



CLOVER CONNECTION

Dear 4-H Families,

I've got 5 inches of fresh snow on the ground as I write this, and my sap buckets have nothing but ice in them. Hard to believe it is April! In this newsletter you will find information on some of the great events we've had over the long, long winter, as well as on some exciting upcoming events.

Planning is gearing up for summer events, like shooting sports, summer camp and outdoor adventures, so look for information as details and schedules drop into place.

Rainy spring days can make it tough to get our kids outdoors, but rain boots and a raincoat can open the door to lots of exploration. Local waterfalls make a great weekend destination during spring runoff, and roasting brats over the fire under an evaporation pan full

of Maple sap makes for a really nice afternoon. Rainy afternoons are also good ones for working on 4-H projects and planning gardens and summer adventures.

We have three excellent events coming up this month in the Dairy Breakfast, the spring food/cultural contests, and the Spring Getaway. We hope to see you there! Don't forget to encourage your fellow club members to participate, or extend an invitation to a new or prospective 4-H family. Events like these help build community, and build many of the developmental assets that the Search Institute has identified as crucial to young people's success (including positive relationships with mentors and role models, creative activities, self-esteem, high expectations, and service to others as a community resource). Perhaps most important of all, they are fun!

The Leader's Association invites each club to send a volunteer

representative to the 6pm meeting on May 7th for our annual training. We'll review the strategic plan from last year and progress on action items, do a bit of community mapping, and look at recruiting and retaining volunteers. All of this will happen over pizza and lots of opportunity to talk with your fellow 4-H volunteers. The state 4-H organization has asked each club to be represented at an annual gathering of volunteers, and this will fulfill that requirement and has proven over the years to be a really invigorating opportunity to share across the county programs.

Enjoy the coming changes in weather – they'll get here eventually.

Be well!

-Doug

4-H Calendar of Events

Monday, April 2—April 15

WI 4-H & Youth Conference Registration open in 4HOnline

Monday, April 2

4-H PLO Meeting, 6:30pm Ashland County Courthouse

Saturday, April 7

Dairy Breakfast, 8am-1pm Civic Center, Ashland

Wednesday, April 11

4-H Outdoor Adventure Club Waterfall Hike and Summer Planning session, 1:40pm-7:30pm

Teen Court

Sunday, April 15

Space Camp meeting in DeForest, WI, 1:30-4pm

Monday, April 16

4-H Senior Scholarships Due to Ashland UWEX office

Science Monday, April 16

“Sink Your Teeth Into it!” Explore the Science of Orthodontics. Meet at Dr. Lovlien’s Office located at 1419 Beaser Ave, Ashland, 3:30-5pm

Thursday, April 19

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Training at Ashland High School, 5:45-8:30pm

Spring Contests Pre-Registration deadline

Saturday, April 21

Spring Contests at NGLVC, registration 5pm then open mic and judging followed by dinner and awards

Monday, April 23

4-H CANSKI Executive Committee Meeting, Ashland County Courthouse 5pm

Thursday-Monday, April 26-30

Space Camp, Huntsville, Alabama

Saturday, April 28

Spring Getaway, Northland College, registration from 8:30-9am, activities 9am-12noon

April 2018

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May 2018

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June 2018

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Tuesday, May 1

Bad River Open House Odanah, 4:30pm

Monday, May 7

4-H PLO Meeting Annual Leader Training 6pm, Ashland County Courthouse

Monday, June 4

4-H PLO Meeting, 6:30pm, Ashland County Courthouse

Thursday, June 7

Market Sale 4-H Club Meeting 7pm

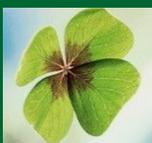
Monday-Thursday, June 25-28

WI 4-H & Youth Conference, Madison



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Spring Waterfall Hike ~ April 11

April 11th: Spring Waterfall Hike & Planning for Summer Activities with the Outdoor Adventure 4-H Club

The Outdoor Adventure 4-H Club invites all local youth middle-school aged or up, as well as interested parents/care-givers to join them for an early dismissal afternoon and evening waterfall hike. As part of this activity, we will also take time to identify and plan for some summer adventures.

4-H van transportation for the group will depart from the Ashland middle school at 1:40 p.m. and from the Ashland high school at 1:50 p.m. We will return to the middle school by 7:30 p.m.

Please wear shoes appropriate for hiking on rough trails and bring clothes appropriate for the weather. Snacks and a picnic supper will be provided.



Registration required, please call the Ashland County UW-Extension office at 715-682-7017 for this FREE event. Sponsored by Northland College's Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute.



4-H Survey

On behalf of the Ashland County 4-H Parent Leader Association, we invite all youth and adult friends of 4-H to participate in a brief survey regarding your personal interests and talents. The information you provide will help us plan for the future of our programming for youth in Ashland County. Your input is valuable to us!

<https://ashland.uwex.edu/2018/02/20/4-h-survey/>



Parents and guardians please give each child the opportunity to take this survey and if necessary walk through the four sections of the youth survey with them. Thank you.

If you have any questions or would prefer to complete the survey on paper instead, call our office at 715-682-7017. We will send you a copy in the mail. We appreciate your help!



Ashland Bay Area Civic Center

Saturday, April 7, 2018



Bay Area Farm & Garden Show And Dairy Breakfast

Dairy Breakfast

8 am to 12:30 pm

Adults - \$8 Children - \$4

MENU

"Wisconsin Scrambled Omelet"
(eggs, cheddar cheese, ham, onions & mushrooms)
Muffins ♦ Donuts ♦ Sliced Cheese
Milk ♦ Juice ♦ Coffee
Ice Cream Sundae!



Breakfast served by Bayfield County 4-H
Ashland County 4-H & Ashland FFA



Free Exhibit Area

(Open 8 am to 1 pm)

- ♦ Farm and Garden Related Businesses ♦ Country Crafters
- ♦ Conservation & Environmental Organizations/Agencies
- ♦ Educational Displays ♦ Ashland FFA "Small Animal Farm"

Much more ...

Sponsored by Ashland & Bayfield County 4-H, Ashland FFA,
Superior Shores Farm Bureau and Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board

*Photos are not the actual items, these are representative of some of the types of food that will be available.
An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.*

Spring Contests

WHEN: Saturday, April 21st, from 5-7:30pm

WHERE: Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland

Art: Fantastical Creatures

Food: Cupcake wars (kids) and Spud wars (adults)

Contest rules and more information coming soon. Evening will include open mic. Prizes will be given out! Youth awards by age group, and adult "bragging rights" award for spud wars. Pre-registration recommended by Thursday, April 19th.



Sign-up at the UW-Extension Ashland County Office:
(715) 682-7017.



Spring Getaway ~ Saturday, April 28, 2018

Registration 8:45 am; Event Time: 9:00 am – 12 noon

Cost: \$5 per person, includes a snack

Where: Northland College gym

Who: *all* Ashland & Bayfield County youth in 3rd-7th grade (invite your friends!)

Registration is required by Thursday, April 26th before 3pm:

contact the Ashland County UW-Extension Office, phone # 715-682-7017. First-come/first serve basis SPACE IS LIMITED!

Choose 2 workshops and pick one alternate.

- Archery
- Gnomes Craft Project
- Science
- Magic & Family Games
- Electricity
- Fun with Food
- Climbing Wall
- Self Defense
- Dog Sledding (tentatively)

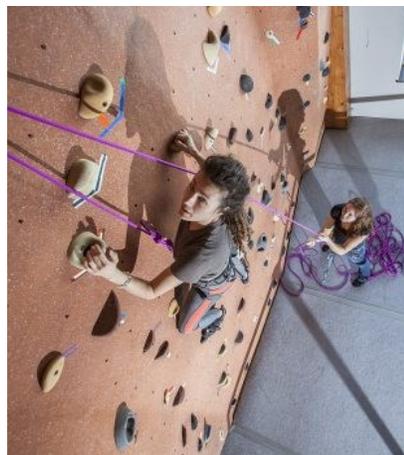
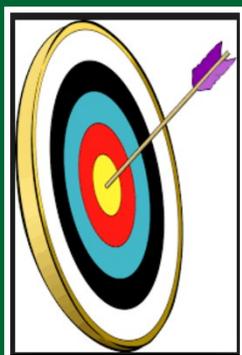


Photo credit: Northland College
website @hiredlens



The [Code of Conduct/ Health Form](#) needs to be filled out for each child, signed by parent/guardian and brought to the event. Forms will be available at registration at 8:45am day of the event and/or on our website: <https://ashland.uwex.edu/>

Hosted by Ashland County 4-H Teen Ambassadors & UW-Extension Ashland County.





Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) - April 19th

The Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program has moved from the MAQA (Meat Animal Quality Assurance) program to the National YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) program starting fall of 2017. For more information see <https://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/yqca/>.

The Ashland & Bayfield County 4-H and FFA will have their YQCA program at the Ashland High School on Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 5:45-8:30pm.



Topics this year include:

Animal Well-being

- Components of Feed
- Feed Tags
- Animal Handling

Food Safety

- Providing Quality Feed
- Storing and Handling Feed
- Water & Water Quality

Life Skills

- Youth Leadership & Service
- Being a role model
- Sharing the Story



Ashland County's 4-H Leaders Association

Senior Scholarships for 2018:

- Clearer Thinking Scholarship**
- Greater Loyalty Scholarship**
- Larger Service Scholarship**
- Better Living Scholarship**

4-H Seniors

To Ashland County 4-H High School Seniors - We wish you a fantastic spring as you finish up your Senior year and look toward the future!

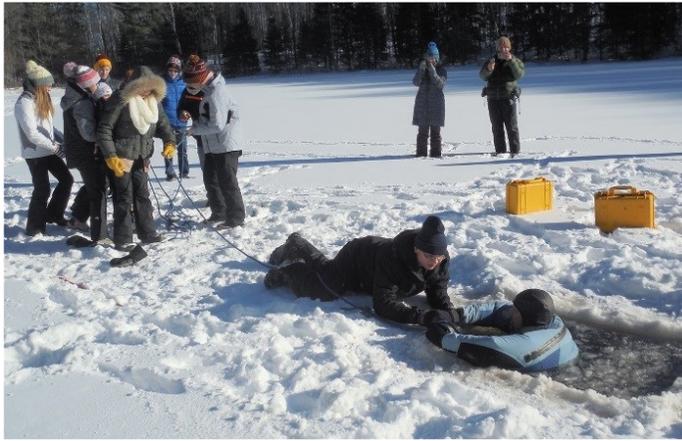
Name	Primary Club
Donny Ekholm	Kero Kampers
Emily Ekholm	Kero Kampers
Sophie Mattson	Brunswillow Busy Beavers
Justice Moore	Strategic Resource Interaction
Mia Nortunen	Brunswillow Busy Beavers
Brianna Oliphant	Brunswillow Busy Beavers
Alec Osmak	CANSKI-High School
Erik VanHorn	CANSKI-High School

The Ashland County 4-H Leaders Association offers four (4) scholarships to outstanding, graduating Ashland County 4-H members. All scholarships are competitive, non-renewable, and based on the applicant's qualifications, merit, and commitment to the values of 4-H. Seniors must have their completed application packet submitted to the Ashland County UW-Extension Office (201 W Main St, Courthouse Rm 107, Ashland) by **Monday, April 16, 2018**. Packets were mailed to eligible youth. Requirements and application form are available on our website: <https://ashland.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/forms/>.

Winter Camp

4-H Winter Camp

4-H Winter Camp was a great success with high school youth from a number of northern counties. This regional 4-H event took place at Camp Crosswoods in Delta in January. Doug helped organize and host winter camp again this year. Youth activities included ice rescue, winter tracking, thermal imaging, STEM, games, and group activities.



Ice Rescue—demonstration in action



Thermal Image of Ice Rescue



Taking photos of tracks in the snow



4-H Winter Camp Group Picture

"Hats Off!"

A Big THANKS to all of our leaders and volunteers including:



4-H CANSKI Volunteers for Book Across the Bay set-up & waxing service, and gear check-in!

4-H Winter Youth Archery: Jim Rau, & Mitch & Amy Tromberg.

Ashwabay Summit XC Race—Bakers, Registration and Course Volunteers:

Andrew MacGregor, Andy & David Wallis, Ann & Don Christenson & friends, Ann Kubik, Amy & Mitch Tromberg, Beth Reed, Betty Swiston, Caroline Ray, Christine Beeksma + friend, Dalt Collins, Dan Hinson, Darlene Neff, Dennis Liphart, Doug Liphart, Gerald Kubik, Ian Meeker, Ivy Berg, Jen Osmak, Kara Oikarinen, Katherine Hinson, Kathleen Russell, Kathy Wojciechowski, Kayla Lautenschlager, Krishna Paterson, Kristi Kiel, Lisa Weispfenning, Lori Schmidt, Maddy Blong, Maribeth & Gina Monroe, Mark Hart, Marty Cole, Marty Liphart, Matt & Sara Hudson, Megan Robertson, Melissa Fischbach, Molly MacGregor, N Vizanko, Patti Gilbertson, Paul Beeksma, Paul Houck, Phoebe Kebec, Richard Pufall, Rita Kovach, Sandy Pera, Sara Grande, Sheree Collins, Stephanie Bakker, Steve Vizanko, Tessa Levens & Mark Sherman, Tory Stroshane, and Tracy Snyder.



Aquarium Field Trip

On Saturday, January 27th, the Rezberries 4-H Club and the Brunswillow Busy Beavers 4-H Club checked into the Great Lakes Aquarium for a very fun and educational overnight. There were about 25 children and 10 adults who camped out in various places around the aquarium. It was great to have the place to ourselves.

The evening began with an up close and personal meet and greet with some nocturnal animals. We started with an African millipede that crawled around on our hands and arms. He had so many tiny feet, it felt like a soft brush moving across your skin when he walked. A few of us were a little squeamish and were happy to just look at it. Next up was Bob the python and then Snoops the skunk.



We weren't allowed to handle Bob and Snoops like we did the millipede. Emily, our aquarium host and educator, told us many facts and held them so we could pet them. Bob was smooth and Snoops was fluffy and cute. And yes, Snoops has had his stinker removed and Bob still likes to swallow things but he's very well fed, so we were never in any danger. Emily had our animal meet experiences in different locations around the aquarium, so we were able to explore and move around the exhibits as we went.



Next up was the sturgeon touch tank. Several giant sturgeon varieties, including the Lake Sturgeon and Shovelnose Sturgeon, swam around their tank and we were able to pet them as they went by. We're not sure if the sturgeon liked being petted, but they didn't seem to mind; so everyone was happy. The kids really enjoyed putting their hands in the water and getting bumped by a sturgeon.



Even though we had spent the whole evening together, not everybody knew each other. So after all the sturgeon excitement, we went upstairs for bedtime snack and getting to know you games. Emily had prepared cheese, sausage, crackers and fruit for us to enjoy. Then we played a silly game, which had everyone laughing. Kids and their parents from both clubs were separated into various teams based on age and random counting off. Every team had people from both clubs and various ages. It was a great opportunity for everyone to make new friends and get to know people better. Each team had to select one of its members to compete in little events which included things like: longest hair, smallest feet, widest big toe, best splits, longest stare in a staring contest, largest gum bubble, etc. Everyone had fun trying.



In order to settle down and get ready for bed, we read a few aquarium themed bedtime stories. It was a nice transition and most people were then ready to get some sleep. Our sleeping arrangements were amaz-

Club Reports

ing! We got to pick anywhere in the aquarium to sleep as long there was at least one grown up with a group of kids. Some people slept with a view of the Duluth harbor, others in the tree play area, inside little cubbies, near tanks of their favorite fish, one even slept in a bathtub, and another kid slept on a window ledge of the giant fish tank. It was a quiet night. We'd had a lot of fun and earned our rest.



The next morning, we ate breakfast and packed up our stuff. But before we left, we got to play one more game. We had a scavenger hunt! Kids went all over the aquarium searching for clues. Some folks just wanted to take more time exploring and playing in the aquarium. Doors opened to the public at 10am but we had permission to stay and enjoy the aquarium for as long as

we wanted to that day. It was such a fun experience. Everyone who went loved it, and we can't wait to go again next year!

Rezberries Crush-Crush Fundraiser

The Rezberries' 4-H Club Annual Crush-Crush Fundraiser was a huge success. For Valentine's Day, for \$1.00 students can send their crush, an orange crush pop; or their friend, a grape pop for being a "grape friend" with a note attached. We set up in the middle school during lunch hour. We sold and delivered over 300 orange and grape pops to AMS, AHS, LSE, MVS, and OLL. The kids did a great job managing the sales, getting the product ready, and then delivering all of the pops. There were some surprised and happy kids.



Vaughn Literacy Night

The Rezberries 4-H Club did a community service project on February 26 at the Vaughn Public Library. The event was promoting early literacy for 4K students by helping them learn more about what the library has to offer. Bella and Viddy put stickers in the kids' literacy passports when they came to their stations. While waiting for customers, they modeled good reading habits by quietly reading a book or doing homework. Sage, Grace and Emma modeled good library behavior by demonstrating different things little kids could do in the library like puzzles and picking out good books.





Area High School Students Participate in the 33rd Annual Superior Days in Madison

Ashland County Delegates were Bella Wabindato, Ella Syverson, Donny Ekholm and Emily Ekholm.



Ashland & Bayfield County Youth at Superior Days Prep Meeting



2018 4-H Summer Camp, July 6-8

Who: Youth in Grades 3rd-8th
Where: Camp Northwoods in Delta

Save the Date!

Registration forms and more info will be available in May/June. Counselor applications will be available in early April. If you were not a part of last year's staff and want an application, please contact Doug and we will mail you an application. If you are interested in helping out as a committee member or adult volunteer at camp, please let us know. Our first committee meeting will take place in May. We are always grateful when parents and community members volunteer to help make 4-H Camp one of the summer's highlights.



Cost for camp has not been finalized yet, but in the past has been \$65 for 4-H members and \$80 for non-4-H campers. This cost is substantially reduced by the financial support of the Bayfield County 4-H Leaders Association and the Ashland 4-H Parent Leaders Organization.



4-H Archery

Winter 4-H Youth Archery



We held a 7-week Winter 4-H Youth Archery series this February and March with beginner and intermediate level classes, both were full. Youth were excited to learn and have fun!

The classes are taught by certified instructors and all equipment is provided; however students are allowed to bring their own equipment if they choose.



These series are offered as a partnership between UWEX Ashland and Bayfield County 4-H & Youth Development, the Chequamegon Archery Club and Ashland Parks and Recreation. A big thank-you also goes out to the Ashland Elks Lodge 137 for their support of the archery programs.



If you are interested in future archery class opportunities, upcoming events include: Spring Getaway, the Summer Youth Archery Series (July-August), and 4-H Summer Camp. For more information contact the UW-Extension Ashland County office at (715) 682-7017.



4-H Insurance Policy

Each year, Ashland County takes out an insurance policy with American Income Life that provides accident insurance for all 4-H members while participating in a scheduled 4-H club or project meeting.

What is the coverage provided by this insurance? The American Income Life Policy provides up to \$2,500 for any injury that is sustained during a 4-H program. If an injury takes place during a 4-H event, you should immediately contact the 4-H office and provide the necessary information to submit a claim.

Am I covered under this policy if I am a 4-H Leader? Only 4-H Leader's who have requested to be included by the accident insurance policy and paid \$1.00 are covered. If you would like to receive this coverage or double check that you requested accident insurance, call the UW-Extension Office.

Are there any 4-H events or injuries that are not covered? This policy does not cover illness, eyeglass replacement, suicide, aviation accidents, hernia in any form, loss covered under Medicare, injuries sustained while downhill skiing, tobogganing, bobsledding, or snow tubing.

If we are planning to downhill ski or a sledding event, how can we get insurance coverage? American Income life provides a group insurance policy that can be taken out prior to this event. This policy MUST be taken out prior to a 4-H sponsored event or club activity. Specifically, these activities are: downhill skiing, tobogganing, sledding or tubing.

Can we get insurance for a 4-H event for the community? A group policy can also be taken out to provide insurance 4-H leaders and parents who are participating in a recognized 4-H event. To apply for this additional 4-H event coverage, you can call the Extension Office.

Is there any liability insurance for 4-H leaders? All certified 4-H leaders are covered by a \$10,000,000 Ashland County's Mutual Liability Insurance Policy.

If you have any questions about 4-H insurance, please call the Ashland County UW-Extension Office at 715-682-7017.



WI 4-H & Youth Conference

June 25-28, 2018 on the UW-Madison Campus

About 500 youth attend this educational event in Madison each summer. Participants take part in educational seminars and meet people from across WI. They are encouraged to take what they learn and share it with others in their home community.

Qualifications: Be in 7th-10th grade; be a 4-H member; and carry county approval through time of award trip. **Cost:** The registration cost for Wisconsin 4 H & Youth Conference is anticipated at \$250.

Enrollment: Enrollment is through 4-H Online. Registration will be open from April 2nd to April 15th. Seminars are on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information see their website: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4hedopp/wisconsin-4-h-youth-conference/>.





4-H CANSKI Racing Team

4-H CANSKI



A partnership between Ashland and Bayfield County 4-H, local schools, BART, and the Ashwabay Outdoor Education Foundation

www.4hcanski.org



4-H CANSKI wrapped up a great season! Here are just a few photos from this year, to see more check out the Facebook Page.



4-H CANSKI Group Picture at the Year End Shin-dig



4-H CANSKI Elementary youth enjoying the snow!

4-H CANSKI MISSION:

To promote FUN, fitness, excellence, and safety in the lifelong sport of cross-country skiing. 4-H CANSKI provides on-going instruction, social ski opportunities and leadership development for skiers of all levels.



Ashland County 4-H Leaders
Meeting Minutes

MARCH 5, 2018 AT 6:30 PM / ASHLAND COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Roll Call: Pam Ekholm, Liz Wabindato, Elissa Riemer, Gina Pearce, Jennifer Nortunen, and Doug Liphart

Secretaries Report: None submitted

Treasurer's Report: Checking-\$6,547.63 Savings-\$112.44 CD-\$5,540.53

Old Business:

SUPERIOR DAYS: Doug reviewed. Ashland County was well represented by three 4-H members, one Teen Court member and two International Students. They received a private tour of the Capitol by Janet Bewley. The group also toured the U.W. Madison Research Park.

*Leaders Association will give a scholarship for Superior Days in the amount of \$250 . (covers 2 attendees). Motion by Liz / 2nd Gina

DAIRY BREAKFAST: Reminder the event is April 7th.

Schedule: 7:00 am – 8:30 am Kero Kampers & Rezberries

8:30 am – 10:30 am Market Sale

10:30 am – 12:30 pm Brunswillow Busy Beavers

4-H CANSKI: End of Season. Doug reported 90-100 participants at event.

Terrific season. Each age group has nice participation numbers.

\$850 made at waxing fundraiser for Book Across the Bay (BATB).

CANSKI puts in many hours of community service and mentoring.

New Business:

County Events Committee:

Spring Contest: April 21st, 2018. Committee will meet on 3/19 to discuss further.

Spring Getaway: April 28th, 2018. Committee met and has a good start on the stations offered.

Future of 4-H Committee:

Did not meet. 4-H Senior Scholarship requirements/applications were shared with PLO. *Forms were accepted. Motion by Gina / 2nd Pam

Added Agenda Items:

*Pearce Peppers grant for Relay for Life. \$150.00. Motion by Pam / 2nd Liz

*Birkie - Grant was secured by Doug for new adjustable ski poles for Marengo Valley School.

*March Newsletter needs club photos and articles. Please get those to Amy ASAP.

Next Meeting - April 2nd at 6:30 pm in Ashland



Ashland County 4-H Leaders — Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2018 at 6:30 pm / Ashland County Court House

Roll Call: Gina Pearce, Elissa Reimer, Doug Liphart, and Jennifer Nortunen

Secretaries Report: Secretary report submitted online.

Treasurer's Report: checking account \$6087.72, savings \$112.47, and cd \$5540.53



Old Business:

- *Reminder:* Dairy Breakfast on Saturday, April 7th at the Bay Area Civic Center
- *Reminder:* 4-H Senior Scholarships are due April 16th

New Business:

- Waterfall Hike & Planning Summer Outdoor Adventure Activities (Middle school & up) Wednesday, April 11 from 1:40 pm - 7:30 pm (picnic supper included)
- Spring Contests: Saturday, April 21 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
 - o 5-7:30 pm ~ Prizes will be given out! Youth awards by age group.
 - o Food Contests: Cupcake wars for kids. Kids awards will be one for design and one for taste, bring at least ½ dozen cupcakes. Spud wars (potatoes) for adults award will be Peoples Choice, bring enough for about 12 people. Rules will be coming out soon.
 - o Art Contest: Fantastical Creatures (from Unicorns to monsters). Different media will be accepted, paint, draw, paper Mache.
- Spring Getaway: Saturday, April 28th at Northland College Gym from 9 am to Noon
 - o Sign-up at the UW-Extension Ashland County Office: (715) 682-7017. Open to youth in grades 3rd -7th.
 - o 4-H Ambassadors (8th-12th grade) help out with running activities.
 - o About 8 activities confirmed including the Climbing wall.
- Annual 4-H Leader Training: May 7th at 6pm at the Ashland County Court-house. We will be revisiting the strategic plans, pizza will be served.
- 4-H Summer Camp – July 6th – 8th at Camp Northwoods, Delta, WI for grades 3rd - 8th
 - o Camp Counselor Applications due in April, available soon.

Added Agenda Items:

- The newsletter will be coming out soon.
- MAQA April 19th 5:30 Ashland High School

NEXT MEETING MAY 7TH at 6:00pm Ashland, Leaders Training



Ashland County 4-H Youth Delegates Serve at the Superior Days Legislative Forum

Though lobbying legislators is an everyday occurrence in Madison, it's usually a job done by adults, not teenagers. On February 20th, fifteen high school students from Ashland and Bayfield Counties travelled to the capital to advocate for northwestern Wisconsin at Superior Days. Each student was part of a lobby team with three other adults, and was responsible for learning about and presenting a non-partisan legislative issue of interest to Northwest Wisconsin to a senator, a representative, or their staffers. Doug Liphart, Ashland County UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Educator, coordinated and trained the Ashland County Youth Delegates.

Superior Days is a grass-roots lobbying effort driven by citizens of Northwestern Wisconsin. Students, business representatives, and other residents of the area group together and make the trip down to Madison in order to present the issues that most affect our area. The four legislative issues selected this year were increasing the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for county forest lands, creating an exposition district in Superior to support economic development, increasing Medicaid reimbursement in nursing homes, and providing local regulatory authority to protect water resources.

Superior Days began back in 1985-86 by residents of mostly Douglas County, but through the years the effort was expanded to also include Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron County as well. Since the beginning of Superior Days 33 years ago there have been a great number of improvements that have been made to our corner of the state.

Positive changes made by Superior Days have been the creation of a veteran's outpatient clinic in 1986, increasing the enrollment cap at UW-Superior in 1993, the expansion of US Highway 53, and creation of the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in 1995. More recent developments include wetland mapping of Douglas County in 2013 and increased Medicaid rates for outpatient mental health and substance disorder services in 2017.

In addition to lobbying legislators, the Bayfield and Ashland County youth delegations also enjoyed a tour of the UW Research Park, a tour of the Capital from Senator Janet Bewley, a federal update from Senator Baldwin's outreach staff (she couldn't make it due to weather), and a Youth Banquet with a presentation on fake news and the media by Dr. Michael Wagner. "My favorite part was being able to listen to the sessions of topics related to politics; such as Dr. Wagner talking about Fake News," says Bella Wabindato, a high school junior from Ashland.

Superior Days is a way for young people to get their concerns heard, and influence the lawmaking that will shape their lives as adults. "We may not have a vote, but we still have a voice," says Ella Syverson, a high school sophomore from Ashland.

Five of the students in the Ashland and Bayfield County youth delegations were foreign exchange students. "I really loved that we got to meet other people and speak for our community's issues. It was a big thing to accomplish - we learned a lot about the government and many other things," says Hawa Bah, an exchange student from Mali.

Superior Days provides a unique and engaging experience for students to learn about how their government works, by actually participating in it. It's a chance for local youth to represent our communities and present our shared concerns with the Wisconsin legislators. It's an opportunity to bring together a representative group of people from our region to lobby for our needs, as mayors, county and town board members, business leaders, and youth (including three 4-H Ambassadors from Ashland County).

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