Farewell from Patricia after 30 years with Umatilla County 4-H

By the time you receive this newsletter I will be taping the last box closed in my office as I prepare to retire October 31st. It seems like only yesterday that I started my 4-H experience as a 4-H’er in Southern Idaho. Projects ranged from Dairy, Beef, Horse to Home Economics. My love was running a show stick with my herd of Angus cattle. 4-H provided me the opportunity to become involved in leadership roles at the local, state and national level and thanks to 4-H, I received many college scholarships to apply towards my journey of becoming an Extension 4-H Agent.

My time with the Umatilla County 4-H program has passed quickly. Every day has proven unique with countless events, workshops, camps, Field Days, County Fairs, Jr. Shows and Volunteer Leader meetings and trainings. I’ve worn out several pairs of track shoes and carried tons of boxes as I have participated in our many 4-H events over the past 30 years.

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Top Honors for volunteers and past members

Volunteers to be inducted into Oregon’s 4-H Hall of Fame this December.

Hat’s off to long time 4-H volunteer, Claudia Allen!!! With over 50 years of 4-H involvement Claudia is well known for her dedication to the 4-H program. We have been so fortunate to have her serve as a club leader for 39 years, County Fair Superintendent for 29 years, MFJS Volunteer as well as member of numerous committees and Advisory Boards. Claudia is one of the first to raise her hand to assist whenever called upon. She has been extremely helpful with the 4-H Home Economics project areas and is highly respected for her positive approach in working with our youth. Without a doubt, Claudia is well deserving of this honor.

For over 50 years, Cliff and Judy Bracher have been raising their hands to volunteer their assistance with the 4-H program at the local as well as state level. Their roles have included service as club leaders, County Fair volunteers and members of numerous Advisory Boards and Committees. Hundreds of local youth have camped out at the Bracher’s during camp counselor training sessions and more than one child has been reassured by Cliff and Judy before walking into the competition ring. Cliff and Judy were honored as our National Friend of Extension in 2016 as well as County Fair Grand Marshals.

Michael Shafer Selected for Prestigious National Leadership Role

We are so proud to announce that former Umatilla County 4-H’er Michael Shafer will serve on the National America’s Promise Alliance Board of Directors. America’s Promise Alliance is guided by leaders from all sectors of American life: the business community; nonprofits; community groups; policymakers; experts in children’s and youth issues; concerned individuals; and young people themselves. The collective work of the Alliance involves keeping Five Promises to children and youth that form the conditions they need to achieve adult success. We know that Michael will be an outstanding spokesperson on this board.

While a 4-H’er, Michael was active as a county and state 4-H Ambassador. He attended many state and national 4-H leadership sessions including Summer Conference, Know Your State Government Conference, National 4-H Congress and was honored with a state 4-H Scholarship.

Interested in similar opportunities??? The first step is to step up for leadership experiences as a Junior Leader or event volunteer. Be sure to work on your 4-H resume and submit an application for various statewide leadership experiences such as Summer Conference. Also, consider applying for State 4-H Ambassador Positions and National 4-H Congress. Most applications are due in early February...just around the corner.
**Around the State**

1st Annual High Desert Open Youth Trap Shoot is November 18 in Madras. This is going to be a 75 target competition made up of singles, doubles and continentals. Entry fee includes a t-shirt, lunch and trophy entry.

**Clatsop County 4-H Small Animal Round Up** is happening Saturday, November 17 in Astoria. There will even be a Small Animal Agility Course! Bring your harness and leash and give it a try. Follow the link for more information and to register.

**Dairy Goat Day 2018** is Saturday, November 3rd in Pleasant Hill, OR.

Workshops include topics such as:
- Cheese Making
- Pasture Management
- Livestock Guardian Animals
- Raising Goats for Meat
- 1, 2, 3’s of Milking
- and more!!

Be sure to check out the flyer for more information!

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**What’s That Rock? Exploring 4-H in Summer School**

Summer School students in Umatilla, Irrigon and Boardman had the opportunity to participate in an “Explore 4-H” series this summer. This series of 4-H classes is designed to introduce non-traditional students to programs and projects available as part of the youth development program. The program focuses on the history of 4-H, 4-H basics (like the pledge, emblem and motto), and familiarizes students with a club-like setting; complete with club president and other officers for the week. These clubs, focused on a mini study in geology in addition to 4-H basics. Club members collected and identified rocks, learned about rocks types and the rock cycle. The final activity consisted of an exploration of types of fossils and clubbers even created their own take-home dinosaur fossil dig. None of the students who participated in this club, had heard of 4-H prior to this exploration series. This series was able to introduce students to new opportunities and offerings within the 4-H program.
Change is on the horizon!
A new 4-H year has begun, and this will have more changes than most. Not all change is bad, and some change is harder than others, but hopefully we can all work together to make our county 4-H program bigger and stronger than ever!

Patricia’s retirement is October 31st, and we wish her the best as she has earned her days off to focus on a new adventure. However, her absence will mean some staffing and programming adjustments. Volunteers will be relied upon more than ever and families will need to remember patience as we navigate through these arduous times. Please do not hesitate to call, ask questions, and volunteer to help us progress through these changes! We will need all hands on deck, and we strongly believe we have the people do to it!

Some of the first steps we are taking are updating records we have for volunteers and clubs within Umatilla County 4-H. This is a work in progress; we understand changes cannot happen overnight. However, some have more priority over others so as we ask for information, please respond in a timely manner. These are priority over the next few months, watch for further information to come:

1. **Updating volunteer files** – each file must contain: Application, 3 references, Criminal History Check (updated every 2 years), letter of volunteer acceptance
2. **Chartering Clubs** – allows a group to use the 4-H name and emblem, provides accountability, and consistency within 4-H
3. **Engaging the 4-H Association** – we have some vacancies to fill and are looking to recruit some at-large community members

These priorities follow our state’s policies and guidelines for 4-H, and we encourage each of you to read it and engage Claire and Anna with your thoughts and questions. Our goal in 4-H is to help youth thrive, through purposeful, intentional, inclusive positive youth development. This document lays out the expectations for how we can begin that process, as well as how it all relates to each other.

Our staff’s main goal for the next year is to improve communications with our 4-H membership, especially in this year of change. That will mean volunteer trainings, program advisory meetings, and even welcome new 4-H family nights. If you have other ideas or suggestions, please reach out to Claire and/or Anna! We’d love to hear from you!

Meet Natalie, our new Eastern Oregon Regional Director

Natalie Kinion comes to us from Washington State. She was a Regional Specialist of 4-H Youth Development for Washington State University leading the 4-H program in Benton and Franklin Counties, as well as providing statewide support in volunteer development, conflict management, and policy systems. Natalie is married with 2 boys and still has a huge heart for 4-H. She’ll be Regional Director for the Eastern Region of OSU Outreach & Engagement (Extension) serving the 7 most eastern counties: Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa. She attended the Umatilla County Fair on OSU Day (see my selfie with Benny attached), and walked in the Pendleton Round Up Westward Ho parade. We’re happy to have her join our team, and we’re lucky we’ve gotten to see her a lot these first 3 months on the job!
Welcome to our **Hands-On Corner**! Each newsletter will contain a piece that you can take and do with your club. If you are looking for particular ideas, send Claire a request to include that topic in the next month’s newsletter!

**Purposeful Play!**

Icebreakers can play an important role in helping young people integrate and connect with one another in a group environment. Icebreakers can also enhance your teaching by helping to stimulate cooperation and participation. They can provide positive momentum for small group study and discussion by:

- Helping a new group get to know one another.
- Helping new members to integrate into a group.
- Helping young people feel comfortable together.
- Encouraging cooperation.
- Encouraging listening to others.
- Encouraging working together.
- Encouraging young people to break out of their cliques.
- Developing social skills.
- Building a rapport with leaders.
- Creating a good atmosphere for learning and participation.

**Activity:**

It’s an oldie, but goodie: **3 truths and 1 lie**

Ask everyone to either think of or write down four things about themselves that may not be known to others in the group. Three are true and one is not. Take turns stating or reading the statements about themselves and the group votes on which ones are truths and which one is the lie. They are always surprises! This simple activity is fun, and helps the group and leaders learn more about each other. Make sure kids and leaders both play!

..."it’s a good opportunity to help kids learn valuable lessons. It’s real rewarding to watch them succeed and enjoy themselves." says volunteer, Dusty Shelden, when asked why others should volunteer to be a 4-H Leader. His video interview during National 4-H Week along with others can be seen on the [Umatilla County 4-H Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/umatilla4h/) page and the [Umatilla County 4-H Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/umatilla4h/) page. Check them out!

**Icebreakers and You:**

**A 10 SECOND CHECK LIST!**

- **Be enthusiastic, whatever happens, be enthusiastic!**
- **Choose volunteers carefully and don’t cause embarrassment.**
- **If something is not working move quickly on to the next activity.**
- **Timing is important. Don’t flog them to death. Use only 2 or 3 icebreakers as a 20-30 minutes introduction to your program. Finish each icebreaker while young people are still enjoying it.**
- **Choose icebreakers appropriate for your age group. No group is the same and your understanding of what will and will not work with your group is a core youth work skill.**
Congratulations to Hunter, Macy, Kennidy, and Jenna along with their coach Nick who are heading to Louisville, KY in November to compete at the North American International Livestock Expo (NAILE). They are representing Oregon 4-H as the Livestock Skills Team at this contest. They have been studying hard and are excited for the chance to show off Oregon’s competitive edge as well as explore a new contest and city! They are still accepting donations to help pay for their travel, please send any checks to Umatilla County 4-H Association, c/o PO Box 100 Pendleton, OR 97801, identified for the National Livestock Team. Stay tuned for a trip update once they return! They will also be accompanied by Teri and Claire, who are supposed to be the chaperones!

Team heads to Nationals!

Upcoming Dates

2018

Nov. 26 National 4-H Conference Applications Due
Dec. 1 MFJS Beef Weigh-In

2019

Jan. 15 Enrollment Deadline to avoid late fee
Feb. 20 National Congress Applications Due
Feb. 20 State Scholarship Applications Due
Feb. 23 Eastern Oregon Volunteer Boot Camp
March 1 Enrollment Deadline to participate in all shows and fairs
March 1 Youth Voices in Action Registration Deadline
March 2 MFJS Swine, Sheep and Goat Weigh-In
March 24-27 Youth Voices in Action, Salem OR.
April 6-11 National 4-H Conference, Washington D.C.
April 10 MFJS Entry Deadline
May 8-12 Milton-Freewater Junior Show
June 26-29 4-H Summer Conference, Corvallis, OR.
Nov. 29-Dec. 3 National 4-H Congress

Farewell (continued from page 1)

It has been such a joy to watch each and every 4-H’er master new skills thanks to the wonderful direction of our dedicated 4-H volunteers. Knowing that our youth have developed lifelong skills ranging from project expertise to leadership and communication skills has made the long weekends and late nights worth the effort. Without a doubt, it has truly been an honor to work with hundreds of incredible 4-H volunteers and 4-H parents who have given above and beyond the call of duty to provide the best possible experience for our 4-H youth members.

As I enter the world of retirement I look forward to catching up on many home projects ranging from quilting to gardening and hopefully, I will finally finish all of those books I have sitting in draft stages. Thank you for joining me along my 4-H journey and helping to “Make the Best Better.” It has been an honor to serve you.

Patricia