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Blaine County 4-H Members Attend West District Leadership Conference

Two Blaine County 4-H members, Avery and Emery Fisher, recently attended the West District 4-H Leadership Conference, held under the theme "Beyond Ready." The three-day event was filled with engaging workshops, officer elections, and fun evening dances — all designed to help youth build leadership skills and connect with fellow 4-H members from across the district.

This year's conference was especially meaningful for Avery, as it marked the end of her term as a West District Officer and her final leadership conference as a 4-H member. Avery has served with dedication and enthusiasm, and we're proud of the leadership she's shown throughout her time in office.

For Emery, this was her first leadership conference — and hopefully the first of many! She jumped right in, participating in workshops and activities that helped her grow as a young leader and make new friends.

We're proud of both Avery and Emery for representing Blaine County 4-H so well and look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and inspire others in our community.



Oklahoma 4-H Foundation helps members become Beyond Ready

The Oklahoma 4-H Foundation is part of the National 4-H Council's nationwide initiative called Beyond Ready, which is designed to equip 4-H'ers with necessary life skills and expand scholarship opportunities, while also enhancing learning opportunities for volunteer leaders.

This ambitious, multi-year fundraising effort commenced in July 2024 and is scheduled to conclude in December 2030. Oklahoma's goal is to raise \$3.25 million, said Milford Jenkins, Oklahoma 4-H Foundation executive director. All funds raised will support the Oklahoma 4-H Development program.

"Money raised in the Beyond Ready campaign is an investment in the future of Oklahoma," Jenkins said. "Funds are used to provide educational and leadership opportunities for club members. Donations will also be used for continuing education and training for volunteer leaders, as well as for programming at the local, county, district and state levels. As of June 2025, we have raised \$912,899. This is a major investment in the next generation of Oklahomans."

In conjunction with the Beyond Ready fundraising goal, the 4-H Foundation is also committed to raising \$100,000 in unrestricted gifts by the end of 2025. Successful completion of this goal will result in an additional \$20,000 gift of unrestricted funds from a generous anonymous donor.

"All funds raised in this \$100,000 campaign will count toward our \$3.25 million goal in the Beyond Ready campaign," Jenkins said. "Unrestricted gifts allow the 4-H Foundation to put money where it is needed most. These dollars are an investment in our 4-H youth and volunteers, as well as the 4-H program overall, including events, activities and operations."

At the 2025 State 4-H Roundup, the 4-H Foundation presented well-deserving club members with \$200,600 in scholarships. These scholarships have a profound impact on the recipients.

Former 4-H'er Abby Logan is a junior at OSU majoring in natural resource ecology and management with a focus in range ecology and management. She said she has been fortunate to receive scholarships through the Oklahoma 4-H program.

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4-H News

Oklahoma 4-H Foundation helps members become Beyond Ready, cont.

"The scholarships have had a profoundly positive impact on my college education by allowing me to focus more on my academics and professional development, rather than working long hours to cover tuition," she said. "As someone who is independently funding my education, managing college expenses can be a major cause of stress, but these scholarships have eased that burden."

Logan said she wouldn't be where she is today without the generosity of the gracious donors to the 4-H Foundation.

"Because of their generosity, students like me have the opportunity to focus on our education and gain valuable experiences that will help prepare us for our future careers," she said. "Their contributions have and will continue to make a lasting impact, and we're forever grateful for all they do."

Donors who have a specific purpose in mind are also encouraged to donate, with the funds earmarked for their chosen cause. Those funds can be directed to a specific project area, event or club, and can also be used to purchase supplies, kits and equipment.

Businesses, groups, and individuals seeking opportunities for tax-deductible donations are encouraged to consider the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation.

Giving charitable cash gifts to support 4-H youth is easy. Simply write a check payable to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation and mail it to the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation, 293 Agricultural Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078; visit the Foundation's website at oklahoma4hfoundation.com and click the Donate button; or contact Jenkins at 405-744-5390 or milford.jenkins@okstate.edu.

"The success of these fundraisers begins with a gift – no matter the size," Jenkins said. "The difference it makes in the lives of 4-H youth and the 4-H program is immeasurable. Considering being a part of something that will make our club members Beyond Ready for what the future holds." To learn about Beyond Ready, visit the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation website.

November Mental Health Moment



When things aren't going well, it is easy to get stuck thinking about the negatives. Gratitude is a skill that can help you break out of those negative thinking traps. Gratitude is when you feel thankful for the good things in your life. It is when you notice and appreciate those things on purpose by focusing on what you do have instead of what you do not. Science says that people who practice gratitude build better friendships, have less stress and are better able to overcome challenges. Practicing gratitude can even lead to more caring actions. Challenge yourself to find new ways to practice being grateful during this holiday season.

- -Practice noticing the positives in your life as they happen
- -Write three things every day that you are thankful for (try to make them three different things and see how long you can go before you have to repeat something)
- -Write a heartfelt thank-you note or letter to someone you are grateful for, expressing why you are thankful to them.
- -Play the Gratitude ABC game; try to think of something you are grateful for, using each letter of the alphabet.



Hello Blaine County!

My name is Ally Nix, and I'm excited to introduce myself as your new Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Extension Educator. I officially began my role with OSU Extension on September 30th, and I'm thrilled to be serving the community I've always called home.

I was born and raised right here in Blaine County, and I currently reside in Canton, Oklahoma. With a degree in Health Science, I have a deep passion for nutrition and health, but what truly brings me the most joy is helping others and making a positive impact in people's lives.

Though I'm new to the educator role, I'm adjusting well and eager to become even more immersed in our community. I look forward to engaging with families, youth, and local organizations through meaningful programs that support well-being, learning, and growth.

Thank you for welcoming me—I can't wait to work alongside you and help make Blaine County an even stronger, healthier place to live!

Warmly,

Ally Nix

Blaine County FCS/4-H Extension Educator

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November 11: Veterans Day -Blaine County Extension Office & County Courthouse Closed

November 22: STEM for Y'all Conference

November 25: Winter Shoot (West District Event)

November 27 and 28: Thanksgiving Holidays -Blaine County Extension Office & County Courthouse Closed

November 28: National 4-H Congress (Atlanta, GA)

December 3: Wheat Show Banquet (State Event)

December 6: Air Rifle and Air Pistol Contest (State Event)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact Hagen Puentes, OSU Extension Ag Educator, at (580) 623-5195 or hagen.puentes@okstate.edu at least two weeks prior to the event.

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