination of a Harvest Festival recognized the efforts of all involved and attracted over two-hundred people.

Tatyana Bistrevsky, Washington State University Extension educator, said the garden project impacted both members of the Slavik community as well as others in Spokane. "Our youth became the bridge that brought generations of the Slavik community together," said Bistrevsky. "The garden provides a social culture outlet for everyone, as well as allowing the Slavic community to interact further with the larger Spokane area community members," she added.



Cultivating Success 4-H Club members stand in front of the garden they created in Spokane. In front: Lily Vatulko. From left: Alex Bistrevsky, Nadya Peter, Alyce Shevchuk, Tatyana Bistrevsky, Nellie Dmitriev, Ruth Dmitriev, Katy Vatulko, Liz Dmitriev, and Victor Kotchin.

Las Vegas continued

Mary, and Jefferson County 4-H Coordinator Pamela Roberts, spent two days preparing, as well as seeing the sights and interviewing vacationers before the big night. Once inside the MGM Grand Hotel, Claire was allowed access to the ballroom reserved for the media and recording artists giving brief interviews.

Randy Owen, former lead singer of the group Alabama and now a well known solo talent, was among the musicians who talked with Claire. As a former 4-H member, Owen emphasized his strong commitment to community leadership and service. Claire had done research on Owen prior to the event and was familiar with his background.

"He was interesting to talk with," said Claire. "I think he must have had a lot of courage to drop out of high school to help his parents on the farm. Later he went back to graduate and then went to college," said Claire.

Other musicians who Claire interviewed included Keith Urban, Taylor Swift, Eddie Money, and Jack Ingram.

4-H Coordinator Pamela Roberts, who also doubled as the 4-H Network News videographer, sees great potential for an ongoing partnership with 4-H and country artists. "Country music performers of the caliber that we interviewed must be disciplined, hard-working artists who constantly strive for improvement—exactly the kinds of qualities that we encourage in 4-H youth," said Roberts.

To prepare for the interviews Roberts

The National 4-H Council has partnered with EMI Music to create "Clover Country: Songs from Famous 4-H Alumni." This extraordinary blend of country music showcases the benefits of 4-H through talented 4-H alumni. Artists include Martina McBride, Faith Hill, Luke Bryan, Johnny Cash, Alabama, and Sugarland. Proceeds from each CD sold support 4-H programs and millions of youth across America.

<http://clovercountrycd.com>

mentored Claire in different ways. "She did a lot of work behind the scenes, staying up late reading about the artists, listening to their music, creating lists of questions, hauling equipment, and more. Claire has the qualities of a good reporter—she is well-organized, calm, speaks clearly, and is able to concentrate in loud settings," added Roberts.

Claire has been a 4-H Network News reporter for two years and has done extensive interviews at a local farmer's market, the Folk Life Festival in Seattle, and with Governor Gregoire.

"I think interviewing is really fun. I like getting to find out new things, seeing what's going on, and going to fun places," said Claire who is considering becoming a professional reporter later in life.

When she's not interviewing or editing videos Claire enjoys dancing, singing, horses, and especially math. "It's fun to have something you are good at and be able to keep learning more."



WAYS TO GIVE

Have you considered including the Washington State 4-H Foundation in your estate plan? Many people designate a favorite charity in their estate plan so they can continue their annual gift in perpetuity or make a special gift not possible during their lifetime.

Estate gifts are an effective way to manage your affairs, plan for the future, and make a meaningful gift to a cause you care about. Common gift planning strategies include bequests, charitable gift annuities, remainder trusts, donor-advised funds, life insurance, and real property. Many gift planning strategies can provide a reliable source of income and/or tax benefits for the donor.

For more information about including 4-H in your estate planning, please contact Gayle Ashworth at 253-445-4570 or 4-hfound@wsu.edu.



Washington State 4-H Foundation Purse
VELVET SWORD
Billie Klokstad - Owner
Bud Klokstad - Trainer
Kevin Radke - Jockey
Hornbeak - Second Rich Blend - Third
6 Furlongs in 1:10.2
Purse \$7,500 May 16, 2008

Velvet Sword wins 4-H Foundation Purse

Members and guests of the Washington State 4-H Foundation enjoyed an evening of horse racing at Emerald Downs in Auburn, Washington. After a Trustee meeting and dinner, the group watched the thoroughbreds in action. A race called "The 4-H Foundation Purse" was a highlight of the evening and later the 4-H contingent was invited into the Winner's Circle.



WSU Extension 4-H Teen Conference 2008:

Rise to the Challenge

By Betsy Fradd, WSU Extension

It's about opportunity and showing teens what's possible. The WSU Extension 4-H Teen Conference, *Rise to the Challenge*, attracted over 300 participants eager to experience a taste of college life during the three day event in Pullman in late July.

Thirty-five workshops including television news production, forensic science, and fashion design were available to the teens. David Mangis, a 17-year-old senior from Medical Lake, took part in the Sumobot session, where he learned how to design and build robots, and a cooking class targeted just for male teens. "I'll be doing a lot more cooking when I go to college so I'll be the favorite guy on campus because I can make my own food," said David.

Teens toured the campus, slept in dorms, and had opportunities to speak with WSU faculty at the college and career fair. Youth entering 8th through 12th grades came from around the state to learn about different options available to them.

"We tried something new this year and invited teens both in and out of 4-H," explained 4-H Teen Leadership Coordinator Jan Klein. "It was terrific. Not only did more youth receive the benefits of participating in the 4-H leadership conference, but it was enriched by them," she added.

WSU Extension professionals facilitated many of the workshops. Emily Burt, a natural resource educator from Ferry County, led a geocaching seminar. "It's a high-tech outdoor treasure hunt where you use the Internet and a GPS unit, locate coordinates, and find treasures others purposely leave behind," said Burt. "It



Chris Sechrist of King County interviews Emily Burt, WSU Ferry County Extension educator, as part of the Teen Conference News Broadcast Workshop. ON THE COVER: Butch greets 4-H'ers as they arrive on the WSU campus for the 4-H Teen Conference.

can be a hobby but it also is very applicable in many jobs that use data management," added Burt.

National speaker Lateefah Simon encouraged teens to create positive change in their lives and in the lives of others. Simon, the youngest person ever, at 26, to be awarded a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, is the director of re-entry programs in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office and has been instrumental in providing thousands of women the tools they need to transform and rebuild their lives.

Missy Page, a 15-year-old from Ellensburg, was on the planning committee for Teen Conference. She thinks the biggest benefits for youth are the opportunities to meet new people, learning to work as a group, and developing leadership skills. "We want them to succeed in life and in their future," said Missy.

Hiller continued

instrumental in touching the lives of over two-hundred thousand adult volunteers who in turn have then been better role models and leaders to more than 1.4 million youth," added BoyEs.

Under Hiller's leadership, Washington 4-H developed and implemented one of the first volunteer screening systems in the nation. This program, which began in the late 1980s, made criminal background checks mandatory for all potential volunteers.

In 1996 Hiller expanded her volunteer work beyond 4-H by involving Nancy Macduff, a professional volunteer management trainer from Walla Walla and Lauri Sherfey, Franklin County Extension Educator, to help create the nation's first online volunteer management certificate program. Since then hundreds of students have enrolled from 38 states and 20

"Never give up on young people. They live in very different times and need caring, committed adults to guide them and help them reach their fullest potential."

countries. This effort resulted in a trip to Geneva, Switzerland to present at the International Year of the Volunteer Conference hosted by the United Nations.

"Jan's work reflects how deeply concerned she is about volunteers fulfilling needs in societies. When volunteer manager competencies are increased it also increases their organization's capacity for social capital and then they can more effectively meet the needs of their communities," said Sherfey.

In addition to her volunteer management efforts, Hiller has also successfully developed and led 4-H clothing and textiles, food and nutrition, and character education programs for many years.

As for Hiller's future, she and her husband Larry plan to travel in the U.S. and abroad and, when at home in Pullman, continue volunteering at church and community events. More time gardening, pursuing hobbies, visiting family, and studying genealogy are also on the horizon.

For current and prospective 4-H volunteer leaders Hiller offers this advice, "Never give up on young people. They live in very different times and need caring, committed adults to guide them and help them reach their fullest potential."

Mason County 4-H Teens Present Projects at the Bronx Zoo

4-H Forestry Program Highlighted at Wildlife Conservation Society

By Betsy Fradd, WSU Extension

"The most exciting thing to learn is what I can do for the environment," said 18-year-old Robbie Crabb. The Mason County 4-H'er was one of eight teens who recently presented the results of year-long wildlife conservation awareness projects focusing on amphibians and snag/nurse logs before a panel of experts in New York.

Robbie, who was part of the amphibian team, discovered how frogs and salamanders are impacted by nature and by people. "The real key to water quality is the forest system," said the senior from North Mason High School. "We are educating people to leave the amphibians alone. We just want people to look at them. The oils that are produced on human skin can affect the natural breathing system of a frog," he added.

Both groups developed field guides and gave numerous presentations to local schools and to a panel of science teachers at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle detailing their findings of amphibian and forestry awareness and education. The 4-H teens then went before educators at the Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx Zoo, and the Teens for Planet Earth staff in New York to present their projects. The Mason County youth were one of four groups from around the country invited to share their research about wildlife conservation.

"Our teens found in studying the forest system, both amphibians and snag/nurse logs play a critical role in the health of our planet," said Marilyn Brennan, Mason County Forestry Program educator. "Creating an awareness campaign where young people can be informed and, hopefully, take action will play a vital role in maintaining thriving ecosystems," Brennan added.

While in New York the Mason County



Left to right: James Gamache, Robbie Crabb, Alana Langdon, Morgan Smith, Sage MacCracken, Julia Lewis (in front), Katherine Gamache, Ian Woolen.

The Mason County 4-H Teens were recently awarded the Silver Service Award by the Wildlife Conservation Society's Teens for Planet Earth Program for their Amphibian Awareness project and the Snag/Nurse Log Awareness project.

The T.R.E.E. 4-H club was awarded the Silver Service Award by the Wildlife Conservation Society's Teens for Planet Earth Program. Their projects will be featured on the web site, www.teensforplanetearth.org and will be included in the Teens for Planet Earth annual report.

4-H'ers toured the Bronx Zoo, spent time in small breakout sessions with experts in different conservation fields, and participated in a service learning project. Cleaning the flamingo exhibit proved to be one of the highlights when the flamingo keeper released the birds into the yard after the youth were finished with their duties.

Back in Mason County the 4-H teens

are helping the Panhandle Lake 4-H Association to develop a wildlife conservation plan. They are also creating educational signage for wetland and forested areas of the camp and developing materials for use in schools.

For these 4-H'ers awareness is the key. Said Robbie, "The first thing is to pay attention and be mindful. Then you can educate and people can take the next steps."



Physics lesson is a blast!

Aidan Koenig, 9, from Tacoma, and Pierce County Valley 4-H Club leader Mike Craig successfully launch a rocket Aidan made from a kit.

Aidan and his club members learned how to install the engines, pack parachutes, and review safety practices before the launch. The rocketry project teaches laws of motion, velocity, and force all under the guise of "blowing things up."

From the Board President

These are exciting times at the Washington State 4-H Foundation! The trustees of the Foundation see a bright future for fundraising efforts. At the same time, however, there is a tinge of wistful reluctance as we have to wish our Executive Director, Megan Riebe, good luck as she leaves us to take on new challenges.

A great deal of our current success and positioning for future growth goes to the diligent efforts of Megan. While we are sad to see her leave, we know she will embrace her new job opportunity at Gonzaga University. Megan's hard work and dedication to our Foundation has been beneficial in its growth.

Joining me on our Trustee roster are: Pat BoyEs, Dr. Harry Burcalow, Dr. Dwight Palmer, Christine B. Jackson, Woody Bernard, Lloyd Spencer, Trent Stewart, and Charline Wright.

In addition, we welcome two new Trustees:

Curt Dyckman

By day, Curt is the area chairman of Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, the fourth largest insurance and risk management company world-wide. He was born and raised in Tacoma, graduating from Bellarmine Preparatory School. Curt graduated with honors from Seattle University in business finance, and sits on the President's Circle at S.U. He and his wife Olga have two children, six-year-old Christopher and

four-year-old Olivia. He is a member of the endowment trust committee for Bellarmine High School, and serves on the advisory committee for Firemens Fund Insurance Company.

Nicholas (Nick) Jasper

Nick is a field claims trainer for Progressive Insurance Company. He holds his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Washington, and A.A.S. from Columbia Basin College in Pasco. Don't let the fact that he lives in Seattle fool you! Nick was a 4-H member for nine years, mainly in the Benton County area. He worked on a variety of projects, from sheep to citizenship and leadership, and volunteered on the 4-H Know Your Government Committee for five years.

You are invited to attend the annual meeting of the 4-H Foundation. It will be held during the 4-H Forum on Saturday, October 18. After the meeting, and before the fundraising banquet, is our 4-H Alumni Reception, which the Foundation sponsors. We look forward to seeing you there.

While the Foundation faces some upcoming challenges, we remain enthusiastic about the future of our program. With all of us working together, anything is possible!

Kent R. Hojem, Chairman
Washington State 4-H Foundation



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