

AUGUST 2014



Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Cascades selects Wagram site for regional expansion plan

Cascades Inc., a North American leader in the recovery, manufacturing and converting of green packaging and tissue paper products, announced the installation of a new tissue converting facility in Wagram in the former WestPoint Stevens plant. The company will make a \$55 million investment and create 68 new jobs.

During an August 18 ceremony where Cascades officially took possession of the 1.1 million square-foot building, Governor Pat McCrory praised local leadership and the State Department of Commerce for its more than year-long effort to recruit a "great private company" to North Carolina.

"We worked hard with Cascades because we want to grow jobs in Scotland County," McCrory said. "It's good news for working families who are looking for work and want good pay."

McCrory said the way the State will rebuild the economy is through manufacturing. "You can't live off the service industry alone, you have to make things. That's why I am so pleased manufacturing is coming back to Scotland County in a building where we used to have a good manufacturing company."

Although WestPoint Stevens had been vacant for several years, McCrory said Cascades and County leaders saw a bright light in the site and a new use for the building.

Cascades Tissue Group President and CEO Suzanne Blanchet said start-up is planned for the end of 2014. The company expects to be at full capacity in 2016. "Cascades is expanding its presence in the Southeast, one of the fastest growing markets in the United States. This investment will allow us to optimize our converting platform by relocating equipment presently used elsewhere, by adding new manufacturing equipment and installing robotized warehouse management. In doing so, we are moving closer to many key markets and improving our productivity and logistics while enhancing customer service."

Blanchet said the company selected the Wagram site because of how well all levels of government worked together on the project and because of its existing local workforce at the Cascades plant in Rockingham, which Blanchet described as "the best."

Chairman Guy McCook said Cascades is beginning work to revitalize a facility that in decades past was home to the County's

[see Cascades page 4](#)

New EOC hosts session on hurricane preparedness

More than 50 local government leaders and agency representatives gathered at the new Emergency Operations Center for a 2014 hurricane preparedness update.

EMS Director Roylin Hammond said the annual session doubles as an informal meet and greet. "If we do have an event, and our greatest threat typically is a hurricane, then we wouldn't be coming in meeting with strangers. People would know what their responsibilities are and they would recognize faces."

National Weather Service meteorologists Nic Petro and Katie Dedeaux discussed the 2014 hurricane season.

"The forecast is average to slightly below average," said Petro. "I wouldn't focus so much on the seasonal outlook. Be ready for that one storm. It only takes one storm

to have significant impact, devastation, destruction, power outtages regardless of what the seasonal forecast."

Petro recommended ready.gov/hurricane as a great place to start to help people plan for severe weather, build a storm kit and put together a safety plan for a family, school, business or office.

[see EOC page 3](#)

State lawmakers review results of short session budget talks

A Chamber of Commerce-hosted legislative breakfast provided State lawmakers with the ability to update the community on recent budget activities in Raleigh and the impact they have locally.

Representative Ken Goodman said activities in short session drew attention on two subjects — funding of public education and teacher pay.

"In this General Assembly, revenue was not on the table to fund anything," Goodman said. "At the same time, the State intended to spend \$300 million to provide teacher raises."

Goodman added, "I think the budget we passed is unsustainable and fiscally irresponsible."

Goodman said when the budget process started, there was \$400 million in unallocated revenue on the books, which is there for things you don't anticipate.

"When the budget was finished, the amount of unallocated revenue in the budget was down to zero."

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Governor Pat McCrory, right, Chairman Guy McCook and Cascades Tissue Group President and CEO Suzanne Blanchet speak at the Cascades announcement ceremony.

Bedbug infestation tests backup capability at EMS

EMS was evacuated the first weekend in August after bedbugs were discovered. All emergency calls were transferred through Richmond County while the facility was being treated.

"The only way to eradicate bedbugs is to raise the temperature of the facility to 135 degrees, which means the building had to be evacuated," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond. "We work closely with Richmond County with communications so arrangements were made to transfer and forward calls. We tested things to make sure we didn't drop anything, and we were able to accomplish this for about a 24-hour period. It worked seamlessly for all practical purposes."

On Saturday morning an EMS telecommunicator went to Richmond County. A dispatch position in Richmond County has all Scotland County data and information so the employee was able to take calls there. Telecommunicator activity continued in Richmond County until 8 a.m. Monday.

Hammond added, "The EMS building supposedly was at 153 degrees through Saturday afternoon after an extermination company put a significant amount of heaters in there along with high volume fans to circulate the hot air. Supposedly, that's the way you eradicate bedbugs."

Paramedics and EMTs operated out the County's Transportation office in the interim.

County Manager Kevin Patterson said, "It forced us to prove our redundancy ability with Richmond County."

Patterson added, "Should our 911 Center go dark, we're in a far better position now transferring everything over to Richmond County than we had been before this event."

The process ensured the AT&T system was able to transfer the calls as of 8 a.m. Saturday and that ITS, the State telephone system, would transfer over the administrative line since a number of people still call for ambulances on 1313.

EMS was sealed off through the weekend so the temperature of the building could be raised to more than 120 degrees, a temperature that had to be maintained for more than four hours.

The County will invite a State epidemiologist to come in and provide information on bedbugs and how they travel and share that information with EMS and DSS employees.

"We'll look at protocols we will need going forward when moving someone out of a home or a facility," Patterson explained. "If they're taking custody of someone, they're taking their materials with them and if there is an infestation, they could be bringing it with them."

Patterson said that ultimately there is no way of telling how the infestation originated but reviewing protocols is important.

"All it takes is a single pregnant female bedbug on a pants leg and a month later you have an infestation." Patterson added, "It was a bad event but it gave us the opportunity to plan for and develop that redundancy for EMS in a reasonably controlled environment versus having EMS one day go dark all of the sudden and losing all capabilities."

Trash pick-up crew activated

Text and photo by Mike McGirt, Public Buildings

Public Buildings implemented a temporary trash crew August 14. The crew collected 36 bags of trash — 13 of which were recyclable — 10 tires and one television.



Trash collected is deposited along the side of Leisure Road.

The crew of inmate workers and a Public Buildings supervisor covered approximately 3.4 miles collecting trash on both sides of Leisure Road from Bostic to Barnes Bridge roads.

Public Buildings plans to continue with the crew and increase the frequency as time and manpower allows.

Funds appropriated in the FY 2015 budget will allow for a crew of inmates supervised by Public Buildings staff to perform trash sweeps of County roads.

In the past year members of the community have asked

elected officials to consider being more proactive in beautification efforts by participating in regular litter sweeps.

Library ebooks catalog available



Home Grown eBooks.

Fiction & nonfiction titles from North Carolina publishers

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Scotland County Memorial Library in conjunction with NC LIVE launched the NC LIVE Home Grown eBook Collection, a pilot project which pulls together eBooks from eight North Carolina publishers and makes them available to all of the NC LIVE libraries across the State.

The collection of more than 1,200 fiction and nonfiction titles are part of NC LIVE's permanent collections. The eBooks can be read simultaneously by an unlimited number of readers as part of the pilot project.

NACo prescription discount card shows savings add up for users

The number of prescriptions purchased using the NACo-sponsored Prescription Drug Discount Card was 111 in July, down from 119 in June but up from 107 prescriptions purchased in July 2013.

The NACo program in cooperation with Caremark offered the best prices on 47 prescriptions in July.

Since Scotland County opted to participate in the program in September 2006, 22,749 prescriptions from 7,989 utilizers have been processed at participating pharmacies for a total price savings of \$183,523 for customers.

Prescription cards are available at 507 West Covington Street or call 277-3191 or email akurtzman@scotlandcounty.org to pick up cards.

State legislators interpret results of the short session

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Goodman said he also is concerned that while student population growth continues in North Carolina schools, funding for public education is being reduced, which will present big budget challenges going forward. "There is no provision for enrollment growth."

Representative Garland Pierce said the real challenge in Raleigh is rural versus urban.

Pierce questioned the wisdom of creating a public/private partnership in economic development because there is concern the rural areas will not be "equal at the table."

Pierce said rural communities must remain at the table "because if you're not at the table, you're going to be on the menu."

He said he and McLaurin and Goodman will continue to fight for rural communities. "We understand because we live here and we know what rural communities have to deal with."

Looking toward the future, Senator Gene McLaurin said he would work on a bipartisan level to set up some clear, specific deadlines for when General Assembly is in session.

McLaurin said the short session was 98 days rather than the intended six weeks in duration and the long session has stretched beyond six months.

"Specific guidelines and deadlines for the amount of time legislators are in session would allow them to be more efficient," McLaurin added.

McLaurin said he would support a public hearing on the budget at the State level with a required seven to 10 day notice that would allow the public to review it. "I think every representative and every senator ought to have a public hearing in their district."

He also discussed a need to change gerrymandering. "We need to have compact districts that truly reflect the diversity of our State. I'm going to work in a bipartisan manner to address that so we can come up with districts that are not drawn by the politicians but by an independent commission that truly tries to put together districts that make sense."

McLaurin said he and Representatives Pierce and Goodman "work hard to be a voice for rural communities."

EOC hosts hurricane meeting

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From 1981 to 2010 the North Carolina average tropical activity predictions included 12 named cyclones, which is a tropical storm or greater. Of those, six become hurricanes and three would become a major hurricane, which would be a category 3 or higher.

Hurricane season typically runs from the beginning of June to the end of November although some do occur outside of that time frame.

When storms come from the Atlantic Ocean they come from the west and then north and eventually northeast. Because North Carolina juts out into the Atlantic compared to other states it tends to get hit a lot more.

"Since the mid-90s North Carolina has been in a high peak of tropical cyclone formation," said Petro. "It's been quiet up till now but the community can expect activity picking up within the next couple of weeks."

He added, "We've been lucky the past several years in not having any major hurricanes hit the coast of North Carolina. Inland storms can be devastating even though they are well removed from the coast. Some storms that hit Scotland County in the past came from the Gulf and not the coast."

Petro warned, "Don't let your guard down because even a tropical storm can occasionally result in catastrophic damage."

"Anytime there is a storm coming through here — whether it's a tropical storm or a very strong hurricane — it should be taken seriously," Petro said.

To date Category 2 Arthur has already moved northeast along the coast this season. The 2014 Hurricane Outlook from NOAA predicts eight to 13 named storms, three to six hurricanes and one to two major hurricanes, which is a little below normal.

Petro said, "There was an above normal season the last 12 of 20 years. The high activity pattern will be offset by El Niño and cooler than usual water, which interferes with tropical storm and hurricane development. Be prepared and do what you need to do to prepare for the season. It only takes one."

"Be informed about what can impact you," he explained. "You want to know what your risks are."

Dedeaux added, "In Scotland County it could be tornadoes and hurricane wind, which is dependent upon the track, and heavy rain with inland flooding potential."

The two meteorologists said it is important to make a plan. Know what to do if a storm hits, a tornado warning is issued or there is a flash flood warning. Know where the safest place to go is. Build a storm kit for a prolonged power outage such as batteries, flashlights, water, a first aid kit and find some way to stay informed.

Finally, get involved. Develop a severe weather plan for your home or business, know your risks and how to recover.

the Birthday list for September

1 Felisa Lockey (DSS); **5** Felicia McCall (Health); **6** Anita Nelson (DSS); **8** Debra Kersey (Health) and Laura Tanner (DSS); **10** Jeannie Freeman (DSS); **11** Deborah Rogers (Health), James Lavinier (Sheriff) and Kimberly Villanueva (DSS); **12** Tina Whitfield (Jail); **13** Roger Dial (Public Buildings); **14** Carlotta Rivers (Health); **15** Denise Dunn (Library); **16** Nancy Hughes (Tax); **18** Susan Butler (Administration); **19** Whit Gibson (Commissioner) and Dwight Bryant (Parks and Recreation); **20** Leon Gyles (Library), Heather Wyke (Health) and Twanna McCrimmon (DSS); **22** Christina Dowd (Sheriff); **25** Alisa Freeman (Health), Falana Jackson (DSS) and Andrew Walker (EMS); **26** Joshua Byrd (EMS); **29** Lynda McMillan (Health).

Our condolences to ...

The family of **Linda Graham**, DSS retiree, who passed away recently; **Debra Holcomb**, Register of Deeds, on the August 17 passing of her father, Reverend Donald Lee Harris.

Post Scripts

Welcome to those employees hired since June 16: **Sherrilynn Mims**, Administration; **Felicia McCall**, Health; **Yolanda McDonald**, Jail; **Shaneall Smith**, Parks and Recreation; **Liston Watts**, Public Buildings; and **Walter McLaurin**, Transportation.

Leadership groups wrestle with budget challenge

The 2014 Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership group visited Scotland County offices and learned first-hand the challenges elected officials face when it comes to developing a budget that best serves the citizens without raising taxes or dipping into fund balance.



Junior Leadership participants attempt to balance the budget.

The group of high school students played budget bingo based on financial information provided by County Manager Kevin Patterson. It was Patterson who helped them navigate

through the crash-course in the difficult process of thoughtful decision-making in creating a budget.

A few weeks later, Leadership Scotland, a group of local working professionals, took on the same budget challenge and tried their hands at budget bingo.

The Chamber of Commerce Leadership Scotland group took advantage of the opportunity to ask questions of Patterson and debate the pros and cons of the optimum budget decisions.

They experienced budget dilemmas Commissioners face when it comes to selecting what services to maintain and what services to reduce or eliminate.

Both groups had to decide when the better choice might be to raise taxes or use fund balance in order to preserve services.

The budget game assumes that all minimum, basic County services are satisfied. Participants then use a limited number of bingo chips to budget for additional services in areas of animal



Health Director Dave Jenkins was in the Leadership Scotland group that debated the importance of preserving some County services over others.

control, economic development, school and county capital, law enforcement, fire protection, parks and recreation and teacher supplements.

Once done, Patterson delivered the bad news involving loss of revenue. From there, the groups had to decide whether to remove the chips from services they favored or raise the tax rate or use fund balance to preserve some of them.

Scotland County 4-H hosted several Summer Fun workshops and programs. Approximately 165 youth participated in programs ranging from photography and sewing to hiking and civic responsibility.

Edge tapped as 911 Call Center Director

Mike Edge was named Director of the new 911 Call Center. "He's already been working with 911 on the technical side for the last 10-plus years. He has also been supervising EMS dispatch," said County Manager Kevin Patterson. "That made him an ideal candidate for the position." The County will recruit a new Operations Officer to replace Edge. Edge will oversee the initial setup and start of operations at the call center.

Two long-time public health employees retire

The Health Department said farewell to two long-time employees who had nearly 70 years of service between them. The agency in August hosted drop-in receptions for Danny Sprouse and Lynda McMillan. Sprouse, an environmental health inspector, retired after 36 years of service. McMillan provided administrative support for four years with DSS and 29 years with public health.

Battle of the Badges blood drive is September 11

Laurinburg Masonic Lodge #305 will host the Battle of the Badges 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, September 11. The Scotland County Clerk's Office, Sheriff, Fire Departments, Rescue and EMS, Laurinburg City Police, North Carolina Highway Patrol, Probation and Parole and Wildlife Resources are invited to participate in the challenge and bring a win to their department in most units collected. Contact Mike Nobles, 910-217-0637, for more information, or visitredcrossblood.org or call 1-800-REDCROSS to schedule an appointment.

Senator Burr meets with local officials

Senator Richard Burr met with elected officials, business and education leaders during an informal gathering August 14 at the Small Business Innovation Center. Following a tour of the new FCC North America plant, Burr met with the group to discuss economic development, in particular. According to Burr, the United States is the best place in the world to manufacture goods because it is now the least costly.

Cascades paper company takes ownership of Wagram site

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largest employer. "We're excited that a company with the reputation of Cascades has chosen to make this their home."

McCook added, "We believe your choice to invest in our community says a lot about us. We will work just as hard as we did to land this project to see that you are successful here. This is another positive economic success for this region and shows that we clearly understand that we here in Scotland County are responsible for our future, and we will continue to take the necessary steps to improve our local economy."

McCook added, "Success is a result of cooperation, commitment and opportunity. The ability to work together is the hallmark of any great community. The success of this project is the result of that type of teamwork."

The total annual capacity for the new converting plant will be approximately 10 million cases on six converting lines, with the capacity to produce various tissue products including bathroom tissue, kitchen towels, paper napkins and hand towels for both the away-from-home and consumer products markets.