

FFA Chapter Report



Mackenzie Gomes
Willows FFA Chapter Reporter

Nov proved to be a busy month for the Willows FFA. The chapter meeting took place on Nov. 10. The main topics discussed were the Harvest Dinner, upcoming conferences and fair packets. At the end of the meeting, members played a game of "Turkey Bowling" that was organized by the chapter officers.

On Nov 19, Colusa High School hosted the Opening/Closing Competitions for FFA teams from the Superior Region.

Willows FFA took four teams to the competition. The Willows Advanced Gold Officer Team excelled to the final round where they took Fourth Place overall. The team consisted of Dallas Lindsey, Staci Bettencourt, Mackenzie Gomes, Mikayla Boer, Laura Ferrera, Brianna Brothers, and Genna Camozzi.

Willows members also competed in the Farm Re-

ords Competition that was held the same day as the Opening/Closing Competitions. Senior, Staci Bettencourt received Third Place overall and Mackenzie Gomes, placed Fifth in the competition. Willows brought home a plaque for Second Place overall team in the Farm Records Competition. Again, members and Ag teachers agreed that Willows FFA had yet another successful year at the competition.

This December the FFA Chapter participated in the Adopt-A-Family Program and adopted a family of six. The family has four children with three girls, ages four, six, and thirteen, and one boy that is 11 years old. The chapter members all donated toward the gifts and brought in wrapped presents for the family. This is the first year that the chapter has participated in the Adopt-A-Family Program and all felt proud to be able to help a family in need.

The Truth Behind the Tree

Damian Chanthapaseuth
Staff Reporter

Christmas has been celebrated for over 4000 years and many of our Christmas traditions were celebrated centuries before the Christ child was born. The 12 days of Christmas, the bright fires, the Yule log, the giving of gifts, carnivals (parades) with floats, carolers who sing while going from house to house, the holiday feasts, and the church processions can all be traced back to the early Mesopotamians.

Many of these traditions began with the Mesopotamian celebration of New Years. The Mesopotamians believed in many gods, and as their chief god Marduk. Each year as winter arrived it was believed that Marduk would do battle with the monsters of chaos. To assist Marduk in this struggle the Mesopotamians held a festival of the New Year. This was Zagmuk, the New Year's festival that lasted for 12 days.

The Mesopotamian King would return to the temple of Marduk and swear his faithfulness to the god. The traditions called for the king to die at the end of the year and to return with Marduk to battle at his side.

To spare their king, the Mesopotamians used the idea of a "mock" king. A criminal was chosen and dressed in royal

clothes. He was given all the respect and privileges of a real king. At the end of the celebration the "mock" king was stripped of the royal clothes and slain, sparing the life of the real king.

The Persians and the Babylonians celebrated a similar festival called the Saceaa. Part of that celebration included the exchanging of places, the slaves would become the masters and the masters were to obey.

Early Europeans believed in evil spirits, witches, ghosts, and trolls. As the Winter Solstice approached, with its long cold nights and short days, many people feared that the sun would not return. Special rituals and celebrations were held to welcome back the sun.

In Scandinavia during the winter months the sun would disappear for many days. After thirty-five days scouts would be sent to the mountain tops to look for the return of the sun. When the first light was seen the scouts would return with the good news.

There are so many different traditions in the world and all of them are celebrated in their own special way. Some traditions have changed but most stayed the same. It does not matter what religion you are or what ethnic group you are from but as long as you have your Christmas spirit and you celebrate it the people around you.

Culture Club

Taylor Smith
Staff Reporter

Culture club is having their second Egg Roll pre-sale for the year. Come pick up your order forms in the counseling office.

Money and forms are

due on Dec 7. A portion of the money will go to the Adopt Of Family Funds and the rest is planned to be used for the summer club trip.

For more information on the future Egg Roll sales call the Mr. Bryant at 934-6630.

FFA Upcoming Events for Jan and Feb

Jan. 7 — Executive Committee meeting

Jan. 13 — FFA Meeting

Jan. 15-16 — Made For Excellence & Advanced Leadership Academy Conferences- Redding

Jan. 18 — Steer Weigh In

Jan. 21 - 22 — Arc Exposure, Butte College

Jan. 25 — State Degree Applications are Due

Feb. 4 — Proficiency Award Applications Due

Feb. 6 — Arbuckle Field Day

Feb. 13 — Ski Trip (tentatively)

Feb. 17 — FFA Meeting

Feb. 25 — North Valley Section Leadership Contests

Wishing Christmas trees make a difference for schools

The Honker Staff

Three parents have joined together connecting with local businesses and community members during Christmas time creating Christmas for Classrooms Program.

As reported on KHSL news, co-founder Landry Otterson, Kathy Mudd, and board member and parent Cherry Brot, have set up Wishing Christmas trees at local businesses in Willows with "wish" needs from WUSD elementary teachers to be selected by store customers to fulfill.

The idea is catching on quickly providing much needed supplies to teachers in need. Paper, Kleenex, drawing supplies are in great demand in classrooms where budget supplies have run out causing teachers to purchase these materials out of their own family's budget.

The Honker staff would like to thank Christmas for Class Program co-founders, businesses and those that have participated already in the Christmas for Classrooms Program.

If any readers would like to participate in this worthwhile program, please visit the Sugar Shop, Umpqua Bank, Bank of America, Murdock Elementary, Tri-Counties Bank, Sani-Food, Round Table, Quilt Corral, Starbucks, Sierra Central West, Wood Donuts, or Edward Jones.

Interact Club

Morgan La Sorella
Staff Reporter

The 2009-2010 school year has invited yet another club to the WHS campus. The Interact club is a new club on campus with a goal to help the community.

The Interact is an international club with a goal to improve our community and other places in the world. This year our districts goal is to raise three thousand dollars to teach kids to read in Africa. Meetings for the Interact club are bi-weekly on Mondays. As a member of Interact each member must have ten hours of community service per semester. The advisor for Interact is Mr. Prinz and the officers are: President, Vadym Samoylov; Vice President, Awaaz Patel; treasurer, Garrick Jones; secretary, Olivia Fleming; and Membership, Haylie Bettencourt.

There are benefits of being a participant in the Interact club. Members of Interact will take trips with other students that are a part of Interact in their area. Interact members also have the possibility to become Rotary Student of the Month. Seniors can receive scholarships and Juniors have a better chance at being nominated to attend Camp Royal.

If you are interested in becoming a member stop by the next meeting on October 5, 2009 in Mr. Prinz's room, number 303. To learn more you can also find Interact on Facebook.

ACA DECA

JL Flanagan
Managing Editor

The Academic Decathlon team competed in their first scrimmage Dec 4 in at Orland High School. This year's participants are Vadym Samoylov, Awaz Patel, Chandi Wadhwa, John Shively, Izzy Leal, Dylon Broussard, and Garrett Close. Senior, Vadym Samoylov scored the highest followed by sophomore, Garret Close in 2nd and Izzy Leal in 3rd.

"It was a good day and the team realized just how much more they need to study for the real thing on February 6, 2010," advisor, Tori Perez said.

This year's topic, "The French Revolution" will have the students reading the book, Tale of Two Cities, and studying music, art, math, science and economics relating to that era.

Hall talk

What were the best and worst gifts you have received in the past for Christmas?

Freshmen

Jasmin Gontiz:

"The worst gift I got was a broken camera, and the best was a Barbie doll I wanted badly."



Sandra Velazquez:

"The best gift I got was a camera and the worst was clothes."



Rogelio Gonzales:

"The best gift I got for Christmas was an I-pod touch, and the worst gift I got for Christmas was watch."



Ryan Ameru:

"The best gift I ever got for Christmas was a skateboard, the worst was socks."



Sophomores

Ashley Hammond:

"The best gift I got was the joy of coming to Willows High School and meet all these great people, the worst was the Christmas that I got nothing."



Kylie Gammon:

"The best gift I got was a guitar and the worst was a taco."



Jerry Reyes:

"The best gift that I received was a new cell phone; the worst was a nail clipper."



Marcus McClain:

"My best Christmas gift was an Xbox 360 and the worst was pajamas"



Juniors

Matt Spooner:

"The best gift I got was \$200, and the worst gift was a rug."



Alisha Hill:

"The best thing I got for Christmas was a radio and the worst would be a super bowl t-shirt that my dad gave me."



Destiny Lyman:

"The best gift I got was \$500; the worst was a \$15 off coupon."



Jared Stine:

"I say my best gift I got for Christmas was a transformers toy, and the worst would be coal."



Seniors

Yahaira Munoz:

"My best gift was an I-pod touch and the worst was a cup of top ramen soup"



Faviola Hernandez:

"The best gift I got was a camera and the worst was two pens and a key chain"



Brandon Allen:

"My best gift was a PS2, and my worst was an itchy sweatshirt."



Michael Bradley:

"My best Christmas gift was an I-pod touch, and the worst was a small sweatshirt."

