

Campbell University's Jim Perry Stadium is home to the Buies Creek Astros, Harnett County's first professional baseball team, which will play in Buies Creek during the 2017 and 2018 seasons until the team's permanent home is completed in Fayetteville. The Astros currently have the best record in the Carolina League at 16-8.



Harnett County Welcomes First Pro Baseball Team

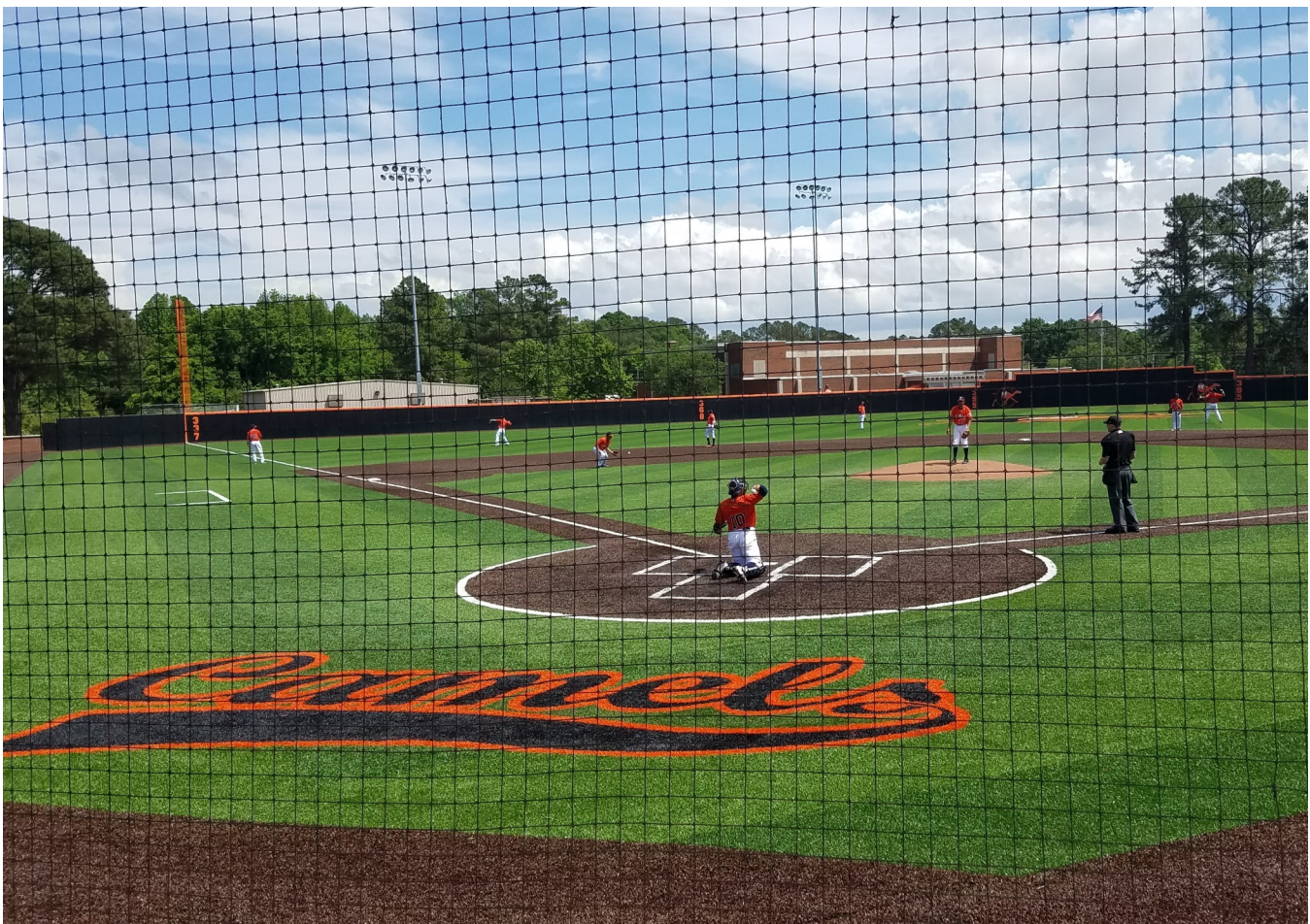
Harnett County is now home to a professional baseball team, even if it is for just two seasons. The Buies Creek Astros, Class A Advanced Affiliate of the Houston Astros, are playing the 2017 and 2018 Minor League seasons in Buies Creek at Campbell University's Jim Perry Stadium. The team is playing in Harnett County while they

wait for their permanent home in Fayetteville to be completed.

The Houston Astros organization announced last November that their Class A Advanced affiliate, which had been located in Lancaster, CA, since 2009, would be moving to Harnett County for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. The announcement was met with much

Keep up with Harnett County on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and go to www.harnett.org/publicinfo for news releases, important updates, a community calendar and other information.





Members of the Buies Creek Astros warm up during their April 30 game against the Wilmington Blue Rocks. The Astros play at Campbell University's Jim Perry Stadium, which is also home to the Fighting Camels and received an upgrade to accommodate the Minor League team including new synthetic turf, a new video board and expanded seating with the Jim and Daphne Perry Pavilion. The field is named for Jim Perry, who played baseball for Campbell from 1956 to 1959 and played Major League Baseball for 17 years, earning the American League Cy Young Award in 1970. Perry threw out the first pitch last month during the Astros' inaugural game.

fanfare by Campbell University and Harnett County.

"It's an everyday goal of ours to brand Campbell University to the nation, and the opportunity to introduce the Buies Creek Astros today is a major step," Campbell Director of Athletics Bob Roller said when the team was announced in November. "The improvements that are coming to Jim Perry Stadium are incredible. The Astros organization has been first class in every way as we have worked through this agreement, and we can't wait for opening day!"

The Astros kicked off their inaugural season in Buies Creek on Thursday, April 6 with a 5-3 win over the Winston-Salem Dash and then won five straight before suffering their first loss to the Myrtle Beach Pelicans.

At this point, 24 games into the season (as of May 1), the Astros own a 16-

8 record and sit atop the Carolina League's Southern Division, two games ahead of the Myrtle Beach Pelicans. They also own the overall best record in the Carolina League.

Jim Perry Stadium Upgraded

Jim Perry Stadium, which the Astros share with the Campbell University Fighting Camels, received a significant upgrade to accommodate the Astros. The Astros organization agreed to provide and install a new synthetic turf for the stadium. Additional improvements include a new video board and expanded seating including the new Jim and Daphne Perry Pavilion, which has added seating and patio.

The Campbell University Fighting Camels baseball program will benefit from the upgrades, even after the Astros have left the stadium. The upgrades also include new offices for the entire base-

ball staff, a state-of-the-art locker room and new in-ground dugouts.

Jim Perry Stadium was previously known as Taylor Field and dates back to the 1940s. In 2012, Campbell re-named the field for Jim Perry, who played baseball for Campbell from 1956 to 1959 and played Major League Baseball for 17 years, earning the American League Cy Young Award in 1970. Perry threw out the first pitch last month during the Astros' inaugural game.

The Astros 2017 regular season will run through Monday, Sept. 4, allowing local fans plenty of opportunities to catch the team over the summer during their inaugural season.

For more information on the Buies Creek Astros including a schedule for the 2017 season, roster, stats, news, tickets, team store and other items, go to www.buiescreekastros.com.

County Kicks Off Earth Day Weekend with Reopening of Campbell Convenience Site



Harnett County was proud to partner with Campbell University on April 21 to cut the ribbon on the new Campbell Convenience Site at 117 Kivett Road, Buies Creek. County leaders were joined by officials from Campbell as well as Republic Services, the State of North Carolina and students from Buies Creek Elementary. The new site offers household trash collection and commingled recycling, as well as book and textile recycling. The site features self-contained compactors, which are more sanitary and offer a more pleasant appearance than the traditional open-top containers. For more information, go to www.harnett.org/waste/.



Want to know about events taking place in Harnett County each month? Check out the Harnett County Community Calendar at www.harnett.org/publicinfo. And if you know of an event that should be on the calendar and isn't, email information to bhane@harnett.org.

County Leaders Complete Campbell's Mini Medical School

The Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine held a 'graduation' ceremony for members of the 2017 "Mini Medical School" on April 25. The 2017 class included five Harnett County officials: Commissioner Barbara McKoy, Deputy Manager Paula Stewart, Finance Officer Kimberly Honeycutt, Economic Developer Nick Dula and Sheriff's Sgt. Aaron Meredith. The six-week program allows citizens to experience medical school at Campbell University.



County Participates in FEMA Exercise at Emergency Operations Center



Harnett County Emergency Services Director Jimmy Riddle addresses county employees in the Harnett County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the April 26 Graded FEMA EOC Drill. The drill is held to increase the County's emergency preparedness by simulating an incident at Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant in Wake County. The drill is performed in cooperation with Duke Energy, which operates the plant, along with officials from Wake, Lee and Chatham counties, as well as the North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Upcoming Events

- Harnett County Human Resources will hold open enrollment for the 2017-18 benefits year May 1, 2, 3, 10 and 11. All full-time employees are required to attend an open enrollment session. Employees should have received an email with a link to sign up for an open enrollment session. Contact Human Resources at (910) 893-7567 with any questions.
- The Harnett County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) will hold its annual Senior Fair Thursday, May 11 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Dunn Community Center at 205 Jackson Road, Dunn. For more information on the Senior Fair, contact the Harnett County Division on Aging at (910) 893-7579.
- Harnett County Animal Services will host an Animal Health Fair Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on East Front Street in Lillington. Residents are encouraged to come out and bring their pets to get a rabies vaccination for \$6; to meet local veterinary staff, businesses, nonprofit animal rescues and Animal Services staff; and to learn about pet nutrition and emergency preparation.

If you know of any important events for future months that should be included in this newsletter, email information to bhaney@harnett.org.

Human Resources Corner

The Benefits of Working Beyond Traditional Retirement Age

These days, it's common to work beyond the normal retirement age of 65 or 67. Working longer means continuing a lifestyle you've come to enjoy as well as the paycheck which helps support that lifestyle. However, a paycheck isn't always the only reason to keep working. Don't forget about employer-sponsored benefits like insurance and continued contributions to retirement. Those perks can be worth hundreds or even thousands of dollars. So, before your co-workers plan your retirement farewell party, here are three reasons you may want to keep working longer.

Keep your health insurance

Health insurance through your employer can often be cheaper than Medicare and provide more comprehensive coverage. Also, not everything is covered under Medicare. So

keeping health coverage through your employer for as long as possible is likely going to allow you to spend less money on medical needs. This health coverage is especially valuable if your spouse is under 65 and they are on your health plan.

Keep life and disability insurance

The importance of life and disability insurance can get overlooked. If you don't have a life insurance policy outside of your employer, then obtaining coverage at a retirement age of 65 or 67 may not be cheap.

Also, as you age, you may have more physical disabilities. Keeping your disability insurance for as long as possible will help you financially if you were to suffer from an unexpected illness or injury.

Keep saving for retirement

As long as you're working, you will

not have to withdraw money from your current employer-sponsored pension or 401(k) plan — regardless of your age. Plus, both you and your employer can continue contributing to your account. This way you'll be able to stash away more savings for the day you do hit your preferred retirement age.

Retirement is all about getting to do the things you couldn't do while working. Once retired, you'll hopefully live the lifestyle you've been dreaming of — traveling, finding new hobbies, or spoiling the grandkids. But remember, there's nothing wrong with taking a little longer to get there.

Article provided by Local Government Federal Credit Union. The advice provided is for informational purposes only. Consult a financial advisor for additional guidance.

Boone Trail Community Center & Library Scheduled to Open Monday, May 1

Harnett County Parks and Recreation is proud to announce that the Boone Trail Community Center & Library will officially open to the public Monday, May 1.

The community center is located at the Old Boone Trail School site at 8500 Old U.S. 421, Lillington, in the Mamers community. The Boone Trail Community Center & Library will operate Monday through Friday from 3 to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Beginning Monday, June 12, after Harnett County Schools have released for the summer, hours will expand to 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and will remain 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Boone Trail Community

Center will offer numerous programs including Yoga, Zumba, POUND, Senior Tai Chi, Canvas Painting, Summer Day Camps for children, CPR Hands-Only Courses and more. For additional information and a complete list of program offerings, go to www.harnett.org/parkrec.

The site will also serve as a satellite location of the Harnett County Public Library and will accommodate book pickup and drop-off through the NC Cardinal system (www.nccardinal.org).

The Boone Trail Community Center will host free trial classes of POUND and Yoga Monday, May 1 at 5:45 and 6:45 p.m. Harnett County will hold an official grand open-

ing for the community center on a future date that has yet to be announced.

The launch of the Boone Trail Community Center & Library is a continuation of efforts to bring more recreational opportunities to residents across Harnett County. The Harnett County Board of Commissioners adopted a 15-year Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan on March 20, which identifies gaps in recreation programs and facilities across Harnett County and provides recommendations for addressing them.

For more information, contact Recreation Program Supervisor Drew Bryant at (910) 893-7518 or at wbryant@harnett.org.

May Employee Birthdays

The following Harnett County employees and board members celebrate birthdays in May. Please join us in wishing these employees a happy birthday.

May 1	Mary Anna Troster (EMS)		Shannon Autry (Tax)
	Andrew Currin (Health)		Jerelene McLean (Transportation)
	William Herring (Sheriff's Office)	19	Patricia McKoy (Cooperative Extension)
	Mayra Franco (Social Services)		Cynthia Humke (Register of Deeds)
2	Andrew Jones (Public Utilities)	20	Joseph Combs (EMS)
	Jeffrey Smith (Sheriff's Office)		Richard Kennedy (Public Utilities)
3	Johnny Allen (EMS)		Amanda Duntz (Library)
4	Michael Gray (EMS)		Brian Hayes (Sheriff's Office)
5	Michael Hayes (Sheriff's Office)	21	Janet Holder (EMS)
6	Suzanne Prince (Development Services)		Karen Hamilton (Public Utilities)
	Charlotte Leach (Joblink)		Tracy Bagnato (Library)
7	Benjamin Thomas (Parks & Recreation)		Christopher Zimmerman (Sheriff's Office)
	Jannie Sykes (Social Services)		Sharon Booker (Social Services)
8	Pamela Goodman Amerson (General Svcs.)		Sonya Cissell (Social Services)
	Jason Overby (Sheriff's Office)	22	Bennie Williams (EMS)
9	William Surlles (Sheriff's Office)		Peggy Barefoot (Tax)
	Sheley Eldridge (Health)	23	Yolanda Crocker (Social Services)
	Crystal Hernandez (Social Services)		Charles Smith (Tax)
10	Betty Wright (Social Services)	24	Toby Guy (Development Services)
	Timothy Adamaszek (Social Services)		John Ammons (EMS)
11	Gertrude Choosakul (Sheriff's Office)		Aaron Meredith (Sheriff's Office)
	Sarah McNeill (Parks & Recreation)	25	Kaitlyn Hinkle (EMS)
	Michael McCoy (Sheriff's Office)		Amanda Bader (Solid Waste)
12	Joseph Nelson (EMS)	26	Tonia Johnston (Social Services)
	Tracy Hamby (Sheriff's Office)		Jacqueline Thomas (Social Services)
13	Kathleen Collins (Parks & Recreation)		Kelly Vaughan (Social Services)
14	Hunter Johnston (EMS)		Lasharal Blue-Hart (Joblink)
	Donna Surlles (Health)	27	Zane Campbell (EMS)
	Brandie Horton-Mosley (Social Services)		Tammy Ward (GIS)
	Carolyn Brown (Solid Waste)		Donna Petty (Social Services)
16	Ruth McNeill (Social Services)	28	Christopher Knox (EMS)
	Erika Padrick (Social Services)		Zachary Fernandez (EMS)
	Eric Truesdale (Veterans Services)		Janet Tucker (Public Buildings)
17	Jennifer Dalton (Animal Services)	29	Jacob Cox (EMS)
	Kimberly Lee (Sheriff's Office)	30	Gregory Huneycutt (Cooperative Extension)
	Mary Smith (Transportation)		Pamela Walker (Transportation)
18	James Hooper (Sheriff's Office)	31	Cheryl Little (Social Services)

Employment Anniversaries

The following Harnett County employees celebrate employment anniversaries in May 2017. Please join us in congratulating them on reaching this public service milestone.

5 years	Kimberly Baker (Tax)	15 years	David Baker (Solid Waste)
10 years	Jay Sikes (Development Services)	25 years	Letitia Maynor (Finance)
	Kristine Johnson (Social Services)	30 years	Graham Byrd (Health)
	Franklin Williams (Solid Waste)		Betty Wright (Social Services)

June Employee Birthdays

The following Harnett County employees and board members celebrate birthdays in June. Please join us in wishing these employees a happy birthday.

June 1	Lillie King (Transportation)	18	Dwayne Rich (EMS)
2	Kevin Jackson (IT)		Monica Haithcock (Health)
	Nakia Benjamin (Social Services)		Pansy Monroe (Restitution)
	Kimberly Rogers (Social Services)		Amber Coats (Social Services)
3	Gregory Taylor (Sheriff's Office)	19	Daniel Thomas (Public Utilities)
	David Dowdy (Sheriff's Office)		Auston Williams (Health)
	Michael Weaver (Sheriff's Office)		Lori Craven (Social Services)
	Ronald Lackey (Sheriff's Office)	21	Robert Barefoot (EMS)
4	Shalonda Blue (IT)		Annette Johnson (Health)
	Terry Edwards (Transportation)		Yolanda Massey (Health)
5	Brian Keas (Public Utilities)		Joshua Smith (Sheriff's Office)
	Dina Barefoot (Sheriff's Office)	22	Corey Taylor (EMS)
6	Matthew Healy (Sheriff's Office)		Lawrence Smith (General Services)
	Bradley Abate (Sheriff's Office)	23	Mary House (Sheriff's Office)
	Sean Stewart (Sheriff's Office)		Jacob Baird (Sheriff's Office)
7	Helen Phillips (Social Services)	24	Hyon Hwang (Public Utilities)
8	Timothy Lloyd (Sheriff's Office)		Timothy Stewart (Sheriff's Office)
	Leslie Jackson (Emergency Services)		Amanda Dunn (Social Services)
	Machele Hayfron (Social Services)	25	Joshua Legan (Sheriff's Office)
9	Frances Matthews (Sheriff's Office)		Stephanie Artis (Register of Deeds)
	Shaneka Duckworth (Social Services)		Jamie Zamora (Social Services)
	Steven Sorsch (Social Services)	26	Jeffrey Johnson (Emergency Services)
10	Tracy Strickland (Emergency Services)		Maxwell Taylor (Sheriff's Office)
	Alexander Belanovich (EMS)	27	Stephen Worley (EMS)
	Shannon Fink (EMS)		Nancy Tart (Sheriff's Office)
	Tammy Smith (Health)		Matthew Perez (Sheriff's Office)
11	Patricia Rivera (Transportation)		Larry Thomas (Solid Waste)
12	Erin Brown (Health)	28	William Imbriale (EMS)
	Mary Galbreath (Transportation)		Avis Watkins-Smith (Health)
13	John Colvin (Social Services)		Joshua Christensen (Sheriff's Office)
14	Keithy McNeill (Public Utilities)		Storm Odom (Sheriff's Office)
	Tracy Messenger (Public Utilities)		Angela Montgomery (Social Services)
	Ardith Eyring (Library)		Jessica Drake (Transportation)
	Steven Bond (Sheriff's Office)	29	Benjamin Wood (Sheriff's Office)
15	Shannon Eason (Administration)	30	William Lamm (Emergency Services)
	Susan Connolly (EMS)		Teresa Gill (Finance)
	William Moss (Public Utilities)		Jessie Arnold (Fleet Maintenance)
	Anthony Dickens (Public Utilities)		Michael Stinecipher (Sheriff's Office)
	Staci Parker (Social Services)		James Reagan (Sheriff's Office)
16	James Manhart (Health)		Wanda Wilkerson (Social Services)
17	Yvonne McArthur (Tax)		

Employment Anniversaries

The following Harnett County employees celebrate employment anniversaries in June 2017. Please join us in congratulating them on reaching this public service milestone.

5 years	Dwayne Rich (EMS)	Harold Manning (Public Utilities)
	Benjamin Winstead (Sheriff's Office)	Christopher Zimmerman (Sheriff's Office)
	Princess Mercer (Social Services)	25 years
10 years	Jonathan Stone (Fleet Maintenance)	Tammy Ward (GIS)
		Lettie Jones (Social Services)

Parks & Rec Holds Easter Event at Boone Trail Community Center



Nearly 400 residents attended the Community Easter Event, which was held April 15 at the Boone Trail Community Center. Citizens were treated to an Easter egg hunt, egg drop challenge, inflatables and games, and a smokehouse provided by the Boone Trail Fire Department, along with a hot dog lunch. The event was held as a partnership between Harnett County Parks & Recreation, Antioch Baptist Church and Woodside United Methodist Church. Harnett County Public Library staff also attended to help residents register for library cards and to publicize the satellite library location which will soon open at the Community Center. Harnett County Parks & Recreation and the Harnett County Public Library are partnering to offer recreational, cultural and library programming at the Old Boone Trail School site on Old U.S. 421 with additional programming set to start in May. For more information on the Boone Trail Community Center and Harnett County Parks & Recreation, go to www.harnett.org/parkrec/.

May 2017 Commissioners Meetings and Closings

May 1 — Commissioners Meeting, 9 a.m.

May 15 — Commissioners Meeting, 7 p.m.

May 30 — Commissioners Work Session, 9 a.m.

May 9 — Commissioners Work Session **CANCELED**

May 29 — Closed, Memorial Day