Tuesday News – September 12, 2023

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Save The Date! Washington State 4-H Volunteer Recognition Luncheon – October 28th!

Jana Ferris

The Washington State 4-H Volunteer Recognition Luncheon will be held Saturday, October 28 at 12:30 p.m. at The Armory in Ellensburg, WA. All state awardees (Alumni Award, Salute to Excellence Ten Year and Lifetime, Heather Rider Award, Volunteer Staff Award, and [state] Friend of 4-H) for years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 will be honored. All invitations to awardees will be sent directly to the recipients. More information will be forthcoming.

To facilitate further nominations, we are re-opening nominations for state awards with a firm deadline of Monday, September 11th at 8:00 a.m. After this deadline, no further nominations will be accepted. To locate nomination forms, please see extension.wsu.edu/4h/for-volunteers/wastate-volunteer-recognition/

Volunteers of the Year from each county will be honored through narrated video during the luncheon. The deadline for submitting your Volunteer of the Year has been changed to October 1st; with this deadline, you must submit a high-resolution photo with the nomination if you would like one displayed. County displays will be shown digitally; we will send out instructions for displays no later than Monday, September 11th.

Please join us to honor our deserving volunteers. Those wishing to attend the luncheon who do not receive a personal invitation are welcome to attend at a $20/person cost. More information about reserving your space will be distributed the first week of October. Please contact Jana Ferris (ferrisj@wsu.edu OR 425-595-2950) with any questions.
Thank You!
Facilitate the Awesome Modules Coming In-Person to Everett and Via Zoom!

Michael Wallace

Now presenting an opportunity for Westside Parents and Leaders of 4-H Teens! To register, click on the live link below the flyer!

Live Link: Register Here: https://tinyurl.com/WestsideFTA

For more info or ARA request contact: mlwallace@wsu.edu or (360) 778-5813
TSC Fall Paper Clover Campaign Kicks Off on October 4th!
Denise Echelbarger

The Fall 2023 Tractor Supply 4-H Clover Campaign is coming soon!. Tractor Supply campaign funds are to support 4-H camp and leadership experiences.

Planning to work with your local Tractor Supply Store? The store managers and cashiers have a lot on their plate, so it’s usually helpful if the local 4-H clubs/program can reach out (https://www.tsceventpartners.com/events/signup/1). That interaction can look different, depending on the situation. The clubs can ask to set up a table or display featuring the 4-H program in the store. It could also be as simple as telling them “thank you,” or having a foods member bring them a plate of cookies for the breakroom. Anything we can do to stay top of mind is helpful. The campaign will happen either way – because it’s programmed into the pin pad now – but when you’ve got employees who care about the 4-H program and are physically asking, it’s always going to be more successful.

Best wishes for a successful Fall Paper Clover Campaign!

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Washington State 4-H Ambassadors Food Drive Has Ended
Berklie Sheppard

Hello all!

Our “Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation Food Drive” has come to an end. The last Checkpoint, Checkpoint 3, was on August 31st. If you collected food items in August for the food drive, please fill out the form linked below. We appreciate all of those who participated and helped people in need.

We will be announcing the Checkpoint 3 winner and the Overall winner on our Instagram site (wa.4h.state.ambassador) with pictures of their participation!
Those counties will also receive a Certificate of Achievement. Congrats to those of you in advance! If you have any pictures from the food drive, please email them to us!

“HDTV” Food Drive: Check 3

Berklie Sheppard, State Ambassador
WA 4-H SA Team
wa4hsa@gmail.com

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2023 State Dog Judging Contest Comes With Changes
Amber Hammond

The state dog judging contest this year will include some changes from past years:

**Placement Classes**

There will be only four placement classes. This will include an obedience OR fitting & showmanship class. All age levels will place in the same classes.

**Identification Portion**

*Intermediates and Seniors*
There will be 25 breeds and 25 parts/anatomy (as has always been done in the past)

*Juniors*
There will be 15 breeds and 15 parts/anatomy (this is condensed as mentioned in the exhibitor guide)

**Oral Reasons**

There will be one placement class designated as the oral reasons class.

*Intermediates and Seniors* are required to do oral reasons.

*Juniors* have the option to do oral reasons, it is not required. (Junior scores for oral reasons will not count towards their overall total).
Some Housekeeping

Participants should bring their own clipboards and pencils. None will be provided by the state fair for the contest.

Dress attire for oral reasons is Business Casual (it is fine to wear your showmanship attire if you prefer/it is easier). Please no jeans. If juniors do not plan on doing oral reasons, it is fine to just abide by the 4-H dress code but please no club/county affiliated shirts. There is no opportunity to change clothes once the contest has started, so please enter the contest dressed appropriately.

I will be posting a list of needed volunteer spots soon; if you have volunteered in the past and have a spot you know of that you like, please let me know and I’ll add you in ahead of time.

Thank you!

Amber Hammond
email: bajadenton@gmail.com

State 4-H Ambassadors Present the 4-H Youth of the Month for August!
Berklie Sheppard

The Washington State 4-H Ambassadors recognize the 4-H Youth of the Month honoree for August, Zoey Van Gordon of Clallam County! The Ambassadors are proud to highlight 4-H youth monthly throughout the year!
Addendums for Rule Changes for PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide Now Available

Jennifer Leach

As of this date, the Washington 4-H horse program is still waiting for the final version of the PNW 4-H Horse Contest guide from Oregon. This publication is a joint effort between Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

In the meantime, a sub-committee of the Washington State 4-H equine committee led by Stephanie Roeter Smith, 4-H Regional Specialist, compared the 2015 edition with the soon to be published final version. However, Washington 4-H Horse Program is not sure of the date of the final publication.

These addendums are posted on the WSU 4-H website's Horse page, located at the link called WA State 4-H Equine Policies and Rules-PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide-Addendums. The direct link to the Horse Page is https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/projects/animal-science/companion-performance/horse/

There are two addendums. Addendum I is specific to the rule changes affecting Washington as related to current PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide. Find Addendum I HERE.

Addendum II is a “clarification” of selected rules in the PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide, but are not rule changes. Find Addendum II HERE.

The current version of PNW 4-H Horse Contest Guide dated October 1, 2015 will continue to be the contest guide we will use until we (Washington) receive the final from Oregon.

Addendum I (rule changes) will be effective for the remainder of this program year to September 30, 2023. Addendum II may be updated as more questions of clarification are identified – also through to September 30, 2023.

For information or clarification on the PNW 4-H Horse Contest guide process or rules, contact Jennifer Leach, State Horse Contact at LeachJ@cowlitzwa.gov or jleach@wsu.edu.
4-H Giving Page Update – Give Online to Your County 4-H Program!
Denise Echelbarger

We’ve Changed!

But it’s all good—we’ve just launched our new 4-H Giving Page design. It’s now even easier to find your county excellence fund give link and give directly to your county 4-H program. With better navigation, we hope you love it as much as we do. CHECK IT OUT! https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/give-to-4-h/

Visit Pullman to Celebrate 4-H Day With Cougar Football On September 23rd!
Denise Echelbarger

Save the date! Celebrate 4-H Day with the Cougs in Pullman on September 23rd vs. the Oregon State University Beavers at Martin Stadium. Game time is yet to be determined. Discounted tickets are available!
Volunteer to Support the Washington State 4-H Fair
State Fair Board

The Washington State 4-H Fair board encourages individuals with an interest in serving youth development to offer their time and talents in support of the State 4-H Fair as volunteers.

Please send an email to 4-H Fair Board President Kirk Gresham at st4hfair@gmail.com with any questions, for more information, or to volunteer.

Thank You!

Donate to the Washington State 4-H Fair
4-H State Fair Board

Every year, the Washington State 4-H Fair Board ensures the continuation and success of 4-H programs old and new alike, from purchasing trophies and ribbons, buckles and banners for awards to fair participants to scheduling and facilitating events and more. This year, the State 4-H Fair Board is asking for your donations to assist the board in its efforts to provide youth an environment that
fosters caring relationships, constructive learning experiences, leadership opportunities and to serve our communities.

Please contact a State 4-H Fair board member for more information.

st4hfair@gmail.com

State 4-H Fair Board Seeks Qualified Candidates For State 4-H Fair Manager Position Opening

The State 4-H Fair Manager Position Is Now Open!

The job description for the State 4-H Fair Manager position is available for download by clicking HERE.

The State 4-H Fair Manager is not a WSU position, but reports directly to the State 4-H Fair Board. The salary is $32,500, paid in twelve monthly installments. There are no benefits associated with this position.

This is a part time position of about 1,000 hours annually, with extended hours during August and September, during the fair cycle in Puyallup, Washington.

The position will remain open until filled.

Please forward your cover letter and resume to:

Washington State 4-H Fair Board
PO Box 1225
Puyallup, Washington, 98371-0233

or by email to the Fair Board at st4hfair@gmail.com.
Monarchs play a critical role in supporting our ecosystems. But think about the things we do to support monarch butterflies—planting milkweeds, planting flower gardens, protecting habitats. Think of all the other things that live in those habitats that we protect when we protect our monarch butterflies.
— Emily Erickson, PhD

Hear more in the podcast episode about a community science project you can do to help scientists conserve monarch butterflies.

Dr. Universe: Why do dolphins and beluga whales have echolocation and what is it? – Carolyn Grace, 8, Virginia

Dear Carolyn Grace,

Toothed whales—like dolphins and belugas—might live in the ocean, but they have some big things in common with cave-dwelling bats. They’re all mammals that live in dark places and use echolocation.

That’s why I talked about your question with my friend Christine Portfors. She’s a biologist at Washington State University. Her lab keeps a colony of bats.

Many bats sleep in caves and zoom around at night. Their world is dark, so they use sounds and their echoes to perceive the world around them, which is called echolocation. Toothed whales live in dark oceans or murky rivers and lakes. That’s why they use echolocation, too.

“Whenever there isn’t enough light for an animal to do the things that it needs to do like navigate, collect food and find mates, then it has to use some other sensory system besides vision,” Portfors said. “So, they send out sound. That sound bounces off objects in their environment and comes back as an echo. They use those echoes to identify objects and navigate.”

A bat sends out squeaks from its mouth or nose. A toothed whale sends out clicks from a fatty lump on its forehead. The lump is called the melon.
One of my favorite animals is the river dolphin. It lives in rivers so dark and cloudy that its eyes are useless. Instead of looking where it’s swimming, a river dolphin uses its melon to shoot out clicks. It can tell a lot from the echoes that return.

“As an object is going to produce different types of echoes when a sound hits it depending on where that object is in space,” Portfors said. “Is it off to the right or left? Is it straight ahead? Is it up or down? An animal that uses echolocation can figure those things out all because of the way that the sound comes back as an echo.”

Plus, the sounds don’t hit the object in just one spot. If a river dolphin’s clicks bounce off a tasty fish, the sounds hit a bunch of different parts of the fish. When all those echoes bounce back, the dolphin’s brain forms something like a map or image of the fish and what’s around it. It’s a little bit like how we see—but using sound instead of light.

The sounds bats and toothed whales use for echolocation are special, too. Those squeaks and clicks are very high frequency. They’re usually so high that humans can’t hear them at all.

That’s important because sound travels in the air or water as waves. The waves from low frequency sounds are far apart. If a river dolphin used low frequency sounds for echolocation, the sound waves might bounce off big things—like a giant underwater rock. But those waves might go around a little fish. That means no echo. The dolphin would have no idea the fish was there.

The waves from high frequency sounds are close together. They’ll definitely hit the fish and bounce back, so the river dolphin can find its meal.

You could say that echolocation using very high frequency sounds works “very whale.”
Dr. Universe: What makes fireflies light up at night? – Asher, 7, Maryland

Dear Asher,

When I was a kitten, there were tons of fireflies in my grandparents’ yard. My litter mates and I loved to gently catch them and let them go.

I talked with my friend Richard Zack about how and why fireflies light up. He’s an insect scientist at Washington State University.

Those glowing insects are a kind of beetle. But we call them fireflies or lightning bugs. Their glow is a form of bioluminescence. That’s when a chemical reaction inside a living thing makes it light up.

Zack told me to think about a glow stick. If you shake it, you can tell it has liquid inside it. There’s also a small glass capsule filled with another liquid inside. When you crack the glow stick, the glass breaks, and the two liquids mix. That causes a chemical reaction—and the glow stick lights up.

A firefly’s chemical reaction happens inside a special light organ in its abdomen. The stuff inside the light organ—a molecule called luciferin and a protein called luciferase—don’t glow on their own. But when the firefly’s body lets oxygen into the light organ, a chemical reaction happens and the firefly’s abdomen glows.
Zack told me the big reason fireflies light up is to find mates. You’ve probably noticed that a firefly’s light doesn’t stay on. It flicks on and off. Different kinds of fireflies use different patterns of lighting up and turning off to find each other.

“If you’re watching fireflies, the ones you see flying around and flickering are mostly males,” Zack said. “If you look down at the ground, you will see flickering females. So, what happens is the male is out there giving off its species’ flick, flick, flick pattern. Then a female of the same species will respond with a different pattern. Ideally the right male finds the right female, and they mate and everybody’s happy.”

A firefly’s glow is also a warning. It lets predators know that the beetle is poisonous and not a good snack.

But some fireflies don’t glow. Those are the fireflies we have in the western United States. They either don’t light up at all or glow so faintly that you can’t see them. They use chemical signals to find their mates instead.

For some unfortunate male fireflies, a female firefly’s glow is the worst kind of invitation. Different kinds of fireflies have different eating habits as adults. Some never eat at all. Some eat nectar or pollen. But the fireflies from the group Photuris are predators. They’re also aggressive mimics.

Female fireflies from this group hang out on the ground looking for the flickering patterns of male fireflies from another group. They respond by mimicking the glow pattern the male firefly expects to see from a potential mate. He gets closer and closer—and then the female eats him. As a bonus, that gives the Photuris firefly the poison she needs to protect her from predators since this group doesn’t make it on their own.

I’m pretty sure she gives the meal a glowing review.

Sincerely,
Dr. Universe

Get more questions and answers here!

Know a kid with a science question?
Q and A Sessions for the Washington 4-H Horse Program Continue – Now On First Wednesdays!

Have questions about the Washington 4-H horse program? Our monthly Q and A for leaders, parents, members, and staff will now be meeting on the first Wednesday of each month via Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. beginning June 7th.

Zooms are structured around the theme/parameters of horses and youth development. They are more than “what are the rules.” There is also time set aside for input on future topics for subsequent Zooms. The Zoom meeting ID is 452-082-9765 with no passcode. You must have a zoom account to participate.

The meetings are facilitated by Kim Baker, State 4-H Equine Coordinator. Feel free to contact Kim with any questions at kim.baker@wsu.edu.