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KLICKITAT PUD

FEBRUARY 2025

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PHOTO BY PHILLIP
MCMILLEN, KPUD GIS
SPECIALIST

4-H Power of Yo



Local teen competes with her dog in 4-H's agility, obedience and showmanship competitions

By Riley Richards

Rhys Richards recently won Klickitat PUD's 2024 4-H Power of Youth Award. This was Rhys' second year as a member of the Klickitat County Hotdogs 4-H group. She and her dog, Kevin, competed in agility, obedience and showmanship.

In 2023, Rhys and Kevin qualified for the state 4-H competition in showmanship and obedience. She says it was a great opportunity for her to build lifelong skills, such as responsibility and discipline.

Outside of 4-H, Rhys volunteers as a search target for the Klickitat K-9 search and rescue team. To do this, she brings a scent article the dogs use to identify her, then she treks to a designated spot. The dogs pick up her scent and practice tracking her as if she were a missing person.

Her volunteer efforts don't end there. Rhys volunteered at the Still Life 4-H camp, where she helped children learn new skills and work on crafts. Last summer, she worked with her father to move large rounds of a downed fir tree from a neighbor's yard.

Rhys Richards demonstrated leadership and commitment to her community through her 4-H participation and volunteer work.

outh Award

While it was hard work, she liked being able to lend a hand.

Rhys is the vice president of the KC Hotdogs. In that role she has improved her public speaking skills, presenting a proposal last year to request funding for new agility equipment for the club.

She has also represented the KC Hotdogs in parades around Goldendale, often bringing Kevin dressed in costumes.

Being a 4-H senior this year means Rhys gets to mentor newer members of the club and share the knowledge she has gained over the past few years. Her advice to new members is to take their time and do a lot of research

“Especially take your time with your record book,” she says.

Through 4-H, Rhys learned the importance of perseverance and community. The largest obstacle Rhys faced in the past year was the overnight windstorm that was almost a showstopper during the Klickitat County Fair.

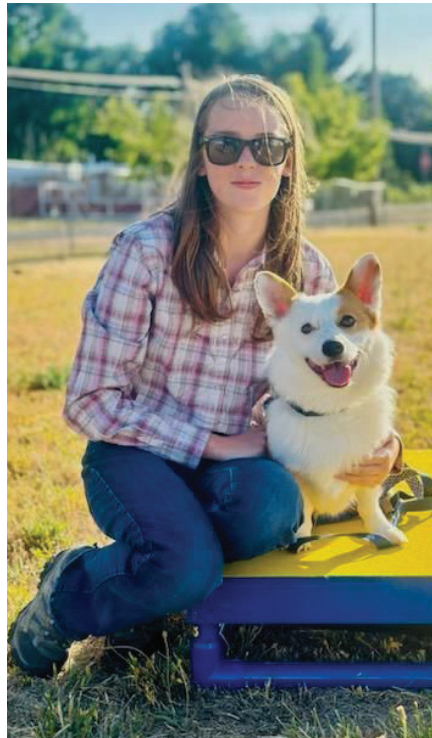
Although nobody was hurt, the tents housing the dogs blew over a fence and threw a cinder block onto the newly acquired agility A-frame, denting the structure.

Thanks to the quick thinking and resourcefulness of the group, they were able to fix it and still have a successful day at the fair.

After graduation, Rhys wants to attend Clark College to get her associate degree through Washington’s Running Start program.

Although she does not yet know what she wants to study, she knows she wants to work with animals.

In her spare time, Rhys trains her dog



Rhys and Kevin qualified for the 2023 state 4-H competition.

at home with an agility set she bought. Along with showing Kevin, she enters photography and freeze-dried foods in other county fairs around the state. She also enjoys time with her other animals: cats, chickens and one hamster.

Rhys says she could not have won this award on her own and wishes to thank her friends and family for all of their help.

Klickitat PUD thanks Rhys for her contributions to our community. Rhys is an excellent example of the extraordinary youth we have throughout Klickitat County. We wish Rhys and Kevin the best of luck in their upcoming endeavors. ■

Each year, Klickitat PUD sponsors the 4-H Power of Youth Award.

This award is given to an individual who demonstrates a desire to help the community and invests in volunteer and leadership work.

Congratulations to Rhys for the hard work and commitment she has demonstrated.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

Source: energy.gov



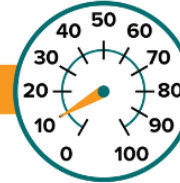
DEMAND EDUCATION
a series



Understanding Demand:

A car's speedometer is like a demand meter; an odometer is like an energy meter. The demand on a car driving 100 miles in an hour are higher than driving 100 miles over a ten-hour period.

10-HOUR TRIP



1-HOUR TRIP



DEMAND

CONSUMPTION

Odometer

Odometer



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Attention, Community Members!

Do you know someone in our community whose contributions, acts of kindness, or achievements deserve recognition? We want to hear from you.

SUBMIT YOUR STORY IDEAS TO:
COMMUNICATION@KLICKPUD.COM



5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy—and money!

Mind the Thermostat

If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

Get Cozy

Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

Don't Block the Heat

If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

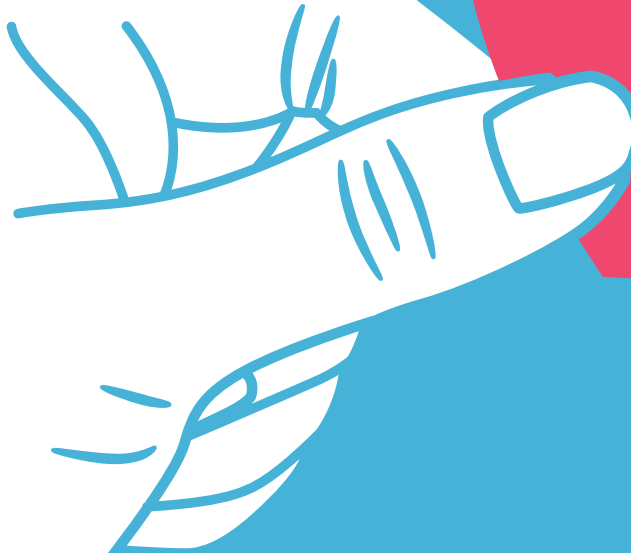
Take Advantage of Sunlight

Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

Block Air Leaks

Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

Operation Warm Heart



Klickitat PUD is grateful for our generous customers who contribute to Operation Warm Heart. This neighbors-helping-neighbors program has been active since 1989. It is locally administered and available to customers within our service territory.

Last year, 283 customers donated regularly to Operation Warm Heart. All funds received go to qualified customers.

What is Operation Warm Heart?

Operation Warm Heart is an emergency energy relief program funded by KPUD customer donations. Reasons why people reach out to OWH for emergency relief vary, but often are due to a medical emergency, a change in employment or other unavoidable circumstances.

In the past year, OWH disbursed nearly \$19,000 to help Klickitat PUD families who struggled to pay their bills in the past year. During that time, this program helped 41 customers keep their service connected.

OWH does not have income requirements and is available to KPUD customer who have been established for at least one year and who are going through a short-term financial emergency. It is not available to help pay deposits.

OWH is a one-time assistance program that often requires customers to match payment to receive the benefit. For every customer dollar paid, OWH matches it up to the funded amount.

“The beauty of Operation Warm Heart is that it allows us to provide discreet assistance to those who need it most through an unbiased, blind assessment,” says Erin Gray, KPUD’s OWH coordinator.

KPUD accepts applications and coordinates with the Goldendale Ministerial Association for anonymous application approval based on eligibility requirements. KPUD is grateful for the years of partnership with GMA and its support and understanding of the program. Because of this partnership, the program has no administration fees, and 100% of donations stays entirely within Klickitat County. ■




*Lend a hand,
warm a heart!*




**SIGN UP FOR THE ROUND-UP PROGRAM ON SMARTHUB OR
REACH OUT TO ONE OF OUR KLICKITAT PUD OFFICES AT
509-773-5891 OR 509-493-2255.**

Giving Is as Easy as 1, 2, 3

There are three ways to contribute to Operation Warm Heart

1 Add to your monthly KPUD bill. The average donation is \$1 to \$2 per month.

2 Enroll in Round Up, which rounds up your PUD bill to the nearest dollar.

3 At your convenience, add a lump sum that fits your budget.

Contact KPUD


Contact KPUD customer service to lend a hand and contribute to Operation Warm Heart by rounding up, or log into SmartHub and enroll.

If you're in need of assistance through Operation Warm Heart, reach out to customer service at 509-773-5891 or 509-493-2255 to assist you.

Klickitat PUD also offers an income-qualified senior discount program that runs from December through May. For more information, reach out to Senior Services at 509-773-3757 (Goldendale) or 509-493-3068 (White Salmon).

LOW INCOME ELDERLY DISCOUNT



	1 Person Household	2 Person Household
Discount	Yearly Income	Yearly Income
Basic Fee (\$23.83) + 15%	\$15,060 or less	\$20,440 or less
Basic Fee (\$23.83)	\$22,590	\$30,660
\$10/Month	\$50,400	\$57,600



- Available to seniors 62 & older.
- Discounts run **December through May** and are subject to funding limitations.

 **ARE YOU A KPUD UTILITY CUSTOMER?**

 **ARE YOU AT LEAST 62 YEARS OLD?**

 **IS YOUR ANNUAL INCOME LESS THAN \$50,400?**
single income level

 **WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A DISCOUNT ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

KPUD: Energy Efficiency Rebates (509) 773-7622

WAGAP: Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (509) 493-2662

Yakama Nation: Energy Assistance (509) 865-5121



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Services Manager*

Mike Nixon
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Brandon Johnson
Engineering Manager

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WA-18



Welcome, Commissioner Bell

Klickitat PUD is pleased to introduce our new commissioner, Stoner Bell.

We are thrilled to welcome him to the team and look forward to the invaluable expertise, leadership and perspective he brings to the table. With his diverse experience in the industry and passion for community engagement, learning and growth, we are confident he will make a positive impact.

Stoner, originally from Seattle, lived in various places within Washington before settling in White Salmon in 1994. He is active within the community, performing in community theater and coaching high school wrestling for more than 13 years. Stoner is also an active member of his church.

As a licensed civil engineer, Stoner specializes in water systems, wastewater, stormwater and flooding. In 1994, he cofounded Bell Design Co. with his brother, Dev. The company focuses on civil and structural engineering and land surveying in Washington and Oregon.

“I am a lifetime learner,” Stoner says.

He says he is driven by a commitment to community and providing cost-effective engineering solutions. He thrives on problem-solving, identifying potential challenges in projects and finding ways to improve efficiency. As a consultant, he focuses on addressing issues early and developing practical solutions to ensure project success.

With more than 35 years in the industry, Stoner is passionate about mentoring the next generation of engineers and offering local agencies an alternative to larger firms. He remains engaged in professional organizations to stay updated on industry changes. Stoner’s career reflects a strong dedication to his community, engineering expertise and a commitment to mentorship.

Commission meetings are regularly scheduled at 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Join us in welcoming our newly elected official representing District 1, Klickitat PUD Commissioner, Stoner Bell.