



TEAM BLADEN

May 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

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

For over 65 years, Mental Health America and our affiliates across the country have led the observance of May is Mental Health Month by reaching millions of people through the media, local events and screenings. We welcome other organizations to join us in spreading the word that mental health is something everyone should care about by using the May is Mental Health Month toolkit materials and conducting

This year's theme for **Mental Health Month is - Life with a Mental Illness** - and will call on individuals to share what life with a mental illness feels like for them in words, pictures and video by tagging their social media posts with #mentalillnessfeelslike (or submitting to MHA anonymously).

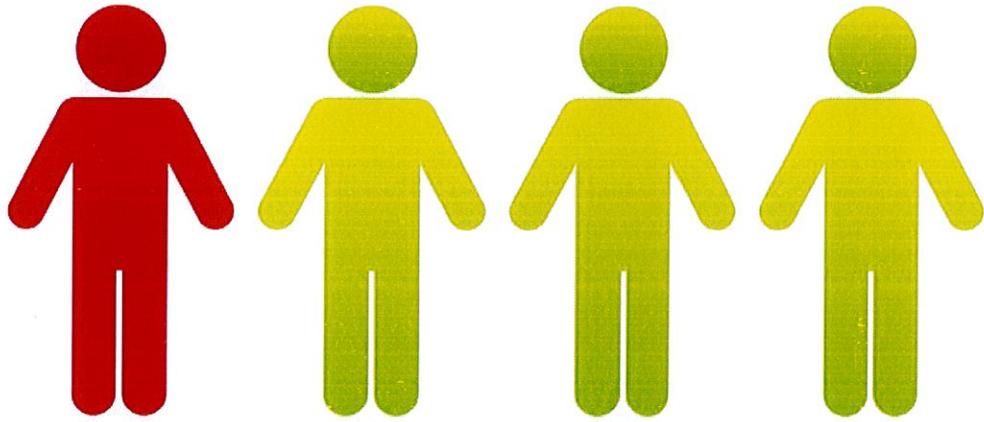
Posting with the hashtag will allow people to speak up about their own experiences, to share their point of view with individuals who may be struggling to explain what they are going through—and help others figure out if they too are showing signs of a mental illness. Sharing is the key to breaking down the discrimination and stigma surrounding mental illnesses, and to show others that they are not alone in their feelings and their symptoms.

Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in May in the United States since 1949, reaching millions of people in the United States through the media, local events, and screenings. Mental Health Awareness Month also comes to the United States via the **Mental Health America** organization. During the month, National Health America runs a number of activities which are based on a different theme each year.

Mental Health America is not the only organization to run campaigns throughout May. Many other similar organizations choose to coincide with Mental Health Awareness month. National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is one such campaign. This event is sponsored by the American Psychological Association (APA). Many other months are also recognized for similar mental health awareness programs. For a list of some in America, see: <http://www.whathealth.com/awareness/event/nationalmentalhealthmonth.html>

Its purpose is to raise awareness about mental illnesses, such as depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder. It also aims to draw attention to suicide, which can be precipitated by some mental illnesses. Mental Health Awareness Month also aims to educate communities about psychological disorders, while reducing the stigma that surrounds them. The month came about by presidential proclamation.

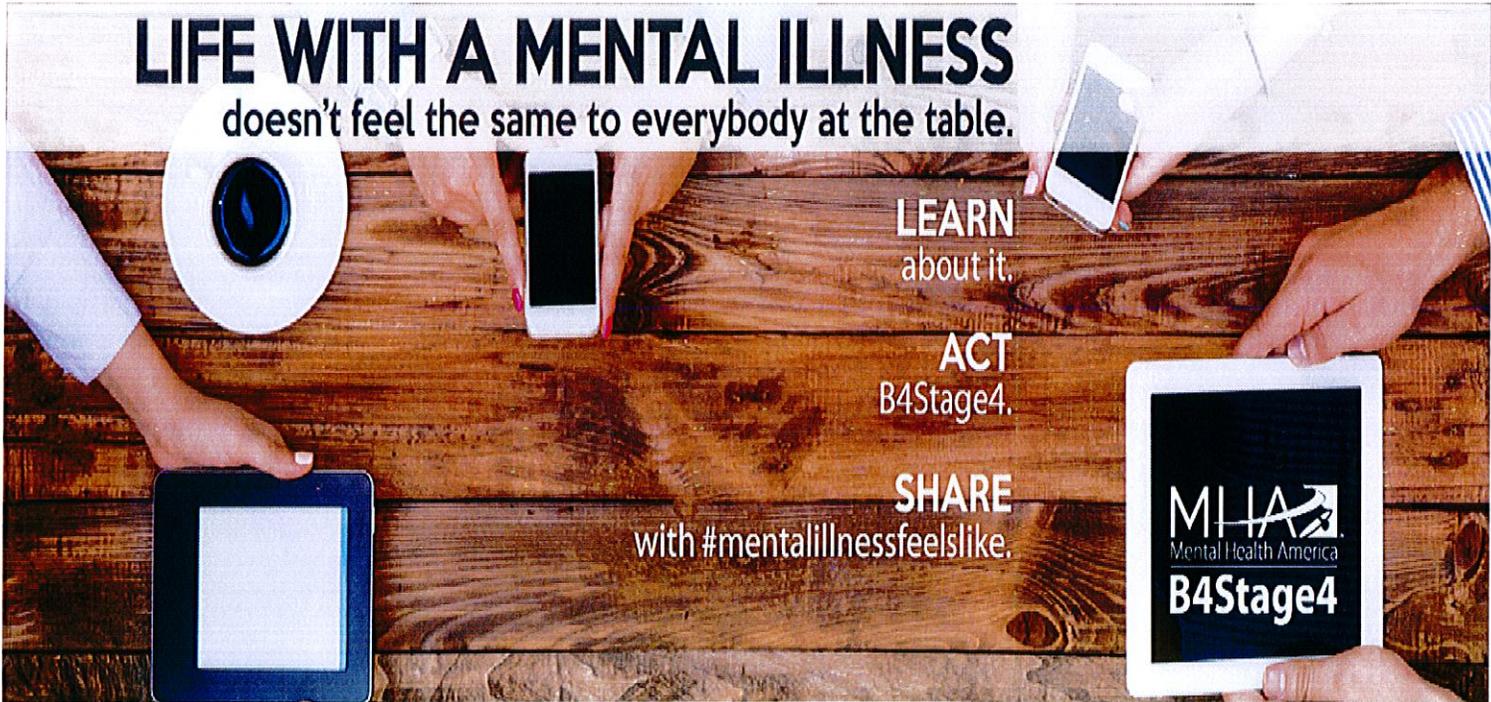
<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may>



One in four people has a **mental illness**.
You can be the **one** that helps.

LIFE WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS

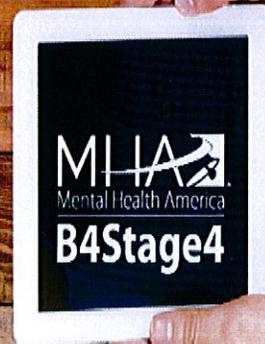
doesn't feel the same to everybody at the table.



LEARN
about it.

ACT
B4Stage4.

SHARE
with #mentalillnessfeelslike.

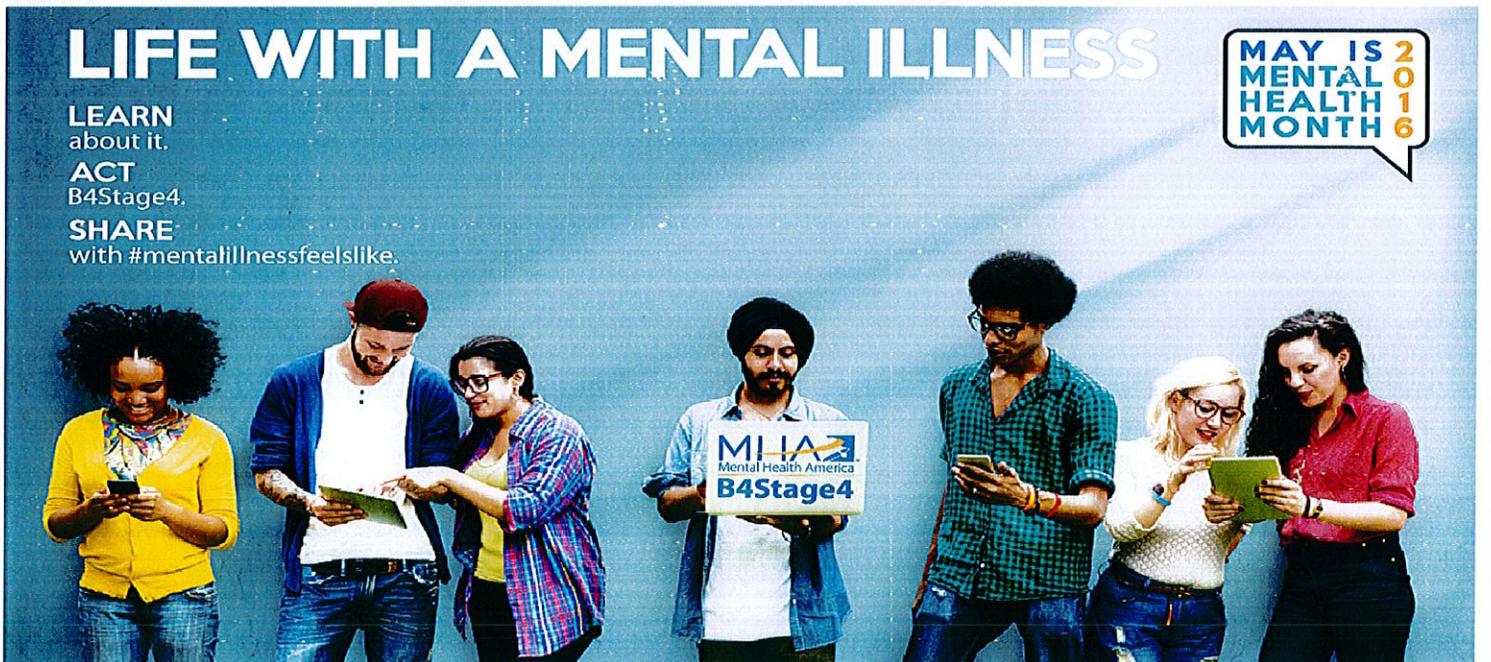


LIFE WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS

LEARN
about it.

ACT
B4Stage4.

SHARE
with #mentalillnessfeelslike.



WAKE UP AMERICA

★★★
SHOUT IT ALOUD, DO NOT HOLD BACK. RAISE YOUR VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET.

ISAIAH 58:1A NIV

MAY 5, 2016

The **National Day of Prayer** will be held on **Thursday, May 5th, 2016** at the Elizabethtown Town Hall, at **12 noon**. Please come and pray with us.

Thank you,

Clara Adams

KEEP BLADEN BEAUTIFUL ESSAY WINNERS

Bladen County youth are on the right track to keeping Bladen beautiful. Sydney Gardner, Sam Inscoe, and Henry Pate placed in the top three of the Keep Bladen Beautiful Essay Contest.

Clarkton School of Discovery Student, Sydney came in first place with her essay. Part of her essay stated, “To help your environment you can just pick up at least one piece of trash a day. That would be seven pieces of litter per week, and just think about if twenty people do the same thing, that would be one hundred forty pieces of

Second place winner, Sam Inscoe, also from Clarkton School of Discovery wrote in part, “We could stop littering and start cleaning the roads and highways. We could put trash cans and recycle bins all around the county for people to use.”

Third place winner, Henry Pate, a 4-H Club member and home school student also composed points on the issue of Keeping Bladen Beautiful. Part of Henry’s essay stated, “Having a beautiful attitude will keep Bladen County beautiful. A beautiful attitude includes taking pride, taking responsibility and taking action. It is important that every resident of Bladen County takes responsibility in keeping her clean and beautiful.”



Commissioners recognized the top three winners. Photoed: Steve Melson, Sondra Guyton, Sydney Gardner, Commissioner Russell Preist, Sam Inscoe, Commissioner Arthur Bullock and Henry Pate

<http://www.bladenonline.com/keep-bladen-beautiful-essay-winners/>

BLADEN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCES EDUCATION
CONTEST WINNERS



Bladen Soil and Water Conservation District proudly announces winners at the State Level in the 2016 Poster contest for Bladen County Academy, Primary, Elementary, and Middle school students. This year's theme is "We All Live in a Watershed." These students won the District and Area 7 level competitions before advancing to State-level competition.

The District is happy to have had so many students participate in our contests this year, and thanks all of the local teachers who made time in their busy schedules to fit in these competitions. The Soil and Water Conservation District believes that teaching children the importance of conserving our natural resources at an early age will benefit everyone in the future. Congratulations to these State winners!

<u>POSTER CONTEST</u>	<u>WINNER</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
6th Grade-1st Place	Sydney Gardner	Clarkton School of Discovery
3rd Grade-1st Place	Chandler Bordeaux	Elizabethtown Christian Academy

<http://www.bladenonline.com/bladen-soil-and-water-conservation-district-announces-education-contest-winners-3/>

ELIZABETHTOWN PD PREPARES FOR 10TH ANNUAL KIDS APPRECIATION DAY

The **Elizabethtown Police Department** is gearing up for their 10th annual **Kids Appreciation Day** to be held on **Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.** and they need your help to make the event a success. The department is anticipating between 700 to 1,000 children will attend the event.

Businesses in the Elizabethtown area are asked to consider donating to this worthy cause. Businesses that choose to make a donation will be recognized during the event with a sign, named on the flyer for the event, and will be announced by the emcee at the event. Those wishing to make a donation can contact the Elizabethtown Police Department at 910-862-3125 for more information.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/elizabethtown-pd-prepares-for-10th-annual-kids-appreciation-day/>

SUMMER BREAKFAST PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE



Get Active...

*Get **HEALTHY!***

Learning does not end when school lets out. Neither does the need for good nutrition. The 2016 Summer Breakfast and Lunch Program will again be available to all students and children in the Bladen County. This program is free to all children between the ages of 1 and 18. Please contact Amy Stanley at 910-862-4136 for more information.

Good nutrition is essential for learning in school. Continuing healthy eating habits is also important during the long hot summer months. Eating nutritious foods helps ensure students retain their hard learned knowledge and to help them to keep right on learning throughout the summer. For many of these children, summer vacation can bring the temptation of eating empty calorie snacks and foods that are high in sugar, fats and sodium. And for many others, summer exposes students to an increased risk of hunger and developmental decline. Make seasonal fruits and vegetables a high priority for your snacks, meals and anytime.

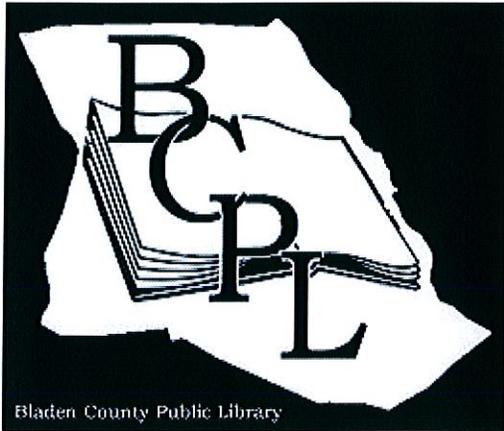
Summertime is a time to play hard, but it is also a time to remember to eat right. Make sure good nutrition remains a priority all summer long, and students will return to school in the Fall healthy, sharp and ready to learn.

KIDS AND TEENS EAT FREE



<http://www.bladenonline.com/summer-breakfast-program-is-available/>

LIBRARY APPLIES FOR EZ EDGE GRANT



The Bladen County Public Library is waiting eagerly for word regarding a grant application recently submitted for an EZ Edge Grant through the State Library of North Carolina.

Library Director Kelsey Edwards said the county library has participated for the past three years in an Edge Technology Assessment. She said the assessment looks at things such as how the library reaches out to the community, the way the library uses technology, and such.

“If you do that (the assessment), they offer a grant opportunity where you can pick a benchmark you are not meeting and apply for a grant to help you reach that benchmark,” said Edwards. “The assessment was completed in February.”

She said the assessment asks questions about various categories within the library to help staff determine how well they are meeting certain benchmarks. Edwards once you determinate which benchmarks you need to improve upon, the staff can then decide which benchmark they want to address and apply for the grant.

If the grant is approved, the library system could be receiving a much needed shot in the arm in terms of their technology needs. The grant application is in the amount of \$4,830.08.

If approved, the library will purchase six iPads loaded with learning and educational games and application for children ages 2 to 5 and furniture. Each branch will receive two iPads if the grant application is approved. Edward said currently, the main library in Elizabethtown has one computer station dedicated to children’s learning.

<http://www.bladenonline.com/library-applies-for-ez-edge-grant/>

In addition, the main library in Elizabethtown currently offers free WiFi and eight computers for public access with internet and black and white printing services at ten cents per copy for patrons and guests. The main branch also houses the Wanda Campbell Historical Room which is a rich resource for genealogical research in Bladen County and a large meeting room which can be reserved for conferences. At the library branches in both Clarkton and Bladenboro, there is also free WiFi and three computers at each location for public access with internet and printing services, at each of its library branches. All branches operate under Bladen County Public Library.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Commissioners recognize Bladen County employees for their years of service at their meetings whenever someone has reached a milestone. The regular Board of Commissioners meeting Monday evening had a special celebration and recognition.

Mrs. Patricia T. Smith retires effective April 30, 2016 after having served the county for twenty-eight (28) years since March 1988. Smith is currently the Income Maintenance Program Administrator for Bladen County Department of Social Services. The Commissioners presented Smith with a plaque of recognition for her many years of service and then held a reception with hors d'oeuvres.

Vickie Smith, Bladen County Social Services Director said, "Patricia came to us twenty-eight (28) years ago to start her career. She has been an imperative part of making NCFAST a success. We appreciate her steadfastness with the agency."

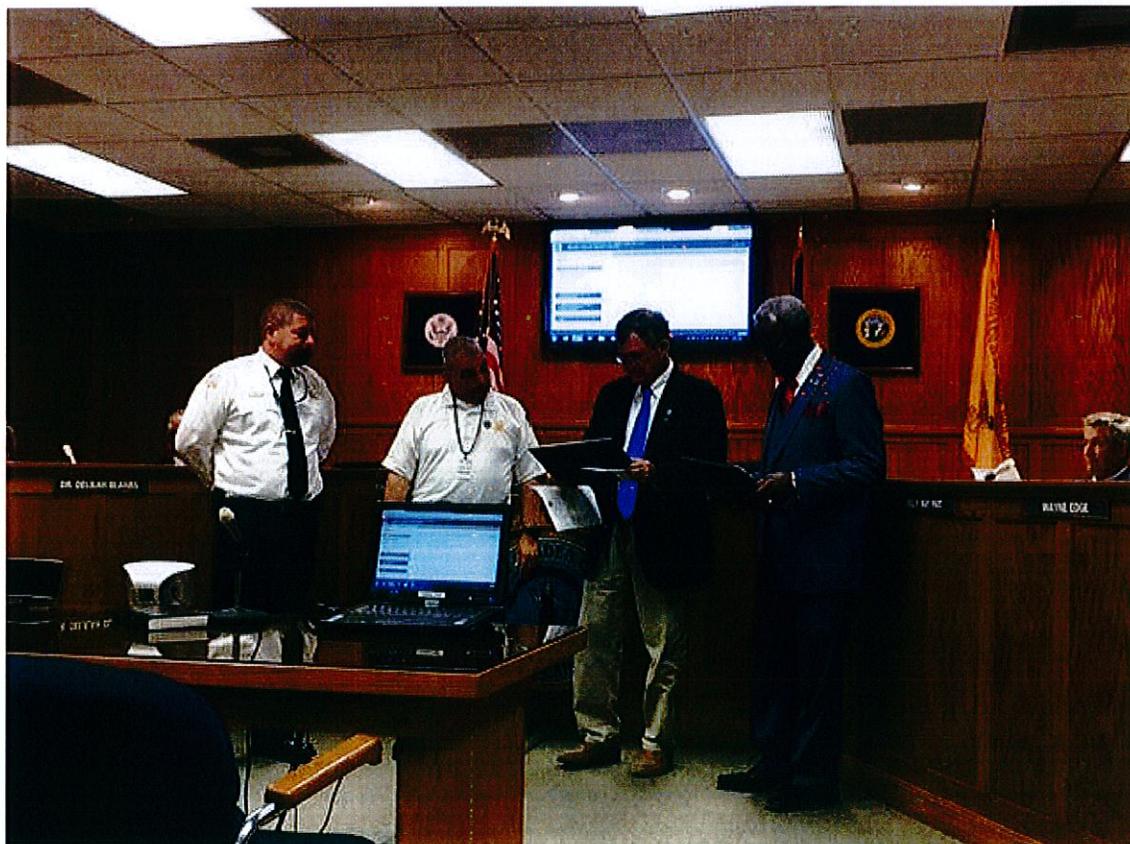
Commissioner Bullock said of Patricia, "She always gave us good service. I know from personal experience. We appreciate all her hard work throughout the years."

The board also recognized Andrew Powell, for five (5) years of service with the Sheriff's Office, Kendall Kelly, for ten (10) years of service with the Sheriff's Office, Dalphine Jenkins for twenty (20) years of service with the Building Inspections Office, Sheila Rains for ten (10) years of service with the Health Department, Joan Taylor with twenty (20) years of service, with the Health Department, Adam Nobles, for ten (10) years of service with Environmental Health, Tangela Graham with ten (10) years of service to the Department of Social Services, and David Howell for ten (10) years of service with EMS.

David Howell was the only other person recognized that was present at the meeting. Bradley Kinlaw, Emergency Services Director said, "I want to thank David for his service of ten years and I look forward to seeing what the next 15 to 20 years holds."

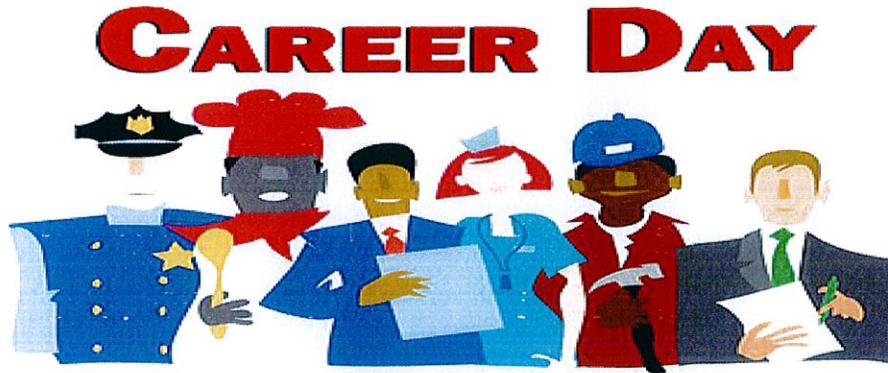


Mrs. Patricia T. Smith being recognized for her years of services with Bladen County Department of Social Services



Mr. David Howell being recognized for his years of services with EMS

PLANNING FOR CAREER DAY FOR BLADEN COUNTY STUDENTS



Brian Campbell President of Campbell Oil Company held a lunch meeting regarding a Bladen County Schools Career Day program with local business and community leaders.

Campbell told those gathered for the lunch meeting that he had been thinking about ways the business community can become involved and help the school system.

Campbell said, “We want to try to help the students figure out their purpose.”

After giving it some thought Campbell has decided a Career Day would be a good idea and has set his plan into action. The superintendent and some school staff were in attendance at the meeting and they expressed their excitement about the idea.

The goal of the program is to get students to become more engaged, more interested in class, thinking about continuing their education, and what they will want to do after school according to Campbell.

“Hopefully this will be an eye opener for seniors.” Campbell said.

The concept is to do the career day and start working with the schools to mentor the students. This year the program will focus on the junior and senior students, next year the goal is include the 8th grade students according to Campbell.

Mentoring these students and letting them know that someone is interested in their progress will result in improvements in academic performance is the hope of Campbell and others in attendance at the meeting.

“We all need a mentor. We need someone who will tell us what we need to hear, not what we want to hear,” said Campbell.

The first Career Day will be held May 3rd at West Bladen High School and the second will be held May 5th at East Bladen High School.

ABSENTEE VOTING BEGINS FOR JUNE PRIMARY



NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Elections

RALEIGH, N.C. – Absentee voting began April 19th in 16 congressional primaries across the state after a federal court in February ordered legislators to redraw district lines. Election day is June 7 and will include a state-wide primary for N.C. Supreme Court.

The State Board of Elections is encouraging voters to consider participating by mail in what is expected to be a low-turnout election. The state's stand-alone congressional primary in 1998 drew only 4% of registered voters.

“Voting by mail helps ensure that graduation ceremonies and summer travel won't keep you from participating,” said Executive Director Kim Westbrook Strach.

Citing the unexpected nature of the June Primary, members of the State Board ordered counties to carry-forward absentee ballot requests from the March Statewide Primary. County officials are now mailing more than 55,000 ballots, with more requests expected before the civilian deadline on May 31.

Multi-partisan Assistance Teams

Special assistance is available for voters living in care facilities, such as nursing homes. Upon request, county boards of elections will send Multi-partisan Assistance Teams (MATs) to help voters in care facilities complete their Absentee Ballot Request forms at <http://www.ncsbe.gov/> mark their ballot, or serve as required witnesses.

“MATs allow residents in care facilities to get reliable assistance free of partisan influence,” said Strach. “That is one reason MATs are part of our broad effort to ensure every voice is heard. We hope every team in every county will be busy assisting voters in care facilities to cast absentee ballots for June 7.”

Care facility coordinators or members of the public can contact their local county board of elections office to schedule a visit. Additional information is available online.

FEDERAL COURT UPHOLDS NC VOTER ID LAW

A federal court has upheld North Carolina's Voter ID Law. U. S. District Court Judge Thomas Schroeder ruled on Monday, April 25, 2016 that the controversial Voter ID law is constitutional and allowed it to stand.

The law requires all voters who go to the polls to show an acceptable form of photo identification. Acceptable forms of identification include a North Carolina drivers license/permit, NC identification card, passport, military identification card, Veterans identification card, and certain tribal enrollment cards. To learn more about the new NC Voter ID law, visit <http://www.bladenonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/NC-Voter-ID-2016.pdf>

In addition, Judge Schroeder also ruled that changes that prohibit out-of-precinct voting can move forward and will take effect after the June Primary.

The lawsuit was brought by the North Carolina Conference of the NAACP, some churches and several individuals. The Rev. William Barber who serves as president of the North Carolina Conference of the NAACP, said that discussions will continue regarding the next steps the group plans to take.

Gov. Pat McCrory said, "This ruling further affirms that requiring a photo ID in order to vote is not only common-sense, it's constitutional," said Governor McCrory. "Common practices like boarding an airplane and purchasing Sudafed require photo ID and thankfully a federal court has ensured our citizens will have the same protection for their basic right to vote."

NC ONE-STOP VOTING SITES FOR THE JUNE 7, 2016 ELECTION



COUNTY

Bladen

BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE

Instead of voting at the county board of elections office.

BLADEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

111 N. CYPRESS STREET

ELIZABETHTOWN, NC 28337

DATES AND TIMES OF OPERATION

Thursday, May 26 - Friday, May 27, 2016

8:30 am –5:00 pm

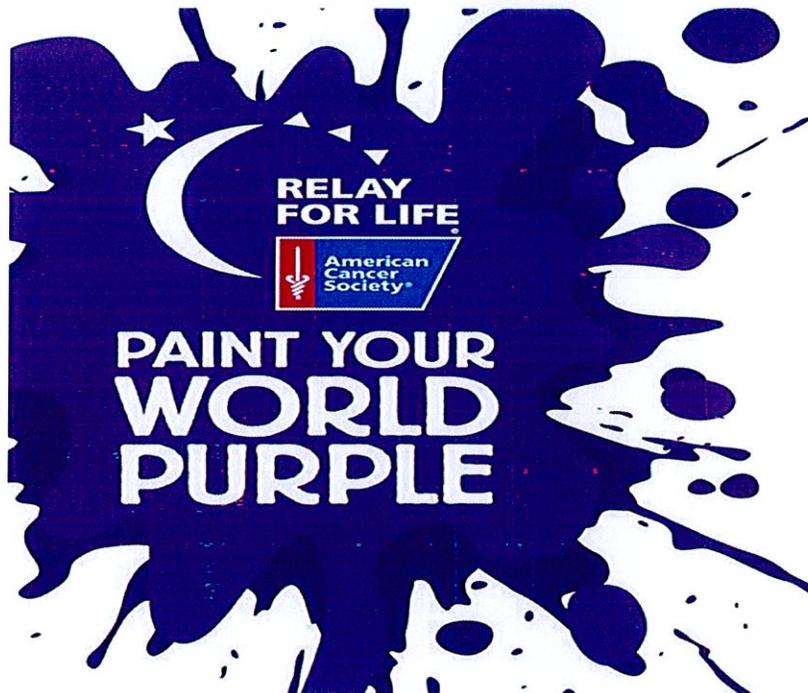
Tuesday, May 31, 2016-Friday, June 3, 2016

8:30 am –5:00 pm

Saturday, June 4, 2016

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

RELAY FOR LIFE OF BLADEN COUNTY



SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

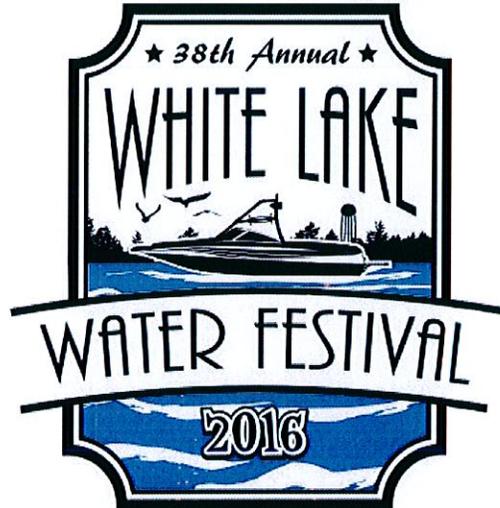
11:00 A.M.

ELIZABETHTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD

1496 US HWY 701 N, Elizabethtown

Contact Angela Burns
angela.burns@cancer.org
910-8334536

THE 38TH ANNUAL WHITE LAKE WATER FESTIVAL



GOLD SPONSORS:

Town of White Lake	Chamber of Commerce
Town of Elizabethtown	Four County Electric
Goldston's Beach	Nissan of Clinton
Goldston's Lake Store	Sampson Bladen Oil Company
Goldston's Gift Shop	Smithfield
Camp Clearwater	The Venue at Regal Resort
Duke Energy	Southeastern Health

MAY 20 & MAY 21, 2016

WHITE LAKE WATER FESTIVAL

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 20

6:30pm-9:00pm Classic Car Cruise-In (Best in Show Award 8pm)

7:00pm-9pm Street Dance at Goldston's Beach "Southern Touch Band" (NO CHARGE)

Saturday, May 21

7:00am-10:00am Pancake Breakfast at the White Lake Fire Department

10:00am Parade

11:00am-until Barbeque Plates at the Fire Department \$7 per plate

10:00am-5:00pm ALL DAY FUN! Arts, Crafts & Vendors at Goldston's Beach

Clowns, Amusement Rides, Face Painting, Petting Zoo, & Entertainment

10:00am-4:00pm Classic Car Show at the Festival Grounds on HWY 701 (across from the Scotchman)

8am -12 Noon Registration \$20 per car

12 Noon-3:00pm Judging

4:00pm Trophies Awarded

11:00am-5:00pm Entertainment under the Main Tent at Goldston's Beach

11:00am-1:00pm Rivermist Band

1:00pm-3:00pm Blackwater Rhythm and Blues Band

3:00pm-5:00pm Southern Touch Band

Lake Side Entertainment on the Waterfront

12 Noon-5:00pm

12:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm Semi-Pro Wrestling Arena

ALL DAY Antique Tractor Show on HWY 701

2pm-until Lawn and Garden Tractor Pull

\$5.00 admission HWY 701 near the Scotchman

9:00pm-1:00am Saturday Night Dance featuring the Castaways

Tickets \$15 per person. Coolers permitted. No glass containers. Located at The Venue -1498
White Lake Drive



Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May. It complements similar celebrations honoring family members, such as Father's Day and Siblings Day. In the United States, celebration of Mother's Day began in the early 20th century. It is not related to the many celebrations of mothers and motherhood that have occurred throughout the world over thousands of years, such as the Greek cult to Cybele, the Roman festival of Hilaria, or the Christian Mothering Sunday celebration (originally a commemoration of Mother Church, not motherhood). In some countries, Mother's Day has become synonymous with these older traditions.

Establishment of holiday

The modern American holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Today St Andrew's Methodist Church now holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Her campaign to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother by continuing the work she started and to set aside a day to honor all mothers, because she believed that they were "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world".

In 1908, the US Congress rejected a proposal to make Mother's Day an official holiday, joking that they would have to proclaim also a "Mother-in-law's Day". However, owing to the efforts of Anna Jarvis, by 1911 all US states observed¹ the holiday, with some of them officially recognizing Mother's Day as a local holiday, the first being West Virginia, Jarvis' home state, in 1910. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday to honor mothers.

Although Jarvis was successful in founding Mother's Day, she became resentful of the commercialization of the holiday. By the early 1920s, Hallmark Cards and other companies had started selling Mother's Day cards. Jarvis believed that the companies had misinterpreted and exploited the idea of Mother's Day, and that the emphasis of the holiday was on sentiment, not profit. As a result, she organized boycotts of Mother's Day, and threatened to issue lawsuits against the companies involved. Jarvis argued that people should appreciate and honor their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards. Jarvis protested at a candy makers' convention in Philadelphia in 1923, and at a meeting of American War Mothers in 1925. By this time, carnations had become associated with Mother's Day, and the selling of carnations by the American War Mothers to raise money angered Jarvis, who was arrested for disturbing the peace.

Jarvis' holiday was adopted by other countries, and it is now celebrated all over the world.

Spelling

In 1912 Anna Jarvis trademarked the phrases "second Sunday in May" and "Mother's Day", and created the Mother's Day International Association. She specifically noted that "Mother's" should "be a singular possessive, for each family to honor its own mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world.". This is also the spelling used by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in his 1914 presidential proclamation, by the U.S. Congress in relevant bills, and by various U.S. presidents in their proclamations concerning Mother's Day.

Mother's Day in the United States

The United States celebrates Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May. In 1872 Julia Ward Howe called for women to join in support of disarmament and asked for 2 June 1872, to be established as a "Mother's Day for Peace". Her 1870 "Appeal to womanhood throughout the world" is sometimes referred to as Mother's Day Proclamation. But Howe's day was not for honouring mothers but for organizing pacifist mothers against war. In the 1880s and 1890s there were several further attempts to establish an American "Mother's Day", but these did not succeed beyond the local level.

In the United States, Mother's Day remains one of the biggest days for sales of flowers, greeting cards, and the like; Mother's Day is also the biggest holiday for long-distance telephone calls. Moreover, churchgoing is also popular on Mother's Day, yielding the highest church attendance after Christmas Eve and Easter. Many worshippers celebrate the day with carnations, coloured if the mother is living and white if she is dead.

Mother's Day continues to be one of the most commercially successful U.S. occasions.

It is possible that the holiday would have withered over time without the support and continuous promotion of the florist industries and other commercial industries. Other Protestant holidays from the same time, such as Children's Day and Temperance Sunday, do not have the same level of popularity. Mother's Day is also prominent in the Sunday comic strips in the newspapers of the United States, expressing emotions ranging from sentimental to wry to caustic

Celebrations

Mother's Day is celebrated in more than 46 countries throughout the world. On this day, most people pray in churches in honor of mothers, while some gift them presents on this day to express their love. Some consider having dinner at home with the family.

Mother's day card with a bunch of bouquet is also one of the most popular methods of celebrating mother's day. As it is a holiday, so some prefers to go out for a picnic to celebrate this festival. In schools, kids dedicate poem to their mother and also performs various roles on this day. Those who are good at cooking, serves the best dishes to their mom on Mother's day.



MAY 2016 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Gates Open @ 8am - MCAS Cherry Point Air Show - Celebrating 75 Years	2 8:00am - Prayer Service <hr/> 4:30pm - Board of Equalization & Review, Courthouse, Elizabethtown <hr/> 6:30pm - Board of Commissioners Meeting	3	4	5 12 pm - National Day of Prayer, Town Hall Elizabethtown. Story Time - Bladen County Public Library @ 10 am & 3:30 pm	6	7 11 am - Relay for Life, Elizabethtown Middle School.
8 Mother's Day!	9	10	11	12 7pm - Bladen Fire Association, White Lake Fire Dept. Story Time - Bladen County Public Library @ 10 am & 3:30 pm	13	14
15	16 4:30pm - Board of Equalization & Review, Courthouse, Elizabethtown <hr/> 6:30pm - Board of Commissioners Meeting	17	18	19 Story Time - Bladen County Public Library @ 10 am & 3:30 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Story Time - Bladen County Public Library @ 10 am & 3:30 pm	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day - Offices Closed	31				