

MAY 2015



Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Commissioners take advocacy on legislative issues to Raleigh

Commissioners Guy McCook, Carol McCall and Bob Davis and Finance Officer Beth Hobbs visited with Representatives Garland Pierce and Ken Goodman and Senator Tom McInnis in Raleigh May 6 to discuss legislative issues that affect counties and to address other issues that have an impact closer to home.



Left to right are Chairman Guy McCook, Representative Ken Goodman, Vice Chair Carol McCall, Commissioner Bob Davis and Finance Officer Beth Hobbs.

A priority issue included restoring 40 percent of net lottery proceeds to counties that would be allocated for school capital needs. The General Assembly has since set the county lottery appropriation below the 40 percent by appropriating a flat \$100 million. "Now we're at 17 percent," said Chairman Guy McCook. "They keep draining off funds and putting that money in the State's school operating expenses instead of dedicating that money for capital improvements."

The Commissioners then discussed incentives. McCook said, "As a small community, we can't do everything that needs to be done. There's got to be a viable incentive package offered at the State level. We think it's important the incentives be tailored to Tier I counties."

McCook said. "In order to have an impact on the County's persistently unemployed it has to have jobs that pay \$10 and \$12 an hour. Those jobs don't qualify for some of the State incentives because they're not at that median wage. If the County can get them the work and get them to where they're earning a little bit of money, the County can then get them trained to move up the wage scale."

McCall added, "If we don't have the jobs it's hard to create the motivation or incentive if there are no jobs at the entry level."

McCook asked the legislators to support pending legislation that would expand broadband access in rural areas by authorizing counties to install high-speed internet infrastructure. McCook said the City of Laurinburg was able to extend the infrastructure to FCC, and the ability to extend fiber to industry and business is something not often found in rural communities. "We don't want to lose the opportunity to be able to provide that."

In a local matter, the Commissioners asked the three legislators to

[see Advocate, page 4](#)

Officials to survey five points for possible safety measure

State and local officials will meet at the intersection of U.S. 15-501 and Old Wire Road to witness first-hand the traffic flow there.

Scotland County Commissioners will be at the intersection 9 a.m. Monday, June 1, along with Senator Tom McInnis, Representatives Garland Pierce and Ken Goodman, EMS Director Roylin Hammond, NC Department of Transportation District Engineer Rob Stone, County Manager Kevin Patterson and other County staff members.

Representative Pierce suggested all parties meet at the intersection, also known as five-points, after Commissioners visited Raleigh lawmakers to advocate for implementation of a plan to make it safer.

"It's a good thing to go out there and visit and let everyone walk around and look," Pierce explained.

The DOT had planned to construct a bridge for Old Wire Road over U.S. 15-501 to eliminate the intersection. But the \$6 million price tag was much more than the \$2.5 million the department had originally budgeted, and the plan was scrapped earlier this year.

Chairman Guy McCook suggested that whatever was originally budgeted could be applied to a solution.

"That's the most dangerous intersection in our community," McCook said. "More people get hit there than anywhere else and more people have been critically injured there than anywhere else."

[see Safety, page 4](#)

Expect thrills June 17 at Annual Community Day

The second Annual Community Day June 17 at the Library will feature the theme of the Summer Reading Program "Every Hero Has a Story!"

Featured will be firetrucks, the Safety House, the pink tractor and a big tractor courtesy of Randal Dunn and Charles Liles of Southeast Farm Equipment.

Beekeeper William Trivette will bring his his bee exhibit. Jim Walker will have displays on Scotland County history. The Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the 4-H Club, the Laurinburg Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, the Water Treatment Plant, Partners in Ministry and Lumber River State Park will set up exhibit for education and fun.

Attendees can get creative at the Comic Book Workshop Booth and sit at the Photo Booth for zany, fun pictures.

The Scotland County Humane Society will be there with canine mascots and J.P. Locklear will bring fruits and vegetables to sample.

[see Community, page 2](#)

Foreclosed properties fetch \$282,600

The sale of 60 foreclosed parcels by Iron Horse Auctions in Rockingham brought total bids in the amount of \$282,600 to the County. The auction ran from April 29 to May 7.

After commissions and settlements are paid, the County will realize closer to \$240,000.

The 50-acre Mobile Home Estates on two tracts on Old Johns Road received the highest bid at \$46,000 followed by the Speller Building at \$41,000.

A home on Main Street in Gibson brought the third-highest price of any single lot at \$22,000.

The auction proceeds will be used toward the back taxes owed on the properties sold, which have a total tax value near \$2 million.

The municipal governments of Laurinburg, Gibson and Wagram also will benefit since they will receive taxes owed to them as a result of the sale of certain properties.

The former Indian Museum, which closed in 2013, also went on the auction block in a separate auction that ran concurrently with that of the County's. The reserve on the building set by its owner, the Historic Properties Commission, was not met.

Museum vault yields unique treasure

The Historical Museum of Scotland County is full of surprises and treasures that provide an eyevue in to how life used to be here.

In a vault at the museum are stacks of tax ledgers spanning six decades from the 1920s to to the 1980s.

Tax Administrator Mary Helen Norton said, "The earliest book from 1928 showed handwritten listings of property folks owned with no real description of location."

She explained, "It's just their name and some small description."

Before automation, everything was handwritten. "They placed value much as they do now, they had a tax rate and you hand-figured every bill," Norton said.

Although there was was a tax department much like there is now, the payment of taxes probably was not as structured.

"I would guess, and especially early on, people were of the mentality that you paid your taxes when you had extra money," Norton said. "You didn't worry so much about paying the taxes."

Norton and Tax Office staffers Nancy Hughes and Wendy Dunn visited the museum to look at the records.

Norton said, "I looked up my father's



Tax Office staff Wendy Dunn, left, and Nancy Hughes review information in old tax ledgers.

name because I knew where he lived at the time and the records were separated by township then."

The Tax Office took possession of three ledgers for their historical significance only. "They really don't give you enough information to be helpful," Norton explained. "The main thing is they let you see how things have changed from old books in 1928 being handwritten and books from the 1970s on that were typed."

The Historic Properties Commission has not yet decided what to do with the remaining ledgers.



Kathy McCallum, right, front row, received \$200 for Girl Scouts 1723 and 703, who won King of the Mountain for picking up 756 pounds of litter during Spring Litter Sweep.

Carolyn Sims, left, front row, received \$100 on behalf of second place winner, the Murphy Brown team, for picking up 507 pounds of litter. In all, participating teams picked up 2,706 pounds of litter.

Solid Waste Enforcement Officer and Green Team member J.R. Horne, back row, second from right, helped present the awards.

End of school kicks off with library's fun-filled Community Day

continued from page 1

Exhibits expected but not yet committed include yarn spinning, recycling, basic jewelry making for children to design and take home, face painting and chalk art.

Youth Services Librarian Denise Dunn, coordinator of the event, said she expects the second Annual Community Day to be much larger than the first one.

"I am supposed to have Iron Man and a few of his friends drop by," Dunn said.

Phil Butler will return with his snack wagon to sell hot dogs,

hamburgers, cotton candy, candied apples, nachos and drinks

Dunn scheduled the event for the first Wednesday children are out of school from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m..

Dunn launched Community Day in 2014 to inspire children to keep learning even while school is out and to introduce them to the Summer Reading Program.

"It's been my dream to have a community event for all Scotland County folks," Dunn said. "I hope to have plenty of tents and lots of interesting events with a big attendance full of happy kids and families."

Cooperative Extension celebrates its sustained community outreach

During its annual Report to the People Cooperative Extension shared its story of community outreach with a 15-minute video of personal testimony created by 4-H Agent Angela Galloway.

Testimonials included praise for a six-week program conducted at Washington Park Elementary School by Nutrition Program Associate Hazel McPhatter, who instructed students on proper diet, nutrition, exercise and hand washing.

At DSS Family and Consumer Agent Sharon English conducted family friendly parenting classes. English also provided nutrition classes that focus on how to portion food, reduce sodium intake and use different spices for healthier meals. She taught ServSafe classes for businesses involved in food preparation where knowledge of foodborne illnesses and proper food storage is critical.

Testimonials were followed by a musical montage celebrating the many activities available through 4-H from robotics to rocket science to the study of soils to the numerous day camps and youth-based leadership events.

In all Cooperative Extension touched the lives of 9,600 residents through programs and events, conducted 88 educational programs and aided 159 farmers, restaurant owners or food service workers in obtaining certifications.

Guest speaker Noran Sanford of GrowingChange.org highlighted aspects of the agency the community might not know. "It offers a unique launch pad for all kinds of innovation in rural areas."

Sanford explained how Cooperative Extension provided expertise to support his initiative to flip the now closed Wagram prison into a sustainable farm and education center in order to work with troubled youth.

"We were losing too many youth to the correctional system — youth who we could not afford to lose. Youth who could be potential future leaders if they just had more opportunities and more access to some services."

Sanford said when he sought the services of Cooperative Extension, the pilot program to flip the prison began to take shape that would benefit adjudicated youth who were already in the correctional system, young people who had been kicked out of home, kicked out of school, who were on probation.

"These youth are building beehives and compost bins for community gardens. They deliver food to needy families."

Sanford said the positive exposure GrowingChange.org has received since 2010 — speaking engagements, visits with State officials, the receipt of grants — would not have happened without assistance from Cooperative Extension.

"I am personally here to say thanks to Cooperative Extension for the ongoing support we received and to have these kinds of innovations in rural areas that we so desperately need."

Cooperative Extension Director Randy Wood said the agency has a bright future because its education programs reinforce skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. "When we look at the next 100 years of Extension, I think we can do things like that to keep us as relevant as we are today."

Our condolences to ...

Sharon Brandon, Register of Deeds, on the April 26 passing of her mother, and **Linda Holland**, Administration, on the May 16 passing of her brother-in-law, Russ Garret.

Child Health Clinic reopens



Child Health Clinic exam room and waiting area. Photos by Tim Martin

The Health Department reopened its Child Health Clinic May 18. The Board of Health recommended that the Child Health Clinic be reinstated after State health statistics showed as many as 2,000 children in Scotland County were delinquent in their well child physicals.

Maria Roberts, RN, BSN, attended several weeks of training and six months of clinical time to become a State Certified Child Health Expanded Role Nurse.

Services for the Child Health Clinic include well child physicals (0-21 years), kindergarten physicals, nutrition assessment, vision exams, hearing exams, dental assessments and fluoride varnish (6 months-42 months).

The Child Health Clinic is open Mondays and Wednesdays. To schedule an appointment for your child please call the Health Department at (910) 277-2440. Public Health is here to make a difference in the lives of our community through "Prevention" "Promotion" and "Protection."

Shelter protects bookmobile



Text and photo by Leon Gyles, Library

The library recently purchased a cover for the bookmobile to help extend its life.

As you could expect with the vehicle replacement cost for the bookmobile around \$150,000, if the library could extend the service life for a few years then the \$4,000 investment in a shelter is money well spent.

The funds for the shelter purchase came from the sale of used books donated to the library and not from tax monies.

News of Note

June 8 program helps answer all Medicare questions

Get a basic understanding of the four parts of Medicare and how it all works. Understand your choices for how to get your Medicare coverage. Review and compare your Medicare health and drug plan choices. Find out when you're eligible for Medicare. Learn how to read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN). Learn about programs that can help you save money on your medical and drug costs. All this information will be made available 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday, June 8, at Scotland Place Senior Center, 1210 Turnpike Road, Laurinburg. Sponsored by NC Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), presenters will be SHIIP Coordinators Shannon Newton and Doris Ann Donovan. Reservations are requested. Call Donovan at 277-2585 by June 4. SHIIP answers questions and counsels Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers about Medicare, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, Medicare prescription drug plans, long-term care insurance and other health insurance concerns.

A DSS 'locate' board gets serious about paternity

The Child Support Unit has placed a 'locate' board in the lobby of DSS. The display was created as a way to request help from the public in locating certain individuals who have proven difficult to find or have proven to be uncooperative. Those displayed on the board are individuals in which paternity is trying to be established and, once established, a child support order entered. Plans for ongoing efforts in child support include another display listing names and pictures of non-custodial parents and amounts owed by each. The board has already generated interest. Within the first two days of display, two individuals complied with paternity testing. If anyone has information on anyone on the board, they are asked to contact Child Support at 277-2500, Jenny Valdaliso ext. 3340 or Joy Hine ext. 3335.

Hobbs completes county administration course

Scotland County Finance Officer Beth Hobbs successfully graduated from the 2014-2015 Municipal & County Administration Course of the School of Government, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The course is approximately 150 hours in length. More than 60 instructors lead the program. Course instruction covers North Carolina local government law, organization and management, finance and budgeting, employment law and administration, planning and regulation of development and the delivery of specific city and county services. Hobbs was one of 93 officials who graduated from the Municipal & County Administration Course this year. The program is designed for managers, department heads and officials whose responsibilities require a broad understanding of functions beyond individual areas of specialization. Hobbs was hired as Deputy Finance Officer in August 2013. She was appointed County Finance Officer in February 2015.

the June birthday list

2 Linda Locklear (Tax); **7** Bryant Higgins (Public Works); **9** Daisy Shaw (EMS), Manuel Campbell (E-911 Center) and Rebecca Strickland (Sheriff); **11** Carolyn Allen (DSS); **12** Sharon Davis (Transportation) and Elizabeth McGuffin (Health); **13** Brenda Tyson (Health); **18** Sheronica Smith (Sheriff); **21** Linda Holland (Administration), Garrett Dial (EMS) and Samantha Cameron (E-911 Center); **23** Selena Locklear (Health); **24** Casey Schmidt (EMS); **27** Jonathan Dunn (Sheriff) and Evangela McArthur (Health); **28** Glenn Tucker (EMS) and Jonathan Lemmond and Erick Dutch (E-911 Center); **30** Randy Wood (Cooperative Extension).

Commissioners advocate for County in Raleigh

continued from page 1

contact the Department of Transportation to support the County effort to get a safety plan implemented at the US 15-501 and Old Wire Road intersection, also known as five-points. "That's the most dangerous intersection in our community," McCook said. "More people get hurt there than anywhere else and there have got to be some ways to make that intersection safer."

The Commissioners also asked the legislators to consider payment in lieu of taxes for acreage that is no longer subject to property taxes due to ownership by the State in wildlife and game lands. Transferring the lands to State control places the tax burden onto a smaller population.

Safety concerns reviewed at five-points intersection

continued from page 1

He suggested the DOT re-grade the hill on the north side of the intersection to improve the sight distance. "When the speed limit is 55 with people doing 70 over that hill, you're on top if it before you know it."

McCook said the flashing lights on the north and south side of the intersection to alert drivers to the presence of a vehicle at Old Wire Road do little to slow the traffic.

"We need the DOT to do something. This is the most dangerous intersection in Scotland County," McCook said. "We need some attention on this, and we need it sooner than later. We need to get it on the radar."

According to DOT crash data, the U.S. 15-501 and Old Wire Road intersection ranks No. 1 of the county's 67 intersections for collisions, with 43 occurring from Jan. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2010.

Post Scripts

The following individuals joined Scotland County departments as of March 16, 2015: **Dana Maring**, E-911 Center; **June Hunt**, EMS; **Michael Hunt** and **Roger Russell**, Public Buildings; **Purlie Deese** and **Umeko Terry**; DSS; and **Melinda Dunn**, Tax. ❁ Congratulations to **Leon Gyles**, Library, whose son, Chase Gyles, earned his rank as Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouts and an honor only four percent of all Scouts achieve. His community service project was to design a custom, solid steel square flagpole, complete with a new flag, as well as a brick patio and outdoor seating area for parents and students to enjoy at Sandhills Classical Christian School where Chase is a student. ❁ **Marty Pate** received tax collector certification April 16 at the North Carolina Tax Collectors' Association conference. In order to attain this accomplishment, Pate had to successfully complete two required courses and two elective courses as required by the NCTCA. Additional requirements included serving as tax collector for at least two years. ❁ Congratulations to **Pat Brown**, Register of Deeds, on the May 9 birth of her grandchild, Jalaia Renee Brown.