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Arkansas 4-H inducts three Hall of Fame members, honors Teen Stars

The Arkansas 4-H Hall of Fame has three new members — Channing Ashworth of Washington County, Daley Rogers of Grant County, and Sulli Schaffer of Benton County — who were honored June 3 for their accomplishments, leadership and contributions to 4-H.

The awards were announced at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Little Rock where 4-H members from across the state were gathered this week for the 4-H Teen Leaders Conference. During the recognition ceremony, 55 members were named Teen Stars for their project and leadership achievements.

The three Hall of Fame inductees were among seven finalists for the award. Other finalists were Caitlin Cooper and Elizabeth Fern, both of White County, Dawson Dooly of Columbia County, and Vallie Yancey of Madison County.

While there is no limit on the number of Hall of Fame inductees, having three in the same year is rare.

“This year’s slate of applicants was truly outstanding and such a testament to the work county 4-H staff do every day to positively impact youth and their families,” said Debbie Nistler, head of 4-H and youth development.

In Washington County, 4-H staff members call **Channing Ashworth** “the Cloverbud whisperer” for her passion for working with 4-H Cloverbuds – the youngest 4-H members, ages 5-8.

“Throughout her 4-H career, Channing has used her personal experiences and accomplishments to intentionally lift others up and create space where every individual feels valued, supported, and capable of success,” Washington County 4-H Agent Lauren Cheevers said. “She continually uses her leadership skills to mentor new and younger members in all aspects of 4-H program work.”

During her eight years in 4-H, **Daley Rogers** has succeeded in many project areas. She placed first nationally in poultry judging and fifth at the National 4-H Food Challenge. At the state level, she has excelled in impromptu speaking, civic engagement and leadership.

She founded the Grant County 4-H Cooks Club to compete in the 4-H Food Challenge.

“Daley is an amazing leader that has succeeded at every level,” Grant County Extension staff chair Brad McGinley said. “It’s hard to quantify the impact Daley has had on the Grant County program. By becoming the first state officer from Grant County, she has led the way and inspired others to follow in her footsteps. Her impact will be felt for many years to come.”

Sulli Schaffer has had a dairy goat project throughout her 13 years of 4-H involvement in Benton County. She has excelled at showmanship and now teaches showmanship to younger 4-H members. She was a member of the Family and Consumer Sciences Bowl team that earned a state championship and competed nationally.

“It is rare to see that kind of impact on the national level,” Benton County 4-H agent Jessica Street said. “Sulli demonstrates what is possible in 4-H. She is a great example of what it looks like to be dedicated to the complete journey that 4-H has to offer, and she encourages others to do the same.” Read more [here](#).



Sulli Schaffer, Daley Rogers and Channing Ashworth are the newest members of the Arkansas 4-H Hall of Fame.

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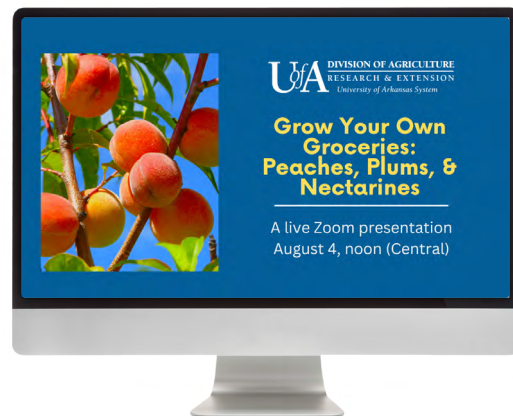
The Cooperative Extension Service's Grow Your Own Groceries Series has new online sessions for summer — each focused on how to grow and prepare a healthy, nutritious food.

Each hour-long presentation begins at noon. Upcoming sessions include the following:

- July 16 — Brussels sprouts
- Aug. 4 — Peaches, plums and nectarines

Registration for the free sessions is available online at <https://uaex.uada.edu/grow-groceries>.

In each session, experts with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture will discuss variety selection, growing methods, soil health and how to deal with common pests or problems. Extension family and consumer sciences agents will also share information on how to store and prepare homegrown produce and demonstrate healthy recipes.



Extension immunization education, outreach efforts recognized nationally

A national immunization organization has recognized the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for its dedicated work connecting rural Arkansans to trusted vaccine education and vaccination opportunities.

Extension staff received the 2026 Honorable Mention “Immunization Neighborhood” Champion Award from the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit, or NAIS, during the organization’s conference held May 20 in Atlanta, Georgia. The award recognizes individuals and organizations whose work with immunization stakeholders has contributed to protecting communities from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Read more [here](#).



CES staff received the 2026 Honorable Mention “Immunization Neighborhood” Champion Award from the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit, or NAIS. Left to right: Michelle Rodgers, Extension Foundation EXCITE Project Director; Heather Wingo, extension immunization educator for the Division of Agriculture; Jessica Vincent, extension assistant professor and health specialist for the Division of Agriculture; and Laura Downey, Extension Foundation EXCITE Lead Evaluator.

Arkansas 4-H dedicates Bragg Family Memorial trees

Two long-time members of the Arkansas outdoor education community, along with two of their children, have been memorialized on the grounds of the Arkansas 4-H Center near Little Rock.

Staff recently dedicated a memorial honoring the Bragg family, four of whom died in a house explosion in December 2023, including Hope Bragg, a University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture 4-H STEM educator; her husband, Don; and their children, Elizabeth and Kenny. The memorial, located in a quiet area east of the Arkansas 4-H Center lake, features five oak trees — one for each member of the immediate family — and a park bench. Read more [here](#).



Coworkers and associates of the late Hope and Don Bragg gather at a space dedicated to memorializing the Bragg family.

Saline County Master Gardeners bring spring cheer to residents at Southern Trace Rehabilitation and Care Center

On a sunny May morning, Saline County Master Gardeners joined elderly residents of the Southern Trace Rehabilitation and Care Center in Bryant to plant flowers, part of the facility's celebration of National Skilled Nursing Care Week.

"It's a culmination of celebrating the nurses, the residents and all the staff at the facility," said Jeanie Ralph, director of social services and community relations at Southern Trace.

National Skilled Nursing Care Week was established by the American Health Care Association in 1967 and was celebrated May 10-16 this year. This year's theme was "Moments in Bloom."

"These ladies from our memory care unit are the most ambulatory residents



Saline County Master Gardeners joined elderly residents of the Southern Trace Rehabilitation and Care Center in Bryant on May 12 to plant flowers, part of the facility's celebration of National Skilled Nursing Care Week.

that we have, and a lot of times, with them being on the secure unit, enjoying things off site or out of their routine environment can be overwhelming," Ralph said. "They've got a beautiful gazebo, a lovely place to sit and visit, so I thought it would be great for them to plant things out here."

Seven Master Gardeners from Saline County participated in the event at Southern Trace on May 12. They took tools and bags of potting soil along with several types of flowers and greenery, including coleus, begonias, lantanas, Melampodium — a species of the daisy family — dianthus and polka dot plants.

Ralph said engaging in hands-on activities, such as prepping the containers and planting the flowers, benefits residents in many ways.

"Any time when they can make a connection with the physical component of sensory stimulation, like soil and plants, that engages them way more than just a cognitive activity," Ralph said. "Conversation is wonderful, but when you can mix a multitude of sensory inputs, it just engages them so much more."

Read more [here](#).

Arkansas EHC members' textile art featured in Crystal Bridges' "America 250: Common Threads" exhibit

Anna Goff said it was a "sincere honor" to have a quilt made by her late mother, Ann Prince, selected for the "America 250: Common Threads" exhibit at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

"Everyone who knows anything about her has said this is something that she would have been so very proud of — to be able to see her work displayed in a museum," said Goff, extension family and consumer sciences program associate for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

The exhibit, which opened March 14 and continues through July 27, celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the centuries of American art and civic participation that followed.

Prince is one of two members of the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council, or EHC, program whose textile works were selected for the exhibit.

Read more [here](#).



Visitors at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art take a closer look at a crochet doily made by Arkansas EHC member Erin Holder, one of two pieces made by AEHC members that are included in the museum's "America 250: Common Threads" exhibit.

July Birthdays

Jim Wallace - July 1	Jimmy Moore - July 5	Thomas Vaughns - July 12	Susan Pickle - July 17	Roxana Jones - July 25
Michael Hedges - July 1	Shirley Walker - July 5	Carolyn Burns - July 12	Debbie Archer - July 17	Earl Vories - July 25
Wanda Pemberton - July 3	Mike Vowell - July 5	Yeshi Wamishe - July 12	Ora Lee Yates - July 19	Tony Windham - July 26
John Gunter - July 3	Debbie Still - July 6	Sung Lim - July 13	Linda Whittington - July 19	Debra Schneider - July 27
Sheryll Gregory - July 3	Millie Collins - July 7	Dolores McBride - July 14	Leon Ferguson - July 20	Mark Keaton - July 27
Monte Milligan - July 3	Andy Vangilder - July 7	Gloria Taylor - July 15	LeAnna Hicks - July 20	Ruben Johnson - July 28
Randy Chlapecka - July 3	Betty Archer - July 8	Wally Goddard - July 15	John Boyd - July 21	Wanda Shelby - July 28
Shirley Hesselschwerdt - July 4	Carolyn Lewis - July 8	Candace Carrie - July 15	Helen Glass - July 22	Tommy Thompson - July 29
Veda Thompson - July 4	Quinton Hornsby - July 8	Patsy Stephens - July 16	Gail Kizer - July 22	Madlyn Mason - July 30
Mike Klumpp - July 4	Jim Bemis - July 10	Nora Terry - July 16	Dianna Bowen - July 23	Edwin Colburn - July 31
Louise Williams - July 4	Liz Childs - July 10	Bobby Johnson - July 16	Relda Washburn - July 24	Henry Chaney - July 31
Jane Mowry - July 5	Linda Tanner - July 10	James Aikman - July 17	Virginia Cottrell - July 24	

Message from the director



Taking time to recognize and celebrate major milestones is important. I should confess here that I am personally notorious for forgetting birthdays and anniversaries. Still, I see the importance of it. Pausing to reflect on where we have been and to take stock of where we are going is a useful discipline that can help keep us on track in life. As a bonus, celebrations are a lot of fun.

By the time most of you read this, we'll be just days away from our July 4th blowout celebrating this nation's semiquincentennial. That's a \$5 word for 250th birthday; I figured I had better use it now because I doubt I'll live long enough to have another opportunity. In a fun little coincidence, with the FIFA World Cup going on this summer, we're able to share our celebration with people from all over the world. I am wholly indifferent to soccer myself (no offense to any true fans out there), but I have had a lot of fun watching the social media posts by World Cup visitors experiencing the many wonders of this great country for the first time. My personal favorites have been the videos of Europeans raving about Waffle House. As my friends and family will readily affirm, I am a huge fan of Waffle House, and I'm happy to see it finally getting the love it deserves.

This nation's birthday is not the only major milestone that we're marking this summer. A couple of weekends ago, I made the annual pilgrimage to Warren for the Pink Tomato Festival – the 70th Annual Pink Tomato Festival. That's quite a milestone for a local event of that sort. The festival likely wouldn't have happened in the first place without the leadership of Cooperative Extension Service personnel in the county, and it certainly wouldn't have been sustained for 70 years without it. It was clear at this year's celebration that Extension is still essential not only to the continued success of that event but also to the greater economic and social life of Bradley County. What is true in Bradley County is true all across the state.

And speaking of the state, this summer we'll mark the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Little Rock State Office. The LRSO has been a huge asset for the Division, not only as a base of operations for our staff but as a wonderful venue for trainings, conferences, and stakeholder-facing events. I am grateful to previous generations of UADA leadership for the hard work that went into building this facility, and I hope that we are worthy stewards of it in our generation. We'll plan to mark the anniversary with at least a small recognition later this summer – nothing too elaborate. Maybe we'll have waffles.

Cyber Protection Tips: How to Avoid Scam Phone Calls

- **Don't answer a call from a number you don't know.**
 - If it is a legitimate call, they will leave a voice message. However, scammers leave voicemails too.
- **If it is a scam call or a robocall, it's likely an attempt to verify that it is a working number.**
 - If you answer, you could receive other scam calls. If you don't answer, eventually they will stop calling because they cannot confirm it's a working number.
- **If you answer a call that turns out to be a robocall or a scam, hang up.**
 - Don't press any buttons or give any information.
 - If the caller is a real person, tell them to remove you from their calling list – and HANG UP without another word.
 - They want to gather as much information as possible about you.

