



INDEPENDENCE

4 - H

February 2024

February Club Meeting: February 14th, 6:30-7:30 Sebastopol Center for the Arts

Important Dates:

February 2024

1 - 29: [National 4-H Conference](#)

[Registration Open](#)

10: Steelhead Festival - Lake Sonoma,
10am-4pm

16-19: Cloverdale Citrus Fair

22: @ 7pm 4-H ChickenQue Rep Meeting
@ YAL

25: Deadline to RSVP for 4-H Craft Night
& Pizza Night on 3/8/24.

4HSonomaCountyFashionRevue@gmail.com

26: @ 6pm 4-H Camp Staff Meeting @
YAL

In this Issue:

- President's Message ----- 1
- CCL Letter + Community Service
Corner ----- 2
- Guest Speaker Info + New Member
Spotlight + Editorial ----- 3
- Record Books + Goat Treecycling
+ Creativity Activity ----- 4
- Presentation Day -----5
- Club Officers/Executive Board +
Open Positions + Calendar -----6

President's Message

Clay McDonell

Hello Everyone!

HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY! Did you know groundhogs dig burrows up to 66 feet deep and can climb trees?

This month we are going to have a very short business portion of our meeting, and then Geof Syphers from Sonoma Clean Power is going to give a presentation for us all to watch!

On another note, Presentation Day was a great success! We had an incredible showing; almost half the attendees were from Independence. I was only able to watch the presentations in one of the four rooms, but I watched my brother Leo talk about hydraulic rams. I could see that his confidence speaking in public has improved a lot over the past couple years because of his participation in events like this. My confidence has improved too - the experience of presenting helped me to be successful in high school.

Find the word "contributing" in this newsletter for prize points.

I'm sure you all have noticed that it is and will continue to rain a lot! Have fun driving through flooded roads, just make sure not to drown your car.

See you everyone at the meeting!



Community Club Leader's Letter

Lindsay Maddocks

Hello Independence 4-H Club Families!

Is it just me or has January flown by? Thank you to all our club families who helped with our annual Goat Treecycling Fundraiser. Donations received go directly to our club to support projects and activities. A special thank you to Robin Hobbins for organizing/leading the event this year. As February arrives, things start to get busy! There will be many opportunities in the coming months for each of you to get involved in something that interests you. From club project meetings to community and county events, there are opportunities galore.

Thank you to all who participated in Presentation Day and for those who attended the event to cheer on their fellow members. Public speaking is difficult for many so I encourage you to take any opportunities you can to practice and build your confidence in speaking in front of others.

The earliest fair held in California, the Cloverdale Citrus Fair, arrives this month. February 16-19. Peace, Love & Unity is the theme and whether you are participating in the fair or not, I encourage our club families to go check out the livestock shows, still exhibits, carnival, food and fun.

Save the Date for 4-H Chickenque - May 5. The theme this year is "Chicken De Mayo". There will be many opportunities for our club youth to participate. Details will follow shortly regarding ticket sales, t-shirt design, poster design, and baking/decorating cakes for the event.

To each of you, thank you for everything you do to make the best better, everyday!

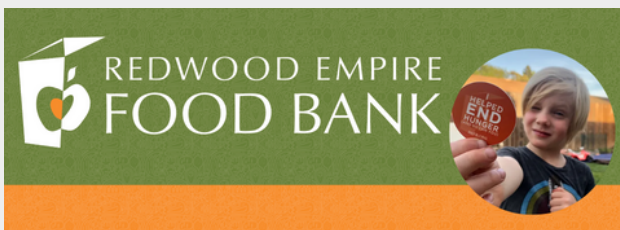
Community Service Corner

Leo McDonell

Thanks to all of the people who brought towels and blankets and cash to the January meeting. We went to the Humane Society and brimmed their donation bin. They were very excited.

Thanks to my parents, who represented the club with me at the January Food Bank shift.

This month there will be no community service activity at the meeting so we are asking if you would be so kind as to sign up for our shift at REFB on February 20th at 5-6:30pm ([here](#)), or bring some peanut butter to the club meeting. Or both! They are having a drive just for peanut butter in February called "Spread the Love." And as always, please email my mom or email or call the Food Bank if you are having trouble signing up for our Independence 4-H team at the REFB. The first time can take a little time but once you are in the system it's easy.





Electrifying Fun

Camille Maddocks

Hi Everyone! And happy February. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting in February. This month's general meeting will be a little less business and a lot more energizing. We will be having a guest speaker join our club for an electrifying presentation. We will learn together and of course have fun. As your Vice President of programming I always love to hear things you all are interested in and would like to learn more about.



New Members Spotlight

Taylor Magee

Hi my name is Taylor, I'm in 8th grade at Willowside Middle School. This is my first year of 4-H and so far I'm loving it! I love going camping with my family and friends, going to the lake in the summer, reading, crafting and playing volleyball.



Why You Should Read the Newsletter - Editorial

Georgia Holland

I think you should read the newsletter. This is because so many people volunteer and offer their time to write articles to inform you what's going on and tell you about the projects that we think you would love. You also need to know when your project meetings are to go have fun with your friends and make cool creations and learn new things! I love editing the monthly newsletter because it means I am contributing to our club. This makes me happy because all the people who plan all the events, run all the activities and host our meetings do so much for me and this makes it so I am giving back to them. It's kind of a way I can say thank you to all the amazing adults and kids who are involved in Independence 4H. I plan to continue helping this incredible community by not only hopefully doing the newsletter in future years but getting even more involved to make our club member's lives even a little bit easier. If you keep reading the newsletter every month it would make me so happy and make all the people who write articles feel very appreciated.





Record Books

Abbey Casey

If you participated in Presentation Day:

For Record Book with Star Rank Program:

Events Attended - can be marked as 2 - Presentation Day and Presentation Day Awards Ceremony

Communication Skills - for Presentation

If you won an award for your presentation, put it under Honors and Awards.

For Sparks Record Books Program: (either category can be used)

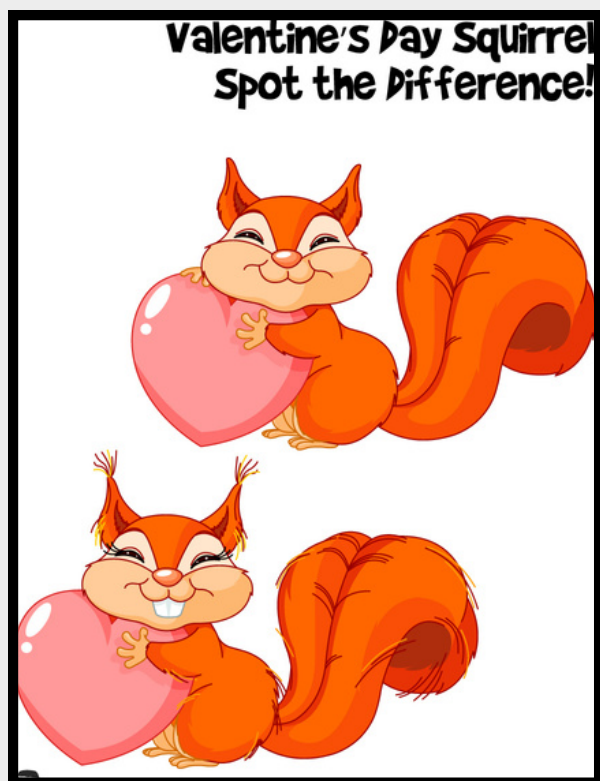
Participate in a 4-H event or activity that demonstrates your project knowledge to an audience, judge or evaluator. (if you were in the presentation project or your talk was related to a project)

or give a 4-H presentation that follows the 4-H Presentation Manual.

Goat Treecycling

Aidan Hobbins

Goat treecycling is an enjoyable and exciting experience that involves driving around town to collect trees from caring people. The people who we pick up trees from give support to our club and to the well-being of goats by giving donations, which helps us with covering expenses for the club or financially supporting the different projects. Engaging in this annual activity brings me a sense of fulfillment as I know I am making a positive impact. Additionally, dropping off the trees to the goat farms lets you say "hi" to the adorable and grateful goats. This activity is fun to do with family or friends and it will leave your car with a memorable Christmas tree scent for a while.



GENERAL MEETINGS

Regular Meetings*

Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, March, April & May.

2nd Wednesday of each month
from 6:30-7:30

Sebastopol Center for the Arts /
Veterans Building

282 S High Street, Sebastopol

*September & December at YAL
Center in Rohnert Park

Interested in submitting your
articles/photos to the newsletter?



Contact the Editor:

Georgia Holland



georgiaholland849@gmail.com

& cc chellemc@sonic.net

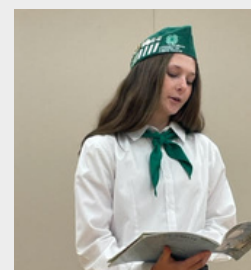
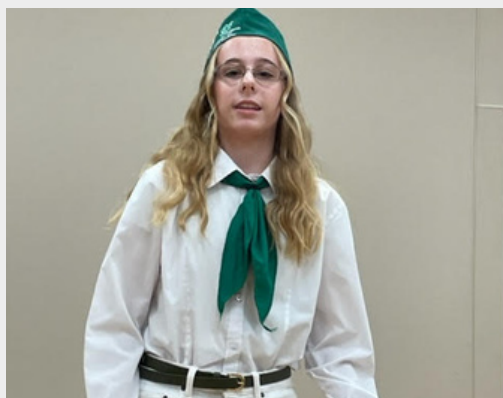
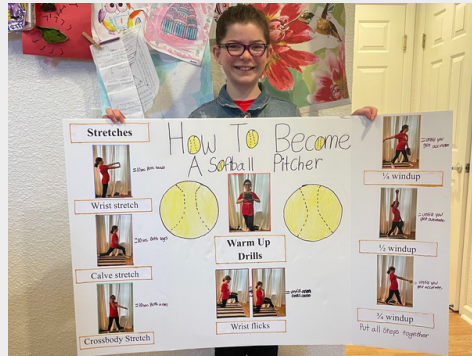




Presentation Day

Sierra Hobbins

Presentation Day was this Saturday at the Youth Ag Leadership Center in Rohnert Park. It was lots of fun being able to see everyone's presentations that they have been working on. Presentation Day is always a great way to practice your public speaking skills while talking about something you are interested in. Check in was at 8:30 and presentations started at 9:00, once everyone had presented you were free to hang out and go get lunch. At 12:30 there were a few more presentations, and then rewards were handed out. If you get either a Blue or a Gold award you are able to go to Regionals in March. This was an amazing experience for all ages, and everyone is encouraged to do it next year.





Independence 4-H 2023-24 Officers

Newsletter Editor: Georgia Holland

- Prizes:** **Antonia Cerniglio**
- Historians & Photographers:**
 - Alice Pederson**
 - Esther Hicks**
- Sergeant-at-Arms:** **Adelyn Maddocks**
 - Jeffrey Balich-Shaw**
 - Thorsen & Phoenix Heartt-Johnson**
 - Wyatt Jones**
 - Nicholas Bard**
 - Dustyn & Stetson Webb**
- Hosts:** **Adelyn Maddocks**
 - Alice Pederson**

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!

Executive Board

- Clay McDonell ----- President**
- Camille Maddocks ----- Vice President of Programming**
- Joey Harriman ----- Vice President of Membership**
- Abbey Casey ----- Treasurer**
- Sierra Hobbins ----- Recording Secretary**
- Claire Pederson ----- Corresponding Secretary**
- Leo McDonell ----- Civic Engagement Officer**
- Aidan Hobbins ----- Healthy Living Officer**

Open Positions

- **Junior Project Leader**
- **Teen Project Leader**
- **Club Reporter**
- **Song and Rec Leader**
- **Sergeant-at-Arms**
- **Host**
- **Store Manager**



Message from the Editor

Just a reminder if you have newsletter suggestions, questions, or submissions feel free to email me at georgiaholland849@gmail.com or talk to me in person at one of the monthly general meetings. Have fun at our February meeting and don't forget to read the next newsletter!!



Calendar

February 19: Backyard Chickens Project - Monday, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

February 20: Pygmy Goat Project - Tuesday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

February 20: REFB Monthly Warehouse Volunteer Shift - Tuesday, 4:50 - 6:30 pm

March 3: Executive Board Meeting - Sunday, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

March 5: Rabbit Project - Tuesday, 4:30 - 5:30 pm

March 9: Advanced Dog Showmanship/Obedience + Agility Project - Saturday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

March 10: Beginning Dog Obedience & Showmanship Project - Sunday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm