

Bottled up

Maggie Justice sent in this photo. If you've taken a great photo, send it to editor@bmeagle.com.

Contributed photo
Maggie Justice



FFA

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were part of an FFA "supervised agricultural experience" program, she said.

FFA had much to do with her development, Justice said, from helping the community and moving her career forward to providing opportunities for research, entrepreneurship and job shadowing. She said she was inspired by Ineck and wants to pursue a degree in education and then return to small-town life in Eastern Oregon.

Parker Manitsas, a sophomore at Grant Union, lives in John Day where he raises show hogs under the FFA program. His brother Matt is the ag project leader for the city's future commercial greenhouse program. Parker is interested in pursuing a career in education.

FFA is a platform that builds confidence in students who are growing up and learning who they are, Manitsas said. He'll put that experience to work at the FFA State Convention in Redmond on March 22-25 where he'll present a speech on bio-security that won at district and sectional meets.

Manitsas said he spent a lot of time researching the

topic and rehearsing for the speech. After talking about good practices that limit traffic to livestock to reduce transmission of diseases, he will be peppered with questions from the audience for five minutes and needs to come out sounding like an expert, he said.

The career path

Like Manitsas, Kori Jo Girvin lives in John Day, not on a farm or ranch, but she spent time on family-owned ranches every other year in Idaho. She started raising 4-H pigs in fifth grade, but through FFA she's been involved in soil judging, livestock judging and public speaking.

Girvin will compete in the parliamentary procedure event at the state convention. As a committee chairperson, she must ensure that the issues debated by a committee are conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

A senior at Grant Union, Girvin plans to join the Air Force after graduating and pursue a college degree through the military. She credits FFA with providing her with many of the skills she'll need later in life.

Cinch Anderson, a junior at Grant Union, has lived on a cattle ranch near Izee since he was 2. The family leases the ranch and pas-

tures 200-250 cattle on a 50,000-acre allotment in the Malheur National Forest. There's some flood irrigation, but the Andersons purchase hay, he said.

Like all farm kids, Anderson has daily chores like feeding grain to show cattle and bulls, but his duties picked up recently when his parents went on vacation. Seasonal work includes delivering hay to livestock in winter and moving cattle around on Forest Service land to comply with regulations.

The Andersons do all their work on horseback — not ATVs. It's a 45-minute drive to school, longer in deep winter snow, and he knows his experience is very different than other students at Grant Union. It's harder, but it's a way of life that he grew up to appreciate. He said he feels lucky to be able to work with his parents and two younger sisters.

Anderson is the local FFA chapter vice president and plans to run for state FFA office next year. He completed eight days of auctioneer training in Iowa last June and wants to pursue that career path after attending Treasure Valley Community College. He also plans to continue working on ranches and eventually return home to Izee.

Did you know?

To celebrate Ag Day 2019, the Oregon Farm Bureau compiled these statistics about agriculture in the state:

- 97 percent of Oregon's farms and ranches are family owned and operated.
- Less than 1 percent of Oregon's population are principal operators of farms and ranches.
- 39 percent of all Oregon farmers and ranchers are women, which is one of the highest percentages in the nation.
- The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program reports that 1,212 farms and ranches have achieved century status for remaining operational and within the same family for at least 100 years. Forty-one more boast sesquicentennial status for reaching the 150-year milestone.
- Oregon farmers, ranchers and fishers produce more than 225 crops and livestock, making Oregon one of the most diverse agricultural states in the nation.
- Oregon agriculture represents a diversity of successful operations. That helps keep the ag community resilient. Big or small, organic or conventional, growing for local or export markets, Oregon is home to all types of farms and ranches.
- Oregon is the No. 1 producer in the United States for blackberries, boysenberries and hazelnuts, raising nearly 100 percent of the U.S. supply for these commodities — as well as being No. 1 in the nation for growing Christmas trees, rhubarb, potted azaleas, crimson clover, sugar beet for seed and a few

grass seed varieties.

- Oregon ranks sixth among U.S. states in certified organic acreage and fourth in farmgate sales for organics.
- Oregon ranks sixth in the United States in fresh market vegetables.
- There are 34,200 farms in Oregon, covering about 16.3 million acres. The average farm size is 477 acres.
- Oregon agriculture's value at the farm gate is \$5.7 billion. Agriculture is always a top economic driver for each of the state's 36 counties.
- Oregon's agriculture, food and fiber industry is economically linked to approximately 13.2 percent, \$50 billion, of all Oregon sales.
- With about 80 percent of what is produced leaving the state either domestically or through export, Oregon agriculture brings in billions of new dollars to the state's economy every year.
- 40 percent of Oregon's agriculture products are sold to international customers.
- Agriculture represents 10.9 percent of all Oregon exports.
- Farm Bureau was first established in Oregon almost 100 years ago, in Umatilla County in 1919. The statewide Oregon Farm Bureau was established in 1932.
- Farm Bureau is Oregon's largest general agriculture organization.

Find more facts about Oregon agriculture on Oregon Farm Bureau's website at oregonfb.org/agweek.



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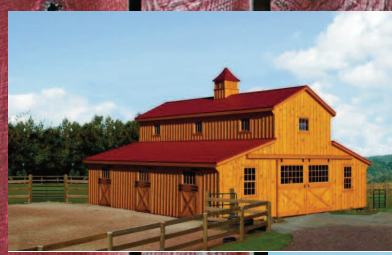

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