



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

MARCH 2003

A newsletter for Scotland County employees



Embrex celebrates groundbreaking

Biological manufacturing company Embrex hosted a groundbreaking to commemorate the construction of its 30,000-square-foot facility near Laurinburg-Maxton Airport.

Durham-based Embrex, Inc. expects to invest approximately \$11.6 million for the land, buildings, equipment and furniture for the facility. Initially, the company expects to employ 13 people, growing to nearly 40 when in full production.

"This is a day of great excitement and celebration," said David L. Burns, Chairman of the Scotland County Board of Commissioners. "Embrex represents the type of company we like to attract — innovative, growing, agricultural, high-tech, and mature yet entrepreneurial in spirit."

Embrex President and CEO Randall Marcuson said, "This is a huge milestone for us as we grow as a company. With our new presence here, we are committed to sharing the benefits of our innovative technology with the citizens of Scotland County as employees and neighbors."

see Embrex, page 6

Health care providers get smallpox vaccine

by Jane Murray, Health Director

Scotland County Health Department, along with Regional and State public health officials, conducted a smallpox vaccination clinic at the Health Department March 10 where 37 local health care providers were vaccinated as being the most likely to initially treat a smallpox patient.

The health care workers volunteered to receive the smallpox vaccine in an effort to effectively protect this community in the event of a smallpox emergency.

The Health Department nursing staff coordinated the clinic, voluntarily took the vaccine and administered the vaccine to the other health care provider volunteers.

Those less likely to be exposed will receive the vaccine at a later date.

Meet the County's first Bioterrorism Coordinator.

See page 5

This event is historic in that the last smallpox vaccine administered to the general public was in 1972 and in 1990 for military.

The last natural case of smallpox in the United States occurred in 1949, with the last natural case in the world occurring in Somalia in 1977. In 1980 the World Health Organization declared the world eradicated of smallpox.

All laboratories throughout the world were asked to destroy their supplies of vaccine or transfer them to one of two World Health Organization labs, one in the former Soviet Union, or the other at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Though there are no known cases of smallpox in the world at this time, the potential release of smallpox by terrorists is a possibility, and it warranted resuming a phased-in vaccination program in the United States.

The vaccine is safe for the vast majority of the

see Vaccine, page 5

Memorial installed



A memorial, which serves as a solemn reminder of the events of September 11, 2001, has been placed in front of the Courthouse.

Set in gray granite shaped like the Twin Towers is a plaque of remembrance donated to the County by Scotland Cemetery and its parent company the Alderwoods Group.

THERE'S MORE INSIDE

- Commissioners get taste of Jail food page 2**
- Library offers economic value page 6**

Commissioners get treated to County Jail food service



Scotland County Board of Commissioners joined Sheriff Buddy Blalock, seated center, and Major Billy Campbell, standing, for dinner in the County Jail.

Sheriff Buddy Blalock gave the Board of Commissioners a “taste” of what life in the County Jail is like. The taste, of course, was experienced in the way of food, with Blalock acting as dinner host. The meal was served in the Jail’s visiting area.

Fried chicken, corn bread, baked beans and pineapple chunks nestled in styrofoam containers were served by Jeff Liles, on-site manager of ABL Management Food Service.

All meals served to the approximately 100 inmates in the County Jail, according to Liles, are based on a 3,000-calorie-a-day diet.

Since August 2002, ABL has worked under contract with the County to provide inmate meals. Contracting with an outside food management firm was one of several cost saving measures recommended to the County by Robert S. Segal, CPA, which specializes in expense reduction and revenue enhancement.

Contracting with the food service has translated into a \$22,237 savings from August 2002 to October 2002, or \$265 per day.

Wellness group hosts fitness day

If someone tells you to “take a walk,” no need to take it personally — especially if its April 25. Just put comfortable shoes on and stop by Scotland Place.



The Employee Wellness Advisory Committee has set April 25 as a day devoted to physical fitness. The committee hopes to entice County employees away from their desks or work areas for a short time so they can participate in some form of physical activity.

Take advantage of the 1.5-mile wooded walking path, the track encircling Scotland Place (four times around the track equals one mile), a 10-station fitness course and exercise videos scheduled to be played intermittently throughout the day.

Employees are invited to drop by any time between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. as their schedule allows to engage in their preferred physical activity. Employees who sign-in will record what activity they did and for how long. Light refreshment also will be served.



Celebrating achievements are the members of the Inspections Department, from left, Hiram Jones, Ernest Stephens, Tony McQuage and Thomas Milligan. Jones and Milligan received Electrical Level I State certification. Milligan also became certified in Fire Level II. Stephens is certified at Level I in Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical and Building, while McQuage is certified at Level III in all five trades, the highest achievable certification level in the State.

Inspections receives Class 4 classification nod from ISO

The Scotland County Inspections Department is a Class 4 according to the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule Classification implemented by Insurance Services Offices, Inc. (ISO).

The Class 4 classification applies to 1 and 2 family residential property and to commercial property.

The ISO grading program is an advisory insurance underwriting information and rating tool. ISO review’s a community’s classification every five years. The classification numbers are on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being less than minimum recognized protection.

“The current rating of the Inspections Department demonstrates our staff’s professionalism and competence to an objective organization,” said Inspections Director Tony McQuage.

The ISO review is conducted in three areas: administration of codes — qualifications of inspectors, experience and education; plan review — staff levels, personnel experience; field inspections — personnel experience and policies.

No need for a headline. The bumper sticker says it all! Local businessmen in conjunction with the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce are distributing the bumper sticker free to residents who wish to display it on their vehicle.

Of course, satisfied visitors to Scotland County are more than welcome to pick up a bumper sticker — printed in patriotic red, white and blue — and spread the word.

They are available at Nic’s Pic Kwik, the Chamber, Hasty Realty and the County Manager’s Office.

Training provides vision for Extension agents

by *Melissa C. Hopkins, Cooperative Extension*

Each year, agents from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension gather for three days of training in Raleigh.

Scotland County agents David Morrison, Pam Riemer and Sharon English along with County Extension Director Cathy Graham attended *Vision, Direction & Leadership for the 21st Century*, where customer service was a key element to the sessions.

"We learned that we must become responsive to the needs of our clientele and address issues that arise to continue to be effective in the future," said Morrison.

He added, "We must have respect for our partners, we must maintain academic neutrality — provide only unbiased information and not take sides, we must be accessible at all times, we must integrate different services to provide seamless services, we must coordinate and develop resources with various partners."

Morrison gained from information in a workshop on optimism that transfers easily to life. "I learned that optimists view troubles as temporary, and that success is the result of skills or personality traits.

"Optimists see mishaps as limited, achievements or good luck as steps in growth. Pessimists insist that one mistake proves a whole messed-up life and creates a downward spiral of despair. Optimists don't carry the burden of blame. Optimists are more in control of their lives and when they are successful it was the result of hard work and persistence, not luck."

Information technology was another area of gain for Morrison. "We observed a demonstration of the technology with a video/audio login to a site in North Dakota, where it was 15 degrees, and listened to a discussion on how the technology was used to present programs over long distances.

"A number of colleges and Extension offices were using the technology to provide programming to distant locations," he said.

Graham's favorite workshop had a unique title ~~guiding a powerful message~~ *A peacock without its tail feathers is just another turkey*. "This workshop focused on reporting program impacts and successes in Extension."

The four also benefited from the people aspect of the event. "We networked with various other agents from across the state to learn what they were doing and find out about the possibilities of growing new crops that would increase the financial stability of our farmers," Morrison said.

English agreed, "I enjoyed the interacting with other agents. Hearing the way they do things in their counties helped give me ideas on how to keep our programs growing and improving each year."

Notes from the County Manager

The governing body frequently takes issue with the appearance of the County, especially if it leaves a lasting, negative impression.

Scotland County is a great place to live and visit, and we as citizens can do our part by putting the litter where it belongs — in trash receptacles, landfills, recycling centers and compost containers.

The City of Laurinburg, the Chamber of Commerce and the County recognize the value of making the best possible impression. That's why the three entities sponsor annually the Spring Clean effort. This year it's set for April 26, as you'll read in the story below.

The great thing about the Spring Clean effort is it takes only two hours, yet much can be accomplished when the community gets involved. It can be a fun and productive time to spend with your family, too. Best of all, our children learn by example.

Spring Clean serves as a reminder to act responsibly the other 364 days of the year. Be mindful of your neighborhood, where you work and where you play and shop. If you see litter, it takes just minutes of your time to pick it up and throw it away.

The result is cumulative, and all it takes is a small investment of your time. One Missouri study on littering revealed that people who feel the highest personal obligation to **not** litter are also people who feel a strong sense of identity with their communities.



Scott Sauer

Spring Clean effort beautifies County

by *Marcus Norton, Planning Director*

Spring Clean is the biggest annual effort in Scotland County to clean up litter and trash from our roadsides, lakes and streams, homes and farms.

Jointly sponsored by Scotland County, the City of Laurinburg and the Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce, this year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to noon.

Everyone is encouraged to get out at 10 a.m. or earlier to pick up litter along their favorite street, road or special place.

The Scotland County Commissioners rescheduled the landfill and recycling center quarterly "free day" to coincide with the clean-up effort and to encourage participation.

Anyone who wishes to participate can stop by the nearest fire department and sign in (although that's not required). Free pizza will be served at the conclusion of the Spring Clean at the fire departments where participants registered.

Encourage your school group, church group or friends to join you in doing something to eliminate unsightly litter. Keep America Beautiful and NCDOT help sponsor the event by supplying gloves and bags. Join us and be a part of Scotland County's Spring Sprucing-up!

NOTE: Chris McLean Memorial Spring Tennis Tournament, Scotland County Tennis Center, April 25-27. Entry deadline April 21. Fees: \$15 per adult, \$25 per team, \$10 per junior (each junior may play in two events for \$10). Entry includes T-shirt, refreshments and lunch on Saturday. For more information call 277-2585 or 277-2592.

Farrah Sheppard, 4-H Teen Court/Community Service and Restitution Coordinator, attended a New Professionals Training workshop March 11 to 13 in Raleigh. ⌘ **Gail Wright** attended the Carolinas Association of Governmental Purchasing in Durham March 5 and 6. ⌘ April is **Child Protection Month** and to complement that, **DSS Employee Appreciation** week will be recognized the last week in April. An estimated \$270 was raised from the **DSS Valentine's Day Door Contest**. DSS made a donation to March of Dimes with the money raised. ⌘ Veteran Service Officer **Mildred Williams** spoke to military retirees March 3 during a luncheon at Captain Larry's. FYI: There are 3,186 veterans who make their home in Scotland County. The 2002 Geographic Distribution VA Expenditures for Scotland County totaled \$4,468,000. ⌘ The Junior Service League will host **Sunday in the Park**, April 6, 2 to 6 p.m., at Hammond Park. ⌘ The NC Office of EMS recertified Paramedic **Sandy Lockey** as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) ⌘ **Hazel McPhatter** attended the 4-H Youth Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) Associate training March 5 to 7 in Raleigh. ⌘ In Health Department news, congratulations to **Kitty Johnson**, RN for being selected as the January Employee of the Month and to **Donna McQueen**, Billing, for being selected as the February Employee of the Month. We wish a speedy recovery to **Winnie Lail** RN and to **Robin Quick**. The agency sponsored a **Community Forum on Bioterrorism Preparedness and the NC Smallpox Response Plan** March 31. Guest speaker was Dr. James Kirkpatrick, State Bioterrorism Coordinator and Chief of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, N.C. Division of Public Health. ⌘ Scotland County Parks and Recreation is offering **discount Carowinds tickets** to Scotland County residents. Ticket price is \$25 each. Tickets will be available at the P/R office in mid April. The tickets are good all season and are for ages 3 and up. For more information please call Parks and Recreation office at 277-2585. ⌘ **Tommy Hatcher**, EMS; **Barbie Rollins**, Planning and Zoning; **Tony McQuage**, Inspections; **Rachel Beach**, Inspections; **Nancy Hughes**, Tax Department and **Marcus Norton**, Planning and Zoning completed a one-day training March 18, *Introduction to GIS*, at Productivity Incorporated in Wadesboro.

Inmate work program helps keep community clean

Scotland County streets and roads look much cleaner now that the Sheriff's Department runs a program using inmates as clean-up crews.

The program involves up to 12 inmates who work Monday through Friday on six to eight-hour a day shifts under the supervision of two Sheriff's deputies. All inmate participants are screened for the program. Involvement by violent offenders is not permitted.

The clean up program, initiated late last year, began with inmates picking litter up along U.S. Highways 401 and 74. They also separate aluminum cans for recycling. Recycling in particular helps earn extra income for the department and helps support the program.

Sheriff Buddy Blalock said the program benefits the community as well as the inmates, who are anxious to get out of a confined space and do something productive.

"We're going to clean the County up," he said. "The inmates wanted to get out of the jail, and they wanted something to do."

Inmate clean-up crews were once provided by the Department of Corrections facility in Wagram until it closed more than a year ago. The Scotland County program fills that void, according to Blalock.

Scotland County citizens are encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Department and report on areas and neighborhoods that are in need of clean-up.



While local engineer and pilot Wilson McCall flew the airplane, passenger Fred Fox of WLNC Radio took the aerial photograph of the prison, which is now more than 80 percent complete.

August completion date scheduled for prison

With construction of the new prison on McGirts Bridge Road more than 80 percent complete, the State Department of Correction is planning an August dedication date followed by a separate event, an open house for the community.

According to Frederick Hubbard, a member of the prison management team, final inspection is scheduled for July 8, 2003. Staff will move in and furniture and supplies will be located at the site July 9, 2003. First inmates will be received beginning September 1, 2003.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since January 16: **Ernest Stephens**, Inspections; **Barry Roberts**, part-time in EMS; **Anthony Harms**, part-time in Inspections; **April Sessoms**, Jail; **Melissa C. Hopkins**, Cooperative Extension; **Jamaal Vaughn**, temporary in Planning and Zoning; and **James Bullard**, temporary in Public Works. **Annie Clark** makes the transition in Cooperative Extension from secretary to administrative secretary.



Health Director Jane Murray receives her smallpox vaccination. Photo by Teddy Locklear

Smallpox vaccines given

continued from page 1

population. Vaccination is not recommended for pregnant women, those with suppressed immunity and certain skin conditions such as eczema. Individuals having members of their household with those conditions should not be vaccinated as well, or they must remain away from household members for three weeks following the vaccination.

Smallpox is a viral infection that originated thousands of years ago. The disease affects only humans. Epidemics of this disease swept across continents killing large populations and literally changing the course of history. Thirty percent of those infected died and the survivors were left with scars and often blind.

In 1796, Edward Jenner discovered that inoculation with cowpox virus could protect against smallpox.

A person infected with smallpox will become very sick before they are likely to become contagious and would therefore be unlikely to spread the disease to the public in general. If someone is exposed to smallpox and receives the vaccine within four days, their risk of developing the disease is greatly reduced.

Poster, speech student winners named

by Terry Gainey, Scotland Soil and Water Conservation

Carver Middle School 6th grader Kelly Ulrich, who won the Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District Poster Contest, captured first place at the Area VII Competition and will advance to the May State competition in Raleigh.

Rachel Hughes of Spring Hill Middle School was named winner for the 8th grade Speech Contest and took a runner-up spot at the Area VII Competition. Morgan Dyches was a runner-up in the local 8th grade Speech Contest.

The contests are conducted on a school, district, area and state level with prizes given at each level. This year's topic was "There's Trouble Under the Surface — Groundwater Pollution."

District winners receive a \$50 Savings Bond and the opportunity to represent Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District at the Area VII competition March 13 in Lumberton. State contests are scheduled for May 2 in Raleigh.

Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District in cooperation with the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation District sponsor the contests.



From left, Rachel Hughes, Terry Gainey and Morgan Dyches.

Bioterrorism Coordinator hired

In a move to advance its comprehensive Bioterrorism and Smallpox Response Plan, the Health Department has added a Bioterrorism Coordinator to its staff.

Dawn McDonald, RN, BSN, will be trained in cases of potential biological, chemical and radiological terrorism to determine the agent, source and potential for transmission or dissemination.

Most recently employed at First Health Richmond Memorial Hospital in the Outpatient Surgery Department, McDonald earned a Bachelor of Arts in biology from East Carolina University, an Associates Degree in respiratory therapy from Fayetteville Technical College, an Associates Degree in nursing from Southeastern Community College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing from Winston-Salem State University.

The new position is partially funded by a grant from the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response within the North Carolina Division of Public Health.

Disease control and decontamination activities will become priorities for McDonald as well as the education of Health Department, other County employees, medical staff and community members on bioterrorism related concerns and issues.

McDonald also will become trained in the management of communicable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases and inmate medical treatment at the Scotland County Jail.



The job of Bioterrorism Coordinator is one way Dawn McDonald says she can serve her country.

Library offers economic value

The 142,397 people who walked through the door at Scotland Memorial Library in one year's time would fill Charlotte's Ericsson Stadium twice.

On a smaller scale, the library's door count for FY 2001-2002 would fill Pate Stadium to capacity for three years (17) of home games.

Director Robert Busko frequently uses this data to stress the economic value provided by services at the library.

In FY 2001-2002, for instance, the library circulated 56,008 adult books. If the books were purchased at \$15 each, the value of the material totals \$840,120. Circulation of the 36,294 children's and juvenile level books would have a value of \$544,410 if those books were purchased.

Total circulation for the year at all locations of all types of materials was slightly more than 114,715.

9,200 people made computer appointments that year. In terms of economic value multiply 2,000 (the number of citizens registered to use the library's computers) by \$19,95 a month for a dialup account, and the value is approximately \$40,000.

The library's free meeting room was used 149 times by the public throughout fiscal year FY 2001-2002. Comparable rooms used elsewhere assuming a normal charge of \$50 would total \$7,450 for the year.

Other services provided by the library that benefit Scotland County citizens include assistance with resume and cover letter preparation and job hunting on the Internet and the hosting of



story hours and summer reading programs. Busko said an Internet training class for senior citizens is being planned.

Scotland Memorial Library owns more than 65,000 books, 2,500 books on tape and subscribes to 110 periodicals. Weekly library programs serve 4,100 children per year. More than 2,000 children take advantage of the summer reading program.

All that was accomplished with a total operating income of \$363,000, which includes \$105,000 in State aid, \$250,000 as the County contribution and \$8,000 in miscellaneous income.



Embrex selects local site

continued from page 1

The Embrex facility in Scotland County, upon approval from the Department of Agriculture, will manufacture the company's Inovocox™ vaccine, which can prevent coccidiosis, a parasitic disease of poultry.

Scotland County was identified by Embrex for the preferred site because of its experienced manufacturing base, significant ties to agriculture, access to major transportation corridors, labor availability and quality of life.

The Raleigh office of Lockwood Greene will manage design and construction of the manufacturing facility, pictured above, which will include brooder houses, purification and sterilization suites, quality control laboratories and a master seed production area.

With offices worldwide, Embrex realized more than \$46 million in revenues last year. The company expects to triple its revenues in the next 10 years, according to Marcuson.

the Birthday list for April

3 Larry Williams (Parks and Recreation); **5** Gwen Ikner (EMS); **10** Vernon Jackson, Jr. (EMS); **11** Helen Darton (DSS); **12** Michael Alford, Sr. (Parks and Recreation), Betty Smith (Health), Nancy Shelley (Commissioner) and Deborah Lawrence (DSS); **14** John Stewart (Board of Elections), Jimmy King (Parks and Recreation), Lakeisha Patterson and Ethena Locklear (DSS); **15** Melinda Salley (Health); **16** Pam Wood (DSS) and Erica Hall (Health); **18** April Snead (DSS); **19** Charles Osteen (Public Works) and Charles Ellerbee (Public Buildings); **20** Sandra McNeil (DSS); **21** Linda Bowyer (DSS) and Patricia Campbell (Jail); **22** James Britt (Sheriff); **24** April Sessoms (Jail); **25** Sandra Miller (Jail); **27** Jan Elliott (DSS) and Tina Hunt (Health); **29** Teresa Smith (Sheriff).

EMStatistics February

EMS Report: Responded to 318 Medical/Trauma calls. **Treated** 57 motor vehicle accident patients. **Provided** 1 stand-by medical coverage. **911 Report: Received 1,245** total calls — **283** EMS — **222** Sheriff's Department — **71** Laurinburg Police Department — **37** Fire Departments — **259** hang-up calls — **155** wrong numbers — **101** open lines calls — **571** Cellular calls. **Report compiled by Tommy Hatcher.**

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.