

Scotland County

Monthly



JUNE 2007

A newsletter for Scotland County employees

Board makes interim appointments

Kevin Patterson and Jim Blackwell have been appointed Interim County Manager and Assistant County Manager, respectively. The interim appointments will be in effect until a new County Manager is hired.

Patterson, who is Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager, will assume all administrative responsibilities while Blackwell, County Engineer, will oversee the execution of all capital projects. John Crumpton's last day as County Manager was June 29.

Golden LEAF awards RCC \$1.2 million for development of Scotland Campus

\$1.2 million from the Golden LEAF Foundation was awarded to Richmond Community College. The money will be used to build the RCC Scotland Campus on the site where the old hospital once stood.

RCC has \$400,000 in hand from its fundraising efforts and is awaiting word on whether it will receive a \$1 million EDA grant and an additional \$1 million from the State. The County pledged \$500,000 to match the EDA grant. Payment of the pledge might not be necessary if RCC receives the State money and is awarded the EDA grant.

The Golden LEAF award could be the first in a number of grants Scotland County might receive from the Foundation. At a meeting in Rocky Mount between Golden LEAF officials and Scotland County representatives, the Foundation indicated it would consider funding additional projects. The Scotland County projects would have to promote work force development, jobs and education in order to be considered for funding.

Tax rate lowered in FY 07-08 budget

With approval of the FY 2007-2008 budget, the Board of Commissioners achieved what they intended — provide a cost of living increase for employees and lower the tax rate for citizens.

County employees will see a three percent increase in their July 31 paychecks.

The tax rate was lowered from \$1.10 to \$1.06 with 57.6 cents designated as school tax and 48.4 cents tax for general government services.

The Commissioners approved the budget June 26 after waiting as long as possible to see if the State would resolve the Medicaid issue through another temporary cap or as permanent relief.

At the time the Commissioners adopted the budget, State legislators had yet to agree on the type of revenue swap it would make with counties in order to provide permanent Medicaid relief.

Lowe's volunteers install split rail fence at Scotland Yard



Lowe's volunteers were not deterred from their hands-on community-oriented mission, even as the temperature soared to triple digits. The 10 volunteers partnered with Parks and Recreation to install a 230-foot split-rail fence at Scotland Yard. The project is part of Lowe's Heroes, a community outreach volunteer program sponsored by Lowe's and carried out by Lowe's employees.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said the split-rail fence creates a buffer for children so they can safely play and picnic within the playground. "The fence prevents vehicles from driving on to the play area," Newton explained.

Lowe's and the Home Safety Council developed the program in 1996 to help make homes and communities safer for everyone. Lowe's Heroes home teams work together each year with homeowners, community development groups and schools to complete safety projects.

Lowe's of Laurinburg's 2007 Volunteers pictured with the Lowe's Heroes sign are, back row from left, Tyson Barber, Wanda Morrison, Anita McIntosh, Shelia Herring and Tom Grant. Front row from the left are William Campbell, Peggy Cook, April Benoist, Denese Gates and Vickie Clark.

Congratulations Class of 2007

High School:

DSS: Meghan E. Wranosky, granddaughter of Beverly Wranosky, Winslow High School, Winslow, ME. Meghan will attend Bentley College in Boston. **Meagan Dee Freeman**, daughter of Jeannie Freeman, Purnell Swett High School, Pembroke. Meagan will major in Radiography at Robeson Community College in Lumberton. **Jamika Andrea Harrison**, daughter of Elaine Harrison, Scotland High School. Jamika will attend Guilford College on a full scholarship. **Kierra Thurman**, niece of LaCarrol Rhone, *cum laude* from Lumberton Senior High. Kierra will attend UNC-Greensboro. **Kristalyn Denean Allen**, daughter of Carolyn Allen, Scotland High School. Kristalyn plans to enlist in the U.S. Army. **Ebony Shirelle Cole**, daughter of Tammy Cole, Purnell Swett High School. Ebony will attend Richmond Community College. **Brittany Willette Jones**, daughter of Willette Jones, School of Health Science at Scotland High School. Brittany will attend Winston Salem State University. **Joshua Reid Vick**, son of Teresa Vick, with honors from Scotland High School. Joshua is enrolled in the pre-pharmacy program at Campbell University, where he received a four-year Scott-Ellis Merit Scholarship.

Elections: Jared Keith Tucker, nephew of Dell Parker, Scotland High School. Jared will be stationed at Fort Bragg and will attend the NASCAR Technical Institute, Mooresville, NC.

EMS: Amber Nicole Baldwin, daughter of Cory Baldwin, Scotland High School. Amber will pursue a degree in Primary/Early Childhood Education (K-6) at UNC-Pembroke.

Register of Deeds: Jessica Ellen Holcomb, daughter of Debra Holcomb, with honors from Scotland High School. Jessica is enrolled in the Elementary Education Program at NC State University.

Tax: Gary Wade Whelpley, son of Dixie Whelpley, Scotland High School. Gary will study Pre-Med in the fall at UNC-Pembroke. Gary is working this summer at X-Way Animal Hospital.

College/University:

DSS: Adoption Social Worker Joyce Maynor, Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy from Webster University. **Diedren H. Deese**, sister of Jeannie Freeman and sister-in-law of Jamie Deese, received her Doctor of Pharmacy from Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC. Diedren will work for HealthKeeperz in Pembroke.

Health: Kristi Alicia Johnson, daughter of Kitty Johnson. Associate Degree in Nursing from Richmond Community College. Kristi now works in the Women's Services Unit at Richmond Memorial Hospital.

Public Works: Jenni Luanne Blackwell, daughter of Jim Blackwell, UNC-Pembroke with a BS in Elementary Education and a BA in Sociology. Jenni will teach second grade at Wagram Elementary School.

Register of Deeds: Patricia Brown received an Associate Degree in Accounting from Richmond Community College.

Tax: Maria Renee Dudley, daughter of Catherine Stubbs, Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC, with a BS in Health Care Management Technology.

Transportation: Shane McNeill, son of Gracie Rettig, Mechanical Engineering and Machining Technology degrees from Richmond Community College. **Lisa Marie Rettig**, daughter of Gracie Rettig, Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, IA, BA in Business.

DSS supports March of Dimes

Scotland County DSS raised a total of \$1,000 for the March of Dimes this year through some creative fundraising efforts.

Fundraisers included a breakfast and bake sale, online fundraiser and sale of baby items such as blue sneakers, baby shoe booties, t-shirts and blue jeans.

For a price, employees could wear jeans one day a week other than on Fridays for five weeks.

Private donations from employees also were accepted.

DSS employee April Snead and her family cut the ribbon to launch the start of the March of Dimes walk.

Many thanks to the DSS A-Team members for their hard work with the March of Dimes. A-Team members are Tim Martin, Debra Starr, Beverly Wranosky, Karen Leviner, Roxanne Douglas, Dorothy Fields, Carolyn Allen, Sandy Skamperle, Andrea McLeod, Joe Knott and LaCarrol Rhone.

March of Dimes Team Captains were Roxanne Douglas and LaCarrol Rhone from A-Team.

A special thanks to DSS employees for their support of the March of Dimes in its effort to fight against premature birth.



Social Services participants and their families are left to right, top row, Sandra McNeil, Royalonda Odom, Felisa Lockey, Tyler Lockey and Jennie Lowe; middle row, Alyssa Douglas, Sarah McQueen, Auyalla Lowe, Alexis McNeil, Karen Leviner and Roxanne Douglas; bottom row, Jessica Stewart and Joneisha Stewart.

Introductions & transitions

Welcome to those individuals who joined Scotland County departments since April 16, 2007: **Cecil Butler, John Storey and Kisse Phy**, part-time with EMS; **Angela Townsend**, DSS. **Randy Wood** joined Cooperative Extension as the Agricultural Livestock Agent serving Scotland and Hoke counties.

ExecuTime is polled in increments

For every one who is now using ExecuTime, remember that when you use the time clock device it may take 20 minutes before it shows up on your PC.

For example, if you clock in on the time clock at 8:00, it may not show up until 8:20. This is because the time clock is polled (the information is downloaded to ExecuTime) every 15 minutes. In other words, ExecuTime only talks to the time clock every 15 minutes. Your time remains on the time clock until the next time the clock is polled.

Please allow time for your clock in/out to show up on your web browser. If the time clock is not communicating with the Internet connection then ask your payroll contact to notify Nancy Bostick, Linda Holland, Tenita Bullard or Gaylord Hunt so the problem can be corrected.

Meanwhile your information is stored in the time clock device until the connection problem is corrected and the device is polled.

— Nancy Bostick, Deputy Finance Officer

Post Scripts

Congratulations to **Frances Moody**, Health, on the May 26 marriage of her son, Sterling Leaven to Ebonie Harrelson. ⌘ Meagan Freeman, daughter of **Jeannie Freeman**, DSS, received an award for

13 years of perfect attendance at Robeson County Schools. ⌘ Staff celebrating employment anniversaries at EMS are **Deanna Carlyle**, 20 years; **Tommy Hatcher**, 16 years; **Robert Sampson**, 13 years; **Melissa Nelson** and **Brandon Butler**, 1 year. ⌘ **Roxanne Douglas**, DSS, is proud of daughter Alyssa K. Douglas, who graduated from Scotland Christian Academy preschool program. ⌘ Shane McNeill, son of **Gracie Rettig**, Transportation, was one of two students from the Richmond Community College student body selected to receive an Academic Achievement Award in Raleigh last month. McNeill graduated from RCC with a 4.0 GPA. ⌘ Mary Elizabeth Norton, daughter of **Mary Helen Norton**, Tax, married John Wesley Quick III June 30. ⌘ **Lynda McMillan**, Health, welcomed her fifth grandchild June 14, granddaughter Kyndall Anne McMillan.

Health Tip

Meats can turn brown well before they've reached a safe internal temperature, especially if they're pale and soft like pork and ground beef, marinated or have spent a long time in the freezer. Meat — especially ground beef — can look thoroughly cooked even though its internal temperature might not be high enough to kill dangerous foodborne pathogens, such as E. coli. Use of a food thermometer ensures temperatures set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture: steaks, roasts and fish, 62.8 degrees C (145 degrees F); pork and ground beef, 71.1 degrees C (160 degrees F); chicken breasts, 76.7 degrees C (170.1 degrees F).

County part of Census Dress Rehearsal

Scotland County is one of nine counties selected to participate in the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal.

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 \$200 billion in federal funds are awarded to localities based on census data.

The City of Fayetteville and the surrounding nine-county area were selected for the dress rehearsal primarily because it has a mix of urban, suburban and rural areas and two large military bases — Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base.

The nine counties selected for the Dress Rehearsal are Scotland, Chatham, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore and Richmond.

The other 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal is taking place in San Joaquin County, California

The Dress Rehearsal allows the Census Bureau to fine-tune methods to see how well all the pieces fit together.

“Participating in the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal will help the Census Bureau produce more accurate counts of the people and housing units in your community and across the nation,” explained Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon.

Some time in March or April 2008, most households in the Dress Rehearsal site will receive a census questionnaire in the mail. Some may have questionnaires delivered to their residence by a census worker.

Residents will be asked to complete the forms and return them by mail. Households that do not return a completed questionnaire will be visited by census workers between April and June 2008.

All answers will be confidential. The Census Bureau never releases information that identifies a person or household, and the protection applies whether or not you are a U.S. citizen.



Shown is the nine-county region selected by the U.S. Census Bureau to participate in the 2008 Dress Rehearsal.

EMStatistics

EMS Report for May:

Responded to 446 Medical/Trauma calls

Treated 54 motor vehicle accident patients

Administered 91 wellness/blood pressure checks

Sold 37 blue address signs

911 Report Highlights:

454 EMS

282 Sheriff's Department

253 Laurinburg Police Department

39 Fire Department

515 hang-up calls

95 wrong numbers

60 open line calls

1,033 cellular calls

1,937 total calls to 911

Top five complaints for EMS Response

57 breathing problems

55 sick person (specific diagnosis)

54 traffic accidents (patients)

50 chest pain

37 falls/back injuries (traumatic)

Weather Observations

(EMS Recordings)

Temp (high) 94 on 5/1

Temp (low) 44 on 5/7

Wind (mph) 22 on 5/7

Rainfall (inches) 0.49 on 5/12

Compiled by Tommy Hatcher

Ctrl + Shift helps with Excel functions

The following tips on the Ctrl + Shift keys will help employees who occasionally use Excel or are new to the program.

Highlight the cell(s) to be formatted. Keep in mind that the Shift key combined with directional keys, such as Home, End and the arrows, will highlight cells without the aid of the mouse.

Cells highlighted? Good! Then let's get to the list.

Ctrl + Shift + ! will change 50 into the Number format of 50.00.

Ctrl + Shift + \$ will change 50 into the Currency format of \$50.00.

Ctrl + Shift + % will change .75 to the Percent format of 75%.

Ctrl + Shift + @ will change 15:45 into the Time format of 3:45 PM.

Ctrl + Shift + # will change 11/4/2004 into the Date format of 4-Nov-04.

— **Kevin Patterson, Finance Officer/
Assistant County Manager**



SCATS puts new vans on the road

Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) received two new 2007 Ford 12-passenger high top vans. Both are now in service on a daily basis to transport clients to and from medical appointments.

The vans were purchased on State Contract using State and Federal funds for 90 percent of the purchase price along with 10 percent County funding.

They replace a 1997 model van and a 2000 model van, both Dodges. One of the retired vans will be sold at auction while the 2000 model van will be used by Parks and Recreation for short local trips.

the Birthday list for July

2 Karen Leviner (DSS); **3** Shelia Jackson (Tax); **4** Tim Martin (DSS); **7** J.D. Willis (Commissioner); **9** Helen Hardwick (Elections); **10** Denise Locklear and Ebonie Williams (DSS); **14** Linda Graham (DSS); **15** Arline Swett (DSS); **18** Kimberly McLamb (Health); **19** Billy Bostick (Public Buildings) and Tina Ellis (Health); **21** Brandon Butler (EMS) and Jenny Valdalisio and Charles Brown (DSS); **23** Elaine Harrison (DSS); **25** Mildred Williams (Veteran Services) and John Stoeys (EMS); **26** Amy Richburg (Soil and Water) and Jeffrey Wood (DSS); **27** Dave Raley (Health Board); **28** Ken Smith (Jail) and Vincent Locklear (Public Works); **29** Kevin Patterson (Administration) and Miriam Bounds (Health); **30** Wanda Britt (Transportation); **31** Jan-Marie Mathews (DSS) and Judy McMillan (Health).

SCATS staff attend conference

Scotland County Area Transit System (SCATS) staff members Gracie Rettig, Wanda Britt and Roylin Hammond recently attended the 2007 Spring NCDOT Public Transportation Association (PTA) conference in Wilmington.

Rettig and Britt attended the annual Drivers Rodeo held at the Wilmington Airport where 78 drivers from 38 transportation services throughout the State competed by testing their driving skills on designated courses.

Each driver is judged on their ability to safely complete the course. Rodeo winning drivers were from both Charlotte and Winston Salem.

The conference emphasized the importance of safety, good vehicle maintenance records, good driver training records, the importance of new driver training and refresher training for experienced drivers and the importance of Risk Management review.

Conference attendees were also treated to a tour and dinner on the battleship USS North Carolina.



4-H brings home the gold from District Activity Day

Scotland County 4-H members competed in different presentation areas at District 4-H Activity Day in Stanly County.

The district is composed of 14 counties. All Scotland County 4-H members won gold medals (1st place) for their presentations.

First place award winners earn scholarships to attend State 4-H Congress, a week-long event at NC

State University. Presentation judges, volunteers and Cooperative Extension staff also attended to support the local 4-H members. The Scotland County 4-H winners are now eligible to compete and represent Scotland County on the State level in July.

Pictured is 4-H member Jazzmine Davis, who gave a presentation on peanut foods, with Marshall Stewart, left, Associate Director Department Head and State Program Leader 4-H, and Danny Shaw, District Extension Director — South Central District.

Sign installed at Covington Street



Public Buildings Supervisor Hyder Massey reviews the information on the sign in front of 507 West Covington Street.. The sign, which will be lit in the evening, was installed by Innovative Solutions, the same company that installed the Annex sign.

Tax staff's sport shirts becoming a Friday fad



With the summer months ahead, Tax staffers now welcome Fridays by wearing sport shirts that feature an embroidered Scotland County seal.

Tax staff selected either burgundy or green depending on color preference.

Sitting, left to right, are Shelia Jackson, Catherine Stubbs, Kim Brayboy, and Linda Locklear. Standing, left to right, are Billie Jo Phillips, Nancy Hughes, Mary Freeman, Wanda Sheppard, Mary Helen Norton, Dixie Whelpley and Rhonda Saffel.