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first time competing. Dewey, the co-president of the HHS FFCLA chapter, developed a portfolio, mentored two students and give a 10-minute presentation at state, where she placed first.

Her portfolio, "Learning to Show the Way, Go the Way and Know the Way," included an inventory of her own leadership abilities and mentorships, leaders who have inspired her and ways to improve her leadership skills in the future.

"It's learning how to improve on myself to be a better leader and helping others do the same," she said.

Dewey said she has

"I can show that there's something better out there and you can be a better person or just a better leader."

> — Laura Dewey **Hermiston High School student**

had some leaders help her along the way, whom she mentioned in her report, including Cobb, who encouraged Dewey to join FCCLA when she was a student in Cobb's Family & Consumer Sciences Principles of Food & Nutrition class.

'She's helped me become a better leader and learn how to be selfless and just try my best in everything," Dewey said.

She also cited Samantha Walchli, a children's teacher at Living Faith Church, where Dewey is also a member.

fun and engaging with the and direct students." children," Dewey said,

adding that has helped her get people involved in different FCCLA events.

She said she has also been influenced by her 4-H leader Stepanie Vogt. whom she credits as helping her learn how to run meetings, stay organized and solve problems.

Dewey said serving as co-president of the Hermiston FCCLA chapter helped her in her project.

"I've gotten a lot more experience," she said.
"I've had to plan a lot of things. I've had to run a lot of meetings, which I didn't really have to do in the past. So this year has definitely been a learning experience."

Dewey said, to her, being a leader means being selfless and trying her best all the time with the hopes of inspiring others.

"I hope to impact other people's lives so they can become confident in themselves and become better leaders," she said.

She said leading by example shows people that she cares and demonstrates how to be professional and best handle themselves.

"I can show that there's something better out there and you can be a better person or just a better leader," Dewey said.

She said she does this as her role as co-FCCLA chapter president by inviting people to meetings, encouraging them to do community service and become actively involved in FCCLA and its projects.

"I just try to be a friend to everyone," she said.

She said she hopes the leadership skills she has developed only continue to grow. Dewey said they have already helped her find a summer job working at the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center.

"Places are looking for people with leadership skills," she said.

Cobb said Dewey has excelled in FCCLA and that her pupil has grown in many ways, mostly in her ability to relate to oth-

"She was pretty quiet as a freshman and is more outgoing now," Cobb said, adding Dewey is also will-She taught me to be ing and able to "step up

FFA:

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For social media, they concluded Facebook would be the most effective method of communication because their target audience would most likely have an account. They did identify how other social media, such as Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, could be used to share American Farmland Trust's mes-

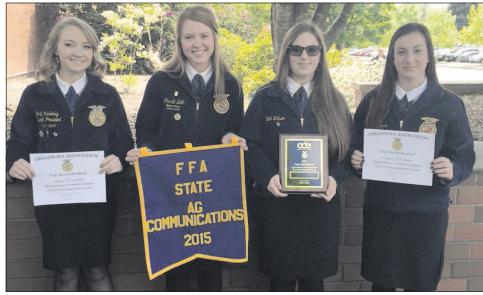
They said they all had to learn a lot for their agricultural communications career development project, but they are used to that being in

For their project, each of the girls had different roles on the team. Wilson wrote the press releases, while Vandehey wrote the news stories. Jundt was responsible for video productions using Adobe Premier, and Britt did the graphic design using InDesign.

"Pretty much anything you learn in FFA and agriculture can be applied to anything later in life," Wilson said.

Vandehey agreed, stating FFA teaches life and other educational skills that extend beyond farming.

"Really, it's a very brood spectrum of stuff," she said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hermiston High School junior Emily Vandehey, from left, senior Shandie Britt, junior Claire Wilson and sophomore Shasta Jundt celebrate their FFA Agriculture Communications team win at the state career development event this spring. The team placed first at the competition and will go on to compete at nationals in October.

Vandehey said, being in charge of news releases, she had to become familiar with journalism style of writing, specifically Associated Press style, and learning how to communicate thoughts clear-

Britt said, prior to the project, she didn't know anything about graphic design and had never used InDesign.

Wilson said FFA also teaches students people skills, specifically how to work on a team with other

people and share ideas to form a cohesive project.

Fortunately, the teens said they are all pretty close friends, and their ideas blended together well. They said when they were coming up with a project idea, they focused on innovative agriculture topics and agreed they wanted to do one on American Farmland Trust.

At the state Career Development Event competition, in addition to individual tasks related to their roles on the project and written tests,

the students had to present a 15-minute, memorized presentation to judges.

"I personally liked the presentation part the best," Wilson said.

The girls all said they didn't think they were going to do well at state and were thrilled when they learned they got first because it meant their hard work paid

"Just to know you got first place, that's a pretty good feeling," Britt said.

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be used to create a downtown entryway by redesigning the intersection of Highway 395 and Southeast Second Street. He said the Oregon Department of Transportation has committed \$75,000 because of the project's safety improvements, and the Hermiston Urban Renewal Agency would likely contribute as well.

Morgan said the committee recommended pursuing the decorative directional sign project next, which would probably not be possible until the next fiscal year.

Morgan said the Com-Enhancement munity Committee, which was established in 2014 by Mayor Dave Drotzmann, has accomplished most of the tasks for which it was

formed. After taking the summer off, he said the committee will reconvene Sept. 16 to begin working on its last major project: a public art plan. He said the Desert Arts Council agreed to help develop the plan.

Once complete, Morgan said the limited-duration committee requested to meet annually in November to review progress.



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