



THE PDI TIMES

A LETTER FROM JAY

Can you believe it is already 2024? It has been said that time goes fast for those who are always busy. I can attest that Progressive Directions Inc. is a busy place. The newsletter is back with exciting events and special honors for the whole PDI family. It is always a pleasure to look back at all that we have experienced together, and this edition takes a look back over the past year! PDI continues to grow and meet the needs of our communities. Even though we are serving over one thousand individual families and have over 450 staff, we continue to strengthen our bond as a family.



I am so proud of the new initiatives we are working on to better serve our communities. This work is being recognized in our community and throughout the state. Members of our staff have been honored with the Civitan Servant's Heart Awards, and PDI was chosen by Governor Bill Lee to present his DIDD Employment Report. Common Ground Café continues to grow strong with its recognition from the Governor, confirming our agency is on the forefront of innovation as we meet the employment needs of the community.

I truly look forward to sharing more exciting events and changes PDI is making in the next newsletter. Until next time, thank you for all you do for those we serve each day.

Jay

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us to keep up with all of the amazing things our PDI family members are up to. You'll find news, upcoming events, and coverage of celebrations, outings and special recognitions, etc.

Please share with our persons supported so they can see themselves and their friends!

[PDI Facebook](#)

[PDI Instagram](#)

[Buddy Ball Facebook](#)

[Common Ground Cafe Facebook](#)

[Common Ground Cafe Instagram](#)

[Kids Depot Facebook](#)

[PDI Thrift Store Facebook](#)

[Early Intervention Facebook](#)



upcoming events

For more information on upcoming events and activities, make sure to check out the activities calendar, which is updated regularly, listed on next page.

**MAY
17**

Buddy Ball Prom
Rossvie High School 7pm-9pm

Region 1 Picnic
Dyers Creek 10am-2pm

**MAY
31**

**JUL
12**

Region 2 Picnic
Maury County Park - Bridle & Saddle Pavilion
10am-2pm

DSP Recognition Week

**SEP
9-13**

**DEC
4**

Region 2 Christmas Party
Maury County War Memorial Building

Region 1 Christmas Party
Wilma Rudolph Event Center 10am-2pm

**DEC
13**

STAY CONNECTED

ACTIVITIES CALENDARS



**WHAT'S
HAPPENING IN
YOUR
COMMUNITY?**

**CLICK THE LINKS
BELOW TO CHECK
OUT SOME FUN
EVENTS
HAPPENING IN
YOUR AREA!**

[Regions I & III Calendar](#)

[Region II Calendar](#)

DSP WEEK

Direct Support Professionals are the backbone of our agency. We are so grateful for all the work you do!



MAYOR JOE PITTS VISITED THE PROGRESSIVE DIRECTIONS CLARKSVILLE OFFICE TO PRESENT A PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 10-16TH, 2023 AS DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK.



STEWART COUNTY MAYOR ROBERT BOO BEECHAM VISITED OUR PDI DOVER OFFICE TO CELEBRATE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS BY RECOGNIZING THEM WITH A PROCLAMATION FOR DSP WEEK.



MAYOR SHEILA BUTTS' VISIT AND PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION AT OUR COLUMBIA OFFICE FOR DSP WEEK.



MAYOR JJ BRINDLEY PRESENTED A PROCLAMATION TO OUR GILES COUNTY, TN PDI OFFICE FOR DSP RECOGNITION WEEK.



HENRY COUNTY MAYOR JOHN PENN RIDGEWAY CELEBRATED DSP RECOGNITION WEEK AT PDI IN PARIS, TN.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Teresa Vaughn
Employment Specialist, Region 1
January '23



Robin Henderson
Fiscal Manager, Regions 1 & 3
February '23



Yolanda Pennix
House Manager, Region 2
March '23



George Godsey
Maintenance Tech, Regions 1 & 3
April '23

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Lori Greis
Early Interventionist
May '23



Maquia Hall
LPN/Staffing Coordinator
June '23



Sharon Jarrell
Supported Employment, Region 1
July '23



Ann Adams
Quality Assurance, Region 2
August '23

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Laura Galbreath
DSP, Regions 1 & 3
September '23



Suzy Coyle
Early Interventionist
October '23



Brittany Conner
DSP, Region 2
November '23



Joy Bender
Administrative Services
December '23

2023 Employee of the Year



Laura Galbreath, DSP

"Laura has worked for the agency for over 6 years. She has built strong, positive relationships with the staff and people supported. She is a strong advocate, is person-centered and she is a leader. Laura is always helpful and has shown willingness to step up in all areas. She's a great asset to the PDI team and we are forever grateful for her."

~ Amy Caudill, VP Regions 1 & 3

Congratulations on your retirement, Maryann!



Dover celebrated Maryann Powell's retirement after 23 years with PDI. Thank you for all of your service!



5 YEAR RECOGNITIONS:

REGIONS 1 & 3

Amanda Correll
Mary Emmons
Kimberly Garcia
Mary Jane Godsey
Bryan Hester
Nicole Jenson
Bob Logan
Kelly Schafer
Valerie Smotherman
Samantha Sonneman
Christine Thompson
Li Thompson
Gwendolyn Till
Teresa Vaughn

REGION 2

Charles Carrillo
Rhonda Green
Jay Heidel
Yolanda Pennix
Amanda Russell
Lavita Taylor
Diana Tucker
Gloria Witaker
Carol Young
Britney Young

Service Awards

REGIONS 1 & 3

10 YEAR RECIPIENTS:

- Gabe Pickett
- Derfamyar Zaswez Pratt, Jr.
- Donna Sinks
- Belinda Golliday
- Madeleine Kimbrough
- Jo Helen Vagnetti

15 YEAR RECIPIENTS:

- Vanessa Waymyers

25 YEAR RECIPIENTS:

- Jimmy Horton

30 YEAR RECIPIENTS:

- Laurie Moss
- Fabian Merriweather
- Brenda Morford
- Susie Coyle

REGION 2

10 YEAR RECIPIENTS:

- Cathy Kinnon
- Patricia Liar

15 YEAR RECIPIENTS:

- Mary Coleman
- Christopher Scurlock
- Laurie Sims

20 YEAR RECIPIENT:

- David Rochelle

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:

Laura Galbreath

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:

Jeremy Stubblefield

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR:

Sweet P's

Volunteer of the Year:

APSU Athletes



TNCO Awards 2023

for Progressive Directions

TNCO
TENNESSEE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

2023
Award of Excellence

Community Outreach

Progressive Directions Inc
Common G

Amy



PDI attended The TNCO 2023 Awards of Excellence Ceremony. Amy Caudill received the Award for Outstanding Manager in TN and Common Ground Cafe was recognized with the Community Outreach Award!

PreETS Bootcamp

• *Baking* • *Landscaping* • *Higher Education* • *Transportation* • *Fire Safety*



Students learned about navigating the city bus route.



APSU representative, Yen Hoyt, spoke with students about higher education opportunities.



A local landscaper showed students how to clean out a garden.



Students learned about fire safety and explored firefighting as a career with Captain Bobby Becker of Clarksville Fire Rescue.

Students spent the day at Kroger in Dover Crossing experiencing working in a grocery store.



Students visited Silkes Bakery and got hands-on experience making bread.

Students made candy for the Firefighters they met earlier in the week. This taught the students teamwork and how to follow directions.



NDEAM

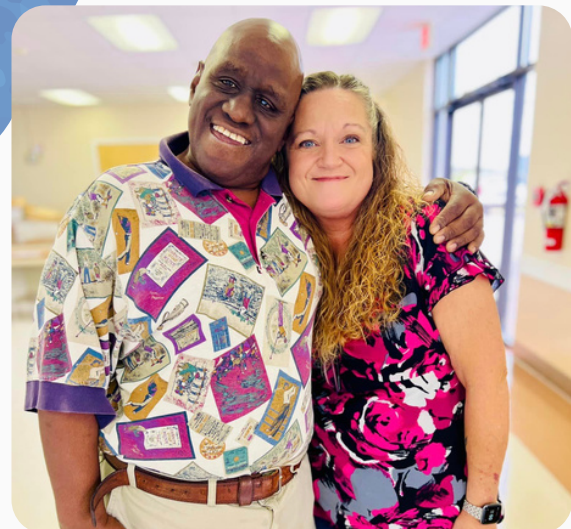
National Disability Employment Awareness Month



#HireMyStrengths

PDI Supported Employment celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month with food, dancing, and sharing their greatest strengths. Click the link to see highlights from the party!

[See More Pics](#)



TEAM BUILDING

OUR EARLY INTERVENTION STAFF CAME TOGETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPING OUR SMART GOALS FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS.

[SEE MORE PICS](#)





REGION II BOWLING TOURNAMENT



NO PINS WERE
LEFT STANDING
AT THIS REGION II
BOWLING
TOURNAMENT!



In The Community



PDI STAFF ATTENDING VARIOUS EVENTS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY...

In The Community



CHRIS & GEORGE BUILD PLAYGROUND BOXES AT CUMBERLAND HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION CELEBRATE TOGETHER AT THE ANNUAL PIE BREAKFAST, HOSTED BY CMC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Progressive Directions, Inc
Published by Julie Brown · September 12, 2023 ·

Our very own Shauna Silverheart and Doug Kinch serve on TN's DSP Workforce Advisory Board with the purpose of promoting change and supporting the important work of DSPs. The board offers insight on critical areas of change needed to grow the value of working as a DSP in Tennessee.

CQL, The Council on Quality and Leadership
September 11, 2023 ·

Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities have established an advisory group to hear directly from DSPs and make improvements where ne... See more

C-Q-L.ORG
DSP Advisory Group From TN DIDD Helps Initiate Transformation - The Council on Quality and Leadership

- TN DSP WORKFORCE ADVISORY BOARD - OUR VERY OWN DOUG KINCH & SHAUNA SILVERHEART WERE TAPPED FOR THE BOARD TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROMOTING CHANGE FOR AND SUPPORTING THE IMPORTANT WORK OF DSPS.



JAY, JULIE, SHERI, AND ANNA AT ANOTHER EXCITING UNITED WAY KICKOFF!



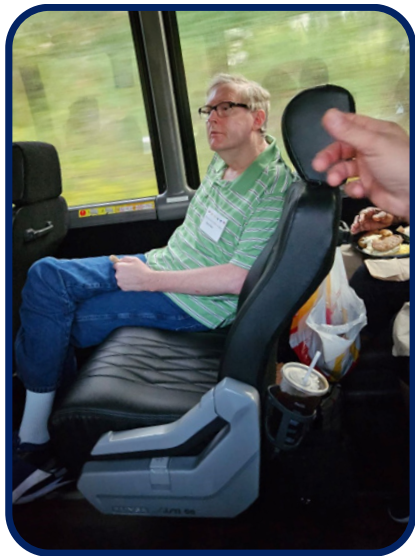
ANNA AND SHERI AT CLARKSVILLE'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT - SPONSORED BY CLARKSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT & UNITED WAY

Field Trips

MATTHEW
HODGE AT
HAM
FESTIVAL



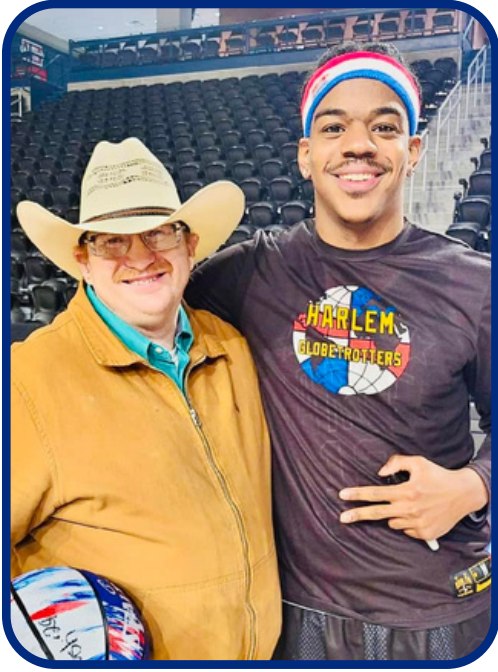
GARY DYER
VISITING
NOAH'S ARC



KYLE AND RONNIE AT
LORETTA LYNN'S RANCH



RONALD POWELL AND JANET
SWANNER WITH THE CAPTAIN
ON THE GENERAL JACKSON.



GREG MEETS MEMBERS OF THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS.



AMY AND CRAIG PLAY IN THE SNOW.



TRINA GETS THE ROYAL TREATMENT AT THIS HAIR SALON.



BILLY, GREG, AND RYAN HAD AN AMAZING PHOTOSHOOT WITH THEIR STAFF.



GREG AND STAFF JAMIE VISITED THE BEACHAVEN WINERY VINTAGE FAIR AND SAW NEWSCHANNEL 5!

GO PRED S



JIMMY AND TAYLOR ENJOY A PRED S GAME AT BRIDGESTONE ARENA.

JT, RANDY, CHRIS AND DSP MIKE WENT TO THE PREDATORS GAME AT THE NEW F&M ARENA, COURTESY THE PRED S FOUNDATION GIVE AND GO PROGRAM.



MAURY COUNTY FAIR!



Betty, Janet, Roger, Jerry & Jamie having a blast!

OUR PDI CREW HAD AN AMAZING TIME AT THE COUNTY FAIR! THEY AND THEIR STAFF WERE LET IN EARLY TO RIDE RIDES, GET A FREE T-SHIRT, AND A FREE LUNCH.



Judy, Bradley, and Kevin enjoying the fair.

Florida Vacay



[Florida Album 1](#)

[Busch Gardens Pics](#)

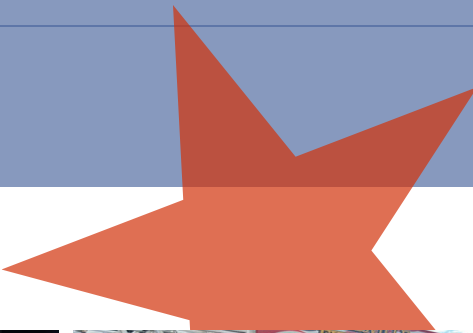
[Discovery Cove Pics](#)

[Sea World Pics](#)

[Dolphin Pics](#)

[Pirate Pics](#)

SUMMER FUN IN THE SUN!
THIS GROUP HAD THE TIME
OF THEIR LIVES ON THEIR
FLORIDA TRIP! CHECK OUT
ALL THE ALBUM LINKS FOR
MORE INCREDIBLE
PICTURES



The school age program visited Clarksville Fire Rescue at the fire station and not only had a blast but learned so much, too. Thank you to Fire Rescue for all you do for our community!



Spooktacular Lunch pics



The Fall Festival was a huge success! Games, food, and an amazing balloon arch created by Ms. Pate. Big thanks to all Kids Depot families and staff for making this event special!

Fall festival pics



School Age Celebrated the 100th day of school!



Fall Ball

Region II stepped out in their snazziest formal attire to enjoy an evening of dinner, dessert, and dancing the night away. What a fancy way to kick off the Fall season!

[Fall Ball Album 1](#)

[Fall Ball Album 2](#)



DOVER HALLOWEEN PARTY

Dover celebrated Halloween with a ghoulish party! Everyone loved the costume contest and had so much fun. The special guest judges had a tough time choosing winners because everyone looked so great!



SEE ALL THE PICS!



REGION II HALLOWEEN PARTY



GILES COUNTY HAD A BLAST AT THEIR HALLOWEEN PARTY! SO MANY FUN COSTUMES, SMILES, AND ALL-AROUND GOOD TIMES!



CLARKSVILLE PDI HALLOWEEN



PUMPKIN PAINTING



THANKSGIVING
DINNER IN
CENTERVILLE
AT NACOME



MERRY Christmas

It's the most wonderful time of the year!
The PDI Christmas party in Clarksville
featured a delicious feast, dancing,
a visit from Santa, and lots of
holiday spirit!



[SEE ALL THE PICS! 1/2](#)

[SEE ALL THE PICS! 2/2](#)

THE FESTIVITIES
CONTINUED IN DOVER
WITH A CHEER-FILLED
PARTY & A SPECIAL
VISIT FROM
SANTA & MRS. CLAUS!

Merry
Christmas



[SEE ALL THE PICS!](#)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

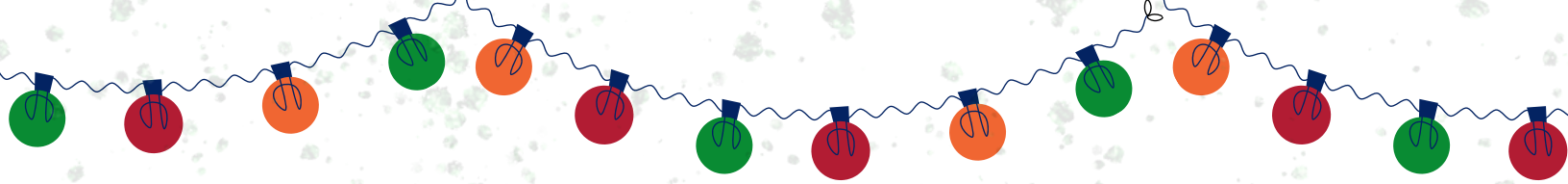


Region II
decked the
halls in
Columbia!

Check out this
festive bunch!!

[Region II Xmas Album 1](#)

[Region II Xmas Album 2](#)



Buddy Ball Christmas



[SEE ALL THE PICS](#)

BUDDY BALL AWARDS

BOWLING MEDALS NIGHT

[Bowling Pics Here](#)



BASEBALL SEASON CELEBRATION

[Celebration Pics](#)

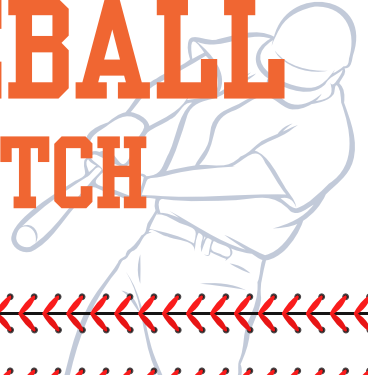


The APSU Softball Team and their coach came out to help us celebrate another great season in the books. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen!



BUDDY BALL BASEBALL

SEASON 23 - FIRST PITCH

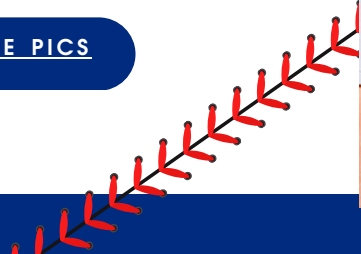


MONTGOMERY COUNTY
MAYOR WES GOLDEN
HELPED US KICK OFF BUDDY
BALL'S 23RD BASEBALL
SEASON BY THROWING OUT
THE FIRST PITCH WITH THE
HELP OF BUDDY BALL
ATHLETE, ENZO.



Buddy Ball

[SEE ALL THE PICS](#)



APSU VOLUNTEERS

APSU ATHLETICS TEAMS VOLUNTEERED EACH WEEK THROUGHOUT THE SEASON. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

[APSU PICS 1](#)

[APSU PICS 2](#)

[APSU PICS 3](#)



Visit from Governor Bill Lee

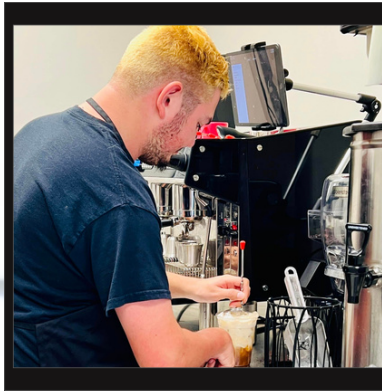


Governor Bill Lee visited Common Ground in December for the 2023 Expect Employment Report Presentation. He, TN DIDD Commissioner Brad Turner, Montgomery County Mayor Wes Golden, and Progressive Directions President/CEO Jay Albertia toured the cafe for a meet & greet with the staff. Current interns Zack & Scotty, along with former interns Alana & DeMarquis, showed Gov. Lee around. Zack even taught him how to make a latte.

[Watch the NewsChannels video](#)

[**See More Pics**](#)

CONGRATULATIONS ZACK & SCOTTY






Congratulations to another graduating class from Common Ground Cafe's Job Skills Training Program - Zack and Scotty - masters of Scotty's Smoothies and Zack's Zombie Lattes! They became such big parts of the team and bright spots in customers' days. We are sad to see them go, but proud of how much they grew. Devriant & Alayna are excited to begin their internships on February 20th. Come say hi!





WELLNESS NEWS

COVID vs Flu vs. Common Cold vs. RSV: What You Need to Know

VIRUS	COMMON SYMPTOMS	EXPOSURE TO INFECTION	SHOULD I STAY HOME?	LEVEL OF INVECTIVITY	VACCINE AVAILABILITY
 COMMON COLD <i>Rhinovirus</i>	COUGH LOW GRADE FEVER SNEEZING SORE THROAT STUFFY NOSE	2 TO 3 DAYS	NO NEED TO STAY HOME	LESS CONTAGIOUS SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS WILL SHED THE VIRUS DURING THE FIRST 2 TO 3 DAYS OF INFECTION	NO VACCINE AVAILABLE
 SEASONAL INFLUENZA <i>Influenza virus (A and B)</i>	FEVER COUGH SORE THROAT RUNNY OR STUFFY NOSE MUSCLE OR BODY ACHES HEADACHE, FATIGUE VOMITING/DIARRHEA (MOSTLY IN CHILDREN)	1 TO 4 DAYS	YES. STAY HOME AND GET TESTED	CONTAGIOUS VIRAL SHEDDING OCCURS 24 HOURS BEFORE SYMPTOMS APPEAR, PEAKING AROUND DAY 3 OF ILLNESS	YES. THE FLU CAN BE PREVENTED BY A VACCINATION DURING FLU SEASON. PDI SUGGEST ALL EMPLOYEES BE VACCINATED AGAINST THE FLU.
 COVID-19 <i>Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)</i>	BODY ACHES CHILLS COUGH DIARRHEA FATIGUE FEVER HEADACHE LOSS OF SMELL/TASTE NAUSEA/VOMITING SHORTNESS OF BREATH STUFFY/RUNNY NOSE	2 TO 14 DAYS	YES. STAY HOME AND GET TESTED	MORE CONTAGIOUS VIRAL SHEDDING OCCURS 2 TO 3 DAYS BEFORE SYMPTOMS APPEAR, PEAKING AROUND DAY 3 OF ILLNESS. HOWEVER, THERE CAN BE VIRAL SHEDDING WITHOUT EVER DEVELOPING SYMPTOMS.	YES. COVID-19 VACCINATION IS AVAILABLE, AND CAN MAKE ILLNESS LESS HARMFUL. PDI SUGGEST ALL ITS EMPLOYEES BE VACCINATED.
 RSV <i>Respiratory syncytial virus</i>	COUGH RUNNY NOSE SNEEZING FEVER WHEEZING	4 TO 6 DAYS	YES. STAY HOME AND GET TESTED	VERY CONTAGIOUS IN CHILDREN SYMPTOMS CAN LAST 7 TO 10 DAYS, BUT SOME CHILDREN CAN DEVELOP A COUGH THAT TAKES UP TO SIX WEEKS TO CLEAR	NO VACCINE AVAILABLE

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STAFF

THIS IS A REMINDER TO ALL STAFF THAT YOU MUST REPORT ANY CHANGES IN SKIN CONDITION RIGHT AWAY.

AGENCY REMINDERS

VEHICLE LOGS

Vehicle logs must be turned in accurately and in a timely manner.

If you have any questions regarding vehicle logs, please contact your supervisor.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We love seeing your photos & try to get as many in the newsletter as possible.

If you'd like to submit content, please include the following:

- A quality photo
- Description, including names of people, location, event/activity, and home region

PROTECTION FROM HARM

Remember... DIDD requires you to report any suspected incidents of abuse, neglect or exploitation to DIDD's Protection from Harm Unit at 888-633-1313 within 4 hours of observation or discovery. If you fail to report and the incident results in a substantiated case, you may be subject to disciplinary action along with the person(s) responsible for the abuse, neglect or exploitation.

In Loving Memory



DANNY MCNEECE

October 7, 1954-September 16, 2023



[DANNY'S OBITUARY](#)



KEVIN ROBERTS

December 16, 1992-November 17, 2023



[KEVIN'S OBITUARY](#)