

Scotland County

Monthly



FEBRUARY 2011

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Event allows for mass disposal of personal papers, medications

Two popular events — Shred-It and Operation Medicine Drop — will join forces next month to give citizens a no-cost, one-stop opportunity to protect themselves from identity theft and prevent accidental poisonings. Both are scheduled for Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m., at the Scotland High School parking lot.

"Last year the Shred-It and Operation Medicine Drop were held on the same day but at different times and locations," said Family and Consumer Science Agent Sharon English. "This year we decided to collaborate to give citizens the opportunity to take advantage of both programs at one time."

Shred-It, sponsored by Scotland County Cooperative Extension and ECA (Extension and Community Association), provides citizens a safe way to dispose of confidential information in an effort to prevent identity theft. This service is offered free of charge for individuals with a limit of 100 pounds per person. Scotland County citizens and those living in surrounding counties are encouraged to participate.

Shred-It, a company that specializes in secure document management, will provide the shred service. Volunteers will be on hand to assist participants with transporting their boxes to the Shred-It truck.

"We are excited to have Shred-It in Scotland County for the third consecutive year," English said. "Each year we have filled the truck, which holds approximately 10,000 pounds of paper, and we hope to do it again this year."

She explained, "The shred process is fast and will cut the paper in a cross-confetti pattern that will make it impossible to recreate. Also, there is no need to remove any staples or paper clips, the shredder is built to handle the metal as well."

The truck will be here from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. or until it is full, whichever comes first.

Rose White-Hearn, Outreach Specialist with the State Department of Justice, will participate again this year. White-Hearn will distribute information and answer questions on identity theft prevention.

The second Annual Operation Medicine Drop, sponsored by the Laurinburg Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, Scotland County Safe Kids Mid-Carolinas Region and N.C. Safe Kids, will kick-off National Poison Prevention Week March 20 to 26.

Citizens will be able to safely rid their homes of unwanted drugs and dispose of them properly.

[see Event, page 3](#)

Randy Wood named Director of Cooperative Extension

Randy Wood will become Director of Cooperative Extension, effective March 1. Since 2007, Wood has worked as Area Agricultural Agent specializing in livestock production for Scotland and Hoke counties.

He replaces Dr. Cathy Graham, who is now Director of Cooperative Extension in Robeson County.

Wood has worked with Cooperative Extension since 2000 when he became Agricultural Agent for Moore and Montgomery counties.

He earned a Bachelor's Degree in animal science and a Master's Degree in extension education from N.C. State University.

Joining Wood on March 1 is Glen Garris, who was named Agricultural Agent. Dr. Garris replaces David Morrison, who retired in October 2009.

Dr. Garris has more than 31 years experience working in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in biology with a major in entomology and a Master's in Science in medical and veterinary entomology, minor microbiology, from Clemson University. He earned his Ph.D. in veterinary entomology/acarology, minor microbiology from Oklahoma State University.



Randy Wood



Glen Garris

Students enjoy Wagram Center play day

All students at Wagram Primary school spent part of their day at the neighboring Wagram Recreation Center earlier this month.

Students, along with teachers and athletic staff, filed through the Center to play games and enjoy competitive, fun activities that flexed their brains and worked their muscles.



Water — the Cycle of Life depicted as part of annual poster contest

Text and photo by Martha Norfleet, Soil and Water

Water — the Cycle of Life was the topic for the annual poster contest hosted by Soil and Water. The contest was open to all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Shaw Elementary and Washington Park Elementary submitted contest entries.

A certificate of recognition was given to each student who participated, with awards given for 1st and 2nd place finishes in each grade.

Sarah Jenkinson, 3rd grader, and Sarah Eury, 4th grader from Washington Park Elementary, and Stephan Powell, 5th grader from



Students get creative depicting the cycle of life for water as part of the annual poster contest.

Shaw Elementary School, won \$25 Walmart gift cards for their 1st place entries.

Isabel Huesa, 4th grader from Washington Park Elementary, and Lyaysa McKinnon, 5th grader from Shaw Elementary, won \$20 Walmart gift cards for their 2nd place entries.

The winning 1st place posters will be entered into the Area VII competition. The Area winners will advance to the State contest. Prizes are awarded at the Area and State level also.

PostScripts

Jeannie Freeman, DSS, won the Valentine's Day basket raffled by the A-Team that included a "LOVE" picture frame, country apple candle, chocolates, hand massager, body wrap, bubble bath, heart-shaped marshmallows, a miniature

red sock monkey and more, all in a Tupperware bin. Freeman's name was selected from more than 100 participants.

☼ "WOW!" (Working Women Workouts) will begin again at Scotland Place March 14. Registration for the program on physical activities and nutrition information/education is \$12 for a six-week session. The group meets Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. ☼



Rep. Garland Pierce, left, and Chairman Bob Davis chat at McDuff's February 18. The two were among State and local elected officials who met with the community at the event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Cory Baldwin, EMS, is now a CICP Paramedic (Certified Critical Care Provider). Baldwin tested in December and received certification in January.

Our condolences to ...

Our condolences to Louise Williams, Library, on the January 27 passing of her mother, Mamie Lee Rush; to Barbara Ledbetter, DSS, on the passing of her father-in-law Henry N. Ledbetter; to the family of James Banks, Public Buildings retiree, who passed away February 9; to the family of Kitty Currie, Tax Office retiree, who died February 11; to Miyaka Mackie, DSS, on the February 20 death of her grandmother, Thelma Davis; to Tammy Kellogg, DSS on the February 19 passing of her mother, Cleadis Scott; to Debra Kersey, Health, on the February 19 death of her son-in-law, Jason Walters; to Dannie Hill, Health retiree, on the February 21 death of her husband, Roy Hill; to Charles Williams, Administration retiree, on the February 23 death of his grandson Jeremy Allen "Scrubs" Williams.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments as of December 16, 2010: Brandi Locklear and Ryan Jones, part-time with EMS; Dale Phillips, temporary with Parks and Recreation.

**Blood Drive, Tuesday, March 1, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
507 West Covington Street. Help the County reach its goal of 25 units.**

Facts: Each unit of blood donated can help up to three people // Hospitals use about 1,500 blood products each day // one in 10 persons entering the hospital needs blood // Women receive 56% of the blood transfused; men receive 44%.

the Birthday list for March

1 Bud McAllister (Inspections); 2 April Dorsett (EMS); 4 Catherine Stubbs (Tax); 6 Gaylord Hunt (IT), Nancy Pittman (DSS) and Latoya Williams (Sheriff); 7 Ray Moody (Parks and Recreation), Felisa McKeithan (Transportation) and Jeffrey Cooke (Sheriff); 8 Leslie Scott (DSS); 9 Maacah Toney (Health) and Tanya Graves (DSS); 12 June Hunt (EMS); 13 Alice Morgan (DSS) and Phyllis Clark (Health); 14 Jimmy Hall (DSS), Rachel Peguese (Health) and Mary White (EMS); 16 Annie Malloy (Health) and Malcolm McClellan (Jail); 18 Jonathan Simmons (Jail); 20 Gracie Rettig (Transportation) and Kirk McBride (Tax); 22 Kitty Johnson (Health); 24 Rhonda Cox and Elizabeth Shutt (DSS), Mary Helen Norton (Tax), Augusta Roper (Public Buildings), Linda Jones (Transportation) and Oscar Henderson (EMS); 25 Tammy Garcia (EMS); 27 Solomon Baxley (EMS).

4-H'ers attend South Central event



Five Scotland County 4-H'ers attended the South Central District Winter Enrichment in Moore County. Workshops focused on leadership skills, health programs and electric projects.

Pictured, back row, left to right, are Langston Byrd and Deangelo Byrd, and front row, left to right, Shauneé McLaurin, 4-H Agent Corrie Haskins, Hannah Ammons and Hannah Smith.

Event provides safe disposal options

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Many significant problems are associated with unused and expired drugs in the home since they often are left unsecured in cabinets and on counters.

Improper use of drugs may cause an overdose and drug interactions. Accidental poisoning from ingestion of drugs among children and pets often occurs in homes where medicine is easily accessible.

Furthermore, the disposal of unwanted drugs in household trash or by flushing them down the sink or toilet is unwise and dangerous to the environment, potentially contaminating the water supply.

"We encourage citizens to take advantage of this opportunity to safely dispose of unused and expired medication," said Police Officer Josh Byrd.

"The ultimate goal is to reduce accidental poisonings," Byrd explained. He assured, "Citizens will not be questioned about medications or how they obtained them."

For Shred-It information, contact Cooperative Extension at 277-2422. Contact Byrd at 276-3211 or County Health Educator Kathie Cox at 277-2440 for Operation Medicine Drop information.

Harry Coleman, a Department of Corrections retiree, picks up trash in Laurel Hill.

According to Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Bobby Horne, "Mr. Coleman cares about his community and he takes pride in his community, and that's why he's doing what he's doing."



D.C. trip sheds light on local needs

County Commissioners Joyce McDow and Guy McCook and Laurinburg City Council Members Tommy Parker and Kenton Spencer met with federal legislators in Washington, D.C., January 25 to continue to seek funding and support for local initiatives.

The four initiatives discussed include a request for \$1.03 million, which would allow for additional thickness on the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport runway so heavy aircraft could land safely.

An additional \$350,000 was requested to complete funding for the \$1 million originally requested for expansion of the Emergency Operation Center. The County had received notification last year that \$650,000 was approved for the expansion project.

Local elected officials also asked for funds for expansion of Scotland Place for the creation of a senior wellness center and for the development of a business incubator where new and existing businesses could lease space.

The group, accompanied by County Manager Kevin Patterson, Economic Developer Greg Icard and City Manager Ed Burchins, met with U.S. Senators Kay Hagan and Richard Burr and U.S. Representatives Mike McIntyre and Larry Kissell.

The federal legislators were receptive to all project requests and expressed particular support of the LMA runway project. Funding and language supporting the runway project was requested in the House and Senate last year.

"Even though Congress has not passed an appropriations bill, we are seeking support for the 11-12 fiscal year," Patterson explained. "The House and Senate have not finalized rules to determine what directed spending will be allowed in the appropriations bills."



On the steps of the U.S. Capitol, left to right, are Economic Developer Greg Icard, Commissioners Guy McCook and Joyce McDow and County Manager Kevin Patterson.

County looks forward to gains and growth

The message was realistic and upbeat as County Manager Kevin Patterson and Economic Developer Greg Icard gave the annual State of the County address to the community February 17.

Patterson conceded the current economy has created difficulties. He added, "We have seen improvement and gains moving forward."

Patterson said the County experienced 11 percent growth in real estate values from \$1.9 billion in 2003 to \$2.1 billion in 2011 as a result of the State required revaluation process. "Had it not been for the market crash, growth would have been significantly higher."

Patterson dispelled a misunderstanding about the \$1.02 tax rate, which provides the primary revenue for the County budget. "We may have the highest tax rate in the State, but Scotland County ranks 67th in taxes paid," Patterson said.

Although not included for funding in the State's seven-year Transportation Improvement Plan, Patterson said the County will continue to vigorously advocate for the widening of 401 North to Raeford and development of I-74 through Scotland County.

"We will push for these projects over the next seven years," he said. "This is a continual process in reaching our transportation goals."

Icard said the County recruited three new companies to the area — Green Rite of Maxton, Woodlawn Swing Sets and Advanced Cutting Technologies. The three companies will create 51 jobs and make a \$16 million investment.

Icard said since companies are much more automated than in the past, they now create between 15 to 75 jobs as opposed to the hundreds in decades past.

Icard added that the County is fortunate to make the gains it did in business recruitment. "There are many counties where nothing happened. A lot is happening here, and that's a good sign."

He added that prospect activity has been on the rise since January. "We're doing all we can to bring businesses into the County through partnerships and leveraging resources."

In the past year, Icard said the County received \$623,000 in grants to assist small business starts and promote growth for existing businesses. He said \$1.1 million in grant requests are pending.

Patterson and Icard, along with City Manager Ed Burchins, discussed the state of the County and the City during two public forums — the first for Chamber of Commerce members in the morning, the second for the general public in the evening at the County Courthouse.

Agencies tested on crisis

The County's ability to open emergency shelters, provide communications, operate an Emergency Operations Center, investigate and track a biological outbreak and explore the surge capacity at Scotland Memorial Hospital were put to the test recently.

Although the emergency event was a tabletop exercise, the more than 100 first responders who attended worked through staffing, preparation and logistics as if a category five hurricane made landfall and caused a break in communications.

The main players in the exercise — the Red Cross, Scotland County Schools, Public Health, Social Services, Emergency Management and Scotland Memorial Hospital — were facilitated by Dr. Keith Henderson of the NC Public Health Regional Surveillance Team 3.

Subject of the exercise was a category 4 or 5 hurricane that would leave Scotland County without conventional electrical service for at least two weeks.

"With an event of this magnitude, there is not a single agency, department, business or individual in Scotland County that will not be impacted," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond. "This on the same scale as Hurricane Hazel."

Hammond added, "Scotland County has not seen such an event in 56 years, and lots of things have changed in the past 56 years. We all share responsibility in the response and recovery from such an event."

Colorful Choices coming

Registration for *Colorful Choices*, a new health initiative offered by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Health Plan, begins February 28.

The goal for those who participate in the eight-week program is to put produce first by eating at least five produce servings a day, three of which must be vegetables.

A point system will be associated with the produce. Eating a serving of vegetables will earn two points while the consumption of a serving of fruit will earn one point.

There is no dieting. The goal of the program is to enhance daily eating habits to include more vegetables and fruits, using a color theme.

And while daily supplements may be a good idea, a balanced diet packed with produce is the best way to be sure you're getting all the nutrients your body needs for optimum health and energy.

There are options to participate individually or with a team of four to eight members.

Colorful Choices is designed to be simple and easy. There is no calorie counting, no fat gram tabulating, no weighing or measuring — just easy-to-remember daily selections of colorful produce — more than 120 to choose from.

A diet rich with vegetables and fruits is healthy and can help reduce the risk of obesity, heart disease, some cancers, diabetes and hypertension while increasing energy.

News of Note

Take-home pay differences explained

Employees might have noticed a difference in their take home pay with the January payroll. That's because a recent federal law helped decrease payroll taxes for employees in 2011 by reducing the Social Security tax withholding rate from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent. The reduction resulted in an increase in wages paid. Another reason for the difference in take home pay is a change in federal tax tables that became effective January 1. The tables no longer include the MakingWork Pay credit from 2009 and 2010. As a result, the amount of federal tax withheld might have increased from 2010. Please direct questions to your payroll personnel or department head. Do not compare checks. Even if you make the same gross amount, there might be differences in the net amount depending on your pre-tax deductions and whether you are claiming married or single and the number of exemptions (deductions) listed on your W-4. To change marital status or the number of exemptions, go to www.irs.gov and download the new form. Forward it to Linda Holland so the changes will be



Dr. Keith Henderson and Roylin Hammond, kneeling left to right, with the Epidemic Investigation Team, second row from left, Tina Clark, Heather Wyke, Kitty Johnson, Judy McMillan and Kathie Cox, third row from left, Debbie Maske, Michealle Reece, Wanda Avetta (Scotland Memorial Hospital), Danny Sprouse, Selena Locklear, Brian Lowry and Ron Sapp. The team tracked a biological outbreak as part of the exercise.

reflected in the next payroll.

CAC welcomes State-sponsored programs

Two television programs about county government will be aired on CommunityAccess Channel 2. The programs, created by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), also are posted on the NCACC YouTube channel. The first program is a monthly 20-minute production that informs citizens about the services counties provide. It was created as part of a national initiative to educate citizens about county government services. The second program is presented weekly and is 10 minute long. It includes news and information that impact county governments from the General Assembly. Scotland County is among 30 community access channels in cities and counties across the state that partnered with NCACC to run the programs.

Horne guest speaker at recycling session

Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. "Bobby" Horne was guest speaker at two recycling workshops, one hosted by Sustainable Sandhills, the other hosted by Scotia Village. More than 20 people attended both events that promised "the mysteries of recycling revealed." Horne did not disappoint. He walked both groups through the recycling process and explained what can and cannot be recycled.

AARP free income tax return service offered

AARP will offer free income tax return services at Scotland Memorial Library every Friday through April 15. AARP will file simple returns only. The service is open to anyone. There are no income or age restrictions. Appointments are required. AARP will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Holly at Parks and Recreation (277-2585) to schedule an appointment.