

Scotland County Monthly



AUGUST 2008

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Seminar a how-to introduction on applying for jobs at the prison

Commissioner Betty Blue Gholston wants to help Scotland County job seekers find employment at Scotland Correctional Institution.

Even though the State prison with an inmate population of 1,000 is located on McGirts Bridge Road in Scotland County, less than half of those on the payroll — 196 of 410 employees — live in the County.

Gholston organized an August 13 job seminar attended by an estimated 30 people who are interested in working at the prison.

Scotland Correctional Institution officials and representatives from the Employment Security Commission, Richmond Community College and the Literacy Council were on hand to give presentations, answer questions and help participants with resumés and application forms.

With two new projects ready for development at the prison, Gholston is even more determined to see the balance of employment swing in favor of Scotland County.

The State Department of Correction recently approved plans to construct a minimum custody facility with 252 inmates and a 504-bed medium facility.

The number of jobs at both facilities is not yet known. Project completion is expected within 27 to 36 months.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a correctional officer at the prison should note the following are the minimum requirements:

- **Must be 20 years of age.**
- **Must be a citizen of the United States.**
- **Must have a high school diploma or GED (correspondence schools are not acceptable).**
- **Cannot have a felony or a domestic violence conviction if three years have not passed since the date of the conviction or completion of any supervision imposed by the courts, whichever is later.**

Leon Gyles on board as Library Director

Leon Gyles took the helm of Scotland Memorial Library August 18 as its new Director. With the Library's July 1 transition to a County department, Gyles will report to the County Manager.

A former Navy pilot and Michigan native, Gyles previously served as librarian with Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation in Savannah. He was a tenured faculty member at the University of South Carolina Business School Library.

He replaces Robert Busko who accepted a similar position in Haywood County last year. Margaret Uncapher, who served as Interim Director, will return to her her duties in technical services and assist Gyles in becoming familiar with the Library.

Gyles earned a degree in Aviation Engineering Technology Production and Testing of Aircraft from Western Michigan University, a Masters in Systems Management from USC-Los Angeles and a Masters in Library Information Science from USC-Columbia.

"I'm used to libraries," said Gyles, explaining his transition from aviation engineering technology to library science. As a maintenance officer responsible for quality assurance in the Navy, Gyles had access to more than 10,000 loose-leaf manuals. "You would use the library when you had a troubleshooting problem, like why a wing on an F-14 wouldn't move when it was supposed to."

21st Century Communities official kickoff launched

A dozen State officials, including Assistant Secretary of Commerce Cleveland Simpson, visited the area to celebrate Scotland County's induction into the 21st Century Community Program.



Officials began their two-day visit with a tour of the County.

With County Manager Kevin Patterson as their guide, the visitors got a glimpse of St. Andrews Presbyterian College and its Equestrian Center, Cypress Bend Winery, several Scotland County Schools, Laurinburg-Maxton Industrial

Park and Scotland Memorial Hospital.

Some of the County's more distressed neighborhoods were part of the tour as well.

Ravin Gore, Division of Community Assistance, said, "It's important to see what the County has. That means the good, the bad and the not so pretty."

Two dozen area leaders and elected officials were interviewed by the visiting Department of Commerce representatives on the second day of the visit.

Results of the interviews will provide an overall assessment of the County — its strengths, weaknesses, a vision of the future and what it will take to get there.

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Coaches sharpen their skills at cheerleading boot camp

by Matt Smith, Parks and Recreation

For the 2008 football season, Scotland County Parks and Recreation Cheerleading Coordinator Alicia Krout is taking a new approach to getting prepared for the season.

She hosted a cheerleading "boot camp" for coaches.

The August 12 and 13 coach's boot camp gave Parks and Recreation cheerleading coaches opportunity to have fun in an interactive way and sharpen their cheerleading skills.

The boot camp focused on education and review on some fundamentals coaches may be a little rusty on.

During the three to four-hour course, Krout taught coaches the fundamentals of cheerleading, safe building techniques along with cheering and problem solving skills.

"The goal was to raise the bar for the County's cheerleading program and to educate coaches while preparing them the best we can," said Krout.

"I believe we have the best Parks and Recreation All-Star cheerleaders in the Statewide Athletics Conference and we'd like to keep it that way."

Along with fundamentals, the coaches also learned cheerleading moves and 15 cheers that they could teach their squads throughout the season.

The coaches received an instructional DVD along with handouts on stretching, arm motions, making the initial contact with participants and the first parent's meeting

It was the intention of Krout and Parks and Recreation that the coaches enjoyed the boot camp and gained valuable information as a result.

"Our volunteers are special people who donate a lot of time and energy so that our programs are successful," said Krout. "Volunteers make it happen!"



Coaches received an instructional DVD and other handouts.



First responders fine-tune skills in night rescue, patient assessment

Members of the Scotland County Rescue Squad, above left, practiced night-time river rescue at Lumber River State Park and at the North Carolina Wildlife Landing off Highway 401, both in Wagram.

Approximately 30 Rescue Squad members participated in the August monthly training, which included hands-on motor boat operations, canoeing, rope throw-bag training and locating lost or stranded boaters on the Lumber River at night. The Squad wishes to thank the Lumber River State Park system for allowing the members to use the park for the training exercise.

Above right, Scotland County EMS Paramedic Corrie Patterson performs a patient assessment exercise during an EMS monthly Continuing Education class.

Patterson is assisted by part-time medic Kevin Strickland and Rescue Squad member Judson Smith. Rescue Squad member Randy Gibson volunteers to be the patient. Paramedic Dennis Currie and medic Henry Freeman observe from the comfort of the couch.

New Number, please! now available

An updated **Number, please!** is now available at Scotland Place and online at www.scotlandcounty.org. Just click on Parks and Recreation for the link to the brochure. **Number, please!** is a resource guide containing important telephone numbers for older adults, caregivers and agencies that offer information and assistance to older adults. Each year more phone numbers are included in the brochure as additional agencies and services become available locally to older adults. The brochure is sponsored by Scotland Place Senior Center, Parks and Recreation and the Family Caregiver Support Program at the Lumber River Council of Governments. Cost to print the brochure is provided by Older Americans Act Funds and NC Senior Health Insurance Program.

the Birthday list for September

1 Felisa Lockey (DSS); 2 Jennifer Clark (Sheriff) and Cathy Graham (Cooperative Extension); 3 Sarah McQueen (DSS); 4 Ed Cushman (Health) and Hazel McPhatter (Cooperative Extension); 5 Richard Taylor (Jail), George Butler and James Sweet (Sheriff), Dr. John Slaughter (Health Board) and Charles Cox (Parks and Recreation); 6 Anita Nelson (DSS) and Denise Cox (EMS); 7 Holly Russell (Parks and Recreation); 8 Amanda Patterson (Jail) and Debra Kersey (Health); 10 Jeannie Freeman (DSS); 11 Deborah Rogers (Health) and James Lavinier (Sheriff); 12 Tina Swinney (Jail); 13 Henry Freeman (EMS) and Roger Dial (Public Buildings); 14 Carlotta Rivers (Health); 16 Nancy Hughes (Tax); 17 Nathan Monroe (Health Board); 18 Susan Butler (Administration), Malinda McRae (Jail) and Taronda Douglas (DSS); 19 Pierre Lee (EMS); 20 Cardra Burns (Health) and Stevin Huttenstine (Parks and Recreation); 23 James McEachin (Parks and Recreation); 25 Alisa Freeman (Health) and Falana Jackson (DSS); 26 Joshua Byrd (EMS); 29 Lynda McMillan (Health); 30 Walter Steele and Everage Bradley (Parks and Recreation).

Introductions & Transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since June 16, 2008: **Barbara Tilson, Malcolm McClellan** and **Rena McMillan**, Jail; **Marks Jackson**, part-time with EMS; **Belinda Norton, Louis Williams, Margaret Uncapher** and **Sherry Lane**, Library; part-time with the Library are **Joy Davis, Kenneth McDonald, Leora Davis** and **Liston Watts**; **John Willenburg**, Public Buildings and **Morris Currie**, part-time with Public Buildings; **Joe Peele**, Sheriff; **Marilyn Faulkner** and **Tracy Johnson**, DSS; **Catherine Fink** and **Jennifer Reynolds**, part-time with the Splash Pad; and temporary with the Splash Pad is **Curtis Swiney**.

Post Scripts

Towana Harrington, DSS, has reason for a double celebration. Harrington gave birth June 18 to daughter Imani Joy Harrington and celebrated the August 4 adoption of her oldest child, 15-month-old Nadia Simone Harrington, who Harrington has had since Nadia was born. ❁ **Tosha McQueen**, DSS, celebrates 20 years of employment in September. ❁ Celebrating employment anniversaries at EMS are **Sandy Lockey**, 18 years; **Tracie Patterson**, 7 years; **Mary White** and **Mathew Locklear**, 3 years.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family of **Lauder Eugene "Gene" Barber**, who died August 12. Barber served as the Department Head of the Tax Department from August 1979 until his retirement in March 1996.

Splash Pad featured in financial magazine

The Splash Pad was featured in the August 2008 *aim*, a monthly publication of Local Government Federal Credit Union.

The article quoted Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton on the Splash Pad versus a public pool. "We don't have a public pool in Scotland County, so we felt this would be a good start for water recreation."

The Splash Pad serves a population age 12 and under and is one of only a handful in the entire State.

A description of the Splash Pad's two dozen water features and recirculating treatment system, which allows for minimal water use, also was included in the article.



DSS extended its best wishes to Pat Wells, who retired after 31 years of service to the County and community.



County becomes part of 21st Century program

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Through collaborations and creative partnerships, the 21st Century program directs human and financial resources and provides technical assistance to targeted communities that support the expansion of broad-based and comprehensive economic development plans and initiatives.

The program achieves long-term positive outcomes at both the State and local levels by conducting a complete assessment of the local economy, identifying areas of greatest concern, assessing economic development assets such as available building sites and vacant facilities, identifying infrastructure needs, developing a comprehensive economic development plan and coordinating available resources to maximize impact.

"Success of the program is directly related to your County's level of involvement," explained Assistant Secretary of Commerce Simpson. "We (State officials) are here to advocate and to facilitate the delivery of resources."

Simpson added that as a 21st Century Community, Scotland County will go to the head of the line when it comes to assistance in getting its vision fulfilled.

"It's time to put this County on steroids, as it were, to help you achieve whatever that vision might be," said Simpson.

Scotland County is among 31 counties to become a part of the 21st Century Communities program since its beginning in 2001.

The program was initiated in response to business and industry closures and the loss of thousands of jobs in the manufacturing and textile industries.

The 21st Century Communities program positively impacts the state's most challenged communities and helps jump start economic development.

Sewing class inspires creativity

14 youth met at Prestwick Village for a two-day 4-H sewing class for beginners.

Participants learned basic sewing skills and how to make a skirt and purse.

Each project looked creative and unique even though all designs were made from the same pattern. 4-H Agent Corrie Haskins, left, led the sewing class.



Agricultural signs available

Voluntary Agricultural District signs are now available to farmers who wish to apply for the designation. The Commissioners in March approved a Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance.

Farmers can protect themselves from complaints that might occur from neighboring residential developments by applying for Voluntary Agricultural District status.

Amy Richburg, right, Soil and Water Conservation District Director, displays a voluntary agricultural district sign.



EMStatistics

EMS Report for July:

Responded to 405

Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 42 total traffic accident patients

Administered 92 wellness/ blood pressure checks

Sold 11 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

407 EMS

373 Sheriff's Department

301 Laurinburg Police Department

29 Fire Department

826 hang-up calls

104 wrong numbers

72 open line calls

1,700 cellular calls

2,423 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

74 breathing problems

48 sick person (specific diagnosis)

42 chest pain

42 traffic accidents

29 transfer/interfacility

Weather Observations (EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 99 on 7/3,26

Temp (low) 60 on 7/1

Wind (mph) 29 on 7/28

Rainfall (inches) 1.39 on 7;/10

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Soccer camp an international event

by Matt Smith, Parks and Recreation

Confidence, technique and skill. These were the concepts taught at the Challenger British Soccer Camp hosted by Parks and Recreation and the Scotland Youth Soccer Association last month.

The camp, which had 63 participants ranging in age from 3 to 18, infused the players with international soccer knowledge that can't be duplicated in any ordinary summer soccer camp.

The British Soccer Camp provided the young players with the rare opportunity to receive high-level soccer coaching from a team of international experts right in the heart of their own community.

Camp participants performed technical and tactical drills while also participating in team challenges at the end of each day.

Between the running, dribbling and passing drills, the British Soccer Camp offered a "World Cup Day" where campers were divided into groups and each group was assigned a country.

After making flags for their country and trying to learn the national anthems, the players had a World Cup tournament to determine the winner of the week.

The camp was the first soccer-related activity held at the new Scotland County Recreation Complex.

This fall travel soccer will be played at the Complex and, next year, all recreation soccer will be played at the new facility.



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Leadership Scotland discusses economic development

County Manager Kevin Patterson, center, pictured below, met with the 2008 Leadership Scotland class to discuss County services, the budget process and the importance of a healthy tax base.

Leadership participants, who are professionals in a variety of careers, were most interested in economic development and what the County is doing to attract industry and big employers to the community.

Risk Manager Tiffany Flowers is enrolled in the 2008 Leadership Scotland, a program that fosters community leadership among its graduates.



Historic school reopens with new purpose



Hundreds of citizens, including former students and educators, got an inside look at the new, improved Central School, which was transformed into 31 apartments for income-restricted seniors 55 and older.

The Open House celebrated the school's reopening and a successful campaign by the community to save it from demolition.

Built in 1909, the original structure was expanded in 1937 and again in 1948 and 1949. Central School was the oldest continually operating school in the State when it closed in 2000. Since then, few people were permitted inside although many witnessed signs of its exterior deterioration caused by the elements and acts of vandalism.

Ownership of Central School passed from Scotland County Schools to the County while a group of concerned citizens struggled to preserve the structure and determine its future purpose. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

Central School ownership was transferred to the Laurinburg Housing Authority in 2007 after the agency proposed to turn the school into one and two-bedroom housing units using low-income and historic preservation tax credits to help fund the renovations.

General Election deadlines posted

The General Election is November 4, and the following dates should be helpful for those who haven't yet registered to vote and for those who plan to vote.

Voter Registration Deadline: Postmarked by October 10, 2008

Absentee Ballot Application: Received between September 15, 2008 and October 28, 2008

Absentee Ballots Due: Received by 5 p.m., November 3, 2008

Absentee One-Stop Period: October 16, 2008 to November 1, 2008 with the following dates and times — October 16 and 17, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; October 20 to 24, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; October 27 to October 31, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; November 1, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Extra Hours: Saturday, October 18, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Election Day: November 4, 2008



The photo insets show Central School before its transformation compared to how it looks now.

