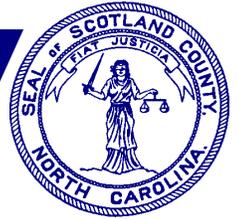


Scotland County

Monthly



JULY 2010

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

All County tracts outperform 2000 Census participation rate

All tracts in Scotland County showed an increased participation rate, some in double digits, in response to the 2010 Census.

"That is a great achievement," said Census Partnership Specialist Terry Henderson.

"Not every county has this, where all tracts are in the plus category," he explained.

Scotland County was divided into six tracts for Census purposes. Each had a minimum of 4,000 persons living in them.

Four tracts saw double digit increases. Tract 101, the South Laurinburg area, had a higher participation rate at 78 percent than the national rate of 72 percent. Tract one participation increased from 65 percent in 2000 to 78 percent in 2010.

Tract 104, an area east of Laurinburg, increased 24 percent from 42 percent in 2000 to 66 percent in 2010.

Tract 105 west of Laurinburg and tract 106 northwest of Laurinburg realized 15 percent increases in participation.

All incorporated areas also saw increases. For Wagram and Gibson, it was 16 percent from 52 to 68 percent participation rate. "This is huge," Henderson said.

Laurinburg increased eight percent from 63 percent in 2000 to 71 percent in 2010. The area of Maxton in Scotland County increased

see Census, page 4

NWS predicts significantly more storm activity in 2010

With significantly more storm activity predicted by the National Weather Service (NWS), 2010 is expected to be anything but quiet along the eastern seaboard.

NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock said 14 to 23 storms are expected between July and October in 2010.

A normal number for named storms would be around 11 to 12.

Possible hurricanes range from eight to 14 where six to seven normally are predicted.

Three to seven major hurricanes are predicted where there usually would be two.

June through October is usually when storm activity occurs with peak months in August and September. "June and July is typically fairly quiet," Orrock said.

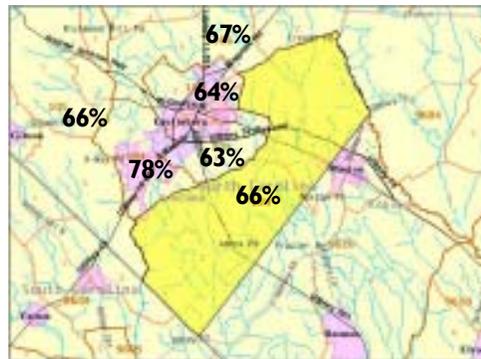
Orrock said 2010 is a 'La Niña summer,' which is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific.

La Niña produces conditions more conducive to hurricanes since cooler waters result in more uniform wind patterns in the tropics, making it easier for hurricanes to form and strengthen.

Orrock said North Carolina is a center for hurricane activity since landfall occurs from the Florida coast upward through South Carolina and into Wilmington.

He said even if Scotland County is not in the path of a hurricane, rain from the event can be particularly damaging since its precipitation radius can range up to 100 miles east or west of the hurricane center.

see Storm, page 4



Census participation percentage rates for the six Scotland County tracts are shown above.

21st Century Visioning Plan sheds light on image building ideas

Three public input sessions gave people the opportunity to comment on what Scotland County can do to improve the lives and economic well-being of its residents.

The sessions, scheduled in July in Wagram, North Laurinburg and South Laurinburg locations, invited comments on a project two years in the making.

The result was the Visioning Plan, which identified four key areas for growth and improvement — infrastructure and community, economic and work force development.

Strategies outlined for each give a completion timeline of between two and five years, although some infrastructure projects realistically could take decades.

Scotland County was identified as a 21st Centuries Community in 2008 by the State Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance.

Since then, the Department of Commerce provided the resources to guide the two dozen-member 21st Century Steering Committee through the process of creating a Vision Plan that supports the expansion of broad-based and comprehensive economic development and initiatives.

County Manager Kevin Patterson explained, "The Visioning Plan provides a comprehensive assessment of where the community is now and creates goals that address where the community wants to be in the next two or three years."

NC Community Development Planner Ravin Gore said this is a great plan where the strategies and goals can best be achieved through collaboration and team work.



County activity bus an asset for transportation of larger groups



Parks and Recreation Department recently purchased a used 64-passenger activity bus for a nominal fee from the Scotland County School System.

The 1987 Model International is in great shape with only 137,000 miles and a new transmission.

The bus will be used to transport large groups of children and adults to events in nearby communities in which Parks and Recreation participates.

The bus will be stored at the SCATS (Scotland County Area Transit System) parking lot when not in use. The bus also will be available to SCATS when there is a need to transport large groups of people.

Resurfacing project at Tennis Center begins

The Tennis Center will undergo major soft court upgrading. The Scotland County Tennis Association purchased the top dressing necessary to resurface all four of the soft courts.

Resurfacing of the courts is expected to be completed during the July 26 to August 7 time period.

Two of the courts will be available for play at all times.

The project will improve the condition and enjoyability of playing on the soft courts.

Anyone who would like to volunteer some time to this project is invited to call the Tennis Center at 277-2592.

Additionally, Parks and Recreation and the Scotland County Tennis Association replaced all the sprinkler heads, allowing for a much improved watering capability.

Due to the extreme heat and erratic rain patterns, the soft courts are now being watered twice during the daytime at 12:15 p.m. and 4 p.m. Courts should be playable within 90 minutes after each watering time.



Congratulations to **Mike McGirt**, Public Buildings, on the July 4 birth of grandson Michael Ayden McGirt. **Kevin Patterson**, Administration, was among the 2010 graduates of the School of Government Municipal and County Administration Course.

Our condolences to **Bobby "J.R." Horne**, Public Works, on the July 20 passing of his father-in-law, John Lewis.

News of Note

Lactation support program established

An onsite lactation room at the Health Department has been set up for all County female employees who choose to breastfeed their new babies after returning to work. Establishment of the lactation room was done in honor of World Breastfeeding Week 2010 August 1 to 7. The lactation room is a designated safe, private area for breastfeeding and expressing milk. Research shows that supporting breastfeeding employees is a win-win for everyone. Breastfeeding is recommended by all major medical organizations as the optimal way to feed infants because of its significant health advantages. Breastfeeding is also healthier for mothers by contributing to lower rates of breast cancer and improving recovery from pregnancy. This all translates into positive benefits for

organizations, including lower health care costs. "We are pleased that the County breastfeeding employees can successfully merge important priorities of family and work through onsite lactation support," said WIC Program Director Cardra Burns. If additional information is needed, contact Burns at ext. 4462 or cburns@scotlandcounty.org.

Blackbeard the Pirate Party among summer events



Blackbeard the Pirate was one of a series of Summer Reading Programs at Scotland Memorial Library.

Scotland Memorial Library hosted Blackbeard the Pirate July 15 as part of its two-week long Pirate Party. Ben Cherry and his wife have been sharing the story of the infamous pirate for more than 20 years at schools, libraries and nautical festivals around North Carolina and the United States. They shared tales about life at sea, the adventures that Blackbeard and his crew experienced and the legend of Blackbeard's headless body still swimming in the waters around Ocracoke Island. Most exciting of all, there was a sword fight and several loud gunpowder explosions. The Library hosted a variety of events this summer, including storytimes, family movie showings, crafting for all ages and a *Twilight*

Saga party for the teenagers. All events are part of the Summer Reading Program. The program concluded with a sssssssizzle July 24 when Snake Man Ron Cromer performed two shows to a standing-room-only crowd.

Campers portray insect world with arts and crafts

Soil and Water participated in a Parks and Recreation-sponsored Summer Camp for children age five to 10. Twenty four children spent several hours making crafts that included butterfly or dragonfly fans. They fingerpainted various insects and small animals. Several crafts were completed for the children to carry home and share with their families.



Let's make goal! **25** on August 25

Blood Drive 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., 507 West Covington Street

New SCATS van ready to roll

Scotland County Area Transportation System (SCATS) recently took delivery of a new 2010 Ford diesel, 12-passenger van with a rear handicapped lift.

The vehicle will replace a 2003 model Dodge van with similar capability.

The 2003 model will be used as a reserve vehicle, and a 1997 model Dodge van with a lift that has been used as a reserve/back-up vehicle will be sold on GovDeals.com as surplus.

The new vehicle will be put into service as soon as the mobile radio is installed in the unit.

Wanda Britt, SCATS Safety Coordinator, is shown demonstrating the handicapped lift. — **Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS**



6,692

The number of people in Scotland County who are on Medicare
— *Source information, Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)*

Soil and Water assists teachers in environmental learning program

Text and photo by Martha Norfleet, Soil and Water

Soil and Water in Scotland, Cumberland and Robeson counties co-sponsored a PLT/FLP Teacher Workshop for approximately 15 local elementary education teachers.

Included during the two-day event were tours of Carmichael Farms and Cypress Bend Vineyards as well as instructional class time and activities. CEU and EE Certification Credits were available.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an interdisciplinary environmental education program designed for educators of any background. The hands-on activities facilitate the exploration of topics including communication, economics, energy and fuels, geology, government, history, recycling, transportation, watersheds, wildlife and much more.

The PLT PreK-8 guide is correlated to the NC Standard Course of Study in science, math, language arts and social studies.

Food, Land & People (FLP) is a national environmental education curriculum that creates awareness and understanding of the interrelationships between food production, land management and a sustainable society for formal and non-formal K-8th grade educators.

Teachers were presented the new *Resources for Learning* second edition, with expanded background information for teacher preparation, more activities and student pages and sources of material credited more frequently to allow for verification of information by educators, parents and students.



One hands-on workshop activity included covering worms with moistened newspaper so the worms would feel warm and at-home.

Advocacy to secure funds for area projects continues

The prospect of securing federal funding through the Department of Defense for the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport runway project in FY 2011 is looking good.

The requested \$1.03 million of the \$7 million project would help fund runway construction that would have heavy load capacity and would expand the Airport's role in continued military use and economic development opportunities.

The assessment was provided by Daniel Sheehan and James Alfano of Marlowe & Company, an advocacy firm that works to uncover funding opportunities that may be critical to meet the needs of government entities.

In FY 2010, Marlowe & Company was instrumental in securing a \$650,000 Homeland Security grant for construction of a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Scotland County. The initial funding request was for \$1 million.

A request for the remaining \$350,000 was submitted for appropriation consideration in the FY 2011 budget.

Sheehan said if the remainder of the funding is not released through a Homeland Security appropriation, an alternative would be to make application for funds through a competitive EOC Grant, which makes funds available to state and county EOCs.

Sheehan explained that securing federal appropriations are particularly challenging in a mid-term election year. He said there are fewer earmarks early on as members of Congress take a "wait and see" stance prior to the November election.

It's still too early to predict the availability of earmarks for two other projects identified by the County as important to economic growth and to health and wellness.

A \$600,000 request for an intermodal industrial complex study at Laurinburg-Maxton Airport and a \$500,000 request to establish a senior wellness center at Scotland Place remain on the table.

Sheehan said of the study for an intermodal complex that funding might be forthcoming since it is a new request this year and can be brought forward. "Sometimes the second year is the charm," he said.

"I'm not giving up on the wellness center," he added,

explaining that a \$500,000 request in the area of health and human services is not that large or unreasonable.

Sheehan and Alfano praised Senators Kay Hagan and Richard Burr and Representatives Larry Kissell and Mike McIntyre for their continued support of the projects by making appropriations requests on behalf of the County in the 2011 federal budget.

County and City opinions differ on proposed activities program for youth

The County and the City of Laurinburg will pursue separate agendas for engaging youth in after school recreational activities because the two entities failed to agree on what youth would be served and when they would be served.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board developed an open gym plan at the request of City officials.

The proposed program presented this month to the City Council is called GYM — Growing Young Minds. Activities would include mentoring, basketball, games, food and a rap sessions, all in a structured, supervised environment.

GYM initially would be open to 4th through 6th graders and would follow the school system's nine-week schedule. Activities would be held at the I.E. Johnson School gym Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

It is intended to attract up to 40 participants and would expand to other age groups and possibly other school sites over time depending on the level of participation. The program would be supervised by volunteers and Parks and Recreation staff.

City Council, upon hearing the presentation by Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton, said they were looking for a program that would start immediately, one that would engage youth in activities and get them off the street while school is out.

Council members also disagreed with the targeted age group, explaining they wanted a program geared toward high school-aged teens.

After a lengthy discussion with Newton and Commissioner Guy McCook, who also serves as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the City Council agreed to develop its own plan, which would likely be sited at the National Guard Armory and would be open to high school students.

DSS Director thanked for service

Retiring DSS Director Joe Knott, center, was thanked for his 21 years of dedication and loyalty to the social services agency.

Knott received a plaque of appreciation from Commissioner John Alford, left, who also is the outgoing DSS Board Chair, and Commissioners Chairman J.D. Willis.

Knott was named Director of the agency in January 2007 when former Director Jan Elliott retired. Knott retired July 30.



Storm expectations greater in 2010

continued from page 1



The smaller windfield of Hurricane Andrew, left, caused more localized damage while Hurricane Hugo, right, resulted in greater destruction.

Hurricanes with a large windfield also can be particularly damaging.

Orrock noted as an example the smaller windfield of Hurricane Andrew in 1992 where damage was localized in south Florida, while Hugo in 1989, with a much larger windfield, resulted in greater destruction across several states.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since May 16, 2010: **Heather Wyke**, Health; **Antoinette Gibson**, Jackie Williams and **James McPhatter**, Jail; **David Locklear**, Sheriff; and **Angelica Smiling**, part-time with EMS. **James Peguese** transitions from Investigator to Patrol Commander in the Sheriff's Department.

the Birthday list for August

2 Linda Locklear (Tax); **3** Amanda Taylor (Cooperative Extension); **4** Andrea Anderson (DSS) and Hazel McPhatter (Cooperative Extension); **5** Dorothy Fields and Melinda McKoy (DSS); **6** Leroy Davis (Public Buildings); **7** Bryant Higgins (Public Works) and Mary Ann Reynolds (Sheriff); **8** Sherry Lane (Library); **11** Carolyn Allen (DSS); **12** Sharon Davis (Transportation); **13** Ronnie Tunstall (EMS); **14** Kevin Rader (Sheriff) and Eva Locklear (DSS); **15** Vincent Price (EMS); **16** Benjamin Hunt (EMS); **17** Brooke Hubbard (DSS); **18** Crystal McNair (Jail); **20** Leon Butler (Public Buildings); **21** Linda Holland (Administration), Tina Bormet and Garrett Dial (EMS); **22** Greg Icard (Administration); **23** Selena Locklear (Health); **24** Pamela Reed (DSS); **27** Jonathan Dunn (Sheriff), Evangela McArthur and Lisa Lundy (Health); **28** Glenn Tucker (EMS), Sheryl Primus and Tenasha Goins (DSS); **29** Lynn Barnes (DSS).

County's Census numbers increase

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from 59 percent to 66 percent, while East Laurinburg registered the smallest increase from 65 percent to 66 percent.

Henderson said participation increased in some under-counted areas after the Census Bureau, in partnership with the Complete Count Committee and volunteer groups, conducted a communitywide March to the Mailbox Campaign.

Overall participation for Scotland County is at 69 percent, an increase from the 56 percent in 2000.

Henderson added the final rate might increase a few percentage points once household counts are in from Census workers going door-to-door.

He credited partnership strategies and extensive outreach at the community level for the improved participation.

"When a community comes together and advocates for a complete count, this is the payoff."