

Corrections Connection





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Corrections Connection is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas, feedback and comments can be submitted to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov. Like MDOC on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The image on the cover was taken at the Michigan State Capitol by **Jennifer Keller**, Parole Board executive secretary. For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email a high-resolution version of the image and a description of where it was taken to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov.



What A Difference A Dog Makes

Therapy dog at Woodland Center Correctional Facility changes attitudes, environment

On a recent afternoon, Corrections Officer John Hassen and the unit chiefs at Woodland Center Correctional Facility made a trip to the facility's infirmary accompanied by one of their newest treatment partners. Flanked by prisoner handlers, Sadie, the facility's resident therapy dog, visited inmate bedsides as part of her daily rounds. It's here where she does her best work, staff said. Faces softened. Eyes lighted with excitement as

prisoners patted her head when she appeared next to them.

It was clear that even the brief visit left a noticeable impact on inmates in the room. That same impact is evident at all corners of the facility, and staff said her presence has had a positive influence on prisoners since she arrived in February.

Bringing Sadie on Board

In late 2016, Warden Jodi DeAngelo gave Hassen the task to coordinate a therapy dog program at the facility, which houses the state's most severely mentally ill inmates.

The goal was to help bring stability, comfort and a sense of calm to prisoners struggling with mental illness.

Hassen knew where he could start.

He reached out to Thumb Correctional Facility, which works with an organization called Stiggy's Dogs to train animals to help individuals with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Hassen connected with the founder of Stiggy's, who identified a Shiba Inu-mix puppy to be trained as a



Above: Sadie’s prisoner handlers walk with her down a corridor at Woodland Center Correctional Facility

therapy dog for Woodland Center Correctional Facility’s prisoners. The less than year-old dog had been selected from the rescue organization Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit.

Hassen said he visited Thumb Correctional Facility monthly for the six months Sadie was in training with prisoners there to check in on her progress. When her training was complete, her prisoner handlers at Thumb wrote letters about her personality, likes and dislikes to help make her transition to Woodland go smoothly. When she arrived on February 1, she was given time to adjust to her new surroundings and her new prisoner handlers at Woodland.

With the assistance of staff from Stiggy’s, Hassen and Sadie’s prisoner handlers at Woodland completed their own training program on how to work with Sadie while meeting the needs of

prisoners at the facility. They developed a routine – spending the mornings setting goals and objectives for the day and helping the young dog burn off some puppy energy through play.

Two weeks later, she was ready for her first day of work.

Responding to a Need

At first, Hassen worried about how the prisoner population

might react to Sadie. Many had not seen and had not been exposed to a dog in years. But she was immediately a hit, he said.

“It has been the best ever,”

Hassen said.

Many infirmed prisoners responded positively and actively engaged with Sadie, including some that had previously avoided interacting with others,



Above: Officer John Hassen shows off a facility ID badge made for Sadie

DeAngelo said.

One prisoner cried tears of joy after having the opportunity to visit with Sadie, Hassen said. Another, who had not spoken to staff in years, began asking for visits with her.

DeAngelo said interactions with Sadie have proven to be greatly beneficial to prisoners at Woodland who have been diagnosed with challenging medical and psychiatric disorders. Since Sadie arrived, prisoner behavior, emotional well-being and hygiene has improved, along with interactions with staff. Prisoners are also more interested in reaching their therapeutic goals, she said.

“We have been amazed at the noticeable difference that Sadie has made in such a short time,” DeAngelo said.

Staff know that Sadie’s uplifting presence will change the atmosphere of a housing unit for the better after she visits, Hassen said.

Many prisoners now look forward to their voluntary therapy sessions with Sadie.

Those sessions often take place in the facility’s gymnasium, where Sadie spends time interacting and



Above: One of Sadie’s prisoner handlers scratches her ears following a therapy session

playing with each prisoner. Her unconditional affection helps change prisoner attitudes, said Zuri McGarrity, a unit chief at the facility.

“We see a big difference,” McGarrity said.

Her arrival at the facility resulted in so many positive changes in prisoner behavior that on more than one occasion, staff lightheartedly nominated her as employee of the month. She, after all, has her own facility ID card. But Sadie’s success at the facility wouldn’t be possible without the support and assistance of

staff at Woodland and across the community, Hassen said. Sadie and the therapy dog program at Woodland is supported by the Prisoner Benefit Fund and donations, many coming from staff at the facility. A local Girl Scouts troop also donated toys for Sadie. With the support of staff and the community, the facility has seen improvements in prisoner behavior and attitudes through interactions with Sadie. “She has truly brought joy to all around her,” DeAngelo said. “What a difference a dog makes.”

Volunteers needed for State Employees Charitable Campaign

The department is seeking volunteers to assist with this year’s State Employees Charitable Campaign. Volunteers will help answer questions about SECC, collect pledge forms and organize fundraising events at their work location.

A volunteer training is scheduled for June 26 in Lansing.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please [click here](#) to register, or contact department coordinators Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov, or Camara Lewis at LewisC16@michigan.gov.

MDOC staffer raises money, shears locks to support cancer research

In April, Rebecha Hill sat down in a salon chair to celebrate accomplishing a goal. Earlier that month, she launched a fundraiser to help support childhood cancer research, with



Hill's son helps shave her head after she exceeded her goal to raise \$1,000 for cancer research.

the goal to raise \$1,000 in 20 days and the promise that she'd shave her head if she met it.

She raised \$1,128 and her blonde locks disappeared.

Hill's fundraiser supported the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which backs childhood cancer research. The foundation holds head-shaving events worldwide to help raise money and awareness for childhood cancer research and has raised \$200 million since 2005.

Hill, a U.S. Army veteran who heard about the foundation from a friend she met in the military, knew the organization was holding a Brave the Shave fundraiser this fall in Michigan, but didn't want to wait.

She set up her own fundraising page with an initial goal to raise \$500. She exceeded that goal in just two days.

"I didn't think I'd get anywhere close to that, and then I just

started raising the goal," said Hill, an accounting assistant for the MDOC's Fee Collections Unit.

She said she was amazed by the outpouring of support she received, especially from families affected by the disease.

"What impacted me most was to see so many parents reach out to me," Hill said. "That was the biggest thing that made me realize that this was a great thing to do." When Hill started the fundraiser, she said she felt grateful that childhood cancer had never touched her family, though she knew others who were impacted by it. Then two weeks ago, her 12-year-old cousin was diagnosed with leukemia. He reached out to St. Baldrick's for help.

"I looked back at all the things I've gone through, and I thought I should do something for people who aren't as fortunate," Hill said. "I knew a lot of people who have been affected by cancer. I thought, of all the things I can do, I should do this."

Hill also donated 16 inches of her hair to a cancer survivor in January, before deciding to launch the fundraiser supporting the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

She shrugs off any notion that shaving her head was a big step to take to support those impacted by cancer.

"Hair is just hair," she said. "If I can make an impact on a bunch of lives, then it's a great idea."

Hill's fundraiser to support childhood cancer research is collecting donations until August.

[Click here for more information, or to donate.](#)

MSI-made cutting board presented to TV show host

Michigan State Industries' License Plate Operation has a new famous fan.

Gloria Smith, a Michigan Department of Corrections employee made a recent trip to Florida for an opportunity to see her favorite TV variety show host, Carol Burnette. Smith was absolutely stunned and surprised when she was called upon during the question and answer segment of the show.

After a few questions, she mentioned that she also had a special cutting board made by Michigan prisoners that she wanted to present to Burnette as a gift. She also included a note with information on the MSI prison industries program.

Burnette invited Smith backstage where Smith presented the cutting board to her.

Burnette was thrilled that the cutting board included an engraved image of her famous alter ego "The Bucket Lady."

She said she absolutely loved the cutting board, and the fact that it was produced by the prison industries program.

The MSI License Plate Operation produces a host of specialty and custom products made from scrap metal and wood, including bird houses, coasters, clocks, collection boxes and fundraising plates.

These items can be purchased through MDOC employee clubs.



Agent helps break trafficking case as part of new team

A year ago, an embedded juvenile probation agent came in to Battle Creek's new Community Fusion Center with concerns about two 14-year-old girls.



DeLoof with police at a crime scene.

The agent had learned that the girls might be in danger and may have been exploited as prostitutes. The Fusion Center, which is comprised of multiple law enforcement and public service agencies, including Michigan Department of Corrections, immediately began to investigate. "These girls needed help," said Erin DeLoof, an embedded agent with Battle Creek's Community Fusion Center. "They needed to be safe. Every single one of us was working together."

The group quickly learned that one of the main suspects was a Calhoun County parole absconder, and reached out to the MDOC's Absconder Recovery Unit for assistance.

Within 48 hours, Fusion Center agencies, along with the Battle Creek Highway Interdiction Team and MDOC Absconder Recovery Unit, had made their first arrest in the human trafficking case. Three

more individuals were arrested by the end of the week, and within 10 days, four suspects were indicted on federal human trafficking charges.

The Fusion Center launched in late 2015 with the goal to encourage cooperation between agencies and streamline services. Often when officers are called to the scene of the crime, the case is complicated by issues that require the assistance of other agencies and the collaboration the Fusion Center fosters helps resolve cases more quickly, DeLoof said. She said the Fusion Center team has maintained contact with the two girls in the case, who are recovering and working to get their lives back on track. The team even helped raise money to support one of the girls in her involvement on a local dance team.

"We get asked a lot what people can do to help with these kinds of situations and the one thing we always tell them is to listen to our youth," DeLoof said. "They are the key to what is going on with kids around them. Without the one brave soul that spoke up, who knows where these girls would be today."

DeLoof has also been featured on the Field Days podcast. [Click here to listen to the episode.](#)



Employee Rec Day is coming

Employee Recreation Day is returning this year as an opportunity for employees across the state to meet, relax, recharge and have fun.

Employee Recreation Day is open to all department employees, retirees and their adult guests, and will be held July 14 at the Riverwood Resort in Mount Pleasant.

Attendees can choose to participate in a number of activities including golf, bowling, foot golf and canvas painting.

Details on pricing and registration is [available here](#), and information on canvas painting times and designs are [available here](#).

A variety of free events will also be offered such as bag toss, bingo, bocce ball, Frisbee, card and board games, bubble ball, Michigan Department of Corrections Jeopardy and tug-of-war.

Guests can also take pictures with their MDOC colleagues in the free photo booth and bid on items in a silent auction.

Facilities have offices across the state have been invited to donate a basket of items for the silent auction. The items must be delivered to EPIC liaisons by June 23 and state funds cannot be used for the baskets. Events will begin at 10 a.m. and a dinner buffet will be offered from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Please register by June 26 to participate.

Payment can be made via PayPal. Please note, there is a nominal fee to pay by PayPal via credit card. Please remember registration still needs to be completed if paying by PayPal. For questions on the event, contact EPIC Employee Engagement at MDOCEEC@gmail.com, and for questions on registration contact Kathy Keiffer at KeifferK@michigan.gov.

Vocational Village at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility Celebrates One-Year Anniversary with Open House

Every day that Kenneth Eason goes to work, he said he thinks of how grateful he is at how far he has come.

He was a prisoner student at Richard A. Handlon



Correctional Facility's Vocational Village, who paroled in February and landed a job with the Holland, Mich.-based manufacturer, Haworth. "The life I lived was never really on the right path," said Eason, who trained in welding at the Vocational Village. "To get up now, and go to work ... I'm blessed. I come home and I live, and I live the same life, except I'm not making the same mistakes." The Vocational Village at Handlon Correctional Facility celebrated its first anniversary with an open house on May 18 that included more than 120 employers touring the program, and testimonials from business representatives who had hired paroled graduates.

In the last year, 34 prisoners have paroled and graduated from the Vocational Village and 68 percent of those are employed.



Sharon Netto-Lipsky, manager of Recruitment and Member Effectiveness for Haworth, told prisoner students in the Vocational Village that she hoped they set a vision for their future and pursued it with determination.

The manufacturer has been impressed by the work ethic and skill of Vocational Village graduates they have hired, she said.

"Have a vision about where you are going and be dogged about it," Netto-Lipsky said. "Your opportunity is with these employers in the room. There is nothing that you can't achieve."

The Vocational Village is a first-of-its-kind skilled trades training program that includes carpentry, plumbing, electrical, welding, automotive technology and CNC machining.

The training program for each of the trades has been outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment to give students experience with machines they would be likely to use when they land jobs.

Prisoners also participate in full days of work and classroom instruction and also take employment readiness courses that can help lead them to a successful career.

A second Vocational Village site at Parnall Correctional Facility in Jackson will be operational this year and will also include training in concrete masonry and truck driving.

Eason said when he starts his shift, he often shakes the hand of a fellow Vocational Village graduate and takes a moment to count his blessings.

"I'm living and I'm doing it the right way," Eason said. "I never thought I would be the man that I've become."



Honoring the Fallen

Fallen Officers Memorial unveiled at Michigan Corrections Organization headquarters

Though years have passed, Special Alternative Incarceration Program Corporal Terry Bridges

we are getting better," Bridges said. More than 300 people attended the dedication of the memorial at the Michigan Corrections Organization headquarters in Lansing, including corrections and union staff, lawmakers and the families of fallen officers.



"It's a bittersweet day because we are remembering those who have gone before us in the line of duty, but we're also celebrating those who remain and continue to put their lives on the line every day," MDOC Director Heidi Washington said during the ceremony.

The event also featured speeches from Michigan Corrections Organization President Tom Tylutki, Vice President and Chief of Staff Andy Potter, Treasurer Bill Henderson, SEIU President Mary

Key Henry, and Pastor Ed Holsworth. It was followed by an open house where attendees could learn more about corrections work.

can recall what it was like to work and train with Josephine McCallum and Jack Budd.

Bridges said McCallum was professional and focused, and Budd provided some of the best training he received.

McCallum and Budd were remembered May 7 during a ceremony to unveil a memorial honoring Michigan's fallen corrections officers killed in the line of duty.

The memorial also includes Corrections Officer Earl DeMarse and Deputy Gate Keeper George Haight. "Corrections is forever evolving, re-evolving and trying to get better and I think it is because of the sacrifices of the four people on this monument that



McShin Foundation leader discusses addiction recovery during presentation at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility

More than 300 prisoners at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility heard a message on



overcoming addiction during a visit from the founder of a foundation that offers peer-support

addiction recovery services.

John Shinholser, the president of the McShin Foundation, spoke to prisoners with a history of substance abuse issues about recovery, available services and the impact of addiction on families, during the May 17 event.

He was accompanied by Scott Masi, of the Brighton Center for Recovery and recording artist Matt Butler. The McShin Foundation, a Virginia-based nonprofit, was featured in a documentary called "Anonymous People" that centered on addiction.

Field Operations Administration recognizes staff for achievements during supervisor's conference

Earlier this month, the supervisors of Michigan Department of Corrections field offices gathered for an annual conference in Mount Pleasant to discuss upcoming initiatives and strategies for success. The conference focused on leadership, becoming better leaders for staff and how staff can take the lead

in offender success. Supervisors received information in the opioid epidemic, gang trends, interviewing skills and identifying victim behavior. Supervisors were also honored for their career achievements during the conference.

Kalamazoo County Supervisor Laraine VanLopik was named the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

VanLopik joined the MDOC in 1987 as an agent in Berrien



County's Niles Parole/ Probation Office. In 1989, she transferred to the Kalamazoo County Parole/ Probation

Office and was promoted to supervisor in 1995. She has been involved in many department initiatives including Leadership for the Future, Visions and Values, and is the point of contact for the Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management project. She facilitates the R8 Operational Efficiencies Committee, which has proposed changes to the parolee/ probationer transfer investigation policy. VanLopik earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice and her master's degree in public administration from Western Michigan University. She is also an adjunct professor at Ferris State University. Other nominees for the award included Paula Garver, Stephen Robinson, and Ronald Brock.

Macomb Probation Supervisor Larry MacDonald was named Supervisor of the Year for the Metropolitan Region of the Field Operations Administration.

MacDonald began his career with the MDOC in 1977.



He worked as a probation agent in Detroit Recorder's Court and later was assigned to Chrysler

District Probation. In 1982 he became supervisor of the former Dexter District office and transferred to the Mt. Clemens Parole and Resident Home office in 1983. He remained supervisor of the parole office in Mt. Clemens until 1993, when he transferred to Macomb County Probation. He supervises agents for the Macomb County Adult Drug Court, Veteran's Treatment Court and Mental Health Court. He is a graduate of the Wayne State University Law School and has served as an adjunct instructor at the former Pontiac Business Institute, Oakland Community College and Macomb Community College. Other nominees for the award included Juan Hammonds, Ronald Brock, Debra Warren, Damon Hawkins, Melanie Hardy, and Carrie Skibinski.

Ionia and Barry County Supervisor Tammy Pettit was named Supervisor of the Year for the Outstate Region of the Field Operations Administration.

She is a 23-year veteran of the department, who began her career as a limited term agent at the Ingham County Parole Office. In 1994, she transferred to the Eaton



County Parole and Probation Office, where she stayed for 12 years before leaving to become an institutional parole agent. She was later promoted to lead agent for the Outstate Region, and then field supervisor for the Ingham County Parole Office. She went on to work for the Ionia County Parole and Probation Office, and also leads the Barry County Parole Office. She is actively involved in her community and has assisted athletic boosters for a local high school. She said she is grateful to belong to a great team that is invested in and cares about the success of others. Other nominees for the award included Paula Garver, Lisa Johansen, Charles Welch, Amber Glendening, Patrick Lane, Jamee Babbitt, and Jason Furst.

Parole/Probation Agent of the Year Candice Dunn laid to rest, memorialized

As flags around the state flew at half staff, family, friends and colleagues laid Oakland County Probation Agent Candice Dunn to rest on May 17. Dunn, who was the department's 2017 Parole/

Year award will now be named the Candice L. Dunn Parole/Probation Agent of the Year award in her memory. Reentry Administrator Tom Combs and the building trades program at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility also worked together to build a memorial to her that is posted at the crash site. Scholarships have been established in Dunn's memory, as well. The Candice Dunn Memorial Scholarship Endowment was established to support criminal justice students at Ferris State University. Dunn was a 2003 graduate of the university. More information about the scholarship and how to donate is [available here](#).



MDOC staff stand near a memorial to Dunn that was made at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility.


Probation Agent of the year, was killed in a car accident on May 9 as she returned home from the MDOC Employee Appreciation Banquet. She was remembered for her ambition, positive attitude and her commitment to the success of those she supervised.

Department staff and the community rallied to honor Dunn. The department's Parole/Probation Agent of the

The drug court association has also created a scholarship for its annual conference in her name. The scholarship will cover the cost of conference attendance for an MDOC agent.

[Click here to listen to a special edition of the Field Days podcast on Agent Dunn.](#)

[Click here to watch a tribute video.](#)



MDOC donations featured at annual Children's Trust Fund event

A number of items donated by the Michigan Department of Corrections were featured for the Children's Trust Fund's annual Pam Posthumus Signature Auction on May 17. The auction raises money to help support programs that combat child abuse and neglect. Donated items came from the department's building trades programs and included handcrafted wooden chests, Michigan Adirondack chairs, clocks and child-size



rocking chairs. Items donated by the MDOC raised nearly \$7,500 overall. To see the items and winning bids, [click here](#).

Left: This Spartan dog house was among items built by building trades prisoners and donated to the auction.

Golf outing raises money for Law Enforcement Torch Run

On May 20, MDOC staff, family, and friends participated in the Cracklewood Golf Outing to benefit the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Michigan.

The event, organized by Macomb Correctional Facility Psychologist Karen Solgot and ARUS Frank Sgambati, raised \$2,835. Macomb Correctional Facility Warden Randall Haas, Thumb Correctional Facility Acting Warden George Stephenson and Regional Fire Inspector Jim Conrad took first place in the event.



Leader Dogs for the Blind expanding program to additional correctional facilities

A program that allows prisoners to help raise guide dogs for Leader Dogs for the Blind is expanding to additional correctional facilities with hopes to build on the program's successes. In the last 15 years, the Prison Puppies program has grown to include eight Michigan correctional facilities.

Those facilities include Baraga, Chippewa, G. Robert Cotton, Ionia, Macomb, Oaks and Richard A. Handlon correctional facilities and Marquette Branch Prison.

The program is expected to start at Central Michigan and Bellamy Creek correctional facilities later this year.

Through the program, prisoners are taught to use positive reinforcement and rewards-based training to give the puppies they are raising the foundation necessary to become a guide dog. The program raises 30 percent of the puppies for Leader Dogs for the Blind each year with a 60 percent graduation rate.

In addition to helping raise guide dogs for individuals who need them, the program also helps prisoners develop responsibility and positive personal skills, and has helped reduce tension and stress in the prisoner population.

Leader Dogs for the Blind is a nonprofit organization that is funded through private donations, endowments and service organizations. These donations allow the Prison Puppies program to be completely supported by the organization.

To participate, correctional facilities must:

- Have the ability to house and care for 10-15 puppies a year
- Identify inmate puppy raisers with three to four years remaining on their sentence who have the ability and a desire to participate in the program.
- Identify a facility staff liaison to oversee administrative and clerical tasks related to the program.
- Have a training area large enough to hold monthly classes with Leader Dogs for the Blind staff or a volunteer counselor, as well as a puppy relief area, a locked location for the storage of food, treats and supplies and access to a local veterinarian for routine care.

For more information on the program and how to get involved, contact Prison Puppies Coordinator Melissa Spooner at melissa.spooner@leaderdog.org.

Prisoners earn accreditation as writing instructors

Two prisoners at Muskegon Correctional Facility earned accreditation as registered writing instructors from a highly recognized communications training agency with international reach. Prisoners Carl Johnson and Kenyon Rogers earned the accreditation from The Institute for Excellence in Writing, an Oklahoma-based organization that specializes in equipping teachers with methods and materials to aid others in becoming confident and competent communicators and thinkers.

They are the first inmates in the country to achieve this coveted certification.

Johnson and Rogers began working toward accreditation after they signed up for a class called Reading and Writing for the Development of the Moral Imagination, offered by Prison Fellowship volunteers, Maureen and Jay Richards.

Lesson and preparation materials were donated by the institute's founder and director, Andrew Pudewa, who was excited by the opportunity to support prison populations.

Johnson and Rogers mastered the course work and demonstrated such teaching and leadership potential that they were asked to join the next year-long course as assistant instructors.

In this role, they sharpened their teaching styles while working through the writing requirements of the nine DVD lessons for institute certification.



The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Parole Board member Brian Shipman and the staff of the Crime Victim Services Unit, including manager Ruth Schueller and Karen Balasses, were recognized with a Symbol of Customer Service Coin for their responsiveness to crime victims and ability to calm victims and help them feel at ease.



Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility Warden Tony Trierweiler presented a Warden's Coin to Maintenance Supervisor Scott Klein for his dedication to ensuring the Bellamy Creek maintenance area runs smoothly, and his work to coordinate multiple major projects at the facility.



Staff in the Procurement, Monitoring and Compliance Division of the MDOC received Symbol of Teamwork Coins for working collaboratively with program area partners to develop standard, yet effective, contract monitoring plans, site visit plans, contract monitoring templates and processes within the newly established division. The team continues to work with contracted vendor partners in ensuring the department is receiving the goods and services it expects.

MDOC named "Best in Class"

The MDOC received a designation as "Best in Class" from the State Budget Office for the first time this year for its approach in evaluating internal controls through a department facilitated review process. The budget office requires a biennial review of each agency's internal control processes, and this evaluation process is called the Internal Control Evaluation.



Like other state agencies, MDOC completes the required reviews over a period of time nearing a year. At the conclusion of the team's work, the Office

of Internal Audit Services reviews the process and methodology used to evaluate internal controls.

Thanks to the work of Ken Brzozowski, Joelle Craddy, Kami Harris, Norma Killough, Terese London, Brad Purves, Bidhan Redey and Frank Vernarsky, the department was able to achieve this designation.

Correctional facility holds career fair

G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility hosted a job fair on May 25.

The fair included 11 employers, who were available to speak with 104 prisoners paroling or discharging in the next six months.

All prisoners had prepared portfolios to present to employers and received feedback on them.

Speakers were also on hand to talk about establishing a career.



Call for Pistol Shoot competitors

Marquette Branch Prison will host its fourth annual Warden's Cup Pistol Shoot on June 21 at the Marquette Branch Prison gun range from 8:30 am- 12:00 pm. Registration will begin at 8:30 am and end at 11:30 am. The fee is \$10.00 per shooter per class. Shooters are limited to active Department of Corrections employees, outside law enforcement and military. Staff who do not possess a valid MDOC CCW must have a valid CPL and use their own handgun and ammunition. Shooting classifications will be comprised of a Team Service, Individual Auto Service, Individual Auto Open, and Individual Revolver Open class. Please contact MBP ITO Matthew Cody at CodyM@michigan.gov if you have any questions.

Corrections Quiz

Name this place:



Thanks to Macomb County Parole Supervisor Gerald Brown for suggesting the quiz question. Send your answer to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov. The first person to answer correctly will receive a congratulatory shout out on MDOC social media, and the answer and winner will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

April Quiz Recap

Question: The Michigan Department of Corrections has been contributing items to the Children's Trust Fund auction for how many years?

Answer: 15

Congratulations to **Kathy Mason**, of the Macomb County Probation Office, and **Ray Closson**, of Parnall Correctional Facility, for being the first to answer the March Corrections Quiz. Great job!

Snapshots

A look at life around the MDOC



Earlier this month, employees from across the MDOC met up to bowl and help raise money for Employee Recreation Day. The event at City Limits in East Lansing was open to all staff statewide and 44 employees participated. It raised a total of \$468.50 for Employee Recreation Day.



Saginaw Correctional Facility opened its new Veteran's Unit with a special ceremony on May 15. Michigan is now the 14th state to have a designated housing unit for veterans, which will offer supportive services. About 100 prisoners are currently housed in the unit.

Corrections in the News

[Vocational training for prisoners coming to Jackson facility](#) — MLive

[124 years, 4 deaths: Memorial honors corrections officers](#) — Lansing State Journal

[Fallen Officers Memorial honors Earl DeMarse](#) — Marquette Mining Journal

['Body Farm' at Michigan university will study how human remains decompose in cold weather](#) — MLive

[Prisoners pursue Calvin College degrees at penitentiary](#) — WZZM TV 13

[Muskegon West Softball Little League saved by generous donations](#) — Fox 17

[13 states have reduced prison populations, reduced prison spending, and lowered crime rates](#) — Vera Institute

Seen on Twitter..



To see more, follow the MDOC on [Twitter](#).

March New Hires

Acker, Michael	Maintenance Mechanic, Detroit Reentry Center
Bryner, Ashley	Secretary, Corrections Central Office
Chapman, Pamela	Storekeeper Supervisor, Detroit Reentry Center
Cromell, Michalene	General Office Assistant, Marquette Branch Prison
Eastham, Andrew	Clinical Social Worker, Ionia Correctional Facility
Ethridge, Kevin	Departmental Technician, Corrections Central Office
Fouss, Michelle	Registered Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility
Harvey, Tabettha	Trades Instructor, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Hemmila, Tyler	Plumber, Baraga Correctional Facility
Howard, Tanisha	Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Jump, Beverly	Registered Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility
Kirk, David	Corrections Internal Affairs Specialist, Corrections Central Office
Luke, Ranald	Registered Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Marker, Lisa	Clinical Social Worker, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Mattson, Kenneth	Dentist, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Miller, Debbie	Registered Nurse, Alger Correctional Facility
Piche, Rene	General Office Assistant, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Plevinski, Justin	Trades Instructor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Rosendale, Erik	Trades Instructor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Salisbury, Angela	Psychologist, Detroit Reentry Center
Schorling, Julie	Word Processing Assistant, Oakland County Probation Office
Severson, Christopher	Maintenance Mechanic, Detroit Reentry Center
Shepler, Michele	Registered Nurse, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Skampo, Julia	Word Processing Assistant, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Stranally, Ressie	Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Tooson, Tanard	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Treynor, Ericka	Registered Nurse, Ionia Correctional Facility
Williams, Darron	Plumber, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Wright, Charity	Secretary, Cooper Street Correctional Facility

March Retirements

Barber, Raymond	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Bergeron, Nancy	General Office Assistant, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Bowers, Laura	Corrections Security Inspector, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Brooks, Angela	Field Agent, Troy Probation Office
Burke, John	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Baraga Correctional Facility
Carter, Lane	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Cummins, Daryl	Fire Safety Inspector, Corrections Central Office
Davarn, Thomas	Storekeeper, Ionia Regional Facilities
Dominique, Gloria	Word Processing Assistant, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Earley, Phillip	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Finch, Suzanne	Accounting Technician, Michigan Reformatory
Flatt, Deborah	Secretary, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Gauna, Ruben	Corrections Transportation Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Germain, Kenneth	Locksmith, Newberry Correctional Facility
Germain, Mary	General Office Assistant, Newberry Correctional Facility
Graczyk, Wendelin	General Office Assistant, Correctional Facilities Administration Jackson Region
Grinnell, Charles	Special Alternative Incarceration Officer, Special Alternative Incarceration Program
Hagle, Ronald	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Hampton, Valerie	Accounting Technician, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Hengesbach, Douglas	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Kemp, Craig	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Kerley, Mike	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Kerr, Mark	Maintenance Mechanic, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Kleinhans, Joseph	Refrigeration Mechanic, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Kolb, Richard	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Korn, Vicki	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Long, Yvonne	Secretary, Corrections Central Office
McGinn, Kenneth	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
McGuire, Kimberly	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Merkey, Kathleen	Corrections Program Manager, Parnall Correctional Facility
Miller, Jeffrey	Physical Plant Supervisor, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Muckenthaler, Julie	Maintenance Mechanic, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Osborn, Wendy	Accounting Technician, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Osborne, Gail	Secretary, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Pass, Mary-Jo	Deputy Warden, Special Alternative Incarceration Program
Pettit, Ronald	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Porter, Sean	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Remesz, Richard	Field Agent, Chrysler District Probation Office
Richards, Glenn	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Smith-Ralph, Benita	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Sperry, Wayne	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Stephens, Michael	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Taylor, Jeffrey	Dentist Manager, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Ward, Ester	Resident Unit Manager, Parnall Correctional Facility
Wilson, Steven	Physical Plant Supervisor, Kinross Correctional Facility