



June 22, 2015

Weekly Report

Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory lists, headings and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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While Father's Day is not a federal holiday, there are a range of events which may have inspired the idea of Father's Day. One of these was the start of the Mother's Day tradition in the first decade of the 20th century. Another was a memorial service held in 1908 for a large group of men, many of them fathers, who were killed in a mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia. A woman called Sonora Smart Dodd was an influential figure in the establishment of Father's Day. Her father raised six children by himself after the death of their mother. This was uncommon at that time, as many widowers placed their children in the care of others or quickly married again. Sonora felt that her father deserved recognition for what he had done.

The first time Father's Day was held was in June, 1910. Father's Day was officially recognized as a holiday in 1972 by President Nixon.

Any man can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad. Dads are teachers, providers, comedians (mostly amateur), leaders and then some. Whether he stayed at home or worked overtime to keep the family in order, whether he's a firefighter or the president....there is a special spot in your heart reserved for the first man you loved and admired. Father's Day is an



occasion to mark and celebrate the contribution that your own father has made to your life. I am so thankful for my dad. He always welcomes me with his wide open arms and loves me with all his heart. His love shows through his words, his face and his actions. He's always treated my mom and his girls like queens. He's honest, spiritual, caring, and helpful. He always has a smile and a word of encouragement. Growing up, he told us often that he loved us. He pushed us to improve but parented out of love. Unselfish, wise, forgiving....must I go on! He is one of the greatest!

Happy Father's Day!

Kim Aldridge, County Office

Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

County Extension Director Jeff Bradley

- Began the process of working toward the renovation of the Shiloh School Gymnasium into an educational auditorium to support the Livestock Educational Facility.
- Worked with beef producers to process cattle for consignment into the Value-Added Marketing program under the Mountain Cattle Alliance (MCA).
- Shipped two tractor trailer loads of MCA cattle out of the Livestock Educational Facility valued at \$229,000.
- Continued to assist producers with technical problems through office visits, phone calls, emails, and farm visits

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Submitted monthly news column to Daily Courier.
- Taught nutrition program in McDowell County.
- Met with Extension & Community Association Club.\
- Conducted monthly radio program.
- Taught Pickling Workshop.

Agriculture

- SET (Stronger Economies Together) Regional Grant, Foothills Partnership Meeting.
- Networking toward development/implementation of an economic development blueprint for Polk, McDowell & Rutherford Counties.
- Extension Master Gardener Training for Rutherford EMGV's.
- Finalizing WNC AgriVentures Feasibility Study for the Agriculture Innovation & Solutions Center with Advantage West.
- Consumer & Commercial Horticulture client requests for Rutherford County, assisting also with Polk Center requests.

Airport

The Airport sold 478.8 gallons of 100LL and 1,463.0 gallons of Jet A.

Pictured right, per Director Randy Patterson, “Our annual fuel meter proving was accomplished by Danny Stillwell of the NC Department of Agriculture recently.” He added, “We are required to have all our fuel pumps certified each year in order to sell fuel.”



Piper Aztec landing at the airport pictured left.



Board of Elections

Director Debbie Bedford and staff continue checking street lists from voter registrations against the county's GIS system to make sure all streets are correct in preparation for the new election year.

The BOE office received additional printers for use at the polling places. These printers will help speed up processing voters on election day.

The office processed 17 new voters and processed 75 updates and changes to existing registrations.

County Manager and Commissioners

The County Manager and Commissioners stayed very busy with an active week of numerous meetings, luncheons, and various other events. Several towns in the county held their monthly meetings. Manager Garrison held a Legislation Draft Discussion Meeting. Midweek, the Manager and family were involved in moving activities, getting settled into their home in Rutherford County. We welcome Mrs. Garrison and Emily to their new town!



Several were involved with the *Rise to the Challenge with STEM* meeting at the Foundation of the Performing Arts at ICC, seeking to bring together leaders from various sectors and communities to construct opportunities in the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) fields and connect these opportunities to the needs of our communities.

Congratulations to Commissioner Benfield on completing the 45-hour Protective Services Detail course through Isothermal Community College on June 19, 2015 (pictured).



Several departmental meetings were on the weekly schedule, including Tourism, Solid and Waste, Airport, Soil and Water, and EDC. The week continued with interoffice meetings, conference calls, public relations, advising, and preparation for various responsibilities.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Department attended numerous meetings including the EDC Board meeting and Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce meeting, as well as internal meetings with other county departments and industry allies. Economic Development staff continues to be busy following up with multiple industrial recruitment and expansion prospects, reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines, and continuing work on marketing and advertising efforts including print media and website content and updates.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- traveled to Lenoir to attend a Disaster Preparedness Region meeting where we made decisions about future equipment purchases.
- responded to three searches for missing persons along with Sheriff's Office and fire department personnel. Subjects were located quickly.
- performed equipment maintenance.
- followed up on investigative cases.
- Attended various meetings throughout the week.

Finance

The Finance Office continues working to close out the fiscal year and complete budget information related to the adopted budget. The Finance Officer and Assistant Director attended several interdepartmental meetings. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

Human Resources

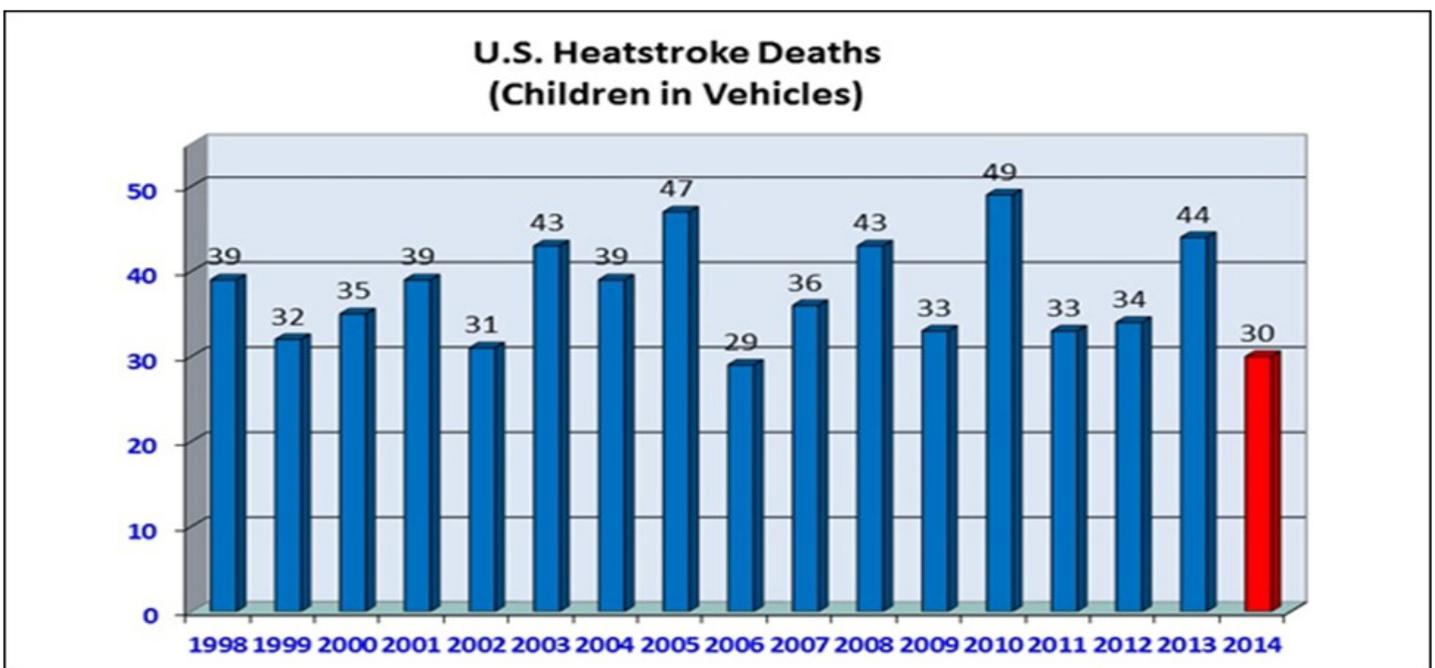
The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. Welcome new hires: Ashley Hunter (DSS), Amber Reeve (DSS), Caitlyn Smith, (TDA), and Brittany Hudson (DSS). Those that have left employment of Rutherford County are: Alex Drasser (p/t TDA), Jacob Wells (p/t TDA), Connie Dalziel (TDA), Blake Bostic (Planning), Merriom Oxley (DSS), and Caleb Alberts (EMS). Current vacancies are: Building Inspections, IT Analyst, and part time Transit, Cooperative Extension and EMS. Apply at Rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street.

Department enrollments went well, and thank you for making this a smooth, efficient transition.

June is Safety Awareness Month-reminders and safety tips will be sent out throughout the month. Please take advantage of reviewing safety videos with your staff this month. Videos may be checked out from the Human Resource Department.



Stay hydrated and safe this summer!! The high temperatures can really be dangerous. Please remember not to leave children or pets in vehicles as this is a leading cause of heatstroke deaths.



Library

Library Director:

The Director spent time preparing for the monthly meetings with library staff and consortium members, overseeing the new staff member's training, and looking at more efficient ways to handle donated materials. Summer reading had a great start this week with wonderful attendance at all three libraries!

Circulation Manager:

Dr. Drew Morris from Carolina Chiropractic Plus presented a Peak Energy Talk at the library on Monday, June 15th at 3:30pm. During this program, Dr. Morris presented seven steps that participants can take to increase energy levels and reduce stress levels in their daily lives.

IT Librarian:

Basic computer skills classes have begun at the branch libraries. The first classes at the Mountains Branch were held last Wednesday and the first classes at the Haynes Branch were held this Wednesday. Participants were excited to have the classes available and several have already signed up for the next round of classes which will be offered the beginning July 1st. The complete schedule of classes for all three library locations will be as follows:

Rutherford County Library

(Classes will be offered at 10am and 3pm on each day. Participants only need to sign up for one time.)

July 2 - Downloading ebooks and audiobooks from the library

July 9 - Digital Photos - Editing Online

July 16 - Computer Basics

July 23 - Email using Gmail

July 30 - Digital Photos - Storing Online

August 6 - Internet Basics

August 13 - Facebook Basics

August 20 - Downloading ebooks and audiobooks from the library

August 27 - Computer Basics

Haynes Branch Library

(Unless otherwise noted, classes will be offered at 10am and 2pm on each day. Participants only need to sign up for one time.)

July 8 - 10 am, Computer Basics

July 8 - 2 pm, Job Searching Online

July 22 - Downloading ebooks and audiobooks from the library

August 5 - Internet Basics

August 19 - Email using Gmail

Mountains Branch Library

(Unless otherwise noted, classes will be offered at 10am and 2pm on each day. Participants only need to sign up for one time.)

July 1 - 10 am, Job Searching Online

July 1 - 2 pm, Internet Basics

July 15 - Email using Gmail

July 29 - Downloading ebooks and audiobooks from the library

August 12 - Facebook Basics

August 26 - Digital Photos - Editing Online

Library continued from page 5

Youth Services Librarian:

The first week of the Summer Reading Program was a huge success with over 250 people attending and 165 children registering for the Heroes and She-Roes Reading Club. Registration will continue each week, with next week's program being our own local heroes--the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department and K-9 Officers. Programs are on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Haynes Branch Library, 12:30 p.m. at Rutherford County Library, and 3:30 p.m. at Mountains Branch Library. In addition to preparing for, conducting, and analyzing the Summer Programs, the Children's Librarian attended a staff meeting, attended a webinar on Virtual Story Times, and signed up for the Dental Program.

Haynes Branch Library:

Haynes proctored one student for tests on Monday and Kenneth held 2 computer classes at Haynes on Tuesday the 10th. Haynes had their 1st Summer reading program on Tuesday the 9th and had 75 in attendance.

Mountains Branch:

Mountains Branch Library welcomed Red Herring Puppets for our first 2015 Summer Reading Program, which was very well attended (pictured below). We registered many participants and also issued several new juvenile library cards. The Librarian made a school visit to Lake Lure Classical Academy to promote the Summer Reading Program. The Library hosted their first Summer Film and Discussion series with the POV documentary, Ping Pong.



2015
Rutherford County Libraries
Summer Reading Program

Free Programs for ages 2-12
each Tuesday (except July 4 week)

9:30 am Haynes Branch Library (141 N. Main St., Henrietta, 288-4039)
12:30 pm Rutherford County Library (255 Callahan-Koon Rd, Spindale 287-6115)
3:30 p.m. Mountains Branch Library (150 Bill's Creek Road, Lake Lure 287-6392)

June 16	Red Herring Puppets (www.redherringpuppets.com)
June 23	Rutherford County Sheriff Department and K-9 Officers
June 30	Steve Barr Cartoons (www.stevbarrcartoons.com) * 6:30 pm—Cartoonist Workshop at Rutherford Cty Library (ages 10-18)
July 7	No Program
July 14	Michael Beadle—Storyteller/Poet/Musician (www.michaelbeadle.com)
July 21	Bill Grimsley, Magician (www.billgrimsley.com) * 6:30 pm—Trivia Game Show at Rutherford Cty Library (ages 10-18)
July 28	Summer Reading Celebration Party with program by Miss Jeannie

Summer Reading Club

Reading is vital to the Summer Reading Program. Set your own goals. Get a Contract and Reading Record at the library and return by July 21. Read at or above your level and to pre-schoolers. Write titles completed on the Record. Certificates and prizes to be awarded at the final program July 28.



Register of Deeds

Transaction Group	Cash
Copies	\$ 39.00
Real Estate	13,851.00
Marriages	660.00
Certified Vitals Copies	2,310.00
Total	\$16,860.00

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department is working 4,609 September motor vehicle renewals and completed 56 motor vehicle VTS assists. The office answered 477 phone calls and assisted 249 customers. We completed four plat reviews, one project, two pre-permits and answered three data requests. Appraisers completed 197 field reviews. Transfers consisted of 11 straights, 4 merges, 5 splits, and 3 acreage adjustments. GIS created 11 new maps and 7 new ownership accounts. The GIS website had 157,522 hits and 107,428 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 8 new addresses and updated 14 addresses with new owner information. Part-time maintenance workers installed two new roads signs and completed maintenance on seven. The PUV program mailed six letters and assisted nine program members. Staff processed 6 exclusions/deferments, 3 discoveries and mailed out 10 listing form letters. Electronic payments consisted of 12 by website. Collection action consisted of 10 newspaper items. Staff completed 63 gross receipts/occupancy taxes, 4 payment plans, 0 bank drafts and 4 bankruptcy issues. In-person taxpayers at the counter brought in 498 tax payments. Nineteen new deeds were certified for recording purposes.



Welcome back, Rachel Bland (Revenue Department), from maternity leave! Ava Grace Bland is a gorgeous, healthy, happy baby (**pictured right**). John Bland, proud father, works for the Solids Department.

Senior Center

The Senior Center's "Silver Threads and Needles" participants assisted 4-H members with a class on learning to crochet. This intergenerational event with the 4-H group was on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings this week. On Monday, several of our seniors wore purple to observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Our Walking Club met on Tuesday and will be walking together at 8:45 a.m. each Tuesday morning. Also on Tuesday, our seniors enjoyed making smoothies and playing Butterbean Auction. Rutherford Regional Medical Center sponsored "Medical Bingo" on Wednesday. Following Bingo, Dr. Glover Little spoke on men's health issues for Men's Health Month. On Thursday, the seniors played one of the Center's favorite games - Chair Volleyball. The Center also sponsored another intergenerational event of Bowling with the Grandkids at Autumn Lanes. Lastly on Friday, the Senior Center will have the SCOPE team on site for our recertification as a Center of Excellence.

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist:

- met with the County Manager
- worked on meeting minutes and sent notices
- worked on end of year reports.

The Ag Cost Share Technician:

- had a meeting with the County Manager
- spent the week supervising construction of BMP's.

Solid Waste

Customers served 355

Hauls from convenience centers 61

Loads shipped to Lenoir 30

Recycling loads shipped to Conover 2

Tire customers 24

The Solid Waste Department has been busy this week with bid openings for used oil and anti-freeze and used cooking oil recycling. The director attended a tour of the Duke Energy plant in Cliffside. The office staff continues to work on year end information. Shop staff is maintaining work on equipment and performing preventative maintenance. Bush hogging continues at the central landfill (**pictured above right and below**), and the metal company continues to bale and haul the metal (**pictured below**). The transfer station is processing MSW and the recycling. Staff is also performing work at the centers and airport. The landfill is also looking into a grant to be able to recycle thermostats that contain mercury and we will also continue to recycle light bulbs.



The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

Open cases 8

Closed cases 2

Citations written 0

Letters sent 0

Pictures taken yes

Community service workers 3

Community service reports 1

Please continue to recycle!

Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS staff attended the Ambulance Billing and Coding Conference last week. Congratulations to Justin Moore and Jill Jones on becoming Certified Billing Coders. EMS also submitted a grant application to the RHI Legacy Foundation to help fund the Community Paramedic program.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	191	168
Convalescent Calls	51	59

Transit Department:

Transit staff attended the NC Public Transportation Association conference last week. Information was provided on funding sources, safety issues and both Federal and State updates. Transit also held their monthly safety meeting.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	10,146	10,056
# of Local Trips	1,072	1,149
# of Out of County Trips	97	81
# Unduplicated Passengers	254	241
Total Revenue	\$15,577	\$15,385

Congratulations to driver Gail Crawford on being selected as Employee of the Month.



Veterans Services

JUNE ACTIVITIES

- **Military Night @ Forest City Owls Game, Saturday, June 27th**

Mail In	59
Mail Out	28
Phone Calls In/Out	105
Veteran Contacts	206

County Commissioners

Bryan A. King, Chairman **Michael Benfield**
Alan Toney, Vice Chairman **Eddie Holland**

Steve Garrison, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board

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