

# KYG 2013 Still Green and On the Scene



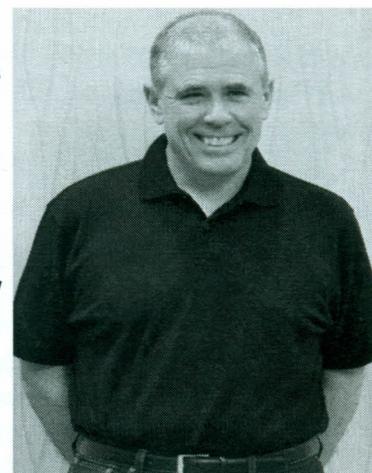
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## Welcome Jim Lindstrom: State 4-H Director

by Cecilia Keogh

Dr. Jim Lindstrom, our new State 4-H Director, was born and raised in Wibaux, Montana. After he was born, his father died and his mother had to move to town so she could work a couple jobs to support the family. He was never a 4-H member as a youth, but he was a Cub Scout. When he was 11, his mother married a rancher and they moved to a cattle and wheat ranch. By this time he thought 4-H had passed him by but now he admits to being wrong as "it's never too late to be a part of 4-H." When he was 29, Dr. Lindstrom decided to go on the national 4-H Council Exchange to the USSR. He and 15 other students spent a long time learning Russian; however two days before they were to depart on the trip, a Nuclear Power plant exploded near their destination so the trip was cancelled. Dr. Lindstrom did eventually get to go to Russia as he and his wife had the honor to travel to Estonia to help start a 4-H program.



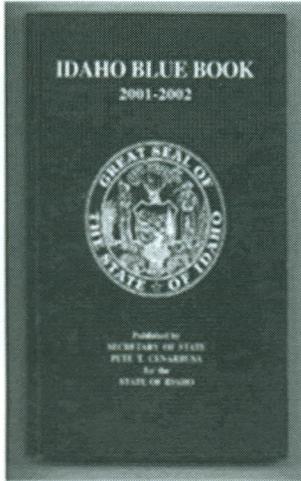
From his elementary years throughout high school, he loved biology and Vo Ag classes. In college he studied animal science and was a 4-H livestock leader before he began working for Montana State University Extension. After gaining experience in Extension he became particularly interested in youth development. Before coming on board in Idaho, he worked for the University of Arizona and Washington State University. Just like any other job there are things that you look forward to and things that you dread. In Dr. Lindstrom's case, he dreads when the phone rings and someone tells him about something that's going wrong with 4-H. He also loves it when the phone rings and someone has something wonderful to tell him about 4-H. In the spring and summer, our new director enjoys gardening and barbequing. In the fall he likes to watch high school football games, and make and eat cookies. According to Dr. Lindstrom, he makes the best chocolate chip cookies in the world and since he's traveled to the Middle East, northern Africa, and most of Europe, he may just be right. In the winter he enjoys spending time with his family during the holidays, skiing and warm sunny beaches!

When asked about his vision for the future of Idaho 4-H, Dr. Lindstrom replied, "That is a broad question with a broad answer." He believes that 4-H groups have the potential to expand by getting other youth involved. Dr. Lindstrom enjoys seeing the leadership roles played by teens who help plan events for other youth in 4-H. "4-H needs to be in every community and that way no one misses out." It is never too late to join 4-H as there is something for everyone! We would like to welcome Dr. Lindstrom to the great state of Idaho and we are proud to have him as our New State 4-H Director.

## The Book of Blue by Roger Crisp

“The Idaho Blue Book”, what do these four words make you think of? Do you think of a plain old book with a blue cover, or is it the book that tells you how much a car costs? If you thought of either answer, then you are sadly mistaken. The Idaho Blue Book is a wonderful source of knowledge for the great state of Idaho. It will tell you anything you could ever want, (and maybe not so much want), to know about the great state of Idaho. The blue book covers the basics, like the state butterfly or state tree, but it also tells you how the state government works.

Perhaps you have never heard of the Idaho Blue Book, but believe it or not, it has been around since 1969 and has had 21 editions. If the secretary of state has anything to say about it, the Blue Book won't be leaving our humble little state anytime in the near or far future. The Blue Book is published biannually in the odd-numbered years under the direction of the Secretary of State.



The book didn't get its name from the obvious color on the front of it, but rather the definition of the content. The Bartlett's Dictionary of Americanism states that the term "Blue Book" is "a printed book containing the names of all persons holding office under the Government of the United States." It is the twin of England's Red Book. Many states have adopted this concept and in turn added an extensive wealth of information that pertains specifically to their state. To get your own copy of the Idaho Blue Book, visit the [idaho.gov](http://idaho.gov) website or the Idaho Secretary of State Ben Yursa's office.

by Amy Mink

Teen Conference 2012 was a great success yet again! Just like always, friendly competition between the districts kept everyone excited and on their toes. Teen Conference delegates participated in many activities, including two service projects. One group helped clean up the University of Idaho Arboretum, and the second group fixed plant areas around the river bank in front of the University. The delegates were happy and willing to give service.

**BREAKING**  
barriers building bridges  
TEEN CONFERENCE 2013

The Teen Conference District Competitions in 2012 included the traditional capture the flag, soccer and ultimate Frisbee. However, Fear Factor came into the action this year with participating delegates eating some interesting dishes. The winning district at Teen Conference last year was District II, which was led by Brett Wilder.

For Teen Conference 2013, the Teen Officer Team has chosen a futuristic theme with the slogan "Breaking Barriers- Building Bridges". Some of the things to expect this year include a change to the election process, new and improved tracts, and an inspirational speaker. There will also be new district competitions, including volleyball, a relay race, a campus scavenger hunt, and a picture challenge. However, delegates can look forward to participating in contests such as public speaking and financial literacy. Teen Conference will be held at the University of Idaho June 10<sup>th</sup> through June 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending, please go to the state 4-H website. It is best said by Clancy Johnston, District II Teen Representative, "As we are coming into the 101<sup>st</sup> year of 4-H, we are excited to assist in leading it into a new century."

### **Judicial Judge by Matthew Wisniewski**

Judge Eismann was raised in Owyhee County and graduated from Vallivue High School in 1965. He continued his education at the University of Idaho. In 1967 he left the University and enlisted in the United States army. After enlistment he served two consecutive tours of duty in Vietnam where he served as a gunner on a Huey Gunship. After receiving two purple hearts and three medals for heroism he was honorably discharged from the military. After the end of his enlistment he continued his education at the University of Idaho where he obtained his undergraduate degree with honors in law. After ten years of experience as a lawyer he was appointed Magistrate Judge in Owyhee County. He played one of the key roles in the creation of Children's Voices, Inc. an organization to represent the interests of neglected and abused children in court. He was also a member of the Region III Council for Children and Youth, and chaired the Canyon County Juvenile Justice Task Force. In the year 2000 he was elected to a position on the Idaho Supreme Court and began serving on January 2, 2001. He has been a Judge for an incredible 27 years and has no current plans for retiring. Along with his duties as Judge, he has been volunteering his time in helping the KYG Judicial Delegates in preparing their cases for the past nine years. In his spare time he enjoys being outdoors, and being close to his family and adored grandchildren. He would like the KYG delegates to take what they have learned about the three branches of government and apply it to how they think about politics and government.

He also encourages the KYG delegates to be optimistic about what their future may bring and consider all your skills for future jobs and career.

### **Crash in KYG County by Alix Stanley**

Drinking alcohol and texting for teens, one is legal, the other is not, but both can have serious consequences. On July 18, 2012, Jamie White and Kelly Shepard, students of KYG high, were driving down East 5<sup>th</sup> street around 9:55 PM in separate vehicles, when their cars collided. Police Officer Anderson arrived on the scene at 10:00 PM to find Kelsey Shepard, Kelly's younger sister dead and Jamie White, the driver of the other car, with a blood alcohol content above the legal driving limit.

Though the two students would change each other's lives, their nights started out very differently. Kelsey Shepard and her sister Kelly went for a 'girl's night out' to take Kelly's mind off of her issues with her boyfriend. They stopped for ice cream, went to the movies and were on their way home when Kelly's boyfriend, Gerry, texted her. According to Kelly, she gave Kelsey, (who was sitting in the passenger seat), her phone and asked Kelsey to read the text to her. Kelly glanced at her phone and when she looked up, a Ford pickup was bearing down on her.

Jamie White's evening would start at a party. The statements differ on what Jamie actually did while at the party, but on the drive home, Jamie's truck and Kelly's Saturn collided in front of Jamie's house. Kelly's car overturned and Kelsey was thrown from the car and died. White got out of the car and drank a beer and a half before officers arrived. When Officer Anderson pulled up, he found two empty beer cans, an unsteady Jamie White and Kelly Shepard, who was inconsolable due to the fact that her younger sister had died.

Though Jamie White has been charged with vehicular manslaughter, the question remains, did Kelly play a part in the accident when she became distracted by the text from her boyfriend? Samantha Jarolimek, attorney for the defense, believes Jamie will be found innocent of manslaughter on the basis that Kelly wasn't giving her full attention to the road when their cars collided.

The courts of KYG County will decide if Jamie was responsible for the accident and the death of Kelsey Shepard.

## **Bill 111 Raising Industrial Hemp by Roger Crisp**

The legalization of Industrial Hemp, what does this mean? Why is this plant not legal to grow? You may not recognize the name Industrial Hemp, but it is a variety of the Cannabis plant, as is "Marijuana."

What is industrial hemp? The dictionary definition of hemp is "the fibrous material of the cannabis plant." This fiber is used mainly for clothing, rope, paper and cooking oil. If this plant can produce so many useful items, Chairman Grose wants to know why it isn't an agriculture product within our state. If this bill passes, the Idaho government will put interested growers through multiple background tests and screenings. If they fail any one of these screenings, they will be deemed unfit to grow this plant and a permit will be denied.

A negative aspect of this bill is that Industrial Hemp and Marijuana plants look the same to the naked eye. Will the cost of regulating the farmers and testing the plants outweigh the benefits of growing hemp in Idaho?

A benefit of Bill 111 passing is the 2% in taxes of the annual crop will be used to help support Idaho's educational system. It will also help with the unemployment rate in Idaho as it will create jobs. Melissa McMurray, a KYG legislative representative for Bill 111 agrees with Chairman Grose. Melissa stated, "Industrial hemp may be made into many different products and will help the economy within the state by creating jobs. To keep crops secure we could use the Drug Enforcement Agency to oversee planting and security."

It seems that Bill 111 has the potential to pass the committee and go to the floor for approval.

## **Bill 222 Taxing Crops to Fund Schools by Cecilia Keogh**

Everyone is always asking themselves why extra funds are needed when it comes to education. Where is all the tax money going, and what am I supporting with my tax dollars?

Trevor Keetch has created a bill to raise money for schools by taxing crops, and all tax revenues raised will go to fund Agriculture classes. Schools want to give students the best education possible, so the extra tax would benefit them greatly. Bill 222, section 1 states that: Farmers that own less than 10,000 acres will be taxed 2%, and farmers that own more than 10,000 acres will be taxed 1.7%. Section 2 of the bill states that taxes will be based on income from crops. While it is true that schools always need money to buy new text books and to improve their curriculum, many farmers struggle to make ends meet. Adding more taxes to their land may endanger the ability of farmers putting food on the table for our nation.

Adam Drake, a KYG lobbyist for Bill 222, believes that the bill would be beneficial if the tax revenues raised would stay local. "Usually where the most taxes are raised would be where the money is needed the most, as there would be more agriculture students and FFA Chapters." Brian Darrington, a Declo farmer, believes that if the tax law was passed, it would take away a farmer's choice to support the FFA program. "I want to know that when I donate to FFA or Ag projects it will stay within our local schools and that I am helping the youth in our community."

Chairman Keetch may have a hard time getting Bill 222 passed as there are many important aspects of the bill to be considered.

### **Bill 333 Statewide Ban of Ethanol by Amy Mink**

Brooke Roth of the KYG Legislative Planning Committee is a strong believer in the ban of ethanol gases in the state of Idaho and that is why she authored bill 333.

Ms Roth believes that ethanol is a harmful substance and uses land that could be used for agricultural consumption products. Because ethanol is often made from corn, it means that land is being tied up with crops being grown for the production of ethanol. She also states that ethanol is not a transportable petroleum product, meaning that if it sits too long in a vehicle, it turns into an extremely dense material and ruins the motor of the automobile. The fear is that mechanical components on older vehicles, which were never designed for higher percentages of ethanol, will fail--leaving them in the cross-hairs of customers angry that their cars couldn't run on a fuel they were not intended to use. Vulnerable components include engines, fuel pumps, and various rubber seals. Clay Rasmussen, a KYG lobbyist on Bill 333 says, "I am for this bill because ethanol is a known carcinogen and it may also cause lung and asthma problems."

Those who oppose the bill consider the benefits of ethanol. Last year, ethanol producers supported some 400,000 jobs involving production, innovations to develop advanced biofuels and the research and development that makes the industry more efficient. Along with solar, wind, nuclear, domestic oil and other energy sources, ethanol is vital in reducing our need for fossil fuel.

In her bill, Chairman Roth plans on restricting ethanol by giving fuel carriers a time limit to rid all sources of the gas – this must be completed by May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also, Idaho ethanol plants will be required to close their facilities by July 1<sup>st</sup> and all ethanol companies must pay to ship all excess waste containing any ethanol products out of state by that time as well.

Even though each side presents great points, the final decision lays within the KYG legislative session.

### **Bill 444 Mandatory Foreign Language Classes by Maren Symons**

Christiana Stone, planning committee chairman, has brought forth a bill to enact the requirement of a foreign language class for all high school students. Bill 444 would make it mandatory for each high school to provide a variety of foreign language classes based on the student population of the school itself.

"This bill will significantly help Idaho students by providing them with the skills necessary to interact on a global level," Chairman Stone. She also believes that everyone should learn to enjoy another language. According to the US Department of Education, the average student population for a high school in the United States is about 507 students per school. This would mean that the average high school would only be required to provide one or two foreign language classes.

"Although I think the bill is a good idea, it could be hard to find teachers for the classes in smaller towns," said Tyson Meham, lobbyist against the bill. He thinks that Bill 444 needs a few changes before it should be passed.

Tristan Tibbets stated that she was for the bill because it encouraged high school students to learn a language they didn't speak everyday.

There seems to be a lot of controversy surrounding bill 444 and specifically it's funding. Ms. Stone says that the bill's funding, to pay for teachers and the classes themselves, will be through taxes. Whether this form of funding will be accepted or be the cause of the bill's failure, we have yet to see.

## **Bill 555 Statewide School Calender by Alix Stanley**

It's that wonderful moment in class when you get a text. Your best friend is in town and wants to know what you're doing. They've been out of school for a week. You still have three more days, two finals and a locker to clean. The world could not be more spiteful.

With a statewide school calender, everyone would start school on the same day, be released for breaks on the same day and that final bell would ring on the same day throughout the state. No more jealousy or confusion when trying to get together with friends. But what are the drawbacks to synchronizing school schedules state wide? The advantages? Would it really be worth it?

With the Statewide Calendar, conferences (like KYG), could be planned with minimal conflict. Extra-curricular activities such as sports, quiz bowl and music festivals would also be easier to coordinate. The drawbacks? The guidelines from the state for schools would extend beyond lunchroom menus and class curriculum. Individual school districts would lose the ability to schedule their calendars to best fit the needs of their communities.

Lobbyist Macijah Mitchell believes the new bill would help to organize the state. However, legislator Katy Jo Fitzgerald argues that Idaho is not a one-size-fits-all state. The school schedule that cities use would not fit the rural communities. Come Monday, the Legislature of KYG will decide for whom the bell tolls.

## **Hot Topics in the Legislature 2013 by Maren Symons**

On January 7, the 2013 Idaho legislative session began their yearly routine of deciding to oppose or support bills. There have been many changes made to the Idaho Legislature this past year including newly elected officials who will impact the issues with their votes. However, one thing these changes will likely have little impact on are the "hot topics" which include; education funding cuts, abortion laws, business property taxes, gun control and the health insurance exchange.

Homosexual rights are expected to be one of the most heated issues for this year's legislative session. The difficulties with homosexual rights come from many conflicting opinions and the clash that homosexual rights may have with religious rights as stated in the first amendment.

After the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, gun control has become a big issue within the nation. The question is whether or not automatic weapons should be banned. According to *The Week* Magazine, it would be an ineffective ban because most crimes involving firearms are committed with the more accessible handguns. However, Criminologist, Christopher Koper, approximated that 100 deaths a year could be prevented by the ban on automatic weapons. "I wouldn't consider that trivial," he said.

On the subject of education reform, Senator Brent Hill said, "There are some emergency things that need to be taken care of and I think most people are aware of that." Issues like the incorporation of new technology and extracurricular programs will be debated.

Only shortly into the 2013 session, we have yet to see the outcomes on many of these issues.



## Opportunities Fair by Matthew Wisniewski

4-H, the world of opportunities, is one of the largest youth programs in the world. Are you aware of all of the great programs 4-H offers teens?

- **International Exchange:** Have you ever wanted to travel the world abroad? Well now you can choose to experience International travel from either the comfort of your own home or pack a suitcase and travel through the International Exchange Program! It offers you the chance to host a foreign exchange student your age from Japan, Argentina, or Norway, or you can be an exchange participant hosted in countries throughout the world including Japan and Australia.
- **National Dairy Conference:** For those of you that "milk" as much as you can out of your dairy project, National Dairy Conference is the opportunity for you! It gives you a chance to meet a plethora of other dairy enthusiasts from all over the U.S and Canada. While enjoying your new friends you will also learn about cow/calf nutrition, dairy management, and have a truly "mooooving" experience.
- **Citizen Washington Focus (CWF):** Want to take your citizenship experiences to the next level? Looking for a way to take your KYG experience to the next level? CWF gives you the chance to travel to the east coast and visit key United States historical monuments. While you are there, you learn about the role you play in both local and national government.
- **4-H National Conference:** Are you looking for a way to make a difference in the 4-H program? National Conference is the port of decision making for 300 4-H delegates who attend and help plan the future of 4-H! Think you want to be a part in this? Well ,jump on the bandwagon and let's go to D.C to plan **today** for the new **tomorrow**.
- **National Congress:** This is the honors program of Idaho 4-H as National Congress is the conference of them all. The conference is held in scenic Atlanta, Georgia where you're able to take in all the sights. One of the best parts of National Congress is that you get to partake in amazing service projects, social events and you have the unique opportunity to learn about cultural diversities.
- **Teen Conference:** Wondering if the skills you learn through 4-H will help you after graduation? Teen Conference is an informative conference with workshops and recreational activities held on the University of Idaho Campus! You also get a jump start on college life by staying in the dormitories and not getting any sleep.
- **Ambassadors:** Do you enjoy 4-H and want to recruit the youth of today to participate in its programs? Ambassadors allows you to share what you've learned and achieved through 4-H with others in your community. The Ambassadors program is the best way to get 4-H members and non-4Her's to get involved in their community. Remember, upon becoming an Ambassador you will be able to make a resounding impression on potential future members, leaders and donors.

Don't make KYG the last 4-H conference you attend! There are plenty of great conferences and trips to participate in throughout your 4-H career and you want to make the most of these opportunities.

### **Brandon Lee White by Cecilia Keogh**

As a young child, our 2013 KYG motivational speaker, Brandon Lee White, had life changing challenges to overcome. He would go up to other preschoolers and talk to them and they just ignored him. Brandon didn't know it then but he had a speech impediment. On the advice of his teachers, he was taken out of school in order to work on his speech impediment. Every day he would go to his new class but then he would remember why he wasn't in public school, so he stopped talking to everyone. He gained his courage and overcame his challenging obstacle with the support of family, teachers and a few close friends.



Who would have thought that a child with a speech impediment would end up becoming a motivational speaker! It goes to show that you are capable of anything because you are the only one holding yourself back. Brandon didn't always know that he would end up as a speaker. First he tried some "get rich fast" strategies such as acting and trying to start his own clothing line, but while he was in college, with guidance from his father, he made the decision to become a motivational speaker. As awesome as those earlier careers may sound they did not compare to what he's doing now, speaking and communicating through dance.

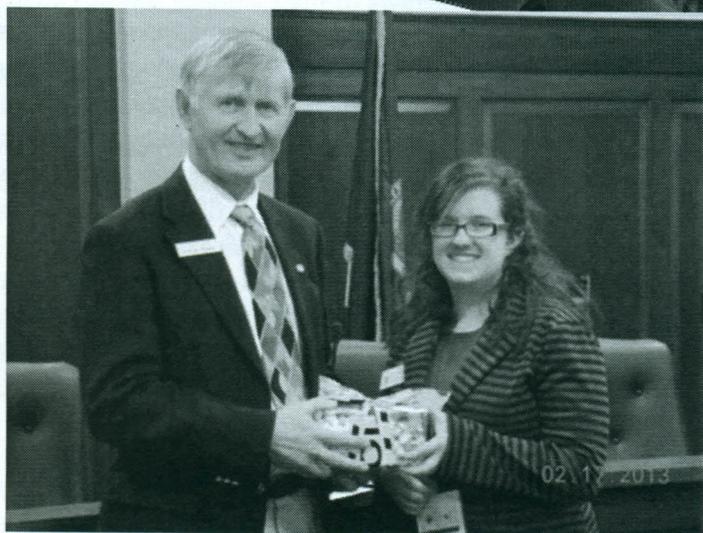
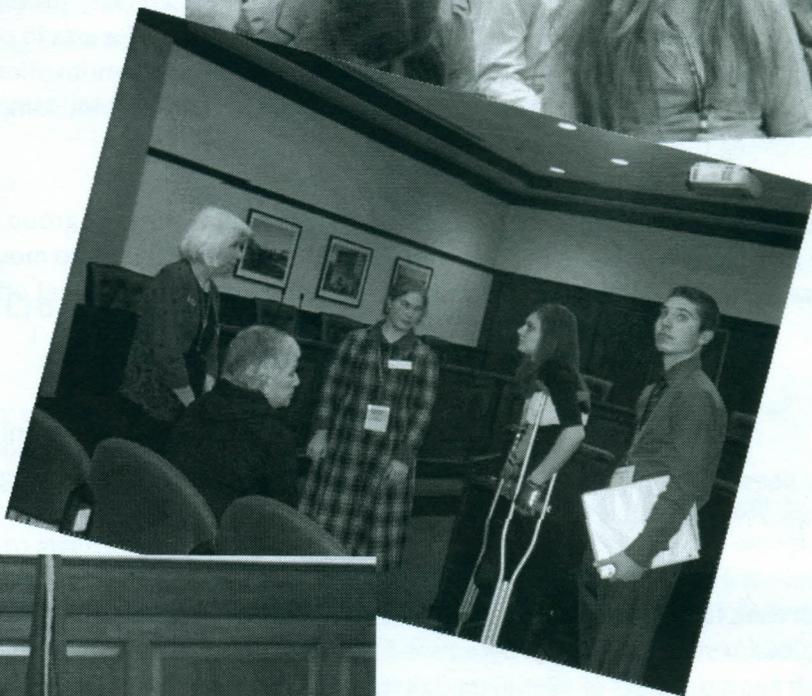
Brandon states that "by far Idaho Know Your Government is the best group of kids" that he's ever worked with. He does an amazing job encouraging our delegates to take positive risks to move their life forward even if they don't have a safety net to fall back on. "Dreams mean nothing" if you don't get off the couch and make them come true!

### **Friends of 4-H Fund by Kortni Wells**

How does 4-H support their great programs in an economy that is struggling? How is 4-H in Idaho still thriving after 100 years? How can we keep 4-H growing within Idaho?

Friends of 4-H is a charitable organization that helps support the Idaho 4-H program and encourages youth to reach their full potential. According to Linda Webb, president of the board, "In 2012 alone, Friends of 4-H donated \$50,000 for statewide 4-H programs." The financial resource that Friends of 4-H utilizes is the endowment fund which has a principal of \$2 million dollars. Friends of 4-H uses the interest on that money to fund programs. With the reduction of public funding, private funding is important. "There are several ways to contribute to Friends of 4-H, with the main focus determined on the passion of those contributing," according to Kevin Davidson, Vice-President of the Friends of 4-H. "Passion lies within several areas, such as with the Know Your Government Conference, Teen Conference, and even individual counties." 4-H youth who want to make sure that the program continues to be a well-sponsored, well-funded program for the future, can help in the fundraising effort by helping find donations. Together in a campaign with the University of Idaho, Friends of 4-H are hoping to raise an additional \$2 million dollars for the endowment fund.

The goal of Friends of 4-H is to continue supporting 4-H programming by giving money when money is available. 4-H youth who want to make sure that the program continues to be a well-sponsored, well-funded program, can help in the fundraising process by asking for donations. If we all work together, youth, volunteers and staff, we can make sure that funding is in place for the future of 4-H in the great state of Idaho.



## Meet Your Fantastic 2013 Reporters!

**Alix Stanley**— Spends her days skiing and playing any of three sports, basketball, track, and soccer. She has been in 4-H for three years. Her favorite part of KYG? Getting to spend time with new people, learning new dance moves and debating.

**Amy Mink**— Is from Twin Falls County and has been in 4-H for 8 years. Her favorite part of KYG is learning leadership and citizenship skills in a fun hands-on environment. She also enjoys volleyball, curly fries, and of course One Direction!

**Cecilia Keogh**- Has been in 4-H for 5 years and loves it. Family is her number one priority and would do anything for her 7 younger siblings. She enjoys meeting new people through KYG.

**Joelle Alexander's** favorite part of KYG is having the opportunity to meet youth across the state, as well learn about the state's government. I enjoy snowboarding, and riding my horse, Diablo. My favorite band is Silverstein, and I live and breathe for music and concerts.

**Maren Symons**— says her favorite part of KYG is the late night chit chat (nothing makes sense at 2:00 am and it is still hilarious.) She has been in 4-H for 5 years, and her hobbies include reading, tennis and daydreaming.

**Matthew Wisniewski**- is a ten year member of Gooding County 4-H. His favorite part of KYG is participating in the mock trials and mock legislative sessions. He enjoys hunting, swimming, showing animals at his fair and traveling across the United States .

**Roger Crisp**— has been involved in Emmett 4-H for 10 years including cloverbud years. His favorite part of KYG would have to be where Brandon Lee White talks to us about different things and the dances he teaches . He wears kilts, plays football, and is an expert at throwing weapons.

**Kortni Wells**-(News Editor) - is a 4-H Member of 9 years and loves the fantastic Reporter Workshop the most of her entire KYG experience. She is addicted to dark chocolate, loves playing volleyball,( especially across a pool) and her favorite color is PURPLE.

**Sarah Hibbert**- (Video Producer) -I have been a member of 4-H for eight years. KYG is amazing, and my favorite part of the four years I've been involved in the program has been meeting new people and making friends from across the state. I am quirky because I skipped first grade. I hate stepping in water with my socks on and would never wish that upon even my worst enemies.

## But it's Just a Can of Food.....by Joelle Alexander

Across the world, the ultimate 4-H goal is to grow and inspire our community. We pledge "My hands to larger service", but do we put this into motion? Service projects not only help our record books, but greatly impact the community.

This weekend, 4-H KYG delegates were challenged to collect the most weight in pounds of personal care/ non-perishable food items. Each districts contribution would then be weighed. It's no secret that competitions between districts are competitive and cut throat; however, we need to remember the big picture. Item drives and contests like ours help feed, clothe, and give hope to families while teaching our delegates to be supportive and caring of those in need.

According to [FeedingAmerica.org](http://FeedingAmerica.org), 9.5 million families across America are in poverty. Item drives help fight the hardship that 12% of the U.S. population face and drives can mean the difference between a meal and starvation. Food banks are in dire need of items, especially during the spring months, so now is your time to take action. A group in Northern Idaho called the Panhandle 4-H Ambassadors have reached into their pantries and out to the community as they hold an annual food drive for their local food bank. Can you imagine the difference we could make throughout the state of Idaho if every one of us took this vision back to our county and put it in action?

I'd like to challenge all of you to take this experience back to your communities and make a difference for your club, your community, your country, and your world.

### Thanks to our 2013 Sponsors!

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