

# Scotland County

## Monthly



JANUARY 2012

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

## Hagan kicks off Back to Work Tour

U.S. Senator Kay Hagan kicked off a statewide Back to Work Tour January 27 in Scotland County. Following a visit to Service Thread, Hagan met with an estimated 40 residents and community leaders for one-on-one conversations to gauge local needs and concerns.



**Left to right, U.S. Senator Kay Hagan speaks with Holly Russell, Parks and Recreation, Rev. Howard Whitehurst, Senior Tar Heel Legislative delegate, and Shannon Newton, Parks and Recreation.**

Hagan said the top concern was “jobs, jobs, jobs.”

“People want to work and they want partisanship set aside so that will happen.”

She added, “We cannot wait until another election to make a change.”

Hagan said it is important to extend payroll tax cuts so people will have extra money in their pockets every month, ensure military bases and

veterans are protected and work to address the debt and deficit.

She said \$4 trillion must be cut from the federal budget, but it must be done in a smart way to protect investments and provide a long term vision for businesses who must plan their own futures.

## 2011 W-2 form explained

Starting in tax year 2011 the Affordable Care Act requires employers to report the cost of coverage under an employer-sponsored group health plan.

The reporting is for information purposes only to show employees the value of their health care benefits so they can be informed consumers.

The amount reported does not affect tax liability, as the value of the employer contribution to health coverage continues to be excludable from an employee’s income, and is not taxable.

Interpreting the W-2 Wage and Tax Statement can be a challenge.

Since the W-2 accompanies the January paycheck, listed below are some items to keep in mind.

Box #1 of the W-2, “Wages, tips and other compensation” will not match the gross earnings figure found on your monthly paycheck. That’s because the figure in box #1 of the W-2 includes only the amount earned that is subject to federal and state tax withholdings.

In other words, the federal taxable wages found in Box #1 equals the gross amount minus travel,

**see W-2 form, page 3**

## Commissioners recognize Fighting Scots with proclamation

A proclamation signed by all seven Commissioners was presented to the Scotland High School Fighting Scots varsity football team and coaches in honor of their State championship.

The Fighting Scots, with a 15 to 0 undefeated season, won the 4-A State Championship 42 to 16 during a December 3 showdown with Porter Ridge Pirates at BB&T Field in Winston Salem. It was the first State championship win for the football team in the history of Scotland High School.

Chairman Bob Davis read from the proclamation at the official presentation January 4, excerpts of which included:

“Whereas, the Fighting Scots demonstrated unwavering determination, agility on the field and competitive excellence, and...

“Whereas, the Scotland County Board of Commissioners applauds and expresses its sincere appreciation to the Scotland High School head football coach and assistant coaches for nurturing the Fighting Scots football team and paving the way for its stellar performance.

“Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Board of Commissioners commends the Fighting Scots and their coaches for their pursuit of excellence and for the prestige they brought the students of Scotland High School and the citizens of Scotland County as a State Championship Team.”

In accepting the proclamation Head Coach Chip Williams credited the support of all of Scotland County for making the win possible. He said, “From the fans to supporting our kids to doing whatever they can to help, our community has been unreal, probably more so than any place I’ve ever been.”



**Chairman Bob Davis, left, presents a proclamation to the Fighting Scots football team and their coaches. Head Coach Chip Williams, second from left, accepted on behalf of the team and coaches.**

## EMS Director Hammond advises health issues trump schedules

When Roylin Hammond got winded carrying a box down a flight of steps to the point where he had to sit, he sensed something was not quite right.

With Christmas approaching and a retirement reception scheduled for his wife, former City of Laurinburg Clerk Dee Hammond, the EMS Director ignored the symptoms.

Two weeks later, Hammond suffered a heart attack.

Up until then Hammond went about his business and was fine until the following week. "I walked 200 feet from EMS to the Transportation building and I was out of breath. It happened a few more times, and then nothing for a week until I woke up in the middle of the night with pain in my shoulders."

When it didn't get better, Hammond went to EMS so paramedics could run an EKG on him. The EKG showed a normal sinus rhythm with some irregularities, but it did not indicate he was having a heart attack.

EMS transported him to Scotland Memorial Hospital because his blood pressure was exceptionally high. After running several tests, which were inconclusive, medical staff recommended he stay for 24-hour observation.

"I chose to leave the hospital against medical advice," Hammond said. "I signed myself out. As a health care administrator, I thought I knew what I was doing."

Hammond did agree to see his general practitioner first thing in the morning for a check up and to arrange an appointment with a cardiologist. But Hammond asked to see the cardiologist after Christmas. "At the time, my blood pressure was lower, and I felt no pain. I felt fine until that evening."

While at EMS Hammond said, "I was sitting at the computer, and I got to feeling less than good. I got to feeling lightheaded and, eventually, nauseated. I broke out in a cold sweat. There was no pain. Those were the symptoms."

Hammond asked the paramedics if they would run another EKG on him. "I was not looking good to them. They grabbed me and laid me down."

"My blood pressure was 50 over 30, and my pulse rate was 26. The paramedics called the FirstHealth truck, which picked me up."

Hammond said it was about 90 minutes from onset of his heart attack until the FirstHealth truck delivered him to the cath lab at Moore Regional Hospital.

"I never had the typical signs and symptoms that people talk about — the sharp chest pain, the radiating pain going down the arms, the tingling of fingers, jaw pain, neck pain," Hammond explained.

He praised the Scotland County EMS staff. "They responded immediately and got me where I needed to be even though they utilized the FirstHealth truck. That's standard policy."

IF EMS determines someone is having a heart attack or a stroke, the first thing they do is call and see if the FirstHealth truck is available for transport as part of an interagency agreement.

"It doesn't take our equipment out of the system to respond so EMS can respond to accidents locally and all the other things that happen," Hammond said.

Hammond does have words of advice for anyone who experiences what he did.

"Don't let holidays or schedules affect decisions about your health. I knew something was wrong, and I didn't address it, not in a timely fashion."

**In the next issue: The interagency agreement with FirstHealth and why it is important.**

## Our condolences to ...

**John Willenburg**, Public Buildings, on the passing of his father-in-law, Bunan Lowery; **Michealle Reece**, Health, on the January 15 passing of her father, Chester "Mike" Michael Haynes; **Betsey Ellerbe**, Health, on the January 18 passing of her father Melvin McLaurin; **Janet Mudd**, DSS, on the January 22 passing of her father-in-law Archie Mudd; **Kitty Johnson**, Health, on the January 23 passing of her mother Alice McKenzie; **Nikki Phy**, EMS, on the January 20 passing of her grandmother Ruby Blackwell Scott, who also is aunt of **Jim Blackwell**, Public Works.

**PostScripts** **Alisa Freeman**, Health, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke with a BSN degree. ☘ **Charles Blue** transitioned from part-time to full-time in Transportation. ☘ Congratulations to **Jan-Marie Mathews**, DSS, on the January 12 birth of grandson, Gabriel Joseph Purvis. ☘ **Sharon English**, Cooperative Extension, will participate in the NC A&T 2012 Grassroots Conference focused on Economic Empowerment: Entrepreneurship, Money Management and Workforce Development. The conferences will be held February 21 (East-Duplin Co); March 6 (Central-Lee Co); and March 9 (West-Camp Swannanoa 4-H Center) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. There is no cost to attend the conference but registration is necessary. If anyone is interested in attending, contact English by February 15 at 277-2422. ☘ **Sandra Miller** replaced Capt. Lloyd Goins as Chief Jail Administrator.

### EMStatistics

#### EMS Report for December:

#### 911 Report Highlights:

**381** EMS  
**319** Sheriff's Department  
**358** Laurinburg Police Department  
**38** Fire Department  
**1,125** hang-up calls  
**67** wrong numbers  
**170** open line calls  
**19** NC Highway Patrol  
**2,247** cellular calls  
**2,697** total calls to 911

#### Top five complaints for EMS Response

**88** sick person (specific diagnosis)  
**38** traffic accidents (total patients)  
**37** breathing problems  
**37** falls/back injuries (traumatic)  
**34** transfer/interfacility/palliative care

#### Weather Observations

**(EMS Recordings for November)**  
**Temp (high)** 79 on 11/23  
**Temp (low)** 29 on 11/12  
**Rainfall (inches)** 2.95 on 11/29

### the Birthday list for February

**1** Lisa Tew (Health); **5** Steven Dover (Sheriff); **6** Debra Holcomb (Register of Deeds); **8** Al Blades (Parks and Recreation); **9** John Cooley (Commissioner); **10** Carrie Edwards (EMS); **12** Matthew Locklear (EMS) and Joyce McDow (Commissioner); **13** Donald Locklear (EMS); **14** Yvonne Deberry (DSS); **16** Pat Brown (Register of Deeds); **20** Mike Edge (EMS), Teresa Jacobs (DSS) and Glen Lockey (Public Works); **22** Joyce Riffin (DSS); **23** Donald Flowers (Sheriff); **24** Ann Kurtzman (Administration); **25** Frances Moody (Health) and Jim Blackwell (Public Works); **27** Ellen Locklear (Health).

# Safe disposal event Shred-It and Operation Medicine Drop held

Two popular events, Shred-It and Operation Medicine Drop will once again join forces in March to give citizens a no-cost, one-stop opportunity to protect themselves from identity theft and to prevent accidental poisonings.

The two events are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at the Scotland High School parking lot.

"Last year Shred-It and Operation Medicine Drop were held on the same day and both were successful," said Family and Consumer Science Agent Sharon English. "Because of last year's success, we decided to collaborate again so citizens could take advantage of both programs simultaneously."

People can easily become overwhelmed sorting through paperwork, old receipts, forms and documents and paper that occupies valuable space in our homes.

Shred-It, sponsored by Scotland County Cooperative Extension and ECA (Extension and Community Association) is a safe way to dispose of confidential information in an effort to prevent identity theft.

Shred-It is offered free of charge for individuals with a limit of 100 pounds per person. Scotland County residents and residents from surrounding counties are encouraged to participate.

The Shred-It company that provides the shred service specializes in secure document management. Volunteers will be on hand to assist participants with transporting boxes and bags to the Shred-It truck.

"We are excited to have Shred-It here the fourth year in a row," English said. "Each year we have filled the truck, which holds approximately 10,000 pounds of paper, and we hope to do it again in 2012."

She added, "The shred process is fast and cuts paper in a cross confetti pattern that will make it impossible to recreate.

There is no need to remove staples or paper clips because the shredder is built to handle that. The truck will remain until 12 p.m. or until it is full, whichever comes first."

Outreach Specialist with the North Carolina Department of Justice Rose White-Hearn will be on hand to distribute information and answer questions on identity theft prevention.

The third annual Operation Medicine Drop, sponsored by Laurinburg Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, NC Highway Patrol, Scotland County Safe Kids Mid-Carolinas Region and North Carolina Safe Kids, is the kick-off for National Poison Prevention Week, which is March 18 to 24.

Citizens will have opportunity to safely rid their homes of unwanted drugs and dispose of them properly. "We want to encourage citizens to take advantage of this opportunity to safely dispose of unused and expired medication," said Laurinburg Police Department Officer Josh Byrd. "The ultimate goal of this program is to reduce accidental poisonings. Citizens will not be questioned about the medication or how it was obtained."

Unused and expired drugs in the home often are left unsecured in cabinets and on counters. Improper use of drugs may cause an overdose and adverse drug interactions. Accidental poisoning from ingestion of drugs among children and pets often occurs in homes where medicine is easily accessible.

Disposal of unwanted drugs as household trash or by flushing them down the sink or toilet is unwise and dangerous to the environment, potentially contaminating the water supply.

For more information on Shred-It, contact Cooperative Extension at 277-2422.

For more information on Operation Medicine Drop, contact Officer Byrd, Laurinburg Police Department, 276-3211, or Kathie Cox, Scotland County Health Department, 277-2440.

# Affordable Care Act contribution reflected on 2011 W-2 form

*continued from front page 1*

daycare and medical reimbursements, dental, health, Aflac accident, Assurity Cancer Plan, Superior Vision, retirement and 401K pre-tax deductions.

Boxes #3 (Social Security wages) and #5 (Medicare wages and tips) show a figure that is different from the gross earnings and the federal taxable wages.

Social Security, FICA and Medicare are paid on that figure, which is the gross earnings minus travel, dental, health accident, Assurity Cancer Plan, Superior Vision and daycare and medical reimbursements.

Box #10 shows Daycare Reimbursements.

Box #12 uses the following codes DD — Cost of Health Employer Sponsored Coverage. This is new this year and is a future requirement based on Health Care Reform. **This amount is not taxable.** It is for information only.

AA — Roth 401k contributions.

D — 401k contributions.

C — Taxable Group Term life Insurance (GTLI). This is for any amount of coverage paid for by you and/or the Company that exceeds \$50,000. This includes the Retirement Death Benefit as well as employer paid coverage and employee paid coverage for supplemental and dependent coverage.

Form **W-2 Wage and Tax Statement** 2011 Department of the Treasury — Internal Revenue Service  
 Copy A For Social Security Administration — Send this entire page with Form W-3 to the Social Security Administration; photocopies are not acceptable. For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see back of Copy D. Cat No. 10134D

**Do Not Cut, Fold, or Staple Forms on This Page — Do Not Cut, Fold, or Staple Forms on This Page**

## Wagram students enjoy veggie party

Kindergarten students at Wagram Primary School celebrated a garden harvest celebration. Students helped prepare a stir fry and salad for their garden celebration. The event was organized by Community Garden Coordinator Melissa Tomas.

Students planted a garden in September, and they watched it grow all season. In December the class prepared a meal of swiss chard, broccoli, collards, kale and snow peas. Students helped wash and chop vegetables for the stir fry and the salad.

None of the students had ever tried kale or swiss chard before, yet all of them tried the two vegetables and really loved them. There are plans to continue the garden in the spring.



## EMS posts end of the year statistics

EMS responded to 5,322 requests for service in 2011. The five leading calls in 2011 were general sickness, 1,007; transfer/interfacility/palliative care, 499; breathing problems, 457; falls/back injuries, 426; and traffic accidents, 404. The top five complaints represented 52.5 percent of the total call volume at EMS.

The dispatch staff made 96 blue reflective 911 address signs. Dispatch staff recorded 1,589 transport trips and times for Braveheart Medical Transport, contacted Animal Control staff for after-hours calls 331 times and paged 38 National Weather Service Bulletins in 2011.

## NC appoints McDow to RCC Board



Commissioner Joyce McDow took the oath of office as a State-appointed to the Richmond Community College (RCC) Board of Trustees. McDow previously served as a County appointee on the RCC Board. Commissioner Bob Davis will fill her unexpired term.

Those attending when she took the oath of office were, left to right, Commissioner Davis, Senator Bill Purcell, Commissioner McDow, Representative Garland Pierce, RCC Vice President Steve Smith and RCC President Dale McInnis.

## Small grain production scheduled

Cooperative Extension will host meetings on cotton, soybean, corn and sorghum production practices. Pesticide certification and certified crop advisor credits are available at each meeting.

The cotton meeting will be 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, February 7, at the Hoke Robeson Cotton Gin, 7480 Old Maxton Road, Red Springs. The soybean meeting will be at Cooperative Extension, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, February 10. The corn and sorghum meeting is 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, Robeson County Extension Center, 455 Caton Road, Lumberton. Anyone who wishes to attend any or all meetings should RSVP with Cooperative Extension, 910-277-2422, by Friday, February 3.

## News of Note

### DSS a grant participant

The Department of Social Services will participate in a five-year State grant for Project Broadcast: Disseminating Trauma Informed Practices to Children in the North Carolina Child Welfare System. The project provides \$640,000 to the State each year for five years. The initiative will provide participating counties with the opportunity to improve safety, permanency and well-being outcomes of children by improving access to services that will lessen the effects of trauma in the lives of children and youth. DSS Director Robby Hall said the local social services agency was selected as a participant due to its project work over the last 12 months and strategies to improve CPS/Foster Care. Hall said the agency also is earmarked in the next 18 months to receive a complete Case Management System as a pilot county. The system is funded by the State. Hall said, "This all aligns with the agency's plan to reduce the number of children entering foster homes, improve CPS and Court Practice, permanency for children and services to families."

### Prescription card use remains flat

The number of prescriptions purchased using the NACo-sponsored Prescription Drug Discount Card program was 206 in December 2011, down slightly from 211 in November 2011 and down from 297 prescriptions purchased in December 2010. The NACo program in cooperation with Caremark offered the best prices on 58 prescriptions in December 2011. Since Scotland County opted to participate in the program in September 2006, 18,242 prescriptions have been processed at participating pharmacies for a total price savings of nearly \$151,950 for customers. NACo discount prescription cards are available in English and in Spanish at the County administrative offices at 507 West Covington Street. Call or email Ann Kurtzman 277-3191//akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org for more information or to pick up cards.

### AARP to prepare tax returns

AARP will prepare tax returns again this year. Please call Parks and Recreation at 277-2585 to schedule an appointment. Appointments begin Thursday, February 2. AARP will prepare returns on Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the first six weeks of the tax season. From then until the end of the tax season, appointments will be on Fridays only from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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**Fourth furlough day is  
Monday, February 20**

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