



TEAM BLADEN

April 2016
Bladen County
Government Newsletter

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Co. Manager: Greg Martin

Animal Control: Kory Hair

Building Inspections:

Matt Chadwick

Clerk of Courts:

Nikki Dennis

Computer Operations:

Robin Hewett

Consolidated

Human Services

Health:

DSS: Vickie Smith

Economic Development:

Chuck Heustess

Elections: Cynthia Shaw

Emergency Services:

Bradley Kinlaw

EMS: David Howell, Jr.

Extension: Sandra Cain

Finance: Lisa Coleman

Human Resources: Shonteia Keaton

Library: Kelsey Edwards

Operations: Robert Mazur

Planning: Greg Elkins

Recreation: Grant Pait

Register of Deeds:

Beverly Parks

Revenue: Renee Davis

Senior Services: Joan Allen

Soil & Water: Dean Morris

Sheriff: James McVicker

Water: Randy Garner

YOU BELONG @ YOUR LIBRARY



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

APRIL 10 – APRIL 16, 2016

Monday, April 11th

Bridger Memorial Library

3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12th

Clarkton Public Library

3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 14th

Bladen County Public Library, Main Branch

10:00 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Join us for special stories about books and libraries during
story time at each branch!

Celebrate National Library Week 2016 (April 10-16) with the theme

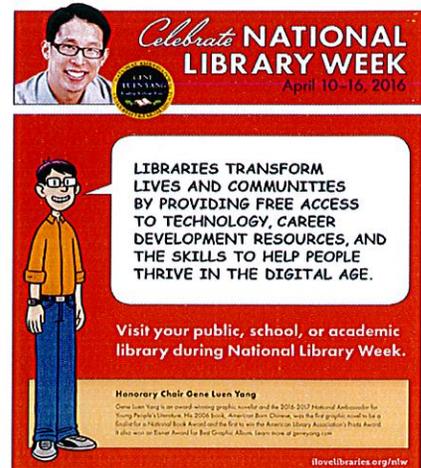
"Libraries Transform"

The 2016 **National Library Week** theme is **Libraries Transform**, and Gene Luen Yang will serve as Honorary Chair.

Gene Luen Yang is an award-winning graphic novelist and the 2016-2017 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. His 2006 book, "American Born Chinese," was the first graphic novel to be a finalist for a National Book Award and the first to win the American Library Association's Printz Award.

It also won an Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album. Learn more at geneyang.com.

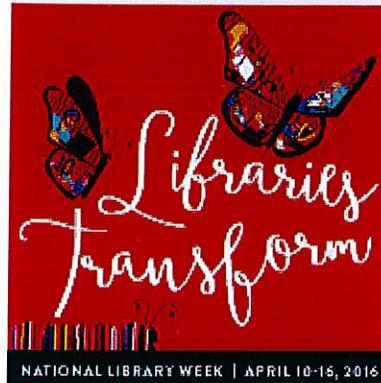
First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate.



Celebrations during National Library Week include:

- Monday, April 11: State of America's Libraries Report released, including Top Ten Frequently Challenged Books of 2015.
- Tuesday, April 12: [National Library Workers Day](#), a day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.
- Wednesday, April 13: [National Bookmobile Day](#), a day to recognize the contributions of our nation's bookmobiles and the dedicated professionals who make quality bookmobile outreach possible in their communities.

<http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>



I THINK WE VERY SOON SHALL SEE...
A POETRY CONTEST AT THE MAIN LIBRARY!!

6:30-8:00PM ON THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH IS THE DATE
SPECTATORS ARE WELCOME, SO BRING YOUR BEST MATE!!

COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS....
1ST PLACE PRIZES FOR WINNING RESULTS!

PARTICIPANTS MAY REGISTER AT THE DOOR.
PLEASE ASK AT THE DESK, IF YOU NEED TO KNOW MORE!

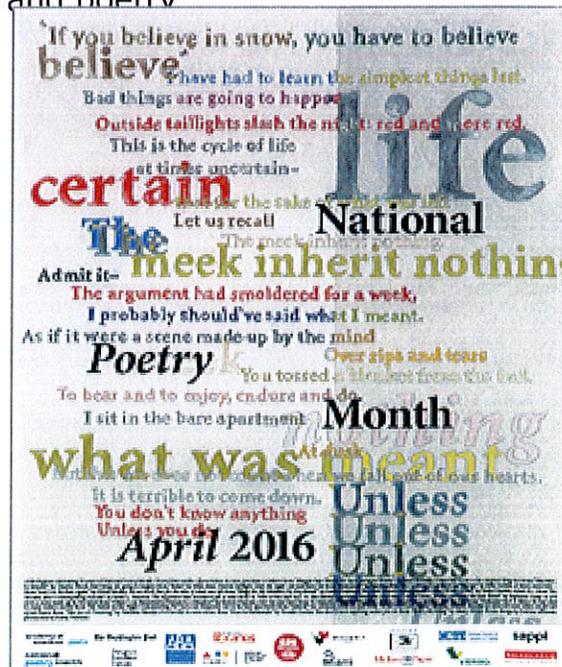
April is National Poetry Month

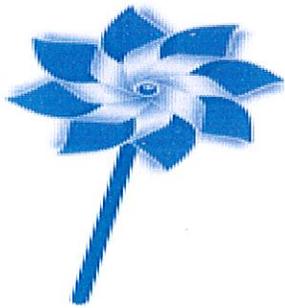
read it
write it
share it

National Poetry Month is the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K-12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, literary events curators, publishers, bloggers, and, of course, poets marking poetry's important place in our culture and our lives.

While we celebrate poets and poetry year-round, the Academy of American Poets was inspired by the successful celebrations of Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March), and founded National Poetry Month in April 1996 with an aim to:

- highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets,
- encourage the reading of poems,
- assist teachers in bringing poetry into their classrooms,
- increase the attention paid to poetry by national and local media,
- encourage increased publication and distribution of poetry books, and encourage support for poets and poetry





APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April 2016)

April was first declared Child Abuse Prevention Month by presidential proclamation in 1983. Since then, April has been a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse. In *Child Maltreatment 2014* (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau) it was reported that in FFY 2014 in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, an estimated 646,261 children were victims of child abuse or neglect; and 1,580 children died as a result of abuse or neglect. The majority of child abuse cases stemmed from situations and conditions that can be preventable when community programs and systems are engaged and supportive. A community that cares about early childhood development, parental support, and maternal mental health, for instance, is more likely to foster nurturing families and healthy children.

A body of research has identified factors known to prevent and reduce child abuse and neglect. These factors—including parental resilience, nurturing and attachment, social connections, knowledge about parenting and child development, social and emotional competence of children, and concrete supports for parents—are outlined in *Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Well-Being: A Network for Action 2015 Resource Guide*, also developed by the Children's Bureau.

In recognition of the collaborations needed to help prevent child abuse and neglect, the NCTSN has compiled a list of resources for advocates and policy makers, children and adolescents, educators, families and communities, and mental health and child welfare professionals.



Bladen Community College Offers Free Business Classes in April

The Small Business Center (SBC) of Bladen Community College is offering no-cost seminars to help grow or start your business.

How to Read Financial Statements is offered on Monday, April 4, from 2-3 PM, in building 2, room 202, on the Dublin campus.

Use Pinterest to Market Your Small Business explores why having a “Pin it” button will improve your website visibility. You will learn about shareable pins, promoted pins, Pinterest messaging, and the “Buy Now” feature. The seminar is Thursday, April 14, from 1-2 PM, in building 2, room 202, on the Dublin campus.

On April 21, the college will offer Blogging for Small Businesses and Startups. The presenter will help you determine the concept and tone for your blog, learn how to write interesting copy, increase your visibility and attract customers, and get your blog on the internet through your website and other social media venues. The class meets in building 2, room 202, from 6:30-9 PM.

The Business of Being a Self-Published Author is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, from 9 AM until 12 PM. This workshop is designed to help writers make sound business decisions about choosing a publisher, develop a publicity program, and create a marketing budget. The class meets in building 2, room 202, on the main campus.

Setup Your LinkedIn Profile is scheduled for Monday, April 25, from 2-4 PM. Students will have access to the campus computer lab and will leave the class with an active LinkedIn profile.

The Bladen County Public Library in Elizabethtown will host two seminars for small business owners. Time and Stress Management for Entrepreneurs and Business Owners is scheduled for Tuesday April 12, from 2:30-4:30 PM. Salesman 404 will meet on April 26, from 6-8 PM.

The Bladenboro Community Building will host Bring More Customer Traffic to Your Store or Website on Thursday, April 7, from 6:30-9 PM.

On the East Arcadia Campus, Intro to Social Media Marketing will be held on Tuesday April 12, from 6-8 PM.

All seminars are open to the public and provided at no charge due to special funding arrangements for the Small Business Center and Bladen Community College.

To register for any of the seminars or for more information, contact Todd Lyden, Small Business Center Director, at 910-879.5572 or register online: <https://www.ncsbc.net/center.aspx?center=75040>

<http://www.bladenonline.com/bladen-community-college-offers-free-business-classes-in-april/>

Bladen County Health Department approved for YFC grant

Carol Strickland, Young Families Connect Local Coordinator, and Kayla Brienne, Young Families Connect Case-Manager, completed and submitted the Young Families Connect (YFC) grant on February 26, 2016.

The YFC grant will be for three consecutive years beginning August 1 and continuing through July 31, 2019. The current grant period will end on July 31, 2016.

Confirmation was received on March 24 that the Bladen County Health Department was approved for the grant and the total amount for three years will be \$655,699.

The YFC grant provides programming for Case Managers to work with 13-24 year old pregnant and/or parenting men and women of Bladen County to improve education, self sufficiency, and health/wellness. The YFC grant incorporates contracts and working with local agencies such as: NC Cooperative Extension, Department of Social Services, Families First, Childcare Network, Woods Transportation, Bladen Community College, NC Partnership for Children (Smart Start), NC Works Career Center, EastPointe, Inc., and Bladen County businesses.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/bladen-county-health-department-approved-for-yfc-grant/>

4-H Presentation District Competition Judges needed

The 4-H Presentation District Competition judges are needed for the annual 4-H Activity Day planned for Saturday, May 14, in Kinston.

Becky Spearman said, “4-H has a district activity day every year where kids from 18 counties will do presentations on a lot of different topics. Agents are asked to be in charge of a group of categories and are asked to find three judges who are kid friendly (or just willing to help) and will make positive and constructive comments for the kids to improve. The winners of each age group and category will get the chance to go on to the State presentations in July.”

Spearman said she needs three judges are needed for environmental sciences (soil and water), bugs and bees, and electricity and Bruce Mclean, Bladen crops agent, needs three volunteers for careers and entrepreneurship.

The district activity day is on Saturday, May 14 in Kinston. Judges will need to leave Elizabethtown at 7:30 a.m. and will return around 3 p.m. Lunch for judges will be provided. So if you are interested in becoming a judge or to learn more about the activity day, contact Spearman at [910-862-4591](tel:910-862-4591).

<http://www.bladenonline.com/4-h-presentation-district-competition-judges-needed/>

Elizabethtown Rotary 8K Trail Run



North Carolina

AND WALK
to Benefit **USO of North Carolina**

Saturday, April 16th, 2016
8:30 am at Brown's Creek Bike Trail
1910 E. Broad St., Elizabethtown
Click Now for More Information

Join us for the Elizabethtown Rotary 8K Trail Run and Walk to benefit USO of North Carolina on Saturday, April 16, 2016 starting at 8:30 am at Brown's Creek Nature and Bike Trail, located at 1910 East Broad Street in Elizabethtown, NC.

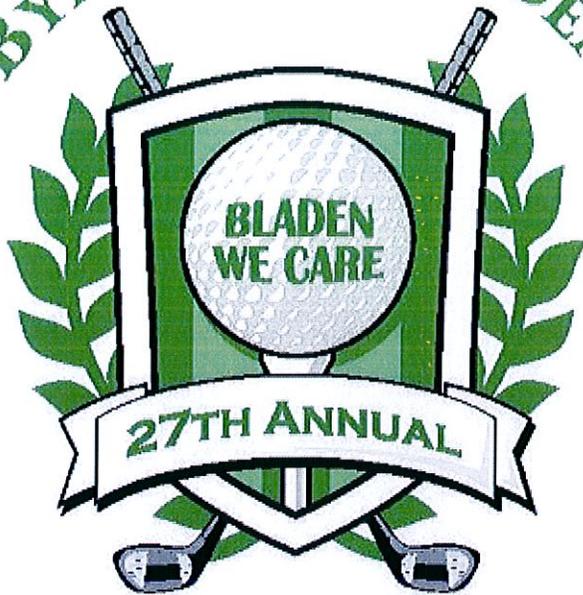
Runners, walkers, and relay teams are all welcome. Registration is \$25 per person. Late registration after Saturday, April 2nd, 2016. Register for our event on Active.com. For more information email elizabethtownrotary@gmail.com or call (910)876-5393.

The third annual Elizabethtown Rotary Club 8K Trail Run and Walk to benefit the USO of NC is set for Saturday, April 16, at 8:30 a.m. at the Brown's Creek Nature Park and Bike Trail and is sponsored by Ford of Clinton and Healthworks Fitness and Wellness.

The club's goal is to raise \$15,000 for the USO of NC and the Elizabethtown Rotary Club needs your help in meeting this commitment. The event is held each year at the beautiful Brown's Creek Nature Trail and Bike Park, located at 1910 East Broad Street in Elizabethtown, which features about 6 miles of mountain biking and hiking trails. The park features a winding creek through a hardwood forest setting. Ample parking is available at the park. Registration for the race may be done online at www.elizabethtownrotary8K.org or applications can be obtained at Healthworks Fitness and Wellness located at 1001 West Broad Street in Elizabethtown. There will be awards given for first, second and third place in the men's and women's and relay team divisions. Registration packets for the race may be picked up on Friday, April 15, at the Cape Fear Farmer's Market in Elizabethtown, or on the morning of the event, Saturday, April 16, at 7:30 am. The race will begin promptly at 8:30 am.

BLADEN WE CARE

BYRON H. GOODEN



MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Thursday April 21, 2016



27TH ANNUAL

BLADEN WE CARE

Live Auction & Dance

Friday April 8, 2016

at **THE VENUE**

White Lake • NC

\$100 Per Couple

7:00-11:00 PM

featuring

BLACK WATER RHYTHM & BLUES BAND

Snappy Casual

Beverages Provided • No outside containers or beverages

Proceeds benefit **Bladen We Care**

presented by

Click Now
For More Details **Smithfield.**

Good food. Responsibly.

Jones Lake State Park April 2016 Nature Programs

April 9, 2016 @ 10:00am

Join a park ranger for a hike through the bay forest at Jones Lake State Park and “discover” why this environment is unique. Discussion on the hike will include the flora and fauna of the forest, and why Carolina Bays are important. Participants should meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 am for this program. Please bring bug spray, water, and hiking shoes. This event is free of charge and is open to the general public. Contact the park office at (910) 588-4550 with any questions.

April 16, 2016 @ 10:00am

Join a park ranger for a hike through the bay forest at Jones Lake State Park and “discover” why this environment is unique. Discussion on the hike will include the flora and fauna of the forest, and why Carolina Bays are important. Participants should meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 am for this program. Please bring bug spray, water, and hiking shoes. This event is free of charge and is open to the general public. Contact the park office at (910) 588-4550 with any questions.

April 23, 2016 @ 2:00pm

Join a park ranger for a hike through the bay forest at Jones Lake State Park and “discover” why this environment is unique. Discussion on the hike will include the flora and fauna of the forest, and why Carolina Bays are important. Participants should meet at the Visitor Center at 2:00 pm for this program. Please bring bug spray, water, and hiking shoes. This event is free of charge and is open to the general public. Contact the park office at (910) 588-4550 with any questions.

April 30, 2015 @ 8:00pm

Jones Lake State Park will be showing “Saving the Best: North Carolina State Parks at 100”! This is a PBS video showcasing the natural treasures of North Carolina State Parks and celebrating their centennial. The viewing will be located in the front of the Visitor Center at 8:00 pm and is free to the public. Bring the family, chairs, popcorn, and drinks. For more info please contact Ranger John Privette. Please visit www.ncparks.gov, for information on Jones Lake State Park and other NC State Parks

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<https://www.ncsbc.net/center.aspx?center=75040>

APRIL 2016

1 April Fool's Day

4 Board of Commissioners Meeting - 5:30 pm

5 Strategic Planning Meeting - 5:30 pm

8 Bladen We Care Live Auction & Dance, The Venue, 7:00 pm

10 National Library Week Begins

11 National Library Week Story Time, Bridger Memorial Library, 3:30 pm

12 National Library Week Story Time, Clarkton Public Library, 3:30 pm

14 National Library Week Story Time, Bladen County Public Library, Main Branch, 10:00 am & 3:30 pm; Poetry Contest, Bladen County Public Library, Main Branch, 6:30 pm –8:00 pm

14 Bladen Fire Association, Tobermory Fire Department - 7:00pm

16 8K Trail Run & Walk, Brown's Creek Bike Trail - 8:30 am

18 Board of Commissioners Meeting - 6:30 pm

20 NCACC District Meeting, Wallace –5:30 pm

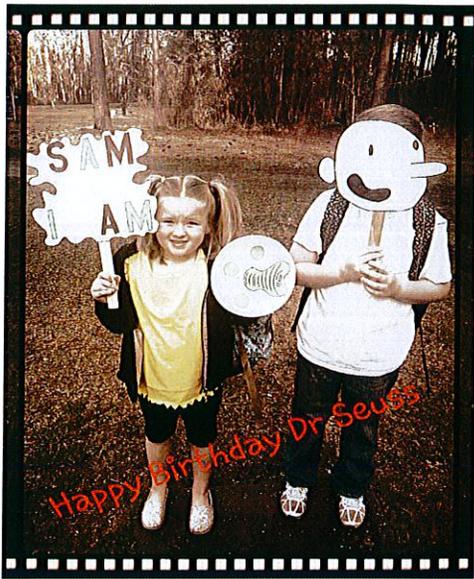
21 Safe Kids Story Time @ Bladen County Public Library, Main Branch, 10:00 am;
Bladen We Care Golf Tournament

25 Board of Commissioners Meeting –5:30 pm

27 Lunch & Learn 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm

28 Bladen County Health Department Open House - 3:00 pm –6:00 pm

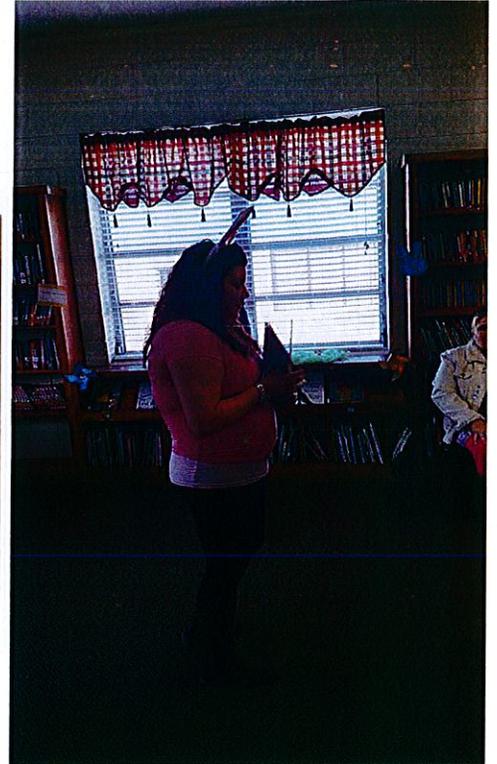
30 Department of Social Services Child Abuse Prevention Event, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Hayleigh and Hunter Simmons children of Brittany Simmons (Health Department) & Josh Simmons dressed up on "Dr. Seuss Day" at Elizabethtown Primary School. Hayleigh was Sam I am and Hunter was Diary of a Wimpy Kid.



Kayla Parker, Bridger Memorial Library Assistant, hosting the Kid's Easter Party in Bladenboro.



Greta Jackson, Library Assistant, hosting the Kid's Easter Party at Clarkton Public Library.



Make a smooth transition from preschool to kindergarten

The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center in conjunction with Bladen Smart Start and Columbus Smart Start will offer a program, "Making a Smooth Transition from Preschool to Kindergarten."

The program will help parents to:

- *Understand how Kindergarten is different from preschool;
- *How to effectively prepare for meetings including how to talk about your child's strengths and weaknesses, understanding the law and your rights, and taking part in the decision-making processes.
- *How the IEP addresses your child's skills; and
- *What you can do now to help your child be ready for Kindergarten.

The program will be offered in two locations:

Tuesday, April 12, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Bladen County Smart Start located at 228-B West Broad Street, Elizabethtown. To register call 910-862-3335.

Thursday, April 14, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Columbus County Smart Start located at 09 W. Main Street, Whiteville. To register call 910-642-3921.

A light supper and giveaways will be provided at both events. The events are free and open to the public but registration is required for the supper.

All materials will be provided on CD at no cost.





Bladen County Schools Kindergarten Registration

**ENROLL NOW FOR NEXT
SCHOOL YEAR ~ 2016-2017**

REQUIREMENTS FOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:

- ◆ *“Certified”* Birth Certificate (not mother’s copy)
Child must be 5 years old on or before August 31st.
- ◆ Kindergarten Health Assessment (blue form)
- ◆ Immunization Record
- ◆ Social Security Card
- ◆ Proof of residence

Please call your district school to schedule an appointment:

April 7 th	Plain View Primary	862-2371
April 11 th	Booker T Washington	647-4161
April 12 th	Bladenboro Primary	863-3387
April 14 th	East Arcadia	669-2934
April 18 th	Bladen Lakes Primary	588-4606
April 19 th	Elizabethtown Primary	862-3380
April 21 st	Dublin Primary	862-2220

Bladen County DSS-Child Abuse Prevention Event

When: Saturday April 30, 2016

Where: Bladen County Courthouse

Time: 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm

*Bladen County DSS Child Abuse Awareness Walk- Begins at San Jose Restaurant
and ending at Bladen County Courthouse*

Hosted by Bladen County DSS Child Welfare Units

Free food, bounce houses, and other entertainment available.
Bring the family!!!

There will also be door prizes, and a bicycle giveaway