



## Open Enrollment



El Dorado Connections will be assisting senior adults with Medicare Open Enrollment. Call **870.864.7080** for an appointment.



### The RSVP Drive-Thru Volunteer Recognition Fish Fry A Huge Success!

We are sorry the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines kept us from having a sit down luncheon, but all in all, those who were able to drive-thru enjoyed it.

### Literacy Council News

“After six months of deep disruption because of the COVID-19 pandemic, adult education stands on fragile ground everywhere”. ~UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, Ms. Stefania Giannini

But the future doesn't have to remain dim. YOU can make a difference!

**Volunteer with the Literacy Council of Union County**  
**870.864.7081**



## Why Volunteer?? Benefits of Volunteering You Might Not Have Considered



Volunteering is important for a variety of reasons. Most obviously, volunteering is about helping others. We all contribute to the construction of the world we live in—don't you want your contribution to be one that makes that world *better*? It makes for a better world for all of us when we work towards that goal.

Beyond the good deeds that can be done by volunteering, becoming a volunteer can be valuable for your personal growth and well-being. I might not have thought much of my responsibility showing tourists sea turtles and stingrays in my childhood volunteer experience, but I was learning the art of public speaking—a skill I use to this day. The more opportunities you take to learn new skills and gain knowledge, the more fully you will develop as a person. And what safer space to develop those skills than in a context of service?

Volunteering not only gets you out of your comfort zone, but it will also enrich your life and give you a broader purpose. Throughout your life you've developed social and professional skills that promote your personal achievement. But using those skills for a wider, communal impact can be even more fulfilling. It creates an avenue of connection for you within your community!

Spending time as a volunteer has been shown to improve your self-esteem and well-being. It's also a known mechanism to help fight depression, anxiety, stress, and anger. ~Grow Ensemble, Shelley Callahan

**This past year 176 Tri-County/RSVP volunteers reported 45,922 hours of service at a value of \$1,249,078. Thank you! Thank you!**



RSVP Volunteers



- 1- Mary Lou Doyle
- 3- Jeannie Summers
- 5- Bettye Thurmon
- 8- Linda Hays-Hargett
- Betty Miller
- 12- Fayrene Rash
- 16- Charlotte Smith
- 23- Myra Turnage
- 24- Zenobia Orr
- Inez Young
- 27- Loretta McCullars
- 28- Kathy Juniel
- Maurice Mims
- 29- Lucy Bawel



- 1- Anna Gurnea
- Beverly Vernon
- 4- Marsha Long
- Ruth Matocha
- 7- Larry Cave
- 8- David Carty
- 9- William Odom
- 10- Gretchen West
- 13- Belinda Cook
- Sue Miller
- 17- Shirley Gardner
- 19- Virginia Meador
- 20- Deborah Fort
- 22- Audrey Miller
- 26- Liz McKay
- Cindy Williams
- 31- Bud Horne



### “Emergency Food Box”

**November 10th  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Over 50 lbs. of food including meat, vegetables, and baking goods will be handed out at  
**Union County Fair Grounds  
430 E 19th St  
El Dorado**

Call (501) 315.1121 for requirement guidelines

[www.cadc.com](http://www.cadc.com)



It's never too early to begin thinking about volunteering for the upcoming tax season.

This past season, Tri-County RSVP volunteers prepared 409 taxes for low income individuals and families.

**Free 101 Training will be available to all volunteers.**

**Call Dara 870.864.7083 for more information.**

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



If you can't get enough of museums and love sharing knowledge with others, you just might want to be a docent. A docent is a combination of a trained museum-guide, informal teacher and enthusiastic volunteer for the **Gallery of History** and the **Newton House Museum**. It can be an opportunity to dig deep into what your favorite museum has to offer.

The volunteer position does require some walking at both the Gallery of History and Newton House, navigating stairs at the Newton House, and general tidiness as needed, but you will also have plenty of time to sit and study South Arkansas history as well.

If this sounds like an opportunity that peaks your interest, please contact Steve Biernacki at 870.862.9890 or [steve@soarkhistory.com](mailto:steve@soarkhistory.com).

Thanksgiving Day is a holiday celebrated by Americans on the fourth Tuesday of November. It celebrates the story of the Pilgrims' meal with the Native Americans and is reserved as a day to spend with loved ones and for giving thanks. Most families observe with a large meal and sometimes a religious service.



Many countries observe variations of this celebration or have a different holiday along the same themes. It is common to mark the harvest season with celebratory meals and festivals of thanks within many religions and communities. Protestant religions have many connections to the harvest festival of Thanksgiving.

Traditional foods include turkey, stuffing, gravy, sweet potatoes, cornbread, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce. Many people serve pie for dessert at the end of the meal. Popular pie flavors are pumpkin, pecan, sweet potato, and apple. [willstar.com](http://willstar.com)

There are a few Thanksgiving traditions besides the meal. Many churches hold a special Thanksgiving Day service centered on giving thanks to God. At the meal, many families observe the ritual of going around the table to express what each member is thankful for. Some family members will travel long distances to attend this yearly reunion.

### November

- 1-The first medical school opened for women in Boston 1848.
- 2-Daniel Boone was born 1734 in PA.
- 4- The Erie Canal was opened in 1825.
- 8-X-Rays were discovered by William Roentgen, 1895 in Germany.
- 10-U. S. Marine Corps established as part of the U. S. Navy in 1775.
- 17-The Suez Canal opened in 1869.
- 19-Pres. Abraham Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address in 1863.

### December

- 2-The toilet paper roll was patented, 1891
- 10- Dr. Martin Luther King received the Nobel Peace Prize, 1964.
- 13-The clip-on tie was created, 1828.
- 21-"Snow White" premiered in theaters 1937.
- 24-Franz Joseph Gruber composed "Silent Night" in 1818.
- 25-Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, 0.
- 26-James Mason invented the coffee percolator in 1865.

**FUN FACT:** A Thanksgiving mix-up inspired the first TV dinners!





Scams related to the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, are rapidly increasing as the public health emergency develops. Scammers are targeting older adults and those with serious long-term health conditions who appear to have a higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19.

Fraudsters are attempting to bill Medicare for sham tests or treatments related to the coronavirus and are targeting individuals to illegally obtain money or Medicare numbers.

- Do not give out your Medicare number to anyone other than your doctor, health care provider, or other trusted representative.
- Protect your Medicare number and treat your Medicare card like a credit card.
- Never provide your Medicare number to anyone who contacts you through unsolicited calls, texts, or emails.
- Be cautious of anyone who comes to your door offering free coronavirus testing, treatment, or supplies.
- Don't click on links from sources you don't know, which could put your computer or device at risk. Make sure the anti-malware and anti-virus software on your computers are up to date.

Visit [www.smpresource.org](http://www.smpresource.org) for more COVID-19 scams or call 870.864.7080 for information

The Corporation for National & Community Service is now AmeriCorps.



We've updated our branding in order to better inform the public about opportunities to serve. We know the power of national service and volunteering to bring out the best of America; it's why we strive to make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture. As our nation grapples with coronavirus, natural disasters, and other challenges, national service and volunteering are more important than ever. By updating our brand, we can better engage Americans in meeting today's challenges and position national service for greater impact and growth in the future.

### Classic Sugar Cookies



Beat 2 sticks of butter, 1/2 cup granulated sugar and 3/4 cups confectioner's sugar until fluffy. Beat in 2 egg yolks, 1 tsp. vanilla and 1 tsp. orange zest. Wisk 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour, 1/2 tsp baking powder and 1/4 tsp salt; stir into the butter mixture, then chill 30 mins. Roll into tablespoon sized balls and flatten; sprinkle with coarse sugar and bake 15-20 min at 350 degrees.



As the season of Christmas begins, you'll definitely feel the spirit of Christmas in the air. Soon, homes will be decorated with colorful ornaments and decorations. Christmas trees will be put up and decorated with Christmas balls, angels, garland, and lights. Under it, gifts will be arranged. It is indeed Christmas season.

Whether you have Christmas traditions such as watching "Frosty the Snowman", "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" or "It's a Wonderful Life", take time out of this hectic time of year to spend with family and friends.

As we get older we realize that its not all about what expensive gift we gave or received, it's about people and what they mean to us.

Tri-County RSVP volunteers are our greatest gifts. You are valued, you are special and you are loved.

*With another year ending, the Tri-County RSVP staff wants to thank our volunteers for the thousands of volunteer hours you have reported.*

*The challenges of 2020 that we all faced have only proven that RSVP volunteers are willing to hit the ground running to come to the aid of those in need.*

*Local food pantries and soup kitchens were hit the hardest. Because of the shut-downs and loss of jobs, more families were in desperate need of food to feed their families. The COVID-19 scare prompted seamstresses to quickly come up with the coveted facemasks and much, much more.*

*Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We look forward to 2021 with hope for a better year!*

Ever feel out of the loop because you didn't understand the texts you were receiving on your cell phone? No more! Here's what everyone was saying to you all along:



- BFF**-Best Friend Fell
- LOL**-Little Old Lady
- BTW**-Bring the Wheelchair
- TTYL**-Talk to You Louder
- LMDO**-Laughing My Dentures Out
- WAITT**-Who Am I Talking To?
- GGPBL**-Gotta Go Pacemaker Battery Low
- ROFACGU**-Rolling On Floor and Can't Get Up

**FUN FACT:** Brenda Lee was only 13 years old when she recorded the song- "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" in 1958.



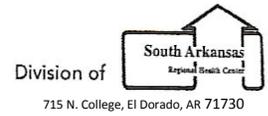
South AR Regional Health Center



824 Camp Street  
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730

RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED

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El Dorado, AR 71730



**RSVP STAFF**

Julia Amis, Director  
Dara Stanfill, Literacy Dir./Admin Asst.  
Cheryl Splawn, Volunteer Manager

**El Dorado Connections/RSVP Advisory Council 2020**

Bill Odom-Chair  
Vince Dawson-Vice Chair  
Lucy Bawel  
Vicki de Yampert  
Bonnie Miears  
Annette Pate  
Leroy Shelton  
Connie Short  
Barbara Warrick



**EL DORADO EXPRESS**

Transportation for Senior Adults 60 years of age and older

**870-864-7082**

Do you need a ride to the doctor? To the grocery store? Or to pay some bills. Give us a call we can make it happen.

- 24 hour notice for local
- 48 hour notice for long distance

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*To provide a variety of opportunities for citizens to participate more fully in the life of their community through significant volunteer service and to advocate for the aging population in South Arkansas.*