

Scotland County Monthly



JANUARY 2008

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

BRAC expected to have positive affect on County's economy

A huge, positive impact is expected for an 11-county region as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

With Scotland among the 11 counties, BRAC Executive Director Paul Dordal said it would take effort on the part of community leaders to get a piece of the economic boon BRAC will bring over the years.

Dordal's comments were part of a BRAC update presented to a standing-room-only at the Dulin Center. The event was organized by U.S. Rep Robin Hayes.

"Businesses will be moving here because they want to be close to Ft. Bragg but they don't necessarily have to be next door to the installation," Dordal explained.

"Major defense companies spend billions of dollars on subcontractors, which will attract new businesses and industry here," said Dordal.

He added that for the 50 or so businesses relocating from urban areas like Atlanta, where there is a 30 to 45-minute commute, the County's location would not exclude them from moving to this area.

Dordal added that the County's strengths include the presence of Laurinburg-Maxton Airport, an excellent public school system and medical facility, its proximity to I-74, Richmond Community College and St. Andrews Presbyterian College and its ability to support agricultural expansion.

U.S. Rep. Robin Hayes predicted unlimited opportunities would be determined by how well community leaders work together to bring about a positive outcome. "The community must assure that a skilled and trained workforce is available to businesses."

Dordal said the number of soldiers and employees at Ft. Bragg will increase from 53,000 to 65,000, and 40,000 additional people will relocate to the area as part of the Ft. Bragg growth.

On-post military construction totaling \$2.2 billion will occur over the next five years. "I don't see that activity stopping after five years," Dordal said.

Commissioners appoint Patterson County Manager

The Board of Commissioners made it official earlier this month and appointed Kevin Patterson as the new County Manager.

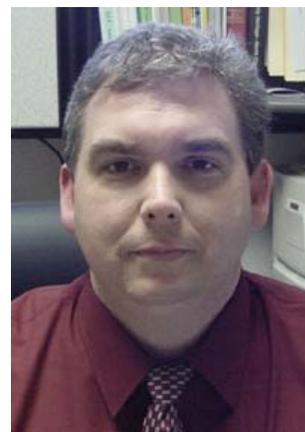
Patterson has been serving as Interim County Manager since John Crumpton left for the Lee County Manager position in June 2007.

Patterson was hired by the County Commissioners in April 2004 as Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager.

Since the County Manager position was vacant when Patterson was hired, he quickly assumed the leadership role, which he held until Crumpton was hired as County Manager in August 2005.

Patterson also served as Interim Health Director for three months in 2006.

A graduate of Appalachian State University, Patterson, a Scotland County native, received a B.S. in business administration with a concentration in accounting.



Kevin Patterson



U.S. Rep. Robin Hayes, left, and BRAC Executive Director Paul Dordal

Calls to EMS change little from 2006 stats

by Roylin Hammond, EMS

EMS experienced very little change in the number of calls it responded to in 2007 compared to 2006.

Likewise, the number of 911 calls requesting assistance remained very similar to the previous year.

EMS did experience an increase of about 12 percent in the number of citizen who came to the EMS office to have their blood pressure checked and recorded.

The ranking of responses to the top five specific types of medical emergencies remained the same with respiratory problems again being the most frequently reported.

This was followed by responses to sick people, traffic accidents, chest pains and falls and/or back injuries.

EMS saw an increase in both departmental presentations to the public and medical coverage for special events compared to what was recorded in 2006.

see EMS page 4



Blood drive set

Event: Blood Drive

Date: February 19

Time: 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Place: Conference Room, 507 West Covington Street

For appointment email: sbutler@scotlandcounty.org

News of Note

CAC 2 receives State grant for upgrade

Cable Access Channel (CAC) 2 received a \$14,500 grant from the e-NC Authority. Funds from the capital expenditure grant program will be used to assist the channel in its transition from a VHS to a DVD format. The County, City of Laurinburg and Scotland County Schools, through appropriations for the fiscal year, provided the dollar-for-dollar required funding match. CAC was one of 30 PEG channels in North Carolina to receive the funding. PEG channels are public, educational or governmental access channels provided to a county or city. CAC 2 is available to Time Warner cable customers.

Free e-filing available to many taxpayers

Many taxpayers will qualify to e-file their federal 2007 returns for free through Free File. Those who make an adjusted gross income of \$54,000 or less can use the program to prepare and file their Federal return. Free File offers the same benefits as e-file, and 70 percent of taxpayers are eligible to use it. Visit IRS.gov to access the program. Click on the "Free File" logo only through <http://www.irs.gov>. Otherwise, a fee may be charged if the user goes directly to the website of a software provider. For those who used Free File last year and are still eligible to use the program, they will still need to access it through the IRS.gov website to avoid any unscrupulous look-a-like sites that may attempt to steal your personal information.

County looks to conserve energy

The County is exploring different options to conserve energy. One of the first steps in that effort is for each employee to turn off their office lights when they are away and to turn off their office lights when they leave for the evening. Ensuring that power-saving devices are installed on office equipment also would be helpful.

Tournaments book Recreation Complex

2008 will be a busy year at the Recreation Complex with 36 tournaments scheduled so far. The first tournament was held January 19 and 20. The last tournament of the year is scheduled for November 22 and 23. The Recreation Complex will be the center of activity for 17 adult softball, 12 girls fast pitch softball and seven youth baseball tournaments.

Join Healthy Carolinians for lunch

Scotland County Healthy Carolinians sponsors a Lunch & Learn program the last Monday of each month featuring the discussion of various health and fitness issues. All are welcome and invited to bring lunch. Lunch & Learn is from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. although participants are invited to come as early as 12 p.m.

Hospital holds Women's Health Event

A Women's Health Event sponsored by Scotland Memorial Hospital is scheduled for Saturday, February 2, at the W.R. Dulin Center. The event is themed Love, Laugh, and Learn. Call 291-7550 to register. Free cholesterol screenings will be provided to those who are interested.

Following safety tips help prevent winter slips and falls

by *Tiffany Flowers, Risk Manager*

The National Safety Council estimates that occupational falls cause more than 1,500 deaths per year, along with approximately 300,000 injuries.

Walking to and from parking lots and between buildings during winter weather such as snow and ice requires special attention to avoid slipping and falling.

No matter how well the snow and ice is removed from streets and sidewalks, employees may still encounter some slippery surfaces when walking outdoors in the winter.

Since Scotland County does not receive much winter weather, we often forget how dangerous it can be.

So here are few reminders on how to prevent slips and falls in winter weather.



Wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow and ice.

Wear the proper foot gear. Wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow and ice with rubber and neoprene composite, for instance. Avoid plastic and leather soles. No heels, ladies.

Take small steps to keep your center of balance under you.

Walk slowly and never run on icy ground.

Keep both hands free for balance, rather than in your pockets.

Use handrails from start to finish.

Avoid carrying loads on stairways; or carry loads that you can see over.

Keep your eyes on where you are going.

Test potentially slick areas by tapping your foot on them.

Step, don't jump from vehicles and equipment.

Keep walkways clear of debris, water, ice and slippery materials.

Walk in designated walkways as much as possible. Taking shortcuts can be hazardous, particularly over snow piles and areas where snow and ice removal is not feasible.

Look ahead when you walk; a sidewalk completely covered with ice may require travel along its grassy edge for traction.

Remove snow and water from footwear to prevent creating wet, slippery conditions indoors when entering buildings

Report slip, trip and fall hazards immediately.

When these helpful hints don't work, and you know you are going to slip, try to reduce your potential injury when falling.

Roll with the fall. Try to twist and roll backwards, rather than falling forward.

Relax as much as possible when you begin to fall.

Health Tip

Grapes contain chemical cousins — pterostilbene and resveratrol — that work as a cleanup crew, mopping up nasty free radicals in your body so they're less likely to cause problems such as heart disease and cancer. And grapes have lots of other good things going for them — like anthocyanins, which attack disease-fostering inflammation, and vitamin C. **Source: RealAge.com**

Communications tower gets clean bill of health

by Roylin Hammond, EMS

The Communications Tower located between the Buildings and Grounds complex and the new Recreation Complex was recently inspected.



The roof of the EMS building is a long way down.

A Piedmont Communications tower crew from Durham, NC, conducted the study. Results of the inspection showed the tower to be in good physical condition and capable of supporting the 20 various radio antenna systems that are attached to it.

Each of the 20 antennas was photographed, inspected and catalogued for type of antenna, frequency, method of attachment, cabling size and elevation of attachment to the tower. All tower lighting, guy-wired supports and anchor attachment points were also included in the inspection.

The report is now on file with Risk Manager Tiffany Flowers.



A view of the Health Department can be seen below and to the left.

the Birthday list for February

1 William Bullard (Board of Elections) and Betty Blue Gholston (Commissioner); 2 Katherine Mohn (Jail); 3 Albert Stone (Jail) and Lisa Tew (Health); 5 Steven Dover (Sheriff); 6 Debra Holcomb (Register of Deeds); 8 Al Blades (Parks and Recreation) and Lori Coher (Splash Pad); 9 Dale Scott (Parks and Recreation); 10 Namangolwa Luhanga (DSS) and Leah Fogle (EMS); 11 Ron Sapp (Health); 12 Matthew Locklear (EMS) and Joyce McDow (Commissioner); 16 Patricia Brown (Register of Deeds); 17 Joe Knott (DSS); 18 Joel Floyd (EMS) and Tiffany Flowers (Administration); 19 Sandra Skamperle (DSS) and James Locklear (EMS); 20 Teresa Jacobs (DSS), Glen Lockey (Public Works) and James Edge (EMS); 23 Hyder Massey (Public Buildings); 24 Ann Kurtzman (Administration); 25 Frances Moody (Health) and Jim Blackwell (Public Works); 26 Robin Quick (Health).

Meetings set for Tri-County area

Cooperative Extension announces two meetings in February which would be of interest to farmers and those involved in agriculture.

A Soybean Production Update for Hoke, Scotland and Robeson counties is scheduled for 10 a.m. February 13 at the Scotland County Center. Dr. Jim Dunphy and Dr. Alan York will present the latest research on soybeans. Dr. York also will as present timely weed control information for wheat. Contact 277-2422 no later than February 6 if you plan to attend.

The Tri-County Cotton meeting will be held 6:30 p.m. February 26 at the Hoke/Robeson Gin.

Dr. Jack Bacheler, Dr. Keith Edmisten and Dr. Alan York will discuss the latest research regarding cotton production. A meal will be provided. Contact 277-2422 no later than February 19 to register.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since November 16, 2007: **Tiffany Flowers**, Administration; **Joan Walters** and **Taronda Douglas**, DSS; **Randy Strickland**, **Ronald McPherson**, **Samuel Shaw**, **Thomas McNeil**, **Tony Strickland** and **Walter Steele, Jr.**, part-time with Parks and Recreation.



Medics Mac Tucker, right, and Wayne Mace work between medical calls to keep the EMS building and grounds looking nice.

Scotland County students got lessons in how to save the earth and to protect the earth's water resources, thanks to Soil and Water Conservation staff, who brought several hands-on activities to the schools. **Text and photos by Terry Williams**

Soil profile presentations given

Soil presentations were given to third grade students at Covington Street, South Scotland, Washington Park, Laurel Hill and Pate Gardner Elementary Schools.

Approximately 250 students enjoyed making their soil profiles. "Save the Earth" door hangers and activity sheets were given to the students to enhance their learning experience. Students at Laurel Hill Elementary, top right, make their soil profile cards.



Students study soil erosion

Fifth grade students at Washing Park Elementary School studied soil erosion.

Amy Richburg and Terry Williams from the Soil and Water Conservation office discussed erosion and presented the "Power of a Raindrop," a hands-on activity. Students received water fact bookmarks as a reminder that they should protect the soil and water.



EMS reports call trends for 2007

continued from page 1

Non-emergency convalescent transports by Braveheart Medical Transport, the County's franchised private transport provider, also increased.

From a staffing standpoint, EMS was unable to fill three additional paramedic positions approved last year by the Commissioners due to the lack of available trained paramedics.

EMS did hire three EMTs or EMT-Is and is sending the new members to school to become paramedics. The first new paramedic is expected to finish school by the end of 2008.



Gail Wright, Administration, celebrated 21 years of employment in January. ☘ Celebrating employment anniversaries at EMS are **Wayne Mace**, 18 years, and **Roylin Hammond**, 14 years. ☘ Congratulations to **Kitty Johnson**, Health, who welcomed her third grandson December 28, Johnson "Rainn" Cheek, born to Johnson's daughter Kelly J. Cheek and her husband, Kelly. (Yes, they are both named Kelly!) ☘ **Mike McGirt**, Public Buildings, was certified as a Playground Safety Inspector by the National Recreation and Park Association National Playground and Safety Institute. McGirt attended a three-day class in Columbia, SC, and passed a written exam to receive certification. McGirt's achievement is a first for the Public Buildings staff.

Our condolences to the family of **Judy Riggins**, who passed away December 27. Riggins served the County as Elections Director for 18 years. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Bud McAllister**, Inspections, whose father passed away January 12.

Reasons for Call	2006	2007	Total
Hang Ups	7516	7027	14543
Scotland County EMS	4606	4713	9319
Sheriff's Department	3177	3484	6661
Laurinburg Police Department	2126	2853	4961
Wrong Number	1320	1002	2322
Children on Phone	344	682	1026
Laurinburg Fire Department	658	722	1380
Open Line	732	572	1304
Information	737	723	1460
NC Highway Patrol	341	359	700
Hoke County Communications	317	296	613
Robeson County Communications	275	306	581
Marlboro County Communications	147	204	351
Test Calls	812	207	1019
EMS Unit to SMH-ER	107	89	196
Other (prank calls, static on line)	141	61	202
Richmond County Communications	54	45	99
Animal Control	32	53	85
Poison Control	15	23	38
Maxton Police Department	37	33	70
Moore County Communications	21	26	47
Total	23515	23480	46995

EMStatistics

EMS Report for December:

Responded to 442 Medical/Trauma calls
Treated 34 total traffic accident patients
Administered 71 wellness/blood pressure checks
Sold 23 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

390 EMS
300 Sheriff's Department
213 Laurinburg Police Department
58 Fire Department
500 hang-up calls
97 wrong numbers
52 open line calls
1,129 cellular calls
1,838 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

66 breathing problems
57 sick person (specific diagnosis)
49 falls/back injuries (traumatic)
47 chest pain
34 traffic accidents

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 80 on 12/10, 11
Temp (low) 21 on 12/18
Wind (mph) 26 on 12/16
Rainfall (inches) 1.52 on 12/30

Compiled by **Tommy Hatcher**

Some items of interest: High temperature in 2007 was 107 August 8 and 9, the highest temperature recorded since 2004 when the high was 96 on August 5. 102 was the high in 2005 and 2006. Low temperature, at 21 February 6 and December 18, was higher than all low temperatures since 2004. Scotland County fared about the same in a rainfall high at 2.01 inches on October 26 compared to a 2.11 inches high in 2006 on November 22.