



# TEAM BLADEN

AUGUST 2015  
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: Cris Harrelson

DSS: Vickie Smith

Economic Development:

Chuck Heustess

Elections: Cynthia Shaw

Emergency Services:

Fire: Bradley Kinlaw

EMS: David Howell, Jr.

Extension:

Ryan Harrelson

Finance: Lisa Coleman

Human Resources:

Library: Kelsey Edwards

Operations: Robert Mazur

Planning: Greg Elkins

Recreation: Grant Pait

Register of Deeds:

Beverly Parks

Revenue: Christopher Ellis

Senior Services: Joan Allen

Soil & Water: Dean Morris

Sheriff: James McVicker

Water: Randy Garner

## Poetry Night



Photo Contributed By: Emily Castleberry of Bladen County Times

Bladen County Public Library recently hosted a poetry contest at the main branch in Elizabethtown on Tuesday, July 28th. Participants to enter the adult category with original poetry were Joyce Britt, Donnie McAllister and Juana Moore. Judges for the contest were Library Director Kelsey Edwards, Library Assistant Shannon McDonald, and poet/journalist Daphne Fletcher. Juana Moore of Clarkton won first place with her original poem entitled, "Wake Up My Sista", Joyce Britt took second place with "A Tribute to My Grandpa", and Donnie McAllister won third place with his poem, "Everybody is Somebody".

*"Painting is silent poetry, and poetry is painting that speaks."*

*-Plutarch*

WAKE UP MY SISTA

By: Juana Moore

TIC TOC TIC TOC

TIME IS AT HAND QUIT FALLING FOR EVERYTHING ITS TIME FOR YOU TO STAND YOU SNEER AT  
OLD FASHIONED WAYS, REFUSE TO HEAR WHAT YOUR MOTHER SAYS YOU'VE GOT IT ALL  
FIGURED OUT BUT IN REALITY YOU HAVEN'T A CLUE TO WHAT LIVES ABOUT

WAKE UP MY SISTA

BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT, MEANT TO BE A STAR, BUT ALL YOU SEEM TO ACHIEVE IS SCAR AFTER  
SCAR CHOICES MADE COURSE GONE WRONG, NOW YOU ARE WEAK WHEN YOU USED TO BE  
STRONG

WAKE UP MY SISTA

IT BEGAN WHEN HE WALKED IN RIGHT ON CUE

HIS GOLDEN WORDS AND SILKY SMOOTH PROMISES SEDUCED YOU BUT HE HAD ONLY ONE  
THOUGHT IN HIS MIND-SUBDUE BY THE TIME YOU REALIZED IT WAS ALL A LIE HE WAS GONE -  
NOT EVEN A GOODBYE

WAKE UP MY SISTA

TIC TOC TIC TOC

SORROWS AND SHATTERED DREAMS SEEM TO BE ALL THAT IS LEFT CAUSING YOU TO FEEL LIKE  
YOU LOST THE BET, BUT WAIT A MINUTE - IT'S NOT OVER YET YOU ARE STILL INTELLIGENT AND  
BEAUTIFUL TOO AND THOUGH YOU TRIED TO FORGET, MAMA'S SAYINGS STILL SHINE  
THROUGH THINGS ONCE THOUGH OLD FASHIONED IS NOW WISDOM TO YOU SO GIVE YOUR-  
SELF A SHAKE, YOUR LIFE'S CONTROL YOU MUST RETAKE TIME TO SLEEP IS OVER FOR HEAVEN'S  
SAKE SISTA IT IS TIME TO WAKE

HE CAN BE LONLINESS, HE CAN BE FEAR. HE IS ANYTHING OR ANYONE THAT WHISHPERS IN  
YOUR EARLYING TONGUES THAT SAY YOU CANT DO BUT REMEMBER YOU CANT BE STOPPED  
EXCEPT BY YOURSELF YOUR THE STAR AND THIS IS YOUR SHOW WAKE UP MY SISTA AND  
BLOW US AWAY WITH WHAT YOU KNOW



## GOOD AND WILL COME TO CLARKTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

By: Emily Castleberry



Good and Will of the Goodwill Community Foundation came to the Clarkton library on July 21 to deliver donated school supply kits with Stephanie McLean, fondly known to the children as Ms. Mac.

McLean, Director of Regional Community Development delivered the kits to school age children from Kindergarten and up. McLean said "Although the kits are appropriate for all ages, primary and middle school children gravitate towards it".

Around 40 children attended the event today. The theme at the library is "Every Hero Has A Story". They first listened intently to "Penguins Can't Fly" By Richard Byrne before Ms. Mac spoke to them about hero's. She asked the children "Who is a hero?". Replies were everything from Superman, Batman, and The Thing to Wonder Woman. One small boy even said that his dad was a hero because he's a firefighter.

In a release from Goodwill Community Foundation it states that they kicked off the annual 2015 School Kit Donations this spring by giving more than 2,000 students essential supplies to help them finish the school year. GCF has partnered with title one elementary schools, libraries and youth programs to give the school supply kits. The supply kit project, now in the seventh year, exemplifies GCF's mission to create opportunities for a better life by supporting the academic activity and success of children.

Ms. Mac said that this year alone 5,000 kits were put together for distribution to children and their goal for next year is 10,000.

Many of the children agreed today that GCF and Ms. Mac are true hero's.

For more information about GCF and how it supports students, families and the people of eastern North Carolina, please visit <http://www.GCFGlobal.org> or call 919-941-9600



Crazy Fun **5K** Color Run & Walk



*to benefit United Way of Bladen County*



Crazy Fun **5K** Color Run & Walk

Saturday,

October 3, 2015

starting at 9 AM

All proceeds benefit the  
United Way of Bladen County.

**United  
Way**



**Levels of Sponsorship**

\_\_\_ \$1,000 Platinum Sponsor    \_\_\_ \$250 Silver Sponsor

\_\_\_ \$ 500 Gold Sponsor    \_\_\_ \$100 Bronze Sponsor

**Sponsorship Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to

**UNITED WAY OF BLADEN COUNTY**

*Thank you for your support!*

**Return form to:**

**United Way of Bladen County**

**PO Box 2636, Elizabethtown, NC 28337**



## PHARR LEAVES COUNTY FOR PRIVATE SECTOR

Amy Pharr, Bladen County Human Resources Director, has resigned her position and will reportedly join Trinity Frozen Foods in Pembroke, NC. Pharr's last day with the county was July 8th.

## EMPLOYEE REGONITION

Bladen Commissioners recognized 13 employees for reaching years of service with the county. All who were present were presented Certificates of Appreciation. Some were unable to attend.

### 20 Years

Persandra McKinley	Health Department
Leon Graham	Sheriff's Department
Joe Lacewell	Motor Pool

### 15 Years

Janice Hayes	Finance
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### 10 Years

Susan Daniel	DSS
Esther Babson	EMS
Glorietta Barnes	Revenue
Elizabeth Blanks	Cooperative Extension
Thomas Atkinson	Sheriff's Department
Michael Burney	Sheriff's Department
Tracy Jones	Sheriff's Department

### 5 Years

Jose Gotay	DSS
Palma Burns	Housekeeping

# NO-COST MEALS FOR BLADEN STUDENTS

By: Valerie Newton

Beginning August 25, students in all Bladen County Schools will have the opportunity to eat breakfast and lunch at school at no cost, even if families have the financial means to pay. North Carolina is one of many states to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program.

The meal program, more than three years in the making, is part of a federal initiative that aims to make it easier for students from low-income families to receive free meals by eliminating the need to fill out paperwork, including potentially invasive questions about income. The cost of the meals will be covered by the federal government.

With the 2010-2011 school year, Bladen County Schools began participating in the Universal Free Breakfast program which allows all students to eat breakfast at no cost. It eliminated an awkward socioeconomic divide that unfolded in some schools every morning, where low-income students would receive free milk, pastries, or other items in their classrooms, while more affluent students often went without. At lunch, such a divide is generally less obvious because students use an ID card or a number when going through the cafeteria line, making it difficult for classmates to know whether meals are free or being charged to an account. In some cases, though, students pay with cash.

Now, the district is expanding the Universal Free program to include the CEP program whereby every student is eligible to participate in breakfast and lunch regardless of income status. "We have seen increases in the number of students eating breakfast over the last several years because of the universal breakfast project," said Child Nutrition Director Amy Stanley. "Every child has a right to healthy, nutritious meals in school, and when we saw a chance to offer these healthy lunch meals at no cost to them, we jumped at the chance,"

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released data reporting high levels of food insecurity and hunger across the country. In Bladen County, nearly 30 percent of children live in food insecure households.

The CEP program was enacted as a result of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and provides universal meal service to children in high poverty areas. CEP is an alternative to collecting, approving and verifying household eligibility applications for free and reduced price eligible students in high poverty Local Education Agencies (LEA). If at least 40 percent of a school's students are directly certified for free meal benefits, the entire school qualifies for the option.

"We know that well fed children are able to focus in class and ultimately do better in school," said Superintendent Robert Taylor. "We are unsure of the entire scope of this opportunity but we know that it will have a tremendous impact on our ability to feed Bladen County children both a healthy breakfast and lunch for free."

About three-quarters of Bladen's 4,800 students or 74.44 percent last school year qualified for a free or a reduced-price lunch. A reduced lunch cost just 40 cents, compared with the full price of \$2.00 in elementary schools (preK-5) and \$2.20 in middle and high schools (6-12). School officials say more students would have qualified for the perk if their parents had filled out an application.

Parents fail to do so for a variety of reasons, such as the forms being printed in a language they cannot read or getting lost in a mountain of paperwork and notices that students bring home. The problem can come with a steep financial price for families and the schools alike. Because many schools are reluctant to turn away students if they do not have the money, cafeteria workers charge the lunch to an account. A principal or another school employee will seek payment from parents or guardians — putting them in the awkward position of becoming bill collectors. To participate, a certain percentage of students in a district must qualify for free meals. That threshold — in light of the absence of student applications for free meals — is developed through a complex formula that includes such factors as the percentage of families in a community who receive food stamps.

Bladen County school officials are hoping more students will eat the lunches now that they are free, instead of bringing something from home, setting a goal of a 10 percent to 20 percent increase in participation.

## SOCCKER TIME

Bladen County Parks and Recreation Department is taking registration for Tot Soccer and Youth Soccer. Tot Soccer is for boys and girls ages 3-4. The registration fee is \$25. Youth Soccer leagues are for boys and girls ages 5-7, 8-10, and 11-14 and the registration fee is \$30.

Deadline to register will be Friday, August 28, 2015. Please come by the Bladen County Recreation Department located on 803 King Street in Elizabethtown to register or call 862-6770 for more information. Be sure to visit our website – [www.bladeninfo.org](http://www.bladeninfo.org) – for more information.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SOCCER FOR KIDS?

#### Overview

Soccer develops agility, speed and stamina, and also teaches children the importance of teamwork, so it can play an important part in your child's physical and social development. Many communities offer soccer leagues for a variety of ages and skill levels. Choose a soccer league that matches your child's needs. If you are unsure which league is best, talk to some team coaches to see if they are a good match for your child.

#### Improves Fitness

Soccer players need to be fit and agile. Most games require children to sprint after the ball and jog up and down the field, which are activities that build endurance and speed. Dribbling and shooting the ball develops agility and coordination. The health benefits of active sports such as soccer include stronger bones and muscles, decreased risk of developing type 2 diabetes and decreased chance of becoming overweight, according to Kids Health from Nemours. The organization also points out that aerobic exercise causes the heart to beat faster. When aerobic exercise occurs regularly, it "strengthens the heart and improves the body's ability to deliver oxygen to all its cells."

#### Builds Social Skills

Playing with a soccer team develops a child's ability to cooperate and interact with other children. To win a soccer game, the whole team must communicate and work together. Defensive positions must support the midfield and offensive positions during attacks on the opponents' goal. Offensive positions must return to their own goal to help the defensive positions when they are under pressure from the other team.

To move the ball up the field, players pass the ball, which requires communicating. These types of cooperative activities develop a child's social abilities. Children who play soccer develop self-confidence and improved social skills.

#### Develops Good Self-Image

Since soccer has an emphasis on the success of the team as a whole, rather than the success of individual players, it is a sport that less athletically inclined children will enjoy. Compared to such team sports as baseball, which requires players to bat or field a ball alone, soccer puts less pressure on children. Soccer encourages teamwork and communication, which allows a child to identify personally with team successes, rather than feel a need to outperform teammates to gain recognition.

# Back to School School Supply Lists



The 2015-16 school supply list for schools is now available online at <http://www.bladen.k12.nc.us/home/items-of-interest-1/2015-16schoolsupplylist>

Monday, August 24, 2015 is the First Day for Students in Bladen County Public Schools.

## Finding a Back to School

Routine  
that **Works**



## FIVE STEPS TO ESTABLISHING A ROUTINE

- Keep it simple. Try not to complicate things with too many details. A routine works best when it's simple and you know what is expected to happen. Kids need structure and a simple pattern to follow. (example: Wake up, make bed, eat breakfast, brush teeth, do your chores, etc.)
- Be consistent. Consistency is what makes routines work. Having a routine forces you to be consistent. Doing the same thing every morning, or evening helps your kids know what to expect. It creates patterns and helps them to know what to expect and when to expect to do them.
- Be flexible. As with anything else, you've got to be flexible! There are times that something just comes up unexpectedly and you just have to roll with it. A doctor's appointment, a sick child, you over-slept, etc. It happens to everyone and those particular days you just have to roll with it and try as best as possible to do what you can and remember to jump back into the routine the next day.
- Personalize it. Here is the beauty of each family....no family is the same. You have to find what works for you and your crew. If there are certain tasks that needs to be accomplished before school begins then incorporate them in your routine. What works for one family may not work for another. Find out what your needs are as a family and what you desire to see done on a daily basis and plug them into your daily habits.
- Plan ahead. This is a big one. A lot of things can be done the night before. This really helps for the next day. Checking your calendar, laying out clothes, putting school stuff together, setting up your breakfast items, reviewing lesson plans, signing papers, etc. When you get into the habit of doing a few routines before bed, it helps start the next day off on a better foot.

All in all, routines are *very healthy* for families. From the children to yourself, it just helps when everyone knows what to expect and what to do on any given day, especially during school time. It eliminates stress (well, some stress at least) and helps bring order to our every-day life.

July	~ August 2015 ~						September
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	
2	3 8:15 am Prayer Service 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners Meeting	4 9am—1pm The Rural Center Advocacy Agenda, SCC Clinton, NC	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13 7pm Bladen Co. Fire Assn, Dublin Fire Dept.	14	15	
16	17 6:30 pm Board of Commissioners Meeting	18	19	20 NCACC Annual Conference; Greenville, NC	21 NCACC Annual Conference; Greenville, NC	22 NCACC Annual Conference; Greenville, NC	
23 NCACC Annual Conference; Greenville, NC	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						