



# INDEPENDENCE 4 - H

January 2026

## January Club Meeting January 14, 2026 ~ 6:30 pm Sebastopol Center for the Arts

### January 2026

- 22: @ 7pm Chicken Que Club Rep Mtg. (YAL)
- 24: Presentation Day Entries Due by 11:59pm
- 26: Cloverdale Fair Entry Forms Due
- 27: 6-8pm Fashion Revue Community Service (YAL)

### February 2026

- 7: @ 4pm: Sonoma County Farm Bureau Crab Feed
- 7: @ 8:30am-2:30am County 4-H Presentation Day at YAL
- 12: Lincoln's Birthday (UCCE closed)
- 13-16: Cloverdale Citrus Fair
- 16: Presidents' Day (UCCE closed)
- 26: @ 7pm Chicken Que Club Rep Mtg. (YAL)

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## President's Message

Abbey Casey

Hi everyone, and happy New Year! I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season and are beginning to fulfill your New Year's aspirations. After what feels like an eternity, we are finally meeting again on Wednesday, January 14th. This is going to be an extra special meeting, as we will be hosting Credo High School's Eco-Robotics team. They are going to give us a short presentation, teach us a bit about robotics, and lead us in an interactive teams activity.

As it is the first meeting of 2026, it will also be a great time to highlight the events and fundraisers our club has planned for the remainder of the year. We will wrap up Goat-Tree-Cycling and look ahead to Presentation Day, the Apple Blossom Parade, and the Chicken Que. The executive board is also working on polishing some ideas into a few new fundraisers for the club, so make sure to look out for news about those.

I am incredibly excited to see you all next week. I hope that it will be a fun gathering in which we all get to learn, grow, and bring in the new year together!





## Community Club Leader's Letter

Lindsay Maddocks

Happy New Year, Independence 4-H Club Families!

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and spent time with family and friends. As we ring in a new year, it's a great time to reflect on the past and look ahead with excitement to what awaits. Gathering together at our holiday party, sharing a meal and playing fun games,

made for a festive evening. A special thank you to Esther, and her mom Jessica, for organizing the party. Thank you Chelle, Nicholas, Zach and the Executive Board for helping with set-up and to all our club families for lending a hand during clean-up. As we look ahead to a new year, I challenge each of you to make the best better by looking at some of the upcoming 4-H events that our members can participate in and challenge yourself. Get involved! Presentation Day is a wonderful opportunity to experience speaking in front of people. To be able to express and share your ideas, thoughts, and opinions is how we share with the world who we are. Each of you has something special to share with others, so I challenge you all to have the courage to practice speaking at this year's event.

Our first fair arrives in February, the Cloverdale Citrus Fair. Share your interests and talents with your local community. Get your creations ready: crafts, drawings, Lego displays, photography, baked goods, woodcrafts, apiary, and creative writing, and much more, can be showcased at the fair. Your creations do not have to be made in 4-H; they can be something you have done on your own or in school. I look forward to seeing what everyone enters! As we welcome 2026, continue to believe in yourself, have the courage to try new things, get involved, and have FUN. Please remember that each of you has something very special to offer your club and community.

Looking forward to sharing in new adventures in the year ahead!

## Happy New Year

Esther Hicks

Happy New Year from our 4-H club! 🎉 The start of a new year brings a fresh sense of excitement, new possibilities, and plenty of fun waiting to happen. It's a time to set goals, try new things, and enjoy every moment along the way. Whether we're discovering new interests, spending time with friends, or celebrating accomplishments big and small, this year is all about making great memories. We're looking forward to a year filled with laughter, creativity, teamwork, and fun experiences that make being part of 4-H so special. Here's to an amazing year ahead, let's make it one to remember!



## Healthy Living

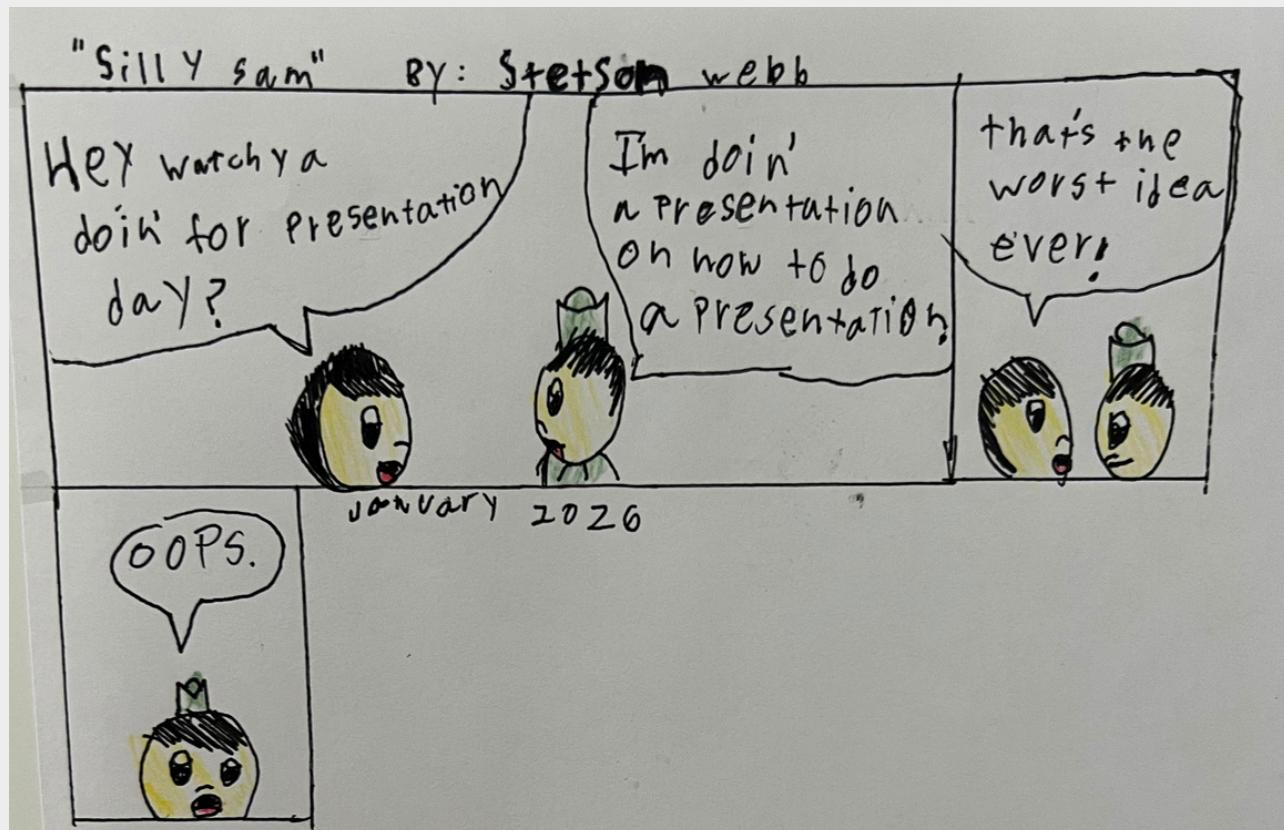
Taylor Magee

This month I am very excited for our healthy living activity, as we will be focusing on goal setting for the new year! I would love for everyone to come prepared to share what they already know about goal setting and why they think setting goals can be helpful. As part of this activity, I want you to think about what kind of goals you might like to set for yourself. Would your goal be big or small? Would it be something you want to work on in the short term, or a long-term goal that takes more time and effort? There is no “right” or “wrong” goal—what matters most is that it is meaningful and realistic for you.

Since this is my first year as the Healthy Living Officer, I am very open to new ideas and suggestions. I really want this club to be shaped by what you are interested in and what you want to learn more about. I would love to hear your thoughts on different healthy living topics, skills, or activities you think would be fun, helpful, or interesting to explore together. Please feel free to share your ideas, ask questions, and be involved in the planning process.

## Monthly Comic

Stetson Webb





## Orchard View Charter School Winter Craft Fair

Dustyn Webb

The Orchard View Charter School Winter Craft Fair was a hit! Students could only sell stuff for \$1.00 each and I made \$13.00! I made beaded wreath ornaments. There was food, drinks, candles, robots, ornaments, music, cookies, glass lanterns, it was super fun! I shared a table with Walter. He made really pretty glass lanterns.



## Stetson Webb showcased his keychains at Balletto in December





# Goat Tree Recycling

Hannah Vandemark

The Goat Tree-Cycling fundraiser was so much fun this year and families were so helpful.

Thanks to the families that helped make the Goat Tree-Cycling program possible. We have delivered nearly 100 trees to Badger Ranch in Sebastopol. This is a win-win-win, we are helping a farmer feed their animals, recycle trees, provide a worthwhile service to the community, and raise money for the club. This year's Goat Tree-Cycling was a team effort with the help of club members passing out flyers, helping to promote the Goat Tree-Cycling program.

The money we raised will help our club operations, projects and celebrations. A special thank you to; Cade and Deegan Thompson, Jeffrey Balich-Shaw, Leo and Clay McDonell, Camille and Addelyn Maddocks, Georgia and Jojo Holland, and Esther Hicks, and all of their parents.





# Goat Tree Recycling





## Cloverdale Citrus Fair



It's tiiiimmeeee to get your entries in!

🇺🇸🌟 Be part of history at the 2026 Citrus Fair! We're Celebrating America...250 Years, Then & Now! and we want YOU to be part of the story! From quilts to citrus cakes, livestock to art, this is your chance to honor tradition and showcase innovation. Let your talent shine in a celebration of past, present, and future. 🎨🍊🐓



**Entries NOW Open!**

🛑 **Deadline: January 26, 2026 —> no late entries accepted!**

📦 **Pick-Ups: February 19, 2026 ONLY —> exhibits cannot be removed during the Fair, including Monday!**

🔗 **Entry Forms & Book Available on our website - [www.CloverdaleCitrusFair.org](http://www.CloverdaleCitrusFair.org)**

# 2026 Citrus Fair ENTRIES OPEN!

Whether you're showcasing citrus-themed art, homegrown livestock, handmade crafts, or culinary creations, this is your moment to shine. Let your talent take center stage and help us celebrate the heart and soul of our community.





## Holiday Party

Camille and Addie Maddocks

On Friday, December 12 our club held our annual holiday party. The Winter Wonderland party took place at the YAL Center in Rohnert Park. The center looked spectacular all decked out in festive shades of icy blue, winter white, snow and pine cones. As we welcomed guests, we were able to guess how many M&Ms were in the jar. Abbey was our lucky winner this year!

As a tradition, our party started with a potluck buffet dinner. We shared a meal of grilled chicken kebabs, green salad, macaroni and cheese, and our club favorite, pesto noodles. A very special thank you to Esther & Jessica Hicks for organizing the event, all the food, and to Jessica for cooking the chicken skewers. They were delicious! So course, nobody could pass up the sweets tables, thank you to all our club families for contributing. After our shared meal the fun began with games galore.

We kicked off the night with an absolutely out of this world AI game. It was so hard to determine which Christmas sweater was AI and which was real. A very special thank you to Eric Hansen for creating and organizing such a festive, fun, and competitive game!!! The game was a prelude to an AI/digital citizenship project that will be starting shortly. Competition continued into the night with a straw marshmallow game, our traditional cup competition, and a tic tac toe relay. Coco to Go jars were created along with holiday cards and luminary lanterns. So much fun and festivity was shared. We enjoyed our cocoa over the holidays, hoping you did too. The best part of the party was gathering together, sharing in friendship, fun, and festivities. Thank you Esther for creating and organizing such a special night and to the Executive Board for hosting. We hope all of you had fabulous holidays.





# Independence 4-H 2025-2026 Officers

Prize Bin:  
Alice Pederson

Enrollment Questions & Information  
Contact  
independence4hclub@gmail.com



Open Positions for this year!

**Sergeant-at-Arms**

**Host/Hostess**

**Reporter**

**Store Manager**

**Teen and Junior Leaders**



What is the 4-H Pledge?

As a good 4-H member  
I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking  
My HEART to greater loyalty  
My HANDS to larger service  
and my HEALTH to better living,  
for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

## Executive Board

**President** ----- **Abbey Casey**  
**Vice President of Programming** ..... **Georgia Holland**  
**Treasurer** ----- **Sierra Hobbins**  
**Secretary** ----- **Ash Hobbins**  
**Attendance Secretary** ----- **Camille Maddocks**  
**Corresponding Secretary** ..... **Nicholas Bard**  
**Community Service Officer** ----- **Aidan Hobbins**  
**Healthy Living Officer** ..... **Taylor Magee**

## Message from the Editor

**Esther Hicks**

Just a reminder that if you have newsletter suggestions, questions, or submissions feel free to email me at esthermhicks@gmail.com, or talk to me in person at one of the monthly general meetings. Have fun at our October general meeting and don't forget to read the newsletters!!

