

JUNE 2015



Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

BlueScope celebrates expansion

BlueScope Buildings North America will expand its facility in Scotland County and create 115 new jobs over the next three years.

Salaries will vary by job and will include fabrication and detail and welding and assembly. The average annual salary will be \$38,393. The average annual salary for Scotland County is \$32,716.

The company also will invest \$9.2 million over the same period. The company currently has more than 140 employees in North Carolina.

"We are excited to announce the expansion of our Laurinburg plant," said Dan Kumm, President, BlueScope Buildings North America. "We have a long standing history of operations in North Carolina dating back nearly 50 years with both our building brands, Butler Manufacturing and VP Buildings, and we look forward to growing our presence in a state that is dedicated to working closely with industry to develop talent in manufacturing."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$402,500 from the One North Carolina Fund.

Governor Pat McCrory said, "BlueScope Buildings' expansion of its manufacturing operation in Scotland County shows its commitment to continue to grow in our State."

"Congratulations to BlueScope Buildings for its decision to add these new jobs to Scotland County," said Senator Tom McInnis. "I look forward to working with Governor McCrory to bring more jobs like these to our region."

see BlueScope, page 4

2016 budget includes COLA, water and solid waste fees

All County employees will receive a one percent COLA effective with the pay period that begins July 15. Additionally, 96 employees will receive step increases based on years of service.

The step plan is geared toward employees on or below a step 9 who have no disciplinary action or no open corrective action plan.

Employees on grade for five years or more would receive a one step increase at 2.5 percent. Those on grade for 10 years or more would receive a two-step increase at five percent. Both plans would not exceed step 9.

The budget totals \$40,871,097 and maintains the tax rate at \$1.03 per \$100 valuation.

An increase in water rates and new availability fees also are incorporated in the budget.

Water rates increased 15 percent across the board with the average monthly bill at \$33 instead of \$28.

The increase will provide the revenue necessary to repaint the three County water towers and to establish a contract for the long-term water districts maintenance.

County Manager Kevin Patterson said of the needed revenue for the 15-year-old water system, "The water rates increase will cover the anticipated cost to the County in the

see Budget, page 2



Children posed as superheroes during the June 17 Community Day. More photos are on page 4.

Library explores "Every Hero Has a Story" this summer

by Leon Gyles, Library

Keep children and teens busy and happy this summer as readers of all ages explore heroes at Scotland County Memorial Library with "Every Hero Has a Story."

Summer Reading Program activities include presentations on snakes and creepy critters, night predators, fantasies in literature, unique animals, dream jobs and magic.

The Summer Reading Program is open to young people, preschool through middle school. Families are invited to register at the library and experience the joy of reading this summer. All programs are free of charge.

Library staff will provide nine programs during the summer which tie-in with the "Every Hero Has a Story" theme. They will thrill imaginations and encourage lifelong learning.

Performances include Carolina Raptor Center, Ron Cromer

with 'Snakes Alive,' Tyris Jones the Storyteller, the Bright Star Theatre touring group and more.

The Carolina Raptor Center will present "Predators of the Sky" at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 1. Hawks, owls and an eagle will be featured.

Two Bright Star Touring Theatre performances will be 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 8. Live theater in the library will feature hilarious renditions of some of the best from the Grimm Brothers' iconic works. In this 45-minute adventure, performers bring to life Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, Rumpelstiltskin and The Elves and the Shoemaker.

On Wednesday, July 15 at 2 p.m., a number of Scotland County's local heroes (police, fire, EMT and more) will present a program of books, stories and excitement.

see Library, page 3

2016 budget and fees approved

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water purchase plus what we expect to spend on painting the water tanks.”

Patterson said the added revenue will help satisfy long-term maintenance issues. “As the water system ages, maintenance costs will go up. If we don't have the money in the water districts to support those operations we would either have to make a very sudden, drastic increase in the rates or water quality, water safety, would suffer.

Also, effective July 1, County residents who live in a municipality will pay \$55 a year to support the solid waste program while those who live outside a municipality will pay \$85 a year. The fee will be reflected on the tax bill. Fees at the convenience sites will be waived.

“We're losing money in our total solid waste operations, which is the landfill, transfer station, convenience sites, leaf and limb, white goods, scrap tire and recyclables,” Patterson explained.

Patterson added, “Future costs are increasing. You're supposed to be pre-funding future needs so you're not surprised when some very expensive things break in the future. We had to come up with a revenue stream that actually pays for the solid waste plan for the County.”

Chairman Guy McCook said of the water and solid waste fees, “We've got to pay these costs today versus passing these costs onto our children at some point down the road. Operating a landfill and operating a water system are expensive ventures. Unfortunately costs continue to rise.”

McCook added, “At the landfill the tonnage that is required for us to break even continues to go down year after year. It's really just a matter of finding a way to level the playing field there and make sure we're providing enough revenue to keep from going in the hole.”

State insurance agency funds sign



There's a new sign for Scotland Place Civic/Senior Center. The sign was funded by the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP).

SHIIP is a Medicare assistance program that is locally staffed by Parks and Recreation employees and seven local volunteers.

Scotland Place hosts Medicare 101 in the spring and fall of each year for those new to Medicare as well as one-on-one meetings for those who have questions about Medicare or their Prescription Drug Coverage.

Pictured in front of the sign are (left to right) Scotland County SHIIP Coordinator Doris Ann Donovan and Parks and Recreation Office Manager and SHIIP Counselor Shaneall Adams.

If you have questions about Medicare or Medicare Prescription Drug coverage, you can schedule an appointment at Scotland Place 277-2585 or Wagram Recreation Center 369-0686. **Text and photo by Shannon Newton, Parks and Recreation**

Safety options reviewed at five-points intersection

Local and State officials and staff from the N.C. Department of Transportation affirmed this month that reducing the number of traffic accidents at five points intersection remains a priority.

At issue is the lack of funding to construct an overpass at five-points where U.S. 501 and Old Wire Road intersect.

The \$2.5 million in Spot Safety funds designated for the project falls short of the \$6 million price tag to construct a single two-way connecting ramp for traffic moving onto and off of Old Wire Road which, according to NCDOT, would be the best solution.

The officials met at five-points June 1 to witness traffic patterns at the intersection considered most dangerous in terms of

crashes and to discuss affordable alternatives that would make the intersection safer.

DOT District Engineer Rob Stone suggested a four-way stop sign, a traffic circle or a separation of the two lanes of U.S. 501 so traffic on Old Wire Road would be forced to turn left or right and then make a u-turn. The alternate plans, according to Stone, would fall within the \$2.5 million budget.

Over the past eight years the DOT added rumble strips on Old Wire Road to warn drivers of the stop sign at the U.S. 501 intersection and erected flashing lights on U.S. 501 to indicate vehicles approaching on Old Wire. But the safety measures have not been enough to counteract the problems presented at the intersection, such as the angle at which Old Wire intersects the highway and the poor visibility due to a hill on U.S. 501 north of the intersection.

Several officials suggested that a traffic signal be installed but Stone said that would be a poor option because traffic volume at the intersection does not meet the requirements for placement of a stoplight.

In a 24-hour period, the intersection averages 5,500 vehicles on U.S. 501 and 2,500 on Old Wire Road, the vast majority of which travel straight through.

Stone said because there are no signals at all on this stretch of road the installation of one at five-points intersection would create another problem.

Stone said as an interim solution a four-way stop would cost \$20,000. A traffic circle could potentially be installed within a year at a cost of \$900,000 and would separate traffic that would prevent vehicles from coming into the middle of the intersection.



Representative Garland Pierce, left, and Senator Tom McInnis, second from right, study DOT plans for a \$6 million overpass. Senator McInnis suggested he and Representatives Pierce and Ken Goodman pursue the possibility of securing the remaining \$3.5 million from the State.

Library presents fun-filled programs

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Ron Cromer with 'Snakes Alive' will return Monday, July 20, with programs at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The first half of the program is an orientation about common myths associated with snakes, the proper way to handle a snake, pattern identification, an anatomy overview, snake characteristics and a warning concerning the handling of snakes found in the wild.

The second half is a 'hands-on' session and an opportunity to hold and pet more than a dozen tame snakes. The session concludes with a finale, holding and petting a giant python. A 'snake-free' zone will be provided for those who do not feel comfortable participating.

The Mad Scientist will be in residence Wednesday, July 29, 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The Mad Scientist delivers unique, hands-on science experiences that are as entertaining as they are educational.

Mad Science encourages scientific literacy in children in an age when science is as vital as reading, writing and arithmetic. Their approach to teaching science invites children to pursue STEM careers.

Laurinburg native Tyris Jones will present a storytelling program Wednesday, August 5, at 2 p.m. He will tell tall tales, folk tales and original stories while stressing the importance of reading to children and parents alike.

EOC/911 center hosts statewide meeting

The North Carolina 911 Board held its monthly statewide meeting in the new Scotland County EOC and 911 Center.

Chairman Guy McCook welcomed the 911 Board to the facility.

The meeting included a brief tour of the new building and an explanation on how the 911 Center was designed to provide a redundant backup dispatch center for the Richmond County 911 Communications Center.

In turn, the Richmond County 911 Center serves as the backup center for the Scotland County 911 Center.

The State 911 Board is requiring all 911 Centers in North Carolina to have a redundant backup plan in place by July of 2016.

The N.C. 911 Board had approved a \$2.1 million 911 Consolidation Grant to help build the facility at 1403 West Boulevard in Scotland County.

"They seemed to be impressed with how the funding had been applied to the project," said EMS Director Roylin Hammond.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015

High School

Administration: Logan Michael House, nephew of Samantha Ruiz, graduated from Scotland High School. Logan will attend UNC-Pembroke and then Eastern Carolina University. He plans to major in sports and rehabilitation therapy.

DSS: Akeia McCormick, niece of Latisha Manning, graduated from South Robeson High School in Rowland, NC. Akeia is considering joining the Air Force or attending college to pursue a degree as a psychotherapist. **Sean Ross Yarborough**, son of Nicole Yarborough, graduated from Marlboro County High School. Sean plans to attend Liberty University in the fall and major in kinesiology. **Imani Aaliyah McPhatter**, daughter of Shekesha McPhatter, graduated from Scotland High School. Imani plans to attend East Carolina University for six years for undergraduate school and Physician's Assistant (PA) School. She plans to start her career in a mental institution as a P.A. **Sallie Elizabeth Wegner**, daughter of Janna Williams and grand-daughter of former Commissioner Nancy Shelley, graduated from Scotland High School with honors. Sallie will attend UNC-Pembroke in the fall to pursue a degree in psychology. **Madison D'Ann Oxendine-Dial**, niece of Jeannie Freeman, graduated from Lakeland Christian School in Lakeland, Florida. Madison will attend Cleveland University in Cleveland, Tennessee. She will major in pre-med in hopes of becoming a pediatrician. **E-911 Center: Jaylend Ratliffe**, son of Sharon McIntyre, graduated from Scotland High School. Jaylend will attend Georgia Tech, then Emory Nursing School in Atlanta for degree in a nursing. Jaylend will continue playing football and hopes to be drafted to the NFL.

Health: Maizey Dawn Peek, daughter of Nikki Peek, graduated from Richmond Senior High School. Maizey will attend Methodist University in the fall. **Taylor Alexandria Smith**, granddaughter of Jennifer Taylor, graduated summa cum laude from Western Guilford High School. Taylor will attend Appalachian State University in the fall to study nursing. **Jyrek R. McCall**, nephew of Felicia McCall, graduated from Marlboro County High School. Jyrek has enlisted in the U.S. Army. **Brandon Lee Caulder**, stepson of Katherine Caulder, graduated from Scotland High School. Brandon is currently attending Richmond Community College. **Kaytlen Alysa Thrift**, granddaughter of Sandra Leonard, graduated from Scotland High School with honors. Kaytlen will attend UNC-Charlotte in the fall to pursue a degree in elementary education. **Library: Shelby Lynn Van Hoy**, sister of Annie Van Hoy, graduated from Northern Guilford High School. Shelby will attend Rockingham Community College in the fall.

College/University

Administration: Jonathan Matthew McMillan, nephew of Nancy Bostick, graduated from Sandhills Fire Academy at Sandhills Community College. Jonathan plans to continue his studies to become an EMT.

DSS: Brittany Willette Jones, daughter of Willette Jones, graduated from Liberty University with a Masters of Education in professional school counseling. Brittany is employed with Scotland County Schools as a school counselor. **Mary Lauren Tardif**, daughter of Deborah Tardif, graduated from UNC-Pembroke with a B.S. degree in mass communications/broadcasting. Mary plans to join the U.S. Navy. **Nikima T. McCrimmon**, daughter of Twanna McCrimmon, graduated from Shaw University in Raleigh. **Alden Quick**, daughter of Nadine Quick, graduated from Hampton University with a Master of Arts in communicative sciences and disorders. Alden is employed as a speech and language therapist in Suffolk, VA.

Health: Carlissa Cook, daughter of Carlotta Rivers, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Francis Marion University in Florence, SC. **Jennifer Loving**, granddaughter of Wanda Hassler, graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with honors and a B.S. degree in education. Jennifer will teach eighth grade science at Rohanon Junior High in Richmond County. **Sterling A. Leaven**, son of Frances Moody, will earn his Master's degree from Penn State University. Sterling is employed as engineer plant supervisor for GE in Sterling, VA.

Transportation: Michael Darrell Turner, grandson of Gracie Rettig, graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in aeronautical science, majoring in commercial aviation. Michael plans to work for Delta Airlines as soon as he completes his hours. Currently, he is a flight instructor.

Scottish Pilot Club donation will provide helmets for football program



Scottish Pilot Club President Joyce Jewell, center, presents a check to Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair Leigh Carter, fourth from left. Present for the presentation were, left to right, Brent Plyler, Drew Williamson, Guy McCook, Carter, Jewell, Ida McGill, Terry Gallman, Sylvia Nelson, Rodney McCarter and Barbara Mack.

Parks and Recreation received a \$1,000 donation from the Scottish Pilot Club of Laurinburg for the purchase of football helmets. The donation was made possible through a matching grant from the Pilot International Founders Fund.

The grant, called "Brain-Storm Warnings," is an educational and preventive project of the Scottish Pilot Club of Laurinburg. Part of the project includes the distribution of magnets to youth athletes and parents in the spring and fall sports programs. The magnets list the signs and symptoms of a concussion.

The Scottish Pilot Club of Laurinburg made the donation after it learned of the need for replacement helmets for the more than 200 youth in the Parks and Recreation tackle football program. In making the donation the Scottish Pilot Club challenged other civic and business groups and individuals to join them in making donations to provide helmets for the players.

Activities abound at Community Day



The second annual Community Day at the Library attracted youth and parents looking for an afternoon of fun and education despite triple digit temperatures.

This year's event again featured numerous exhibits and activities highlighting life in Scotland County.

The exhibits expanded from the library parking lot onto Everett Street where there were tours of firetrucks, an ambulance and the Safety Town vehicle.

Pictured clockwise, top left, exhibitors from J.P. Locklear Produce gave away samples of canatloupe, watermelon, bananas and apples. Children compete in cornhole. All the components were available for building wooden toys. Laurinburg City Police Chief Darwin Williams tries his hand at spinning cotton with assistance from Sherry Phillips.



the July birthday list

2 Joy Hine (DSS); **3** Shelia Jackson (Tax); **4** Anita Jenkins (EMS), Tim Martin (Health) and Adam Holland (DSS); **7** Melanie Campbell-Tyler (Elections) and Amy Locklear (Sheriff); **8** Eddie McLaurin (Public Buildings); **9** Amanda Martin (DSS); **10** Denise Locklear (DSS); **11** Justin Hill (Sheriff) and Heather Moody (DSS); **14** Delana Vaughn (EMS) and Darrell Jones (Transportation); **15** Arline Bostick (EMS); **16** Kenneth Samuda (Jail); **19** Christopher Goodwin (EMS) and Billy Bostick and Josephine Thompson (Public Buildings); **20** Jessica Watson (E-911 Center); **21** Brandon Butler (EMS), Walter McLaurin (Transportation) and Jenny Valdaliso (DSS); **22** Shanice Vinson (Splash Pad); **23** Darren Scott (DSS); **24** Kimberly Spry (Tax) and Jackie Williams (Jail); **25** John Storey (EMS) and Mildred Williams (Veteran Services); **26** Amy Miller (Soil and Water), Jeffrey Wood (DSS) and Tina Smith (Splash Pad); **27** Rudolph Baldwin (Transportation); **28** Vincent Locklear (Public Works) and Atysa Locklear (DSS); **29** Kevin Patterson (Administration), Christopher McKinnon (Transportation) and Miriam Bounds (Health); **31** Sharon Brandon (Register of Deeds) and Judy McMillan (Health).

Post Scripts

The following individuals joined Scotland County departments as of April 16, 2015: **Rhonda Iacona**, Elections; **Samantha Cameron**, E-911 Center; **Courtney Jarrell**, Sheriff; **Demetrice Jones**, DSS; and **Chocajuana Oxendine**, Wagram Recreation Complex. ✂ North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs awarded four year scholarships to the following Scotland High School students: **Samantha Stanley**, **Shaunee' McLaurin**, **Evan Christopher Guinn** and **Cleveland Terry**.

BlueScope expansion creates 115 new jobs

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"Jobs that pay above the County average will be a huge boost to our area's economy," said Representative Garland Pierce.

"Scotland County can always use more good jobs," said Representative Ken Goodman. "These new jobs at BlueScope Buildings will be a great addition to our workforce, and this expansion will broaden the tax base in Scotland County."

BlueScope Buildings North America, Inc., is a subsidiary of Australia-based BlueScope Steel, Ltd. The company provides engineered building solutions for non-residential construction through its industry leading brands-Butler Manufacturing and VP Buildings.

In addition to the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C., other partners that helped with this project include North Carolina Community College System, NCWorks, NC Revenue, Duke Energy, Scotland County Economic Development Corporation and Scotland County.