



The Rosalia Sentinel



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National medal winners – Rosalia counts four

Never underestimate the ingenuity and resolve of a determined group of fifth-graders – even fifth-graders competing against older students, up to seven grades above them.

Back in the fall, when the American Farm Bureau Federation opened a national competition inviting students to design a safe and environmentally friendly cattle ranch, students in teacher Jodi Heitstuman's class jumped at the opportunity.

The challenge was straight forward ... construct a model cattle ranch, conduct research and develop a presentation explaining cattle nutrition, health and welfare; land and environmental management; costs of production; and grazing plan.

For nearly two months, Heitstuman's students worked in teams, 3-5 days per week. After their work was submitted (online) and evaluated ... a Rosalia team calling itself the Circle G Ranch placed in the top three in the nation.

Their work was rewarded with the presentation of two class prizes – a 3D printer and \$100 gift card – and individual

3D printing

3D printing is a manufacturing process in which physical objects can be made from a three-dimensional digital model. The possibilities for invention are virtually unlimited. Layers of material – often plastic – can be formed to create everything from common household products to musical instruments to machinery.

medals for each member of the Circle G Ranch: Kayla Eilertson, Megan Maley, London McLain and Gwen Olson.

For Heitstuman, who brings an agriculture background to the classroom, the opportunity to incorporate STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) principles into a real-world agriculture project was a strong draw to compete. Construction of the model also involved an artistic component, turning STEM to STEAM.

While competing in an open classification for grades 5-12 was a tall order, Heitstuman saw a tremendous learning opportunity regardless of the results. But, if any group of younger students could crack the winner's circle, she was not surprised it was the Circle G Ranch, which she described as four "highly driven" individuals. Highly driven individuals who are still seven years from graduation.

The nation has been served notice. This may be the start of a dynasty.



Medalists from left, Megan Maley, London McLain, Gwen Olson and Kayla Eilertson. One of their prizes was a new 3-D printer.

Superintendent's message

Off and running: Year begins with strong start

I would like to thank our community members, staff and students for the warm welcome I have received as your new superintendent.

There were other big positions to fill right after I was hired and we went right to work looking for a dynamic new principal. We went through an intensive process and interviewed seven strong candidates. Mr. Matt McLain was an overwhelming pick and we are blessed to have his leadership for our school district. He has done a great job this first semester of school.

Right after Mr. McLain was hired, we quickly started the search for our new lead secretary. Chris Ferrell, who has a proven track record in our school, was another great addition to our district team.

All of our events this year have been very well attended by our parents and community members. We started the year with an open house on August 30th and it was great to meet many of our parents and students before school began. We have had an awesome start to the 2018-19 school year.

Every staff member here has a strong commitment to all our students and they know how important and special every child is in our school. I will do my best to help our teachers as we work as a team to educate all our students.

Feel free to call me or drop by any time, I look forward to meeting you and working with our great students.

Sincerely,
Rick Linehan, Superintendent



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Steven Munson: A dynamic musical presence

At the start of each morning, the Rosalia band room is quiet. It is the only quiet time of the day; the time music teacher Steven Munson prepares a full slate of lessons and rehearsals for every young musician in the district.

It might seem like an imposing task, particularly for a young teacher learning the ropes himself. Yet while Munson is indeed young, he approaches the task with the steadiness of a seasoned pro.

That's because his experience and musical credentials have cast him beyond his years.

His short story reads like this: Native of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho with a master's in teaching from Whitworth University and additional studies at Indiana University.

He plays multiple instruments, but is most accomplished on the French horn, widely considered the most difficult brass instrument to learn and master.

Over the course of a typical week, he will instruct around 100 students, covering all levels of ability, kindergarten through 12th grade, general music to pep band. Add in combination events with Tekoa, and the numbers swell another 25 percent.

What motivates him? Munson says he enjoys sharing his love of music – not just listening, playing and arranging, but even

appreciating the mechanics of how the instruments are built and how they work.

Ultimately, however, he says the greatest joy is found in the teamwork of music and helping students express themselves in ways they have never experienced.

Yes, he is indeed wise beyond his years.

Thank you, Steven, for sharing your knowledge, experience and thoughtful approach with our appreciative student body.



In his first year, teacher Steven Munson is already hitting the right notes.