

Senior Volleyball Players Honored



RICK PECK/SPECIAL TO MCDONALD COUNTY PRESS

McDonald County High School honored its eight senior members of the Lady Mustang volleyball team on Sept. 29 prior to their win over Nevada. Front row, left to right are Jaimie Malone, Kaycee Factor and Erin Cooper; back row, Shye Hardin, Rylee Bradley, Mollie Milleson, Sydnie Sanny and Katelyn Ferdig.

Living Center To Host Trail Of Treats

Staff Report

The McDonald County Living Center will host a Halloween Trail of Treats from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Oct. 31.

Because residents cannot go out and visitors cannot

come in, the center is inviting kids to parade in costume around the center's windows outside.

The center is gratefully accepting donations of candy from local businesses to help make goody bags

for the kids. Also, if anyone would like to pass out candy from their trunk as part of the trail, contact Jess or Emely at 417-845-3351.

The center is located at 1000 Patterson St., Anderson.

DOG: Ogden Gains Confidence, Independence

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change for the better. It's amazing to watch him blossom every day. It's incredible to see what he can do right now. And I have very high hopes for where we're going to go with this. For the first time, I see him living on his own and being safe. I see him having friends and having a life just like you and me. My only regret is we didn't find Thorn sooner in Caden's life.

She went on, "He didn't believe he had any rights before, and now he's starting to stand up for his rights and advocate for himself. He's confident and he's starting to see himself as an adult. He wants to go vote this year. He was afraid to go vote before because there were too many people. Now he's excited to go vote.

"He's starting to talk about a future for himself and, before, he couldn't see a future for himself. I've always been proud of my son, but the obstacles he's been overcoming in a short time — I wish every person with a disability could have a dog like Thorn. It would change their life."

Rona added she has worked in the disability community off and on for the past 23 years, and Thorn has made a greater difference than any medication or therapy she has seen.

"The Saber Foundation, those people are God-sent angels walking this earth.

They are the most amazing people and loving and kind. I can't say enough about the Saber Foundation," she said.

She said before the family knew about the Saber Life Foundation, they got a service dog and started training it for Caden, but the dog had an accident and died.

"Without the Saber Foundation, we never would have had the ability to get a service dog again. Because we put everything into (the first dog). They gave us hope. It just happened so quick and it was amazing to watch it. Without them, we could have never got (Thorn) because service dogs are very expensive."

Danea said the idea for the nonprofit started after the Key family got their daughter, Gracie, her first service dog, Saber. Gracie suffered from anxiety and other issues and knew she needed a service dog for a few years before she was able to get one. Gracie is now a sophomore at McDonald County High School, and she has just been certified as a team with her service dog, Amos.

"We got started with Saber, but now she has Amos; that's a whole other story," Danea said. "Saber was not able to certify because there were some things he was panicky about like wheelchairs and crutches. The trainer didn't feel really good about that. About a month ago she got Amos and the trainer got Saber a different job. We felt

he still needed to be able to work because he is a working dog, so he is working with another man."

Since Gracie got a service dog, she is a "totally different child than she ever was," Danea said.

"She can walk through a store by herself without being close to Mom and Dad. She has so much more confidence in herself. She's gone off over half of her medications. Amos picked up where Saber left off. She's able to focus more. The biggest thing is her confidence. Not having to worry about her anxiety being what it was. She's a lot more outgoing and making friends and keeping friends," she said.

Danea added when the family got close to having Saber's training paid off, they decided to start the nonprofit because they knew other people who needed service dogs.

"It's been a lot of fun," she said. "We've met a lot of people. Being a nonprofit has opened up a lot of doors to a lot of opportunities to a lot more than we were able to do before. We have an amazing board. They want to help everyone they can. It's a vision coming to life that's reality now. It's been quite amazing, that's for sure."

She added, "These dogs aren't a want; they're a need. It's educating and advocating about these dogs. The transition that Gracie has had in the past year speaks for itself."

Members Of Cornerstone 4-H Share Likes

Staff Report

Macy Reece

"My name is Macy Reece. I am the secretary of the Cornerstone 4-H Club in Southwest City. This year it has been more difficult to have 4-H events due to covid-19, but it has given me more time to work with my livestock.

I have four Black Angus heifers and one Hereford heifer. This year I got to go to a few shows including going to the Angus Junior Nationals and I learned many new things!

I also enjoy my other projects, such as cooking class, quilting, and crafts. 4-H is very rewarding and I encourage everyone to join!"

Brittany Ricker

"Hi, I'm Brittany Ricker.

My favorite thing that I like about 4-H is having animals to take care of. I like taking animals to the fair.

I now have some alpacas and Dexter cattle.

4-H teaches me to care for my animals, to make sure they are fed, watered, comfortable, and not ill. My favorite time of the year is when they have babies.

(Because of special need, she is able to stay in 4-H longer than usual, for which her guardians are thankful.)

Carter Huston

"I am Carter Huston. I am 9 years old and am a member of the Cornerstone 4-H club. This is my first year in 4-H.

I showed a Jersey heifer and a Holstein heifer at the Newton County Fair. At the McDonald County Fair, I showed my pig as well as my heifers.

I enjoy being in 4-H and learning new things."

Case Huston

"My name is Case Huston. I am 12 years old and am a member of the Cornerstone 4-H club. I have been a member since April 2020.

I am involved in showing dairy cattle and swine. I showed a Jersey heifer at the Newton and McDonald county fairs. I also showed my pig at the McDonald County Fair.



COURTESY PHOTOS
Macy Reece



Sydney Lindquist



Case Huston



Brittany Ricker



Jace Bates



Carter Huston

I'm really looking forward to being our club president this year!"

Jace Bates

"Jace Bates is 8 years old. He has participated for 1-2 years.

Jace has enjoyed projects such as biking, photography and gardening. He is looking forward to eventually trying cooking and maybe more as he grows and learns about 4H."



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