January 2012
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Special accommodations will be made for the physically disabled, vision or hearing impaired, anyone needing language interpretation or other provisions. If any of these are required, please call 828-632-3125 two weeks prior to the event.

“Top Shots” 4-H Shooting Sports Club—will meet on Monday, January 9th at 6:30 pm at the Gwaltney Community Building in Hiddenite. This will be our first meeting of the club year, as our club meetings run from January through September. We have two spaces available for new members. Top Shots meet the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm and when shooting they meet at the old Vashti ball field. Dues for the club are $25.00 to cover the cost of ammo and clays. Leaders of the club are Fudd Brown and Curtis Sharpe. Current members should attend the January Meeting or contact the Extension Center in order to be included on the 2012 club roster. Youth ages 9 to 18 interested in joining should contact the Extension Center or attend the January meeting.

State 4-H Volunteer Leader Conference— will be held February 3-5, 2012 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Raleigh. Alexander 4-H Clubs will pay for any volunteers that wishes to attend. Please call the 4-H Center by January 9th if you wish to attend. Lodging and registration will need to be completed at that time.

4-H Awards Night— is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31st from 7:00-8:30 pm at the CVCC-Alexander County Center (Room 103). Awards for project books, presentations, judging teams, cumulative records and volunteer tenure will be presented. All new club and county 4-H officers will be installed. All new 4-H club members will officially become members.

4-H Cumulative Records Due— If you are 13 years or older and have been active in a specific project book area for 2-3 years, then you may want to consider completing a cumulative record. The form is similar to a 4-H project book but covers your work in that area for the past 3 years. If you are interested in beginning your 4-H cumulative record, call the 4-H office for more info. Deadline for 4-H Cumulative Records to the 4-H Office is February 24th. Cash prizes are provided at the state level up to $150. Many of our local 4-H’ers have received this prize money.

4-H Photo Contest— Get together or start taking your best photos taken since March 1, 2011. You may enter one photo per category... people, animals, landscapes, buildings, 4-H in Action, Nature’s Beauty, and Family Traditions. County photo winners in the 9-18 year old divisions for the last 3 categories can be sent on to the state 4-H photo contest. Overall county points winner will receive $40 to purchase a camera or pay for film processing. The photo contest entry form is included in this newsletter. Deadline for photo entries is February 29th.

Items Needed for Workshop— We are now collecting food bags for a project at the end of January. Please save your cellophane type food/snack bags and turn them into the 4-H Office for 2 Club of the Year points for each item turned in. Examples are bags from croutons, rice, candy, cookies, chips, craisins, or even drink wrapper. If the bag held something that would be sticky or smelly, please rinse it out first. If you have any questions about specific items that are needed, please email Micki Earp at 13micki@gmail.com.

Happy New Year
4-H Achievement Plans/Club Scrapbooks Due- to the 4-H office by January 13th at 5:00 pm. An Achievement Plan awards a 4-H’er each year for accomplishing certain activities in 4-H. Many of you have completed the 1st level this year. Call the 4-H Center if you would like to receive an Achievement Plan.

4-H’er of the Year Awards- 4-H County Council approved the formation of Cloverbud and Junior Levels of 4-H’er of the Year. A committee will choose the most outstanding Cloverbud 4-H’er (ages 5-8) and Junior 4-H’er (9-13 years old). Each age group will have a male and female winner. A youth can only win the award one time per age group. Applications may be obtained from the 4-H Center and are due by January 13th.

Amy Shook 4-H Leadership Award- This award is for 4-H’ers 13 -older who have performed outstanding 4-H leadership activities. Applications may be obtained from the 4-H Center and are due by January 13th.

Honor Club Applications Due- If your 4-H age is 16 on January 1st, you are eligible to apply for the NC 4-H Honor Club. Only ½ of 1 percent of North Carolina’s total membership are inducted each year. Applications are due to 4-H Office by Friday, January 27th.

4-H College Scholarships Due- If you are graduating in 2012 from high school, you may want to check out the 4-H college scholarships that are available. Call the 4-H Office to receive a scholarship packet. Scholarship information is due on Friday, January 13th for 4-H Office.

2012 Summer Camp Date- Alexander County 4-H’ers will be traveling to Penn 4-H Camp next summer to attend a week of summer camp- June 24-29, 2012. Participants will swim, canoe, ride horses, make crafts, learn about nature, and explore outdoor living. The camp week is designed for youth ages 8-14 years old. Adventurers (ages 12-14) participate on High Ropes, learn canoeing, GPS (global positioning systems) and enjoy a geo caching adventure. Trekkers (ages 13-14) participate in High Ropes, learn rock climbing, river canoeing, and go on an off-site trip. Adventurers and Trekkers do not participate in horseback riding. If you wish to participate in the Adventure or Trekker program, you must let us know when you register. Campers 13-14 years old can also choose to be a traditional camper. Your cost will be $350 which includes all camper fees, camp t-shirt, $15 store money, transportation, and meals while at camp. Trekker Fee is $370. The real cost is $390 plus transportation but Alexander 4-H helps bring the cost down for each camper. We will need a $50 deposit to hold your space by February 1st. We will return all unclaimed spots after Feb. 1st. The remainder of the balance is due June 1st. We only have 5 male and 5 female spaces available.

Drink Tab Collection Continues- Alexander 4-H County Council will continue the drink tab collection community service project again this year. To date, Alexander 4-H’ers have collected over 1,250 pounds of tabs. The money collected from the tabs go to the Ronald McDonald House. Please check larger tabs that are pulled off soup and other food containers. Most of those tabs are made of steel and can not be collected since the drink tabs are aluminum.

2012 4-H Calendar of Events- Enclosed you will find a calendar of events for 2012. The dates are tentative. We will take reservations for events once they are listed in the 4-H newsletter. Please refer to 4-H newsletters each month for scheduling updates.

4-H’ers and Volunteers in the News-

Operation Military Kids- A special thanks to Vanessa Jansen and Faith Brookshire that helped man 3 Holiday Craft booths at the Taylorsville National Guard Armory Family Holiday Get Together on Saturday, December 3rd.

4-H Gingerbread House Contest- This was the 4th year for this contest and we had some wonderful entries. The results are:

Cloverbud Division (8-under years old):
1st place– Faith Brookshire - $20 4-H Scholarship
2nd place– Adam Icard - $10 4-H Scholarship
3rd place– Sarah Icard - $5 4-H Scholarship

Senior Division (14-18 years old):
1st place- Courtney Bowman - $20 4-H Scholarship
2nd place- Faith Wahlers - $10 4-H Scholarship

1st place- Courtney Bowman- (14-18 years old)
Cornerstone Clovers 4-H Club- met on December 21st 2011. We made a dreidel out of paper and cardboard. We learned how to play a dreidel game and a little about Hanukkah. We also learned about Kwanzaa and got the stuff to make a traditional mat(mkeka) at home. Christina and Zoe brought cookies and fruit for snack. Our next meeting will be at the Chumley home on January 18th, 2012. Submitted By: Jonna Williams.

Curious Clovers 4-H Club- met and delivered Blue Bird Houses to Alexander Assisted Living, Taylorsville House and Valley Nursing Home. Members set up poles and birdhouses so the residence could enjoy watching these year-round birds from their windows. Following the deliveries, we all had a pizza party at Village Inn for participating in last year’s project books.


Handy Dandy 4-H Club- We met the 12th for a Cookie Exchange! We each brought our favorite cookies. We took the extra cookies to the 4-H office for Christmas. We also made Christmas ornaments out of paper. Submitted By: Sarah Perry.

Home Grown Hearts 4-H Club- met at the Extension office on Dec. 9th. This month was presented by Tyler Griggs and Anita Madison. We painted 'reindeer' shirts with our hands & feet, followed by a delicious homemade snack.

Rocky Springs 4-H Club- held their monthly meeting on December 12th 2011, at the Rocky Springs community building. Then the club painted Christmas Tree Ornaments. The snacks were provided by the Riddle Family. If anyone wishes to join our 4-H club please call (828)-632-9121. Our next meeting will be held on January 9, 2012, at the Rocky Springs Community Building, at 7:00 pm. Submitted By: Mary Alice Cook.

Shockers 4-H Electric Club- The newly formed electric club, the Shockers, had their second meeting on December 8th. The club name was chosen, programs planned, and officers elected. President - Nicolas Dyson; Vice President - Kaylor Berwick; Secretary - Hunter White; Reporter - Kaylor Berwick; Pledge Leader - Courtney Bowman; County Council Representative - Nicolas Dyson & Hunter White. Members demonstrated some past projects they had completed. Our next meeting will be on Thursday January 12, at 6 pm at the Extension Office. Come join us. We are wired for fun and you might just see our "president of power" with shocking blue hair. Submitted By: Kaylor Berwick.

Silver Saddles 4-H Horse Club- met on Dec. 5, 2011 and made horse treats out of rice cakes, molasses, peppermints, and carrots and feed them to the horse. At the next meeting which is Jan. 2, 2012 we are collecting dog/cat food and blankets for the animal shelters.