

Scotland County

Monthly



JUNE 2012

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

FY 2013 tax rate set at \$1.03, furlough reduced but not eliminated

The Board of Commissioners approved a FY 2013 budget that set the tax rate at \$1.03 per \$100 valuation, an increase of four cents from the FY 2012 fiscal year.

The budget was approved in a split vote with Chairman Bob Davis, Vice Chair Joyce McDow and Commissioners John Alford, Carol McCall and Guy McCook voting for the \$1.03 and Commissioner John Cooley voting against it. Commissioner Clarence McPhatter was not in attendance.

Employee furlough was reduced from 2.5 percent to 1.25 percent, which means employees will take three furlough days rather than six. Salaries will increase accordingly.

Two furlough days will be the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and Easter Friday. The Commissioners will be asked to approve the Friday before Labor Day as the third furlough day. For the fourth consecutive year, the Commissioners also approved three bonus days for employees on December 27, 28 and 31.

This will give most employees more than a week off between Christmas 2012 and New Year's Day 2013. Other employees, who will not be able to take the three bonus days off because of their job responsibilities, will schedule the days off with their supervisors.

The Commissioners initially considered a budget that would have set the tax rate at \$1.02. The three-cent increase would make up for a \$500,000 revenue shortfall in the current budget and reduce employee salary reduction from the 2.5 percent to 1.25 percent.

The extra penny was added to the tax rate after the schools discovered a

[see Budget, page 4](#)

State tells SCATS to spell it out

Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS

NCDOT Public Transportation Division in Raleigh now requires local paratransit systems such as SCATS (Scotland County Area Transit System) to have the official name of the transit system on both sides of each transit vehicle. Simply having SCATS on the vehicle is no longer acceptable.



Scotland County Area Transit System is now spelled out on each transportation vehicle.

The lettering must list the entire name of the system and must be visible from 50 feet away from each vehicle.

This will not impact the daily service provided by the system. It will only impact each transit system's budget in the cost to purchase the lettering and in cost of labor to apply the lettering and to remove it when the vehicle is declared surplus.

Last year NCDOT PTD required that each vehicle include the words "Public Transit." The year prior to that County Transportation was required to have the system's telephone number on each vehicle.



Crowd takes hands-on approach to reptiles

Twice in less than a month Scotland County Memorial Library attracted nearly 1,000 visitors young and old as it hosted two popular summer program events. More about the Summer Reading Program and the kick-off event all about raptors can be found on page 3.

This excerpt on *Snakes Alive!* from the library's facebook page was written by Youth Services Librarian Denise Dunn, pictured below.

Thank you to everyone who came out this Saturday (June 23) for the Snakes Alive! Program. Ron Cromer (pictured above) presented a wonderful show, full of interesting facts, and brought so many of his reptile friends.

My favorite? Tarzan, the huge Common Iguana from the South American rainforest (also pictured above).

[see Snakes Alive!, page 2](#)



Children visit recycle site



A group of five-year-olds from State Line Children's World Child Care Center on Barnes Bridge Road visited the 401 south recycle center June 4.

Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. "Bobby" Horne was there to meet them and discuss the importance of recycling. Horne showed the children what materials could be recycled and how they could be sorted by metal, plastic and paper.

"The children asked some really good questions, and they knew a lot of answers to my questions," Horne said. "They really did their homework."

Each child had a chance to recycle plastic bottles, pictured above, with the assistance of Horne.

"They had a great time," Horne said. "They enjoyed seeing where recyclables are going. This group knows what recycling is thanks to their leaders at the child care center."

Summer programs keep youth engaged, informed



Participants received their own jar of jam.

12 local youth participated in Jammin' In The Kitchen, the first of a series of summer activities presented through 4-H and Cooperative Extension's Youth Development Program.

Family and Consumer Science Agent Sharon English taught youth and later a

group of adults how to make homemade jam using fresh local strawberries and canning techniques to preserve the jam. Each participant received their own jar of jam.

As summer programs continued, Cooperative Extension 4-H'ers and chaperones traveled 'down on the farm' to a real working family farm that included a tractor pulled wagon ride, live animals, crops, history of farm life and educational presentations.



4-H'ers enjoy the wagon ride.

Congratulations Class of 2012

High School

Administration: **Jessica Lynn Bowen**, daughter of Robert Bowen, graduated from Scotland High School. Jessica plans to attend UNC-Pembroke.

DSS: **Ebon Cole**, son of Tammy Cole, graduated from Purnell Swett High School. Ebon plans to enlist in the U.S. Navy.

Health: **Savannah Peek**, daughter of Nicki Peek, graduated from Richmond Senior High School. Savannah plans to attend Appalachian State University. **Gregory Dewitt Ellerbe II**, son of Betsey Ellerbe, graduated from Scotland High School. Gregory plans to attend East Carolina University in the fall. **Terry "TJ" Smith, Jr.**, grandson of Jennifer Taylor and Ricky Taylor, Sheriff (retired), graduated from Western Guilford High School in Greensboro, where he was co-vice president. TJ plans to major in Biology at Wake Forest University and then further his education in medical school.

College/University

DSS: **Brittany Willette Jones**, daughter of Willette Jones, graduated from Winston-Salem State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Rehabilitation Studies. Brittany plans to attend graduate school at Liberty University.

Library: **Charles R. Rush**, nephew of Louise R. Williams, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from East Carolina University. Charles is considering continuing on to medical school.

Staff

DSS: **Lakeisha Jackson** earned a Bachelor of Social Work from UNC-Pembroke. Lakeisha will pursue a Master of Science in Health Care Administration from Grand Canyon University.

Snakes Alive! thrills the crowd

continued from front page I

Ron says he didn't train Tarzan to pop out like that but I don't know. Oh, and I couldn't leave out Peggy Sue, the Indonesian Blue-tongued skink, who fell asleep in my hands every time I whispered "Peggy Sue."

Pork Chop, the little hog nose snake, was especially patient with me and all the kids who rubbed him. Hats off to Rosie. It can't be easy for a 100-pound Burmese Python being handled by numerous strangers, but she was sweet and accommodating.

A big thank you to all of our volunteers who once again ensured a smooth, successful presentation. And thanks to Domino's for the pizzas. Everyone enjoyed them.

the Birthday list for July **2** Karen Jacobs (DSS); **3** Shelia Jackson (Tax); **4** Tim Martin (Administration), Adam Holland (DSS) and Anita Jenkins (EMS); **7** Amy Locklear (Sheriff); **9** Amanda Martin (DSS); **10** Denise Locklear (DSS); **11** Heather Moody (DSS); **12** Preston Jackson (Sheriff); **13** Kenneth Bedell (EMS); **15** Arline Swett (EMS); **17** Joshua Hayes (EMS); **19** Billy Bostick and Josephine Thompson (Public Buildings), Tina Ellis (Health), Christopher Lee (EMS) and Ashley Gibson (DSS); **20** Jessica Watson (EMS); **21** Brandon Butler (EMS); **24** Jackie Williams (Jail) and Sarah Brown (Cooperative Extension); **25** Mildred Williams (Veteran Services) and John Storey (EMS); **26** Tina Strickland and Tyquane White (Sheriff), Amy Richburg (Soil and Water) and Jeffrey Wood (DSS); **28** Vincent Locklear (Public Works) and Atysa Locklear (DSS); **29** Kevin Patterson (Administration), Miriam Bounds (Health) and Tara Crowley (DSS); **31** Jan-Marie Mathews (DSS) and Judy McMillan (Health).

Library promotes *Dream Big — Read!*

Children and teens will be busy and happy this summer if they explore the night at Scotland County Memorial Library. Activities for the summer reading program *Dream Big — Read!* include programs on snakes and creepy critters, night predators, fantasies in literature, unique animals, monsters and dragons, dream jobs and magic.

The Summer Reading Program is open to young people, preschool through middle school, with featured programs, story hours, movies and more. Families are invited to register at the library. All programs are free of charge.

Library staff will provide five free programs during the summer, which tie in with the *Dream Big — Read!* theme. Look for performances from the Carolina Raptor Center, Ron Cromer with 'Snakes Alive', Tyris Jones the Storyteller, the Bright Star Theatre touring group and Mark Daniel, a magical storyteller.

The Carolina Raptor Center kicked off the Summer Reading Program with its presentation of *Predators of the Sky* June 13. Hawks, owls and a bald eagle were featured. Admission was free.

Ron Cromer with 'Snakes Alive' returned to the library 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 23. The first of the two part program was an orientation lecture, with the second half of the program featuring the popular hands-on session.

The orientation lecture included a slide presentation, which is coordinated with a discussion of various topics — dispelling of common myths associated with snakes, the proper way to handle a snake, pattern identification, an overview of the anatomy of snakes and their characteristics and a strong warning concerning the handling of snakes found in the wild.

The hands-on session was an opportunity to hold and pet more than a dozen tamed snakes. The session concluded with a finale of a giant python available for holding and petting. No fear, however; a snake-free zone was provided for those who did not feel comfortable participating in the petting session.

Tyris Jones, a Laurinburg native, presented an exciting storytelling program June 27.

Jones told tall tales, folk tales and original stories and also stressed the importance of reading to children and parents alike.

The library welcomes the Bright Star Touring Theatre Tuesday, July 17, for two shows. The first show will be "Aesop's Fables" at 10:30 a.m. From "The Fox and the Grapes" and "The Tortoise and the Hare" to "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" and "The Lion and the Mouse," these animal-filled adventures focus on honesty, compassion, hard work and kindness.

The second show, "Legend of Sleepy Hollow," will start at 2 p.m. The Washington Irving classic comes to life like never before! Bumbling schoolmaster Ichabod Crane is in love with the prettiest girl in town, Katrina Van Tassel, despite the fact she happens to be with the town prankster, Brom Bones. Not to be outdone, Crane continues his pursuit, until one stormy night he finds himself being chased by the legendary headless horseman — or is it just another of Brom Bones' famous pranks?

Mark Daniel will present the final exciting storytelling program on Tuesday, July 31, at 10:30 a.m. and again at 1:30 p.m. His pioneer approach to storytelling magically brings children's books to life. Daniel is from North Carolina, and his passion for reading and knowledge of children's books is genuine and infectious, sure to entertain and encourage children to read.

For further information concerning the library's summer programs please contact library staff at 276-0563.



A visit from the Carolina Raptor Center kicked off the Summer Reading Program and attracted more than 500 people.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for may:

911 Report Highlights:

459 EMS

397 Sheriff's Department

445 Laurinburg Police Department

55 Fire Department

1,139 hang-up calls

77 wrong numbers

265 open line calls

35 NC Highway Patrol

2,798 cellular calls

3,314 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

67 sick person (specific diagnosis)

56 transfer/interfacility/palliative care

54 breathing problems

46 falls/back injuries (traumatic)

45 chest pain

Weather observations

(EMS Recordings for May)

Temp (high) 91 on 5/3

Temp (low) 54 on 5/20

Rainfall (inches) .99 on 5/10

Additional duties

199 Braveheart Medical Transport

10 911 address signs sold

41 after hours animal control calls

71 blood pressure checks (walk in)

3 medical coverage

Compiled by Deanna Carlyle

Officials travel to Raleigh



Chairman Bob Davis, left, and Vice Chair Joyce McDow meet with Senator Bill Purcell during the annual County Assembly Day May 25. Commissioners John Alford and Carol McCall, County Manager Kevin Patterson and Finance Officer Charles Nichols also spent the day in Raleigh to advocate for legislative initiatives that affect all counties.

The group asked the area delegation to support a local bill that would give the County authority to issue privilege licenses for internet sweepstakes businesses.

While in Raleigh, the group also spoke with Representatives Ken Goodman, Garland Pierce and G.L. Pridgen.

2013 budget sets tax rate at \$1.03

continued from front page I

structural shift to some areas of the concrete seating at Pate Stadium. Cost of repair is estimated at \$130,000.

Commissioner Cooley said he voted against the \$1.03 tax rate because he believed there might have been other options available rather than an increase. The other Commissioners believed differently explaining that the 2013 budget was reviewed extensively and it was as lean as it could be.

The nearly \$37 million budget includes \$25,787,289, which is the amount supported by property and sales taxes. Of that, \$12,140,267, or 47.08 percent, goes to education; \$4,229,773, or 16.40 percent, is earmarked for law enforcement; and \$3,418,957, or 13.26 percent, supports health and human services. The remainder supports all other County departments.

NACo prescription discount card website informative, easier to use

The website specifically designed for the NACo Prescription Discount Card Program just got easier to use beginning with its new shortened URL www.nacorx.org.

Mail Service was removed from the home page and added to the FAQs. User-enhanced quick links provide easy access.

Other simplified friendly features include a "using the map" tool so residents can enter their zip code and see if their county participates in the program.

The improved site replaces a link to a PDF document sorted by state.

New content includes a drug information module that allows for selection of English and Spanish language. Drug search displays patient information on medications.

Users can list their medications and check for interactions on all medications while a pill identifier displays pill images. New content includes Pet Meds information on using the program for pets.

The print-a-card process got easier because it generates the discount card in real time, and the automated marketing program follows up via email over the ensuing month to ensure each new resident is aware of all of the ways the prescription discount card program can save them money.

There is no registration or membership fee associated with the Prescription Discount Card, just savings.



Post Scripts

Marty Pate transitions from Real Estate Appraiser to Tax Collector. Pate joined Scotland County in 2009 as Land Records Clerk. 🍷 Welcome to new employees **Timothy Fairley**, Jail; and **Tonya Pigott**, Sheriff. 🍷 Congratulations to **Jeannie M. Freeman**, DSS, on the May 31 birth of granddaughter Kinsley Nevaeh Lowery. 🍷 **Sarah Brown** joined Cooperative Extension as the Community Garden Coordinator. 🍷 Congratulations to Scotland High School graduates Jessica Bowen, Amber David, Star Jones and Ernie V. Robinson III. They were awarded four-year scholarships from the NC Division of Veterans Affairs. The combined scholarship total is approximately \$161,000.

Our condolences to ...

Adam Liles, Health, on the June 15 passing of his aunt, Annie Shoemake, and **Heather Wyke**, Health, on the June 25 passing of her grandfather, Phillip Price.

News of Note

City hosts fireworks display

The City of Laurinburg will host its annual Independence Day fireworks exhibition 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 4, at Scotland High School. Because Pate Stadium is closed for repairs, the exhibition will take place at the football practice field behind the old gymnasium. Spectators are asked to bring their own seating and follow signs to the school viewing and parking area.

Summer tennis clinics begin

The Scotland County Tennis Center will conduct weekly summer tennis clinics for youth ages 5 to 16. The clinics will be held each Monday and Wednesday throughout the summer by Scotland High School Tennis Coach Jeanne Roller. The clinics run from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. for ages 5 to 9 and from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for ages 10 and older. Cost for each two-day weekly clinic is \$15 for ages 5 to 9 and \$20 for ages 10 to 16. Register for the clinics by calling the Tennis Center at 277-2592 or by visiting the Tennis Center prior to the start of the clinics on Mondays or Wednesdays.

EFNEP keeps kids active

The 2012 4-H EFNEP Health and Fitness Boot Camp kicked off with 17 participants at the Washington Park Youth Center. EFNEP Program Assistant Hazel McPhatter conducted the program three days a week during the month of June. The program will be held at the Wagram Recreation Center in July. All classes are held in conjunction with a summer feeding program.

Relay serves as HIV/AIDS fundraiser

June 27, 2012, was National HIV testing day, an annual day to encourage individuals to be tested for HIV. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that people ages 13 to 64 get tested for HIV at least once. To promote this effort, Scotland County's HIV Education and Resource Team (H.E.A.R.T.) sponsored a walk-a-thon June 23 at the Scotland High School track, highlighting the importance of HIV testing, awareness and prevention. The walk-a-thon began at 8 a.m. and concluded at 11 a.m. The Health Department provided free, confidential HIV-testing on-site that day. Music, face painting and games were featured. Al Bishop, MSA-HAS, HIV Services Director of Robeson County Healthcare Corporation, was the invited speaker. H.E.A.R.T. is composed of Health Department staff and community members who meet monthly in the Education Room at the Scotland County Health Department to plan fundraising events and education forums within the community. The entry fee of \$3 per person to participate in the relay team race and \$15 for groups of five generated funds to help people in Scotland County living with HIV/AIDS with emergency assistance in areas such as rent, utilities and medications.