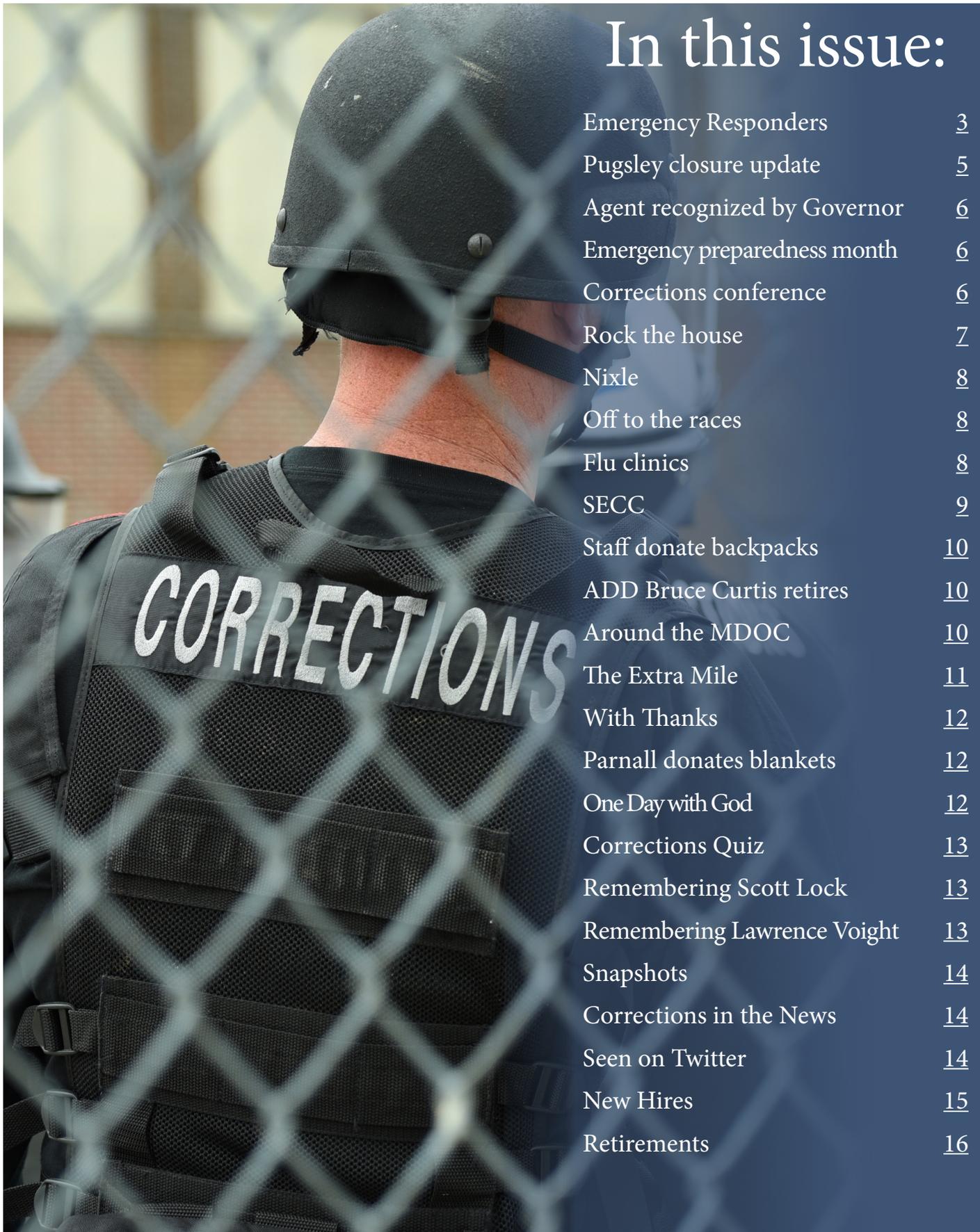


# Corrections Connection



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**Corrections Connection** is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas and comments can be submitted to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).

Like MDOC on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The image on the cover was taken in Mackinaw City by **Pam McBride**, executive secretary for the Correctional Facilities Administration business office in Jackson. 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](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).



# Emergency Responders

Corrections staff train for high-pressure events

**D**ressed in helmets and vests, some carrying curved shields, a band of corrections staff faced a mock crowd of prisoners refusing to leave the yard. The prisoners – made up of Michigan Department of Corrections employees who volunteered to play the part – stood together as the group slowly advanced forward in unison in driving rain on the grounds of the former Riverside Correctional Facility.

The goal was for corrections staff to safely de-escalate the situation and bring it to a close while preventing harm to employees and prisoners.

The scenario was part of a training exercise meant to teach custody staff techniques that could be used in the event of a disturbance, and give them an opportunity to train alongside Emergency Response Team members, as well as officers from other facilities around the state.

The training is crucial.

Though it was a mock event meant as practice, the scenario could become very real.

Staff at Kinross Correctional Facility were prepared on Sept. 10 following a demonstration by prisoners coinciding with the 45th anniversary of the Attica Correctional Facility riots in New York.

Staff across the department had prepared for the potential of widespread demonstrations in connection with the riot anniversary, but Kinross was the only facility that experienced any disruption with some prisoners later becoming destructive in their housing units.

Corrections leaders said the training staff received

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success



Emergency Response Team members and corrections staff enter the yard at Michigan Reformatory to continue training exercises in August.



Jackson-area training participants practice techniques at the former State Prison of Southern Michigan in June.

prior to the incident was invaluable and helped bring it safely to an end without injuries to prisoners or employees. “This is necessary,” said Brent Travelbee, manager of the MDOC Emergency Management Section, which organized the trainings. “We try to be as realistic as we can.” The Emergency Management Section also works with correctional facilities to practice and prepare for other scenarios such as escapes or severe weather events that could impact facility operations, but the focus of these training drills was on addressing disruptive incidents by prisoners. Participating staff learned how to best use shields and other gear in a number of different settings, and how to work together with their colleagues from around the state should they be called to help. Many of the techniques are already used by the department’s Emergency Response Teams, but are important for line staff to learn as well, Travelbee said. “This is a fantastic training,” said Christine Wakefield, an inspector at Bellamy Creek Correctional

Facility who attended an August training held at the former Riverside Correctional Facility for Ionia-area staff. “It’s hands-on and it’s putting them in realistic situations.” Emergency preparedness drills are held annually and were organized at 17 facilities across the state in 2016, including Kinross, with as many as 100 corrections employees participating during some of the trainings. Ionia Correctional Facility Sgt. Matt Bledsoe, who participated in one of the emergency

preparedness training drills, said cross training with Emergency Response Teams and other facilities was a must. “We really worked together as a team,” he said. “It’s good to have everyone together to train.” Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility Warden Tony Trierweiler agreed the emphasis on teamwork between facilities is important. “It’s a team effort, especially here in the Ionia complex,” Trierweiler said. “In a real-life situation, you’re going to respond how you were trained to. It’s important to have this.”

Todd Powers, a corrections officer at Ionia Correctional Facility, was eager to participate in the training drills and called the entire process “very valuable.” Training staff to work in squads, integrate with Emergency Response Teams, communicate and work together to accomplish one goal was important, he said. Powers said he hopes to have the opportunity to participate in additional training exercises in the future. “As a whole, it tied everything together for line staff, for administrators and for ERT,” Powers said. “It put all of it into perspective.”

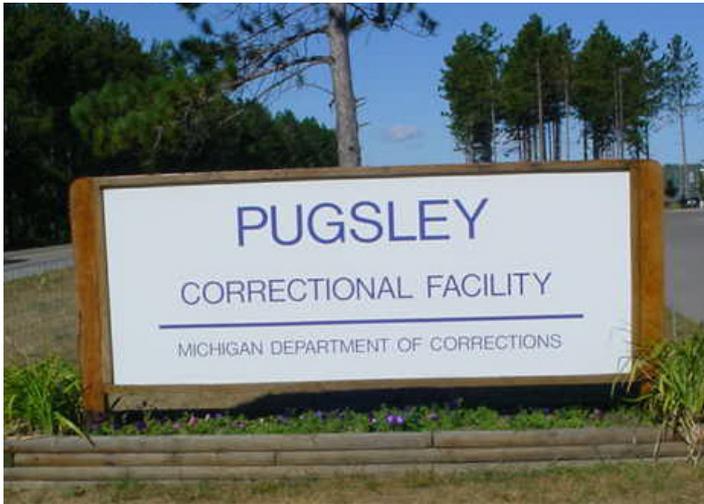


Corrections staff practice inside an empty kitchen at Michigan Reformatory during a training event in August.

# Pugsley Correctional Facility closes its doors

After housing prisoners for almost 60 years, Pugsley Correctional Facility closed its doors Sept. 24.

The last 40 prisoners transferred out of the facility on Sept. 21, and staff spent the following days packing up remaining items and clearing the prison.



While closures are difficult for facility employees, the department has been working closely with Pugsley staff and union leadership to look into all options to help minimize the impact as much as possible.

Of the facility's 230 employees, there were 51 layoffs and 36 of those could have been placed at other locations, but declined to move to another facility.

Others did not indicate their willingness to bump to other positions on their preference sheets.

The department also worked with the Department of Talent and Economic Development and Michigan Works! agencies across the state to leverage each organization's ability to help employees.

Though closures are never easy, the collaboration between the department, union leadership and workforce development agencies has resulted in

positive outcomes for many employees. Of the 58 officers at Pugsley and Oaks correctional facilities who were placed through the transfer out process, 56 received their first choice of facility and two received their second choice.

The closure of the facility, which opened as a camp



A photo of Judge Pugsley that was displayed at Pugsley Correctional Facility.

in 1956 and was converted to a correctional facility in 2001, was announced in May.

Successful efforts to reduce the state's prison population, along with declining numbers of new male prison commitments led to the department having the ability to close a facility as part of the 2016-17 budget.

The state's prison population is now under 42,000 for the first time in nearly 20 years, and declined by about 1,500 prisoners in less than two years.

This is the result of the hard work by many employees across the department who are dedicated to the mission of offender success.

Staff in facilities and in the field throughout the state are helping to ensure prisoners receive an education, learn job skills and prepare for life in the community as better citizens.

The closure is estimated to save Michigan taxpayers \$22 million in the upcoming fiscal year.

As the prison approached its closure, staff past and present expressed their sincere appreciation for the relationships they developed while working at the facility.

Staff handled themselves with dignity and integrity as they successfully transitioned more than 1,340 prisoners safely to new facilities in the last three months.

Facility staff and leaders would like to thank all those who have experienced a closure and expressed their support for all they have done and for taking the time to reach out.

In addition, leaders thank the Kingsley community, Fife Lake Township, and Grand Traverse County for being great to work with while the facility was in operation.



An emptied unit at Pugsley Correctional Facility.

# Agent recognized by Governor Rick Snyder for heroic actions

**B**errien County Probation Agent Angela Biggart knows the important role criminal justice

of the bailiffs in the courtroom left to investigate and then shots were heard, Biggart said.



The judge urged those in the courtroom to leave and get to safety. As people were exiting the courtroom, more shots were heard and Biggart said she noticed some people taking cover on the floor of the courtroom. She helped everyone get up and get to safety, then made sure the courtroom was cleared

professionals play in protecting the public's safety.

She grew up in the field, watching her father serve as a police officer before beginning her own career in law enforcement.

In July, she was instrumental in guiding people to safety during a shooting at the Berrien County Courthouse that ended with two bailiffs and the shooter losing their lives.

Her heroic actions were recognized by Gov. Rick Snyder, who thanked her for her effort and drive to help others that could have prevented more people from being harmed. Biggart, who joined the Michigan Department of Corrections about

and no one had been left behind. Biggart's recent meeting with the governor came as a surprise. Biggart said she had planned to head to Lansing with her supervisor for a meeting, but did not realize until she arrived that the purpose of the trip was to meet with the governor, along with Director Heidi Washington and Deputy Director Russ Marlan. It was Biggart's second meeting with Gov. Snyder, who traveled to Berrien County following the shooting and asked to speak with her about the incident. Biggart said the recognition from Michigan's highest office was an honor.

14 years ago after working for the Van Buren and St. Joseph county jails, was at the bench speaking with a judge when a scuffle could be heard outside the courtroom. One



## Are you prepared?

**D**o you know where to go and what to do at home or at work if an emergency were to happen?

In the past couple years, the state of Michigan has experienced straight-line winds, tornadoes and flash flooding. Regardless of the season, employees and their families should be ready and prepared for the unexpected.

To ensure Michiganders are ready for possible emergencies or disasters, Gov. Rick Snyder proclaimed September as Michigan's Preparedness Month.

State employees are encouraged to take action by downloading the free Michigan Prepares Emergency Plan App from the App Store for iPhone or the Google Play store for Android devices. Created by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Trauma and Preparedness, the app enables users to quickly create an emergency plan on their mobile device.

To learn more, go to [www.michigan.gov/miready](http://www.michigan.gov/miready)

## Women Working in Corrections and Juvenile Justice Conference scheduled

The Women Working in Corrections and Juvenile Justice Conference will be held Oct. 2-5 in Louisville, Ky.

The 2016 conference will focus on "Setting the Pace for Success," and women's roles in the field of corrections and juvenile justice.

The cost to attend is \$279.

Conference costs must be paid by the attendee.

For more information, or to sign up to attend, visit [wwicjj.com](http://wwicjj.com).

# Rock the House

## Sgt. helps bring guitarist Ryan Roxie to West Shoreline Correctional Facility

Few can claim ties to internationally-famous musicians.

But West Shoreline Correctional Facility Sgt. Lawrence “Kip” Smith is among them.

For more than 15 years, Smith has stayed in contact with Alice Cooper guitarist Ryan Roxie



Smith and Roxie together in August

after first reaching out to him to ask about guitar lessons for his daughter. In August, he helped bring

Roxie to West Shoreline for a special presentation that focused on the power of music and positive thinking.

“He’s just a really nice guy and delivers a powerful message to pay it forward,” Smith said.

Smith first got in touch with Roxie through an online message board when his daughter was 11 and looking to learn guitar. He appealed to Roxie, writing that his daughter was very musically inclined and he hoped he could give her lessons. Roxie replied that he would and Smith drove to Toledo to meet Roxie for the first lesson.

“Watching them play together ... it was pretty cool,” Smith said. “He’s just a really good guy.” From then on, Roxie and Smith stayed connected. Every year he went on tour, Smith would reach out to Roxie and jokingly ask if he wanted to play a show at the correctional facility.

When Smith didn’t ask if he wanted to play at the prison during this year’s tour, Roxie broached the subject instead, Smith said.

Alice Cooper and the band agreed to cut Roxie loose for the afternoon to spend time in Muskegon and facility staff began preparing for his visit.

“It was a huge team effort,” Smith said, adding that a local music store even donated an acoustic guitar and amplifier Roxie could use at the facility.

Smith, who picked Roxie up in the morning

before the show, also had the chance to meet Alice Cooper.

“Alice came down and pointed his finger at me and said ‘You take care of my boy,’” Smith said. “All I could say to that was ‘Yes, sir Mr. Cooper.’”

With the help and support of facility leadership and staff, Roxie’s show at West Shoreline was a success.

He talked to prisoners about the importance of helping others, the power of music and how playing music together, regardless of skill level can improve musical ability.

“The prisoners were blown away by it, and staff were really impressed too,” Smith said. “To me the most important part was the message of pay it forward. Inmates said it was very inspiring to them.”

Prisoners weren’t the only ones who were moved by the experience.

Roxie was impacted too, and posted a thank you to Smith and MDOC staff on his Facebook page for “a very special & unique experience.”

“That was very cool to see the positive impact on (the prisoners) and on the community,” Smith said.



Ryan Roxie

10 hrs · 🌐

Big Thanks to Sgt. Smith (Kip Smith) and everyone @ the Muskegon MDOC for the help in putting this event together. A very special & unique experience that had an overall vibe of 'positivity' that will stay with me for some time. Guitar playing IS therapy.....and Music IS one of those things that binds us all together....Long Live Rock n Roll! ;) -Cheers, 77



Guitarist in Alice Cooper band rocks out with inmates at Muskegon MDOC

mlive.com

Roxie thanked Smith and facility staff in Muskegon in a post on his Facebook page following the presentation.

# New to Nixle?

## Sign up for free alerts on important department events

The department is using Nixle, a mass communications platform, to share alerts regarding emergency situations, visiting hour changes, training exercises, and other important events.

The department began using Nixle in 2015 and has already transmitted messages about mobilization drills, absconder and escape events and severe weather.

Anyone can sign up to receive alerts, including staff, residents, schools, local governments and businesses. Alerts can be delivered a variety of ways including via text, email, voice messages, social media and the Nixle mobile app.

The service is free, secure, reliable and easy to use.

**Follow one of these steps to sign up:**

- Text your zip code to 888777 from your mobile phone.

Or

- Go to [www.michigan.gov/corrections](http://www.michigan.gov/corrections) and select

the page for the correctional facility in your area to register via the Nixle Widget.

Or

- Go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and select 'Resident Resources' to sign up.

Those who register will receive a confirmation text to their mobile device. Users may also customize their alert settings by going to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and creating a user profile.

The MDOC joins more than 8,000 agencies around the country that use Nixle for community engagement and emergency communications.



# Off to the Races

## MDOC staff participate in fitness events



MDOC employees from the Parole Board, Interstate Compact Unit and Jackson, Ingham and Macomb county parole and probation participated in the Lake Lansing Team Relay Marathon in August. There were five teams with five members each. This is the second year the MDOC has participated.



Department staff participated in the 3rd annual Relentless Positive Traction 5K in downtown Lansing in September. The event raised more than \$11,000 for the Flint Child Health and Development Fund and Special Olympics Michigan. The fun run and walk drew participation from 61 MDOC employees and 875 state employees overall.

# Stop the Flu

The State of Michigan will be holding flu vaccination clinics to help prevent the spread of the illness in the coming months. Clinics will be held at offices and facilities across the state. Only active employees can receive a vaccination at a worksite clinic and must pre-register for an appointment.

Employees will need their HR Self-Service log in ID and password to sign up.

The vaccine is 100 percent covered for employees who are insured by a state health insurance plan.

Employees signed up to receive a vaccination should bring a completed consent form, available [here](#), a state employee ID, and a photocopy of their state health insurance card.

To register for a vaccination and check clinic locations and dates, click [here](#).

# State Employees Charitable Campaign provides many options for giving

**W**hat does \$5 a week buy you? Maybe it's a morning brew from your favorite coffee shop, a quick lunch when you're on the go, or a couple songs to add to your playlist. But for charities in your community, that \$5 a week leads to big benefits for the individuals they serve, and you can help. Every year, the State Employees Charitable Campaign supports more than 1,000 outstanding charities that serve communities across the state and nationwide. This year's campaign runs from Sept. 12 to Oct. 14 and gives you an efficient and consistent avenue for annual giving to the organizations you care about. You can check out each of the charities supported by the SECC by clicking [here](#). Donating through payroll deduction is one of the best ways to give because it provides charitable organizations with the consistent funding they need to support their mission and ensure services can continue as planned. Even a small amount donated in each paycheck makes a big difference for nonprofits hard at work in your community. For instance, just \$2 per pay period provides school supplies to students whose families

cannot afford them and allows food pantries to purchase more than 300 pounds of food for those in need.

Contributing \$5 a week pays for mentoring and skill-building programs for teens transitioning from foster care to adulthood, provides shelter for victims of domestic violence and buys three weeks of baby food for a child in an orphanage.

Though one-time donations are always greatly appreciated, organizations cannot base a budget on them. Regularly-contributed funding provides charities with support they can count on, decreases fundraising costs and streamlines processes so a greater percentage of your gift goes directly to services.

You can use your MI HR Self-Service account to set up biweekly payroll deductions anytime during the campaign, and choose a specific number of pay periods to contribute or choose to give continuously throughout the year.

Payroll deductions for the 2016 campaign begin the first pay period in 2017. To make changes to your payroll deduction after the campaign ends, call the MI HR Service Center directly at (877) 766-6447.

You can also make a donation by calling the

MI HR Service Center, or donate online by check, or credit card by clicking [here](#). Consider giving today and make an impact in your community.



# Correctional facility staff donate backpacks to children in need

Staff at the St. Louis and Central Michigan correctional facilities once again helped children in need throughout the St. Louis School District by purchasing backpacks and school supplies for students whose families could not afford them. Staff donated many supplies and

money was raised through casual days to purchase additional items. A total of 170 backpacks filled with school supplies were delivered to the St. Louis School District. Backpacks were purchased by the St. Louis Correctional Facility Employees Club.



Facility ARUS Kelly Hughes and Litigation Coordinator Mary Jo Houlden helped ensure the backpack drive was once again a huge success.

# Around the MDOC

## Pugsley Correctional Facility employees help those in need

The Pugsley Correctional Facility Employees Club voted to donate its last check of more than \$800 from the Grand Traverse Vending Company to “The Rock,” a local youth center. The Employee Club also donated \$500 to a facility employee whose son was born prematurely, and other facility staff members contributed another \$600 to the family.

## Louisiana DOC seeks help for employees impacted by flood

Severe storms that hit Louisiana in August resulted in widespread flooding and damage to many homes and forced 75 Louisiana Department of Corrections employees in one area to evacuate their homes. Homes of employees were severely damaged and the Louisiana DOC has reached out to corrections professionals across the country for help covering the cost of lodging and repairs for impacted staff. The Louisiana DOC established a “Flood Disaster Aug. 2016” account at the Department of Corrections Credit Union for anyone who would like to donate. Checks can be made payable to: **Department of Corrections Credit Union 504 Mayflower St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802** For questions, call (225) 342-6618.

# Bruce Curtis retires as MDOC Assistant Deputy Director following 42 years of service

Bruce Curtis, who had served as an Assistant Deputy Director for the department since 2008, retired in August after 42 years of service to the MDOC. Curtis started his career with the department in 1978 as a corrections officer and quickly rose through the ranks. He promoted to sergeant in 1982, lieutenant in 1983, captain in 1985 and inspector in 1987. He was named an assistant deputy warden in 1988 and deputy warden in 1992, before being tapped to become a warden in 1998. In 2008, he became assistant deputy

director for the 16 south and southeast correctional facilities in the Correctional Facilities Administration. His commitment and loyalty to the department were exceptional and his knowledge, skills and experience were invaluable to staff across the department. St. Louis Correctional Facility Warden Steve Rivard has been serving as acting assistant deputy director since Sept. 1.



## Fundraiser held to benefit families of Berrien Co. bailiffs

A vintage baseball fundraising game will be held at 6 p.m. Sept. 30 at Eden Springs Park, 793 M-139 in Benton Harbor to benefit the families of the bailiffs killed in the Berrien County Courthouse shooting. The event will include the game, food and train rides. A donation of any amount is welcome.

# The Extra Mile

## MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Pictured left: Sgt. Richard Johnson, Warden Shirlee Harry and Lt. Kenneth Birgy, pictured right: Registered Nurse Ruth Allen

On April 30, Lt. Kenneth Birgy and Sgt. Richard Johnson responded to a call for assistance regarding an unresponsive prisoner. Johnson placed defibrillator pads on the prisoner, and began CPR before administering shocks from the defibrillator. Birgy then helped with rescue breaths and chest compressions. Registered Nurse Ruth Allen arrived on the scene to start an IV and continued to treat and monitor the prisoner, along with other corrections staff until emergency medical services arrived to transport the prisoner to the hospital.

Birgy, Johnson and Allen's actions earned them the department's Lifesaving award.

Duane Christle, a corrections officer at Carson City Correctional Facility, was at the Crystal Lake Winterfest in February when he saw an off-road vehicle lose control and fall into a hole in the ice on the lake.

Two of the four passengers in the vehicle made it to safety, but the other two were trapped in the vehicle. When the two trapped passengers were freed, Christle immediately began assisting emergency responders with CPR on one of the accident victims until he was taken to the hospital. Christle later secured the victims' personal items at the scene.

Christle's selfless actions earned him the department's Citizenship Award.



Pictured: Warden Sherman Campbell, Officer Duane Christle and Director Heidi Washington.



Capt. Vicki Close and Assistant Deputy Director Lloyd Rapelje

Saginaw Correctional Facility Capt. Vicki Close received a Teamwork Coin from Assistant Deputy Director Lloyd Rapelje for her work helping to organize the One Day with God event at the facility.

Close was instrumental in helping to run One Day with God, which reunites incarcerated parents with their children for a day and is part of a partnership with Forgiven Ministry. Close is also involved with Paws with a Cause and the auditing team.

Glenn Kusey, vocational trades instructor at Saginaw Correctional Facility received a Teamwork Coin from Assistant Deputy Director Lloyd Rapelje for his work with the One Day with God event at the facility, as well as Keryx and other functions he is involved in. Kusey is always willing to step up and assist in any way possible.



Glenn Kusey and Assistant Deputy Director Lloyd Rapelje

Group thanks MDOC for work training service dogs



Daniel N. Cojanu  
CAP Program Director

Sept 10, 2016

Dear Ms. Washington;

I just wanted to take this opportunity to comment on MDOC's program to raise puppies for Leader Dogs in Rochester Michigan. I am the founder and program director for the Canine Advocacy Program. Our program uses the career changed dogs from Leader Dogs to assist victims of crime in the court rooms in our state. We now have 3 dogs raised in the prison system. They work with children who have been neglected/abused or sexually assaulted. They have been a tremendous support to these children as they navigate the criminal justice system.

I thoroughly enjoy the videos on line showing the obvious commitment the inmates have in raising these wonderful dogs. I can only imagine the positive influence it has on the inmate population.

I just wanted to commend you on keeping this program going and from what I understand, expanding throughout the state. These dogs do an invaluable service and along with the impact on the inmates, it shows how progressive MDOC has become.

Thanks again for your support of this program.

Has your office or facility received recognition for its work? Share your letters of thanks with us by sending them to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).

Sincerely,

Daniel N Cojanu Program Director

## Parnall Correctional Facility donates blankets to those in need

Parnall Correctional Facility donated a total of 48 blankets to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and local community organizations.

Inmates at the facility made the blankets and 34 were given to the veteran's home, while the remaining 17 were donated locally.

The facility also donated blankets to the veteran's home earlier this year.



## Saginaw Correctional Facility holds 1st One Day with God camp

Saginaw Correctional Facility held its first One Day with God camp on Aug. 5 and 6.

The camps are held as part of a partnership with Forgiven Ministry and give prisoners an opportunity to reconcile with their children and spend the day together. At Saginaw, 24 prisoners and 30 children participated.

Camps were also held at Gus Harrison, Muskegon, Women's Huron Valley, and Chippewa correctional facilities this year.



# Corrections Quiz

## August Quiz Recap

True or False?

Offenders supervised by the Michigan Department of Corrections grew and donated more than 100,000 pounds of fresh produce to their communities in 2015.

Send your answer to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto: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.

**Question:** What former major league baseball player launched his career while incarcerated at the State Prison of Southern Michigan?

**Answer:** Ron LeFlore

Congratulations to **Paul Kope**, corrections officer at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility for being the first to correctly answer the August Corrections Quiz. Great job!

## Remembering Officer Scott Lock

Scott Lock, a corrections officer at the Detroit Reentry Center passed away in August.

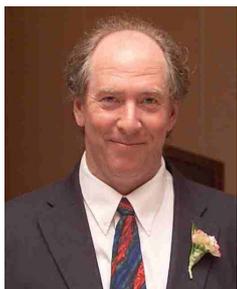
Lock was a 26-year veteran of the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Colleagues said he was a friend to many, and was always looking out for his coworkers.

He was remembered as a dedicated officer, a devoted father and a good friend, who touched many lives in a positive way.

"Scott was just a terrific officer," said Warden Ken Romanowski. "He was a dedicated employee who ran a good unit. We will all miss him."

## Remembering Lawrence Voight



Lawrence Voight, president of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County passed away in August.

Voight worked frequently with the MDOC to support reentry efforts and was known as a great collaborator and colleague to many working in reentry.

He became president of Catholic Social Services in 1997. Funeral services were held Aug. 31 in Ann Arbor.

## From prison yard to playing field

Few sports teams would consider prison as a place to find prospects for new players.

But in 1973 the Detroit Tigers signed Ron LeFlore after letters came in from the State Prison of Southern Michigan explaining LeFlore's athletic talent.

"LeFlore impressed prison officials so much that when a delegation from the Tigers made a goodwill visit in May 1973, the officials persuaded then Tiger manager Billy Martin to give LeFlore a tryout," People Magazine wrote in a 1974 story about LeFlore. "The Tigers, similarly impressed, signed him to a minor league contract the day he was paroled in July 1973."



LeFlore had never played baseball before he was sentenced to serve time in prison for armed robbery, and joined prison athletic teams.

LeFlore played six seasons with the Tigers and was known for his speed and base-stealing ability.

# Snapshots

## A look at life around the MDOC



Woodland Center Correctional Facility corrections medical officers Neilson Church, Spencer Skotzke, Phil Allen, Brittany Tyler and Robert Brezzell participated in the Michigan Warrior Dash in Mount Morris, Mich. in August. The event raised \$20,000 for the St. Jude Children’s Hospital.



Ionia County Agent Jason Perry participated in the Wish-A-Mile bicycle tour, supporting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The 300-mile ride runs from Traverse City to Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich. Perry’s team raised \$7,750.



Cameron, the grandson of Kim Ebnit and son of Carson City Corrections Officer Chris Ebnit, was excited to meet members of the department’s Absconder Recovery Unit. Investigator Chad Bellinger spent time with Cameron and showed him equipment used during absconder recovery efforts and explained what it is like to work for the ARU.



Saginaw Correctional Facility welcomed its first group of Paws with a Cause dogs on Aug. 10. Dogs will receive training from prisoners before being released to Paws for more specialized training to become service animals.

## Corrections in the News

[Retired probation officer receives award from Bay County’s judges](#) — MLive

[Students, prison inmates learn side-by-side](#) — Grand Valley Magazine

[Prisoners give back, train puppies to guide blind, deaf](#) — Detroit News

[Gus Harrison prisoners donate \\$3,000 to two groups](#) — Adrian Daily Telegram

Listen to [Field Days](#)— the FOA podcast. Also, get your questions answered by submitting them on Twitter using [#AskFieldDays](#) or via email, submit questions to Greg Straub at [StraubG@michigan.gov](mailto:StraubG@michigan.gov)

Spread the word about some of the great things happening at the MDOC and share these stories with friends, family and coworkers.

## Seen on Twitter...

MichiganDOC Retweeted

**MichiganDOC-CFA @MDOCCFA · Sep 7**  
 ARF Prisoners donated to the Catherine Cobb Domestic Violence Shelter, and to Lenawee Intermediate School District.

**Gus Harrison prisoners donate \$3,000 to two groups**  
 The Warden’s Forum and Prisoner Benefit Fund at Gus Harrison made two donations. The first was a \$3,000 contribution to the Catherine Cobb D...  
[lenconnect.com](http://lenconnect.com)

5 8

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

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

# July New Hires

Bodwin, Brenda	Registered Nurse, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Cummings, Brian	Field Agent, Montcalm County Parole and Probation Office
Drake, Lillie	Field Agent, Washtenaw County Parole Office
Endres, William	Maintenance Mechanic, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Ewers, Sheldon	Licensed Practical Nurse, Parnall Correctional Facility
Hand, Tracy	Library Assistant, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Harris, Bethany	Word Processing Assistant, Genesee County Probation Office
Himebauch, Marianne	Registered Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Jones, Francis	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Jones, Sara	Procurement Technician, Corrections Central Office
McKay, Emily	Licensed Practical Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Mistiatis, Jennifer	Licensed Practical Nurse, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Nolan, Diane	Licensed Practical Nurse, Parnall Correctional Facility
Patton, Byranna	Field Agent, Macomb County Probation Office
Powell, Andrew	Field Agent, Montcalm County Parole and Probation Office
Randall, Lisa	Registered Nurse, Michigan Reformatory
Remus, Jon-Paul	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Rochefort, Kristin	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Sattler, John	Recreational Therapist, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Seager, Jessica	Licensed Practical Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Webb, Barry	X-Ray Technician, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Webster, Christina	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Williams, Lisa	Licensed Practical Nurse, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Wixtrom, Joe	Registered Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Wondimagegnehu, Yohannes	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center

# July Retirements

Brown, Sherri	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Burgess, Joanne	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Calcagno, Sal	Departmental Technician, Corrections Central Office
Carlson, David	Corrections Officer, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Carpenter, Pamela	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Crain, Audette	Corrections Program Coordinator, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Dejong, Todd	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Dennis, Judith	Secretary, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Feighner, Gregory	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Gibson, Kenneth	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Good, Tamara	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Gravedoni, William	Corrections Transportation Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Hanna, Jeffrey	Corrections Officer, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Healey, Michael	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Hunsinger, Marianne	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Hurst, John	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Parnall Correctional Facility
Jados, Steven	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Johnston, Todd	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Jones, Anthony	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Kelley, Marcus	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
King, Jeffery	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Kosloski, Rebecca	Departmental Supervisor, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Lanier, Logan	Field Agent, Detroit Reentry Center
Massoglia, David	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Moses, Vernita	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Macomb Correctional Facility
Nettleton, Samuel	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Nietling, Bryan	Corrections Transportation Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Norman, Sandra	Word Processing Assistant, Muskegon County Probation Office
North, Phillip	Corrections Officer, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Ohren, Dean	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Porter, Lisa	Field Agent, Eastern District Probation Office
Rudolph, Julie	Administrative Assistant, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Seger, Wayne	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Solmes, Ronald	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Sonnenberg, Robert	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Stanton-Thomas, Linda	Corrections Transportation Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Wendry, Steven	Corrections Internal Affairs Specialist, Corrections Central Office
Wilcox, Cheryl	Administrative Assistant, Correctional Facilities Administration Southern Region Office
Wilds, Michael	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Williams, Lori	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Wood, Mary	School Teacher, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Wronski, Daniel	Registered Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison