



SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

OCTOBER 2002

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Shelley receives McLaughlin Award



Commissioner Nancy Shelley was recognized October 17 for demonstrating exceptional leadership in a regional arena.

Commissioner Shelley received the 2002 L.E. McLaughlin, Jr. Award by the Lumber River Council of Governments (LRCOG) for her leadership skills and proactive participation on the multi-county EMS Advisory Council and the Scotland/Hoke County Criminal Justice Partnership Board (CJPB).

During her tenure as chair of the EMS Advisory Council, the Critical Incident Stress Management Team was formed, which provided emergency responders to the scene in the wake of Hurricane Floyd and during the rescue period following September 11, 2001.

Shelley, along with the late McLaughlin, for which the award is named, helped launch the CJPB in 1995, a rehabilitation program for substance abuse offenders referred to the program by the judicial system.

Upon receiving the recognition at the annual LRCOG banquet, Commissioner Shelley praised McLaughlin as a friend, mentor and colleague and for his years of devoted public service.

Speaking of the challenges she faces daily as an elected official, Shelley quipped, "When I became a Commissioner 10 years ago, I was scared to death. I'm still scared to death."

Programs praised during Extension's 2002 Report to the People

People whose lives have been positively changed by Scotland County Cooperative Extension programs attested to those successes during the 2002 Report to the People.

As Extension staff discussed the past year's activities via Power Point, guests followed each report with personal testimonies.

Dan Smith, in a videotaped interview, discussed how Agricultural Extension Agent David Morrison assisted him with his first-time venture into grape farming.

Drew Cox, an eighth-grader who participated in the Baby Think It Over Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program, discussed the hardships associated with the experience of being a young father.

"It was hard work mentally and physically, and I hated having this baby," Cox said of caring for an infant programmed to act like a real baby. "This program gave me the knowledge when it comes to making decisions about having sex."

Edna McLean said "what a smart world this would be" if there were more programs like Parents as Teachers (PAT) and more people like Rebecca Stricklen, PAT Parent Educator. McLean said that every week, her three-year-old grandson Keion McDaniel learns something new.

Keion's mother, Kijafa McLean, agreed. "Prior to Rebecca, Keion never expressed any desire to share nor any desire to sit with someone for an extended period of time. Now, he really looks forward to her (Rebecca's) visits and really seems to enjoy the activities they engage in. He plays, he shares, he listens and he follows more instructions."

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Incentives offered for United Way donors

Two reserved parking spaces are up for grabs as incentive for DSS employees to give generously this year to the United Way Campaign. One of those spaces is reserved for DSS Director Jan Elliott. Both spaces are a few steps from the back-door entrance to DSS.

DSS staffers who give \$36 or more to United Way will be eligible for the reserved parking space drawing. Five winners will be selected, four of whom will "time-share" the open reserved space for three months each. A fifth will be selected for the top prize, Elliott's parking space.

"That person can choose any three-month period, although January through March is the most desirable when the weather is coldest," said Elliott. "As for me, I'll park in the boonies."

As an additional incentive, the DSS unit with the highest per capita donation will be treated to a lunch not to exceed \$75 at a restaurant of their choice. Elliott personally will pick up the tab.

Elliott takes advantage of the Fair Share Program available to all County employees. "I guess it's obvious I'm a big supporter of the United Way."

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Agricultural Extension Agent David Morrison, standing, prepares the Power Point presentation for the 2002 Report to the People.



Report to the People celebrates Extension's success stories

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The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) received a thumbs up from client Lynn Poe, who said the information she received from Program Associate Donna Faye Barton helped reduce her grocery bill nearly 50 percent and increase her daughter's desire to eat and learn about healthy foods.

Likewise, Covington Street School counselor Jack Davern praised 4-H EFNEP Program Associate Hazel McPhatter for creating enthusiasm among students enrolled in Nutrition Education.

Judge William McIlwain, active in 4-H Teen Court, discussed the successes of 4-H Community Service and Restitution and the personal growth of student volunteers who participate as attorneys and jurors.

Services provided by the Extension and Community Association and 4-H activities also were reviewed.

Extension Director Cathy Graham said, "I applaud our dedicated and committed Extension employees. I am so very proud of this hard-working group."

Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. Congratulations to Commissioner Nancy Shelley, recipient of this year's L.E. McLaughlin, Jr. Regional Award from the Council of Governments.

This award goes to an elected official who improves and protects the quality of life on a regional level where a greater number of citizens stand to benefit.

Commissioner Shelley has done just that through her hard work with the Scotland/Hoke Criminal Justice Partnership Program and the regional EMS Advisory Council.

Like Commissioner Shelley, I consider all who sit on the Board of Commissioners unsung heroes when it comes to improving the quality of life in Scotland County and throughout the COG region. Our elected officials freely choose to serve quietly and selflessly on numerous boards and committees.

Their tireless efforts on behalf of Scotland County translate into future success stories for our area. All deserve our recognition and sincere gratitude.



Scott Sauer

Management skills covered in event of a bomb threat

In the event of a bomb threat, don't throw common sense out the window. In fact, common sense and a well-conceived plan are the best methods for handling a bomb threat.

"Bomb threat management is not an exact science, but there are options to fit any business," explained Stewart Campbell during a workshop devoted to bomb threat assessment.

He discussed the types of threats received, evaluating the credibility of threats, the responsibility of designated bomb threat managers and bomb threat assessment teams, how to record threats and appropriate evacuation and search procedures.

Campbell, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Hazardous Device Unit at the State Bureau of Investigation, said that although some bomb threats are a hoax made just to disrupt the work day, each threat must be evaluated for credibility. Messages received by telephone are the most common form of threats.

"Don't discount any threat," he said. "There's more of a likelihood a device exists if the information is more specific and detailed."

"There's not much a bomb threat team can do about ability and access, but it can control opportunity."

In order to be successful, an alleged bomber must have the ability to make and detonate a bomb, access to the required materials and opportunity to deliver and place the device. "Materials can be bought all day long and just about anywhere," said Campbell.

"There's not much a bomb threat team can do about ability and access, but it can control opportunity." A bomb threat team can develop plans that address security of a facility such as establishing a secure entry system, placing specific controls on locks and keys, providing adequate area lighting and keeping shrubs around buildings trimmed.

Campbell outlined steps that would be appropriate in the event of a bomb threat, which include designating a command center team leader and establishing a method for communications. "Redundancy is good in a bomb threat management plan," he explained.

Touching on the subject of evacuation and how far one should get from the site threatened, Campbell said, "If you can see the bomb disposal people working, then you are way too close."

When it comes to identifying who will search an area, Campbell said, "This is the part where jaws start dropping. Searches are usually conducted by employee volunteers who work in teams and are familiar with the work area."

Campbell said a systematic and organized search is not complete until the entire facility or area has been searched, even if a suspicious device is found part way through the process. "Be constantly vigilant and aware because the world has changed since 9/11," he concluded.

A few answers about all the signs

The bumper crop of political signs has thinned considerably since the September 10 Primary Election. Those that remain promote candidates who will be running in the November 5 election.

State laws prohibit signs, except DOT-approved regulation traffic and warning signs, on any highway or the right of way. Likewise, signs are prohibited from being posted on property of electric-power companies. Political signs may be posted no closer than 50 feet from a polling site.

Locally, municipalities may enforce their own regulations with regard to posting and removal of advertising and political signs.

While the County has no such regulations, the City of Laurinburg does. It requires that political campaign signs be removed within five days following the election or conclusion of the campaign.

Signs within the City limits shall not exceed six-square-feet in area or a maximum of 42 inches in height. Signs erected on private property shall not exceed 32-square-feet in area or a maximum height of 72 inches.

Also within the City limits, signs are prohibited from being placed on

utility poles, traffic signs, trees located on public property and at any location which obstructs the vision of motorists. Questions and concerns about placement and removal of signs should be addressed first to the municipality in which you live.



Political signs become numerous as election dates near.

Flu vaccines offered at Health Department



Dee McNeil, LPN, administers a flu shot to Courtney Carmichael, RN.

Scotland County employees are encouraged to get flu vaccinations, which are now available at the Health Department.

"The flu can make a person more susceptible to pneumonia, an illness that puts a severe strain on the heart and lungs," explained Health Director Jane Murray. "It is especially dangerous to people who already suffer from heart and lung disease."

The vaccine is free to all County employees. Private paying clients will be charged \$12 for flu and \$16 for pneumonia vaccinations. The Health Department also will bill Medicare and Medicaid for the vaccines.

Statistically, the flu kills 20,000 people and hospitalizes 100,000 people while pneumonia cause 14,000 deaths in older adults each year.

Murray said some basic precautions to avoid contracting or spreading the disease include minimize contact with ill persons, wash hands frequently to reduce the risk of infection and cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief when coughing or sneezing to limit the spread of the virus.

Fever, chills, muscle/joint pain and extreme fatigue characterize the flu. An annual flu shot can provide protection against this deadly disease, particularly for adults 65 and older or for those who have chronic health problems. People who receive the flu vaccine reach peak immunity within two weeks.

Pneumonia often begins with high fever, cough and a stabbing chest pain. A more serious complication of pneumonia, meningitis, has symptoms of high fever, headache and stiff neck. Again, adults 65 and older are at the greatest risk of contracting pneumonia. The pneumonia vaccine also is recommended for younger patients with chronic illness such as diabetes or heart disease.

the Birthday list for November

2 Roylin Hammond (EMS), James Austin (DSS), Mary McCallum (Sheriff) and Carol McCall (Parks and Recreation); **3** Wanda Sheppard (Tax); **5** Lynn Poe (Administration); **6** Richard Best (Sheriff); **8** Brian Lowry (Health); **10** Donna Barton (Cooperative Extension); **12** Wayne Gay (Sheriff); **13** Charles Belfield, Jr. (DSS); **14** Kelvin Howell and Felicia Jacobs (Sheriff); **17** Charles McArthur (EMS); **18** Joy Nolan (Solid Waste), Robert Sampson (EMS) and Courtney Carmichael (Health); **19** Sam Snowdon (Governing Body); **22** Harold Batchelor (Sheriff); **23** Charlotte Gibson (DSS); **27** Larry Herring (Jail); **28** Terry Stanton (PALS), Carolyn Isbell (DSS), and Betsey Ellerbe and Karen Altomare (Health); **29** Steve Edge (Solid Waste) and Barbie Rollins (Planning and Zoning); **30** Jennifer Goff (DSS), Corrie Patterson (EMS), Scott Norton (Sheriff) and Michealle Reece (Health).

Introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since August 16: **Vincent Price**, part-time in EMS; **Angela Moore**, Maternal Health; and **Melissa Hunt**, DSS.

Drop in for your vaccine!

Monday through Friday

**8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
and**

1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Questions?

277-2440

Thousands enjoy offerings at 19th John Blue Cotton Festival



There was plenty to see, eat, do and buy for the thousands who attended the 19th Annual John Blue Cotton Festival.

The number of visitors surged to about 5,000 on Saturday. The festival came to an early end Sunday due to rain.



The newest attraction, the A.D. Gibson General Store, which houses memorabilia from the Lindo Harvell Museum, brought in the curious, many of whom remember childhood visits and purchases made at the store. Train and hay rides, entertainment, the cotton gin, petting zoo, game area for youngsters and antique automobile and John Deere tractor exhibits also delighted visitors.



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.

4-H Christmas Sweatshirt Workshop
Wednesday, November 27
9-11:30 a.m., ages 5-8; 1-3:30 p.m., ages 9 and up
Call the Extension Office at 277-2422 to register