

SEPTEMBER 2016

Scotland County, NC



A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Youth football gets new helmets

Parks and Recreation purchased 85 new football helmets for the youth program thanks to a \$6,500 grant from United Way of Scotland County.

"With all of the focus recently on brain injuries, concussion protocols and safety of the sport we felt it would be a great opportunity to be creative within our budget to reach out to some stakeholders here in the community for the potential purchase of helmets for our program," said Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Graham.

"Football is the most expensive sport across the board for youth athletics," Graham explained. Just one helmet costs \$74 plus tax.

Graham said, "When you need 80 or 90 helmets, that can be a big hit to a budget. Fortunately, United Way granted us \$6,500 for the purchase of helmets."

The difference between an older helmet and a newer helmet is evident when you look inside them. "That's where the safety comes in with the padding and the technology inside the newer helmet," Graham explained. "Obviously, we can't prevent brain injuries at 100 percent but by providing efficient equipment for our children, we can reduce that potential hazard."

Graham added, "We're thankful for this opportunity from United Way. Any time we can create value within our programs it's a blessing for this department. We created value within our department as well

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Bryan Graham with two football helmets. The one on the right is the newer one.

Academic growth expected

Growth and making more academic opportunities available were themes shared by all presenters at the September 23 Education Forum hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Scotland County Schools Superintendent Ron Hargrave said the drop out rate continues to decrease. Last year 100 students dropped out while 61 dropped out this year.

More college level courses and technical courses were added to the curriculum, said Hargrave. "We allow students to have real-world opportunities so when they graduate it will allow them to be successful in our community."

Hargrave said next year the schools hope to have a one-to-one laptop initiative where every student will take a device home. Also, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) bus will visit schools next year so every child can experience STEM and the career possibilities.

Chancellor Robin Cummings said 276 Scotland County students attend classes on the UNCP campus. "We expect those numbers to grow because of the programs we are able to offer by expanding academic programs by collaborating with other institutions." This allows UNCP students to

pursue degrees in engineering, medicine, physical therapy, veterinary medicine and cybersecurity.

At St. Andrews University, there has been an upward trend in enrollment in recent years, said Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Hopkins. The University will add football to its athletics lineup beginning in Fall 2017. Coaches have been hired who, in turn, recruited 65 student football athletes.

Richmond Community College (RCC) President Dale McInnis described his institution as the hub that ties the other

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Employees will now receive payroll check stubs electronically

by Beth Hobbs, Finance Officer

With the implementation of Nat Pay by the Finance Department, employees will no longer receive paper copies of their payroll check stubs from finance.

Nat Pay is an electronic payroll service that allows employees to setup and access their payroll information through a web-based portal that stores payroll documents for each employee.

To setup and access your account go to <https://my.doculivery.com/External/scotlandcounty/Login.aspx>.

Employees must use the first letter of their legal name, full last name and the last four digits of their social security number to login. The temporary password is the last four digits of the

employee's social security number.

Employees who have trouble accessing their account are asked to contact your Department Head. All Department Heads and their designees have access to print employee payroll documents within their department. For all other questions please contact the Finance Department.

As an added benefit to this payroll service, employees can elect to have emails and/or text messages alerting them that their paystub is available.

Form W-2's can also be uploaded to Nat Pay. Election forms for the enrollment to participate in electronic submission of Form W-2's will roll out to employees in the next few months.

County to say farewell to a legend

Al Blades made it official. His retirement papers are signed and his last day with the County will be January 1.

Blades, the Athletic Superintendent with Parks and Recreation, is aptly identified as *The Legendary Al Blades* by WLNC Radio, where he can be heard regularly providing pertinent commentary on stats and players in high school athletic events.

Blades is a legend with the County, as well, having been employed with Parks and Recreation for more than 40 years.

As Al Blades signs his retirement papers, pictured right, Human Resources Manager Susan Butler couldn't resist taking a photo of the historic moment.



Local 9/11 ceremony recognizes first responders



McDougald Funeral Home thanked first responders with a 9/11 service and dinner.

Sherill Bumgarner, owner of McDougald Funeral Home, and his staff organized and hosted a dinner and program September 10 for all Scotland County first responders and their families in memory of those who died in the events that took place on September 11, 2001, and in recognition of all first responders.

The dinner and service at the National Guard Armory was attended by more than 200 people representing all County and City fire departments, the Sheriff's office, Laurinburg Police Department, the Rescue Squad, Scotland County EMS and Scotland County 911 Communications.

Agency heads shared comments. Special guest speaker was retired General Paul Tate of the U.S. Army.

The service was well attended and a fitting memorial to those who lost their lives on 9/11.

Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS

United Way grant helps with football helmet purchase

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by using a system of checks and balances to be reviewed on an annual basis so we know in the future not to put items off like this to the point where they become a big part of our budget."

Graham explained. "That way we can ensure if we do have an issue we can minimize it instead of it becoming a potential big expenditure."

He said, "Providing an excellent product for youth in the County is a win-win for everyone. We look forward to creating a safe environment for football."

The life of a football helmet is about 10 years but they can be updated on a semi-annual basis to prolong the life of the helmet.

D.C. visit gets positive result for hometown project

A letter of support from Congressman Richard Hudson helped bring about a positive notification from the FAA for a local economic development project application.

That was one of several good things that came out of a recent visit to Washington, D.C., by a delegation of Scotland County officials.

The delegation met personally with Hudson, Congressman Robert Pittenger and staff from Senator Richard Burr's office.

"This is about building relationships and making sure we have the contacts that we need when we have issues that require some federal action," explained County Manager Kevin Patterson, who joined the local delegation on the D.C. trip.

Commenting on the positive FAA outcome, Patterson said, "Whenever you have a Congressman's support behind something, it's never a bad thing."

Patterson added, "Talking about workforce development with elected officials and their staff was a common theme on our side. Workforce development is a blend of federal and State programs. When you take a program that's designed statewide, it may be the best attempt at statewide, but you're still going to have to modify that for it to be effective in our community and to customize something that will be better for us."

Patterson said that's why the delegation discussed how workforce development dollars could be effectively utilized in Scotland County.

While there, the delegation invited Pittenger to pay another visit to the County so the general public could meet and talk with him.

Pittenger is slated to become the Congressman for the 9th district, which includes Scotland County. That will occur when the next Congress is sworn in.

Because Pittenger's district will be more geographically spread out, he might not have a fixed office in Scotland County. Instead, he will have someone travel throughout the district.

"We discussed making space available for Pittenger's representative at the SBIC to use as a home base whenever they're in the County," Patterson said.

Post Scripts

The following individuals joined Scotland County departments between July 16 and August 15: **Erica Lee** and **Faith Cox**, E-911 Center; **James Marston**, Jail; **Alecia Ratliff**, **Cherie Jackson**, **Melissa Bennett** and **Shakara Beals**, DSS; and **Bridgett Sampson**, Wagram Recreation Complex.

Davis earns Master level credits

Scotland County Commissioner Bob Davis was recognized by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) for meeting the requirements for the Master level in the Local Elected Leaders Academy (LELA).

A Master has completed a minimum of 66 credits (18 orientation credits plus 30 focused in-depth credits plus 18 elective credits) of continuing education since becoming a county commissioner.

The Local Elected Leaders Academy, a partnership with the UNC School of Government, the NCACC and the N.C. League of Municipalities, offers local elected officials the knowledge and skills needed to lead and govern their communities.

County commissioners are recognized for their participation in both educational programs and service to the Association.

The starting place for earning credits is the orientation program, the Essentials of County Government. As commissioners increase education and service, they earn credits toward recognition at three levels: Practitioner, Master and Mentor. The NCACC tracks credits and recognizes participation every year at the Annual Conference.

"The Academy is designed to help commissioners by improving their knowledge of the issues and their leadership skills," said NCACC Executive Director Kevin Leonard. "A commissioner who achieves recognition through LELA has shown a true commitment to their personal development and to their constituents back home."



Bob Davis

Girl Scouts 'sweep' annual fall event



Some Girl Scout members carried bags full of litter that were bigger than they were.

Eleven teams picked up 1,494 pounds of litter from 21 roads throughout the County during the 2016 Fall Litter Sweep.

Girl Scout Troop 1723 picked up the most trash — 628 pounds — earning the first place King of the Mountain award for a \$200 cash prize.

Girl Scout Troop 1723 also earned first place King of the Mountain for the 2015 Spring and Fall Litter Sweep events.

Second place went to the C&NWagrag-Robert McLaughlin team for 212 pounds and a \$100 cash prize.

"We'd like to thank all the teams who participated and everyone who contributed to this and made it a success," said Solid Waste Enforcement Officer J.R. Horne, who serves on the Chamber of Commerce Green Team, sponsor of the event.

Forum touts academic successes

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three together and are integral to the success of students and the community.

In 2010 RCC was 42nd out of 58 in total enrollment. Today it is 29th. "As we've been growing, other colleges have declined," McInnis said.

At the RCC Honeycutt Center in Scotland County, HVAC is full to capacity and a second shift was added. The Practical Nursing program had a 100 percent passage rate in the State Nursing Boards.

811 County residents are enrolled in credit programs at RCC, which matches the all-time high from two years ago and a significant increase from the fall of 2009. Early College enrollment is credited for much of that growth. RCC's Dual Enrollment Program went from 10 in 2009 to the current 212.

McInnis said it's about completion more than enrollment. In 2010 RCC awarded 265 certificates and degrees compared to 762 in 2016.

the October birthday list

2 Beth Hobbs (Administration); **3** Angela Taylor (Parks and Recreation) and Shannon Newton (Cooperative Extension); **4** Timothy Haggans (Public Works) and Angela Belcher (DSS); **5** Priscilla Bryant (Health); **7** Michael Sanders (EMS); **8** Michirena Lowry (Health) and Bobby Lowery (DSS); **9** Bridgett Sampson (Wagram Recreation Complex); **11** Roy Chavis (EMS) and Linda Gibson (Health); **13** Jamie Hunt (Parks and Recreation), Anne Griffin (Sheriff) and Kim Brayboy (Tax); **16** Kisha Locklear (Health); **18** Steven Wilburn (EMS) and Chad Haywood (Sheriff); **20** Michelle Locklear (Sheriff); **21** Adam Long (EMS), William McIlwain (Sheriff) and Frances McLean (DSS); **22** Rachel Beach (Tax); **23** Sharon Maag (Inspections); **24** Joshua Outlaw (Parks and Recreation); **25** Debra Maske (Health); **26** Dana Bethea (Jail); **28** Veronica Locklear (Tax); **29** Thomas Milligan (Inspections); **30** Kristie Johnson (DSS); **31** Antonia Rainer (DSS).

Our condolences to ...

Helen Darton, DSS retiree, on the recent passing of her grandson; **Twanna McRimmon**, DSS, on the September 4 passing of her grandmother Sarah McRimmon; the family of **Susan "Suzie" Smith**, DSS retiree, who passed away September 26.

Kersey attends national training institute

Sheriff Ralph Kersey participated in the 111th session of the National Sheriffs' Institute (NSI) held in Aurora, Colorado, September 19 to 23. He is the first sheriff of Scotland County to graduate from the NSI.

The NSI is the only national executive development program designed for sheriffs. The no-cost program is co-sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA).

Kersey joined 28 other sheriffs from across the country for training on challenges facing America's sheriffs today. They explored the role of the local sheriff in providing effective leadership in such areas as public safety, criminal justice system policy, community relations, and organization effectiveness and efficiency.

Hilary Burgess, NSA Manager of Training, said, "It is an honor to have Sheriff Kersey join the more than 2,800 graduates of the NSI since 1973."

The NIC is a division of the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, and is the primary federal source of technical assistance, training, and information services for state and local corrections. NIC provides a wide variety of services to the nation's jails, most of which are the responsibility of sheriffs.

The NSA is a non-profit professional association in Alexandria, Virginia. NSA represents the nearly 3,100 elected sheriffs across the nation and has more than 20,000 members, including law enforcement professionals, state and federal government employees, concerned citizens, students and others.

Grant to help find elderly

The Sheriff's Department received a \$7,070 anonymous grant to launch Project Lifesaver (PLI) here, a program designed to better protect and serve the elderly and people who might go missing due to memory disorders.

Citizens enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small personal transmitter around the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal. Sheriff's Department officers will be trained to operate and read the transmitting equipment.

If an enrolled client goes missing, the caregiver notifies their local Project Lifesaver agency, and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer's area.

Most who wander are found within a few miles from home, and search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes.

Recovery times for PLI clients average 30 minutes — 95 percent less time than standard operations.

The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism and other related conditions or disorders.

City welcomes new Engine 11



There's a new Engine 11 for the City of Laurinburg. It's a Deep South pumper Scotland County purchased to replace the 1996 Engine 11.

The Laurinburg Fire Department uses the engine to provide fire service coverage for County residents in the Central Scotland Rural Fire District on the north side of Laurinburg.

The former Engine 11 will be relocated to the South Scotland Fire District substation when it gets built. Until that happens, it has not been determined where the old engine will be housed.

Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS

Junior Service League donates children's furniture to the library

Staff of Scotland County Memorial Library express their gratitude to members of the Laurinburg Junior Service League.

Through the generous use of their time, talents and resources the library was the beneficiary of a generous gift of children furniture.

"The new furniture truly makes the wonderful addition to the library's ability to provide a safe, enjoyable place for Scotland County children to use while in the library," said Library Director Leon Gyles.

Picture at right, Gyles and Youth Services Librarian Denise Dunn get comfortable on the children's furniture.



Verizon eyes communications tower service

Verizon Communications has shown interest in leasing space on the County's 350-foot communications tower to provide commercial cellular service in Laurinburg and Scotland County.

Verizon has contracted with a tower communications company, Engineered Tower Solutions (ETS), to evaluate the current status of the tower.

Pictured are two of ET's technical staff who were on site this month to climb and perform the evaluation on the tower.

Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS



Day of Caring attracts help

About 20 employees donated a few hours of their workday September 9 to participate in the 2016 United Way Day of Caring.

The countywide event brings together hundreds of volunteers who lend a helping hand at the 19 agencies supported by United Way.

At the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center, for instance, pictured from left, DSS's Jennifer McArthur, Roxanne Douglas and Rosemary McKeithan, help DVRCC Director Sharon Armstrong, in front, put items together for family care boxes, sort donated items and assemble training books.

The Day of Caring combines service, volunteerism and community spirit. The focus is on serving others and building the community, making it a better place for everyone to live.

