TEAM BLADEN

July 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: David Howard
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

"ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, READ!"

JOIN US FOR SUMMER READING

Beginning July 11 – Ending August 3

Mondays @ Bridger Memorial Library, 3PM
Tuesdays @ Clarkton Public Library, 3 PM
Wednesdays @ Bladen County Public Library, Main Branch, 3 PM

Please call the library branch you plan to register at for more details & to sign-up:

910-863-4586 Bridger
910-647-3661 Clarkton
910-862-6990 Main Branch

Adult supervision is required during programs

FREE SUMMER MEALS

FREE - summer meals open to ALL 18 years and younger— beginning June 20, 2016 through July 31, 2016.

***Dates are subject to change. ***

Breakfast 8am - 9am Lunch 11:30 am-1pm

Locations: Dublin Primary, East Arcadia, Bladenboro Middle, and Elizabethtown Primary School

For more information, contact Amy Stanley at 910.862.4136 or *amstanley@bladen.k12.nc.us*

HELP US ENSURE THAT NO CHILD GOES HUNGRY THIS SUMMER.

LCFH OFFERS FREE GRIEF WORKSHOP

Lower Cape Fear Hospice will offer a free 90-minute grief workshop, Healthy Coping in Grief. It will be 3-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9, at LCFH's Bladen County office, 116 W. Broad Street in Elizabethtown.

"Grieving is a long and difficult process," Melissa Rogers, LCFH bereavement counselor, said. "In addition to understanding how stress can take a toll on a person physically, emotionally and spiritually, we need to understand practical guidelines to ease the process. This workshop will focus on strategies those grieving can use to help maintain healthy momentum as they proceed through grief."

Often being around others who have been through a similar experience enables participants to talk about what they are experiencing. Grief groups help emphasize that participants are not grieving alone and others understand and can support them on their grief journeys.

Grief workshops are offered the second Tuesday of each month through December. Each will focus on a specific aspect of grief and the grieving process.

Registration is required. For more information, call 910-515-6689/ When leaving a message, please leave your name, phone number and indicate the specific program you wish to attend. Sessions are free. Donations are appreciated. Additional groups will form throughout the year. Grief counseling services are available to LCFH patients' families, as well as others in the community.

Lower Cape Fear Hospice is a nonprofit agency that provides healthcare and comfort to people with advanced illnesses; support and counseling to families; and education in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender counties in North Carolina, and Horry County in South Carolina. For more information, visit www.lcfh.org or facebook.com/lcfhospice.

Source: http://www.bladenonline.com/lcfh-offers-free-grief-workshop/

N.C. PEACH MONTH IN JULY

RALEIGH – The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will celebrate N.C. Peach Month in July with several special events.

While some peach orchards were hit hard by cold weather this spring, the department says there is still a lot to celebrate.

"We had an unusually cold April, which affected midseason varieties across the state," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Early-season and late-season varieties seem to be unaffected overall, and consumers should be able to find a good selection of peaches into September."

Consumers can celebrate N.C. Peach Month with events at the state-operated farmers markets in Charlotte, Colfax and Raleigh. Each Peach Day will feature free samples of peaches and peach ice cream. The Colfax and Raleigh events also include a peach recipe contest. Peach Days will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following dates:

July 14 – State Farmers Market, 1201 Agriculture St., Raleigh;

July 15 – Robert G. Shaw Piedmont Triad Farmers Market, 2914 Sandy Ridge Road, Colfax;

July 22 – Charlotte Regional Farmers Market, 1801 Yorkmont Road, Charlotte.

North Carolina farmers grow about 70 different varieties of peaches on more than 1,000 acres. The majority of N.C. peaches are sold directly to consumers through roadside stands and farmers markets, usually within a few days of harvesting. That ensures a quality tree-ripened peach that has had time to mature and is full of flavor, Troxler said.

Consumers can find roadside stands and farmers markets near them using the department's online directory at www.ncfarmfresh.com.

Source: http://www.bladenonline.com/ncdacs-celebrates-n-c-peach-month-in-july/

BLADEN AT 6.3 % UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

RALEIGH —Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 98 of North Carolina's counties in May and remained unchanged in two. Scotland County had the highest unemployment rate at 8.6 percent, while Buncombe County had the lowest at 3.5 percent. Fourteen of the state's metro areas experienced rate decreases and one remained unchanged. Among the Metro areas, Rocky Mount at 6.9 percent experienced the highest rate and Asheville had the lowest rate at 3.7 percent. The May not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 4.7 percent.

Counties With Rates Counties With Rates Counties With Rates 5% or Below Between 5% and 10% 10% or Above May 55 45 0 April (Revised) 39 61 0

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates decreased in all 100 counties. All 15 metro areas experienced rate decreases over the year.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in May by 13,221 to 4,626,542 while those unemployed decreased 12,386 to 229,979. Since May 2015, the number of workers employed statewide increased 88,625, while those unemployed decreased 60,005.

It is important to note that employment estimates are subject to large seasonal patterns; therefore, it is advisable to focus on over-the-year changes in the not seasonally adjusted estimates.

The next unemployment update is scheduled for Friday, July 22, 2016 when the state unemployment rate for June 2016 will be released.

Some area May unemployment rates: Brunswick 5.5, Columbus 5.9, Cumberland 5.9, Duplin 5.0, New Hanover 4.3, Onslow 5.1, Pender 4.3, Robeson 6.8, Sampson 4.8.

Source: http://www.bladenonline.com/north-carolinas-may-county-and-area-employment-figures-released-bladen-at-6-3-percent/

PERSONAL INTEREST CLASSES AT BCC

DUBLIN – Whether you want to pursue a personal interest or acquire a new hobby, Bladen Community College offers a variety of unique community classes for students.

- Piano for Beginners June 28 – August 2, Tuesdays from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., Main Campus. Students must have a keyboard.
- Paint Night at City Sandwich and Coffee Shop June 29, from 6 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided.
- Sewing 101 June 30 -July 28, Thursdays from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., Main Campus.
- Cake Decorating I July 11 -August 1, Mondays from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Glenda's Just Desserts and Lunch, Elizabethtown.
- Shag for Beginners July 11 – August 8, 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Cape Fear Farmer's Market, Elizabethtown.
- Couponing 101 July 12, 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., Main Campus.
- Basket Weaving July 18, 9 p.m, Main Campus.

Costs for these courses range from $10 to $60. Students may need to purchase some supplies. Students should pre-register at the Continuing Education Department in Building 2 at the college's main campus or contact Ms. Stephanie Gonzalez at 910-879-5539 for more information.

Source: http://www.bladenonline.com/personal-interest-classes-at-bladen-community-college/

BRIDGING THE SUMMER READING GAP

Summer Reading Loss

Regardless of other activities, the best predictor of summer loss or summer gain is whether or not a child reads during the summer. And the best predictor of whether a child reads is whether or not he or she owns books. While economically-advantaged kids often have their own bedroom libraries, poor kids usually depend heavily on schools for books to read.

Understandably, summer reading loss or "summer setback" is a bigger problem for children from low-income families. Their reading achievement typically declines an average of three months between June and September, while that of typical middle-class students improves or remains the same. This means that a summer reading loss of three months accumulates to a crucial two-year gap by the time kids are in middle school, even if their schools are equally effective. It suggests that focusing all of our efforts on improving the schools isn't going to work.

Children need to read outside of school. Research clearly shows that the key to stemming summer reading loss is finding novel ways to get books into the hands of children during the summer break.

Libraries Fall Short

With schools and their libraries closed for the summer, public libraries might seem like a logical solution. However, those located in poor neighborhoods are often the first to close or restrict hours in a budget crunch. Even when public libraries are open, poor children may lack transportation. Research shows that public library use among poor children drops off when a library is more than six blocks from their home, compared with more than two miles for middle-class children.

Middle-class children might ride their bikes to the library, but poor kids often aren't allowed on the streets by themselves because it's considered too dangerous. And in rural areas, public libraries may be too far away for children to enjoy regularly. Hefty fines for late books can also deter children and their parents from using the public library. Families with little money to spare may not perceive a library that fines as "free."

We also know that teachers and librarians in the poorest communities, are the least likely to allow children to check out books because these schools can't afford to risk the loss of the few books they have. While economically-advantaged schools are able to buy multiple copies of favorite books, poor schools face serious limitations. High-poverty schools use what money they have to buy test-preparation packages, while middle-class schools buy books.

Motivation Matters

Limited access to books is only part of the reason for summer reading loss. While we know that the more children read, the better their fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, it is less clear how to motivate children to read. Put simply, children whose reading skills are not strong who have a history of less-than-successful reading experiences simply aren't as interested in voluntary reading as are those children with a history of successful reading experiences.

Lower-achieving readers are typically asked to read books that are too difficult. Without books that can be read easily with good comprehension, these less-skilled readers will not improve. All of their cognitive energy is devoted to trying to figure out unknown words which produces a dysfluent, word-by-word reading with little understanding of, or engagement with, the books in their hands.

BRIDGING THE SUMMER READING GAP (CONTINUED)

These disjointed reading experiences fail to help children consolidate skills, and perhaps most significant, such experiences make children feel unsuccessful. They offer little incentive to persevere and, ultimately, participate in the world of readers. Children don't just need books; they need the right books. Providing children with books that fit books that match their skill levels and their interests is an important first step in encouraging voluntary reading.

Holding Their Ground

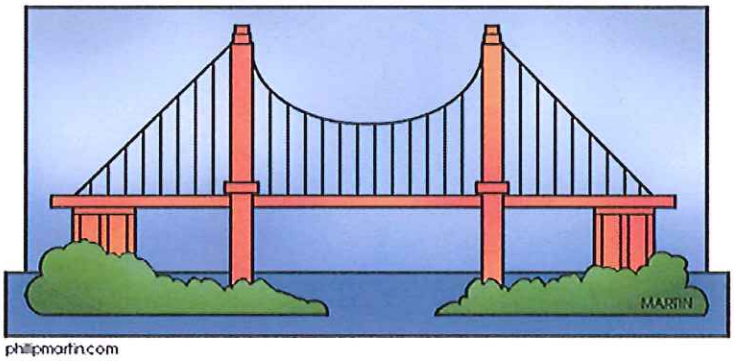
While the statistics on summer reading loss seem discouraging, there are answers. Studies suggest that children who read as few as six books over the summer maintain the level of reading skills they achieved during the preceding school year. Reading more books leads to even greater success. When children are provided with 10 to 20 self-selected children's books at the end of the regular school year, as many as 50 percent not only maintain their skills, but actually make reading gains.

Summer School Reading

In our current research, we are looking for the most effective ways to support the summer reading of children who struggle with high-stakes assessments and are at risk of failing their grade in school. Many of these children attend mandatory summer school, yet have few opportunities to read extensively in books that are at their level and about topics that truly interest them. Our work suggests that if children have opportunities to listen to, discuss, and read books on topics that they select, or books about characters that they love, they develop extensive background knowledge that can scaffold their independent reading and sustain their engagement. Summer school must provide interventions that accomplish these goals.

Getting the Books Out

School book collections are typically the largest and nearest supply of age-appropriate books for children. When teachers and school libraries can find ways to share books with students over the summer, the gains can be notable. This low-cost, low-intensity intervention obviously can't address the many and varied reading needs of all students. But it it is a starting point. With planning, there are simple ways to ensure that books become available to any child at any time of year but especially in the summer, when the reading should be easy.



http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/bridging-summer-reading-gap

Bridging the Reading Gap

- Read! Read! Read!
  - At least 30 minutes a day of reading keeps skills current
  - Ask your child's teacher for their just right reading level (ask for grade level equivalence – usually that is what is listed on the back cover of a book)
  - It's okay to read lower level books for practicing fluency and decoding skills
  - Just right level books are best for comprehension, both literal & inferential

SUMMER TIME IS LEARNING TIME (AND DEVELOPMENT TIME WITH PBS KIDS)

Each summer PBS member stations across the country engage in community outreach, partnerships and events in an effort to help kids keep learning even when they're away from school. In fact, reporting stations indicate that they'll reach over half a million kids and parents across the country during the summer through off-air activities like the distribution of PBS KIDS produced activity books, reading charts, bookmarks and other elements; special events held by stations and community partners; partnership activities with libraries, schools, camps and others; and much more.

This tremendous amount of activity means that the summer is a great time for stations to promote their local services to kids and families as well stakeholders and donors and to support station development efforts.

Nationally, PBS KIDS has established partnerships with Alamo Theaters, the Association of Children's Museums, Reading is Fundamental, and Harper Collins Children's Books to provide stations with content and opportunities they can leverage in local markets to extend the reach of their brand and the PBS KIDS content they carry.

Here are some ways stations can take advantage of PBS KIDS national partnerships and activities in local markets:

- Order and distribute the free PBS KIDS materials, including the PBS KIDS/Harper Collins I-Can-Readathon Kits, to local children.
- Promote the free PBS KIDS episodes offered through iTunes (release schedule posted to MyPBS).
- Use PBS KIDS social media posts and campaigns to engage kids and families in learning activities during the summer.
- Partner with local children's museums to host hands-on summer learning activities or back-to-school events (contact PBS KIDS if you need help connecting with your local museum).
- Host a free local screening event for one of the PBS KIDS promotional priorities. Even if you're not in a market with an Alamo theater, PBS KIDS will provide you with video for a local screening as well as links to reproducible activity sheets, character standee art, and premium items (as available) for your local event.

Additionally, summer's a great time to establish new partnerships with local organizations. This year, nearly 100 member stations have shared their summer learning plans with PBS KIDS, and while many stations (75% of those reporting) have plans to partner with local government and non-profit organizations to support summer learning, ***nearly 40% of stations reported that they were planning to partner with local businesses or for-profit organizations such as local grocers, retailers, large employers, health care centers, and others.*** Supporting summer learning is a great way for organizations to signal their support for children in your community or the children of their employees, and you can leverage PBS KIDS content to build interesting local programs to help partners meet their cause marketing, philanthropic, or human resources objectives.

Finally, summer's the perfect time to capture and share the unique value stations bring to the community. Events and partner programs are a great venue for collecting proof of performance material such as video, photos, testimonials and survey responses from kids, parents and partners about the value your station brings to the community. Many stations use these to feed into both immediate or near-term communications (social media, e-newsletters, member magazine articles) and longer-term communications needs (brand value spots, content for direct appeals, or year-end reports). Inviting members, donors and project funders to visit outreach projects or events is also a great way to share, first hand, the impact that your station has in the community and to help identify prospects for future appeals and project funding.

All in all, summertime is a great time to engage the public in your station's work for children and families.

http://www.pbs.org/development/2016/05/31/summertime-is-learning-time-and-development-time-with-pbs-kids/

Storytime

EVERY WEEK

THURSDAY

Bladen County Public Library, Main Branch

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

For more information please call: 910-862-6990

STORY TIME IS GEARED TOWARDS CHILDREN AGES 2 - 12