



Team Bladen

MARCH 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:

Amy Pharr

Library:

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

VOICE YOUR OPINION

A survey to gauge public opinion about the upcoming **budget** is now underway. Several surveys have been turned in, but many more are needed. The Bladen County Commissioners have taken the time to reach out to the citizens, and hope to receive feedback. "This is an outreach to involve our citizens. We are encouraging people to participate and have a voice in their local government," said Commissioner Chairman Charles Ray Peterson. You may call the Bladen County Commissioners Office at (910) 862-6700 to request a paper copy of the survey mailed to you. Once you have completed the survey mail it to the County Manager's Office, P.O. Box 1048, Elizabethtown, N.C. 28337.

BLADEN FINANCES ON TARGET

Bladen County commissioners receive a financial update monthly. Lisa Coleman, Finance Officer, reported 89.02% of ad valorem property taxes have been collected as of January 31, 2015, 7 months into the fiscal year. In total dollars that is \$17,412,153, up nearly \$300,000 compared with the same date a year ago. The other large source of revenues is sales tax and they are collected by the state and delivered to the county. Just over \$4 million was budget and \$1,537,124 have been collected or 37.95%. The total of all revenues collected for the first 7 months is 66.38% of the budgeted total or \$30,452,181, compared to nearly \$28 million at the same time last year. Expenditures are on target as a whole as 58.58% or \$26,871,933

BLADEN COMMISSONERS RECEIVE 2013—2014 AUDIT

Bladen County's finances have all been accounted for and the staff has been cooperative according to Byron Scott of the Thompson, Price, Scott and Adams CPA firm.

Scott pointed out that the new way of collecting vehicle taxes provided a one time spike in the county revenues. A new law provides that all vehicle taxes are collected when owners purchase or renew their license plates. The county realized a \$718,000 budget surplus, thanks to the new vehicle tax collection program.

March is Irish-American Heritage Month

In tribute to all Irish Americans, the U.S. Congress by Public Law 101-418, designated March 1991 as "Irish-American Heritage Month". Congress again proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month for 1995 and 1996. Within the authority of the Executive Branch the President of the United States has also issued a proclamation each year since 1991. Each year in March, the Irish Taoiseach visits the United States for Saint Patrick's Day. A Shamrock Ceremony takes place in the morning at the White House where a crystal bowl containing shamrock, a traditional symbol of Ireland, is presented to the President in the Oval Office. This is followed by a Friends of Ireland luncheon hosted by the House Speaker in the U.S. Capitol or the Rayburn House Office Building. The luncheon is attended by the President, Vice President, the Taoiseach, the Speaker, and other officials. In the evening, a Saint Patrick's Day Reception takes place at the White House.

The heritage month is in March to coincide with the Irish national holiday on March 17, Saint Patrick's Day. Heritage Months are usually proclaimed to celebrate centuries of contributions by a group to a country.

St. Patrick

Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by our seeing two solid qualities in him: He was humble and he was courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ.

Details of his life are uncertain. Current research places his dates of birth and death a little later than earlier accounts. Patrick may have been born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Cumberland, England, or in northern Wales. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold.

After six years, Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent years at Auxerre, France, and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire was to proclaim the Good News to the Irish.

In a dream vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north, where the faith had never been preached, obtained the protection of local kings and made numerous converts.

Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick was emphatic in encouraging widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ.

He suffered much opposition from pagan druids and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission. In a relatively short time, the island had experienced deeply the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe. Patrick was a man of action, with little inclination toward learning. He had a rocklike belief in his vocation, in the cause he had espoused. One of the few certainly authentic writings is his *Confessio*, above all an act of homage to God for having called Patrick, unworthy sinner, to the apostolate. There is hope rather than irony in the fact that his burial place is said to be in County Down in Northern Ireland, long the scene of strife and violence.

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/saint.aspx?id=1325>

MARCH IS "WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH" MARCH 2015 "OUR STRENGTH IS OUR HISTORY"

1

2 PRAYER SERVICE 8:15 A.M. ; BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING 6:30 P.M.

3 BLADEN CO. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE CERTIFICATION CLASS 6:30 P.M.

4

5

6 NCACC STRATEGIC PLAN REGIONAL SESSION 11:30 A.M.—2:00 P.M., WALLACE, NC; *RUMBA ON THE LUMBER*, LUMBERTON, NC

7 *SONRISE 5K IN MEMORY OF JUDE MILLS*

8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS—*SPRING FORWARD!*

9 SPECIAL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING, PROPOSED PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENTS 6:00 P.M.

10 NCACC STRATEGIC PLAN REGIONAL SESSION 5:30 P.M.—8:00 P.M. , RALEIGH, NC

11

12 BLADEN COUNTY FIRE ASSN. 7:00 P.M., BAY TREE LAKES CLUBHOUSE

13

14

15

16 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING, INCLUDING PRE-BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 P.M.

17 SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!

18 GRANDPARENTS & KINSHIP CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP 10:00 A.M., BLADEN DIVISION ON AGING

MARCH LUNCH & LEARN

19

20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING!

21 *THE WORD IS "LOVE"* - ELIZABETHTOWN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY DRAMA CLUB 6:00 P.M., ELIZABETHTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

22

23

24

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26

27 23rd ANNUAL OLD FASHION PLANTER'S DAY, 9252 OLD FAYETTEVILLE ROAD, AMMON, NC

28 23rd ANNUAL OLD FASHION PLANTER'S DAY, 9252 OLD FAYETTEVILLE ROAD, AMMON, NC

FATHER-DAUGHTER SWEETHEART DANCE 6:30 P.M., BLADEN EXTENSION OFFICE AUDITORIUM

29 PALM SUNDAY

30

31

The Elizabethtown Rotary Club is sponsoring an **8K TRAIL RUN** to benefit the **WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT**, on Saturday, April 18, 2015, at Brown's Creek Bike Trail, 2354 East Broad Street, Elizabethtown, NC. Pre-registration before April 10th, for \$35 per person. Contact Tiina Munday (910) 991-5149 for further information.

OLD FASHION PLANTER'S DAY

The 23rd Annual Old Fashion Planter's Day is scheduled for Friday, March 27th and Saturday, March 28th, 2015 at 9252 Old Fayetteville Road, Ammon, NC 28441. Gates will open at 9:00 am. Friday night there will be a chicken and rice dinner with entertainment. Country, Blue Grass, and Gospel Singing will be Saturday and Sunday. Craft vendors, children's games, rides, antique farm equipment, primitive tools, horse equipment, swap meet, blacksmith and more! DONATIONS ONLY!

For more information, visit their website at www.olderfashionpd.org

CONTACTS:

VENDORS: Lisa Walters 910-849-4541 lswalters5@gmail.com
ENTERTAINMENT: Julie Smith Brawley 910-876-0236 jasmith12161955@yahoo.com
ADVERTISING: VICKY BOSTICK 910-866-4543 domino@intrstar.net
SHOW GROUNDS: JOHN GRAHAM 910-588-4074



PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT GO FOR WORTHY CAUSES IN THE AREA. EVERYONE IS INVITED!

FATHER-DAUGHTER SWEETHEART DANCE

Tickets are now available at the Bladen County 4-H and Bladen County Parks and Recreation for the 3rd annual *Father-Daughter Sweetheart Dance*. This event will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Bladen Extension Office. Tickets will be available through mid-March as space allows. Prices are as follows: \$15 couple and \$5 for each additional daughter. Bladen County Dads and Granddads can bring their sweetheart date(s) to the event to enjoy a fun evening of music, dancing, pizza from Giorgio's, face painting, a keepsake photo, crafts & much more!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT BLADEN COUNTY 4-H STACIE KINLAW, (910) 862-4591 OR
BLADEN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PATTI MILLER (910) 862-6770.



NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT
WRINGING WOMEN BACK INTO OUR HISTORY
2015 THEME: WEAVING THE STORIES OF WOMEN'S LIVES

March is National Women's History Month. Every year the **National Women's History Project** selects a unifying theme to be shared with all who want to promote women's history. This year's theme presents the opportunity to weave women's stories – individually and collectively – into the essential fabric of our nation's history. Accounts of the lives of individual women are critically important because they reveal exceptionally strong role models who share a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. The stories of women's lives, and the choices they made, encourage girls and young women to think larger and bolder, and give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience. Knowing women's achievements challenges stereotypes and upends social assumptions about who women are and what women can accomplish today.

There is a real power in hearing women's stories, both personally and in a larger context. Remembering and recounting tales of our ancestors' talents, sacrifices, and commitments inspires today's generations and opens the way to the future. 2015 is also the 35th anniversary of the Women's History Movement and the National Women's History Project. We are proud that, after decades of dedicated research and technological advances, the stories of American women from all cultures and classes are accessible and visible as never before. Numerous scholars and activists helped shape the Women's History Movement, and also provided the research and energy which created and sustains the National Women's History Project. During 2015, we recognize and celebrate the many ways that women's history has become woven into the fabric of our national story.

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS IN U.S. WOMEN'S HISTORY

March 1, 1978 – Women's History Week is first observed in Sonoma County, California

March 1, 1987 – Congress passes a resolution designating March as Women's History Month

March 4, 1917 – Jeannette Rankin (R-MT) took her seat as the first female member of Congress

March 8 – International Women's Day, whose origins trace back to protests in the U.S. and Europe to honor and fight for the political rights for working women

March 11, 1993 – Janet Reno is confirmed as the first woman U.S. Attorney General

March 12, 1912 – Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls together in Savannah, Georgia, for the first-ever Girl Scout meeting

March 13, 1986 – Susan Butcher won the first of 3 straight and 4 total Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races in Alaska

March 17, 1910 – Camp Fire Girls is established as the first interracial, non-sectarian American organization for girls

March 20, 1852 – Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," is published and becomes the best-selling book of the 19th century

March 21, 1986 – Debi Thomas becomes first African American woman to win the World Figure Skating Championship

March 23, 1917 – Virginia Woolf establishes the Hogarth Press with her husband, Leonard Woolf

March 31, 1888 – The National Council of Women of the U.S. is organized by Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Sojourner Truth, among others, the oldest non-sectarian women's organization in the U.S.

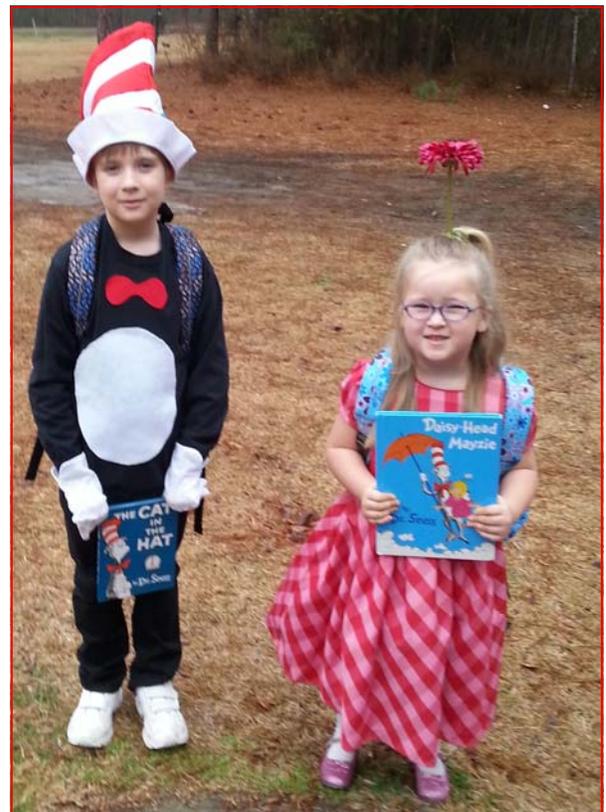
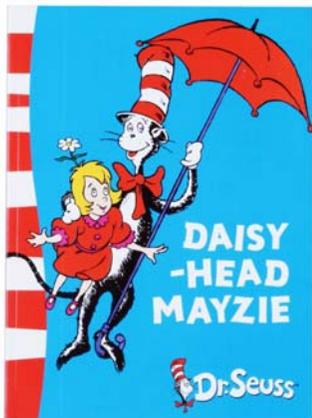
March 31, 1776 – Abigail Adams writes to her husband John who is helping to frame the Declaration of Independence and cautions, "Remember the ladies..."



WELCOME the new Bladen County Public Library Assistant **Greta Jackson** who serves as the Clarkton Public Library Branch Manager. Greta, a retired public school music teacher has resided in Clarkton for about 32 years and has been married for 36 years. She and her husband have 2 daughters (2 son in-laws) and 3 grandchildren. Having taught music in public schools for many years, she has taught in nearly every public primary school in Bladen County, with the exception of Dublin Primary School. In addition, she has taught a 3rd & 4th grades combination class, music classes at Community Baptist Academy for almost 2 years, and taught part-time at Bladenboro Primary School in 2014. She has 5 years experience of previously working here at Bladen County Public Library for 2 ½ years and also in Columbus County Public Library. Greta loves people, books, life and music! When asked why she returned to work she simply expressed that “I love people and just wanted to come back!” She and her husband are also dedicated members at First Baptist Church of Clarkton, where she serves faithfully as the Minister of Music.



Hunter and Hayleigh Simmons dressed up as their favorite characters as they celebrated “Dr. Seuss Day” at their primary school. They are the children of **Brittany (Library)** and **Josh Simmons**.



The Cat in the Hat and Daisy-Head Mayzie.



Jude Mills
 March 11, 2012
 - August 23, 2013

The son of
 Robby and Dana Mills,
 and brother to Coop.
 He was the "Little Light"
 that revealed the
 Love of God for many.

God used him to reach many people for His kingdom during his short life on earth. We as Christians are called to do the same. He was indeed a blessing and God taught us how to love through Jude.

Matthew 5:15-16 (TLB) Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father.

Son Rise 5k in Memory of Jude Mills March 7, 2015

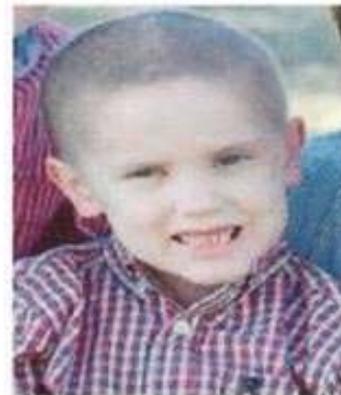


The 5k in memory of Jude will be at the beautiful and peaceful Jones Lake State Park.

Son Rise 5k in Memory of Jude Mills is a benefit run for Amelia Roberson, the daughter of Lane & Kristen Roberson who has Spinal Bifida & Cody Clark, the son of Chris & Tina Clark who has brain cancer.



Open
 to
 Everyone!



Registration	7:30-8:30 am
1 mile Fun Run	8:45 am
5k Run	9:00 am

If you would like to donate to this cause or register for the 5k

(910)862-5685 Donnarmelvin@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Son-Rise-5k-in-Memory-of-Jude-Mills/1521034778158360>

1mile fun run/walk - Individual Age group/open \$20.00
 Running-5K - Individual Age group/open \$25.00
 You will also be able to register at the 5k on March 7, 2015.