

4-H provides outlet for her design passion

By Tom Betz

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A building passion to be a designer got a young girl interested in a little known 4-H project on home environment that turned into a new bathroom.

Julica Bonsall, 16, has known for some time she wants to get into a career in design and redoing the family bathroom has given her a wide open idea of what she is looking at whether it is interior design or something more diverse.

"I always have wanted to go into some type of design," she said, "and I knew that 4-H had a home environment program I could use.

"I had to come up with a plan, and my parents and I agreed to redo the main floor bathroom."

The plan was worked out to take out a closet in the study next to the bathroom and extend the bathroom into that space she said. The old bathtub was replaced with a new shower stall complete with a seat and handy controls.

One of the main pieces she said was a new sink and vanity that is the center of the room. With the new shower stall there was room to add some storage above for towels and stuff that doesn't get used all the time.

Bonsall said once the plan was ready they had

to come up with a budget of how much they planned to spend on the project. She said the budget was \$1,500, and her parents said they were willing to go a little over that to be sure the project was done right. When completed the total cost was \$1,674, but she agrees this does not include anything for her labor or the help from her father.

"I spent a lot of time on the floor," she said. "I had ankle surgery and was recovering during most of the project so I had to sit to work.

"I scraped out all the old tiles and purple flowered wallpaper. I helped with taking out the walls and the tub to make room for the shower stall."

The sink and vanity were the first pieces selected for the new bathroom décor, and Bonsall said it was what she used as the main thing to decorate around.

"We get a lot of compliments on the sink," she said. "My mom wanted a larger sink, and this one is sort of different and the vanity helps make it a great piece."

Once the room was cleaned out, the new fixtures and decorating could begin. Bonsall said she and her parents had selected a yellow and



Julica Bonsall pointed to the photos in her 4-H Home Environment notebook of her sitting on the floor in the bathroom as she scraped off the tiles and purple wallpaper.

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*We salute all the 4-Hers.
Good luck on all your projects!*



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Julica Bonsall said the larger sink and vanity were key pieces to the remodeling of the bathroom. She said her mom, Janice, wanted the larger mirror and lights to go with the new yellow and white decore. In the sink are the grand champion ribbons and plaques that Bonsall won last year for the home environment project.

Bathroom great 4-H project

BATHROOM, from Page 9

white scheme for the floor and walls.

"My mom wanted the yellow as a color to make it cheery and bright in the mornings," she said.

She said she worked with Jill Berringer, who was her 4-H group leader, and kept track with photos of each step in the project. Bonsall began when she was in the Eighth grade and finished the project when she was a freshman.

She said it was quite an experience, and she learned more about the process than she could from any books.

"I did not realize how much work it was going to be," she said. "I did not think it would be a two year project."

When she was thinking about the project she talked to Deanna Bauman who had done a home environment project. She said this sort of project is not done very often.

She said Parker Sieck and her were the only ones with home environment projects. She won a grand champion ribbon and State Fair plaque at last year's Northwest Kansas District Free Fair for the project and for her notebook on the project.

"I learned a lot about working with people," she said. "I had to keep talking to my mom about what we were doing. We would discuss things and come to an agreement on what she wanted. "It was worth it. We have a new bathroom."

In the extended area of the bathroom she and

her mom agreed to put in shelves and several towel racks to make it convenient. The space provided by taking out the closet really opened the room and provides a space where a person can dry off and get dressed she said.

Bonsall said she put in a set of corner shelves with a place for a small decorative fountain that her mom wanted. She created some accents for the area using jars and items already in the house.

At the end she and her mom went shopping for all new towels and curtains to match the color scheme.

She said the project showed her there were many different levels of design, and she likes the creative part the best.

This is her third year working at Steever Water Park, and her second year as a lifeguard. She will be a junior when school starts in August.

Bonsall said she will be cheerleading for the Cowboys again this year, and plans to play softball and is a state officer in Family Career and Community Leaders of America. She was selected to be state first vice-president this year, and recently enjoyed the trip to Anaheim, Calif., for the national FCCLA convention, where Michael Smith concluded his year as national president.

She said they spent most of the time in meetings, but did get to spend one day at the beach.

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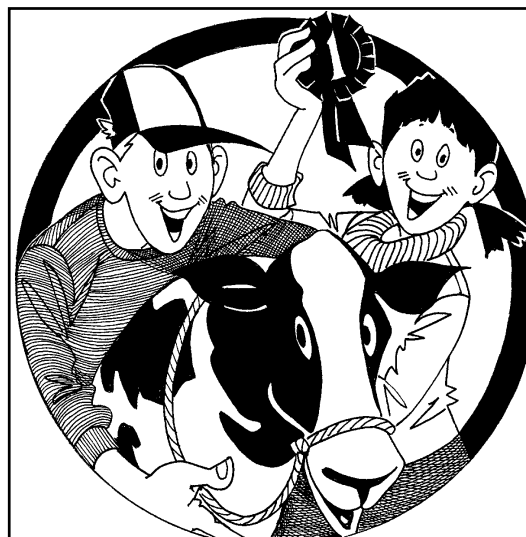
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Julica Bonsall showed the corner shelf with the fountain and candles on the third shelf that her mom, Janice, wanted as part of the new decor. Julica sotr of stood in front of the baby pictures her mom hung on a wall of the enlarged bathroom.



Dot is Julica Bonsall's pet rabbit that arrived one Easter about six years ago. She said she has not entered Dot in any competition, and she is not a 4-H project, just a pet.

Bathroom long term 4-H project

BATHROOM, from Page 10

She said she loves that area of California, and thinks she would like to live there.

The Bonsall family has been in Goodland about 12 years she said, and her father Grady works as a technician at the National Weather Service.

She said her brother, Ian, 11, is more into 4-H this year than she is. She said he has projects

in aquarium animals, Legos and woodworking.

She has been in 4-H for about four years and she and her brother are members of the Glendale Livewires.

Bonsall does have a pet rabbit, Dot, who she has had for about six years, but she does not enter in any competitions.

"She is just a pet," she said. "I got her for Easter."

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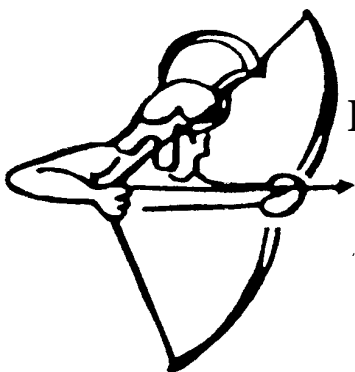
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2007 Northwest Kansas District Free Fair Schedule

Saturday, July 28

- 8:00 A.M. Dog Show Registration
Fairgrounds open for Set-Up
- 8:30 A.M. Dog Show
- 4:00 P.M. Parade Line Up
- 5:00 P.M. NWKDFE Parade (Main Street)
- 6:00 P.M. Modified Tractor Pull

Monday, July 31

- 8:00 A.M. Judging 4-H Foods
Judging 4-H Arts & Crafts
4-H Foods Sale
Catch-It-Pig Sign-Up
4-H Lifeskills Judging
- 9:00 A.M. Horse Show
- 9:30 A.M. Judging Exploring 4-H
- 5:00 P.M. Family Fun Night & Hot Dog Feed
By: KLOE/KKCI/KWGB & Eagle Cable
- 7:00 P.M. The Fishing Hole By BANKWEST OF KANSAS

Tuesday, July 31

"Farm Bureau Day"

- 8:00 A.M. Check-In All Entries for 4-H & Open Class
Livestock Weigh-in
Catch-It-Pig Sign-Up
- 10:30 A.M. Livestock Weigh-in Closed
- 11:00 A.M. All Entries Closed
Judging Flowers
- 12:00 P.M. Laser Shot Hunting Simulator
- 1:00 P.M. Judging All Classes (Except Livestock)
- 2:00 P.M. Goat Show
- 3:00 P.M. Rabbit Show
- 4:30 P.M. Sheep Lead/Show
- 5:30 P.M. Kids Pedal Tractor Pull
- 7:00 P.M. The Fishing Hole By BANKWEST OF KANSAS
- 7:30 P.M. Sherman County Farm Bureau presents
"Amazing Magic of Agriculture"

Wednesday, August 1

- 8:00 A.M. Lazer Shot Hunting Simulator
Swine Show
- 1:00 P.M. Llama Show
- 7:30 P.M. Heather Shelley in Concert

Thursday, August 2

- 9:00 A.M. Beef Show
Round Robin Showmanship -
30 minutes after beef show
- 6:30 P.M. Howdy Rowdy Rodeo

Friday, August 3

- 4:30 P.M. 4-H Appreciation BBQ
- 5:30 P.M. 4-H Livestock Sale
- 7:00 P.M. Demolition Derby

Saturday, August 4

- 8:00 A.M. Entry Tri-State Royal
All Projects Released
- 11:00 P.M. Release of Projects Closed
- 1:00 P.M. Tri-State Royal

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