



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2002

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Departments enter budgets electronically

With the installation in April of HTE, a new software program, supervisors were able to access the AS400 from their own computers and submit their departmental budgets electronically.

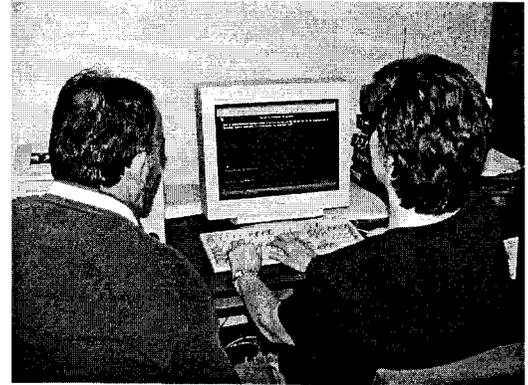
Robert Bowen assisted the supervisors in the learning process. Most departments took advantage of utilizing the new program. "It's simple to use," explained Bowen, Computer Systems Coordinator. "There's only five steps they have to go through in order to enter the budget."

Whole dollar amounts must be entered because the system does not allow for decimals, cents or dollar figures. A comment section is available if the user feels it is necessary to justify a budgeted item.

Entering departmental budgets is the first in a three-level process. Once budgets have been entered at the first level, departments have a few weeks to review them and make changes.

The second level is read only. "The County Manager then reviews and makes changes to the departmental budgets. Supervisors can access the budgets to track what changes, if any, the County Manager has made," Bowen said.

"At the third level, the proposed budget is ready for review and approval by the Board of Commissioners," Bowen said. Budget printouts also are available to all departments.



Robert Bowen helps Purchasing Agent Gail Wright with the five-step budget process.

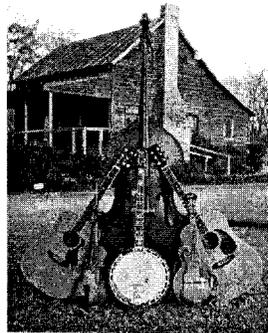
Bluegrass gathering set for March 24

The first ever Scotland Bluegrass Gathering is set for 1 to 6 p.m., March 24, at the John Blue House. The event is open to the public.

Bluegrass Experience, River Edge and McFarland Road Bluegrass Band will be featured along with Smith McInnis, 87, the North Carolina Heritage Award winner for fiddle playing. There will be performances by the St. Andrews Pipe Band and the Shoeheel Creek Cloggers.

Co-sponsored by Parks and Recreation and the St. Andrews Presbyterian College, the gathering is a culmination of the college's Scottish Heritage Symposium and Banquet weekend.

"This is a wonderful way for the community to enjoy, share in and celebrate musical roots inspired by the area's Scottish heritage," said Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton.



A. D. Gibson store relocated to John Blue House grounds

It's another chapter, but not the final one, in the history of the A.D. Gibson store. The general store was transported February 15 from its Sneads Grove location, where it sat for near 120 years, to its new home on the John Blue House grounds.

Spectators, gathered along the way, took their own sentimental journey as they shared memories of the country store, which closed in 1974. "For 10 years of my life, everything I ate and wore came from that store," recalled one man.

Moving the 92-foot-long building was a slow process that took eight hours and involved the efforts of City and County officials, the Sheriff's Department, CP&L, BellSouth and the Department of Transportation.

Fayetteville House Movers, specialists in relocating buildings, took on the job of transporting the store 10 miles to its new location.

Over the course of the year, the A.D. Gibson store will be renovated and restored and eventually will house items and general store memorabilia indicative of the times.

It is anticipated that restoration will be complete in time for the John Blue Festival in October.

Photos of the move are on page 4.

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

Cynthia's Place fills a need page 2

PA joins primary care clinic page 3



Cynthia's Place provides child-friendly environment

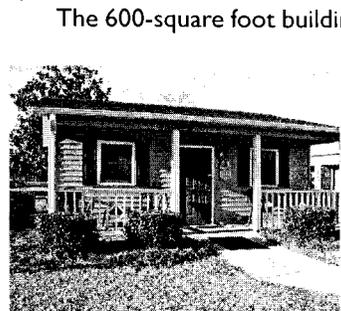
It looks like a child's playhouse. It even has a slide and a picnic table in the backyard. This miniaturized version of a single family home is Cynthia's Place.

With Cynthia's Place nearby yet separate from the Department of Social Services (DSS), Children's Services staff have been able to provide a private, child-friendly environment that is non-threatening.

"We use Cynthia's Place for family visits in cases where a child has been removed from the family or caregiver," explained Celeste McRae, Families for Kids Coordinator. "This is a safe place for everyone, and it tends to diffuse high emotions."

Cynthia's Place was built in 1996 with County money and private donations. It's named for Cynthia Wentz Ficklin, a social worker who died of cancer in 1992. "DSS wanted the building to look like a home, accessible from the outside, and not from DSS offices," McRae said.

She remembers what it used to be like providing mandated protective services to children inside DSS offices. "We worked in a space that was small, intrusive and not very private for families or for DSS workers."



The little home behind DSS known as Cynthia's Place.

The 600-square foot building features three rooms. The main room is similar to a living room, with a sofa, rocking chair, television, play area, table and chairs. The accessible bathroom has a small bath and infant changing facilities. The third room is used by DSS staff to observe and monitor activities in the main room via a video camera system and two-way mirror.

Cynthia's Place also is made available for testing assessments, counseling sessions, small group meetings and conferences with foster parents.

Forum focuses on Medicaid, school funding



Celeste McRae takes notes in the main room at Cynthia's Place.

Affectionately known as "the little house," the Scotland County community has been generous in its support of the facility. In January, the Laurinburg Junior Service League presented DSS with a \$3,000 check earmarked for Cynthia's Place.

"The house still needs some softening," said McRae. The Junior Service League gift will be used to purchase window treatments, a rug for the main room and shelves for storage space. "We're so appreciative to have Cynthia's Place, and we're proud of it," McRae added.

Administrators and elected officials discussed Medicaid and public school funding at a Rural Issues Forum, February 22, hosted by the NC Association of County Commissioners.

County Manager Scott Sauer and Commissioners Sam Snowdon and John Cooley attended the forum at the Laurel Hill Community Center.

Notes from the County Manager

Greetings.

Scotland County now has a Human Relations Committee, thanks to the hard work of County Commissioners Nancy Shelley and Clint Willis and City of Laurinburg Mayor Ann Slaughter.



Scott Sauer

In a joint action, the County Commissioners in early November and the City Council in late October adopted an ordinance creating the Laurinburg/Scotland County Human Relations Committee.

The 12-member committee — four County appointees and eight City appointees — held its first meeting February 5.

They wasted no time getting down to business. Officers were appointed, proposed by-laws reviewed and a meeting schedule set; the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the County Annex Conference Room.

Officers are Terence Williams, chair; William "Doug" Edge, vice chair; and Vernie Joye, secretary/treasurer. Committee members are Carl D. Clark, Rev. J. Roy McCook, Betsy Massey, Frances Freeman, Robert McNair, John W. McNair, Jane Murray and Shirley Stuart.

My sincere appreciation is extended to Dr. Felicia Wilkins-Turner, a human relations specialist with the State Human Relations Commission.

Dr. Turner was on hand to provide orientation to our local committee during its first meeting. This past year, as City and County officials worked to develop a joint human relations committee, she supported our efforts 100 percent, sharing her extensive knowledge on human relations and offering the guidance and resources necessary to ensure our success.

Lastly, a word about the finances as we approach budget preparations for FY 2002-2003. With an uncertain economy, industrial closings and the continued pressure of having to satisfy increases in unfunded mandates, debate over the budget never seems to cease.

To those supervisors who submitted their budgets on time, and to those supervisors who maintained their budget at the current level or identified areas where cuts could be made, thank you!

Post Scripts

The 2002 4-H County Council officers and 2002 Volunteer Leaders were sworn in January 24 during an Achievement Program celebration. New County Council officers are **Brent Wright**, president; **Tequisa McPhatter**, vice president; **Tequan McPhatter**, secretary; **Sharday McRae**, treasurer; and **Clarieana Gillis**, reporter. 2002 Volunteer Leaders are **Hazel McPhatter**,

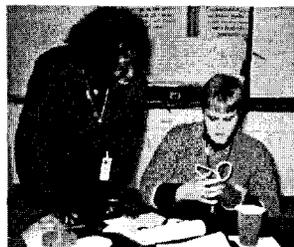


Agricultural Agent David Morrison donates blood at a Red Cross blood drive hosted by the County. Thanks to everyone who helped the Red Cross exceed its 30-pint goal.

Bridges, Hope Butler, Kathryn Fuller, Alexis Martin, Laura Salley and Jessica Maidment; Teen Court Adult Volunteers Pam Hill, Lavonda Jones, Britt Parrish, Rogena Deese, Pearl Caulder, James Allen, Cookie Littlefield, Wanda Sheppard, Catherine Farabee, Catherine Pinkston, Judge William McIlwain, Judge Richard Brown, Attorney Christopher Wood, Jean Miller and Debbie Holcomb. Teen Court Club Adult Volunteers Denise Herr, Tamara Morgan, John Teal, Mike Fedak, James Underwood, Noran Moffett, Burwell Stark and Boyd Johnson. ☼ Congratulations to **Sandy Pridgen**, processing assistant with the Family Center, named

Health Department Employee of the Month. The Health Department extends its thoughts to **Mary Armstrong, Dannie Hill and Terena Taylor**, who will be taking extended leave. ☼ Rules Governing Private Water Supply Wells in Scotland County, adopted January 15 by the Board of Health, will take effect July 1, 2002. ☼ The Dental Advisory Group, a Healthy Carolinians initiative, held its first meeting February 21, to evaluate the needs and develop possible solutions for indigent and Medicaid patients in the County. ☼ Congratulations to CNA **Janie Shaw**, Scotland Home Health employee of the Month. ☼ **Robert Sanford**, Veterans Services, inspected the site for the planned veteran's home, located next to the Veterans Hospital in Salisbury, NC. ☼ **Ella Knott**, daughter of **Joe Knott**, DSS, was selected by ADDitude magazine as a "Teacher We Love" in the January/February issue.

Hazel McPhatter, president; **Chauntelle Wright**, president-elect; **John McPhatter**, vice president; **Alisha Brown**, secretary; **Ruth Campbell**, treasurer; and **Robert Wagner**, reporter. ☼ The following individuals were recognized during 4-H Achievement Night: Teen Court Attorneys **Thomas Brigman, Clay Brooks, Crystal Dorton, Melanie Granville, Megan Grimsley, Paul Harrell, Jerek Hough, Ryan Norton, Sam Rush, Will Shytle, Jennifer Smid and Blake Williams; Teen Court Senior Attorneys Meagan**



Ida McGill, left, and Rebecca Griffin were among 12 supervisors who participated in the recent DSS Planning Retreat.

PA sees education as key to primary care

The opportunity to work in a rural primary care clinic proved irresistible for Michealle Reece.

A certified physician assistant, Reece made the transition in August 2001 from private practice with an internal medicine group to the newly created primary care clinic at the Scotland County Health Department.

The physician assistants program initially was established to train individuals in providing primary care in rural areas, although quite a few physician assistants today opt for private practice positions in suburban/urban settings.

"I enjoy educating people, healthwise, through preventive health services," said Reece. After six years of service in the U.S. Army, Reece attended Methodist College in Fayetteville, where she received a B.S. in microbiology and cellular physiology with a minor in chemistry.

Reece continued at Methodist earning a Bachelor of Health Science in allied health. She is professionally certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

Services include medical diagnosis and treatments for high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol and bronchitis.

Prostate cancer screening, pap smears, colon cancer screening, counseling, referral and follow-up as needed for abnormal results also are provided by Reece and the primary care clinic staff.

Primary Care Clinic services are available by appointment to individuals 18 and older, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Michealle Reece

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Sign ups for 2002 Youth Baseball/Softball/Tee Ball are March 11 to 15 for boys who are age 5 before August 1 and do not turn 13 before August 1. Girls who are age 5 before August 1 and do not turn 16 before August 1 also are eligible.

New participants must bring birth certificates and be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

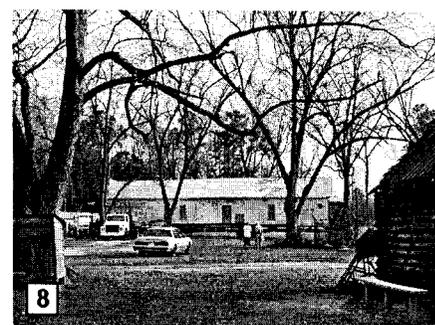
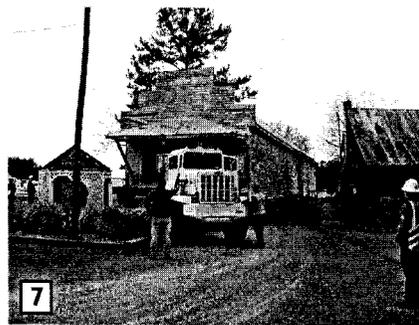
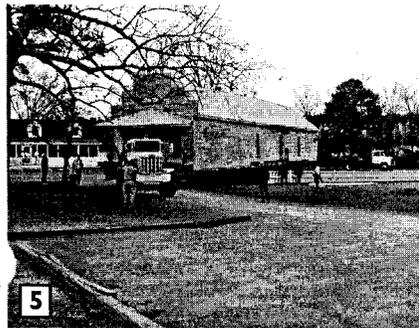
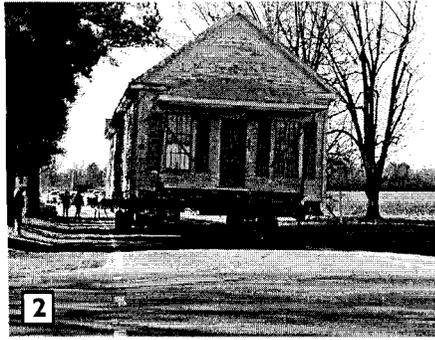
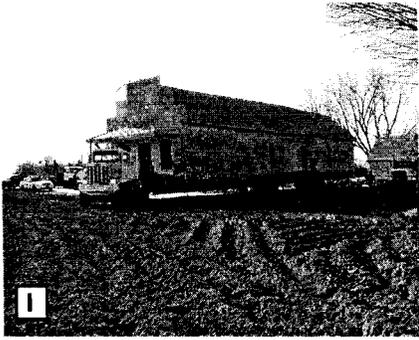
Sign ups will take place Monday to Friday, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Scotland Place; and 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at these locations on the following days, Gibson Gym, Monday; Laurel Hill Community Center Gym, Tuesday; and Murray Park, Wagram, Thursday.

Returning players may call 277-2550 to sign up during the 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. week of sign ups.

Scotland County Parks and Recreation is preparing for its annual Easter Eggstravaganza for children ages 2 - 7. The event will be held Saturday, March 23 at 10 a.m. at Legion Park.

Scheduled activities include face painting, moon walk, egg hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Admission is 50 cents per child. Call 277-2585 for more information.



the Birthday list for March

4 Catherine Stubbs (Tax) and Linda Taylor (Home Health); **5** Judy O'Brien (Health) and Mary Washington (Home Health) **7** Raymond Moody (Parks and Recreation); **9** David Inman (DSS); **12** Wesley Herring (Landfill); **13** Alice Pipkin (DSS) and Phyllis Clark (DSS); **14** Rachel Peguese (Health); **16** Annie Malloy (Health) and Donna Hendrix Williams (Home Health); **20** Gracie Rettig (Transportation) and Chuck Wheeler (Sheriff); **22** Beth Walters (Register of Deeds) and Kitty Johnson (Health); **24** Augusta Roper (Public Buildings); **25** Ricky Locklear (Public Buildings); **27** Christa Marcano (DSS); **28** Rodney Tucker (Jail); **31** Donna McQueen (Health) and Marsha Sealeron (Home Health).

Fundraiser helps patients who need assistance

A fundraiser hosted by Scotland Home Health will help the agency provide temporary solutions to patients in need of assistance.

Scotland Home Health Director Miriam Bounds hopes to match, if not exceed, the \$11,000 the agency raised at last year's Patient Assistance Fundraiser.

"It helps with short-term solutions to some problems our patients may have," explained Bounds.

Last year, for example, the money was used for medicine, minor house repairs and utility hook-ups. "The money is never used to pay for operational expenses," Bounds said.

The dinner and dance features the Coastline Band and is scheduled for Friday, May 3, at Highlands. Dress is casual.

The dinner is \$60 per couple, \$30 per person. Contact Bounds or Carol McCall at 277-2484 for more information or to purchase tickets.

Historic journey for the A.D. Gibson store

1. At 9:30 a.m., the A.D. Gibson store begins its day-long journey from its original location on McFarland Road. **2.** Once Fayetteville House Movers turn left at the McFarland and Sneads Grove intersection, the first of numerous hurdles is behind them. **3.** At 3 p.m., a Department of Transportation official holds the traffic signal at the Turnpike and X-Way Road intersection, clearing the way for a right turn. **4.** The destination is now within sight on X-Way Road. **5.** Public Buildings staff temporarily dismantle part of the white picket fence in front of the John Blue House. **6.** Ensuring the the A.D. Gibson store would clear the utility wires, a CP&L employee holds one aloft on the John Blue property. **7.** Logistical maneuvers present challenges for Fayetteville House Movers and driver Boot Johnson, who persisted behind the wheel until the job was done. **8.** The store gets a new home behind the John Blue House, inside the perimeter of the Cotton Blossom Railroad tracks.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to the following individuals who have joined Scotland County Departments since December 16, 2002: **Billy Stout**, Jail; **Joseph Sellers**, Sheriff; **Beverly Wranosky** and **Tim Martin**, DSS; and **Donnie Lee Jackson, Jr.** Structured Day Care.

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.