

LICENSE TO GOVERN

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Taking 4-H Pride on the Road

By Hope Grasham

As of January 2015, 4-H supporters will be able to pin their pride on their front and back bumpers. With the passage of a bill through the legislature in March 2014, 4-H now has its very own specialty license plate!

To market the new license plate, banners were hung at county fairs, posters posted in Extension and DMV offices, and magnets were handed out. The goal for sales is at least 250 plates per year for the first 3 years, and 1,000 plates per year for the 4th and 5th years of sales. The Friends of 4-H contributed about \$3,200 to pay for the design and printing of the specialty license plates. They have established a committee that will decide how to distribute the money raised through this program.

Unlike some legislative initiatives, the license plate does not increase taxes. It simply gives citizens the option to choose to support the 4-H program. Each 4-H plate costs \$35 more than a regular plate, with Idaho 4-H receiving \$22 from each new plate sold, along with \$12 from

each annual renewal. The money made through the license plate program will go to support youth development programs, such as Know Your Government and Teen Conference, as well as being used to enhance curriculum, provide funding for youth to attend national conferences, leadership trainings, and other 4-H programming throughout Idaho. Some of the funds will also be used to create college scholarships for 4-H members.

The license plate has the format of a standard plate, but it has a green clover in the left center and "To Make the Best Better" centered on the bottom. It is hoped that the specialty plate will bring visibility and support to 4-H. "It's a great opportunity for citizens to show their support for the 4-H program," said Dr. Lindstrom, state 4-H director. Check your local DMV for more information on how to obtain your 4-H license plate.



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Keynote Speaker: Amberley Snyder

By Morgan Hanson

By her senior year in High School, Amberley Snyder was Utah's FFA president and sat 10th in the world in the all-around NHSRA. For her, rodeo was the first thing she thought of when she woke up in the morning and the last thing she thought of when she went to bed. Amberley never imagined life without rodeo and riding horses.

But one winter day, on her way to Denver to compete in a rodeo, Amberley was driving down the highway and looked down to check her map. Next thing she knew she had faded over the lane. She grabbed her wheel and over-corrected her truck. Her truck hit a fence post on the side of the road and Amberley broke her back on impact. She wasn't wearing a seat belt at the time. "I wear my seat belt all the time... and my one mistake has cost me my life. It's cost me everything. I mean, I sat and watched my life in pieces around me as I'm sitting in this snow bank." She said she started pinching and rubbing her legs to feel something, but she couldn't feel anything at all. The accident left her paralyzed from the waist down.

As soon as she could, Amberley asked her doctor if she would ever be able to walk again. Her Doctor said "Slim to none, but more to the none." Amberley was also told she wouldn't ride or do rodeo again. "That was devastating," she said. "That was more devastating for me than learning I wasn't going to be able to walk." But she was determined. She made her mom promise her that she would be able to rodeo again and together they came up with a plan. The plan they made was to get her riding so they started with balance first and then went on to the next problem and the next one. They came up with a seat belt that hooks behind her seat on her saddle which holds her in place.

This hard working young lady has not let her accident defeat her. Within in a year and a half after her accident, Amberley went to her first barrel race and represents her school, Utah State University, in barrel racing and break away roping. "The feeling I get when I



am horseback is what motivates me to keep chasing my dreams. When times are discouraging, my horses and rodeo lift me back up.

After she finishes school, Amberley plans to make a career out of helping people. She is majoring in agriculture education and plans to get her master's degree in school counseling so she can one day become a high school counselor. We appreciate Amberley coming to Know Your Government and sharing her insights and beliefs on life with us. We know that she will excel in her life goals. Go cow-girl power!

Bill 111: Don't Trash Your Future

By Tyler Bassett

Have you taken a walk through a high school lately? What did you see? If it is a typical high school you probably saw litter everywhere both in the parking lots and inside the schools. Our schools are like mini worlds to students. By starting to recycle now, hopefully, we will be able to keep the world clean.

KYG Legislator Sydney Andrews has created a bill that will provide schools with a mandatory recycling program. The purpose of this legislation is to reduce the amount of unnecessary waste in schools. This bill if passed, would start at the earliest, on July 1st 2015. Schools will set up recycling bins in each hallway for each type of recyclables, paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum. Not only will recycling old materials clean up our school but we will then be able to turn the materials in for money. By taking bottles and

cans to Recycle Education, the school could earn 5 cents for each bottle or can. Overall, Americans recovered 34% of waste generated in 2009. That means we threw away 161 million tons of material, which amounts to about three pounds of garbage per person per day. In 2009, Americans recycled 82 million tons of materials. The resulting CO2 emission reduction is equivalent to taking 33 million passenger vehicles off the road. The recyclable materials in the U.S. waste stream would generate over \$7 billion if they were recycled. That's equivalent to Donald Trump's net worth. Just by starting recycling in our own schools it could eventually add up and change the world.

Recycling is important because it reduces the amount of waste going into landfills helping to prolong the landfills useful life. It saves energy, it

creates jobs, it saves natural resources, provides raw materials for industries, and it makes a difference not only on campus but off. But there is also a downside. Youth in the school may find it funny to place materials in the wrong bins making it harder to separate the materials. Others may also disapprove or disagree about paying to purchase the bins and about hiring personnel to take care of the recycling program.

One first year delegate expressed his opinion by saying "I don't really think my school requires it. My School is pretty clean as it is." A second year delegate said "I think it would be a great idea. My school is absolutely disgusting!" As you can see there are differences of opinions on School Recycling. This bill should provide debate on the floor and we will have to wait and see how it is voted upon.

Bill 222: Shocking Facts About Energy Drinks

By Kortney Sims

Do you have an opinion on energy drinks? Have you been following what the news has been saying about the danger of energy drinks? Join Andrew Gutierrez as he presents Bill 222 which would ban all energy drinks in Idaho. This bill interests Andrew because of the harmful impact the drinks have on teenagers' bodies. He is concerned for the health of future generations and wants to do his part to create a more nutritious conscious society.

Energy drinks have been discussed heavily in the news. In children these drinks can be lethal. From 2012- 2014 there have been 56 reported deaths in the United States that were linked to energy drinks. The deaths result from heart attacks and mixing the energy drinks with alcohol. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reported that 13,114 emergency room visits in 2009 were allegedly linked to energy drinks.

These included heart attacks and chest pain. Red Bull energy drinks were originally banned in France in 1996, but in the summer of 2014 France approved Red Bull to be sold in France, but the can was required to display a warning label. Canada also requires that the outside of the can must say that the contents may be harmful.

Many energy drinks have warning labels on them. Monster, a brand of a popular energy drink, recommends that children and pregnant women should not drink them. They also have a recommended limit of three cans a day. There have been side effects of headaches, migraines, insomnia, type-two diabetes, and vomiting. With these side effects, should energy drinks even be on the market?

When asking KYG delegates their opinion on energy drinks, I received a

variety of answers. Andrew Gutierrez, the author of the bill, says that he doesn't drink energy drinks because of the effects. Others said that they were not aware of any side effects. Brittany Jensen stated, "People think that they need caffeine from energy drinks, but studies prove that you would have to consume large amounts of caffeine to actually affect a person to make them feel awake." But most delegates believe that energy drinks provide energy. Finally, there are those who believe that Bill 222 would take away their freedom of choice.

The public needs to be aware of the danger of drinking energy drinks. By discussing this bill at KYG, teenagers will have a better knowledge of the dangerous effects of energy drinks. We will have to wait to see if the legislature agrees with Mr. Gutierrez.

Bill 333: Is There a "Block" in the School System?

By Aaron Zisk

A block schedule is a system for scheduling the middle-or high-school day, typically by replacing a more traditional schedule of six or seven 40-50 minute daily periods with longer class periods that meet fewer times each day and each week. For example, typical block-schedule classes might last 90 or 120 minutes and meet every other day instead of daily. Bill 333 by Jake Hemmert would require all Idaho schools to follow a mandatory "block schedule".

There are many forms of schedules that fall under the "block schedule". An "A/B" or alternating day block schedule is where students take eight 90 minute classes that meet every other day while a "trimester" schedules where students take two or three core courses at a time, with each class meeting daily over three 60 day trimesters. Still another "block schedule" option is a "4 x 4" block schedule in which students take four 90 minutes classes every day and finish a course in one semester rather than a full school year. This is the block option that Mr. Hammert is recommending.

Fewer class periods and interruptions during a school day reduce the amount of time teachers spend on routine administrative or classroom tasks such as; taking attendance, handing out and collecting materials or preparing for and wrapping up activities which increase the total amount of

time students are engaged in more meaningful and productive learning activities. Some studies have found that a significant amount of class time is commonly devoted to non-instructional tasks-in some cases, leaving only 15 or 20 minutes out of 45 or 50 for actually instruction and learning. In a traditional eight-period school day, students also spend more time in the hallways and moving between classes, which further reduces the total amount of the school day that can be devoted to learning and may also increase disciplinary issues.

Critics of block schedules tend to claim that students (particularly at certain developmental stages) cannot stay focused for longer periods of time, that retention will be diminished if classes do not meet every day, or that students will find more readily or quickly if they miss a day of school. The bill favored "4 x 4" block schedule has been more heavily criticized since students may end up with a half-year or even yearlong gap between courses.

See "Block" on page 7

State of Idaho vs. Stacey Richards

By Tyler Bassett

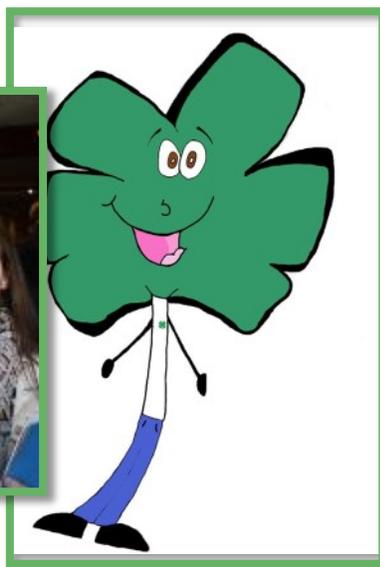
On Saturday, November 1, 2014, KYG High School student Terry Anderson was shot in a bathroom at his high school.

Terry Anderson was at school watching the first round of the 2014 Idaho High School Football play offs. Terry is a sophomore in the KYG High School. Terry was arrested at his previous school for distributing weed. He pleaded guilty and spent a month in detention and afterwards transferred to KYG High Schools. Terry had become friends with Stacey Richards who then started asking for weed from Terry for his/herself and Bailey Lawrence. Terry refused to sell to Stacey. It was at the football playoff game that Terry was shot. An e-cigarette was found at the crime scene and had a Chinese dragon with the initials SR on it.

Terry was found on the floor by a fellow student. 911 was called and Terry rushed to a hospital where the doctors removed Terry's spleen and one kidney KYG School Resource Officer Pat Smith was the primary investigator in the shooting. As a result of the investigation two people were charged with crimes. Bailey

Lawrence was charged with aiding and abetting the shooting but has pled guilty for a lesser offense of being an accessory after the fact. Stacey Richards has been charged in adult court with aggravated battery. (Aggravated battery is when a weapon of any kind is involved.) Stacey Richards has pled not guilty and has waived for his right to a jury trial; a court trial is set for Monday, February 16, 2015, at the KYG County Courthouse.

In order for Stacey Richards to be proven guilty the state of Idaho must prove his guilt. If that has not been proven beyond reasonable doubt the defendant is not guilty. If he has been proven beyond reasonable doubt the defendant is guilty and the Judge will give the sentence.



KYG Clover Update

Last year, the KYG clover traveled all over Idaho, meeting new people and experiencing 4-H life. He visited county fairs, and saw all of the amazing projects and showmanship. Because he loves to travel so much, the KYG clover wants your help. He asks that you take him with you, to 4-H events and the fair, then tag #idkygclover on Instagram or Facebook to share his adventures.

Bill 444: Do You Love Horses?

By Katie Scheer

According to Jacee Lancaster, Bill 444, the removal of the ban on horse slaughter facilities should be passed and put into place for the wellbeing and humane treatment of horses. Since the ban has been put in place, many horses have been neglected or abandoned. Removing the ban gives horse owners a more humane way to dispose of the horses.

There are many people who want horses, and have horses, but when it reaches a point in time where people can't afford to feed them, (due to the increased price of hay and feed), or can't give them the time and attention they deserve so another option is needed. Removing the ban will potentially decrease the neglect rates of horses that aren't receiving food and

water or are just being ignored.

According to delegate Kodi Green, the bill shouldn't be passed because it's abusive and hurts horses. William Harrison feels that it should be passed because it would help the economy. First year delegates, Christin Wisniewski and Parker Bennett agree, "It would help other countries with making dog food and other products where they use horse meat."

Hopefully for Jacee Lancaster, the legislature will recognize that removing the ban on horse slaughtering will help the horses and not let sentiment guide their votes.



Bill 555: Are You Part of the Wolf Pack?

By Kortney Sims

Wolves being reintroduced in Idaho has been a large controversy with Idaho residents. Aiyanna Price chose to propose this bill because she feels strongly about the predation of livestock by wolves.

The wolves were reintroduced in January 1995 to Idaho. The Idaho Legislature adopted the Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan in March 2002. In May 2011, wolves were taken off the endangered list and a hunting season was opened. Biologists documented 107 packs within Idaho at the end of 2013. In addition, there were 28 documented border packs counted by Montana, Wyoming, and Washington that had established territories overlapping into the Idaho state boundary. An estimated 16,234 elk have been killed since the mid-1990s. Livestock have also been killed by wolf packs. In 2005 wolves killed 244 sheep in Idaho and 45 head of cattle. The Idaho Fish and Game reported 473 mortalities of wolves in Idaho during 2013.

This bill has been introduced to allow the hunting of wolves without a hunting tag. Pros of this bill are that hunters, farmers, and ranchers would not have to buy a tag to shoot wolves. The number of wolves then would be a better ratio to the other animals in an ecosystem. Dana Wickstrom states, "I like wolves, but it is okay for farmers to shoot them if they are attacking their animals, or threatening you." Cons of this bill are that the number of wolves being hunted and killed would not be regulated. The wolves could possibly become extinct again. Lauren Vincent said, "I think there should be a limited number of wolves you kill."

Kevin Davidson retired conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service said, "Wolves have been in Idaho for a long time. They learn to live outside of man's influence. With the reintroduction, people are expecting them to live in our society. Nature hasn't allow that to happen in the past, and I don't believe they can live with us without eating fluffy."

This bill is very controversial and will be highly discussed within the legislature. Aiyanna Price said "They (wolves) are predators to common livestock that people make their living with." This bill will help control the amount of wolves in Idaho. When asked if she thought that the wolves would become extinct, Price said, "The wolves will go into hiding as the hunters start to hunt, and it will be harder to find them." By bringing this bill to the legislature, Price believes that the delegates will be able to argue their beliefs.



Bill 777: Athletic Drug Testing

By Morgan Hanson

Today the word “testing” has a new meaning to athletes. Athletes will be participating in their sport or not depending on the results of their drug test. KYG Legislator Sierra Ranstrom is proposing a bill requiring students in extracurricular activities, grades 6th through 12th, to be subject to random drug testing, which would either be by urine and/or hair testing. If any of the participants’ results turned out to be positive for drugs, that person would be tried and sentenced as constituted by Idaho State Code Ann. 37-2705.

Ms. Ranstrom believes if Bill 777 passes, it would lower the amount of teenage drug use. School administrators believe that the bill would give youth a reason to resist peer pressure to take drugs. One may ask, “why test the students for drugs?” Studies have shown that illegal drugs not only affect the growth and development of teens’ bodies but can cause damage to the brain, cause irrational behavior and harm their future health. People may object to

drug testing stating that it would cause additional costs for the school; but, Ms. Ranstrom believes the cost should be covered by the youth involved. All youth participating in the extracurricular activities would pay a designated fee to fund the testing so there would be no additional costs to the school.

Trevor Kauer, the collegiate 4-H president at the University of Idaho believes there should be drug testing in schools. He stated “High School is a time for learning, and if you are going to participate in sports you shouldn’t be using drugs as they would hinder the success of any extracurricular activity.” Ben Anderson who is on the planning committee says he’s against drug testing. “Players shouldn’t have to worry about getting tested. Also why should we waste money on funding it when the dogs and police have to check the school.” Mya Ramirez and Kelsey Henry, delegates from District III, support testing. They think if you’re going to be participating in a sport you

should be healthy and drug free. The only reason they would be against testing because of the funding because some parents can’t pay the fee.

Ms. Ranstrom wants to protect the students of the schools from hurting themselves and the people around them. She thinks if the bill passes, it would help communities by lowering their drug crime rate. Even though there are strong opinions on both sides, it is up to the legislators to pass or not pass Bill 777.



Bill 888: Do You Text and Drive?

By Chiara Stigum

It is a proven statistic that texting while driving is an accident waiting to happen. This is why Makenzie Stevens has drafted Bill 888: Larger Fines for Texting while driving.

Currently, the fine for texting and driving in Idaho is only \$85.00. Makenzie believes that if the state would raise the fines, it would deter people from texting and driving. Ms. Stevens’ bill would raise the fine to \$150.00. After three fines, you would be fined \$300.00. If you receive 3 fines of \$300.00, you would be sentenced to prison for one year. Drivers under the age of 18 would have their license suspended for 18 months.

The pros to this bill, if passed, would be that it would reduce texting while driving and the dangers that are involved. Texting and driving are considered to be reckless driving and

is a primary offense. Despite what some might think, you can get pulled over for texting and driving. A negative, is that the average rates of inmates in our prison system may go up thus causing tax payers more money to fund prisons. Hopefully the higher fines will convince people not to text while driving.

Opinions from delegates: Erin Trent said “I would vote to pass the bill because I think it will reduce accidents.” “I think by passing the bill it will make the roads safer,” stated Baylee Crupper. Devin Thomas said, “I want the bill to pass because I think it will reduce the number of people who text while driving.” Makenzie stated, “I want this bill to pass because for me it is personal. I was in a wreck due to distracted driving and I don’t want anyone to experience what I did.”

I know someone who died because of texting and driving. She was in a hurry to get something from a friend’s house during school without permission. It was a foggy morning and she was sending a text while approaching a stop sign. She did not see the stop sign and slid right into a truck trailer in the middle of the highway. The speed of the truck matched with her speed killed her on impact.

These accidents could happen to anyone. If you know someone who texts while driving make sure they know the risk they are taking. They are not only risking their lives, but other lives as well.

KYG on the Streets

By Chiara Stigum

I asked four delegates the question of how they think Know Your Government will affect their lives. Their answers were:



Devon Thomas:

"I think Know Your Government will help your future, coming here gives you that feeling of being a leader. If you become a legislator or a senator, you will already have an idea of what to expect. This program is to turn you into a leader and to help prepare you for your future whatever that may be."



Macie Anderson:

"I want to be lawyer, it will help me learn more about what lawyers and it will help make my college app more diverse."



Kella Wescott:

"Know Your Government will affect my life, because I will understand how the government works and how I can contribute."



Lauren Vincent:

"I think that Know Your Government will affect my life because I will know more about the government, I will also be able to meet and make new friends with other 4-Hers throughout the state."

Block, Cont.

Some of the KYG Delegates had some things to say about the proposed Block Schedule. Ranae Sanchez, Ada County, does not support The Bill, saying "The extra teachers the bill would be adding would be taking away from the schools budget and end up having to cut extra-curricular activities as well as optional electives to make up the difference". Erin Trent, Ada County, who attends North Star Charter School, a public charter school that has already adapted the Block Schedule a few years back said the following; "The experience that I have had with the system has been a positive one, and I feel more comfortable with it. I have more time in class to get 1 on 1 time with my instructor and finish all my work in class."

With all of the pros and cons known about it, and putting all of the personal opinions aside, it is up to the board of legislators to either pass or reject Bill 333—Block Schedules. The committee will meet on Sunday, February 15, 2015. We will have to see if it is passed or not.



Dr. Charlotte Eberlein

By Katie Scheer

On February 1, 2015, after 12 years of serving as the University of Idaho Extension Director and as a College of Agricultural and Life sciences faculty member for nearly 26 years (1989-2015), Charlotte Eberlein retired. Charlotte is married to Bill Eberlein and has three grown children, Chris, Bill, and Sarah. All three children are 4-H alumni.

In 1998 she was named District III Extension Director and in 2002, was appointed interim Director of Cooperative Extension and Interim Associate Dean. In 2003, she was named to her current position as associate Vice president for University

Extension, UI Extension Director and Associate Dean of CALS. Charlotte joined the University of Idaho as an Associate Professor-Weed Science, in the Plant Science Division of the Department of plant, soil and Entomological Sciences.

Before coming to Idaho in 1989, she worked as Assistant Professor with weed science research and teaching responsibilities in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota (1984-1989). Charlotte was the first female faculty member hired by the Crop Science Department at North Dakota State University, the Agronomy and Plant

Genetics Department at the University of Minnesota, and the Plant, Soil, and Entomological Sciences Department at the University of Idaho. In 2009, she was named Woman of the Year by Athena, an organization that promotes and advances opportunities for professional women at UI.

Her plans after retirement include hiking, bicycling, and improving her Spanish. She wants to be more useful as a volunteer, so speaking an additional language like Spanish will help her achieve her goal. She has already started her retirement plans with cross country skiing at Methow valley in northern Washington.

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The 2015 Reporter Team (left to right) includes: Cindy Teuscher, Hope Grasham, Morgan Hanson, Aaron Zlisk, Tyler Bassett, Katie Scheer, Chiara Stigum, Hailey Hampton, Kortney Sims, Kevin Davidson, Cheryl Lockard, and Rosie Davids