



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

JULY 2001

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

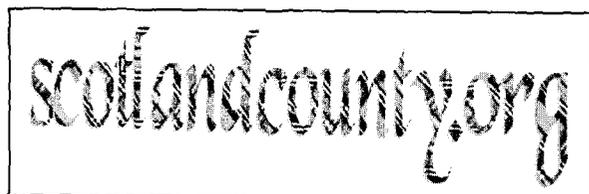
Scotlandcounty.org makes move to a new server

Now you see it, now you don't. That best described what people experienced during May and June if they were looking for the County's website, scotlandcounty.org. The site was not accessible then because it was being moved to a new host server in Fayetteville, schoollink.net.

Now it's back, and some changes are in store for the site.

First, e-mail addresses for all Scotland County employees will be standardized using the first letter of the employee's first name followed by the employee's last name and ending with @scotlandcounty.org. County Manager Scott Sauer, for example, is ssauer@scotlandcounty.org.

"E-mail addresses that have the same formula make it easy for employee-to-employee communication," Sauer explained. "It also eliminates the guesswork for anyone not employed by the County to contact us."



Through schoollink.net, the County will be able to maintain and update the site in-house. Other County departments also will have opportunity to create their own sites or link their existing sites to the County's main page.

The move is part of a larger, ongoing project which links the Scotland County site to the City of Laurinburg's new fiber optic network. "This allows for faster service in the transmission of data and information via the Internet," Sauer said.

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

Lindo Harvell tribute page 2
Earn Blue Points page 3
Bookbags for children ... page 4



Scotland Jam participants in Laurinburg displayed their homemade jellies during the Nutrition Week closing event.

Area children enjoy cool summer fun

As Nutrition Week came to a close, July 13, more than 100 youth county-wide had an opportunity to show their parents exactly what they had learned. The children shared food items, baked goods and homemade jellies. The week also included guest speakers, a trip to a restaurant and lessons about the food pyramid and table etiquette.

Nutrition Week is just one of 10 theme-based weeks offered through the Extension's Scotland Jam summer program. Open to youth in kindergarten through eighth grade, Scotland Jam attracts more than 100 youngsters each week to its three locations in Laurel Hill, Wagram and Laurinburg.

Lessons in life skills and conflict resolution complement the the program's daily activities. Along with traditional summer activities, the children learn how to greet people, how to say thank-you and how to write thank-you

see Jam, page 4

Electronic purchasing program in place

Accounts payable and purchasing county-wide have gone electronic. Staff making purchases for their departments will no longer have to call Gail Wright for a purchase order or even call her back some time later to find out the status of the purchase.

Since April, staff have been involved in training sessions at the County Annex to familiarize themselves with the new HTE financial software package. Scotland County is not alone in making the transition from paper purchasing to electronic purchasing. An estimated 20 cities and counties in the state use HTE while other government agencies use similar software packages.

"This new system, as an example, will allow people to keep track of their invoices, account balances, encumbrances," said Purchasing Supervisor Wright. "That information was not as accessible before. People had to call me, and

see Purchasing, page 4

Harvell legacy celebrated

by Roylin Hammond
Director, EMS

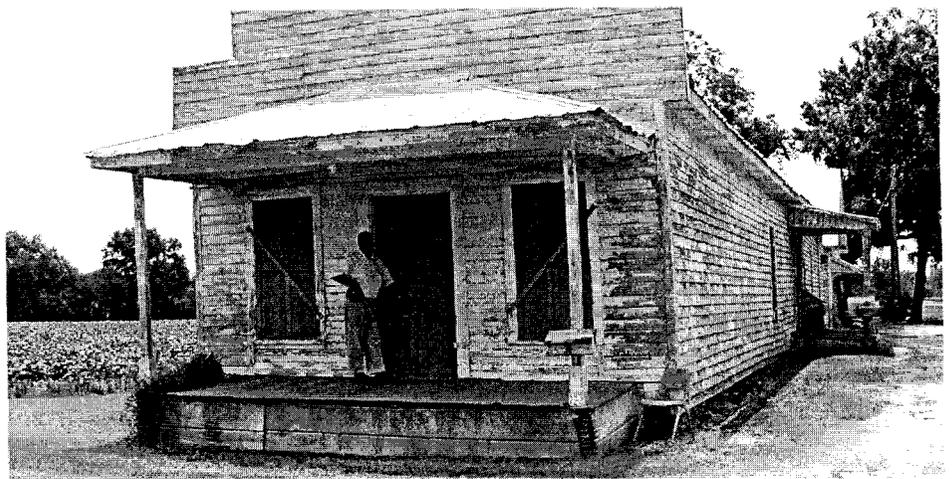
Most of us will be lucky just to live to be 75 years old. Lindo Harvell lived not only to be 79 years old, but he lived to enjoy those years to the fullest, until his death January 15.

From the rumored stories (which were probably true) of Lindo riding a motorcycle down the halls of Laurinburg High School, to the tales of Horseless Carriage tours, to cooking pancakes at a Kiwanis Club breakfast, to sitting at the John Blue Festival talking about hit-and-miss engines, Lindo was a person who enjoyed the things he did. He was very lucky. Not many people are able to find as much pleasure in life as could Lindo. But we were lucky, too.

We were lucky because the things Lindo did touched the lives of thousands of people, not only in Scotland County but everywhere he went. His energy and enthusiasm to be involved helped shape and support projects and civic organizations too numerous to list. From racing to fires in the green Ford pickup (with the Andy Griffith siren on top) to straightening spikes for the Cotton Blossom railroad, Lindo's dedication to all his many interests reflected his desire to give back to the community some of the joys he experienced in his life.

Thousands of people who never even knew Lindo have enjoyed and will enjoy the Cotton Gin on the John Blue grounds. Hopefully, a similar situation will develop with Lindo's museum, allowing future generations to share of our community history.

Lindo has had to accept and experience the ultimate reality of life. We will all die. But he has left us with innumerable treasures. Scotland County will miss Lindo Harvell's physical presence in his many areas of involvement. We will all miss Lindo. We can be thankful, proud, and appreciative for the life of Lindo Harvell and the many treasures he has left for us to enjoy.



Public Buildings Supervisor Hyder Massey on the porch of the A.D. Gibson store.

Historic Properties Commission preservation project nears completion

In the late 19th century, Scotland County had its own version of a Wal-Mart. It was the A.D. Gibson store, a 90 x 20-foot one-story wood structure that carried an extensive inventory to suit the daily needs of those who lived in the community. It also served as a central meeting place, where news could be shared and friendships developed.

Within a year, the A.D. Gibson store in Sneads Grove and another collection from Scotland County's history, the contents of the Lindo Harvell Museum on Biggs Street, will be relocated to the John Blue House grounds.

The relocation effort has taken several years and is led by the Scotland County Historic Properties Commission. The price tag for the project is \$91,500. County Board of Commissioners appropriated the sum with the understanding that the project would be funded through revenue raised from the 3% hotel room occupancy tax.

Once moved from its present location in Sneads Grove, the Gibson store will be reunited with a collection of its original inventory, as well as the soda fountain from Legion Drug Store. A building will be constructed on the John Blue House grounds to house the remainder of the Harvell Museum collection.

Some of the items in the Harvell Museum include the first pumper from the Laurinburg Fire Department, antique automobiles, sample license plates from all 50 states, hit-and-miss engines, an old bubble-glass gas pump and a rare 1956 Ford pickup truck where the bed and body are one piece. All told, the Harvell collection spans nearly 100 years of Scotland County history.

Shannon Newton, Director of Parks and Recreation, who is assisting the Historic Properties Commission with the project, said that the Museum of the Cape Fear will help catalog the collection.

"It is our intention to preserve a way of life, before the introduction of mass production, when everything moved at a slower pace," Newton said. "Preserving it now ensures that our children and our grandchildren will have a link to a piece of Scotland County history."

She added, "That's what Lindo Harvell was all about. He spent his life collecting, caring for and preserving these things that represent the character and historic texture of our community."

Submissions requested for senior newsletter

Deadline for the October to December quarterly newsletter, *Scotland Senior Scoop*, is September 1. Published by Parks and Recreation, submissions should focus on services provided by the County that would be of interest to senior citizens. Submit articles and or digital photos via e-mail to scotparcs@carolina.net or delivered on a disk to the John Blue House. Story submissions on disk should be in Word. For more information, contact Shannon Newton at ext. 2586.

Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. After an absence of several months, we have a County newsletter again. I hope you enjoy the new look and, more important, find it informative and entertaining. The newsletter, published monthly, will accompany the distribution of paychecks. Story ideas and content suggestions are welcome and encouraged.

Recognizing that service to Scotland County residents is our top priority, the Board of Commissioners in April adopted the following: **Mission Statement:** "To protect the Health, Safety, and Welfare of our Citizens and ensure Peace and Dignity within the County." **Vision Statement:** "The Scotland County Board of Commissioners strives to promote the highest quality of life to create an environment that will make Scotland County the community of choice."

Fiscal responsibility and accountability is at the heart of both statements. That's why the County held that tax rate steady over the past four years. In preparing the budget for fiscal year 2001-2002, that was no longer possible. The increasing cost of budgetary mandates for the school floor and Medicaid could not be ignored.

The Board of Commissioners and department heads invested countless hours looking at ways to cut expenses in order to keep the tax rate down without compromising service to our citizens. The Commissioners recently directed the County Manager's Office and department heads to continue scrutinizing the budget.

Under the leadership of the Chairman and Vice Chair, the Board will examine County services and review fiscal trends facing our County to begin an advance look at next year's budget. I expect all employees to maintain their commitment to high quality service while being cost conscious at every opportunity. Thank you for being a vital part of the Scotland County Team.



Scott Sauer

the Birthday list July (belated)

1 Ronnie Harris (EMS) and Carissa Gemar (Health); 3 Shelia Jackson (Tax); 4 Henry McRae (Public Buildings); 7 William Norton III (Jail); 8 Krystal Livengood (Health); 10 Denise Locklear (DSS) and Chris Coleman (Sheriff); 11 Samara Pegues (DSS); 14 Doris Johnston (DSS Board), Pearl Gillis (Day Camp) and Linda Graham (DSS); 16 Plez Jackson (Sheriff); 18 Doug Calhoun (EMS); 19 Marcus Norton (Inspections) and Pat Lathrop (EMS); 21 Jenny Church (DSS), Melanie Harding (Health) and Gwen Roberson (Health); 22 Joshua Johnson (Public Buildings); 23 Elaine Harrison (DSS) and Judith Riggins (Elections); 24 Scott Sauer (Administration); 25 Mildred Williams (Veteran's Services); 26 Jeff Wood (DSS); 27 James Banks (Public Buildings) and Priscilla McInnis (DSS); 28 Delores Baxley (Parks and Recreation) and Kenny Smith (Jail); 29 Angela Rascoe (DSS); 30 Wanda Britt (Transportation); 31 Jan-Marie Fesmire (DSS) and Judith McMillan (Health)

Introductions & transitions

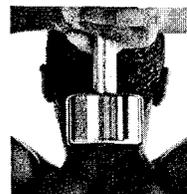
Welcome to the people who have joined Scotland County Departments from January to June: **Marcus Norton**, Planning and Zoning; **Marilyn Tucker** and **Debbie McRae**, Transportation; **Ronald Wrazen**, **Elizabeth "Jane" Williams**, **Lakeisha Patterson**, **Wendy Queen** and **James McQueen**, DSS; **Richard Covington**, Sheriff; **Bobby Freeman**, Landfill; **Katie Harris**, **Jane Murray**, **Courtney Carmichael** and **Evangela McArthur**, Health; **Jeffrey Oxendine**, Public Buildings; **Clarence Milligan**, Inspections; **Elizabeth Walters**, Register of Deeds; and **Ann Kurtzman**, Administration.

Congratulations to the following on their employment transitions: **Sheila Quick**, part-time to full-time, EMS; and **Samara Pegues**, temporary to full-time, DSS.

Earn prizes through fitness program

County employees can now walk their way to health and prizes with Blue Points, offered through BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina. The physical activity can be as practical as yard work or as strenuous as high impact aerobics. Each activity, valued at 10 points, must last 30 minutes or longer in order for it to be recorded in the Blue Points Activity Log.

Earn 250 points, and select a prize from the first Blue Points level. Prize options vary. Work your way through four levels and start over again. The Blue Points Activity Log book is available on-line at www.bcbsnc.com (click on members and then Blue Points) or by calling 800-655-9421.



August (and beyond)

1 Cordella Walker (Health); 2 Jennie Lowe (DSS) and Randy Jacobs (Sheriff); 4 Bill McMillan (Administration) and Hazel McPhatter (Day Camp); 5 Michael McQueen (EMS) and Eugene Jackson (Public Buildings); 6 Monnie Ervin (Health); 8 Terena Taylor (Health); 9 Marilyn Tucker (Transportation) and Deloris McNeil (Health); 11 Cassandra Johnson (Structured Daycare) and Abby Massy (Health); 12 Janet Cox (Health); 13 David Quick (EMS); 16 Carolyn Shepard (Jail); 18 David Morrison (Extension); 19 Robert Sanford (Veteran's Services); 20 Ernest Walker (EMS) and Michael Nobles (Jail); 22 Towana Harrington (DSS); 24 Ronald Wrazen (DSS) and Michelle McQuaige (Jail); 25 Bill Leggette (Sheriff); 28 Tenita Bullard (DSS) and Anne Laviner (DSS); 29 Mitchell Johnson (Sheriff); 30 Kim McRae (DSS) and Robert Wray (Sheriff); 31 Mary Hambright (Health) and Doug Ikner (EMS)

Themes a part of Scotland Jam

continued from page 1

notes, said Precious Byrd, Systems Manager.

Scotland Jam is funded through grants, user fees and donations. No County dollars are used. Offered Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., some children attend Scotland Jam for a week or two while others are enrolled the entire 10 weeks.

Children in the program are served breakfast, lunch and snacks. "They eat very well here," Byrd said. She explained that much of the food is donated. A typical breakfast, for instance, may include pancakes, bacon, grits, biscuits and juice.

The program provides an affordable resource for parents to enroll their school-age children in a fun, learning environment. Adults with backgrounds in education, recreation and/or child care make up the Scotland Jam summer staff.

Vacation Bible School project benefits Foster Children's Program



Pam Wood arranges the bookbag donations in a storage room at DSS.

The best gifts come in small packages. So the saying goes. But for those involved in the Foster Children's Program at DSS, the best gifts come in bookbags, 41 to be exact.

The bookbags, some sporting the *101 Dalmations* motif, others in bright colors or made of heavy-duty canvas, are filled with supplies to satisfy the needs of infants on up to teens. Supplies range from bibs and books to stamps and stationary to a variety of items for personal hygiene.

Small stuffed animals were tucked away in nearly all the bookbags. They'll serve as extra security for the foster children who are in transition.

The bookbags were donated to the Foster Children's Program by another group of children at Saint Luke United Methodist Church in Laurinburg. According to Pam Wood, Children's Protective Services intake worker, the children at Saint Luke took this on as a Vacation Bible School projects.

"I think this was an awesome gesture," said Wood. She added that gifts and donations to the Foster Children's Program usually come at Christmas. Wood, a member of Saint Luke, said, "It was particularly nice to be on the giving end and the receiving end."

Three foster care workers Jennifer Goff, also a member of Saint Luke; Angie Lassiter and Christa Marconi, are responsible for securing the housing and medical treatment needs of the County's foster children.

"Many children don't have time to pack, or they have nothing to pack," Wood said, explaining why the supplies are so important to the youngsters.

For now, the bookbags are on hand for any foster child who may need one. "Receiving the bookbags was good news," Wood said. "The other good news is we haven't had to use one yet."

EAP plan alternative noted

Although the Employee Assistance Counseling Program (EAP) has been discontinued, employees still have Mental Health Services coverage through the County's health plan.

Mental Health Services provides 70 percent coverage for out-patient and 90 percent coverage for in-patient once the \$400 deductible has been satisfied.

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.

PostScripts

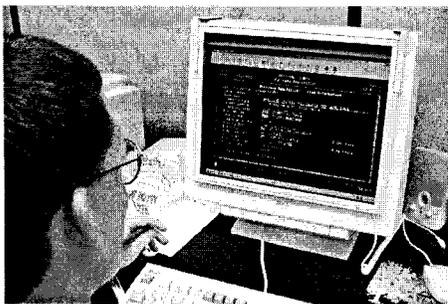
Congratulations to Health Department Employees of the Month **Debbie Maske**, R.N., communicable disease section and **Sylvia Hughes**, management support. Maske was recognized in May while Hughes was awarded the honor for June ♦ **Judy Riggins** obtained the necessary credits for certification renewal to the State Board of Elections.

Purchasing goes electronic

continued from page 1

then I had to track it down in our files and get back to them with the answers to their questions."

Another plus in the new software is that departments can expand account numbers to allow for more detail. Wright discussed communications as an example. "Purchases in communications can be broken down in areas such as telephones, pagers and cell phones."



Since April, staff have been involved in training sessions at the County Annex to familiarize themselves with the new HTE financial software package.

Wright added, "Before, telephones, pagers and cell phones were all lumped in communications. This makes it easier to track the status of specific purchases."

Wright agreed that it's difficult learning anything new. Wright, Bill McMillan in purchasing, Nancy Bostick in payroll and Robert Bowen in information systems are available to answer questions and assist in solving any problems.

"We're in this together," Wright said. "It's a learning process for all of us as we work on this new program and exchange information that will provide the best results."