

Scotland County

Monthly



FEBRUARY 2012

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Barracuda application blocks non-business related websites

By the end of February County employees will notice access to certain websites will be blocked by a Barracuda web filter.

Barracuda web filter is an integrated content filtering, application blocking and malware protection solution. It enforces Internet usage policies by blocking access to websites and Internet applications that are not related to business. It eliminates spyware and other forms of malware.

County Manager Kevin Patterson explained the Barracuda application and why it is being used instead of Symantec Endpoint Protection.

Q: What is Barracuda?

A: Barracuda is a computer that sits on the network and monitors the flow of information across the network and across the Internet. It was acquired for antivirus protection.

Our annual antivirus subscription Semantec/Norton Antivirus costs
see Barracuda, page 3

Live on Main will focus on County business, activities every month



Left to right, Gary Gallman and Justin McNickle, WLNC, with Chairman Bob Davis and County Manager Kevin Patterson.

WLNC Radio will dedicate a *Live on Main* program to County business and activities once a month.

The program will feature a County Commissioner and a staff person the morning after each regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Bob Davis and County Manager Kevin Patterson were the first County guests to be featured in February. The two responded to questions by Gary Gallman of WLNC as well as several emails relayed to the radio station during the 60-minute *Live on Main* segment.

The *Live on Main* venue will provide opportunity for County elected officials and staff to give WLNC listeners an update on business covered during the monthly meetings, current issues and ongoing projects being conducted by the County.

How the Commissioners plan to build on fund balance and how property and sales tax affect budget planning were the main topics covered in February.

Partnerships emphasized at State of the County event



County Manager Kevin Patterson, right, responds to questions during the State of the City/County event.

The County is going through a transition, one that will bring about creation of more public/private partnerships in order to provide services to the community.

County Manager Kevin Patterson discussed transitions and partnerships during the annual State of the County and City event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

"The new normal doesn't exist yet" Patterson said. "The term is used because no one can explain why the economic recovery hasn't kicked in yet. For Scotland County, the new normal is day to day."

Patterson said the new normal is about facing the realities of a sluggish economy. "We know things are going to change going forward based on State and federal requirements and whether or not those requirements will be funded."

He added, "The mission won't change but how we deliver and fund services will change."

Patterson predicted the delivery of human services will change over the next five years. "The County will not be a one-stop shop."

He explained that the provision of services to a community will depend on agreements with other public and private organization to serve community needs.

Economic Developer Greg Icard presented a summary of 2011 local activities to attract industry, grow jobs and facilitate expansion of current businesses.

Manufacturing prospects in 2011, according to Icard, were thinking big. "Industries were looking for large pieces

see Chamber, page 2

Four counties will participate in Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

by Roylin Hammond, EMS

The Atkins Group held the kick-off meeting for the Anson, Richmond, Montgomery, Scotland County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The meeting was in Rockingham and was attended by representatives from all four counties and from municipalities within those counties.



Personnel from four counties attend a kick-off meeting.

The Atkins Group, a consulting firm from Raleigh, is the contractor who will coordinate and produce the regional plan for the four counties.

Scotland County was well represented at the meeting with personnel from Scotland County, the City of

Laurinburg, the town of Gibson and the Chamber of Commerce in attendance.

The plan will take about 10 months to complete and should be available for approval by all local governments by late 2012.

The new plan will allow all participating governing bodies to be eligible for federal hazard mitigation funding that may become available for the next five years.

Program variety keeps community active at Wagram Recreation Center

Since it opened in November 2010 the Wagram Recreation Center averages nearly 600 participants monthly, mostly from those who want to use the gymnasium. Nearly 300 people monthly use the fitness room.

Wagram Center Supervisor Lakisha Williams said the Center started with a blank slate and grew to offer programs and activities that would appeal to people of all ages.

Weekly activities include game room, fitness classes, adult card games and GED classes, offered through Richmond Community College.

Parents Night Out, Kid's Kitchen, Wagram Café and Ray's Crafts are regular monthly events.

Williams continues to look for activities and programs at the Recreation Center that would further engage and benefit the community.

Upcoming special seasonal events include an Easter Egg Hunt and Back to School Kick-Off. In 2011 Fall-o-Ween attracted 105 youth while 17 volunteers assisted. Thanksgiving Field Day entertained 39 people while 77 enjoyed Breakfast with Santa.

Among the miscellaneous activities held at the Wagram Recreation Center were Senior Games and Scots for Youth meetings, Grandparents Support Group, cake decorating classes and the Summer Feeding Program. The Center also is used as the new voting precinct in Wagram.

In 2011, the classrooms were rented 22 times while the gymnasium was rented 10 times.

Williams said she continually is on the look out for new and interesting programs that will engage people living in the Wagram community.

Photos tell our story. The main page of the Scotland County website features nine rotating billboard photos that attempt to portray the quality of life in the community. Employees and residents are encouraged to submit photos — horizontal in jpg format — that tell the County's story in a positive way from work and/or personal experiences. Email photo submissions to akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org.

Our condolences to ...

Mike McGirt, Public Buildings, on the January 31 passing of his uncle, Telford McGirt; **Charles Nichols**, Administration, on the February 1 passing of his brother, Joseph Nichols; **Rebecca Griffin**, DSS, on the January 30 passing of her mother-in-law, Mildred Griffin; **Amy Richburg**, Soil and Water Conservation, on the February 5 passing of her grandfather; **Nicole Robinson**, DSS, on the February 12 passing of her grandfather-in-law.

Chamber-hosted event spotlights economy

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of property for large investments and and larger employee numbers."

Icard said, "The County has (big) sites, and the Department of Commerce is starting to pay attention to that."

Icard worked on 16 projects in 2011 — 11 were new, three were expansions and two were carry overs from 2010. There was one announced expansion — FCC — with a \$10 million investment and the creation of 30 additional jobs.

"Existing industries play a vital and important role in economic development," Icard said.

Officials will break ground next month on the small business center, a 15,000-square-foot facility that will serve as a one-stop shop for the launch of small businesses.

Icard said in the past the way to attract industry was through incentives. He said priorities have shifted and businesses today are looking for two things — education of the workforce and cost of the workforce.

City Manager Ed Burchins reported on major goals and projects the City intends to pursue.

He said enhancing public safety methods, improving lighting, especially in neighborhoods, and enhancing water infrastructure will be a City focus. Burchins, too, said the provision of services become streamlined through new and existing partnerships.

the Birthday list for March

1 Bud McAllister (Inspections); **2** April Dorsett (EMS); **4** Catherine Stubbs (Tax); **6** Nancy Pittman (DSS) and Latoya Williams (Sheriff); **7** Raymond Moody (Parks and Recreation), Felisa McKeithan (Transportation) and Jeffrey Cooke (Sheriff); **8** Leslie Scott (DSS); **9** Tanya Graves (DSS) and Gloria Mair (EMS); **12** June Hunt (EMS); **13** Alice Morgan (DSS) and Phyllis Clark (Health); **14** Mary White (EMS) and Jimmy Hall (DSS); **16** Annie Malloy (Health) and Malcolm McLellan (Jail); **18** Jonathan Simmons (Jail); **19** Jennifer O'Donnell (DSS); **20** Gracie Rettig (Transportation); **22** Kitty Johnson (Health); **24** Mary Helen Norton (Tax), Augusta Roper (Public Buildings), Rhonda Cox and Elizabeth Shutt (DSS), Linda Jones (Transportation) and Oscar Henderson (EMS); **25** Tammy Garcia (EMS); **27** Solomon Baxley (EMS).

Horne a guest at Scotia

A neighborhood can be changed for the better one individual at a time. It just takes pride in community and spreading the word.

That was the message delivered by Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Bobby "J.R." Horne to a group of Scotia Village staff and residents.

Horne thanked attendees for doing their part to keep the Scotia Village community clean. "You make a difference when you pick up trash. No one should have to pick up other people's trash, but that's the way it is."

see Scotia, page 4

FirstHealth agreement benefits EMS operations

Daily a FirstHealth emergency vehicle is stationed at Scotland Memorial Hospital. Its mission is to transport people suffering a stroke or a cardiac situation to other facilities in the region.

"It transports people who need a higher level of care" explained EMS Director Roylin Hammond.

He added, "In cases of stroke or cardiac situation, getting to definitive care in as rapid a time as possible is extremely important."

He should know. In December, Hammond was one of those patients. He was transported directly to the cath lab at Moore Regional Hospital.

"The window for a cardiac arrest where someone is taken to a cath lab is 90 minutes from onset to the time the medical team is able to remove the blockage," Hammond explained. "I was transported directly to the cath lab where a medical team was waiting. It worked as well as it could possibly work."

"The FirstHealth vehicle is at Scotland Memorial Hospital as part of a mutual aid agreement to do interagency transports if they are available," Hammond said.

"It just makes more sense because it doesn't take our ambulances out of our jurisdiction, and Scotland County EMS can still do what its supposed to do."

The FirstHealth emergency vehicle operates from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day and responds to calls from Scotland Memorial Hospital. In January alone, the FirstHealth emergency vehicle transported 44 patients to Moore Regional, Carolinas Medical Center, UNC Hospitals, New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Womack Army Medical Center and Charlotte Medical Center Mercy.

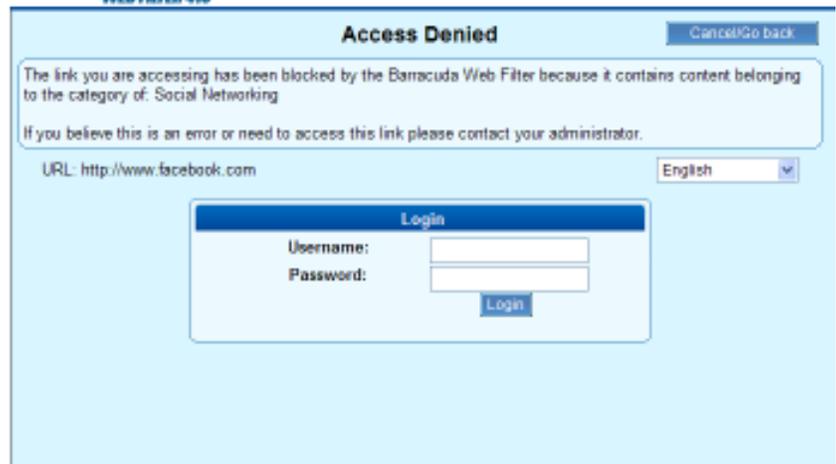
Hammond said FirstHealth consistently transports about 45 patients monthly to other regional medical centers during its hours of operation in Scotland County.

Hammond said he would like to see FirstHealth stationed at Scotland Memorial Hospital 24/7 but economics probably prevent that from happening.

**Save the date for the Red Cross Blood Drive
12:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 29
507 West Covington Street**

Barracuda limits website access, protects the County from viruses

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When you see this message, access to a website is blocked.

around \$8,500 a year. Barracuda is a more practical solution. It costs around \$9,000, but it's a one-time cost that will pay for itself within two years.

Q: How does the installation of Barracuda impact employees?

A: Employees won't notice the antivirus aspect, but when a virus does show up, it will actually track it down to a computer. IT staff can actually go in and address that system rather than try to hunt around.

It will restrict access to certain Internet sites, especially those sites that are great at carrying viruses. Facebook is a great avenue for viruses to infect computers. The system will limit it and a number of shopping sites.

Q: What would you say to employees who might be unhappy about this change?

A: Right now we have viruses that have hit our system on almost a weekly basis. Every time that happens, it slows down an employee and the work they do, and it is frustrating. If we can use Barracuda and avoid a number of viruses we're already catching, it would more than make up for lost work hours.

The other issue is it prevents the illegal download of movies and music. This device will allow us more effectively to block that.

Q: What if an employee is blocked from a website that he/she might need to do the job? Is there a way to rectify that?

A: They send the website they need to access to IT. There will be some business sites when Barracuda is implemented that you can't go to for whatever reason. The system is not 100 percent infallible, so those websites can be added to the profile so an employee can get to the site.

Q: What can employees expect from now on?

A: There will be websites people have gone to that they are not going to be able to go to anymore, like facebook, travel sites, instant messaging. A lot of that will be significantly reduced.

Q: What about people signing on as guests and using their laptops?

A: There will be profiles set up in certain areas. The public who want to go to the Library and go to facebook, for instance, will have access. There will be certain areas where it will be allowed.

Q: What are the benefits of Barracuda?

A: This is actually protection for the County. Whenever we get notification that someone illegally downloaded movies or songs the County is at risk. We could actually be found criminally liable for other people using the network to illegally download movies and songs. An illegally downloaded movie could easily cost the County \$50,000 per movie.

News of Note

Shred-It and Operation Medicine Drop will once again join forces 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, March 17, to give citizens a no-cost, one-stop opportunity to protect themselves from identity theft and to prevent accidental poisonings.

The two events will take place at the Scotland High School parking lot. Shred-It will continue until 12 p.m. or until the two trucks are filled, whichever occurs first.

Rid your home of paper clutter with sensitive information and prescription and outdated drugs that are no longer needed.



Veterans' garden planned

A Veterans' Garden will be developed by American Post 50 to honor all veterans who served the United States during peace, conflict and war. Commemorative bricks inscribed with the names of veterans are being sold to fund the project. The bricks will be on permanent display at the garden, located at the American Legion Post 50 home. Anyone who would like to purchase a commemorative brick or would like more information is asked to call 910-610-5204. Commemorative brick sales will end May 31.

Advice given on tennis court upkeep

During the winter months the soft courts are subject to the freeze and thaw effect. If the soft courts are wet/mushy, please don't use them because footprints left in the court are difficult to get out. Also, when sweeping the courts after play, please sweep the entire court including the area behind the baseline as any unswept indentations will freeze up and leave the courts uneven.

Register for baseball, softball, t-ball

It's time to register for baseball, softball and t-ball. Registration is open to boys ages 5 to 12 and girls ages 5 to 15. Registration at Scotland Place, Turnpike Road, is February 27 to March 2, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration at Wagram Recreation Center will be Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration at Laurel Hill Community Center is Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration is available online at www.scotlandcounty.org. Fee is \$15 per player for Scotland County residents and \$35 for out of County residents. There is a \$5 additional fee for late registrations the week of March 5 to 9.

Being green earns recognition

One church, one business and one home in Laurinburg earned recognition for being green by the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce and the Green Committee. Receiving the 2011 Highlander Awards for their landscaping and/or "green" approach to conservation efforts such as recycling and energy efficiencies were St. Mary Catholic Church, Joe and Debbie Grant and Service Thread Manufacturing. Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. "Bobby" Horne is involved with the Highlander Award as a Green Committee member.

Earth and Arbor days celebrated in schools

Earth Day will be celebrated in classrooms around the County beginning March 1 with 45-minute presentations to let kids know that Earth Day is a special day. Every year it is celebrated April 22 as a reminder to recycle, pick up trash and plant trees and flowers to make the earth look beautiful and to help keep it clean. Scotland Soil and Water staff will assist each grade level in doing two crafts and provide them and their teachers with handouts, bookmarks, door hangers and pencils. Also in March, Soil and Water will help 4th graders celebrate Arbor Day, which is March 18, by planting dogwoods. This is the first year all County schools will participate. Students will dig the holes, plant and water the seedlings. Kids will share why it is important to have trees, and they will be taught how to take care of the trees.



Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Bobby "J.R." Horne was a featured speaker at Scotia Village.

Scotia Village thanked for keeping community clean

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Horne and Laurinburg City Solid Waste Enforcement Coordinator Tony Strickland were the featured speakers at a thank-you lunch for Scotia Village staff and residents who volunteer to keep their community clean and recycle.

Horne said, "People who don't respect themselves won't respect their community or keep it clean. That's why a community depends on volunteers like you."

Horne advised volunteers to face traffic when picking up trash along the roadway and to wear protective gear like gloves and reflective vests, which are available through the NC Department of Transportation.

Both Horne and Strickland urged attendees to be litter watchdogs. "If you see areas where a problem exists, call and let us know. We'll go by and check it out," Horne said.

He invited the attendees to participate in the Saturday, April 28 Litter Sweep. There will be cash awards for those volunteers who pick up the most trash.