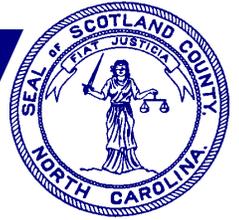


# Scotland County

## Monthly



OCTOBER 2012

A newsletter for the Scotland County community

## Health Fair grade improves among 2012 participants

The overall 2012 Health Fair grade for participants was B with a grade point average of 3.03, up from the B- score and grade point average of 2.79 in 2011.

Fewer participated in the Health Fair this year with 158 compared to 183 employees, retirees and spouses in 2011.

Employees, retirees and employee family members who are part of the FirstCarolinaCare health plan had four separate opportunities to participate in 2012 with one fair at 507 West Covington Street, two in the Health Education Room and one at the Sheriff's Department.

Employees were graded on blood pressure, total cholesterol, body mass index, glucose and tobacco use.

In grades by screening, 47.59 percent participants received an A in blood pressure-systolic and 51.50 percent scored an A in blood pressure-diastolic compared to 48.09 percent and 49.73 percent, respectively, in 2011.

Participants improved in total cholesterol screenings with 78.98 percent graded as A compared to 77.07 percent in 2011.

The glucose screening also improved with 66.03 percent of participants receiving an A compared to 60.66 in 2011.

The percentage of participants not using tobacco was 87.97 percent compared to 81.87 percent in 2011. In 2012, 139 people

*see Health, page 3*

## Service Thread expansion will create 35 additional jobs

Service Thread Manufacturing will expand its operations in Scotland County with \$700,000 in new investment and the addition of 35 jobs.

"The expansion and new equipment will enable Service Thread to nearly double its manufacturing capacities in specially treated yarns for technical sewing applications," said COO/CFO Jay Todd.

Todd credited the expansion to community support and assistance from Economic Developer Greg Icard and the County's Economic Development Corporation (EDC). "They were instrumental in our success. They understand the needs and challenges faced by manufacturing. They work every day to give us a good environment in which to operate."

He added, "The Scotland County Economic Development Corporation along with Scotland County and the City of Laurinburg are terrific partners that contributed greatly to Service Thread's ability to grow and prosper in the local community."

EDC Chair Joyce McDow said, "We feel honored that Service Thread chose to expand in Scotland County. The company has been a viable and valuable presence in our community over the years."

McDow added, "Their expansion supports the company's investment in its workforce, new jobs for potential employees, new capital investment for the County and a working relationship with other entities located here including Richmond Community College."

"Existing industries play a vital role in bringing new jobs. We are excited that Service Thread chose to grow and increase its investment in Scotland County," said Chairman Bob Davis.

"Service Thread is a great company, and this represents a substantial commitment on their part as it looks to significantly increase the current workforce," said Laurinburg City Mayor Tommy Parker.

Icard agreed. "Service Thread invests in its workforce and the entire community. The company has a great leadership team that operates in a very entrepreneurial manner and strives towards innovation on a daily basis. We value the company and support its efforts in any way possible."

Icard stressed the importance of working with all companies in the County.

"Existing companies are a vital part of our local economy as they work to remain competitive and profitable and provide opportunities for citizens."

Icard added, "The expansion announcement validates the local effort to bring new jobs and investment into the County."

Service Thread expects its new manufacturing equipment to be online in the first quarter of 2013.



**Murphy Brown employees earned the King of the Mountain title during the 2012 Fall Litter Sweep. The event, held in the fall and spring, is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce Green Committee. The Murphy Brown team was named King of the Mountain for picking up the most trash. See page 2 to find out just how much trash they collected.**

## 895 pounds collected during Fall Litter Sweep

Employees of Murphy Brown took the title of first place and *King of the Mountain* by collecting 404 pounds of litter during Fall Litter Sweep. The team earned a \$200 prize for the effort.

The East Laurinburg Pentecostal Holiness Church team took second place by collecting 230 pounds, which earned the team a \$100 prize.

Six teams participated in the 2012 Fall Litter Sweep and collected a total of 895 pounds of litter around the County.

"It's good to have community members taking pride in the beautification of our County," said Leroy McIntyre, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Green Committee.

He added, "This is the time of year where we see a lot of new faces in and around the County with the festivals, parades and events. We want to make sure we are looking our best and we want to continue to encourage our residents to be diligent with their recycling efforts."

SolidWaste Enforcement Officer Bobby Horne said there will be a Spring Litter Sweep in April 2013. "I encourage everyone to help combat litter. If you missed the Fall event, there is another opportunity to help clean up our County and win cash prizes in April."

## Cyclists stop at John Blue grounds



**More than 1,000 cyclists stop at the John Blue grounds for rest and refreshments on their way from the Mountains to the Coast. Photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS**

More than 1,000 cyclists from 47 states stopped at the John Blue grounds for food and rest October 4.

As part of the weeklong *Cycle North Carolina* "Mountains to the Coast" tour, participants departed Brevard September 30 on a road trip that concluded October 7 at Carolina Beach.

Before arriving in Laurinburg, the group camped out in Rockingham and made a stop in Laurel Hill for snacks and water.

The rest stop in Laurinburg was organized by the Tourism Development Authority and Habitat for Humanity.

## Sixth graders explore the outdoors, learn about natural resources

*Photo and text by Amy Miller, Soil and Water*

Approximately 460 sixth grade students from Carver, Spring Hill and Sycamore Lane Middle Schools attended the 26th Annual Environmental Field Days October 9 to 11 at Lumber River State Park.

Sponsored by Soil and Water Conservation, students enjoyed the outdoors gathering information on natural resources and how to protect them for future generations.

Environmental stations presented instruction on air quality, water quality, forestry, animal wildlife, honeybees, bats, woodpeckers, recycling and wildlife enforcement.



**Students visit the bat station for a closer look at the nocturnal mammal.**

## News of Note

### Morgan Complex hosts 16-team tournament

September 30 was a great day at the James L. Morgan Recreation Complex with a 16-team baseball tournament and 350 youth soccer players and their families in attendance all day. The visiting teams were complimentary of the Complex. Top Gun Sports rented the softball-baseball fields and were pleased with the turn out. Several of the baseball teams stayed in the local hotels.

### Principal Life rate changes November 1

Principal Life rate will increase November 1 with the deduction in the November 30 payroll check. The County's anniversary date with Principal Life is November 1 and is subject to a rate increase each year. This year the rate remains the same for Supplemental Life in the amount of \$8.63 for \$10,000 of additional coverage for regular employees and \$21.58 for Department Heads and Commissioners for the additional \$25,000 of coverage. The dependent life, however, increased from \$1.81 to \$1.92 for \$3,000 worth of coverage per qualified dependent. If anyone has dependent coverage, you are reminded that children age out at 25. If an employee is carrying dependent coverage and has no spouse and their children have reached the age of 25, it is necessary to get a change form to terminate the dependent coverage.

### Work First unit assists shelter

The DSS Work First Family Assistance unit collected household and personal items from workers in the agency for the better part of 2012. The unit collected paper towels, tissue paper, trash bags, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other household items. In August when the unit learned the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center was low on funds, the items collected were donated to the shelter.

### Our condolences to ...

**Lynda McMillan**, Health, on the October 14 passing of her brother-in-law, William Guy McMillan, and to **Deborah Holcomb**, Register of Deeds, on the October 19 passing of her husband Crowell Holcomb.

## Civil Support Teams train at LMA in advance of Democratic Convention

*Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS*

National Guard units from Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee converged on the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport August 30 to participate in a training exercise. The exercise scenario involved a potential chemical terrorist attack related to an unscheduled airline landing at LMA.



**Civil Support Teams are highly trained personnel that specialize in the detection of extremely hazardous chemical and biological agents.**

communications equipment and very specialized equipment designed to detect the presence of chemical and biological threats to human life.

Scotland County was asked to help support the exercise by providing emergency response from the Sheriff's Department, EMS and the Laurinburg Fire Department.

Each state in the United States has a CST Unit located within their National Guard system. It is a valuable resource available to local Emergency Management offices in each county.

## Patterson defends legislative goals

County Manager Kevin Patterson spent a day in Fayetteville advocating for two legislative goals recommended by the Board of Commissioners.

The biannual process hosted by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is reviewed by four different committees.

Patterson attended the Tax and Finance Committee to represent the County's two goals. "One goal is to seek authority to issue privilege licenses for internet sweepstakes operations," Patterson said. "The other requested payment in lieu of taxes for newly acquired gamelands or wildlife lands."

The Tax and Finance Committee, whose members are County officials, considered 59 recommendations from counties. More than 200 recommendations were submitted overall.

"Both legislative goals submitted by the County were recommended to move forward," Patterson said.

Patterson indicated that payment in lieu of taxes would be an extremely difficult fight because it involves asking the State for money.

He predicted the goal allowing counties to establish franchise fees for internet sweepstakes operations would be better received by the State legislature. "The goal for internet sweepstakes franchise fees has a good chance of making it to the legislative goals short list because it would give counties another avenue to seek local revenue options."

Patterson explained, "One thing the committee looks for are the goals that would likely help most counties."

## Plan will be developed to address recruitment

A cohesive, effective plan to address economic development, define core responsibilities and avoid duplication of effort will be developed by community stakeholders.

The decision comes after four economic summit meetings that brought elected and civic leaders together to discuss their respective roles in attracting business and industry to the area.

Two issues the plan will tackle include a more proactive approach to workforce education and on-the-job training and determine shared benefits of regional recruitment.

The more than 30 individuals who attended the economic summit agreed the County is doing an effective job in business recruitment.

They also agreed that a more concerted effort by community leaders is needed to support the County in recruitment efforts.

Economic Developer Greg Icard said, "The approach to business recruitment is more diversified than ever before."

"It is important to increase the number of jobs by growing entrepreneurial concerns and small businesses in the region," he said. "It also is critical to develop a technically educated and skilled workforce that is prepared for employment."

Icard added that because the workforce in general lacks certain skills, he usually promotes workforce capability and availability within a 60 mile radius when recruiting companies.

The summit group identified three areas that must be addressed in training a workforce: improve job skills and literacy simultaneously, ensure the workforce can pass a drug test regardless of skill level and instill a strong work ethic that is consistent and reliable among those seeking employment.

## Health grade improves

*continued from page 1*

said they do not use tobacco while 19 said they do use some form of tobacco, including cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco.

Participants fell short in body mass index, which indicates whether body weight is healthy in relation to height. Just under 18 percent participants scored an A in body mass index, 31.29 percent graded B and 30.58 percent graded C in 2012. The numbers were not that different in 2011 with 19.18 percent receiving an A in body mass index, 29.87 scoring B and and 29.56 percent graded as C.

Drawings were held after each fair for Chamber of Commerce gift certificates and massages from Bella Aqua Spa. Edna Sherrer, Health, won the grand prize, a \$100 gas card from Nic's Pic Kwik.

## FirstKey tracks benefits info

Health insurance provider FirstCarolinaCare developed a tool that will allow County employees 24/7 access to their pharmacy, claims and benefits information.

The tool, FirstKey, is a free application that can be downloaded to Android phones, iPhones, iPads and iPods. It also is available as a key that connects to a computer USB port.

FirstKey is currently available to County employees and retirees, not spouses or dependents covered through FirstCarolinaCare.

Human Resources Supervisor Susan Butler said the portable nature of the application is particularly useful, especially when visiting the doctor. "You can look up your drugs and claims right in the office." Contact Butler for more information at 277-2403 or sbutler@scotlandcounty.org.

## Proclamation honors veterans



Chairman Bob Davis (U.S. Marines, Korea), seated, center, signed a proclamation honoring veterans for their service. Veterans Day will be observed 11 a.m. Monday, November 12, at Legion Park. The Veterans Memorial will officially open to the public immediately following the observance.

Those who witnessed the signing of the Proclamation were, front row left to right, James W. Hasty, U.S. Army/Air Force, World War II; Davis, Paul McKay, U.S. Navy, World War II. In the back row, left to right, are Mark Dombrosky, U.S. Army, Cold War, Berlin Brigade; Andy Kurtzman, U.S. Navy, Operation Desert Storm; Veterans Service Officer Mildred Williams and Robert Bowen, U.S. Army, Vietnam.

## SCATS profits from tire recall

*Text and photo by Roylin Hammond, EMS*

Recently SCATS (Scotland Area Transit System) was contacted by Haney's Tire and was informed that B.F. Goodrich was recalling 800,000 tires for a possible defect. Some of the tires in question might have been sold to the County for SCATS vehicles.

The tires in question were manufactured during a particular time frame and were 245 R 16, Load Range E, B.F. Goodrich tires. It was determined that at least five SCATS vehicles had that size and make tire and would be eligible for new tire replacement at no cost to the County.

This represents an approximate \$3,300 savings to the County, and will ensure that SCATS vehicles will be traveling on safe tires.



**The recall ensures SCATS passengers will travel on safe tires.**

## One quarter percent sales tax information widely shared



**County Manager Kevin Patterson, right, was the featured guest during WEWO's Wake Up, Scotland County, hosted by Pastor George Ellis.**

October was a particularly busy month for County Manager Kevin Patterson as he traveled countywide to present facts and answer questions about the one quarter percent sales tax referendum.

Patterson was featured on WLNC and WEWO radio and spoke to civic groups, clubs and organizations, the Minister's Association and Ministerial Alliance, veterans, senior citizens and the NAACP.

Several Commissioners also made public presentations to various groups, and Finance Officer Charles Nichols presented the information to elected officials in Wagram and Gibson.

Voters will be asked whether they are for or against a one-quarter percent sales tax on the ballot when they head to the polls.

A one-quarter percent sales tax (one quarter of one penny) would raise more than \$600,000 annually in unrestricted funds for the County. Everyone who shops in Scotland County would pay the sales tax.

The sales tax would not apply to prescriptions, gas, non-prepared food items, utilities and vehicle purchases.

## the Birthday list for November

**1** Charles Blue (Transportation); **2** Roylin Hammond (EMS), Carol McCall (Commissioner) and Nicole Robinson (DSS); **3** Wanda Sheppard (Tax); **4** Angelica Smiling (EMS); **6** Ernest Stephens (Inspections) and Richard Best (Sheriff); **8** Brian Lowry (Health) and Leondra Dial and Joshua Medlin (EMS); **9** Lendo Mason (Transportation); **12** Judy Dubois (DSS) and Wayne Gay (Sheriff); **14** Kelvin Howell (Sheriff); **18** Robert Sampson (EMS), Joy Nolan (Public Works) and Jonathan Smith (Sheriff); **19** Angela Townsend (DSS); **20** Deborah Starr (DSS); **22** Johnny Brown (DSS); **23** Lori Habisch (DSS) and Shep Jones (Sheriff); **24** Adam Liles (Health) and Shannon Mixon (DSS); **25** Ronald McPherson (Public Buildings), Martha Norfleet (Tax) and Katherine Duke (Public Works); **26** Chad Branham (EMS); **27** Larry Herring (Health); **28** Janna Williams and Carolyn Isbell (DSS) and Betsey Ellerbe (Health); **30** Jennifer Byrd (DSS), Corrie Patterson (EMS), Michealle Reece (Health) and James McPhatter (Jail).