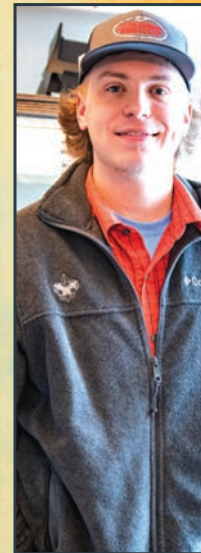
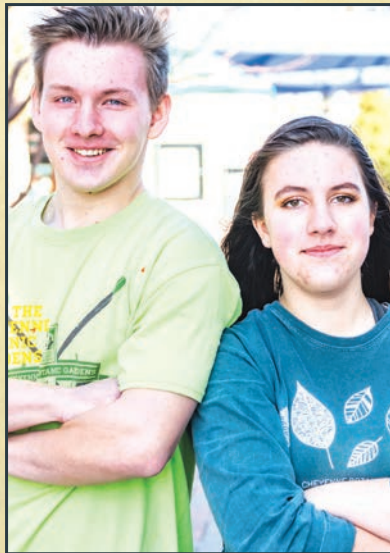
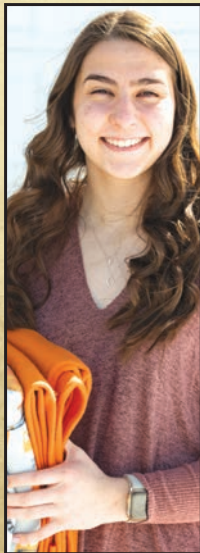


# MAKING A Difference

An inside look at the youth and  
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# MAKING A Difference

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## Julian Bustos wants to help push the youth community service involvement in Cheyenne

By Rachel Girt

*For the Wyoming Tribune Eagle*

With so much negativity in the world, South High School senior Julian Bustos believed starting an Interact Club would both help the community and give students something positive to do.

"Community service projects help high schoolers feel good about what they are doing and spend their time productively, rather than doing stuff that they would end up regretting in the future," Bustos said.

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. The club, sponsored by Cheyenne Rotary, started at South last year and encourages teens to develop leadership skills while focusing on the Rotarian motto "Service Above Self."

"I felt Interact would give me more opportunities to help others," Bustos said. He has also volunteered through his church.

Bustos took on a big task running for president in Interact's first year at South, said Maribeth Ragle, the Interact adviser and a counselor at the school.

"He has been instrumental in helping our group grow, has created a positive culture of giving," Rangle said. "Leading by example is such an important leadership skill. I'm pretty sure he hasn't missed a volunteer project yet."

Although the Interact Club is a small group of students, the members have volunteered countless hours to give back to our local, state and international communities, Rangle said. The club has been a great success,

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Bustos poses at his home in Cheyenne. He has been playing the violin since the first grade, and he plays the sousaphone for the Cheyenne South High School band.  
PHOTOS BY RACHEL GIRT/COURTESY OF THE BUSTOS FAMILY



thanks to the students and Rotary, which has financially and emotionally supported many of the club's projects, she added.

"I couldn't be prouder of these students and see the difference they are making by giving their time, energy and love," Rangle said. "They 'get' civic engagement, which is so important for young people to learn."

Bustos explained that he likes the creative fundraisers that the Interact Club has held. "I think it's a pretty cool way to get involved and have fun, but also help out the community," he said.

During basketball games, club members hosted a Purple Pinky event, offering to paint fingernails purple for \$1 to raise money for Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio in the world. Bustos estimated that the club raised \$150. "That's

a lot of fingernails," he said.

The club also spearheaded the South High Thanksgiving food drive, organizing a two-weekend collection of food at Safeway and developing a class competition within the school. The donations totaled an estimated 3,485 pounds of food for NEEDS Inc.

Before school closed for the COVID-19 pandemic, the club was holding penny wars where students voted to have one of 10 teachers have a pie thrown in their face. Students voted for their favorite teacher by placing pennies in a jar. Any extra money like dollars would count as a reduction in the number of pennies.

"Some of the jars have a few pennies and some were almost full," Bustos said, pointing out that all proceeds would go to helping a school in Africa. "It's a

fun way to raise money and help others."

Beyond volunteering and running track, Bustos is an avid musician, playing the violin since the first grade and taking up the sousaphone his junior year. He is involved in South's orchestra as the first chair and marching band.

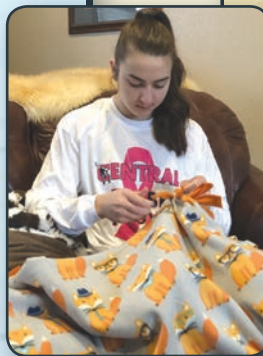
"Music is a really fun, creative way to not only just express myself but also discover different types of music," Bustos said, noting that he practices at least an hour a night.

"I plan to be a music teacher in my future, so being involved in orchestra is a gateway into that area," Bustos added. He plans to attend the University of Wyoming in the fall.



Shout out to Central High Skills USA Chapter for completing a coin challenge to raise funds for shoes, and the South and East FBLA for raising awareness and collecting funds during their Basketball games against each other for the Unaccompanied Students Initiative (USI) program. Unaccompanied homeless teens means without parent(s) or guardianship, living in an unsafe environment. **Our own teens helping teens speaks volumes! We thank each of you for making a difference right here in our community and supporting USI.**





## Blankets & Basketball

Central senior uses 3v3 basketball tournament to raise money for local charities and makes fleece blankets for the nonprofit Blankets for Laramie County Kids.

**By Rachel Girt**

*For the Wyoming Tribune Eagle*

As part of her Future Business Leaders of America project, Ellie Fearneyhough has spent the last three years raising money and awareness for nonprofits by organizing a 3v3 basketball tournament.

Ellie's sister, Abby, as well as Alexa Becerra and Sarah Krysl, started the 3v3 project several years ago as their senior FBLA project while at Cheyenne's Central High School. When her sister graduated, Fearneyhough and her FBLA teammates decided to make the tournament an annual project for their FBLA chapter.

"We wanted to raise money for different charities and inform

people about how important it is to give to nonprofits that are helping others who are less fortunate," explained Fearneyhough, who is now a senior at Central.

Every year, Fearneyhough and her teammates select a different organization to focus on, raise awareness for and receive all proceeds of the tournament. So far, FBLA has raised money for Autism Awareness, Alzheimer Awareness, St. Jude's Children Research Hospital and Make-A-Wish Foundation of Wyoming.

Fearneyhough and her FBLA teammates set up the entire 3v3 tournament, getting approval from school administrators, working with the chosen nonprofit, advertising for the

event at local schools in the triad and organizing it.

This year, more than 40 teams played in the tournament, ranging from the third/fourth grade division all the way to adults.

The fundraiser combines Fearneyhough's passion for helping others with her love of basketball. "Knowing a lot about the sport has been helpful in setting up the tournament," added Fearneyhough, who also plays volleyball, track and soccer.

She has since completed the 3v3 basketball tournament as an FBLA community service project and as a partnership with a business project.

Participating in FBLA all four years has been a great

experience for her, Fearneyhough said.

"Through FBLA, I have learned many skills like public speaking and learning how to organize projects," she said.

FBLA encourages its members and chapters to provide service to their community not only as a way to be a good citizen, but also because so much can be learned by engaging in service projects, explained Lindsey Deselms, the FBLA adviser at Central.

"It really is a win-win situation," Deselms added. "When students participate in community service, they not only benefit the community as a whole, but they grow as young people who will hopefully continue this civic duty as they become adults."



# MAKING A Difference



"Making blankets in my free time is an easy way to help children in need," Fearneyhough said.



The registration tables at Central High's FBLA 3v3 basketball tournament at the Central fieldhouse.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FEARNEYHOUGH FAMILY

"She has strong integrity, morals and values. She is kind, caring and a person who others look up to, even my own daughters."

Between school, FBLA and sports, Fearneyhough uses her spare time to make fleece blankets for the nonprofit Blankets for Laramie County Kids. The local nonprofit provides handmade blankets to children in

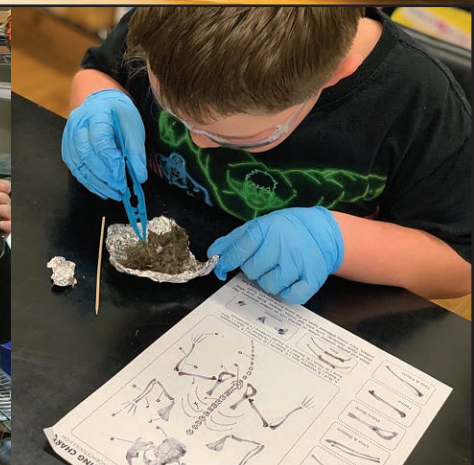
crisis throughout Laramie County.

"Ellie's blankets help calm kids going through a tough time and give them comfort," said Jan Felton, the organization's former coordinator. She added that Fearneyhough probably has made more than 50 blankets through the years.

Finding volunteer activities that don't conflict with her sports training and competition schedule has been difficult, Fearneyhough said.

"Making blankets in my free time is an easy way to help children in need."

See Fearneyhough, 17



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# Michelle Puente finds purpose for old shoes

In just over a year, she has collected over 2,500 pairs of shoes to be donated.

Standing among stacked boxes in her parents' garage, Michelle Puente dug through a bag of shoes, searching for a matching pair.

"You don't have to do big things to make a difference for others," said Puente, who just turned 17 and is a junior at East High School.

Upon finding both tiny pink cowboy boots, she wrapped them together with a rubber band. "It's amazing how many of these shoes are barely worn or not worn at all," Puente said, pointing out that some of the shoes still have tags on them.

So far, Puente has collected 2,500 pairs of gently used shoes for Angel Bins, a company that helps charitable organizations raise money through the recycling of shoes. The shoes are processed at Angel Bin's warehouse in Los Angeles, California, and distributed

globally to developing nations, where shoes are a necessity.

Angel Bins exports the shoes that are in good condition to micro-entrepreneurs, usually women who are the sole breadwinners for their families. The micro-entrepreneurs repair and resell the shoes collected from the Angel Bins shoe drives, earning an income for their families.

The shoe project set the bar very high in terms of the number of pairs and pounds of shoes Michelle had to collect in order to meet the very basic requirement, explained Maureen Eldridge. She teaches at East High School and is the adviser for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), which is a career and technical organization for students in family and consumer sciences.

"Michelle is one of the most positive and kind students I have

ever worked with," Eldridge added. "She is thoughtful and serious about promoting positive change in her school and community. She always thinks of others rather than herself. She is driven, committed and intelligent."

The idea for her kindness project stemmed from watching a Rachel's Challenge program during a 2018 FCCLA conference in Casper, Puente said. Rachel's Challenge is an organization that works to reduce violence and is named after Rachel Scott, who was the first student killed in the Columbine High School shooting in 1999.

The FCCLA conference inspired Puente and her friend Keely Cleveland to lobby school administrators to bring a Rachel's Challenge speaker to East High School.

On Feb. 12, 2019, Rachel's uncle, Larry Scott, spoke to

600 students packed into East's auditorium. His message about kindness and compassion made Puente and Cleveland want to do more, Puente said.

"We wanted to do a kindness project that expanded beyond the school, our community and the state and go worldwide," Puente said. When Cleveland graduated last spring, that task fell to Puente.

Looking at the number of shoes in her closet, Puente realized that she didn't wear most of them, even though they were in good condition. "I thought that maybe I should give my shoes to someone else and have an opportunity to change someone's life."

At first, she just reached out to her family and friends to donate. Encouraged by the number of donations, she started to advertise at her church, Holy Trinity Church, and school.



# MAKING A Difference



Puate reviews an East High FCCLA Shoe Drive flyer. She is the president of the school's chapter after serving as vice president last year.



Puate has collected over 2,500 pairs of shoes since March of 2019. She is often surprised how barely worn or not worn at all some shoes are. Her parents' garage is filled with boxes and pallets, all waiting to be shipped off to Angel Bins. PHOTOS BY RACHEL GIRT



Puate then placed shoe collection boxes at Planet Fitness, Gold's Gym and Fitness One.

"I probably got the most shoes from church, and my family and friends," Puate said.

Eldridge has been impressed by Puate's unwavering commitment to collect the number of shoes required for Angel Bins to collect.

"The collection of the shoes was slow, but pair by pair she continued to collect and never gave up in reaching the final goal," Eldridge said. "She continued to persevere and find more and more sources to collect shoes. She, and her family, sacrificed plenty to reach this goal, which is so admirable."

Puate said she never imagined that she would be up to 2,500 pairs of shoes since she started actively collecting in March 2019. "I thought that maybe I would get 100," she said.

Already, one side of her parents' garage is filled with boxes, donated by the Box Shop. When she receives the donation, Puate counts them and packages them in the boxes. The boxes are placed on wooden pallets in preparation to be shipped to California. Her goal is to end the project this May.

Puate joined FCCLA during her freshman year. Last year, she served as vice president of community service, and now is the president of the chapter at East High School.

"I enjoy leading other people and helping others in family consumer science classes," Puate said. "It's kind of like our own little family at school."

Through her FCCLA activities, Puate has found enjoyment in doing community service projects. FCCLA has raised funds for the Friday Food Bag program, held a community baby shower, helped the Cheyenne Animal Shelter and donated Christmas gifts to Carey Junior High School students as a part of Carey Cares.

Puate also volunteers through her church and other community activities. She has even dressed up as a tooth fairy to entertain kids waiting for dentist appointments and free cleanings through Give Kids a Smile.

"I just like to help out," she said.

She has been recognized for her efforts. She received the community service award for National Junior Honor Society in 2017, won first place in the national programs in the action category at the state FCCLA

competition for presenting about the importance of kindness, and won a gold medal at the national FCCLA competition in 2019.

Puate's future plans include playing volleyball at college, preferably a Christian one, and pursuing a teaching degree.



Puate, left, is pictured after she won a gold medal at the national FCCLA competition in 2019. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PUATE FAMILY





## Siblings spend time improving the community, the Children's Village

### Boy Scouts, garden work, ROTC and music – the Dudas do it all.

By Rachel Girt

*For the Wyoming Tribune Eagle*

Nathan and Sydney Duda, brother and sister, twist wire in shapes in preparation for an upcoming crafts class for the Paul Smith Children's Village at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens.

"I think that it's important to stay active in your community," said Nathan, who is 17 and a junior at Central High School. "There's always more help that's needed somewhere. That's why we volunteer."

Sydney began volunteering first at the Children's Village during the summer of 2018, followed by Nathan later that fall, and now their little brother, Nicholas, joins sometimes. Typically, the older siblings volunteer once a week during the school year and a few times a week in the summer.

Their three-hour shift this morning included chopping up branches for compost in the back and craft preparation work for Aaron Sommers, the Children's Village supervisor. When the weather is warmer, they help clean, wash chalk off the sidewalks and work on projects in the gardens.

"We often help prepare crafts for kids because Aaron can't do it all by himself, and sometimes we help with classes," said Sydney, who is 15 and in ninth grade at Central. She added that she particularly likes helping in the greenhouse and planting flowers around the garden.

All volunteers, even youth, assist, since work involves year-round field trips, drop-in public programming, food and flower production, and assuring the site

is safe, fun and clean, Sommers said.

"Youth volunteers are often thought of as something to be mentored, but, as often is the case with adults, we are mistaken," Sommers said. "The presence of youth volunteers transforms our adult volunteers into the children they used to be and the life lessons adults pass on by sharing a worksite and stories create natural friendships that are mutually beneficial."

Sommers enjoys working with Sydney and Nathan.

Sydney is clever, artistic and intuitive to anticipating events, Sommers said. "Not many people can look at four cottonwood sticks and turn them into a statue of turkey feet."

Sommers described Nathan as quiet, determined and

compassionate. "I first met Nathan with Santa Claus. It's not every teenage boy that will place a red nose (Rudolph) on their face for a photo, but Nathan did."

Both Nathan and Sydney participate in the Wyoming Congressional Awards program, where students can earn medals depending on the amount of community service hours they completed, as well as their development in three other areas: physical fitness, personal development, and expedition or exploration. Sydney is working toward her bronze and silver medals, while Nathan works toward the gold.

Their volunteer hours at the Children's Village count toward earning their medals, but they also volunteer in the community through their other activities like



# MAKING A Difference



The Dudas working during their volunteer hours at the Children's Village.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL GIRT



▼ Sydney performing in the CFD parade with the Central High band.



Nathan receiving an award for his duties in ROTC. ▲  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DUDA FAMILY

ROTC and Boy Scouts, Nathan explained.

For his Eagle Scout project during the summer of 2019, Nathan decided to further help the Children's Village by replacing the deteriorating structure of the world food gardens with metal stock tanks. He planned his project a couple of months in advance.

"With the number of people who showed up to help, we were able to put in the tanks, mulch the back area and build part of a wall," Nathan said.

Interested in the military, Nathan joined the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program in ninth grade, three years ago. His future plans include joining the Wyoming Army National Guard this summer and attending college, maybe pursuing some type of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) degree.

"With each passing year, you have a

stronger connection with the people you meet there and feel more comfortable with the uniforms, which can be intimidating at first," Nathan said, explaining why he likes ROTC. "ROTC becomes like a family."

After hearing about ROTC from her older sibling, Sydney joined the program this year in ninth grade and said she really enjoys it. "The first semester was a lot of information, and the second semester is more action, like shooting targets and training," she added.

The Dudas are also busy with after-school activities, including training for the ROTC drill teams and traveling to competitions, as well as practicing music in different choirs and bands.

Musical talent runs in both of their veins. Nathan sings in choirs like the Centralaires, while Sydney plays the bari saxophone in freshman/sophomore band, honors jazz club

and the marching band in the summer.

Volunteering together tends to bring the teenagers closer together, though they are known for engaging in entertaining debates to pass the time.

See Dudas, 17

Volunteers provide more than 90% of the physical labor at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. Volunteer tasks are matched to the abilities of the applicant. Those interested in volunteering at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens can find more information at [botanic.org](http://botanic.org) or email Trudy Fox at [tfox@cheyennecity.org](mailto:tfox@cheyennecity.org).

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# Ethan Harris' handywork solves a problem for the Grace Christian Academy

Professional, organized, approachable – those are some words that describe Harris.

By Rachel Girt

*For the Wyoming Tribune Eagle*

When it was time to do his Eagle Scout project, Ethan Harris, now a senior at Cheyenne's East High School, decided to help Grace Christian Academy (GCA).

"If you have the opportunity to help someone, do something good for your community and neighbors," Harris recommended.

Harris explained that helping others is a philosophy instilled in him from his family and Boy Scouts. Harris has been involved in Boy Scouts since the fifth grade.

"This is the second school year for GCA, and, knowing

that we are still fairly small, the Harris family approached GCA leadership about a project Ethan could complete to bless the school," said Emily Jackson, GCA Board of Directors chairwoman.

The school's primary need was a creative storage solution to better use a small storage room in more efficient ways. Harris decided to remove the plastic shelving to the gym and replace it with floor-to-ceiling wooden shelving.

Harris and his parents, Tracy and Becky, visited GCA to first map out the project, and then Harris went to work, recruiting volunteers, sourcing materials

and coordinating efforts. Harris pre-cut the lumber at home with his father to reduce the actual installation time.

Jackson watched this young man really shine throughout the project, she said.

"His time and care resulted in a project that may seem simple to some, but has made such a positive impact for our teachers and staff," Jackson said. "We so appreciate the kindness Ethan, his family and Scout troop have shown to GCA, and are thankful for this gift of service!"

His involvement in Boy Scouts gave Harris the confidence and leadership skills necessary to

seek the presidency of East's SkillsUSA Chapter on the industrial tech side, Harris explained. He co-leads with another student who focuses more on healthcare.

SkillsUSA is a national membership association serving high school, college and middle school students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. Through SkillsUSA, students can learn and practice personal, workplace and technical skills. The students also volunteer in community service projects.

Welding initially attracted



# MAKING A Difference

Harris to SkillsUSA during his sophomore year. Now he enjoys working with the other students on their goals. As a student-led organization, SkillsUSA gives students more responsibility in planning and leadership while in high school, Harris added.

Kelsey Baumgartner, one of East's SkillsUSA advisers, described Harris as an outstanding student who thrives in the industrial tech department of East. He has helped plan several fundraisers and is a constant role model to the younger members, she added.

"He is one that others follow because he is organized, on time, always professional and has a great, approachable attitude," Baumgartner said.

"If I could say one thing about Ethan, it would be that his heart and pride in the things that he has accomplished will take him places I am sure he hasn't considered yet," Baumgartner said. "He will do great

things because he is a great person!"

East High teacher Matt Nolan encountered Harris three years ago when he signed up for his welding classes. "It has been a privilege to watch Ethan grow into the young man he is today," Nolan said.

"Other students see his demeanor, dedication and work ethic as something to strive for," Nolan said. "He has no problems helping younger students with their welding skills."

Harris recently competed against other members from around the state in welding competitions where students are given plans, raw materials and so many hours to complete the project. In the fall, Harris individually placed second in the Steel Days competition hosted by Laramie County Community College and Puma Steel, earning a \$1,500 welding scholarship from LCCC and many other prizes. See Harris, 16



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TOP: Ethan's creative and practical shelving system for the Grace Christian Academy.  
BOTTOM: Ethan and his friend in front of their SkillsUSA project. Ethan attends East High School and thrives in the industrial tech department.

TOP: PHOTO BY RACHEL GIRT/BOTTOM: COURTESY OF THE HARRIS FAMILY





Daugherty poses in front of the entrance to Element Church, where she volunteers to help watch children.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL GIRT

# Cheyenne newcomer already making her impact

Kassey Daugherty and her family moved to Cheyenne last August, their fifth move.

By Rachel Girt

*For the Wyoming Tribune Eagle*

Moving to Wyoming's capital city last August, 14-year-old Kassey Daugherty has already set out to make a difference in the Cheyenne community.

"Anytime that I can help out the community I live in, I try to do that," Daugherty explained.

Daugherty moved to Cheyenne with her family when her father Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Daugherty was stationed with the 890th Missile Security Forces Squadron at F.E. Warren Air Force Base.

Rebecca Fohner, the program coordinator for the Youth Annex, called Daugherty an outstanding young woman. The Youth Annex,

located on the base, is an affiliate program of the Boys and Girls Club, operating like an after-school program for teens.

"She volunteers for the Youth Annex to help out whenever needed and volunteers at her church," Fohner said, explaining why the Annex nominated Daugherty for an award.

In February, the Wyoming Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs gave Daugherty "Wyoming Military Youth of the Year" award at a ceremony in the Capitol. She received a \$2,500 scholarship, sponsored by Disney and Toyota. She will compete at the regional Youth of the Year competition in Dallas, with the possibility of advancing to the national competition.

"I was proud to be recognized as a representative for military youth in the state and for all my work at the Annex," said Daugherty, an eighth grader at Carey Junior High School. "I have been a military child all my life."

Her family has moved five times

for her father's military career since she was born in Germany in 2006. After Germany, the family move to Arkansas for seven years, Turkey for two years, Missouri for four and now here.

"Being a military child has had a definite impact on my

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Daugherty receives her plaque for the "Wyoming Military Youth of the Year" award.

Daugherty after a recent 5k in Cheyenne. She has been competing in 5k races since the age of 4 and places in the top five regularly.



Playing sports and staying active and fit are also very important to Daugherty. Recently, she hiked the Manitou Incline in Colorado Springs, Colorado where the trail climbs 2,011 feet in 0.88 miles and has 2,744 steps. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DAUGHERTY FAMILY

life, but I am not sad that I am one," Daugherty said. "I have been able to have different experiences, learn new things and make new friends. Living in Turkey gave me different understanding about the people, culture and the area."

After moving to Cheyenne, not knowing anybody, Daugherty found the Youth Annex as a refuge and a place to do homework and meet other teens, she said.

"Since we are living off base as a military family, I knew that there wasn't going to be a lot of military kids at my school," Daugherty said. "Going to the Annex helped me know more people and meet other military kids like me."

When she first arrived in Cheyenne, Daugherty helped lead the youth fun run on the base. "I helped them warm them up and ran with them," she said.

Now Daugherty goes to the Annex to help other military kids transition to the Cheyenne community and help others with their homework, as well as raising funds for different youth activities. She serves as the president of the Torch Club, small-group character and leadership club at the Youth Annex.

She also volunteers at Element Church, helping watch children while their parents attend the service.

"God has had a huge impact on my life," she said, explaining that in addition to volunteering

and sports, she also tries to go to church twice a week. "If there is an opportunity to volunteer where we live, especially if the church is helping out, I'll do it."

While in Missouri, every second Saturday of the month, she would volunteer to cook and serve food at a community-wide breakfast done by a local church. While she enjoyed helping out, arriving at 4 a.m. to prepare breakfast was difficult, she added.

Daugherty received a volunteer of the quarter award from the squadron while her family was stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.

Playing sports and staying active and fit are also very important to Daugherty, an athlete who gets up at 5 a.m.

to lift weights and cross-train with her father. She wrestles at Carey Junior High, competes in swimming, regularly runs races and has placed at jiu jitsu tournaments.

"When I do all these sports, it shows that women can do as much as men can," Daugherty explained. "A lot of time, women don't go out and try these activities because of the discouragement that they get from other people."

While in Missouri, she joined the football team in fifth grade, playing lineman and running back positions, and she was also part of the varsity wrestling team.

"She was out there competing right up there with the boys," her father said. See Daugherty, 16



**HARRIS** from 13

In March, Harris participated in a team fabrication contest with two other East High students. The eight-hour competition was against other schools from around the city and state.

"Through Ethan's leadership, the team took first place by a landslide," Nolan said.

Aside from competitions, Harris has participated in and spearheaded numerous volunteer community service activities. Helping with Safe Trick or Treat, constructing beds

for Sleep in Heavenly Peace event, building dog houses with elementary students and participating in East Cares are just a few of his volunteer activities.

After he graduates this year, Harris plans to attend LCCC's welding program and the University of Wyoming to study rangeland management.

"I want to learn as many skills as possible in order to make myself more marketable for jobs and a career," Harris said.



Harris and his friends start the process of building new shelves for Grace Christian Academy. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HARRIS FAMILY



Daugherty running in an Air Force race and competing in a wrestling match for Carey Jr. High, where she attends as an eighth grader. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DAUGHERTY FAMILY

**DAUGHERTY** from 15

Daugherty has been competing in 5k races since the age of 4. When she outran many airmen at a 5k, the wing commander at the Air Force Base in Arkansas brought her into a staff meeting to coin her in front of the other commanders, her father said.

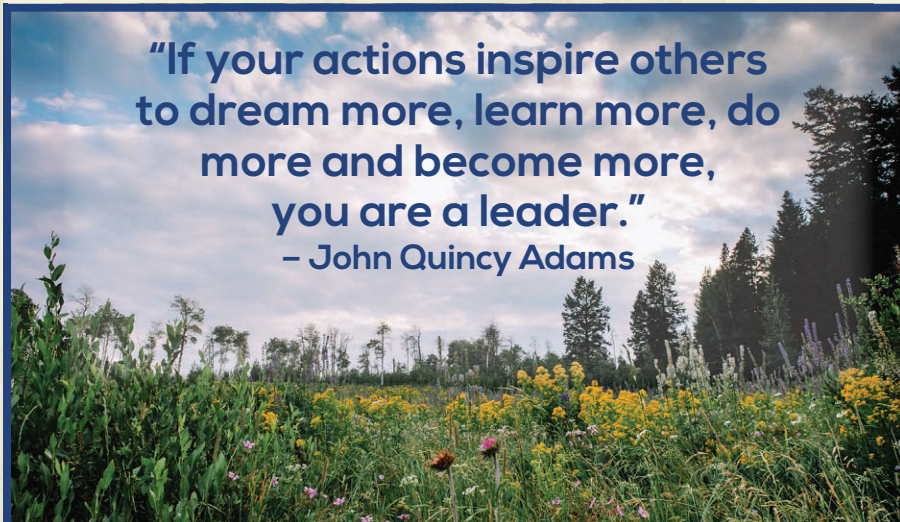
At 8, she placed third in a team triathlon held at the Incirlik Air Base. She has placed first in the 18-and-younger category at the half-marathons held at the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, Tarsus,

Turkey, Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and the one in Cheyenne. She placed third in the 15-and-under kids triathlon at Whiteman Air Force Base.

Her future plans include college, maybe MIT or Penn State, or through the military.

"I would like to either be in pararescue for the Air Force or a professional MMA fighter," she said.

**"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."**  
— John Quincy Adams



Congratulations and thank you to all of the outstanding youth making a difference in our community! Wyoming Bank & Trust is proud of all that you are doing!



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# MAKING A Difference

## DUDAS from 11

"Sydney and Nathan are close as siblings," Sommers said.

"It is not unusual to watch them be productive in their assigned volunteer tasks while debating the pros on cons of being a Hogwarts Wizard or Star Wars Jedi and determining who would prevail in a duel."

While working in compost

today, Nathan pondered what is the best Pokémon universe to live in and why Pikachu shouldn't be the face of Pokémon, Sydney said, gently ribbing her older brother.

"Well, there are a lot universes and better Pokémon," Nathan said, shrugging.

## FEARNEYHOUGH from 7

Fearneyhough is now working toward earning her gold medal through the Congressional Awards program. She has already earned her bronze and silver. Through the Wyoming Congressional Awards program, students can earn medals depending on the amount of community service hours they

completed, as well as their development in three other areas: physical fitness, personal development, and expedition or exploration.

When she graduates this year, Fearneyhough is looking forward to pursuing a business degree while playing volleyball at Sheridan College.



Nathan and Sydney serving and flipping pancakes at the CFD pancake breakfast in downtown Cheyenne. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DUDA FAMILY



Ellie Fearneyhough holds two of her blankets she made for Blankets for Laramie County Kids. PHOTO BY RACHEL GIRT



# THANK YOU

to our local youth for  
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"We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends."

-- Mary McLeod Bethune

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