

Independence 4-H

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President’s Message

Mia Wesselkamper

It goes without saying that this has been a crazy year. Unfortunately, as of now, all 4-H in-person activities have been cancelled. We are doing our best to keep you updated with how 4-H will continue, but if you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to us. Just because we aren’t meeting doesn’t mean 4-H has to stop- we encourage everyone to continue to grow! Whether this means continuing an activity you started in a project, checking in with your project leaders, or planning something you would like to see in 4-H next year, search for ways to continue your involvement.

Despite current conditions, we are working to ensure that elections will continue this year, although remotely. We were thrilled with how many of you decided to run for an officer position! We love to see that enthusiasm, especially among our younger members. Voting will open on **April 8th**. We have strived to make it a fun and easy experience so I hope you and your family will enjoy watching short clips from each of the candidates and placing your vote!

We would love to hear what everyone is doing to stay busy - feel free to share pictures or activities you enjoy. We wish all of our amazing 4-H families the best and we look forward to seeing everyone again!

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.

Be sure to stay tuned for (temporarily virtual) Independence 4-H events and activities at [https://www.independence4h.com/!](https://www.independence4h.com/)

For up-to-date information on local and statewide 4-H events during these chaotic times, feel free to browse <http://4h.ucanr.edu/>.



Community Club Leader's Letter

I hope you are all home, healthy and doing well, considering. Right now, everyone's priority is rightly their families and adjusting to this new normal, but I wanted to take a minute to share some 4-H updates with you.

Currently all 4-H meetings and events throughout the month of April are canceled, postponed or will be conducted online. A very tentative return date in early May is being floated, but that is likely to be extended depending on the orders and guidelines in place at the local, state and federal level. At this point, here is the information we've been provided about various upcoming events: Sonoma 4-H Fashion Revue is still deciding whether to cancel, postpone, or go virtual. The Sonoma County 4-H ChickenQue (<http://cesonoma.ucanr.edu/4H/ChickenQue/>) will go virtual on **May 3rd**.

No information to share regarding 4-H summer camps.

No information to share regarding summer fairs.

4-H State Field Day at Davis is cancelled and will be offered as a virtual event for State Presentation Day and some other contests.

There's a lot of change and uncertainty, but I have to say I am really proud of our club members who are finding virtual solutions so we can stay connected as a club. While our April General Meeting is cancelled, our Exec Board will be putting together a web page for **April 8th** as a meeting alternative. You can visit the page anytime and it should be both interactive and informative! Thank you so much Exec Board for your work on this!

And thank you to Sophia, our amazing newsletter editor, for putting together this month's newsletter! The newsletter is an important resource any month, but especially so this April to help keep us informed and in touch.

Lastly, I want to give a huge shout-out to Mia and Millie. They have been working diligently for the past few weeks to create an online voting platform not only for our club, but one that other clubs can modify to use for their own elections. It has the potential to be a great resource for many different clubs, well done Mia and Millie!

So while we won't be seeing each other for a while, I do hope you will visit the club website on **April 8th** and check out the "April Meeting" page, and also participate in the online club elections, which will be open from **April 8th to April 12th**.

Big hugs to everyone and take care!

Mindy

Our New Puppy

Clay McDonell

Hello fellow Independence 4-H'ers. It has been a very eventful couple of weeks for all of us in many ways. One very big event that happened in my house is that we got a puppy! He is a thirteen-week-old Rhodesian Ridgeback. Although he is only around 25 pounds right now, he is going to grow to be 90 pounds! We named him Copper because his fur is a reddish-brownish-tannish color. Puppies are very cute, but beware if you are thinking about getting one: they chew EVERYTHING. This could not have been a more perfect time to get a puppy because of all the time we have to play with him while we are cooped up at home.



4-H Fashion Revue 2020 During the Difficult time of COVID-19

Satleen Gill

It's Monday morning at 8:20, I sit down, finish eating breakfast and instead of rushing out of the door for school, I wait at my laptop for my Google Meets high school geometry class to start. Packages for my mom arrive but they have to be kept in the garage or outside for three days. My brother has finally learned how to cook for himself. Our dog is getting spoiled with us all at home all the time. This is my life in the shelter-in-place due to COVID-19. I know you are all experiencing something similar.

The Sonoma County 4H Fashion Revue Committee started planning back in August for the County Fashion Revue 2020. Everybody on the committee continuously pitched in time and effort. Numerous hours have been spent discussing, planning and working together to design categories, recruit judges and helpers as well as decide on the food for the event day. January's Fashion Revue Workshop was a success. Entry form deadline and item submission deadline were chosen. Time and location were decided on. I spent hours putting together this year's Knowledge Contest- every month there was progress. We were so close to another successful 4H Fashion Revue event. We were beginning to receive entry forms, and everybody was looking forward to it. Then that was when the shelter-in-place came. All planned 4H events were to be canceled, postponed or done virtually. The State Fashion Revue was cancelled because of this. The Sonoma County Fashion Revue Committee, after weighing the situation, had come to the decision to continue with the event. This was a difficult decision but it was a decision full of hope. We are working on how to move it onto a virtual platform. New judging criteria and modification of rules will be set for the county event. We are in the process of notifying participants and evaluating their virtual participation potential.

This is not easy. Nobody has done it before. But through the chaos of this pandemic we are all still learning and working to make good things happen. Let's all stay positive as all this will pass. At the end of this, we will be proud that we tried.

Virtual Presentation Day

Millie Wright

Twenty-twenty was my second year participating in 4-H Presentation Day, but this year was a bit different from my previous experience. Presentation Day is an annual event where 4-H'ers deliver speeches on any subject they want to present on. Whether that is an informative speech on maps or a demonstration on how to fix a bike tire, Presentation Day is for anyone. Normally, 4-H Presentation Day has four events: firstly, county Presentation Day, where Kathleen Larrain, Leo McDonell and I all presented. Sonoma County Presentation Day went really well. Everyone did an amazing job! Then there's area and state Presentation Day. I got the opportunity to move on to Area with my "*How 4-H Can Make Agriculture Greener*" persuasive speech. However, California implemented a shelter-in-place order that banned all public gatherings in response to the coronavirus. Social distancing is important, but we were all bummed we couldn't participate in Presentation Day to its full extent.

Instead of canceling Presentation Day completely, 4-H came up with an innovative solution that allowed 4-H'ers to continue to present. I, as well as many other 4-Hers, gave our prepared Presentations over Zoom, an online video chat platform. The video speeches were really cool to watch and even though there were a few bumps, the process was pretty smooth. I got gold in my category and will soon be attending a virtual state field day! It was nice to know that even in the midst of this crisis, we can still participate in 4-H activities like Presentation Day.



New Bees in April

Leo McDonell

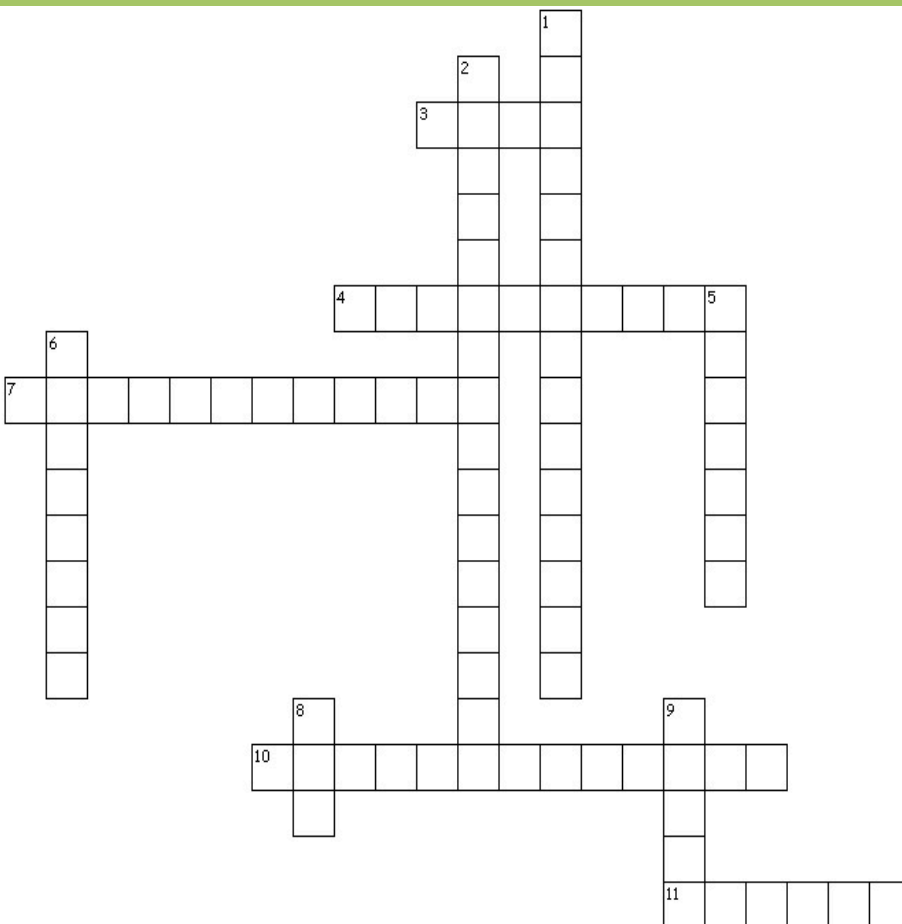
We were out in our back yard (playing with our new puppy!) on the last sunny afternoon before the rain when we heard a familiar sound. Usually this sound means we are losing our bees and they are headed to an unwelcoming neighbor's tree, where they come together in a bunch, 50 feet up in a redwood tree - totally out of our reach.

Even though we expand their homes to give them enough room, our bees swarm every spring. This isn't the best because we lose a lot of bees and the neighbors can get mad.

This time we saw a swarm of bees head toward our yard, turn right, head past our front door and down toward the vegetable garden where they swirled around over our just re-positioned and totally empty bee boxes. They chose the bigger one. A few scouts went in the small opening while the rest flew around in sort of a loose cloud. More bees moved toward the box and gathered on the front porch. The cloud became dense as the bees moved down toward the box. Now a crowd of bees was stuck to the front face of the box and in they went, one by one. Maybe two by two, but it is a small opening. And they stayed!

We couldn't believe our luck! The boxes were empty because we lost all of our hives to yellow-jackets last year in the late fall. The old comb in the box must have lured them in. It was a spectacular event in our own yard. That night, when the rain started, we thought of them in there working away to clean their new house and get settled in. It was just in time because they probably wouldn't have survived in a tree in the rain.

We might not have seen it without the shelter-in-place. Even though we are all at home for a terrible reason, there are some bright spots.



Activity Corner: Crossword Puzzle

Extra time on your hands? Have fun solving a 4-H filled crossword puzzle!

Across

- 3. The number of pages in the April Newsletter
- 4. The hometown of Independence 4-H
- 7. The subject of Satleen's article
- 10. What nominees will be using instead of speaking in front of the club
- 11. The African country to which the books you donated will go

Down

- 1. The subject of Millie's article
- 2. What will be taking place from April 8th-12th
- 5. The books you donated will be used to create a _____ in Africa
- 6. The day the ChickenQue will be going virtual
- 8. The website builder that Mia and Millie used to create virtual elections
- 9. How to say "independence" in Swahili, the main language of Uganda



Independence 4-H 2019-20 Officers

Executive Board

Mia Wesselkamper	President
Millie Wright	VP Programs
Satleen Gill	VP Membership
Rowan Craven-Pittman	Recording Secretary
Leo McDonell	Corresponding Secretary
Clay McDonell	Treasurer
Quinn Craven-Pittman	Healthy Living Officer

Junior/Teen Leaders

Lauren Asire (Cavies)
 Satleen Gill (Sewing)
 Rowan Craven-Pittman (Archery, Outdoor Adventure)
 Iyla Kjaer (Wreath Making)
 Karissa Konezny (Soapmaking)
 Kathleen Larrain (Cooking)
 Mia Wesselkamper (Rabbits)
 Millie Wright (Cooking, Record Books)
 Clay McDonell (Bees, Mountain Biking, Bats)

Junior and Teen Leaders are always needed! If you would like to become one, please email Mindy at mwright@sonic.net.

Editor

Sophia Ginsberg

Webmaster

Tyler Buchanan

Historians

Sierra Hobbins
 Abbey Casey
 Kailey Hobbins

Song & Rec Leaders

Lauren Asire
 Harman Gill

Prize Bin

Emily DeRutte

Reporters

- 1) Rowan Craven-Pittman
- 2) Satleen Gill
- 3) Leo McDonell
- 4) Quinn Craven-Pittman
- 5) Abbey Casey
- 6) Open
- 7) Open
- 8) Open
- 9) Open

Store Manager

Siena Smith

Sergeant-At-Arms

Sept: Lauren Brady
 Sept: Kyle Brady
 Oct: Kasen Brady
 Oct: Abbey Casey
 Nov: Aiden Hobbins
 Nov: Sierra Hobbins
 Dec: Tyler Buchanan
 Dec: Alex Coconos
 Jan: Leo McDonell
 Jan: Claire Pedersen
 Feb: Emily DeRutte
 Feb: Wyatt DeRutte
 Mar: Isabella Graefen
 Mar: Hannah Van de Mark
 Apr: N/A
 Apr: N/A
 May: Open
 May: Open

Host/Hostess

Oct: Camille Maddocks
 Nov: Lauren Brady
 Jan: Tyler Buchanan
 Feb: Abbey Casey
 Mar: N/A
 Apr: N/A
 May: Open

Committee Chairs (4-H Members)

Fall Food Drive:
 Joseph and Caleb Harriman
 Pumpkin Patch:
 Siena Smith and Millie Wright
 December Holiday Party:
 Executive Board
 Spring Egg Hunt:
 Kathleen Larrain
 Apple Blossom Parade Float:
 Open
 ChickenQue Planning Committee:
 N/A

Note: if you see a position labeled "Open" in light green that you would be interested in filling, please email Mindy and mwright@sonic.net to secure your spot!