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## *Joining the Team*

## *MEET NICOLE*

4-H Family,

Whew! What a whirlwind month and a half I have had as your newest 4-H agent. It has been filled with professional development trainings, meetings, brainstorming, goal setting, getting to know the Extension family, and learning the ins and outs of 4-H.

The more I learn-the more obvious it is that Sedgwick County 4-H is full of committed and passionate families, volunteers, and staff that are striving to create rich, meaningful, hands on learning opportunities for youth in our community. Now, THAT is something I can get behind!

As a mom, educator, and born-and-raised Wichitan-I am energized knowing that every day I get to come to work and help to craft awesome life experiences for youth in our county.



Everyone keeps saying that it takes a year before you really get a handle on the job- and I am thankful for all of you and the Extension staff for taking time to support me as I grow into my role.

Please know that my door and mind are always open. I believe it truly takes a village.

Let's Grow!

-Nicole

# MEET ALEXANDRIA



*Hi Families!*

The past 5 months in 4-H has been amazing! I am excited for us to keep going! I look forward to growing with you!

Favorite Color: Sky Blue

Favorite Season: Spring & Fall

Favorite Quote: Life's roughest storms prove the strength of our anchors!

Favorite Food: Authentic Mexican Food & Soul Food!

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



### Tatum Thul

Quail Valley 4-H Club

Age: 18

**Favorite Memory:** Being a 4-H Camp Counselor at Rock Springs.

**Future Plans:** I plan to attend Pittsburg State University and major in Nursing.



## Ann Knoblauch

Cheney Challengers 4-H Club

Age: 18

**Favorite Memory:** *I have several favorite memories throughout the years. If I had to choose one it was winning State for my Entomology project in 2018. It was a lot of fun going up to Manhattan at the Emerald Circle Banquet.*

**Future Plans:** *Continuing to learn about entomology through books and other resources online. I love working in my pollinator garden to help native bees and other pollinators.*

## Travis Scheer

Quail Valley 4-H Club

Age: 17

**Favorite Memory:** *Definitely Discovery Days and being on our own, the activities, learning different skills and possible choices for our futures, rooming with friends from different clubs, meeting new people and Call Hall ice cream every day!*

**Future Plans:** *After graduating in May from GPHS with honors I will be attending Kansas State University in the fall. I am interested in pursuing a career in agriculture and I am currently trying to decide if I want to major in Agricultural Technology Management, Animal or Meat sciences, with a minor in*



*one of the mentioned choices. Growing up on a farm, being involved in 4-H and having so many wonderful experiences in Manhattan made my college selection easy. I am excited for this next step in life at KSU.*





## PROJECT FORMS

*Project Report Forms are replacing Kansas Award Portfolios (KAPs) for project recognition. This is a way for 4-H'ers to share the learning and contributions in a specific project area while developing their skill for record keeping. Links to the forms and guidelines are posted on the Kansas 4-H website at [www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-library/awards-and-recognition/ProjectRecognition.html](http://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-library/awards-and-recognition/ProjectRecognition.html). Supporting videos are coming soon! Contact the Sedgwick County 4-H office with any questions.*

## DISCOVERY DAYS

Kansas 4-H Discovery Days will be delivered virtually in 2021. The event will be held on June 1-4, 2021. Thank you to everyone who participated in the interest and availability survey. From that survey, we have an excellent starting list of individuals who are willing to help with content tracks were able to confirm the traditional week after Memorial Day. The dates will still work for the majority of counties. The decision to again use the virtual format was not taken lightly as the preferred format for the event would definitely be in-person. The decision is in congruence with the current K-State Reopening Phase 3 guidelines <https://www.k-state.edu/covid-19/return/reopening/phase-3/> and the most recent vaccine availability projections from SedgwickCounty <https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/covid-19/vaccine/>. Thank You for all of your support as we try to make the Discovery Days experience the best it can be for all Kansas youth.

## 4-H AT HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore fun and educational hands-on activities and learning experiences for kids and teens to do at home on the National 4-H website at <https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/>. There is everything from learning about pollinators, to building a popsicle paddle boat and exploring space!



# 4-H CAMP AT ROCK SPRINGS

To say that Kansas 4-H missed camp last summer is an understatement! We believe in the positive impact that 4-H camp at Rock Springs Ranch can have on a child. From exploring the outdoors, to building lifelong friendships, to gaining independence and self-confidence, camp has a tremendous ability to make a strong impact on youth of all ages.

To ensure that 4-H camp continues to be a safe and high quality experience for generations to come, we established a Kansas 4-H Camping Taskforce two years ago. The task force has been hard at work, as well as leadership at both the Kansas 4-H Foundation and Rock Springs Ranch, preparing and planning for the future Kansas 4-H camp. 4-H camp in 2021 will begin to see new health protocols, as well as some improved health facilities, expedited by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is has been confirmed that camp will happen in 2021, however, information regarding capacity and registration has not been shared yet. We will send updated information as we receive it. In the meantime, save the dates for 4-H camp in the summer of 2021! Oz-some Camp will take place June 24-27, with counselor training on June 23.

## BE A CAMP COUNSELOR

Do you have what it takes to become a camp counselor? Camp counselors are the backbone of the summer camping experience and must be willing to take on the challenge of working with a co-counselor to get 8 youth to and from different activity locations. If this sounds like you, please apply to become a Oz-some camp counselor for 4-H summer camp 2021, June 24-27 with counselor training Tuesday, June 23. Applications will post in March. To be considered counselor applicants must be 14 years old by the time we leave for camp.



# VIRTUAL 4-H DAY RESULTS



## Grand and Reserve Champions

### For full results

Instrumental Solo (Ages 14+) Amy Crow Achievers P/CHAMPION  
 Instrumental Solo (Ages 14+) Danielle Turner Derby P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Instrumental Solo (Ages 10-13) Hayden Brown Valley Victors P/CHAMPION  
 Instrumental Solo (Ages 7-9) Rylen Brown Valley Victors P/CHAMPION  
 Instrumental Solo (Ages 10-13) Emily Schroeder Achievers P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Piano Solo (Ages 7-9) Abigail Gear Andale Jets P/CHAMPION  
 Piano Solo (Ages 7-9) Samir Awwad Bel Aire P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Piano Solo (Ages 10-13) Melanie Stockemer River City Kids P/CHAMPION  
 Piano Solo (Ages 10-13) Asher Turner Derby P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Piano Solo (Ages 14+) Katrina Turner Derby P/CHAMPION  
 Piano Solo (Ages 14+) Zachary Holmes River City Kids P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Public Speaking (Ages 14+) Carlie Schill Country Kids P/CHAMPION  
 Public Speaking (Ages 14+) Anneliese Henderson Achievers P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Project Talk (Ages 7-9) Bridget Wells Cheney Challengers P/CHAMPION  
 Project Talk (Ages 7-9) Hunter Collins P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Project Talk (Ages 10-13) Anna McCurry Colwich Clovers P/CHAMPION  
 Reading- Junior (age 7-9) Erin Kroetch Achievers P/CHAMPION  
 Reading- Junior (age 7-9) Catherine Sauber River City Kids P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Reading (Age 10-13) McKenzie Snell Achievers P/CHAMPION  
 Reading (Age 10-13) Hayden Brown Valley Victors P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Reading- Senior (age 14+) Larissa Reilly Goddard P/CHAMPION  
 Reading- Senior (age 14+) Brady Hoffman Derby P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Vocal Solo- (age 10-13) Breanna Wells Cheney Challengers P/CHAMPION  
 Demo/ Illustrated Talk (Ages 7-9) Brianna Reilly Goddard P/CHAMPION  
 Demo/ Illustrated Talk (Ages 7-9) Erin Kroetch Achievers P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Demo/Illustrated Talk (ages 10-13) Bridget Gear Andale Jets P/CHAMPION  
 Demo/Illustrated Talk (ages 10-13) Hayden Brown Valley Victors P/RESERVE CHAMPION  
 Demo/Illustrated Talk (Ages 14+) Amy Crow Achievers P/CHAMPION  
 Demo/Illustrated Talk (Ages 14+) Brady Hoffman Derby P/RESERVE CHAMPION

# COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY



Maggie Ballard and Paxton Burns are a mother and son team that started Paxton's Blessing Box in our own Wichita Community- but have grown to serve communities across the United States. In 2016 the pair built their first "Blessing Box" and placed it in their front yard in Riverside. The goal was to provide free access to food and hygiene products though the donation stocked crimson red boxes.

Fast forward to 2021, there are currently 80 Blessing Boxes scattered throughout the Wichita area, Kansas towns, and other states! Maggie and Paxton's goal continues to be adding new PBB locations across the United States. All that is needed it the same passion and love to help feed those in need, via sponsorship of a Blessing Box

**Q:** What is your non-profit?

**A:** Paxton's Blessing Box

**Q:** What moved you to begin the work your charity does?

**A:** As a young girl in the early 90's my parents owned an Antique Store called M. Ballard and Co. It was attached to the Eaton Hotel. I used to get bored out of my mind and start wandering around the bottom floor of the hotel. I made buddies with the Elevator Man, his name was Pork Chop. I usually sat at the table with all the grumpy old men and listened to them talk. I have always been a good listener and very observant. I would buy the table a round with the quarter machine that provided black coffee, chicken broth ( a persona fav LOL) or hot chocolate. I learned a few things that I didn't even realize at the time.

One must never judge a book by its cover. These gentleman had stories for days and usually were delighted to have someone to listen. Sometimes I had all the questions other times I just sat there. Everyone was so friendly. I also learned that not everyone was as fortunate as my family. They would chain smoke, talk, drink more coffee and repeat the process. The park across the street was already feeding people on the weekends...I would watch from the Eaton windows in the freezing cold and watch the recipients devour that hot meal....Ever since those early days I have been interested in service work and wanting to make my mark pushing for change.



Mental health was huge factor, although I didn't know that at the time. My parents used to find work for some of the gentleman or buy them lunch usually from the Old Mill Tasty Shop.....When I learned I was pregnant I knew this was something that I wanted to pass on to Paxton. To teach him to be kind and not to judge.

**Q:** What impact have you seen within the community directly from your work?

**A:** Seeing someone first hand stand at the box and pop the top on a can of fruit or soup and literally drink it straight from the can is something that is difficult to describe. Seeing a family walk up to the box with a toddler in the snow on foot, no car and rip open a bag of bagels while you are about to sit down at Christmas Dinner is heartwarming and wringing all at the same time. Seeing the need, having more hosts reach out and seeing the community help make our food drives successful is amazing....the program has opened eyes to food insecurity, even to myself that there really is an issue....some people just don't know...but now they do!

**Q:** How can 4-Hers get involved/support your charity?

**A:** We would love to do something/collaborate with 4-H. whether they host a food drive, have a blessing box build work shop, and come volunteer at the warehouse, paint? We are open to anything!

**Q:** What advice do you have for youth in the community looking to be involved with community service projects?

**A:** Specifically for our program they can email me [paxtonsblessingbox@yahoo.com](mailto:paxtonsblessingbox@yahoo.com) or go to our website [www.paxtonsblessingbox.com](http://www.paxtonsblessingbox.com), or FB or IG....but in general my suggestion is if they have an area of interest to call 211. They are incredible and have been super helpful!!! I'm always available to help facilitate as well!☺ Maggie Ballard



# LIVESTOCK UPDATE

## **Sedgwick County Beef Weigh-in**

Saturday, March 20, 2021

9:00 - 11:00am

Heartland Veterinary Services, Inc.

2800 N 247th St W

Andale KS 67001



## **Horse Identification and Horseless Horse Certificates**

All Horse Identification Certificates and Horseless Horse Certificates are due to the Extension office by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 30 because May 1 falls on a **Saturday this year**. Appropriate forms can be found at <https://www.sedgwick.k-state.edu/4-h-youth/project-resources/horse.html>

**\*\*Please note**

that the Horse ID Certificate was updated last year and this form (dated January 2020) must be used. Also posted on the website above is an example of a correctly filled out Horse ID Certificate; it must only be one page (front and back).

4-H Horse Snaffle Bit Project Nominations - Horse snaffle bit project nominations are also due to the Extension office by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 30 since May 1 falls on a Saturday this year.

Along with the nomination, a Horse Identification Certificate and a \$10 fee must be submitted.



## **KS Junior Livestock Show & KS State Fair Livestock Nominations**

4-H members planning on showing their animals at the Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) and/or the Kansas State Fair must submit nominations to the Youth Livestock office. Market Beef nominations are due by May 1. **\*\*NOTE:** Please plan ahead as May 1 is a Saturday this year, so all forms will need to be signed no later than Friday, April 30. Commercial Heifer, Swine, Sheep, and Meat Goat nominations are due by June 15. Information pertaining to the Kansas Livestock Nominations can be found at [www.YouthLivestock.ksu.edu](http://www.YouthLivestock.ksu.edu)



**YQCA Certification Requirement** - As a reminder, YQCA certification is required to participate at KJLS and at the Kansas State Fair.

We will send out information about the 2021 state show requirements when we distribute state livestock nomination materials in mid-March. More information regarding YQCA can be found through the following link:

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/YQCA.html>

## **VIRTUAL STATE 4-H HORSE PANORAMA**

State 4-H Horse Panorama will be virtual in 2021. In partnership with the Horse Action Team, we will be moving all divisions of Panorama to a virtual format. The current schedule is as follows with specific times released along with additional registration details:

- Digital Uploads (Photography, Logo, Poster, Power Point, Ad Layout, Exhibition Model Horse Show) - Uploads will open March 26 and close April 7. Judging will begin after April 7 with feedback given to youth.
- Hippology - April 10
- Quiz Bowl Preliminaries via Qualtrics - April 10
- Quiz Bowl Finals via Zoom - April 11
- Public Speaking, Demonstration & Project Talks - zoom with judges by scheduled date/time, April 10-14. Sign ups will be available.

[Read Full Announcement](#)



### **State 4-H Horse Judging Contest**

The State 4-H Horse Judging Contest has been rescheduled to Friday, April 23rd in Hutchinson at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. The contest will consist of both Intermediate and Senior 4-H Division spread out in both Expo I and II. Division entries will be limited based on first come first serve. Due to the limitation, registration opening will be repeatedly publicized in advance. Further details, including contest times, will be released soon.



### **Horse Level Testing**

The Level 1 Achievement test is required for all youth to participate in District and State Horse Shows. Online/video levels testing will be accepted again this year. Levels testing Qualtrics exams can be found at: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/staff-downloads/resources/index.html>. A list of evaluators can be found at:

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animals/horse.html>.



# March Calendar of Events

## March

- 1 **Deadline** Project Add/Drop
- 2 Personal Branding/Career Building Event  
Session 1, 7pm - Resume Making
- 5-7 State shooting Sports Match
- 9 Personal Branding/Career Building Event  
Session 2, 7pm - Acing Your Interview
- 15 **Deadline** for purchase or purebred breeding beef, market beef, and dairy goats for county fair
- 16 Personal Branding/Career Building Event  
Session 3, 7pm - Building Your Brand
- 20 Personal Branding/Career Building Event  
Mock Interviews beginning at 9 am
- 20 Market Beef Weigh and Tagging

## Contact Information

**Alexandria Ware, 4-H Agent**  
(316) 660-0111  
ware@ksu.edu

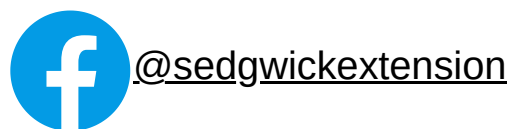
**Nicole Biery, 4-H Agent**  
(316) 660-0112  
snbiery@ksu.edu

**Barbara Wingfield, OP**  
(316) 660-0115  
bwingfie@ksu.edu

**Janet Donaghue, Program Assistant**  
(316) 660-0128  
jdonaghue@ksu.edu

**Cathy Jones, Program Assistant**  
(316) 660-0113  
cpjones@ksu.edu

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