



# Peninsula Pledger

## Kenai Peninsula District

K-Beach Road, Suite. A • Soldotna, AK 9966 A • 907-262-5824 • October Edition

### 4-H'er of the Month for September- Abriella Werner



There is one 4-H'er who has quietly and methodically gone about her work of learning by doing. Her skills have skyrocketed. She has gained confidence in her public speaking this year by not only doing a presentation on Presentation Day, but by also stepping up to spontaneously speak to a newspaper reporter at a JML workshop this summer. She saw tremendous growth in her projects, her abilities, her confidence, her learning, and her year exemplifies how 4-H grows.

This young lady's work has stood out all year, but especially her work with JML this summer as we wrap up the fair season. Not only did this young 4-H'er raise the Grand Champion swine this year, she also stepped up and raised the Community Service Turkey, which was sold to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. She maintained two animal pens in two separate barns during her weekend at the fair and

handled both jobs with skill and grace. Her summer was full of business contacts, and she was an invaluable help to her mom, JML's Business Contact Chair, as they kept business contact season running smoothly with endless paperwork, envelope stuffing, calls, and Contact Check Days. In the past, this 4-H'er has had an older sibling raise an animal with her for fair. This year it was just her, and I am proud to say she did it well. This young lady was a great example to all 4-H'ers of how to have a successful 4-H year, and for that, it's my pleasure to elect Abriella Werner with 4-H'er of the month for September of 2017.

Submitted by Cassy Rankin

### 4-H'er of the Month for August- Alexis Kreger

Alexis Kreger brings spunky, charismatic leadership to the Trail Blazers' 4-H Club. As club president, Alexis has proven a reliable young lady who has no problem budgeting her time and following through with her commitments all while keeping a positive attitude. Alexis's 4-H roots run deep. She has experience in the dairy goat project as a 4-H'er in South Dakota previous to moving to Alaska in 2014. Her current projects are Leadership and Volunteerism and she is an active competitor on the Horse Bowl team. Alexis has a special gift with young children and has encouraged many youth to join 4-H and other leadership groups. Alexis is currently busy as a Project Grad student, working part-time over the summer and prepping for fall semester of high school where she will be a sophomore and serve as Ninilchik High School FFA

Chapter Treasurer and Reporter and enjoy time on the basketball court.

Submitted by Katie Matthews



### Kenai Peninsula 4-H Facebook

We have a Facebook group for everyone. It is a place where clubs can show the general public what that club is currently doing. It is also a place where people can come and ask questions such as about enrollment and fair requirements etc. I encourage all 4-H members and leaders to join the group. Non 4-H'ers are welcome too, so invite families and friends to join.

Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kenaipeninsula4h/>

### 4-H Agent Report

All ALPAR report logs are due into Kay by or before September 29th! Thank you to all of the clubs who worked so hard to keep our Kenai Peninsula rivers, seashores, highways, and parks clean and safe for wildlife. This community service action project is a great way for clubs to earn money, have fun out at their favorite places, and make a difference in our communities.

Do not get left behind! Sign up for 4-H starting October 1st, and make sure all of your adult volunteers and youth are registered for the new 4-H year. Registration gives our district the funds to run all kinds of great programs, as well as offer life-covering insurance to all of our 4-H Family. Please work with Vicki to get the \$25 registrations in, as well as updating information in 4honline.

Love archery? If your club needs a 4-H National Archery Instructor to coach 4-H youth on archery skills and enjoy club archery events throughout the year, please send a Senior 4-H'er or adult to our next Archery Training Event in Hope, October 5th, from 9am to 7pm. All 4-H youth are welcome to participate in the Hope Shootout from 5-7pm on October 5th, giving the new instructors and youth a chance to set up field courses, make leather arm guards, and explore creative archery activities indoors and outdoors.

Welcome one and all to the 2017 Awards

### 4-H Volunteer of the Month- Brook Ala

After growing up in the Kenai 4-H program, Brook came back this year with his own family and instantly became a huge part of 4-H and JML once again. He jumped right in as Master Livestock Superintendent. Eric Foust used to say the longer your title, the less important the position but that's not true with Master Livestock Superintendent. He helped everything to run smoothly and most importantly, helped the kids to have fun. Brook is one of the best men I know with kids, he is great at

making activities fun while getting work done.



Submitted by  
Maya Johnson

Banquet at 6pm on October 13th out at Ridgeway Farms! This is the time of year where we reach out to our youth and volunteers in gratitude for all of their 4-H efforts throughout the year.

A huge "Thank you!" goes out to Brook Ala and Rob Barto for hosting the year-end celebration. Ridgeway Farms is located in between Kenai and Soldotna. The address is 5220 Strawberry Road Soldotna, Alaska, AK 99669. All 4-H families are encouraged to jump in on the fun and offer support to the hosts by bringing potluck food to share for the banquet. The contact number for Ridgeway Farms is (907) 283-9166. If you would like to help Kay and Cassy with the banquet preparations and clean-up, or if you have questions for us, call the 4-H office at (907) 262-5824.

The day after the Awards Banquet, October 14th, is our recruiting round-up at the Pumpkin Festival in Kenai. The festival will have all kinds of tasty food, cider, hay rides, a pumpkin patch, a petting zoo, and lots of 4-H fun from 1-3pm at the Wildflower Garden on Lawton Drive. We'll have 4-H booths, fun activities to explore, and all 4-H'ers are welcome to bring their animals or other projects to share with kids who may not know about 4-H opportunities. Please check in with Cassy if you're bringing an animal to the Festival.

Cheers, Kay

### **District Council President Report**

Wow we are already getting ready for the 2018 4-H year! The next DC meeting is going to be really important because we will be setting the calendar for the next 4-H year so please come! We will need committees to help plan: Rally Day, Public Presentation/Educational Display Contest, and the Tree Sale. As well as the standing committees such as Scholarship.

Officer nominations are happening now for the 2018 District Council! Elections will occur at the awards banquet.

Reminder the next DC Meeting is October 9 at 6:30 at the CES Office it will be fun and important!

Submitted by Maya Johnson

### **District Council Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was held September 11<sup>th</sup>. Here are some of the highlights discussed.

1. Nominations of 2017-2018
  - We decided to vote for council positions at the Awards Banquet, so that more people could participate in electing officers.
  - The deadline for nominations is October 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Maya Johnson has been nominated for president, and will have time to decide whether to accept nomination.
2. Upcoming Committees needed
  - Calendar Planning meeting
    - a. Voted to hold this meeting during the next council meeting.
    - b. We liked having these events separate.
  - Tree Sale
  - Annual Meeting
  - Scholarship Committee
3. Other Fall events
  - Harlem Globe Trotters will be giving a 4-H discount and holding a 4-H meet and greet after their performance. You just need to be wearing a 4-H shirt to be eligible.
4. State Horse Contest
  - Horse contest will be held hopefully on April 19-21<sup>st</sup>.
  - We need volunteers for this event!
5. Livestock Contest
  - They are planning on holding it during the end of March.
  - Also considering holding a 4-H dance open to all 4-H'ers one night of the contest!
6. 4-H'er of the month
  - We need to assign a new rotation for next year's 4-H'er of the month.
  - Since we don't have 12 clubs, bigger clubs will double up.

- We will further discuss this during the planning meeting in October.

7. 4-H Teen Council

- Alaskan 4-H teens seem to want more leadership roles to be in, so a teen council could be a great thing.
- College students can become 4-H leaders.

**National 4-H Week**

National 4-H week is the first week of October. There are activities being planned to help bring community awareness to 4-H. We decided to do our recruitment activity October 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the Fall Pumpkin Festival. If you are bringing animals please show up at 12:30pm. The event will be at Lawton Park. We need 4-H members to bring animals and poster boards. Cassy Rankin needs to know what animals will be brought. Here is the poster of the event 4-H will be helping in.



**New 4-H Year Starts**

4-H members must be enrolled online and have paid their yearly dues in order to be insured by 4-H while working on projects or attending 4-H events. October 1<sup>st</sup> is the first day to enroll.

You must also be enrolled and dues paid to participate in 4-H contests. To be enrolled, go to [alaska4h.org](http://alaska4h.org), click on the link that says online enrollment and follow the instructions.

\$25 dues may be paid by cash or check at the CES office or by credit online at [alaska4H.org](http://alaska4H.org).

**Club News**

**Hope Club**

This year our group has set up an Archery club (name yet to be determined). Meeting will be once a week on Wednesday, locations will vary. We have also been cleaning up our community especially at the fishing holes and next to the camp grounds. We did a community durable goods collection last year around Christmas for the covenant house. The children picked that because they accept whole families, we gathered about 15-yard debris bags full of coats, Christmas gifts, sleeping bags and other things needed. We currently are learning the Thriller dance and will be joining the Girdwood Thrill the World event in the 28th to perform it.

We are also getting our Cloverbud program started. This is being headed by Jolee Peterson one of 5th graders. For our first meeting on October 10 they will be doing a cooking class; ants on a log and brownies.

Submitted by Kristy Peterson



## Trail Blazers

Welcome fall! My favorite season! Thank you everyone who helped us harvest the remainder of the community garden last week. Most of our time was spent digging potatoes, but I enjoyed a few radishes and carrots as well. Produce grown in the garden is donated to local food service programs. Thank you all for your help!

Some of our members attended the Women in Science discussion. We all came away with a new perspective on our life plan. Can you think of a project or activity in 4-H that might lead to a STEM career? Veterinary science? JML? Exercise physiology? We currently have members interested in joining the science field all the way from marine biology to pharmaceuticals development. Science is so cool!

Our FFA fall semester is kicking off with an officer training. Our chapter officers will learn to facilitate discussions, speak in front of large groups and coach younger members to success. I am VERY excited to see them grow and bring their skills back to our FFA chapters and 4-H clubs! Our general membership will participate in a Funday where we will learn to work as a group, play games and get to know each other!

Katie Matthews - Trail Blazers



We wrote our hopes and dreams on a sticky note, put them in a balloon and worked as a team to keep them afloat!

## Homer 4-H Alls

Wednesday, September 13th, 4-H Alls held a meeting and watched Adela Pederson perform tricks with her black lab, Ink. Adela has been working with Ink for the past few months to perform commands and tricks like jumping through the hoop.

Submitted by Sherry Marousek



## Northwind Riders

Hi, my name is Kellee and I'm here to tell you about my Northwind Riders club this month. We had our monthly business meeting at the library, and we made some fall and winter plans. For old business we discussed our summer fundraisers and for new business we talked about the Alaska Horse Contest. Everyone who has done it shared what they loved about it and talked about doing it again this year.

I had been having trouble with my old horse and I got a new horse, and I told my leader Geri about some of my problems. She helped me because we took our horses over to her house and she went riding with me. My leader helped me find the problem and helped me become a better rider.



## 2016-2017 4-H Year Review

For me this year has been amazing! So many children stepping out of their comfort zones, learning new things and succeeding. This year had so many events and activities; never was there a dull moment. And that is how I like it. It is always so much fun to read and hear what other people thought about this year too so I asked everyone to sum up their year and here are their replies.

Submitted by Toni Loop

This was my first year being back in 4-H and it was so great to get to know everyone! What a great group of kids and some really strong leaders in the teenagers. I'm excited to continue on into 2018 and make the best better.

Submitted by Maya Johnson

Every event I think, "Oh this is my favorite part!" And the next event comes along and I think "Oh this is my favorite part!" What a year it's been. All my favorite parts. And all my favorite people.

Submitted by Ms. Cassy

"I'm glad I got to go to the Livestock Contest. It was very tense. But I'm happy that I could go with my friends and family. It was a good 4-H year." Submitted by Levi Rankin

What I love most about the fair is working together. How grateful we are for 4-H dads and moms and leaders and supporters who give without reservation and are on the same team. Yay for solidarity, friendship and companionship!

Submitted by Nancy Veal

I liked the horse camp. It was very fun to play with the horses. I also enjoyed the Kenai Peninsula State Fair.

Submitted by Jonathan Loop

This 4-H year has been a very successful one! There were some ups and downs along the way, but overall it has been a great environment for growth and learning. Next year I hope to finally complete my record book!

Submitted by Avlynn Wolverson

This was a pretty good 4-H year. My favorite part was this August when I got some horseback lessons from my leader. I also got the

once in a lifetime experience of going to the Nationals Horse Bowl Contest. It took place in Denver, Colorado. I learned so much, and not just in horse knowledge but in perseverance and patience. State Horse Bowl was fun to do. Over all, this year was a mix of hard and fun memories.

Submitted by Abby Peters

One of the highlights of the year was going to the Alaska State Livestock contest and winning the traveling trophy and being given the opportunity for my team to go down to the North America International Livestock Expo.

One of my other highlights were being able to go to the large stock and small stock round robins, which is a great opportunity.

My last highlight of the year was going up to the Palmer State fair and becoming Intermediate Master Showman.

Submitted by Gracie Rankin

One of my highlights for this year is winning the Alaska State Livestock Contest. Now we get to go to Nationals and represent the Big Alaska!

Submitted by Katie Cooper

My favorite parts so far would be the rodeo. I helped at the entrance gate. I also learned how to weigh a horse with a weight tape during Equine Experience meeting.

Submitted by Autumn

I think the year went very well. I was very satisfied with everything I did and the flow was fairly good. The only thing I would change would be communication. Otherwise I thought everyone did great and hopefully will do even better next year.

Submitted by Ella Rankin

We went to horse camp and everyone had a horse that they were assigned to. It had to be my

favorite part of the whole year. One of our Equine Experience meetings we learned not to force your horse to do something the horse is scared of.

Submitted by Emily Grimm

4-H is awesome to be in. I have been in 4-H for 7 years and it is the best program that I have been in! This year I have grown in my leadership and confidence for trying new things. I showed my goat and sheep for the first time and it was a lot of fun! This year has been a lot of fun and I hope to have just as much fun next year.

Submitted by Colton Rankin

I love horse camp. It was very fun there. I like running with the horse. I liked riding the horses. And it was fun leading the horses.

Submitted by Sable Wolverine

This year has been an amazing year for our club. Being involved with the Alaska Horse Contest is such a powerful and important experience for these kids. They did so well, and we all bonded as a club with our epic and exciting road trip.

Then, it was onto NATIONALS! Going to another state was extra special and one that not all kids are able to experience, especially with their friends.

The other favorite thing for everyone this year was our first overnight horse camp! It was both a dream and a goal for me as a club leader, and I was so very happy we were able to pull it off! It was a very successful, safe and fun event for everyone.

One of the things I focus on as a leader is friendships within the club. It always makes me smile and melt a little as I see the kids, shy at first, grow ever more comfortable and confident as they become part of us. I'm so proud of my club, the ones who offer them a chair, show them how to catch a horse, or help them adjust a helmet. New kids are made to feel welcome, and from day one- friendships grow! I love that so much, and this year has been no exception. We've had to say goodbye to some amazing friends and it is hard but new friends have cohttp://kpjml.fairmanager.com/me along too. I can't wait to see what awaits us in the new year...

Submitted by Geri Litzen





