



# SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

OCTOBER 2001

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## Commissioners thank disaster response team members

Three County workers who were at the scene of the World Trade Center two days after the September 11 terrorist attack were recognized for their service and contribution in a time of critical need.

EMS employees Gwen Ikner and Sheila Quick and Julie Sinclair-Dycus, a social worker and counselor at the Scotland County Mental Health Center, received applause and a standing ovation from the Board of Commissioners and citizens who attended the October 1 meeting of the governing body.

Ikner, Quick and Sinclair-Dycus are members of the County's Critical Incident Stress Management Team, a group of individuals specifically trained to debrief emergency service personnel who experience major trauma greater than what they experience in every day circumstances.

The three were called into service through Kenyon International Emergency Services, a worldwide organization specializing in disaster management. Kenyon contracts with companies to provide disaster management assistance.

Working in an ancillary capacity, the women acted as liaisons to family members of victims of a specific company housed in the World Trade Center. They provided information, emotional and physical support and human empathy and care to the family members.

While Ikner worked near the Manhattan site for seven days, Quick and Sinclair-Dycus continued on for four additional days. Working 10 to 16 hours daily, the three escorted families of victims to relief and service agencies, filled out missing-persons reports and attended to family-assistance hotlines.

"All three were debriefed before leaving for New York," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond, commenting on how the experience may have affected the women. "Assisting in the relief effort was gratifying for them. There are things they haven't shared and probably never will share."

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## Buddy Blalock sworn in as Sheriff



J.R. "Buddy" Blalock was sworn in as Sheriff by Superior Court Judge B. Craig Ellis. The October 15 ceremony in Scotland County Superior Court attracted a standing-room-only crowd, including State Highway Patrol, City of Laurinburg Police and law enforcement personnel from surrounding counties. The Board of Commissioners unanimously appointed Blalock as Sheriff earlier this month to finish former Sheriff Wayne Bryant's term. Bryant retired October 15. Blalock, who most recently served as Patrol Commander, joined the Sheriff's department in 1995 after retiring from the State Highway Patrol. "I pledge my support to the County," Blalock said. "I'm glad to be here, and I want to be a team player."

## Groundbreaking for new prison set

Gov. Mike Easley, State legislators and officials from the N.C. Department of Correction are expected to attend the November 7 groundbreaking at the site of the new prison facility on McGirts Bridge Road.

On the site, preparation and grading are already underway. When the new prison is completed some time in 2003, the 1,000-cell close security facility will provide employment for more than 400 people.

"I am really pleased that the groundbreaking is about to happen," said Board of Commissioners Chairman David Burns. "It's been a long time coming. This facility translates into more jobs for people, which improves the quality of life for the people of this County."

Plans for construction of the new facility have been in the works since 1995. Groundbreaking coincides with the closing of Scotland Correctional Center, a minimum security prison.

# Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those who have joined Scotland County Departments since August 15: **Anna Smith**, Sheriff; **Elizabeth Norton**, **Larry Quick**, **Tequilla Smith** and **Charles Jenkins**, Jail; **Rodney Jackson**, Parks and Recreation; **Daniel Poe** and **Kary Bathea**, Transportation; **Lisa Grainger**, Solid Waste; and **Michealle Reece**, Health.

Congratulations to the following on their employment transitions: Auxiliary Deputy Sheriff **Billy Campbell** was promoted from lieutenant to major in the Sheriff's Department; **Ann Kurtzman** was appointed Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

## the Birthday list November

2 Roylin Hammond (EMS) and James Austen (DSS); 3 Wanda Sheppard (Tax); 5 Lynn Poe (Administration); 6 Rick Best (Sheriff); 7 Carson Spivey (EMS); 8 Brian Lowry (Health); 12 Wayne Hay (Sheriff); 13 Charles Belfield (DSS); 14 Kelvin Howell (Sheriff); 17 Randy McArthur (EMS); 18 Joy Nolan (Engineering) and Robert Sampson (EMS); 19 Sam Snowdon (Commissioner); 21 Janice Morrison (DSS); 22 Dean Batchelor (Sheriff); 23 Charlotte Brooks (DSS); 24 John Smith (Landfill); 27 Larry Herring (Jail) and Andy Roberts (EMS); 28 Terry Stanton (DSS), Betsey Eillerbe (Health), Karen Altomare (Health) and Carolyn Isbell (DSS); 29 Steve Edge (Landfill), Barbie Rollins (Inspections) and Chad Lewis (Jail); 30 Jennifer Goff (DSS), Michealle Reece (Health), Scott Norton, (Sheriff) and Corrie Patterson (EMS).



Left to right, Teen Court attorneys are **Alexis Martin**, **Laura Salley**, **Megan Grimsley**, **Kaye Estrada** and **Melissa Whelply** with **Judge Bill McIlwain**. Photos by Farrah Sheppard

## Teen attorneys represent their peers in court

Second chances do happen, and Teen Court is proof of that. A program active in the County since 1995, Teen Court provides a method of restitution for first-time offenders through community service.

"Teen Court is an alternative to Juvenile Court where first-time offenders are tried by their peers" explained Farrah Sheppard, Teen Court, Restitution and Community Service Coordinator. "Some kids just make a bad decision, and they need that second chance."

The program is geared toward youth, 10 to 17 years old, who are charged with misdemeanor and referred to Teen Court through juvenile intake counselors, the District Attorney's office and private attorneys.



Teen Court attorneys **Kaye Estrada** and **Alexis Martin** confer on a case.

Although youth offenders appear before an adult judge, according to Sheppard, "The jury, attorneys, clerk and bailiff are Teen Court participants." Sheppard recruits volunteers in 8th to 12th grade classrooms in the Scotland County Schools.

Teen Court tries and resolves three cases each month. "Offenders pay back the community through community service, attending educational seminars and serving on Teen Court jury," said Sheppard.

The program has been successful. Of the 29 offenders admitted to Teen Court this past year, 97 percent had a reduction in court involvement, and 100 percent had no further school discipline referral.

"I'm proud to be a part of such a wonderful program in Scotland County and to have such dedicated volunteers," Sheppard said. "I hope the program will become even more successful through the years."

## Collaborative effort designed to ensure safety in the event of a suspected biological attack

County and City officials, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Scotland Health Care System and the Health Department have been working collaboratively to plan and ensure the continued safety of Scotland County citizens in the event of a suspected biological attack.

While law enforcement is being educated on how to handle a suspicious package, the medical community is developing action plans for treating citizens suspected of being infected by a biological agent. Citizens can call Scotland County EMS at 910-276-1313 for information

if they suspect they have been exposed to a biological agent or are displaying symptoms of infection with a biological agent.

All citizens with concerns are encouraged to utilize this hotline for accurate information and sound advice as approved by the NC Communicable Disease Branch, Division of Public Health. Use this hotline if you think you've been exposed, otherwise seek medical care as you normally would.



United Way  
of Scotland County

**It's the United Way  
to make a difference.**  
Now through November 30.

**Scotland County Historical Properties Commission** gratefully accepted ownership of the A.D. Gibson Store from Catherine Gibson and James Gibson, children of the late Edwin P. Gibson, who operated the store from 1928 until it closed in 1974. The exchange was made during a recent signing over ceremony. **Hyder Massey**, Public Buildings Supervisor, will oversee the moving of the old country store at Snead's Grove to the John Blue House grounds in the coming year. ✂ We extend our sympathy to **Gene Jackson** in Public Buildings on the death of his father. ✂ Congratulations to **Robert Sanford**, Veterans Services, on the birth of twin grandchildren, Tony Len Strickland and Faith Linette Strickland. ✂ County Manager **Scott Sauer** leapt, and did it anyway, as he took a tandem parachute jump from 12,500 feet at the Raeford Airport. ✂ **Parks and Recreation** and the Board of Education entered into a cooperative agreement

allowing for shared use of athletic and recreational facilities. ✂ County Engineer **Jim Blackwell** invites interested personnel to attend the monthly computer users group designed for an exchange of ideas and problem-solving issues. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 6 at 10 a.m., in the Cooperative Extension kitchen at the County Annex. ✂ 4-H volunteers **Ozzie Adams, Walter and Alesha Brown, William and Precious Byrd, Ruth Campbell, John and Hazel McPhatter, and Robert and Joan Wagner** attended the Southern Region Leaders Forum, October 4 to 7, in Eatonton, GA. The group participated in workshops on developmental needs of children and community service projects. ✂ Congratulations to **Sandy Pridgen** (Health Department) and her husband, Lynn, on the September 22 birth of their son, Charles Harrison Pridgen. ✂ The Health Department's PHN Supervisor, **Barbara Mack**, was named September's employee of the month. ✂ The lifetime career of Commissioner **Clint Willis** in the National Guard was featured recently in *The Laurinburg Exchange*. ✂ Board of Commissioners Chairman **David Burns** attended the groundbreaking of Umicore, an international metal and materials group, which will be located behind its parent company Carolmet at the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport industrial park. ✂ **Beckie Kimbrell and Joe Knott**, DSS Program Managers, attended a course titled "Navigating Non-Profit Local Government Relationships," October 1 to 2 in Hickory, NC. ✂ 30 DSS staffers are taking a six-week course in conversational Spanish, while the entire DSS staff is participating in a workshop on "Positive Relations Skills." Both training sessions are being conducted by UNC-Pembroke.



Photos by Deborah Rogers

## Health Fair focuses on children

Storytelling and a presentation on dental education with Oliver the Bear were just a few of the many activities youngsters enjoyed at the Child Health Fair 2001.

22 exhibitors provided health related information to the nearly 500 who attended the fair. Above, left to right, children get their height and weight recorded and, just down the hall, they get lessons in dental hygiene. Refreshments, compliments of Smart Start, also were served.

## Notes from the County Manager



Scott Sauer

**Greetings.** Scotland County prides itself in being a proactive community. Interest and involvement by citizens in current issues demonstrate that level of proactivity. Differences that do exist are handled through reasonable discussion and healthy debate. It's a cooperative effort where all parties work toward the same goal — what's best for the community.

The County, City and Scotland Health Care System operate the same way, cooperatively. Now, more than ever, we are faced with challenges that test our best efforts on a local level and nationally, too.

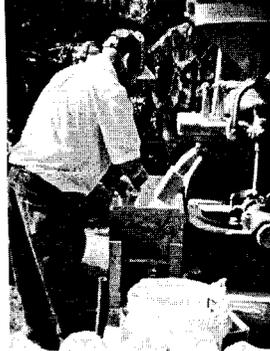
These past few weeks, City and County officials, Scotland Health Care System, Emergency Medical Services, the Health Department and the School System have been working in a proactive and collaborative manner to ensure the safety of its citizens in the case of a biological attack.

A 24-hour hotline at 910-276-1313 is already in place, where dispatchers will provide information and referral services to citizens who suspect they have been exposed to a biological agent. Law enforcement is being educated on how to handle suspicious packages. The health and well being of all citizens comes first.

Support of our citizens also comes through donations to United Way. Thank you to those County employees who have already made donations. I encourage those who haven't to please do so. The United Way Campaign continues through November 30. The majority of gifts to the United Way help fund those agencies and organizations that serve citizens in our own community.

Groundbreaking for the new, 1000-cell close security prison on McGirts Bridge Road is November 7. Gov. Mike Easley, State legislators and N.C. Department of Corrections officials are expected to attend. Construction crews are working the site now. Groundbreaking was recently held for Umicore, an international metal and materials group whose parent company is Carolmet. Both facilities will be welcome additions to Scotland County.

Finally, congratulations to J.R. "Buddy" Blalock, sworn in as Sheriff to fulfill the remaining term of former Sheriff Wayne Bryant.



## Festival a crowd-pleaser

Visitors found themselves on the road less traveled as they took a brief detour into the past during the John Blue Cotton Festival.



Now in its 18th year, the annual event celebrates the County's rural and agricultural roots. Clockwise, top left, the historic John Blue House serves as a festival backdrop; an exhibitor bags fresh ground corn meal; visitors enjoy a scenic tour; Appalachian Blue entertains; exhibitor Olivia Sellers demonstrates the pottery wheel.

## Citizens take advantage of recycling center Free Day

More than 525 tons of solid waste were collected at the County's six recycling centers during Free Day, September 22. Biannual Free Days, held in the spring and in the fall, allow participants to dispose of household items at no cost. "It's one way we can say thanks to residents for supporting the County's solid waste program," said Supervisor Steve Edge. "The day was extremely successful."



### Recycling Center Locations

7981 McColl Road,  
Laurinburg ♦ 16600 St. Johns Church Road, Gibson ♦ 20640 Sneads Grove Road, Laurinburg ♦ 20461 Wagram Road, Laurinburg ♦ 10681 Patterson Road, Maxton ♦ 17020 Palmer Road, Marston

Household waste is transferred to a regional landfill, construction materials are disposed of at the County site on Patterson Road and metal products are sent to a recycling center. "We take in a large amount of metal during Free Days, yet metal is accepted for free all the time," Edge explained. "Metal can be recycled and generates some income for the Solid Waste Program."

Regular charge for solid waste disposal is \$31 per ton, and there is a by the pound fee for trash delivered by citizens to the center.

## PAT hosts family event



Photo by Latonya McGillum

Parents and their pre-school age children were guests at a dinner and safety program hosted by Parents as Teachers (PAT).

Sparky the Dog and Chad McDonald of the Laurinburg Fire Department, pictured above, discussed fire safety in the home and tips on having a fun, safe Halloween.

The event was PAT's response to requests by participating families for a session on safety.

PAT families also had opportunity to meet other participants and to share success stories.

In all, 24 families enjoyed dinner, information supplied by the Red Cross and entertainment.

## DSS cosponsors poverty simulation sessions

Three sessions designed to help participants understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month are being sponsored by the Department of Social Services and Project Jubilee.

The object of the sessions, two on November 1 and one on November 2, is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by

people living on limited financial resources.

Commissioner Clint Willis, a member of the County's Social Services Board, expects the majority of DSS employees to attend the poverty simulation.

"DSS is working hard to serve more people in these tough times, where jobs have been lost and more people are on Welfare," Willis said.

Participants assume the roles of "families" in situations where they are newly unemployed, the wage earner has left the home, they are trying to live on public assistance or they are receiving Social Security as the only source of income.

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.