

Buchheit donates total of \$1,140 to local FFA chapters

Students of CHS, Christ Our Rock, Sandoval and Odin honored Saturday

BY MATTHEW PACKMAN

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

CENTRALIA — Educating, building and supporting the next generation of farmers to feed this country is more than just an important task; it is an essential one.

Centralia Buchheit no doubt shares that very opinion, as they awarded four chapters of the Future Farmers of America throughout Marion County, with individual donations on Saturday morning at 10 a.m.

With an overall total of \$1,140.60 donated to local FFA programs, the schools of Centralia High School, Christ Our Rock, Sandoval High School and Odin Public Schools, were each handed a check of \$268.15, courtesy of Buchheit.

"This is actually our first year doing this," said Centralia Buchheit store manager John Hendrickson. "We have done several fundraising events with individual FFA chapters in the past, but nothing like this."

Enjoying a successful first year, Hendrickson explained throughout the month of March, FFA emblems were sold at the registers of the store, with all proceeds going to each of the four local chapters. Even more impressive, Hendrickson reported out of all eight Buchheit stores raising funds for the FFA, Centralia was the most substantial contributor.

"Throughout the month of March, we sold FFA emblems at the front registers. We offered a big yellow emblem for \$5, or a blue one for \$1," Hendrickson explained. "We collected a total of \$1,125 from

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SUPPORTING FUTURE FARMERS — Centralia Buchheit offers a total of \$1,140.60 to students involved in the FFA program. The schools included in Buchheit's first year of donations was Centralia High School, Christ Our Rock in Centralia, Odin Public School and Sandoval High School. Each school received a check for \$268.15. **PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT**, Randy Williams; Christ Our Rock students Daniel Parris, Josh Deusing and Elizabeth Jett; and Buchheit Store Manager John Hendrickson.

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that. The rest of the money was a percentage of rebates that we collected company-wide. And from there we divided that money throughout each of the eight stores and the individual chapters. But as far as donations go, Centralia led the way."

When asked why he felt Centralia was the leading donator in the fundraiser, Hendrickson explained, "We had very good participation here, due to that

fact that there are several FFA chapters in this area, which is a good thing. FFA is strong in Southern Illinois. Many of the our customers are farmers, and several members of our staff are FFA members as well, myself included. We maintain a rural lifestyle here, and that times in with the FFA lifestyle."

At 10 a.m. sharp Saturday morning, Hendrickson and fellow Buchheit employee Randy Williams, presented individual checks to Sam Ali, Principal of Odin Public Schools, Christ Our Rock FFA students Daniel Parris, Elizabeth Jett and Josh Duensing, Centralia High School FFA student Victoria

Phillips and Sandoval High School FFA students Brandon Phipps, Mika Taylor and Levi Brown.

When asked if Centralia Buchheit would be hosting a similar fundraiser next year, Hendrickson emphatically stated, "definitely."

"This will be an annual event. It was very successful and we will definitely be continuing with this," Hendrickson revealed. "We do a lot of donations to national and state organizations, but we always try to give back locally when we can. And we look forward to continuing with this event."

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