

TAYLOR MADSEN '24

"I really love being involved in FFA and the events we host like the Petting Zoo. It was so much fun taking Stevey around the zoo and all the little kids wanting to interact with him."



POWER TOOLS. Wyatt Reeves '25 works with Owen Taylor '24 to cut a 2x4 piece of wood to create a garden bench in Agriculture Power, Structure and Technical class third quarter. The group had three teams making garden benches to sell at their annual auction to raise money for the program. "I like working with everyone in this group to make difference things like benches so we can continue to help support the FFA organization," Reeves said. **THIS IS REALLY AMOOSING.** Taylor Madsen '24 leads her steer Stevey over to the Petting Zoo down in Aurora in September so the children who were attending can play and interact with Stevey. The Petting Zoo was one way that the FFA organization educated the community about animals and agricultural life. photos by r.weidemann



WE ARE BACK IN THE BARN YARD

FFA students create experiences for community while building membership

FFA BEGAN THEIR YEAR IN THE GOLDEN GATE CANYON as their officer team went on a team building retreat to set plans for the year while building trust among their team. The retreat took place between June 28 - July 1.

"We did a lot of team building exercises. We all took turns cooking and doing workshops for each other. We went water rafting and met a moose we named Bruce. It was great preparation for the year to come and made us closer as a team," Elsie Oswald '23 said. "Planning out our events made it so much less stressful when those events came around."

Their first big event they sponsored was the Petting Zoo on Sept. 18. It was sponsored for a local company who brought their employees and their families out for the day to interact with the students project livestock and small animals. A lot of the students brought their farm animals like horses, steers, sheep and rabbits for the



story by r.weidemann
design by j.ripko & z.stanley

DOWN THE RIVER. Kylee Goforth '22, Elsie Oswald '23, Rose Weidemann '22 and Kori Vogel '22 white water rafting with Liquid Descent Rafting team as a team building activity with their officer team at the FFA Summer Retreat. "It was so much fun rafting with everyone on the officer team. I thought it was a good idea for us to go away and do some team building activities before we came back to school," Vogel said. photo by d.dooley **TRUST ME.** Courtney Cuney '24 and Bailey Husmann '24 hold on to a live mouse trap with their hands in a trust activity at the Greenhand Camp. The goal of the activity was not to move too soon or the trap would catch your fingers. "It definitely took trust because you didn't want your hand to get caught because that would hurt really bad," Husmann said. photo by r. weidemann

little children to play with. They also got to educate the children as well.

"It was my first Petting Zoo, so being able to watch the kids get excited over all the animals was a good feeling. They were so good with the animals and had so much fun," Ryan Cholas '24 said.

FFA hosted a second Petting Zoo for Assistant Principal Jennifer Minor's neighborhood on Oct. 10. It had been an annual event for FFA to put on this event. They again brought their cattle, pigs, a bunny and horse.

"It's hard to tell who enjoyed the day more, our members or the critters. From setting up the pumpkin patch to wrangling escaped chickens and a pig, there was never a dull moment." Dallas Dooley-Freeman, sponsor said. "It's clear that our students love interacting with the community, and I love to watch them in these moments. It makes every event so worth it."



LET'S JUST SAY ALL WE DO IS WIN

story & design by e.rolfs
photos by d.dooley

FFA students qualify for State



WHO: Nicholas Gargano '22, Wyatt Reeves '25, Rose Weidemann '22 and Elsie Oswald '23

WHAT: FFA students competed in the District 11 State Qualifying Leadership Development Event in February.

RESULTS: Reeves placed seventh in Creed Speaking. Both Weidemann and Oswald competed in Prepared Speaking with Weidemann taking first and Oswald second. Gargano took first place in Extemporaneous Speaking. Both Weidemann and Gargano would represent District 11 in their categories.

A WINNER'S COMMENT: "For my first FFA competition, I was really proud of how well I did. Public speaking is something that I am strong at so whenever I am given a topic, I can usually just talk about it. I am excited to compete at State," Gargano said.



design by e.rawlings & story/photo by r.weidemann

JUST SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

FFA students start floral club to strengthen skills

THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN FFA AGRICULTURAL COURSES

were given a new opportunity to learn about floral design. Through the Brighton Floral Club, connected to FFA, created a seasonal floral arrangement every month for community and 27 staff members to purchase.

"It has been a very neat experience to be a part

of making arrangements and seeing the joy it brings people," Tessa Koehn '22 said. "This has helped us practice our floral skills for some of our competitions that we take compete in for FFA."

During prom season, the floral committee created prom boutonniere and corsages for students to purchase for their dates.



A LINE OF JACKETS. Brighton FFA students along with other students walk out of the convention center at the National FFA Leadership Conference. "This was the first time our chapter had attended a National conference since 2016. They always talk about the sea of blue and for us it was a neat experience to see the sea of blue and that many students from around the country have the same passion," Weidemann said. photo by c.pieper **LET ME HELP YOU.** Matthew Tschida '22 helps a young boy gets on top of the saddle of a horse so the young boy can ride the horse around the Petting Zoo in September. "I just love seeing all the kids come up and want to ride the horses. I remember being a young kid who would love to go out and ride horses," Tschida said. "I like that the FFA community brings so many people together for different causes around agriculture." photo by r. weidemann

WHAT IS SOME GOOD ADVICE YOU'D GIVE FUTURE FRESHMAN?

ADDISON REININGER '24

"My biggest advice would be to have respect for the upperclassmen because they have been at the high school and have real good experience to share."

GAGE CHADWICK '24

"I would tell freshmen students to stay out of trouble and don't pick fights with older kids and with other freshman. Just try to enjoy high school as much as you can."

FELIPE GONZALEZ '23

"Don't mess up your freshman year because it may be hard for you to get back on track. Do all your work and be responsible because your end goal is to graduate."

JACKSON MAILLET '25

"I would tell all incoming freshman to have good grades and don't skip class. You need to focus on school and try to make friends because you don't want to be lonely. Have fun while you are here."

TAYLOR HOISINGTON '25

"You need to keep your priorities in check. Just focus on the future and don't lose focus of what you are going towards. You can reach your goals if you don't lose focus."

MORGAN WAGNER '25

"Don't be rude to any of your teachers and let them talk and don't interrupt them. You should only speak when spoken to. It's all about respect and showing it."

RHYAN WOLFE '25

"Maybe just don't date freshmen or even date your freshman year. It's really just pointless half the time. Give yourself a year to get used to high school."

JOHNSA STEVENS '25

"I would suggest you know who your friends are and help them if they need it, so they can have your back always."

AND THIS SHOULD CONVINCE YOU WE BUILD LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITY FFA 071