

Honoring a Local Achiever

By Lori Froehlich

Each year, Klickitat PUD presents the Power of Youth Award to a member of the Klickitat County 4-H program. The award is based on the young person's community involvement and volunteer activities, as well as their leadership skills.

This year, Hanna Hoffman is the recipient. She was selected after a review of her 4-H achievements, project record book and an interview by the 4-H leader's council.

Hanna is a sophomore at Goldendale High School. She plays volleyball, basketball and tennis. She also is active in FBLA and the Purple and Gold club. Her future plans include showing a market hog for the 2014 Klickitat County Fair, and as continuing with her leadership and community service projects. She is not sure what career she will pursue, but she says it will definitely be in the sciences. She loves designing projects

in her engineering class and is considering it as a potential career.

Hanna has been involved in 4-H for 10 years. She began with clowning and bunnies in kindergarten and has progressed through many types of projects throughout the years. She showed dogs for seven years and now focuses on swine, sports and leadership. In her first market swine project, she received reserve champion swine and followed up this year by winning her weight class and reserve champion rate of gain. She also plays sports year-round and has always treated sports as a 4-H project. She says goal-setting and recordkeeping help her gain more life skills from the experience.

Hanna enjoys the 4-H leadership project and credits her public speaking skills to experience she has gained doing demonstrations for 10 years. She served as her 4-H club president the past two years, student body president in grade school and freshman class president at

Goldendale High School.

One opportunity Hanna received was putting her leadership skills to work spending her spring break in Olympia, paging for Rep. Norm Johnson. She learned a great deal about how government works and made new friends from across the state. She and her partner presented and won passage for their mock bill on concussion education for coaches.

Every year, Hanna has turned in a 4-H record book, qualifying her for numerous awards.

"Record books are a lot of work but it's fun to choose pictures from the year and write the annual 4-H story," Hanna says. "Writing down what went well, what didn't and what to do differently next time helps identify what we learn from our project."

Hanna has always been active in her community through 4-H, school and her church. Each year, she helps fill the community Thanksgiving food baskets for Goldendale and enjoys helping families in need have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. She also teaches Bible school each summer.

This year, Hanna served on the committee for Klickitat County's first Relay For Life, an event that raises money for cancer research and patient programs. It is an all-night walk because cancer never sleeps. Hanna helped with logistics and the entertainment at the event, walked in a parade and helped with fundraisers. This year, she is captaining a relay team for the high school to get more local teenagers involved in the event.

Congratulations to Hanna on this well-deserved Power of Youth award. Klickitat PUD wishes her good luck with all her future plans. Keep up the great leadership and service to the community! ■



Hanna Hoffman receives the Power of Youth from Klickitat PUD General Manager Jim Smith.