

# Americus Times-Recorder

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## Eagle Scout distinction, 110th Congress mark Tuesday Rotary Club

By GENIE COLLINS

genie.collins@gafnews.com  
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AMERICUS — A special distinction and discussions on the actions of government were two topics prevalent at Tuesday's meeting of the Americus Rotary Club.

First, Dr. Ben Andrews and Andrew Taylor with the Chehaw Boy Scouts Council presented state Sen. George Hooks, D-Americus, the distinction of Eagle Scout. In his brief acceptance speech, Hooks said he was glad to get the designation "for the community."

The guest speaker at Tuesday's meeting was U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop, D-Americus, who has served in Congress since 1993.

Having been introduced by Fred Boyles, superintendent of the Andersonville National Historic Site (NHS), Bishop said emotionally that he can think of no other honor that he cherishes than his Eagle Scout Award.

"We no longer have recesses in Congress," Bishop said. "We have district work periods."

He said this is time for legislators to visit organizations and constituents in the dis-



Submitted Photo

Congressman Sanford Bishop was on hand visiting Sumter Regional Hospital's (SRH) interim facility building site. The interim facility, which is made up of COGIM units issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is currently being assembled and is expected to be operational by the end of this year and will serve as the hospital's home until a permanent facility is ready in 2010. Here, SRH Vice President of External Operations/Marketing Comfort Green and SRH President/CEO David Seagraves tour the building site with Bishop. When complete, the facility will be known as Sumter Regional Hospital East and will feature 76-beds, an emergency room, surgery suites and many of the services that were lost after the March 1 tornado.

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# LINK

another \$50 million on the project, which was blamed for quarterly losses. In July, the company cut its fiscal year 2007 revenue estimate after reporting hefty losses related to the Helio project.

The struggles were evident in the company's earnings. EarthLink posted a \$16.3 million loss last quarter, and revenues had dropped three consecutive quarters.

Huff, who was appointed in June, is known by analysts for his willingness to cut loose unprofitable projects. He told reporters after he was named the company's leader that he would conduct a two-month review of the company's businesses aimed at "getting a very focused strategy."

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# HORSES

from this tragedy."

She said Tuesday she didn't exactly know what happened to the remains of the horses, because she asked her husband to oversee the remains. She believed the bodies were taken to an area landfill because local ordinances didn't allow the horses to be buried on the property.

Feltman said she wasn't too sad about the ultimate resting place of horses, because she realizes that the county has laws that everyone must abide by.

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# EAGLE

tricts they represent.

Bishop said he had recently traveled with a delegation of members of the House of Representatives to New Orleans, La. and the U.S. Gulf Coast, areas of the country ravaged approximately two years ago by Hurricane Katrina.

Bishop said they are trying to see what can be done to aid "recovery efforts. It's a very, very devastated area."

Of the 110th Congress, Bishop noted the change in party in both houses of Congress.

"We've tried to change the direction of the country," Bishop said. He added he and his fellow Democrats have tried to ensure a better, more prosperous and safer life for all Americans.

Bishop noted the Iraq Supplemental Bill that funded the war, with requirements to monitor political and economic benchmarks in the country.

With the House Appropriations Bill came funding for first responder training and better security in the nation's airports. The bill also contained legislation to better fund Veterans Affairs (VA), the congressman said.

He said this department faces "a tremendous challenge" with veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, and there aren't enough specially trained people with the VA department to aid these veterans in their recovery.

Bishop spoke of legislation from the 110th Congress that would give public safety employees, such as police officers and firefighters, "collective bargaining" power with wages and benefits.

As for the national security crisis, Bishop said there are not enough scientists, mathematicians and engineers in the country to provide for national security issues. He said later that China had 10 times more of these professionals.

"We are trying to make college more affordable," Bishop said. He spoke of legislation that would increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$500.

Health care continues to be a big topic on both the state and national levels, and Bishop spoke of legislation funding embryonic stem cell research; however, the president vetoed the bill.

"We've tried to reform ethics with the most sweeping ethics reform since Watergate," he said. He also spoke of amendments to the Presidential Records Act and the Free-

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**Genie Collins/Americus Times-Recorder**  
 State Sen. George Hooks, D-Americus, was presented with the Eagle Scout distinction at Tuesday's Rotary Club meeting. Applauding the choice are Andrew Taylor, John Kooti, Ph.D., president of Rotary, and Dr. Ben Andrews. Taylor and Andrews are with the Chehaw Boy Scouts Council, and Taylor is a member of the Americus Rotary Club.

*Vinny is a beautiful Maine Coon that was turned*

*in by his owners along with several other Maine Coons. He has a great personality, very loving and gentle. Please stop by the shelter to see Vinny and you will find out how beautiful and sweet he is.*

## PET OF THE WEEK

**Needs:** Good home, water, shelter and daily attention, Yearly vaccines, including Rabies shot, monthly heart worm preventative, and flea treatment. Cats tested for Feline Leukemia.

**Adoption Cost:** \$85 cats; \$85 dogs - Includes microchip, rabies first shots, worm treatment, mandatory Spay or Neutering, Adoption Kit.

**Contact:** Sumter Humane Society, 702 Magnolia Street, Americus. Phone (229) 924-0268 Open 11:00 am-5:30 pm Monday-Friday • Sat. 11:00 am-4:00 pm • Closed Wed. & Sun.

**Animal Control Officers:** City and County 911

**Find your lost pet on our web site:** [www.sumterhumaneociety.org](http://www.sumterhumaneociety.org)