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## Arkansas 4-H'er sings national anthem at Washington Nationals game

An impromptu rendition of the Etta James standard "At Last" at the Governor's Mansion thrust Arkansas 4-H member Tania Kelley into a bigger spotlight: singing the national anthem for the Washington Nationals on June 22.

Kelley, the 14-year-old daughter of Tamara and Naaman Kelley, is a member of the Pulaski County 4-H Fine Arts Club in Little Rock. She recounted the burst of song that propelled her to the national stage.

Kelley was among scores of Arkansas 4-H members and scout group representatives participating in the April 27 Arkansas Congressional Awards kickoff hosted by Gov. Asa Hutchinson. The VIPs included Rodney Slater, former U.S. Transportation secretary and Marianna native who now serves as vice chair of the awards board, and U.S. Sen. John Boozman, whose three daughters were all 4-H members.

"We ate, listened to speakers, and met the senator and the governor. Someone came up to me and asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I told him I wanted to be a singer," she said.

She was then prompted to give a sample of her talent. Kelley remembered that a hush filled the room as a crowd gathered around her.

"I was told to pick a song that really touched my soul," she said. "I immediately thought of 'At Last' by Etta James, because I have been singing that song for a long time. I have grown close to the song."

As the song poured out, "everyone got really quiet and came around. They started pulling out their phones," she said.

Amazed at the attention she received, Kelly said she felt special in that moment."

"I felt important and noticed, which I liked. I spoke with one gentleman who said that 'At Last' was his wedding song. He complimented me by saying I sang it better than Etta James herself," she said.

Kelley's passion for singing came from other artists and family members, she said.

"I have always had a love for music. I have other singers in my family that have inspired me to go further than they did," she said. "There are a variety of artists that have inspired me also, like Audra McDonald, Aretha Franklin, Donny Hathaway, Tamela Mann and several others."

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Tania Kelley sings the National Anthem at the Washington (DC) Nationals Ballpark June 22, 2018.

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## Five retirees awarded Emeritus faculty status

### James R. “Bobby” Hall

Hall served the Division of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension for more than 29 years, providing educational programming in Agricultural and Natural Resources and Community Development. He began his career as a county agent in Phillips County. He then served as staff chair in Dallas and Calhoun counties. Beginning in 2008, he worked full time in Community and Economic Development with statewide responsibilities until his retirement in 2016.

### Dr. Judith A. “Judy” Robison

Robinson served the Division of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension for 41 years in the areas of Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H Youth Development and Grantsmanship. She served as a county Extension agent in Washington and Scott counties and as a state 4-H program specialist during her career. Robinson served as a distinguished grants officer for the Office of Sponsored Programs prior to her retirement in 2016.

### Terrie L. Treadway


Treadway served the Division of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension for 35 years. She served as county Extension agent - Home Economics - EFNEP, county Extension agent - Home Economics leader and county Extension agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, all in Lafayette County. She served as county Extension agent - staff chair in Lafayette County prior to her retirement in 2016.

### Dr. Susan E. Watkins

Watkins served the Division of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension for 21 years by developing and providing educational programs in poultry management. She served as distinguished professor and Extension poultry specialist in the Department of Poultry Science. She held the Arkansas Poultry Federation Chair of Poultry Science until her retirement in 2017.

### Dr. Tony E. Windham

Windham served the Division of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension for 28 years as professor and Extension economist for Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. He developed and delivered educational

programming in the areas of farm and financial management for row crops. Also, he served as section leader - Agricultural Economics and Community Development, concurrently as assistant director - Agriculture and Natural Resources and assistant director - Community and Economic Development, interim associate vice president for Agriculture - Extension and associate vice president for Agriculture. He held the position of director of the Cooperative Extension Service prior to his retirement in 2016. 

## New retirees

These Extension employees have joined the ranks of retirees:

### Rickey Wiedower – Animal Science

Rickey began his career with Extension in 1978. He served as a livestock market reporter in the Animal Science section for 39 years until his retirement June 29, 2018.


### Janet Slate – C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center

Janet began her career with Extension in 1990. She served as the administrative specialist for the 4-H Center until her retirement June 29, 2018 after 28 years of service.

### Sammy Cline – Animal Science

Sammy began his career with Extension in 2000. He served as a livestock market reporter in the Animal Science section for 18 years until his retirement June 29, 2018.

### Bobby Johnson – Cammack Operations

Bobby began his career with Extension in 2006. He served in Facilities Management for the Little Rock State Office and the Cammack Campus for 11 years until his retirement June 29, 2018. 

## “Keys to Our Success” donations

The following individuals have made a gift to the “Keys to Our Success” CES Retiree Scholarship Endowment. We wish to thank the following donors for their gifts:

James and Ella Geisler

Brian Helms


Howard and Inez Young 

## 4-H campers make food packets for food pantries

4-H campers recently packed more than 60,000 meals for food pantries across the state in two Pack Shack sessions during the Junior Camp and Adventure and Challenge Camp Session I and the Junior Camp Session II and Stem Camp at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center.

The meals were delivered to the Compassion Foundation, Beebe Christian Outreach Center, Living Waters Food Pantry, Columbia County Senior Meal Center, Dumas Food Pantry, Johnson Street Church of Christ Food Pantry and the MANNA Food Pantry in Newport.

This effort was part of Arkansas Blue Cross/Blue Shield's Fearless Food Fight which aims to pack 700,000 meals to fight hunger in Arkansas.

To see them in action, check out this report from KARK 4: [dlvr.it/Qb2FFH](http://dlvr.it/Qb2FFH). 

## Arkansas EHC offers skills, service, lifelong connections

An organization of volunteers whose feats include helping Arkansans recover following the great Mississippi River flood of 1927 and encouraging childhood vaccination statewide during the 1980s is looking forward to new generations of members who will keep its educational and service legacy alive.

The Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council was born in 1912 in Mabelvale, Arkansas, and has grown into one of the largest consumer education and volunteer service organizations in the state. It was begun by extension home demonstration agents to help homemakers make the best use of their resources, whether money, gardens, clothing or furniture. While times have changed, the need to manage personal resources hasn't.

Shea Wilson, Prairie County extension agent, said that young people need a source for research-based information.



St. Francis County EHC donate therapy dolls to Arkansas Children's Hospital. These stuffed dolls help patients communicate their pain to doctors and nurses. Patients also enjoy decorating the dolls.

(Continued, page 4)

## To our Extension retirees



It is July and insufferable, what more is there to say about that? Perhaps this issue will help, and hope it finds you in good health and spirits.

Given that 4-H State O-Rama is upon us – next week in Fayetteville – please note the articles about 4-H in this issue. I recognize the vast effort in time and money that each of you invested in 4-H programs during your careers, and if you ever volunteer or attend an event like District O-Rama, you will continue to see the lasting value of that investment in each new generation of 4-H youth leaders. I confess these young people inspire me, and are even a bit intimidating with all their accomplishments. At the same age, I do not remember being as accomplished or as planned for the future.

None more so than Tania Kelly, featured in this issue, active in 4-H performance arts and clearly aiming for a career in singing, with a gift to support that ambition. If you have not watched her video, it is very worthwhile.

There are many opportunities to continue to support 4-H positive youth development through money, volunteerism or simply encouragement. We hope you will consider staying involved as much as you can. Please contact us if you wish to donate.

Since the last newsletter, Dr. Rick Roeder, Associate Director of the Experiment Station, retired and is trying to figure out his ranch in another state, and I had a sit down visit in Fayetteville with Dr. Bernie Daniels, former Associate Director years ago. Bernie was also one of my first supervisors when I finished my Bachelor's degree in the 1970s and we did a lot of interesting work together on forages and feeds for cattle. I also was able to check on Dr. Joe Fulton, former professor in Plant Pathology and a world-renowned plant virologist, now 101, and his colleague Dr. Rose Gergerich, who retired a few years ago. Please keep all our colleagues in your thoughts and let Brian Helms and me know of any updates for those you are aware of.

We hope you have a great July and summer.

– Rick Cartwright 



**AEHC** (Cont. from page 3)

“There is so much information out there,” she said. “We have access to Pinterest and different things all the time. Extension is different because it is research based and reliable. Getting young homemakers involved in family consumer science is important because they will get the facts. Extension doesn’t try to sell a product, it’s just basic life skills.”

Deborah Teague, EHC Delta District director said that EHC became a prevalent channel of important information.

“EHC is one of the best things that has happened to rural Arkansas,” Teague said. “It has allowed people who have techniques

and information that could improve lives to share that with others and make a difference.”

EHC offers an open door to make friends and lifelong connections, no matter what age you are.


“My favorite part of EHC is getting to spend time with people who share a common interest and learning and teaching new skills to others. I also really enjoy doing all my community service projects,” said Lacey Flory, Washington County EHC member.

Laura Hendrix, associate professor of family and consumer science and AEHC state adviser, said that AEHC serves the Cooperative Extension Service as a unique outlet to relay important messages.

“For example, in the area of personal finance, members learn to manage credit wisely, create a spending plan, complete a net worth statement, and to save and invest. In nutrition, members learn to plan and prepare healthy meals,” said Hendrix.

EHC changed as time has evolved. EHC member Elaine Stoll, who has held leadership positions in local, county and state EHC, told about how she has seen change in the organization.

“I used to walk barefooted with my mother for three miles to club meetings,” she said. “Over the years the EHC has become more focused on community leadership and the format of the education has changed. You have to change with the times.”

“There will be a lot more technology introduced, and hopefully we can expand our membership to younger people,” she said. 


August birthdays		
Raymond Duncan, August 1	Barbara Holt, August 17	Steve M. Jones, August 23
Billy Moore, August 1	Gail Clark, August 19	Earlton Sanders Jr., August 23
Berline Wright, August 1	Carolyn Grimes, August 19	Betty Youngman Thomas, August 23
Betty Poe Holman, August 4	Laura Luther, August 19	Charles Whitaker, August 24
Louise Burns, August 5	Gloria Pickett, August 19	Terry Davis, August 25
Ronald Beaty, August 9	Estella Hayes, August 20	Martha Albright, August 26
Paul Ballantyne, August 9	Wanda O’Neal, August 20	Frank Plafcan, August 28
Delbert Taylor, August 11	James Ragland, August 20	Lott Rolfe III, August 29
Gene Lowrey, August 14	Claudia Corbin, August 21	John Langston, August 30 
Beverly Fountain, August 15	Barbara Simmons, August 21	
Mark Brawner, August 17		

**Tania Kelley** (Cont. from page 1)

Kelley said she was contacted by Martha Ray Sartor, interim associate director for the Cooperative Extension Service, who presented a unique opportunity.

“We got a call from Dr. Sartor. She said that people in Washington wanted me to sing at the Nationals game. I was very excited when I heard the news. I have never done anything like that,” Kelley said.

“Through my gift I would love for my music to bring hope, happiness, and to inspire others. I feel like God blessed me with a talent and I would love the opportunity to use it all over the world,” she said. “And I feel like this opportunity is a part of my blessings and that I’m very grateful and thankful. I never dreamed that I would be in this space right now.”

Fred Miller, of the Communications Department, traveled to Washington, D.C., to film her performance at the Washington Nationals game on June 22, and Nick Kordsmeier, Extension project/program specialist, wove the footage and stills together into a powerful story, which you may view at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvX5CxAckpw&feature=youtu.be> 

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