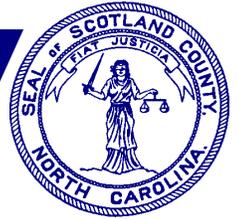


# Scotland County

## Monthly



APRIL 2011

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## FCC expansion an additional investment in the County

FCC will expand its Scotland County facility with a new \$10 million dollar investment and the addition of jobs to its current operations once construction is completed.

Chairman Bob Davis announced the good news at the April 4 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The news brought applause from the standing-room-only crowd.

"We are excited about this expansion and what it means in terms of opportunities for our citizens," Davis said.

"Scotland County is fortunate to have FCC as a corporate citizen, and we are grateful the company chose to locate and grow in our community," Davis added.

Davis said, "The hard work and dedication of the associates at FCC allowed the company to thrive and grow, even during a difficult economic time."

Economic Developer Greg Icard said, "The FCC expansion highlights the importance of all existing industries in Scotland County."

Icard added, "We are pleased that FCC is in a position to create new jobs and invest in its facility. We continue to work with existing industries in order to assist them in securing opportunities for growth and success."

FCC (North Carolina), LLC manufactures transmission components and clutches for the automotive and power sport industries. The company opened its Scotland County plant in 2001.

## Legislators talk economy, jobs at Chamber-hosted event

The economy and jobs dominated discussions at a legislative breakfast. The three lawmakers present emphasized that a willingness to compromise would be the best method to move budget talks forward.

U.S. Representative Larry Kissell, State Senator Bill Purcell and Representative Garland Pierce addressed economic challenges and answered questions at a breakfast hosted by the Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee.

Kissell responded to the gridlock at the federal level when it comes to budget talks. "If you make the effort to compromise, there are people in the middle like myself who will listen."

He added, "If we look in the middle and try to compromise, that's where we'll find the answers."

Kissell added that he will vigorously oppose any trade laws that will strip this country of jobs and American-made goods and ship them overseas.

Purcell said unlike Kissell, "We work in the billions, not trillions, [see Legislators page 4](#)

## Commissioners discuss budget with State elected officials

Four Commissioners traveled to Raleigh April 1 to ask legislators not to balance the State budget by passing unfunded mandates onto counties.

Balancing the State budget by passing costs to counties would result in a tax increase at the local level or the reduction and/or elimination of services.



**Left to right, Commissioners John Alford and Carol McCall, Chairman Bob Davis, Representative G.L. Pridgen and Commissioner Guy McCook meet in Raleigh to discuss budget concerns.**

"We're tapped out," said Commissioner Guy McCook. "We've cut as much as we can cut."

He added, "We cannot afford to have additional costs pushed down on us from the State."

Chairman Bob Davis and Commissioners McCook, John Alford and Carol McCall brought this message to Representatives G. L. Pridgen, Garland Pierce and Ken Goodman.

At issue are State plans to shift the cost of housing misdemeanants to counties. It costs Scotland County more than \$15,000 a year to house a person in the already overcrowded Jail. County Manager Kevin Patterson said the County Jail is not designed for long-term detention.

The Commissioners also expressed opposition to a State proposal to make counties assume the cost of school bus purchases along with the liability.

A proposed 75 percent reduction in lottery proceeds to schools would negatively impact the ability of the schools to make capital improvements. The proposed reduction would not provide Scotland County Schools with enough funds to pay down the 10-year loan on the Wagram School expansion.

The State also is considering shifting the expense for mental health facilities to counties. Patterson said, "This will only erode the limited mental health facilities available in rural North Carolina."

He added, "Drug and alcohol treatment in the area are limited at best."

Chairman Davis said, "Whether it's education or County services, we are at rock bottom. There is nowhere else to go, and we don't want to push anymore costs onto our citizens."

# Earth Day an everyday event for youth

Text and photo by Martha Norfleet, Soil and Water

Soil and Water staff made Earth Day presentations to six County schools working with students from pre-k through fifth grades.

Upon completion, Amy Richnburg and Martha Norfleet visited 38 classes representing 726 students.

Pre-k through fourth grade students made crafts such as butterfly fans, ladybugs, bumblebees, honey bears, happy world puzzles, small caterpillars, sunflowers, coffee filter butterflies, conservation bear puzzles, litter bags, big caterpillars and pinwheels. Fifth grade students played Earth Day Bingo.

Each presentation included hands-on activities. Students worked on activity sheets, door hangers and bookmarks. They received pencils to use as a reminder that the earth is ours to use and preserve for future generations.

Students were reminded that even though Earth Day is celebrated April 22, everyday is important in keeping the environment clean and beautiful.

In the photo, Pate Gardner fourth graders create big caterpillars and litterbags.



# Cooperative Extension staff work to enrich lives and promote wellness

Cooperative Extension has a comprehensive reach into the community, so much so that the agency served more than 15,000 clients in 2010.

The annual Report to the People took participants on a field trip through the County to witness firsthand how the agency has made a difference in a community.

The Bagpiper Restaurant was the first stop for breakfast and a tour of the high tunnel greenhouse.

The greenhouse will provide fresh produce for The Bagpiper Restaurant to serve its customers and to sell to citizens.

At Washington Park Elementary School, 4-H Agent Corrie Haskins discussed the introduction of SNAP-Ed (Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program) to students. Haskins said SNAP-Ed promotes physical activity, good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle.

"This is about taste testing healthy snacks, drinking water and engaging in exercise," Haskins explained. SNAP-Ed serves 57 children.

Fitness was the watch word at North Laurinburg Head Start where 4-H EFNEP Associate Hazel McPhatter inspires children to get up and dance, pictured top, and to recognize the benefits of eating fresh fruits and vegetables.

At the Wagram Community Garden site, Wagram resident Sarah Armstrong, pictured far left, said she knew nothing about gardening.

With the help and support of Community Garden Coordinator Melissa Tomas, third from the right, Armstrong said she went from eating canned vegetables to frozen to fresh.



# PostScripts

Ernest Stephens, Thomas Milligan and Bud McAllister will take Building Performance Institute (BPI) courses for Building Analyst and Envelope Professional courses at

Richmond Community College. The Lumber River Workforce Development Consortium and an SESP Grant funded their enrollment. BPI courses give inspections professionals hands-on experience in the energy industry. A certified building analyst helps customers solve heating, cooling and air leakage problems that are driving high energy costs. A certified envelope professional is a residential specialization that focuses on ways to enhance the envelope's thermal and pressure boundaries through insulation and

airsealing techniques. ✂ Welcome **Sheronica Smith**, who began working at the Jail February 18. ✂ Congratulations to **Karen Leviner, DSS**, on her April 11 marriage to Mike Jacobs. ✂ Brandon J. McRae, son of **Tosha McQueen, DSS**, made the Dean's List at Winston Salem State University and was recognized for the achievement during an April 16 Honors Convocation Ceremony.

# the Birthday list for May

2 James McQueen (DSS); 3 Kathy Medlin (Sheriff); 4 Teresa Vick and Tosha McQueen (DSS); 5 Rhonda Saffel (Tax); 6 Ryan Jones (EMS); 9 James E. McQueen and Willie Peterkin (Transportation); 10 Mike McGirt (Public Buildings), Dr. Kelvin Raybon (Health Board) and Michelle McRae (DSS); 11 Nancy Bostick (Administration) and Trina Locklear (DSS); 12 Crystal Norton (Register of Deeds); 14 Daniel McClellan (Sheriff) and Dontae Roland (EMS); 15 Roxanne Douglas (DSS), Jonathan Taylor (EMS) and Kenneth Bethea (Jail); 17 Scott Jacobs (Sheriff); 18 Rebecca Griffin (DSS) and Clarence McPhatter (Commissioner); 19 Sarah Craig (DSS) and Keith Faulk (Public Buildings); 20 Tony Smith (Sheriff) and Billie Phillips (Tax); 21 Bob Davis (Commissioner); 24 Pearlene Leggett (Health); 25 Gail Jackson (Jail); 26 Jennifer Taylor (Health) and Miyaka Mackie (DSS); 29 Dennis Currie (EMS) and Antoinette Gibson (Sheriff); 30 Tryon Jacobs (DSS); 31 Wayne Mace (EMS).

# News of Note

## Food and Nutrition Services commended

The DSS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) received a Certificate of Merit award for maintaining a negative accuracy rate of 100 percent for fiscal year 2010 and a Certificate of Merit Award for maintaining a food and food and nutrition services payment accuracy rate of 100 Percent for fiscal year 2010. Additionally, the unit was among the top three achievers in participants enrolled and entered employment numbers. It was up 34 percent from July 2010 to February 2011 compared to this time last year. FNS also received an award for being among the top three to increase its participation Goal for Volunteer program with the Employment Security Commission (ESC) with a 33 percent increase for July 2010 to January 2011.

## Workout for Women begins May 9

"WOW!" Workouts for Women program begins a new six-week session May 9 through June 16 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Exercise begins promptly at 5:15. Cost for the six-week session is \$12 per participant. For questions, contact Kathie Cox, Health Educator/Healthy Carolinians Coordinator, 910-277-2440.

## Prescription Plan discounts reported

The number of prescriptions purchased using the NACo-sponsored Prescription Drug Discount Card program was 282 in March 2011, down from 374 in March 2010. The NACo program in cooperation with Caremark offered the best prices on 89 prescriptions in March 2011. Since Scotland County opted to participate in the program in September 2006, 16,068 prescriptions have been processed at participating pharmacies for a total price savings of nearly \$139,344 for customers.

## Park improvements planned



**The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with the assistance of Director Shannon Newton and Risk Manager Tiffany Flowers developed a plan to improve all County playgrounds. Old equipment will be removed and new borders and playground mulch will be installed. Once completed, each playground will be evaluated and new equipment may be installed. Due to the cost, the program will take several years to complete. Pictured, Public Buildings and Grounds staff renovate the Murray Park playground in Wagram. They installed a new playground border and will place playground mulch for fall protection. Photo by Shannon Newton, Parks and Recreation**

## Telecommunicators thanked



**The County's telecommunicators gathered at General McArthur's recently to enjoy a meal and celebrate National Public Safety Telecommunicators Appreciation Week April 10 to 16. In the picture are Telecommunicators from Laurinburg Police, Laurinburg Fire, the Sheriff's Office and EMS. Pictured with the group are Sheriff Shep Jones, top row second from right, Laurinburg Police Fire Chief Jonny Evans, top row right, and EMS Director Roylin Hammond, top row third from left. Hammond spoke about future changes in 911 calls and how the County will receive and process them. The event was sponsored by the County's Emergency 911 System. Text and photo by Tommy Hatcher, EMS retired.**

## Chalk Banks Challenge returns

The 2011 Chalk Banks Challenge returns 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, after a lengthy hiatus. It will be held at the Access Area — Lumber River in Wagram.

Contestants may compete in raft, recreational canoe and kayak races or an inner tube drift (must supply your own vessel).

Raft races will be divided into two classes: single person and group (two or more people).

All rafts must be homemade and may not be motorized in any way.

Trophies will be awarded to the winners. Door prizes also will be available.

In addition to the races there will be food vendors, live music, nature displays and canoe rides. Kids will have opportunity to try their hand at fishing. No alcoholic beverages are allowed.

The following rules apply:

All occupants shall wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved lifesaving device. Contestants are duty bound to help others in jeopardy. Any racer not finishing must report as soon as possible to race officials. Canoes and kayaks will race against like boats. All rafts must be homemade in both the single and multi-person categories. Contestants must bring their own canoe, kayaks or inner tubes. No canoe, raft or tube is to have any motorized propelling device. Canoes, kayaks, rafts, etc. must stay in the water throughout the race. Overland portages are not allowed. Interfering with another vessel for the purpose of hindering its progress will result in disqualification. All State Park rules are in effect while in the Chalk Banks Access Area and/or on the Lumber River. **See page 4 for complete schedule.**

**2011  
Chalk Banks  
Challenge**

Raft, Canoe & Kayak Races  
May 21, 2011

## DSS hosts annual day for children

The lawn alongside DSS looked like a carnival midway April 9 when the agency hosted its annual Fun Day for Children.

This year, every unit in the agency participated through activities or hosting interactive play/education stations for the children and their families.

Outside community agencies were on hand providing information about what they do and the services they offer.

DSS' own Dorothy Fields and Sandy Skamperle served up hot dogs from the grill. More than 300 people attended the half-day event.

The Fun Day was well attended, pictured top, despite unseasonably cool temperatures.

Pictured center, culinary experts Dorothy Fields, left, and Sandy Skamperle grill hot dogs.

Each pinwheel, pictured bottom, represents a child currently in foster care. **Photos by Tommy Hatcher, EMS retired**



## Legislators talk budget, jobs

*continued from page 1*

but the cuts are still significant.”

Purcell said he is concerned about proposed State budget cuts to education, health and human services and the judicial system.

The State Senator said that although a continuation of the temporary one percent sales tax would raise \$1.2 billion toward reducing the \$2.4 billion State deficit, the House refuses to consider the extension.

“The temporary sales tax is not on the table, but it's a tax that everyone would pay,” Purcell explained.

Purcell also said there is an additional \$1 billion in uncollected taxes, but the State no longer has the resources to collect it.

Pierce encouraged attendees to appeal to the party in power to put politics aside and people first. “Proposed cuts will not be good for North Carolina or for citizens of Scotland County.”

“We cannot afford any more unfunded mandates passed on to the County,” Pierce said.



**Commissioner Guy McCook, left, and U.S. Representative Larry Kissell talk after the legislative breakfast.**

## Rural communities rank low in study

Scotland County was ranked 89th in the State for overall health outcomes according to a University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute study.

The ranking equaled other rural counties across the nation based on factors of lifestyles. Neighboring Robeson and Richmond counties, for instance, were ranked 98th and 88th respectively. Columbus ranked at the bottom.

Counties with large urban centers fared better. Wake was healthiest at number one followed by Orange County in the number two spot.

“The County Health Rankings is not just a measurement of public health in a community,” explained Health Director Ron Sapp. “The rankings include a measurement of the quality of health care and access, individual health and social behaviors, education, economy and the environment.”

A sampling of Scotland County rankings included 24 percent of adults who reported poor to fair health compared to an 18 percent State average. That means individuals in Scotland County experienced an average 3.8 physically healthy days in the past 30 days compared to 3.6 in the State.

Scotland County had 11.9 percent births with low birth weight compared to a 9.1 percent State average. Adult smoking was 26 percent compared to a 22 percent State average.

Adult obesity was 35 percent with the State average obesity rate at 29 percent.

There were areas where Scotland County did better than the State average. Excessive drinking locally was nine percent compared to 12 percent across the State.

3.3 percent Statewide had poor mental health days compared to 2.9 percent in Scotland County.

A social and economic factor showed an 86 percent high school graduation rate compared to a 79 percent State average.

Sapp said, “Communities can use this data along with data from our Community Health Assessments and other data sources to support the need for grant funding, programs and policy development.”

The Comprehensive County Health Rankings can be reviewed at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>.

## Chalk Banks Challenge Schedule of Events

- 10 a.m.: Event opens**
- 10:15 a.m.: Welcome and kick-off**
- 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.: Continued registration**
- 11 a.m.: Raft races begin**
- 11:15 a.m.: Start tube float**
- 11:30 a.m.: Start canoe and kayak races**
- 2:30 p.m.: Awards**