

4-H court members set for the fair

By ANN BLOOM

For the Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Codi Cunningham and Katie Hoffman will represent the 4-H Court at the 2021 Wallowa County Fair.

This is the second year on the court for both girls. Their reign was extended due to the coronavirus pandemic, and not being able to realize some of the activities, duties, goals and responsibilities they had planned for their 2020 year.

Hoffman, who is 16 years old and will be a junior at Joseph Charter School, is excited about showing her steer, Teeter, in this year's fair. She will also be showing a ewe lamb as part of 4-H.

There are other aspects of fair that she looks forward to, also.

"Bessie Bingo is always fun," she said.

Both girls look forward to seeing their friends.

Cunningham, who is 15 years old, will be a sophomore at Enterprise High School in the fall. She is also showing a steer, Norman. She is also showing a heifer for 4-H. The heifer, she explained, is pregnant.

"I really want to show. To do well is my main goal with the steer," she said. And with the heifer? "Just get through it," she laughed.

The girls admit their time on the 4-H court has been interesting due to the pandemic. A one-year experience has turned into two years. They explain that they had obligations



Debi Warnock/Contributed Photo

Codi Cunningham, left, and Katie Hoffman, 4-H court members, get ready to stain the Fair Chair. The two court members have had their reign extended due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

as court members for half of their first year, 2020, then the pandemic shut everything down. Next, they resumed their court duties for the second half of their second year.

"These girls have been troopers and have been very flexible over the past two years," their adviser, Debi Warnock, Oregon State University Extension 4-H/Family Community

Health agent said. "The purpose of the 4-H court is to promote the Wallowa County 4-H program through the year and be involved in the community. They have done an excellent job of representing our program at parades and community events."

The county fair is the culmination of their year, and they will be helping with shows, handing out awards and making announcements at flag raising each morning, Warnock said.

One project the girls worked on this year was purchasing and installing the Fair Chair. They wanted to add something fun to the fairgrounds, and the giant chair will be a place for photo opportunities for fair goers this year. The girls worked on staining the chair in preparation for the start of fair, Friday, Aug. 6.

When asked why they tried out for 4-H court, Hoffman said, "a lot of my friends did it and they encouraged me to do it. It was something I was interested in. It's a good experience and it gets you outside your comfort zone."

She said the experience can be helpful to people who may be quiet or shy and not used to talking to people they may not know.

"It can be good for you," she said.

For Cunningham, she decided to be on the court because, "the experience looks good on scholarship applications."

She said she's learned to interact with people she didn't know well and said she and Hoffman have

become better friends from being on the court together.

"You have to be ready to go outside your comfort zone. Be ready to have fun. You always have fun," she said.

Both girls said they enjoy the dinners that are part of being on the court. They listed the coronation, livestock, the Chief Joseph Days and the Chamber of Commerce dinners as among their favorites.

Each girl has interests outside of 4-H. Hoffman lists her academic interests as agriculture and said she enjoys playing basketball. She said she also enjoys riding and reading and working with young horses. As to what she will do after high school, she said she is thinking about going to Montana to work on "OW (a ranch). But that's just a maybe."

Cunningham lists her interests as riding and reading and being outside. She and Hoffman also enjoy roping and dogs. They said between them they, "probably have between 15 and 20 dogs, all working."

Asked about her plans post-high school, Cunningham did not hesitate. She said she wants to go to the University of Idaho to become an ag teacher.

"I've been set on UI since fourth grade," she said. She will consider pursuing something in agriculture if being an ag teacher doesn't work out.

Hoffman is the daughter of Earlynn and Melissa Hoffman. Cunningham's parents are Jessie and Collin Cunningham.

Summer campers enjoy bread-making process

By ANN BLOOM

For the Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — If you passed by Building Healthy Families on Thursday morning, July 22, you might have thought you were passing a new bakery in town.

In fact, the smell of baking bread was coming from the 12 loaves of bread made by the campers participating in Building Healthy Families summer enrichment program for youth in grades K-3.

The program activity Thursday was Bread in a Bag and making butter. The instructors for the activity were Ann Bloom, Oregon State University nutrition educator and Katy Nesbitt, a parishioner at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and coordinator of its community garden.

Prior to starting their bread dough, the campers learned about how yeast needs to "eat" sugar while it "grows" after being activated by the warm water. Campers



Maria Weer/Contributed Photos

Owen Polumsky (left) and McKenna Borgerding sample bread made during the Building Healthy Families summer enrichment program.

watched as bubbles formed when the warm water touched the yeast. They learned that with the addition of salt, the yeast stopped "growing." Then the dough got to "rest" from kneading while it rose before it was baked.

The 12 participants worked in pairs to mix flour, yeast, oil, salt, sugar and water into a gallon plastic bag. Each person took turns working the mixture in the bag until it was thoroughly mixed. Then there was a whole lot of kneading going on as the dough was removed from the bag, split in half and each person kneaded his or her own dough until it was smooth and uniform. The dough was placed in small individual aluminum pans to rise and then baked. Each child had their own loaf of bread. While the bread was baking, the pairs worked at shaking heavy cream to turn it into butter for their hot bread.

The OSU Extension Service and St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

have worked together to deliver nutrition and gardening curriculums to the alternative education high school and Head Start. This summer they offered to provide two food related activities for the Building Healthy Families day camp.

"Ann and I want to make gardening and cooking fun and accessible to kids of all ages," Nesbitt said. "Everybody eats, but we know healthy minds and bodies begin with healthy food."

The pictures speak for themselves. The bakers seemed to relish the bread they made as they dived into the hot loaves smeared with homemade butter.

Maria Weer, director of Building Healthy Families said of the activity and the children's response, "They were so engaged. I love it when our partner projects come together for such a success! Hearing a kid shout, 'I make the best bread ever!' says it all."

Now, where's the jam?

IN BRIEF

Sunrise Iron opens again Aug. 7

ENTERPRISE — Take a walk through history Saturday, Aug. 7, when the Sunrise Iron Museum opens its doors for an annual open house hosted by owner Erl McLaughlin.

Antique farm implements, industrial equipment, trucks and automobiles fill a warehouse at 65708 Sunrise Road just west of Enterprise. Most of the machinery — including some steam-powered rigs — have been restored by McLaughlin.

There also are numerous household appliances and reproductions of pre-1900

lithographs in the museum.

McLaughlin said an open house planned for last year was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, but he's now trying to get things back to normal. In addition to the open house, he welcomes groups to take tours. There is no cost.

"I'm doing tours, so all they have to do is call," he said.

For more information or to schedule a tour, call 541-263-0755.

Youth soccer deadline is Aug. 6

ENTERPRISE — Wallowa Valley Youth Soccer is now taking registrations for any kids ages 5-13 who want to play in the 2021 season.

WVYS President Jeff Yanke said 5-year-olds must have had their birthday by Sept. 1. Deadline to sign up is Friday, Aug. 6.

Yanke said the season was crippled last year because of the coronavirus pandemic, with soccer workshops replacing the usual competitive play. There are usually a few hundred kids playing, he said.

Yanke said adult volunteers also are needed.

"We always need volunteers, coaches in particular," he said.

He added that board members also are needed, as this is his last year on the group's board.

To register, go online to wallowavalleysoccer.org or email wallowavalleysoccer@gmail.com.

Joseph council to hear, settle employees' dispute

JOSEPH — A resolution of a postponed dispute between two city employees is expected Thursday, Aug. 5, when they air their grievances before the Joseph City Council.

Parks Lead Dennis Welch aired grievances during an executive session this spring against Public Works Lead Levi Tickner. The latter has exercised his option to refute those grievances in open session. The council then has the option to recess to executive session to consider action, which it must return to open session to take.

In other matters, the council:

- Will consider a conditional use permit applied for by Scott Clark.
- Will consider an application for the Zoning Ordinance Review Taskforce.
- Will hear a presentation on public works projects.

Art, flowers, wine focus of event

JOSEPH — An in-person course exploring the connection of art and flower design — while drinking wine — will take place at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture in Joseph in August.

Preregistration is required by Aug. 18. The class, which costs \$45, will run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Aug. 21.

Instructor Dawn High-

berger will lead participants in an evening of playing with flowers, drinking wine and exploring their connection to art.

Participants are asked to bring nippers and their favorite wine, or some scissors for cutting stems and some wine to share. Mason jars, wine and vases will be provided, along with flowers — and some wine.

This class will focus on late-summer flowers and a little bit on drinking wine. Every student's bouquet will be different.

For everyone's health and safety, masks will be required while not drinking wine.

To sign up, visit <http://josephy.org/event/wine-flower-arranging>.

— The Chieftain

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