

Echo students qualify for national competitions

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
STAFF WRITER

Meat classification and Argentinian history may not seem to have much common ground, but both subjects are sending Echo students to national competitions this year.

Three high schoolers will travel to Indianapolis in October to compete in the Future Farmers of America national competition, in meats evaluation.

Senior Ethan Hobson and juniors Kiana Morrison and Kylee Murstig will represent the state of Oregon in the field, which includes identifying, judging and grading meats.

"We had to identify certain cuts, yield and quality grade," Hobson said.

While Hobson and Murstig had older siblings who had competed in meats evaluation, Morrison had no background knowledge and



Kiana Morrison, Ethan Hobson and Kylee Murstig will travel to Indianapolis this fall to compete in FFA Nationals for meats evaluation.

STAFF PHOTO BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

is in her second year competing in FFA. All three students compete in other categories as well, including parliamentary procedure and raising livestock.

Echo's teams have won the statewide meats evaluation category three times in the last eight years.

Raymon Smith, Echo Schools superintendent and

the meats evaluation coach, said the long-term aim of the program is to help make students informed consumers.

"It's good to win, but the goal is to get them to under-

stand when they go to the grocery store — why they're buying what they're buying, and get the quality product in the end," Smith said.

About 46 high school students participate in Echo's FFA, half the high school's population.

At the middle school, four sixth-graders qualified for nationals in the National History Day competition.

Sam Wyse, McKenzie Rose, Allyson Brown and Calliope Mills researched and performed a piece about Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, a group of mothers who protested the kidnapping and killing of thousands of children by the military in Argentina during the 1970s and early '80s.

The students did a short performance, depicting protests by the mothers at the World Cup.

"We got a book about women worldwide who had done things to stand up for

themselves," Rose said.

"This was a good topic because they were standing up for children," Mills added.

Echo History teacher Debbie Royer said the students are hoping to go to the national competition in June, at the University of Maryland. But she said the students will have to fundraise first, and it's not confirmed that they'll attend.

Though many schools competed at the National History Day competition at Concordia University, the Echo sixth grade team was unopposed, because no one else in that age group gave a performance.

There are several categories in which students can compete, including filming a short documentary, creating an exhibit, writing a paper, or making a website.

Royer said this is the third year Echo has competed in National History Day.

Hermiston senior awarded scholarship from wheat group

The Oregon Wheat Foundation is pleased to announce awards of 10 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors this year, representing 10 counties or regions.

Students were judged on their community involvement, academic achievement and an essay on a wheat industry topic.

Reed Middleton is a graduating senior at Hermiston High School and plans to study agricultural business at Kansas State University. Reed is the daughter of Jason and Cindy Middleton of Hermiston.

She plays tennis, and is the senior representative, FFA Chapter vice president, a member of the National



Middleton

Honor Society and is active in Umatilla County 4-H. She also volunteers on several school and community projects.

Oregon Wheat Foundation Scholarships are open to high school seniors whose parents are members of the Oregon Wheat Growers League or whose parents are employed by grower members of the organization.

The scholarship is also open to students employed by grower members.

Scholarship information can be found in the Oregon Wheat Foundation section of the Oregon wheat website at www.owgl.org.

Applications are accepted beginning in October.

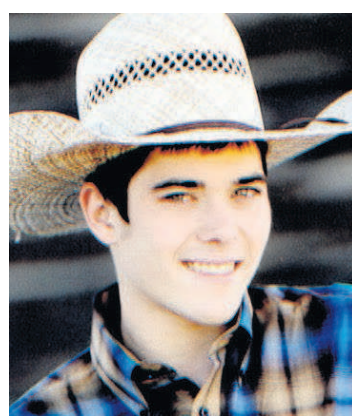
Two local seniors earn scholarships

HERMISTON — Two local graduating seniors have been chosen to receive Tripper Rice Memorial Scholarship for 2018.

The scholarships are given in memory of Tripper Rice, a past InterMountain High School Rodeo Association state champion and national qualifier, by his parents Paul and Cindy Rice.

Daylon Eng of Hermiston, an Echo High School senior, received a \$1,500 scholarship. He plans to attend Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton to earn an associate's degree in preparation for learning the electrician's trade. Eng has been active in FFA, 4-H, wrestling, baseball, and rodeo during his high school years. He is a youth wrestling and Little League coach, and helps set up the Umatilla County Fair each year. He is the son of Candice Osborne and Shawn Eng of Hermiston.

Hallie Porter, a senior at



Eng



Porter

Pendleton High School, was chosen to receive a \$2,000 scholarship. She plans to attend Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Wash., to study communication disorders. In addition to her involvement in National Honor Society, FFA and basketball at the high school, Porter also teaches horse riding lessons to 11-year-olds and participates in the Happy Canyon Night Show during the

Pendleton Round-Up. She is the daughter of Kevin and Whitney Porter of Pendleton.

Tripper Rice scholarships are not solely based on the academic achievement of the student, but also weighed heavily on the student's financial need, desire for continued education, sportsmanship, leadership in the classroom and community, and continuous enthusiasm for their school and rodeo.



Thank you Dr. Gifford for serving our community!

JOSEPH R. GIFFORD, M.D.

After 26 years of continued service to our community, it is with deep respect and gratitude that we announce the retirement of Joseph R. Gifford, M.D., Family Practice Physician. As of April 2018, Dr. Gifford is no longer seeing patients at the Gifford Medical Center.

We wish Dr. Gifford and his family the best of luck as they embark on their new journey.



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