

Livestock judges travel to competitions

The Beaverhead County 4-H Livestock Judging Team members recently traveled to two out-of-county competitions.

The first competition, held in Sheridan, was September 21. Members competing in the senior division were: Perrie Crampton, Audrey King, Amy Miller, and Dustie Dallaserra. Competing in the junior division were: Jeff King, Cody King, Joe Potter, Rachel Potter, Katherine Korpi, Jessica Kramer, Cyrena Kirkpatrick and Adam Heggelund. Altogether, there were 133 students competing from both 4-H and FFA organizations.

The contest consisted of the following classes: Hampshire lambs, horses, bison bulls, wool, market hogs, and heifers. Participants took a written test and did tool identification, and gave reasons on lambs and dogs. The contest was such that the top three scores from each county made up the team (senior and junior). The senior team, Perrie Crampton, Audrey King and Amy Miller, received fourth place overall, and first place for 4-H Senior. The junior team of Adam Heggelund, Cody King, and Jeff King, placed sixth overall, and first for 4-H Junior. Individually, Perrie Crampton received a second place out of 4-H and FFA. Adam Heggelund was the top junior competitor.

On Saturday, September 25, the members traveled to

Missoula. Participating were Audrey King, Perrie Crampton, Amy Miller, Joe Potter, Rachel Potter, Katherine Korpi, Jeff King, Cody King, and Dustie Dallaserra. Classes were: feeder calves with reasons, Suffolk ewe lambs with reasons, heifers, Targhee ewes, and market hogs. There was also a tool identification.

Audrey King received first place in the seniors. The team of Jeff King (second place individually), Joe Potter (third place indi-

vidually), and Cody King (fourth place), attained the first place junior award. The team of Rachel Potter (sixth place), Dustie Dallaserra (seventh place), and Katherine Korpi (eighth place), received the award for the second place junior team.

The 4-H Livestock Judging Team members meet every Wednesday after school for practice. They will be traveling in October to compete in the livestock judging competition at the NILE event in Billings.



First place

The Beaverhead County Livestock Judging Team of Cody King, Adam Heggelund and Jeff King placed first in the 4-H Junior Division at a recent livestockjudging meet in Sheridan.



4-H livestock judging team

Members of the Beaverhead County 4-H Livestock Judging Team performed well at a recent competition in Missoula. Audrey King placed first in the senior division, Cody King placed fourth individually, Jeff King placed second individually, Joe Potter placed third, Rachel Potter placed sixth, Katherine Korpi placed eighth, and Dustie Dallaserra placed seventh.

Net learning

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According to the MTSBA and MREA, the WWIDEA program successfully increased the Galena ANB (average number of students) by approximately 3,000 children, which "came in part at the expense of enrollments in other school districts throughout the state of Alaska" and the two stress the idea that "division" would be created among Montana school districts if the Galena, Alaska model were used.

MTSBA and MREA also noted that they believe "local control will be rendered meaningless if K-12 distance learning evolves over the next several years without ownership and control by Montana's public school districts."

In order to facilitate a program that would allow control by local school boards, says Barnhart, "MTSBA decided to put together a consortium of schools who were willing to put \$4000 in the program."

The two groups suggest that a self-funded member governed K-12 distance learning program "will ensure that the benefits of this grant remain with the children served by our members."

Says Barnhart, "it is a little scary, because we can't predict what will happen. I really do feel that this is where education is going. We need to think two or three years down the road."

The idea behind distance learning partly involves a perceived need to amend accreditation violations across the state. Many of the violations are directly related to difficulty in providing properly endorsed,

licensed instructors in a variety of disciplines or to overcrowding in classrooms in larger communities, say the two proponents of the program.

Proponents also note the needs of potential distance-learning users including drop-outs, students faced with disciplinary action who are not allowed to attend school, rural students and those who are homeschooled.

Noting her feelings on the topic was Trustee Laura Horst, saying, "this is an opportunity that's going to happen and where we go with this speaks to our interests as a board. It's happening through the U of M, and MTSBA is responding in a way that works through them." Horst continued, "this seems to be one of those cases of you snooze, you lose. Why not be in the front of the line?"

Membership cost for school districts to participate will be based on each district's use of the program. Berkram speculates the program could cost District 10 between one and two thousand dollars a year, following the initial \$4000 investment currently proposed. MTSBA and MREA note in their documents that they "anticipate initial participants will see a return on their initial investment within three years".

The initial investment costs could be provided by District 10's portion of a breach of contract settlement from Northwestern En-

ergy, said Berkram. "We didn't have direct plans to use it. We could invest it in this program." The district's share of the settlement, \$3600, nearly covers the entire cost of being a part of the start-up of the Internet learning project.

"We're trying to be visionary on a shoestring budget," comments Barnhart.

Another factor in the local school district's decision to participate involves the way state funding for schools is allocated. Funding is directly related to student populations, so additional students being served by the district would mean more funding.

District 10 currently receives approximately \$5000 per ANB, and students who are in school at least two hours each day are counted toward an ANB, explains Berkram.

The ANB numbers are based on two student population counts, one conducted in October, and one in February. Even homeschooled students who utilize the distance learning program would affect the district's budget positively.

"My reaction to this," says Barnhart, "is that I'm excited that the local board is willing to take a small risk and be more forward looking. It's a pretty big step for us."

"I think we'll be taking advantage of the technology to fill a need that we can't fill traditionally," she notes, in reference to certain course offerings the district has been unable to provide in recent years.

The lack of those courses has led to inability to acquire full accreditation of the middle school.

The proposed budget for the initial phase of the program includes a \$36,000 salary for a half-time administrative director, a \$10,000 salary for a half-time administrative support position, a \$25,000 salary for a full-time technical support position hired six months into the start-up phase, and \$30,000 for management, legal and technical support.

Additional costs outlined by MTSBA and MREA include a total of \$25,000 for online and onsite training for instructors. Operational expenses are projected to be \$26,000, including office supplies, photocopying, postage, printing, a server, and communications. Total projected costs are \$152,000.

"The idea is, the \$4000 will go toward setting up the governance of the consortium," notes Barnhart. "In three or four years, the consortium will be self sufficient enough to pay back each of the school districts. Once the consortium is running, school districts will pay to be a part of it."

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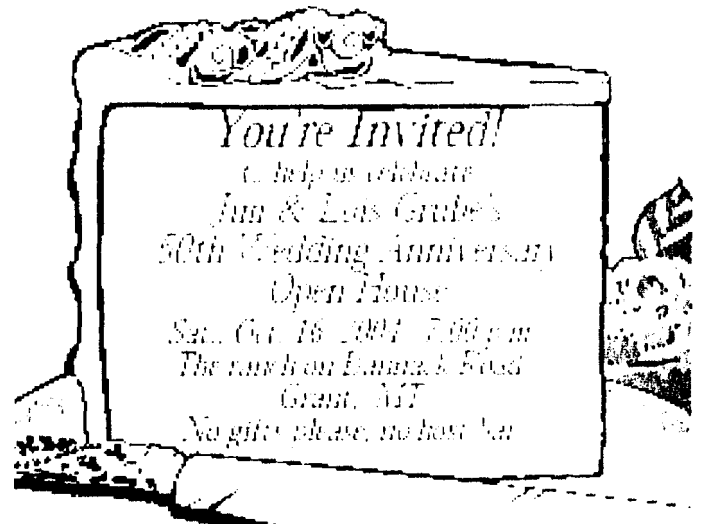
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