



# INDEPENDENCE

## 4 - H

November 2022

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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

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### Important Upcoming Dates:

Holiday Party on Dec. 9th at YAL  
Pasta King and potluck dinner!  
Join us for crafts, games, Lenore's  
annual play and the hot cocoa bar.  
Community service TBA.  
RSVP [here](#)

### President's Message

Wilder Larrain

Happy November everyone! This month has given our 4-H members many opportunities to make the best better.

It was so fun to see all of the costumes at our general meeting. Thank you for participating in our Halloween Parade and for giving us motions to make our potion.

On Saturday, October 22nd, the county had a Masquerade Ball Achievement Night. Many of our members met the goals they had set for themselves. Star rankings were achieved and a lot of our members earned awards for their record books. (I hope you enjoyed the cupcakes I made for the event!).

On Sunday, we had our Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser. We earned over \$600.00. Thank you to the families who baked the goodies for us to sell and thank you to the volunteers who took the time to sell the treats.

This past Monday, many of our members and executive board members volunteered at the Redwood Empire Food Bank for two hours. Afterward, we gathered at Mountain Mikes for a pizza party.

I hope you had a Happy Halloween! We will see you on the 9th for our meeting and club Achievement Night!



# Community Club Leader's Letter

Bonny and Beth

This weekend while I was doing my shift at the Pumpkin Patch fundraiser, I was able to reflect on the cycle of 4-H. When my daughter Wilder was young, doing the pumpkin patch fundraiser was one of her favorite events. She loved walking around the patch selling baked goods, learning how to handle money, sharing her rabbit, and doing face painting. On Sunday, I got to see some of the new 4-H kids at the event. They were so excited to be there. Wilder and some of the other older kids walked them around the patch to sell baked goods, the younger kids learned how to handle money, and some of them shared an animal. It had come full circle. Wilder was now one of the older kids showing the younger kids what to do. The model of older kids teaching younger kids is one of the best parts of 4-H.

The next night, we went to the Redwood Empire Food Bank for our community service project. Millie Wright, our former President, was there to help. My daughter was so excited to see her. She had been a role model for her and so many others and she continues to be so. It was another example of how the older kids teach the younger kids by example.

Thank you to all of the families who participated in both of these events. We made over \$600.00 at the fundraiser and we packed over 3,000 pounds of apples for the food bank. We have reasons to feel proud.

I also want to congratulate all of our members who were recognized at Achievement Night. Wilder Larrain and Quin Craven Pittman both earned their gold star ranking. We are so proud of all that they have done to accomplish this goal. Clay McDonell earned gold for our club's Treasurer's book. We appreciate his attention to detail. Rowan Craven Pittman, our former secretary, also earned gold for our club's secretary's book. In addition, we had many record book winners. In the primary division, Thorsen Heartt-Johnson, Adelyn Maddox, and Hannah Van De Mark were winners. In the Junior Division, Phoenix Heartt-Johnson and Camille Maddocks were awarded golds. In the Intermediate Division, Abbey Casey, Ash Hobbins, Aidan Hobbins, and Sierra Hobbins all took home awards. In the Senior Division Harman Gil, Quinn, Craven-Pittman and Wilder Larrain achieved awards. It was wonderful to see so many of our families at the Masquerade Ball celebrating all of these kids.



At our next meeting, we will have our club Achievement Night. The kids will be given their stars, pins, and certificates. It will be a fun evening. Beth and I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,  
Bonny and Beth





## Community Service Corner

Leo McDonell

Thanks to everyone who donated to our REFB service project and especially to those who worked our shift too! Independence 4-H donated 268 lbs. of food and \$200. We bagged over 3000 lbs of apples for food boxes (that's 1.5 tons!). Please read Georgia's article about the volunteer night.

### **In November we have two service activities:**

- The first one is putting twist-ties on the wreath papers for Starcross.

This is a small activity that 4-H does every year to help out Starcross with their wreath sales. The Starcross community sells these wreaths every holiday season to help fund their care for children with serious health problems.

- The second activity has to do with Thanksgiving and gratitude. We will have notes available at the meeting for members to write a thank you note to someone in their communities (home, school, sport, club, neighborhood, city) who did something good. Then each person will deliver their note.

## In The Spotlight: Jeffrey Balich-Shaw

Camille Maddocks

Brave, inspiring, and always ready to try something new, that best describes a young member in our club named Jeffrey Balich-Shaw. As a new 4-H youth last year, he was our youngest member. Even at 5 years old, he accomplished amazing things. Jeffrey participated in more activities in his first year in 4-H, than many members did.

Jeffrey participated in the Poultry Project learning all about his chickens and how to care for them. He cross-clubbed into Liberty 4-H for their Bee Project, learning about bees, and starting his own hive. In addition to attending general club meetings and helping with community service activities, he also volunteered at Chickenque and competed in the poultry competition at the Sonoma County Fair.

Jeffrey's greatest accomplishment was showing his chicken, Snickers, at the Sonoma County Fair. Not only did he demonstrate his knowledge about his chicken to the judges, but he won 1st place and Best of Breed. He should be very proud of what he accomplished in his first year in 4-H. Our club is very lucky to have such an ambitious club member.

One thing all of us can learn from Jeffrey is to be brave, have the courage to try new things, and get involved. You never know just how much fun you will have! Thank you Jeffrey for being an inspiration!



# Sonoma County Achievement Night

Ash Hobbins

Sonoma county achievement night began on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at 7:00 at the youth ag learning center. We were all told to wear silver/gold and dress up to match the theme “Masquerade ball”. There were decorations and a bunch of stands with food and masquerade masks for people to grab on their way in. When we walked in there were candles all along the walkways. Everyone had sat down and two of our representatives dressed up in a suit and a beautiful dress danced down the pathway toward the stage.

They began the meeting and called people from 4-H groups all throughout Sonoma country to come up and get their recognition for the things they had done. Once they were through with everyone, some people took photos and cleaned up chairs, and for anyone who wanted to stay, there was a ball.



## Independence 4-H is

**back to our regular time and place!**

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

General Meetings

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

[stephinezhiyi@gmail.com](mailto:stephinezhiyi@gmail.com)

and

[chellemc@sonic.net](mailto:chellemc@sonic.net)





## Pumpkin Patch Bake Sale

Abbey Casey

This year we brought back the tradition of the Petaluma Pumpkin Patch Bake Sale! We haven't done it for the past couple of years because of Covid, but we decided that now was the perfect time to start it up again. I had the great pleasure of running the event, and it ended up going so wonderfully. We had some rough patches in the planning, but once we were there and ready to go, everything went smoothly.

We had a small tent set-up in the middle of the patch, and we sold from 10 am-4 pm. We had gallons of boiling water for hot chocolate and basketfuls of fall-flavored confections. Not only did we sell from our tent, but we also did walks around the Pumpkin Patch to sell even more. By the end of the day, we had over \$600 to give to the club.

We sold loads of treats and got to talk to so many kind people about our club. Many of the people coming up to our tent to purchase things were lovers of 4-H as well. Some were people who had grown up with 4-H, and others were parents who had kids in a club.

There were also many people who volunteered to help us sell. A lot of those who came were newer to the club, but a couple of us had done this many times before. I know that for me it brought back quite a few sweet memories of cold mornings, big sweaters, and begging to be the cashier at a table filled with cookies. This has been one of my favorite events since I was a little kid, so I am hoping that this might have been a bright spot in some of your 4-H years as well. Thank you so much to everyone that helped, and I couldn't be happier to have gotten to organize this fundraiser.

## Civic Engagement Officer Spotlight

Leo McDonell

Hello, 4-Hers! Here's some information about the job of Civic Engagement Officer. Millie Wright was our first CEO in the 2020-21 year. I followed Millie and this is my second year on the job. I plan the community service activities for the club each month and tell everyone something about the groups our activities benefit. Some of the things we do, like collecting food and volunteering at the Food Bank are traditional things that we do every year. But, one of the cool things about the job is that we can be creative about what we do...like our "feed the bears" month last spring. We can also be flexible and respond to situations that come up, like we did with the care packages for refugees from Afghanistan last September. The benefits of this job are being on the Executive Board (which means being a part of decision-making for the club), and having relationships with people outside the club who are directly giving to the community and learning about the world around you. I have learned about different needs that people have and about all the nice people who work to help them. My job is fun because of the cool things we can do. I really want to do more fun volunteer activities outside of meetings, but I need you all to participate! This job also requires parent help with reaching out to some of the organizations and scheduling.





# Dog Show

Leo McDonell

Last month the Independence dog project went on a field trip! Our project leader, Lenore Ryan, was showing her boxer named Bell at the Harvest Moon Classic Dog Show at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds and she invited us to come along. We got there just in time to see Bell in the show ring two times (because they call the best dogs back to choose the winners).

Bell and Lenore were big winners at the show. Lenore said, "She won her class every day, then went Winners one day and Best of Winners the other 2 days!" It was interesting to see how the professionals who show the dogs for the owners use some tricks like rubbing the tail, to get the dog to stand nicely while the judge inspects them.

Afterward, we walked around the show and spent some time watching the different events and looking at all the dog breeds. There are lots of different breeds. It was fun to see the agility and rally competitions! Those are two things we will practice in the dog project this year. I'm trying to get better with my dog, Copper, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, in those events so I can go to the fairs or shows with him.



Lenore and Bell in 2020!

## Why "Bell"?

Her registered name is Soleil and Gingerbread's Firecracker Bell. (Gingerbread is my kennel name) She was born on the fourth of July and I wanted to name her Firecracker. But my son who is a fireman said, "you know it is illegal to yell Fire outside," so that is why I call her Bell

By Lenore

## New Zealand meat rabbits

We are looking to thin our herd of New Zealand meat rabbits. We have some 6 months – 1-year-olds.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in purchasing New Zealand meat rabbits,

please contact Tyneille Cook ~  
[tyneillecook@yahoo.com](mailto:tyneillecook@yahoo.com)  
or 707-849-5181

J	C	J	T	L	Z	A	J
A	A	M	N	E	X	C	M
C	F	H	S	A	U	O	B
K	A	S	Z	F	N	R	H
E	L	R	A	K	E	N	O
T	L	S	C	H	O	O	L
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	M
A	P	P	L	E	Y	X	X

Acorn  
Apple  
Fall  
Jacket  
Leaf  
Pumpkin  
Rake  
School





# Redwood Empire Food Bank

Georgia

On October 24th at 5:00 p.m. we had our monthly community service project which was volunteering at the Redwood Empire Food Bank in Santa Rosa. We were putting apples into bags, 3 pounds in each bag and we ended up bagging 3,015 pounds of apples! (1,005 bags) All the volunteers went to Mountain Mike's pizza afterward to celebrate our hard work. Good job and thank you to everyone who volunteered. We hope to see you at our next community service project.



## Tribe Updates

Quinn Craven-Pittman

For this month's tribe update I bring to you the points of all of the tribes! During the last meeting, you could score points for your tribe by wearing a costume to the meeting, or by bringing canned food for our food drive at the Redwood Empire Food Bank. In last place is the Red-Tailed Hawks, with 8 points. Then in third place is the Tiger Salamanders, with 10 points. In second is the Manzanitas, with 11 points, and in first place, is the Bobcats with 14 points! To all of the teams egging to win I wish you good luck, and just as well to the Bobcats and holding their lead.





# 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

## Photographer

Camille Maddocks  
Claire Pederson

## Historian

Camille Maddocks

## Prize Bin

Adelyn Maddocks  
Claire Pederson

## Host

Adelyn Maddocks  
Camille Maddocks  
Hannah Van De Mark

## Store Manager

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 & Clay 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

Nov. 9th 6:30 - 7:30pm ----- Club Meeting & Achievement Night	Dec. 9th ----- Club Holiday Party
Nov. 10th 4:30 - 6:00pm ----- Mountain Biking	Dec. 10th 2:00 - 4:00pm ----- Dog Obedience & Dog Agility
Nov. 13th ----- Volunteer: Love of the Land	Dec. 18th 3:00 - 4:30pm ----- Beginning 4-H #3
Nov. 14th ----- YAL Grant Applications Due Date	Dec. 19th 5:00 - 7:00pm ----- Backyard Chickens
Nov. 16th 4:30 - 6:00pm ----- Mountain Biking	Dec. 31st - Jan. 1st, 2023 ----- Xmas Tree Recycling
Nov. 20th 3:00 - 4:30pm ---- Beginning 4-H #2	Jan. 3rd 7:00 - 8:00pm ----- CCC Meeting
Nov. 21st 5:00 - 7:00pm ----- Backyard Chickens	Jan. 7th - 8th ----- Xmas Tree Recycling
Nov. 26th 2:00 - 4:00pm ---- Dog Obedience & Dog Agility	Jan. 9th ----- 4-H State Ambassador Applications Due Date
Nov. 27th 2:00 - 4:00pm ---- Woodcarving	Jan. 11th 6:30 - 7:30pm ----- Club Meeting
Dec. 3rd ----- Warriors 4-H Day	Feb. 4th ----- Presentation Day
Dec. 6th 7:00 - 8:00pm ----- CCC Meeting	Feb. 10th -12th ----- Youth Summit
Dec. 8th 4:30 - 6:00pm ----- Mountain Biking	

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