



# Clover Corner

Holmes County 4-H News and Commentary

By Betsy Padgett

Holmes County 4-H received news on May 27, that two of our own outstanding youth have been selected for Mississippi State Extension’s prestigious 2020 Rural Medical and Science Scholars Program. These youth, Breann Bell and Calvin Head, made application for this program earlier in the spring and will join 23 other students from across the state in this month-long program during the month of June.

Due to the pandemic, the program which here-to-fore brought the students to MSU’s campus for the training, has been re-invented as a virtual/online experience for this summer. Dr. Mary Nelson Robertson will be teaching the Introduction to Health Professionals course with Dr. David Buys teaching Applied Public Health Sciences course. Included will be guest lecturers/faculty bringing information for interactive and didactic learning. This continues to be a wonderful opportunity for high school students that have just completed their junior year and plan to pursue a medical career. Congratulations, to Breann and Calvin.

Our 4-H Horse Shows for summer 2020 were first postponed, then canceled, much to this staff’s dismay. It had been a highlight for the summers getting to assist with the 4-H Horse Shows and see our youth excel in numerous ways with their horses. (This writer is still reeling from the blow.)

Thanks goes out to our

Ag Commissioner who is encouraging and working for other horse shows this summer at the Equine Expo Center in Jackson. I am hoping that our youth will participate in those and do well. I did hear from Cin’Kyra’s dad that in her first show several weeks ago she won; so, hopefully, we will hear the same from others that have 4-H’ed with us.

We received news last week that our Club Congress event will last over the entire month of July. Details have not been released so I have NO idea how that will work; though, it will be virtual and online. Neshoba County Fair also has sent out their livestock show schedule, so livestock shows are being planned and are expected to go on as before. (The difference with livestock shows is that they are conducted in open-air facilities and we can make sure social distancing is adhered to if necessary.)

Maybe this will indicate there is a light at the end of this dark tunnel that has been our new reality. Project Achievement Day is also in the planning for junior 4-H’ers – when I know more we will share information. And, Tara and I hope to figure out some time or way to have a summer cookout contest that our bosses will sanction and give our youth an opportunity to be socially distanced together.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank those who have participated in our 4-H videos on Facebook the past several weeks. If you missed them and have Facebook,

# Poison ivy can get blisters; Spanish moss, my next life

This week’s emails included some real doozies, from an unusual problem with poison ivy and what kind of plant do I want to reincarnate as, to whatever it is that Imogene Fitch wants me to do.

Though most unsolicited emails go directly to the spam folder, a few legit-looking ones still get through. My fav was “Do, or undulate” from Imogene Fitch. Never heard of Imogene, and I don’t understand, much less know how - or what - to undulate. I hope it was spam, cause it was promptly deleted, unopened.

Most of the truly bogus are pretty straightforward; I’m not certain why a lot of folks apparently think I suffer from various dysfunctions or have a few thousand dollars to send them out of the goodness of my heart. These messages, however, were alluring: “Why be an average guy any longer” when “there are loads of medications available” and “my loan has been approved.”

Others are less comprehensible. The subject line of one just said “Revelation,

go to Holmes County 4-H and enjoy what some of our youth have to say. You can hopefully, also keep up with more of the “goings-on” here so tune-in, please.

Just know, a spring then summer without 4-H after 20 years, may just be too much for me. Virtual is a poor substitute for a real people/kid person like me. I miss you all!!!!



FELDER RUSHING

and Abram had ought ye that gave Joshua read.” Another was “Have metamorphic by cerebellum.” Oh, and the ubiquitous “Failure Notice.” Um, failure of what?

I wish I could make up stuff like that. But the truth is, some genuine ones seem squirrely, so I occasionally check my automatically deleted ones to make sure that I don’t pass over legitimate messages from folks I actually know.

Some authentic garden-related ones have off-putting subject lines. Examples I’ve gotten that on the first read appear to be horticultural spam include “Plant database work” from a bona fide horticulture project I’m assisting with; “Greetings from the cold hole of Willow” was a Alaskan garden journalist friend sharing photos of his designer outhouse; “Summer chocolate mimosa” was an advert for a burgundy-leaf mimosa; and “New Hooters Calendar” came from an owl-loving friend in Oklahoma.

Some I have deleted unread that could have been real garden notes. “Your Test Results” could be from a soil sample I sent off. “Grow Bigger, Faster” might have been offering a new shade tree. “Wow Your Loved One” may be for an alluring shrub rose. “Act Now Before It’s Too Late” for treating squash vine borers? “Why Wait” to make compost and “Don’t Lose Your Chance” to plant summer vegetables.



Poison ivy with poison ivy blisters

But some are actually thought provoking. I had to do some research on the one about poison ivy with pink blisters on the leaves; I’d seen it myself, but hadn’t given it much thought. The bumps and blisters are caused by a tiny egg-laying mite, which isn’t a problem overall to the native with beautiful fall colors, but I’m glad to know that the pesky vine can get what it gives... Wonder if there’s a Calamine lotion for plants?

Finally, not that I buy into or ponder the possibility, but kind of plant would I want to come back as was worth a thought. Rather than go with something large and stately that lives for centuries such as oak, magnolia, or bald cypress, and end up with bee-

tles under my bark or owls in my trunk, or a noxious weed that no one can get rid of (tempting), I think I’d like to be Spanish moss, which is native, spreads faster than it dies, makes hummingbird nests, and goes with blue jeans.

My shoulder-length gray hair is actually looking like it anyway.

Just like with Imogene Finch and her undulations, and real horticultural advice, for that matter, I gotta pick through what’s real, and what’s not.

And hope if I somehow come back as poison ivy, it won’t be with a rash.

*Felder Rushing is a Mississippi author, columnist, and host of the “Gestalt Gardener” on MPB Think Radio. Email gardening questions to [rushingfelder@yahoo.com](mailto:rushingfelder@yahoo.com).*



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# Central Holmes students named for top grade averages



**BRAYDEN LANGFORD**  
HIGHEST 1ST GRADE AVERAGE  
SON OF JUSTIN AND ALLISON LANGFORD



**CHANCE LANGFORD**  
HIGHEST 2ND GRADE AVERAGE  
SON OF JUSTIN AND ALLISON LANGFORD



**LAUREN WALBERT**  
HIGHEST 3RD GRADE AVERAGE  
DAUGHTER OF JOEY AND TAMARA WALBERT



**SKYLAR ASHLEY**  
HIGHEST 4TH GRADE AVERAGE AND HIGHEST AVERAGE 4TH - 6TH GRADES  
DAUGHTER OF DANIEL AND KRYSTAL ASHLEY




**LYDIA KILLEBREW**  
HIGHEST 5TH GRADE AVERAGE  
DAUGHTER OF BRIAN KILLEBREW AND JILL KILLEBREW



**HALLIE FANCHER**  
HIGHEST READING, ENGLISH, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES AND BIBLE AVERAGES  
DAUGHTER OF MICHAEL AND MERIDETH FANCHER

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