

# Buzz

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easier to access the hives after a lot of rain.

Upon getting permission to locate the hives at John Redmond, they worked with Park Ranger Mallory Reynolds to find the most ideal spot, which was far enough away from public use areas that the bee presence would not interfere with recreation in the area.

Next, the 4-H'ers obtained the woodenware to assemble the beehives. The woodenware came unassembled, like puzzle pieces. Pieces had to be glued and nailed together, making sure 90 degree angles were maintained to keep everything square. 4-H dads, Brian Rausch and Bill Reavis, helped accomplish this task. After allowing the wood glue to dry, the 4-H members painted the beehive boxes. Paint helps protect the wood from the elements. They chose white paint, because they learned bright colors are more appealing to the bees. Later, Daniel added the green 4-H to the boxes to make them easily identifiable as belonging to the group. Daniel and his dad also put their woodworking skills to work and made a "Coffey Co. 4-H Beekeeping"



Photo submitted  
Kyzer Lehmann introduces bees to the beehive.



Photo submitted  
Tiny Jackson talks about a pre-hive check with 4-H'ers, from left, Kyzer Lehmann, Toby Reavis, Mackenzie Krueger, Brian Rausch and Daniel Rausch.

sign to make identifying the bee yard even easier for potential visitors to the hives.

Unfortunately, shortly after assembling the beehives, COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders kept the 4-H'ers from meeting together. However, they still had goals and they persevered to make sure to accomplish them.

First, a service project! For May Day, each member made a paper flower with a honey bee or bee poem on it. Flowers were delivered to residents at The Meadows in Burlington.

Next, each 4-H member began meeting one-on-one from a safe social distance with Jackson. On a weekly rotation, Daniel set the hive boxes on their stand, Kyzer introduced the bees to the beehives, Brenna and Toby checked for healthy, laying queens and did the first varroa mite treatment, Emma and Mackenzie fed the bees and did the second varroa mite treatment. The rotation continued with varying tasks until July when they could all get together again.

Each 4-H member had to make a video update of what they learned and report what they saw to the rest of the project group. Members furthered their learning experience by participating in a weekend long virtual beekeeping event in June. They were able to select virtual sessions to watch where they were able to learn more about varroa mites, queen rearing, splitting hives, among a plethora of other top-

ics.

When they were finally able to meet together in July, they began planning a booth for the Coffey County Fair. The goal of the booth was to spark interest in beekeeping, show people what they had been doing in the project, and display some of the tools they use. The project received Champion Self-Determined Education Display in the 4-H department of the Coffey County Fair.

Challenges were realized at the beehives through the month of August. The 4-H'ers found their honey boxes were not filling like they had hoped; it was related to having weak queens. Upon checking the beehives, they found both beehives had swarmed. Swarming is when half of the bees leave the hive with the old queen, while half of the bees remain in the hive with a new queen. This was an awesome learn-

ing opportunity, as the kids learned how to identify queen cells and check for brood to see if the new queen was producing like she should. In spite of the setback, they still anticipate to harvest a box or two of honey before learning how to winterize their beehives this year.

The 4-H Self-Determined - Beekeeping project has allowed Daniel, Kyzer, Toby, Mackenzie, Emma and Brenna to learn a new skill. The Kansas Honey Producers Association, Tiny Jackson, the Army Corps of Engineers/John Redmond Reservoir, and area beekeepers helped to encourage these 4-H'ers through their first year of beekeeping.

Interested 4-H members can join this project group by joining the Self-Determined project and talking to Lauren in the Extension office.



Photo submitted  
Tiny Jackson, right, teaches Mackenzie Krueger and Emma Krueger how to check for brood, pollen and honey.



Photo submitted  
Toby Reavis and Kyzer Lehmann perform a hive check.

# Picks

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Jayhawk-Linn vs. Wellsville, were cancelled due to COVID-19. He wins the \$20 first-place prize for his effort. Behind him, five players missed three games and another two missed four.

No player correctly selected the winner of the Oklahoma vs. KSU game in which the KSU Wildcats, for a second year in a row, pulled a thrilling upset over the Oklahoma Sooners, ranked No. 3 at the time. KSU, not included in the rankings at the time, won the game 38-35. Other commonly missed games included the high school games between Wakefield and Marais des Cygnes Valley, won 54-24 by McCV, and between Girard and Anderson County, won 41-0 by

Girard, and the National Football League contest between the Bills and Rams, won 35-32 by the Bills.

Notably, most players went against the flow when making their predictions for the Ravens vs. Chiefs game. Despite many, including commentators and bettors, favoring the Ravens to win, all but four Pigskin Picks players correctly selected the reigning Super Bowl Champion Chiefs, who won the game, 34-20, with a strong performance.

The contest games for week five are printed in sponsor ads on page 9 of today's newspaper. The rules are printed on the form, and it's easy to play. Remember, another \$20 prize is up for grabs and for each week you enter, you receive an entry into the grand prize drawing to be held at the end of the contest. Find your pencil, make your picks and join the fun! Good luck!

# Class

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Anderson County, 296; Santa Fe Trail, 265; Osawatomie, 263; Prairie View, 262; and Wellsville, 225. Iola, whose enrollment is down 13 from 339 in 2019, remains in Class 4A. The remaining six schools remain in Class 3A. While Burlington's enrollment is up eight from 2019, Anderson County is down nine from 296 in 2019, Santa Fe Trail is down 21 from 286 in 2019, Osawatomie is down 33 from 296 in 2019, Prairie View is down

eight from 270 in 2019 and Wellsville is down 18 from 243 in 2019.

Enrollment for schools in the Lyon County League are as follows: Burlingame, 101; Olpe, 95; Lebo, 77; Madison, 69; Marais des Cygnes Valley, 63; Hartford, 56; Southern Coffey County, 55; and Waverly, 49. All eight schools remain in Class 1A. While Lebo's enrollment is down two, Hartford is down nine, Southern Coffey County is down three and Waverly is down five, Burlingame is up nine from 92 in 2019; Olpe is up eight from 87 in 2019, Madison is down five from 74 in 2019, and Marais des Cygnes Valley is down two from 65 in 2019.

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