

# Correction N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

Michael F. Easley  
Governor

Theodis Beck  
Secretary

Pamela Walker  
Public Information Director

December 2002

North Carolina Department of Correction 214 W. Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27603 (919) 716-3700

## DOT names bridge for fallen officer

**JOHNSTON COUNTY**—The North Carolina Department of Transportation named the bridge over the Neuse River on U.S. 70 East in Johnston County the Shannon Smith Memorial Bridge Nov. 21. Smith, a correctional officer at Johnston Correctional Institution, was hit by a car and killed while supervising an inmate work crew on the bridge Nov. 9, 1999.

“Having a bridge or highway named for an outstanding citizen is the Department of Transportation’s highest honor,” said Claude Jenkins, a member of the North Carolina Board of Transportation. “Shannon Smith was proud to be an officer — and we are so thankful for her service to our state. Her determination and compassion will be greatly missed — not

only by her family and friends, but by her community as well.”

Shannon Smith was born in Wayne County in 1973. She graduated from North Johnston High School in 1992 and became a correctional officer at Johnston Correctional Institution in 1995. As a member of the Road Squad, she supervised inmates as they cleaned litter from the state’s major highways and interstates — a program that saves the state millions of dollars each year.

“Shannon Smith was a dedicated employee and a good friend to her coworkers,” said Tom Carroll, acting superintendent at Johnston. “She always had a pleasant smile and a good attitude no matter what her personal  
(*Smith*, cont. on page 2)



**JOHNSTON COUNTY**--Workers unveil the sign identifying the Shannon Smith Memorial Bridge spanning U.S. 70 East. Smith, a correctional officer, was hit by a car and killed while supervising an inmate work crew on the bridge Nov. 9, 1999.



Nikita Wright, an aspiring gospel singer, records in the studio.

## Probation officer finds outlet in music

By Pam Walker

**RALEIGH**—When Nikita Sutton Wright becomes overwhelmed by the ups and downs of being a probation officer, she finds relief in music.

“When I sing sometimes I cry because I get so caught up with how much I appreciate what God has done for me,” said Wright.

Her passion for singing is evident to most everyone who has seen her perform. Wright is often asked to sing at award ceremonies, retirements and employee appreciation gatherings.

The Pasquotank County native grew up singing. “When I was five years old, the pastor at my church asked me to come up and sing. I wasn’t sure why because I had never sung before.”

From that point on it wasn’t uncommon to hear her singing in church. She also traveled to other churches and events singing with her brothers and sisters. Wright grew up in a family of 10 children who all have some kind of musical talent, whether it is singing or playing an instrument.

“I grew up in humble beginnings, but my parents provided for the family so

(*Singing*, cont. on page 2)

(*Smith*, cont. from page 1)

circumstances were.”

A host of Smith's family, friends and colleagues attended the dedication ceremony, including her daughter, Courtney Cuttington, Deputy Correction Secretary Dan Stieneke and J.H. Langdon, chairman of the Johnston County Board of Commissioners.

“I'm happy to be a part of this celebration today,” Jenkins told the crowd before presenting a replica sign to Smith's daughter, father and sister, “and to know that every time I pass over the bridge, it will be a constant reminder of her great service and sacrifice.”

## Officers aid injured man on roadside

**ELIZABETH CITY**—Officers Nicholas Cowell and Larry James were recognized this month for aiding an injured man alongside the highway. The officers from Pasquotank Correctional Institution were making a pre-dawn transfer bus run through Hertford County on Dec. 12 when they spotted a man laying on the roadside, who appeared to be injured.

“I wasn't sure if he was dead or alive,” said James. He approached carefully, wary that this might have been a deception. “I called out to him and he answered ‘help me.’ He told us not to leave him.” The man told James he had been hit by a car and had been there for about two hours.

The officers called 911, gave the man a coat to keep warm and secured the scene until a sheriff's deputy and the local rescue squad arrived.

“We've seen a lot of things on the road, but this was pretty unusual,” said James. “It made me feel good to be able to help out.”

(*Singing*, cont. from page 1)

well,” said Wright. “My father was a big influence and is one of the reasons I pursued a criminal justice career.”

Wright's father, Ernest Sutton, is correctional administrator at Pasquotank Correctional Institution. He supported her when she decided to attend Elizabeth City State to study criminal justice. After she graduated, she became a teacher for a short time before following in her father's footsteps. She has been a probation officer in Wake County for the past six years.

“I like my job, but it's not always positive and it can be very stressful,” said Sutton. “You're sometimes the bad guy and other times I receive cards of thanks for helping people get on the right track.”

Wright hopes she can turn her outlet, singing, into a career. She can be heard on some compact discs that have a collection of artists and she also has sung

backup vocals for a number of artists.

She is currently working on a recording with her husband, Denver, which will feature Wright in an ensemble with another female and two male vocalists.

Wright's husband has been in the music business for 37 years and is not only her producer, but is also the owner of a music

studio in Raleigh. His group, Denver Wright and the Collective, has recorded many popular gospel songs, including “If you're Gonna Worry...Don't Pray,” featuring Tony Terry. A respected producer, he works with some of the most prominent gospel artists in the business.

When I first heard her voice, it blew me away,”

said Denver Wright.

Now as a couple they are working together to make Wright's dream of a career in music come true.

“I sing, he plays—we gel,” said Wright.



Wright's husband, noted music producer **Denver Wright**, helps her find the right sound in his downtown Raleigh studio.

## Department plans new re-entry initiatives

**RALEIGH**—Making sure offenders leaving prison are employed and connected with effective community-based support services are the keys to making sure they don't come back to prison. A new department-wide re-entry initiative aims to make sure they have the necessary support to help them succeed.

Funded by two recent grants, the reentry initiative is divided into two parts. The “Going Home” initiative, funded by several federal grants, focuses on developing a seamless network of government, community and faith-based services to support offenders after their release. A second portion of the Commission, funded by the Governor's

Crime Commission, focuses on job preparation for offenders. Because an ex-offender who is gainfully employed is three times less likely to return to prison than an offender who does not retain a job, keeping ex-offenders gainfully employed is critical to their success in becoming law-abiding citizens, productive members of their communities and responsible members of their families.

Representatives from many sections of the Department and other agencies attended a planning retreat Dec. 12-13 that focused on eliminating barriers that hinder re-entry efforts and on clearing the way for cooperation and interdependence in creating a successful re-entry effort.

# News BRIEFS

## Bailey receives

### H.G. "Gus" Moeller Award

**ATLANTIC BEACH**—The North Carolina Correctional Association named Agnes Bailey, an office assistant for Division 4 of the Division of Community Corrections, the recipient of the 2002 H.G. "Gus" Moeller Award on Nov. 22. Each year the Moeller Award is given to an individual that has shown outstanding service to NCCA and its membership.

A member of NCCA since 1998, Bailey helped regionalize state membership and was instrumental in designing the North Carolina application. She currently serves as chair of the Executive Board Membership and Western Region treasurer. She began her career with the Department of Correction in 1996.

Bailey is also an active member of the North Carolina Probation and Parole Association and has numerous affiliations with other organizations. She was president of the Old Fort Ruritan for six years, a member of the McDowell Recreational Association for 10 years and coached youth softball. She has been a member of the North Carolina Notaries Association and the National Association of Tax Practitioners for 20 years.

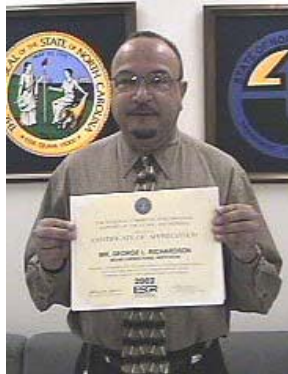
## Avery-Mitchell donates computers to schools

**SPRUCE PINE**—Avery-Mitchell Correctional Institution donated four computers to Bowman Middle School Nov. 16, after thieves stole four of the school's computers. Avery-Mitchell

inmates repair the computers in conjunction with educational and vocational training offered through Mayland Community College. In addition to learning computer repair skills, inmates also learn basic computer literacy, programming, networking and the fundamentals of starting a business.

## Neuse's Richardson honored as patriot

**GOLDSBORO**—The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) presented the "My Boss is a Patriot Award" to George Richardson, assistant superintendent of programs at Neuse Correctional Institution, on Nov. 25. Henson expressed his appreciation to Mr. Richardson for his commitment to those who serve the Reserve and the Guard.



George Richardson

Chaplain Steve Bird nominated Richardson for the award due to his support of Bird's active participation in the U.S. Naval Reserve as the Fourth Marine Division Chaplain, New Orleans, La. "Mr. Richardson has been highly supportive of my commitment in the Naval Reserve this past year," said Bird. "Due to current world events, the units under my command have been extremely busy with various exercises and planning conferences in preparation for the possibility of mobilizing. This has kept me extremely busy traveling across the country attending essential meetings and exercises which has taken some extra time away from the unit."

## Employee Health Fair at Southern Correctional Institution

**TROY**—The Department of Correction's Wellness Program sponsored a Health Fair for employees at Southern Correctional Institution Dec. 9. The fair was part of an effort to encourage employees to begin 2003 with a healthy start.

Many local health providers participated. First Health Community Services provided several interesting clinics, including information on how to stop using tobacco products, classes designed to help stop smoking and free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings.

Meanwhile, the Montgomery County Health Department provided information about medical and dental health. Public Health dental hygienist Beverly Bizzell demonstrated proper dental techniques, while Dr. Don Davis donated toothbrushes for everyone.

*S. Thetiques* representatives presented the latest in skincare techniques from Stanley Medical Services, while Dr. DeNamur from Kelly Chiropractic advised individuals experiencing back problems and offered free office consultations.

Finally, Southern's chaplaincy services



Beverly Bizzell, public health hygienist, teaches Lola Maness, a correctional officer at Southern, about brushing techniques.

staff provided Bibles and Our Daily Bread devotionals to better the spiritual health of the employees.

# Spotlight on Sanford Correctional Center

## Through the years...



In its early days, Sanford was the site of the Prison Department's personnel training center.



From across the state, employees traveled to Sanford for instruction in the classroom and on the firing ranges. Here, officers practice their marksmanship in 1963.



In the 1970s, as emphasis shifted to preparing inmates for release, Sanford became an Advancement Center. This float promoting the Community Volunteer program was entered in a 1971 parade.



A perimeter fence was erected in the 1990s and Sanford became a correctional center. Today it houses about 288 inmates in minimum custody. Many are on daily work assignments outside the prison or on work release.



### SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Supt. **Lewis Smith** (right) has led the team at Sanford Correctional Center for two years. He is assisted by Asst. Supt. **Sorrell Saunders** (left) and **Joy Matthews** (seated) who manages the front office and handles the unit's personnel matters.



**Winfred McIver** is a 18-year DOC veteran, with 8 years at Sanford. He enjoys coaching youth baseball, softball and basketball for the local parks and recreation department.

### PROGRAMS STAFF

Sanford's program supervisor **John Godfrey** (seated) is a big NASCAR fan and a pianist at his church. **Rebecca Chriscoe** (right) started working as a correctional officer at Southern CI in 1982 and has been in programs at Sanford since 1994. Correctional officer **Joe Swagger** (standing center) is temporarily assigned to the program staff. He's enjoying managing inmate cases while he helps fill a vacant position. **Clarietta Lancaster** (standing left) came to work at Sanford 14 years ago. She was born and raised in Sanford, but left to work in New York City for 18 years before returning home.





**Kathy Kelly** is at work on some inmate release papers and trust fund checks. This 10-year DOC veteran is a mother to three children and grandmother to two. She also enjoys singing in her church choir.



**Wayne Watson** gets ready to park the bus after returning inmates from the Correction Enterprises sign reclamation plant in Moore County. He's been with DOC for 12 years and at Sanford for nine.



**Carolyn Burr** works on an investigation report while at her post in Sanford's control room. Like many Sanford employees, she started her DOC career at Southern CI.



**MEDICAL STAFF**

The medical needs of Sanford's inmates are tended by nurses **Elizabeth Cameron** (left) and **Stacy Hipkind** (center). **Jane Godfrey** (right) manages the unit's medical records. Not pictured is lead nurse Tammie Adcock.



**Elizabeth Brown** keeps a close watch over inmates at work in Sanford's clothes house. She also supervises the unit's mailroom. When she's not working, Brown likes to hit the open road on her Harley Davidson motorcycle.



**Jackie Person** transferred to Sanford four years ago, after working for 11 years at Morrison and Hoke Correctional Institutions. To relax, he enjoys reading non-fiction, especially murder stories.

**Spince Gilmore** has worked for DOC for almost 14 years. He enjoys the staff at Sanford and is a great fan of the 12-hour shifts, which allow him to spend more time golfing.



Working at DOC is a family affair for **Kathryn Jernigan**. She has at least six relatives who are current or former DOC employees. At home in Erwin, she enjoys riding trails on her quarter horses.

**William Kelly** supervises one of the department's brand new litter pickup crews. Two of these crews are based at Sanford to help keep roads clean around Lee County. Kelly likes to keep in shape by cycling. Eighteen miles is an average workout.



likes to keep in shape by cycling. Eighteen miles is an average workout.



## MANAGEMENT IN MOTION



### John Taylor calls it quits after 37 years

**SOUTHERN PINES-** More than 100 people turned out to wish Col. John Taylor well and exchange funny stories about their experiences of working with him at his retirement luncheon Oct. 29.

"I've never met a more passionate or dedicated person," said Guilford Leggett, retired special assistant to the Secretary.

Taylor began his career with the department in 1965 as a guard at Odom Prison Farm. From there, he held many positions--from sergeant to superintendent at several different facilities across the state. He broke ground in many areas including the hiring of some of the first female correctional officers when he was superintendent at Morrison Youth Institution in the late 1970s.

Retired superintendent Carol Stamey was one of those first female officers. "It was an interesting time and he always challenged us to do our very best," she said. "He was so tough it made us determined to show him we could handle it."

A few years before that, Taylor started the first Prison Emergency Response Team when he was superintendent at

Lincoln Correctional Center.

Taylor is most well known, however, as commander of IMPACT (Intense Motivational Program of Alternative Correctional Treatment), earning the Governor's Award for Excellence in 1997. He opened the first IMPACT camp for young male parolees in October 1989 in Hoffman. In 1994, the unit doubled in size and IMPACT West opened in Morganton. He was promoted to colonel overseeing the operations of both facilities. Then in 1999, a new 60-bed facility was opened for females at IMPACT East.

"He impacted a lot of kids and helped them change their lives for the better," said Assistant Secretary Lynn Phillips.

After hearing praises and some friendly jabs, Taylor drew laughs from the crowd when he thanked his critics. "It's because of you that I stay on my toes." He went on to say he's thankful for the many opportunities he's had with the department and that he was always proud to be a "guard."

Now the "old country boy" will have more time to listen to bluegrass and watch NASCAR.



John Taylor

### From the Archives



John Daniel, an intensive officer in High Point, sent the following e-mail regarding the November *Archives* photo:

*"Back: Don Jackson; Terry Wooten; Doug Pardue; Tony Brown; John Daniel; Michael Wright.*

*Middle: Peter Hathaway; Richard Stegall; T. E. Hall; Charlie Holleman; Kyle Kilborn. Front: James Fullwood; Sandy Epperson; Wayne Kinney; Glenn ???; Theodis Beck and James Bateman. These are the original 16 members of the Intensive Supervision Program. This is our graduation picture taken in February of 1984, I think. I am unsure of the exact month but know it is in early 1984. I am pretty sure of the month but not positive.*

*Thanks for the memories—as Bob Hope would say."*

Meanwhile, Wayne Kinney named Glen Greene as the man beside Secretary Beck in the front row, but remembers Mike Hensley (not Wright) as the man in the third row on the far right.

If anyone has additional information about the photograph, please e-mail [smr22@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:smr22@doc.state.nc.us).

#### Honor Students

Thomas Shaver

#### Retirements 30 Years or More

Nancy Gaylan  
Marie Hartsfield  
Albert Mewborn

#### Deaths

Charles T. Crumpler  
Joseph A. Parlier

#### STILL LOOKING FOR STAR SIGHTINGS!

Did you go to high school with someone who is now rich and famous? Did you play little league sports with a now famous athlete? Tell us about your brushes with the rich and famous for an upcoming article in *Correction News*. E-mail us at [smr22@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:smr22@doc.state.nc.us).



*Holiday Happenings*

**BURGAW**—Pender Correctional Institution (photo) continued its Very Beary Christmas Program, which provides bears and stuffed animals to the children who come to visit the facility during the holidays. Staff and members of the community donated hundreds of bears to make this another successful year.



Pender had a very "Beary Christmas" in 2002.

**HILLSBOROUGH**—Unit 515B-B of the Division of Community Corrections organized a food drive for the Thanksgiving holiday. The unit donated food to Orange Congregations in Missions, an organization that operates both a thrift shop and a food pantry. OCIM feeds about 500 families in Orange County. Unit 515B-B plans to make the food drive an annual project, in addition to adopting a family for the Christmas season.

**McCain**—Staff from McCain

Correctional Hospital's administration department adopted a family for Christmas. Through social services, the staff selected a needy family with a single mother and her three children. They bought clothing, toys and games for the children and a gift certificate from Food Lion to help with a Christmas dinner. The staff had fun gathering the gifts and appreciated the opportunity to give to those less fortunate.

**SWAN QUARTER**—Hyde Correctional Institution employees donated \$250 to the Hyde County Social Services Department in order to provide Christmas for a needy family.

Meanwhile, State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC), District 68, Hyde Chapter, adopted five residents of Cross Creek Health Care Center in Swan Quarter for Christmas. After receiving a wish list for each of the five residents, SEANC

provided Christmas presents for the residents at a Dec. 20 Christmas party.

**HUDSON**—Caldwell Correctional Center adopted a family through social services for the third straight year. This year's family included a nine-year-old girl and five-year-old twins. Members of staff and the Community Resource Council collected enough gifts to provide each child with a bicycle, winter coats, three outfits, three containers of food and a \$125 gift certificate from Food Lion.



Programs assistant **Adam Huffman** and processing assistant **Amy Cook** helped with Caldwell's Christmas giving.

*Movin' on Up*

Brenda Anderson	Office Asst IV	DCC
James Ard	Lead Corr Officer	DOP
Judy Bishop	Lead Nurse	DOP
Aulio Bonilla	Lead Corr Officer	DOP
Dawn Brooke	Admin Asst I	Engineering
Elizabeth Brown	Personnel Tech II	Personnel
Rodney Byers	Programs Asst II	DOP
Gail Collins	Unit Manager	DOP
Jack Collins	Lead Nurse	DOP
Joyce Colvin	Processing Asst IV	Engineering
William Curry	Corr Training Spec II	DOP
Terry Deese	Facility Maint Mgr I	DOP
Esmond Elliott	Nurse (RN) Lead	DOP
Jimmy Evans	Corr Captain	DOP
Kimberly Gorham	Corr Sergeant	DOP
Joseph Griffin	Corr Sergeant	DOP
Melissa Hall	Admin Asst III	DOP
Cynthia Hinton	Processing Asst V	DCC
Deloris Hunt	Admin Secretary	DOP

Patience Johnson	Prob/Parole Officer II	DCC
Christopher Kimbrough	Food Serv Mgr I	DOP
Portia Lowe	Prob/Parole Officer II	DCC
Shelia McKinney	Nurse Supvr	DOP
Delores Pollard	Personnel Tech II	Personnel
Robert Potter	Lead Corr Office	DOP
Richard Price	Lead Corr Officer	DOP
Candis Pruitt	Acting Clerk IV	DOP
Toby Reid	Ship/Rec Supv II	Corr Enterprise
Tonia Robbins	Admin Secretary	DOP
Jacqueline Robinson	Office Asst IV	DCC
Frankie Rozier	Personnel Asst V	DOP
Timothy Sanford	Case Analyst	DOP
Rhonda Al Shuaibi	Processing Asst IV	DOP
Willie Smith	Food Serv Mgr II	DOP
Jennifer Stackpole	Internal Auditor I	Programs
Pamela Thompson	Personnel Tech I	DOP
Richard Watkins	Constr Engineer II	Engineering
Kelly Williamson	Corr Training Spec IV	DOP

## *From the Archives: The Past in Pictures*



Does anybody recognize this group? E-mail us at [smr22@doc.state.nc.us](mailto: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*. For information about the photo in the November issue, see page 6.

*This month's photo is from Mike Baker.*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**January 11-15**—The American Correctional Association hosts the 2003 Winter Conference at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C. As the oldest association for correctional professionals, ACA champions the cause of corrections and correctional effectiveness. For more information, visit [www.aca.org](http://www.aca.org).

**February 24-26, 2003**—Americans for Effective Law Enforcement hosts the AELE Workshop on Jail and Prisoner Legal Issues in Las Vegas. Topics include policy and procedure liability, prisoner religion rights, mail and correspondence rights, suicides and in-custody deaths and much more. For more information, call (847) 685-0700 or visit AELE's Web site at [www.aele.org](http://www.aele.org).

**BURGAW**—Inmates at Pender Correctional Institution were in the Christmas spirit as part of a holiday decorating contest. Inmates created fireplaces, sleighs and yes, even a Santa Claus, out of everyday art supplies. "You would not believe the amount of participation we had from inmates as well as the teamwork displayed among the inmates housed in the dorm," said Susan Rhyne-White, assistant superintendent at the facility.



### ***Correction News***

*Correction News* is an employee newsletter published monthly by the North Carolina Department of Correction's Public Information Office. The newsletter is available on the Department's Web site.

If you have questions, comments or story ideas, please contact Mildred Spearman at [smr22@doc.state.nc.us](mailto:smr22@doc.state.nc.us).

Department of Correction  
Public Information Office  
4202 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4202  
(919) 716-3700