Summer is here and it’s time for some fun!! Madison County 4-H’s will be heading to Swannanoa 4-H Camp this summer for 4-H Junior Camp from July 5-10.

Traditional Camp activities at Swannanoa include swimming, archery, craft, environmental exploration, teambuilding, games and other exciting opportunities depending on the group. There are a variety of Evening Programs and may consist of Talent Show, All Camp Games, Campfires, Award Ceremony, Dance and more!

Are you interested in joining us? Please contact Eve Kindley at 649-2411 to find out how to reserve your spot at camp today!

4-H Camp at Swannanoa

4-H Presentation & County Activity Night

What is a presentation? It’s like show and tell with posters! Pick a fun topic, learn more about it, add posters and share with others! It’s a great way to learn more about public speaking and how to organize our thoughts. Plus you can earn rewards because it’s a competition!

Presentations involve sharing information about a topic, using posters, visuals and an oral presentation lasting from 5-12 minutes. County presentation winners who are 9 and older have the opportunity to advance to district, state and sometimes national presentation contests.

Madison County Activity Night will be held at the Extension Office on Thursday, May 28 from 6-8pm. All 4-Her’s are encouraged to create a presentation or share a talent that evening! Please register by May 14.
Springtime has been filled with lots of adventure here in Madison County! **Eleven 2nd grade classes** have been learning about the life cycle of chickens through our **4-H Embryology School Enrichment program**. Our first round began before spring break at **Hot Springs, Laurel, and Brush Creek Elementaries**. Currently we are in **Mars Hill Elementary** with this program. The students are excited about the upcoming hatch!

**Fifth grade** teachers at **Mars Hill & Hot Springs Elementaries** are diving into our **Eco-Wonders 4-H Curriculum** this spring. Students will use the scientific method to investigate what plants need, how the four elements of life interact, describe the food chain, measure the weather and learn how to clean an oil spill, plus several bird & animal related activities.

The **fourth grade** class at **Hot Springs Elementary** has been busy with our **Magic of Electricity 4-H Curriculum**. Students are learning about electric circuits, magnetism, motors, and electronics. We are very excited to be working with the students and the teaching staff of Madison County Public Schools through 4-H School Enrichment.

**ARI: Application, Resume, Interview**

“**WHAT IS ARI?** ARI also known as Application, Resume, Interview is a 3-step process by which youth are chosen to attend National events such as National Congress, National Conference, and International Leadership Conference. All applications are must be **postmarked by May 15** unless that date is a weekend then they are due on the following Monday. If they are being hand delivered, they must be in the office by 4:30 on the same day.

**WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?** Any youth ages 14-18. Age is determined by age as of January 1 of the current year.

**TESTIMONIALS FROM 4-H’ers:** ‘Not only did ARI give me the chance to travel to fun places and meet lifelong friends, it also gave me the chance to participate in the process of filling out an application, making a resume, and participating in an interview. All three of these things have proved very useful as I have aged out of 4-H’

-- Sarah Hardison - Harnett County 4-H, Current 4-H Agent in Chatham County” (from www.nc4h.org)
Teen Retreat 2009

Teen retreat was an absolute blast this year! There were 5 participants from Madison County. There were some really neat programs like: team building, going green, life skills, internet safety, and a special driving safety program for the older teens.

Also instead of a dance on Friday night, there was a centennial celebration carnival celebrating the 100 years of 4-H in North Carolina, which was a whole lot of fun. After all of the programs and such on Saturday afternoon all of the 4-Her’s went to Fun Depot.

We would like to say a special thanks to the Madison County Extension for the scholarship to attend this year’s teen retreat and thank you to all of the district officers and volunteers that helped make teen retreat so much fun.

Respectfully submitted by, Brianna & Grace Mickey
Spring is here and the birds are chirping! Here’s an idea for creating a quick, attractive birdbath for your yard. It’s easy to make and the birds will love their new watering hole!!

"5-Minute Birdbath: Create a splash with this easy-to-make birdbath. Birds will flock to this attractive birdbath.

Overturn two different sizes of terra-cotta pots, stacking them in the garden. (A 12-inch pot atop a 16-inch pot works well.) Set saucer atop containers. Fill the basin with water to attract birds.

(From Country Gardens Magazine, http://www.bhg.com/crafts/nature/birdhouses-baths/5-minute-birdbath/)

4 the Earth: Backyard Habitat Hint

Mother's Day Crossword

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MOM
Mountain Laurel 4-H Club: The last meeting of the Mountain Laurel 4-H Club was held on March 23rd. Fourteen people attended the meeting. The pledges were led by Lucas and Case Cody. The Officers Ceremony took place and the new officers got to lead the club meeting. Sierra Kindley shared one of her projects. The 5-8 year olds did recycle art with Marsha Boyd while the 9-18 year olds did team building games with Jacob Wallin. Refreshments were provided by Sarah Cody and Dianne Tolman. At the next meeting, April 27th, the 5-8 year olds will be doing pet care with Jenny Miller and the 9-18 year olds will be learning about exotic animals with Sue Mickey and Linda Rice.

Submitted By: Case Cody, Reporter

The Wildcats 4-H clogging club: Our club continues to meet on Tuesday’s from 4:30 to 6pm weekly during the college school year at Mars Hill College. We also meet irregularly during college breaks, holidays and the summer.

Presently we are working on several routines that are new and updating some that are old in order to put together a large program for some important performances that are scheduled in May.

Did you get a chance to see the BMC spring concert this year? It was really great. Congratulations to Sylas Owen who participated in many of the dances for BMC.

One of our instructors, Miranda Hucks will be graduating this year from MHC. We wish her the very best! Nena Bryant will continue to be our volunteer instructor; as well as, some help from Blake Sanders in the fall.

One of our Jr. Leaders will also be leaving. Christopher Mackey will be graduating from MHS and we wish him the very best as well. On that note, our club will be open to accepting new members. The present members have been clogging together for many years and it will be important that interested new members have advanced clogging skills. Please call the volunteer leader, Sue Mickey (828) 689-4812, or e-mail abcfarmandschool@juno.com for more information.

Respectfully Submitted, Grace Mickey

The Wildcats 4-H Clogging Club Service Project Report:

Our club has decided to participate in the American Cancer Society’s signature event, Relay for Life. Our team, the “Wildcats” will be participating in the event as individuals and as a team.

As a team we will be performing several benefit programs throughout May where all proceeds and donations will go directly to Relay for Life. We will also be performing at the survivors dinner/opening ceremonies; as well as, walk the relay throughout the night. As individuals we are collecting donations with our team goal as $1,000 to support Relay for Life. Relay dollars support a number of things: cancer research, cancer educations/information, cancer advocacy, wigs and prosthesis, networking, Hope Lodges, and college scholarships to name a few. If you would like to support this event either through donation and/or participation and/or joining our team there is much you can do. Please contact Sue or Brianna Mickey @ 828-689-4812 or e-mail abcfarmandschool@juno.com

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life: www.cancer.org or www.relayforlife.org or 1-800-ACS-2345 or Madison County’s Relay for Life chairperson, Chris Rice 828-206-0696 or e-mail chris@newsrecordandsentinal.com. If you choose to send a monetary donation, please make your check out to: “AmericanCancerSociety/Relay for Life” and if you wish to credit our “Wildcats” team goal note that with your check. Thank you in advance for your support!

Respectfully submitted, Brianna Mickey, Assistant Jr. Leader

Wildcats 4-H Clogging Club, Relay for Life team captain, “Wildcats”, Cancer Survivor

P.S. No donation is too small- every penny counts!

4-H Roots and Shoots Club: On Monday of Spring break, our club, Madison 4-H Roots and Shoots, went out to volunteer at Energy Xchange in Burnsville. We weeded greenhouses and filled pots with potting soil. If you ever want to volunteer, this is a good place to go because not only do you get to work, you get to learn a lot too. Our club had its monthly meeting for April out there at Energy Xchange after working. This way, we saved gas and money and time. We are all looking forward to our many upcoming service projects.

Submitted by: Indigo Hollister, Secretary
May 2009

3  West District Horse Show, Western NC Ag. Center, Arden, NC
10 Mother’s Day
15 ARI Applications due (Raleigh)
22 4-H Mini Gardens Established
25 Holiday, Cooperative Extension Office Closed (Memorial Day)
26 CES Low Impact Living: Growing a Vegetable Garden (1pm-2:30pm &
   6pm-7:30pm), Free, registration required 1 week prior to class.
28 County Activity Night, Ext. Office, 6-8pm, register by May 14

We’re on the Web!
http://madison.ces.ncsu.edu/

Eve Kindley
Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development

Vickie Burick
Program Associate
4-H Youth Development

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