

Scotland County Monthly



DECEMBER 2006

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Newly-elected officials take oath of office in crowded courtroom



A standing-room-only crowd witnessed the swearing in of newly-elected officials, among them one new Commissioner, two incumbent Commissioners and the first black Sheriff in the history of Scotland County.

First to be sworn in was Sheriff Shep Jones, pictured right, with his wife Sonya and daughter Deondra, right, at his side. A lifelong Scotland County resident, Jones graduated from Scotland High School and from Fayetteville State University with a BS in business administration.

A 13-year veteran with the Scotland County Sheriff's Department, Jones also was elected to three terms on the Board of Education.

Pictured above, left to right, Marie Willis with her husband, incumbent Commissioner J.D. Willis, incumbent Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston and new Commissioner Guy McCook, accompanied by his wife Flora, stood before Superior Court Judge B. Craig Ellis for the swearing in.

Willis was elected to a second consecutive term as Commissioner and was appointed Board Chairman for the third consecutive year. Willis has served a total of 18 years as a Commissioner and served eight of those years as Board Chairman. Gholston, elected to a second consecutive term, was appointed as Board Vice Chair for a third consecutive year.

McCook, owner of Hasty Realty, received a business degree from Ashbury College. A 20-year resident of Scotland County, McCook is Chamber of Commerce Chairman, Rotary Club president and a member of the Scotland Memorial Foundation Board.



Employee United Way pledges increase

Despite a five percent decrease in participation this year, employees pledged \$5,170 to the United Way Campaign topping last year's total pledges by \$1,804.



Social Services and Health, the two largest departments, led the way with pledges totaling \$2,411 and \$1,181, respectively.

In a report from DSS, 42 of 92 employees made United Way contributions, surpassing last year's Campaign of 21 contributors out of 89 employees.

The agency offered a number of creative incentives for staff, which contributed to the increased United Way participation.

Incentives included a raffle for "prime" back door parking spaces among employees who contributed at least \$36. The Administration Unit, which had the highest per capita giving, received a dinner/party, contributed by outgoing Director Jan Elliott.

The agency offered a "dress down" incentive again this year. Anyone giving \$10 received a badge that would allow them to dress down for five days in December. Those contributing \$20 would receive a badge that allows dress down for 10 days. The badges read, "I dressed down today for a good cause....UNITEDWAY." The badges are punched each time an employee dresses down.

"This incentive is very popular," said Elliott. "Approximately half of all DSS employees contributed enough to be able to dress down. Our badges also display the slogan 'When you give from the heart you'll love the results'."

Annex prepares for move to new offices

Administration, IT, Engineering, Finance, Inspections, Mapping and Planning and Zoning will move to 507 West Covington Street January 3 and 4.

BellSouth will transition the phone lines January 4, and those offices expect to be without phone service for at least four hours.

2007
Here it comes!

Knott named Social Services Director

An 18-year veteran with the Department of Social Services will assume leadership of the agency as Director effective January 2. Joe Knott will replace outgoing Director Jan Elliott.



Joe Knott

Knott, the agency's Financial Services Program Manager, was selected from three candidates based on his agency experience, knowledge and background.

Knott began his career in Social Services after his retirement from the U.S. Air Force where he achieved the rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

He familiarized himself with the agency over the years by working as an Adult Medicaid Caseworker, Fraud Investigator, Medicaid Supervisor and Food Stamps Supervisor.

Elliott announced her retirement in August. Her cumulative 30 years experience as a social worker included the six years she served as Social Services Director.

Nine applications were forwarded to the State for consideration. Only three met State qualifications.

Library celebrates 65 years of service

Citizens and current and former employees gathered earlier this month to celebrate the 65th birthday of Scotland Memorial Library.

A pictorial account of the Library's history, its supporters and employees through the years was on display.

The library was established in 1941 with its first facility located at the corner of Cronly and Atkinson Streets, where Farm Bureau Insurance now stands.

The Library later moved to the Ed Guest Building at the First United Methodist Church. The current facility at 312 West Church Street, built with private donations, opened in 1967. It was the first "memorial" library in the State, designated in honor of World War II veterans.

"I was very pleased with the attendance for the 65th birthday observance," said Robert Busko, who has served as Library Director the past 10 years.

He added, "In total more than 50 people dropped by, which isn't bad for such an informal event, and not everyone bothered to sign the register."

Elected officials were among those who dropped in for the celebration.

Busko added, "I was especially pleased to meet Henry Hall (a former Library Director). I was disappointed that other former directors weren't able to attend." Busko said he and his staff are already talking about the 75th birthday.

Give this gift any time of the year

Treat yourself or someone else you care about to a gift that could be a life saver in the case of an emergency. The blue reflective address sign is a perfect gift for any occasion at a cost of just \$10.

EMS on West Boulevard sells the signs 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day of the week. EMS staff are particularly fond of the address signs because it makes it easier to locate a home in case of a medical emergency.

The sign is highly visible, even in some of the worst weather conditions.

Scotland Place a haven for older adults

Activities at Scotland Place Senior Center enrich the lives of Scotland County adults 55 and older through programs and services that help improve health and wellness, decrease loneliness and isolation and provide social, economic and educational opportunities that enhance their quality of life.

Three senior clubs meet monthly at Scotland Place — Spirit of Youth, Growing Friendships and Young at Heart.

Organized in 1980 by the late Fred McGill, Sr., Spirit of Youth focuses on shared activities that enrich the body, mind and soul.

Young at Heart, originally the Laurinburg Senior Citizens Club, was formed in 1965. It provides fellowship and recreation to adults. This club is 'famous' for its annual soup sale.

Growing Friendships promotes fellowship among its members, stimulates participation in community affairs and supports legislation and programs that benefit the elderly.

The Scotland County Chapter of AARP, Secret Pals and the Investment Club also meet regularly at Scotland Place.

Exercise classes are lead daily by AFAA-certified fitness professionals. Stretch and Flex held Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., improves flexibility, balance and strength. Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. is Walk Aerobics to increase cardiovascular strength and mobility.

Interested persons are invited to try the classes after checking with their doctor. A small fee is charged to cover the cost of the instructor.

This is the first in a series of articles on County-sponsored services and activities for older adults.

the Birthday list for January

1 Clarice Holmes (Elections); **3** Debra Webb (DSS) and Tiffanee Conrad (Cooperative Extension); **4** William Matthews (Health Board) and Angelita Locklear (DSS); **6** Annette Gooselin (Jail) and Deborah Tardif (DSS); **7** Bruce Clark (EMS), Wiley Luther (Sheriff) and Larry Locklear (Public Buildings); **8** Deanna Carlyle (EMS); **11** Sandra Lockey (EMS) and Stacy Shannon (Transportation); **12** Melissa Jacobs (EMS); **15** Brandon Scott (EMS); **16** Doug Yongue, Jr. (Health Board); **17** Herman Gillis (E-911); **19** Mitchell Locklear (Public Buildings); **20** Paul Lemmond (Sheriff); **21** Clyde Willoughby (Sheriff) and Donna Deese (Health); **22** Karen Chavis (DSS); **23** Robin Belperain (DSS); **25** Dr. Olivia Guzman (Health Board); **26** James Monroe (Sheriff); **27** Martin Clark (Public Works); **29** James Ellerbe (Public Works); **30** Willette Jones (DSS); **31** Nicole Yarborough (DSS).

Message from the Manager



John A. Crumpton

Work continues to be busy among County departments despite the upcoming holidays.

Development at the Recreation Sports Complex and the move of several departments to the Covington Street building were near completion by the end of December.

With these major projects winding down, the Commissioners approved a contract with the Wooten Company to begin work on the Courthouse roof renovation.

It seems daily work of running the County didn't slow down for the holidays.

Also in December, the Commissioners were asked to consider giving employees extra days of at Christmas. I did not introduce this idea, nor did I support it. My reason was simple.

The Commissioners in the past approved additional time off to employees as a way of "compensating" them for not receiving an annual raise.

When the Commissioners approved a 3.5 percent raise in the 06-07 budget, it was done with the understanding there would be no extra days off at Christmas. I felt a deal was a deal, and we should live up to it.

It is hoped that once again an employee raise will be including in the upcoming 07-08 budget. I didn't want additional days off this year to affect next year's raises.

I also contacted area counties and municipalities to survey what they might be doing for their employees. Everyone I spoke with said only Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26, were the approved days off for Christmas.

The Commissioners agreed that we had a deal and stuck to it.

Many employees chose to use vacation or comp time for their time off. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday even without the extra days.

February 7 will kick off the next budget season. The Commissioners will meet in a workshop that day to discuss major issues and the upcoming budget process.

Everyone should be looking at where they stand year-to-date with their respective budgets since half the year is behind us and we must prepare for the new budget and the fiscal year end. Let's look forward to a great new year.

Post Scripts

a minor in journalism and broadcasting. Congratulations to **Jeannie Freeman**, DSS, on the November 11 marriage of daughter Catisha Freeman to Dustin Lowery.

☼ The Health Department welcomed back **Lisa Locklear** December 5. Best wishes to **Vicki Thrower**, nutritionist, who leaves WIC in January to take a job in Cumberland County. Best wishes to **Abby Massey**, who leaves the Health Department for a job with Scotland County schools. **Teresa Herring** will take her place as a Processing Assistant. Welcome to **Alisa Freeman**, RN, who will begin work with the Health Department January 2. If you have not yet had a flu vaccine, the Health Department will conduct several all day **flu vaccine clinics**. Flu vaccines also will be administered during **General Clinic** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. County employees will receive the flu vaccine free of charge. **Barbara Mack**, Health, and husband Ken welcomed granddaughter Kate Margaret White, born December 4. **Pearlene Leggett**, Health, welcomed grandson Marcus Mykel Leggett, born December 13. ☼ **Scotland County Area Transit System** staff wish to thank everyone who attended the November 22 open house at its new building next to EMS.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since October 16, 2006: **Maisha Jackson** and **Sarah Kelly**, DSS; **Sandra Kirk** temporary with DSS; and **Amanda Chavis**, Cooperative Extension.

RCC launches local fundraising campaign



Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston was a guest speaker at the Campaign Kickoff.

Richmond Community College chose Presbyterian Park as the place for its Fundraising Campaign Kickoff because it is right across the street from where the Old Hospital once stood.

The Old Hospital site is where a new building will be constructed at the conclusion of a successful fundraising campaign.

The RCC facility on McLean Street, when constructed, would mark a return to the County of the practical nursing curriculum.

A number of community leaders and elected officials were guest speakers at the event.

RCC, the County and the City of Laurinburg spearheaded an effort several years ago to raise enough money to demolish the Old Hospital.

The next phase of the campaign is to raise enough funds to replace it with a building that would bring economic vitality to the area.

➔ Health Tip

Your eyes can become dry as sandpaper if you stare at a computer screen for hours without a break.

The muscles you use to squint are the same ones use to blink. When you're squinting, you're not blinking normally, so your eyes aren't getting the lubrication they need.

According to a recent study, just a tiny narrowing of the eye cut the number of blinks in half, from 15 down to 7.5 times a minute.

Full squints, where the eyes are halfway closed, cut blinking to only four times a minute. When blinks are that few and far between, eyes wind up irritated and achy.

A few easy steps could solve the problem. First, reduce the glare on your computer screen — change the lighting, reposition your computer to avoid window reflections, or use an antiglare screen filter. Next, adjust the brightness and contrast levels on your computer monitor to sharpen readability. Finally, take a break — it's good for your spine and wrists as well as your eyes. **Source: RealAge.com**

EMStatistics

EMS Report for November:
Responded to 386 Medical/
Trauma calls

Treated 61 motor vehicle
accident patients

Administered 73 wellness/
blood pressure checks

Sold 14 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

367 EMS

259 Sheriff's Department

163 Laurinburg Police
Department

49 Fire Department

591 hang-up calls

110 wrong numbers

35 open line calls

1,060 cellular calls

1,872 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

61 traffic accidents

52 sick person (specific
diagnosis)

45 breathing problems

31 transfer/interfacility/
palliative care

26 chest pain

26 falls/back injuries
(traumatic)

Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 82 on 11/10

Temp (low) 31 on 11/5

Wind (mph) 28 on 11/16

Rainfall (inches) 2.1 on 11/22

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

RCC remembers Gibson

The Cynthia Gibson Memorial Nursing Scholarship has been established at Richmond Community College to aid a first-year nursing student or a currently enrolled student entering the second year in the Associate Degree Nursing Program. The student must be a single mother with financial need.

The scholarship, named for Gibson, a Health Department nurse who died earlier this year, may be renewed for a second year as long as the recipient maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 and is not subject to expulsion, suspension or probation for reasons of conduct.

The first award for Fall 2007 is contingent upon the contribution of adequate funds. All funds are due by April 1 of each year. The amount of the award will vary at the discretion of the RCC Foundation.

Anyone interested in obtaining more information or in receiving a contribution form, may contact Lynda McMillan at 277-2470 ext. 445.

Jordan honored



Charles "Scoofer" Jordan attended the December Board of Commissioners meeting as a citizen rather than as an elected official where he was recognized and thanked for four years of public service. Chairman J.D. Willis, left, presented Jordan with a plaque of appreciation.

Put frequently used files to 'Work'

by Kevin Patterson, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager

The Work menu is a menu that stores links to documents of your choosing. It's not like the links in the File menu for recently used files.

The Work menu can actually be used to store links to whatever files you choose, regardless of how long it's been since you've actually used the file.

To use the Work menu, it must first be added to the Word menu using the Customize window. (Tools menu, Customize choice or right click on a toolbar and choose Customize at the bottom).

In the Customize window, you need the Commands tab. On the left (Categories), choose Built-in Menus and then on the right side (Commands), locate Work. Now, click, hold and drag the Work menu into the menu bar. Release the mouse button to drop it in the desired location. Close the Customize window.

Now let's learn how to use the Work menu. If you click on the menu, you'll find a single item: "Add to Work Menu." When this item is selected, Word will add a link to the currently active document to the menu.

If your current document hasn't been saved, the choice to add will not be accessible. Word must have a file name and save the location to add a link.

Now, whenever you need to access this file, the File, Open and navigation steps are eliminated. Simply go to the Work menu and choose it from the list.

There's one more piece of information before this lesson concludes. How do we remove a link from the Work menu? Simply use the key combination Ctrl + Alt + _ (underscore) to convert the mouse pointer into a large, dark minus sign.

Use the mouse to take that pointer to the Work menu. When you select a file from the list with the minus sign, it will be removed immediately.

And there you have it! A pretty fast way to access the files with which you frequently "Work!"

State imposes stricter penalties on numerous seatbelt violations

A new State seatbelt law designed to protect all motor vehicle occupants will exact stiffer penalties and place greater responsibility on drivers who fail to comply.

Senate Bill 774, introduced and sponsored by Senator William R. Purcell and passed by the General Assembly, became effective December 1.

Ages and positions covered require that all drivers and passengers — in the rear seat as well as in the front seat — ages 16 and older must wear seatbelts. Children less than age 16 are covered by the State child passenger safety law.

The seatbelt law applies to all vehicles required by federal standards to have seatbelts. In general, these are cars made after 1967 and light trucks and vans made after 1971.

The full restraint system provided for the seating position must be properly worn even if the position is equipped with an automatic shoulder belt or an airbag. Placing the shoulder belt behind the back or under the arm is not allowed.

The driver of the vehicle is responsible for himself and all children younger than age 16. Passengers 16 and older are responsible for themselves.

Drivers and front seat occupants older than age 15 in violation of the law will be assessed a \$25 penalty and \$75 court costs. Rear seat occupants older than age 15 will be assessed a penalty of \$10, but there would be no court costs. No driver's license or insurance points are assessed.