



TECHNOLOGY MOVING AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT®

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## A Time of Giving Back

The TekSynap New Orleans team, led by **Michele Daigle** and **Tami Devitt**, generously donated over 60 new coats to the Lacombe-Mandeville Head Start program. This program provides critical services such as early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parental involvement, supporting low-income families in building a brighter future.

This heartwarming initiative ensured that every child in the program received a brand-new coat, offering warmth and comfort during the colder months. The donation not only met a practical need but also brought smiles and a sense of care to the children and their families. TekSynap is proud to support programs like Head Start, which empower communities and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve. A special thanks to Kam Jinnah for supporting this cause with a generous donation.

If you are interested in giving back to your local area here are some ideas:

- Support food drives
- Serve at a soup kitchen
- Donate clothing and essentials
- USPS Operation Santa
- Visit your local nursing home
- Volunteer at a local animal shelter



# The Hidden Color of Fall

There. In the distance. Do you see it? Hiding behind all the vivid golden, crimson, chestnut, and amber hues, lies the secret color of fall: purple. Hints of aubergine and plum emerge amongst all the other jewel-toned colors, forming a beautiful backdrop for the more famous shades to shine.



While we are often drawn to the quintessential, fiery reds, brilliant oranges, and sunny yellows that define autumn, discrete, purple pigments bring a unique depth to this time of the year.

From the dark purple of wild asters to the soft wine tones of ornamental dogwoods, these subtle shades add an unexpected, haunting richness to the landscape. They are the color of change, of transformation—quiet, yet powerful, often overlooked, but impossible to ignore, once noticed.

Purple's presence in nature is often a symbol of calm and balance, providing a perfect contrast to the vibrant energy that autumn brings. As the days shorten and the air becomes crisp, the gentleness of purple reminds us to slow down, reflect, and appreciate the fleeting beauty of the season. In a world full of bright, bold moments, purple offers us a peaceful pause—a moment to find joy in the subtle and in the things we might not always see.

During this season, which often feels like the beginning of a closing chapter, the earth presents us an invitation to reconnect, not only with the world, but also with ourselves. Fall's slower rhythm calls us to dive deeper into nature, reflect on the past year's journey, and find comfort in the stillness. By allowing ourselves time to unplug and be present, we can rediscover the gift of quiet moments and consciously appreciate all the beauty that surrounds us.

Though we might be nearing autumn's end, the next time you venture out for a walk through the woods or drive through Virginia's stunning Blue Ridge Mountains, be sure to observe fall's hidden color; it could just be the most beautiful and inspiring part of the season you never realized you were missing.

**Grace Redding**

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## TekSynap Holiday Gift

We are coming up on the holiday season! In preparation for your holiday gift, **please make sure your home address is correct in ADP.**

To complete this task, go to the ***TekSynap Employee Portal*** and navigate to ADP Employee and Managers icon.

Click on Myself > My Information > Profile

Under Personal Info, click "view more" and scroll down to your legal mailing address. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to **[HR@teksynap.com](mailto:HR@teksynap.com)**.



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## AFNCR TekSynap and Leidos Team Building Event

This is our Annual AFNCR TekSynap and Leidos Team Building Game that we hold each year, where we strengthen our relationship with the Leidos Leads and TekSynap employees on the AFNCR program. The team is posing for a picture with the tallest Wizards player, Gheorghe Mureșan.

"Gheorghe Dumitru Mureșan, known as The Giant, is a Romanian-American former professional basketball player. At 7 feet 7 inches (2.31 m), he is one of the two tallest players to have played in the NBA. "

TekSynap employees in attendance were **LaTasha Johnson, Matthew Rosov, Lyndon Bilal, Kay Kennett, and Rob Kennett**



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## New Cumberland ESD Team Brings Spooktacular Spirit to the Halloween Party

The New Cumberland ESD team recently gathered to celebrate Halloween with a lively costume party that brought out the creative, fun-loving spirit of our technicians. The event showcased an impressive array of costumes, ranging from pirates and law enforcement officers to delightfully unexpected characters.

Adding to the festive atmosphere was a potluck feast featuring a spread of sweet and savory treats, ensuring something for everyone. From spooky cupcakes to hearty chili, the creativity was as impressive as the costumes.

The day was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and a range of fun activities. Team members

mingled, posed for photos, and enjoyed games that added an extra layer of excitement to the event. The supportive and friendly environment was on full display, reminding everyone of what makes TekSynap a great place to work and celebrate.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the costume contest. Jarrad Reck claimed the coveted title of "Best Costume" for his imaginative and humorous outfit, which left colleagues in awe. Jarrad's dedication and enthusiasm shone brightly, earning him well-deserved recognition. Congratulations, Jarrad, for your standout contribution to the Halloween fun!



## Caught in the Act

**Aber Mitchell** was given an official letter of appreciation for his work at DTRA.

**Alan Parker** was recognized for an amazing job helping a customer.

**Bailey Bartram** received a heartfelt appreciation for his exceptional contributions to the team.

**Kirstin Fink** was thanked for excellent customer service. The customer said they saw her name pop up and they felt relieved because they knew they were in good hands.

**Joey Sineath** received kudos for his calm and dedicated support.

**Zach Gardner** was thanked for his work on the ARDA project.

**Shane Baker** was recognized for his great work.

**Sarah Keiper** was given kudos by a customer for her bringing structure and organization to her team.

**Kristi Latorre** was thanked for doing an amazing job assisting customers.

**Mohammad Alian** was recognized by a co-worker for being an asset to their team and

humbly sharing his experience.

**Jeremiah Montalvo** received kudos for his excellent support and customer service when helping resolve a problem.

**Michael Goddard** was thanked and praised by the customer for his dedication and hard work.

**Mariefred Evans** received some kudos for her clever and expert customer support.

**Bailey Norris** was praised for doing an exemplary job and being an invaluable member of the team and a pleasure to work with.

**Charles Nesbitt** was recognized for his outstanding assistance in helping quickly resolve an IT issue.

**Edward Ewusi** was acknowledged for his outstanding help.

**Joseph McGee** was given kudos as the "Chuck Norris of Executive support!"

**Anne Johnson** received kudos for completing a major project on a short turnaround.

**John Holland** and **Cedric Sharps** were praised for their development of great materials, clear communications, excellent notetaking, and all of their fantastic work.

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Don't forget to let your Quality team know about all the good things going on at TekSynap by submitting your Kudos on the ***Employee Portal***.  
Help us recognize our employee contributions in the monthly Newsletter.

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## TekPets



### **Meet Maurice Evan's Dog, Bella**

Bella is 10 yrs old Shitzu / Maltese diva turning 11 on 18 Nov. She was born in Giessen, Germany and she loves crushing plastic bottles.....even though they never make it to the recycling bin without being completely chewed up. She enjoys zoomies and walks on the beach. Bella loves everyone and has at least 8 work Uncles and Aunties that spoil her.





Meet Valkyrie! She is a 3 month old Long Haired German Shepherd that we welcomed into our family a few weeks ago. She is such a smart, sweet, playful puppy. She loves going on adventures with us, whether it be camping, dog friendly establishments, or even just to Grandma and Grandpas house to play and nap with their dog Mocha.

**-Shelby Ritch**



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Happy Halloween from Peanut!



**-Arielle Gick**

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Feature your pets in the next newsletter!  
Send pictures of your companions to [news@teksynap.com](mailto:news@teksynap.com).

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**TekSynap Travels**



THANK YOU ALL! I cannot tell you how fortunate I feel to work for TekSynap. It's continues to be an amazing place to work and you all clearly always show that you care about the employees. In case you didn't know.....IT MATTERS to us. I will forever feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to contribute to building TekSynap into what it is today. I look forward to whatever the future has in store for us!



The first, and maybe most important picture, is called TekSynap Crew. In it from left to right are **Jenn Neish, El Mlecsko, me, and Melanie Springs**. The 4 TekSynap folks that were there for the week standing in the front of the house (on our way to our dinner at Mike Diana's restaurant.....best steak I've ever had)! 😊

For a little humor I'm attaching one called Beach Walk. With my new knees I was excited to be able to walk on the beach. So Monday I took a LONG walk down the beach. I then realized the water I was feeling was not from the ocean and turned around to realize it was going to rain and I was a long, long way from the house. I have not run with my new knees and didn't figure that the beach was the best time to try so I walked. Needless to say.....I was drenched when I got back. And shortly after I returned the sun came out. Figures.

On Tuesday we were hit with a tropical depression that settled over us and dropped 15.5 inches of rain in one day. Never saw anything like it. So I have attached one that shows the street flooded (with a truck driving on it) and one where some kid (not with us) was literally in a raft on the street!

One photo shows Joe Mlecsko and Mike Cowart (Melanie's husband) and their fishing expertise. They had hooked something BIG that had everyone at the beach watching. Turned out to be a button-down long sleeve shirt. LOL! The other is a picture of Chef Mike. He's cooking in the outside shower on his Blackstone. It was so windy that was the only place that he could cook and not have the wind blow it out. I'm not entirely sure how many times he cooked for us. Burgers and dogs on Sunday, breakfast for dinner, and Tuscan chicken are definitely 3 times. And he can cook! He spoiled all of us. AND on Friday he left the beach, went to the house, cooked hot dogs, put them on buns and brought them to everyone on the beach and even brought ketchup and mustard.

So needless to say we had a great time and again I cannot thank you all enough. What an amazing benefit!

#### **-De James, Ten Year Anniversary Travel Award**





## Certification Corner

**Michael Jackson**  
BICSI Technician

**Ken Farber**  
AWS Certified AI Practitioner

**Jonathan Lee**  
Microsoft Certified Azure Fundamentals

**Joe McCann**  
Certified Wireless Technology Specialist  
5G LAN Specialist

**Dennise Shally-Schalk**  
Think Logical Tech 200-300

**Danny Honegger**  
CompTIA Security Analytics Professional  
CompTIA CySA+

**Steve Santacroce**  
CompTIA A+

**Brian French**  
Crestron DM Certified Engineer - DM NVX

# Employee Learning Program



Employees are encouraged to use the Employee Learning Program (ELP) Benefit. [Click Here](#) to access the form.

If you have earned a new certification, please add it to your **TekWorkforce profile**.

Updating your certifications in TekWorkforce will help us identify you for career advancement opportunities.

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## Open Positions

### DTRA

Lead Systems Administrator  
ISSO  
Lead ISSO  
Helpdesk Specialist  
Senior Network Engineer (ABQ)

### Cyber Technical Writer

CSSP Lead

### CSFC

Senior Network Engineer



Please email your referral resumes to [careers@teksynap.com](mailto:careers@teksynap.com) to receive up to \$2,000.

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## Military Mental Health Support

As the United States endures 2 decades of ongoing warfare, both the media and individuals with personal military connections have raised significant public and professional concerns about the mental health of veterans and service members.

Learn more about mental health and the military:  
<https://newsroom.cigna.com/veteran-support-helpline>



## Working Remotely

With an everchanging work environment, it is important to ensure that when we are conducting work remotely, we are still aware of security procedures and resources available to establish business continuity. Working remotely has had many benefits and is somewhat of an inexperienced territory for employees, yet it is still imperative to protect our customers sensitive data while accepting for location flexibility.



Some tips to be reminded of while working from home are make sure you secure your home office if anything needs to be locked with sensitive information, secure your home router for network vulnerabilities, Separate work and personal devices to reduce sensitive data exposure, encrypt your devices so only authorized personnel can access it, and keeping your software up to date. These security tools can be used at anytime and are important to maintain employees' networks and personal information. If you would like more information on this subject, [click here](#).



### Happy 5 Year Anniversary

Christopher Hartley

Mark Sikorski

Matthew Rosov

Alexandra Boston

Lon Mangan

Your travel ward is right around the corner! Be sure to check your

## Anniversaries

### Fourteen Years

Robert Ritch

### Seven Years

Scott Bertran

Trent Tackett

### Six Years

Christopher Damato

Tyrell Bryant

Jeremiah Nance

Candice Coalson

Marla Helveston

### Five Years

Christopher Hartley

Mark Sikorski

Matthew Rosov

Alexandra Boston

Lon Mangan

### Four Years

Rupi Stepniczka

Kenneth Farber

Lisa Crouse

### Three Years

Michael Ireland

Michael Shelton

Matthew Aikey

Garrett Weiskirch

Scott Wyatt

Lynn Harris

Frank Picanso

Brandon Kreiser

Joshua King

Evan Hoppens

Pelagio Perez

Lee Shippy

Sherry Kneitz

Hericko Blaylock

Timothy Neal

Andrew Anderson

Cheryl Ault

### Two Years

An-Marie Ledesma

Junaid Farnum

Samuella Mansaray

Noah McGinley

## Welcome, New Employees!

Lakshman Krishnaiyer

Victor Zhang

Marta Khomchanka

Logan Badorf

Farquema Siryon

Rayvon Bing

Marcus Rodgers

Julie Tacha

Jacob McCarty

Jason Bruce

Raymond Kramer

Joshua Chandler

Austin O'Diam

Brendan Manning

Richard Hunt

Akbar Jahani

Stephen Lichvar

Russell King

John Lindauer

Darryl Vinson

Joshua Jindra

Elliot Mahaffey

Bhagawat Bhandari

John Netterwald

Jim Falisi

Raouf Zadran

Md Huda

Benjamin Rivera

Justin McCrary

Wesley Whitteker

David Cochran

John Batia

Dustin Payne

Vincent de Paul Cheube

Zachery Colter

Darian Jinnah

Patricia Min

Javier Vallejo

Seth McNelley

Robert Woodard

Lakendra Miller

Anthony Gavin

Sarai Smith

Peter Paul Nguyen  
Barry Blackwell  
Christopher Rohrer  
Louise Blanc  
Ian Dennis  
Aiden Alfrey  
James Beamon  
Efren Cortez  
John Manilli  
Darron Eubanks  
Daniel Wilson  
Kirstin Fink  
Jaylen Foskey  
William Schoenhut



### **One Year**

Brandon Ketola  
David Robson  
Jeffery Doiron  
Ranjit Dhillon  
Caleb Lee  
Diondrea Ricks  
Bailey Norris  
Felecia Love  
Alma-Catherine Bryan  
John Watkins  
Catrina Brown  
Jesse Knopp  
Johnathan Wilson  
Emmanuel Brefo  
Carlos Cuprill  
AnhDuy Bui  
Chun Ming Lu  
Aaron Wang  
Austin Whitney  
Ryan Gill  
James White  
Joseph McCann  
Christopher Clark  
Joshua Rosario  
Regina Joiner  
Caleb Wimberly  
Eric McKean  
Dorian Smith  
Matthew Meadows  
Logan Lujan  
Travis Turner  
Roneisha Ellis  
Dale Nelson II



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