

# THE HENDERSON NEWS

Sunday, February 3, 2019

## Rusk County 4-Her's compete in engineering challenge

**BY LIZ BUCKNER**

SPECIAL TO THE HENDERSON NEWS

Rusk County 4-H had their first ever team in the "Engineering Challenge" Contest at the East Texas State Fair-Academic Rodeo Jan. 23 at the fairgrounds in Tyler.

The elementary age division team members representing the Rusk County 4-H program and earning third place honors were Charlie Rodriguez, Andrew White, Kaylee White and Grace Pitts.

The Engineering Challenge was designed to meet National Science Education Standards and facilitate abilities in technological design while providing a foundation for understanding science and technology.

The goal of the participant is to work as a team using the engineering design process and be able to clearly communicate the design process to others.

Specifically the 4-H'er's team mission was to build a Mars Rover by using any or all of the mate-

rials supplied in a the LEGO starter kit provided by the Academic Rodeo as well as any element included on the non-LEGO allowable elements list.

During the design process, the team kept in mind that their rover must be able to navigate the challenging martian terrain, have a rock collection device and a rock storage area.

The team also kept a lab notebook during the entire project process which included a timeline, three itemized budgets, day-to-day notes, individual pie charts and a short paper giving an overview of what was learned about Mars during their team research and how the information affected the design of their rover.

During contest judging, the team presented a verbal and poster presentation.

One of the experiences of the contest was the "Rover Testing" which consisted of four challenges: rover speed test, martian rock collection test, hill climb test and blind driving test.

For each of the rover tests, the engineering

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**Rusk County 4-H'ers competed at East Texas State Fair-Academic Rodeo-Engineering Challenge on Jan. 23. The elementary age division was awarded third place. Pictured, from left, Charlie Rodriguez, Andrew White, Kaylee White and Grace Pitts.**

# County 4-H students participate in challenge

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team selected different drivers to control the Rover for the four separate tests.

The Engineering Challenge requires a high level of both coach and participant dedication, and the Rusk County 4-H

team had a dedicated coach Kendra White — Rusk County 4-H Leader. On Feb. 22, the Academic Awards Ceremony will be held on the fairgrounds, in which all Academic Rodeo participants—including all of the Rusk County 4-H'ers who have

participated in the Agriculture Product ID Contest, Engineering Challenge, Youth Fashion Show, Art Contest, Drama Festival, Kinder Critters Contest, Science Fair and Writing Contest will receive their awards from the 2019 Academic Rodeo.