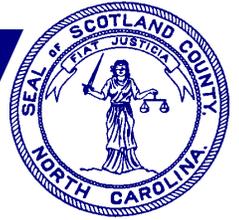


Scotland County

Monthly



APRIL 2013

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

State lawmakers respond to concerns by County officials

Commissioners and County staff asked area state legislators to help close the gap between rural North Carolina and its metropolitan counterpart.

The request was made during an informal meeting April 5 with Senator Gene McLaurin and Representatives Ken Goodman and Garland Pierce.

The meeting was attended by Chairman Guy McCook, Vice Chair Carol McCall, Commissioner Bob Davis, County Manager Kevin Patterson and a number of department heads, the business community and Laurinburg City elected officials.

Patterson said a proposed reduction in funding to the Rural Center and GoldenLEAF are of particular concern since the two agencies support efforts by rural communities to create jobs and attract business.

Patterson said since 2000 Scotland County, the City of Laurinburg, Laurinburg-Maxton Airport and the Chamber of Commerce received more than \$5.6 million from the Rural Center alone to fund programs that create jobs and improve the tax base.

Governor Pat McCrory, in his budget, proposes to cut \$10 million from the Rural Center, which is 60 percent of its annual budget. In the Governor's proposed budget GoldenLEAF might see a reduction of \$65 million.

Goodman said, "I think the Rural Center funding will be restored. There are many Republicans concerned about that, too."

Economic Development Director Greg Icard said the FCC expansion was made possible by \$3.9 million in grants from four agencies, GoldenLEAF and Rural Center among them.

McCook added, pointing to the Richmond Community College campus, within view of the 507 West Covington Street administration building, "RCC and the Honeycutt Center are examples of the Rural Center and GoldenLEAF funneling monies back into communities. That's how we grow."

Davis added that the Small Business Innovation Center was made possible with funding assistance from Rural Center and GoldenLEAF. Davis also expressed concern with \$42 million in proposed cuts to community colleges. "Job training here is dependent on RCC."

McLaurin said, "We're fighting hard to restore those funds, and it is a major priority."



A homemade raft race will be the highlight of Chalk Banks Challenge and River Festival.

[see Rural, page 4](#)

May 18 competition, festivities commence at Chalk Banks

The 2013 Chalk Banks Challenge and River Festival will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at the Chalk Banks Access Area at the Lumber River in Wagram.

Contestants are invited to compete in raft, recreational canoe and kayak races. A 5k run can be added to the end of the canoe/kayak race as part of a water/land biathlon.

The homemade raft race will be the highlight of the day. A Scotland County tradition, raft races will be divided into two classes: single person and group (two or more people).

All rafts must be homemade and may not be motorized in any way. Trophies will be awarded to the winners.

New this year will be the addition of a Kid's Olympics, which includes a wet t-shirt contest, hollering contest and bubble gum blowing event.

The day also will feature the presentation of winners of the 1st Annual Chalk Banks Poster Contest.

[see Races, page 3](#)

Laurinburg After Five kicks off



Laurinburg After Five kicked off its 2013 season at a new location at the Morgan Recreation Center. The event previously was held at St. Andrews University.

Crediting its sponsor in the title, the Murphy-Brown Laurinburg After Five 2013 season boasts numerous firsts starting with the featured entertainment — Too Much Sylvia — pictured above.

This year's event promises to enhance its family friendly environment since it is located next to the playground and Splash Pad and will provide permanent restroom facilities.

PostScripts

The achievements of Franklin Emanuel Leaven, Jr., son of **Frances Moody**, Health, were featured in the Winter 2013 edition of the *National Society of Black Engineers* magazine. Leaven, who is associated with GE Transportation, helps others on the Leadership Path. "I am able to share the knowledge that I have acquired over the years to help new leadership program members learn about the career navigation process at GE," he said. ☘ Welcome to **Kimmy Cannady**, who joined the Department of Social Services.

Our condolences to ...

Joan Walters, DSS, on the April 10 passing of her father; **Shekesha McPhatter**, DSS, on the April 19 passing of her great-grandmother and **Amber Watson**, EMS, on the passing of her father, Angus Watson.

the Birthday list for May

2 James McQueen and Rebekah Oxendine (DSS); **4** Teresa Vick and Tosha McQueen (DSS); **6** Ryan Jones (EMS); **9** James McQueen and Willie Peterkin (Transportation); **10** Mike McGirt (Public Buildings) and Michelle McRae (DSS); **11** Nancy Bostick (Administration) and Trina Locklear and Stephanie Berry (DSS); **12** Crystal Norton (Register of Deeds); **14** Dontae Roland (EMS) and Daniel McClellan (Sheriff); **15** Jonathan Taylor (EMS) and Roxanne Douglas (DSS); **17** Scott Jacobs (Sheriff) and Morgan Richardson (Health); **18** Rebecca Griffin (DSS) and Clarence McPhatter (Commissioner); **19** Sarah Craig (DSS) and Keith Faulk (Public Buildings); **20** Billie Phillips (Tax), Tony Smith (Sheriff) and Christopher Littles (Parks and Recreation); **21** Carol Quick (DSS) and Bob Davis (Commissioner); **24** Pearlene Leggett (Health); **25** Gail Jackson (Jail); **26** Jennifer Taylor (Health); **29** Dennis Currie (EMS) and Antoinette Gibson (Sheriff); **31** Wayne Mace (EMS).

Free tax assistance service logs record year

350 taxpayers received free service during the 2013 tax season, up 18 percent from the previous year when 283 taxpayers were served.

The free service is made available through AARP Tax Aide, Parks and Recreation and Scotland County Memorial Library.

310 federal returns were e-filed, up 26 percent from last year when 246 were e-filed. Total returns processed were 334, compared to 283 in 2011.

"This is the 14th year that Parks and Recreation has participated in the program," said Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Newton. "The partnership between Parks and Recreation and the Library is beneficial to the community as we are able to provide a much-needed service to our citizens."

Newton added, "The community should be very appreciative of those volunteers who come from Moore County to help our citizens. We certainly are glad they take the time for the training in order to provide service to our community."



Chamber hosts legislators

Representative Garland Pierce reviews his notes before speaking to an estimated 50 people at a legislative breakfast hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Pierce, Representative Ken Goodman and Senator Gene McLaurin discussed State budget negotiations and their attempts to preserve funding for education, economic development and training the workforce.

World Book Night U.S. encourages reading through one-day free book give away

Scotland County Memorial Library on April 23 joined forces with 25,000 other volunteers from Berkeley to Baltimore and Sitka to Sarasota to give away 500,000 free books in more than 6,000 towns and cities across the country.

World Book Night U.S. is an ambitious campaign to give thousands of free, specially printed paperbacks to light or nonreaders across America in one day. Volunteer book lovers help promote reading by going out into their communities and sharing free copies of books they love and to seek out those without the means or access to printed books.

Volunteers in Scotland County picked up their books at the library and shared them in locations as diverse as Scotland Memorial Hospital, grocery stores, shopping centers, food pantries and elsewhere. This is the second year the library has partnered with World Book Night U.S.

McCook meets NC official



Chairman Guy McCook speaks with Secretary of Commerce Sharon Decker during the annual Southeastern Economic Development Commission banquet/luncheon in Elizabethtown. Photo by Greg Icard, Economic Development.

The books were chosen by an independent panel of booksellers and librarians through several rounds of voting. Printing the free books was possible due to the generosity of the authors, publishers and book manufacturing companies.

Of the 30 World Book Night titles available, the staff of Scotland County Memorial Library gave away the following titles: *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Tracy Chevalier (Plume/Penguin Group (USA)); *Playing for Pizza*, John Grisham (Bantam/Random House); *Montana Sky*, Nora Roberts (Berkley/Penguin Group (USA)) and *Look Again*, Lisa Scottoline (St. Martin's).

Library Director Leon Gyles said, "The bookmobile and staff members were out and about the City and County giving residents free books to help encourage folks to read. This is just one way of many the library staff gives back to the community."

Water races and homemade rafts are featured in the challenge

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There will be a raffle for first prize, a \$300 kayak, and second prize, a \$100 gas card from Nic's Pic Kwik. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. Tickets may be purchased at the Laurinburg Chamber of Commerce, Morgan Complex Recreation Center on Turnpike Road, the Wagram Town Center or by calling (910) 280-1644.

Music, food vendors, canoe rides, kids games, demonstrators and nature displays continue throughout the day.

For information on the canoe, kayak and biathlon races, contact Mickey Turlington of the North Carolina Canoe Racing Association at (910)904-1578, email watersafari@aol.com or visit www.chalkbanks.com.

For raft or overall event information, contact the Lumber River State Park at (910) 628-4564 or email at lumber.river@ncmail.net.

Art Contest information is available at your Scotland County school or by calling (910) 277-4364, extension 232.

Chalk Banks Challenge schedule

10 — Festival Opens

10:15 — Welcome and Kick-off

10 to 11 — Continued registration (canoe, kayak, raft)

11 — Raft races begin (put in at Chalk Banks, finish at Highway 401)

11:30 — Start canoe and kayak races (single and tandem). Paddlers put in at Turnpike Road and race to Chalk Banks. 5k run follows for biathlon competitors.

12:15 — Kid's Olympics begin

1 — Art Contest winners announced and prizes awarded

2:30 — Awards and raffle drawing

Hammond deals cards for a cause



EMS Director Roylin Hammond dons a cowboy hat and a western persona to deal cards at the blackjack table. It was all for a good cause, to raise money for the area American Red Cross during its annual Celebrity Dinner and Game Night March 16. Photo by Tommy Hatcher, EMS, retired.

Counties employ more than 3.2 million Americans delivering a variety of services including health care, transportation, public safety and jails, economic development, 911 emergency systems, recycling and solid waste management, parks and recreation, elections and community colleges.

News of Note

Healthy living for a lifetime promoted



The Healthy Living For a Lifetime Health Fair, above, sponsored by Farm Bureau of NC and partnered with the Department of Public Health, set up its service at the WalMart parking lot April 10. The day-long fair offered cholesterol, blood glucose, blood pressure, body mass index and bone density screenings. Medical staff determined eligibility for a vascular ultrasound at the screening event.

Blood Drive a success

The March 26 American Red Cross Blood Drive surpassed its goal by two units with 22 pints of blood collected. According to Human Resources Manager Susan Butler, "27 people were scheduled and there were 22 productive units given." Of the 27 who donated, there were 18 County employees and nine people from the community, one of whom is a County retiree. Butler added, "The community donors were the key in helping to meet our goal of at least 20 units."

Early skin cancer detection is important

May is National Skin Cancer Detection and Awareness Month. You can reduce your risk of skin cancer by limiting or avoiding exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Checking your skin for suspicious changes can help detect skin cancer at its earliest stages. Early detection of skin cancer gives you the greatest chance for successful skin cancer treatment. Skin cancers — including melanoma, basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma — often start as changes to your skin. They can be new growths or precancerous lesions — changes that are not cancer but could become cancer over time. An estimated 40 percent to 50 percent of fair-skinned people who live to be 65 will develop at least one skin cancer. Learn to spot the early warning signs. Skin cancer can be cured if it's found and treated early.

4-H presents robotics techniques

4-H Agent Angela Galloway attended a Legos® robotics orientation presented by Dr. Misty Blue Terry, STEM specialist of NC A&T State University. Galloway then provided an interactive Legos® robotics demonstration during the annual Sunday in the Park April 21. Youth used counting and math skills to determine the time of movement of the robots and design the path of each robot.

QuitlineNC designed to help tobacco users

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is providing extra help for tobacco users who want to quit for good.

QuitlineNC, the State's toll-free telephone and online support service to help tobacco users quit, is making nicotine replacement therapy (patches, gum or lozenges) available at no cost while supplies last for North Carolina residents who enroll in quit coaching.

"Tobacco use causes serious diseases that shorten life," said DHHS Secretary Aldona Vos, M.D. "We want to support the efforts of smokers and other tobacco users who choose to take responsibility for their own health by quitting."

North Carolinians ready to quit smoking may call QuitlineNC at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or visit www.quitlinenc.com to sign up for the over-the-counter medication and support.

QuitlineNC telephone service is offered in English and Spanish, with translation services available for other languages.

North Carolina tobacco users can receive a limited supply of free nicotine replacement therapy after they enroll with QuitlineNC for a four-call program.

Each enrollee will develop a personalized quit plan with a quit coach. The supply of medication available to each individual varies, depending on insurance coverage, and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Health officials say the combination of Quitline support and medication is a proven way to increase the odds that tobacco users will quit for good.

"Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) has been proven in well-designed research studies to significantly increase quit rates, especially when used in combination with cessation counseling such as QuitlineNC provides," Vos said.

QuitlineNC has provided North Carolina tobacco users with quit coaching since 2005. More than 23,000 people used the service during 2012.

Counties fund and oversee more than 112,000 polling places and coordinate 700,000 poll workers every two years. Counties provide flu shots and other preventive health services through 1,947 departments of public health. There are 3,105 county sheriff and police departments nationwide. 11.8 million persons were admitted to county jails in 2011.

Rural counties seek legislative support

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The three legislators said their sentiments are not that different from their Republican colleagues, many of whom represent rural districts and realize the impact the cuts would have on the ability of those counties to thrive.

McLaurin added, "We want to go back to do no harm, and that's what we're focused on right now. North Carolina has a reputation for investing in the State and we should be careful not to cut that investment to the point where people will not want to come here to do business. Cutting funding, especially to community colleges, would be a major step backwards."

The legislators addressed several other issues of concern to the County.

Goodman and McLaurin agreed that tax reform is needed, but they prefer incremental change rather than taking any action that might be drastic and possibly harmful to counties.

Patterson asked the delegation to do what it could to restore the distribution of lottery funds for school capital to its full funding level.

Patterson said over the past three years the County lost more than \$300,000 annually.

Patterson said with the reduction in lottery funds, the County has managed to cover the bond costs on the Wagram School expansion, but there is little else available to address school capital needs.

From a budgeting perspective, Patterson asked that North Carolina hold counties harmless so the County would not have to rely on property taxes in order for the State to balance its budget.

New State Park 1.5-mile trail opens window to additional wildlife habitats

by Roylin Hammond, EMS

State Park officials and a group of local park visitors ignored the rainy weather March 23 so they could attend the ribbon cutting of the new 1.5-mile section of the loop trail at the Lumber River State Park.



Photo by Tommy Hatcher, EMS, retired

The trail, partially funded through a SPARK PLUG grant offered through Blue Cross/Blue Shield, connected an existing 1.5-mile long trail along the river bank to several other park habitats previously not accessible to park visitors.

Through the dedicated work of the State Park staff and the funding made available through the SPARK PLUG grant, the new trail crosses over wetland areas and creates a loop trail totaling three miles.

It allows hikers to enjoy additional wildlife habitats while not having to backtrack over the river bank trail.

The new trail gives hikers more than five miles of trails to enjoy when they visit the park.

Park Ranger Eric Siratt (**pictured**) lead those who attended the ribbon cutting on a tour of the new section of the trail.

The new trail may also be used on the biathlon portion of the Chalk Bank

Challenge kayak, canoe and homemade raft race Saturday, May 18. The event is free to spectators and offers attractions for all ages.