

Scotland County

Monthly



JULY 2013

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

Officials approve 24-hours of bonus leave for employees

For the fifth consecutive year, the Board of Commissioners approved 24 hours, or three days, of bonus leave for County employees.

Most employees will take that leave during the holidays, either the week of Christmas or the week after Christmas leading up to New Year's day.

Because the Christmas holidays are December 24, 25 and 26, which is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, County Manager Kevin Patterson recommended that County offices for most departments be closed Friday, December 27.

Patterson suggested that department supervisors schedule what two remaining days would be taken off after consulting with staff.

The suggested dates would be Friday December 20 and Monday, December 23 with a return to work Monday, December 30, or Monday and Tuesday, December 30 and 31 with a return to work January 2.

Not all departments will have this option. The Sheriff and Jail and EMS must remain open and would schedule time off with each employee.

Patterson said for the remaining departments, the choice of alternative dates would mean most County offices would remain open although staffing might be limited.

Departments are asked to send their days off selection to Patterson so a comprehensive schedule could be presented to Commissioners in August.

At least four major hurricanes predicted for 2013 season

by Roylin Hammond, EMS

The 2013 annual hurricane meeting held July 16 at the Scotland County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) on Cronly Street played host to 46 of the County's local partners. The group reviewed past hurricane data and took a look at the current 2013 hurricane predictions for the State.

The forecast for hurricane season this year predicts 18 named events, of which nine are predicted to be of hurricane strength with winds of at least 74 miles per hour. Of those nine hurricanes, four are predicted to be major hurricanes with winds in excess of 110 miles per hour.

There is a 44 percent chance a hurricane will impact North Carolina in the 2013 season. The season runs from June 1 to November 30.

A representative with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association had previously warned that tropical storm and hurricane

Vehicle tag and tax on the way

If your vehicle registration is due in September, you will be among the first to receive both registration and vehicle tax in one bill. As part of the new Tag and Tax Together Program, it will be the only way your registration will be renewed.

Notices for the State's new program will be mailed to drivers in September and will include the registration fee and tax bill.

Tag renewals and tax payments must be paid in full to renew vehicle registration. Vehicle owners used to pay tags and taxes separately.

The tag and tax program will include all North Carolina vehicle owners by mid-2014.

After the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles receives the entire tax and registration payment, it will renew the vehicle registration and forward the property tax portion of the payment directly to counties.

The Tag and Tax Together program affects vehicle tax only and not mortgage or property tax.

Vehicle tax will be due at the same time vehicle registration is due. The due date will be printed on the new renewal notice sent in the mail.

The annual renewal registration fees will remain the same. The increase in the bill is due to the addition of the vehicle property tax.

No owner will have to pay taxes twice in the same tax year for the same vehicle. The property tax year on your vehicle begins the first month after your previous registration expires.

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impacts are not limited to the coastline. "Strong winds, torrential rain, flooding and tornadoes often threaten inland areas (like Scotland County) far from where the storm first makes landfall."

Emergency Management officials reminded participants that all the predictions are just that — predictions — and really don't mean a thing. It only takes one hurricane to impact an area and create vast devastation.

The point to take away here is one should always be prepared for an emergency situation, such as a hurricane, and know what action to take to protect yourself and your family in the face of this, or any type disaster.

Attendees also received information -on the County's Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and the new EOC/911 call center that will built on West Boulevard at the County Complex.

Information on how to prepare for a hurricane can be found at ready.gov/hurricanes

Our condolences to ...

Susan Butler, Administration, on the July 4 passing of her husband, Richard Duval Butler. **Iris Hamilton**, Parks and Recreation, on the July 6 passing of her grandmother, Ida H. Campbell. **Carolyn Allen**, DSS, on the recent passing of her mother.

the Birthday list for August

1 Willie Hunt (Public Works) and Kimberly Foy (Jail); 3 Amanda Taylor (Cooperative Extension); 4 Daniel Dockery (Planning Board) and Hazel McPhatter (Cooperative Extension); 5 Mike McQueen and Megan Strup (EMS); 8 Bobby Horne (Public Works) and Amber Morrison (Jail); 9 Jimmy Covington (Library); 12 Janet Mudd (DSS); 13 Catherine Bailey (Health); 14 Kevin Strickland (EMS) and Joan Alford (DSS); 15 Dell Parker (Elections) and Robert Williams (Transportation); 18 Tina Phillips (DSS); 20 Stephanie Palmer (DSS) and James Pruitte (Parks and Recreation); 21 Charles Todd (Health Board); 22 Towana Harrington (DSS); 25 Stephanie Bennett (DSS); 28 Tenita Bullard (IT); 29 Mitch Johnson and Marcus Brown (Sheriff); 30 Robert Wray (Sheriff) and Kimberly McRae (DSS); 31 Katherine Caulder and Carolyn Walls (DSS) and Mark Dombrosky (IT).

Introductions & transitions

New employees with Scotland County since May 16 are **Bruce Hasty**, **Megan Strup** and **Misty Dial**, part-time with EMS; **Umeko Terry**, Health Board member; **Jimmy Covington**, part-time with the Library; **Jeremy Locklear**, part-time with Parks and Recreation; **Victor Womack**, Public Buildings; **Joy Hine**, DSS; and **Brittany Gibson**, **Kimberly Bridgeman** and **Shanice Vinson**, temporary with the Splash Pad. Congratulations to **Tim Martin**, who transitions from Administration as Accounting Technician to Accounting Specialist for the Health Department.

Summer Health and Safety Tip: Never leave a child alone in a car — not even for a minute. Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death. It only takes minutes for a vehicle to reach dangerous and fatal temperatures, especially for children and older adults. **Source: Scotland County Department of Public Health facebook page.** Likewise, a word of warning from the Humane Society, leaving pets alone in the car can be deadly for them as well.

Whale sighting part of cruise to Alaska



Gracie Rettig, Transportation, admits that watching all the shows on television inspired her and her husband, Gary, to take a two-week cruise to Alaska.

Rettig and her husband enjoy the outdoors, watching animals in the wild and fishing, in particular, so the cruise was a good fit.

It's not surprising a highlight of the trip was when Rettig caught a 126.8-pound halibut on a fishing excursion in Seward, pictured left.

"I only caught two fish, but I caught the biggest one," Rettig said. "There were all these men and I was the only lady, and they said, 'This lady knows how to fish.'"

The Rettigs went whale watching and have the photo to prove it, pictured bottom left.

While on the cruise they got a close look at the Hubbard Glacier, North America's largest tidewater glacier. "The ship sailed through chunks of ice and all I could think was, 'Please, don't hit one under water like the Titanic,'" joked Rettig.

Blood drive scheduled for August 8

Scotland County will sponsor a blood drive in the administration conference room 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, August 8. If you would like to make an appointment to donate, please contact Linda Holland at lholland@scotlandcounty.org, or call 277-2401.

Appointment times are in 15-minute increments beginning at 12:30 p.m. The last appointments will be scheduled for 4:15 p.m.

"I appreciate your continued support of our blood drives and I encourage you to come out and donate," said Human Resources Manager Susan Butler. "Please make sure you've had a light meal and plenty to drink prior to your appointment. Bring a photo ID and the names of medications you are taking."

Scotland County 2014 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1

Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 20

Good Friday, April 18

Memorial Day, Monday May 26

Independence Day, Friday, July 4

Labor Day, Monday, September 1

Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11

Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28

Christmas, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 24, 25 and 26

NOTE: Holidays listed above are those that will be observed by State employees in 2014

Tag and Tax Together coming in September

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The following is a Q and A from the Tag and Tax Program on the ncdot.gov website.

Do I still need to get my car inspected before I can renew my registration?

Yes. Your vehicle must pass an annual safety and/or emissions inspection before the registration is renewed.

Can I renew my registration without paying my vehicle property tax?

No. Total taxes and registration fees on the vehicle must be paid at the same time.

Are vehicle taxes for the coming year or the previous year?

Taxes due on the combined notice are for the coming year and cover the same period as the vehicle registration.

Will I receive a notice if I have moved since my previous vehicle registration renewal?

If you reported your new address to NCDMV, you should receive your tag and tax notice at your new address. If you did not notify NCDMV of your new address, you may not receive the renewal notice.

If you have moved since your last renewal, your vehicle property tax may need to be recalculated. You will need to visit your local license plate agency to receive a corrected tag and tax fee.

Will I owe vehicle property taxes on a newly purchased vehicle?

Yes. You may pay vehicle property taxes at the time you register your vehicle. However, if you choose not to pay these taxes at the time you register your newly purchased vehicle, you will receive a Limited Registration and Property Tax Notice stating the amount of the vehicle property taxes due. You will receive a limited registration sticker that will expire after 60 days if the vehicle's property taxes are not paid in full.

What will happen if I don't pay the registration and vehicle tax by the due date?

Interest will be charged on late vehicle property tax payments and late registration renewals. Your vehicle will also be subject to citation if it is driven after the tags expire.

Can I pay my vehicle property tax at my county tax office?

Once your vehicle becomes part of the Tag and Tax Together program and you have received the combined notice, you will no longer be able to pay your vehicle tax at your county tax office.



A tale of two buildings

Indian Museum artifacts to be moved

The Historic Properties Commission is the new owner of the Indian Museum and its contents.

"The Indian Museum had seen some decline over the years due to attrition in the economy," said Historic Properties Commission Chairman Philip McRae. "Historic Properties made arrangements through the trustees of the museum to acquire ownership."

The building on Turnpike Road houses a collection of American Indian artifacts. Its limited hours of operation made the collection available to schools, residents and tourists.

About 10 years ago the Indian Museum fell on hard times when funding and private donations dwindled, and it permanently closed.

"All the Scotland County artifacts will be kept in Scotland County," McRae said. "We're not sure what we will do with anything that's not from Scotland County. We may include them in other exhibits. We're planning on moving everything to the John Blue

complex and Scotland County Museum."

He added, "It's probably going to be a little smaller than it is now but hopefully will retain the flavor and historic value we feel like was there."

McRae said Historic Properties intends to honor any commitments that the Indian Museum made regarding some of the items that were donated and some that were loaned.

"The building doesn't have any sentimental value to us," McRae said. "Although there are no plans worked out, Historic Properties will probably dispose of the building and take the funds generated to finance the move of the collection over to the John Blue complex."

Habitat to rehab foreclosed home

A brighter future awaits a home the County foreclosed on earlier this year. The deed to the one-story bungalow at 109 East Vance Street was transferred to Habitat for Humanity. The non-profit plans to rehabilitate the home for occupancy.

County Manager Kevin Patterson at the July regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners provided elected officials three options regarding the property — transfer ownership to Habitat for Humanity, sell it at public auction along with other foreclosed properties the County owns or ask the City of Laurinburg to condemn and demolish the structure.

Patterson recommended that the County transfer ownership to Habitat, since the agency confirmed it could secure its future as a viable property, and the Commissioners agreed.

Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Susan Covington said, "I hope this is the beginning of a transformation process for the City and County, Habitat for Humanity and the families we serve."

Covington added, "Currently we build two new homes per year because we can only afford to build two homes per year. If we had more homes to rehab, we could possibly put more families in homes faster and not have to worry about building new ones." Covington said Habitat currently has funding available to begin immediate renovations.

"The homeowner has to have an income to be able to pay for their homes," Covington explained of the placement process. "Their mortgage payment is about \$400 per month and includes taxes and insurance."



First-ever Terrell Manning football camp attracts hundreds



The first-ever Terrell Manning football camp July 20 attracted 225 players to the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex July 20. The camp was open to children ages 7 to 14.

The camp featured Green Bay Packers linebacker and Scotland County native Manning along with other NFL players who were teammates of Manning at N.C. State — Philadelphia Eagles safety Earl Wolff, Broncos linebacker Nate Irving, Chargers wide receiver Keenan Allen and Redskins cornerback David Amerson.

The event was a fundraiser for the Scotland High School weight room, which is getting new equipment at an estimated cost of \$47,000. The event help raise \$5,700, which the NFL will match up to \$5,000.

After football camp, non-players were also invited to meet the NFL athletes for lunch. Raffle tickets and autographs were available.

Photos by Tommy Hatcher



Clockwise from the top, more than 225 youth gathered for the camp. Manning, at right, signs autographs for fans. Campers look at the display of autographed footballs, jerseys and helmets before they are raffled. All kids who registered for the camp received a t-shirt.

Five facts on when calories do and don't put on the pounds

Americans have a love-hate affair with calories. At any given moment, more than four out of 10 of us say we're on a diet, yet we are eating 300 calories more each day, on average, than we did 20 years ago. Calorie counts sometimes dominate our lives. We choose workouts based on how many calories they burn, shop for calorie bargains at the grocery store and blame holiday calories for our widening waistlines. This true/false segment helps us understand when calories do and don't put on pounds.

1. Women trying to lose weight should eat no fewer than 1,200 calories a day.

True. It's the lowest, yet still safe, calorie level for weight loss. A multivitamin taken daily will fill in some of the nutritional gaps. Extreme dieting on 1,000 calories or less is a recipe for failure. The weight won't stay off. Plus, shedding pounds too quickly can throw your body chemistry off and increase the risk of heart problems and gallstones.

2. Most people have a pretty accurate idea of how many calories they consume.

False. People typically underestimate how much they eat — sometimes by up to 700 calories a day.

3. Excess calories go straight to your hips.

False. They go straight to wherever your genes tell them to go. The decision is genetic, not caloric. A calorie is simply a measure of energy. If you don't need that energy right away, it's stored as glycogen in the liver and muscles. When those storehouses are full, excess calories are warehoused as fat in whatever areas your genes favor.

4. Fat calories pack on pounds faster than carb calories.

True. That is if the calories are excess calories and more than your body needs. It's really easy for your body to convert excess dietary fat into body fat because the process burns as little as three percent of the calories involved. But converting the calories in carbs and protein to fat is far harder and burns up to 23 percent of the calories in the process. That's why excess fat calories bulk you up faster than excess carb calories.

5. Calories eaten at night are more fattening than calories consumed during the day.

False. Calories eaten at night aren't any more fattening. They're just more tempting. During a busy day, you may barely think about food. But when you get home, you're tired, you're hungry, you want to relax, your resistance is down and suddenly, everything looks good. Whether you're contemplating a lovely meal or a quart of ice cream for dinner, it's easy to eat more after dark.