Hello fellow District 8ers,
What do you know the end of the 4-H year is right around the corner. I have had a great time this year serving as your Reporter. I have got so many new opportunities this year from this district level and state level. I just wanted to thank you for electing me last year. If you hadn’t I wouldn’t have gotten to write the Spark this year.

As this year is coming to an end I just wanted to recap what has happened this year.

- District 8 represented very strongly at ALL Executive Boards.
- District 8 Jr. Congress was a great success this year.
- All the counties in District 8 had a blast this year.
- District Events was Successful.
- Some of District 8 represented us at 4-H Day At The Capitol.

The flames of our DISTRICT will never die out they might start to die down but never die out. All we need to do is have that amazing SPIRIT that District 8 is known for. “District 8 is H-O-T HOT… We got something you ain’t got we’re bad we know it we’re to show it...UGH!”

So again thank you for this amazing year I can not wait for next year. =)

~ Brittany Avant
District VIII Council Reporter
Hey District 8 4-H members,

As we near the end of the 2009-2010 4-H year, I would like to say what a privilege it has been to work with you so far this year as your state council president. As we enter a new century of the Florida 4-H Program together, it has been exciting to see all of you renew your dedication to embodying the 4-H motto by truly, “Making the Best, Better” for Florida 4-H.

Thanks to the hard work of District 8 4-H members, and your fellow 4-H members across the state, I am proud to say we have been able to accomplish and go far beyond many of the goals my fellow officers and I laid out at the beginning of the year. Throughout the year, we have been able to successfully spread the word about the 4-H program by increasing communication between current 4-H members and the public through the use of social networking programs, the newly created 4-H InFOURmant news blog (which can be viewed at www.florida4hinfourmantnews.blogspot.com), and by involving the public in a variety of community based 4-H outreach events. This year I am also excited to say we have accomplished our goal of increased participation at all of our State 4-H events, and allowed 4-H members from across the state the chance to become more involved in state 4-H activities by participating in Leadership Adventure Weekend, Intermediate State, 3rd Executive Board, and 4-H Day at the Capitol! Speaking of 4-H Day at the Capitol, this event was once again a huge success, and offered many participants from your District, and across the state, the chance to promote 4-H to government officials and let them know the positive impacts this program has on the nearly 250,000 members statewide! Throughout the year we have also continued to increase our fundraising efforts for the Florida 4-H State Council, and your active participation in the Change Wars competition, as well as your support of fundraisers like the Florida 4-H Yearbook, have been vital to the success of these initiatives this year!

As we continue to work together to finish this year strong and set the precedent for the next 100 years of the Florida 4-H Program, I look forward to seeing many of you attend Florida 4-H Legislature this summer, participate in 4-H summer camp, and “Accept the Mission” of “Making the Best, Better” by attending Florida 4-H Congress 2010 – Mission: Possible! This summer, I would also like to invite you to join Florida 4-H as we reflect on over 100 years of youth making a difference in the lives of others through service projects, by taking part in our “A New Century of Citizenship” State Project. This project is a call to action for 4-H members to take part in service projects that tie into the elements of the 4-H pledge – Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. Projects that you have worked on throughout the year can easily be incorporated into these areas. I would also like to challenge you to join us by taking part in service activities on Wednesday, July 28th, as part of a multi-state 4-H Day of Service being hosted by the Florida 4-H State Council! Please check the Florida 4-H website, or with your county 4-H agents soon for more information on this exciting event!

Once again, it has been truly exciting to see how you have once again proved that District 8 is H-O-T Hot, by demonstrating your enthusiasm and dedication for the Florida 4-H Program! I would like to encourage all of you to keep on, “Making the Best, Better” as we close out this year and continue to build on the past, for a greater tomorrow for the Florida 4-H Program! It has truly been an honor to work with you all this year. I look forward to seeing you all this summer!

~Sean Russell
Seminole County Council elected its new officers for the 2010-11 year. Officers will be installed at the annual Awards & Recognition Program in August. The following will served as elected officers for the next year:

President – Stephen Gable  
Vice-President – Dana Roberson  
District Delegates – Amanda Brown & Rachel Roberson  
Secretary – Becca Griffith  
Treasurer – Michael Stasie  
Reporter – Morgan Gumble  
Sergeant at Arms – Mark Gable & Carson Creamer  

**SEMINOLE COUNTY 4-H IS 4TH PLACE TEAM AT NATIONAL LIFESMARTS CONTEST**

The Seminole County 4-H LifeSmarts Team was a 4th place team at the National LifeSmarts Contest that was held in Miami Beach, Fl April 24-27, 2010. Team members each received a $150 savings bond. The team competed in team problem solving, individually in subject areas as well as in buzzer rounds. Their only loss was to North Dakota who went on to be the 2nd place National Team. Team members were: Steffanie Morris, Captain; Hunter Gair, Amanda Brown, Zack Cole, and Gabrielle

**4-H is for You**  
by: Mitchell Kindoll

4-H is the one  
You join for fun  
There’s lots of things for you to do,  
It’s one of the good things about school  
If you want to grow and have fun at play,  
You better join 4-H today.

4-H puts you in the know.  
4-H really has soul  
It’s great, its swell, its neat,  
It’s the club that can’t be beat.

**What I Think about 4-H**  
by: Lisa Sebastian

4-H is a nice club to be in  
You will always have a grin  
I joined 4-H to see  
What it’s about  
So I tried it out.  
4-H is a treat  
Because it’s neat  
No club can beat  
4-H!
Hello District VII 4-Hers! Wow! Can you believe that the council year is already over? It has sure flown by quickly. It seems like just a few weeks ago we were at our very first meeting of the year. We have accomplished so much these past nine months. Though at times it may not feel like we have done much in terms of accomplishing our goals, all it takes is a few minutes of reflecting back on the year to see the strides we made to finish them. We have once again built upon the foundation that was laid for our district council many years ago. We have started new things, improved on the old, and even kept endangered events alive. Looking back I can see just how much we have really done. We have been able to bring smiles to the faces of sick children and food to the hungry. We have taught our district youth leadership and perseverance when keeping events like Jr. Congress going. We even partnered with District IX to make the great District 17! Looking back at the months of hard work and dedication I can see that it all paid off.

I have been very privileged to work with you all to accomplish the goals that we set out with at the beginning of the year. Nothing we did this year would have been possible without each and every one of you. I am especially grateful to have had the opportunity to have worked with such an outstanding group of officers! You all are amazing and I consider it a blessing to have each and every one of you in my life!

- **Dominique**…well, I just really don’t know what to say! You are an amazing person. Thank you for always being here to listen, give moral support, hang out with, and especially always being the one I can count on to lend a hand. I am so glad that we were able to get to know each other better this year! From taking shelter in the safe and warm corners of Camp Wewa, to the entertaining trip to and from Cherry Lake, and making those obnoxiously amazing cards of yours for community service, I will never forget this year! Thank you for keeping me sane and being there for me when I just needed a friend. Smile because you are beautiful! I will miss you!

- **Ashley**! Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the district! You are smart, funny, and beautiful. Keep on working hard and you will accomplish more than your wildest dreams. Always, always call if you ever need anything. You are awesome!

- **Stephen**, Stephen, Stephen. Thanks for all of the passion that you have injected into the district. Thanks for getting in those district reports too (ha-ha)! Your drive for success is truly inspiring. Thank you for helping make our district the best!

- **Danny**, whenever I think of you I will think of Third Executive Board! You have put a huge amount of effort into this year! Your hard work shows and I know that you will go far in your 4-H career. Good luck and have fun!
A Farwell From Our District President Continued...

- **Richard.** Oh where do I even begin?!? Thanks for adding that spark of fun to the district. From watermelons, to straw wrappers magically flying through the air, to Taylor Swift songs, you most definitely played a huge role in making this year exciting! There was never a dull moment when you were around. However, I did notice how much you have grown this year. With a little hard work you will go far in life! Keep it up!

- **Brittany!** Oh my dearest Brittany! I will miss you so much! You have taken on a very special role this year and have flourished in your position. You are like my little sister! I will never forget our late nights and Cheese-Its. You are a beautiful and intelligent young woman! You are very near and dear to my heart. Remember, I am never more than a phone call away. Missing you bunches already!

- **Miyah!!!** I am so lucky to have had the chance to work with you. You are one of the most spirited people I know! As a matter of fact, I think you have enough spirit to light our district on fire! Thank you for your enthusiasm and hard work! Smiles!!!!

- **Heather,** you have been a joy to work with this year. I truly appreciate all of the time and hard work you have invested into your position and roles on the council. You are a great role model and I am happy to have had the chance to work with you this year!

- **Rebekah,** oh Bekah! You are fantabulously amazing as Bella would tell us! You have brought so much joy and happiness to the council this year. I am so glad that we had the chance to get to know each other better! You have done an awesome job in your position and I am very proud of you. Hearts!!!!

- **Logan,** thank you for your hard work and dedication to the district. You have been an asset to the council this year and I am glad that you were able to serve as an officer! Thank you for being willing to help out when we needed you!

Finally, to each and every 4-Her out there, you all are the best! Each and every one of you bring something special to the district that truly makes District VIII H-O-T, hot! I consider myself lucky to have had the privilege to work with such a wonderful group of people. I have never been apart of something so special where each individual is so passionate and hard working.

It is hard to believe that I am actually writing to you all for the last time, As I graduate from this outstanding program I look forward to the new adventures that await me; however, I will miss all of you dearly. There are no words capable of describing my time in 4-H. As I leave you I want to challenge each and every one of you to find one thing that you are passionate about and throw your heart and soul into it. Have fun with what you do, because before you know it, it will be all over. So remember, have fun, work hard, and be passionate! Thank you all for the opportunity to serve you and this program in the 2009/2010 4-H year. I will miss all of you!

~Respectfully,

Bethany Jensen

District VIII Council President
A Summary Of This 4-H Year In Pictures
A Summary Of This 4-H Year In Pictures
Quote of the Day

On The Wings of A Butterfly ~ Corky Ferguson

Your friendship is special
Like the flowers that bloom,
Or when a butterfly emerges
From within its cocoon...

You remind me of that butterfly,
Loving and free,
Bright and colorful,
For the world to see...

We will share sunshine and rainbows;
Sometimes, the rain and the snow;
We'll stand together through it,
While the cold winds blow...

When the time is right,
We won't stop to ask "Why?"
Our friendship will take flight
On the wings of a butterfly …

Treasures ~ Ron Carnell

It's so hard to find the perfect breeze,
One blowing none too hard nor soft,
Carrying a scent of wild flowers,
And moving clouds about aloft.

It's so hard to find the perfect sky,
One blue and deep and bright,
Carrying a sense of openness
With geese and wrens in flight.

It's so hard to find the perfect night,
One warm, quiet and unflawed,
Carrying a mood of solitude,
And a closeness to our God.

Yet no perfection's so hard to find
As that which you extend
And none I'll ever treasure more,
Than to simply be your friend.