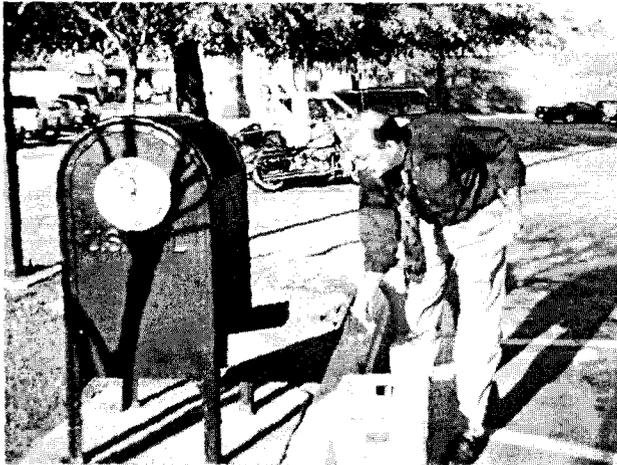




# SCOTLAND COUNTY MONTHLY

JANUARY 2002

A newsletter for Scotland County employees



Tax Administrator Kep Kepley twice a day removes correspondence and payments from the drop box.

## Tax Office gets drop box

Around the first of the year, when property taxes were due, the tax drop box was a welcome sight for those citizens making routine payments.

Tax Administrator Kep Kepley welcomed it, too. "The box has already proved to be an asset," he said. "Those people whose tax payments are routine can use the box without having to go through the metal detector or wait in line at the tax office."

It also allows the staff in the Tax Office to devote more time to those individuals who have problems that need resolving.

The refurbished box, discarded by the Post Office, is located in front of the Courthouse allowing for drive-through access.

With the box in place, Kepley's staff also can concentrate on collections of delinquent taxes. "When we pursue collections aggressively, it benefits the taxpayer. The higher our percentage rate in tax collections, the better we are at helping to keep the tax rate in check."

It was particularly helpful when the snow days earlier this month cut into the Tax Office's hours of operation. "We found a stack of payments in the drop box."

## THERE'S MORE INSIDE

Reading program fun for kids ..... page 3

We were really snowed in! ..... page 4

## New paychecks are easier to read

Employee paychecks may look a little different this month. That's because they're designed to be easier to read. The first noticeable change is that the check stub, complete with employee information, is on top of the check instead of the bottom.

Instead of using codes, as was done previously, the new paycheck outlines deductions taken by the individual employee.

Mileage and meal reimbursements are reflected in the the YTD Gross (year to date gross) income. Those reimbursements are not taxed, according to Payroll Technician Nancy Bostick, as the Year to Date W-2 wages column will reflect.

## Questions about your paycheck? Your supervisor has the answers.

Annual leave, sick leave, petty leave and comp time are reflected in hourly amounts on the left portion of the stub. "Employees should keep all check stubs for comparison purposes because beginning balances in these areas are not shown. Only the ending balances are displayed," said Bostick.

She added, "Shown on the stub is the break down by dollar amounts the cost of regular, sick leave, petty leave, comp time and holidays."

Also outlined on the right side of the check stub are pre taxable deductions, taxes and post taxable deductions. And insurance coverage, once displayed as one figure, is now shown as two figures — supplemental and dependent.

At the very top of the check stub is the employee's Social Security Number followed by the monthly salary. **A sample paycheck stub is shown on page 3.**

## SHH, Inc. transitions back to County

Scotland Home Health, Inc. (SHH) returned to Scotland County ownership the first of the year, concluding a three-year partnership with Scotland Healthcare System.

SHH, Inc. operates similarly to Scotland Memorial Library, which also is a separate non-profit corporation, whose Board of Directors are appointed by the County Commissioners.

As it has in the past, the home health agency continues to provide skilled nursing, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy as well as home health aide, personal care services and CAP case management.

Shortly before the transition, Miriam Bounds and Kim Crump were named Director and Assistant Director, respectively, of SHH, Inc.

## Notes from the County Manager



**Scott Sauer**

### Greetings.

What a way to begin the new year! The snow that blanketed our area the first week of this month certainly was a beautiful sight.

Although snow and ice succeeded in temporarily shutting down area government offices, the schools and quite a

few businesses, Hyder Massey and his staff were on the job clearing walkways and parking lots at the County's buildings during the two-day closure. Safety of our citizens visiting County facilities is a priority. The efforts of Hyder and his staff certainly reflect the Mission of Scotland County.

Some employees made the effort to get to work because of the nature of their job or because a particular deadline could not be ignored. Thanks to all for your dedication and hard work.

Dedication also was at work this past weekend as the Board of Commissioners attended its annual planning retreat, a problem-solving session and series of discussions on issues that require solutions and on challenges that lay ahead. Retreats usually take place in surroundings that are relaxed and conducive to productivity.

This year, the retreat was held at the Laurel Hill Community Center. Here is an excellent example of a possibility transformed into a reality. When people think and plan creatively, wonderful things do happen. In this case, the former Laurel Hill Primary School now has a second life as a facility enjoyed and used by the entire community.

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to the following individuals who have joined Scotland County Departments since November 16, 2001: **Annie Clark**, part-time in Cooperative Extension; **Maj. Billy Campbell**, Sheriff; and **Lisa Davis**, DSS. Making a transition is **Terry Gainey** from administrative assistant with DSS to a similar position with Soil and Water.

Scotland Home Health welcomed **Ranelle Freeman**, physical therapist, in December, and **Andy Kurtzman**, administrative consultant, in November.

## Post Scripts

Despite the closure of government offices January 3 and 4 due to heavy snowfall, Scotland Home Health continued to provide services. **Karen Patton, RN; Gina Stocks, RN; Debbie Chavis, PT; and Ranelle Freeman, PT;** made sure in-home patient care continued. Other essential personnel, who work 24/7 and were on the job, were EMS, law enforcement and the jail staff, including the cooks. Thanks to all. ❄️



**Ice cream parties were enjoyed by the 4th and 5th grade classes who won the October Pumpkin Contest, sponsored by 4-H.**

Also working over the holidays and during the snow days was Payroll Technician **Nancy Bostick**, who thanks EMS Director **Roylin Hammond** and Accounting Technician **Bill McMillan** for their support and assistance. Hammond worked to keep the power on in the Annex during the holiday break. This allowed Bostick to complete the payroll by December 31. McMillan worked with Bostick in making the transition to the new payroll system as easy as possible. Bostick also wishes to thank those County employees and co-workers who gave her support and words of encouragement as she worked to meet difficult payroll deadlines. ❄️

Congratulations to **Sylvia Witmore**, professional services assistant for Scotland Home Health, on the December 16 marriage of her son, Kevin. ❄️ Effective January 1, 2002, the mileage rate for business use increased from 34.5 cents a mile to 36.5 cents a mile, due to rising gas prices and to reflect the new IRS Standard Mileage Rate for Business Use. Reimbursement for mileage prior to that date will be paid at the old rate.

❄️ Congratulations to **David Morrison**, agricultural agent for Cooperative Extension, who received the Cotton Agent Award for North Carolina. Morrison was one of three agents recognized for his leadership and service to cotton producers. ❄️

December proved busy for **4-H** as it held three workshops — Christmas sweatshirts, electric lamps and gingerbread ornaments. **4-H** hosted a Centennial Conversation in December to celebrate its 100th anniversary. One volunteer leader and two **4-H** youth attended the January 13 to 14 State Convention. The **4-H** Advisory Council recently held its first meeting. **4-H**'ers were recognized for their accomplishments this past year during a Scotland County **4-H** Achievement Night, January 24. Also, staff training and **4-H** curriculum were provided to the 13 sites in the County involved in Scotland Scholars After-School Program. ❄️ **Teen Court** hosted a Christmas party for all adult and teen volunteers as a way to say thank you for their hard work and commitment to the program. Since October, 60 students have been recruited to participate in the Scotland High School **4-H** Teen Court Club. The club had its initial meeting January 23.



**Teen Court Coordinator Farrah Sheppard with volunteer Clay Brooks.**



**Bill Caudill, Director of the Scottish Heritage Program at St. Andrews, plays bagpipes for the Board of Commissioners January 7.**

# What to look for on the stub of a sample paycheck\*

				41009 DEDUCTIONS	10/31/09 CURRENT PER	YEAR TO DATE
REGULAR		2488.00		DENTAL INS SINGLE	9.00	18.00
				MEDICAL REIMBURS	90.00	180.00
				RETIREMENT	149.28	298.56
				401K	150.00	300.00
				FEDERAL W/H	280.33	560.66
				MEDICARE W/H	34.64	69.28
				NC STATE TAX W/H	118.16	236.32
				FICA	148.12	296.24
				CREDIT UNION DEDUC	368.00	736.00
				401 K LOAN	190.56	381.12
				LIFE INS SUPP REG	5.13	10.26
				UNITED WAY	5.00	10.00
<b>YTD GROSS</b>				<b>YTD W2 WAGES</b>	<b>YTD SS WAGES</b>	<b>YTD MED WAGES</b>
4976.00				4179.44	4778.00	4778.00

Pre taxable deductions are at 401K and above.

Taxes.

Post taxable deductions are below FICA.

\*This is a sample stub. Paychecks will vary according to salary, the type of deductions and the amount of annual leave, sick leave, petty leave and comp time.

## Politicians visit County



U.S. Sen. John Edwards, top photo, discussed his recent visit to Afghanistan and answered questions about the economy, the Enron collapse and campaign reform during a visit to St. Andrews Presbyterian College, January 16. Edwards is planning visits to all 100 North Carolina counties. He chalked up visit 88 during his Scotland County stop.

The following day, Elizabeth Dole, above, stopped by Golden Corral while on the campaign trail. Dole, on February 9, will announce her intention to run for the seat being vacated by U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms.

## the Birthday list for February

1 Michael Osteen (Inspections); 2 Cynthia Dunn (DSS) and Pauline Miller (Home Health) 3 Lisa Tew (Health) and Anna Smith (Sheriff); 8 Carla Horton (Home Health), Al Blades (Parks and Recreation); Yvonne Deberry and Katie Harris (DSS); 9 Debbie Chavis (Home Health); 12 Bobby Freeman (Landfill), Tequilla Smith (Jail), and Yvonne McLeod (DSS); 13 Karlene Ikner (DSS) and Charles Williams (Administration); 15 Chip Murphy (Sheriff); 16 Tony McQuage (Inspections) and Patricia Brown (Register of Deeds); 17 Joseph Knott (DSS); 18 Eddie Smith (Sheriff), Darren Floyd (EMS) and Celeste McRae (DSS); 19 Debbie Ogburn (Home Health) and Sandy Skamperle (DSS); 20 Teresa Jacobs (DSS), James Edge (EMS) and Glen Lockey (Landfill); 22 Amy Inniss (DSS); 23 Vikki Sellgren (Health) and Hyder Massey (Public Buildings); 24 Ann Kurtzman (Administration); 25 Frances Moody (Health) and Jim Blackwell (Engineer); 26 Robin Quick (Health) and Kathy Wilson (Home Health); 27 Shirley Howell (Sheriff).

## Joy of reading worth sharing

Julie Strzok-Harris spends most days in the company of pre-schoolers. In order to do that, it meant making a life altering transition some years back.

A nun for 24 years, she's now the Children's Librarian at Scotland County Memorial Library. "As a nun, I loved it, but I needed to go out and do things outside the church."

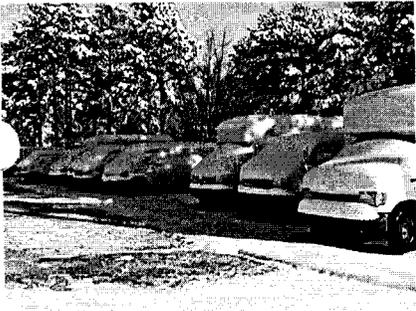
She's doing just that. Week days Strzok-Harris presents a thematic program for pre-schoolers that includes reading, poetry and hands-on activities. Guest readers share their knowledge in a particular area. In February, for instance, high school students will talk about Black History Month.

Beginning as a reference librarian in August 2000, Strzok-Harris became Children's Librarian when her predecessor, Mildred Davis, accepted a position at the high school. "I inherited the groups (from Davis). What I'm trying to do now is reach out to more groups."

She plans to visit schools this spring to generate interest in a summer reading program. Guests such as a magician and "the snake man" will be on hand for weekly presentations. "We'll encourage kids to bring back the books they've read and to get more." Strzok-Harris, who has a B.S. in elementary education, truly enjoys her job. "Children are honest and open. I'm energized just being around them."



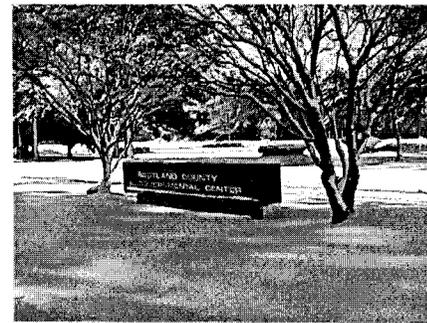
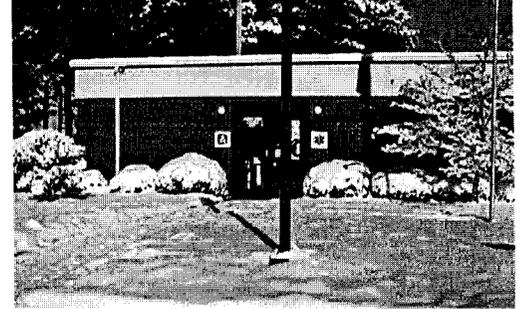
Dental Hygienist Cindy Coble, left, and Julie Strzok-Harris, use Oscar the Bear to make healthy teeth fun to learn.



## Snow causes closure of government buildings

Just two days into the new year much of the southeast was hit with a snowstorm, causing County and City offices to close as well as the Scotland County Schools. Students enjoyed an extra two days of winter break, January 3 and 4, and residents found themselves housebound.

With an accumulation of 8 to 10-inches, Hyder Massey and his staff (below left) used snowplows and shovels to dig out the public buildings and salt parking lots and walkways. The photos by EMS Director Roylin Hammond are of the Scotland County complex facilities on West Boulevard.



## Bullets win the Joe Nesbitt Holiday Basketball Memorial Classic

*Story and photos by Raymond Moody, Parks and Recreation*

In the Championship game of the Joe Nesbitt Memorial Holiday Basketball Classic, the Bullets out-scored the Sonics to win the Holiday Basketball Classic.

The event, held December 17 to 20 at the Laurel Hill Community Center, featured basketball teams of 9 to 10-year-olds from the Scotland County Parks and Recreation Little League Division.



In the Monday, December 17 first-round games, the Bullets defeated the Rockets 30-20, while the Grizzlies notched a win over the Knicks.

Tuesday's first-round action continued with the Raptors winning 22-20 in overtime over the Suns and the Sonics scoring a 27-16 win over the Kings.

In Wednesday's second round action, the Sonics scored a 32-28 overtime win over the Raptors, while the Bullets won a 31-14 decision over the Grizzlies.



*Pictured above, Coaches William Newton (back row, left) and Tony Cole with Holiday Basketball Classic winners the Bullets. At left, Coach Tom Eure with runners-up, the Sonics.*

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](mailto:akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org).

**Celebrate  
Black History Month!**