

BLUE LETTER

May 2024 No. 3865



Joys of May

"Let all thy joys be as the month of May."

- Thomas Tusser, 16th century English farmer

Thomas Tusser never made it to Arkansas, but if he had come here in May, he would surely have felt right at home. If you can't be happy in May in Arkansas, you probably can't be happy at all. I will grant that the month has been a bit challenging for those of us trying to knock out planting season, but otherwise what a beautiful time of year to be in the Natural State.

In UA-CES, we have had more to celebrate than just the balmy late spring weather. We started this month with a special celebration for Mr. Johnny Woodley. Mr. Woodley is not only a long-serving employee in the LRSO warehouse, but he is also 34 years into his career as a citizen-soldier with the Arkansas National Guard (ARNG) and a veteran of four overseas deployments. Mr. Woodley is a Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3) in the ARNG. If you know anything about military rank, you know that warrant officers (affectionately referred to as Chiefs) play a special role in the military. Warrant officers have technical or tactical skills that are critical for mission success. They are respected not just for their special rank but for their special skill set. What I'm saying is that Mr. Woodley, despite his unfailingly modest demeanor, is kind of a big deal in the ARNG. He was recently presented a Quilt of Valor by the Never Forgotten in Arkansas Quilts of Valor chapter from Saline County. The ceremony was arranged by our own Kris Boulton, Saline County Staff Chair and FCS agent. In fact, appropriate for our organization, the ceremony was included

in an Extension meeting – a Technology and Textiles training that took place in the LRSO education wing. When the whole room – agents, volunteers, and guests – all sang the national anthem and watched as Mr. Woodley was presented his handmade quilt, it was truly a special occasion — one that I think we all felt honored to have been a part of. I am grateful to Kris Boulton for going the extra mile to pull off this wonderful celebration. She has a pretty remarkable set of skills herself.

I got to meet another remarkable group of people this month when our 4-H state officer candidates came by for a visit. To accommodate schedules, candidates came by in two groups on consecutive Fridays this month. It is always a pleasure interacting with our 4-Hers. It's also usually a humbling experience if I'm honest. These young men and women are unbelievably poised, articulate, intelligent, polite, and confident. They are miles ahead of where I was at their age. I can't imagine a better advertisement for 4-H or for CES generally than these outstanding young people.

I'll end this month's installment with some joyous personnel news. Sherry Beaty-Sullivan has joined our administrative team as Ozark District Director. Sherry is well known to UA-CES, having served as an agent for...I'll leave it to her to tell you how many years. Let's just say she's been around long enough to know what she's doing. It has been a pleasure getting to know Sherry better and seeing her enthusiasm for her new role.

As always, thank you for all you are doing for our organization and for the people of this wonderful state. ■

INSIDE SCOOP

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Vines Center Hosts

National Extension Association of Family Consumer Sciences

On April 30, the Arkansas Affiliate of the National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences held its state conference at the Arkansas 4-H Center.



The conference included various activities such as professional development sessions for FCS agents, technicians, associates and specialists to empower individuals and families to make informed decisions. The event also provided opportunities for networking to

strengthen statewide collaborations. Additionally, there was a business meeting to continue their work, a resolutions session to advocate for the needs of their, and an awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding work of FCS professionals in



the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

EFNEP Cooking School

Congratulations to our newest EFNEP graduates from the first Cooking Arkansas EFNEP Cooking School held in Union County! Early Childhood Educators also earned eight hours toward their Professional Development Registry (PDR) by participating in all four sessions. The class spent their last session learning how to limit sugar, sodium, and fat and then prepared breakfast parfaits, vegetables with creamy dip and built their own salads with different types of homemade vinaigrettes. ■







Quilt of Valor

Never Forgotten in Arkansas, a group of Saline County quilters with the Quilts of Valor Foundation, recently awarded a Quilt of Valor to Johnny Woodley, warehouse specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service, to honor his decades of military service to Arkansas and the United States.

The ceremony took place May 3 during a Technology and Textiles training at the Cooperative Extension Service State Office in Little Rock. Extension agents, program assistants and family and consumer sciences teachers gathered to learn about using STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — in textiles projects. One service-learning project included constructing a quilt

block that will be used in a future Quilt of Valor.

Read more here and see more photos from the event. ■



UADA & Little Rock Landmark

Historic home of state's first black ag extension workers features in tour of homes. For years the home at 2111 Cross St. languished, and with it, the memories of a landmark in Little Rock's history.



Its once-proud face was worn.
Strips of paint peeled away, laying its wood open to the wounds of wind and water. The non-profit organization Preserve Arkansas even listed the home as one of the state's most endangered in 2016.

But in 2019, new owners took

possession of the home and poured much-needed love into the wood and brick house that was once the home of Arkansas' first African American agricultural extension workers Mary Lee and Harvey Cincinnatus Ray and the childhood home of the Little Rock Nine's Gloria Ray.

This spring, the Dunbar neighborhood house was among those featured in the Quapaw Quarter Association's 59th annual tour of homes May 11-12.

"We were looking for some houses in the area and the current owners were happy to open their house to us and to have it on tour," said Callie Williams, a Quapaw Quarter Association volunteer and architectural historian. "They're newer homeowners. They recently purchased the home and have recently done a big renovation and rehabilitation job on the house.

"It was in kind of a sorry state and had fallen into disrepair. They were able to get the house and bring it back," Williams said.

To learn more about Mary Lee and Harvey Cincinnatus Ray, read the entire article here. ■



National LifeSmarts

Competition §

The team of Benton County 4-Hers captured the Arkansas LifeSmarts Wild Card team championship after months of study and qualifying preliminary competitions. The team successfully fielded questions about real-life financial, consumer and marketplace issues and competed against 47 other teams from across the country at the 2024 National LifeSmarts Championship in San Diego, CA.

LifeSmarts, a program of the National Consumers League, is a consumer education competition that challenges teens about personal finance; health and safety; the environment; technology and workforce preparation; and consumer rights and responsibilities. The competition prepares teens for their future and enables them to become successful, contributing citizens equipped with the life skills they need in today's complex



global marketplace. This year marks the 30th anniversary season of the LifeSmarts program.

The team was recognized as a Top 10 team in the Educational Video competition with their <u>sun safety video</u>. ■

Check in, Tune up!

Extension's new employees were welcomed aboard during Check In and Tune Up orientation at the state office on May 8. CPED professional development specialist Steve Siegelin welcomed attendees. Vanessa Lewis, CPED professional development associate, led an icebreaker which got participants revved up for a fun and enlightening experience.

Extension Director Dr. John Anderson greeted everyone. Then Dr. Stacey McCullough sent all on a scavenger hunt through the CPED offices to answer questions about its role/ scope at Extension. New employees also learned about Family and Consumer Sciences from Dr. Nina Roofe and about 4-H and Youth Development from Dr. Debbie Nistler. Dr. Tom Barber covered Information on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

> Extension benefits providers and departments hosted Expo booths after lunch. The browsing was extensive with buzzing conversations between hosts and participants.

Dr. Stacey McCullough speaks to new employees about CPED and sends them on an informative scavenger hunt.

Peer to peer sessions comprised most of the afternoon, with one participant commenting that "the peer session was awesome and very intimate as well as the collaboration and connections." Another stated that "the ability to build

Tracy Courage and Chris Meux give an overview of the communications department and what support services are available.

new relationship and networks was amazing."

The IT team quizzed participants on their tech knowledge, handing out prizes to the winners. Everyone was more tech savvy afterwards.

Evaluation results declared the overall activities a benefit for new employees. Participants said the information sessions were very helpful and engaging, along with the Expo stations. They found the atmosphere welcoming and informative. The next new employees' orientation will be Sept. 11 at LRSO. The event's new name – Sowing Seeds of Excellence: Welcome U. ■



Poultry Chain Distribution



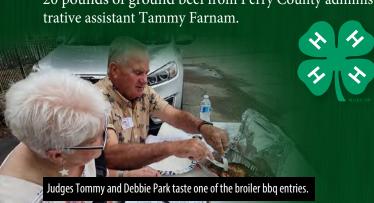
Some 35,700 chicks arrived at their new homes in 69 counties across the state. The Arkansas Poultry chain project is open to youth across the state who are members of 4-H or FFA. The participants each received 18 chicks to grow until fair season. In the process, the youth learn responsibility, animal husbandry, and maybe even some business education. At the end of these project, some youth will sell their birds to help fund future show projects while others will keep these poultry chain birds and start their own flocks or fold them into existing flocks. Watch our Arkansas Poultry Chain 2024 <u>video</u> featuring Andrew Bolton, poultry instructor-youth programs.





4-H Day on the Block

Perry County celebrated its 2nd Annual 4-H Day on the Block (Big B Day) on April 29 with 123 in attendance and 70 youth participating in outdoor county O-Rama competitions, including Broiler BBQ, Bicycle, Baitcasting and BB Gun Safety. The walking tacos were a hit - prepared by Elia Lawson and with a donation of 20 pounds of ground beef from Perry County administrative assistant Tammy Farnam



The event ran smoothly with the help of Outdoor Instructor Jesse Bocksnick; volunteers Butch and Kay Hoyt who helped with the popcorn machine and the baitcasting testing; volunteers Tommy and Debbie Park who



judged the broiler barbecue contest; and Beth Roland and CoLette Branscum, who added up the scoresheets. ■

Tech Corner

Password Managers

As most of you know, you are no longer able to save passwords in browsers (Edge, Chrome, and Firefox). For those who have multiple credentials to maintain, a password manager may be the answer.

There are various options available for storing passwords. The best option is to use an approved dedicated password



manager. The only password manager software currently approved for Extension use is 1Password. A license for 1Password

can be requested from IT at the cost of \$99 per year (pricing is subject to change with each renewal). <u>1Password request form</u>. Note: According to their terms and conditions, none of the free versions of password managers are approved for business use.

Zoom Pro Tip -

Zoom has a whole new look! With the updated Zoom Workplace app, new features abound. One of the first things

you'll notice are the new icons giving Zoom a whole new look. In meetings, you'll see some old features with new names such as the new Host Tools button that replaces the Security shield icon we've become familiar with. You'll also be able to rearrange the buttons in your meeting



toolbar to fit your needs. Can't see the Breakout Rooms button? Just drag it from the More section. Don't need the React button? Just drag it to the More section to hide it. Take some time to explore your new Zoom Workplace app!

Hacks from Hump Day



- Microsoft 365 Copilot
- Excel SUMIFS and COUNTIFS
- Share OneDrive files and folders
- Virtual Background in Zoom ■

2024 TECH TUESDAY WEBINARS

Have you missed any past Tech Tuesday webinars or want to join future webinars? Check out the recordings and other resources on the <u>Tech Tuesday Blog page</u>. More Tech Tuesday topics coming soon! Did you miss April's <u>OneDrive Fun Drive</u> Tech Tuesday? Check out the recording and resources.



Front Page News You Can Use

Looking for a news story to use in your local paper? Look no further than the front page of **uaex.uada.edu**. And if you click on view all news, you'll see all of our archived news stories back to 2014.

If you want to be on the email list to receive our news stories, email Mary Hightower at mhightower@uada.edu and Communications will add you to the distribution list. ■





LEADERSHIP LOG



LeadAR

Dr. Karama Neal Talks Genetics, Nuclear Reactors, and Community Development at LeadAR 40th Anniversary Event.

What do genetics, nuclear reactors and rural community development have in common? These are topics covered by Dr. Karama Neal, Neal Firm principal and keynote speaker for the LeadAR 40th Anniversary celebration banquet on April 13. Nearly 100 LeadAR alumni, friends, family, faculty and staff gathered at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts to celebrate the milestone anniversary for LeadAR. The theme of the event was "LeadAR: 40 years of empowering leaders; celebrating the legacy; shaping the future." During Neal's keynote address, she asked attendees to look back one, 10, 25, maybe 40 years after their LeadAR experience on obstacles faced. Read excerpts from her talk here.



Unlocking Leadership Potential: Insights from iLead Session in Hope, Arkansas by Daniela Kidd, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, Department Administrative Manager.

Hope served as the backdrop for a transformative leadership experience during the fifth in-person iLead seminar held April 18-19. Hosted at the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana and Southwest Research and Extension Center (SWREC) campuses, the event offered profound insights and practical learning opportunities for aspiring leaders. Read details here.



Leadership Lunch & Learn

Book Review: Winning Minds reviewed by Tia Gregory

The April Leadership Lunch and Learn focused on *Winning Minds: Secrets from the Language of Leadership* by Simon Lancaster, reviewed by Tia Gregory, an extension instructor at the Mississippi State University Extension Service. View the recording <u>here</u>. Read the blog post <u>here</u>.

Economic Development Association Conference

UADA Extension's EDA University Center for Rural Resilience and Workforce Development attended the Southwest Region Economic Development Association conference in May. Hunter P. Goodman, assistant professor of community, workforce, and economic development and University Center director was part of a panel discussion on 'Collaborations for Regional Development' highlighting the ways our program fosters collaboration around the state and Extension.

Attendees included Councils of Governments and Economic Development Districts from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas along



with the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Goodman featured the Centers 'Building Capacity Through Grant Writing' workshops in partnership with the Arkansas Districts, a new newsletter, and their Labor Market Observatories launching later this fall.

Learn more about the Center and the work they are doing at https://uaex.uada.edu/edauc or email bmathews@uada.edu. ■





SNAP-Ed Inservice

SNAP-Ed held its annual in-service training at the Little Rock State Office on April 17. Sixty-eight FCS agents, state staff, and SNAP-Ed educators met for collaborative training. Dr. Nina Roofe kicked off the training with an inspiring welcome. Tristin Bolton, Lauren McGarrh, Pam Pruett, and Laura Warren shared their experiences and successes in implementing various SNAP-Ed curricula and working with

Amy Shepard, FCS Agent in Lincoln County practicing the measuring activity in the Teen Cuisine Curriculum.

SNAP-Ed audiences spanning elementary school students through older adults. Amber Hairston provided a fun physical activity break in the afternoon – Who's the Big Cheese?

The state SNAP-Ed team covered several topics, including program evaluation, PEARS reporting,

financial updates, curriculum updates, and frequently asked questions. Dr. Josh Phelps presented a session on success stories and ethical storytelling.

The training wrapped up with Dr. Hunter Goodman lead-



ing a session on asset-based community development.

The SNAP-Ed team worked hard to put together an enjoyable, beneficial in-service. We appreciate the efforts by agents and educators to make the SNAP-Ed program a success! ■

Teen Cuisine Training

Twenty-five FCS agents, state staff, and SNAP-Ed educators participated in the Teen Cuisine training at the Little Rock State Office on April 16. Peer speakers



and lesson demonstrations were used to train participants to effectively deliver Teen Cuisine in their SNAP-Ed programs. FCS agents who participated in the initial pilot program shared their experiences during the training.

There were activity stations led by agents on knife skills, measuring, reading recipes, and food demonstrations. A big thanks to Tristin Bolton (Crawford), Joy West (Jackson), Pia Woods (Jefferson), Pam Pruett (Mississippi), and Katie Cullum (White) for helping to make the training a success! ■



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4-H Celebrates Solar Eclipse and Earth Day

The month of April was a busy growing spurt for Crittenden County 4-H. New 4-H agent Ali Salisbury hit the ground running and participated in several educational sessions throughout the month with local community partner schools. April was an exciting month for solar enthusiasts, so 4-H took advantage and held a solar eclipse viewing party and handed out over 75

4-H agent Ali Salisbury hands out pollinator seeds to students at HCGC in Marion. protective eye glasses to youth and families. We spent the rest of the week teaching over 400 students at Herbert Carter Global Community Magnet (HCGC) about the solar eclipse and the astronomical processes at play by using hand shadows, cookie eclipses, and Play-Doh eclipse remakes.

During Earth Day, 400 students at HCGC participated in a session on how to make pollinator-friendly seed balls for the garden. Younger 4-H members enjoyed an outdoor book session with our newest Farm Bureau Arkansas book titled My Grandpa, My Tree, and Me by Roxanne Troup and Kendra Binney.

HCGC students use cookies to represent the Moon passing in front of the Sun during a Solar Eclipse.



Soybean Science Challenge

Garland County Plant Show

The Soybean Science Challenge recently manned a booth at the Garland County Plant Show in Hot Springs, April 19-20.

SSC Coordinator Keith Harris and SSC Associate Diedre Young handed



out soybean promotional items, soybean seeds, lesson plans, resource guides, and educational brochures to more than 500 participants. Harris and Young encouraged attendees to tell teachers to use soybeans in classroom research by using the free resources available on Extensions 'soywhatsup' website.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a farmer-funded, statewide, high school education program that seeks to increase student knowledge about the value of

Arkansas soybeans to the Arkansas economy, to the labor force, and ultimately to feed and fuel the world. The Soybean Science Challenge is a partnership between the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and the Cooperative Extension Service.

For more information, please contact

Dr. Julie Robinson, jrobinson@uada.edu or Keith Harris, kharris@uada.edu. ■



Show participants.

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Sowing Seeds of Excellence

New agents had perfect days to participate in the Sowing Seeds of Excellence Program Planning Training at



the 4-H Center on April 23-24. Taylor Knox and David Rice led two groups through ExCel team building exercises, including High 5 Buddy/Icebreaker Questions; Raccoon Circle; Blocked Perspective; and Broken Bridge/Mountain Top – all designed to focus on communication, trust, commitment, and collaboration skills.

and Emily Smith introduced participants to a new understanding of program planning and its importance in developing a realistic and focused workload. After learning about program planning theory, the participants split into subject matter areas and worked with educators Leigh Ann Bullington, Chad Norton, Stark, Keith Statham-Cleek, and Les Walz to develop a program plan. Afterwards, they presented their plan to the other groups. The training was a great first step in helping new agents start on the right path to program development in their counties.

Extension educators Leigh Ann Bullington, Keith Statham-Cleek, Les Walz and Chad Norton assisted in the training. ■

On the second day, CPED program associate Vanessa Lewis led an icebreaker session that built on what new agents learned in a previous True Colors training, using content adapted to program planning.

4-H instructor Dr. Carrie Stark and CPED staff members Dr. Jeantyl Norze



Progressive Farm Safety Day

During the recently held Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, fourth-grade students at Jimmy Brown Elementary in Lincoln County learned how to be safe around electrical lines and ATVs, how to stay safe in the sun, and about fire safety and outdoor safety.

The mission of this national program is to provide education, training, and resources to make farm, ranch and

rural life safer and healthier for children and their communities. Safety days are designed to be age-appropriate, hands-on, fun, and safe for children.

When asked if they believed this Safety Day was beneficial for their students, all five fourth-grade teachers agreed that it was. One teacher stated, "I believe it's important for kids to know what they need to do, and not to do, in emergency situations."

Student post-surveys reported one student learned, "When you're in a car with a fallen powerline, jump out with both feet at once instead of one at a time." Another student wrote, "To always wear a hat while in the sun to prevent my head from getting sunburned." The surveys showed 95 percent of students stated a safety behavior or skill that they planned to put into use.





Fun on the Farm

More than 560 students from eight schools recently participated in Crawford County Extension's annual Fun on the Farm Event event held at Arnolds Family Farm.

Students rotated through nine stations each focused on a different area of the farm. They learned about

Student learns about milking a dairy cow.

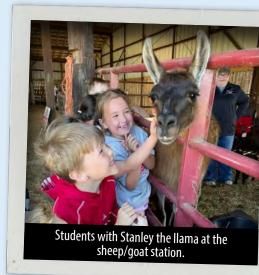
poultry, dairy, germination, sheep and goats, beef, bees, forestry, farm equipment and strawberries.

A post event survey was given to teachers. One teacher said, "Every year my

students have a great time and learn a lot at Fun on the Farm."

"We love having this event for students. It is great to see them on the farm and asking questions while learning about things we find valuable," Crawford County agent Tristin Bolton said.

This program has been offered for more than 10 years in Crawford.



Grants & Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
4-H Donation from Tractor Supply	5,000.00	Marley Shaddox	Tractor Supply Company
Arkansas Discovery Farms	5,000.00	Mike Daniels	Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Climate Smart Commodities	575,740.20	Mike Daniels	ECOM USA, LLC
Assessing Susceptibility of Insect Pests of Corn in Storage to Selected Insecticides	7,601.00	Nick Ryan Bateman	Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
Rice Insect Management	86,445.00	Nick Ryan Bateman	Arkansas Rice Research Promotion Board
Rice Insect Efficacy - Protocol Number NA24X12032S	14,000.00	Nick Ryan Bateman	Corteva Agriscience LLC
Evaluation of New Herbicides, Premizes, Programs, and Application Methods for Improved Control of Problematic Weeds in Corn	45,231.00	Tom Barber	Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
A Team Approach to Improved Weed Management in Rice	83,186.00	Tom Barber	Arkansas Rice Research Promotion Board
Determining Disease Resistance and Susceptibility of Corn and Grain Sorghum Hybrids	15,005.00	Terry Spurlock	Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
2024 Seed Applied Technologies Rice - Protocol Number NA24X12031S	12,000.00	Terry Spurlock	Corteva Agriscience LLC
Protocol FP24USAZOE - Work Order 8	6,650.00	Travis Faske	Bayer CropScience LP
Development and Expansion of Disease Management Decision-Making Tools	15,000.00	Travis Faske	University of Kentucky Research Foundation
Assess Management Options for Corn Nematodes in Arkansas	37,320.00	Travis Faske	Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Promotion Board

Benefits Corner

LegalShield

Everyone has a time in their life when they need legal advice or assistance. With employee-pay-all LegalShield coverage, just pay a small monthly fee and you'll have access to legal consultations from an experienced attorney.

Premiums are paid through convenient payroll deductions if you enroll through Workday. Log in with your university credentials when prompted and select the Workday app.

For more information review Legal Shield or contact <u>LegalShield</u> at 800-770-9820. Note: If you enroll through the LegalShield website, your premiums will be paid through a bank draft.

ID Watchdog

Understanding the complex world of identity theft and identity fraud can be overwhelming. It's more complicated than the use of a stolen credit card or fraudulent



withdrawals from your bank account. It can impact everything from your tax refunds to your medical insurance.

The good news is you don't have to face identity theft alone. With ID Watchdog®, you have an easy and affordable way to help better protect and monitor the identities of you and your family.

Receive alerts on potentially suspicious activity and enjoy the peace of mind that comes from fully managed resolution services. Enroll in this award-winning identity protection benefit today.

For information download the <u>ID Watchdog Benefit</u>
<u>Summary</u> and visit <u>UA System ID Watchdog</u>. For benefits questions, contact yourbenefits@uada.edu.

Personnel Changes

Welcome Aboard:

Zachary Treadway – Cotton and Peanut - Crop Soil & Environmental Science, LRSO **Evan Jewsbury** – Chief Human Resources Officer - Human Resources, Fayetteville

Taylor Stage – Administrative Assistant - District Office, LRSO

Katrina Boyd - County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Crittenden County

Josh Beach – 4-H Program Assistant, Grant County

Joshua Hambrick - County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Prairie County

Daniel Livingston – County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Desha County

Rita K Taylor – Administrative Specialist III, Lawrence County

Jennifer Kaplan - Administrative Specialist III, Lonoke Extension Center

Riley Smith - Program Associate - Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness, LRSO

Farewell to:

Ethan Grant Brown – County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Mississippi County Auburn Webb – Administrative Specialist III - Family & Consumer Sciences, LRSO Herb Ginn – County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Crawford County Sally Dugger – Administrative Specialist III, Lonoke Agricultural Center Clare O'Brien – 4-H Program Assistant, Pulaski County IvaNelle Meyer – Program Associate - Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness, LRSO Kimberly George – Administrative Specialist II, Washington County

