

Correction N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

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Governor

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Department honors Probation/Parole Officers of the Year

RALEIGH—The Department of Correction honored four correctional officers from across the state as the 2002 Probation/Parole and Community Supervision Officers of the Year during a ceremony July 17.

The four were selected from more than 2,000 community officers that work for the Department. Gov. Michael F. Easley proclaimed July 14-20, 2002 Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers Week to recognize the important role the officers play in maintaining public safety. Community officers supervise approximately 116,000 offenders on probation, parole or post-release supervision in North Carolina

communities.

During the ceremony, Correction Secretary Theodis Beck emphasized the importance of effective community supervision to the people of North Carolina. “They work closely with sheriff’s deputies and police officers, with judges and counselors and with families and friends,” he said, “doing whatever it takes to maintain the right level of supervision and to get offenders the help they need to lead productive and crime-free lives.”

The officers honored were Kelly Cartrette of Beaver Dam, Guy Robin Gray of Collinstown, Wayne Knight of Asheville and James Yount of Gatesville. *(For more about the officers, see page 3)*



Matheson

Correctional officer awarded medal in Afghanistan

*By Capt. Robert N. Carver
North Carolina National Guard*

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan—Sgt. Russell Matheson of Asheville, N.C., a North Carolina Army National Guard military policeman on duty in Afghanistan, has received an Army Commendation Medal for his attempts to save the life of an Afghan baby last month.

Matheson, a member of the 211th Military Police Company headquartered in Clyde with a detachment in East Flat Rock, received the award July 27. His heroic but ultimately unsuccessful attempt at reviving the stricken infant took place July 18 as he pulled guard duty at a security checkpoint at the air base here.

“There was a man coming toward the gate,” Matheson said. “He had a bundle. He was shaking and yelling at it. . . I slowly approached the man. He put the bundle on the ground. I opened it.”

What followed surprised him. “It was a small baby,” he said. “She was less than a year old. Her eyes were open.

(Soldier, cont. on page 2)



2002 PROBATION/PAROLE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

Left to right: Wayne Knight, James Yount, Kelly Cartrette and Guy Robin Gray were honored as the 2002 Probation/Parole and Community Supervision Officers of the Year. They were selected from more than 2,000 officers.

NCCIW's Parade of Rooms draws media attention, helps nonprofits



NCCIW inmates demonstrated their creative skills during the annual Parade of Rooms.

RALEIGH—Several media highlighted the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women's Parade of Rooms, which showcased the inmates' upholstery and sewing skills. As part of a vocational class through Wake Technical Community College, inmates turned the vocational area into a five-room home, complete with professional window treatments, reupholstered furniture and

hand-made bedding, pillows and accessories.

Visitors to the Parade of Rooms were impressed with the creativity, quality and intricate details involved in the presentation, but upholstery instructor Deloris Okine expected nothing less.

"There is a hidden talent in all of us, it just has to be tapped," she said. "I use this class as a motivational tool because a lot of the women come here with low self-esteem and to allow them to see a finished product like this builds up their morale."

Inmates can participate in the six-month program if they have a GED and are relatively infraction-free. Inmates who complete the program then can become upholstery apprentices through the Department of Labor, earning a certificate and valuable job experience. All finished products, including the furniture, window

treatments, bedding pillows and accessories, are donated to local nonprofit organizations.

"The reupholstery is a metaphor for what the women do while they are in prison," said Mike Ledford, assistant superintendent. "They have to take out the old stuffing and put in the new in order to turn their lives around."



(*Soldier*, cont. from page 1)

She was unresponsive and unconscious."

He checked for a pulse. There was none. He picked up the tiny bundle and headed back to the checkpoint.

Someone called an ambulance, but a better option appeared when one of the unit's Humvees pulled up. Quick reaction kicked in.

The driver of the Humvee quickly got Matheson and the child to the Spanish Hospital. Matheson proceeded to perform infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"I gave her small puffs of air and massaged her heart," he said, no easy task as the child had vomited in her mouth.

"He was running toward us while giving the girl CPR," said Lt. Col. Pedro Armero, chief of the Air Force staff of cabinet and detachment commander at the Spanish Hospital where medical staff worked on the girl for more than half an hour. But they could not save her.

The Spanish Medical Team said she

choked on her own vomit. After clearing her airway and stomach, they could not clear out the fluid in her lungs. The team determined that she died from aspiration or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

In an attempt to find out what happened, the Spanish team talked to the father.

"The father is an Afghan soldier," one Spanish doctor said. "He came home from Kabul and found the baby like that. His wife didn't know what to do with the child."

"Her name was Nazia," Matheson recalled. "She was so beautiful."

The Spanish Air Force recognized Matheson for his efforts on July 20.

"Sergeant Matheson kept a cool head and reacted without hesitation," said Capt. Timothy Aiken, Matheson's commander. "He did his job. That's what MPs do — protect and defend."

Matheson learned infant CPR as a Robersonville, N.C., policeman 10 years

ago. Currently, he is a correctional officer with the North Carolina Department of Correction and works at Craggy Correctional Center in Asheville.

The 211th Military Police Company was called to active duty in December of last year and deployed to Southwest Asia in February.

From the Archives



The archive photograph in the July edition of *Correction News* was taken sometime in the early 1970s. Many people recognized Dan Lilly as the man in the middle. Lilly currently serves as as director of the Office of Staff Development and Training. The man on the right is Louis Powell, former superintendent at NCCIW and program director for the North Central Area. The identity of the man on the left, however, remains a mystery.

PROBATION/PAROLE AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

KELLY CARTRETTE

Intermediate Officer Kelly Cartrette maintains a good rapport with local law enforcement and has a genuine interest in the offenders she supervises and their families. Her proactive supervision style helps her identify problems before they result in probation violations.

Cartrette's keen instincts were put to good use in November of 2001. On a routine home visit, an offender's five-year-old niece asked to speak to Officer



Cartrette

Cartrette in private. Alone with Cartrette, the child explained that she had been molested by a male relative. After talking to the other people in the

home, Cartrette immediately called the Columbus County Sheriff's Department, which started an investigation that same night. Officer Cartrette then accompanied the child to the hospital and remained with her during the examination.

Cartrette's supervisors say that she should be honored not just for this shining act, but for her daily dedication to her career.

ROBIN GRAY

Robin Gray goes above and beyond the call of duty as a surveillance officer in Stokes County. A certified instructor, he teaches classes such as firearms, unarmed self defense, arrest search and seizure and all basic law enforcement training classes to community corrections officers and other law enforcement agencies. In addition, he is a team leader for the Third Division Emergency Response Team and a certified S.W.A.T.

team member. Supervisors say Gray goes the extra mile in every detail of his job without complaint and is always exemplary in every assignment.

Gray, who also serves as a part-time deputy in Stokes County, is very active in his church and community in his spare time. He is a Scout leader, treasurer for the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge in Stokes County, treasurer for the Wild Turkey Federation and a member of the Bow Hunters Association.

Gray's supervisors say he is an asset to the community and to the Division of Community Corrections.

WAYNE KNIGHT

Intensive Officer Wayne Knight serves as the specialized aftercare officer for IMPACT offenders. When the program began in 2000, Knight worked closely with the local mental health agency to develop a tailored program, including CBI training, drug intervention, job training and life and social skills training.



Knight

Knight and Chuck Smith, a representative from Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime, even took a group of offenders on a Saturday rafting trip to teach them social skills and teamwork.

After budget cuts eliminated funding to the local mental health agency, Knight



Gray

and Smith revamped the program with the resources they had available, naming it the Youth Offender Program. Knight participates in weekly crew meetings, counsels offenders and attends IMPACT graduations. He works an irregular schedule of nights and weekends making home, employment, treatment and community service contacts.

Knight's supervisors say that he goes above and beyond the call of duty and that his dedication and professionalism serve as an example for others.

JAMES YOUNT

James Yount, a surveillance officer in Gates County, was recognized for an act of heroism after a bank robbery in Hobbsville. On March 7, 2002, Yount responded to a call for assistance from Gates County Sheriff's deputies in pursuit of a vehicle driven by the suspected bank robbers.

After the suspects crashed the vehicle, deputies managed to capture two of the three suspects. Yount joined the deputies in the search for the third suspect and was the first officer to locate him. Yount controlled the suspect until deputies arrived, handcuffed him and helped the deputies place the suspect under arrest. After the suspect told the officers where the stolen money was hidden, Yount helped deputies retrieve the funds.

Yount's supervisors say they are proud to have officers like James Yount who are uncompromising in their efforts to protect the public and assist law enforcement agencies.

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Yount

Spotlight on Orange Correctional Institution

Orange Correctional Center, located in Hillsborough, is a minimum-security prison that houses approximately 180 adult males. Forty-five employees work at the facility and the inmates are expected to keep busy as well. On any given day, some 30 inmates are on work release, 40 receive on-site vocational instruction, 28 work on DOT road squads, 12 work for the town of Hillsborough, 10 participate in the Community Work Program and others work in the unit. "We strive for 100 percent participation," says Supt. Michael Thumm.



THE SUPER'S CREW

Supt. Mike Thumm (left), administrative assistant Shirley Gillespie (center) and assistant superintendent Mark Carver (right) make quite a team. In charge of the facility since 1988, Thumm began his career as a correctional officer at Durham Correctional Center in 1978 and came to OCC in 1982 as a program supervisor. Gillespie, who has been with OCC since 1988, wears many hats in her efforts to help keep the facility running smoothly. Meanwhile, Carver rounds out the administrative team, helping to supervise the overall operations of the facility. They all keep busy in their spare time. Gillespie is very involved in church activities, while Carver is an avid hunter and fisherman. Although Thumm enjoys cooking, he vowed to lose weight after seeing this photograph.

MEDICAL SERVICES



Debra Penland (left) and Jean Crawford (right), both registered nurses, make sure that the inmates' health needs are met. They handle sick calls, injuries, mental health issues and problems related to chronic diseases such as diabetes. "You get to do a lot of teaching because these guys don't know a lot of the very basic things to do," says Penland. Penland and Crawford also serve as the unofficial hosts of office get-togethers. Donna Robinson, a medical records clerk, completes the team, but was a little camera-shy.

PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation therapist April Stroth (left), social worker Vivian Duffin (right) and staff psychologist Richard Unkiewicz (not pictured) take care of all mental health needs. Duffin, a former correctional officer at Central Prison, handles home plans, mental health appointments, anger management and reentry readiness. Stroth, meanwhile, conducts horticulture therapy that teaches inmates greenhouse management, landscaping, gardening and stress management, among other things. Both Stroth and Duffin focus on preparing inmates for successful reentry into the community.

CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

Robert Davis (left) of the Carrboro Lion's Club helps Chaplain Ken Barker (right) load three boxes of eyeglasses that inmates at OCC collected and donated to the Lions Club. The full-time chaplain has spent the last 16 years making sure the inmates have plenty of opportunities to participate in positive activities. Barker's position is funded through the Orange/Alamance Prison Ministry and he currently is working with the Ministry and the community to raise funds to build a chapel.





FOOD SERVICES

Food Services manager A.W. Long (right), together with food service assistants Dwight Oakley (left) and Susan Moseley (not pictured) keep OCC's kitchen humming. Long says that OCC's kitchen is one of the best in the state, consistently ranking near the top for lowest cost per meal. "We are real proud of the scores we get on the food service audit," he says. "[The auditor] gives us a lot of compliments." About 15 inmates do various jobs in the kitchen, serving as dishwashers, servers, cooks, bakers and stock clerks.



OFFICERS

OCC has five sergeants and 25 correctional officers that maintain the security of the facility. They handle squads going out, court trips, classes, incident reports, transfers and a world of other duties. Left to right: Jeffrey Dixon, Sgt. Lloyd Ellis, Sgt. Stephanie Williams, Michael McClendon, Thomas Bell and Larry Walker. Bell has been at OCC longer than any other employee and has worked for the state almost 30 years.



PROGRAMS

Recent retirements and promotions keep programs director Tammy Wall (left) and office assistant Traci Clayton (center) extremely busy. They're so busy that they recruited former employee Amanda Cobb (right) to work at OCC three days a week, while she continues to work two days a week as the programs supervisor at Durham Correctional Center. Cobb worked at OCC for two years before she moved to Durham CC.



EDUCATION

Piedmont Community College instructors Nancy Gould (left) and Harry Jack Carter (right) have popular vocational programs. Gould teaches food service technology, while Carter teaches light carpentry. Gould recently celebrated the fact that she had a promising student enter into the work release program who now works at a local hotel. "To see a student complete my program with an A and then go into work release was a good feeling," she says. "It made me the happiest I have ever been." Both Gould and Carter try to prepare their students for the outside world by teaching them not only trade skills, but also social skills, teamwork and job readiness.



MORE OFFICERS

These sergeants and correctional officers make up one of the more talented groups at OCC. Top, left to right: Godfrey Laws is an aspiring pro golfer, Sgt. Stephen Hailey is quite the handyman and Clyde Turner is an experienced upholsterer. Bottom, left to right: Vicki Liston is a renowned traveler, while Tammy Barnwell is a talented ventriloquist who performs for kids of all ages. Meanwhile, Sgt. Walter Day loves to sing.



MORE OFFICERS

As the official "voice" of OCC, Dwight Watson (right) is the first person people hear when they call OCC. In addition to switchboard duties, Watson also handles trust funds and accounting. In his spare time, he operates a lawn business, jet-skis, collects model farm tractors and supports his children's school activities. Meanwhile, C.A. Taub (left) not only handles custody and security, but also is in charge of the canteen. When she is not at work, she showers attention on a new Chihuahua puppy.



COMMUNITY WORK CREW SUPERVISOR

Jim Rankin has only been with OCC since 1999 after working for IBM, GE and other national corporations. He and his crew of inmates spend their days performing many different tasks for local schools and municipalities, such as painting, repairing furniture, waxing floors, landscaping and clearing brush. Rankin, who laughed at the idea of working in a prison when his children suggested it, loves the job. "I see an opportunity not only to help the community, but also to help the inmates," he says.



MANAGEMENT IN MOTION



Jay Clark ready to be bored

TROY--After almost 30 years with the Department of Correction, Jay Clark is ready to slow things down. Clark served his last day as superintendent of Southern Correctional Institution on July 31.

"Jay Clark has been one of the pioneers in the Department of Correction," said Secretary Theodis Beck. "He has worked his way through the ranks, while at the same time opening doors for those that came after him."

Clark started his career as a correctional officer at Anson Correctional Center in 1973. After being promoted to sergeant in 1975, he broke barriers



Clark

by becoming the first black lieutenant and later the first black captain in the South Central Area. In 1985, he served as the office district manager for the South Central Area Office, before being named Southern's second superintendent in 1992.

"The Department of Correction provided me the opportunity to put what I knew into action and I think I performed well," he said. "If you love what you do and you do it well, that's a plus. In my case, I was blessed to do something well that I loved doing."

Clark plans to do nothing at all for the first few months of retirement. "People

keep telling me 'you're going to be bored when you stop working,'" he said. "But I have never been bored and I want to find out what it feels like."

It seems unlikely that Clark will be bored, however, because he still has many items on his plate. He is a member of the U.S. Army Reserve, serves on the Deacon Board of his church and sings in the church choir. He also enjoys fishing and gardening and is an avid reader.

Although he will miss the daily contact with his colleagues at Southern, Clark will not be completely cut off from the Department since he is married to Cordelia Clark, superintendent at Hoke Correctional Institution. The couple lives in Hoffman and has one son.

Chaplain Prince returns to his Navy roots

RALEIGH--After serving as director of chaplaincy services for the Division of Prisons since 1999, Chaplain James Prince has set his sails for a new adventure. He completed his last day with the Department July 31 and became the senior naval science instructor at Western Alamance Senior High School on August 1.

"I've had a blast," said Prince. "There are some real heroes out there—not just chaplains, but superintendents and staff. The people of North Carolina don't recognize what a gift these people are. I wish there were some way we could drive home to the public and the legislature how important corrections is."

During his three years with the Department, Chaplain Prince raised the bar for chaplaincy services. He developed a Chaplain Resource Guide that clearly defines the mission and

guiding principles of the division's prison ministry. He championed a Religious Practices Reference Manual that sets forth accepted standards, procedures and practices for all recognized religions. In addition, he implemented the Transition Aftercare Network (TAN), an innovative program that solicits churches and other faith-based organizations to help train and equip inmates for successful transition back into their communities upon release from prison.

No doubt he will raise the bar for Western Alamance's Naval Junior ROTC as well, because both teaching and the Navy are in his blood. He taught band and served as an elementary school principal for two years before joining the Navy in 1970. After serving in the Navy and the Navy Reserve

for 28 years, he earned certification as an ROTC instructor when he retired from the Navy in 1998.

"We will miss Chaplain Prince's enthusiasm and dedication," said Boyd Bennett, director of the Division of Prisons. "During his time here, the policies and procedures he put into place have had a tremendous impact on the inmates, the employees and the larger community. He has served the Department well."

Until the Department hires a permanent replacement for Chaplain Prince, Chaplain Charlie Davis has assumed the role of acting director of chaplaincy services. Chaplain Davis, who officially serves as the chaplain for the Western Region, can be reached at (919) 838-3625 or (704) 785-8194 at his Concord office.



Prince

News BRIEFS

Counselor earns degree in human services

MORGANTON—Freddie Sherrill, a substance abuse counselor at Western Youth Institution, received an associate's degree in human services from Western Piedmont Community College in May. Sherrill majored in human services with a concentration in substance abuse.

Research and Planning solicits support for student worker

RALEIGH—The Office of Research and Planning is seeking donations for the family of MyLan Nguygen, a student that worked in the office for the past two semesters. Nguygen's brother-in-law, Nguyen N. Trong, was murdered July 26 in an apparent robbery of his Raleigh business. Trong is survived by a wife and four-year-old daughter. A fund in Trong's memory has been established at Wachovia Bank, 3400 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27616.

Movin' on Up

NAME	NEW POSITION	LOCATION
Dawn Brooke	Administrative Asst I	DOC
Michael Chase	Prob/Par Officer II	Dist 8B
William Cox	Corr Lieutenant	Warren CI
Jennifer P. Faison	Corr Health Asst II	NCCIW
Timothy Harrell	Internal Auditor II	DOC
Tracy Lee	Chief Prob/Par Officer	Dist 26
Pantina Murrell	Prob/Par Officer II	Dist. 3B
Phyllis Perry	Personnel Tech II	DOC
Marites Quinto	Nurse (RN) Lead	NCCIW
Seid Shahravar	Food Service Man IV	CP
Steven Ridge	Corr Sergeant	Union CC

Retirements 30 Years or More

Gail Lynch

Honor Students

Ramon R. Gutierrez

Deaths

Bryan T. Britt



PERSONNEL CORNER

Time to enroll in the State Health Plan

It's time for the 2002-2003 State Health Plan open enrollment! All members of the North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Comprehensive Major Medical Plan should receive a mailing regarding health insurance by the first of September.

The mailing will include information regarding the Flexible Benefit Plan for health insurance, which is different than the NCFlex Plan. The health insurance Flexible Benefit Plan allows your insurance premiums to be deducted from your paycheck before taxes, reducing your taxable income and consequently your tax liability. Because the pre-tax deduction of premiums is automatic for state employees that choose the Flexible Benefit Plan, you

must complete a Rejection Form and give it to your benefit representative if you do not want your premiums deducted.

No changes in the Plan's deductibles are expected, but that cannot be confirmed until the General Assembly concludes its session. There will be no increases to the Plan's premiums for the upcoming Plan year.

Effective July 1, 2002, members no longer have to request prior approval for Durable Medical Equipment costing less than \$1,000 per unit or item.

Free or low cost health insurance for North Carolina children

The North Carolina Health Choice for Children Program provides free or low cost health insurance to children whose families cannot pay for private insurance and who do not qualify for Medicaid. The cost for your eligible child(ren) will depend upon family size and gross income.

Benefits, which are based on the State Health Plan, are administered through Blue Cross/Blue Shield of North

Carolina. Coverage includes well child checkups; lab tests; medicine; counseling; vision and hearing care; immunizations; sick visits; hospital care; dental care; therapies; medical equipment and supplies; and surgery.

For more information on NC Health Choice for Children, contact the local Social Service Office in your county. Interested employees should act immediately because a freeze is currently planned for September 1, 2002 on all new applicants. Children will be enrolled on a first come, first served basis.

Flex your money before taxes

Just a reminder to let you know that NCFlex Annual Enrollment for 2003 is fast approaching. This Annual Enrollment is scheduled to begin October 14 and runs through November 8, 2002. Employees that are currently participating in the Health Care and/or Dependent Day Care Flexible Spending Accounts will need to re-enroll for 2003. NCFlex is a wonderful opportunity to lower your taxable income and save you money.

From the Archives: The Past in Pictures



Does anybody recognize this group? E-mail us at smr22@doc.state.nc.us if you have information regarding this photograph or if you have a photo that you would like to see published in *Correction News*.

*This week's photo was submitted by Pamela Taylor at the Office of Staff Development and Training.
For information about the photo in the July issue, see page 2.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7—To kick off this year's State Employees Combined Campaign, Harnett Correctional Institution will be hosting the 3rd Annual Horse Trail Ride on the Federal Game Reserve in Hoffman. Cost: \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Price includes dinner Saturday evening. Indoor and outdoor stalls available for rent. For more information, contact Deanna Young (910) 893-2751, ext. 214.

September 25-27—The North Carolina chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice hosts its Annual Conference and Training Institute at the Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh. Pre-registration is \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members. Contact Fay Lassiter at (919) 838-3606

or Elaine Word at (919) 838-4049 for more information.

October 25—Pasquotank Correctional Institution sponsors the Correctional Masquerade Ball at the K.E. White Center on the campus of Elizabeth City State University. Cost of \$20 includes live band, heavy hors d'oeuvres and door prizes. Formal attire required; a mask will be provided. For more information, contact Marie Sharpe, Cynthia Duker or Christy Jordan at (252) 331-4881.

December 1-4—The 9th National Conference on Women Working in Corrections and Juvenile Justice takes place in Memphis, Tenn. For more information, call Linda Dodson, conference chair, at (615) 253-8141.

Correction News

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If you have questions, comments or story ideas, please contact Mildred Spearman at smr22@doc.state.nc.us.

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