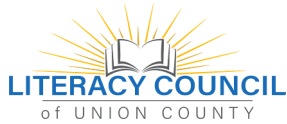




202 North Washington
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730
870-864-7080



RSVP

**EL DORADO
EXPRESS**

July-September 2025

www.eldoradoconnections.com

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LET FREEDOM RING!



On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, marking the formal separation of the thirteen American colonies from British rule.

The Declaration of Independence was a pivotal document in American history, approved by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. It announced the colonies' intention to break free from British rule, justifying this decision by outlining grievances against King George III and asserting the colonies' right to self-governance. The document was drafted by a committee led by Thomas Jefferson, with contributions from John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert R. Livingston, and Roger Sherman. Key points included:

- **Unalienable Rights:** The Declaration famously states that all men are created equal and are endowed with certain unalienable rights, including Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.
- **Grievances Against the King:** It lists 27 grievances against King George III, illustrating the colonies' frustrations and justifying their decision to seek independence.
- **Formal Adoption:** Although the Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1776, the final wording of the Declaration was approved on July 4, which is now celebrated as Independence Day in the United States.

By the 1870s, the Fourth of July was the most important secular holiday on the calendar. Congress passed a law making Independence Day a federal holiday on June 28, 1870. Even far-flung communities on the western frontier managed to congregate on Independence Day. In 1776 in a letter to his wife Abigail, John Adams said, "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

- Library of Congress

"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right."

~ Peter Marshall

JULY

5-Barbara Nicklaus
6-Carolyn Norman
8-Dana Hudson
9-Vickie Deal
10-Jane Doyle
13-Peggy Lybarger
14-Mary Guthrie
William Hogg
Barbara Libengood
16-Sandra Anderson
Doris Ashcraft
George Wylie
17-Joan Perdue
Katherine Zylks
19-Teresa Cox
20-Benita Burton
Nancy Murphy
25-Polly DeBruin
28-JoAnn Jones
Larry Yarbrough
29-Mary Nelson
30-Derrill Smith

August

1-Kathy Murph
2-Shirley Randle
3-Margaret Ross
4-Alice Carter
8-Ruth Brown
13-Jennifer Duncan
Dohnna Williams
14-Jo Lowery
16-Gina Mitchell
18-Mel Herr
19-MaryBeth Simpson
20-Linda Kalchich
24-Bob Stephenson
Betty Washington
27-William Jamerson
28-Annette Culpepper
29-Janell Decossas
30-Barbara Dickson
Wanda Moreland

SEPTEMBER

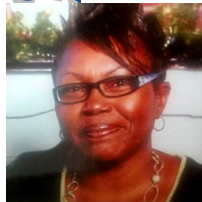
2-Arthur Johnson
5-Cheryl Splawn
6-Lynn Muckelrath
7-Bonnie Weaver
9-Mary Lovett
10-Lou Gantz
11-Dana Aclin
Ruth Hall
13-Mildred Jacobs
18-Janice Zeigler
22-Jean Eckert
24-Charlotte Steinman
24-Lisa Murray
28-Alvin Cary
Yvonne Padilia



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
RSVP Volunteers!!!



Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Margaret Ross. She has been an RSVP volunteer for fifteen years. She visits the nursing homes, helps at her church, checks on elders with phone calls keeping them informed about fraud and scams, and ministers to the homeless in our community. Margaret is a retired nurse having received her RN from Southern Arkansas University. She said she learned about helping people and being a servant from watching her mother who believed in helping others. Margaret contracted polio at an early age and had people who carried her around and helped her. She enjoys spending time with her husband Kevin, four children, twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Margaret's advice is to "remember how important it is to love the Lord and be about God's business. Volunteering is part of God's work".

Patriot Day on September 11th honors the memory of the nearly 3,000 innocent victims who died in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Each year Americans dedicate this day to



remembering those who died and the first responders who risked their own lives to save others.

In 2009, Congress designated September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance under bipartisan federal law. As we remember and honor those who were lost, our Day of Service project will be to collect personal hygiene items for homeless individuals in our community. Travel size items needed are shampoo, bath soap/gel, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, and also disposable razors, comb/brush, wash cloth, and sanitary pads. Donated items may be dropped off at our office Monday through Thursday, and will be delivered at 9:30 a.m. on September 11 to Liberty Ministries who will distribute to the homeless. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us for the presentation. Thank you in advance for participating in the Day of Service project.

Volunteers, please remember to return the monthly timesheet reporting all of your service hours. July's timesheet is enclosed in this newsletter. It is very important that we record and report to our funders all of the amazing things you are doing in and for our community. Remember, if it is not documented, it did not happen!



Thank You!!



Look for the Literacy Council's new, eye-catching pop-up tent and information table at community events and festivals all around the county !! We're increasing our visibility to promote our many programs to improve the reading, writing, math, English as a second language, digital, and "lifestyle" skills of Union County adults!



Remind yourself and spread the word: It is the mission of the Literacy Council of Union County to provide free instruction, through trained volunteer tutors, to Union County adults who want to improve their literacy skills in various areas of their lives, including their jobs, homes, families, and today's changing lifestyle environments. We offer our programs through one-on-one instruction or small workshops/classes at our offices or offsite at churches or businesses:

Adult Basic Education Program is designed for adults who speak English but read or write below a 5th grade level, need to sharpen their basic arithmetic skills, and/or have dyslexia challenges.

English as a Second Language Program is for adults who have modest skills speaking, reading, or understanding English.

Workforce Training Program helps individuals fill out job applications, write resumes, and follow tips for successful job searches and interviews.

Digital Literacy Program helps adults understand and operate the rapidly changing and challenging digital tools (e.g., computers, cell phones, the internet) that are increasingly a part of our lives.

Other Lifestyle Programs help individuals pass the Arkansas driver's license exam, apply for US citizenship, and increase their health or financial management skills. Call 870-864-7081 for more information.



The news today for seniors is to be ready for those pesky SCAM CALLS. Medicare scams and healthcare scams in general are on the rise. When someone calls you on the phone, be

aware of the following red flags that will alert you that this is a scam call.



Medicare will not call you.



Medicare will not pressure you to confirm any information.



Medicare is not offering a new Medicare card of any type. You must personally call Medicare to request a replacement card.



Your Medicare card does not expire!



Scam callers can easily obtain your name/address from phone listings or Google.



Scam callers may know your doctor's name; that does not mean the call is legitimate.

What you can do to avoid a SCAM CALL: 1) Block unwanted numbers and text messages, 2) Don't give and don't confirm any personal information, 3) JUST HANG UP THE PHONE! If a scammer has tricked you into giving your Medicare number or other personal information over the phone, report it to the AR SMP, 866-726-2916.

ORANGE FLUFF

8 oz. sour cream

1 pkg. lemon gelatin

2 (11 oz) mandarin oranges, drained

1 (21 oz.) pineapple tidbits, drained

1 (8 oz.) cool whip

Pastel marshmallows (optional)

Directions:

Put sour cream in a bowl and sprinkle with gelatin. Stir until blended. Fold in oranges, pineapple, and cool whip. Sprinkle with marshmallows, if desired.



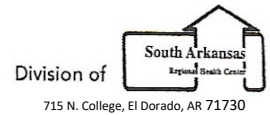
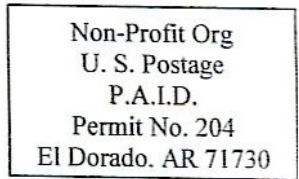
"The gardens of kindness never fade."

-Greek Proverb



202 North Washington, Suite 107
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RETURNED SERVICE REQUESTED



RSVP
Lead With Experience

RSVP STAFF

Julia Amis, Director
Dara Stanfill, Assistant Director

Literacy Council Staff

Linda Rathbun, Director
Carolyn Wilson, Literacy Facilitator

Advisory Council 2025

Annette Pate-Chair
Bonnie Miears-Co-Chair
Larry Cave
Bill Odom
Shirley Randle
Connie Short
Joan Tribble
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.

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.*