

# Scotland County Monthly



JULY 2008

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

## County Annex office workers displaced after rain damages roof

Repeated, frequent thunderstorms that occurred while a portion of the Annex roof was being replaced dislocated a number of County and State employees when the roof began to leak.

Cooperative Extension staff and the Public Defender staff had to find alternate work spaces to escape heavy leaking caused by the damage to the roof.

Cooperative Extension relocated to the 507 West Covington Street conference rooms, and the Public Defender moved staff to the Courthouse. Although Elections also sustained water damage, the two-person staff chose to stay in their offices.

Facilities Manager Jim Blackwell said water from the heavy rains drenched insulation and caused ceiling tiles to fall in the back portion of the Annex where the roof was being replaced.

Probation and Parole, located in the front of the Annex, was not affected since a new roof in the front of the Annex had already been installed.

Ceiling tiles and insulation had to be replaced and the carpet steam-cleaned and sanitized before Cooperative Extension and the Public Defender can return to the building.

Risk Manager Tiffany Flowers and an industrial hygienist were called in to review conditions at the Annex and investigate and follow-up on complaints.

Blackwell said, "The hygienist was called in to visually insure that our risks are minimal. The hygienist gave Tiffany (Flowers) an assessment of the situation with a written recommendation to follow."

"This was a difficult situation," said County Manager Kevin Patterson. "The patience of those displaced is greatly appreciated. Public Works responded quickly and worked productively and IT worked to get essential communications back up."



**The damaged ceiling is evident in the Annex conference room.**

## Obituary directory a helpful resource

The gift of a Scotland County obituary directory that spans more than 100 years is a welcome addition to the Register of Deeds. The directory is the result of three years' work by Genealogical Society members Joyce Braswell and Betty Edens and more recently by Norma Jones and Sandra Burns.

The directory dates from 1888 to 1990 and lists all people whose obituaries were published in *The Laurinburg Exchange* during that time.

Another copy of the directory is located at Scotland Memorial Library.

Register of Deeds Debra Holcomb said of Edens and Braswell and of the local Genealogical Society, "They help so many people who call here trying to get some record of what happened to their loved ones."

Holcomb added, "Without this book, the information might be gone forever, and they deserve a pat on the back for their hard work."

Braswell and Edens indexed the obituaries searching through microfilmed copies of *The Laurinburg Exchange* at the Library. "Up until 1975, we had to look at every single page. After that, the paper listed on the front what page the obituaries could be found," Edens said.



**Assistant Register of Deeds Patricia Brown reviews the obituary listings.**

**see Obituary, page 3**

## Active storm season predicted for 2008

There is a better than likely probability North Carolina will experience an active storm system in 2008.

"We are at 'D' with Dolly, and that is above normal at this point," said Jeff Orrock, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Raleigh office.

The 2008 season prediction includes 12 to 16 named storms. Of that, six to nine hurricanes are expected to form and two to three of them will be a category 3 or more.

"The hottest spot for hurricane activity is just off the North Carolina coast," said Orrock. "The closest approach for hurricane activity is more common to North Carolina than anywhere else in the southeast."

As part of the annual Emergency Operations

**see Storm, page 3**

## EMStatistics

### EMS Report for June:

**Responded to** 407 Medical/Trauma calls  
**Treated** 32 total traffic accident patients  
**Administered** 123 wellness/blood pressure checks  
**Sold** 12 blue address signs

### 911 Report Highlights:

**399** EMS  
**345** Sheriff's Department  
**298** Laurinburg Police Department  
**102** Fire Department  
**600** hang-up calls  
**83** wrong numbers  
**46** open line calls  
**1,423** cellular calls  
**2,130** total calls to 911

### Top five complaints for EMS Response

**69** sick person (specific diagnosis)  
**57** breathing problems  
**39** falls/back injuries (traumatic)  
**38** chest pain  
**32** traffic accidents

### Weather Observations

#### (EMS Recordings)

**Temp (high)** 103 on 6/9

**Temp (low)** 59 on 6/19

**Wind (mph)** 35 on 6/1

**Rainfall (inches)** .81 on 6/1

*Compiled by Tommy Hatcher*

## Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since May 16, 2008: **Henry Freeman**, EMS; and **Chad Branham, Jenny Oxendine** and **Solomon Baxley**, part-time with EMS; **Tisha Moody**, DSS; **William Mullis**, public works; and **Lendo Mason**, part-time with Transportation.

## Poll workers needed to assist in Presidential Election

There is no greater right than the right to vote, to participate in the electoral process and to make your voice heard. As a poll worker, citizens can be part of that process.

Poll workers provide an invaluable service in assisting voters in expressing their views on the candidates and the political parties.

Poll workers play an important role in the electoral process through courteous and efficient service that will make an impression on every voter who casts a ballot at their precinct.

Remember that Presidents Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln all stood in line with other voters to cast their ballots. Who knows what future leaders may visit your polling place?

The 2008 Presidential Election will be a historical event. Be a part of history and earn some extra money, too. Play a critical role in the elections process in Scotland County.

To make a difference, stop by the Board of Election office, 231 East Cronly Street Suite 305 and apply today.

— Submitted by Jerry Johnson, Elections

## Jim Blackwell named Facilities Manager

Jim Blackwell was named Facilities Manager effective July 1. Blackwell will continue to serve as County Engineer, a position he has held since January 1991.

Blackwell will be responsible for and oversee new construction as well as structural improvements to existing facilities.

"We are changing the way we handle all our facilities," said County Manager Kevin Patterson. Blackwell has been responsible for new capital projects, but facilities improvements in the past were handled by Public Works, Public Buildings and Parks and Recreation.

Blackwell now will oversee building structure, parks, water districts and the landfill — all of which will be under the Public Works Department.

With Blackwell assuming responsibility for all facilities, Public Buildings will focus on its daily ground and general maintenance operations while Parks and Recreation will oversee its activities schedule for youth, adults and seniors.

Blackwell also served as Interim Assistant County Manager from June 2007 to January 2008 and was responsible for management of the County's ongoing capital projects.

Blackwell through the years has assumed additional responsibilities in service to the County. He oversaw the development, construction and completion of Water Districts I and II and serves as supervisor for Public Works and for Zoning.



*Jim Blackwell*

## Dress Rehearsal helpful for 2010 Census

The Census Bureau will apply lessons learned from its 2008 Dress Rehearsal as the federal agency gears up for its nationwide 2010 decennial count.

The short form received a much better response during the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal and will be used in the more comprehensive 2010 census.

Laura McClettie, Partnership and Data Service Specialist with the 2008 Dress Rehearsal, said the short form was much easier and took less time to complete.

The hand-held computers the agency intended for use during the door-to-door follow-up to the Census, will not be utilized in that manner.

The hand-held computers require technical fine-tuning that will not be resolved in time for the decennial count. "It is hoped the hand-helds will be used in 2020," said McClettie.

Instead the hand-held computers will be employed in updating addresses for the 2010 Census.

McClettie said a broader outreach to the Spanish-speaking community remains a challenge, and the Census Bureau is working hard to improve that.

McClettie said the Census Bureau is looking to develop a partnership on a national level with the Spanish-language media company Univision as well as through other broad-based Spanish-language media outlets.

McClettie said part of the outreach is to stress the strict confidentiality of the information provided on the short form.

"We're working to improve and come back doing bigger and better things," McClettie explained.

Scotland County was one of nine counties selected to participate in the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal. The other counties were Chatham, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore and Richmond.

The Dress Rehearsal gives the Census Bureau opportunity to preview the overall design of the 2010 Census. This is important because every year more than \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded to localities based on census data.

## Fire Department receives facility construction grant

Construction of a 3,000 square-foot-building to house the Gibson Fire Department will begin in November.

A combination grant and low-interest loan totaling \$275,000 from USDA Rural Development will finance the project. The funds include a \$75,000 grant and a \$200,000 40-year low-interest loan. Efforts by US. Rep. Robin Hayes on behalf of the Gibson Fire Department were instrumental in securing the funds.

The Gibson Fire Department currently is located in a converted service station next to the Town Hall. The new structure will feature the height needed to accommodate newer, larger fire trucks and equipment.



**Chairman J.D. Willis, fifth from left, Rep. Robin Hayes, Gibson Fire Chief Thomas McKay and former Gibson Town Manager Ken Haney display the USDA Rural Development check for \$275,000.**

## the Birthday list for August

1 Willie Hunt (Public Works); 2 Jennie Lowe (DSS); 3 Amanda Chavis (Cooperative Extension); 4 Ed Cushman (Health) and Hazel McPhatter (Cooperative Extension); 5 Michael McQueen (EMS) and Gene Jackson (Public Buildings); 8 Emily Williams (DSS) and Bobby Horne (Public Works); 12 Jason Byrd (Sheriff) and James McQueen (Public Buildings); 13 Latisha Lowery (DSS) and Elaine Bailey (Health); 14 Joan Alford (DSS) and Kevin Strickland (EMS); 15 Robbie Locklear (DSS) and Dell Parker (Elections); 18 Nancy McPeck (Jail) and David Morrison (Cooperative Extension); 20 Rebecca Snyder (Health) and Stephanie Palmer and Andrea McLeod (DSS); 22 Towana Harrington (DSS); 23 David Flowers (EMS); 24 Michelle McQuaige (Jail); 25 Stephanie Bennett (EMS); 27 Shastity Small (DSS); 28 Tenita Bullard (General Services) and Lisa Harper (DSS); 29 Mitchell Johnson and Marcus Brown (Sheriff); 30 Kimberly McRae (DSS) and Robert Wray (Sheriff); 31 Katherine Caulder (DSS).

## 2008 storm season could be active

*continued from page 1*

Center (EOC) meeting, EMS Director Roylin Hammond said 2007 was another good year locally but it is important to be prepared.

Hammond reported on what is happening locally to maintain a state of disaster preparedness. Hammond said the County's ability to provide fragile medical needs shelters was a concern last year. "We will receive special needs equipment from the State, which will help us open a fragile medical needs shelter if necessary."

Hammond said the State also can provide mobile 50-bed hospitals to meet any medical surge capacities that might arise.

Area HAM operators reactivated in the past year. "We are in much better shape this year than last year," Hammond explained. "When everything else goes down the tubes, the HAM operators can still talk."

Scotland continues its designation as a Tier 2 host county for the 20 lowland counties. Hammond said if the Tier 1 host counties that are closer to I-95 become overloaded, additional storm evacuees would be directed to Scotland County.

In his trademark closing statement to the EOC group Hammond said, "Thank you all for coming. I hope I don't see you again until next year."



**Roylin Hammond holds a Shelter sign that would be used if citizens from lowland counties are evacuated inland to Scotland County.**

## Van used for rescue training



*A surplused Transportation van, first used by County area transit staff for vehicle evacuation training, was used once again for a training exercise. This time, the Scotland County Rescue Squad conducted extrication training. The picture shows the vehicle on it's side with the roof rolled back using power tools (electric reciprocating saw and a portable air chisel) to cut the sheet metal on the roof.*

## Obituary directory a resource for researchers

*continued from page 1*

The 500-plus-page directory is in alphabetical order and lists the person's surname, given name, date obituary appeared in the paper and the page the obituary is on.

"Our goal is to index through 2007," Edens said.

Results of the cemetery survey project conducted by Genealogical Society members also can be found at the Register of Deeds.

The cemetery project took 10 years. Genealogical Society members located and recorded the names in Scotland County cemeteries — white and black.

Edens said there is a sense of urgency in the work that the Genealogical Society does. "We want to preserve the history of Scotland County, especially in the cemeteries where the tombstones are wearing badly and there is more vandalism than in recent years."

Susan Butler, Human Resources; Tenita Bullard, Information Technology; and Tiffany Flowers, Risk Manager; have been transferred from the Finance Officer's supervision to separate departments reporting directly to the County Manager, effective July 1. ❁ Congratulations to Tiffany Jones, daughter of Linda Holland, Administration, who passed her State Board for certified RN. Jones, who received her nursing degree from Richmond Community College, will begin working at Scotland Memorial Hospital August 4. ❁ Celebrating employment anniversaries at EMS are Corey Baldwin, 24 years; Holly Storey, two years; and Debbie Sandlin, one year.

### Library becomes County department

Scotland Memorial Library became a County department July 1. The Library has five full-time employees, two part-time employees and two part-time pages. The transition represents a savings for the County, which provided an estimated \$250,000 in supplemental funding to the library each fiscal year. The savings, about \$12,000, comes from the Library employees' eligibility to participate in a larger insurance and health benefits pool. Library employees will now receive any cost of living increases approved by the Commissioners, will be governed by all County policies and will answer to the County Manager. The announcement of a tenth employee, the Library Director, will be made in the near future.

### New SCATS brochures available

New transportation brochures are now available. Produced by the Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS), the brochures feature a map of the two SCATS routes, which run 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The brochure provides information on scheduling medical transportation appointments, defines policies on service animals, personal property and personal conduct and provides business numbers and email addresses for contact purposes.

### Football, cheerleading registration begins

Registration for Parks and Recreation Football and Cheerleading will be held July 28 through August 9, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, August 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is for boys and girls ages 7 to 12 as of August 1. Youth registering for the first time will need to show a birth certificate. Minor and midget football players must weigh in. Skirts this year will be provided for the minor and midget cheerleaders, but they will still need to purchase briefs. Flag cheerleaders will need to purchase skorts. Registration fee is \$12. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 277-2586 or visit online at [scotlandcountyparksandrecreation.org](http://scotlandcountyparksandrecreation.org).

## Two employees retire with honors



A proclamation honoring Hyder Massey, right, is presented by Board Chairman J.D. Willis.



Cordella Walker

Public Buildings Superintendent Hyder Massey and Health Department Director of Nursing Cordella Walker retired earlier this month but not without best wishes celebrations from their colleagues. Massey's career spanned nearly 34 years while Walker's County service accounted for more than 24 years.

A former district nurse, Walker joined the Health Department in 1983 familiarizing herself with all clinical services. She was named Director of Nursing in 1997. The Health Department honored Walker with a luncheon for her outstanding contribution to public health.

Massey was responsible for Parks and Recreation before assuming the position of Public Buildings Superintendent in charge of maintenance for all County structures and grounds. Administration hosted a farewell reception for Massey and the Commissioners presented him with a proclamation in his honor.

## Cooperative Extension hosts successful District Activity Day

As South Central District Activity Day came to a close, seven Scotland County 4-Hers earned gold, a distinction that would send them on to State competition in Raleigh.

Hosted by the area Cooperative Extension, the day-long event June 26 at Scotland High School brought more than 400 4-Hers and their families to the area from 14 counties.

4-H Agent Corrie Haskins, who coordinated the event along with the Cooperative Extension staff, said participants, who ranged in age from nine to 19, were involved in more than 30 presentations including outdoor cookery, entertainment, public speaking and a variety of themed demonstrations.

Local youth selected to compete at the State level were Jazzmine Davis, horticulture production and marketing; Taylor Davis, health and fitness; Caleb Wood, small and companion animal; Langston Byrd, fruit and vegetable use; Deangelo Byrd, turkey barbeque; Deionte Sturdivant, egg cookery; and Jessie Boda, public speaking.

Chairman J.D. Willis, Commissioner Leon Butler, County Manager Kevin Patterson, Clerk to the Board Ann Kurtzman and Terry Williams, Soil and Water; and Annette Gooselin, Office of the Sheriff, were among the 37 volunteers who helped throughout the day.

The event was nine months in the planning. "It's bigger than you can imagine," said Family and Consumer Agent Sharon English. "It's a total staff effort."

Haskins said the volunteers did everything from registration to hospitality to set-up and breakdown of the event.

