



INDEPENDENCE

4 - H

January, 2023

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4-H Pledge

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

Important Upcoming Dates:

All-Star Blanket Making Night Jan. 8th YAL
5-8pm.

Fashion Revue Workshop 1/21, 6:30pm.

Livestock Judging Contest Jan. 28th @
Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds.
Registration [here](#)

Presentation Day Entry Deadline Jan. 22nd

Cloverdale Citrus Fair Entry Deadline
Still Exhibits: Jan. 27th 5pm
Small Animals: Feb. 3rd

President's Message

Wilder Larrain

Happy New Year 4-Hers! I hope your break was festive. December was quite an exciting month for Independence 4-H. We had our annual Holiday Party which was hosted at the YAL Center in Rohnert Park. There was a delicious pasta dinner with tasty treats and goodies afterward. First, there were family games that everyone could play. Then there were Tribe games where points could be earned. To conclude the night, there was free time where kids could make homemade hot cocoa jars, do some candy cane fishing, and or build snowmen using marshmallows and chopsticks. It was a great party. We also were able to help people in our community by donating gift cards. In addition to the party community service project, our club volunteered at the Redwood Empire Food Bank again. Independence 4-H was also busy working on our biggest fundraiser with the Goat/Tree Recycling event. There is always something happening in 4-H. That's what keeps it exciting. I hope to see you at the January 11th general meeting.



Community Club Leader's Letter

Bonny Russell Larrain

Happy New Year to all of you!

Before jumping into telling you about upcoming events, I would like to reflect on some of our accomplishments this year.

First, I would like to thank Lindsay, Felicia, and the Executive Board for organizing our holiday party. I personally loved all of the games. There was the "Draw a Snowman on a Paper Plate", "Threading Cheerios", "Snowball Throwing with Shooters", "Building a Snowman", and the "Hula Hoop Game." It was great to see everyone having so much fun.

Second, I would like to look back on our contributions to the community. This year we have helped the Living Room, The Redwood Empire Food Bank, Starcross Wreaths, and the Sebastopol Fire Department with gifts for teens..

Third, we have worked on three fundraisers. We did the Gravenstein Apple Fair parking, the Pumpkin Patch Bake Sale, and the Goat/Tree Recycling event.

Fourth, our projects are in progress. Our members are learning all sorts of new things by doing.

Fifth, our Executive Board is doing a great job planning and running our meetings. They are developing their leadership skills

As Independence 4-H members, we can feel proud of all of our accomplishments. We can also consider how we can do more.

How can we make the best better?

This brings me back to the upcoming events in 4-H. Presentation Day is happening on February 4th. The deadline for entering is January 22nd. Please go to the Sonoma County 4-H website to find more information about this event. You will also find a link to the application there. Doing a presentation will improve your communication skills and earn you awards that can be included in your record book.

The Cloverdale Citrus Fair will also be happening soon. The fair will happen February 17th-20th. You can show your animals or enter artwork, baked goods, or crafts in a fair competition. For more information, go to the Cloverdale Citrus Fair website. Participating in the fair will give you another opportunity to earn recognitions that can be included in your record book.

Let's make 2023 wonderful.



Community Service Corner

Leo McDonell

Editor's Note:

Together, county clubs donated over 70 coats for the needy at the winter coat drive!

Thank you to everyone who took some time out of their evening and helped volunteer at the Redwood Empire Food Bank in December on the night of our usual meeting date. It was a great success! We bagged 8,616 lbs of oranges, potatoes, and sweet potatoes; which is 7,180 meals.

Also thanks to those who participated in our December community service project of donating gifts and gift cards to the Sebastopol Fire Department's toy collection, which may have made some people's Christmas.



Community Service Project for January

For the month of January, we are asking people to bring old/used but washed and clean towels, blankets, or anything along those lines... to the meeting for us to donate to Compassion Without Borders, the Humane Society, and Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue.

Club President Officer Spotlight

Wilder Larrain

A 4-H Club President has many interesting responsibilities. My main job is to provide leadership. During the summer, I work with the other officers to set the annual goals for our club. During the year, I meet with the Executive Board each month to plan the agenda for our general meetings. At the club meetings, I try to begin and end on time. I guide the meetings by following the planned agendas while using parliamentary procedures. In addition, each month I write articles for the newsletter.

What I enjoy most about being your president is creating a community that feels like family. Together we get to enjoy fun programs, work together on community service projects, and give our members opportunities to build leadership skills.



Holiday Party

Harman Gill

On Friday, December 9th, our club held a holiday party for all the families. The party took place in the YAL center in Rohnert Park. Our executive members and club leaders arrived early to decorate the tables and set up music and activities.

As a tradition, our party started with a potluck buffet dinner. There were tables filled with an assortment of dishes, including two types of pastas from Past King, salads, desserts, cookies, and drinks brought by the families, and even a delicious homemade mango ice cream.

This year we really wanted both kids and parents to be involved in activities and games. Our executive board designed games that could be played while seated. Everyone could freely pick their favorite spot to sit for dinner. Families could sit and take as much time as they wanted to finish their dinner, and at the same time played multiple games without having to stand up or switch seats. Our first activity was to draw a snowman. Every parent and kid put a paper plate on the top of their head, then followed the step-by-step instructions to draw a very detailed snowman with arms, a hat, and a scarf, on the plate without looking! Everyone gasped, laughed, and tried hard!

The party continued with a series of holiday-themed games, including threading Cheerios with pipe cleaners, assembling marshmallow shooters with paper cups and balloons, as well as three fun tribe games, snowball marshmallow shooters, hula hoop game, and build a snowperson. Our members participated in tribes and had a blast competing against each other. Besides big games, there were other activities too. We had marshmallow stack w/ chopsticks, candy cane fishing, and there were cocoa-to-go bottles for taking home - a nice looking glass jar filled with cocoa powder and mini marshmallows.

The kids and parents had a fantastic time. It was the first holiday party in three years where we did not have to wear masks. It was really nice to get together and see everyone's smiles!



GENERAL MEETINGS

Back to our regular time and place!

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 South High Street.

Interested in submitting your
articles/photos to the newsletter?

Email

chellemc@sonic.net

and

stephinezhiyi@gmail.com





Goat Treecycling

Clay McDonell

Hello everyone! Our Goat Treecycling fundraiser has been going amazingly so far. We have raised over \$1000 and still have two big pick-up dates in the near future. The tree pick-up volunteers have been working very hard - sometimes in the rain - and having a good time.

I had fun meeting all the people who donated all their trees, and the dairy, meat, hobby farmers, and rescue organizations who are feeding the trees to their goats. Everyone is especially happy about the win-win-win aspect of the fundraiser. The donors benefit because their Christmas tree is disposed of in an eco-friendly manner, the goats benefit because they get a tasty treat, and our club benefits from doing a service for the community and from the funds we earn.

The money we earn in fundraisers like this is what keeps our club going and allows us to offer great projects, meetings and celebrations. Thank you to all the fundraiser volunteer families (Hobbins, Maddocks, Harriman, McDonell, Holland, Corcoran-Van de Mark), and happy new year! Please join us next year for pick-ups if you have a truck.

One of the rescued goats at Goatlandia, waiting for a tree.



Tribe Update

Quinn Craven-Pittman

This last month at the Holiday party tribes had a big opportunity to score lots of points! You scored points by playing the games that the executive board had set up. A lot of points were scored, leading to some big changes on the leaderboard!

There's still time to make it to the top spots on the board, so remember to look for the next way to score points.

Manzanitas	Red-Tailed Hawks	Tiger-Salamanders	Bobcats
19	12	13	23



Jumping Into 4-H Events for the Year

Beth Craven

New Year's Greetings Independence 4-H Families,

In January, the 4-H year really kicks into gear. All of the items below are opportunities to expand your 4-H experience, as well as for community service, fair entries, and award opportunities. If you are doing a record book or the new Sparks program, participating will help you get a jump start. More info on county 4-H events at <https://cesonoma.ucanr.edu/4H/Events/>

- **All-Star Blanket Making Night Jan. 8th YAL 5-8pm.**

Tie blankets for children's hospitals. Bring fleece. 52" x 60" pieces of fleece, solid on one side, pattern on the other. Instagram. Snacks. They also want ideas from members for more group community service projects. Message them with questions or suggestions on Instagram at [soco_4h_allstars](https://www.instagram.com/soco_4h_allstars).

- **Fashion Revue Workshop 1/21, 6:30pm**

Comm. Service activity and an opportunity to ask questions about Fashion Revue

Categories:

County Fashion Revue is April 16th:

accessories, embellished, "make it for your animal", non-garment, "take it on an adventure"

https://cesonoma.ucanr.edu/4H/Events/Fashion_Revue/

State Fashion Revue, no date yet:

traditional garment, consumer science purchase (\$50 budget), make it with wool (crochet and knitting), costume challenge, softie challenge, leather, quilts

- **Livestock Judging Contest Jan. 28th @ Sonoma Co. Fairgrounds**

Open to all. No experience is necessary. It is a learning event. Sign up by Jan. 15th. 4 species (beef, sheep, swine, and goats), team or individual. 8:30 check-in. Need business sponsors. No entry fee. Registration: <https://cesonoma.ucanr.edu/4H/Events/LJ/>

- **Presentation Day: Feb. 4th, 9-2:30, YAL**

https://cesonoma.ucanr.edu/4H/Events/Presentation_Day/

Email entries to soco4hpresentationday@gmail.com by Jan 22nd.

Need volunteers 707-974-8759 (runners, room hosts, teen and adult evaluators).

It is critical that you reference the Presentation Manual to understand the categories. <https://4h.ucanr.edu/files/2193.pdf>

- **Farm Bureau Crab Feed, Feb. 4th**

Need volunteers, youth, and adults. Need 6-7 more club teams to sign up. They'd like 10 members made up of 2 adults and 8 members over age 12. Some younger members may be considered. Arrive at 5pm for pizza and orientation on food service.

Community tips \$\$\$ – tip money will be divided amongst clubs present. Volunteers will receive a letter of thanks and a gift.

Tix on sale for attendees.

<https://sonomafb.org/crab-feed/>

- **Cloverdale Citrus Fair, Feb 17-21, President's Day weekend**

is a small-town fair. It is 131 years old and the first fair of the year in the state. It is also a low-key fair, so a great place to try out showing.

Educational posters and artwork are great ways to get started.

Catalog available online. Drop off dates in books.

Registration Deadlines: Feb 3rd small animals, Jan. 27th, 5pm for still exhibits. No large livestock.

Online entries and payment. If our club isn't listed in the system, call them.

If showing animals, inside space is limited. Bring pop-ups with sides for shelter. The weather may be bad. Cavies and Dogs don't need YQCA certification.

Need volunteers – register online.

For record book, this is State level. Juried art has a fee, all other still exhibits are free entry.

Free entry into the fair for bringing a citrus baked goods. Saturday: orange dessert. Sunday: lemon dessert. Free entry for baker.

<https://cloverdalecitrusfair.org/exhibits-info/>

- **Sonoma County Fair – Aug 3-13**

General Theme: Dinosaurs

Youth garden team competition: "Dinos around the world", 8'x10' garden spaces. \$15 fee. \$400-\$500 cost typical, \$200 sponsorship to offset costs. Award: \$475, can sell plants at end of fair. Good opportunity to raise funds for the club. Meeting Feb 23rd, 6pm. A week before fair gardens goes in. Passes are provided every day to tend the garden. Additional awards. 10 spots, entryoffice@sonomacofair.com 707-545-4203

Beef weigh-in March 26

Lamb weigh-in May 20th





Independence 4-H 2022-23 Officers

Newsletter Editor

Stephanie Wang

Sergeant-at-Arms

Caleb Harriman
Claire Pederson
Hannah Van De Mark
Gracie Herman
Alice Pederson
Claire Pederson
Madeline Smith
Jeffrey Balich-Shaw
Claire Ball
Wyatt Jones

Store Manager

Hannah Van de Mark

Photographer

Camille Maddocks
Claire Pederson

Historian

Camille Maddocks

Prize Bin

Claire Pederson
Ash Hobbins

Host

Adelyn Maddocks
Camille Maddocks
Hannah Van De Mark

Executive Board

Wilder Larrain ----- President
Quinn Craven-Pittman -- Vice President of Programming
Joey Harriman ----- Vice President of Membership
Clay McDonell ----- Treasurer
Abbey Casey ----- Recording Secretary
Camille Maddocks ----- Corresponding Secretary
Leo McDonell ----- Civic Engagement Officer
Harman Gill ----- Healthy Living Officer

Junior and Teen Project Leaders

Quinn Craven-Pittman --- Archery & Outdoor
Adventures: Camping
Abbey Casey ----- Spring: Arts & Crafts
Harman Gill ----- Robotics
Caleb Harriman ----- Birds: Backyard Chickens
Ash Hobbins ----- Jewelry Making
Sierra Hobbins ----- Baking
Wilder Larrain ----- Leadership
Leo McDonell ----- Mountain Biking
Claire Pederson ----- Outdoor Adventures: Hiking

Open Positions

- Junior Project Leaders
- Teen Project Leaders
- Club Reporters
- Song and Rec Leaders
- Sergeant-at-Arms



Calendar

Jan. 8th 5:00 - 8:00pm ----- Blanket Making Night
 Jan. 11th 6:30 - 7:30pm ----- Club Meeting
 Jan. 14th 2:00 - 4:00pm----- Dog Obedience & Dog Agility
 Jan. 18th ----- ChickenQue Committee Meeting
 Jan. 21st 6:00pm ----- Fashion Revue Workshop
 Jan. 22nd ----- Due: Presentation Day Entries
 Jan. 22nd 3:00 - 4:30pm ----- Beginning 4-H #4
 Jan. 23rd 5:00 - 7:00pm ----- Backyard Chickens
 Jan. 27th 5:00pm ----- Due: Cloverdale Citrus Fair Entries
 - Still Exhibits
 Jan. 28th ----- Livestock Judging Contest

Jan. 28th 10am - 12pm ----- Outdoor Adventures - Hiking
 Jan. 28th 2:00 - 4:00pm ----- Dog Obedience & Dog Agility
 Jan. 29th 1:15 - 2:15pm ----- Service Learning/Community
 Service
 Feb. 3rd ----- Due: Cloverdale Citrus Fair
 Entries - Small Animals
 Feb. 4th ----- Presentation Day
 Feb. 4th ----- Farm Bureau Crab Feed
 Feb. 4th 9:00 - 11:00am ----- Leadership Project
 Feb. 7th 7:00 - 8:00pm ----- CCC Meeting
 Feb. 17th - 21st ----- Cloverdale Citrus Fair

For more information, go to our [Club Calendar](#)