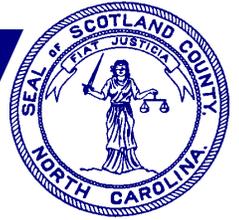


Scotland County

Monthly



JUNE 2011

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Enjoy One World, Many Stories at the library this summer

by Leon Gyles, Library

Readers of all ages will travel the globe this summer as Scotland County Memorial Library presents *One World, Many Stories* as its 2011 Summer Reading Program. Children will explore exotic places through stories, crafts and other activities during the many events offered to young people — ages preschool through young adult — with programs, prize drawings, story hours and more.

Registration for *One World, Many Stories* has begun and everyone is encouraged to read and participate in these fun happenings at the library.

The Summer Reading Program kicked off June 25 with long-standing summer reading favorite Snakes Alive presented by Ron Cromer, who brings his famous snakes to educate children about their lives and habitats.

On June 28, Ray Green demonstrated gem and stone carving and how he carves necklaces and angels out of stone. More creative arts continued June 29 when Lilly Pitman, from Lilly's Quilts provided a craft demonstration and explained about quilting and other crafts. She also demonstrated how to make necklaces and bracelets from yarn and beads. Participants joined in the artistry of creating beautiful jewelry items from simple materials.

An informative Electrical Power Safety presentation and demonstration will be provided by Pee Dee Electric Co-operative Tuesday, July 5 at 10:30 a.m. A small mock town will be set-up and staff from the Co-operative will show how they provide electricity to the town, and what happens when a line breaks. Participants will learn about energy production, safety and conservation.

Storyteller and humorist Kim Weitkamp comes to entertain and delight her audiences on Tuesday, July 12 at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Kim weaves the threads of her individual stories into a single tapestry full of singular characters, fantastic situations and heartfelt wisdom.

On Saturday, July 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the library will host a Community Vehicle Show, which will include vehicles and representatives from the Tuesday Cruisers, various police departments, emergency vehicles, firetrucks, Scotland Wings and many more.

The Summer Reading Program events wrap up Saturday, July 23 with the Magical Storyteller Mark Daniels at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Magical Storyteller beautifully defines Mark Daniels' unique style and approach with an artful blend of storyteller, puppeteer,



Snake expert and educator Ron Cromer

See Library, page 2

Cuts part of approved budget

The \$37 million budget approved June 23 by the County Commissioners set the tax rate at 99 cents and also resulted in significant cuts.

The approved budget is \$5.5 million less than it was in the current fiscal year due in part to a sluggish economy and a precipitous drop in sales tax revenues.

The approved budget resulted in a reduction in force of 25 County positions, a 2.5 percent across-the-board salary reduction for County employees and a reduction in the 401k contribution from 3.75 percent to two percent, excluding sworn law enforcement officers.

see Budget, page 3

County returns to FCC for employee health coverage

Effective July 1, the health insurance provider for County employees will transition from CIGNA to FirstCarolinaCare (FCC).

When employees last were covered by FCC four years ago, the in-network provider area was limited geographically. Not so today.

Through FCC County employees can access providers in the MedCost network, a leading independent health management company that serves clients across North and South Carolina through an extensive Point-of-Service Plan (PPO) network and health management programs.

There are several significant changes to the benefits package, which allowed the County to secure the best employee coverage at a competitive rate.

**Find a participating provider at
www.medcost.com**

In-network member services include copays of \$35 for primary care provider visits and \$45 for medical specialist visits, a \$5 increase from the previous copays.

There is a \$1,500 deductible for outpatient service. The patient pays 20 percent coinsurance only after the \$1,500 deductible is satisfied.

If employees are covering a spouse or child(ren), the \$1,500 deductible must be satisfied for each individual up to \$4,500 before the 20 percent coinsurance payments take affect.

Employees are encouraged to fill prescriptions with generics whenever possible for maximum savings. A 30-day supply of a generic prescription is \$8. If the medication costs less than the actual cost than the usual copayment, you will only pay the actual cost of the medication.

Preferred brand copay is \$35 for a 30-day supply while non-preferred brand copay is \$55.

PostScripts

Rebecca Snyder, Health, served as the preceptor for the Duke University student nurse practitioner from January to May. Snyder currently is the preceptor for a student nurse practitioner from UNC from May through June 30. 🍀 Congratulations to **Nicole Robinson**, DSS, on the June 11 graduation of her son Kenneth Anderson III from Marlboro County High School. 🍀 Congratulations to **Willette Jones**, DSS, on the May 14 graduation of her niece Zshakira Jovan Carthens from North Carolina Central University School of Law with a degree of Juris Doctor.

the Birthday list for July

1 Melissa Tomas (Cooperative Extension); 2 Karen Jacobs (DSS); 3 Shelia Jackson (Tax); 4 Adam Holland (DSS), Tim Martin (Administration) and Anita Jenkins (EMS); 7 Amy Locklear (Sheriff); 9 Amanda Martin (DSS); 10 Denise Locklear (DSS); 11 Heather Moody (DSS); 12 Preston Jackson (Sheriff); 15 Arline Swett (EMS); 17 Joshua Hayes (EMS); 19 Ashley Gibson (DSS), Billy Bostick and Josephine Thompson (Public Buildings), Tina Ellis (Health) and Christopher Lee (EMS); 20 Jessica Watson (EMS); 24 Brandon Butler (Jail); 25 Mildred Williams (Veteran Services); 26 Amy Richburg (Soil and Water), Jeffrey Wood (DSS), Tina Strickland and Tyquane White (Sheriff); 28 Vincent Locklear (Public Works); 29 Kevin Patterson (Administration), Miriam Bounds (Health) and Tara Crowley (DSS); 30 Wanda Britt (Transportation); 31 Jan-Marie Mathews (DSS) and Judy McMillan (Health).



Summer at the library engages kids, families

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magician, book-talker, motivator and reading ambassador.

His multidiscipline techniques have proven to win the hearts of children and parents alike.

As always, all of the Summer Reading Program offerings at Scotland County Memorial Library are free and open to the public. The library staff remains committed to serving the community with excellence and welcomes everyone to come and enjoy this great slate of summer programs.

For more information, please call the library at 910-276-0563, or check the website calendar at www.scotlandcolibrary.com.

Start-up grant helps Wagram market

Chairman Bob Davis, pictured right, shared words of welcome during a June 7 ribbon cutting at Mac's Produce and Meat Market in Wagram.

Scotland County applied for \$49,000 through the NC Rural Center Building Reuse Grant to help offset some of the renovation costs for the market.

In order to receive the grant the business must be assure the the Rural Center it will hire five full-time people and maintain that employment level for a minimum of six months.

The market is a convenient stop for residents in Wagram and the surrounding community to purchase local produce, fresh fish, meats and a variety of general grocery products. **Photo by Greg Icard, Economic Developer**



Thunderstorm's path damaging

Text by Roylin Hammond, EMS, photos by Tommy Hatcher, EMS, retired

Pictured, left, is a downed tree at Church and Biggs streets after a thunderstorm passed through the area the afternoon of June 22. Several areas throughout the County experienced some flooding but damage appeared to be minimal.

The County certainly needed the rain but some parts of it, like Laurel Hill, took a bigger hit than others.

On June 23, an afternoon storm passed through the area causing the greatest damage in the Maxton area.

Several trees were reported down as were

short-term power outages.

No injuries were reported.

Pictured, right, Laurinburg City crews clear downed trees on McNair Avenue.



Mohawk plant will close in August

Operations at the Laurel Hill Mohawk facility will cease effective August 22. The closing represents a job loss of 197.

Mohawk officials assured the County they would try and absorb as many Laurel Hill employees as possible into the operations at the larger plant in nearby Bennettsville, South Carolina.

The Laurel Hill plant, which is a spun yarn facility, was designated to shift production to Bennettsville due to the cost of operation.

Announcement of the closure was made by Chairman Bob Davis at the conclusion of the June 23 budget meeting.

"This is not good news," Davis said. "And the decision had nothing to do with the tax rate. It was a manufacturing decision."

Davis added the decision to close the Laurel Hill plant was not unexpected. "But we were hoping it would not happen."

News of Note

Book sale earns \$356

The Library sold \$356 worth of material during the May 20 book sale. Library Director Leon Gyles said everything was at an affordable "cut-rate" price so the library could move material that was for sale during the last couple of book sales. The monies were deposited in the library's "capital account" to supplement major improvements.

Make ASK Day an every day issue

June 21 was National ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day. Annually, organizations and individuals around the country celebrate National ASK Day on the first day of summer, a season when children play more often in other homes. In America, nearly 1.7 million children live in a home with a loaded, unlocked gun and a staggering 40 percent of homes with children have a gun. ASK Day reminds parents about the importance of asking if there are guns in the homes where their children play. Parents ask all sorts of questions to protect their children when they go play at the home of a friend, neighbor or caregiver. The one important question that more than half of parents say it never occurred to them to ask is, "Is there a gun in your home?" If the answer is no, that is one less thing to worry about. If the answer is yes, parents are urged to ensure that the guns are stored locked and separate from ammunition, preferably in a gun safe. The official *Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics* estimates in North Carolina alone more than 168,000 children and teens live in homes with loaded guns, and more than 82,000 live in homes with guns that are loaded and unlocked. ASK is a national Public Health Initiative that provides something real every parent can do to keep their children safe. The ASK campaign encourages parents to ASK if there are guns in the homes where their children play. It is a simple idea that could save lives.

Community Garden gets grant

The Wagram Community Garden has been awarded a \$3,000 spark plugs grant through the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation to start a membership-based produce stand. The produce stand will be located at the garden and will be open twice a month. The money raised from sales at the produce stand will be used to purchase a solar-powered well for the community garden. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Melissa Tomas at 277-2422.

Activities, education, field trips are part of the fun of summer camps

by Shannon Newton, Parks and Recreation

If you are you looking for a half day's outing for your child, Parks and Recreation provides a fun, safe and supervised five-week summer camp.

Parents can register their child for any week of the five-week camp. Campers spend much of their time outside and visit a variety of parks and attractions in the area.

Campers are signed in at Scotland Yard Playground each day. Camp hours are 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$30 per week, snack and lunch included. Rising K-6th graders can participate.

Campers will visit the Splash Pad on Monday of each week. Be prepared to get wet and have some cool fun! There is no camp the week of July 4.

In week three, July 11 to 15, the focus is on insects with field trips to Lumber River State Park and Weymouth Woods. A local beekeeper will visit campers.

Week four, July 18 to 22, will be the week of outdoor adventures. Campers will visit a local farm, go fishing at Lake Rim and hike at Lumber River State Park. They also will learn about reptiles and amphibians of the region while visiting Lumber River State Park.

Indoor sports and recreation are the theme for week five, July 25 to 29. It's hot, so campers will be indoors playing a variety of sports and games.

Register at Parks and Recreation, 1210 Turnpike Road. Call 277-2585 for more information.



A camper creates a painted butterfly using her feet as the main design component. Soil and Water Conservation Director Amy Richburg facilitated the summer camp activity.

Budget cuts described as painful

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The Commissioners reduced their monthly stipend for the 2012 fiscal year by 50 percent.

The 2.5 percent salary reduction translates to six furlough days, the dates of which were approved by the Commissioners.

Employee furlough dates are scheduled for September 2, 2011, October 10, 2011, November 23, 2011, February 20, 2012, April 9, 2012 and May 25, 2012.

Because the governing board was not able to provide a cost of living allowance for employees, the Commissioners approved for the third consecutive year allowing employees to take three paid days off between Christmas and New Years.

Approval of the 2011-2012 budget was not unanimous with Commissioner Clarence McPhatter casting the only dissenting vote. McPhatter said he sympathized with the 25 families affected by the budget cuts. McPhatter said he opposed the budget because he believed alternative decisions could have been made to protect employees and services.

Other Commissioners discussed the challenges they faced with the budget. Vice Chair Joyce McDow said the County was not alone and that counties across the state and governments nationwide were hard-hit by the slow economy.

Commissioners John Alford and Guy McCook agreed. Alford said, "We had \$5 million less to work with than last year. We just did not have the funds."

McCook added that cutting budgets and causing people to lose their jobs "is not what we're about as a Board." He explained that the Commissioners had to balance that with maintaining a tax rate and services at a reasonable level.

Library hosts book signing

by Leon Gyles, Library

A book signing of *Diversity Awareness for K-6 Teachers* with author Rona Leach McLeod, Ed. D., will be held 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, June 30 at Scotland County Memorial Library.

Published in June 2011 by Rowman & Littlefield Publishing, *Diversity Awareness for K-6 Teachers: The Impact on Student Learning* is a resource guide for elementary teachers and college-level student teachers for teaching diversity awareness across the various areas of content.

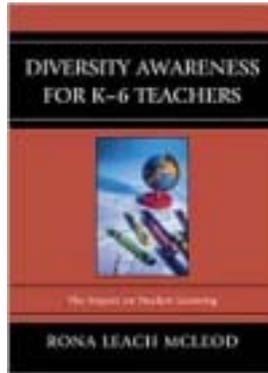
The book contains many activities teachers can use to enhance learning while making learning and teaching fun and exciting. Specific "themes" are covered as a part of diversity awareness lessons.

Teachers have opportunities to create and develop additional activities and document outcome of lessons.

McLeod's book will be available for purchase and for her to sign at this event.

McLeod presently serves as assistant visiting professor of education at St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

All community events at Scotland County Memorial Library are free and open to the public. For more information, please call the library at 910-276-0563, or check the website calendar at www.scotlandcolibrary.com.



save the date

Parks and Recreation will host Dixie Youth District 9, 11 and 12 year-old baseball tournament at the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex, July 8, July 14. 13 teams from the region play. Admission is \$3 for over 12 and \$1 for 6 to 12-year-olds. Come support the Scotland County 11 and 12-year old All-Stars.

Three schools capture top honors in annual Clean School Jam

Clean School Jam turned the spotlight on three schools for their stellar initiative in beautification, recycling and litter pick up. Laurel Hill Elementary was the overall winner for its Clean School commitment in all three categories.

Washington Park, in second place, was recognized for litter prevention and litter pickup around the school and in the community. Shaw took third place for vigilance in recycling all papers and all other items that could be recycled.

Students at winning school Laurel Hill were treated to an ice cream party by the Chamber of Commerce Green Committee.



Clean School Jam winners are, front row left to right, Jamie Ammons and Jack Davern, Shaw Elementary in third place; Kerisha Williams and Summer Stanley, Laurel Hill Elementary in first place; and Bill Parker, Washington Park in second place. Green Committee members in the back row left to right are J.R. "Bobby" Horne, Jeanette Herlocker, Miller Slaughter and Joe Barnhill, Sr.

flickr users invited to promote County through NCpedia

NCpedia is a good resource for North Carolina facts and history. The website currently is looking for photos from flickr users who want to show off your local scenery and your photography skills.

An online encyclopedia about North Carolina, NCpedia (<http://ncpedia.org>) is managed by the Government and Heritage Library at the State Library of North Carolina.

Content is contributed through partnerships across the State. Contributors include the North Carolina State Archives, Research Branch at the Office of Archives and History, North Carolina Museum of History, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC Atlas Revisited (UNC-Charlotte), North Carolina Collection at UNC Libraries and individual historians, librarians, archivists and researchers across the State.

NCpedia is currently seeking digital photographs of all 100 counties from flickr (<http://www.flickr.com>) users. The digital photographs will be displayed in slideshows embedded in the entry for each specific county (<http://ncpedia.org/geography/counties>).

Sharing flickr images with NCpedia is easy. Just tag your images "ncpedia" and "[countyname]county" (for example: pendercounty, wakecounty, cravencounty).

Also check your flickr privacy settings to make sure sharing is enabled. Details for doing so may be found at <http://ncpedia.org/contribute>.

Questions about contributing flickr images or other content to NCpedia may be sent to Michelle Czaikowski at michelle.czaikowski@ncdcr.gov.

Information contributed by Debra Holcomb, Register of Deeds.



Green Committee Chairman Leroy McIntyre, right, serves ice cream to students at Laurel Hill Elementary as part of the Clean School Jam program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce Green Committee.