



# *The CCPS All-Points Bulletin*

February 2006

## *A Message from the Secretary*

Our employees go the extra mile every day to help citizens of North Carolina, but two recent examples stand out.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Trooper David Hawkins stopped a woman for speeding in Harnett County. After discovering she had given him a fake name, Trooper Hawkins persisted in his investigation until she admitted she had kidnapped her two daughters from their father's custody six years before. Trooper Hawkins' actions resulted in two children being returned to their father and in the apprehension of a federal fugitive.

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, Troopers Mark Cole and Shawn Eller stopped a car in Johnston County for a Move Over violation, then noticed blood on the car's door and on the driver. Upon searching the car, they also found two bloody knives, which the driver said belonged to his girlfriend in Florida. The Troopers contacted the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department, who checked the girlfriend's apartment and found the body of a man who had been stabbed to death. The driver, who was also wanted for robbery in Connecticut, was held in the murder. The girlfriend was found safe in Connecticut.

Both of these incidents were cases where the officers followed their instincts and used good investigative procedures. The results were a family reunited and the capture of a suspected murderer before the crime had even been discovered. I congratulate these officers and all our employees who are so dedicated to the safety of the public. Thank you.

*Bryan E. Beatty*

## *Statewide Tornado Drill is March 15th*

Governor Easley has declared **Severe Weather Awareness Week** to be March 12-18 in North Carolina. On the morning of Wednesday, March 15th, the state will hold a mock tornado drill that will be broadcast on NOAA weather radios and the Emergency Alert System. School children across North Carolina will participate in this drill and state government agencies have been encouraged to practice the drill in their offices.

When the alert is given, employees should go to the designated tornado safety zones in their buildings, usually an inner hallway away from doors and windows. Employees should be instructed not to take the elevator or stairwells down to lower floors. Lives can be saved when workers know where to go and what to do in the event of a real emergency. You can find more information on how to be prepared for severe weather by going to [www.nccrimecontrol.org/severeweather](http://www.nccrimecontrol.org/severeweather), [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), or [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## *Comings and Goings*

Welcome to our new employees: **Leonard Holden** and **Edmond Skeens**, EM; **Valerie Horton**, GCC; **Clifford Crenshaw**, NG; **Melodie Bryant**, Redevelopment Center; **Lisa Evans** and **Melanie Rogers**, SHP.

Good luck and best wishes to our recent retirees: **Richard Thornell**, ALE; Trps. **L.L. Hatcher**, **D.E. Parvin**, and **B.J. Walters**, SHP.

### *Get Healthy in 2006!*

The 2006 CCPS Health Fairs are now being scheduled across the state. The health fairs are organized by the Highway Patrol's Medical Office in partnership with Alcohol Law Enforcement, Butner Public Safety, the State Health Plan, and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. All health fairs will run from 7:00 am until 1:00 pm. Events are already confirmed on the dates and at the locations listed below.

Troop C: Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Kerr Scott Building, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh

Troop H: Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup> at Wingate University, Wingate, Union County

Troop F: Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> at Catawba Valley Community College, Newton

Troop G: Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Justice Academy Western Campus, Edneyville

Dates and locations of health fairs in other areas of the state will be announced as they are confirmed. These events are for all Department employees, family members and retirees. Employees do not have to attend the health fair closest to them. Participants will be asked to fast before coming to the health fair so that glucose and cholesterol screenings will be accurate.

### *Congratulations!*

Two members of the Highway Patrol received CCPS Commendation Awards this month for their actions in separate traffic incidents. Trooper **Myrl Pennington** was honored for diving into a 12-foot deep creek near Granite Falls in Caldwell County last July in an attempt to rescue a trapped motorist. Trooper **Raymond Herndon** made one of the largest seizures of cocaine in state history last August in Haywood County.

Receiving promotions this month were: **M.W. Averette** and **J.V. Pearce** to Captains at Butner Public Safety, and **Anthony Yaczko** to Radio Engineer I, SHP.

Congratulations to these recent graduating classes:

114<sup>th</sup> Highway Patrol Basic School – February 2, 2006

6<sup>th</sup> Motor Carrier Enforcement Transition School – February 24, 2006

The following employees reached significant service milestones this month in their state government careers: 20 years – **Bryan Beatty, Ricky Hedgepeth, William Little, Carolyn Logan, and Ralph Nichols.**

### *From the Benefits and Safety Office*

Fortis Dental Insurance will hold open enrollment for employees beginning March 1, 2006, and running through March 31, 2006. Enrollment applications with complete details should be included with your payroll stub.

### *From the Fiscal or Human Resources Office*

Effective January 1, 2006, the Office of State Budget and Management changed the allowable mileage reimbursement rate for travel on official state business to be in line with the approved IRS business standard. The mileage rate decreased from 48.5 cents per mile to 44.5 cents per mile if no state vehicle is available. Division of Motor Fleet Management policy states that employees who choose to use personal vehicles when a state-owned vehicle is available will continue to be reimbursed the 25 cents per mile rate.

### *Hang in there – Spring is almost here!*

On March 20, 2006, at precisely 1:26 pm Eastern Standard Time, the Sun will cross directly over the Earth's equator. This is better known as the **vernal equinox**, or the first day of Spring.

- from [www.infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com)