Local Student Exhibits Power of Youth

Layne Bruhn

By Beth Schroder

Volunteer, athlete, school advocate, family-centered—these words likely bring to mind a host of people, probably adults. But an adult is not who these words describe. These words describe 10-year-old fifth-grader Layne Bruhn from Centerville.

Layne was awarded the Power of Youth award sponsored by Klickitat PUD. The annual award is presented to a Klickitat County 4-H'er. The recipient is evaluated on community involvement, volunteer activities and leadership skills.

Layne was excited about the award.

"I felt awesome," he says. "(It's been) two years in a row that I've won something like that."

Layne's 4-H story began two years ago. As a member of Central Klickitat 4-H Club, Layne dove right in and began showing steers his first year.

"Being in 4-H is about leadership, and I like helping out," he says. "I like showing my steer because it's a challenge and I like challenges."

Working with cattle is also something that runs in Layne's family, and he especially enjoys the time with his grandparents.

"My favorite thing to do with them is ride my horse and move cows to the mountains on our family's cattle drives," Layne says. "Spending the night in the mountains with my Uncle Nate at his plateau pasture while we round up his cows is really fun, too."

While he has plenty to do attending Centerville School, working on his 4-H projects and helping his family, Layne still finds time to contribute to his community. One of those contributions was helping out during Beef Counts Day, which was hosted by the Klickitat County Cattlewomen. Beef products and other foods were handed out to people in the community who are in need.

Layne has helped set out the flags at the Centerville Cemetery for Memorial Day weekend. He also has worked with his 4-H club to make fleece tie blankets that are donated to the children's hospital in Portland.

Layne is involved in the Centerville School associated student body and served as an ASB representative during the previous school year. He participates in club football, basketball and baseball, and plans to play sports for Centerville School this year.

Among his other activities, Layne enjoys participating in rodeo events, such as calf riding and goat tying. He plans to start breakaway roping next spring. He also intends to continue participating in 4-H with his steer project.

Layne has had the support and assistance of his family. His parents, Shad and Jenny, and his little sister, Josie, are there with Layne as he continues his activities.

Layne says he has learned a lot about life during his two years of 4-H.

"You shouldn't give up," he says. "There is always something you should think about for the next year."

Klickitat PUD would like to congratulate Layne on being the recipient of the Power of Youth award for 2017. We look forward to seeing all that you accomplish.

The 4-H program involves nearly 6 million youth across the United States. These young people have the opportunity to partner with adults in their communities to develop skills, become leaders and help to shape their communities. The main goals of 4-H are to provide opportunities to master skills, practice independence and help develop a spirit of generosity. ∎

Walkley Scholarship Nominee Looks Ahead

By Beth Schroder

The 2017 nominee from Klickitat PUD for the Walkley Educational Scholarship drawing is Harley Clever of Goldendale. Harley is the daughter of Anita and Tim Clever, and is a senior at Goldendale High School.

The scholarship is awarded annually by the Washington PUD Association. It was established by a former commissioner of Franklin County PUD, Glenn Walkley, and his wife, Elvira.

Every year, each WPUDA member utility can submit a name to be placed in the drawing for the $1,000 scholarship. The winner is then drawn from those submissions by the scholarship trustees. Harley was selected to be the nominee from among the eligible children of KPUD employees. In addition to Harley, the other student eligible for the drawing was Johnathon DeMott.

During her time at Goldendale High School, Harley has participated in a variety of activities. She has been a varsity member of the high school's equestrian team, an FFA and participated in the yearbook and drama clubs. She served as the mistress of ceremonies for the 2017 Goldendale High School homecoming coronation.

In addition to her extracurricular activities, Harley has maintained a GPA that provided her the opportunity to be a member of National Honor Society for the past three years.

Harley enjoys riding her horse, barrel racing, reading books and watching "Grey's Anatomy." Her interest in the human body is evident when talking about the classes she has most enjoyed during high school.

"I'm fascinated with all things relating to the human body, so anatomy was the most interesting class I've been in," she says. "I'm planning on attending Boise State University with a pre-medical studies major. That will be followed by medical school to become a surgeon."

While it seems Harley has her career lined out, she admits there are still some undecided components to where she wants her path to lead.

"I'm leaning toward a neurosurgery specialty, but I have a lot of school and surgical residency to get through before I choose my specialty," she says.

Harley has not confined her involvement to school and sports. She has also participated in 4-H for the past 12 years. She is gearing up to receive her 13-year 4-H pin this year. Her activities in 4-H have included sheep showmanship, horse showmanship and equitation. In 2009, Harley was the recipient of the Klickitat PUD-sponsored 4-H Power of Youth award. She also has been a mentor to many young 4-H'ers through the years.

"From helping younger kids in 4-H to my various pursuits at the high school, I feel like I have left an impact on our community and these organizations," Harley says.

Klickitat PUD wishes Harley well in her future endeavors and good luck in the drawing for the $1,000 Walkley Educational Scholarship. ■

Harley Clever