

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 on the Lake St. Clair shoreline in Grosse Pointe by **Matthew Dudus**, probation supervisor at the Court Services/Special Services Units. 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.

Second Chances

A photograph showing a group of men in green uniforms sitting at long tables in a room with large windows. They are engaged in a program, with some looking at papers and others talking. The room has a clean, institutional feel with white walls and blue chairs.

Program gives high-risk probation violators another chance for change

For Robert Leverage, the last few months have been an important learning experience.

In February, he joined a new program at the Eaton County Jail that provides vocational training and classes designed to change negative thinking.

Leverage, who had been sentenced for drug possession, said he is learning to defeat his addictions by recognizing giving in to them is a choice.

He is among the first participants of the department's new Westside Residential Alternative to Prison program, which began on January 1, and currently includes 42

offenders. Participants complete four to six months of programming at the Eaton County Jail, which includes cognitive therapy classes and training in hospitality management and food technology. Offenders in the program also learn first aid and CPR and have the opportunity to earn nationally-recognized certifications in the hospitality and food service industries.

"The whole concept is giving them another chance," said Warren Wilson, an Operations Administrator for the Outstate Territory of the Field Operations Administration. "Instead of sending them to prison, it gives them a chance to change through programming in a structured setting."

The program is modeled after the successful Wayne Residential Alternative to Prison program at the Detroit Reentry Center. It provides training in hospitality management, food technology and hi-lo driving, in addition to offering cognitive therapy.

The MDOC's newest WRAP program gives West Michigan judges an additional tool during sentencing to lead offenders to a better path that doesn't include time



Pictured: Eaton County Lt. Larry Treadwell and Agent Clint Auer talk to participants in the Westside Residential Alternative to Prison program.

in prison, Wilson said. All counties west of U.S. 127 and in the Upper Peninsula are able to participate. The program targets high-risk probation violators, who would likely be prison bound otherwise.

“We want them to succeed,” Wilson said. “If we can address their needs here, we can help them in the community.”

After completing programming at the Eaton County Jail, offenders will complete at least one year of probation. While under supervision in the community, they will have access to substance abuse services, cognitive behavioral therapy, transitional housing, and job readiness resources.

Though the program has only been running for four months, Eaton County Agent Clint Auer, whose caseload includes WRAP participants, said it is already making an impact.

“We’ve seen a lot of change in these guys and their attitudes from the time they walk in until now,” Auer said. When Eaton County law enforcement officials heard the department was looking for communities to partner with on the program, they were excited for the opportunity. The Eaton County Jail had space

available for classrooms and housing, and was interested in expanding programming for offenders.

Eaton County Undersheriff Jeffrey Cook said the county is proud to host the program for the west side of the state, and was impressed by the Wayne Residential Alternative to Prison program after visiting it. “It gives judges some important options to provide the best outcomes for the offenders and for the community,” Cook said of the program.

He said he sees the WRAP program as an important component to keeping communities safe.

“When we have an opportunity to return an offender to the community in a much better position than when they came in, it becomes a crime fighting tool,” Cook said. “It doesn’t diminish our role in protecting the public. We’re looking at it as a crime reduction strategy in the long term. It’s not soft on crime, it’s attacking the problem from multiple angles.”

Eaton County Lt. Larry Treadwell said the program gives offenders an alternative to serving time in prison. “This is intended to benefit them,” Treadwell said.

WRAP participant Jalen Gibson said he is looking forward to returning home with the certificates he will earn through the hospitality management and food technology training.

“The certificates we earn will really help,” said Gibson, who has worked for restaurants in the past. “If I can use those, I can really move up.”

Check out the Field Days podcast on May 1 for an upcoming episode on the Westside Residential Alternative to Prison program.



Pictured: WRAP participant Robert Leversee practices CPR during a first aid class that is part of the program at the Eaton County Jail.

Announcement from Director Heidi Washington: No Tolerance for Sexual Harassment at the MDOC

Protection is one of the central parts of our mission at the Michigan Department of Corrections.

We must protect the public, offenders under our supervision, and each other. That includes maintaining a safe and secure workplace, free from any form of harassment or retaliation.

A series of Detroit Free Press articles appeared recently regarding the Michigan Department of Corrections. The newspaper requested information from the MDOC on its policies, the number of sexual harassment complaints that have been filed and how many have been disciplined as a result of their conduct, among other things. The articles also included the names of several current and former MDOC employees who were involved in sexual harassment cases.

Sexual harassment is a serious issue and is taken seriously in this department, which you know. Every employee went through new and enhanced training just last year and will receive additional training this year.

In response to the story, I provided the newspaper with the following statement that I wanted all of you to see in full.

“The Michigan Department of Corrections has no tolerance for sexual harassment in the workplace. We

have policies in place to prevent it and processes in place for reporting it.

In the last three years, I have been working hard to create an environment where staff can feel comfortable coming forward to report harassment and to make sure employees at all levels are held accountable for their actions. Harassment prevention training has been completely revamped and policies that address sexual harassment are being updated.

The department takes every complaint it receives seriously and I'd strongly encourage anyone who has experienced harassment to report it, so steps can be taken to investigate and address it.”

There are many options available to report sexual harassment and these include: filing a complaint including through your harassment counselor, harassment program coordinator, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, the complaint hotline – 1-800-326-4537, through grievance procedures, internal affairs, Civil Service Ombudsman Office, Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Office, or the courts.

I want to stress that if you, or someone you know in the department has been the subject of sexual harassment, you are required to report it so it can be investigated and addressed.

Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility holds successful mobile unit event

Staff at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility partnered with the Michigan Department of State to hold a successful mobile unit event at the facility.

During the event, 99 offenders were able to obtain their state ID or driver's license.

To hold the event, facility staff must put together packets of information for every participating offender, including their birth certificate, ID application, basic information summary and prisoner ID. Often this is a three-month process, but facility and Education staff were able to complete it in one month and their work allowed the entire event to run smoothly.

National Healing Neen Trauma Informed Care Conference to be held in October

The 3rd annual National Healing Neen Trauma Informed Care Conference will be held Oct. 19-21 at the Detroit Metro Airport Marriott, 30559 Flynn Dr. in Romulus.

The conference will include presentations on a variety of topics including creating a trauma informed care environment, and trauma informed corrections, schools, peers and substance abuse programs, among other topics.

A pre-conference two-day training will be held Oct. 17 and 18. The conference is hosted by Neen Cares, Inc., which was founded by Tonier “Neen” Cain. A charity black tie gala will take place in connection with the conference on Oct. 20.

To register, visit www.toniercain.com, or [click here](#). For more information, call 301-249-0459.

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

Are You Prepared?

Severe Weather Awareness Week encouraged Michiganders to plan for storms

While tornadoes can occur any time of the year, they are especially common during the late spring and early summer months. As one of nature's most violent storms, they can devastate homes and property in just seconds. The average lead time for tornadoes is 10 to 15 minutes, which is why Michigan citizens are encouraged to prepare and plan before a tornado strikes.

Here are some other safety tips that can help you be prepared:

- Know the safest location for shelter in your home, workplace and school. Load-bearing walls near the center of the basement or lowest level generally provide the greatest protection.
- Know the location of designated shelter areas in local public facilities, such as schools, shopping centers and other public buildings.
- Have emergency supplies on hand, including a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio, flashlight, and a supply of fresh batteries, first-aid kit, water, and cell phone.
- Keep a three-day supply of food on hand. Keep some food in your supply kit that doesn't require refrigeration.
- Sign up to receive text or e-mail alerts from your local media, weather provider, or through an app.

Source: National Weather Service

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out these episodes of the Field Days podcast

- [In Part 2 of the Swift and Sure court program podcast mini series, Samantha Rice, Judge Michelle Rick and Heidi McMurphy discuss how the program helps offenders.](#)
- [Take a listen to part 1 of the Swift and Sure court program podcast mini series, as Thomas Myers, a management analyst for the problem-solving courts team, explains the program and the State Court Administrative Office's involvement.](#)
- [Parole Supervisor Delonda Little talks about her love of basketball and her experience serving as a role model for student athletes after she made history as part of a team of all-female referees for the Girls Basketball State Finals.](#)



FIELD DAYS
PODCAST

Listen to us on



Agent with love of learning is 2018 Agent of the Year

When Toni Narvais-Cooklin is speaking to students, she explains what an important educational experience working in corrections has been for her. Narvais-Cooklin began her

improve her skills and bring new ideas to the department. "Agent Narvais-Cooklin has a clear passion for helping others," Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington said. "She routinely



Pictured: Tuscola County Supervisor Charles Walker, Assistant Deputy Director James Blakley, Agent Toni Narvais-Cooklin and Deputy Director Russ Marlan

goes above and beyond to assist her colleagues and to guide those under her supervision to more successful lives. She sets the bar high in all that she does and we are proud to have her as part of our team."

career with the MDOC as a corrections officer at Saginaw Correctional Facility and is now an agent at the Tuscola County Parole and Probation Office. She has supervised a variety of specialized caseloads, including Sobriety Court participants, and has volunteered for any training opportunity she could in order to better assist offenders she supervises. Being a strong positive role model is key, she said. "You have to be willing to practice what you preach," Narvais-Cooklin said. "You have to want to be held to a higher standard." Narvais-Cooklin is the Michigan Department of Corrections' 2018 Candice Dunn Agent of the Year for her continuous efforts to learn,

Narvais-Cooklin has served on the MDOC Recruitment Team and as the internship coordinator for the region, helping to draw new talent to the department. Narvais-Cooklin said she loves learning and appreciates the many opportunities she has had to gain new skills to provide positive guidance and direction to offenders. This is the first year the MDOC's Parole/Probation Agent of the Year Award is named for Candice Dunn. Dunn was the department's 2017 Parole/Probation Agent of the Year and was killed in a car accident the night she was recognized for her achievement at an MDOC employee banquet. The award was named for her to honor her legacy.

2018 Agent of the Year Nominees

Other nominees for the Candice Dunn Agent of the Year Award included:

- Lennie Alcorn, of the Monroe County Parole and Probation Office
- Dionne Byers, of the Detroit Metro Parole Office;
- Nayatt Castelein, of the Ingham County Probation Office;
- William Fleming, of the Grand Traverse County Computer Crimes Unit;
- Rachel Jarnagin, of the Pontiac Probation Office;
- Valerie Landon, of the Southwest District Probation Office;
- Annegret Remmert, of the Kalamazoo County Parole and Probation Office;
- Tom Roys, an institutional parole agent at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility;
- David Tumpkin, of the Eastern District Probation Office;
- Ken Werner, of the Ogemaw County Parole and Probation Office and
- Sean Wiltenburg of the Muskegon County Parole Office.



New agent sets sights on helping others change

C'erra Eddington says she wants to be an agent of change for others who need guidance and support.

Eddington, who worked for child protective services for a decade



Agent C'erra Eddington

before joining the Michigan Department of Corrections as a new agent at the Lahser District Probation Office, said

she is driven by the opportunity to help offenders change their lives for the better.

"I wanted to come here because I wanted to see change," Eddington said. "Being a liaison and helping in that process is what I wanted to do."

She said she is excited to help those she supervises land a job or conquer their addictions, and she is interested in learning even more about rehabilitation while on the job.

"If I can help with employment and fighting addictions, then that is great for me," said Eddington, who is a graduate of Grand Valley State University. "I'm here to be a change agent."

Eddington said she is also hoping to serve as a source of motivation. "Some people have never had a cheerleader," Eddington said. "We're trying to set the individuals in a positive direction and highlight their strengths to help make them successful."

MDOC welcomes 12 new field agents

When field agents focus on helping the offenders they supervise succeed, it can prevent new crimes and keep communities safe.

That's what Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan told a dozen new agents on March 27 during an oath ceremony in Troy.

"We all wanted to come here to make a difference and help people," Marlan said. "This is a great opportunity to do that. I want you to go out there and make a positive difference in people's lives."

He and other leaders in field operations were on hand to congratulate the group of new agents.

New agents included:

Lukas Buxton — Montcalm County Parole and Probation Office

Tameia Dillard — Eaton County Parole and Probation Office

C'erra Eddington — Lahser District Probation Office

Scott Fink — Genesee County Parole Office

Damon Herman — Grand Traverse County Parole and Probation Office

Daniel Hurtekant — Kalamazoo County Parole and Probation Office

Paul Merrill — Ionia County Probation Office

Ahmad Proctor — Greenfield District Probation Office

Tiffany Scott — Lahser District Probation Office

William Shaneck — Ionia County Probation Office

Dennis Sharp Jr. — Monroe County Parole and Probation Office

Amanda Wietecha — Macomb County Probation Office



Department wins PACE Awards for podcast, Veterans Week events

The Michigan Department of Corrections earned six awards for its efforts to connect with staff and community stakeholders, and share information about important initiatives.

The department accepted top honors at the 2018 mid-Michigan PACE Awards, hosted by the Central Michigan chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

The MDOC earned both a Pinnacle and Best in Show award — the highest possible honors offered — for the [Field Days podcast](#).

The podcast began in 2015 and airs every Tuesday. It is hosted by Chris Gautz, the department's spokesman, and Greg Straub, administrative assistant for the Field Operations Administration. Podcast producer and MDOC Social Media Coordinator Camara Lewis also received the New Professionals Award, which recognizes talented public relations practitioners with five

years of experience or less.

She was nominated by her peers in the industry and selected for the award for her innovative thinking and for serving as a leader in the Central Michigan chapter.

A [story about Woodland Center Correctional Facility's therapy dog](#) program also won an Excellence Award and People's Choice Award, after receiving among the highest number of votes from award ceremony attendees.

In addition, the department received a Pinnacle Award for a fact sheet distributed to businesses and community stakeholders that promoted the Vocational Village, and an Achievement Award for special events for the inaugural Veterans Appreciation Week.

The PACE Awards are held annually to recognize exemplary skill, creativity and resourcefulness in public relations activities.

Entries are judged by national public relations professionals.



Pictured: The Field Days podcast team — MDOC Social Media Coordinator and podcast Producer Camara Lewis, and co-hosts, department spokesman Chris Gautz and Greg Straub, administrative assistant for the Field Operations Administration, accept awards for the department.

Longtime MDOC wardens retire

Wardens Lori Gidley and Willie Smith retired following decades of service to the Michigan Department of Corrections. Gidley, who had served as warden of Central Michigan Correctional Facility since 2015, retired on March 31.



Warden Lori Gidley

She began her career with the department in 1986 as a case manager at Michigan Reformatory. She served in a number of roles including assistant litigation

coordinator, administrative assistant to the deputy warden, warden and deputy director and deputy warden of Carson City, Boyer Road, Pine River and Thumb correctional facilities. She served as warden of Oaks Correctional Facility, before



Warden Willie Smith

becoming warden at Central Michigan. Willie Smith, who had served as warden of Ionia Correctional Facility, retired March 29.

Smith began his career with the department in 1977 as a corrections officer at Michigan Reformatory. He later worked as a prison counselor aide, assistant resident unit supervisor, resident unit manager and deputy warden before being named warden of Ionia Correctional Facility in 2002. Smith went on to work as warden of Carson City Correctional Facility from 2011 to 2014, before returning as Ionia Correctional Facility's warden.

Changes instituted as a result of EPIC Allowable Gate Manifest Team recommendations

What does — and doesn't — pass through the gates of correctional facilities is important to maintaining the safety and security of MDOC institutions.

That was a focus of the EPIC Allowable Gate Manifest Team, which reviewed the allowable items list and discussed items that should be allowed inside facilities and the most appropriate way to handle situations where prohibited items are brought into the gates.

The team began meeting in November and included members from correctional facilities across the state and Central Office. The team took into consideration what was important to staff, while balancing the need to maintain a secure environment at facilities. This included

acting on feedback from employees who wanted to be able to have healthy food choices available.

Through a collaborative effort the team made recommendations on what items should be allowed inside the gates without a manifest, what should be prohibited and what should be done when staff, contractors, visitors or volunteers enter the gates with a prohibited item. As a result, changes were made to the Gate Security Operating Procedure, which will take effect May 1, and a staff warning sign was created as a reminder on gate security procedures.

A number of items were added to the list of what is allowable without a manifest, including folders, non-metal clipboards, activity trackers without smart device capabilities, up to two beverages in clear plastic, factory-sealed bottles and up to two factory-sealed snack items that are 4 oz. or less, among other items. Greater direction also will be provided on steps that should be taken when prohibited items enter the gates, and corrective action will be taken in some cases rather than discipline.

The team also recommended changes to a number of policies, including those on Critical Incident Reporting and Custody, Security and Safety Systems, which are currently under review.

Pictured are team members Jared Warner, Yolanda Perez, Jonathan Patterson, Pilar Figel, Sherman Campbell, Jeremy Bush, Edward Coleman, Robert Napel, Kathy Warner, Steve Rivard, Bill Henderson, Shane Jackson and Dewayne Burton. (Not pictured: Lloyd Rapelje)



Central Michigan University offering tuition savings to state employees

Central Michigan University is offering State of Michigan employees a 15 percent enrollment incentive.



All state employees, contractors and their spouses and dependents under age 24 are eligible to receive a 15 percent savings on the tuition rate of bachelor's and master's degree programs taken at CMU

satellite locations or online.

CMU offers more than 30 eligible academic programs online with a variety of concentrations and

minors, along with flexible eight-week courses with online, face-to-face and hybrid formats. Plus, you can gain credits toward several degrees for previous education and work experience or professional certifications.

CMU has 10 satellite locations across the state, including ones in East Lansing, Detroit and Grand Rapids.

It is a fully accredited university that offers degrees in wide range of fields.

Visit cmich.edu/michigan for more information about the state employee enrollment incentive or call our New Student Services Center at 877-268-4636.

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center staff learn about human trafficking prevention

In March, Monroe County Parole and Probation Agent Lennie Alcorn held a presentation at the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center on human trafficking.

Agent Alcorn is a member of the Monroe County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition. She assists many law enforcement agencies in Michigan and across the United States, and also works with a Survivor Support Group.

Agent Alcorn was asked to be a guest speaker at the facility as a result of the 2017 Employee Engagement Survey. The RGC Employee Survey Action Team determined to tackle the goal of creating a culture of continuous improvement by holding quarterly motivational guest speakers that present educational topics of interest.

Custody, non-custody, medical, mental health, and administration staff filled the conference room to the point it was standing room only. Attending employees thought the presentation material was valuable and extremely powerful.

Alcorn said she had been looking forward to an opportunity to educate Correctional Facilities Administration staff on human trafficking.

Alcorn proudly accepted when asked to speak at the facility, as RGC is the first facility to receive the information she presented on human trafficking. Staff should be educated on Human Trafficking so they can recognize the signs.

Human Trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit someone for labor or commercial sex. Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing

crimes in the world and victims could be of any age and demographic.

The Superbowl is one of the largest events that is popular for Human Traffickers.

Statistically:

- 13 percent of victims of human trafficking are men.
- 80 percent of victims of human trafficking are women.
- 50 percent of victims of human trafficking are minors.
- 1.5 million children are reported missing or as runaways annually in the U.S.
- According to the FBI, 100,000 youth are being trafficked in the U.S. today.
- 3 percent of victims are kidnapped at the mall, walking down the street, etc.
- 35 percent of victims are sold by other family members.
- 62 percent of victims are coerced by another person (such as a significant other, older person, etc.)

*Statistics from the Polaris Project and the Blue Campaign.

What can you do to help stop human trafficking?

- Educate yourself on state and federal laws related to human trafficking.
- Get involved with your local coalition.
- Communicate with your state representatives about the dangers of human trafficking.

• [Stay aware of the signs of human trafficking](#) and report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 1-866-347-2423.

• Talk to your children about appropriate ways to treat others and dangers that exist. For more information visit: www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign

Story by Danielle Pietrangelo, general office assistant at the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center





April was Occupational Therapists appreciation month and the week of April 7-13 was designated to show appreciation for Dental Hygienists. Thank you to both our Occupational Therapists and Dental Hygienists for all of your hard work here at MDOC.

Cooper Street Correctional Facility holds first-ever College Fair

More than 100 prisoners at Cooper Street Correctional Facility in Jackson participated in the facility's first College Fair, which aimed to connect them with Michigan higher education institutions.

Facility and Reentry Administration staff planned the event, which included Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Henry Ford College, Glen Oaks College, Kellogg Community College and Jackson College.

Current and prospective students were able to meet admissions representatives and learn about higher education opportunities in the community.

Submitted by Dianna LaFraugh, Reentry Facility Coordinator at Cooper Street Correctional Facility



State Senator visits Kinross Correctional Facility

State Sen. Wayne Schmidt visited Kinross Correctional Facility in April and sat in on a Violence Prevention Program class.

Sen. Schmidt participated in the learning module session and provided prisoners with the opportunity to ask him questions about vocational training programs and employment opportunities.

Facility Program Coordinator Mike Boucher invited Sen. Schmidt to visit and observe the class, which helps offenders learn self-control, empathy, appropriate responses to emotion and how to change negative thought patterns.



MDOC awarded for Special Olympics fundraising efforts

The MDOC has earned awards for fundraising for the Special Olympics.

The department was presented with a Diamond Award for raising \$93,714 for the Special Olympics in 2017.

Alger Correctional Facility also received the Ruby



Award for the third consecutive year for raising more than \$13,000 for the organization.

Pictured: Carla White and Alger Correctional Facility Warden Catherine Bauman with the Ruby Award, and Carl and Carla White and Director Heidi Washington with the Diamond Award.



Central Office staff participate in Weight Loss Challenge, shed nearly 600 pounds combined

The MDOC's Central Office held a weight loss challenge from January to March as part of efforts to encourage staff wellness.

The 46 participants in the competition shed a total of 571 pounds. Winners included:

1st Place — Kyle Kaminski, MDOC legislative liaison and Reentry Administrator

2nd Place — Kevin Weissenborn, manager in the Procurement, Monitoring and Compliance Division.

3rd Place — Camara Lewis, MDOC social media coordinator
Ben Ward, a human resources developer, was awarded for most inches lost.



Pictured: Camara Lewis, Kevin Weissenborn, Kyle Kaminski and Ben Ward

Annual Charity Michigan State Industries & Colleagues Golf Scramble

PRIZES FOR:
CLOSEST TO PIN
LONGEST DRIVE
LONGEST PUTT

AWARDS TO:
1st & 2nd PLACE
TEAMS

Sponsored By:
FRICKERS

June 15th, 2018 Start Time 8:00 a.m.
4 Person Teams
2 Person Teams-Random Pairing w/ Another Team

Entry Fee - \$45.00 Per Person

**Includes: 18 Holes w/ Cart and Dinner
Afterwards at FRICKERS**

WOLF CREEK GOLF COURSE

SEND CHECK TO:
Will Rondeau
5727 Plank Road
Adrian, Mi. 49221

Be In By: MAY 25, 2018

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Partners Name _____

Preferred T-Time _____

8-9 a.m. 10-11 a.m. _____

9-10 a.m. _____

All Entrants Must _____

With Thanks

Animal rescue group grateful for donations from Lakeland Correctional Facility



Dear Friends 2-28-18

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your generous financial help!

We made an amazing \$853.75!! All because of you!

It was good to see so many of you too.

Thank you again.

Together we can make a difference at stopping the pet overpopulation, homelessness and abuse.

You are amazing
Jan Hitchens
and the BARC Volunteers



We ARE SO
Thankful and
amazed at what
you DO for BARC!

(Casual Day)

Non Custody Staff, 2-28-18
Another awesome fundraising
event for BARC.
What an awesome surprise!
\$160.00! We didn't have
to give up a weekend, beg
merchants or bake cookies...
you pulled through again
for us!

Thank you again for
your generous financial
support.

Together we can make
a difference in animals'
lives.
Jan Hitchens & the BARC
Volunteers

If your facility or worksite
received a letter of thanks
that you would like to
share, contact Holly Kramer
at KramerH@michigan.gov.

The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



A prisoner at Carson City Correctional Facility was in his housing unit walking toward a microwave in September 2017 when he fell and became unresponsive.

Sgt. Stacie Burns was among the first to arrive to help the prisoner and began performing CPR.

Prison Counselor John Jones, Registered Nurse Deanne Verschure, and Corrections Officers Ryan Reddin, Craig Freeman and Bruce Cook also responded and began assisting with CPR, and Amie Gaskill, a registered nurse at the facility, arrived to help stabilize the prisoner and administer an IV.

Staff continued performing CPR for 23 minutes until a pulse

was detected. The prisoner was then taken by ambulance to the hospital for additional medical treatment. Their conduct and immediate response earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

Corrections Officer David Chandler was working in a housing unit at Carson City Correctional Facility in November 2017 when a coworker began choking.

Chandler immediately recognized that his colleague was in distress and performed abdominal thrusts until the object was dislodged, allowing him to breathe again.

Chandler's concern for his coworker and ability to react quickly in a stressful situation earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.



Corrections Officer Noel Edlinger heard what sounded like wheezing and gasping in December 2016 while working at Carson City Correctional Facility.

When he began looking for the source of the noise, he found a prisoner in the restroom who was attempting to clear his throat and appeared to be in distress. The prisoner motioned that he needed assistance and Edlinger performed several abdominal thrusts to clear the obstruction that was blocking the prisoner's airway so he could breathe freely again.

Edlinger's response and the assistance he provided to the prisoner earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

The Extra Mile continued...

Agent Kelly Lindgren was meeting with a probationer in 2016 when he informed her he had fallen from a roof while working and had been ill ever since.

Lindgren advised him to go to the hospital immediately to seek medical attention and when the offender downplayed the accident, she offered to call an ambulance if he did not go to the hospital on his own.

The probationer then went with his girlfriend to the hospital where it was determined he needed emergency surgery.

Lindgren's concern for the offender's well-being and insistence that he seek medical attention earned her the department's Lifesaving Award.

Not long before she was to be presented with the award, Lindgren was diagnosed with cancer and took leave to battle the illness. She said the true honor goes to her coworkers for their encouragement and support during her fight against cancer.



While driving to work in March 2017, Muskegon County Parole Agent Randall Mikkelsen witnessed a vehicle in front of him lose control and flip over into the median on U.S.-31. The vehicle landed upside down in an overflow area for the Muskegon River and Cedar Creek. He immediately stopped to assist the driver, who was trapped in 3 feet of water.

Mikkelsen and other witnesses were able to pull the driver through a window and keep her warm until emergency medical services arrived.

His concern for the driver and quick response earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

Scott Wade, an investigator with the Absconder Recovery Unit, received the Meritorious Service Award for his professionalism and rapport he has built with his coworkers and partners at other law enforcement agencies.

His exemplary work and dedication was also recognized by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives task force, which commended him for his efforts to assist in the capture of a felon.



The Extra Mile continued...



Alger Correctional Facility Corrections Officer of the Year nominee David Tennyson received a Symbol of Leadership Coin and a Warden's Coin from facility Warden Catherine Bauman for his dedication and professionalism.

Tennyson was nominated by his colleagues as the facility's Corrections Officer of the Year.

He joined the department in 1997 as a corrections officer at Newberry Correctional Facility and worked at Baraga Correctional Facility before transferring to Alger in 2007.

He has also assisted with training and has been a member of the Emergency Response Team for 15 years.

Corrections Officer Anthony Johnson was conducting rounds at Macomb Correctional Facility in March when he noticed three prisoners who were gathered in a cell and acting suspiciously.

He obtained the prisoner's identification cards and permission from shift command to search the cell. During the search, suboxone was discovered concealed in a book. One of the prisoners later tested positive for controlled substances. He received a Warden's Coin for his work uncovering the contraband.



Corrections Officers Troy Smith and Jennifer Putnam received Warden's Coins from then St. Louis Correctional Facility Acting Warden Erick Balcarcel for their involvement in planning a successful One Day with God event at the facility.



Carla Gross, a registered nurse at Saginaw Correctional Facility, received a Symbol of Excellence Coin from Warden Tom Winn and Health Unit Manager Susan McCauley for her work serving as acting nurse manager.

The Extra Mile continued...



Corrections Officer Brett Stemen received a Warden's Coin from Macomb Correctional Facility Warden Pat Warren for his efforts to locate contraband at the facility.



Regina Havermale received a Warden's Coin from Macomb Correctional Facility Warden Pat Warren for her hard work and dedication while she served as records office supervisor at the facility. She now serves as records office supervisor at Thumb Correctional Facility.

Corrections Quiz

What year was National Corrections Officers and Employees week first established?

*Bonus points if you can name the president who enacted it.

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.

March Quiz Recap

How many FOIA requests did the department process last year?

Answer: More than 1,600

Congratulations to **Cheyenne Bollinger**, a psychologist at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility for being the first to answer the March Corrections Quiz. Great job!

SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



Deputy Warden Bill Foy, Human Resource Technician Cheryl Currie and Ron Tyll from Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency stand with donations from Saginaw Correctional Facility's 12 Months of Giving campaign.



Young Leader Dogs for the Blind trainees have been outfitted with new gear thanks to Michigan State Industries. Chippewa Correctional Facility Garment Manager Patsy Miller designed 475 new jackets for future Leader Dogs.



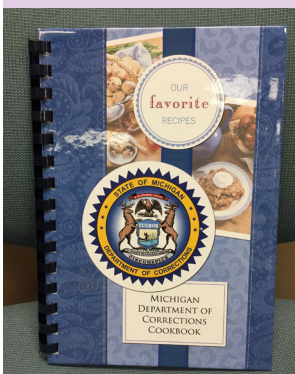
The International Brass Works Company visited the Michigan State Industries License Plate operation at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility on April 3 for a tour and interest in interviewing prisoners approaching parole for potential employment opportunities.

Try a new recipe

MDOC Cookbooks available for order
A compilation of favorite recipes from department staff is now available to employees statewide.

The Michigan Department of Corrections Cookbook is complete and ready to order. We hope you will enjoy making these recipes and are able to find a new favorite to share with your family and friends.

You can fill out an order form for the cookbook [here](#) and send it to mdoc-wellness@michigan.gov.



A portion of the proceeds will help support the EPIC Employee Engagement Team, State Employees Charitable Campaign and Harvest Gathering. Each cookbook will be sold for \$10.00 and recipe submitters may receive a 10% discount on their total order.

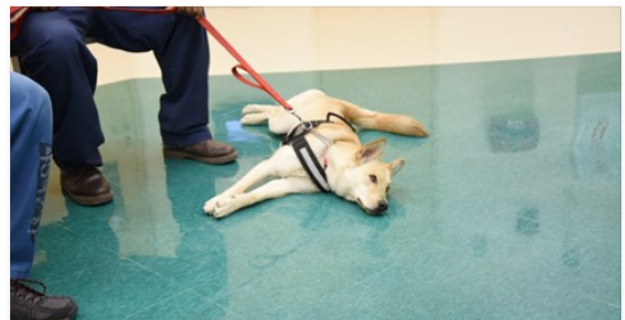
Seen on Facebook...



Michigan Department of Corrections

April 15 at 6:28pm · 🌐

Have you heard? Sadie is a 2018 People's Choice winner! 🏆 Sadie, the department's first therapy dog, is not only stealing the hearts of staff, but also the prisoners she provides comfort to at Woodland Center Correctional Facility! Take a read of the heartwarming and award-winning story: bit.ly/WCC-Sadie



What a Difference a Dog Makes – MI Dept. of Corrections – Medium

On a recent afternoon, Corrections Officer John Hassen and the unit chiefs at Woodland Center Correctional Facility made a trip to the...

MEDIUM.COM



Like



Comment



Share

To see more, like the MDOC on [Facebook](#)

February New Hires

Buxton, Lukas	Field Agent, Montcalm County Parole and Probation Office
Caddrette, Laura	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Crippen, Megan	Resident Care Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Farrand, Patti	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
King-Musso, Miranda	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Lett, Darniese	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Magda, Jennifer	Licensed Practical Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Majurin, Amber	Licensed Practical Nurse, Baraga Correctional Facility
Matthews, Dolores	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Milanowski, Kimberly	Registered Nurse Manager, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Oliver, Jacquelyn	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Phaneuf, Patrice	Registered Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility
Rathburn, Emily	Dental Aide, Carson City Correctional Facility
Risner, Michael	Pharmacy Assistant, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Sattler, Shay	Registered Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Smith, Tristina	Registered Nurse, Kinross Correctional Facility
Thompson, Mineka	Registered Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility
Todd-Raymor, Angela	Registered Nurse, Michigan Reformatory
Zolfaghari, Mary	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility

February Retirements

Anderson, Woodrow	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Baker, Troy	Field Agent, Reentry Administration
Bashaw, Kay	Secretary, Alger Correctional Facility
Baynes, Anthony	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Beracy, Brent	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Birkett, Thalia R.	Field Agent, Ogemaw County Parole and Probation Office
Bleckiner, John	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Bledsoe, Erin	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Boetto, Louis	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Cline, Teri	Administrator, Michigan State Industries
Cross, Mark	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Danley, Anthony	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Donaghe, Randy	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Drumheller, Ronald	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Duhoski, John	Field Agent, Detroit Reentry Center
Durand, Brian	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Enders, Richard	Prison Counselor, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Fedewa, Thomas	Building Trades Crew Leader, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Gargus, Darrin	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Geselman, Kevin	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Helms, Christine	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Ives, Connie	Registered Nurse Manager, Parnall Correctional Facility
Koskinen, Michael	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Baraga Correctional Facility
Kulju, Reynold	School Teacher, Marquette Branch Prison
Laplante, Thomas	Corrections Resident Representative, Baraga Correctional Facility
Larson, Tom	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
McKendry, Teresa	Accounting Technician, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
McMillan, Steven	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Paladino, Susan	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Palmer, Carmen	Warden, Michigan Reformatory
Pratt, Vernon	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Quinlan, Kimberly	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Richard, Dustin	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Schramm, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Stellino, Frank	Storekeeper, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Suardini, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Terzaghi, Michael	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Tussing, Paul	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Baraga Correctional Facility
Vanetten, Douglas	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Warner, Lori	Field Agent, Reentry Administration
Wuokko, Linda	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison