



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

APRIL 2003

A newsletter for Scotland County employees



Joy Nolan from the Public Works Office, left, and Board of Elections Director Judy Riggins review the names on the Wall of Honor.

Wall honors troops

On her way home from a State meeting in Raleigh last month Judy Riggins gave thought to families whose loved ones were being called to service in the Middle East.

"We need to do something to honor these people," Riggins said.

So she spread the word via e-mail, WLNC Radio and the *Laurinburg Exchange* that she was building a Wall of Honor outside the Board of Elections office in the County Annex.

Since then Riggins, Board of Elections Director, has received submissions, which include names and, on occasion, photos from parents, grandparents, spouses and

see *Wall*, page 4

New medical privacy practices take effect

Picking up that prescription or making a visit to the doctor's office will require a little extra paperwork now that the Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act (HIPAA) is in effect.

HIPAA requirements extend to all medical providers, including the Health Department, EMS and to a lesser extent, DSS, to maintain the privacy of certain confidential health information, known as protected health information (PHI).

People seeking delivery of health care services from the Health Department, for instance, will be asked to sign an acknowledgement of receipt of a Notice of Privacy Practices.

The notice describes how a person's medical information may be used and disclosed and how the person can access this information.

Additionally, the notice defines the legal duties of the medical provider and privacy practices with respect to your PHI.

Even if someone refuses to provide a signed acknowledgement, treatment will not be withheld. The Health Department will use and disclose a client's protected health information for treatment, payment and health care operations when necessary.

Health Department celebrates 60 years of public service

"With four staff members occupying three rooms in the old County Agricultural Building, the Scotland County Health Department had a humble origin in 1943."

So began a brief chronicle of the Health Department from its origins in 1943 until 1978, written by former *Laurinburg Exchange* editor Florence Gilkeson. Below are several early excerpts.

"Among the first business items discussed by the health board was consideration of a county-wide ordinance controlling privies." March 2, 1943.

"At the board's third meeting, on June 18 (1943), a resolution was passed to consolidate birth and death registration and designate the health officer as registrar."

"Public health nurses carried their clinics into the field — to rural areas where they conducted clinics for typhoid fever and baby shots under the shade trees."

"Venereal disease reached epidemic proportions during the early years, a problem developing in the proximity of military installations. This was one major problem tackled by the fledgling health department."

"Pasteurization of milk, stream pollution, DDT spraying for mosquito control and installation of the department's first x-ray unit ... were among the projects which challenged the health board in the late 1940s."

See *Notes from the County Manager*, page 3, for more on the Health Department.

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

Public forum addresses bioterrorism..... page 2

Classes teach cooking for you or two..... page 3

Vaccination plan praised

The Health Department's smallpox vaccination plan draws praise from one of the State's leading public health officials.

"If mass vaccination is necessary, I'm confident that Scotland County has a good plan," said Dr. James Kirkpatrick.

Dr. Kirkpatrick led a public forum on his role as State Bioterrorism Coordinator and how his Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response is working with public health departments statewide to prepare for a bioterrorism attack.

The Office of Public Health and Preparedness, in which Dr. Kirkpatrick serves as chief, was created in the fall of 2002.

The service it provides, though, are similar to those provided some 50 years ago when smallpox and other communicable diseases were considered real threats. "We are putting things back into public health that should have been there all along," he explained.

Other "A list" bioterror agents that concern public health officials include plague, anthrax, tularemia, butulinus and hemorrhagic fever. The most communicable disease, smallpox, is the only one with a widely used vaccine.

"Smallpox has probably killed more people than any single disease in history, and it's the only single disease so far that's been eradicated," he said. Providing the vaccine prepares communities for the possibility of a biological attack.

Smallpox is not easily transmitted from person to person since it requires close physical contact. Smallpox takes 12 to 14 days to incubate but is not infectious until lesions occur. "By that time, people feel too sick to move around," he said.

Dr. Kirkpatrick said it is important for Scotland County to be prepared because of its proximity to major cities like Raleigh and Charlotte and because there are five major military institutions based in North Carolina.

"Terrorism is a psychological weapon because it attacks the mind," he said. "Terrorists can make many people afraid, and terrorist acts make many people change their lives."



Dr. James Kirkpatrick speaks on issues concerning the State's preparedness and response plan during a recent visit to the area.

the Birthday list for May

1 Mary Cox (Health); **2** James McQueen (DSS); **3** Kathy Medlin (Public Works); **4** Tosha McQueen and Teresa Vick (DSS); **5** Rhonda Saffel (Tax); **11** Nancy Bostick (Administration); **12** Crystal Norton (Register of Deeds); **15** Elizabeth Williams (DSS) and Tracey Ansley (Sheriff); **16** Barbara McRae (DSS) and Joseph Sellers (Sheriff); **17** Dewey Oxendine (Public Buildings) and Melanie Clark (EMS); **18** Dalores Ingram (Board of Elections) and Rebecca Griffin (DSS); **20** Billie Phillips (Tax) and Tony Smith (Jail); **23** Ida McGill and Lisa Davis (DSS); **24** Brandi Chavis (Public Works), Michelle Campbell (DSS) and Pearlene Leggett (Health); **25** Percell Quick (Public Works) and Gail Jackson (Sheriff); **26** Jennifer Taylor (Health); **27** Timothy Reynolds (Public Buildings); **28** Milton Ware (Jail); **29** Dennis Currie (EMS) and Myra Hill (DSS); **30** Terry Gainey (Soil and Water); **31** Wayne Mace (EMS); happy belated birthday to Farrah Sheppard (4-H Teen Court) on **April 22** and Sharon English (4-H Coordinator) on **April 28**.

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Scotland County residents can purchase discount Carowinds tickets from Scotland County Parks and Recreation. Priced at \$25 each, the tickets are good all season for ages 3 and up. Call 277-2585 for more information or to arrange a ticket purchase.

DSS participates in April's Child Abuse Prevention Month



Left, Charlotte Gibson and David Inman of Children's Services show the two different shirt styles DSS employees wore on T-Shirt Day April 25. Right, Gibson ties a blue ribbon on the antenna of Deputy Wayne Gay's patrol vehicle. All Sheriff's Department law enforcement vehicles displayed the blue ribbons in April as part of the Blue Ribbon for Kids Campaign.



Raising awareness on and providing information about child abuse was a DSS focus in April as the social service agency participated in Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Activities planned in April included WLNC radio spots announcing Child Abuse Prevention Month, an art and poetry contest, distribution of information at the children's festival Sunday in the Park, a candle lighting ceremony at First United

Methodist Church, a tree planting and Blue Day, where citizens were asked to wear blue April 17 in honor of Child Abuse Awareness Month.

The local DSS supports this annual monthly recognition because each year in North Carolina more than 100,000 children are reported abused or neglected. In 2002, 24 children died from child abuse in North Carolina.



We came. We played. We lost. But who cares? We had fun!

Better yet, it was for a good cause — raising money for the Scotland County Literacy Council.

The annual event held at Scotia Village attracted 15 teams, each with four players. Teams represented included government, business, industry, service agencies and schools.

With 20 seconds to confer and answer, each team selected a category and wagered 10 (easy) or 30 (difficult) points. Congratulations to Campbell Soup for its second consecutive win and to the Literacy Council for raising \$1,500.

Scotland County Team participants were (above from the left) County Manager Scott Sauer, County Engineer Jim Blackwell, Cooperative Extension's Melissa C. Hopkins and Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman. Matt Martin of the Scotland High Quiz Bowl Team took the photograph.

Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. The Health Department this month celebrates 60 years of serving Scotland County citizens.

Back in 1943, according to an article written by Florence Gilkeson, "Action at a September 14, 1943 (health) board meeting provided for the implementation of a state law requiring smallpox vaccinations before children may enter school."

Smallpox, once again, is an issue of great concern along with other biological and chemical threats.

Living in this new world of heightened awareness and security requires that public health officials deal with those threats in resourceful and innovative ways.

Delivery of public health services in Scotland County is consistent, proactive, aggressive, efficient and effective thanks to a committed staff who puts the well being of our citizens first.



Scott Sauer

Cooking for You, or Twofills kitchen with tempting aromas

by Melissa C. Hopkins, Cooperative Extension

Preparing a meal for one or two people provides a challenge. Preparing a well-balanced meal for one or two people often results in a headache.

To help provide headache relief, Pam Riemer, Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences, taught a St. Andrews Institute for Lifelong Learning short-course, *Cooking for You, or Two*.

"I want to provide well-balanced, easy-to-make meals," Riemer said. "Finding nutritious meals for two people is difficult."

The three-session class included distribution of healthy recipes for two and the actual preparation of some of those recipes.

"We had a good group of people," Riemer said of her students. "During the first class, we each selected a recipe that we would prepare during the next meeting. Each of us was then responsible to bring the ingredients to prepare the meal during the session."

Among the tasty recipes made during the classes were quesadillas, spaghetti squash, vegetable stir-fry, fruit smoothies and ice cream cake.

Riemer also geared many of the recipe selections toward the tastes of her students. "They love broccoli. I want to give them what they like so they will continue eating healthy and tasty meals."

Recipes shared in classes, which ended April 9, reached others interested in healthy cooking.

"One student asked for extra copies of recipes to give to friends who could not attend the class," Riemer said. "That was important because it showed that the interest in what we were learning went beyond the classroom and into the kitchens at home."



Pam Riemer, left, advises students on preparing well-balanced meals.

EMStatisticšMärch

EMS Report: Responded to 323 Medical/Trauma calls. Treated 36 motor vehicle accident patients. Provided 5 stand-by medical coverages, 1 department presentation and 1 department tour. 911 Report: Received 1,305 total calls — 270 EMS — 237 Sheriff's Department — 84 Laurinburg Police Department — 40 Fire Departments — 278 hang-up calls — 125 wrong numbers — 122 open lines calls — 448 Cellular calls. Report compiled by Tommy Hatcher.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since February 16: **John Ball, June Hunt and Matthew Norris**, part-time in EMS; **Kenneth Berry**, Jail; **Phillip Norton**, temporary in Revaluation; **James Bullard**, temporary in Public Works. **Tracie Jacobs** and **Mike Clark** make the transition in EMS from part-time to full-time.

Scotland County Teen Court places 3rd in mock trial competition

by Farrah Sheppard

4-H Teen Court/Community Service and Restitution Coordinator

Scotland County placed third in the Mock Trial Competition during the fifth annual North Carolina Teen Court Summit in Southern Pines. Randolph County tied with Scotland for third place among the 11 counties/teams to enter the competition.

The Mock Trial Teams consisted of two defense attorneys, two prosecuting attorneys, one bailiff and one clerk. Each team was given the case scenario prior to the trial.

Scotland County Mock Trial Competition participants included Clay Brooks and Megan Grimsley, Defense; Matt Oxendine and Thomas Brigman, Prosecution; Laura Clark, Clerk; and Lindsay Maidment, Bailiff. Christopher Wood, also from Scotland County, served as one of three Mock Trial Competition Judges.

Breakout sessions for the April 4 to 6 weekend included Attorney Case Preparation and the Rave to the Grave. Pam Riemer, Scotland County Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Agent, facilitated a breakout session on Team Building.

The Summit allowed for Teen Court volunteers statewide to develop friendships, share information and experiences, improve volunteer effectiveness in court, gain practical courtroom experience through mock trial competition and to have fun.

Bluegrass event a crowd pleaser



More than 500 people attended the 2nd annual Scotland Bluegrass Gathering March 29. Six bluegrass groups and a clogging troop provided entertainment throughout the day. Above left, members of Backlash warm up offstage while Doc Boggs and the Carolina Caterwaulers, right, play on the porch of one of the cabins of the John Blue House Grounds.

Post Scripts

Parent Educator **Rebecca Stricklen** attended the Child Care Conference in Charlotte, April 3 to 4. The **4-H program** provided face painting during Sunday In The Park, April 6. The **4-H Fashion Revue** and **4-H Entertains** was held April 25 at the Laurel Hill Community Center. ❧ DSS Accounting Technician **Myra Hill** was interviewed by SHS senior Karin Timbrook on how Hill uses a computer in her career. Timbrook received an 'A' on the project after making a formal presentation to the class. Her project poster is now on display in the lobby at SHS. The poster features an article about the formal presentation of the DSS budget to the DSS Board, which Hill developed for Director Jan Elliott.



Word of Wall spreads

continued from page 1

other relatives of someone serving in the Middle East. Along with the 43 named on the Wall are poems and quotations of hope submitted by residents.

Because word is quickly spreading, some people drop by the Annex just to look at the Wall of Honor.

Up until now Riggins hasn't given much thought as to how long she would keep the Wall up since troops will be serving in the Middle East for some time to come. "As long as people are enjoying it, I'll leave it there."

Computer Tips with Tenita Bullard



To automate your email when you will be out of the office do the following:

1. Log on to your email on the net using "mail.scotlandcounty.org".
2. Enter your name and password.
3. On the next screen click on "Rules".
4. Scroll down to the Vacation Box and put a check in this box.
5. Click on the Vacation Block and type your message such as "I will be out of the office until April 12, 2003" or any other message.
6. After you type your message scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on update. If you fail to click on update your info will not be saved.
7. Close your email, and your task is complete.

Once you complete the seven steps anyone who sends an email message to you will receive a response with your out of the office message.

Scotland County Monthly is published by the County Manager's Office to provide news and information to employees. Comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcome. Contact 277-3191 or akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org.