

SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

OCTOBER 2003

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

LRCOG names Clint Willis Board Member of the Year

Commissioner Clint Willis received the 2003 Calvin Haggins Board member of the Year Award for demonstrating outstanding leadership and dedication to the Lumber River Council of Governments (LRCOG) during the past year.

The regional award is named in memory of the late Calvin Haggins, a member of the Fairmont Town Council and a devoted member of the LRCOG Board of Directors. The award is decided by a vote of the LRCOG Board of Directors.

"I was surprised and humbled to be selected for this by a group of my peers," said Willis. "It's really special when the folks you work with think that much of you."

Willis, in turn, praised the Board whose members include municipal and county officials within the LRCOG region. "This is a dedicated group of people who work hard for the region economically and environmentally."

Now in his third career — that of an elected official — Willis was involved in two previous careers in the military and in insurance.

Using the experiences gained in his two previous careers in the military and insurance, Willis now provides effective leadership and advocacy for local and regional issues.

Retired from the U.S. Army with a military rank of Brigadier General, Willis was appointed to the LRCOG Board of Directors by the Scotland Commissioners in February of 2001.

Willis also serves on the Lumber River Workforce Development Consortium Board and is Chair of the Transportation Advisory Council of the Lumber River Rural Transportation Planning Organization.

He serves in a number of key advocacy positions serving older citizens, including in the State's Senior Tar Heel Legislature and the Scotland County Aging Advisory Council.



**Commissioner
Clint Willis**

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GOJO secures Abbott facility, 250 jobs expected to be filled

GOJO Industries, the Akron, Ohio-based manufacturer of PURELL Instant hand Sanitizer and other hygiene products, took possession of the Abbott facility earlier this month.

The move represents a \$10 million investment and will account for 250 jobs locally when the plant becomes fully operational by January 2005.

There's more information about GOJO and its products at www.gojo.com.

GOJO Industries received \$250,000 in One North Carolina money to be used for new equipment and building renovation. The company also will receive local incentive grants from the City and County in return for creating 250 jobs and making a \$10 million investment.

When Abbott closed its doors in June 2002, the company donated the facility, which features a clean room, to Scotland Development Corporation, a non-profit organization made up of City, County and Chamber of Commerce officials.

County Manager Scott T. Sauer said the donation of the building and the presence of a clean room generated the initial interest by GOJO in securing the facility.

Board of Commissioners Chairman David L. Burns praised those who made the GOJO selection of Scotland County possible. "It shows what a community can achieve when it comes together for a common goal," he said.

Along with City, County and Chamber officials, the Department of Commerce, Richmond Community College and Progress Energy helped to recruit GOJO to the area.

Christmas joy for every child a Foster Care goal at DSS

Celeste McRae and Christa Marciano are well aware of the continued difficult economic climate. Just the same, the two DSS workers intend to ensure the infants and youth in foster care are not deprived of the special Christmas any child would expect.

This year presents particular challenges. There are about 45 children ranging from one month to 17-years-old currently enrolled in the Foster Care Program.

Marciano, a Foster Care Case Worker, said DSS in one week

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Influence of agribusiness on economy made known during Farm–City event

by *Melissa Hopkins, Cooperative Extension*

A tradition was revived here October 8 with the return of the Farm–City Celebration, held in conjunction with the John Blue Cotton Festival and sponsored by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Cape Fear Farm Credit and Flowers and Friends Florist.

“Our purpose is to ensure that everyone understands the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives,” said County Extension Director Cathy Graham. Scotland County Commissioners Chairman David Burns added, “We often forget that we are still a rural County and how important agriculture is here.”

Erica Upton Peterson, Executive Vice President for the North Carolina Agribusiness Council, provided statistics to prove just how important agriculture and agribusiness are in the State and County.

“Agribusiness affects the paycheck of 7,771 people in North Carolina,” she said. “You may have heard that farmers represent less than two percent of the population, but how many people get all of their food directly from farmers. Agribusiness accounts for 22 percent of the State’s economy. That is \$62.6 billion. Agribusiness is the number one industry in this State. The second is tourism at \$12 billion.

“In Scotland County, agribusiness accounts for 21.57 percent of the income and 22 percent of employment,” Peterson continued. “There is \$200 million flowing through Scotland County because of agribusiness.”

As important as agriculture is to the state, Peterson sees a growing number of restrictions forcing farmers out of business. “Excessive rules and regulations



Chairman David Burns and Erica Upton Peterson

are the biggest threat to our food supply,” she said. “We don’t want the sights and sounds associated with agriculture. There are concerns of unknowns such as wastes and pesticides.”

Peterson’s biggest example of an agricultural area not wanted because of wastes is the swine industry. “In the last few

years we have heard a lot about wastes and water quality,” she said. “The greatest threat to our water supply is every single one of us. Municipal waste amounts are reported by (the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources) for 2002 and show Scotland County producing 1,600 gallons of municipal waste water.

“North Carolina produced 57 million gallons of municipal waste into our rivers and streams. That’s human waste,” said Peterson. “By June 2003, North Carolina had dumped 96 million gallons of municipal waste into our rivers and streams. Hogs, chicken and cattle farmers have dumped zero.”

Scotland County is 16th in the State in swine production, but that has not prevented concerns over expansion of the industry.

“We need to appreciate agriculture,” Peterson said. “We would not have had this meal without agriculture and agribusiness. We need to think about keeping agriculture in this country for national security, the economic impact and our way of life. We have the safest, most abundant economic food supply in the world.

“If you look back through history, the number one threat to any country is its food supply. The downfall of any great country has been a lack of food for their people. Look at the former Soviet Union. There was no great battle. They could not put food on their store shelves for their people,” Peterson concluded.

Flu vaccines available

With the approach of flu season County employees can receive free vaccines at the Health Department.

Influenza symptoms may include fever, severe headache and body aches, sore throat, cough, muscle joint pain and extreme fatigue. Aside from the vaccinations, a few simple precautions are in order. Avoid contact with ill persons. Wash hands frequently to reduce risk of infection. If you feel a cough or sneeze coming on, cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief.

Anybody 65 and over should be vaccinated as well as people with chronic diseases or long term health problems, women at least three months pregnant and infants between six and 23 months.

Those who should not take the vaccine are people who are allergic to eggs, chickens, chicken feathers or dander, and people who have neurological disorders.

Non-County employees can pay \$13 for the vaccine. Those with Medicare do not have to pay, while Medicaid pays for pregnant women and people at high risk for the flu, such as individuals with chronic diseases. Persons over 65 can receive a pneumonia vaccine for \$18. Flu vaccination clinic hours are 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 pm. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until February 28, 2004, or until supplies run out.

4–H celebrates the ‘Power of YOUTH’

by *Melissa C. Hopkins, Cooperative Extension*

Soldering irons, electric wiring, metal pieces and a blue instruction book sat on the table.

With those materials, a group of 4–H youth began work on a manual police siren, an Electric Project during a recent workshop. Each youth youth hopes to earn a chance to attend the 4–H Electric Congress next summer.

Sharon English, Scotland County 4–H Extension Agent, said, “Workshops like this one enable us to fulfill the 4–H slogan of ‘learn by doing.’ As time goes by, and the workshops become more and more specialized, we plan to continue with the 4–H motto ‘to make the best better.’”

A recently completed federal report shows that the Scotland County program is growing. “Our report shows that we have doubled from last year’s figures in the number of youth we are serving in Scotland County,” English said. “We currently have 14 clubs, and we are working with youth in the Scotland SCHOLARS program. We also provided several special interest workshops during the summer months.”

Workshops help prepare youth participants for a variety of activities at the district and state levels. Tequan McPhatter earned bronze recognition for his

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Notes from the County Manager

Greetings. Kep Kepley leaves Scotland County December 1 to become Tax Administrator for nearby Lee County. Kep, you will be missed.

Serving as Scotland County Tax Administrator since October 1996, Kep achieved a more than admirable track record.

He took the lead without hesitation as the County navigated its way through its 2003 revaluation. He oversaw the installation of new hardware and software to help the Tax Office serve citizens in an efficient, timely manner. He consistently closed each year with a high collection rate when compared to benchmark counties. Kep developed a highly skilled and capable staff to serve our County. He leaves behind a loyal staff and friendly colleagues who wish him the best of luck as he faces a new challenge. Best wishes, Kep!



Scott Sauer

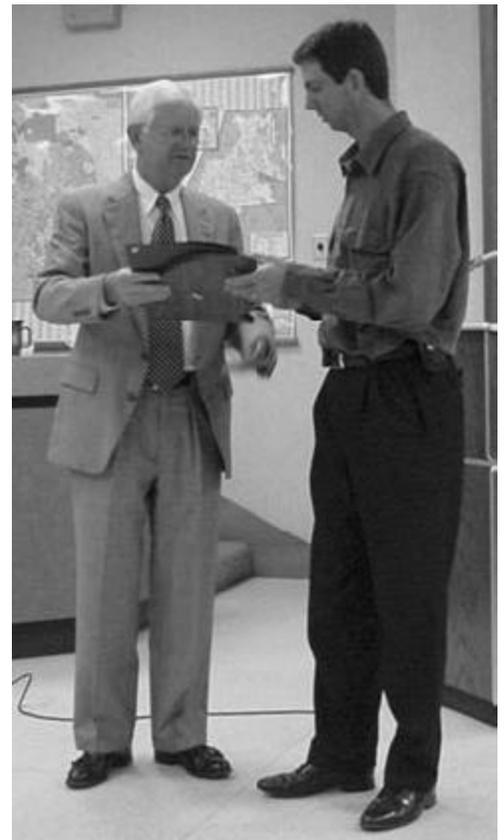
Presentations abound



Commissioner Charles "Scoofer" Jordan, above, accepts a thermal mug from 4-H'er Clay Brooks. 4-H Club Officers, accompanied by Cooperative Extension Director Cathy Graham, distributed gifts to the governing body and pencils to the attending public in honor of 4-H Week.

Chairman David Burns, below, presents Scotland County Rescue Squad Commander Neil Smith with a plaque and volunteer lapel pins in celebration of the Squad's 50th anniversary. Likewise, Smith presented a plaque to the Board of Commissioners in appreciation of the Board's continued support.

Smith discussed the history of the Rescue Squad and shared current news on its activities. He gave each Board member a 50th anniversary commemorative lapel pin.



Post Scripts

The Scotland County **4-H Booth** earned second place at the State Fair in Raleigh. With a *Get On Track with 4-H: It's All- America* theme, the booth included a model train baring the 4-H pledge. 4-H Agent **Sharon English**, Agriculture Agent **David Morrison**, Secretary **Melissa Hopkins** and Volunteer **Bobby Emanuel** set up the booth prior to the judging. ☼ The Cooperative Extension hosted a variety of activities at the John Blue Cotton Festival including the Olde Timey Fair run by the **Extension and Community Association (ECA)**. The **4-H Horse Club** and the **Master Gardeners** had booths for the first time. The **Precious Care Cluster of 4-H Clubs** participated with recycling responsibilities. Extension Area Livestock Agent **Tiffanee Conrad** assisted with the North Carolina State Fair and attended a Waste Management Seminar October 16-17. ☼ In news from EMS: Congratulations to Paramedic **Robert Sampson** on his marriage October 11 to Jessica Hicks. **Roylin Hammond, Mike Edge, Dennis Currie, Gwen Ikner, Tommy Hatcher** and **Sandy Locky** attended the annual Emergency Medicine Today Conference sponsored by the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) in Greensboro. **Roylin Hammond, Tommy Hatcher, Michael McQueen, Deanna Snead** and **Anna Smith** attended a workshop on E9-1-1 Wireless Communications, sponsored by Richmond County Communications, on pending upgrades to the 9-1-1 System. Condolences to EMT **Heather Brock** on the loss of her mother and to Paramedic **Donte Roland** on the loss of his grandfather. ☼ In Health Department news, welcome back **Kitty Johnson** and **Linda Holland**. Congratulations **Terena Taylor**, Management Support, for being our September Employee of the Month.

Oban students go canoeing



County Manager Scott Sauer, far left, took the lead in a canoe trek on a 2-mile stretch of the Lumber River from Wagram to the Hoke County border. The water adventure included the 10 Oban students, their two adult chaperones and about 25 community volunteers.

the **Birth**day list for **November**

2 Carol McCall (Parks and Recreation), James Austin (DSS), Roylin Hammond (DSS) and Mary McCallum (Sheriff); **3** Wanda Sheppard (Tax); **5** Lynn Poe (Administration); **6** Ernest Stephens (Inspections) and Richard Best and Thomas Sessoms (Sheriff); **8** Brian Lowry (Health); **10** Donna Barton (Cooperative Extension); **12** Wayne Gay (Sheriff); **14** Felicia Roller and Kelvin Howell (Sheriff); **16** Amy Tucker (EMS); **17** Charles McArthur (EMS); **18** Courtney Carmichael (Health), Joy Nolan (Public Works) and Robert Sampson (EMS); **19** Sam Snowdon (Commissioner); **20** Deborah Treadway (DSS) and Dawn McDonald (Health); **22** Harold Batchelor (Sheriff); **23** Charlotte Gibson (DSS); **24** John Ball (EMS); **27** Barry Roberts (EMS), Larry Herring (Jail) and Ronald Stanley (Transportation); **28** Carolyn Isbell (DSS) and Betsey Ellerbe (Health); **29** Barbie Rollins (Planning and Zoning) and Steve Edge (Public Works); **31** Scott Norton (Sheriff), Jennifer Goff (DSS) and Michealle Reece (Health).

Youth 'learn by doing' at 4-H workshops

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Healthy Lifestyles Project Record at the district level. Sherries Campbell earned silver recognition for her Healthy Lifestyles Project Record at the district level. Cherrell Brown earned gold recognition for her Communication Arts Project Record at the district level. She also earned top honors in the district Expressive Arts and Communication District Activity Day presentations.

The event saw four more gold awards, six silver awards and two bronze awards earned by Scotland County 4-H'ers. Ryan Fairley and Kendra Malloy earned top honors in their divisions at District Activity Day. Brooke Hunter and Elijah Morrison also earned top honors in their divisions at the event and continued their success with bronze awards at the 2003 North Carolina 4-H Congress. Each spoke about the dangers of smoking.

Elijah's father, Rodney, who attended the event, was impressed with what he saw. "I had no idea North Carolina possessed so many talented kids from so many different walks of life," he said. "They expressed and displayed character and innovation throughout the week. It was simply awesome."

Scotland County's Clay Brooks had the opportunity to attend a workshop with performer Nova Thomas. Brooks was one of nine acts in the State invited to attend the 2003 North Carolina 4-H Congress as an Entertains delegate.

Brooks said of Nova Thomas. "She gave me a lot of tips on performance."

Brooks and the eight other acts provided the entertainment for the delegate banquet the following evening. He was invited to return to the Southern Christmas show 4-H talent night in Charlotte November 14.

Joyful Christmas for foster children aided by community effort

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received 15 children into the program, 13 of whom were received in a single day.

"Christmas should be a fun and joyful time for these children," said McRae, a DSS Adoption Worker. "We want to try as hard as we can to make them feel special. After all, they're out of their homes, away from the folks they love and the security they know, and they're living with strangers."

For that reason, Marcano and McRae and the Foster Care staff do all they can to go the extra mile on behalf of the children.

For the first time last year that meant raising awareness in the community that there were children in Foster Care in need of and even craving the best holiday they can have. "The reality was we couldn't do it by ourselves," explained McRae.

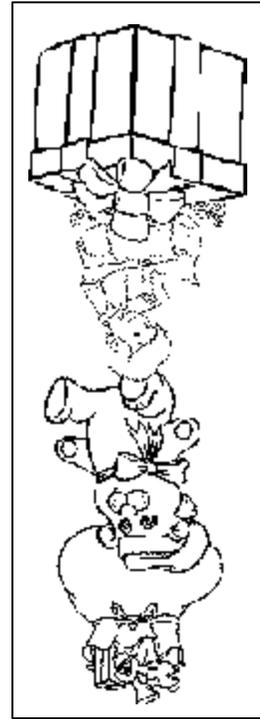
The agency now reaches out to civic organizations, industries and churches by offering them an opportunity to sponsor a child for the holidays or make a donation on behalf of the children in Foster Care.

McRae said, "Some folks prefer to sponsor a child or children. They enjoy the aspect of shopping, buying and wrapping gifts for a specific child. Some groups choose to sponsor several children or siblings."

She added, "Even the foster families try to do their part by digging deeper into their own pockets."

The agency also is looking at the possibility of placing an angel tree with a downtown retailer. The Plaid Piper housed the tree last year, and the results were quite successful.

"Plaid Piper shoppers could pick a cutout angel off the tree, which provided a child's first name, age, size and Christmas gift wish," said McRae. "It helped in gift selection for a specific child."



Your silent auction bids can bring Christmas joy! Wednesday, November 5, noon to 4 p.m., Commissioner Chamber

Marcano said County employees are invited to participate. "If every County employee donated \$5 or purchased a gift or both we could have a pretty good Christmas for the kids." Marcano suggested departmental sponsorship of a child as an option.

Marcano and McRae said DSS will host a silent auction of items donated by area businesses as a fundraiser Wednesday, November 5, noon to 4 p.m. in the Commissioner Chamber.

"We try to match in funding and even to exceed what Foster Care receives from the County per child," said McRae.

She added that it is admirable when organizations gather gifts and donations to send to children far away. "I would just like those organizations to know that we have children in our community, in this County, who are in need."



Old favorites, new features found at Festival

It was a day devoted to bloomin' onions, funnel cake and collard greens, music and dancing, demonstrations of how things were at the turn of the century and the selling of original items by crafters perfect for that special gift.

As the 20th Annual John Blue Cotton Festival drew to a close, nearly 8,000 visitors enjoyed all the Festival had to offer.

Entertainers at this year's event used the new permanent stage for the first time.

In honor of its anniversary year, the October 11 to 12 event was dedicated to Public Buildings Supervisor Hyder Massey. Since the Festival's inception, Massey and the skills he has brought to helping plan the event have been invaluable.

The Farm-City Celebration was revived in conjunction with the Festival to recognize the importance of agriculture in the area.

The Pee Dee Antique Power Club chose the weekend to hold its annual event on the John Blue Grounds.

Pictured clockwise from top left is a sampling of activities. Appalachian Blue, like roaming minstrels, brought entertainment to the visitors. Blacksmith Ed Snyder shapes iron. Tom Tucker makes a rolling pin. Hyder Massey, left, and St. Andrews President John Deegan, right, work the cotton gin. Timothy McMillan demonstrates the potting wheel. A view of festival goers from the second floor of the cotton gin. Tom West displays unique carvings he fashioned from beaver sticks.

Scotland on Stage presents...

Choir under the direction of Gary Wright. Bring a picnic lunch. Concessions also will be available. Because this is an outdoor concert, bring a lawn chair or blanket and insect repellent. Be prepared to have a good time. Everyone is asked to park inside the John Blue House grounds in order to avoid having to cross X-Way Road. Laurinburg Police Department Explorers will direct you to the area at the back of the property designated for parking. A spring series is scheduled for the 3rd Sunday of March, April, May and June 2004. All events will begin at 2 p.m. If you know of a local group who would like to perform, or have ideas for the spring series, please contact Parks and Recreation. Scotland on Stage is sponsored by the Cultural Events Committee and Scotland County Parks and Recreation.

Protection of natural resources taught

by Terry Gainey, Soil and water Conservation

Sixth grade students learned the importance of clean air in our lives and in the life of every living thing around us as participants in the 18th Annual Environmental Awareness Field Day.

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and the Scotland Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored the event at Camp Monroe. Students visited eight environmental stations — air quality, animals, bees, recycling, composting, forestry, wildlife conservation and water quality.

Pam Vivian, Neil Joyner and Martha Anderson of the North Carolina Division of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality, and Ronald Anderson of Lumber River State Parks presented a preserved animal display and discussed the nature and habitat of each type of animal.



Solid Waste Enforcement Officer Kathy Medlin displays items that can be recycled.

Bee Specialist Lauder Calhoun discussed the honey bee in its role of pollination of the fruit and flower chain.

Mac McDougald and staff members of the North Carolina Forest Service assisted students in identifying trees of local importance, the roles trees play in our environment as a natural resource and the importance and dangers of fires in our forests.

Kathy Medlin, Scotland County Solid Waste Enforcement Officer, taught the importance of recycling today and what students as individuals can do to help recycle.

Pete Morris, City of Laurinburg Beautification Department, taught the students the values of composting and the importance of reducing the amount of waste going into our landfills.

Dana Ashford, Natural Resource Conservation Service, presented a session on spills and the affect it has on ground water quality while Craig Ferguson and the staff of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission explained the different laws in Scotland County to protect wildlife and ourselves.

An estimated 225 students and teachers from Sycamore Lane Middle School enjoyed a day outdoors gathering information on natural resources and how to protect them for future generations.

Each student was given a Conservation Pledge bookmark, which pledges to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of our country, its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.

SCOTLAND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Youth basketball sign-ups are scheduled for November on the following dates: November 10 to 13 and November 15, 2003 Scotland Place Monday – Thursday, 2:30 to 5:30 PM and * **Saturday**, November 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Gibson Gym – Monday, November 10, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Laurel Hill Community Center – November 12, Wednesday, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Wagram Primary School – November 13, Thursday 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Boys and girls ages 7 to 15 can participate. Returning players may call 277-2550 to register during registration hours only.

* **Saturday time has been scheduled in order to better serve the public.**

EMStatistics

EMS Report for September:
Responded to 322 Medical/Trauma calls.
Treated 52 motor vehicle accident patients.
Provided 17 stand-by medical coverages and 10 medical coverages.
Gave 3 departmental presentations.

911 Report Highlights:
Received 1,322 total calls
314 EMS
259 Sheriff's Department
106 Laurinburg Police Department
30 Fire Department
293 hang-up calls
99 wrong numbers
67 open line calls
578 Cellular calls.
Report compiled by Tommy Hatcher.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome employees who joined County departments since August 16: **Russell Hunt** temporary in Planning and Zoning; **Thomas Sessoms**, Sheriff's Department; **Charlene Mouzon** and **Willette Jones**, DSS; and **Bobby Hunsucker**, temporary in Public Works.

Clint Willis honored by LRCOG Board

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Currently in his second term as a Scotland County Commissioner, he also chairs the State Social Services Board and the Ft. Bragg Joint Land Use Advisory Committee.

His work in Social Services has led to his being elected as President of the State Association of County Boards of Social Services.

By honoring Willis with this award, the COG Board of Directors acknowledged these and many other contributions made to the people of Scotland County and the region.

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.