



On the **Scene**

The budget and Public Safety

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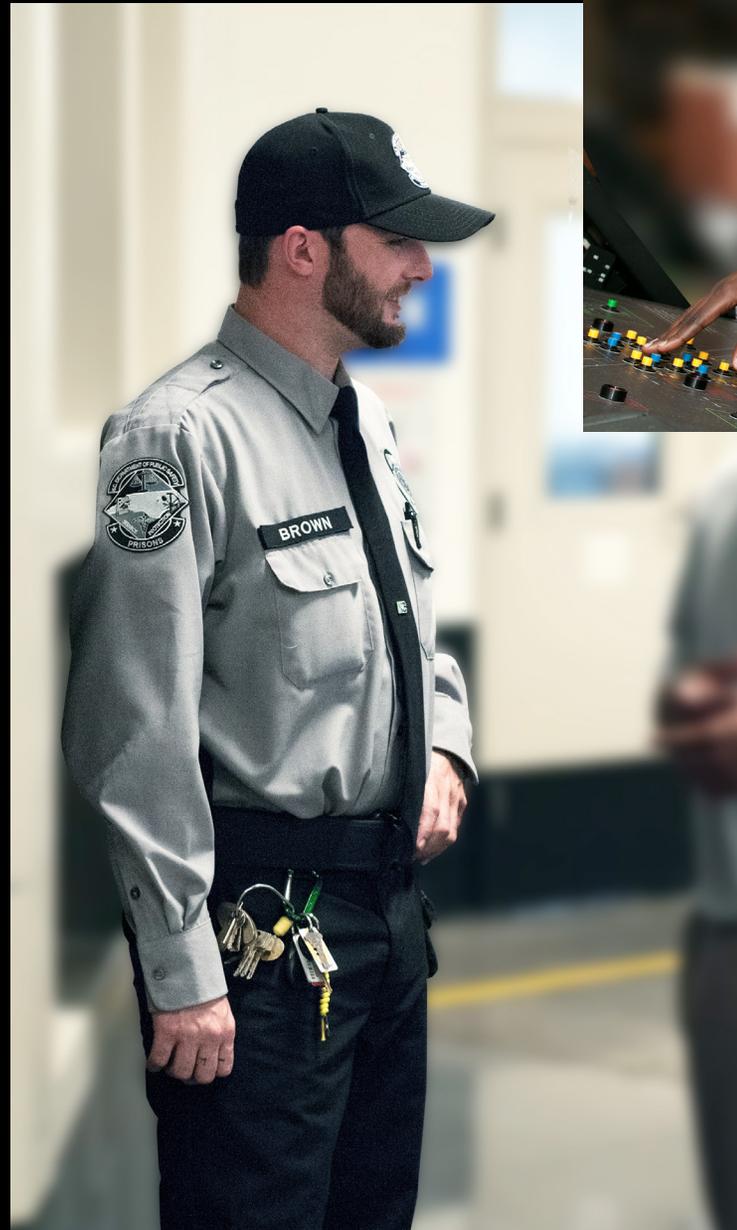
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No more blue, something new

Correctional officers in the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice are now wearing new uniforms. The grey and black theme replaces the previous blue and blue attire, and the fabric is designed for both comfort and durability.

Photos by **Ryan Guthrie**, staff photographer.

Biennium budget set for DPS

By **Jarret Burr**, Legislative Liaison

When the North Carolina General Assembly convened in Raleigh for its 2015 legislative long session, the priorities were primarily passing a state budget for the 2015-2017 biennium, which began July 1. After months of budget preparation and negotiations, and after two continuing resolutions, the budget (House Bill 97) was passed by the legislature and signed by Gov. Pat McCrory on Sept. 18.

The adopted budget for the Department of Public Safety included a correctional officer base pay salary adjustment, step increases for the Highway Patrol, as well as a salary classification study for Emergency Management. A \$2 billion bond referendum bill was also passed by

the legislature, and, if passed by voters, will provide \$70 million for National Guard facility construction and upgrades.

All divisions of the Department of Public Safety saw improvements in the budget, which will better enable the department

to carry out its mission. The General Assembly increased the budget from \$1.74 billion in 2014 to nearly \$1.85 billion for 2015.

One of the highlights of the 2015 budget for the North Carolina State Highway Patrol was a 3 percent pay increase for all sworn members (effective July 1, 2015) and the restoration of 5 percent step increases (effective January 2016). In total, the SHP budget saw an overall increase of 7.5 percent.

The SHP also received additional funding that will allow regular patrol vehicle replacements, additional in-car cameras and video data storage, and state-of-the-art training equipment.

The largest division within DPS — Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice — received much-needed funding in several areas. Most notable was funding for pay adjustments for correctional officers and prison custody staff. This marks the first such adjustment since 1984. Included in the budget was \$25.5 million to begin implementing pay increases so that employees working in the higher custody levels earn at higher pay grades. Implementation of the full pay plan requires about \$55 million and will depend on future legislative funding.

The budget provides \$3.1 million to

fund 66 positions at Central Prison's mental health facility. This will allow the opening of 72 additional inmate beds, enabling the facility to operate at its full capacity of 216 beds.

The legislature also appropriated \$8 million to establish therapeutic control units at eight prisons to provide improved mental health treatment services during incarceration.

All state employees, including DPS, will receive a \$750 bonus in December.

The budget allocated \$1.3 million for vendor fees for an electronic inmate healthcare records system, and allows the department to use specified funds to finance the costs of renovating existing space at Central Prison for inmates requiring long term palliative care.

In the department's continuing efforts to combat illegal cell phone use and possession by inmates, the budget allows DPS to spend up to \$675,000 in FY 2015-16, and \$2.75 million in FY 2016-17 for a managed access

Tens of thousands of folders of inmate medical records have been converted to a digital format, providing greater efficiency in access and storage.

Below, a trooper checks the settings on the video camera in his Highway Patrol cruiser.



[Read more.](#)



From the previous page. system that will enhance security technology to deter illegal cell phone use in the state's prison system.

Also in the budget is a \$2.6 million funding increase to Community

Corrections for electronic monitoring of offenders under supervision. It also allows the use of interstate compact fees collected by Community Corrections during the biennium for training and equipment purchases.

DPS received \$2 million to expand bed capacity for adjudicated juveniles in contracted and state-run facilities throughout the state. This allocation brings the total budget for juvenile community programs to \$20.1 million, an increase of 11 percent.

Addressing correctional officer safety, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 78. It allows correctional officers to carry a concealed weapon while off duty without the need for a concealed carry permit. To do so, an officer must have successfully completed the department's firearms training requirement.

The State Bureau of Investigation and Alcohol Law Enforcement also saw improvements with legislative changes and with the passage of the budget.

Acting Director Bernard Warren "B.W." Collier was appointed by Gov. McCrory and confirmed by the legislature as director of the SBI. The appointment is for an eight-year term.

The budget allocated \$1.9 million in fleet monies to the SBI which will allow the purchase of 75 vehicles each year.

Also granted was authorization to replace the Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

The Governor's Crime Commission received \$5 million for local and county law enforcement grants and \$1.6 million was awarded to the HERO Grants. The HERO grant program provides money to law enforcement agencies for salaries, training, and equipment for Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, in an attempt to locate and rescue children at risk of exploitation.

Also contained in the budget was a provision directing the Office of State Human Resources to study the salary classification of State Emergency Management personnel within DPS, and to make recommendations for market-based salary adjustments and turnover, recruitment and retention experienced by DPS.

Several bills had positive effects on the National Guard.

House Bill 595 requires that each military member or veteran with a military police occupation specialty be evaluated on whether their combined training and experience meets the standard required for Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) certification and what, if any, additional training may be required. Before this legislation was passed, Criminal Justice Training and Standards gave no credit for military training and veterans were required to take the entire BLET curriculum

Passage of House Bill 691 made it a felony to assault Guard members in the performance of their duties, and House Bill 371 gives the Adjutant General the ability to designate members of the Guard to carry a concealed firearm while acting in the performance of their official

duties. HB 371 was passed shortly after the terrorist attack at a military recruiting station in Tennessee.

House Bill 709 also allows the NC Tuition Assistance Program (NCTAP) to pay tuition and fees for Guard members who are attempting to receive a graduate certificate when they do not have the ability to take a full master's program. The budget also provided \$200,000 additional recurring funding to the NCTAP program. The additional funding brings the annual recurring funding to \$2.1 million.

The National Guard will also receive \$5.7 million for armory capital improvements and \$250,000 to acquire property within the Dupont State Recreational Forest for a National Guard facility. The Guard also received authorization to spend \$14.2 million in federal money for replacement of the Wilmington Armory.

"At the conclusion of the eight-and-a-half-month session on Sept. 30, 1,666 bills and resolutions were filed by the House and Senate members," Secretary Perry said.

"Gov. McCrory supported budget items such as correctional officer pay, Highway Patrol step increases and improvements for mental health treatment in the prisons, and they ultimately made it into the budget.

"DPS is looking forward to continuing to build on the momentum coming out of the long session, and will begin preparing for the short session that convenes on April 25, 2016." ▀



House Bill 709 will help National Guard soldiers earn a graduate education.

New technology is expected to help prisons block the signals of cell phones that get smuggled in to inmates.

Hurricane Joaquin

The 1-2 punch that never came

By **Clyde Roper**, Communications Officer

It was a monster of a storm. It also looked like a storm that might have serious consequences for the people of North Carolina.

Hurricane Joaquin was the strongest hurricane to form in the Atlantic since Hurricane Igor in 2010.

[Read more.](#)

From the previous page.

Igor ravaged Newfoundland, causing unprecedented damage. Emergency Management professionals in North Carolina braced for the worst as projections showed Joaquin tracking this way. The seasoned team at Emergency Management knew that the storm could hit North Carolina the way Igor had Newfoundland. It might have been worse.

That's because a separate weather system already threatened with record-setting rainfall in the Southeast while Joaquin hovered off the coast. Meteorologists warned a deadly "one-two punch" was possible — a powerful offshore hurricane meets a once-in-a-

millennium rainfall on land to create a perfect storm of destructive power.

State of Emergency declared

On Thursday, Oct. 1, Gov. Pat McCrory declared a state of emergency in all 100 counties of North Carolina due to the heavy flooding expected throughout the state. The heavy rainfall of the preceding week meant the ground was already saturated, increasing the likelihood of falling trees and power outages.

"Regardless of the impacts of Hurricane Joaquin, North Carolina has the potential for life-threatening flooding," cautioned Public Safety Secretary **Frank L. Perry**.

Almost a Category 5

On the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, a Category 4 hurricane is one that reaches sustained wind speeds of 130-156 miles-per-hour. A Category 5 hurricane is anything over 156 mph. Category 3, 4 and 5 hurricanes are considered major storm systems with the potential for catastrophic damage.

Around noon on Saturday, Oct. 3, a weather reconnaissance plane equipped with a stepped frequency microwave radiometer (SFMR) flew through Joaquin. The eye of the hurricane was then near the Bahamas. It estimated the hurricane's sustained speeds at 155 mph — just under a Category 5. The last Category 5 hurricane seen in the Atlantic basin was Hurricane Felix in 2007. Storms that powerful are rare. Only 20 storms rated Category 4 or 5 have hit the Bahamas since record keeping began in 1851.

Joaquin shifts to the east and then fades away

Originally forecast to reach the Outer Banks by Saturday, Oct. 3, it was apparent that Joaquin was turning north by northeast away from the Bahamas. North Carolina would likely escape a direct hit. The single focus of Emergency Management and the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) then became dealing with the tremendous rain event that had drenched the Carolinas for days. While keeping a close eye on the river levels and some flooded areas near the coast, SERT continued monitoring forecasts of more rain. With greater apparent devastation in South Carolina, SERT would soon begin sending supplies and personnel to our Southern neighbor, which was devastated by record flooding and rain-related incidents.

'We're hoping for the best, but hope is not preparation nor is it a plan.'

Gov. Pat McCrory



With Joaquin moving away, the tremendous rain event became the single focus.

[Read more.](#)

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North Carolina had been hit hard by the torrential rain. On Friday, Oct. 2 and Saturday, Oct. 3, between 400 and 500 people were evacuated from Brunswick County due to flooding, heavy rains and the failure of a levee in South Carolina. Earlier, on the Hyde County island of Ocracoke, another mandatory evacuation had been ordered after Highway 12 was closed due to flooding. Strong winds pushed water from the Pamlico Sound into southern and eastern areas of Pamlico County, causing severe flooding and several road closures. Emergency Management, North Carolina National Guard and associated personnel rescued 11 people in Pamlico and Hyde counties.

One rescue in Hyde County was made possible by the timely intervention of NC Emergency Management's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 8. The team was enroute to Hyde County from Raleigh. On Sunday, Oct. 4, the members of NCTF-8 encountered a rapidly sinking vehicle and two occupants in 8-10 feet of water 5 miles west of Swan Quarter. The fast-thinking professionals donned rescue gear and quickly pulled the driver and passenger to safety.

Aftermath

Hurricane Joaquin had pounded the islands of the Bahamas and caused considerable damage. The cargo ship El Faro was also lost with 33 crew members. In North Carolina, two deaths were attributed to the weather events associated with Joaquin. The last advisory issued about Joaquin came on the morning of Oct. 8, when it was classified as a post-tropical cyclone. Well after the departure of Joaquin from the area, Emergency Management professionals in North Carolina are still dealing with the consequences

of the storm, the rains and the flooding. Preliminary damage assessment (PDA) teams, composed of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), state and local representatives, began surveying damage in nine counties on Oct. 14. PDA teams document the damages to public infrastructure that may be eligible under FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program. Unfortunately, the PDA Teams are assessing and documenting a great deal of damage. The people of North Carolina can be thankful the second part of the "one-two punch" — the punch from Joaquin, never came. The one "punch" from the rain was bad enough. ▴

Hurricane Joaquin Overview

- 2 | Weather-related fatalities in North Carolina
- 200 | Road closures statewide
- 12 | Counties with declared State of Emergency
- 2 | Counties with evacuations (Hyde, Brunswick)
- 76 | Army National Guard soldiers deployed in North Carolina
- 1 | Urban Search and Rescue Teams deployed
- 3 | Swift Water Rescue Teams deployed: 3



Jumping to recovery

By **Townes Maxwell**, Communications Assistant

When an emergency is on the horizon in North Carolina, thousands of people around the state jump into action, preparing a response and aiding in recovery.

The state Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located in Raleigh, fills with employees specializing in logistics, planning, search and rescue, communications and many other fields, often working 24 hours a day.

As N.C. Emergency Management director, **Mike Sprayberry** is legally authorized to call for help from all state agencies. He is also able to maintain contact with all 100 county emergency managers at once to keep information flowing about what is happening across the state.

Sprayberry or his designee leads the State Emergency Response Team (SERT), which is composed of many state agencies, public utilities and nonprofit relief organizations. The SERT is designed to quickly come together and coordinate relief efforts during emergencies. From the North Carolina National Guard to the Red Cross, the SERT is built to be ready for any disaster.

The planning team is responsible for communications within the SERT. They keep track of which actions have been taken, and which objectives remain to be completed. Among other duties, the planning team issues daily incident action plans, which

Above, with Gov. Pat McCrory leading the way, top state officials regularly keep the public fully informed about storm response, rescue and recovery.

[Read more.](#)



Left, Emergency Management director **Mike Sprayberry** uses input from all response sectors to prepare a status update for the public. In the background beyond Sprayberry is Libby Turner, FEMA federal coordinating officer for North Carolina. Right, new information is monitored constantly by emergency management personnel

Photos by **George Dudley**, editor.



From the previous page.

explain where resources are going and what they will be used for, as well as monitoring data changes. The team also generates twice daily reports to explain to the rest of the SERT how things have changed since the last update.

When resources are requested by any county within the state, the logistics team fields the request and determines how to help. Two logistics warehouses, located in Tarboro and Badin, serve as hubs for resource request fulfillment. All resources in the state are deployed from one of these two facilities.

The public information team operates from the Joint Information Center (JIC), fielding media calls, preparing talking points for official use during press briefings, distributing information on social media channels and writing press releases. They must be fully informed with the latest information available to convey accurate information to the public and the media. With the JIC located within the EOC, all of that information is just a few steps away.

When a crisis situation occurs, search and rescue teams are deployed to remedy any problems. When an emergency develops slowly, like a hurricane often does,

teams are deployed to areas of potential impact well in advance in order to quickly respond to any requests. Five types of search and rescue teams are available, each with very different charges: Helicopter and Aquatic Rescue Team (HART), Swiftwater, Urban, Mountain and Wilderness. HART teams are able to access difficult locations when roads are unstable or the location of the hazard isn't fully known. Swiftwater rescue teams, commonly deployed during major storms, are trained on how to specifically rescue trapped individuals who have been swept up in rushing currents or floods. Urban

search and rescue teams are deployed to save those who may be trapped under the debris of a collapsed building. Mountain and wilderness search and rescue units are self-explanatory.

These branches, in collaboration with many other groups like FEMA and the National Weather Service, help to ensure that North Carolinians are informed, protected and assisted in recovery when necessary. Though state and county emergency managers cannot prevent disasters from happening, they can help mitigate losses and expedite recovery. ▴



North Carolina National Guard soldiers arrive in South Carolina to help with recovery from the historic flood. *NCNG photo.*

Walk In My Shoes

Back home, giving back

By **Diana Kees**, Communications Officer

David Wall has spent nearly 23 years – his entire career – working with families and children in North Carolina’s juvenile justice system. As a juvenile court counselor supervisor in District 19 (Randolph, Montgomery and Moore counties), he feels fortunate that he is able to help make a difference with juveniles in the area where he himself played as a child, growing up near Candor.

Wall’s career in juvenile justice began in December 1992 – just a few miles from where he grew up – at the former youth development center known as Samarkand Manor in Eagle Springs. During his five-year tenure there, he worked his way up from cottage parent to behavior specialist at Samarkand. While working full-time at Samarkand, Wall built upon an associate’s degree in criminal justice by returning to school with a full course load, and in two years he earned a bachelor’s degree in social science from Gardner Webb University.

After completing an internship in Randolph County, Wall moved from Juvenile Facilities into Court Services as a court counselor. He received a promotion to juvenile court counselor supervisor in District 19 in 2012, though for a time

[Read more.](#)

Photos by **Diana Kees**, communications officer.



Continued from previous page.

in 2011 he served as the district's acting chief court counselor until the position was filled.

"I thought [at one point] I would go to law school, but that never panned out," Wall said. "I'm approaching 23 years of service and I am still serving juveniles and their families and I don't have any doubts that I am doing what I am supposed to be doing. I love working with kids and making a difference that I can measure every day."

Wall supervises juvenile court counselors in District 19, who provide services for juveniles who come into contact with the local Juvenile Court Services office following allegations of alleged delinquent or undisciplined behavior. His supervisory duties range from assigning cases, reviewing and evaluating court counselor files for compliance with policy, district and state standards, and ensuring that office and district coverage exists across Montgomery, Moore and Randolph counties. Wall also regularly discusses any difficult cases staff members may have, to provide helpful feedback; and, as a certified general instructor, he provides training to district staff.

"[As supervisor] I am responsible for the quality of service provided by staff, ensuring the right juvenile is receiving the right service at the right time," Wall said.

Though his duty office is in Troy, as a juvenile court counselor supervisor in a multi-county district, Wall has learned to be flexible in his work day, travelling to where the need is greatest.

"If it is a court day in one of the three counties, I go to that county," Wall said. "All of our counties have a good relationship with the district attorney's office and an ADA meets with our court counselors before court."

On non-court days, Wall may review



David Wall, right, reviews a case with Court Counselor **Joe Didona** in the Randolph County Juvenile Court Services Office in Asheboro.

court reports or case files; assist court counselors with staffing cases or answering questions; answer emails and phone calls, and attend meetings. When the opportunity presents itself, he also likes to get out and ride with court counselors for improved evaluation and feedback purposes.

Wall emphasizes that court counselors are responsible for the safety of the communities and the juvenile. But he also believes that accountability on the job – to the state and to the juvenile and families being served – is important.

"We are accountable for making sure that every juvenile that we come into contact with is given an opportunity to become a productive, law-abiding citizen," Wall said. "I really like the treatment aspect of what we are doing with these kids. When I go home every day, I do so knowing that I've given everybody I've worked with an opportunity to make a positive change in their life. The juveniles are mostly just searching for direction and structure, which for so many of them has been missing from their lives.

"As court counselors we wear many hats and sometimes we have to ask difficult questions and make difficult decisions, but we better be prepared to justify our actions when doing so. In the past, it was 'out of sight, out of mind' for community stakeholders, because we worked with difficult cases

outside of their communities. Juveniles were too often being placed in facilities. Now, there is an emphasis on making changes where the juveniles are, right there in the community. We are working with children and their family as a whole, and it is crucial to get input and buy-in from parents for intervention and treatment to have long-term change with these juveniles."

Wall finds it particularly special that over the years he has been able to provide services to juveniles in his home county, Montgomery. Samarkand was within 5 miles of where he grew up.

"After I took the job at Randolph County Juvenile Justice, Linda Witcher, who was the only juvenile court counselor for over 30 years in Montgomery County, retired," he said. "[Because] Montgomery was part of the same district as Randolph, I was able to transfer to my home county. Not only was I making a difference doing something I love, but I was doing it in the same county, neighborhoods and schools I attended."

Wall's service to Juvenile Justice includes an eight-year stint as chairman of a local Juvenile Crime Prevention Council; assistance in writing basic training lesson plans for training of new juvenile court counselors; and obtaining General Instructor Certification, CPR and First Aid Certification and Staff and Offender Relations Instructor Certification. He is also a 2015 graduate of the Correctional Leadership Development Program.

Wall is married with two sons, and coaches local baseball and basketball teams in his free time.

"There really isn't any mystery to me," Wall said. "I guess I am a lot like my father. I put God and family first. I believe in an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. And I want to leave [things] better than I found them." ▾

New juvenile offender re-entry program wins federal grant

RALEIGH | North Carolina is one of three states that were awarded a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) grant to implement an innovative reintegration of juvenile offenders into the community.

“Our strategy focuses on improved assessment, delivering the appropriate education or workforce training and family engagement so they can be the support system for their child when they re-enter the community,” Gov. Pat McCrory said in announcing the grant award. “Our youths must be given every chance to succeed and reach their potential.”

The U.S. DOJ awarded the North Carolina Department of Public Safety \$1.1 million (\$735,000 with a required match of \$367,500) to implement the new community re-entry program.

“We are excited about the enhanced opportunities for system reform this grant brings North Carolina,” said DPS Secretary Frank Perry. “The federal funding allows us to continue to improve the way we do business, which heightens public safety while improving the outcomes for the youth and families we serve.”

Specific elements to be created by the new program include:

- ▲ Improved juvenile assessment policies and practices.
- ▲ A comprehensive service plan throughout the juvenile justice system continuum.
- ▲ Creation and implementation of a tool to match juveniles to the services they need.
- ▲ Delivery of effective and developmentally appropriate programming for juveniles, including the development of an education and workforce development strategy that targets criminogenic needs.
- ▲ Implementation of a family engagement and strengthening strategy to ensure that juveniles reentering family life can depend upon a strong and stable support system.
- ▲ Documenting the effects of this reentry reform strategy on recidivism, education, employment and behavioral health outcomes.

This new strategic reentry plan was designed by officials within the Department of Public Safety’s Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice in consultation with its Juvenile Justice Reentry Reform Task Force, which is comprised of professionals from the fields of juvenile justice, mental health, the courts, community-based programs and workforce development.

To assist with enhancements to service planning/matching and reentry efforts, Juvenile Justice has initiated a partnership with North Carolina’s Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC), a data integration hub and business intelligence program developed as a private-public partnership between state government and its corporate partner, SAS. ▲

Grant to enhance Justice Reinvestment

RALEIGH | The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded a \$1.75 million grant to the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice to enhance transitional services for inmates as they prepare to leave prison.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance award came through a competitive grant titled “Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Maximizing State Reforms.” This award will help North Carolina continue implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Act of 2011 by further integrating evidence-based practices into programming in state prisons — particularly through the preparation of inmates for release and successful re-entry to the community.

With this funding the state prison system will redesign its minimum custody levels to ensure inmates receive specific pre-release planning and preparation based on assessed risk and needs. A risk-needs-responsivity tool created by George Mason University will help determine programming needs and appropriate prison facility placement for high risk felons preparing for release. The grant funding will also be used to strengthen the evidence-based programming options for incarcerated felons and increase the number of local reentry councils established in the state.

Since the state implemented Justice Reinvestment in 2011, the prison population has declined by 8 percent, 11 state prisons have closed and no further prison construction is planned.

“We have greatly improved our supervision and outcomes for probationers in the community and with this funding we will work toward similar success with inmates – both inside the state prison system and after release.” said Commissioner **W. David Guice** of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice.

More information is at jr.nc.gov. ▲

Not a typical day at the beach

Sgt. Brian Godette, N.C. National Guard
KURE BEACH | North Carolina National Guard soldiers assigned to the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) conducted a training exercise at one of the Wilmington area beaches recently, but not for relaxation.

The soldiers trained alongside civilian counterparts with North Carolina Emergency Management during a hurricane emergency response scenario at the Guard's Fort Fisher Training Center in mid-September.

"This is a hurricane exercise based on real-world events and training exercises we have done with Emergency Management," said Sgt. Maj. Brian Webb, the operations sergeant major of the 30th ABCT. "This is the first time we've been able to incorporate NCEM and the brigade staff to see how the events unfold when we are activated."

The national training exercise prepped and tested the soldiers from the beginning to end, going through every step as if it was a real-world event.

"This exercise took us from five days prior to land fall, through [NCNG] Joint Force Headquarters issuing the operations order to the brigade, the brigade turning around and issuing the operations order to the battalion, standing up force packages and moving equipment and people from their locations to those areas prior to landfall of the hurricane," Webb said.

The training wasn't only suited for the 30th ABCT soldiers, but the North Carolina civilian emergency management counterparts as well.

"State emergency management is in

charge of all hazards, and we could be staffed with any other partner agency, so we practice like we fight," said **Melissa Greene**, the Area 3 Coordinator with the North Carolina Emergency Management department.

Working with the emergency management team provided a different experience for the soldiers, who typically work solely within the military structure.

"This is completely different from what we normally do," Webb said. "With domestic operations, we are not in charge, NCEM is in charge. The mindset of the soldier has to change that we are answering to someone else, not wearing this uniform."

The mindset for some emergency management professionals should also be reconsidered when thinking about the National Guard, according to Greene.

"It's good for the local emergency managers because they may not understand or realize what's out there for them, Guard-wise," Greene said. "Typically you look at the National Guard as military only and not really in the civilian world, but they meld very well together."

Soldiers of the NCNG are no strangers to helping the community with disaster response, with the last large response taking place during Hurricane Irene. Conducting training exercises with the NCEM helps to improve the communication and operations between the two agencies according to Webb.

"Soldiers getting on the ground, delivering water and stacking sand bags is going to happen," Webb said. "It's the communication piece that makes it

happen. That's where we stumble, and it takes time to happen."

The ultimate goal of the training exercise was to be prepared to support the residents of North Carolina during a natural disaster.

"We are citizen-soldiers — the citizens in every county we go to are our customers," Webb said. "Getting the proper communication lines established will ensure the soldier on the ground has everything he needs to do his job for those citizens."

Part of effectively training the team was the injection of different scenarios into the training exercise, requiring the different organizations to jointly work together.

"The real-world side of that is that it could totally happen, if people were told to evacuate and they don't and we have to send someone in after them," Greene said.

"We are training now for real-world events," Webb said. "We are dual-hatted citizen-soldiers with one boot overseas and one boot here." ▾



U.S. Army Lt. Col. John DuBose, the surgeon assigned to the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, reviews updated medical treatment charts in the tactical operations command during a simulated hurricane emergency response training exercises at the Fort Fisher National Guard Training Center, Kure Beach. Photo by Sgt. Brian Godette, 382nd Public Affairs Detachment.

Emergency responders get training for helicopter and swift water rescues



MORGANTON | Two dozen firefighters from across the state recently got special emergency response training in Burke County with help from the North Carolina National Guard and the State Highway Patrol through the Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team program.

The program, known as HART, combines helicopters with trained personnel to respond to such emergency situations as rescuing people trapped in buildings or in water by floods, hikers lost in hard-to-reach terrain, and those with serious injuries needing immediate medical attention.

Classroom training included preparation for real-world scenarios they would undergo to complete the week-long program and become rescue technicians.

HART used Western Piedmont Community College's Emergency Services Training Center in Morganton for the program exercises.

"We spent a day at Lake James State Park ... we used their facility and the helicopter for water-based scenarios simulating someone being on top of a floating car or in the middle of a deep area," **Mike Cook**, branch manager for the Western North Carolina Emergency Management, told The News Herald of Morganton.

Another day, firefighters boarded a Blackhawk helicopter to simulate a land-based rescue.

"That (the Blackhawk) is the workhorse for the U.S. Army," Cook said. It carries personnel and they can use it for rescue or moving equipment. It is one of the most powerful platforms they have and one of the better platforms to use in the

mountains because of its capability and extra power."

They flew to a field near WPCC and practiced multiple times the procedure to rescue someone from the ground and hoisting them into the helicopter.

Jeff Gordon, standardization instructor pilot at AASF No. 2 in Salisbury of the Army National Guard, is helping the program continue by sifting through possible, new technicians and bringing in the best and brightest.

"We are making an effort to recruit some new candidates and bring them aboard for HART," Gordon said. "As we all get older, there is a need for replacements to keep the program young and strong and that is what we are attempting to do now."

Only five states have programs like HART, which the N.C. program helped to begin.

"I think that the unique part of our team is how we integrate our civilian agencies and our local firefighters into the program," Gordon said. "I think all states have some plan in place so they can help their individual citizens, but it's not as complex or efficient as what we have."

Burke County is a popular site for hiking, and Mike Long, Burke Emergency Management director, said the training was put to practice last year when a climber fell from Shortoff Mountain.

HART teams were used extensively following Hurricanes Frances and Ivan in 2004 to rescue an estimated 350 residents from fast-moving water and areas isolated when landslides cut off roads and escape routes. ▴

Content adapted from an article by Jonelle Bobak of The News Herald, Morganton.

Tell me something good



Correctional personnel at Morrison Correctional Institution make their way down the line at a luncheon honoring them.

Photo Matt Harrelson, Richmond County Daily Journal.

Morrison prison applauds employees

HOFFMAN | Workers at Morrison Correctional Institution, about 350 of them, were treated in September to an employee appreciation luncheon that featured rib-eye steak and encouraging words about family and appreciation.

"This day is about you," said Superintendent **Pete Buchholtz**, as reported in the Richmond County Daily Journal. "We are one big team, and to go further, we're a family. We look out for each other. I wish there was more I could do for you throughout the year. A lot

of our work goes unrecognized, and when we are, it's usually for something you don't want to be recognized for. That doesn't take into account all the good things we do day-in and day-out."

Buchholtz said Morrison CI employees need to know how highly valued they are.

"It means the world to me," Buchholtz told reporter Matt Harrelson. "It's a little something to show we care about them, to let them know they're appreciated." ▾



Grass skirts, luau theme

The Juvenile Justice Section's Central Office kicked off the State Employees Combined Campaign on Sept. 28 with an Employee Appreciation Breakfast, Charity Fair and Karaoke Contest. The event launched with a Hawaiian luau theme, in keeping with the Hawaiian tradition of feasts to mark special occasions. Following a short staff meeting, Juvenile Justice leadership showed their appreciation to staff members by serving them their choice of pancakes, waffles, grits and omelets made on-site from an amazing breakfast buffet, put together by JJ's SECC chair, **Carolyn Cash**. As part of the event's theme, and to add to the festive spirit, members of the leadership team even donned leis and grass skirts. Six charitable organizations, eligible for SECC donations, manned tables during the morning to share information with staff. These included: Corral Riding Academy; Canines for Service; Hope-Line; the Greater Triangle United Way; Interact; and Special Olympics North Carolina. Also, Dr. Voris McBurnette won the morning's SECC fundraising karaoke contest with his rapid-fire rendition of Bobby Brown's 'Don't be Cruel.' Left, "skirting" the dress code, is **Billy Lassiter**, deputy commissioner for Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. Above, serving up breakfast are, from left, Lassiter; **Cindy Porterfield**, community programs manager; **Martin Pharr**, treatment and intervention manager; and **Mike Rieder**, court services manager.

Photos by **Diana Kees**, communications officer.



9 rewarded for writing about their experiences

Nine Community Corrections probation/parole officers were recently recognized for essays they wrote about successful work experiences.

Carey Group Publishing, which produces a conversation guide for officers in their meetings with probationers, sponsored the challenge, which sought essays that described exceptional success stories about probation supervision. North Carolina had more essays chosen than any other state.

Placing third in the challenge was **Jessica Bullock**, probation/parole officer II, Cumberland County. She won a certificate for \$250 worth of Carey Group Publishing's products.

Eight other probation/parole officers were named honorable mention and won \$100 certificates. They were: **Jessi Aldridge**, Duplin; **Seth Coleman**, Cumberland; **James Harding III**, Cumberland; **Kelly Hartley**, Durham; **Megan Hess**, Duplin; **Megan McNeill**, Moore; **Stephanie Smith**, Rutherford; and **Angie Stafford**, Forsyth. ▴

Community Health Hero

Leia Scales, an admission technician at Craven Correctional Institution, recently received a Community Health Hero Award by Pitt (County)

Partners for Health, recognizing her participation in the development of the video "Living Your Best."

In the video, Scales shared her testimony about living with a chronic disease. Her story generated numerous notes of positive feedback from throughout Pitt County and even Eastern North Carolina.



Honor students

Stacie Rembert of Piedmont Correctional Institution and **Charles Dugger IV** of Craggy Correctional Institution were recently named honor students in their respective Basic Correctional Officer Training. ▴

Conferences feature DPS managers

By **Keith Acree**, communications officer
Recently, three managers from the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice were featured speakers at national conferences.

Community Corrections Director **Anne Precythe** and Rehabilitative Programs and Services Director **Nicole Sullivan** represented North Carolina at the National Reentry Symposium: Promising Practices and Future Directions. The meeting in Colorado was co-sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and included more than 120 participants representing 41 states and the BOP.

Precythe and Sullivan, in a plenary session, led a discussion for the entire symposium on how North Carolina has created a seamless system of reentry that begins during the first day of incarceration and continues through community supervision. The presentation, titled "Passing the Baton from Inside to Outside," focused on the multi-step process of assessment, case planning, case management, transition and community

supervision emphasizing the shared roles and responsibilities of Prisons, Probation and Programs. It featured the work of re-entry councils now operating in many North Carolina communities.

Charles Walston, director of the Office of Staff Development and Training represented North Carolina at the National Training Administrators Forum (TAF), also sponsored by BOP and NIC. Walston was a member of the planning committee for the event, which focused on improving recruitment and retention by developing an educational connection and partnering with colleges and universities to establish career pathways for Correctional Officers. His talk featured NCDPS agreements with North Carolina Wesleyan College, Columbia Southern University, Waldorf College and Wake Tech.

Walston presented a plenary session to all training directors from all the states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons on the development of educational partnerships and the establishment of articulation agreements for DPS employees and the value of Data Driven Decision Making. ▴

Group discusses cutting-edge policies

NEW YORK | The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center gathered state and local leaders from across the nation, including respected legislators, court and law enforcement officials and cabinet secretaries to discuss complex criminal justice policies at its annual Board of Directors meeting last week.

David Guice, commissioner of North Carolina's Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, participated in discussions among the bipartisan group

of board members who gathered to determine the best ways to advance the latest evidence-based strategies on issues such as lowering recidivism rates among people who were formerly incarcerated, improving law enforcement's response to people with mental illness, and reducing schools' dependence on suspension and expulsion in response to student misconduct.

"The CSG Justice Center remains at

Corrections cadet program to grow workforce

WINDSOR | Atlanta Hawks guard Kent Bazemore returned Sept. 11 to the high school where he graduated to help NCDPS kick off a new correctional cadet program in Bertie County.

The new NC Public Safety Cadet Program helps high school students build a career path to employment with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. Developed jointly by the Bertie County school system, community leaders, the Governor's Office and the Department of Public Safety, the pilot program is aimed at keeping more young residents of Bertie County employed near home and at developing a well-trained and eligible workforce for one of the county's largest employers, Bertie Correctional Institution.

The new cadet program was introduced to Bertie County Schools staff in August by community leaders and DPS officials with a video message from Gov. Pat McCrory. Bazemore, who earned his criminal justice degree at Old Dominion University before joining the NBA, returned home to help introduce the program to Bertie students a few weeks later.

Bertie County high school students interested in the criminal justice field may participate as



From left, Elaine White, Bertie County Schools superintendent; **Gwen Norville**, Prisons deputy director; **Annie Harvey**, Prisons Coastal Region director; Melissa Werner, Governor's Office talent acquisition manager; Kent Bazemore, Atlanta Hawks guard; and Glynis Bazemore, Kent's mother.

Public Safety Cadets during their 11th and 12th grade years. These students will study a criminal justice curriculum jointly designed by Bertie County Schools and the Department of Public Safety focused on developing integrity, leadership and support for the community.

Successful completion of the high school course work in the cadet program will provide credits toward an associate's degree in criminal justice at Roanoke-Chowan Community College or Martin Community College. After completing the cadet program

and earning an associate's degree in criminal justice, students will be exceptionally prepared to begin working as a correctional employee in the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. The cadet program will complement the successful Army Junior ROTC and Emergency Medical Service cadet programs already operating in the Bertie County high schools. Classes are set to begin in January 2016. Plans include expanding the program to other parts of the state once it becomes established in Bertie County. ▴

Continued from the previous page

the forefront of advancing data-driven, consensus-based approaches to increasing public safety," Commissioner Guice said. "As a board member of the CSG Justice Center, I find it is very helpful to get together every year and discuss the innovative ideas that leading policymakers are advancing in states across the U.S. and how they could be best applied here in North Carolina."

The past year has been one of the CSG Justice Center's most productive, working with state and local leaders on a variety of projects across the country.

In addition to reviewing the status of these respective projects, board members provided input to help shape the Justice Center's future priorities. In planning for the upcoming year, the group examined options for helping state and local leaders undertake issues related to employment challenges for people with criminal records; reducing the prevalence of mental and substance use disorders in jails; and improving data collection in states' juvenile justice systems. ▴



137th Basic Patrol School graduates

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol conducted its 137th Basic Patrol School graduation on Sept. 11. The graduation ended 15 weeks of extensive academic and physical training. The new graduates and their duty stations are: **Gary W. Altman**, Troop H5 – Mecklenburg; **Robert J. Butler**, A7 – Lenoir; **Tyson W. Crawford**, G5 – Jackson; **David Felton III**, C2 – Wayne; **Steve W. Foreman**, G6 – Macon; **Matthew C. Greschak**, D7 – Orange; **Robert K. Hall**, H3 – Union;

Sean C. Hegmann, A2 – Hertford; **Louis M. High Jr.**, B2 – Sampson; **Andrew C. Holcomb**, D2 – Guilford; **Chuck Lee**, F5 – Lincoln; **Hunter D. Phillips**, G6 – Graham; **Colby S. Rice**, D4 – Person; **Trenten L. Robinette**, F4 – Iredell; **Nolan J. Sanders**, C2 – Wayne; **Matthew E. Sellers**, C6 – Johnston; **Justin S. Stone**, E1 – Davidson; **Brian K. Strickland**, B1 – Cumberland; **Brandon E. Travis**, F5 – Catawba.

Photo by Ryan Guthrie, staff photographer.

CYBERSECURITY MONTH

Governor proclaims importance of awareness

Gov. Pat McCrory has proclaimed October Cybersecurity Awareness Month. During this month, we encourage all state members to take the time to Stop, Think, and then CONNECT! Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility.

Technology and the use of networks are pervasive and have become a part of our daily lives. These connections, and the decisions and actions we take using them, determine the type of target we become. Do you consider yourself a strong target? Do you follow best practices and take caution when opening unfamiliar emails? Or are you a weak target, failing to follow general principles and guidelines? Stop, Think, Connect!

Recent Statistics

Statistics show that roughly 80 percent of compromises and attacks can be prevented by following best practices. Simple patching of your devices, both at home and at work, can eliminate vulnerabilities that are considered low hanging fruit to hackers and hacktivists.

Technology research firm Gartner has stated, "Through 2015, 80 percent of successful attacks will exploit well-known vulnerabilities and be detectable via security monitoring." It has also been reported that hackers often rely on computer bugs that have been around since as early as 2002. The other 20 percent can be prevented by users maintaining awareness of their environment by taking mandatory cyber training and awareness offerings to ensure you are up to date with the latest attack mechanisms and vectors. It is also important to share the information with others in a timely manner, to help other agencies and organizations to better harden their systems.

Take the Cyber Hygiene Pledge

At the N.C. Department of Information Technology, we strive to give the best service to our customer agencies and citizens. It is important that we take the needed time to ensure that we have addressed any possible risks and take corrective actions as needed. Remember that nearly 1 million NEW malware are detected every day. We cannot solely rely on our security appliances, and we need you, the end user, the system administrator, the network engineer, the database administrator, the HR specialist, to continue to remain vigilant.

This month, State Chief Information Risk Officer Maria S. Thompson challenges everyone to take the Cyber Hygiene Pledge.

Remember: Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility. Do your part. ▴

Is the FBI really calling you? It may be a scam

The FBI is warning North Carolina residents about a phone scam that spoofs the FBI's telephone number on the victim's caller ID.

FBI offices in at least eight states have received multiple calls reporting a scam involving someone claiming to be an FBI agent and demanding repayment for a school loan. On occasion, the caller even threatens the victim with arrest and not graduating from school if the fees were not immediately satisfied via MoneyGram. The caller often knows the name of the intended victim and has called a personal cellphone number, as well as a work number, to reach intended victims.

In addition, the originating telephone number used by the scammer is displayed or "spoofed" as that of the telephone number of the Charlotte FBI field office. Scammers have spoofed the phone numbers of FBI offices in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Montana and Wisconsin.

The FBI does not call private citizens requesting money.

There are a number of ways people with criminal intentions can obtain your name, phone number or email address. Never give out personal information to someone you did not initiate contact with. Before signing up for a contest or email distribution list, make sure the business has a policy not to share your information or sell it to a third party. Be leery of anyone you did not initiate contact with who asks for payment using a third party such as MoneyGram or GreenDot prepaid cards.

Individuals receiving such calls or needing to report any Internet related crime can file a complaint through the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov). ▴

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 contact the editor, George Dudley, at george.dudley@ncdps.gov or at 919.733.5027.

P R O M O T I O N S

In September 2015:

Name, title of new job, location

Rosanna Anderson, case analyst, Neuse Correctional Institution
Brandy Bradshaw, administrative assistant I, NCCNG Tarheel Challenge
Laura Bennett, sergeant, Warren Correctional Institution
Robin Black, sergeant, Lanesboro Correctional Institution
Leondrous Boone, sergeant, Central Prison
Delreese Bragg, supervisor III, Pender Correctional Institution
Ephriam Brickhouse, assistant superintendent for custody & operations III, Caledonia Correctional Institution
Daniel Brown, career coach, Adult Correction - Career Readiness
Brandon Bullock, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 25
Carajanine Caponigro, sergeant, Tabor Correctional Institution
Jane Carroll, case analyst, Polk Correctional Institution
Justin Carter, sergeant, Maury Correctional Institution
Marvin Casino, nurse supervisor, Maury Correctional Institution
Charles Chavis, unit manager, Scotland Correctional Institution
Vanessa Cherry, substance abuse counselor advanced, Dan River Prison Work Farm
Robert Civils, captain, Craven Correctional Institution
Joy Davis, assistant unit manager, Robeson Confinement in Response to Violation Center
Kevin Dudley, lieutenant, Scotland Correctional Institution
Gerald Ebert, food service manager I, Greene Correctional Institution
John Fajardo, sergeant, Central Prison
Tiesha Farmer, youth counselor, Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center
Sophia Feaster, extension education & training specialist III, Rehabilitative Prison Programs
William Fox, plant maintenance supervisor I, N.C. Correctional Institution for Women
Karla Frederick, administrative services manager, Maury Correctional Institution
Vincent Gaddy, programs director III, Rehabilitative Prison Programs
Queen Gerald, unit manager, Scotland Correctional Institution
William Hade, substance abuse counselor advanced, Piedmont Correctional Institution
Donald Hanks, engineering/architectural supervisor, Engineering
Tammi Harper, programs supervisor, Bertie Correctional Institution
Edward Hemilright, HVAC Supervisor I, Pasquotank Correctional Institution
John Hill, lead correctional officer, Craven Correctional Institution
Twanna Hill, professional nurse, Greene Correctional Institution
Lorraine Hollins, captain, Bertie Correctional Institution
Karen Jayson, criminal justice planner II, Governor's Crime Commission
Kathy Johnson, administrative assistant II, Caledonia Correctional Institution
Donald Jones, manager II, Community Corrections District 11
Samuel Jones, lieutenant, Craven Correctional Institution
Tiffni Jones, substance abuse counselor-advanced, Alcoholism & Chemical Dependency Programs
Kelly Jordan, staff psychologist, Central Prison - Mental Health
John Juehrs, unit manager, Central Prison
Joseph Kennedy, supervisor III, Correction Enterprises

Deray Kirb, programs supervisor, Lanesboro Correctional Institution
Leslie Manning, mechanic supervisor II, State Highway Patrol Troop C Garage
Christopher Martin, sergeant, Maury Correctional Institution
Beulah Mason, captain, Caledonia Correctional Institution
Helene Mayo, Processing Assistant V, Controller
David McCarthy, probation/parole field specialist, Community Corrections District 7
Tanajwa McMurray, sergeant, Maury Correctional Institution
Kayla Mercer, sergeant, Tabor Correctional Institution
Cathy Mozingo, administrative services manager, N.C. Correctional Institution for Women
Bruce Newton, sergeant, Foothills Correctional Institution
Christopher Nichols, career coach, Adult Correction- Career Readiness
Myra Northcott, Personnel Assistant V, Pasquotank Correctional Institution
Tamikia Outlaw, accounting technician, Bertie Correctional Institution
Tierra Owens, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 26
Michael Parker, assistant unit manager, Bertie Correctional Institution
Randall Parker, manager II, Community Corrections District 3
Jeremy Pendley, assistant unit manager, Burke Confinement in Response to Violation Center
Cody Petrella, sergeant, Morrison Correctional Institution
Laura Price, administrative officer II, Eastern Correctional Institution
Cory Purvis, sergeant, Maury Correctional Institution
Demetria Riddick, programs supervisor, Pasquotank Correctional Institution
Luis Rivera, sergeant, Central Prison
Janielle Roach, juvenile court counselor, Juvenile Justice District 3
Melissa Russel, judicial services coordinator, Community Corrections District 5
Cameron Scarborough, lead correctional officer, Central Prison
John Sifuentes, food service officer, Johnston Correctional Institution
Angela Sintef, internal systems consultant II, Adult Correction - Combined Records
Dinah Sittniewski, nurse supervisor, Craven Correctional Institution
Andre Thorpe, maintenance mechanic IV, Polk Correctional Institution
Carolyn Todd, administrative officer II, Office of Staff Development & Training
Carlotta Tyner, administrative secretary II, Pasquotank Correctional Institution
Angie Ussery, assistant unit manager, Southern Correctional Institution
Amy Walker, accounting clerk IV, Caswell Correctional Institution
Kimberly Walls, office assistant IV, Community Corrections Division 2
Ricky Ward, correctional officer, Wake Correctional Center
Patricia White, institution classifications coordinator, Bertie Correctional Institution
Larry Whittenburg, lieutenant, Piedmont Correctional Institution
James Wicker, networking technician, State Highway Patrol Microwave Towers
Esther Wilkerson, accounting clerk V, Prisons Administration
David Williams, lieutenant, Tyrrell Prison Work Farm
Derrick Williams, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 16
Cathy Wilson, lieutenant, Foothills Correctional Institution
Carlotta Winstead, criminal justice planner II, Governor's Crime Commission
Aaron Winston, youth services behavioral specialist, Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center

RETIREMENTS

In September 2015

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

Laura Blackburn, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 17, 29y
Gary Blalock, plumber II, Piedmont Correctional Institution, 15y5m
Iris Casey, processing assistant IV, Prisons Medical Records, 19y4m
Mel Chilton, community development specialist I, Governor's Crime Commission, 18y
Johnny Crudup, lead correctional officer, Franklin Correctional Center, 26y5m
Dewey Daves, psychological services coordinator, Maury Correctional Institution, 13y4m
Danny Davis, substance abuse counselor-advanced, Piedmont Correctional Institution, 18y6m
Francis Edgerton, business & technology applications specialist, Information Technological Services, 9y6m
Sara Freeman, health assistant II, Randolph Correctional Center, 5y1m
Paul Galloway, sergeant, Scotland Correctional Institution, 14y2m
Bobby Guynn, correctional officer, Davidson Correctional Center, 27y
Clarence High, chief court counselor I, Juvenile Justice District 6, 34y
Dwayne Hunsucker, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 19B, 20y6m
Cynthia Ingram, accounting technician, Scotland Correctional Institution, 9y1m
Anthony Jones, business officer, Correction Enterprises, 14y5m
Malinda Lane, health assistant, Central Prison Hospital, 22y
George Manley, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 9, 28y7m
Pamela Mathews, correctional officer, Hoke Correctional Institution, 13y9m
Eddie Mellon, correctional officer, Lincoln Correctional Center, 24y8m
Dorcas Miller, psychological program manager, N.C. Correctional Institution for Women, 30y1m
Alton Roberts, sergeant, Hoke Correctional Institution, 19y6m
George Sgouros, engineering/architectural supervisor, Engineering, 15y
Robert Simmons, electronics technician III, Raleigh Regional Maintenance Yard, 20y2m
Brenda Smith, judicial services coordinator, Community Corrections District 3, 14y3m
Franklin Steele, sergeant, Albemarle Correctional Institution, 25y
Angelene Terry, judicial services specialist, Community Corrections District 18, 24y2m
James Turner, case manager, Craggy Correctional Institution, 30y
Carl Varner, networking analyst, Information Technological Services, 16y6m
Lisa Ward, personnel technician ii, Foothills Correctional Institution, 19y
Harold Webster, assistant superintendent for programs II, Johnston Correctional Institution, 53y4m
Reginald Whaley, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 5, 21y4m
David White, social worker II, Bertie Correctional Institution, 28y3m
Grainne Wilson, correctional officer, Central Prison, 5y
Spencer Wilson, probation/parole officer, Community Corrections District 18, 20y2m
Steven Witherspoon, correctional officer, Alexander Correctional Institution, 5y3m
Leonard Young, correctional officer, Dan River Prison Work Farm, 9y

PASSINGS

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

Anthony Holt, substance abuse counselor advanced, Dan River Prison Work Farm, 14y8m
Noel Shaw, food service manager I, Swananoa Correctional Institution for Women, 7y10m
Adam Warren, sergeant, Marion Correctional Institution, 8y6m (August)
Ellis Williamson, (not assigned), Caledonia Correctional Institution, 25y3m (August)

Joint operation nets dozens of traffickers

RALEIGH | The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and the Mount Gilead and Troy police departments joined resources with the North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement Branch to conduct an undercover operation in Montgomery County.

Citizen complaints about illegal drug activity occurring throughout the county prompted the operation. Heroin, opium, cocaine, marijuana, and prescription medications were among the illegal substances that undercover agents purchased during the operation.

The cooperative effort also included the Biscoe and Star police departments, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Marshals Service, N.C. Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, N.C. Department of Revenue and the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

As a result of the operation, more than 35 drug dealers were arrested at locations known to be distributing drugs in the county.

"We are committed to addressing the needs of neighborhoods and communities with proactive, efficient enforcement strategies that make a difference," ALE Special Agent in Charge **Mike Yates** said "No one should ever fear walking outside of their own home."

An additional six people were arrested in a phase of the operation that partnered Community Corrections officers and ALE special agents checking on probationers who have a history of illegally using and selling controlled substances.

"Thanks to the teamwork and partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, drug dealers are now behind bars," Montgomery County Sheriff Chris Watkins said. "We are aggressively addressing this criminal element, and we will continue to be vigilant in eliminating any further illegal drug activity in our county." ▴

53 arrests in Cumberland County sweep

FAYETTEVILLE | North Carolina Department of Public Safety law enforcement personnel were among the participants in a multi-agency sex offender compliance and fugitive operation led by the U.S. Marshal Service for eastern North Carolina.

A total of 53 arrests were made and 73 warrants were served by Marshals, Community Correction and Fayetteville Police Department officers and Cumberland County sheriff deputies in Operation Aegis. The suspects were wanted for a variety of offenses including sex crimes, assault, robbery, narcotics violations, property crimes, weapons offenses and probation violations.

Authorities also verified that registered sex offenders were complying with the law, and dozens of successful home contacts were made with sex offenders. ▴