

ON THE **Scene**



**GOVERNOR'S
AWARDS** for
Excellence



OCTOBER 2016

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By Jerry Higgins, Communications Specialist

On Oct. 1, **Kenneth Royster** went to great heights to raise money for Special Olympics North Carolina (SONC). He joined nearly 150 others who each raised at least \$1,000 to rappel 30 stories down the Wells Fargo Capitol Center in Raleigh for the “Over the Edge” fundraiser.

Royster, warden at the N.C. Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh (NCCIW), raised almost \$1,100 on short notice through a challenge he made to staff during a management meeting.

“I thought it was a good way to spark interest with our facility and the Special Olympics,” he said. “I’ve been involved indirectly (with Special Olympics) through fundraisers I supported through donations. When I found out about this, I knew it was something I wanted to get involved with. I wanted to raise the

level of our involvement and bring attention to Special Olympics to our staff. I put the challenge out there that if we raised the money, I’d do the event.”

Royster went up on the roof an hour before his 10:45 a.m. scheduled starting time. SONC staff explained what would happen, and he got suited up with the equipment. When it was time, he took about 12 minutes to rappel the building near Café Carolina on Fayetteville Street.

“This wasn’t the first time I’ve done this,” Kenneth said. “I rappelled in the military (Army). This was a little different type of equipment, but it was more comfortable. After I was done, I felt good. I wanted to go up and do it again.”

Royster said he is definitely going to do it again next September at the 2017 fundraiser. He’d also like to organize a team from NCCIW.





Out of 118 nominations submitted, 16 state employees have been chosen for this year's prestigious 'Governor's Awards for Excellence.' It is the highest honor a state employee may receive for dedicated service to the State and the people of North Carolina.

"Their passion for public service helps improve the quality of life for those who choose to live, work and raise families in North Carolina," said Governor Pat McCrory. "These state employees make selfless sacrifices to improve the lives of others... provide great customer service... and bring innovative solutions to some of government's toughest challenges."

The honorees attended a luncheon, followed by a special awards ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 27, inside the N.C. Museum of History.

"The winners are truly exceptional," said Paula Woodhouse, Interim Director of the Office of State Human Resources. "They went above and beyond their daily responsibilities to make meaningful and enduring impacts in our communities."



Human Relations

Glen Webb

Department of Public Safety | Lumberton

When Webb found out about two children in his community with terminal cancer, he used the resources at his disposal to coordinate special birthday parties for them.

The first request for a special birthday party came in Spring 2015 from a Pembroke County mother whose young daughter had untreatable cancer following three liver transplants. Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent Webb learned that this little girl was enamored with law enforcement officers and first responders and wanted some of these individuals to attend what would be her last birthday party. Webb immediately went to work to make this dream a reality.

The feedback Webb received was overwhelming. Those who attended included employees from Robeson County Sheriff's Office, the Maxton, Lumberton, Fairmont, and Red Springs police departments, firefighters from the Deep Branch, Pembroke Rural fire departments, members of the N.C. Highway Patrol, and other special agents. The convoy of first responders heading to the party was so long, it stretched out over a mile. When the little girl passed away, her family asked Webb to be a pallbearer at the funeral.

A new request came in November 2015 when another little girl with terminal cancer and a fondness for first responders wanted a similar special birthday party. Again, Webb used the resources at his disposal to make the event happen. This event was a success as well, with more than 50 first responders attending in more than 20 different vehicles.

By organizing these events, Webb has brought tremendous goodwill to his community. The second little girl was so deeply touched by the outpouring of support that she called her party "the best party ever!"



Outstanding State Government Service

Colonel Edward Timmons (Retired, Army)

Department of Public Safety | Fuquay-Varina

Giving troubled high school youth a second chance and teaching them life skills needed to be productive citizens is what the North Carolina Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy is about.

When NCNG Col. Edward Timmons started as director of the Academy, he inherited a program that was crumbling at its foundation. It had failed to meet its graduation requirement for the previous 18 years; the grounds and facilities of the program were falling apart; the technological resources were inadequate to meet 21st century academic needs; and the program was facing the possibility of being shut down.

Undaunted, Col. Timmons approached these problems with the same vigor and tactical mindset that he had developed in the Army. Col. Timmons managed to take a strategic approach to completing all of the much-needed repairs of the facility so that none of the academic functions of the program would be disrupted during the process. Going beyond the cosmetic changes, Col. Timmons also ensured that the facility's security was updated by adding cameras and a perimeter fence.

CONTINUE READING

Col. Timmons changed much more than the physical facility. His focused leadership helped increase the previously low morale of those who administer the program, which, in turn, increased the quality of the student experience. Col. Timmons' efforts have proven successful as he managed to recover overdue reimbursements in excess of \$90,000 in child nutrition funds. The state of North Carolina has saved an estimated \$18.3 million in youth incarceration costs during his tenure.

Public Service

William Hemphill

Department of Public Safety | Pisgah Forest

Keeping North Carolinians as safe as possible extends far beyond the highways for State Highway Patrol Trooper William Hemphill. He has made child safety a priority in his community and is committed to providing excellent customer service.

This priority stems from an accident on March 2, 2016, involving a seven-year-old boy who was struck by a vehicle while riding his bicycle. The child was riding down his driveway and was unable to stop; subsequently, he rode into oncoming traffic and was hit by a truck. Thankfully, this child suffered only minor injuries.

During his investigation, Trooper Hemphill learned that the boy had received the bicycle for his birthday, just a day before the accident. After he finished his shift that day, Trooper Hemphill stopped by his local Walmart to buy a replacement bicycle and helmet for the child. While checking out, a Walmart shift manager approached him and asked whether there was anything the store could do to help. In turn, the shift manager gave Trooper Hemphill a gift card worth half the cost of the bicycle. Trooper Hemphill selflessly covered the rest of the costs.

After he presented the boy with the new bicycle, Trooper Hemphill learned that many children in Transylvania County do not have helmets to wear for bicycle safety. He then contacted Safe Kids Western North Carolina to get new bicycle helmets for Transylvania County schoolchildren. Safe Kids gave Trooper Hemphill a discount, so he placed an order for 40 new bicycle helmets and, again, paid for them himself.

He distributed 10 helmets to each of the four Transylvania County elementary schools. When he goes to each school to distribute the helmets, Trooper Hemphill also presents an informational session for the students on the topics of bicycle safety and hazard awareness.



Safety & Heroism

Jonathan William Gouge

Department of Public Safety | Morganton

Protecting the public is part of Trooper Jonathan

Gouge's job even on his days off. Through his diligence and selflessness, Trooper Gouge managed to save the life of an elderly woman and her beloved dogs.

On the morning of Saturday, Jan. 2, 2016, at about 10:45 a.m., Trooper Gouge was traveling on Eldred Street through Valdese, when he noticed heavy smoke and flames coming from the second floor of a residence. At the time, Trooper Gouge was not on duty. Upon seeing the flames, he immediately stopped his vehicle and began to investigate. On his way over to the burning house, Trooper Gouge spoke to one of the neighbors who was standing outside and learned that someone was still inside the burning building.

Trooper Gouge instantly took action. He tried opening the door but was unsuccessful because it had a deadbolt lock that was engaged. There were three glass windows, so he took off his hooded sweatshirt, wrapped it around his fist and knocked out one of the windows. When he got inside, he saw an elderly woman standing in the door of her bedroom in a state of panic. She was screaming and confused. Trooper Gouge helped her out of the burning house and immediately went back inside to get her medications. Through the smoke and flames, he was able to locate her three pet dogs and successfully rescue them too.

Trooper Gouge's actions have garnered the attention of his supervisors and members of the community. In a call to Trooper Gouge's supervisor, Valdese Fire Chief Charles Watts expressed his deep gratitude and thankfulness to Trooper Gouge for his selflessness and heroism.





Nona Best in the Business

Story and photos by Patty McQuillan, Communications Officer

When a person, young or old, goes missing, **Nona Best**, supervisor of the Center for Missing Persons, is likely to get a phone call from either a distraught family member or a law enforcement officer.

“What I love about my job is helping families at their most vulnerable time and being able to assist them in a way that gives them understanding about the process of finding their missing loved ones,” Best said. “Once you succeed, those are the happiest cases.”

Best has managed the Center for Missing Persons by herself for nine years and is North Carolina's leading expert on information and resources for missing adults and children. She trains local, state and federal law enforcement officers and their personnel on various issues such as how to recognize sex trafficking cases or handle international abductions.

In addition to the daily calls from victims' families, government agencies and law enforcement, Best is also the state's AMBER and Silver Alert coordinator. AMBER Alerts are issued for abducted children, and Silver Alerts for missing people who have dementia or a cognitive impairment. She takes those calls around the clock.

One such call came in Wednesday, Sept. 14, from the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, requesting an AMBER Alert for a six-year-old girl abducted from her driveway by a man on a moped. Verifying the criteria didn't take Best long, and the AMBER Alert was issued. The child was found by a sheriff's deputy the next morning in a wooded area, chained to a tree, but safe.

“It was a miracle that they found that child alive,” Best said. “We never thought we'd find her alive.”

Stranger abductions usually don't turn out well. This was a true AMBER Alert case.”

Stranger abductions are less than one percent of all abductions reported nationwide.

Every day, Best scans the news looking for special missing person cases, and every day she reads stories about convictions for indecent liberties with a child.

“Call it rape - that's what it is,” Best said. “If a 14-year-old leaves willingly with a 36-year-old, I can't do anything about it. We can't issue AMBERs on runaways unless we have some mitigating circumstances. In those cases, I recommend parents contacting the media themselves.”

Hailey Elizabeth Burns, a 16-year-old special needs child, has been missing since May from an upscale neighborhood in Charlotte. Her parents discovered she was having improper conversations with an older man online, and they limited her computer use. She left in the middle of the night without her medications and presumably with the man she met online.

“Neither of them has been located,”

Best said. “It's unusual that it's taken this long for a lead. Usually something pops up.”

North Carolina is among the top five states for sex trafficking, and Best said the numbers are picking up. She serves on Project No Rest — a University of North Carolina grant program that studies youth-involved sex trafficking and provides information on how to identify trafficking cases.

“Girls could be going to school during the week and trafficked on weekends without their parents even knowing,” Best said. “They are lured in, then prostituted.”

In the past, if a child was caught, he or she could be charged with prostitution. Now, with the new laws, the child is protected from such charges. Sex trafficking is being identified as rape, and law enforcement officers are targeting those who are seeking unlawful sexual encounters.

“What I love about my job is when I actually talk to parents on the phone and am able to help get their children back,” Best said. “Most of the missing children reported to us are in their teens and are short-term runaways. Some children are taken by a family member or an acquaintance.”

She has a case where a mother took her daughter and fled to New York. Best works with law enforcement across state lines, but New York is a difficult place to find someone. The father has been diagnosed with cancer, and Best has reached out to other family members to ask if the mother would at least let the father have phone communication with his child.

“Custody issues are the toughest. If you run with your child, you take the chance of losing the child. It’s not legal. You’re not giving the court process a chance,” Best said. “When you have a father who’s really fighting for his kids – crying because his wife took his kids – it makes you want to fight even harder.”

Sometimes the calls come in the middle of the night.

“If called at 2 a.m., you have to wake yourself up to think,” Best said. “Sometimes the call is like, ‘I left the baby with my grandmother and they are gone.’ The caller wants an AMBER Alert issued, but it’s not a stranger abduction and does not qualify since she left the baby with the grandmother and there is no imminent danger.”

The Center for Missing Persons is overseen by the State Highway Patrol. As Best’s overnight calls increased, Lt. Jeff Gordon and Sgt. Michael Baker stepped in to help. They now have rotating after-hour duty calls for AMBER Alert, and Troop C telecommunicators are issuing Silver Alerts after hours.

“Silver Alerts are every day, and they are my biggest paperwork,” Best said.

Silver Alerts, which mostly come from group homes, have two criteria: dementia with Alzheimer or cognitive impairment such as a schizophrenic or bi-polar disorder. Most of the missing person incidents come from group homes.

“Cognitive impairment is a wide-open field,” Best said. “I try to narrow it down to a condition that can be explained such as autism or Aspergers. Now, I’m starting to get PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) cases. Unless the person is suicidal or manic depressive, a Silver Alert is not justified because most people with PTSD are self-functioning.”

The state’s Silver Alert statute reads: the person is believed to be suffering from dementia or Alzheimer’s disease, or a disability that requires them to be protected from potential abuse or other physical harm, neglect, or exploitation.

Best would like to see the phrase, “believed to be,” removed from the statute and require that the person has an actual diagnosis, not just that they’re forgetful. No other state issues as many Silver Alerts. Florida, with the highest percentage of senior citizens in the country, issued 214 Silver Alerts last year while North Carolina, which ranks 27th in the country for senior citizens, issued 369 Silver Alerts during that same time.



Best is patient and calm as she receives call after call about missing people. Some say they know something about a missing person or where a body is. She advises them to call their local law enforcement agency. She’s been called about family members who have been missing for a long time, some as much as 20 years.

“I can’t do anything but give advice: use social media, check public records, ask family and friends,” she said.

“Yesterday, I got a call from a woman who had a baby when she was 12 years old,” Best said. “She had been raped by an older man. She used her older sister’s name to have the baby delivered in the hospital and the older sister told her the baby had died.”

Now, 33 years later, the woman said she found her son on social media and she wants a DNA sample taken to prove the child is hers.

While Best wasn’t able to help that woman, she was able to solve a cold murder case.

Best attended a 2012 conference in Atlanta for NamUs, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System. During one presentation, the Virginia Medical Examiner’s Office showed a photo of an unidentified woman found by railroad tracks in



The Woman Behind the Alerts

The third of seven siblings, **Nona Best** was the first in her family to get a college degree. Her parents were from Princeton, but her dad joined the U.S. Army and Best was born in Honolulu.

After Hawaii, the family spent four years at the Army base in Columbus, Ga., then returned home in 1974 to North Carolina. Her father was stationed at Fort Bragg, but her mother returned to Princeton.

"That's when my life really started," Best said. Her grandmother and aunt helped raise the kids, but her mom was the star. "She's our queen and that's the way we treat her. She's our life."

Best was a high school cheerleader for four years. English was her best subject, and she liked to read. She graduated from Princeton High School in 1980, knowing that her mom couldn't afford to send her to college. It was out of the question.

Best joined the Navy, hoping to travel, but as far as she got was Alabama, Tennessee and Virginia. She oversaw Training and Administrative for Reserves and was in charge of the Navy Reserve Centers. She served from 1982 until she retired in 1997.

Wanting a different career, Best became a correctional officer at the N.C. Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh. She realized she was back in uniform and part of a regimented routine – too similar to the military.

Her next job was as a security manager for the Transportation Security Administration at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta. She worked a busy section of the terminal where 4,000 to

5,000 people passed through security, including superstars like Whitney Houston and Shirley Caesar.

Back in North Carolina, Best received a bachelor of science



degree in Criminal Justice from N.C. Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount in 2005.

Her next job was as a processing assistant for the State Bureau of Investigation, then an administrative supervisor for the lottery section of Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE). In 2007, she began working for the N.C. Center for Missing Persons, which then was housed under ALE. She became manager in 2009; the Center moved under the State Highway Patrol that same year.

In 2013, Best received a therapeutic license to be a foster parent. Since then, she has fostered 10 young women. The girls were without family support and needed much love and encouragement. She encouraged the girls to study hard, graduate from high school and go on to college. So far, four of the 10 girls have done just that.

Best also worked with the Guardian Ad Litem program for six years, advocating in court for abused and neglected children. She worked hard with a team of people to return kids to their families whenever possible.

She lives in Garner but attends her daughter's church in Durham, Victorious Praise Fellowship. She loves the church, teaches Sunday school, works in the church's food pantry, is part of the woman's ministry and provides security during church services and events.

Every second Saturday, she puts together lunch bags to take to the Raleigh Rescue Mission to feed the homeless.

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Richmond, Va., 20 years prior. Best recognized the person as a young woman from her hometown who had moved to Richmond with her boyfriend. The boyfriend returned with a suspicious story, and the young woman's family never saw her again. The mother had been praying to have closure in the case before she died, and her prayer was answered thanks to Nona.

"As the Center's supervisor, Best deals with emotionally distraught parents of missing children, adults, and law enforcement officials on a daily basis," said Lt. Gordon, manager of the Missing Persons Center. "At times, the job brings both emotional and physical stress. Despite these challenges, she comes to work with a positive attitude and ready to start the day with whatever situations she may encounter. She is constantly seeking to improve the Center's efficiency as well as her desire to improve her own skills through intensive training and education. Her compassion, dedication and willingness to help those in need is a true reflection of the type of employee she is but more importantly, who she is as a person. She is truly an asset not only to the State Highway Patrol but to the citizens of this great state."

In regard to weekends, Best said, "Very seldom do I have only one thing on my calendar to do, and when that happens, I'm very happy."

In 2014, Best traveled to Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa, for a one-day mission trip. The rest of the time was spent touring. She is going again in November for a week-long mission trip to Johannesburg and will work in a day care center teaching, helping paint and make some small renovations.

She currently is taking online courses on organizational leadership from Arizona State University and is considering getting a masters' degree.

Not one to take life easy, Best said, "I'll always be involved in church, the community, kids, something or another."

Secretary's Cup Highlights



Despite an early morning rain shower, the second annual Secretary's Cup Golf Tournament at the Grandover Resort Sept. 30 was a huge success!

More than \$70,000 was raised to help eliminate childhood hunger in North Carolina. Proceeds were designated to the following State Employees Combined Campaign charities: Backpack Beginnings, Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeastern North Carolina, and Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina.



Taking an Oath



Eight members of the Boxing Advisory Commission took the oath of office, including a new chairman, on Sept. 22. The Department of Public Safety Secretary Frank L. Perry appointed former deputy secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, William A. Dudley, as chairman of the Boxing Commission. Dudley and the other commissioners will serve a three-year term.

In addition to Dudley, the other appointments are as follows: John D. Fleming, Jr.; Robert A. Clinton, MD.; John C. Cooper; Dennis R. Reno; Scott A. Playford, MD.; Dr. Phillip M. Stephens; and Sara Lynn Neal, MD.

"We appreciate the willingness of these commission members to help oversee the numerous regulations of boxing and mixed martial arts, to help keep participants safe and the sports viable," said Terrance Merriweather, special services manager for the N.C. Boxing Authority. "Chairman Dudley, in particular, is a tremendous asset to the commission and the Boxing Authority because of his knowledge of the commission gained during his lengthy tenure at Crime Control and Public Safety."

The Boxing Authority is under the supervision of the N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement section. Some of the responsibilities of the Authority include licensing participants, ensuring participants have the necessary paperwork and insurance, maintaining rules that assure the safety and integrity of events, and preventing unlicensed or illegal events from occurring.

Head of the Class



The State Highway Patrol proudly welcomed 30 new troopers at a graduation ceremony for the 139th basic highway patrol school Sept. 30. The celebration ended 29 weeks of extensive academic and physical training.

“We are pleased to graduate 30 new state troopers today who are beginning their careers in one of the most challenging, yet rewarding, careers in society,” said **Colonel Bill Grey**, commander of the State Highway Patrol. “They are a welcome addition to a professional workforce dedicated to protecting and serving the citizens of this great state.”

The new graduates and their duty stations are: **Kyle D. Allred**, Troop F4 - Iredell; **Jeffrey B. Applewhite**, Troop E3 - Rowan; **Shane L. Baldwin**, Troop H2 - Scotland; **Kirk J. Batulan**, Troop E4 - Forsyth; **Zachary E. Beam**, Troop F5 - Catawba; **Kimberly-Anne E. Beam**, Troop H3 - Union; **Justin M. Cox**, Troop D1 - Chatham; **Eric H. Eastwood**, Troop F3 - Caldwell; **Leland Geletka**, Troop A7 - Lenoir; **Marcus A. Gladden**, Troop H5 - Mecklenburg; **Stephen B. Griffith**, Troop D5 - Alamance; **Ryan T. Helton**, Troop F5 - Catawba; **Richard L. Hopper**, Troop A7 - Jones; **Kennard M. Johnson**, Troop H5 - Mecklenburg; **Jason T. Keeter**, Troop C8 - Hali-

fax; **Danny R. Key**, Troop B6 - New Hanover; **Kyle D. King**, Troop H3 - Anson; **Daniel A. Knapp**, Troop C3 - Wake; **Raven P. Lucas**, Troop H2 -- Scotland; **Jordan W. Maness**, B6 - New Hanover; **Ryne J. Marks**, Troop B1 - Cumberland; **Tiffany S. McCall**, Troop H2 - Richmond; **Landon C. Mendenhall**, Troop E4 - Forsyth; **Aaron P. Millsaps**, Troop E4 - Wilkes; **Darion B. Moore**, Troop F5 - Catawba; **Robert A. Rogers**, Troop H5 - Mecklenburg; **Olivia G. Shumake**, Troop H5 - Mecklenburg; **Peyton F. Smith**, Troop D7 - Orange; **Christopher C. Wade**, Troop H1 - Gaston; and **Brady K. White**, Troop A1 - Currituck.

Honoring Our Veterans

The Department of Public Safety is comprised of many men and women who have served in the armed forces. We deeply appreciate you and your service to our country. This section will highlight a few of those who have served our country and now serve North Carolina through their work in DPS. Thank you!

Glen Patana

DPS Unit/Section: Adult Correction: Staff Development and Training

Military Branch: Navy

Years of Military Service: 4 years active, 2 years in reserves

Interesting facts/quote about his time in the service: "Having served in the Navy, I have found that many of the skills and experiences that I gained in the military have helped me in my current role as a Technology Support Analyst. Teamwork, as you are relied on to do your job and you rely on other team members to complete their tasks on time. Experiencing how to adapt to different work situations every day, and the ability to work with a wide range of personalities has been helpful in my role."



Michael Howie

DPS Unit/Section: Correctional Training Instructor II, OSDT Southern Coastal Plains Regional Training Center

Military Branch: Navy

Years of Military Service: 3 Years

Interesting facts/quote about his time in the service: "My military experience as a small arms instructor for the 45 caliber handgun, 12 gauge shotgun and M-14 rifle in the Navy assisted me in becoming a certified firearms instructor with Adult Corrections, and enhanced my competencies for providing training with the shotgun, rifle and handgun with NCDPS."



Sgt. Brian Black

DPS Unit/Section: State Highway Patrol, Troop F

Military Branch: Army

Years of Military Service: 4 years

Interesting facts/quote about his time in the service: Sgt. Black served in the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Ky. in a light reconnaissance company as an infantry team leader. When asked to submit leave requests for a two-week block, he took the last date. He chose April to go home, but he changed it after a fellow team leader asked him to switch leave so he could go home for Spring Break. "(While on leave) ... I received an email written in code from my team that the truck I should've been riding in was struck by an Explosive Formed Penetrator, a newer device that caused catastrophic results," he said.



"Three members of my squad were injured. My squad leader lost his right leg... two other members of my team severely injured both of their legs. I learned that horrible day that every decision you make in life affects other people, whether it is directly or indirectly so make sure the decisions you make are the right ones."

Bryan Casad

DPS Unit/Section: District 8 Kinston Chief Probation Parole Office

Military Branch: Marine Corps

Years of Military Service: 6 years

Interesting facts/quote about his time in the service: Casad was assigned to an A-6 squadron where he worked on the A-6E Intruder at Marine Corps Air Station El-Toro in California. He was deployed on the aircraft carrier USS Ranger from February to August 1989 in the western Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean. He transferred to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in January 1990 and was deployed to Japan and the Philippines. In December 1990, he was deployed to Bahrain in support of operations for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He was honorably discharged in December 1992.



Larry Pereira

DPS Unit/Section: District 3 Greenville Office Assistant IV

Military Branch: Air Force

Years of Military Service: 8 years

Interesting facts/quote about his time in the service: Pereira had three goals when he entered the Air Force: see the world, serve his country and earn money for college. He never saw a mountain until he went to school in Denver, Colo. after having been stationed in southern New Mexico in the desert. His military experience made him more meticulous an asset in his current job. "I want my products, such as spreadsheets and e-mails, to look professional and concise. I don't like sending out things with errors on them ... that upsets me," he said. "It also taught me professionalism when dealing with people. We are all different and how we deal with each other is very important. I might not have been in a war-fighting unit or on the front line or on a ship in the Arabian Gulf, but I did what I was tasked to do and I did it to my best ability."



Christopher Brackett

DPS Unit/Section: OSDT Western Region Training Coordinator

Military Branch: Army

Years of Military Service: 12 years (1986-1996, 2001-2003)

Interesting facts/quote about his time in the service: "During my time in the military, with several deployments, and after working in law enforcement, I came to truly understand the concept of 'Train like you fight, fight like you train.' To serve my country was not only an honor, it was a privilege."



It's Nice to Have a Buddy



J.R. Poe, a chaplain with the Disabled American Veterans, and his therapy dog, Buddy, recently visited Central Prison Hospital to meet with patients. Buddy is a 10-year-old former champion Border Collie; he is now on his second career as a therapy dog. This was the first visit of a therapy dog to Central Prison; it was so well received by patients and staff that a return visit is planned in December.

Honor student

Earning honor student status during recent basic correctional officer training was **Samantha Haney** at Swannanoa Correctional Institution.

On The Scene...

is an online news magazine published monthly for and about employees of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. If you have questions, ideas or content to submit, please call Laura J. Leonard at 919.436.3142 or by email at Laura.Leonard@ncdps.gov.

Slam Dunk!



By Jerry Higgins, Communications Specialist

Caswell Correctional Center in Blanch raised \$500 during a fundraiser for the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics North Carolina on Sept. 30.

Local SONC athletes had the opportunity to throw balls and dunk Caswell Superintendent **Mark Carver** and Dan Diver Superintendent **Timothy Willis**. People also purchased hot dogs, drinks and chips—all to support the area SONC.

“Events of this nature always remind me that when it is all said and done, I receive more than I give,” Carver said. “The smiles on the athletes made every dunk into the water tank worth it.”

“My challenge is that all DPS facilities will hold events to honor these athletes and raise money to assist them in their endeavors. Part of the DPS mission is to be an integral part of our communities, and we can all do so by becoming involved with organizations such as Special Olympics,” he said.

The North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run conducts year-round fundraising and public awareness events in support of Special Olympics. Caswell Correctional Center decided to assist raising money to ensure that athletes never pay a fee to participate in Special Olympics. The money raised also provides meals, housing, equipment, uniforms and training facilities for North Carolina Olympics. The Prisoners Organized for Productive Activities inmate service club gave a \$2,000 donation, pushing far beyond the facility’s goal of \$1,000.

Tell Me Something Good!



The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles driver license examiners brought their mobile units to **Greene Correctional Center** in Maury and **Craggy Correctional Institution** in Asheville to provide photo identification to inmates who are preparing for release. Upon release, inmates need state-issued ID to secure housing, employment, medical care and other services. Getting that ID before they leave prison removes a significant obstacle to successful re-entry. The DMV mobile units will be visiting prisons across the state on a regular basis.

Safe, Fun Times at the N.C. State Fair

The State Highway Patrol had troopers at the N.C. State Fair, Oct. 13-23 to direct traffic around the venue. Some troopers were also stationed at a NCSHP booth promoting safety. The troopers pictured to the right are (from left to right): **Derek J. Ball**, Troop C; **Robert K. Hall**, Troop H; **Joe C. Blakely, III**, Troop D and **Kenneth R. Burroughs**, Troop D.

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New Director of Administrative Analysis

David Edwards has been named director of administrative analysis, effective Sept. 19. Previously, Edwards served as the deputy director of research and planning in Rehabilitative Programs and Services. He brings to this new role a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Edwards will perform a critical role as the **Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice (DACJJ)** implements criminal justice reform and the continued implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Act. He will analyze data from numerous sources, provide critical evidenced-based treatment options to the offender population, and develop goals, strategic plans, policies and procedures for the DACJJ.

Edwards is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, where he received his bachelor's and a Master of Regional Planning degree. He has authored and collaborated on numerous publications, and presented to national audiences on topics ranging from statewide mental health training and specialty mental health probation to implementing swift and certain sanctions.



Congratulations!



Fifteen participants recently graduated the Basic Correctional Officer Class 56 at the Office of State Development and Training facility in Valdese on Sept. 23. Pictured above are (front row from left to right): Timothy Pearson, Tyler Lowery, Cura Kelly, Danielle King, Stephenie Welch, Johnny Bonee, Stephen McDanielo; (back row) Dylan Stidham, Adam Baker, Shea Allred, Edward Luft, Steven Daniels, James Smith, Dalton Ledford and Zachary Hall.

Golfing for a Good Cause



The first annual Matty-Brenner Golf Tournament – organized by Community Corrections Judicial Division 3 on Oct. 6 – raised \$10,153.37 for the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation and N.C. Law Enforcement Assistance Program. The tournament, held at Pilot Knob Park in Pilot Mountain, had more than 60 employees – including 31 from the division – participate. Division 3 Judicial Division Administrator Brian Gates credited David Smith for organizing the tournament; Scott Bauer for donating and preparing all of the food; Johnny Cook for obtaining a majority of the door prizes and silent auction items; and Elizabeth Wilson for keeping up with the finances, making all of the hole sponsor signs, preparing all of the goody bags and countless other tasks. The tournament is named for former North Carolina probation parole officers Jim Matty and Rick Brenner. Jim worked in Surry County and died in 2013. Brenner worked in Cabarrus County and passed away last April.

HR's Got Spirit... How About You?

Everyone loves sports, so DPS' Human Resources decided to incorporate it into its State Employees Combined Campaign fundraising. The DPS HR staff celebrated team spirit by wearing their favorite sports team's jerseys; the proceeds went to the NCSECC. Pictured from left to right: Arlene Dawson, Teresa Mitchell, Sefronia Strum, Ida Diaz, Deborah Cash, Norena Moore, Doris Taylor, Lynda Lovett, George Foxwell, Darlene Yost, Rebecca Hinton, and Brittany Barbour.

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Tell Me Something Good!

PROMOTIONS

In September 2016

Name, job title, location, length of service (y=years, m=months)

Tobechukwu Abiahu, professional nurse, Prisons Administration

Gina Barrett, professional nurse, Prisons Administration

John Beasley, sergeant II, Caledonia Correctional Institution

Nicholas Bell, youth services behavioral specialist, Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center

Paul Bennett, substance abuse program administrator, Alcohol & Chemical Dependency

Chadwick Blackmon, maintenance mechanic V, National Guard Facility Management

Travis Bobbitt, sergeant II, Nash Correctional Institution

Robert Born, correctional officer III, Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center

Keith Bowers, training instructor II, Staff Development & Training

Quincy Bradley, youth services behavioral specialist, Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center

Giovanni Brown, food service officer III, Polk Correctional Institution

Marcia Brumbaugh, psychological program manager, Harnett Correctional Institution

Deon Bryant, correctional officer, Maury Correctional Institution

Michael Cahoon, housing unit manager II, Bertie Correctional Institution

Robert Cameron, correctional officer III, Central Prison Correctional Institution

Curtis Campbell, housing unit supervisor, Dobbs Youth Development Center

Ethan Carter, youth counselor, Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center

Ashley Cole, sergeant II, Nash Correctional Institution

Jackie Cooper, food service officer III, Polk Correctional Institution

Casey Corey, youth development ctr regional principal, Dobbs Youth Development Center

Robert Courtney, sergeant I, Marion Correctional Institution

Gerard Coyle II, food service officer III, Maury Correctional Institution

Dexter Davis, food service officer II, Caledonia Correctional Institution

Warren Davis, lieutenant II, Harnett Correctional Institution

Nathan Daye, programs director I, Carteret Correctional Institution

Teresa Deaver, correctional officer III, Scotland Correctional Institution

Thomas Deaver, sergeant I, New Hanover Correctional Center

Richard Delfino, maintenance mechanic IV, Lanesboro Correctional Institution

Beth Edwards, personnel technician I, Mountain View Correctional Institution

Christopher Edwards, correctional officer, Maury Correctional Institution

Daniel Edwards, director of administrative analysis, Policy & Strategic Planning

Wilburn English, housing unit manager II, Scotland Correctional Institution

Iantha Everett, diagnostic center director, Craven Correctional Institution

John Floyd, captain II, Lumberton Correctional Institution

Tericka Foggs, correctional officer, Maury Correctional Institution

Brenita Gilliard, professional nurse, Eastern Correctional Institution

Paula Goodwin, professional nurse, Bertie Correctional Institution

Shunteka Gorham, food service officer II, Franklin Correctional Institution

Hiedi Grady, processing assistant IV, Craven Correctional Institution

Angela Gray, correctional officer II, Sampson Correctional Institution

William Gresham, youth counselor technician, Cabarrus Detention Center

Larry Grier, correctional officer, Maury Correctional Institution

Philip Harrison, sergeant II, Morrison Correctional Institution

Franklin Hiller, correctional officer III, Maury Correctional Institution

Fatima Huff, judicial services coordinator, Community Corrections Judicial District 21

Eric Hunter, lieutenant II, Caledonia Correctional Institution

Jaquetta Ingram, chief probation/parole officer, Community Correction Judicial District 19-A

Anita Jarvis, judicial services coordinator, Community Corrections Judicial District 2

Melissa Johnson, processing assistant V, State Highway Patrol Commander Operations

Shakitha Johnson, chief probation/parole officer, Community Corrections Judicial District 27

Travis Johnson, training instructor II, Staff Development & Training

Ja'vonte' Lashley, correctional officer III, Central Prison Correctional Institution

Ralph Leach, youth program education assistant II, Tarheel Challenge

Mary Lee, work against correctional officer I and/or II, Maury Correctional Institution

Jeffrey Lesser, maintenance mechanic IV, Alexander Correctional Institution

Delicia Little, personnel technician II, Human Resources Eastern Carolina Regional Employment Office

Michael Locklear, food service supervisor I, Lumberton Correctional Institution

Ledell Lucky, chief probation/parole officer, Community Corrections Judicial District 8

Johnny Macemore, maintenance mechanic IV, Alexander Correctional Institution

Robin Martin, training instructor II, Staff Development & Training

Cynthia Maye, sergeant I, Eastern Correctional Institution

Marc McPherson, housing unit manager II, Tarboro Correctional Institution

Rodney Melvin, probation parole associate, Community Corrections Judicial District 10

Derek Messer, mechanic supervisor I, State Highway Patrol

Bennett Mobley, correctional officer III, Maury Correctional Institution

Rodney Moore, probation/parole field specialist, Community Corrections Judicial District 7

David Moose, sergeant I, Piedmont Correctional Institution

Ryne Myers, correctional officer II, Marion Correctional Institution

Gregory Nelson, sergeant I, Orange Correctional Institution

Joseph Norris, correctional officer III, Maury Correctional Institution

Wanda Padgett, judicial services coordinator, Community Corrections Judicial District 3

Tiffany Powell, administrative secretary III, Parole Commission

Nancy Pritchard, asst chief of special operations, Research & Development

Stephen Reeves, sergeant II, Piedmont Correctional Institution

Brandi Renfro, chief probation/parole officer, Community Corrections Judicial District 24

Reinaldo Rivera, correctional officer III, Lanesboro Correctional Institution

Marcus Satterthwaite, food service officer III, Scotland Correctional Institution

Sherrell Sellers, correctional officer III, Scotland Correctional Institution

Neil Smeigh, programs supervisor, Tarboro Correctional Institution

Aneshia Smith, correctional officer III, Central Prison Correctional Institution

Dennis Smith, HVAC supervisor I, Marion Correctional Institution
Rolanda Smith, youth counselor technician, Transportation Services
Sarah Snyder, sergeant I, Rutherford Correctional Institution
Christopher Soles, facility maintenance manager I, Tarboro Correctional Institution
Sarah Spencer, social worker III, Edgecombe Clinical Services
Kimberly Spillers, lieutenant I, Swannanoa Correctional Institution
Jasmine Stephens, correctional officer III, Central Prison Correctional Institution
Jeffrey Taylor, maintenance mechanic IV, Bertie Correctional Institution
Nicholas Trickel, correctional officer III, Maury Correctional Institution
Beverly Urquhart, food service supervisor I, Neuse Correctional Institution
Sharon Walker, administrative secretary I, Bertie Correctional Institution
Melissa Wall, training instructor II, Staff Development & Training

Melissa Wall, accounting technician, Brown creek Correctional Institution
Rhonda Weaver, investigator, Administration Victim Services
Antoinette Wells, correctional officer III, N.C. Correctional Institution for Women
Ronald Wesley, captain II, Craven Correctional Institution
Tracey Wildes, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections Judicial District 19-B
Jeffrey Williams, sergeant I, Dan River Correctional Institution
Stephanie Williams, sergeant II, Maury Correctional Institution
Amanda Williams, chief probation/parole officer, Community Correction Judicial District 5
Mashell Wilson, housing unit manager II, Bertie Correctional Institution
Barbara Wyatt, sergeant II, Avery Mitchell Correctional Institution
Jessica Yarbrough, training instructor II, Staff Development & Training

RETIREMENTS

George Aldridge, sergeant I, Brown creek Correctional Institution, 12y/9m
Kenneth Alston, correctional officer III, Central Prison Correctional Institution, 33y/0m
Marie Bell, nurse supervisor, N.C. Correctional Institution for Women, 9y/7m
James Blanks, captain, State Highway Patrol, 27y/3m
Kathy Bradshaw, correctional officer I, Foothills Correctional Institution, 19y/6m
Patsy Byrd, personnel technician I, Mountain View Correctional Institution, 8y/8m
Mary Carswell, food service officer III, Foothills Correctional Institution, 19y/2m
Wayne Craft, correctional officer I, Lincoln Correctional Institution, 20y/8m
Wendell Cruthis, sergeant III, Central Prison Correctional Institution, 22y/4m
William Currin, correctional officer II, Franklin Correctional Institution, 13y/5m
David Franklin, lieutenant II, Craggy Correctional Institution, 27y/8m
Peter Garrison, medical record manager I, Prisons Administration, 20y/6m
James Goff, chief probation and parole officer, Community Corrections Judicial District 21, 36y/6m
Fenicha Graham, lieutenant II, Harnett Correctional Institution, 30y/0m
Aubrey Graves, correctional officer I, Dan River Correctional Institution, 26y/1m
Pamela Grissom, judicial services coordinator, Community Corrections Judicial District 10, 25y/8m
Madeline Hamilton, professional nurse, N.C. Correctional Institution for Women, 9y/10m
Wendell Hargrave, program administrator, Security Services, 30y/1m
Martha Hazelwood, licensed practical nurse, Swannanoa Correctional Institution, 9y/8m
Gene Hinson, processing assistant III, Brown creek Correctional Institution, 13y/1m
Ricky Huntsinger, trooper, State Highway Patrol Troop H, 22y/4m
Gordon Ipock, HVAC supervisor I, Marion Correctional Institution, 18y/9m
Edward Jackson, chief probation/parole officer, Community Corrections Judicial District 26, 23y/0m
Lynn Johnson, boiler operator II, Sampson Laundry, 28y/9m
Pamela Kearns, office assistant, State Highway Patrol Troop E, 37y/4m
Betty King, processing assistant III, Polk Correctional Institution, 21y/5m
Dennis Lebrasseur, correctional officer II, Piedmont Correctional Institution, 25y/1m
Sandra Langston, health assistant II, Maury Correctional Institution, 25y/7m

Tommy Lee, chief probation/parole officer, Community Corrections Judicial District 5, 25y/0m
Cateena Locklear, school educator I, Foothills Correctional Institution, 21y/11m
Robert Long, chief probation/parole officer, Community Corrections Judicial District 23, 29y/10m
Curtis Lowman, correctional officer II, Sampson Correctional Institution, 17y/3m
Jeffrey Newton, sergeant I, Gaston Correctional Institution, 29y/5m
Lawrence Parsons, assistant superintendent IV, Albemarle Correctional Institution, 29y/10m
Brenda Pittman, captain I, Neuse Correctional Institution, 26y/4m
James Pittman, training instructor II, Staff Training & Development, 25y/3m
Randy Price, correctional officer I, Carteret Correctional Institution, 8y/5m
Herbert Ramsey, sergeant II, Hyde Correctional Institution, 13y/5m
Tonia Robbins, office assistant IV, Community Corrections Judicial District 20, 29y/6m
Byron Singleton, maintenance mechanic IV, Scotland Correctional Institution, 29y/5m
Beth Thornton, employment specialist, Human Resources, 31y/11m
Marcus Wall, social worker II, Swannanoa Correctional Institution, 29y/6m
Michael Walston, sergeant I, Eastern Correctional Institution, 28y/8m
Gary Weaver, sergeant, State Highway Patrol Troop A, 24y/4m
Corey Williams, lead correctional officer II, Albemarle Correctional Institution, 32y/2m
Timothy Williams, correctional officer I, Robeson Confinement in Response to Violation Ctr, 26y/6m
Diana Wilson, chief probation/parole officer, Community Corrections Judicial District 28, 12y/3m

DEATHS

Name, job title, location, length of service (y=years, m=months)

Gary Conley, correctional officer I, Greene Correctional Institution, 16y/0m
Jose Del Toro Garcia, correctional officer I, Greene Correctional Institution, 0y/8m
Kevin Wills, correctional officer II, Pender Correctional Institution, 2y/0m