



FFA Week

Pateros FFA students learn through new project challenges

By MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

PATEROS – Everywhere one turns in the Pateros High School shop there are projects of one sort or another underway. And those are in addition to the community service work that instructor Lyle Blackburn's FFA and Ag students take on.

The group recently completed a series of road marker signs delivered to the Alta Lake State Park that is still recovering from the 2014 Carlton Complex wildfire, the state's second largest, that burned through the area. Prior to the road signs, the Pateros shop students took on a multi-year project to restore or rebuild all the picnic tables the park lost in the fire.

No challenge is too large for Blackburn's class to take on as evidenced by a number of old tractors – classics actually – that the students restored. The latest project is a rare 1971 Ford short box pickup that received a new Chev 427 cubic-inch engine to replace the original 350 V-8 that was the stock powerplant. Still ahead is exterior restoration of the vehicle's black paint job and other work.

Elsewhere in the wood-working department sits an upright piano partially stripped of its coating of light green paint. The students will restore the piece to its original wood finish for a local client. Another customer asked the woodworkers to convert a round oak dining table to a low-profile coffee table.

The Pateros FFA students are effective fundraisers with their barbecue grill a regular fixture at many of the community events in their town. The group also collects aluminum cans at recycle bins located in town and at nearby Alta Lake.



Shop students modified this dining table by lowering it to the height of a coffee table for a client.



ABOVE: A delicate woodworking project is restoring the original wood finish on of this Ludwig & Co. upright piano.
LEFT: The Ludwig logo



Photos by Mike Maltais

ABOVE: Student Jesse Ginter, left, and FFA/Ag instructor Lyle Blackburn, examine the new 427cc engine installed into this 1971 Ford pickup.

BELOW: Pateros Ag instructor Lyle Blackburn said his students are still learning how to operate this PlasmaCam cutter purchased with a \$10,000 grant.



CTE Grant gives Bridgeport Ag program a boost

By MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT – For a school with a modest student body, Bridgeport enjoys a large participation in its agriculture-related programs. One big reason is the variety of skillsets the students learn that are of valuable use later in their everyday adult lives.

Bridgeport High School

Ag teacher and FFA advisor Adam Corum said he has some 129 students enrolled in his FFA and ag classes, so it takes a leader who knows his business to keep everyone engaged and productive. Corum is in his ninth year with the Bridgeport program and spent another four at Tonasket High School where he was an alumnus.

The largest annual fundraiser and the spring event

anticipated by local gardeners is the school's annual greenhouse plant sale that is scheduled this year for Friday, April 26. The Ag students started planting on Jan. 9 to have their selections ready for the big sale.

"All of our plants are grown from seed and we receive our seeds from Ball Seeds," said Corum. "We are focusing on our baskets this year as well as bedding plants and a variety of vegetables."

The plant sales proceeds pay to send many of the FFA chapter students to the annual state FFA convention scheduled for May 9-11 in Pullman. Funds from previous sales even helped fund a trip to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in 2017. A goal this year is

to raise enough money for a 2019 trip to National.

A big boost to the school ag program came from a Career and Technological Education (CTE) grant from the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) earlier this year. CTE grants allow schools to invest in their high-demand career and technical programs through facilities upgrades, equipment purchases, and other actions.

Bridgeport received \$65,000 that the ag students put to good use renovating the Ag greenhouse and purchasing shop equipment.

"We poured a new concrete floor in the greenhouse," said Corum, "and bought a plasma cutter for the shop."



Photo courtesy of Adam Corum, Bridgeport School District
A shot of the new plantings in the Bridgeport High School greenhouse shows a portion of the new concrete floor added this year thanks to a grant from Career and Technologies Education.

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Feb. 16-23, 2019



Brewster FFA promotes shop, horticulture and community projects

BY MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

BREWSTER – Brewster High School always has a large turnout of students for its multi-faceted FFA-Ag-Horticulture-Shop programs under the guidance of instructor Todd Dezellem. With the annual plant sales, fair entries, community activities and individual/school projects there is always something innovative and productive going on between the greenhouse and shop.

Once again, this year students fashioned custom-order floral bouquets for Valentine's Day and other occasions.

Ag advisor Todd Dezellem always has a robust plant production project for his Ag class. Plantings begin early in the year from their own stocks to be ready in time for the spring greenhouse sales and sales tables at community events like Arbor Day in nearby Pateros.

The class has also been working with the Brewster Boys and Girls Club on a raised bed garden for the youngsters.

Brewster boasts a strong participation in the annual Okanogan County Fair held every September with a mix of steer and hog entries in the livestock division.

Students are also putting the finishing touches on a new garden shed that will help accommodate the school's ambitious horticulture operation.



Through the Greenhouse Buddy Partnership, students share their skills and experience with a group of kindergarteners.



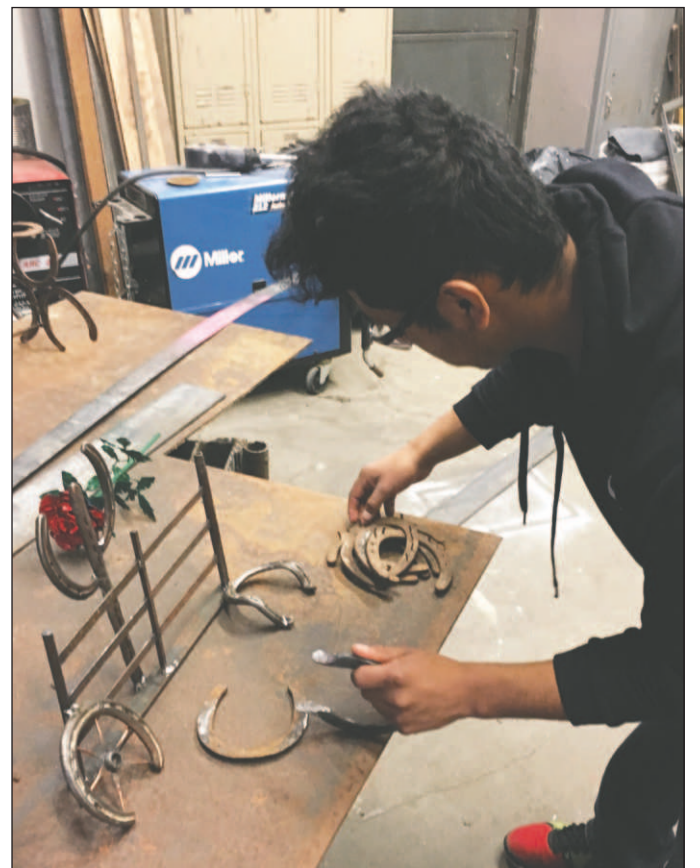
Oscar Fonseca assembles his own horseshoe creation.



Alfredo Nila shows off his woodworking project.



Halle Aparicio holds one of the birdhouses the shop students make.



ABOVE: Dilvan Martinez adds an interesting twist to the use of horseshoes in his shop project.



ABOVE: Giselle DeLaPaz puts the finishing touches on an arrangement of roses.



ABOVE: Oscar Fonseca, left, and Jamin Barbosa water the greenhouse plants.



LEFT: From left, Megan, Jacky, and Lupe look over the newly planted assortment of geraniums.



BELOW: BHS students work on the new garden shed.

Mansfield students are all-in for National FFA Week

BY MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

MANSFIELD - Unique among the four schools in the Quad coverage area, Mansfield High School boasts a school farm on ground adjacent to the school building. The farm is still in the process of adding facilities as the demand for student

projects determines.

"Our farm has progressed very well," said Ag instructor Jamey Jo Steele. "We now have six pig pens and one goat pen. Over the years, we have purchased new self-feeders for each pig pen and build a pretty nice water system as well."

Steele said the next phase of farm building will include

a permanent area to set up a set of digital livestock scales for the school purchased to facilitate weighing animals.

"We also have hopes to build some type of roof, Quonset hut, barn over the top of our existing pens."

Steele said the school enjoys a good turnout for its Ag and FFA programs.

"We have 18 active mem-

bers in our FFA Chapter this year," said Steele. "Eight of them are returning and 10 are new. That is 60 percent of our 9-12 population."

Mansfield students patronize the North Central Washington Fair in nearby Waterville.

"Last August we had four members with pigs, one member with a goat, and

one member with a steer," said Steele. "I would imagine this year we will see the same with a few more pig projects."

FFA Week from Saturday, Feb. 16 through Saturday, Feb. 23, is always a big event at this small student body located in the heart of wheat country. Among events planned as the high

school again this year are a staff breakfast, Ag Olympics, and Dress Up Days. The staff breakfast is on Friday, Feb. 22. Ag Olympics involve competition between the classes in Ag-like events.

Last month the FFA group hosted a Silent Auction and Pie Sale at the Jan. 26 Homecoming festivities.