



INDEPENDENCE

4 - H

February 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:

Cloverdale Citrus Fair

Feb. 17 - 20th

February is Back History Month

Fashion Revue Participation

Form Deadline Mar. 10th

President's Message

By Wilder Larrain

Hello,

It was great to see all of you at our last meeting. So many fun 4-H activities are happening soon. On February 4th, Presentation Day will happen at the YAL center. Even if you are not doing a presentation this year, everyone is invited to the event. You can watch 4-H kids from all over the county present. Several of our members will be there. You can help support them.

The Cloverdale Citrus Fair will be happening on February 17th, 18th, and 19th. Even if you are not showing an animal or entering something into an exhibit, I encourage you to attend. Being there will give you some ideas of what you might want to do next year. If you are doing a record book, you can include these activities as 4-H events attended.

In addition to these 4-H events, the Farm Bureau has brought back Ag Days at the fairgrounds. In March, schools are invited to go on a field trip to the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds to learn about agriculture. If you're interested, talk to your teachers about it. The Farm Bureau also sponsors many art contests that you can enter even if your school is not taking the field trip. It's a great way to learn more about agriculture. During my elementary school years, I would enter every year. If you are chosen as a winner you and your family will get to attend an awards night. They really go all out to make the award winners have a special evening. This year the deadline to enter the contests is February 10th. If you are doing a record book, you can list these awards in your honors and awards section. You can find information about this event on the Sonoma County Farm Bureau website.

My challenge to all of you is to try to do at least one new thing. Becoming more involved will make your 4-H experience richer.

I hope to see all of you at our February 8th meeting. There is going to be a special visit from the 4-H All-Stars. I won the cupcake baking contest at Achievement Night. The prize was an ice cream social with the All-Stars. We will all get to enjoy a treat.

See you there.

Wilder



Community Club Leader's Letter

Beth Craven

High Season for 4-H Activities!

As January comes to a close county-wide 4-H activities begin to roll out in quick succession. My perspective on these events is different this year, as this will likely be the last time I experience them with my own child. Quinn will complete his presentation requirements for his platinum star this year, and while he is a good speaker, I doubt he'll sign up to do a presentation in 2024. It seems like only yesterday he was a little guy, entering artwork in the fairs and helping on the Bean Team at the ChickenQue. While our 4-H journey has had its overwhelming, overscheduled moments, I look back at all the wonderful things my boys have experienced and we've done as a family with joy and excitement. Participating in 4-H has made us more connected to our community and county than I could have ever guessed when we joined the club.

The last few 4-H years have been tough. 4-H on Zoom left a lot to be desired. I encourage you to participate in as many upcoming activities as possible. Go hog wild. Run headlong into the 4-H fun. Go find the events that inspire you. Attend Fashion Revue even if you don't sew, or try sewing just for kicks. Cheer on your fellow club members at Presentation Day, even if you are afraid of public speaking. Attend a fair you've never been to before. March in the Apple Blossom Parade. Sign-up for a new volunteer job at the ChickenQue. Jump on these opportunities to join together with our larger Sonoma County 4-H community. It really is a wonderful community. I've seen it.

Hope to see you at all the events,
Beth

Need 4-H Club wear?

Hi! I'm Hannah Van De Mark, the Independence 4-H store manager.

We have gently used white clothes you can pick from in our 4-H store. Also, you can drop off your old white clothes with me at any club meeting.

Interested in purchasing a club t-shirt? Come visit the store table at each club meeting.

Light a Spark for the Club!

Adult Volunteers Needed.

4-H is transitioning to the new Spark Achievement Program. The older Star Ranking program will be retired. All junior and younger 4-H members will use the new program. Older members can choose to stay with the Star program, or transition to the Spark program.

We need a couple of parents to attend webinars to learn how the new system works and to help our families learn to use it.

Webinar Dates:

- Feb. 9, 7pm
- Feb. 22, 7pm
- March 9, 7pm
- March 22, 7pm

Attendance on all dates is not required. Attend what you need to figure out the system.

RSVP

More info available in the county 4-H newsletter.



Community Service Corner

By Leo McDonell

Hello again. This month we have something really fun, but first I want to tell you that the Sonoma County Humane Society, which is just east of town on Highway 12, was very happy to receive our donation of blankets and towels. They took a photo and are going to mention Independence 4-H on their social media. Someone from their office is going to let me know if they can come and talk to us about volunteer opportunities and the work that they do.

This month Deborah Blum, the founder of Goatlandia, which has two goat rescue farms, is coming to talk with us at the general meeting. The Goatlandia goats ate a bunch of our Christmas trees from the Goat Treecycling fundraiser. I'm excited to hear about all the good things they do for goats and hopefully some volunteer opportunities for the club. Don't miss it - she might bring a friend along!!!

In a world where you can be anything.....Be Kind!



Fun Facts for the month of February

Valentines Day is said to be the second most popular day to send cards, after Christmas!

Teachers are the #1 recipients of Valentines

Approximately 20% of pet owners give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

8 billion conversation candies are manufactured every year.

250 million roses are grown just for Valentine's Day!

Spot Five Differences





Corresponding Secretary Spotlight

Camille Maddocks

Hi! My name is Camille Maddocks and I am the Correspondence Secretary for our club. I have been a youth member of Independence 4-H for 6 years. This is my very first Executive Board position and I am enjoying my new responsibilities.

As Corresponding Secretary, my job is to receive incoming letters and write correspondence to others, on behalf of our club. Some examples of letters written would be to thank people for their support of our club fundraisers, for their donations, or for the time people take out of their lives to come and educate us on their areas of specialty. I give a report, once a month, at our general club meetings on correspondence received and sent.

What I love most about my position is I get to acknowledge people for what they do. While I really enjoy writing, I am also learning to improve my handwriting, proofread, and make sure that what I send to others reflects positively on our club.

The Corresponding Secretary position is a wonderful opportunity for a young member who would like to start taking a more active role in our club. Under this position, you join the Executive Board and assist with planning and organizing our club's year. You gain confidence in your public speaking with your announcements at the general meetings and you begin to learn the importance of time management and meeting deadlines. If anyone has any questions or would like to learn more about the position please feel free to connect with me at a general club meeting.



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 Wrap-Up

Clay McDonell (Treasurer) and Chelle McDonell

Goats in the west county have bellies full of yummy Christmas trees and the Independence finances are set for the year. We raised \$3,176.00 for the club with the 2nd Annual Independence 4-H Goat Treecycling Fundraiser!

A bit of information about the club's financial history...

When COVID arrived, we missed out on our usual fundraising activities for two years, some of which have never returned. The club was only able to continue to operate and provide quality programming because we had robust savings. Thank you to past club leader Jill Wesselkamper for relentlessly guiding the executive board to spend and save responsibly. This got us comfortably through the financial worst-case scenario of COVID.

In the 2021-22 4-H year, club leader Mindy Wright put together the fabulous Goat Treecycling fundraiser, which - it is no exaggeration to say - rescued the club's finances. What an amazing gift!

Funding is only one aspect of this fundraiser. The Goat Treecycling effort encapsulates so many positive aspects of 4-H. It provides a volunteer opportunity for families with members of all ages to contribute and learn - kids can navigate, record collections, and learn to tie loads. The Holland family drew awesome maps! It increases our connectivity in the community. We made new connections in the media (Leo did a radio interview) and with other non-profits (Goatlandia) and farms. We physically got out in the community picking up trees, which generated interest around 4-H in general and in membership with our club. Also, people just really like the concept! Many donors sent emails and hand-written notes, thanking us and sharing their own 4-H experiences.

We are already planning for the 3rd Annual, and figuring out how to make the 3.0 version the best yet. We will need your help! If you have a truck or a small trailer or access to one, please consider helping with the tree pick-up. Every single club member and family benefits from the effort.



Earn Points For Your Tribe!

At the February meeting, wear pink or red for Valentine's Day to earn points for your tribe!





Independence 4-H 2022-23 Officers

Newsletter Editor

Stephanie Wang

Sergeant-at-Arms

Caleb Harriman
Madeline Smith
Hannah Van De Mark
Gracie Herman
Alice & Claire Pederson
Jeffrey Balich-Shaw
Claire Ball
Wyatt Jones
Adelyn Maddocks
Phoenix and Thorsen
Heartt-Johnson

Photographer

Camille Maddocks
Claire Pederson

Historian

Camille Maddocks

Prize Bin

Claire Pederson
Ash Hobbins

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 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

Feb. 5th 12:00 - 1:00pm ----- Owls project #1
 Feb. 7th 7:00 - 8:00pm ----- CCC Meeting
 Feb. 8th 6:30 - 7:30pm ----- Club Meeting
 Feb. 10 - 12th ----- 4-H Youth Summit
 Feb. 11th 10:00am - 12pm --- Outdoor Adventures - Hiking
 Feb. 11th 2:00 - 4:00pm ----- Dog Obedience & Dog Agility
 Feb. 14th ----- Valentine's Day
 Feb. 15th 7:00 - 8:30pm ----- ChickenQue Rep Meeting
 Feb. 17th - 20th ----- Cloverdale Citrus Fair
 Feb. 19th 10am - 12pm ----- Leadership Project

Feb. 20th 5:00 - 7:00pm ----- Backyard Chickens
 Feb. 22nd 4:00 - 5:00pm ----- Mountain Biking #4
 Feb. 25th 2:00 - 4:00pm ----- Dog Obedience & Dog Agility
 Mar. 7th 7:00 - 8:00pm ----- CCC Meeting
 Mar. 8th 6:30 - 7:30pm ----- Club Meeting
 Mar. 10th ----- Due: Fashion Revue
 Participation Form