

RUTHERFORD COUNTY MANAGER

County Commissioners

Julius Owens, *Chairman*
William Eckler, *Vice Chairman*
Susan G. Crowe
Eddie Holland
Roger Richard

Carl Classen, *County Manager*
Hazel S. Haynes, *Clerk to the Board*
Richard Williams, *County Attorney*

September 21, 2012

To: County Commissioners

From: Carl Classen, County Manager

Weekly Report Items **Week Ending September 21, 2012**

General:

This is a highlight of items from the previous week. It is not meant to be exhaustive but to inform the Commissioners and Department Heads.

Board of Elections:

This week, the Election staff issued 76 absentee ballots by mail or email. For Voter Registration Awareness month we visited the Rutherford Opportunity Center, Isothermal Community College, REACH and East High School. Staff is in the process of recruiting all of the One-stop and precinct poll workers and preparing training materials. During this week, we processed 118 new registrations, 110 duplicate registrations, 81 changes of information and mailed out 293 cards.

Building Inspections:

The Building Inspections Department has had a busy week with 5 new house starts and 123 inspections. Staff has issued a total of 29 permits with revenue from those being \$9,117.00. Among these are 2 permits for 4800 SF motor control centers at Horsehead. The Colfax Free Fair received approval from the fire inspector before their Tuesday night opening. Congratulations to Blake Bostic as he will be getting married Saturday and will be honeymooning next week in Jamaica. We wish Blake and Carrie well!!!

Clerk to the Board:

The Clerk to the Board is working on the agenda for the October 1 meeting. Due to a change in the schedule for the September meeting, there will only be three weeks between meetings this month. A special meeting will be held prior to the October 1 meeting so Commissioners can discuss revisions to the Rules of Procedure for Rutherford County Commissioners.

Cooperative Extension:

The County Extension Director continues to assist clients with technical information through phone calls, office, and field visits. The Agricultural Agent assisted with a "Local Foods" demonstration at the Rutherford County Farmer's Market, conducted four pesticide recertification classes for private pesticide applicators, presented as a Judge for agricultural/horticultural at the Colfax Fair, networked with the Master Gardner Volunteers on program preparation for the 2013 Spring Garden School, and made preparations for the "Grilling & Chilling" workshop to promote local agriculture industry. 143 contacts were made. The 4-H Youth Development Agent escorted 4-H youth to the NC Mountains State Fair. A number of youth exhibited their animals (goats, sheep, cattle, chickens and turkeys). Nine youth

showed ten Bourbon Red turkeys, winning five blue ribbons. Madison Sisk of Spindale won Grand Champion Tom Turkey and Reserve Champion Hen Turkey. Hunter Davis of Spindale won Reserve Champion Tom Turkey. Four youth competed in showmanship, winning first or second place ribbons in each of their categories. Savannah Bell won Reserve Champion Overall in the Youth Poultry Show with her Blue Silkie. Two poultry judging workshops have been held to prepare youth for the Cleveland County contest. Youth have practiced grading ready-to-cook chicken carcasses, identifying parts, and judging laying hens. (See Highlight Section)

County Manager:

The County Manager attended numerous meetings this week. The week began with a meeting with IT Director Rhonda Owens regarding the County Website. Next, a telephone conference was held regarding Greyrock, as well as, a telephone conference regarding the Transfer Station with James Kilgo. The Manager met with Paula Roach, Finance Director and Danny Searcy, Planning Director about project updates and Katie Doherty, GIS, regarding street sign replacements and installation. Another meeting was held to discuss Queens Gap, as well as, the weekly media discussion with Matt Clark and Gayle Clayton in attendance. The schedule for the media discussion meetings has been changed. The media discussion will be held once monthly (Tuesday after board meeting) starting October 2. Chris Roberts, Paula Roach, Danny Searcy, and Carl Classen met regarding the garage vehicle fleet. Mr. Classen attended the EDC Board Meeting, attended a Public Record group meeting with several department heads, met with Faye Hassell and staff from Asheville regarding 2-1-1 and worked on the Commissioners packet.

Detention Center:

The past week has been productive for the Detention Center. The center averaged 226 inmates, 181 males, and 45 females. Processing admitted 93 inmates and released 95. The kitchen staff prepared 4,793 meals for the jail population. Corporal Shell transported 2 commitments and 18 inmates to various locations across the state, for a total of 1,138 miles traveled.

Economic Development:

The Executive Director joined County Commission Chairman, Julius Owens and Mike Hager on a visit to Timken that included a presentation overview of the operations at the Shiloh plant and concluded with a tour of the manufacturing area. The EDC Director also attended the Forest City Town Commissioners meeting Monday night to answer questions regarding the approval of the CDBG Grant application for Valley Fine Foods; continues to work with an existing industry on plans for expansion; prepared agenda packages and presented an update during the monthly Advisory Board Meeting; hosted AdvantageWest and an engineering guest for a brief presentation and site tour for identification and review of potential data center sites. Additionally, the Economic Development Office hosted the NC Department of Commerce and an industrial prospect for a brief presentation and site tour for an advanced manufacturing recruitment opportunity; and attended a forum held in Lake Lure regarding economic development opportunities for Lake Lure and Chimney Rock. The Project Administrator assisted the Executive Director in the site data packages in preparation for the AdvantageWest and NC Department of Commerce visits; assembled a project team and met with Valley Fine Foods Human Resources representative regarding the hiring and training processes for future employment opportunities at the Forest City location; attended the monthly Advisory Board Meeting; and continued development of the Business Retention & Expansion program in preparation for a 4th Quarter 2012 launch.

Emergency Services/Emergency Management/Fire Marshal:

This week **EMS Personnel** responded to 342 calls. The EMS Public Relations Team attended the Ellenboro Fair. EMS Administration developed EMS dispatch guidelines for distribution to the Communications Center staff. EMS staff conducted a Cardiac Arrest Focus Group meeting to discuss trends and proposed changes in the care of cardiac arrest patients. Staff also met with the Transit Director Kerry Giles to discuss collaborative efforts and changes in Medicaid transportation guidelines for wheel chair patients, as well as, worked on reviewing vehicle specifications for new ambulances. **Emergency Management/Fire Marshal** participated in a WebEOC exercise and attended a Disaster Preparedness Regional Meeting.

Finance:

The Finance staff continues to work on the Fiscal Year End closeout reports and preparing for the auditors to come in September. The Director continues work on completing year end reports and finalizing the refinancing. The Director also attended the monthly board meeting, attended the weekly project update meeting with Danny Searcy and Carl Classen, and attended a bid opening for the new roll-off truck at Solid Waste. The Director and Assistant Director attended a meeting with the County Manager regarding the garage vehicle fleet. Lastly, the Finance Director attended a Public Records Group meeting with several department heads and the County Manager.

Human Resources:

Welcome new employee Robert Holtzclaw (Sheriff). Employees who have left Rutherford County are Jessica Higgins (DSS), Kathy Haulk (DSS), Laura Jones (p/t DSS), Anna Roper (DSS) and Heather Gillespie (EMS). The HR Office held meetings to discuss personnel issues and retirements. The HR Director attended a meeting with Katie Doherty, GIS, regarding E911 staffing. The Director conducted the monthly orientation, conducted interviews for the part time position at the Airport, as well as, conducted interviews for the Assistant Director of TDA. The HR Director attended a Public Records group meeting with several department heads. HR staff arranged the Flu Shot Clinic for October 8th from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. The Health Department will be administering the clinic at the County Office Building. Staff also scheduled the annual Open Season for Colonial and Flexible Benefit changes for the week of October 8-12.

Information Technology:

Information Technology staff have been working on solutions to fulfill public requests, web casting the Board of E&R meeting, installing communication to the Bechtler House and examining fiber installation to the Bechtler site.

Library:

The County Library is celebrating "Constitution Week" with the Griffith Rutherford Chapter of the D.A.R (Daughters of the American Revolution). There is a book sale scheduled for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for the first week in October. Staff continues to catalog the materials at the Old Tryon Genealogical Library and these titles are available at www.cmclibraries.org. The theme for this week's pre-school story hour has been "Doctors and Illness". Attendance for the programs continues to grow.

Planning/Parks and Recreation:

Maintenance had a busy week completing many service calls. The garage had 7 preventative maintenance service calls, 19 repairs, 4 tire service calls, and 14 state inspections/other repairs. There were no accidents reported. Progress continues on Greyrock, the Bechtler Mint Site and the Biggerstaff Property. The Planning Director and Finance Director met with Carl Classen, County Manager for the weekly update on projects.

Register of Deeds:

The Register of Deeds office had an active week with 478 transactions collecting \$14,958.00.

Social Services:

Income Maintenance staff continue to prepare for the rollout of the first phase of Family Assessing Services Through Technology (NC FAST). State Food and Nutrition Services staff were in the agency this week for a ME (Management Evaluation) Review. The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 requires the state to conduct Management Evaluation reviews in each county. The frequency of the review is based on the FNS caseload size. The DSS Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday with all board members present. During the meeting, the board received an update on the progress of NC FAST and the impact that it will have on consumers and staff. Social Work Program Manager, Lorie Horne, attended the Community Clinic of Rutherford County board meeting on Thursday. The DSS Director attended a meeting on Friday regarding 2-1-1 Community Service Information Line.

Soil and Water:

The Admin/Education Specialist worked on scheduling the No-Till Grass Drill and continued work on planning the 5th Grade Conservation Field Day. The Water Quality Specialist inspected ongoing projects, gave technical information and completed site visits.

Solid Waste:

The Solid Waste Department served 281 customers, hauled 50 loads from convenience centers and shipped 31 loads to Lenoir. Staff is still working on the notice to proceed for the transfer station project. Duke Power should be here later this week or early next week to start installing the 3 Phase Power for the Methane to Gas Project. Weekly conference calls continue on the transfer station. The landfill reported no accidents this week and worked 7 community service workers this week. Bids on the roll back truck will be opened on Thursday Sept 20th. Rob Taylor, NCDENR, has contacted the County about improving recycling opportunities in the County. Carl Classen, County Manager and Solid Waste Director James Kilgo are exploring this grant eligible opportunity with representatives of the municipalities, SWEEP, and GDS.

Tax:

The Appraisal Department answered 43 phone calls, assisted 7 citizens with the present use program and 9 citizens who came in to the office. Appraisers worked 141 permits and 4 reviews. Also, several staff attended the September 20 Board of E&R meeting.

GIS/Mapping/Land Records/Addressing assisted 75 taxpayers, answered 130 phone calls and issued 3 pre-permits. One project is currently in progress. Land Records printed 49 newly recorded deeds, transferred 77 deeds, 4 estates and set up 34 new accounts. GIS completed 4 splits, created 43 maps and filled one data request. The addressing department assigned 2 new addresses, and updated 101 addresses. The road sign crew was off this week. **Tax Listing/Billing** has completed 14 discovery bills totaling \$1,960.91, answered 40-50 phone calls and had 15-20 taxpayers walk in with questions and/or issues. Staff will be interviewing for a Senior Tax Technician next week to begin business personal property auditing. **Collections** completed three tax foreclosure sales this week. Public utility billing was completed. Values are over \$63 million greater than 2011. This will result in a increased revenue of \$382,410.

Tourism:

TDA, along with a lot of hard working volunteers and other county departments, have been getting the Bechtler House ready for the return of the Bechtler Mint Press and the Historic Mint Site ready for visitors. Both the site and the press will make their official debuts on Friday, October 19th at 12:30 -- more details to come. In advance, make plans to attend the UNC-TV Bechtler Documentary Premiere on Saturday, September 29th at R-S Central High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Plans have also been finalized for the Cycle NC tour, with over 1,000 cyclists arriving in Lake Lure on Sunday, September 30th and travelling through Rutherford County on Monday, October 1st. Also, the TDA has a Media Tour planned for Monday, September 24th for 5 UK journalists visiting Rutherford County. Development continues on videos through VisitNC, as well as, website management and updates. TDA staff and contracted personnel also attended the NC Department of Tourism's Mid-Year Marketing meeting in Asheville.

Transit:

This week Transit drove 8,548 miles, transported 1,016 passengers and collected \$12,995.71 in revenue. There were no safety violations and a quarterly random drug and alcohol test was administered. Also, our monthly safety meeting was held with all employees. Congratulations to Janice Taylor who was named Employee of the Month. The Transit Director attended several meetings regarding changes to Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation.

Veterans Office:

The Veterans Officer is on vacation this week. Numbers will be provided with next week's weekly report.

Special Recognition Highlights

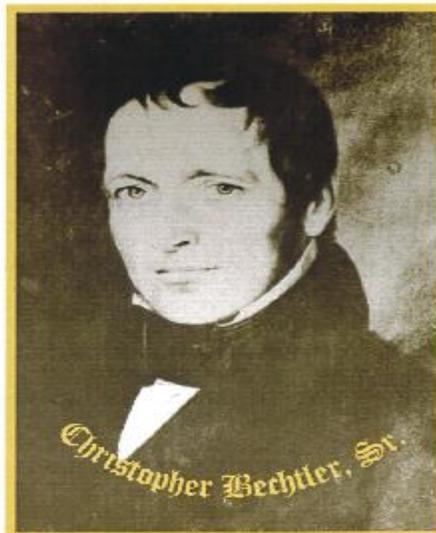


**ATTEND THE
FILM PREMIERE!**

GOLD FEVER & the BECHTLER MINT

**See the first screening of the
UNC-TV documentary filmed in
Rutherford County.
September 29, 7 p.m.
R-S Central H. S. Auditorium
Admission is free.**

**The story of Christopher Bechtler's
Mint during the North Carolina
gold rush of the 1830s.**



The Rutherfordton 225th Anniversary & The Bechtler Documentary Committees



Wednesday September 19, 2012, 11:42 AM

Rutherford County Sheriff's Office



Community: Save the date! Operation Medicine Drop is scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2012.

Operation Medicine Drop is scheduled for Saturday, September 29th from 10am to 4pm at the following three locations:

Holland Furniture
177 N. Main St., Henrietta

Food Lion, Rutherfordton
169 Railroad Ave.

Food Lion, Forest City
668 S. Broadway

Operation Medicine Drop is a prescription drug take-back event that allows residents to turn in their unused/expired prescription and over the counter medications. Proper disposal of unwanted medications helps prevent accidental poisonings, drug abuse, and groundwater contamination. Equally important-- it also helps prevent prescription drugs from falling into the wrong hands.

Safe Kids North Carolina is partnering with the State Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the N.C. Department of Insurance and other agencies to set up Operation Medicine Drop events throughout the state where people can safely dispose of old or unneeded prescriptions and over-the-counter medications.

In Rutherford County, Operation Medicine Drop is the result of collaboration between the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Attorney's Office of Western North Carolina, the State Bureau of Investigation, Rutherford County Sheriff's Office, Forest City Police Department, Spindale Police Department, United Way's Community Engagement Team, and SafeKids of Rutherford County. We also thank our drop-off site hosts: the Ellenboro Fire Department, Food Lion of Rutherfordton, and Food Lion of Forest City.

*Operation Medicine Drop cannot accept bio-hazardous waste or chemotherapy medications.

OPERATION MEDICINE DROP Prescription Poisoning is on the Rise in North Carolina - Let Operation Medicine Drop Protect You.

Bring prescription and over-the-counter medicines to the take-back event and keep them out of the wrong hands.

For more information, visit www.nc4h4ids.org

OPERATION MEDICINE DROP TAKE-BACK EVENT

Date: Saturday, September 29th
 Time: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Medicine Drop Locations:
 1) Food Lion - Rutherfordton
 2) Food Lion - Forest City
 3) Holland Furniture - Henrietta

Contact: United Way - 286-3929



4-H Poultry Club at the NC Mountain State Fair



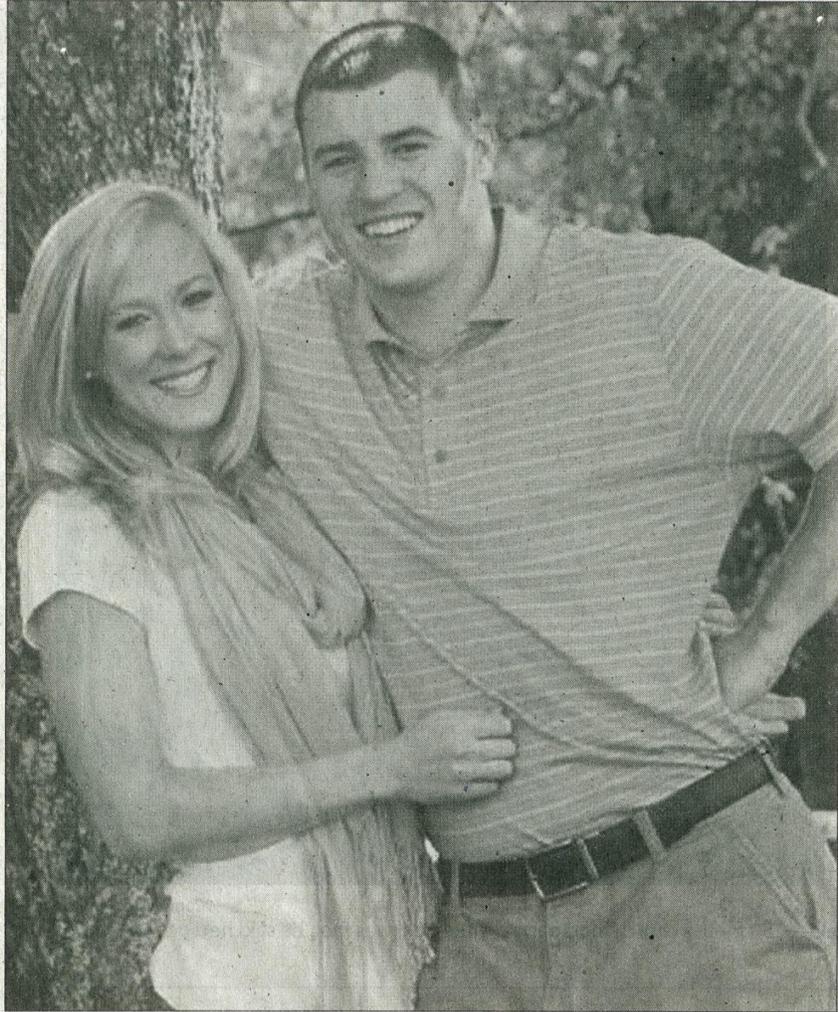
Madison Sisk, age 10—won Grand Champion Tom Turkey and Reserve Champion Hen Turkey

Good Job Rutherford County 4-H Poultry Club!



Congratulations!! Janice Taylor Transit Employee of the Month

289 N. Main Street, Rutherfordton, NC 28139 ♦ 828-287-6045 ♦ 828-287-6262 (FAX)
www.rutherfordcountync.gov



SMITH, BOSTIC ENGAGED

Smith, Bostic wedding Sept. 22

Larry and Patti Smith of Norwood, announce the engagement of their daughter, Carrie Smith, to Blake Bostic, son of Steve and Debbie Bostic of Bostic.

A September 22 wedding is planned at Memorial Baptist Church.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Richard and Betty Ruth Smith and Elizabeth and the late Haywood Smith. She is a graduate of Western Carolina University and is employed by Rutherford County Health Department.

The future bride-groom

is the grandson of Barbara Cash and the late Bill Cash, Ervin "Doc" and Janet Kesterson and the late Sam Bostic. He is a graduate of Western Carolina University and is employed by Rutherford County as a building inspector.