Know the Risks: E-cigarettes and Young People

What are e-cigarettes?

- E-cigarettes come in many shapes and sizes. E-cigarettes produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that usually contains nicotine—the addictive drug in regular cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products—flavorings, and other chemicals that help to make the aerosol. Users inhale this aerosol into their lungs. Bystanders can also breathe in this aerosol when the user exhales into the air.
- E-cigarettes are known by many different names. They are sometimes called “e-cigs,” “e-hookahs,” “mods,” “vape pens,” “vapes,” “tank systems,” and “electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS).”

Usage Trends

Between 2011 and 2015, past-month e-cigarette use grew dramatically among middle school and high school students. E-cigarettes are now the most commonly used form of tobacco by youth in the United States. Dual use, or use of e-cigarettes and conventional cigarettes by the same person, is common among youth and young adults (ages 18-25).

Appeal to Young People

Youth and young adults cite a variety of reasons for using e-cigarettes.
Nathan Dowless Named Emergency Services Director

Nathan Dowless has been named Bladen County Emergency Services Director. He began his new duties on July 15, 2019.

As Emergency Services Director, Dowless is responsible for overseeing the functions of Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Geographic Information Systems/E-911 Addressing, as well as Planning, Building Inspections, and the Fire Marshal’s Office.

Dowless is a life-long resident of Bladen County. He has been active in the fire service for eighteen years, having recently completed a two year term as president of the Bladen County Fire Association. Dowless formerly worked for approximately six years with Bladen County, first in GIS/E-911 Addressing and then in the Tax Office as a real property appraiser. He later served as Fire Services Director at Bladen Community College, where he implemented a strategic plan to achieve the mission of the Fire Services Department. For the past four years, Dowless has been a territory sales executive with C.W. Williams & Co., LLC, having recently won a national award in recognition of outstanding sales of emergency services equipment.

“I am honored to be chosen for this important position. I am excited to build upon the foundation that Bradley Kinlaw and his team built for the citizens of Bladen County”, stated Dowless.

“We are pleased to welcome Nathan Dowless as Bladen County’s new Emergency Services Director” said County Manager Greg Martin. “Nathan brings a passion for emergency services, and, by having established relationships and an understanding of the community, he will be able to hit the ground running. Nathan has a track record of success in previous positions and we are confident that the citizens of Bladen County will be well served by Nathan’s leadership in this important role.”

Dowless lives in Elizabethtown with his wife Ashley and their daughters, Taylor (10) and Tenley (8).
The StarLab is a portable planetarium purchased by the State Library of North Carolina using grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The State Library purchased four StarLab kits available for check out to public libraries in North Carolina. Staff from the Bladen County Public Library took the Starlab out for visits from students at seven different schools across Bladen County. Over 800 students and their teachers were able to visit the StarLab to learn more about things such as our solar system, constellations, and our galaxy.

Please welcome the following employees to “Team Bladen”

**Emergency Services:** Nathan Dowless

**Health Department**– Travis Greer

(If you have new employees that you would like to be included in this area, please send their names to kedwards@bladenco.org)
If you have any submissions for the next edition of *Team Bladen*, please submit them to kedwards@bladenco.org. The next edition will be released at the beginning of December 2019. All submissions are due by November 15, 2019.

Bladen DSS has declared August annually as Income Maintenance Caseworker Month in recognition of their dedication to the beneficiaries they serve. To celebrate during August 2019, the IMC staff were treated to relaxation activities by Terri Duncan, Bladen HHSA Director. Also, each week, an IMC unit was recognized via announcements, which culminated at the end of the month with an ice cream social that included games.

Bladen County DSS Child Support Unit, seated left to right: Daphne Mckoy, Heather Harvey Standing left to right: Martha Howe, LaShannon McDonald, Susan Daniel, Sabrina Bedsole, Debbie Storms, Lisa Allison, Vickie Smith

The Unit was recognized at their Annual Conference for meeting all of their Self-Assessment & Incentive Goals for the FY 2018/2019. This is Bladen's Second year in a row to receive this award, the only county to make such an accomplishment. The child Support unit works to ensure that both parents are responsible for the support of their children to the best of their ability.