

NOVEMBER 2015



# Scotland County, NC

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

## Confessions and advice from a 'Black Thursday' shopper

You've seen the videos of Black Friday shoppers or, shall we say Black Thursday shoppers, generally misbehaving in an attempt to get their hands on the best bargains.

Computer Support Technician Rod Burks is NOT one of those shoppers, but he does like a good bargain and taking advantage of the shopping early.

Before heading out to shop on Black Thursday, Burks shared Thanksgiving dinner with his colleagues at the fire department where he volunteers.

He doesn't camp out or fight his way into a store. Burks said some bad behavior people see on social media depends on the store. "You won't see that at a clothing store. Nobody will fight to save a few dollars on a pair of jeans. Any type of electronics store is notorious for that (bad behavior) because we're talking about bigger discounts and savings if you get in early."

Burks added, "I didn't see any fights, but the aggressiveness is definitely there." Burks saved \$20 after his Black Thursday outing. He plans to shop early again next year, but vows not to wait in line any longer than 30 minutes.

Burks has some words of advice for anyone who has never shopped on Black Thursday but might consider it next year. "Wear comfortable clothes. Get in the right mindset of knowing that whatever you're going for is probably already sold out because they only have two or three of what you're looking for."

"Go with the attitude that you're just looking for the best deal. Don't go looking for a specific item at a specific price. That's something you're never going to find. That's where the frustration comes from and where the aggressiveness comes from."

"Eat your dinner first. Dress warmly. Go in there and hope you can get a few dollars off some socks," Burks concluded.

## Area designated as Certified Retirement Community

Laurinburg/Scotland County was selected a North Carolina Certified Retirement Community by NC Commerce. It joins 12 other communities throughout the State with the distinction.

A Certified Retirement Community works closely with NC Commerce as it actively recruits retirees and future retirees to the State and to Laurinburg/Scotland County specifically.

Certified Retirement Communities are recognized for providing the amenities, services and opportunities retirees need to enjoy active and productive lives. The program is a two-step process. Commerce markets the State as a retirement destination and then turns over its leads to Laurinburg/Scotland County to further market the community as an optimal retirement location.

"While the formal application was from the City of Laurinburg, the program was truly a public/private partnership," said Tourism Development Authority Director Cory Hughes. "We had over 13 financial partners as part of the application pitch. According to the NC Commerce, that is unheard of and provided great momentum to selection of our community."

According to Hughes, the program provides tourism opportunities when people visit the area to "look around," as well as long-term economic development opportunities for the community.

"Each year hundreds of thousands of people in the northeast retire or begin planning for their imminent retirement," Hughes said. "Additionally there are more than one million retired military personnel — many of whom have

[see Certified, back page](#)



## Parks and Recreation welcomes Hopper as Assistant Athletic Supervisor

Chris Hopper was named Assistant Athletic Supervisor at Scotland County Parks and Recreation, effective October 26. Hopper replaces Justin McNickle, who resigned in September.

Hopper earned a B.A. in recreation, sports leadership and tourism management from the University of North Carolina Wilmington with a concentration in tourism and commercial recreation.

Hopper most recently completed a park management internship with Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission where he supervised and assisted part-time staff in the performance of their duties, participated in the daily operations of the Commission and carried out special projects.

While at UNCW, Hopper gained experience as an operations and event manager and facilities assistant with Campus Life. He also is familiar with park maintenance and golf activities.

Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton said of Hopper, "We're thrilled to welcome Chris to Scotland County and to Parks and Recreation. Chris is an enthusiastic self-starter who will bring great ideas to the table. All of us here look forward to working with him."

## Certified Retirement Community designation a benefit to County

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cycled through Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. They are looking to relocate. They are familiar with our region and our community. Many retirees have solid pensions and are cashing out expensive homes. These are the folks we are going to be targeting for Laurinburg."

Hughes thanked Senator Tom McInnis for providing encouragement and support in Raleigh. The 13 local partners that worked with Hughes on the certification process include Scotia Village, Scotland Health Care System, St. Andrews University, Richmond Community College, Laurinburg/Scotland County Chamber of Commerce, Scotland County Parks and Recreation, Optimists, Becca Hughes State Farm Insurance, First Capital Bank, First Baptist Church, WLNC, Storytelling and Arts Center and Quick Copy.

Letters of endorsement were sent from the City Council, County Commissioners, Optimists, Rotary and the Chamber.

Hughes said bringing together the 13 partners beyond the TDA, the City and County in support of the area becoming a Certified Retirement Community was considered unprecedented by the State. "The local effort for this program really impressed the folks in Raleigh."

## the December birthday list

**2** Kimberly Cheek (DSS) and Matthew Lowery (Public Buildings); **4** Lloyd Goins (Sheriff) and Scott Parks (Inspections); **5** Wendy Stanton (DSS); **6** Tracie Patterson (EMS); **7** Guy McCook (Commissioner); **8** James Nichols (Jail), Kevin Mauldin (Public Works), Kimmy Cannady (DSS) and Ronnie McGee (Sheriff); **9** Robert Jones (Transportation) and Richard Goforth (Cooperative Extension); **10** Gina Paul (EMS) and Kendria Finkley (Library); **14** Mia Armstrong (DSS); **15** James Brown (Tax) and Matthew Jones (EMS); **17** Kathie Cox (Health) and Latisha Manning (DSS); **18** Amanda Reagan (Sheriff) and Nicole Peek (Health); **19** Louise Williams (Library); **20** Earl Haywood (Sheriff) and Wanda Hassler (Health); **21** Teresa Gorden (DSS); **23** Barbara Britt (Jail) and Barbara Ledbetter (DSS); **24** Sandra Leonard (DSS); **25** Demetrice Jones (DSS); **26** John Alford (Commissioner) and Carol Capel (Cooperative Extension); **28** James Pratt (Public Buildings); **29** Mitchell Woods (Jail); **30** Maria Roberts (Health) and Tracy Lytch (DSS).

## Halloween in the Park popularity measured by demand for candy

The night was all about princes, princesses, super heroes and heroines, ghosts, ghouls, angels, fairies, ninja turtles and residents of Oz during Halloween in the Park.

If success is measured by the amount of candy distributed, then success for host agency Parks and Recreation was a resounding one.

At the conclusion of the October 29 event, 35,000 pieces of candy were gone. Last year 21,000 pieces of candy were gone before event's end.

Parks and Recreation staff credit the event's success to volunteers,

including more than 225 St. Andrews University students representing 15 athletic programs, the Young Professionals Network, seniors, Public Buildings and Grounds, Storytelling and Arts Center and EMS.



## Library adds subscribes to new online databases

*by Leon Gyles, Library*

Scotland County Memorial Library has subscribed to three new online databases for those with a valid library card to use. The databases were funded in part through a generous gift from the Scotland County Genealogy Society.

To access any of these databases go to the Library's webpage, select the database option, select the desired database and enter you library card as prompted.

*America's News* is a complete full-text content of local and regional news, including community events, schools, politics, government policies, cultural activities, local companies, state industries and people in the community. Paid advertisements are excluded.

Selecting this database allows you to view *The Laurinburg Exchange* or any one of 29 of America's most popular news magazines.

*America's Obituaries & Death Notices* is the largest and most comprehensive collection of newspaper obituaries and death notices. Extensive editorial review of all newspaper sections ensures thorough selection of obituaries for easy access. An easy-to-use interface allows searching by name, date range, or text such as institutional name, social affiliation(s), geographic location(s), philanthropic activities.

If you have any questions about using any of these databases call 276-0563 for assistance.

## County United Way drive surpasses last year's pledge

Employee pledges to the 2015 United Way Campaign increased by nearly 40 percent from the same time a year ago. Final pledge total was \$10,238.77 compared to \$6,542.92 the previous year.

There were 36 employees who took advantage of Fair Share compared to 20 in 2014. Those who give Fair Share, the equivalent of one hour's pay a month for 12 months, receive their birthday off.

The names of Fair Share givers were entered in a drawing where the winner would have his/her car washed by County Manager Kevin Patterson.

Patterson drew the name of the lucky winner Jonathan Lemmond, a telecommunicator at the Emergency Operations Center.

The United Way Campaign goal countywide is \$260,000.

**Post Scripts** The following individuals joined Scotland County departments between September 16 and October 15: **Megan Bristow**, **Melody Jones** and **William Edge** (E-911 Center); **Roderick Burks**, IT; **Tammy Jacobs**, Parks and Recreation; **James Pratt**, Public Buildings; and **Malinda Hall**, part-time with Transportation. **Mike McGirt** received certification as a licensed Public Pesticide Operator from the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. **Commissioner Carol McCall** was a guest reader at Head Start in Laurel Hill November 4. McCall entertained some 30 children by reading several books.