

On the **Scene**

MARCH 2014



Snow
angels

... page 3





In his cruiser, State Capitol Police Officer **Ronald McCoy** stands watch outside the Governor's Mansion during the February snow and ice storm. *Photo courtesy of State Capitol Police.*

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Stories from the snow

Tales of valor, heart and humor

Adversity seems to bring out the best in most people, and the Feb. 12 snow storm brought trouble aplenty but also plentiful stories about good things people did for each other and their commitment to their jobs.

Here are employee reports submitted in response to *On The Scene's* call for their deeds or those of co-workers ensuring public safety was preserved or helping a friend, neighbor or stranger who had no other assistance available.



State Capitol Police Officer **Thomas Rochford**

On Feb. 12, State Capitol Police Officer **Thomas Rochford** decided to take a different route home. The change possibly saved a woman's life.

The woman's husband had been called to work, which left their daughter alone at home. The woman had no way to get home except to walk — from her job on Wade Avenue to McGee's Crossroads, some 25 or so miles away. She was dressed in office attire, not snow wear.

Rochford's route took him through the intersection of Timber Drive and NC Highway 50 in Garner. That's where he saw the woman, who had already walked about 11 miles.

Rochford at first drove past her, but he stopped, backed up and asked if she wanted a ride. She hesitated. Still in his police uniform, Rochford convinced her it was safe, and the woman accepted the ride.

Rochford had stopped to offer help to someone he did not know, whose circumstances he did not know. He drove numerous miles out of his way to help a stranger in need.

"She had to get home to her daughter," he said. *

Trooper **Royce Barham** got a YouTube shout-out from business

consultant Vincent K. Harris, who said Barham took time to dig him out of the snow when he was stuck in Triple Lakes, even though Barham was with his family.

"Your kindness is totally appreciated," Harris said. "Below you will find a video I created to express my gratitude." *

A past automobile accident had given **Gloria O'Neal**, program supervisor at Central Prison, good reason to be extra concerned while attempting to drive home during the snowstorm. She said it helped her to know that co-worker **Brandy Ballard**, personnel technician I, was following her as they drove on Rock Quarry Road east of Raleigh.

"During this time the traffic, snow and sleet were heavy," O'Neal said. "Brandy was checking on me several times while on the road for four hours waiting to move."

At one point, Brandy made her way to O'Neal's car, slipping and almost falling, and began cleaning the back window of O'Neal's car.

"She risked her safety while helping me," O'Neal said. *

Pauline Powell, educational development aide at Dillon Youth Development Center in Butner, described her journey home to Louisburg on Feb. 12 as an 11-hour faith journey.

She left Dillon at 1 p.m. for a 49-mile trip home over hilly rural roads and an interstate highway, almost constantly praying. Powell described being stuck a few times, but always getting going again due to the help of people who she called "angels God sent" to her aid.

She saw numerous sliding cars that needed to be towed, some of them damaged, and jack-knifed trucks. She also saw numerous other "angels" helping people, too.

"Men were sent to deliver me from the hindrances of my journey," she said. "A special thank you to them for being out on the road in spite of inclement weather. No money changed hands." *

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Correctional Officer **Thomas McCall** making news as he makes his way to work at Foothills Correctional Institution. (Courtesy photo)

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John Del Greco, a systems accountant, saw that a young woman's car was getting too little traction to move and it was blocking Del Greco's car and others in an intersection.

"She asked me to go around her, [but] I told her I will try to push her while she tried to move slowly," Del Greco said. "The traffic behind me stayed patient. Once I got her going she kept waving at me until I turned into my development." *

Randy Nicoll, a food service officer at Brown Creek Correctional Institution, made the 100-mile round trip commute each day in his two-wheel drive pickup truck. He said the trip to or from work normally takes an hour.

"The trip to work the first day was two hours and back to home was four hours," he said. *

George Dudley, a specialist in the Communications Office, needed more than four hours to make a 20-minute drive from the Joint Force Headquarters/Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh to his home near Wake Forest.

The trip would have taken less time had Dudley not stopped three times to use his pickup truck to help people get their cars moving. The day before, he had the truck loaded with firewood and had put a chain in the back, just in case either was needed. The firewood gave his two-wheel drive truck traction, and the chain gave him a tool to help people.

During one stop on Blue Ridge Road, an N.C. National Guard soldier helped Dudley with a stuck motorist. The soldier was gladly helping other people, too.

Later, on Capital Boulevard, Dudley saw a Wake County sheriff's deputy trying unsuccessfully to help a motorist climb an icy hill. Dudley pulled the motorist to the top of the hill, while the deputy kept other traffic at a safe distance. *

Correctional Officer **Phillip Hendricks** of Piedmont Correctional Institution used his tractor to clear the snow out of many of his neighbors' driveways without taking a dime. *

Several reports told of employees' dedication to their jobs, recognizing the importance of keeping prisons secure with sufficient staff.

Perhaps **Thomas McCall** of Foothills Correctional Institution became the "poster child" for job dedication, when he decided that he could get to work by riding his lawn mower to make the 9-mile trip from Valdese to Morganton.

After two hours and a fuel refill stop, McCall arrived safely. *

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Down and out, dangerous, too

By **Pamela Walker**, Communications Director

As a colleague and I made our way home during North Carolina's snowstorm of the decade, we had an encounter with a troubled young man that I will never forget. After working 15-plus hours at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during North Carolina's Feb. 13th snowstorm, Law Enforcement Commissioner Greg Baker and I set out for what was expected to be a slow trek home.

We had been part of the team of hundreds of state employees from public safety, transportation, National Guard, wildlife resources, first responders and others managing the response to the State of Emergency. The EOC was the hub for deploying state troopers to assist accident victims; responding to requests for Humvees to transport emergency personnel to hospitals or residents to shelters; strategizing with transportation officials about plowing roadways through a constantly changing weather situation; and so much more.

It was time for some of us to go home and the next shift to take over. Commissioner Baker and I set out in a four-wheel drive vehicle to navigate the slick roads. We were to meet my husband at a predetermined location.

We had been on the road about 10 minutes, making our way on I-440 (Raleigh's Beltline), when Baker exclaimed, "Did you see that guy?!" He stopped the vehicle on the deserted Beltline and started backing up. A man was laying on the edge of the highway in the snow.

As a law enforcement professional, Baker was very cautious and informed me that we would both stay in the car. He put the window down to get a better sense of the situation. We pulled alongside the man not knowing if he had been hit by a car or was in some kind of distress.

Baker said, "Sir, do you need some help?"

The young man (whom I will call "Joe") sat up partially in the snow, laughed and then mumbled something. Then he tried to stand up and steady himself, swaying the whole time and repeatedly falling in the wet snow. The man was soaking wet and said, "I'm so cold," and in an obvious and uncontrollable state of impairment, he attempted to reach the side of our car.

Fearing that the man would stumble into the road-

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Correctional Officer **Jeff Bowers**

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On Feb. 13, Albemarle Correctional Institution's Officer **Jeff Bowers** also knew he was needed at work, especially aware that a staff shortage was possible that day. But he could not get his truck out of his driveway. The road conditions were very bad, and he did not call anyone to pick him up for fear of putting them in jeopardy.

Bowers left his home on foot at approximately 4:15 that morning. He walked more than 6 miles to get to work, arriving nearly 2-and-a-half hours later.

At Albemarle CI, Bowers was hailed as "a shining example of dedication, teamwork and genuine concern for the safety of citizens, staff and facility." *



Nurses **Richard Kidd**, above, and, right, **Sonya Brown** and **Josephine Thompson**.

Among those at Marion Correctional Institution who were prepared for the storm were three nurses who went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure the facility had a medical presence throughout this ordeal.

They were:

Sonya Brown, third shift LPN, who worked by herself Feb.



12-13, dispensing medications to inmates in regular population and in segregation, as well as performing normal shift routine job assignments until relief arrived. First shift nurses were unable to report for work, so Brown volunteered to stay through first shift to assist with coverage. She worked approximately 18 hours.

Josephine Thompson, third shift RN, helped out on second shift, often doubling back from third with little sleep during February. On Feb. 12, during the winter storm, Thompson drove and picked up one of the third shift nurses so the Institution would have nursing coverage. She followed that up by coming in early on first shift the next day and working through second shift, because first shift nurses were unable to report for duty.

Richard Kidd, second shift lead nurse, assisted with picking up and taking home staff on Feb. 12 during inclement weather to ensure second shift was adequately covered. He assisted with coverage until the third shift nurse could get in and made arrangements for a ride home with custody staff on Feb. 13. Later that day, calling in to check on staffing, he found that first shift staff were unable to report for work. Kidd went in early to assist with coverage, extending his shift to organize and prioritize duties within the Medical Department.

It was noted that, "while this latest round of inclement weather found many unprepared, nurses Brown, Thompson and Kidd demonstrated a level of professionalism, dedication, and preparedness that sets them apart from the rest." *

Lillie Balance, program supervisor, Pasquotank Correctional Institution in Elizabeth City, said, "We here at Pasquotank CI all pulled together as a team to help each other."

Several staff members who live close to the prison offered to allow others who were further out to stay in their homes so they

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way, I told him to get on the rail because he would be warmer over there. The young man immediately became belligerent and he began screaming obscenities. I dialed star (*) HP, and described the situation to the Highway Patrol Communication Center operator.

Baker finally convinced him to lean on the rail and that is when Joe sat and sobbed. A minute later, Col. Bill Grey of the Highway Patrol arrived. Col. Grey and Baker then approached the young man to determine if he was injured in any manner and to attempt to determine how he arrived at that location.

A few moments later, Raleigh police arrived on the scene to assist. Joe's driver's license and vehicle information was checked, and it was immediately determined that a car parked about 50 yards down the roadway was in fact registered to him.

Joe was secured in the patrol vehicle and the focus turned to his vehicle where it was discovered that another male was and had been sitting, observing everything that had occurred. This is the very reason that good Samaritans should always approach these situations with caution and never alone.

The man, sitting in the passenger seat, was also obviously impaired and told the officers that an unidentified woman had been driving. No woman was in sight, and after a thorough search, no woman was found. It is likely that the story was made up in an effort to deflect any criminal charges.

It was also determined that Joe's car was out of gas, likely divine intervention. The results could have been catastrophic had he continued driving in his state of impairment. A trooper transported Joe to jail where he faced a host of charges and a \$12,000 bond. I later learned that he had three prior DWI convictions.

Although Joe is in serious trouble, he is alive and has one more opportunity to re-chart his course in life. I wonder if he will. I wonder if he will recognize what the rest of us did that night. I wonder if he will recognize how fortunate he was that on a blistering cold and snowy night, he was rescued from a certain tragic end by people who care, even when the people they help don't.

Joe may not be feeling so lucky today, but he should be thankful for fate bringing the commissioner of Law Enforcement and the commander of the Highway Patrol to his aid. I hope that is a sobering call heard loud and clear and that Joe gets some help before he hurts himself or someone else. *

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could get to work. Balance's husband gave several staff members door-to-door rides to and from work.

"We have continued this kind of help with each passing storm," she said. "As we are known as the 'Tank,' I think we have pulled together as a whole like the tracks that make a tank travel as a whole not as a lost machine." *

During the snow and ice storm which occurred Feb. 12-14, Catawba Correctional Center had 100 percent of essential staff and management report for duty. The attendance covered all four custody rotations and correctional officers assigned to 8-hour Monday-Friday positions.



Road conditions on I-40 near Catawba Correctional Center were treacherous, yet the facility had 100 percent of staff report for duty.

Correctional staff made arrangements in advance of the storm to position their vehicles where they would have access to main roadways or made arrangements with other employees who had four-wheel drive vehicles. The majority of correctional staff reside in surrounding counties, and some travel 35-40 miles each way. Employees encountered roads with snow and ice accumulations ranging 8 to 15 inches.

Correctional staff reported early for line-up to be assigned a post, in order to allow the preceding shift extra time to get home. Officers brought extra uniforms, sleeping bags and other essentials if they were needed to remain at the facility.

It was said that, "Catawba CC is truly blessed to have a group of employees that are this dedicated to their job responsibilities and each other." *

Numerous staff members at Caledonia Correctional Institution who stayed overnight to help with the facility operations on Feb. 12 due to inclement weather were commended for their hard work, support and dedication:

In Operations, Capt. **Daryl Williams** and Officers **Hidegarde Bobbitt, Linwood Harrell, Frogan Hedgepeth, Regina Powell, Heather Tuck** and **Barbara Whitaker.**
In Unit 2, Officers **Charles Barfield** and **Maurice Dickens.**
In Unit 3, Officers **Courtney Alston, Kathleen Battle** and **Peter Normand.**
In Unit 4, Unit Manager **Donald Greene,** Assistant Unit Manager **James Durham** and Officers **Patricia Arrington, David Hartsfield, Christopher Kirton** and **Davina Sharpe.**
In Maintenance, **Thomas Thomas, Mark Lucy** and **Steve Moore.**
In Medical, **Aundrea Alston.**
In Transportation, **Johnny Arrington, Kevin Craft** and **Craig Pleasant.** *

Among the many critical functions of a prison is its warehouse, which Sgt **Christopher Nichols** oversees at Alexander Correctional Institution. The warehouse provides all of the cleaning supplies and clothes for the inmates five days a week for a population that amounts to a small city.

Icy roads the morning after the snow-storm prevented several warehouse employees from being able to get to work. However, Nichols was determined to make it to work, and he drove more than 60 miles picking up two other employees on his way to Alexander.

Richard Wilson, Alexander CI canteen supervisor, said Sgt Nichols is "a very determined and helpful person who helps his employees and backs them while doing their work ... and deserves recognition for his efforts. ...He may not have driven a lawn mower to work, but his efforts were just as great. We all appreciate him for the boss that he is." *

Another critical daily function at a prison is food. A snow storm doesn't stop the need for meals three times a day.

Stephen W. Smith, correctional food service manager III at Piedmont Correctional Institution, is responsible for 3,000 meals per day.

"It was critical for all Food Service staff to be on post to ensure that all inmates were served their meals," he said. "Many of our Food Staff live a good distance from our unit."

Smith used his four-wheel drive vehicle to go "beyond what most would have done" and picked up all employees who were to be on post during the snow.

"Mr. Smith is a very dedicated manager, and I am not only blessed but honored to be a part of his well organized Food Service team," said **Frank Pleasants,** a food service officer.

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Smith explained that Piedmont CI has two facilities nearly a mile apart, and each has two shifts.

"Me and my staff have to be at work, and if that means that I have to go pick them up at their residence because they can't get out, then that's what I do. ... I depend on my employees to help me.

"But the inmates have to eat, whether it snowed or not. When you have to feed a thousand men three times a day, you do whatever it takes to get the job done." *



Food Service Manager II **Margaret Morgan**, Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women, showed how much she cares for the prison's kitchen staff. She went to work with her bags packed and a cot, prepared to endure the storm and cover the kitchen post.

Once the snow began, Morgan sent home the staff that was already at work, and she called and told others who were scheduled to work to stay home and stay safe, because she had it under control. She was thanked for her leadership. *



Neuse Correctional Institution Food Service Officer **Clarence Smith** took the time to pick up co-workers who couldn't get to work during the snow storm.

He volunteered to stay over if he was needed, and went in extra early to assure staff coverage. He stated that he would do whatever it takes to keep moving forward. *

Fountain Correctional Center for Women in Rocky Mount faced the possibility of a severe staff shortage when most of the second shift personnel called in unable to get to work due to the weather. However,

At Dobbs Youth Development Center, Kinston, **Shirley Waters**, right, a 24-year veteran who has seen "a lot" of bad weather days, and **James Cherry**, a two-year employee, were still hard at work during the snow storm. It



was work as usual, getting up early in the morning, making sure their homes and families were taken care of and then heading off to work to make sure the students got hot meals.

first shift staff remained on post, some until the next day. The coverage was provided without complaint. *

Participants in a Juvenile Facilities leadership meeting during the storm heard reports about teamwork throughout detention and development centers, from folks driving each other home or picking others up who felt uncomfortable driving on the roads, or just picking up extra tasks or doing all they could to get to work because they knew their co-workers and the children were counting on them. Juvenile Justice had transportation teams on the road as late as 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday during the extreme traffic situations that occurred when the snow hit quickly. *

Several employees at Alexander Youth Detention Center in Taylorsville worked extra hours to ensure safety and supervision of the juveniles while also keeping other employees from having to travel in the treacherous weather.

Dee Sullivan and **Karen Millsaps** worked from the morning of Feb. 12 until the evening of Feb. 13. **Josh Keller** and **Will Hedrick** worked from Feb. 12 until the

evening of Feb. 14. They went to work prepared with extra clothes, toiletries and food. Millsaps took groceries to feed employees, and, in the absence of the facility's cooks, the extra-duty staff prepared meals for the juveniles. An upbeat and positive attitude was maintained during the situation.

A January snow storm staff need was also covered by Millsaps, Keller and Hedrick, who worked 48 hours straight. *



Above, officials in a State Highway Patrol telecommunications center watch a monitor displaying an image of a truck accident taken by a traffic camera. Some telecommunicators, those who take *47 calls and handle other emergency communications, stayed overnight in their centers rather than trying the dangerous venture home. The overnights found it "interesting" trying to sleep in a place equipped with motion-activated lights. Simply rolling over would turn the room's lights on.

The **deadline** for entries for the 2014 Department of Public Safety *Badge of Excellence* awards of recognition has been extended to **April 7**.

Litter Free NC

Cleaner = Safer

MORRISVILLE | A new campaign has been launched to make North Carolina safer by making it cleaner.

On March 10, Gov. Pat McCrory, Public Safety Secretary Frank L. Perry and North Carolina State Highway Patrol Commander Col. Bill Grey kicked off Litter Free NC, a statewide anti-litter campaign to reduce the amount of litter in our state by educating the public about litter's harmful effects on public safety, wildlife and the environment.

"North Carolina has one of the most beautiful, diverse landscapes in the nation,"

McCrory said. "From the mountains to the coast, we take pride in the health and beauty of our state. Litter Free NC is not only going to help us preserve North Carolina's natural beauty, but also prevent hazards that pose a risk to travelers, wildlife and their habitats."

Litter is a public safety hazard and an eyesore. It puts motorists at risk, harms wildlife and their habitats, and pollutes

'We take pride in the health and beauty of our state.'

Gov. Pat McCrory

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

Trooper Michael Baker.



Watched by several troopers and DPS Secretary Frank Perry, Gov. Pat McCrory touts the need to make North Carolina cleaner through the Litter Free NC initiative.



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the environment. Millions of taxpayer dollars are spent each year to pick up and remove roadside litter. The North Carolina Department of Transportation spent more than \$16 million in taxes to pick up and remove approximately 7 million pounds of roadside litter in 2013.

“Litter Free NC will combine education and enforcement efforts to reduce the amount of litter in North Carolina,” Sec. Perry said. “People may think litter is a victimless crime, but it impacts people’s safety and well-being, the state’s budget and shows disregard and indifference to the environment and the North Carolina we call home. Millions of tax dollars are used every year for clean-up. Please join us in spreading the word about Litter Free NC, because a clean state is a safer state.”

Col. Grey, commander of the State Highway Patrol, spoke about the patrol’s litter enforcement program and the dangers litter presents to motorists. In 2013, the State Highway Patrol cited 497 drivers for littering and 545 drivers for unsecured loads.

Through the Litter Free NC program, motorists will be able to dial *HP on a cellular phone to report littering and unsecured loads. ▲



Guard celebrates Heritage Month

By Sgt. Leticia Samuels

RALEIGH | Through a proclamation signed by Gov. Pat McCrory, March became a month for the promotion of the North Carolina National Guard and an opportunity to inform and educate citizens on all the programs and benefits that the Guard offers communities.

"For 377 years, the National Guard has been alive and well," said Maj. Gen. Greg Lusk, adjutant general of North Carolina.

On March 24, 1663, the Carolina Charter granted the early colonial government here the authority to "... levy, muster and train men ..." in order to defend the property and peoples of the Carolinas. The NCNG has been on duty ever since.

"During my first 13 months in office, we have had two of the biggest snow storms in history, and the National Guard has been there," said Gov. Pat McCrory when he signed the proclamation.

North Carolina National Guard citizen soldiers and airmen for 351 years have been trusted by their neighbors to bear arms in defense of liberty, state and nation. Heritage Month gives our soldiers and airmen a chance to show our citizens what we do as we defend our nation overseas and train and deploy to support civilian authorities across the state.

"I just want to say thank you," McCrory said.

McCrory spoke to the more than 400 Guardsmen and civilian employees attending the proclamation signing, telling about his grandfather's service in WWI.



Gov. Pat McCrory signed the official proclamation deeming March as North Carolina National Guard's Heritage Month at Joint Force Headquarters on March 6. On March 24th, 1663, the Carolina Charter granted the right to "... levy, muster and train men ..." to defend the property and peoples of the Carolinas. Gov. McCrory also shook the hands of soldiers while thanking them for their service.

Photo by Sgt. Leticia Samuels, NCNG Public Affairs

"He was a pharmacist from Milwaukee [Wisconsin] when he signed up in 1918 to fight," McCrory said. "At the processing station, the clerk did not know how to spell his occupation, so the clerk wrote 'farmer,' and he was responsible for caring for the hundreds of horses in his unit."

The Guard is one of the oldest institutions in our state and has served with distinction in World War I, World War II and the Global War on Terror. Countless business, civic and religious leaders served in the NCNG throughout its history.

Overseas, the NCNG is decisively engaged with its State Partnership Programs in Moldova and Botswana and continues to mobilize units for overseas contingency operations.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 21,000

N.C. National Guardsmen have been deployed for wartime service. The NCNG was the first to deploy a reserve component attack aviation battalion into Afghanistan in 2002, and the only state to have an Armored Brigade Combat Team deploy twice as a maneuver brigade commanding its own battle-space in Iraq.

During that same time frame, the North Carolina National Guard has provided more than 6,100 citizen soldiers and airmen for "state active duty" missions as directed by the governor or at the request of other states.

"It's not if we are ready, it's when we are ready, I know the North Carolina National Guard will be there," McCrory said. "They live by their motto, Always Ready, Ready Team!" ▀



Left, a delegation from Botswana, led by Tebelelo Mazile Seretse, center, the country's ambassador to the United States, visited North Carolina under the State Partnership Program to explore different avenues that the Botswana Defence Force and their government can use to enhance ways of life in Botswana and combat huge issues such as poaching and first response operations. With the ambassador were Col. Bruce N. Thobane, Botswana Defence, Military and Air Attache; and Jed Taro Dornburg, international relations officer – Botswana and Malawi at U.S. Department of State. Photo by Sgt. Leticia Samuels, N.C. National Guard Public Affairs.

Botswana ambassador to US confers with NC National Guard

By Sgt. Leticia Samuels

RALEIGH | Ambassador Tebelelo Mazile Seretse, the first female ambassador of Botswana to the United States, visited North Carolina for three days in support of the State Partnership Program, a program to foster stronger civil and military relationships between the U.S. and foreign countries.

Seretse visited the North Carolina National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters in search of new ways to combat the poaching problem in Botswana. Botswana has the most diverse and sought-after tourist destination in the world, the Okavango Delta, which has the largest population of elephants in Africa.

Seventeen percent of Botswana's lands are dedicated as wildlife preserves, a reflection of the country's dedication to its natural resources. Seretse, with Col. Bruce Thobane, a senior Botswana Defence Force leader, work to find the newest and most efficient ways to enforce anti-poaching operations.

Army Maj. Clay Jackson, State Partnership program coordinator, briefed the ambassador on techniques for protecting wildlife from poachers, including the use of unmanned aerial vehicles to better survey large areas of elephant habitat.

"Botswana has been a major leader in anti-poaching, and we hope that our work with the Botswana Defense Force will be a beacon to other countries," Jackson said.

Army Maj. Gen. Greg Lusk, adjutant general of North Carolina, met with the ambassador to discuss poaching issues, the efforts of Botswana's president in protecting wildlife and the ongoing relationship between the Guard and her country.

The ambassador learned more about local emergency response capabilities from Darlene Johnson with North Carolina Emergency Management. Johnson gave a tour of the state's emergency management operations center and explained how different state agencies work together to help citizens during a natural disaster.

During the visit, the ambassador met with several environmental experts to discuss various methods on how the BDF can conduct surveillance operations. ▲

The ambassador learned about local emergency response capabilities from N.C. Emergency Management.



Photo provided by N.C. National Guard Public Affairs.

NC HART rescues fallen mountain climber

By Lt. Col. Matt Devivo

SALISBURY | A distress call went out in the afternoon of March 10 concerning a stranded climber who fell while ascending the face of the mountain and landed on a cliff hundreds of feet above the ground on Shortoff Mountain, in Western North Carolina's Linville Gorge wilderness area.

The North Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (NCHART) was tasked with rescuing the climbers. Coordinated through N.C. Emergency Management, the elite specialized team combines aviation assets from the N.C. National Guard or State Highway Patrol with highly-trained rescue technicians from fire departments and emergency service agencies across the state. Monday's team consisted of two N.C. National Guard pilots and rescue technicians from Gaston EMS and Charlotte Fire departments.

The entire rescue was streamed live from a safe distance by a local news helicopter and can be seen at wsoc.tv, "Rescuers describe harrowing ordeal at Linville Gorge." Shortoff Mountain is near the Linville Gorge and has a vertical face that is popular among rock climbers.

The rescue required the Black Hawk to hover approximately 150 feet above the rock ledge and less

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Law enforcement agencies respond to fallen U.S. Forest Service officer

On March 12, State Highway Patrol troopers, Alcohol Law Enforcement agents, correctional officers and dozens of local, state, and federal law enforcement officers converged on Fish Hatchery Road in Burke County after learning that U.S. Forest Service Officer Jason Crisp was shot when he confronted a wanted murder suspect.

The suspect, Troy Whisnant, was on the run after allegedly killing his father and step-mother, Levi and Rhonda Whisnant.

Earlier in the day, law enforcement officials determined that Whisnant was involved in a hit and run accident at a private residence and later stole a wrecker. The suspect eventually abandoned the wrecker and attempted to break into a nearby shed and later fled into woods. As a result, Crisp and his canine, Maros, were called to assist in tracking and locating the suspect.

Crisp and his canine came upon the suspect, and the suspect shot both of them. Attempts to save Crisp and his dog failed.

Deputy sheriffs, troopers, ALE agents,

The late Officer Jason Crisp and his canine on duty.



and correction officers eventually encountered Whisnant along a stretch of roadway, where gunfire was exchanged.

A preliminary autopsy later determined that Whisnant fatally shot himself in the head. The sheriff said one of the officer's slugs did hit the suspect.

Department of Public Safety Secretary Frank Perry offered condolences Crisp's family and friends. He also commended the professionalism and bravery of the many DPS employees who played a role in the manhunt and takedown of a very dangerous suspect. ▀

Employee Assistance Program service levels increase

The Employee Assistance Program service level has been increased.

As a DPS employee, you and your immediate family now receive up to three free confidential counseling sessions. These confidential counseling sessions will help assess your needs and provide valuable assistance at no cost to you and your immediate family.

You can contact a counselor at 888-298-3907, 704-717-5295 or through www.mygroup.com.

Employee assistance professionals are available to respond to your calls and assess your situation 24 hours a day to ensure that you, or someone in your immediate house-

hold member are receiving the most appropriate care.

To Access Work-Life Services through the above mentioned website you will need this information:

Username: NCDPS

Password: guest

Confidential

NC EAP is confidential. Seeking assistance from EAP will have no impact on your work record and will not be noted in your personnel file. Employee contact with and participation in this program is voluntary and will be kept strictly confidential, except when required by law. ▀

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than 15 feet from the rock face.

Capt. Darrell Scoggins, commander for the rescue mission, was flying the Black Hawk during Monday's rescue. He was interviewed at the NCNG flight facility once the mission was complete. "You're proud this guy is going to be reunited with his family," Scoggins told a local TV station. "We pulled him out of a sticky situation and we're just happy we could be there to help."

Capt. Chris Hendricks, with Gaston County EMS, was the NCHART technician who went down to retrieve the injured climber and get him into the helicopter.

"He was pretty concentrated on the pain," Hendricks said of the climber who was able to talk to rescuers. "You could see the look in his face — he was hurting pretty good." Hendricks worked with local Burke County Paramedic Caleb Nicholson who had already descended the face of the cliff to begin treating the patient on a small ledge to perform the rescue.

Gaston County EMS reported that the injured climber was airlifted to Carolinas Medical Center-Main in Charlotte.

"The lasting partnership and year-round training that the NCNG, N.C. Emergency Management and local emergency specialists with NCHART conduct are the reasons these missions are successful," Scoggins said.

The mission was the second successful NCHART rescue this year. HART crews rescued hikers stranded in Swain County in early January. The teams also execute missions involving swift water/flood rescue, lost people and urban/wilderness high angle rescues.

The NCHART program became the first of its kind in the nation to implement a regimented training and response program that combines highly-trained local rescue technicians with state or military aviation assets. This program is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2014.

To qualify for the HART team, first responders had to pass a stringent physical fitness test and complete an intensive 80-hour course that taught them how to rescue injured people from the ground or water and place them in the aircraft. Technicians train monthly to maintain their certification.

Forty-two rescue technicians from a dozen different agencies are qualified as NCHART members. ▀



First to be trained

Department of Public Safety juvenile court counselors were in the first group to be trained as instructors for the state's new Youth Mental Health First Aid program through the Department of Health and Human Services. The counselors return to their communities and train other adults who regularly deal with young people to recognize the signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental illnesses and addictions. The instructors have been equipped to teach adults how to recognize symptoms, intervene appropriately and help adolescents who are struggling. DPS Secretary **Frank Perry** was on hand to congratulate the juvenile court counselors who were trained. They are, from left, **Teshia Utley-McKoy** of Harnett County, **Mary Jordan** of Wake County and **Pamela Fowler** of Durham County. *Courtesy photo by DHHS.*



Highway Patrol and NC Association of Educators rev up for 'Read Across America Day'

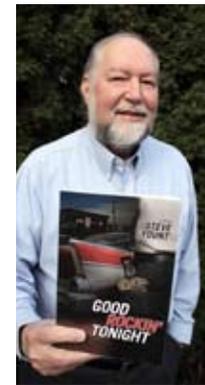
The State Highway Patrol and the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), along with students across North Carolina, joined millions of their peers nationwide to celebrate the 16th annual National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across America Day, on March 3. Troopers across the state visited local schools and encouraged students to read, hoping to help reduce illiteracy. Read Across America Day celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday and the joys of reading. Participating in a reading of Dr. Seuss books at Washington GT Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, were, from left, 1st Sgt. **Jeff Gordon**, Lt. Col. **Billy Clayton**, NCAE officials President Rodney Ellis and Vice President Mark Jewell, and Trooper **Michael Baker**. *Courtesy photo by NCAE.*

Employee helps first responders at tragic scene

Early in the evening of March 2, **Wilbert Darcus III**, a processing assistant IV in Adult Facilities Administration, was flagged down by a distressed motorist who had parked his vehicle, with his family inside, on US Highway 70 east near Clayton.

Darcus soon saw a motorcycle on its side in the road but he saw no rider. The motorist, who had seen the biker go over a guard rail, directed Darcus to the location, where Darcus discerned that the wreck had been fatal to the biker.

A former Garner Police Department employee, Darcus took actions that assisted first responder emergency personnel. He advised a 911 dispatcher of the wreck location and the victim's condition, in addition to helping ensure witnesses provided accounts to law enforcement personnel investigating the wreck.



Grants manager's novel rocks

Steve Yount, a grants manager for the Homeland Security section of Emergency Management, has written his second novel, "Good Rockin' Tonight," a story set in western North Carolina in 1956 when the first rock'n'rollers discovered the glories of "cars, bars and guitars." Book

reviewers say that Yount's writing is colorful and entertaining and it includes historical facts as a backdrop to good fiction. "Good Rockin' Tonight" is being sold on Amazon.com.

P R O M O T I O N S

In February 2014 unless indicated otherwise.

ADMINISTRATION

David Buchanan, electronics technician IV, Facility Management-Eastern Region
Gary Cox, business and technology application specialist,
IT Application Development Team 1
Elizabeth Dail, personnel analyst I, Human Resources Employment & Benefits
Brandon Housley, maintenance mechanic IV, Facility Management-
Piedmont Region
Tyler Oxendine, plumber II, Facility Management-Piedmont Region
Monica Shabo, program development coordinator, Office of Staff Development
& Training

ADULT CORRECTION & JUVENILE JUSTICE

ADULT FACILITIES

Michael Allman, food service manager I, Piedmont Correctional Institution
Dwayne Baker, superintendent II, N. Piedmont CI
Lillie Ballance, programs supervisor, Pasquotank CI
Jordan Barfield, sergeant, Pasquotank CI
Albert Boca, sergeant, Pasquotank CI
Monette Brady, sergeant, Southern CI
Tyrode Brounson, sergeant, Maury CI
Iris Brown, programs supervisor, New Hanover CI
Hope Bryant, programs director I, Pamlico CI
Patrick Buchan, food service manager I, Warren CI
Booker Carson, diagnostic center director, Foothills CI
Melanie Cox, programs supervisor, Tabor CI
Adarryl Cradle, lead correctional officer, Hyde CI
Ventura DeVane, programs supervisor, Raleigh Correctional Center for Women
Tashecia Dumas, sergeant, Morrison CI
Stephen Farrow, sergeant, Greene CI
Tammy Fennell, lieutenant, Bertie CI
Priscilla Gardner, sergeant, Pasquotank CI
Matthew Hall, transfer coordinator III, Administration
Michael Hall, sergeant, Greene CI
Karen Henderson, captain, Scotland CI
Fletcher Hicks, lieutenant, Piedmont CI
James Howdeshell, sergeant, N. Piedmont CCW
Allen Huffman, HVAC supervisor I, Alexander CI
Joshua Jackson, sergeant, Maury CI
Diane Jones, sergeant, Pamlico CI
Frances Joyner, food service manager I, Caswell CC
Gary Keily, sergeant, Central Prison

Cindy McLean, nurse director, Central Prison Health Complex
Robert Mitchell, administrator I, Lanesboro CI
Jesse Newsome, lead correctional officer, Albemarle CI
Jared O'Neal, maintenance mechanic IV, Brown Creek CI
Donnie Raynor, inmate disciplinary hearing officer, Administration
Miriam Schaul, staff psychologist, NC CI for Women
Lisa Shull, sergeant, Polk CI
Alicia Thomas, psychological services coordinator, Neuse CI
Alan Walker, sergeant, Catawba Correctional Center
Alfred Williams, inmate disciplinary hearing officer, Prison Administration
Lavar Williams, food service manager II, Franklin CC

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

John Bivins, chief probation/parole officer, District 22
Sandy Boyette, chief probation/parole officer, District 11
Bryan Branch, assistant district manager I, District 27
Carleen Edwards, chief probation/parole officer, District 26B
Pamela Gardner, substance abuse program consultant,
Black Mountain Substance Abuse Treatment Center
Brian Gates, division administrator, Division 3 Administration
Lisa McManus, personnel technician I, Personnel
Ashton Miller, probation/parole officer, District 25
Darlene Mitchiner, chief probation/parole officer, District 29
Chad Owens, assistant chief of special operations, Administration
Jerry Presnell, chief probation/parole officer, District 30
Yvonne Scott, personnel assistant IV, Division 3 Administration
Crystal Small, juvenile court counselor, Juvenile Justice District 14
Warren Turner, chief probation/parole officer, District 27
Catherine Wade, district manager III, District 7
Angela Williams, assistant district manager I, District 21

CORRECTION ENTERPRISES

Daniel Harrell, supervisor II, Caledonia CI
Brandon Mabrey, supervisor II, Caledonia CI

JUVENILE FACILITIES

Jameka Patrick, facility director, Dobbs YDC

REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMS & SUPPORT SERVICES

Duane Cogdell, transitional services coordinator, Central Office
Cynthia Trickel, director of juvenile programs & student support services, Central Office

See **Promotions** on page 15

RETIREMENTS

In February 2014 unless indicated otherwise.

ADMINISTRATION

Employee's name, job, organizational unit, length of service

Steven Rector, mason supervisor, Facility Management – Western Region, 20y

David Thompson, auditor, Internal Audit, 11y3m

ADULT CORRECTION & JUVENILE JUSTICE

ADULT FACILITIES

Larry Axsom, correctional officer, Piedmont Correctional Institution, 10y7m

Robert Benjamin, training specialist II, Pamlico CI, 16y6m

Linda Boykin, processing assistant IV, Johnston CI, 19y1m

George Briggs, correctional officer, Maury CI, 8y6m

Patrick Brown, correctional officer, Hoke CI, 20y3m

Paul Campbell, correctional officer, Catawba Correctional Center, 19y4m

Doris Chance, case manager, Hoke CI, 19y2m

Luis Chevere, correctional officer, Hoke CI, 16y3m

Cheryl Cooper, correctional officer, Eastern CI, 18y6m

Edna Flowers, correctional officer, Sanford CC, 11y4m

Jane Fussell, nurse consultant, Administration - Health Services, 24y7m

Gary Garmon, correctional officer, Foothills CI, 10y5m

Mary Gilmore, sergeant, Polk CI, 14y6m

Albert Goff, correctional officer, Columbus CC, 11y1m

Charles Hansen, professional nurse, Albemarle CI, 9y2m

Danny Hart, lieutenant, Polk CI, 24y8m

John Heberlein, correctional officer, Piedmont CI, 31y2m

Chester Hunter, sergeant, Nash CI, 27y

Ray Jackson, correctional officer, Central Prison, 26y

Larry Kearney, correctional officer, Nash CI, 8y3m

Maria Kristula, correctional officer, Raleigh CC for Women, 6y2m

Winfred McIver, correctional officer, Sanford CC, 29y3m

Edwin Mills, sergeant, Piedmont CI, 28y8m

Brenda North, office assistant IV, New Hanover CI, 18y8m

Aro Parker, correctional officer, Odom CI, 29y9m

Jason Parnell, correctional officer, Wilkes CC, 22y

Ronnie Ritchie, sergeant, Lincoln CC, 21y4m

Douglas Schmarkey, sergeant, Catawba CC, 32y

Sherwood Smith, licensed practical nurse, Central Prison Health Complex, 26y2m

David Stephenson, correctional officer, Davidson CC, 9y3m

Sheila Taylor, correctional officer, Lanesboro CI, 8y

William Twitty, correctional officer, Warren CI, 16y10m

Jimmy White, correctional officer, Piedmont CI, 24y10m

Larry Williams, correctional officer, Hoke CI, 29y8m

Janice Wombough, professional nurse, Administration - Health Services, 22y2m

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Vicki Bartholomew, juvenile court counselor supervisor, West Region, District 25, 19y

Nancy Blue, office assistant III, District 18A, 22y8m

Cornell Hopkins, probation/parole officer, District 12, 19y4m

Connie Neelands, office assistant IV, District 27, 10y1m

LAW ENFORCEMENT

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Phillip Glover, master trooper, Troop H, District 4, 27y10m

Leah McCall, master trooper, Troop G, District 6, 28y1m

Teia Poulin, lieutenant, Beacon Position Manager, 23y7m

Ronald Raybon, telecommunications shift supervisor, Troop H, Telecommunications, 29y3m

Timothy Sinclair, sergeant, Troop B, District 4, 28y6m

Georgia Warren, sergeant, Respiratory Protection, 22y2m

Eugene Wooten, master trooper, Troop E, District 6, 16y5m

NATIONAL GUARD

Jeffrey Young, facility maintenance supervisor III, Facility Management, 34y6m

PASSING

ADULT CORRECTION & JUVENILE JUSTICE

ADULT FACILITIES

June Grant, correctional officer, Eastern CI, 29y6m

Promotions continued from page 14

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Jeffrey Childs, statewide interoperability coordinator, Operations

Mary Donny, branch manager, Human Services

Zakare Whicker, radiological emergency preparedness planner, Operations