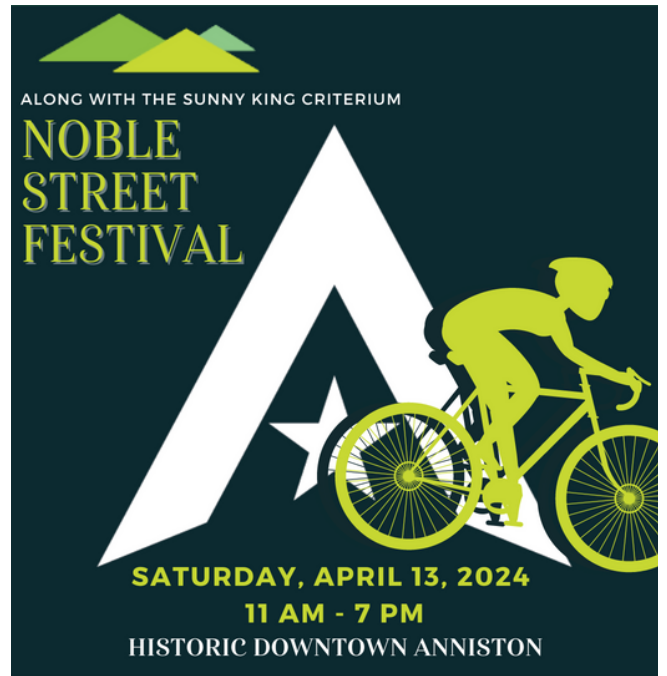




"Our spring has come at last with the soft laughter of April suns and shadow of April showers." -

Byron Caldwell Smith

**-Byron Caldwell Smith**



Noble Street Festival returns on Saturday, April 13, 2024 for the 22nd year! We also host kids races at the festival, to sign your child up for our Kids Bike Races, please follow this link: [www.anniston.al.gov/kids-race-nsf](http://www.anniston.al.gov/kids-race-nsf)



Photo Credit: Jackson Hodges

The last several months have been especially busy for the Department of Planning and Economic Development. A number of projects have come out of a planning phase to see the rewarding and beneficial part for the community and the region, which is development. The big one is the awarding of the bid for the development and completion of the Chief Ladiga Trail into downtown Anniston. This 7.2-mile section will be the most “urbanized” of any segment in Alabama. It has taken time with many dedicated people seeing this through. Economic Development activities and recruitment never stops. The city is fortunate to have very committed partners and ample visibility with our partnered communications. It is critical to keep the city in the eyes of prospects and development organizations. As we move forward preparing our economic development plan, we recognize the competitive importance of keeping the city in the forefront of an everchanging market and a focus on business retention as well. The importance of city departments working together along with state and federal agencies is crucial in these efforts. Anniston displays a very high effort in this contributing to its development success. The purpose is for the people and community-based support. The city has shown this in many efforts and initiatives. As we move forward in planning and economic development the importance of the city’s comprehensive plan, the economic development plan and the updated city zoning ordinance plays very key roles for the city’s future.

Sincerely,

*Toby Bennington*

# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL EXPANSION

Calhoun County, Alabama

## CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

**\$11,930,500**

Total Output



**\$5,447,700**

Total Contribution to GDP



**\$1,129,000**

Tax Revenue



**80**

Jobs Supported

# 2023 ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL

Calhoun County, Alabama

## VISITOR IMPACTS

The Chief Ladigatrail saw 34.1 THOUSAND visitors in 2023!

\$1,346,000

Total Output



\$702,595

Total Contribution to GDP



\$202,000

Tax Revenue



13

Jobs Supported



# CHIEF LADIGA TRAIL

ANNISTON EXTENSION

**GROUNDBREAKING  
CEREMONY**



## SAVE THE DATE



FRIDAY,  
APRIL 12, 2024



5:00 PM CT



6514 WEAVER RD,  
ANNISTON, AL  
(Michael Tucker Park)

## HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATES

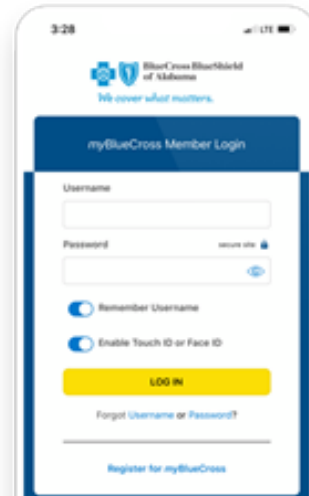


Remember!

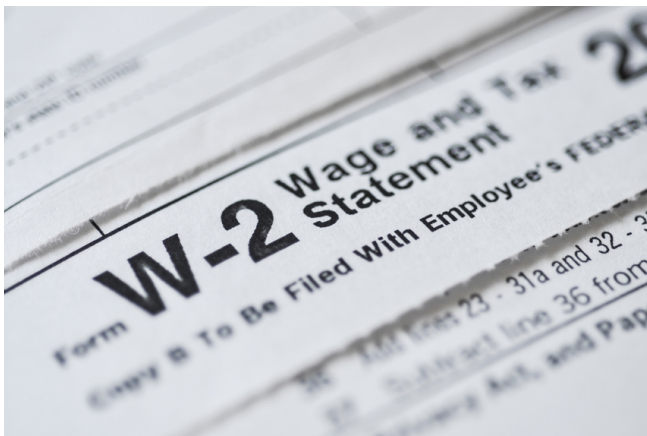
you can login to KRONOS at anytime and update your contact information such as your phone number, email and mailing address, emergency contact, direct deposit and withholdings forms.



*We cover what matters.*



Please know that you can access your cards, claims, benefit/coverage information and other must have tools at [myBlueCross](#).



For a comprehensive understanding of federal tax withholdings, we encourage you to visit the official website of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at [www.irs.gov/individuals/tax-withholding-estimator#why](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/tax-withholding-estimator#why)

## EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - EAP

# When life's a little much, reach out and get in touch.

Let's be real: life can be tough. When your responsibilities start to feel overwhelming and showing up each day with a smile on your face seems difficult, it's important to reach out for help. You can lean on your free and confidential Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for support.

### We've got your back.

A free benefit from your workplace, the EAP can help you or anyone in your household:

- Be more present and productive at work
- Receive support when you don't feel like yourself
- Get help with responsibilities that are distracting or stressful
- Grow personal and career skills
- Be a caring, loving friend or family member
- Receive care after a traumatic event or diagnosis
- Make healthy lifestyle choices
- Improve and inspire daily life

### We're here for you, always.

Life happens, regardless of the day or time. That's why we make ourselves available 24/7, even on holidays. So whenever you need to reach out, we're here for you.



**Support Line**  
Call anytime  
800-624-5544



**Mobile app**  
Search for New  
Directions EAP



**Web**  
Visit [eap.ndbh.com](http://eap.ndbh.com)  
for resources

### SERVICES

- ☑ **Counseling**
- ☑ **Consultation on**
  - Finances
  - Legal needs
  - Managing employees
  - Life
- ☑ **Crisis support**
- ☑ **Coaching**
- ☑ **Adult and child care resources**
- ☑ **Personal and professional training**
- ☑ **Digital behavioral health tools**



April, the fourth month on our calendars, lasts for 30 days. Its name comes from Latin, but we're not entirely sure what it means. Some think it might have something to do with things starting to open up or getting sunny, as it's when spring begins and plants start growing. Another idea is that it's linked to Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty, who was called Apru by the Etruscans. This connection is seen in old Roman customs, where April was a time to celebrate Aphrodite

Prior to the addition of January and February at the end of the year by King Numa Pompilius around 700 BCE, April was originally the second month in the Roman calendar year. In 450 BCE, April was shifted to the fourth position with 29 days. With the introduction of the Gregorian calendar by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, an extra day was added, making April a 30-day month.

April often brings unpredictable weather. In response to this, traditional weather beliefs offer insight into dealing with the spring's unpredictability. In the past, people relied on animal behavior as a weather indicator. For instance, there's an old saying: "the louder the frogs, the more rain to come." This stems from the frogs' ability to sense rising humidity, leading them to croak louder. However, this behavior serves their mating purposes rather than forecasting weather. Male frogs increase their croaking before rainstorms because they reproduce more successfully after rainfall, laying their eggs in freshwater bodies.

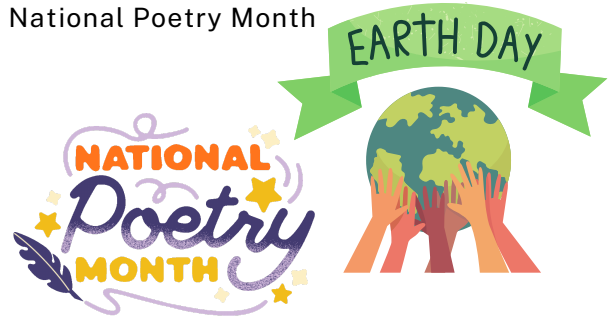
Here are some other fun facts about April:

- Birthstones: Diamond
- Zodiac signs: Aries and Taurus
- Birth flower: Daisy

April is known for National Autism Awareness Month, National Volunteer Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Stress Awareness Month and National Poetry Month

Notable April dates include:

- April Fools' Day, April 1st
- National Find a Rainbow Day, April 3rd
- National Burrito Day, April 4th
- First Contact Day, April 5th
- National Encourage a Young Writer Day, April 10th
- Volunteer Recognition Day, April 20th
- National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day, April 22nd
- Earth Day, April 22nd
- National Talk Like Shakespeare Day, April 23rd
- National Administrative Professionals Day, April 24th





# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF ANNISTON?

# April

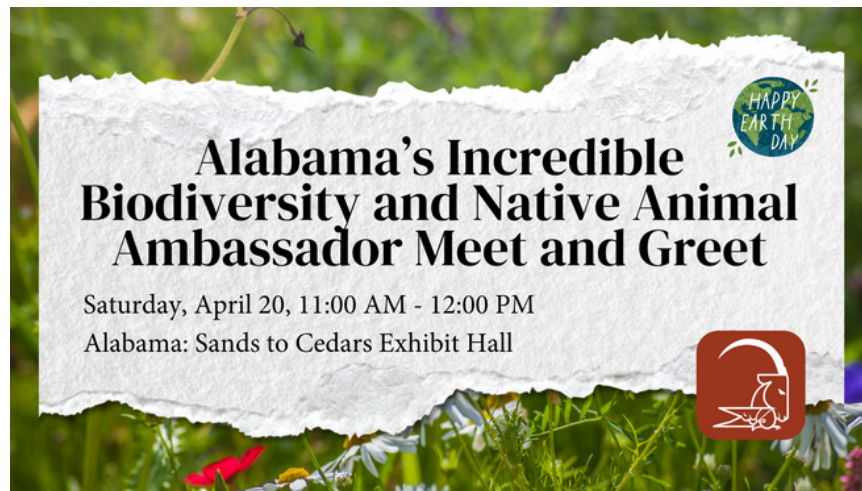


## Third Thursday: Plant a Tree

Thursday, April 18, 4:00 PM  
Longleaf Event Center




Check out these amazing events and exhibits at the Anniston Museums and Gardens.



## Alabama's Incredible Biodiversity and Native Animal Ambassador Meet and Greet

Saturday, April 20, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Alabama: Sands to Cedars Exhibit Hall



*Longleaf Botanical Gardens presents*

## SPRING PLANT SALE

Public Sale  
Friday, April 26, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Saturday, April 27, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
LBG Greenhouses and Nursery



# RAPTOR RUN 5K & DINO DASH FUN RUN



SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024  
ANNISTON MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL HISTORY

Raptor Run 5K 8:00 am / \$30  
Dino Dash Fun Run 9:30 am / \$15

Receive \$5 off with code **AMAGMember**

Lace up your running shoes and join the  
Anniston Museums and Gardens for the  
Raptor Run 5K!

RunSignUp



ANNISTON MUSEUMS  
and GARDENS

[www.ExploreAMAG.org](http://www.ExploreAMAG.org)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF ANNISTON?

# April

## MAIN STREET ANNISTON



ALONG WITH THE SUNNY KING CRITERIUM

# NOBLE STREET FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024**  
**11 AM - 7 PM**  
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ANNISTON



2024

# FREE DISPOSAL DAYS

During our free disposal days, citizens may freely dispose of their items. Please note, some items are not accepted and those items are listed at the bottom of this flyer.

One roll-off dumpster will be located at each of the four locations listed below from 8:00 AM CST until 5:00 PM CST on the following days:

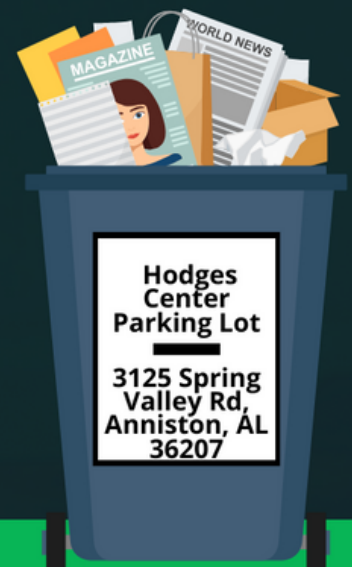
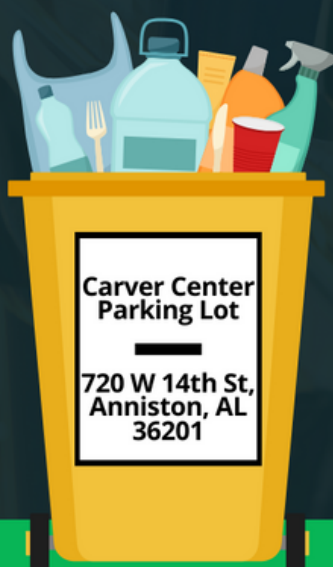
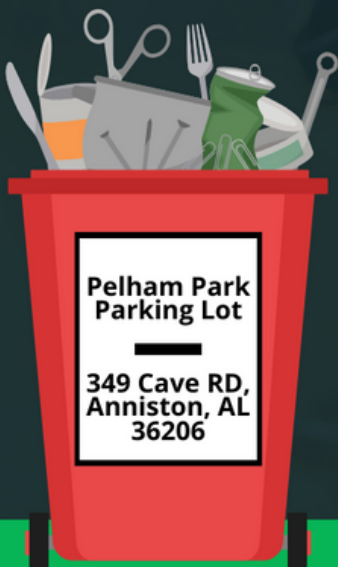
- February 16-17, 2024
- March 15-16, 2024
- May 17-18, 2024
- June 14-15, 2024
- August 16-17, 2024
- September 20-21, 2024
- November 15-16, 2024
- December 20-21, 2024

- WARD 1 - PELHAM PARK PARKING LOT
  - ADDRESS: 349 CAVE ROAD, ANNISTON, AL 36206

- WARD 3 - SOUTH HIGHLAND CENTER PARKING LOT
  - ADDRESS: 229 ALLEN AVE, ANNISTON, AL 36207

- WARD 2 - CARVER CENTER PARKING LOT
  - ADDRESS: 720 W. 14TH ST, ANNISTON, AL 36201

- WARD 4 - HODGES CENTER PARKING LOT
  - ADDRESS: 3125 SPRING VALLEY RD, ANNISTON, AL 36207



Please note, the following items will NOT be accepted:

1. Hazardous Waste of any kind (i.e. batteries, corrosives)
2. Paint
3. Electronics
4. Tires
5. Freon Appliances (i.e. refrigerators, freezers)

Also, note the Calhoun County Commission offers free landfills days. The schedule of free landfill days for 2024 is as follows:

- January 20, 2024
- April 20, 2024
- July 20, 2024
- October 19, 2024

# Employee Spotlight



## Jimmy Duncan

Tree Division Supervisor 24 Years

**Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** "When I'm not a work, I'm working at home, cutting grass and working in the yard. I like going camping, hunting and riding my motorcycle."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "I've enjoyed working with the Anniston community and helping the residents with cutting down trees. I also enjoy working along side the people I work with."



## Valentino Halog

Equipment Operator 15 years

**Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** "I enjoy working. When I am not a work and working around the house or helping my neighbors with various things." Valentino deeply cherishes his family and puts in dedicated effort to support them. He ensures that his core values are passed down to his children, guiding them as they grow.

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "I enjoy serving the community of Anniston. And I also enjoy the people I work around. We work as a team to get the assigned projects done."

# Employee Spotlight



Cailee Chaffin

Police corporal 6 years

**Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** "My hobbies and things I enjoy are hunting, camping and spending time with my son."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "The thing I like most about my job is the friendships I have made throughout the community."



Justin Hise

Police Sergeant 14 years

**Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** "I like to spend time with my family, being active in my community, and volunteering with my children's sports teams."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** " I enjoy that no day is the same as the one before and the chances this jobs brings to help people."

# Employee Spotlight



**Ben Brown**

Firefighter / AEMT

9 years

**Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** "I enjoy engaging in activities that prioritize family bonding with my loved ones. I love to play baseball with my son and daughters. Having a strong bond with my family is really important to me because I want to keep them safe and help my kids understand how to navigate life. I really enjoy that."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "The thing I love most about my job is helping other people and seeing the joy on people's faces who look up to us as firefighters and men. I have always been a kind-hearted and helpful person. I was brought up that way, with ancestral and family values."



**Keith Day**

Assistant Fire Marshall

20 years

**Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** "During my time off I enjoy spending time with family, watching my kids sports games, and if I have any time left, I try to get in some hunting and fishing."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "What I enjoy most about my job is that I have great coworkers and every day is different. We never know what obstacles we may have to overcome. Each day is a new day but I know we have some of the best, and hard working firefighters to get the job done each and every day."

# Employee Spotlight



## Van Heibel

City Meeting Center Director 7 years

**Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** "I try to get home a couple times a year. I enjoy Ice fishing in the winter and the beautiful summers of the Midwest."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "I like this job because I get to meet new people. The diversity of the people we have come through here in Anniston is really incredible. There was one time I had the Islamic School was having a graduation in the main hall, a Hindu religious ceremony going on in room A, then I had a Southern Baptist event going on in room B. All at the same time. We have alot of repeat customers. We have annual race course that happens at the City Meeting Center, there's an annual Cat Show, Gun Shows, Hindu ceremonies, and other awesome events."



## Jonathan Cox

Custodial Food Service Worker 5 years

**Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** "I like fixing and repair electronic devices such as computers and tablets. Basically I enjoy, cleaning, updating them and making them run better."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "I enjoy keeping the City Meeting Center clean and organized. I enjoy using the scrubber around the building and detailing work. I also enjoy the guys I work with Van and Jeremy can be pretty funny and we have interest in some of the same things."



# Employee Spotlight



## Jeremy Thomas

Custodial Food Service & Events 8 months

**Q: What are your hobbies or things you like to do in your spare time?**

**A:** "In my off time, I enjoy listening to music. I like RnB and Hip Hop. Outside of enjoying and listening to music, I love hanging out with my family."

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?**

**A:** "I enjoy the setting up of the rooms or building for the customer's special events and I enjoy the accomplished feeling I get once the work is done. Making sure the building is presentable for the customer."



I had a great time interviewing the staff at the City Meeting Center in Anniston. It was evident that Van, Jonathon, and Jeremy truly relish working with one another and feel a strong sense of attachment to their community. The City of Anniston's City Meeting Center is a bustling hub that accommodates numerous events annually, serving as a focal point for community gatherings and celebrations.

Annistonians, hailing from various backgrounds and experiences, constitute a richly diverse population, reflecting a wide array of lifestyles and perspectives.

Van brings a wealth of experiences to the table, yet his eyes sparkle with enthusiasm when he talks about the plethora of remarkable events that take place in the magnificent City of Anniston. He radiates hope for the future of the city. Alongside Jonathon and Jeremy, Van devotes endless hours to ensure that the City Meeting Center is fully prepared for the multitude of events it hosts. If you're in search of a venue for your next event in the area, be sure to consider the City Meeting Center. The dedicated staff will ensure that your space is perfectly tailored to meet your event needs.



### **Celebrating administrative professionals**

**April is the time of year we formally recognize and thank the people who keep our office running smoothly. We celebrate the problem solvers, gatekeepers, cheerleaders and all around office heroes. It's time to share our appreciation for all they do and highlight the value they bring to our organization.**

The last week in April is Administrative Professionals Week, sponsored by The International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP). IAAP supports administrative professionals in many ways including conducting a yearly survey to better understand the modern office administrator. Here are 5 interesting facts about administrative professionals you likely didn't know:

**Fact 1**

- The Official Recognition Day began in 1952 as National Secretaries Day and renamed to Administrative Professionals Day in 2000. The new name better describes the expanding role of the modern office administrator.

**Fact 2**

- The first Certified Professional Secretary examination was administered in August 1951. There were 281 candidates at 15 examination centers. There are now over 250 examination centers worldwide.

**Fact 3**

- More than 22 million secretaries/administrative professionals are part of the US workforce.

**Fact 4**

- Administrative professionals are responsible for making important purchasing decisions for their organizations – which on average are worth up to \$20,000 a year.

**Fact 5**

- Overwhelmingly their career goals are to remain in the administrative professional field – which is great news because we don't know what we'd do without them.

5 things you didn't know about administrative professionals. (n.d.). MMM-ext. [https://www.post-it.com/3M/en\\_US/post-it/ideas/articles/5-things-you-did-not-know-about-administrative-professionals/](https://www.post-it.com/3M/en_US/post-it/ideas/articles/5-things-you-did-not-know-about-administrative-professionals/)

## CITY OF ANNISTON ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS



### FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM

In honor of Administrative Professionals Day, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our amazing administrative staff. Your hard work, attention to detail, and dedication keep our organization running smoothly every day. From managing schedules to providing crucial support, your contributions are invaluable. Thank you for all you do to make our workplace a success. Happy Administrative Professionals Day!

Also, big thanks to everyone who participated in the April Employee Spotlight! We're grateful for your time and effort in joining us for this, and we're excited to involve even more folks in the future. Thanks for doing a great job representing your departments and being such valuable members of the City of Anniston team.

*Thank you!*

**Bersheba Austin, HR Director**  
**Shelby Shiflett, HR Clerk**  
**Gemini Sigler, HR Specialist**

## HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATES

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### April Birthdays

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<b>Daniel Henry</b>	<b>Ashley Lemons</b>
<b>Layne Samples</b>	<b>Johnnie Phelps</b>
<b>Justin Hise</b>	<b>Joshua Todd</b>
<b>Justin Allen</b>	<b>Nikita Wood</b>
<b>Samuel McDaniel</b>	<b>Tana Bryant</b>
<b>Kam Thomas</b>	<b>Blake Noah</b>
<b>Debra Arnett</b>	<b>Dalton Stephens</b>
<b>Demetrium</b>	<b>Ian Ford</b>
<b>Hutchison</b>	<b>David Hulsey</b>
<b>Avanti Ammons</b>	<b>Tyler Doggrell</b>
<b>Gabrielle Colindres</b>	<b>Shannon English</b>
<b>James Canevaro</b>	<b>Cody Scheruich</b>
<b>John Parker</b>	<b>Stephen Hudson</b>
<b>Scott Nowland</b>	<b>Donny Smith</b>
<b>Tremaine Royal</b>	<b>Kevin Baker</b>
<b>Robbie Champion</b>	<b>Cody Bragg</b>
<b>Matt Caballero</b>	<b>Issac Chappell</b>
<b>Paul Young</b>	<b>Thomas Coffey</b>
<b>Johnita Roberts</b>	<b>Karla Eden</b>
<b>Derrick Dotson</b>	<b>Jackson Hodges</b>
<b>Devonte Spinks</b>	<b>Logan Maddux</b>
<b>Amanda Brooks</b>	<b>Austin Key</b>

## HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATES

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### April Anniversaries

Steven Folks	29 Years	Steven Turley	10 Years
Paul Wade	28 Years	Floyd White	10 Years
Joe Hoffman	27 Years	Anthony Green	9 Years
Johnnie Phelps	27 Years	David Morgan	7 Years
Clint Parris	25 Years	Jamel Roston	6 Years
Clint Dover	25 Years	Issac Chappell	5 Years
Jason Mayfield	14 Years	Thomas O'Connor	4 Years
Justin Hartley	19 Years	Cody Murray	2 Years
Justin Sanford	19 Years	Joey Rollins	2 Years
Scott Nowland	18 Years	Michael Ruberg	2 Years
Montague Braxton	14 Years	Tyrone McGhee	2 Years
Laynah Medders	13 Years	Quentin McDaniel	2 Years
Chris Grier	12 Years	Herbert Brown	1 Year
Donald McGraw	12 Years	Jaylon Dulaney	1 Year
Charles Pritchett	12 Years	Ian Ford	1 Year
Justin Allen	11 Years	Samuel McDaniel	1 Year
Mark Williams	10 Years	Dillion Wiggins	1 Year
Demetrium Hutchison	10 Years		

### *Congratulations!* April Retirements

Keith Crider	22 Years
Jimmy Duncan	24 Years
Charles Bush	28 Years

# APRIL

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

E A P S D R S S A R G I D  
T Y L F U A R B O R H N B  
A A N E O O M A T H O T U  
R P R N U O I P T M A A T  
E S P I U I L C A E R U T  
N I T H E B O I A E F R E  
E Y O S U S D S L G T U R  
V H L N I N T B G E A S F  
V E I U R E A R Y T H S L  
N H R S R D O I N T G Y Y  
I Z P J D W T F R K D Y K  
A D A I S Y Y A Y T T A N  
R N B V K W E A T H E R H

By Evelyn Johnson - [www.qets.com](http://www.qets.com)

April	Damp	Natty
Arbor	Diamond	Rain
Aries	Earth	Sagacious
Biddable	Easter	Sunshine
Bunny	Fool	Taurus
Butterfly	Grass	Venerate
Daisy	Grow	Weather

# MARCH ANSWER KEY



APRIL 20TH-APRIL 21ST, 2024

# PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION



TO PURCHASE SPECIAL  
PRICED TICKETS SCAN  
HERE!



OR CONTACT CODY PARRISH AT  
CPARRISH@NASCAR.COM OR 386-681-4538