



Peninsula Pledger

Kenai Peninsula District

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4-H'er of the month of June: Alie Minium

"I LOVE being a Fuzzy Wuzzy!!!" Alie Minium's enthusiasm and fun-loving spirit have been an asset to the Fuzzy Wuzzy Fiber Club for many years. She served faithfully as our club's president for four years, always ready and willing, along with her older brother and parents (and current houseguests) to lend a hand in helping pick up trash, teach a class, bring a creative snack, or anything else that made our club function well. In addition to the Fuzzy Wuzzies, Alie was a member of the Funky Farmers for five years, the North Road Rangers for two years and JML for one year. She has been in the Tomodachi (U.S.-Japan exchange) Club for two years, and is currently serving as president. Her family has hosted five Japanese delegates in their home, and Alie had the privilege of being a delegate in 2015.

In addition to 4-H activities, Alie also participates in Native Youth Leadership, attending the Youth and Elders Conference during the Alaska Federation of Natives convention, and the Color of Justice program, which seeks to promote diversity in careers in law. Alie also plays the piano and has a beautiful singing voice, has quite a karate kick, has participated in the Native Youth



Olympics and has acted in multiple plays locally. At Nikiski Middle/High School, where her name regularly appears on the honor roll, she participates in debate and cross-country running and skiing, among other endeavors. Alie is a refreshing ray of sunshine, always ready to brighten someone's day with a smile, and it has been a joy to have her in our club. We're proud to present Alie Minium as the Fuzzy Wuzzy 4-H'er of the Month!

— Submitted by Katie Cooper

4-H'er Alumni of the Month: Eli Butler

It's hard to describe someone so wonderful like Eli Butler. Even though I'm her cousin it's not just me that sees her hard work and dedication.

Her 4-H career started like most kids with chickens. Starting small and figuring out the program. Eli, being the one to jump in to things, decided to raise a steer next. Eight Ball was her first steer. He was all black with a blotch of white on his head. He was a rough and tough sort of a dude. Three more steers followed him. All four steers taught her all about steer raising and a lot about herself. What Eli learned when raising them she generously shared with others.

Aside from the animals, she fearlessly led the JML club; taking minutes as the secretary then the vice president and ending with being the president. She led the club with a passion that no one could touch.

Eli has helped me in so many ways in 4-H. She has led me through many a panicked, stressful, hopeful time (a.k.a. fair week). She has stretched my knowledge on animals and live-stock. She has helped me with my record book. Even though she's not

in 4-H she is still willing to help. And when she isn't helping me, she is helping the club with ribbons for the fair.

She is such a leader and such a wonderful girl. I am very proud to be her cousin.

4-H Volunteer of the Month: Dr. Jerry Nybakken

- Floated horse's teeth
- Floated guinea pig's teeth
- Cleaned pony's sheath
- Treated eye infections
- New animal exams
- Vaccinations
- Female barn cat spay
- Male barn cat neuter
- Hog sedation and hernia surgery in a horse trailer
- Hog hernia stitch removal in a horse trailer (no sedation that time!)
- Guinea pig prenatal exam
- Stitched up a lamb's leg
- Ear mite advice
- Professional resource for Alaska Live-stock Contest medication label study
- Veterinarian expert on hay twine presentation
- Kitchen table rabbit neutering
- Kitchen table rabbit rectum prolapse
- Lice treatment
- Preparation H prescription for hen with vent prolapse
- Diagnosed cancer in guinea pig
- Heat cycle lessons on barnyard animals and mammals of the world
- Lullabye and apple slice time with pregnant guinea pig
- Colic treatment
- Scours treatment
- Equine end-of-life consult

This is the list our family came up with of services Dr. Nybakken has provided for our farm's animals. If we were to add in the times he's decked my kids out in rubber gloves and surgical masks, handed them a scalpel to teach them how to handle it, shown them

how to pull meds and administer meds (whether it be IM, SQ, or IV), demonstrated the different stitch types, and shown how to castrate piglets, trim wolf teeth, remove stitches, take temperatures and heart rates and treat shock. The list would fill this page.

Above all, he teaches the children of our future compassion for their animals. He teaches them to ask questions about animal care and that no question is a wrong question. He teaches them how to care for a beloved pet when it's dying. He teaches them that death is the hard part of farming and loving animals. He teaches them that what they are doing matters. He teaches them that they matter and that their animals matter.

This is just from our farm.

If we were to add in your farm, the farms of all 4-H families, the local mushers, the horse community, all the folks on the Peninsula that Dr. Jerry Nybakken helps day after day and year after year, I know we would soon lose track of the hours he pours in and volunteers and changes lives.



I also know without a doubt that I echo the hearts of us all when I say that he makes the best better in our families, our farms, our clubs, our communities, our country and our world.

Dr. Nybakken, from all of us Kenai Peninsula 4-H families, thank you for all you do each and every day ... on our farms and in our hearts.

ALPAR

This is a great way for club to earn money while helping our towns stay clean. Clubs are in competition on which club can have the most man hours picking up trash. Here are some clubs that took on this challenge.

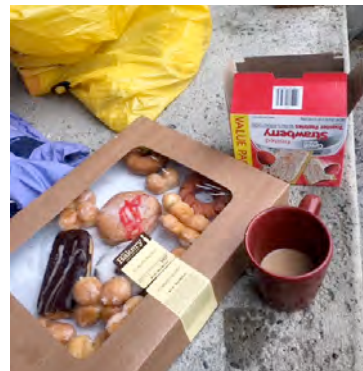
Trail Blazers



Picking up trash in the campground



Each morning starts like this ...



And like this ...



Just off-loading another truckload of trash in the rain!



Kat and Haylee recycling a gazillion cans and bottles!



Celebrating trash days with pizza!

Club News

Trail Blazers

The Trail Blazers sent 2016 out with a bang and a smashing fair season! Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraisers, the Cowgirl's Cup Espresso and Horse Rides at the Kenai Peninsula Fair this year. We are plugging away at paying off our horse barn project as well as other projects on the fairgrounds. If your club has an idea for a project you would like to team up on, let us know!

Our horse project group sponsored a team of 11 youth, nine horses, two coaches and an assortment of parent volunteers on an epic trip to the State Fair horse show. It was hard to tell who had more fun, the kids or the adults! Throughout the summer, we have been riding weekly and working toward the goal of showing at the fair. Showing is more than just riding. We covered everything from wardrobe, equine and personal grooming, body conditioning, farriery and learning patterns to calming nerves and, most of all, good sportsmanship. It was a great weekend to be a Trail Blazer and we are all excited to make attending the State Fair a yearly event.

Thanks to Rosco's Pizza for donating the pizza lunches for our ALPAR patrols this year! Trash pickin' is always more fun when followed by good food! Our FFA chapter is planning to team up with Ninilchik Chamber of Commerce for some beautification projects along the Sterling Highway this coming year and would like to put a portion of the funds earned via ALPAR toward flower beds and informational signage. Stay tuned for updates on this project.

Our summer wound down with the Trail Blazers' traditional End of Summer Bash. Shirley hosted the bash at her indoor arena, which was fabulous since we had quite the rainy after-noon! We barrel raced in the outdoor arena until we got rained out then played mounted and un-mounted games in the indoor arena. Thanks to all of our great leaders, volunteers and parents for the hot barbeque to follow and the wonderful fellowship to end another great 4-H year!

We are taking a little time off but will be back on track around the beginning of November so keep an eye on our club webpage for our 2017 Kickoff meeting and officer elections!

— Submitted by Katie Matthews



Northwind Riders



The Northwind Riders are wrapping up for the year! It's been one that we can be proud of, having kept things upbeat. We have learned a lot. Just in the last month, we have done some fun and worthwhile activities. One of those was ALPAR. Although trash pickup isn't the most glamorous volunteer job, it was nice to see families getting out and making a difference in their community! I personally enjoyed getting some fall rays. Another club activity we did was a dog agility day. Club members got to bring their own dogs and have fun on the course. We enjoyed sharing our dogs and showing what they can do. The same day, we also learned how to approach a dog and its owner who we don't know. Northwind



Rider members got to take turns practicing how to have safe encounters with unknown dogs. One of our club subgroups, Equine Experience, has been active as well. Recently the club has worked on desensitization. The Northwind Riders now anticipate our final meeting of the year. We will be having a pizza party and are going to practice parliamentary procedures

while we make the pizzas! I am proud of what these kids have accomplished this year and look forward to celebrating with them.

— Submitted By Penelope Litzen

Junior Market Livestock

This 4-H year was super busy and super fun too! The fair went smooth and quickly. It was a lot of fun and a lot of people can't wait for next year.

Sadly this year, Mr. Casey will be resigning as JML Leader, but he and his hard work was a large part in why the fair went so smoothly. We appreciate all his work and he will be sorely missed. This report for the JML club will be the last report for the year, and there will be no more meetings until January.

I hope that you all will have a pleasant winter, though I'm sure that we will see each other before January!

— Submitted by Gracie Rankin, JML Reporter

At Monday's JML business meeting I announced that I will not be continuing into the next 4-H year as the JML leader. This has been a hard decision for me, however, it is necessary. I would rather this happen now than midyear. I also regret to inform you that JML's vice president, Laurel Correa, gave me her resignation.



The Extension office is expecting a 4-H agent in late November. Dr. Matney will be planning the upcoming 4-H year with her. Because of these changes, it may be necessary to postpone the annual JML meeting. You will be kept informed of the date and time changes. After the end of September, any JML-related concerns, questions and planning need to be channeled through Casey Matney at the Extension office.

I want you all to know that it's been an honor and a privilege to serve and lead the JML Club this year after Jim's absence. Thank you to all who have supported and helped me.

— Written by Casey Loop, JML Club Leader

North Road Rangers

The club had a business meeting on Sept. 10. We made plans for the award ceremony. The award ceremony is Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. It will be at the North Peninsula Recreation Center. At the business meeting, we asked the club members and their families to make cupcakes for the ceremony. Our next club meeting will be Oct. 1 and we will plan for the upcoming year.



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This has been a fabulous year. This has been the first year I been actively involved in 4-H. I have met some amazing people, watched 4-H members grow and I am looking forward to the upcoming year. Thank you everyone for making this year fun, warming and incredible.

— *Final note from Toni Loop*

I want to thank everyone for their support and contribution to the Peninsula Pledger. We have been excited to be a part of bringing it back to the paper format. I specially want to thank the kids themselves who are fabulous writers. They continuously delight us with their photo-graphs and stories of learning, growing and making the best better!

— *Final note from Geri Litzen*