

HECTOR CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Monday, February 17, 2025, at 6:30pm
Hector City Hall

Meeting called to order by/time: Mayor Randy Smith at 6:30pm

Council Members:	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Present / Absent</u>
	Alderman 1	Mike Geurian	Present
	Alderman 2	John Mosley	Present
	Alderman 3	Peggy Gregory	Present
	Alderman 4	Phillip D'Amato	Present
	Alderman 5	Hannah D'Amato	Present

Attorney: Clay McCall Present

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting opened with prayer by: Peggy Gregory

01-20-25 Council Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Accepted Motion made by: Peggy Gregory
 Motion 2nd by: Hannah D'Amato
 Vote: Passed 100% (5/5)

January 2025 Financial Report: Reviewed & Accepted Motion made by: Peggy Gregory
 Motion 2nd by: Hannah D'Amato
 Vote: Passed 100% (5/5)

Council member Hannah D'Amato asked to amend the 1/20/25 meeting minutes to show where she attempted to make a motion for the agenda to appoint Peggy Gregory as the Pro Tempore Mayor and was told we would not be proceeding in that manner and was denied a motion.

NOTE: reviewed recorded meeting minutes: Council member Peggy Gregory made a motion to have Amy Manson to take minutes for the 1/20/25 meeting, Council member Hannah D'Amato interrupted and stated the Arkansas Legislative Audit was wanting the minutes from the meeting and discussed if Council member John Mosley or Peggy Gregory wanted to lead the meeting until new mayor was appointed, so Sandra Barton could go back to taking minutes due to the request from legislative audit. Council member Peggy Gregory or John Mosley or any other council member did not state they wanted to lead the meeting. Consulted with the city attorney, if motion needed for Amy Manson to take minutes, the city attorney stated that Sandra Barton could assign someone to take meeting minutes due to her normal job function as being the recorder.

Council member Hannah D'Amato also asked for the 1/20/25 meeting minutes to be amended of when during the discussion on the fire department she made a request to amend the agenda to include items for the fire department and was not allowed. Clarification: This request was made prior to the meeting but no request or motion was made during the meeting for the agenda to be amended by any council member or the fire chief at that time during his fire department report.

Council member Hannah D'Amato asked if additional information could be added to the financial report and if the police department and fire department are all under general. Yes, the police department, fire department and city expenditures and revenues are all accounted for under the general account. The financial report is given to council members to review and approve with required information per Arkansas code. All invoices that are reflected in the financial reports are reviewed and approved by each council member at each regular scheduled council meeting. The council member is asking for a breakdown of checks, Sandra Barton stated that the bank statements could be available at each council meeting if needed.

NOTE: after review of recorded minutes added additional clarification notes. See updated 1/20/25 minutes. See Exhibit A

Police Department Report: Chief Phillip Hubbard Present

- Final internal investigations into the fire station incident were sent to prosecutors and detectives working on the case. When the prosecutor is finished with it and is okay with it then as far as Chief Hubbard is concerned if council members wanted to discuss or review then they could go into executive session for this.

Streets/Parks Report: HectorFest June 14th, 2025

- Jessica Kurtzo and David Waterson were some of the individuals that volunteered to coordinate HectorFest for 2025. They did a wonderful job last year. The time will be from 2PM to 10PM with Firework display at dark.
- **Motion** made by Peggy Gregory for HectorFest to be on June 14th, 2025, motion 2nd by Phillip D'Amato. Passed unanimously (5/5).

Fire Department Report Chief Kenny Bowden Present

- Thursday 1/30/2025 he was appointed as Fire Chief, on Friday 1/31/25 the fire department had signups and performed interviews and Saturday 2/1/25 the fire department had 17 people join the fire department. There are nine fully trained fire fighters out of the 17 people.
- Three fire calls in January.
- Four fire calls in February.
- The 833 Report paperwork has been submitted.
- There have been several in-house courses.
- Reviewing two different grants
- The washer extractor agreement with Martin Township is on file.
- Working on submitting fire dues to everyone in the fire district
- Leaks fixed on tankers.
- Upcoming training, the fire department has been asked to go to the Pope County EMS team and other surrounding fire departments.

The question asked if the amount for fire dues is \$50.00 and how to pay. The amount is \$50.00 and can be paid at the city hall with cash or a check.

Public Comment

- None

Old Business:

Agenda Item A: HVFD Standard Operating Guidelines

- Chief Bowden stated the SOGs are being reviewed.

Council member Phillip D'Amato stated Ordinance 2024-1 will need to be amended to reflect that the mayor could appoint the fire chief as described in Arkansas Code Annotated 14-42-110. He asked if it could be added to the next meeting agenda. Randy Smith stated it could be added to the next meeting agenda.

New Business:

Agenda Item A: Consideration of a resolution for the appointment of city attorney, Clay McCall

- Mayor Smith spoke on the wonderful job that Mr. William Smith has done throughout his time as the City Attorney for the City of Hector.

- Clay McCall introduced himself, he has been practicing in the River Valley for almost 15 years, with a background in accounting degree, a master in tax law, a law degree, deputy prosecutor, private practice in Russellville, AR. He represented Atkins, Clarksville, Pope County, appointed to finish out Judge Bourne's term. He is currently back in private practice and represents Clarksville and London. He has experience with county and municipal law and enjoys working in the local communities.
- He expressed he would like the opportunity to serve for the City of Hector.
- **Resolution presented by council member:** Resolution 2025-06 to approve Clay McCall to be the city attorney for the City of Hector, Arkansas. **Motion made by:** Phillip D'Amato **Motion 2nd by:** John Mosley **Vote:** Passed 100% (5/5)

Agenda Item B: Consideration and approval of Community Garden behind city hall

- Jessica Rackley with Pope County 4H Gardening Club discussed a community garden located behind city hall.
- Jessica explained last year they had five gardens that included vegetables, potatoes, melons, and herb garden but it was found out that the soil is not particularly good in this location, she brought a copy of the soil sample for anyone to review. The goals were to have a community garden, and the fresh produce could be provided with the Presbyterian community meals or setup a local farmer market.
- Jessica explained that the 2025 goals are still the same but this year due to the soil not being good, they wanted to have raised garden beds and the need to run a water line to area of where the beds would be located. She also explained the need for a composter, for educational resources.
- Jessica proposed for council review to support the cost of a composter, five raised garden beds, compost (soil) and water source. The expected cost is around \$920.00. See Exhibit B.
- Questions on what the raised beds would be, they are ready made 4x8 galvanized beds.
- Council member Hannah D'Amato has two raised beds if they wanted them or could take them. She also stated the school has green houses and Jessica explained they do have full access to those houses to start seedlings.
- Council member Hannah D'Amato asked how many people the community garden would feed; the amount is not known but expect to provide enough for two solid farmers market and if overflow to provide to giving boxes.
- Jessica Rackley did apply for the USDA grant and now that it has been registered, there may be opportunities in the future to apply for grants to support future projects.
- Cassie Freeman and Hector 4H members presented a presentation to council members.
- The Hector 4H Club is the largest group in Pope County and have been established since 1970. Each 4H Member spoke on what they do for 4H and all the accomplishments that have been done throughout the year for the community. See Exhibit C.
- **Motion** made by Mike Geurian to approve \$1,000.00 to support purchases for the community garden, motion 2nd by Phillip D'Amato. Passed unanimously (5/5).

Agenda Item C: Consideration of Resolution to establish city council rules and procedures

- Council member Phillip D'Amato asked if an older copy could be provided for city council rules and procedures to compare between them.
- Item is tabled to the next meeting.
- **Motion** made by Phillip D'Amato to table item to provide old copy of rules and procedures, motion 2nd by Peggy Gregory. Passed unanimously (5/5).

Council member Phillip D'Amato asked where the 1/30/2025 special meeting minutes were to be reviewed and approved. Discussed that due to only two council members being present (John Mosley and Peggy Gregory) and three council members (Hannah D'Amato, Phillip D'Amato, and Mike Geurian) not being present a quorum could not be established. For any items discussed that need council member approval it will need to be reconsidered when a quorum can be established. Council member Hannah D'Amato explained that if there were any meetings scheduled for Thursday, she would not be available, she has other engagements.

Mayor Randy Smith discussed the Hector Advisory Board and it being disbanded. Council member Hannah D'Amato stated this advisory board was tied to Ordinance 24-1 and could be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.


City Council members review and approval of financial transactions.

Meeting adjourned: Time: 7:24pm
Motion made by: Peggy Gregory
Motion 2nd by: Phillip D'Amato
Vote: Passed 100% (5/5)

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be held on March 17th, 2025, at 6:30pm.



Recorder/Treasurer



Mayor

By signing, I agree that pages 1-4 are true and correct copy of the meeting held by the Hector City Council on February 17, 2025.

EXHIBIT A

- UPDATED 1/20/2025 MEETING MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City of Hector City Council Meeting
Minutes From 1/20/25

Start time 6:30pm

5 Council Members Present
Peggy Gregory
John Mosley
Hannah Damato
Phillip Damato
Mike Geurian



*Clarification on motion: motion made by Peggy Gregory for Amy Manson to take meeting minutes for 1/20/25 meeting only.

Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer led by Peggy Gregory

Appoint Amy Manson as recorder for the 1/20/25 meeting.

*Motion made by Peggy Gregory, acting mayor consulted with city attorney Bill Smith asking if this needs to be a motion or just appointed due to being a one time taking minute notes. Attorney said appointment could be made at this time.

Motion to accept minutes from 12/16/24 meeting
Motion made by Peggy Gregory
2nd by Phillip Damato
passed unanimously

2/17/2025 - Council Member Hannah D'Amato asked to amend the 1/20/2025 meeting minutes to add where she stated for meeting minutes of 1/20/2025 to be sent to Arkansas Legislator Auditors and where she discussed if Council Members John Mosley or Peggy Gregory wanted to take the place of mayor until new mayor was appointed, so Sandra Barton could go back to taking minutes.

Motion to accept December Financials
Motion made by John Mosley
2nd by Peggy Gregory
Passed unanimously

Police:

All computers, night vision and medical bags received as state by Chief Hubbard

Street Dept:

No new business

Fire Dept:

Chief Geurian advised that new side by side was received by Dept on 1/17/25.

Chief Geurian expressed about incident that happened at Fire Dept on 1/19/25. Disciplinary action has been taken and investigation is being conducted by Hector PD in conjunction with Pope Co Sheriffs Office

Lopfi need to be done by 1/24/25

Act 833 Report—Rhonda Bowden is getting stuff together for report. Needing PPE information for report

Fema Grant—no new info

Regarding resolution 2024-41 SOGS of HVFD which passed on 11/25/24 will be discussed at the 2/17/25 meeting.

Motion to accept resignation as of 1/14/25 of Hector Advisory Board member Matt Huffman who was appointed by City Council.

Motion made by Peggy Gregory
2nd Hannah Damato
Passed unanimously

Old Business

Resolution 2025-1

Motion to accept resignation of Mayor John Riley effective 1/19/25
Motion made by Hannah Damato
2nd by Mike Geurian
Passed unanimously

Resolution 2025-2

Motion to remove John Riley as signature holder of City Bank Accounts and Credit Card
Motion made by Phil Damato
2nd by John Mosley
Passed unanimously

New Business

Resolution 2025-3

Motion to accept city fixed asset listing with understanding amendment will be made at later date
Motion made by Phillip Damato
2nd by Mike Geurian
passed unanimously

Public comment before Resolution 2025-4

Cindy Rector—Expressed concerns about partying and drinking taking place on city property or buildings that are being overseen by City

John Riley—Expressed his thanks to the City council for his support during time as mayor. Would like to express that hopes when decision is made for new mayor it is for person who wants to make Hector Better. Also expresses he has seen a notable divide in the community. Comments have been made by person of the community such as you are with us of against us.

Josh Dunkle—He feels some of officials have their own agenda and may not be for good of community. Brings up Code 21-8-304 stating anyone who could benefit from financial gain should not be allowed to vote for mayor. Also talks about bullying that has occurred in community and the incident a fire dept over weekend.

Phil Morley—He talks about an incident he had with one of the newest city council members at Hector Fest 2024 which involved person name calling. Also tells of multiple times said member has yelled derogatory names at him while member was in the company of Hector Officer Aaron Brock.

Misty Barnett—expressed concerns about spouses being allowed to serve on city council at same time; she feels not ethical.

Tim Morley—expresses concerns about Fire Chief being allowed to be city council member; he also expresses concern that 2 of the city council members did not attend the town meeting on 1/16/25 where mayor candidates spoke

Resolution 2025-4
Mayor candidate are as follows
Hannah Damato
Randy Smith

Phillip Damato makes motion for executive session.
2nd by Mike Geurian
passed unanimously

Before executive session start Hannah Damato expresses that neither her or Phillip Damato will be voting for mayor position

Interim Mayor Sandy Barton called Executive Session and let everyone know that council was going to Executive Session to discuss the appointment of Mayor of City of Hector for remainder of term ending December 31. 2026. Everyone was asked to leave and all recording stopped.

Executive session ended and everyone was called back in. Interim mayor announced that the discussion was regarding appointment of Mayor of City of Hector and that council had reached a decision. A motion was made to elect Randy Smith as Mayor of Hector.

Executive Session start time 7:13pm end time 7:55pm

Appointment of mayor was made by City Council by Resolution 2025-4
Motion made by Peggy Gregory
2nd by John Mosley
Randy Smith is Mayor 2 yes and 1 no

Oath of Office for Randy Smith Done by Sandy Barton

Meeting handed over to Randy Smith

Resolution 2025-5
Motion to add signature holder Randy Smith to city bank accounts and credit card.

Motion made by Peggy Gregory
2nd by John Mosley
Passed unanimously

Council reviewed and approved banking transactions.

Special meeting will be set for fire department incident once investigation is complete.

Motion to adjourn meeting (8:30pm)

Motion made by Peggy Gregory
2nd by John Mosley
Passed unanimously

*clarification on before going into executive session:
Executive session was called and everyone asked to leave that was not supposed to be in the executive session. Council member Hannah D'Amato was reminded that she was supposed to leave, she stated she needed to say something. Everyone was called back in for her to make a public comment. She stated that she would not be voting and would not be part of the discussion on who would be elected as mayor and that Phillip D'Amato would not be voting on this decision. She stated that it would be up to John Mosley and Mike Guerian on who would be elected as mayor.

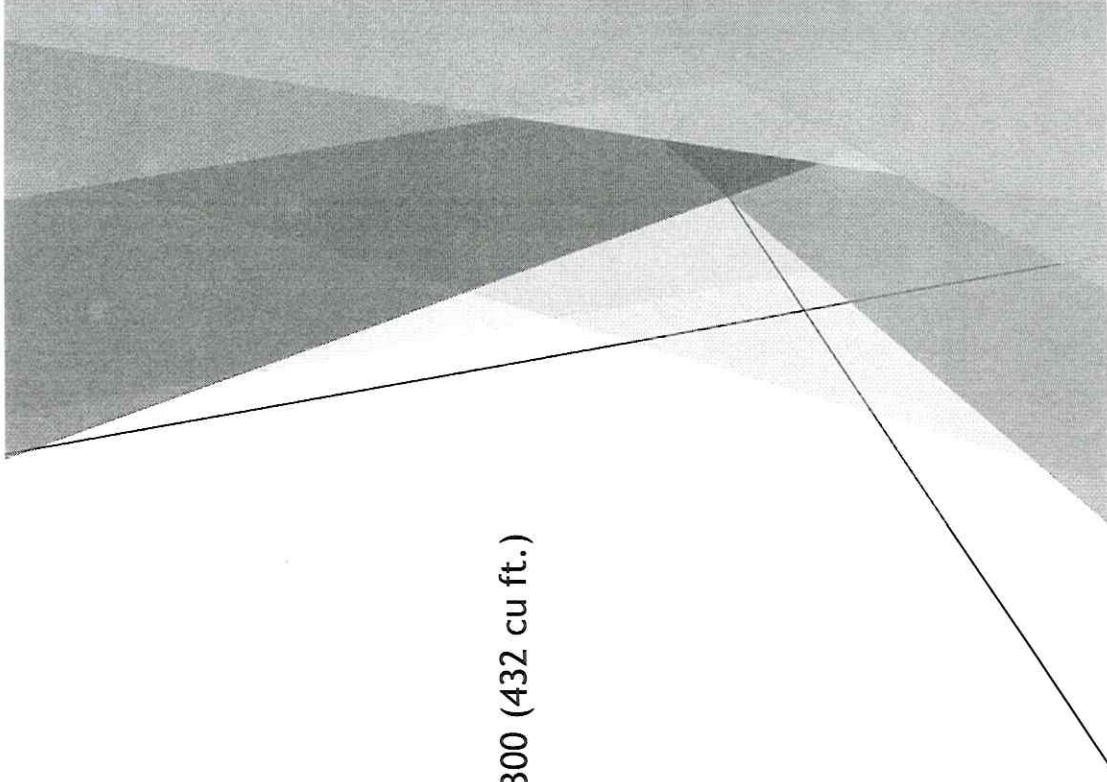
EXHIBIT B

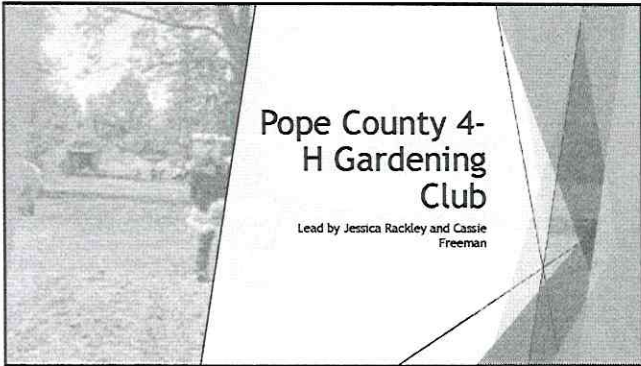
- HECTOR 4H COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB

Cost Analysis

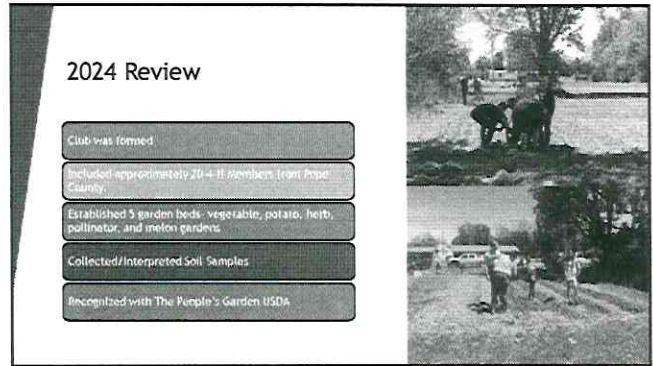
- ▶ Compost Bin- \$70.00
- ▶ Raised Garden Beds x 5- \$350.00
- ▶ Soil for Raised Beds (~150 cu ft)- 1 full load from Big River \$300 (432 cu ft.)
- ▶ Water Source- \$200

- ▶ Total Cost \$920.00

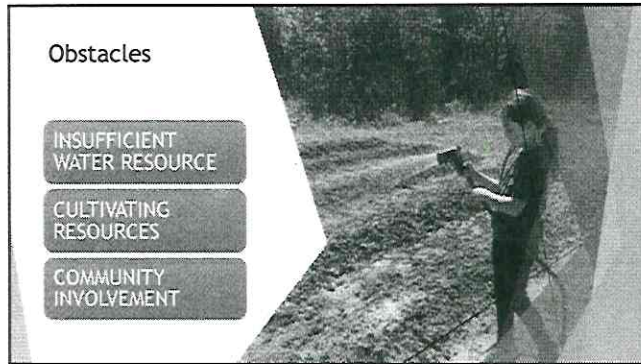




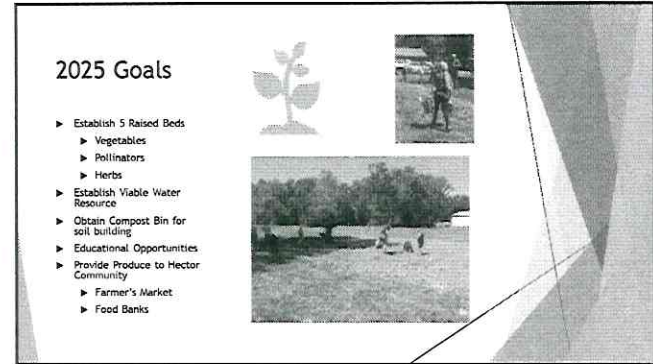
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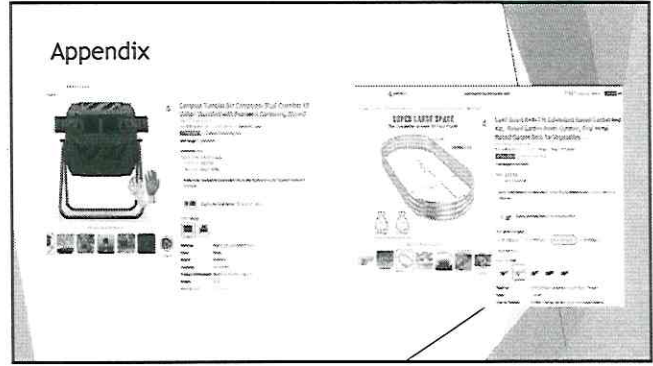
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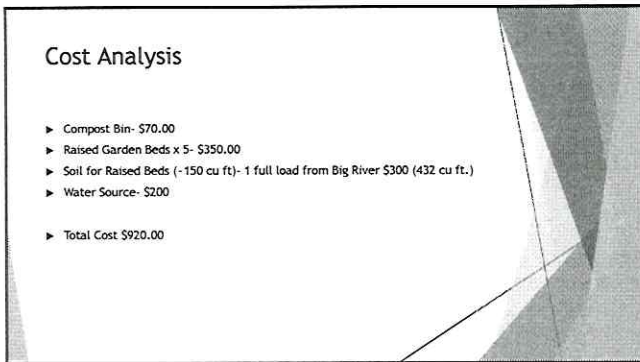
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EXHIBIT C

- HECTOR 4H CLUB



HECTOR 4-H CLUB

Recap of 2024



HECTOR 4-H

- We are the largest club in Pope County- Averaging over 60 kids
- We are the oldest club- Dating back to the 1970's
- Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 6:30pm in Mrs. Simpsons classroom



**PRESIDENT- ABBY SAMUELS
VICE PRESIDENT- REECE VINCENT
2ND VICE PRESIDENT- ALIZA KEELING
SECRETARY- Lyla RACKLEY
ARTS & CRAFTS- LYDIA CHRONISTER
COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN- GARRISON FREEMAN**

HECTOR 4-H

- During the 2024 Pope County Fair, we had 49 4-Hers showing
- 15 of the 62 Market Sale tags were from our club alone. They earned over \$20,000!



COMMUNITY SERVICE WITHIN OUR SCHOOL



Secured beef sticks for
backpack program



Participated at the
2024 Fall Fest



Donated 302 PopTarts to
backpack program

"Alone, we can do so little; together,
we can do so much." – Helen Keller

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Planted in community garden



Hwy 27 one mile trash pick up



Sent 6,877 Eclipse glasses to Latin America

"We rise by lifting others."
– Robert Ingersoll

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Put on 3 B's Workshop
for our county

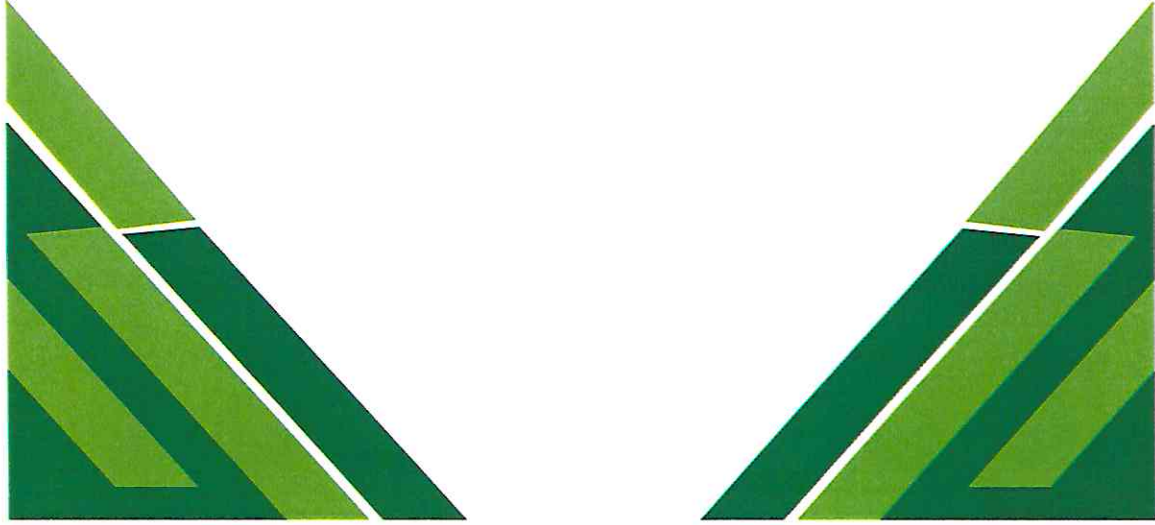


Donated \$375 in coke
tabs to Ronald McDonald



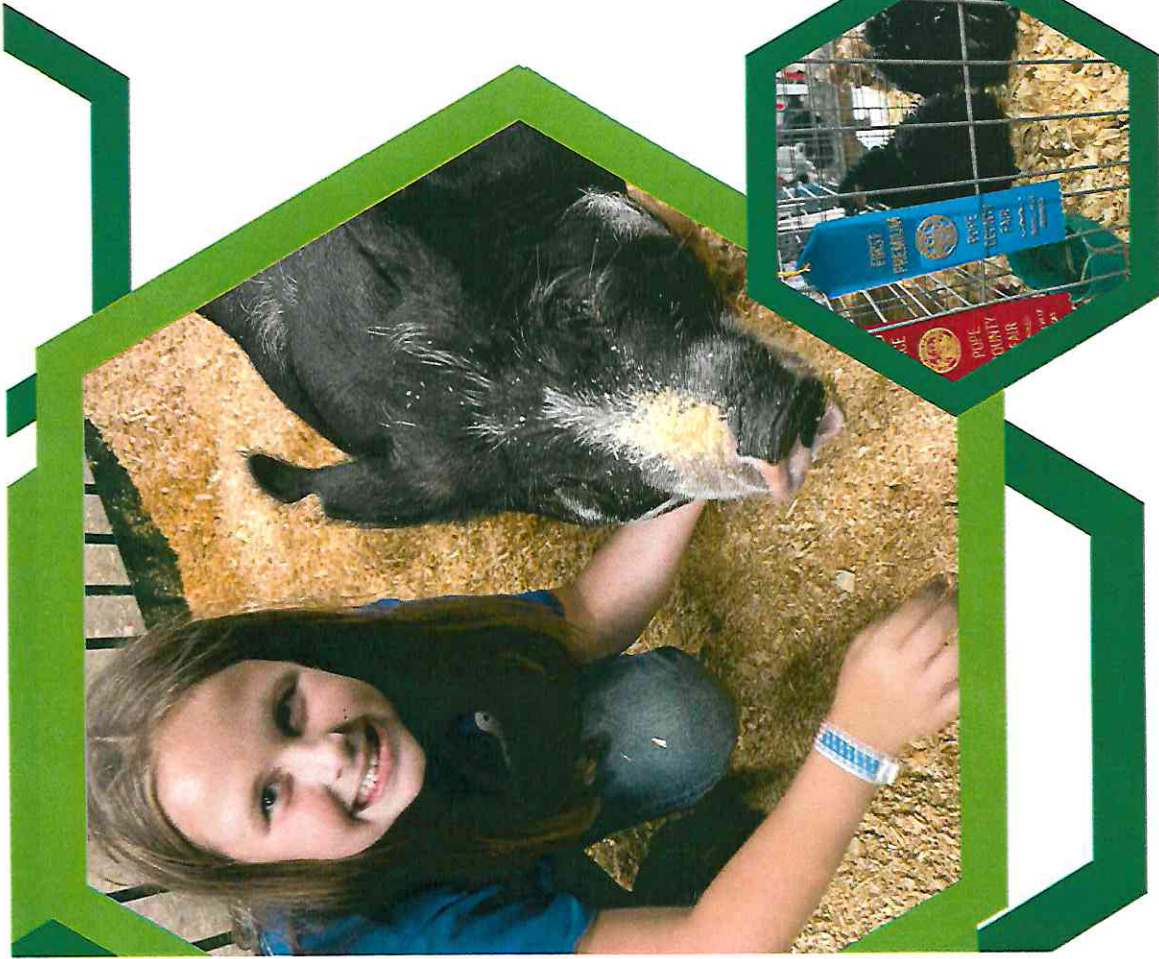
Distributed cards &
clippers to The Arbors

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?" — Martin Luther King, Jr.



MEET SOME OF OUR MEMBERS





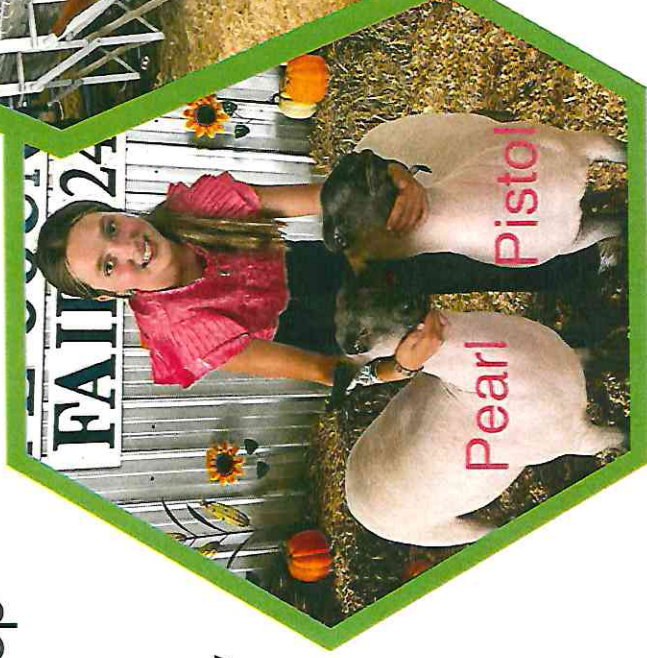
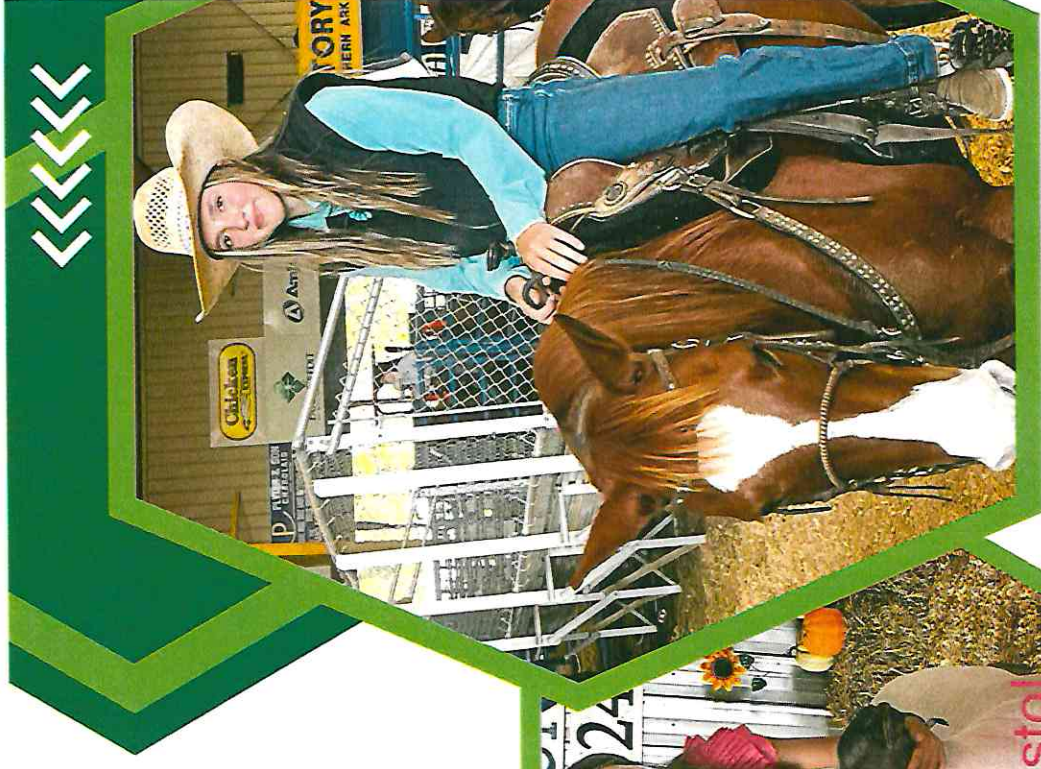
TAYLER MORLEY

- Main project is Swine
- Attended swine jackpots and the 2024 Pope County Fair
- Other project is Poultry
- Won 1st Premium, 2nd place and 4th place



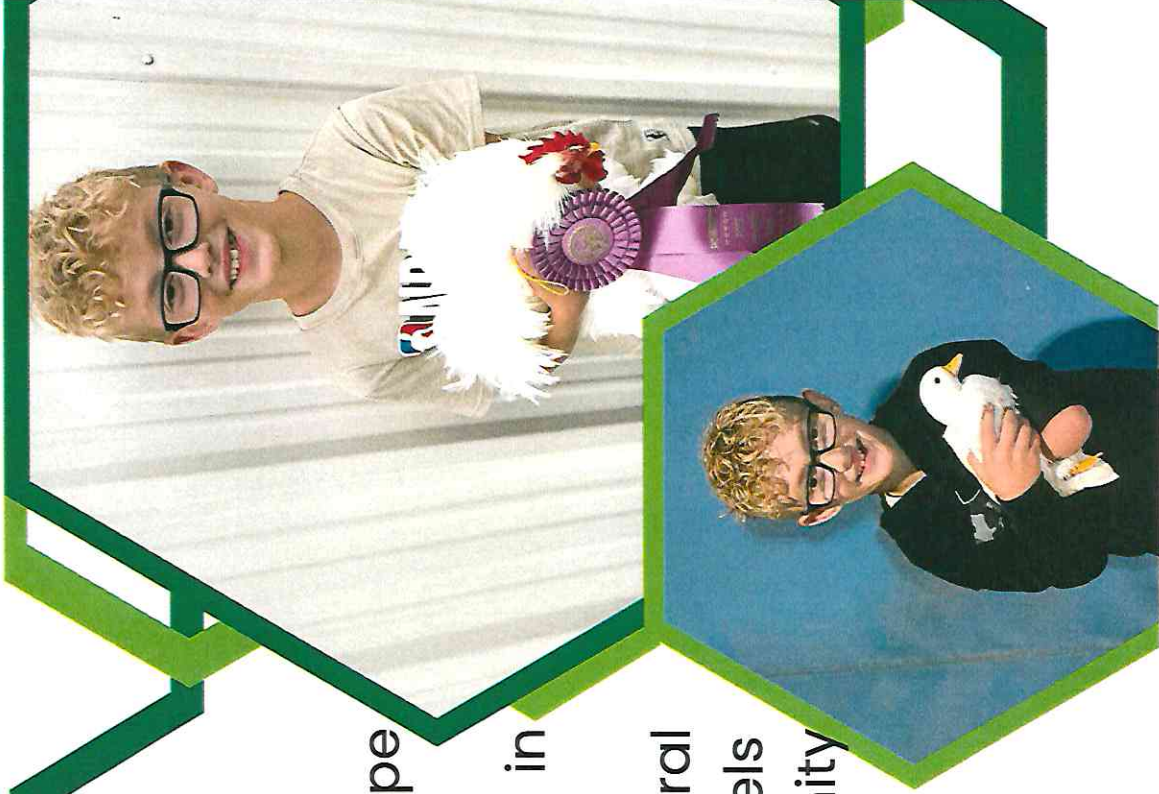
ABBY SAMUELS

- Serve as 4-H Club President
- Main Projects are Market Lambs and Horses
- Member of the Pope County 4-H Council
- Member of Arkansas Jr. Sheep Council
- Participated in Community Service at the Local, County, State & International Levels



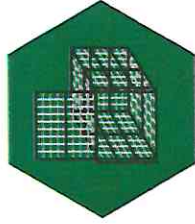
GARRISON FREEMAN

- Serve as the Community Service Chairman
- Main project is Poultry
- Won Jr. Poultry Showmanship at 2024 Pope County Fair
- Won Best in Show & Grand Champion in multiple shows across Arkansas
- Participated in Skill-a-thons and Oral Speaking at the Country, District & State levels
- Other Projects include Swine, Community Service, Rabbits and Health & Fitness



JONATHON BELL

- Main project is Wildlife Management
- Competed in Wildlife ID competitions in County, District & State 4-H O'ramas and FFA
- Placed 1st in Wildlife ID at County O'Rama & 4th at District
- Like to trap and work to improve wildlife habitats
- Other projects include Poultry, Cattle, Welding & Community Service

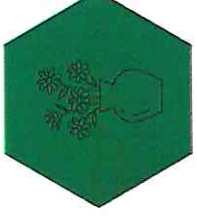


APR 2024



LYLA RACKLEY

- Serve as Club Secretary
- Main Project is Food Preservation & Safety
- Initiated County Gardening Club
- 5th of 57 Market Hog at 2024 Pope County Fair
- Other Projects include Horticulture, Swine, Poultry, Dairy Goats and Rabbits



LINLEY KILLINS

- Member of Hector 4-H for 7 years
- Main project is Market Lambs
- Small breeder with 6 ewes; 4 bred to lamb this year
- Won Reserve Grand Champion Commercial Ewe at 2024 Pope County Fair
- Won Super Showman at District Fair 2024
- Other projects include Community Service and Poultry



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR TIME!

ANY QUESTIONS?

