



On the

# Scene



McCrory  
honors two  
DPS teams

# What's inside?

*Click on the title to go directly to the article.*

**Governor's Awards for Excellence | 3**

**Juvenile Justice symposium | 5**

**Justice Reinvestment is working | 6**

**Veterans treatment court milestone | 8**

**Extraordinary teamwork | 9**

**Correction Enterprises achievements | 12**

**Pretty in pink | 13**

**Witches' Brew | 14**

**Retirements | 15**

**Promotions | 16**

Reflections from a fall afternoon near Pilot Mountain.  
*Photo by George Dudley, editor.*

# Governor honors two DPS teams

## Safety & Heroism Award



## Officers endure dangerous manhunt

On March 12 this year, about 30 troopers from the North Carolina State Highway Patrol were among the 120 law enforcement officers from Burke, McDowell, Avery and Caldwell counties who assisted in a manhunt for a killer in a rural area just north of the Morganton city limits.

On that morning, State Highway Patrol First Sgt. **Douglas Amos** was assisting Trooper **Daniel Wakefield** who had responded to a rear-end collision that was causing traffic to back up on NC 181, four miles north of Morganton. Amos recognized the truck as belonging to a well-respected busi-

nessman who would not run from the scene of an accident. Wakefield went to a nearby gas station to get a photo from the surveillance video of the person who had fled the scene. A few minutes later, in a conversation with a local deputy sheriff, Amos learned that a double homicide had been discovered that morning at a residence on Fish Hatchery Road. The murdered couple's 38-year-old son was suspected. Wakefield emailed Amos a photo from the gas station's surveillance camera. The deputy recognized the man as the son of the murder victims. The officers then realized that

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Above left, the manhunt team. From left, front row, ALE Agent **Antwan Happoldt**, SHP Trooper **Joshua Shuffler**, SHP Lt. **Doug Amos**, Trooper **Kyle Robinson** and SBI Agent **Kevin Coggins**. Back row, ALE Agent **Michael Bradshaw**, Trooper **Caroll Hallyburton**, Trooper **Aaron Johnson**, Trooper **Daniel Wakefield**, SHP Sgt. **Mark Cline**, Trooper **Russell McGee** and SBI Agent **Andy Cline**.

Above right, Correction Enterprises' **Phil Rowe**, **Karen Brown** and **Penny Evans**.

## Customer Service Award



## Correction Enterprises knows who's No. 1

Penny Evans, Phil Rowe and Karen Brown work at Correction Enterprises.

Evans is a sales account representative, Rowe is an industry director and Brown is the director. Together, they make up a team that has helped to reform the state employees' service awards program.

In March 2013, the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) asked [CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ►](#)

► **TEAM, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE** the alleged killer was not only in the area but close by.

Minutes later, off-duty State Trooper **Joshua Shuffler** called in a collision between a blue wrecker and a Department of Transportation (DOT) truck on Fish Hatchery Road near Shuffler's home. The wrecker, which had sustained substantial damage, had been driven away from the scene of the accident.

Amos and three members of the Burke County Sheriff's Department heard the vehicle description from Troop Communications in Newton and knew immediately the identity of the driver of the wrecker. Amos updated Communications of the situation and went to the accident scene where two uninjured DOT workers gave an excellent description of the wrecker and the driver.

Amos and the sheriff's deputies sped off to try to overtake the wrecker. There are only two ways out from the accident scene due to the rural location of Fish Hatchery Road. About 30 minutes later, two Burke County deputies located the abandoned wrecker on Sisk Farm Road near Table Rock Mountain Road. The suspect was now on foot and additional law enforcement officers were called to contain the heavily wooded area. A command post was set up at a nearby church. A number of officers began to arrive including U.S. Forest Service Officer Jason Crisp and his dog, Maros.

The situation evolved quickly. It was soon discovered that the suspect had run out of a woodshed and was seen heading into the woods. Troopers set up road blocks on sections of Fish Hatchery, Pea Ridge and Rose Creek roads. Crisp's dog found the suspect's scent. Troopers **Daniel Wakefield, Kyle Robinson** and **Carroll Hallyburton** followed them into the woods. There were few standing trees. However, the brush was

*Not knowing where the killer was, the three troopers backed down and regrouped in a small ravine.*

fully made his way back to the command post to lead others to render assistance to Crisp. Amos and Johnson met Wakefield when he came out of the woods. Amos could not reach the others by phone or radio — they had been turned off for safety purposes.

Two tactical teams were formed to perform a search and rescue for Crisp, Robinson and Hallyburton. Eventually, they were found. However, aid could not be rendered to Crisp. He and Maros had died. The suspect had taken Crisp's gun and ammunition. It was believed that he had fled deeper into the woods toward Chimney Gap, 20 square miles of wilderness in the Linville Gorge area.

The situation became more precarious as darkness fell. Not only were the winds becoming more violent but the sound of two helicopters made it increasingly difficult for the officers to hear anything. The officers split again into two teams and cautiously continued their search. Eventually, Amos encountered a black-haired man with canvas high top shoes. Not knowing the man's identity, Amos shouted out to him, asking him what he was doing there. The man turned and looked. Amos recognized the suspect and ordered him to show his hands. Shots were fired.

An autopsy later concluded that the suspect shot himself in the head. ▴

thick and the wind was blowing hard, creating difficult conditions. Because of this difficulty, Crisp was separated from the other officers. He arrived on a ridge ahead of them in a grove of pine trees, when suddenly three shots rang out. Crisp and his dog fell.

Not knowing the killer's location, the three troopers backed down and regrouped in a small ravine. Wakefield care-

► **ENTERPRISES, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE** Brown to assist in a review of the State Employee Service Awards program. OSHR also asked if Correction Enterprises could contribute products to the program. Brown assigned Evans and Rowe to the project.

Evans and Rowe surveyed all of the industries that work with Correction Enterprises. Very quickly, they determined that Correction Enterprises could take over the entire contract. They submitted a proposal that Correction Enterprises provide 70 percent of the products as well as handle all marketing, inventorying and distribution of products throughout the state. OSHR accepted the proposal with the caveat that the program begin on Jan. 1, 2014. This was a very tight time-frame to begin a new business. Evans and Rowe assured Brown that it could be done.

In the ensuing months, Brown, Evans and Rowe worked with OSHR and a statewide planning committee to choose products under each category, brand the new program, prototype products and get final approvals. Evans and Rowe worked with outside vendors like the N.C. Museum of History, a local artist and public attractions throughout North Carolina. Other responsibilities included creating marketing materials, designing the interactive website, working with State Purchase and Contract, planning and presenting a product showcase. Correction Enterprises also merchandise identifiers for each product, hired and trained a new staff person, defined shipping and distribution parameters, found a new plant location and purchased new equipment. Evans and Rowe projected sales, inventory and profits for the new business, and assisted with training program coordinators for each state agency.

The program went live on Jan. 1, 2014, exactly as planned, and North Carolina now has an employee services program that features North Carolina products. ▴

# Juvenile Justice hosts national symposium

By **Diana Kees**

Acting Deputy Communications Director

**GREENSBORO** | More than 850 people involved in juvenile justice services and programming from across the United States and from other countries gathered in Greensboro in October for the 20th National Symposium on Juvenile Services, co-sponsored by the N.C. Department of Public Safety and the National Partnership for Juvenile Services.

The National Symposium on Juvenile Services brought together the leadership and direct care professionals from juvenile services and other human services professionals for training and the opportunity to share the innovative program service approaches being implemented within the juvenile justice system throughout the country.

“We are honored that the National Partnership on Juvenile Justice selected North Carolina as its conference host this year,” said Secretary **Frank L. Perry** of the Department of Public Safety in announcing the symposium. “I’m excited for the opportunity to highlight the hard work our juvenile justice professionals are doing here in North Carolina to drive down juvenile crime and help ensure these juveniles are not walking through the doors of our state or federal prisons in the years to come.”

“We look forward to learning new strategies to serve children in North Carolina’s juvenile justice system from

our colleagues throughout the nation,” said **W. David Guice**, commissioner of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. “But we also look forward to sharing with them the major steps we’ve taken to improve the juvenile justice system in our state, which have resulted in lower juvenile crime rates; fewer youths in locked facilities; and greater investments in services delivered in our communities.”

Numerous juvenile justice experts from DPS and the N.C. Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice delivered presentations during the three-day symposium. **William Lassiter**, deputy commissioner for Juvenile Justice, delivered a compelling four-hour pre-symposium presentation on Monday on Bullying Prevention.

Other topics presented by DPS staff included:

*Detention Reform in North Carolina: Statewide Success Story*, by **Mike Rieder** and **Maxine Evans-Armwood**, Court Services

*The Road to Fidelity of Statewide Juvenile Justice Services*, by **Cindy Porterfield**, Community Programs

*Managing Serious, Violent, Chronic Juvenile Offenders*, by **Megan Howell**, Research & Planning

*Creating Safer Schools: Prevention, Intervention and Crisis Response*, by **Billy Lassiter**, **Kym Martin** and **Mike Anderson**, Center for Safer Schools



*Turn Collaboration into Successful Outcomes*, by **Dianne Whitman**, Court Services

*Development of a PREA Training Video for Youths*, by **Virginia Edwards**, Clinical Services

*A Unique Community Approach to Graduated Responses*, by **Rusty Slate**, Court Services ▴

During the symposium, Billy Lassiter, center, deputy commissioner for Juvenile Justice, was presented the N.C. Juvenile Services Association’s annual Outstanding Service Award. Lassiter is flanked by W. David Guice, commissioner of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, and DPS Secretary Frank L. Perry.

# Justice Reinvestment working in N.C.

By **Keith Acree**, Communications Officer

**RALEIGH** | Three years after enacting comprehensive reforms to its criminal justice system, North Carolina is showing significant signs of success from its data-driven, “justice reinvestment” approach, according to a report released by the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center.

Passed in 2011, the Justice reinvestment Act prompted dramatic changes through an approach designed to reduce corrections spending and reinvest savings in strategies that can reduce recidivism and improve public safety. According to the report, the state prison population has dropped by 8 percent since 2011 and is 11 percent lower

than it was projected to be if the state had taken no action. The state has also closed 10 correctional facilities in the last three years, contributing to \$560 million in projected savings and averted costs by 2017. During the same period, the state’s crime rate fell by 11 percent.

“The progress our state has made to reduce corrections costs while holding offenders more accountable for their behavior is nothing short of remarkable,” Gov. Pat McCrory said. “As governor, the budgets passed by this administration reflect a strong commitment to reinvesting in strategies that are proven to reduce recidivism and make our communities safer.”

Part of North Carolina’s success stems from an overhaul of its approach to a person’s release from prison. Prior to the reforms, an average of 15,000 people each year walked out of prison with no supervision. Today, those incarcerated for felony crimes are required to be supervised for nine to 12 months. The state has also reinvested its savings toward adding 175 probation and parole officers.

The new officers are also implementing a new strategy called “quick dips,” where minor violations of probation are met with a swift response of two to three days in jail, as opposed to immediately revoking probation and issuing a lengthier, more expensive, and less effective prison stay.

The project also prioritized investing savings in cognitive interventions and substance use treatment for individuals with the greatest need for treatment and who are at the highest risk of reoffending. Previously, resources for treatment had been spread across a wide variety of people without consideration of risk levels, despite research showing that too much supervision or intensive resources could have a negative impact on low-risk individuals.

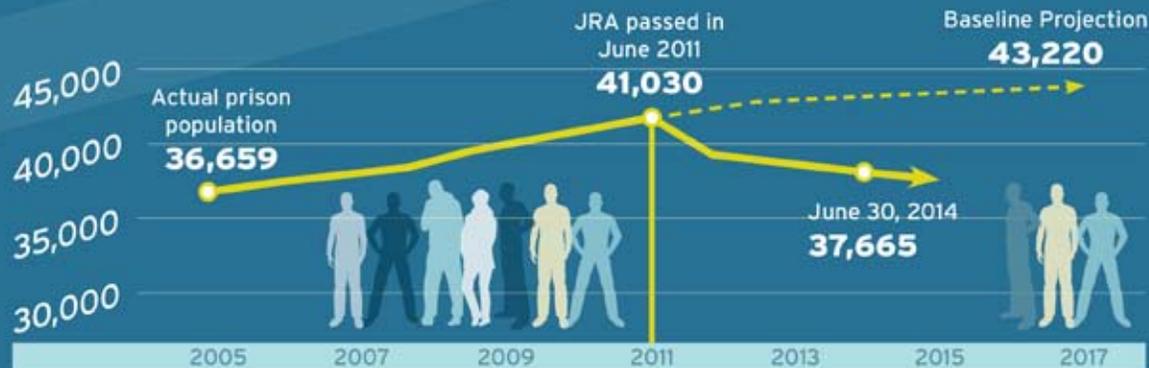
Of the state’s total funding for treatment, 80 percent is now allocated for cognitive behavioral [CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

*‘The progress to reduce corrections costs while holding offenders more accountable for their behavior is nothing short of remarkable.’*

Gov. Pat McCrory

## NORTH CAROLINA BY THE NUMBERS

### FEWER PEOPLE IN PRISON



### RECIDIVISM REDUCTION

### PROBATION REVOCATIONS

► FROM PREVIOUS PAGE services in community-based programming. The battery of changes has led to a whopping 50 percent drop in probation revocations since 2011.

“We knew that these reforms would take time to be implemented and show their true impact. We couldn’t be happier with the result,” said **W. David Guice**, commissioner of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. Guice served as a key champion of the reforms as a state representative in 2011.

“Now, we must maintain our commitment to reinvest in the resources that have helped strengthen probation supervision and build on that success,” he said.

The reforms came at a critical time for North Carolina.

### *‘Now, we must ... build on that success.’*

W. David Guice, Commissioner  
Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice

In 2010, the number of people incarcerated in North Carolina state prisons had climbed to more than 40,000, up 27 percent since 2000. Meanwhile, corrections spending rose 49 percent (more than \$1.3 billion) and the state projected the need for more than \$500 million in additional spending by 2017 to accommodate expected prison growth.

But that troubling outlook took a dramatic U-turn after a bipartisan group of policymakers, corrections officials and law enforcement leaders worked with the CSG Justice Center to identify drivers of prison growth and recidivism.

“The encouraging results we’re seeing in North Carolina serve as a great example of the potential for legislators and policymakers to work together to achieve real, measureable improvement in a state’s criminal justice system,” said Michael D.

Thompson, CSG Justice Center director.

Justice Reinvestment is a strategy for criminal justice reform being adopted in states throughout the country. The CSG Justice Center has launched Justice Reinvestment projects in 21 states to date, helping each state design and implement its own reforms.

“States like North Carolina are debunking the myth that less imprisonment means more crime,” said Adam Gelb, director of The Pew Charitable Trusts’ public safety performance project.

“State leaders are demonstrating that if you enact evidence-based reforms and follow through with solid implementation, you can achieve a true win-win: less crime at lower cost.”

In 2010, U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) launched the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) through funding appropriated by Congress in recognition of earlier successes of the justice reinvestment approach.

“North Carolina was one of the first sites accepted into JRI,” said BJA Director Denise O’Donnell. “By investing in the framework for reform through JRI, North Carolinians will experience the long-term cost savings and public safety benefits for years to come.” ▴

#### ABOUT THE CSG JUSTICE CENTER

The Council of State Governments Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels from all branches of government. It provides practical, nonpartisan advice and evidence-based, consensus-driven strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities. For more information about the Justice Center, visit [www.csjusticecenter.org](http://www.csjusticecenter.org).

## N.C. successes shared at summit

RALEIGH | A collection of elected and corrections officials from North Carolina shared their resounding accomplishments in criminal justice reform with representatives from 34 other states at a conference organized by the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Fresh on the heels of a report from the CSG Justice Center outlining significant achievements through the 2011 Justice Reinvestment Act, North Carolina delegates attended the Justice Reinvestment National Summit to express to others that a data-driven, evidence-based approach can deliver promising results to reduce spending and recidivism rates.

“It was important for us to be sure to have a strong showing from North Carolina at this conference, both from the standpoint of a leader in this field, but also as a state that remains motivated to maintain its commitment to justice reinvestment and continuing the implementation of past reforms,” said **W. David Guice**, commissioner of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice.

“Our state has made remarkable progress reducing corrections costs while holding offenders more accountable for their behavior,” Public Safety Secretary **Frank L. Perry** said. “The budgets passed by Gov. Pat McCrory and our legislature reflect a strong commitment to reinvesting in strategies that are proven to reduce recidivism and make our communities safer.” ▴

# Veterans treatment court observes first anniversary



LILLINGTON | Gov. Pat McCrory attended the first graduation ceremony at North Carolina's first veterans treatment court in Harnett County on its one year anniversary. The court provides referrals for treatment, education and vocational programs and community resources while being judicially monitored.

"It was an honor to meet the impressive veterans who are graduating today," McCrory said. "This court shows the true power of what veterans can do — even in the most difficult and dire circumstances."

The court diverts veterans from the traditional criminal justice system and links them with the programs, benefits and services they have earned. Court eligibility is based upon severity of the offense and the veteran's discharge level to ensure only appropriate crimes are considered.

At the ceremony, McCrory met and paid tribute to a veteran who, with the help of the court, received a Purple Heart that was due to him after being shot in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The court was made possible through a \$66,696.88 grant from the Governor's Crime Commission. McCrory also thanked Judge Albert Corbett, District Attorney Vernon Stewart, Clerk of Superior Court Marsha Johnson, court coordinator Mark Teachey and Sheriff David Huffman of the Governor's Crime Commission. ▴

Far left photo, individuals key to the court initiative were honored at the ceremony. Among them, **David Huffman**, Governor's Crime Commission executive director; **JR Gorham**, a retired brigadier general who is special assistant to DPS Secretary Frank L. Perry; and Ilario Pantaro, director of N.C. Veterans Affairs.

Below, Gov. Pat McCrory, right, encourages a veteran who has benefited from the treatment court.

*Photos by Ryan Guthrie, staff photographer.*



# Officers, dogs extraordinaire

*Supportive team works together*

By **Tammy Martin**, Communications Specialist

Six officers based at the Piedmont Region Transfer Terminal of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice are honored to be a part of the Fugitive and Narcotics Section. Officer **Dale Robertson** is a leader among leaders and a part of this special unit. Extraordinary dogs are also a part of the team.

“Each officer is responsible for at least one dog. Most of us have two or three that we take care of 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” Robertson said. “These dogs are a part of our life, just like part of the family.”

Completing the team are three narcotics dogs, three cellphone dogs and nine bloodhounds trained to search for escapees and other missing persons. Of the 15 dogs assigned to the facility, three are Robertson’s direct responsibility. They are Laika, a Belgian Malinois, and Bo and Chief, bloodhounds.

Bloodhounds are used to track and apprehend escapees, missing children and adults. Belgian Malinois are particularly helpful in finding drugs and cell phones.

With the possibility of being called at any time of day or night for search and rescue missions, the Fugitive and Narcotics squad has duties that also include managing inmate bus transfers. This



Lead Fugitive Officer **Dale Robertson** and one of his three dogs, Laika, a Belgian Malinois.

Photos by **Tammy Martin**, communication specialist.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

**FROM PREVIOUS PAGE** team played a significant role in transporting more than 407,000 inmates in 2013 to facilities throughout the state. Buses with inmates arrive at the bus terminal from all of the state prisons to be transferred to another facility.

“It takes a great team working together and supporting each other,” said fugitives specialist Lt. Dave Dixon. “I’m very fortunate to supervise a team that cares about doing a great job and also cares about each other. You can even see their dedication in the care they give to their dogs.”

With approximately 150 years of experience among the six officers, Robertson contributes more than 32 years with the department.

“My first job was at [the now closed Davie Correctional Center] in 1982 as a correctional officer,” he said. “When I got the opportunity to work with a canine unit, I couldn’t pass it up,” Robertson said. “It’s a perfect job for me.”

Working outside with animals is a natural fit for Robertson.

*With the ultimate goal of protecting the public, reuniting missing and lost family members are the happy endings he hopes for every day.*

His love for people and nature is evident as he recalls many stories about a career that spans three decades. Whether he’s detailing 12 miles of tracking an escapee, or searching for an Alzheimer’s patient, care, skill and dedication all contribute to his many successful assignments.

“There have been events that have ended with tragedy, but there are so many others that have had happy endings,” Robertson said. “The good days outweigh the bad.”

When Robertson first started working with dogs in the mid-1980s, the department only had bloodhounds and were called upon to find escapees. That has changed due to improved security at jails and prisons. However, today, other situations also require the help of dogs.

With the ultimate goal of protecting the public, reuniting missing and lost family members are the happy endings he hopes for every day. Bloodhounds Bo and Chief are always eager to help.

### **Tracking new scents**

While many changes have taken place over the years, training a canine partner is based on intelligence and most of all trust. One substantial change was the addition of dogs trained to find cell phones and drugs.

“My third dog, Laika, came from Holland,” Robertson said.



“We both went to training in Indiana in 2007. She is trained to find narcotics and has helped find one of the largest drug packages in this region. She found 35 pounds of marijuana that was mailed from California.”

This canine unit is also called upon to assist in checkpoints and school campus searches. With continuous training, the dogs and handlers stay fit and ready for a large variety of scenarios. Being prepared to run through thickets, parking lots or along the interstate, it’s all in a day’s work.

### **Family Affair**

Robertson’s three dogs are housed in kennels at his home and are under the watchful eye of the entire family. He remembers many stories of the dogs he has trained over the years. Some sad memories are of losing the dogs he came to love and respect. And then there are the memories that bring joy and a smile.

“I got a bloodhound puppy that was just a few weeks old,” he recalled. “One Sunday afternoon, I got called to work. After getting back from tracking an escapee, I saw my wife sitting on the front porch holding the puppy and he was sound asleep. She said he was whining and barking so much, that she had to go and see about him. She was holding him just like a baby.”

The Robertson household always had dogs [CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Robertson leads a dog while following up on a tip about drugs in a vehicle in a high school parking lot.

*Contributed photo.*



Above, flanked by their dogs, are Robertson, right, and his sons, Jason and Barry.

**FROM PREVIOUS PAGE** around. One could say law enforcement and K-9 service is in the family blood. Robertson's two sons, Jason and Barry, have both chosen law enforcement careers. Barry is a K-9 Officer with the Mount Airy Police Department and older brother Jason is a U.S. Marshal.

"My boys make me so proud," Robertson said. "They both decided to be in law enforcement. I just can't tell you how proud of them I am. It's a blessing that I count every day!"

When the Robertson men are together, the pride and love for the profession and each other is evident.

"We're just as proud of him as he is of us, maybe even more proud," Barry Robertson said.

Jason Robertson adds, "He's a great officer, but a great dad first; he's been our example."

### **Awards and accolades**

Dad Robertson has a folder full of letters of appreciation, news clippings and accolades, but simply "loves his job." In December of 2012, he was recognized with the department's highest honor, the Secretary's Gold Circle award. While Robertson is known for being an outstanding K-9 officer, when he rescued a co-worker he then gained the title of life-saver. The award was given for Safety and Heroism.

In August 2011, Officer Robertson would have to rescue one of his own team members. Robertson and Correctional Officer David Sells were training bloodhounds in Davie County.

Sells was laying a trail for Robertson and his dog, when he experienced abnormal sickness. He immediately contacted Robertson by radio and told him of his illness.

Officer Sells was so sick that he was unaware of his location deep in the wooded area. After tracking Sells for about a half mile, Robertson located him.

But Sells then began complaining of chest pains. Knowing that Sells couldn't walk more than a few steps, Robertson immediately called 911 and detailed the situation and location. He remained on the phone to ensure they could locate them in the dense wooded area.

Emergency assistance arrived shortly afterward, and Robertson helped the paramedics get Sells out of the woods and transported to Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

It was later determined that Sells

### **Officer Sells is most grateful for Robertson giving him a second chance at life.**

suffered a major heart attack and that because of this, many of his major organs had begun to shut down. Doctors later confirmed that only 4 percent of people survive such an attack.

Officer Sells strongly feels that if his friend and colleague had not acted as quickly and as efficiently as he did, he would be not be alive today. He is very thankful and appreciative for his professionalism, but he is most grateful for giving him a second chance at life.

On any given day and at any given time, Lead Fugitive Officer Dale Robertson along with dogs Bo, Chief and Laika, can be counted on to be "the first in and the last out." ▴

Below, Robertson, center, with team members Lt. Dave Dison, left, and Sgt. Eugene Chrisp.





**Correction Enterprises recognizes employee achievements**

Correction Enterprises recently presented its annual employee recognitions awards. Above left, **Jerry Patton**, maintenance mechanic, was named Employee of the Year. Above right, **Bobby Dale**, also a maintenance mechanic, received the Million-Mile Award. **Karen Brown**, Correction Enterprises director, made the presentations, and was joined by **JR Gorham**, representing Secretary Frank L. Perry, in the event for Dale.



**Employee honored by alma mater**

District 27 Juvenile Court Counselor **Audra Ellis** from Lincoln County was recently honored by the Department of Government and Justice Studies at Appalachian State University for her service as an outstanding alumna.

She was also asked to provide feedback to the university with regard to hiring trends in her field and how ASU might address those needs within the Government and Justice Studies curriculum and internship program.

Ellis graduated from Appalachian in 1995 with bachelor's degrees in criminal justice and psychology. She also obtained a master's degree in counseling from Gardner-Webb University in 2003. She has been a court counselor for the past 14 years and has 19 years of state service. She has served on multiple committees advocating for youths in her community, is a peer reviewer, and a certified General Instructor. She also works part-time as a Crisis Clinician for Phoenix Counseling Center at their drug and alcohol detox facility in Shelby. ▴



**N.C. National Guard has first female major general**

The North Carolina National Guard recently promoted Willow Spring resident and career Army officer Elizabeth D. Austin to the rank of major general. She is already the organization's first female general and, with the promotion, is the first female major general. Austin's promotion makes her assistant deputy commanding general, Army National Guard, Army Material Command. Her duties include assisting the executive leadership of the Army Material Command in its mission as the Army's premier provider of materiel readiness – technology, acquisition support, materiel development, logistics power projection, and sustainment – to the total force, across the spectrum of joint military operations. Austin has more than 36 years of service as an N.C. National Guard soldier. A career logistics officer, Austin received her officer's commission in 1980 after completing Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. She commanded troops at the platoon, company and battalion levels prior to assuming command of the 113th Sustainment Brigade headquartered in Greensboro in 2008. Her career also includes combat deployments in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and a return to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004. Austin most recently completed an assignment as the US Army Central Command (USARCENT) G-4, where she was responsible for coordinating, integrating and synchronizing logistics activities in the USARCENT area of operations during times of peace and war.

**Honor student**

**Idus Daniel** of Gaston Correctional Institution was recently named an honor student in Basic Correctional Officer training. ▴



**Best Practices Award**

Alexander Juvenile Detention Center earned a Best Practices Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the category of "Increasing Participation in School Breakfast, Lunch or Snack." Sean Monahan, right, with the USDA's Special Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, Southeastern Regional office, presented the award to **Beverly Cash**, Alexander food service manager, at the 2014 Annual Conference for School Nutrition Administrators, held in October in Research Triangle Park.

**On The Scene**

... is a news magazine published online monthly for and about employees of the N.C. Department of Public Safety. If you have information to submit for publication, please contact the editor, George Dudley, at 919.733.5027 or at george.dudley@ncdps.gov.

## Agents trained in drug used to counter overdoses

RALEIGH | Special agents with the State Bureau of Investigation and Alcohol Law Enforcement have been trained in how to administer Naloxone, a drug used to counter the effects of opiate overdoses.

The two agencies are the first statewide law enforcement agencies in North Carolina to train and carry Naloxone, a drug that revives opiate overdose victims when they stop breathing. Naloxone takes effect within two to five minutes after it is sprayed into the person's nose.

An overdose death can occur within hours after ingesting opiates which can slow or stop a person's breathing. Naloxone can save the person's life if it is used immediately after noticing a person's breathing has slowed or they become unconscious.

The effects of Naloxone last for at least 30 minutes, enough time for emergency medical personnel to arrive or to transport the victim to a hospital for medical attention.

"This training will show agents the proper technique on how to recognize an overdose, how to administer Naloxone, how to treat the patient and what steps to take to get proper medical attention," said **Donnie Varnell**, SBI's special agent in charge of the Diversion and Environmental Crimes Unit. "Any life we save is precious."

Kits containing two Naloxone dosage units issued to the agents are donated by the Lazarus Project of Wilkes County. Training is conducted by the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition. The coalition reported having 161 reversals in North Carolina this past year.

North Carolina loses 1,100 people annually to prescription drug overdose. ▴



### *The Randall complex goes pink*

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness, Division of Prisons personnel wore pink on Oct. 15. A large majority of people are aware of someone who has been affected by breast cancer, and employees in the Randall Complex are committed to getting the word out that screening for breast cancer is vitally important.

### *The Hyde Five*

Five staff members at Hyde Correctional Institution teamed up to help raise funds to support victims of domestic and sexual abuse for the Hyde County Hotline Inc. of Engelhard. They participated in a basketball tournament at Mattamuskeet Early College High School in October. In addition to the tournament, the event included cake walks, concessions, raffles and half-court shooting contests. Calling themselves "The Hyde Five," team member are, from left, **Tom Brickhouse**, assistant superintendent of custody/operations; **Tony Spencer** and **Chase Gibbs**, correctional officers; **Thomas Spencer**, lieutenant; **William Piland**, correctional officer.



## 'Witches' Brew' busts meth trade

JEFFERSON | More than 50 people were arrested in Ashe County on methamphetamine charges following a joint investigation and arrests by the Ashe County Sheriff's Office and the State Bureau of Investigation.

Operation Witches' Brew targeted "smurfers," people who buy the products to make methamphetamine, and the "cookers," the ones who make the highly addictive stimulant drug.

"For the past two years, we have been conducting investigations and making arrests, and today's arrests are the largest meth round-up ever in this county," Ashe County Sheriff James Williams said. "We tried to get as many as possible to sweep with a broom at one time to get a better chance of shutting these operations down."

Williams said the morning flowed well in picking up the 54 targeted suspects.

"This is a team effort," Williams said. "[In any] operation of this size, the partnership is invaluable."

The SBI was busy busting up the drug-making sites.

"Many of our SBI agents are certified in dismantling clandestine labs," said **Paula Carson**, special agent in charge of the northwestern district. "Throughout this operation, we have decontaminated five active labs. The goal is to make it harder and harder for anyone looking for this drug to find a seller."

The Boone Police Department and the Alleghany Sheriff's Office also participated in the operation. ▴

## Teens take part in safe driving program

RALEIGH | About 70 teens took part in a pro-active driving course at the Carolina State Highway Patrol facility in Raleigh in October.

The organization B.R.A.K.E.S. — Be Responsible And Keep Everyone Safe — offers a free course to teach young drivers more conscientious and confident skills behind the wheel. Drag racing star Doug Herbert started the organization after his two sons were killed in a car crash in 2008.

Herbert said the course is not just for teens, but that parents can also take part in the program.

The B.R.A.K.E.S. program holds three sessions in Raleigh each year. ▴

## Kilah's Law conviction appealed

A man is appealing his conviction in the 2012 Union County child abuse case that became known nationally as Kilah's Law.

State legislators enacted Kilah's Law in 2013 to toughen prison sentences on anyone convicted of severely injuring children, regardless of whether the harm inflicted was intentional.

The law doubles child abuse offense sentences with a 10-year minimum and stipulates that a permanent record in the defendant's criminal history specifies that the offense involved child abuse.

The U.S. Congress passed the federal Kilah Davenport Act in May. This legislation pressures states to enhance prison sentences for the worst cases of child abuse and directs the U.S. Attorney General to issue a report detailing each state's penalties for child abuse, including whether the laws provide enhancement penalties in the cases of severe child abuse.

In 2012, the State Bureau of Investigation and the Union County Sheriff's Office were summoned to the hospital where 3-year-old Kilah Ann Davenport was being treated for traumatic head injuries. Her doctors said that her injuries were inconsistent with a fall.

Agents and detectives searched the girl's home and in one room discovered a hole in the sheetrock with a hair caught in the edge. The results of DNA tests proved that hair belonged to Kilah. Law enforcement contends that Kilah's head was smashed through that wall, leaving the hole in the sheetrock.

Joshua W. Houser, Kilah's stepfather, was arrested for the assault on Kilah. He was convicted in May of felony child abuse inflicting serious injury upon a child and sentenced to serve seven to 10 years in prison, which at the time was the maximum sentence for this crime.

Two weeks after Houser's trial, Kilah died from complications associated with the injuries she sustained in 2012. Houser was charged Oct. 1 with her murder and remains in prison during his appeal. ▴

## Gang member pleads guilty to heroin sales

WILMINGTON | In October, a man pleaded guilty to trafficking in heroin after his arrest that resulted from a gang investigation coordinated between the Wilmington Police Gang Unit and Community Corrections officers from the Department of Public Safety.

Probation and parole officers searched validated gang members who were on probation, including Tony McMillian who was seen leaving an abandoned residence where law enforcement officers found a bag of approximately 890 dosage units of heroin. Also found in the building were several items of gang paraphernalia.

McMillian was also charged with illegal possession of a firearm by a felon.

"This conviction underscores the close connection between the heroin trade and gang members," District Attorney Ben David said. "My office will continue to vigorously prosecute armed career criminals who are committing crimes in this community."

Judge Douglas Parson sentenced McMillian to 90-117 months in prison and a fine of \$10,000. ▴



### Award for service

Drew Harbinson, left, recently received the esteemed Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award at his retirement as Purchasing and Logistics director for the Department of Public Safety. Presenting the award was **Lorrie Dollar**, chief operating officer.



### Priest wins war

Tabor Correctional Institution management staff had a "coin war," with the manager "collecting" the most coins in a box, agreeing to buy a \$30 Wal-Mart gift card for an employee. **Julian Priest**, left, assistant superintendent for custody/operations, won. He is shown presenting Officer **Sharlene Brown** with the gift card. Also in the photo are Capt. **Tanya Elkins** and Sgt. **David Sellers**. Priest, as agreed, will also allow an employee to smash a pie in his face at a later date.

## PASSING

### PRISONS

**Kimberly Allen**, correctional officer, Piedmont CI, 7y5m

# RETIREMENTS

in October 2014

## Administration

*Employee's Name, Jobs, Organization, Length of Service*

**Robert Allen**, electrician II, Facility Management, 28y11m  
**Barry Harbinson**, departmental purchasing/services officer, Purchasing & Logistics, 31y1m  
**John Hodge**, safety consultant I, Safety, Occupational & Environmental Health, 8y5m  
**Janice Isaacs**, personnel technician III, Piedmont Triad Region, 43y

## Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice

### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

**Lisa Apperson**, probation/parole officer, District 18B, 9y3m  
**Elizabeth Crawford**, chief probation/parole officer, District 12, 27y6m  
**Stanley Hubbard**, probation/parole officer, District 27A, 27y9m  
**Sheron Randall**, office assistant III, District 27A, 27y7m  
**Stephanie Treadway**, substance abuse program administrator, Eastern District, 21y4m  
**Royster Washington**, manager I, District 9, 37y

### JUVENILE JUSTICE

**Carolyn Steger**, staff psychologist, C.A. Dillion Youth Development, 30y1m  
**Vivian Strickland**, juvenile court counselor supervisor, District 12a, 22y10m  
**Delores Sykes**, training school unit administrator, Dobbs YDC, 20y1m  
**Jeff Tompkins**, juvenile court counselor, District 11, 28y4m

### PRISONS

**Bobby Allen**, maintenance mechanic V, Nash Correctional Institution, 21y10m  
**Brenda Bailey**, correctional officer, Foothills CI, 25y4m  
**Jarvis Bizzell**, correctional officer, Johnston CI, 20y1m  
**Johnny Brandon**, correctional officer, Piedmont Region, 30y  
**John Brewer**, staff psychologist, Lanesboro CI, 20y2m  
**Robert Bullis**, correctional officer, Avery/Mitchell CI, 12y11m  
**Clement Burney**, lieutenant, Sampson CI, 30y  
**Debbie Chance**, correctional officer, Hyde CI, 16y8m  
**Donald Cherry**, correctional officer, Odom CI, 6y10m  
**Michael Crudup**, correctional officer, Franklin Correctional Center, 25y8m  
**Dale Davis**, correctional officer, Avery/Mitchell CI, 25y4m

**Wallace Ford**, sergeant, Neuse CI, 29y6m  
**George Frank**, lieutenant, Scotland CI, 20y  
**Raymond Gragg**, correctional officer, Gaston CC, 25y5m  
**Dianne Green**, office assistant IV, Foothills CI, 21y9m  
**Calvin Grindstaff**, correctional officer, Buncombe CC, 24y2m  
**Paula Hall**, correctional officer, Franklin CC, 17y4m  
**Charles Holmes**, correctional officer, Swannanoa CCW, 6y  
**Richard Hughes**, correctional officer, Avery/Mitchell CI, 15y7m  
**Alan Hunt**, food service officer, Piedmont CI, 25y6m  
**Alvin Ingram**, sergeant, Neuse CI, 20y1m  
**Timothy Jarvis**, sergeant, Craggy CC, 30y  
**Algene Johnson**, processing assistant IV, Hoke CI, 25y4m  
**Mark Jones**, correctional officer, Pasquotank CI, 19y  
**Robert King**, lieutenant, Odom CI, 29y11m  
**Carl Lee**, sergeant, Harnett CI, 28y8m  
**Rebecca McDonald**, captain, Harnett CI, 24y5m  
**Jerry McGuire**, maintenance mechanic IV, Foothills CI, 16y1m  
**Ricky Peterson**, correctional officer, Avery/Mitchell CI, 17y5m  
**Stephanie Pierce**, substance abuse counselor advanced, Piedmont CI, 10y4m  
**Spencer Selle**, nurse director, Prisons Health Services, 28y2m  
**Eddy Stewart**, correctional officer, Hoke CI, 17y9m  
**Dannie Strickland**, correctional officer, Sampson CI, 24y5m  
**Vicky Strickland**, medical records assistant III, Sampson CI, 15y10m  
**Elizabeth Turner**, dental assistant, Lumberton CI, 19y8m  
**Lillian Turner**, professional nurse, Prisons Health Services, 12y5m  
**Johnnie Wade**, correctional officer, Neuse CI, 27y11m

## Law Enforcement

### STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

**Dennis Brackman**, master trooper, Troop E/District 9, 22y11m  
**Kevin Bray**, first sergeant, Troop G/District 1, 26y4m  
**Aubrey Hollar**, master trooper, Troop G/District 9, 16y  
**Teresa Kirby**, office assistant IV, Troop C, District 5, 28y2m  
**Emily Maloney**, office assistant IV, Troop D, District 2, 11y6m  
**William Maness**, captain, Training Academy, 28y  
**Marvin McAbee**, networking technician, Viper Microwave Tower East Team, 14y10m  
**James McClelland**, first sergeant, Troop G/District 2, 25y4m  
**Charles Olive**, master trooper, Troop F/District 2, 28y  
**Anthony Richardson**, not assigned, Troop C/Command, 26y4m  
**Janet Sauls**, executive assistant II, 30y6m  
**Ronald Thornton**, radio engineer II, Troop C, Administrative, 13y8m  
**Bobby Watts**, master trooper, Troop G/District 3, 25y4m  
**James Williamson**, master trooper, Troop G/District 4, 28y

### STATE CAPITAL POLICE

**Ottis Maynard**, public safety officer, All Squads, 27y8m

## Lassiter fills new prison leadership slot

**Kenneth Lassiter** has been named to the new position of deputy director for operations in the state prison system.

Lassiter will work along with Deputy Director **Gwen Norville**, whose title was changed to deputy director for administration. Both deputy directors report to prisons Director **George Solomon**. Lassiter will be responsible for daily custody and security operations of the state's 56 prisons and the prison system's region directors will report to him.

"Kenneth Lassiter has managed some of our most complex facilities and operations with great expertise and integrity," said **W. David Guice**, Commissioner of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice.

Lassiter is a 25-year corrections veteran who has been central region director and warden at Central Prison. He began his career as a correctional officer in 1989 at Odom Correctional Institution in Northampton County.



## Administration

*Employee's Name, Job, Organizational Unit*

**Mose Cannon**, training coordinator I,  
Office of Staff Development & Training

**Jennifer Carlton**, case analyst I, Parole Commission

**Harry Carter**, training instructor II, OSDT Central Region

**Thomas Casey**, electronics technician IV, Engineering

**Gary Dudley**, distribution manager, Central Warehouse

**Jason Fowler**, training instructor II, OSDT Southern Coastal

**Jessica Gordon**, administrative secretary III, Administration

**John Kennedy**, facility maintenance supervisor II, Engineering

## Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

**Jeri Barnes**, chief probation/parole officer, District 10

**Megan Beverly**, probation/parole officer, District 5

**Darrin Davis**, chief probation/parole officer, District 12

**Bobby Dickerson**, district manager I, District 9

**James Harding**, chief probation/parole officer, District 12

**Mary Hulen**, chief probation/parole officer, District 12

**Gary Payton**, chief probation/parole officer, District 2

**Brenda Philips**, probation/parole officer, District 3

**Stethane Pipkins**, chief probation/parole officer, District 16

**Kimberly Wright**, chief probation/parole officer, District 7B

CORRECTION ENTERPRISES

**Douglas Biggs**, manager III, Broughton Laundry

**Paul Cooley**, supervisor I, Quick Copy

**Robert Portis**, manager III, Caledonia Farms

# PROMOTIONS

in October 2014

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

**Lorna Brown-Ray**, social worker III,  
Cabarrus Youth Development Center

**Tracy Campbell**, court counselor, Piedmont Region, District 26

**Lucas Denny**, court counselor, East Region - District 2

**Jason Hunter**, court counselor supervisor, Central Region,  
District 12A

**Calvin Hurdle**, court counselor, Central Region, District 14

**Angus Johannes**, youth counselor, Cabarrus YDC

**Paul Kluttz**, youth counselor, Chatham YDC

**Cecilia McCullers**, youth counselor, Chatham YDC

**Russell Price**, chief court counselor II, Piedmont Region,  
District 26

**David Taylor**, training school assistant unit administrator,  
Dobbs YDC

## PRISONS

**Patricia Berry**, substance abuse worker,  
Black Mountain Treatment Center

**William Branch**, sergeant, Bertie Correctional Institution

**Tommy Briley**, lead correctional officer,  
Orange Correctional Center

**Richard Bristol**, maintenance mechanic IV, Foothills CI

**Davy Bullard**, captain, Lumberton CI

**Jennifer Byrd**, sergeant, Alexander CI

**Willette Oxendine**, programs supervisor, Scotland CI

**Anke Cahoon**, lieutenant, Hyde CI

**Brenda Callahan**, substance abuse counselor advanced,  
Black Mountain Treatment Center

**Deborah Canfield**, substance abuse counselor advanced,  
Morrison CI

**Patricia Coburn**, professional nurse, Caledonia CI

**Daniel Cook**, sergeant, Craggy CC

**Anthony Coston**, food service officer, Bertie CI

**Brandon Cribb**, unit manager, Tabor CI

**John Davis**, programs director I, Southern CI

**Jeffrey Duncan**, unit manager, Alexander CI

**Gerald Ebert**, food service officer, Pender CI

**James Ellis**, sergeant, Harnett CI

**Simbiat Falegan**, professional nurse,  
Central Prison Health Complex

**Stacey Goodwin**, sergeant, Piedmont CI

**David Guions**, food service manager I, Sampson CI

**Zachary Guthrie**, sergeant, Albemarle CI

**David Harrington**, maintenance mechanic IV, Central Prison

**Bruce Hart**, sergeant, Tabor CI

**Wyman Haywood**, facility maintenance supervisor IV, Albemarle CI

**Michael Hines**, food service officer, Tillery CC

**David Holbrook**, sergeant, Rutherford CC

**Barry Huss**, sergeant, Alexander CI

**Juanita James**, assistant superintendent for custody  
& operations II, Johnston CI

**Cathy Judge**, programs director I, Central Prison

**Claudia King**, substance abuse program administrator,  
DART Cherry

**Amy Larosa**, medical record manager I, Prison - Health Services

**Kenneth Lassiter**, deputy director, prisons, Prison Operations

**Larry Liles**, maintenance mechanic IV, Lanesboro CI

**John Lynn**, program development coordinator,  
Special Populations Administration

**Teresa Marsh**, case analyst, Neuse CI

**Jason Martin**, sergeant, Pasquotank CI

**Jeffrey McLean**, food service officer, Sampson CI

**Rhonda Miller**, administrative officer I, Prisons Security Services

**Abigail Mook**, staff psychologist - DF, NCCIW

**Yolanda Murphy**, sergeant, Johnston CI

**James Murray**, lead correctional officer, Hyde CI

**Bruce Nelson**, professional nurse, New Hanover CC

**Edward Nelson**, lieutenant, Odom CI

**Cheryl Powell**, processing assistant IV, Marion CI

**Paul Queen**, sergeant, Mountain View CI

**William Rogers**, assistant superintendent for custody  
& operations I, Lanesboro CI

**Kelly Shook**, substance abuse counselor advanced,  
Alexander CI

**Carlos Simmons**, sergeant, Pender CI

**Kenneth Smith**, assistant superintendent,  
Security Services - Prisons

**Jennifer Spencer**, administrative secretary II, Hyde CI

**Crystal Tant**, sergeant, Polk CI

**Tanya Ward**, psychological services coordinator, Southern CI

**Ingrid Watson**, processing assistant IV, Warren CI

**Roderick Watson**, assistant superintendent for custody &  
operations III, Maury CI

## Emergency Management

**Sharon Winstead**, community development specialist II,  
HMS Project Implementation

## Law Enforcement

STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**Janie Sutton**, assistant director of field services,  
SBI - Field Operations

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

**Deborah Austin**, patrol telecommunications shift supervisor,  
Troop H

**Floyd Woodley**, networking technician,  
Viper Microwave Tower East Team