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May 2018

U of A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

No. 5

Sculpture contests designed to bring attention to litter in Northwest Arkansas

Residents of Benton and Washington counties are invited to submit sculptures created from found litter to **TOSSED!**, an art event designed to draw attention to the problem of public littering.

Both Washington and Benton counties are holding identical events, and residents are eligible to enter the sculpture contests in their respective county. Washington County entries should be dropped



off at the Washington County Cooperative Extension Service office by Aug. 1. Benton County entries should be submitted on Aug. 4 at the Benton County Fairgrounds.

Sculptures from Benton County will be displayed at the Benton County Fair; sculptures submitted by Washington County residents will be submitted at the Washington County Fair. The winners of each contest will be determined by popular vote during the course of the fairs.

While unsightly, litter is particularly problematic for waterways. Trash that makes its way into

(See TOSSED!, page 4)

U of A siblings take top honors in statewide business plan competition

A brother-sister team of University of Arkansas students took the top prize in the agricultural division of a statewide business plan competition this month with the "Roveround," a device designed to help injured and aged animals regain their mobility.

Cara Conner, a freshman in the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, and her brother, Grant, a senior in the Fulbright College, won first place in the agri division of the Arkansas Governor's Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition, competing under the team name Conner Innovation. The team was awarded \$5,000 in prize money.



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New retirees

Rebecca Thomas, County Extension Agent - Agriculture, Faulkner County, retired on April 2, 2018, after 26 years of service to the UA Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service.

Paul Ballantyne, Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences Program Technician, retired on April 30, 2018. Paul retired after 29 years of service to the UA Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service. He worked in the extension soils program.

Renee Myers, County Extension Agent - Staff Chair, Marion County, retired on April 30, 2018. Renee retired after 23 years of service in Marion County to the UA Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service.

We wish them well in their future endeavors. 


Tax School coordinator wanted

The Cooperative Extension Service Community and Economic Development department is seeking a Tax School Coordinator (Temporary) to work out of the Little Rock State Office.

Salary for this position will be between \$13.72 and \$25.08 based on experience, and the job will be available on May 15, 2018.

Qualifications include Bachelor's degree plus related experience required. Accounting experience

preferred but not required. Seeking personable individual with the following skills: organization, problem solving, negotiation, customer service, meeting/event planning, communication, networking and multitasking.

For further details and information on how to apply for this position, contact Kim McGee, Tax School Director, phone 501-671-2081, fax 501-671-2046, e-mail kmagee@uaex.edu. 


Helen Nowlin, retired administrative assistant, dies

Helen Kennemur Nowlin, 91, of Little Rock, passed away May 5, 2018.

Nowlin was first employed by Extension in 1977 as a secretary in the Little Rock State Office and retired as administrative assistant in the District Office in 1991.

She is survived by her nieces and nephews, James E. Kennemur, Jane K. Folsom, Dennis B. Kennemur, Douglas K. Kennemur, Daniel B. Kennemur, Diane K. Carroll and Kim K. Havens, along with her close personal friends and caregivers, Nicole and Chad Long and their children, Eli and Micah.

She was a longtime member of Calvary Baptist Church in Little Rock.

Graveside services were held on May 12 at Morgan Cemetery, officiated by Rev. Ed Simpson. Memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church. 

Competition *(Cont. from page 2)*

Cara, who is currently majoring in nutrition and dietetics and is pre-med, said she originally developed the idea for the Roveround in 2012, when she was attending seventh grade in Mountain Home.

"My parents own a veterinary clinic, where I met a corgi with bedsores and a herniated disc," Cara said. "I asked my dad why he couldn't just put her in a wheelchair - my dad pointed out why that wouldn't really work. So I started thinking about how we could just take the pressure off her back and let her be more mobile.

"I decided that maybe I could make something that would work," she said. "I had just participated in the Youth Entrepreneur Showcase in Little Rock the year before, in 2012, when I was in 6th grade. I got some PVC pipe and an old pair of jeans, and sewed a sling that would fit between the PVC frame. It was pretty primitive.


"From there, I added wheels, and used my cousin's little dog to test it out. It worked pretty well, so I started

modifying it to suit different dogs, and that's how we got to where it is today, with an aluminum frame and a gusseted nylon cloth sling," Cara said.

Cara invited Grant, who had previously competed in the Governor's Cup competition in 2014, to join her team for this year's competition. Grant's experience in formulating business plans was key to their success in this year's competition, she said.

Grant said the two will use the \$5,000 prize money to catapult their operation from local, one-at-a-time construction of the Roveround to large-scale production with a manufacturer in Asia.

"We've created contacts in China who are sending us prototypes," Grant said. "We're jumping into large-scale, overseas production. The system itself relies on large orders - you can't just order one at a time. You have to order about 250 at a time.

"The seed money allows us to jump ahead to plant manufacturing at a lower cost," he said. 

To our Extension retirees

It is May.

This is a month where we are supposed to see the results of April showers, that is ... May flowers. At my home, this seems only sporadically true these days as the climate seems "off" compared to what I remember growing up. But we have some flowers, and a bit of hope, and trust this newsletter finds you with a smidge of both.

It is my sad duty to recognize the passing forward of Dr. Connell Brown, Alice Jones, Helen Morris, Helen Nowlin and Don Wiley, as you may have seen in recent missives from Brian Helms. These powerful and positive souls have gone on

ahead, but their legacies of creativity, hard work and belief in the land grant university mission remain for us to remember and admire. I knew or had met all in my time with the University and Division, and that remains a singular honor.

It is my happy duty to note to you that we will continue our regional retiree meetings thanks to the hard work and dedication of Brian Helms and Verna Waddell. They have arranged a series of meetings this fall in Mountain View (Oct. 17); Jonesboro (Oct. 18); Van Buren (Oct. 23); Fayetteville (Oct. 24); Little Rock (Oct 26); and Hope (Oct. 31). We are working on

the details for a meeting in Monticello. We plan to continue the annual retiree event in the Little Rock area in March 2019 as well. I sincerely hope that each of you can attend, but, if not, I hope you will contact us in another way and let us know how you are doing.

I am thankful for each of you and the legacy of your hard work and professionalism known as the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. We work each day to maintain and move forward your work.

Have a wonderful May and "may" all your wishes be granted.

– Rick Cartwright



Helen Morris, retired administrative support supervisor, dies

Helen R. Morris, 90, of Benton died April 15, 2018.

Morris was hired by Extension as a secretary in the Little Rock State Office in 1979, a position she held until 1988. At that time, she moved to the Saline County Extension Office as a secretary and later became administrative support supervisor. She retired from that position in 1993.

She is survived by three sons, William S. Morris of Nixa, Missouri, K. Robert Morris of Kernersville, North Carolina, and Michael E. Morris of Benton, Arkansas; two daughters, Mary Kay Moser of O'Fallon, Illinois, and Patricia A. Kress of Collinsville, Illinois; a sister, Gertrude Harris of Trenton, Illinois; ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A funeral mass was held on April 19 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Benton with interment following at New Rosemont Cemetery in Benton.

Memorial donations may be made to Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, 900 West Cross Street, Benton, Arkansas 72015. 

Don Wiley, retired Drew County staff chair, dies

Don Newcombe Wiley, 68, died April 9, 2018, at Veterans Hospital in Little Rock.

Wiley was a Vietnam War veteran. He held a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Alcorn State University and a master's degree in agriculture from the University of Arkansas.

Wiley began his Extension career in 1976 as Drew County Extension agent - agriculture and retired as staff chair in 2003. During his time in Drew County, he worked with 4-H youth and taught gun safety, fish and wildlife education, archery, among other activities and made it his mission to advocate for minority farmers.


Wiley is survived by his wife of 40 years, Vera Wiley; children Michael Binns, Kimberly Davis, Don Conley and Gemekia Conley; siblings Sonny Wiley, Calvin Wiley, Fabian Wiley, Annie Ruth Wiley and Margaret Wiley; and nine grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on April 13 at First Baptist Eastside in Monticello and burial with military honors in Oakland Cemetery. 

Extension Length of Service awards presented

Extension employees were recognized recently with awards for length of service ranging from five to 40 years.

Awards were presented to county agents at the Tri-District Conference April 3 at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center and to classified employees at the 2018 Support Staff Conference, also at the 4-H Center, on April 27, 2018.

Employees with the longest service, 40 years each, are Wanda Barker, administrative specialist, Jackson County; Wilma Dorn, administrative specialist, Jefferson County; Patricia Doss, network computer specialist, Office of Information Technology; Gloria Taylor, administrative specialist, Miller County; and Rickey Wiedower, livestock news reporter, Animal Science. 



Wilma Dorn



Patricia Doss



Gloria Taylor


Photos of Rickey Wiedower and Wanda Barker were not available.

TOSSED! (Cont. from page 1) storm drains goes directly into creeks, streams and rivers – not into water treatment facilities. The litter can lower the recreational value of creeks, cause harm to wildlife and create an economic burden on cities and government agencies responsible for cleaning litter in public spaces. Litter cost the Arkansas Department of Transportation more than \$4.6 million in 2016, when it collected more than 58,000 cubic yards of litter, according to the agency.

Individuals wanting to participate in one of the contests may enter alone or as part of a group. Each category has several competing classes, based on age: ages 5-8, 9-19, 20 and older, and mixed ages. Items used in the sculptures should be cleaned before use.

Linda Simpson, Urban Stormwater Program Assistant with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said she thinks the competitions will invite a fun approach to tackling a serious problem.

“TOSSED is not about recycling,” Simpson said. “This program is a new approach to community clean-ups. It is more than picking up the litter that has been tossed to the ground – it is turning litter into art.”

To learn more about participating in the TOSSED! sculpture competition, contact Simpson at lsimpson@uaex.edu/nwastormwater 

June Birthdays

Ford L. Baldwin, June 1	Martha May, June 11
Mae E. Rosby, June 1	Michael D. Hamilton, June 14
Linda C. Hon, June 3	Janet M. Kuykendall, June 16
Jesse D. Clark, June 4	Lila Grist, June 20
Mike McCarter, June 5	Rin Robertson, June 20
Jelyne H. Coldwell, June 6	Dennis Ray Bailey, June 21
Brenda S. Vick, June 7	Sherry Ann Black, June 23
Lanny Ashlock, June 8	Clifford M. Coker Jr., June 24
Vetress L. Strong, June 8	Carroll R. Garner, June 25
Rex R. Roberg, June 9	Pamela Ferrell, June 27
Jo N. Howard, June 10	Sharon High, June 27
Joe Bradley, June 11	Dorothy A. Hall, June 29

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Yes, I want to support the fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____. My gift is in honor / in memory of _____.

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts: _____

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