

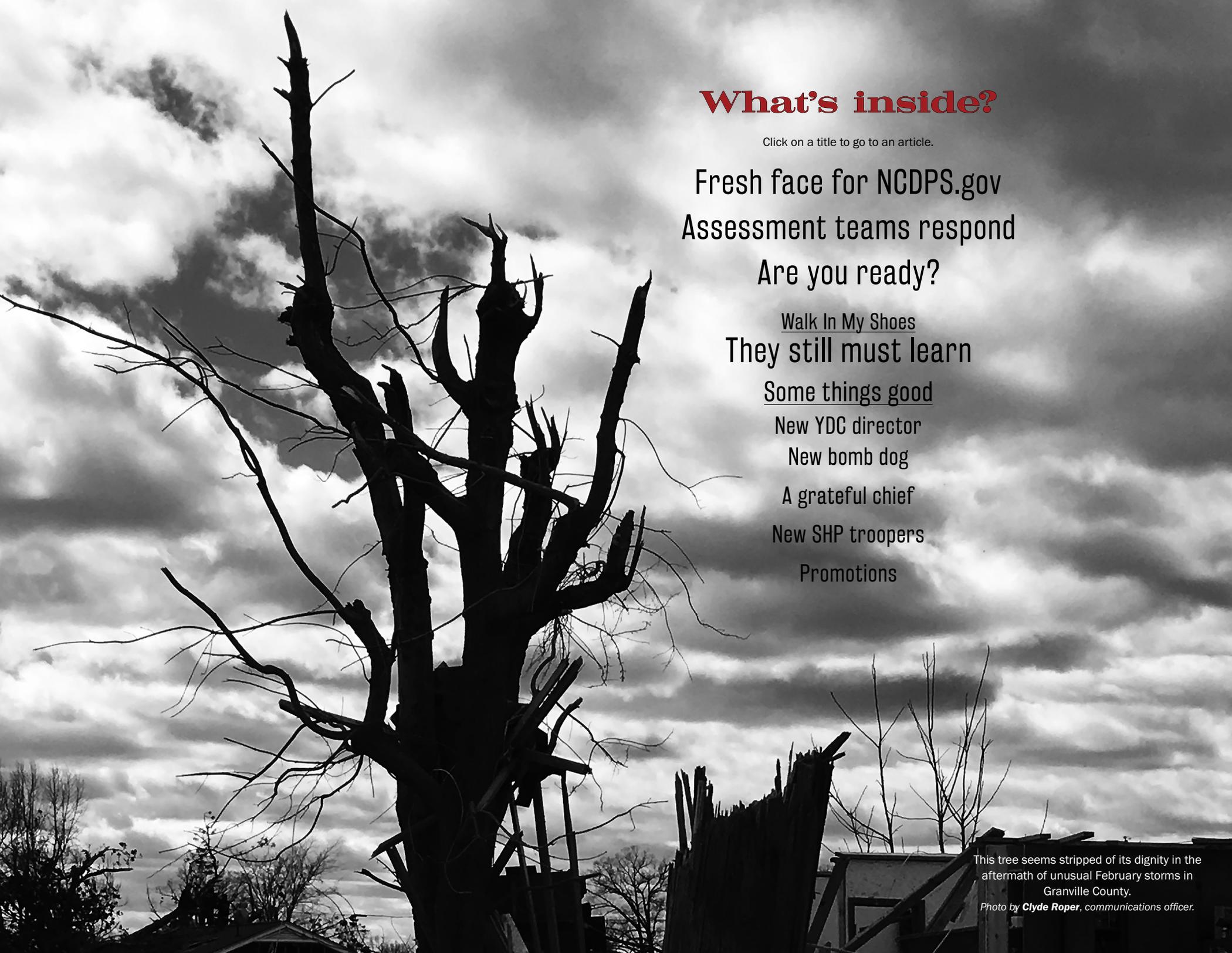
New
look
on the
Web



ON THE **Scene**

MARCH 2016





What's inside?

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New YDC director

New bomb dog

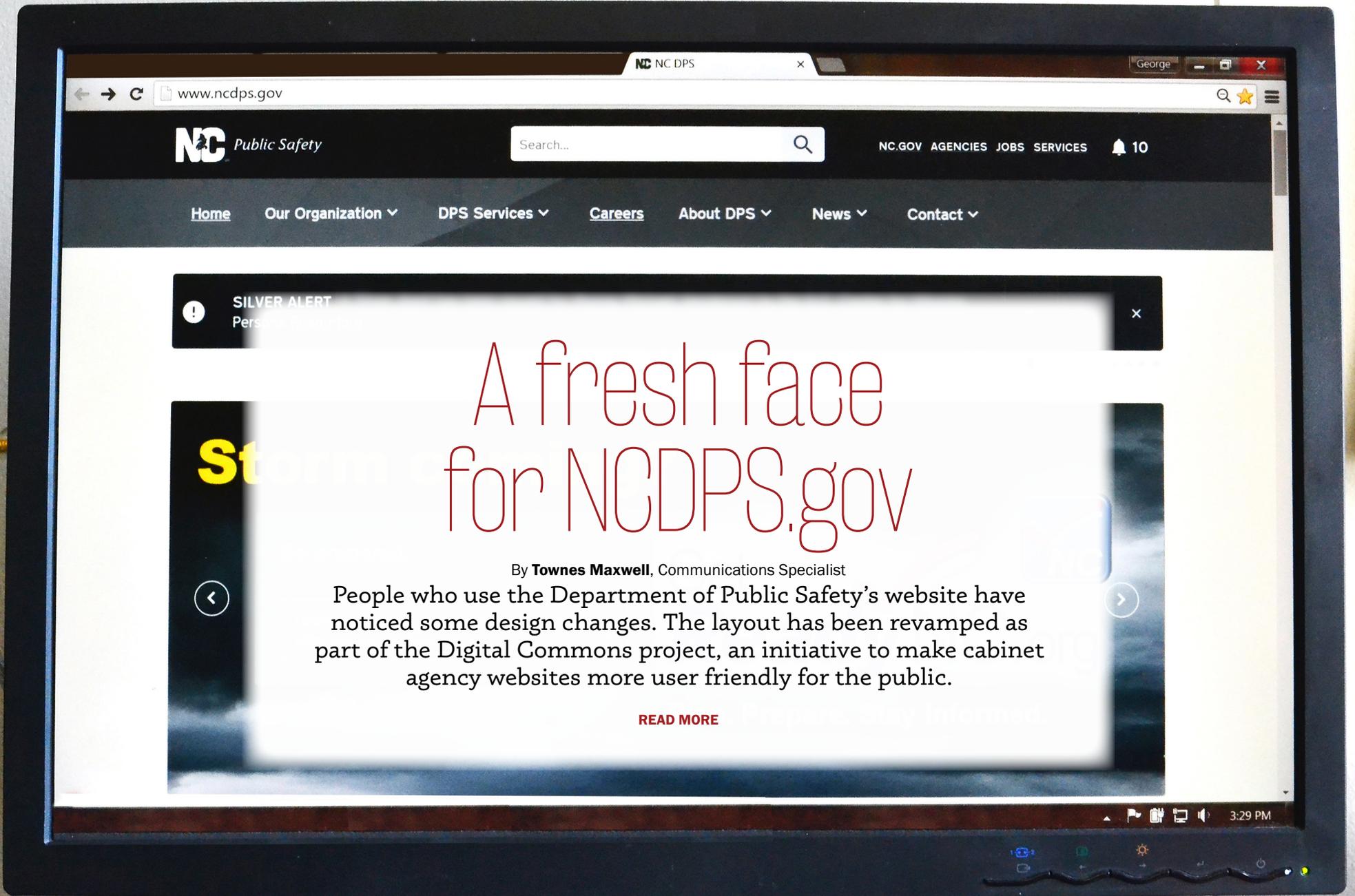
A grateful chief

New SHP troopers

Promotions

This tree seems stripped of its dignity in the aftermath of unusual February storms in Granville County.

Photo by **Clyde Roper**, communications officer.



SILVER ALERT
Personal information...

A fresh face for NCDPS.gov

By **Townes Maxwell**, Communications Specialist

People who use the Department of Public Safety's website have noticed some design changes. The layout has been revamped as part of the Digital Commons project, an initiative to make cabinet agency websites more user friendly for the public.

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Tips and hints to navigate the new website

▶ Employee-related pages can be found by scrolling to the bottom of the home page and clicking on the box to the left labeled “Employee Resources.”

▶ Don’t be afraid of the “Search” function at the top-center of every page. While it may not be perfect, it may help in finding information quickly (if it is not employee related). The search function will improve with time and continuing efforts to make it better.

▶ The most highly used pages by the public have been placed in the “Online Services” box on the home page.

▶ The employee directory is generated from information maintained by BEACON, the nature of which requires restricted access. This link can be used to correct your information:

[Update Directory Data](#)



Employee Resources

Forms, information and resources for Department of Public Safety employees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The pages are designed to be more eye-pleasing and easier for the public to find the information they’re looking for. It also helps instill the state’s “Nothing Compares” brand.

Digital Commons has been underway across state government for more than a year, according to **Diana Kees**, DPS public relations manager.

“Through the Digital Commons project, the Department of Information Technology is ensuring that all cabinet agency websites have the same look and feel, so that the public can more easily navigate throughout state government websites,” Kees said. “On each site, they’ll encounter the same menu bars and basic design, making it easier to know where they should go.”

The general public and department stakeholders are the main audience for the new DPS website.

“Anything that is meant for the public is on the new website,” Kees said.

“Information and documents meant only for employee use, such as travel forms or human resource documents, exist on the old website, with a new URL, which will serve as an Intranet of sorts.”

Those documents are accessible by clicking the Employee Resources box near the bottom of the DPS homepage or by visiting [here](#).

Why is it better?

The DPS website is more visually appealing and deals with scalability issues that arise from the public’s use of multiple devices to access Internet sites.

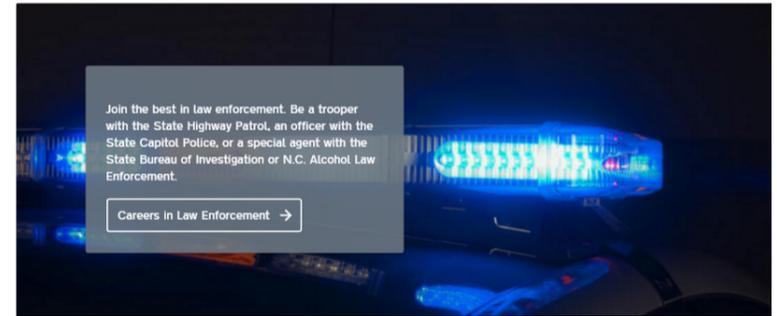
“The site is optimized for any type of device,” Kees said. “It will look good on your phone, a tablet, a projector, a laptop, or anything else.”

On top of the visual improvements, content creators added unique and interesting information and images that may be more appealing. For example, a new method of presenting meetings and events puts all details into one location so that inquirers can see precisely the information they need.

The Calendar of Events under the News tab has hyperlinks that take the reader to pages that highlight DPS activities of public interest. For example:

- ▶ [Job fairs](#)
- ▶ [Safer Schools](#)
- ▶ [Commission meetings](#)

Careers in Law Enforcement



“I think, as time goes along and we learn more about the options and opportunities offered through the website’s new content management system, the website will become much more exciting,” Kees said.

One of the most significant improvements in the site is how the new design takes into account members of the public who are beginning or continuing a career within our agency. With a dedicated [careers page](#) that is straightforward and clear, it’s simple for future employees to find their way to the resources they’re seeking.

A multitude of job fairs and hiring events will be showcased on the specific career pages and should help visitors looking for quick information. Within the careers section are smaller pages designed specifically for corrections, juvenile justice and law enforcement.

A living site

Although the DPS website is largely created and maintained by members of the Communications Office, folks within other units and sections of the department also are responsible for maintaining individual pages and portions of the sites.

“We realized upfront that the website transition would not be flawless, and have appreciated users’ patience as we have worked diligently to work out the kinks,” Kees said. “We want users to please continue to let us know if they experience any issues with the website or run into a broken link. On every page, there’s a feedback area you can simply click on to send an email to the communications office. We will look at the issue and respond or fix whatever we can to make that work better.” ▶

NCEM teams respond to Feb. storms

By **Clyde Roper**, Communications Officer
The deafening roar of a tornado has been likened to jet planes and freight trains. But even above the earsplitting sounds of tornadoes creating massive damage and mayhem, the message of North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) disaster response teams is loud and clear: "We are here to help."

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Billie Owens, N.C. Emergency Management disaster reservist, surveys storm damage in Granville County after the Feb. 24 tornadoes and severe thunderstorms there.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

An unusual series of storms plowed through North Carolina last month, with strong thunderstorms, lethal tornadoes and straight-line winds forecast for large areas of the state.

Two thirds of North Carolina spent most of Feb. 24 under severe storm warnings and tornado watches. Tornadoes were reported in Cumberland, Durham, Granville, Vance and Wayne counties. While much of the state saw numerous downed trees, fallen utility lines and power outages, the overall magnitude of the damage was minor.

Emergency management officials were thankful they received no reports of serious storm-related injuries or fatalities.

'We're always amazed'

"Every time we go out and do damage assessments, we're always amazed at the destructive power of tornadoes and straight-line winds," said **Joe Stanton**, NCEM's assistant director for recovery. "We see first-hand the impact these devastating storms can have on people's lives."

Preliminary Damage Assessment

(PDA) teams comprised of county and state officials go out after every major storm to determine the extent and severity of property damage. Once they complete their appraisals, North Carolina Emergency Management specialists compile the damage estimates to determine which areas, if any, may qualify for further assistance from either the state or federal government.

On Thursday, Feb. 25, the NCEM Preliminary Damage Assessment teams worked with Granville and Vance county officials to survey property

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Doug Logan, left, of Granville County Emergency Management, and **Tim Byers**, N.C. Emergency Management, talk with a property owner after tornadoes.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

affected by the severe weather and tornadoes. Even though the destruction the teams encountered was minor compared to damage they had seen after some major hurricanes, they were still in awe of the devastating power of this smaller storm.

Members of the NCEM Recovery Section Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA) teams met with the respective county emergency management coordinators to discuss the magnitude of the event in the counties, and their probable recovery efforts.

After meeting with **Tim Byers**, N.C. Emergency Management Area 6 coordinator, the teams surveyed the damaged homes and properties in Granville County. The seasoned professionals quickly recognized that a severe straight-line windstorm had swept through the area, with a path of destruction roughly 60 yards wide.

The team members photographed the damage and surveyed the impacted areas and properties. They spoke to home owners, renters and their neighbors and other residents in the area in order to get a clear picture of both the storm and the path of the straight-line winds, as well as the severity of the damage to determine if any of the owners or renters affected might qualify for assistance.

Although several homes in both counties were affected, only two residences in Granville County were considered to have sustained major

'Ultimately, we work toward closure by following up in order to do what we can to prevent anyone falling through the cracks of the system.'

damage, and only one was designated as destroyed. All homes assessed by Individual Assistance and Public Assistance after the February storms were covered by homeowner's or renter's insurance.

To qualify for a disaster declaration by the Small Business Administration and the state of North Carolina, homes and residences must meet the following criteria:

- ▶ At least 25 homes must have sustained either major damage or have been destroyed.
- ▶ Affected homes must be a primary residence, and lived-in by the owner at the time of the event.
- ▶ Each major damage/destroyed home must be uninsured.

State emergency management officials explained the difference between the two assistance programs, providing two main points:

- ▶ Individual Assistance works through the recovery process with individual citizens and families within North Carolina who have been affected by a disaster.

- ▶ Public Assistance works through the recovery process with the local government jurisdictions, as well as some non-profit organizations.

Working with individuals as they repair and rebuild their lives, PDA team members' experiences run the gamut of the highs and lows of the people they work so hard to help. They can't promise to return things to the way they were before a disaster, but they can try to help the people get back to a safe, sanitary, and secure form of housing.

"As Recovery Section employees, we are seen by the people we're assisting as THE State of North Carolina 'with skin on,'" said **Philip C. Triplett**, Individual Assistance Program Coordinator for NCEM. "We might be with them from the beginning of the recovery process by helping them apply for assistance. Next, we work with them in assessing their physical losses, followed by facilitating a connection between the applicant and non-governmental organizations, where possible. Ultimately, we work toward closure by following up with them in order to do what we can to prevent anyone falling through the cracks of the system."

"Because of the extensive, yet localized, damage we saw in Granville County, we were very surprised and glad nobody got hurt," Triplett said. "Given the power of the winds and the damage to structures we saw, that was a miracle." ▾

Spring weather tricky, tumultuous

Be ready to be safe

By **Laura Leonard**

Community Outreach Coordinator

An early round of severe storms and tornadoes in late February was a somber reminder just how tumultuous and unpredictable weather can be in the Tar Heel state. Not since the statewide tornado outbreak five years ago have such widespread tornado watches and warnings been needed.

“Spring in North Carolina is beautiful, but it also is the most active time for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes,” said **Mike Sprayberry**, North Carolina Emergency Management director. “Calm days can quickly deteriorate into severe storms. It’s critical for residents to know what to do and where to go when severe weather threatens. Planning ahead can help keep you safe.”

[READ MORE](#)



NCEM area coordinators **Yancy King** and **Tim Byers** photograph damaged property following the Feb. 24 storms.

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Last year the National Weather Service issued 25 tornado warnings and recorded nine tornadoes — down from previous years.

But flash flooding was more frequent, thanks to the El Nino effect on weather conditions. In 2015, NWS issued 98 flash flood warnings and recorded 133 flood incidents across the state. Combined, tornadoes and flash flooding caused nearly \$500,000 in damages. They also recorded more than 542 severe thunderstorms with damaging winds and/or large hail; those storms caused nearly \$12 million in damages.

Warning Signs

Not all storms are emergencies, but every storm has the potential to become one because each event could include lightning, tornadoes, strong winds, hail and flash flooding.

“Know the warning signs of severe storms to keep you and your family safe,” Sprayberry said. “If you see lightning and cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder, then go indoors.”

Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain area in a thunderstorm. Thunder is audible from about the same distance. If the sky looks threatening, take shelter even *before* hearing thunder.

“Lightning strikes are one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States,” said **Nicholas Petro**, warning coordinator meteorologist for the NWS Raleigh office. “Most lightning victims survive, but those who have been struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term symptoms. Over the past 30 years, flash flooding has been responsible for more deaths than any other thunderstorm-associated hazard.”

Tornadoes, nature’s most violent storms, are formed from powerful thunderstorms. They appear as spinning, funnel-shaped clouds that reach from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be more than 1 mile wide and 50 miles long.

Sprayberry reminds people to know what the warning signs are for dangerous weather conditions, especially in the case of tornadoes.

“Tornadoes may be identified by a large, dark, low-lying cloud, most likely rotating, greenish skies and a loud roar, much like a freight train,” he said. “If you see or hear any of these warning signs, you should implement your emergency plan immediately.”

A plan is only as good as how often it is practiced, Sprayberry said.

“After you write down your emergency plan, talk to others in your home about it and practice it at least once a year,” he said. “Make sure your loved ones know where to go when severe weather strikes. It can save their lives.”

There are different places that you need to go to depending on the weather emergency and your location.

North Carolina emergency officials urge residents to get the free ReadyNC mobile app, which provides real-time traffic and weather information, plus information about opened shelters, riverine flood levels and basic instructions on how to develop an emergency preparedness plan. The ReadyNC.org website also provides information to help you prepare for severe weather and tornadoes, including how to make an emergency supplies kit and what to do during and after severe storms. ▀

Vital Safety Tips

N.C. Emergency Management officials recommend having a weather radio that broadcasts NWS alerts when severe weather threatens. While tornadoes can touch down at any time during the day or night, many North Carolina tornado fatalities have occurred at night when people are asleep and less likely to receive a warning without a weather radio.

Emergency officials recommend following these safety tips:

- ▶ Know the terms: WATCH means a tornado is possible. WARNING means a tornado has been spotted; take shelter immediately.
- ▶ Know where the nearest safe room is:
 - At home**, go to the basement, interior room, stair well, bathroom and closet, and stay away from windows.
 - At work**, go to a basement, stairwell, rest-room or, as a last resort, crawl under a desk.
 - At school**, inside hallways, small closets and bathrooms can be shelter. Mobile classrooms, gymnasiums, auditoriums and other rooms with a large expanse of roof are dangerous.
 - In stores**, seek shelter against an inside wall. An enclosed hallway or fire exit leading away from the main mall concourse is a good spot. Stay away from skylights and large open areas.
- ▶ If driving, leave your vehicle immediately to seek safety in an adequate structure. Do not try to use the vehicle to outrun a tornado, and do not stop under an overpass or a bridge.
- ▶ If outdoors and no shelter available, take cover in a low-lying flat area. Watch out for flying debris.
- ▶ After a storm, wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves and gloves when walking on or near debris, and be aware of exposed nails, broken glass, damaged power and gas lines and electrical systems that may cause fires, electrocution or explosions.

Walk In My Shoes

They still must learn

By **George Dudley**, Editor

In North Carolina, a juvenile offender's assignment to a detention center also means assignments in science, social studies, math and English classes. Having only a handful of students at a time, **Tatia Swift** takes full, effective advantage of every extra teaching opportunity that a small class offers.

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Photos by **George Dudley**, editor.



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Swift is an exceptional children teacher at Wake Juvenile Detention Center in Raleigh. She is exceptional herself, having been selected by Juvenile Justice for special recognition by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Teachers in Juvenile Justice's detention and youth development centers are part of the public school system.

"The difference between [teaching in] public schools and in detention

is what I love about working in Juvenile Justice as a teacher," Swift said. "I have the flexibility to make a needed

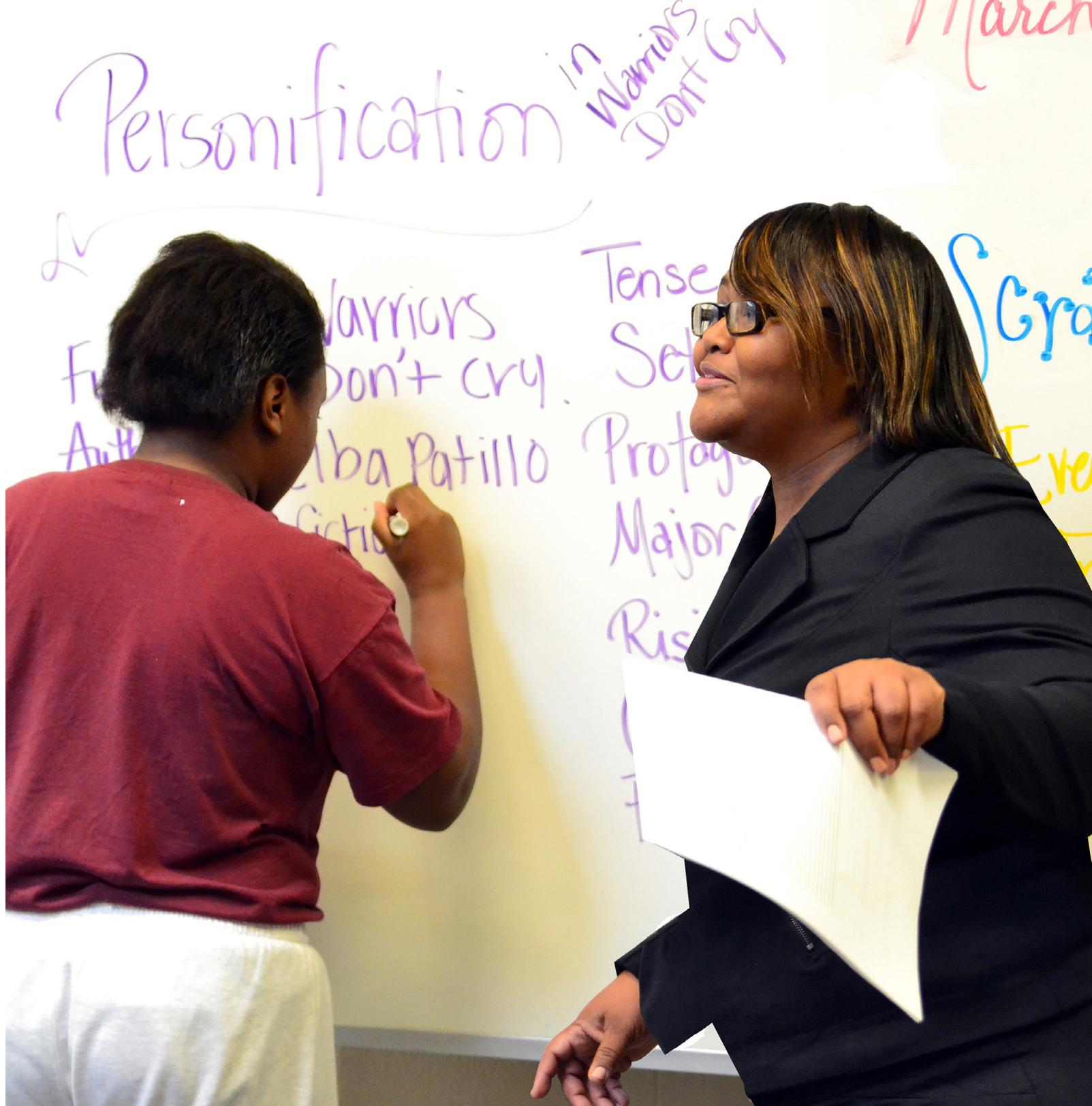
change. With a smaller class, I am afforded the time, wherein I can give that extra push."

Missing school can put a big dent in a student's education progress, especially if the juvenile has already begun tuning out. In the Department of Public Safety, justice doesn't stand in the way of education.

"My goal is to turn a student's light back on for education," Swift

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My goal is to turn a student's light back on for education.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

said. “A lot of them need to believe in themselves.”

With some exceptions, most of Swift’s students are assigned to the detention center for up to five days. Because most of them are scared when they enter the facility, she believes that job No. 1 on the first day with the students is establishing rapport with them.

“I greet each kid at the beginning of the day, and ask them if they’re doing OK,” Swift said. “For most students, I utilize a therapeutic approach. I’m not rigid, and I don’t get into the business of why they are here, but I stick with the business of their education.”

She, too, has homework — learning about the students. She gets their school records and determines the grade level of education they have achieved.

“I am able to reach students at their academic levels and hopefully impact them enough so that they will return to their public school upon release,” Swift said.

With as many as 24 students in the center on any given day, two teachers provide instruction, splitting the core subjects. Swift teaches English and social studies, while the other teacher provides math and science instruction. As teachers, their days begin with joint lesson and instruction planning.

“Planning can get time-consuming, because we are trying to help the students relate to the subject,” Swift said.

Typically, the students will be 14

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or 15 years old and have varying levels of achievement.

“Because students are coming and going, we usually have to plan for grades 6 through 12,” Swift said.

The challenges are broad. In early March, two students there had intellectual disabilities due to low IQs. Sometimes Swift will have a student who doesn’t want to read, but can, such as one who has been assigned to Wake Detention for an extended time.

“One youth has gone from reading nothing, to reading short, low-grade level books of 80 or 90 pages, to today reading ‘To Kill A Mockingbird,’” she said.

One of Swift’s creative tactics is to get a student interested in reading by employing social media. She gets the student to select a favorite character in a book and create a social media page about the character. As the student reads through the book, the student is assigned to update the character’s status as the student learns more about the character’s activities.

“It creates an opening and I can reel them in,” Swift said. “I have their trust and attention.”

Swift got reeled in herself. Reared and educated in Florida, she was recruited by Wake County Public Schools. In addition to undergraduate degrees in psychology and philosophy, she has a master’s degree in education. Swift began her teaching career with Broward County Public Schools in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where her classroom



‘So many of these students have been turned off to education. They’ve been ignored in the classroom and made to feel they can’t learn, and so they accept doing nothing. I can’t accept that.’

was comprised of at-risk and special needs students. She brought those skills to bear in Wake County as an Assisted Learning Program coordinator at an elementary school and as a resource teacher in a high school.

In 2003, Wake Juvenile Detention

Center needed a teacher.

“I jumped at this opportunity,” Swift said. “I wanted to work with kids at risk.”

Her biggest dream is to open a charter school for at-risk males in grade levels 3 to 8.

“Research shows that we lose male students during those grade levels,” she said. “It would operate similarly to a boarding school so they won’t have to return to their home environment and its distractions.”

Somehow, she also finds time for bowling and photography.

The Exceptional Children Teacher of Excellence recognition was also a deserved honor for the Department of Public Safety’s Juvenile Justice education program.

“I am truly honored and humbled to join such an amazing group of educators who represent the best that the State of North Carolina has to offer in excep-

tional children education,” she said. “It is humbling because there are numerous educators within Juvenile Justice who are outstanding, passionate, creative educators who challenge, inspire and support their students every day.”

Working with at-risk youths is rooted in what Swift said is her biggest weakness: “My big heart.”

“So many of these students have been turned off to education,” she said. “They’ve been ignored in the classroom and made to feel they can’t learn, and so they accept doing nothing. I can’t accept that.” ▾

These Hurricanes appreciate Public Safety



March 7 was Public Safety Appreciation Night at the Carolina Hurricanes' hockey match in Raleigh against the Ottawa Senators. Among those attending were **Gary Parks** and his family, lower photo. Parks is a personnel analyst III in Human Resources in Greenville.

Jeans privilege raises money

As a charitable fund-raising effort, officers and staff members in Community Corrections District 7 have been allowed to donate \$1 for the privilege to wear jeans each Friday. The proceeds were designated to go to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, through the State Employees Combined Campaign.

In February, the Jeans for Jude fundraiser reached a sufficient level for a \$1,000 donation to be made to St. Jude's. The balance, currently at more than \$210, will continue to be grown to make another donation.

The District 7 office also raised \$500 to assist a Division 1 employee whose family has struggled financially due to a family illness. ▴

New director at youth center

Tangi Jordan is the new director of Dobbs Youth Development Center in Kinston.

In this position, Jordan provides operational oversight and direction to Dobbs YDC, one of four youth development centers the Juvenile Justice Section operates statewide.



Youth development centers — the most restrictive, intensive dispositional option available to North Carolina's juvenile courts — provide mentoring, education and therapeutic treatment to prepare youths for a fresh start when they reenter their communities.

Jordan most recently was assistant director at Dobbs YDC. She began her public safety-related career in 1997 as probation and parole officer, and has also worked as a correctional case analyst, juvenile court counselor and youth counselor supervisor.

Jordan was raised in eastern North Carolina, and has lived in Greenville for 15 years. She earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Elizabeth City State University. ▴

Honor students

Jesse McCarty of Central Prison and **Clayton Young** were named honor students in a recent Basic Officer Correctional Training classes. ▴

Tell me something good

Juvenile Justice chief selected for anti-drug leadership forum

Sylvia Clement, Juvenile Justice District 28 chief court counselor, was recently selected to attend the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America 26th National Leadership Forum in National Harbor, Md., in February.

She is a member of the coalition's Partnership Advisory Board and co-chairs The Partnership for Substance Free Youth in Buncombe County.

During the all-expenses-paid trip, she visited the offices of North Carolina congressional members Rep. Patrick McHenry and Sen. Tom Tillis.

"This was a great experience to be able to introduce myself and, share a little of my roles as the chief court counselor in District 28 and on the coalition in Buncombe County," she said. "I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this event." ▴

Police department grateful for PERT

On March 13, the Coastal Region Prison Emergency Response Team helped the Elizabeth City Police Department find the weapon used in a fatal stabbing. Police Chief Eddie Buffaloe expressed his gratitude in a letter to the Department of Public Safety:

“This tragic event was made easier to manage thanks in great part to the professionalism and response of your team members. Their great expertise and knowledge in this situation is clearly a reflection of your outstanding leadership abilities. Your assistance in helping us to locate the murder weapon used in this incident is extremely beneficial and will aid in the prosecution of this case, which we can only hope will bring some solace to the victim’s family.

“I would like you to know that anytime the North Carolina Department of Public Safety is in need of our assistance, we will be more than ready to help. I look forward to fostering a positive working relationship between our two agencies and I feel especially grateful to know that we are able to depend on one another in these types of situations.” ▲

Troopers commended for aiding capture

The State Highway Patrol has commended the actions of three state troopers who helped Burlington police officers capture a homicide suspect.

The suspect, who had fatally wounded a man and was being sought by Burlington police, later was seen driving on I-40 in Alamance. Assistance was requested from the State Highway Patrol.

Troopers were directed to a Mebane apartment complex, where they briefly chased the suspect on foot and took him into custody.

The troopers were **Jeremy Zachary**, **Mike Dawkins**, and **James Chinnici**, all from Troop D, District 5, Alamance County. ▲



Capitol Police has bomb dog

The State Capitol Police has a new officer — Balu, a 19-month-old German Shepard. Having completed comprehensive explosive-detection training last month, Balu can search for a variety of explosive materials near building exteriors, parking lots, office areas, vehicles, packages, and people in and around state government facilities.

“The canine will provide a strong visible and psychological deterrent against criminal and terrorist threats,” State Capitol Police Chief **Glen Allen** said. “More importantly, Balu will be available to assist our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners in the fight against crime.”

Balu’s handler is Officer **Kevin Johnson**, who recently joined State Capitol Police after retiring from local law enforcement with more than two decades as a K-9 handler and master trainer. Johnson, who is also a past president of the United States Police Canine Association, successfully completed in-depth training with Balu involving various aspects of bomb detection and other explosives.

Balu was acquired and will be maintained through a cooperative effort with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol Canine Unit.

The 88-member State Capitol Police provides a safe and secure environment for public officials, state employees and visitors within the North Carolina State Government Complex and at state-owned properties throughout Wake County.



138th State Highway Patrol Basic Patrol School Class

The 138th Basic Patrol School graduated 29 new State Highway Patrol Troopers on Feb. 12. The graduation ended 29 weeks of extensive academic and physical training. The graduates were (alphabetically): **Harley Andrews**, Troop F2 – Wilkes County; **Courtney Barker**, Troop G6 – Macon County; **Kevin Bisette**, Troop A5 – Pitt County; **Samuel Bullard**, Troop E5 – Surry County; **Brett Campa**, Troop H4 – Cleveland County; **Dequan Chambers**, Troop H5 – Mecklenburg County; **Andrew DePoyster**, Troop G4 – Buncombe County; **Tyler Gantt**, Troop H4 – Cleveland County; **Justin Gardner**, Troop B4 – Duplin County; **Mitchel Geracz**, Troop E6 – Cabarrus County; **Eric Glenn II**, Troop H5 – Mecklenburg County; **Halston Hunt**, Troop B1 – Cumberland County; **Ryan Hurley**, Troop D5 – Alamance County;

Kyle Isley, Troop D7 – Orange County; **John Kaukola III**, Troop A4 – Washington County; **Aneisha Littlejohn**, Troop H5 – Mecklenburg County; **Jordan Lugo**, Troop H3 – Union County; **Herman Mungai**, Troop C3 – Wake County; **Francisco Munoz**, Troop C5 – Wilson County; **Eric Noblett**, Troop G3 – Henderson County; **Courtney Richmond**, Troop E7 – Davie County; **Mark Samosky**, Troop C6 – Johnston County; **Justin Sewell**, Troop H2 – Scotland County; **Dakotah Smart**, Troop H4 – Cleveland County; **Kevin Smith**, Troop G2 – Rutherford County; **Dana Sunderland**, Troop B4 – Duplin; **Andrew Westmoreland**, Troop B2 – Sampson County; **Nick White**, Troop E5 – Stokes County; **Alan Yoder**, Troop E6 – Cabarrus County.

Photo by Ryan Guthrie, photographer.

P R O M O T I O N S

Promotions in February 2016

Quency Abdullah, correctional officer II, Polk Correctional Institution
Marcus Adams, youth services behavioral specialist, Dobbs Youth Development Center
Amy Alperstein, correction training coordinator I, Office of Staff Development & Training
Thomas Ashley, sergeant II, Pasquotank Correctional Institution
Donelle Barbour, correctional officer II, Central Prison
Anthony Barham, sergeant I, Franklin Correctional Center
Brian Barnes, plans supervisor, Emergency Management
Jerry Beaver, food service supervisor I, Caldwell Correctional Center
Rosemary Biancardi, programs supervisor, Tabor Correctional Institution
Angela Blackmon, administrative officer I, Wake Correctional Center
William Burkamp, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 25
Meggan Callahan, sergeant I, Bertie Correctional Institution
Travis Campbell, sergeant I, Forsyth Correctional Center
Alena Carson, captain II, Marion Correctional Institution
Christie Carter, professional nurse, Central Prison Healthcare
Vanessa Chalk, administrative officer I, Internal Audit
Vang Chue, food service officer I, Lincoln Correctional Center
Emily Coltrane, juvenile court area administrator, Juvenile Justice Piedmont Region
Christina Conner, correctional officer II, Marion Correctional Institution
Tiana Cooke, correctional officer II, Central Prison
Murray Cooper, correctional officer II, Polk Correctional Institution
Kenzie Craig, professional nurse, Hoke Correctional Institution
Jamie Crews Barrier, senior case analyst, Piedmont Correctional Institution
Peggy Dale, processing assistant IV, Mountain View Correctional Institution
Robert Deans, correctional officer II, Central Prison
Grant Deberry, chief probation and parole officer, Community Corrections District 14
William Dyer, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 3
Quentin Estridge, sergeant I, Brown Creek Correctional Institution
David Farmer, administrative officer II, Engineering
Samuel Fennell, youth counselor, Edgecombe Youth Development Center
Kayla Ferguson, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 12
Eric Fields, youth counselor, Edgecombe Youth Development Center
Patricia Flowers, processing assistant IV, Correction Enterprises Optical
Anita Foster, juvenile court counselor, Juvenile Justice District 26
Amanda Fowler, correctional officer II, Tabor
Cassandra Freeman, correctional officer II, Scotland
Ruben Gilchrist, sergeant I, Albemarle Correctional Institution
Victor Gonzalez, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 18
Larry Harris, correctional officer II, Scotland Correctional Institution
Sonya Harris, psychological services coordinator, N.C. Correctional Institution for Women

William Harris, sergeant I, Mountain View Correctional Institution
Kevin Harvey, correctional officer II, Foothills Correctional Institution
Porsche Hyman, senior case analyst, Polk Correctional Institution
Lorenzo Ingram, food service officer I, Pamlico Correctional Institution
William Jacobs, food service supervisor I, Tabor Correctional Institution
Jonathan Jans, correctional officer II, Foothills Correctional Institution
Linda Johnson, housekeeping supervisor II, Central Prison Healthcare Center
William Johnson, lieutenant II, Alexander Correctional Institution
Eleanor Jones, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 2
Samantha Justice, case manager, Swannanoa Correctional Institution
Jacques Kittrell, shipping/receiving supervisor I, Purchasing & Logistics
Shontae Lashley, personnel technician I, State Highway Patrol - Beacon
Amanda Laws, sergeant I, Mountain View Correctional Institution
Bryant Lewis, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 7
Carl Locklear, housekeeping supervisor I, Samarcand Training Center
Emma Locklear, correctional officer II, Scotland Correctional Institution
Paul Mays, food service officer I, Davidson Correctional Center
Sosha McAllister, food service officer II, Scotland Correctional Institution
Fleuretta McDougald, youth counselor supervisor, Edgecombe Youth Development Center
Robby Millard, training coordinator II, Office of Staff Development & Training
Brenda Mills, youth counselor, Edgecombe Youth Development Center
Larry Newsome, chief probation and parole officer, Community Corrections District 6
Kristina Nwabuikie, professional nurse, N.C. Correctional Institution for Women
William Oates, lieutenant II, Central Prison
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Heather Robbins, sergeant II, Alexander Correctional Institution
Debra Rose, processing assistant V, Engineering
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Ricky Sanders, youth counselor, Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center
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SECURITY SENSE

Creating — and recalling — strong passwords

Most people know exactly what makes for a strong password, and yet they fail to follow best practices.

Why is this? Let's look at expert password advice, along with reasons you may not be taking it and some solutions that will increase the security of your data and your employer's.

Experts say you shouldn't re-use passwords, and for good reason; if an attacker "cracks" your favorite password, the attacker then has access to multiple accounts. But the reality is that you have numerous accounts.

If you're like most people, you have dozens of online accounts requiring logins and passwords. The idea of actually creating a unique password for each and every account is, let's face it, laughable.

Try this compromise: Have three levels of passwords. One is basic, for accounts that aren't hugely important to you. Another is for reasonably sensitive accounts, such as e-mail. The third, which should be truly complex, is for highly sensitive accounts such as your work login and your financial institutions.

You are also advised to use passwords not found in dictionaries, where the words are too easy to crack with software programs that use the "brute force" approach. But in reality, non-words are hard to remember! What good is a password you cannot remember when you need it? Nonsense phrases like ehJ@!947TTa are too hard to recall.

Try easy-to-remember passphrases tweaked with numerals, case changes and special characters. The idea is that you can remember the phrase because it has meaning to you — but not to any hacker. For example, you might take a Bruce Springsteen lyric and alter it to 1wasborn@theUSA! Note the special characters, the use of the numeral 1 instead of the letter I, and the capitalization. These changes all render the password nearly impossible to guess. ▴

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The report for retirements in February was not available in time for publication in this edition. Retirements for February and March will be published in the April edition, or in an updated version of this edition.

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