

# Scotland County Monthly



AUGUST 2005

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## Community welcomes Crumpton and family



*More than 100 people, including current and former Commissioners, attended a reception welcoming County Manager John Crumpton and his family to the community. Pictured left to right, front row, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston, former Commissioner Nancy J. Shelley, Meg, Michael and Molly Crumpton. Back row, left to right, Chairman J. D. Willis, former Commissioner D.B. Quick, John Crumpton, Drew Crumpton, former Commissioner Clint Willis, Katherine Crumpton and Commissioner Charles "Scoofer" Jordan.*

## Greyhound suspends local transit service

Greyhound Lines, Inc. eliminated Laurinburg as a stop along a route from Charlotte to Fayetteville, effective August 17.

Discontinuance of the service, which stopped four times a day at Wright Stop Grocery and Restaurant on Aberdeen Road, was described as a cost-cutting measure by the company based in Dallas, TX.

A Greyhound spokesperson said the Laurinburg stop was considered an underperformer. Its discontinuance is part of a comprehensive restructuring of Greyhound's entire network.

According to Greyhound, an estimated 1,700 outbound passengers and 2,900 inbound passengers used the transportation

*see bus route, page 3*

### THERE'S MORE INSIDE

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## Order prescriptions online at Medco through FirstCarolinaCare plan

A benefit of the FirstCarolinaCare health plan allows employees to order prescriptions and a wide assortment of vitamins and supplements online at competitive costs. A three-month supply of a generic prescription, for instance, might be \$20, shipping included.

To get started, go to [www.firstcarolinacare.com](http://www.firstcarolinacare.com) and click on "members" and then "rx inquiry," which takes you to the Medco website. First time visitors register using their email address and establishing a password.

During the registration process, you will be asked for an I.D. number, which is the 12-digit number on your FirstCarolinaCare card. Do not enter the last two digits of the I.D. number.

Medco also will ask for a recent prescription number. It is not necessary to provide this information when registering, and the option can be bypassed.

Medco walks the registrant through the process of setting up a mail order account and provides answers to frequently asked questions.

## Housing project will benefit elderly

A viable future awaits Central School if efforts by the Housing Authority are successful.

The Authority is working to secure grants, loans and low income tax credits to convert the historic elementary school into apartments for the elderly.

The Authority has received assistance from the Board of Commissioners and Laurinburg City Council in advancing the project. The Commissioners in August agreed to option the old school to the Housing Authority, which would allow it to pursue funding.

The Laurinburg City Council agreed to waive Payment in Lieu of Taxes for a period of time, which would allow the Authority to reach \$30,000 to fund early development expenses.

Housing Authority Executive Director Nancy Walker said the conversion of Central School is not a fast-track project. She predicted it would take nearly three years to complete.

## Leadership class tours County



*During his third week on the job County Manager John Crumpton, far right, discussed local government, the services it provides and the challenges that lay ahead with members of the 2005 Leadership Scotland class, which spent the day touring County facilities.*

## Immunization awareness key to disease prevention



**Standing behind Chairman J.D. Willis, left to right, are Annie Locklear, Angela Moore, Frances Moody, Abbey Massey, Deloris McNeil and Deborah Rogers of the Health Department.**

Chairman J.D. Willis signed a proclamation declaring August as National Immunization Awareness Month, which affirmed that vaccines are key to disease prevention for people of all ages.

"Making sure immunizations are up-to-date is a cost-effective strategy for safeguarding members of the community from deadly diseases," said Immunization Nurse Deloris McNeil.

She added, "Viruses and bacteria that cause diseases, such as diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, chickenpox and influenza still exist and can infect people who are not protected by vaccines."

McNeil said signing the proclamation in August is particularly noteworthy since it is the time of year when parents enroll children in school, and older students are entering college. Schools require that children and older adolescents have up-to-date immunizations.

"The start of fall also marks the beginning of flu season and the need for everyone to protect themselves," said McNeil.

## the Birthday list for September

**1** Felisa Lockey (DSS); **2** Cathy Graham (Cooperative Extension) and Keith Hatcher (EMS); **3** Sarah McQueen (DSS); **5** Richard Taylor (Jail), George Butler (Sheriff) and Dr. John Slaughter (Health Board); **5** Michael McQueen (EMS) and Gene Jackson (Public Buildings); **6** Anita Nelson (DSS) and Terri Tacquard (EMS); **10** Jeannie Freeman (DSS), Billy Campbell (Sheriff) and Lucy Walters (Health); **11** Deborah Rogers (Health); **12** J.C. Dunn and Bonnie Norton (Public Buildings); **14** Carlotta Rivers (Health); **16** Perry Brooks (Jail), Daulton Bethel (Public Works) and Nancy Hughes (Tax); **17** Nathan Monroe (Health Board); **18** Susan Butler (Administration); **19** Pierre Lee (EMS); **20** Angela Moore (Health); **25** Winnie Robinson (Health); **26** J.R. "Buddy" Blalock and Joshua Byrd (Sheriff); **27** Jody Smith (Cooperative Extension) and Timothy Hunt (EMS); **28** Doris Smart (Inspections) and William Evers (DSS); **29** Lynda McMillan (Health).

## Hurricane activity on the rise

With three months remaining until the end of hurricane season, the National Weather Service (NWS) is predicting a busy 2005. Projections include 12 to 15 named tropical storms, 7 to 9 might become hurricanes. If winds exceed 112 miles per hour, 3 to 5 hurricanes might be major ones.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said more events are recorded now. From 1950 to 2000 named tropical storms averaged 9.6, hurricanes averaged 5.9 with 2.3 hurricanes in the severe category. "Global warming is a big issue," Hammond said. "With an increase in global warming, there is an increase in tropical storms, which will impact on the east coast. We need to be prepared."

Flooding is a big safety threat during a hurricane. "The majority of deaths in hurricanes are a result of flooding," Hammond explained. "Inland flooding of roads resulted in 95 percent of the deaths in Hurricane Floyd."

He added, "Never attempt to cross a road that is flooded. You have no idea how deep the water is and how fast it's moving. Since flowing water seeks the lowest elevation, 8 to 10 inches of will float a vehicle off the road and into deeper water, which can easily result in drowning."

"Don't test the water," Hammond recommended. "Drive the long way around and live."

## Election Board takes oath



**Clerk of Court Whit Gibson administers the oath to Election Board members, left to right, Chair Janna Wegner, Dalores Ingram and Secretary Joyce Hamby.**

## EMStatistics

### EMS Report for June:

**Responded to 374 Medical/Trauma calls**

**Treated 39 motor vehicle accident patients**

**Provided 2 medical coverages**

**Administered 86 wellness/blood pressure checks**

### 911 Report Highlights:

**Received 1,543 total calls**

**325 EMS**

**292 Sheriff's Department**

**130 Laurinburg Police Department**

**25 Fire Department**

**384 hang-up calls**

**129 wrong numbers**

**78 open line calls**

**730 cellular calls**

### Weather Observations

#### (EMS Recordings)

**Temp (high) 97 on 6/15**

**Temp (low) 59 on 6/21**

**Wind (mph) 18 on 6/8**

**Rainfall (inches) 1.11 on 6/29**

### EMS Report for July:

**Responded to 415 Medical/Trauma calls**

**Treated 52 motor vehicle accident patients**

**Provided 3 medical coverages**

**Administered 88 wellness/blood pressure checks**

### 911 Report Highlights:

**Received 1,781 total calls**

**366 EMS**

**329 Sheriff's Department**

**123 Laurinburg Police Department**

**52 Fire Department**

**462 hang-up calls**

**147 wrong numbers**

**61 open line calls**

**896 cellular calls**

### Weather Observations

#### (EMS Recordings)

**Temp (high) 102 on 7/26,27**

**Temp (low) 70 on 7/2**

**Wind (mph) 24 on 7/15**

**Rainfall (inches) .86 on 7/31**

**Compiled by Tommy Hatcher**

## Coaches make team selections



Photo by Shannon Newton

The draft was on the minds of everyone August 16 as Parks and Recreation cheerleading and football coaches made their team selections.

The coaches chose teams similar to the professional draft. The entire process took about an hour.

"We do it like the professionals do," said Athletic Director Al Blades. "It's just not that intense, and everyone gets selected."

Cheerleader and football teams are drafted in three groups depending upon age — flag, minor and midget.

## Message from the Manager

This is an exciting time. I look forward to the challenges my position brings as the new County Manager. After several weeks on the job I have made some observations, which I would like to share.



John A. Crumpton

When I accepted the position, many friends in local government congratulated me and then said, "You're getting into a tough situation."

The perception exists that because the tax rate is high, Scotland County must have problems. I don't see problems. I do see good things.

In fact, Scotland County employees are among the good things as they are the County's best asset. Local government is a service organization. In order to provide superior service, an organization must have superior employees. Scotland County is fortunate in this regard. Staff I have met so far are talented and energetic.

Department Heads are eager to implement new ideas and move toward making this a better government. As the County Commissioners look toward the future, those ideas are welcome and encouraged. My job is to provide leadership, assist in the realization of new ideas and support everyone in the effort to work together as a team.

It is important to change the perception locally and across the State that a high tax rate is a negative for the County. I urge all of you to let those in other government agencies, friends and associates know how much you enjoy living and working in Scotland County.

Industrial development will ease the County's tax burden. We must grow the tax base and spread the word about good things happening in the County so others will want to come here. I urge you to join me in getting this important message out.

In the next few weeks, I plan to visit all departments. I look forward to working with you, and I hope to meet everyone personally when I stop by your work area.

## News of Note

### SCATS hosts wheelchair restraint course

Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) will host drivers and staff from Robeson, Richmond, Hoke and Bladen counties transportation systems for a training course for Wheelchair Restraints and Transport September 15. Steve Barker from Sure-Lok Inc. of Bethlehem, PA., will provide the training in the Commissioners Chamber from 1 to 3 p.m. EMS Director Roylin Hammond said there has been a steady increase in the number of wheelchair-bound clients who are transported on the three lift vans SCATS operates. Hammond said he expects to see that population continue to increase in the future.

### Two-day decontamination training set

Emergency response personnel will participate in decontamination training September 16 and 17 at the National Guard Armory and the Dulin Center at Scotland Memorial Hospital. The National Guard Armory training will be 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. that Friday and will continue 8 a.m. Saturday in the parking lot at the Dulin Center. The training is open to all Fire, EMS, Rescue, Law Enforcement, Health and Hospital personnel who wish to attend. Personnel from all emergency response agencies are most likely to be exposed to hazardous material, both chemical and biological, that could affect their life and safety. "The more personnel we can train, the better prepared we are for an event," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond. The Hospital will provide meals for the training on both days. Anyone interested in attending the two-day training should contact EMS at 276-1313.

### Splash Pad hours change

If you haven't yet visited the Splash Pad, the time to cool off will soon be coming to an end. Splash Pad summer hours conclude during Labor Day weekend. There will be two two-hour sessions Saturday, September 3 and Sunday, September 4 at 1 p.m. and again at 3 p.m. The Splash Pad will be available for private events through September 25, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and before 1 p.m. Saturdays.

### Access channel service interrupted

Access channel 17 programming went off the air for about a week in August, which allowed Adelphia to replace a faulty transmitter and improve reception.

## Area bus route discontinued

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service in 2004. Among the users were veterans who would transfer to van transportation from Greyhound's Fayetteville terminal to the VA Hospital.

Chairman J.D. Willis and Laurinburg City Mayor Ann B. Slaughter sent letters to Greyhound headquarters asking the company to reconsider resumption of local service.

Service to Lumberton and Rockingham also were discontinued August 17.

# Post Scripts

**Tiffanee Conrad**, Area Livestock Agent for Scotland, Robeson and Hoke counties, married Orlando Acuna August

13. ☘ The next **WLSP Lunch'n Learn** will be Monday, September 26, at the Health Department. Employees and the community are invited to this 30-minute program from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. Bring lunch and mark your calendar. ☘ Best wishes are extended to **Gwen Pate**, a 15-year employee and 12-year paramedic supervisor for Scotland County EMS. Pate accepted a position as a critical care paramedic with First Health Critical Care Ambulances that transport patients from smaller hospitals, such as Scotland Memorial or Richmond Memorial, to larger regional hospitals such as Moore Regional, Duke, or Chapel Hill. Pate will continue with Scotland County EMS on a part-time basis. ☘ Employees donated 28 units during the recent **Red Cross Blood Drive**. ☘ In Health Department news: Congratulations to Nutritionist **Vicki Thrower** for being selected August Employee of the Month. **Debra Kersey** has joined the billing and finance department. **Lisa Locklear** returned from a two-week mission trip to Bolivia. A speedy recovery to **Pearlene Leggett**. We hope **Melinda Salley** had a great time on her three-week excursion down the Rhine River in Germany and Switzerland. Welcome back to **Van McArthur**. Health Department staff enjoyed a salad luncheon August 26. The **WIC Department** celebrated National Breastfeeding Week August 1 to 7 with various programs and activities scheduled. ☘ **Hazel McPhatter**, EFNEP, received a District Performance Award from the North Carolina Association of Extension Program Assistants, Associates and Technicians.

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We extend our condolences to County Engineer **Jim Blackwell** on the death of his father-in-law, J.T. Atkinson. Condolences to Environmental Health Supervisor **Michael Norton** on the death of his mother-in-law. **Barbara McLean** thanks her DSS family for the heartfelt sympathy, prayers and love on the August 2 loss of her daughter Chanita Renee Austin. County staff extends their deepest condolences to Barbara McLean.

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**Anita Nelson from DSS, left, was among the 120 employees who participated in the Health Fair hosted by First Carolina Care and Scotland Memorial Hospital.**

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.

## Commissioners thank staff



**Chairman J.D. Willis, above, replenished the buffet for hundreds of Scotland County employees while Commissioners greeted employees at the door. The Employee Appreciation Lunch at the Highlands was a way for the governing board to thank staff for all their hard work. The all-you-can-eat menu included fried chicken, baked beans, slaw, rolls, beverage and dessert.**

## Morrison receives distinguished award



**David Morrison**

David Morrison was one of five Agricultural Agents across the State who received the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) for providing outstanding service and programs as a member of the Cooperative Extension Service. The award is sponsored by the North Carolina Association of County Agricultural Agents.

Morrison received the DSA based on the strong agricultural program he developed in Scotland County. According to the Association, "David was involved in numerous projects to assist farmers and farm workers in the areas of environmental protection, pesticide safety, pesticide collection, alternative agriculture and integrated pest management.

"The purpose of the programs and projects was to provide educational programming to farmers and their workers to assist with sound decision making to increase profitability or safety to themselves and the environment."

Over the years, Morrison cooperated with the local Soil and Water Conservation District, Extension Specialists, farmers, NC Department of Agriculture, and industry personnel to conduct educational meetings, farm tests, scouting schools, tours, pesticide pick up days, marketing seminars in addition to assisting individuals with starting new enterprises.

He also has been involved with the creation of a county animal response team to address disasters involving livestock and small animals. Morrison has kept livestock producers informed of federal disease, swine buyout, and livestock compensation programs in addition to providing regulation compliance assistance during the absence of a livestock agent in Scotland County.

The Association described Morrison as the "best of the best" among cotton agents in North Carolina. "One of David's strengths is the ability to accurately identify the major issues facing the agricultural community and develop relevant programming that addresses the issues."

DSA nominees must have at least 10 years of service and be members of the Association. Morrison received a plaque and financial support, which enabled him to attend the national meeting and professional improvement conference in July in Buffalo, NY.