



## What's Happening - News

### GREENLEE COUNTY, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



### Director's Notes

Kim McReynolds, Greenlee County Extension Director

Greenlee County Cooperative Extension has been busy this summer with many programs taking place for both youth and adults. Our programs benefit from the many partners that we work with. From the volunteers in 4-H and Horticulture who directly work on youth development and gardening projects, to the county libraries who provide us with program ideas, space, and logistics to teach nutrition and physical activity, photography, and other science and technology lessons. We can't do what we do without these partnerships and are thankful for them.

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### Extension Day at Blue

Kim McReynolds, Greenlee County Extension Director

The Cooperative Extension office traveled to the Blue School in May to spend time with students learning about several different topics. The morning started with a demonstration of how to properly plant an apple tree. The tree that was planted on the school grounds had been grafted the year before with scion from the Blue. The students then split into two groups. One group (grades 6-11) learned how to graft apple trees and practiced their skills by grafting their own tree. The other group (grades 1-5) did an experiment that taught students about starch in apples, made apple pie smoothies on the Blender Bike, and the younger ones read a story about how an apple tree grows.

After lunch, students learned how Arizona's weather patterns affect vegetation and wildlife populations across the state. They used maps to plot average rainfall by city and looked at the major differences in elevation and associated plant communities. The last lesson of the day was on ruminant animals. Students learned the different forage preferences for cattle, sheep, goats, and deer. They played a game that illustrated the importance of knowing what the ruminant preferences are when planning to graze certain types of pastures.

Extension personnel who taught and assisted with the day's activities were: Bill Cook, Kim Johnson, Kim McReynolds, Savanna McReynolds, Ashley Menges, Dusty Murdock, and Britta Schnebly.



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## Nutrition Education, SNAP-Ed

Britta Schnebly, Program Coordinator

Over the months of June and July 2021, we were back in person for the annual KIDZ Cooking Club program held at the Duncan and Clifton Libraries. The program consisted of five sessions with each one focusing on either a specific food or occasion. For example, the first class we had kicked off the summer by learning about water, why it's good for us and different ways we can stay hydrated during the hot summer days, such as fruit juice popsicles or infused waters. Another class focused on beans and how they are a great source of fiber, protein, and carbohydrates to keep our bodies moving and growing.

One of the favorite days we had was Chocolate Day! The children learned that chocolate can be used in healthy ways! We made Cocoa Nut Butter Energy Bites and a chocolate pudding made with avocados, which may sound weird but is delicious. We also watched a short video about where chocolate comes from, where it grows, how it is harvested, and how it is transformed from cocoa beans into a tasty, consumable item. Learning about the chocolate process – from cacao pods and beans to finished product – created a greater appreciation for the chocolate, in all its forms, that the participants eat.

In addition to learning about different foods, the participants also were able to learn about and use a variety of kitchen equipment extending beyond measuring cups and spoons. We were able to use hand blenders, food processors, toaster ovens, but the favorite was the blender bike. All of the kids in the classes were up to the challenge to create our “Apple Pie in a Glass” smoothie using the blender bike. They were amazed that they could create a delicious treat by using their own power and not relying on electricity to get the job done.

The kids had a great time this summer learning about different foods and nutrition and look forward to next year's KIDS Cooking Club adventures, especially if it involves the blender bike.

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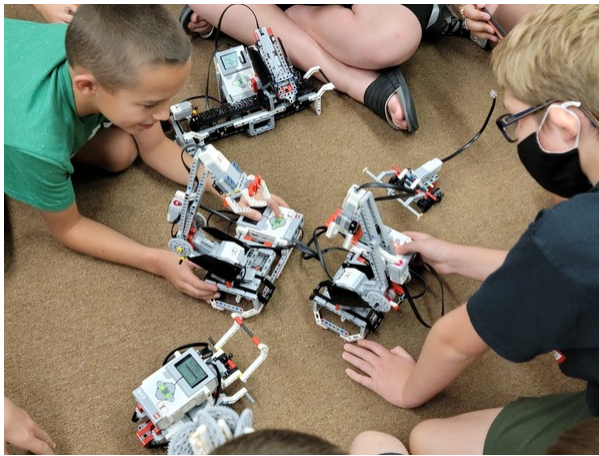
## 4-H Sewing Camp

Ashley Menges, 4-H Youth Development Agent

I have been a 4-H agent for about four years now, and I can say with all honesty that sewing camp was one of the neatest things that I have ever been a part of. For those not familiar with the camp, 15 youth members meet from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. three days a week. During this time, they work to create products and strengthen their sewing skills. This year we had a hard-working group. Participants made hot pads, zipper bags, carry bags, notebook covers, and even aprons!

Although it takes a lot of grit and determination to finish products in this amount of time, it was encouraging to see our next generation learning skills that are starting to dwindle in our society. At the conclusion of the camp, the campers' families are invited to come to the Sewing Camp Showcase, where each members' items are on display. None of this would have been possible if it was not for our amazing volunteers! Many of the campers' mothers volunteered throughout the week. Still, a special thank you goes to Amanda Baker and Marla Lunt for taking the lead and providing Greenlee County youth with a fantastic opportunity.

The camp also had an amazing service project component to it. After Mrs. Baker's personal experience having a child in the NICU, she decided to encourage the campers to make baby blankets for the NICU babies. This year the camp completed four blankets to be shared with a child and family in need of love and support.



## STEM Education

Kim Johnson, Instructional Specialist, STEM

From the STEM lab:

This summer we offered 4 camps and projects at both Clifton and Duncan Libraries. That was 8 different opportunities for 78 of our county youth (and some adults) to cool off at our libraries and participate in STEM activities.

Both youth and adults enjoyed learning about digital photography on the new DSLR cameras in the Photography Phun project. We will hopefully have a few youth submit photographs to the county fair. Look out for more photography projects in the near future.

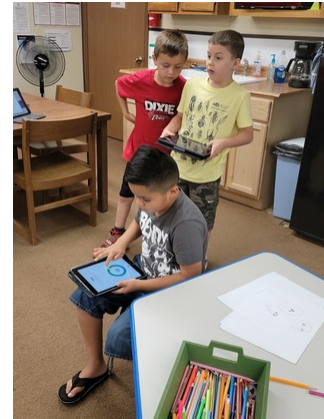
The Robots! Project offered kids a chance to use robotics kits the library owns, like Sphero Bolt, iRobot Root, Dash and others. These kits have a variety of building and coding opportunities, and the participants were allowed to sit down with them and figure out how to use them at their own pace.

3-D Design and Printing was new for all of us. In this project, we used 3-D software to design an artifact that an archaeologist might find, and then we printed it. The participants really took to it quickly and we still

have a backlog of artifacts to print. Something small like a coin might take 10 minutes to print, while a more intricate item, like a butterfly hairpin, prints for 2.5 hours.

Our most requested return to the summer lineup was Lego Mindstorms. In this camp, the kids build the robot and use the software to code it in 4 days. In this session, the kids were most interested in the more advanced builds including the robot arm and the color sorter. We were lucky to have the 4-H STEM Ambassador for Greenlee County there to help us at the Clifton session.

If you have ideas for STEM activities you would like to see in our county please email them to the STEM Lady, Kim Johnson, at [krobbjohnson8@arizona.edu](mailto:krobbjohnson8@arizona.edu).



## Congratulations, Michele Najar

Ashley Menges, 4-H Youth Development Agent

During the annual 4-H Cloverball our very own Michele Najar was awarded the Arizona 4-H Mid-Career Volunteer Award. This award represents excellence in service to Arizona 4-H by providing youth participants with a foundation of learning by doing. Michele went above and beyond while delivering programming during the 2020 pandemic. While most people were stepping back and taking a break, Michele stepped up and learned new ways to engage youth virtually. Not only did she provide high-quality virtual programming, but she also bridged the gap between members on the Blue and the rest of the county. 2020 was a challenging year for all but even more complex for families trying to navigate 4-H for the first time. Yet, Michele took new families under her wing, reaching out to them to ensure they were on the right path. Michele is highly deserving of this award; she demonstrates initiative, creativity, high personal standards, and a passion for the program and our youth. Thank you, Michele, for all you do.



# Horticulture Program

Bill Cook, Program Coordinator

Another successful AmeriCorps year comes to an end. Savanna McReynolds completes her term on 7/25/21. Savanna has produced several educational videos, which you can view on our [YouTube channel](#).

AmeriCorps members support our horticulture program with development, planning, and delivery of our many programs, ranging from school gardens to online content. We will have available AmeriCorps positions for the next term, 9/1/21 thru 8/31/22, for information on the positions, requirements and benefits contact Bill Cook.

The monthly garden classes are up and rolling again. One Saturday each month we are presenting hands on garden classes, which are synchronized to the upcoming seasonal activities. For more information, or to get on the notification list email Bill Cook at [wrc@email.arizona.edu](mailto:wrc@email.arizona.edu).



Thanks to our enthusiastic volunteers, the Annual Pumpkin Patch is up and growing!



Soil and water lines crew



Planting crew



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

## Cooperative Extension

Graham County Cooperative Extension

### Southeastern Arizona Bull Expo

**Friday October 1, 2021      5:30pm-8:30pm**

Main Dining Room in Activities Center Building.  
Building corner of Highway and College Avenue

**Dinner Provided By**

**Eastern Arizona College**

Come learn from industry expert Tom Hardesty how BULL selection, management, and proper handling can add quality, efficiency, and value to your operation!!

Please RSVP for this event by contacting Nate Brawley

[nqbrawley@email.arizona.edu](mailto:nqbrawley@email.arizona.edu)

2100 S. Bowie Ave  
Solomon, AZ 85551  
928-965-3188



**Door Prizes!!!**

**Bull Coupons!!**

\$\$\$ off Stevenson Diamond Dot Bulls  
\$\$\$ off Bieber Red Angus Bulls



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