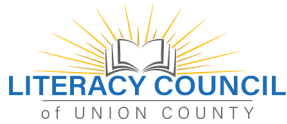




202 North Washington
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730
870-864-7080



RSVP

**EL DORADO
EXPRESS**

July-September 2026

www.eldoradoconnections.com

Volume 35 No. 3



El Dorado Connections is proud to announce that it was selected as a grant recipient by the Community Care Corps. Funding will be used for volunteer programs assisting local family caregivers, older adults, and adults with disabilities with nonmedical care needs in El Dorado, Arkansas and Union County. The amount of the 18-month grant is \$142,448.

Community Care Corps grants are awarded to local organizations across the country to develop, expand, and refine innovative volunteer models. Community Care Corps is granting \$3.5 million to 22 innovative local programs nationwide, including El Dorado Connections Miles for Seniors. The program was extremely competitive. In all, 174 organizations requested funding for their programs. The organizations selected serve a varied mix of urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities from across the country.

Volunteer drivers are being recruited to transport individuals 60 years or older to medical appointments, the grocery store or pharmacy. Mileage reimbursement is available. If you are interested in being a part of this new resource for our community, please call 870-864-7080, or drop by our office for more information.



America Gives



Be part of the largest volunteer effort in U.S. history! Help us make 2026 a **record setting year** of volunteer service. Join people and organizations across the country in giving back — from service projects to donations — to honor America's 250th.

Log your volunteer hours for a chance to be one of 250 winners who will choose where the donations go. **NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.** Ends 11:59 pm ET on 12/1/26. Open to U.S. only, 13+. See Official Rules for full details including how to enter, eligibility requirements, and prize description/restrictions. Void where prohibited.

Visit <https://america250.org/america-gives/>
Add your volunteer hours to the count!
*Honor the Semiquincentennial by giving
back in your community.*



*God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
Through the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, my home, sweet home.
God bless America, my home, sweet home.*

- Irving Berlin

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RSVP Volunteers!!!

 6-Carolyn Norman Cathy Turner 8- Dana Hudson 9-Vickie Deal 10-Jane Doyle 13-Peggy Lybarger 14-Mary Guthrie Barbara Libengood 16-Sandra Anderson Doris Ashcraft Wylie George 17-Katherine Zylks 19-Teresa Cox 20-Bernita Burton Nancy Murphy 25-Polly DeBruin Cherie Simpson 28-JoAnn Jones 29-Mary Nelson Cheryl Thurlkill 30-Derrill Smith	 1-Kathy Murph 2-Shirley Randle 3-Margaret Ross 4-Alice Carter 8-Ruth Brown 9-Janie Mitcham 14-Jo Lowery 16-Gina Mitchell 18-Mel Herr 19-MaryBeth Simpson 20-Linda Kalcich 24-Bob Stephenson Betty Washington	 2-Arthur Johnson 5-Cheryl Splawn 6-Lynn Muckelrath 7-Bonnie Weaver 9-Mary Furlow-Lovett 11-Dana Aclin Ruth Hall 13-Mildred Jacobs 22-Jean Eckert 24-Charlotte Steinman 28-Alvin Cary LaTonya Miles Yvonne Padilia 30-Julia Amis
--	---	--





Volunteers:

A timesheet is enclosed with this newsletter. At the end of July please record your volunteer hours and return the timesheet to our office.

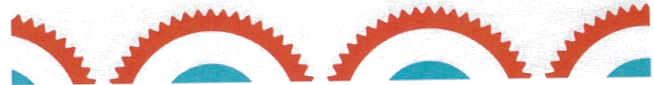
Thank you for your community service!

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!!



PATRIOTIC WORD SEARCH

B U L A Y H K Y N V S A C R I F I C E Q N S A M E R I C A L P A T R I O T I C F D I B I S Z H U S A G R A T I T U D E R Y S H E R I T A G E G J U L Y H F L A G P A R A D E C V J D F R E E D O M R X T	AMERICA FLAG FREEDOM GRATITUDE HERITAGE JULY PARADE PATRIOTIC SACRIFICE USA
--	--



lifeshouldcostless.com

Long days in the summer sun can be dangerous for anyone if the necessary precautions aren't taken, and this is especially true for older adults.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/disease/prevention), people who are ages 65 and older are more prone to heat-related health problems. As we age, our bodies don't adjust as quickly to sudden changes in temperatures, and various medical conditions and prescription medicines can contribute to heat-related illnesses.

Six Summer Safety Tips for Older Adults

- **Stay hydrated**—drink plenty of water and pack extras if you are going out. Watermelons, lettuce, peaches and strawberries are a great source for hydration.
- **Protect your skin and eyes**—use a sunscreen that is 30 SPF or better, wear a hat and sunglasses too
- **Know when to stay inside**—limit outdoor activities to mornings and evenings when it's cooler
- **Keep medications properly stored**—rising temperatures can effect medicines and some medicines warn you to stay out of the sun
- **Run the A/C**—keep A/C at 78 degrees during the summer. Older adults can get too hot and not realize. Getting too hot can be fatal.
- **Stay connected**—check on older family members or neighbors often to see how they are doing.



S.O.S.
Safety Outreach for Seniors

Thursday, September 17
Lelia Enrichment Center
600 Lelia Street, Magnolia, AR
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sponsored by El Dorado Connections in partnership with the AR SMP, bringing safety education to Arkansas seniors, promoting better health and elder independence.

Speakers include AR SMP, Area Agency on Aging, Fire and Police Dept spokespersons, and *More!*

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

Door Prizes! Vendors!

****To register, please call**
866-726-2916.



CAMDEN BALLOON
FESTIVAL
AUGUST 28-29, 2026

Camden Municipal Airport
255 Airport Road, Camden, AR

Experience the magic of flight at the **Camden Balloon Festival**, one of South Arkansas's most breathtaking and beloved annual events! As dawn breaks and again at sunset, the sky above Camden fills with brilliant hot air balloons, drifting gracefully over the landscape in a spectacular display of color, light, and motion. Enjoy balloon launches, tethered rides, and up-close viewing opportunities that make the experience unforgettable for all ages. Families can explore vendor booths, enjoy delicious food truck favorites, listen to live music, and take part in fun activities. Evening events often include a stunning **balloon glow**, where illuminated balloons light up the night in a radiant, picture-perfect scene.



Honor. Serve. Unite.

This #911Day honor those we lost by doing an act of service for your community.

Each year Americans dedicate September 11 to remembering those who died and the first responders who risked their own lives to save others during the terrorist attacks. As an act of service for our community, our project will be to collect personal hygiene items for Liberty Ministries and Interfaith Help Services to distribute to those in need. Items requested include: baby diapers, sanitary pads, men's socks, travel size items of shampoo, bath soap/gel, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, disposable razors, comb/brush, and wash cloths. Donated items may be dropped off at our office Monday through Thursday, and will be delivered to Liberty Ministries and Interfaith Help at 9:00 a.m. on September 10. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us for the presentation.

Fresh Fruit Parfait

Ingredients

3 cups vanilla nonfat yogurt

1 cup fresh or defrosted frozen strawberries in their juice

1 pt. fresh blackberries, raspberries or blueberries

1 cup good quality granola

Directions

Layer 1/3 cup yogurt into bottom of tall glasses. Combine defrosted strawberries and juice with fresh berries. Alternate layers of fruit and granola with yogurt until glasses are filled to the top. Serve parfaits immediately to keep granola crunchy. Makes 4 servings

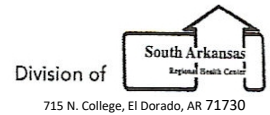
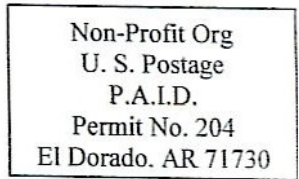


According to custom and tradition, the stripes on the American flag represent the original 13 colonies. The **white** signifies purity and innocence; **red** hardiness and valor; and **blue** vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The stars represent the 50 states in the Union.



202 North Washington, Suite 107
El Dorado, Arkansas 71730

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 2026

Annette Pate-Chair
Bonnie Miears-Vice 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.