

Corrections Connection

A photograph of a brick lighthouse tower at dusk. The tower is cylindrical and made of brick, with a dark lantern room on top. To the right, a portion of a brick building with a red roof is visible. In the background, a suspension bridge spans across a body of water under a colorful sunset sky. The title 'Corrections Connection' is overlaid at the top in a white serif font.

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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 of the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse was taken by **Aaron Culloty**, a field agent at the Macomb County Circuit Court Probation Office. 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.



Wheels of Grace

MDOC employees find camaraderie, aid community through riding group

Beth Mills beamed as she watched a Mount Pleasant parking lot begin to fill with motorcycles.

About 60 of them — most driven by Michigan Department of Corrections employees and retirees — roared in to participate in a ride that would raise money for victims of domestic violence.

In 2007, Mills' friend and colleague, Mary Babb, was shot and killed in that same parking lot by her estranged husband.

Since then, the annual Mary's Dream motorcycle ride

has been held in her memory to help those touched by domestic violence.

A motorcycle riding group called the Grey Dragons, founded by MDOC employees, has been a primary supporter.

"It's very heartwarming," Mills said. "The Grey Dragons have gone from people who work in the prison system to my brothers and sisters. They're like family."

The Grey Dragons Association was founded in 1999 by Anthony Comerio, a parole/release technician, and three of his colleagues at Macomb Correctional Facility — John Kimball, Mike Hiroskey and David Zolsai. The mission was to bring department employees together through a common interest while supporting the community and individuals in need. Since then, the group has grown to include nearly 400 members with chapters across the state.

Those who belonged to the group, or benefitted from its good will, all described it the same way: It's like a big family.

Kelly Bennett-Rolph joined the group in 2009 as



Motorcycle riders depart for the start of the 11th annual Mary's Dream fundraising ride in Mount Pleasant.

a way to stay engaged with her coworkers through an activity they all loved — riding their motorcycles.

It has drawn her closer to her colleagues at her facility and across Michigan, she said.

“If you're anywhere in the state and you need something, you always have someone who can assist you,” said Bennett-Rolph, a health information manager at St. Louis Correctional Facility. Comerio, a long-time motorcycle enthusiast, said he and the group's founders created it to foster fellowship among department employees and provide an outlet for giving back.

The group chose grey for the name, as it is a color prominently featured on employee uniforms. The dragon represents passion, strength, loyalty and power. Chapters now include corrections officers, field agents, healthcare staff, and many others. The group also welcomes participation from those outside the department and it has drawn interest from individuals in the public service and criminal justice community. “There is always a chapter close

by to get involved with,” Comerio said. “It just keeps growing over the years.”

The group's founders wanted to dispel the stereotype that all bikers are burly and violent by maintaining a high level of integrity and putting an emphasis on helping those in need.

The Grey Dragons Association is a nonprofit and each chapter is self-funded.

The Mary's Dream fundraising motorcycle ride was initially organized to help support Mary's then-3-year-old son, Sam. As the event continued and grew larger, family asked that donations go toward helping others who experienced domestic violence. The event has now raised more than \$110,000 for victims of domestic violence. More than \$6,000 was raised during this year's ride, and Anderson and Babb's son, Sam, have continued to participate each year.

Shel Fox, a member of the Grey Dragons and a founder of the Mary's Dream fundraising ride, said he is often left speechless by the generosity of the group. Fox, who retired from Newberry

Correctional Facility in 2002, was Mary Babb's godfather.

“It's overwhelming,” Fox said. “I'm just in awe of the support. It means so much.” MDOC Project Manager Lora Hodges said she became involved with the riding group after being invited to participate in one of the Mary's Dream fundraising rides.

“I couldn't have met a better group of people,” Hodges said. “It's not only an incredible cause for all our communities, but it was also an opportunity for corrections to branch out into the community... and

make an impact, not only inside prison walls, but outside prison walls.”

While the Grey Dragons are a chief supporter of the Mary's Dream rides in both Mount Pleasant and Newberry, each chapter chooses to lend aid to other local causes as well. The Macomb chapter is participating in a suicide prevention awareness ride in Port Huron later this year, and other chapters choose to participate in Adopt-A-Highway or Toys for Tots.

“Sometimes there's just a family that needs help, so we do a fundraiser to help that family out,” Comerio said. “People just like helping other people out. It brings everybody together for a common cause.”

Those interested in getting involved in a Grey Dragons chapter can contact greydragonsassociation@gmail.com

Feats of Strength

MDOC contract monitor participates in statewide fitness competitions

The thought of participating in a high-intensity fitness competition that tests your physical limits and can include Olympic-style weightlifting might seem intimidating for many.



But for Jordan Conley it has served as an engaging way to stay healthy and challenge himself. Conley, a contract monitor in the department's Procurement, Monitoring and Compliance Division, has participated in a handful of CrossFit competitions and recently took 3rd place in a Lansing-area event. CrossFit is a strength and conditioning program that has gained popularity in recent years and includes high-intensity interval training, Olympic weightlifting, powerlifting, and other aerobic activities. "I like the challenge, the community and the camaraderie," Conley said. "You're sweating with a group of people you really get to know

and you feed off their energy." Conley said he isn't in it to win competitions, but wants to push himself to get better and stronger. The competitions – which can include activities like running, cycling and weightlifting – are really just for fun, he said. Some competitions include events that are difficult to prepare for.

During the Fresh Coast Games in Muskegon, Conley needed to complete a 200 meter swim after finishing 30 overhead lunges with a 50-pound piece of equipment. Though swimming isn't something he typically has the opportunity to practice, he didn't hesitate to take on the challenge.

His team finished 8th out of 22 statewide teams in a division that required the highest level of skill. He said his participation has allowed him to meet a lot of incredible people - including his fiance.

He encourages others considering a ramped-up fitness regimen like his to give it a try. "It's not as scary as it looks," Conley said. "The scariest thing is just getting in the door."



Remembering

Officer Allen Howard and Officer Brian Zimmerman

Allen Howard, a corrections officer at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility and 16-year veteran of the department, passed away suddenly on



July 18. Howard was well respected by his peers, and was also employed as a Firefighter for Adrian Township. Staff at Gus Harrison

presented the family with a large flower arrangement and organized a fundraiser for the family.

The July 28 fundraiser included a meal and numerous raffle items and raised \$1,814.

Additionally, the MCO crisis fund donated \$500. Officers Scott Waggoner and Marcy Kalisek presented the money and check to Howard's family. He leaves behind his wife, two daughters and two sons. A memorial service was held on July 23.

Brian Zimmerman, a corrections officer at Newberry Correctional Facility passed away on June 27.



Zimmerman worked for the department for 21 years, spending 12 at Newberry Correctional Facility. He also was a trustee on the

Village Council of Newberry. A memorial service was held in Newberry on July 6.

Former MDOC Director Perry Johnson presented with Legacy Award

Former Michigan Department of Corrections Director Perry Johnson received the Legacy Award from the Association of Women Executives in Corrections for his efforts to promote and support women in the field.

Johnson was presented with the award during a ceremony at 11 a.m. Aug. 14 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. The Legacy Award is given to correctional administrators who have demonstrated support for the development of women in leadership roles in corrections.

Johnson served as director of the department from 1972 to 1984, and was integral to bringing more women into leadership positions in corrections, particularly at correctional facilities.

“Perry Johnson’s efforts to include women in the corrections workforce forever changed the landscape and culture of the department,” said Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington. “He recognized that women brought an important voice to the table that had been missing in corrections and it helped pave the way for many to serve as leaders.” The Association of Women Executives in

Corrections is a national professional organization dedicated to supporting women in corrections and developing future leaders.



Employee Store: The one-stop shop for MDOC gear

The Michigan Department of Corrections Employee Store offers a wide selection of MDOC logo merchandise to department staff, retirees and their families.

Customized orders for other items are also available.



Proceeds from the store will also be used to support events for MDOC staff.

For a link to view and order store items, and for instructions on logging in click the CVSD logo on the department’s [SharePoint Intranet page here](#).

MDOC cookbooks available for order now

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.

New corrections officers join department in Bruce Curtis academy class

The Michigan Department of Corrections' newest crew of corrections officers graduated Aug. 11 as members of the Bruce Curtis Officer Recruit Training Class.

The class included 103 graduates, who were sworn in following eight weeks of instruction at the academy. They will now transition to eight weeks of on-the-job training.

The ceremony included remarks from MDOC Correctional Facilities Administration Deputy Director Ken McKee, Corrections Officer of the Year Cary Johnson and class namesake Bruce Curtis. Curtis began his career with the department in 1978 as a corrections officer at the State Prison of Southern Michigan and retired in 2016 as assistant deputy director of the Correctional Facilities Administration's southern region. New officers were also honored for academic excellence and personal conduct.

Award recipients included:
Corrections Officer Johnathan O'Brien — Josephine B. McCallum Award
Corrections Officer Hallie Rentsman — Jack L. Budd Award
Corrections Officer Evan Smith — Academic Achievement Award.

[For more photos from the ceremony click here.](#)



MSI Golf Scramble raises \$1,000 for humane society

On June 23 more than 100 MDOC employees and retirees gathered together for a day of golf to help support the Lenawee Humane Society. This annual event was organized by Will Rondeau, MSI Plant Supervisor at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility. The event raised more than

\$1,000 and a fun day was had by all.

Submitted by Parole and Probation Lead Agent Susan Rondeau



Staff submit photos of total solar eclipse

A total solar eclipse was visible in many states on Aug. 21, with a partial eclipse visible in Michigan. Some employees sent shots of the eclipse taken by family or themselves.



Submitted by Legal Affairs Administrator Melody Wallace



Submitted by Ray Closson, a corrections officer at Parnall Correctional Facility

Metro field offices help beautify Detroit for 2017 Life Remodeled event

A Detroit neighborhood was restored with the help of agents and offenders from Metropolitan Territory field offices.

The work was completed around Detroit's Central High School as part of Life Remodeled's annual restoration event.

Life Remodeled is a nonprofit organization that aims to revitalize the city one neighborhood at a time. This year MDOC staff and offenders were among more than 11,000 volunteers who helped remove blight on 367 city blocks and board up 534 vacant houses during the nearly week-long event that ended Aug. 5.

The objective was to help make the neighborhoods cleaner and safer.

Participants were tasked with cutting down bushes and overgrown grass that covered the front of homes and removing bulk waste for pick up by the city.

Life remodeled provided the tools for the clean-up.

"I think that it is a wonderful endeavor and it was refreshing for my coworkers and I to be able to get out and make a difference in the community and see the fruits of our labor," said Wayne County Eastern District Probation Agent Arkishi Davis.



Reminder: Relentless Positive Traction 5K

State employees and up to two guests are invited to participate in the 2017 Relentless Positive Traction 5K run and walk.

The event will be held at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 13 at the state Capitol and the sign up fee is \$12.

The last day to register for the event, which can accommodate up to 1,000 participants, is Sept. 6. Proceeds from registration fees will benefit Special Olympics Michigan and the Michigan Law Enforcement Memorial Fund.

Volunteers and course marshals are also still needed, and the Relentless Positive Traction team is seeking an employee who can sing the National Anthem before the race. To sign up to participate in the 5K, or to volunteer, click [here](#).



Plane Pull Challenge to be held in October

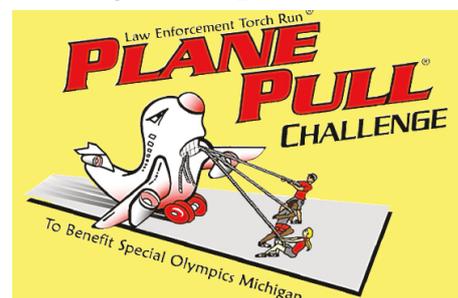
A Law Enforcement Torch Run Plane Pull Challenge to benefit Special Olympics Michigan will be held Oct. 8 at the Willow Run Airport in Belleville.

Each 10-person team must raise a minimum of \$400 to participate — or \$40 per person.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. Oct. 8 and the pull will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Teams can register online at <https://www.firstgiving.com/miletr/planepull17>

For questions, contact Sharon Harding at sharding@aodasap.com.



Flint human trafficking workshop aims to help victims, raise awareness

In an effort to provide a supplemental experience for female offenders under supervision in Flint, agents, administrative support staff and supervisors have organized a series of workshops for female offenders. The goal of the workshops is to provide an avenue for learning and dialogue on issues that may



be directly affecting female offenders or be present in their social support networks.

A Human Trafficking Workshop was held on July 18 at the Harrison Auditorium in Flint. Guest speakers included Federal Court Prosecutor Chris Rawsthorne who discussed the prevalence of human trafficking and types of criminal charges that result from the activity, and Michigan State Police Trooper Rick Jones from the Flint Post who talked about local law enforcement efforts to assist victims of human trafficking. J. Scott of the YWCA also led a discussion on community resources including safe rooms for victims and subsequent treatment opportunities, and Laura Toy, Chief of Staff to Senator Judy Emmons, discussed local efforts to end human trafficking, as well as changes on the national front.

Senator Judy Emmons is very active in producing legislation geared toward addressing human trafficking. There was great discussion on the changing approach to victims as just that, “victims” and a move away from viewing these victims as prostitutes or perpetrators of the sex trade. Often victims of sex trafficking have been engaged in drug use as part of the dependence cycle with their perpetrators, so treatment is one likely area to address when victims of human trafficking have fled their situation.

A highly emotional delivery came from a survivor of human trafficking who told her story of regular

sex trafficking, beatings, drug use, and even incarceration at the hands of her sex trafficker, as he would blame her for his drug possession, his stolen property and other crimes he was perpetrating in the community. After many hospital stints including being stabbed multiple times, she finally was able to break the cycle and get help. She has since gotten sober, completed her education and does speaking engagements with Senator Emmons to have an impact on human trafficking.

Attendees, some moved to tears, could not help but be impacted by the presentation.

The workshop was attended by 41 female MDOC offenders, who heard what turned out to be a fascinating dialogue between MDOC staff, clients and community partners.

The speakers donated their time and the county provided the meeting space. Attendees were provided with certificates of participation for attending the workshop.

Special thanks goes to the engaged staff in Flint who volunteered to tackle the planning that resulted in a successful and impactful workshop for those in attendance. The event not only impacted the attendees, but countless other lives who will hear the stories told, learn of the available community resources from the attendees and be armed with information to identify when one of these situations exist either for themselves, for their children or for friends and family.

Future workshops will be covering areas including domestic violence and healthy relationships, parenting, substance abuse, mental health, education and financial literacy.

Submitted by Region Manager Stephanie Musser



With Thanks

Prisoner grateful for Leader Dogs for the Blind participation

To Whom It May Concern:

First I would like to thank the wonderful people at Leader Dog for giving me the opportunity to participate in the program. I came to prison bitter, sad, lonely and upset with myself. I also put up a tall brick wall and became anti-social with a tight lip, until I was introduced to Leader dog by my ARUS counselor. I took on the responsibility of caring for this little beautiful yellow lab that opened up my heart with joy. I feel like I was human again. I was getting up early every day because I have this little breathing puppy with big brown eyes looking up to me for everything, food, water, friend, handler, grooming, encouragement, training, shelter, patience and love. It was an honor to raise Xavier and help train him to become the best leader dog for someone. Everyday Xavier brightened up my day and made me smile, kept me cheerful and happy, and motivated to work with him. This made me very happy. In return, I learned how to be polite and patient to other inmates and not walk around looking mad with a tight lip. Having Xavier around made it easy for me to talk to other inmates and took me away from my troubles and pain, up lifted my spirit and allowed me to shine and brighten up someone's day other than myself. Before leader dog came into my life I had a road block up that lead to a dead end, I didn't know where to go; being a leader dog handler made me smile with excitement and also gave me a sense of direction. I turned on my GPS -praying to God and becoming a better person while I sat in prison. I traveled down this new road which gave me Faith, Hope, and Love. It is truly amazing that this little puppy saw the best in me when everybody else around me only saw the worst in me and for that I am grateful.

I now wake up with pride to be the best person I can be. Also become a helping hand to other people you never know what the future holds. I might have someone in my family or a friend that goes blind and needs to find help. I have new information and a good source called Leader Dogs for the Blind to run to for help. Xavier gave me the ability to think positive in any situation and keep my inner freedom. Xavier will always put a smile on a person's face without saying a word and to me that is priceless. I am so happy I had the chance to raise and bond with Xavier.

Xavier gave me the ability to think positive in any situation and keep my inner freedom. Xavier will always put a smile on a person's face without saying a word and to me that is priceless. I am so happy I had the chance to raise and bond with Xavier.

Thank you,

Eric McGee



Around the MDOC

Softball Tournament held in honor of Candice Dunn

Metro Territory's 4th annual softball tournament will be held on Aug. 26 in honor of Probation Agent Candice Dunn.

The games begin at 9 a.m. at Inglenook Park in Southfield, Mich.

Lakeland Golf Outing to benefit Shop with a Cop

Lakeland Correctional Facility held its 4th annual Charity Golf Outing on Aug. 25 at Turtle Creek Golf Course to benefit the Branch County Sheriff's Shop with a Cop program. The program matches a child in need with a member of the law enforcement community, who takes them shopping for Christmas gifts.

Reminder on use of department or worksite letterhead

Michigan Department of Corrections employees are reminded that department or worksite-specific letterhead should only be used for documents representing the MDOC in an official capacity.

This should not be used for other matters, such as when providing a personal reference for a current, former or potential future employee.

Participants sought for 2018 Employee Engagement Team

The EPIC Section is seeking interested employees for the 2017-2018 Employee Engagement Team (a one-year term limit).

If you are interested, please [click here](#) to fill out the questionnaire. The deadline for applications is Sept. 8, 2017.

The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Central Michigan Correctional Facility School Principal Belle Bodell and School Secretary Kim Loomis became concerned about the well-being of a coworker who did not show up to work in Sept. 2016.

Since it was unusual for the employee not to call in, they attempted to contact him to check on him. Bodell and Loomis were eventually able to get in touch with the employee's mother to explain the situation. When the mother went to check on her son, she found him in a coma. He was immediately transported to the hospital. Bodell and Loomis' concern for their colleague earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

In May 2016, Central Michigan Correctional Facility Sgt. Kim Wieferich noticed a coworker in the breakroom who appeared to be choking.

When he approached the coworker he confirmed emergency assistance was needed. He moved behind his colleague and performed abdominal thrusts, which dislodged the obstruction and allowed the man to breathe again.

His quick response and ability to draw on his training to help a colleague earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.



Ann Morrow-Maynard, a departmental analyst in the Parole Board Pre-Screening Unit, was at home on June 11 when she heard a woman screaming for help.

She checked to see what was happening and saw a woman running down the street with a baby in her arms. The baby appeared to be having a seizure and was soaking wet.

Morrow-Maynard flipped the baby face down over her arm and instructed a neighbor who had also responded, to provide back blows to help clear the baby's airway. They then determined that they could not tell if the baby was breathing and decided immediate medical help was needed.

The responding neighbor drove Morrow-Maynard, the baby and the baby's mother to the hospital, while Morrow-Maynard monitored the baby and instructed the mother to call 911 for a police escort.

When they arrived, they rushed the baby and mother to the emergency room, and learned that the baby's heart had continued to slow, making the decision to rush to the hospital and not wait for an ambulance one of several lifesaving actions performed that day.

The baby recovered and Morrow-Maynard was presented with the department's Lifesaving Award for her efforts.

The Extra Mile continued...

On May 1, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility Officer Jonathan Minich was informed by a prisoner that there was an emergency in the shower with another prisoner.

Minich went to the shower area and found the prisoner unresponsive and covered in blood. Minich called for assistance and Corrections Officers Brian Tenhove and Joshua Loader arrived and discovered the prisoner had cut his arm and was bleeding heavily. They applied pressure to the wound as Registered Nurse Alan Brunsting and Corrections Officer Zachary Sheggrud arrived to assist and help keep the prisoner alert. Brunsting also applied a tourniquet to help stop the bleeding.

The prisoner was then transported to the hospital for treatment of his injuries.

Minich, Tenhove, Loader, Brunsting and Sheggrud received the department's Lifesaving Award for their actions.



Officers Zachary Sheggrud, Brian Tenhove and Joshua Loader with Warden Shirlee Harry and Director Heidi Washington.



Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center Corrections Officer Scott Kulinski was off duty on Oct. 2, 2016 when he saw the driver of a Michigan State Police vehicle pull over, exit the vehicle then draw his weapon and begin directing two suspects to come out from between two houses.

The suspects were ordered to the ground, but Kulinski noticed no back up was present for the trooper. Kulinski exited his vehicle, identified himself as an off-duty corrections officer and offered to help.

The trooper provided Kulinski with his handcuffs to restrain the suspects while he maintained coverage of them. After Ku-

linski handcuffed the first suspect, a local police officer arrived and handcuffed the second suspect.

The men were found to have been carrying bags containing supplies for making methamphetamine.

Kulinski's demonstration of personal and professional integrity earned him the department's Citizenship Award.

In the early morning hours on Sept. 2 2016, a 16-year-old driver left the roadway and struck a light pole at the south entrance of the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center. After receiving notification of the crash, Sgt. Thomas Eggleston immediately responded accompanied by Lt. Robert Grace, and Corrections Officers Edwin Hewlett and Douglas Anderson. The driver was bleeding from a wound on his head, as well as his mouth and nose. Eggleston assessed and aided the driver while Grace called for assistance from Duane Waters Health Center staff. Corrections Medical Officers Sarah Oram, and Kevin Welsh responded and aided the injured driver, who was pinned in the vehicle.

Responding staff provided aid to the injured driver and secured the accident scene until emergency medical staff and law enforcement arrived to extract the driver.

The quick actions by Eggleston, Grace, Hewlett, Anderson, Oram and Welsh, earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.



Pictured: Sarah Oram and Thomas Eggleston with Director Heidi Washington

The Extra Mile continued...



Baraga Correctional Facility Sgt. Colleen Borgen was presented with the Symbol of Leadership Coin for volunteering to take on a momentous task that involved moving records retention from the facility public works building to the recreation building. She showed great commitment to the project and a high level of professionalism.

Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan was presented with a Symbol of Leadership Coin for his leadership and dedication to offender success. Marlan guided the creation of the department's WRAP programs, and new Carey Guides pilot, among other successful programs.



Corrections Quiz

What facility received its first prisoners on August 30, 1877?

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.

July Quiz Recap

How many total buildings does the Michigan Department of Corrections own?

Answer: 1,359

Some answered with 611, a figure that was used until a recent survey of all department buildings was completed. We're giving those who answered 611 an honorary win.

Congrats to Kathy Mason, formerly of the Macomb County Probation Office, Elaine Reed in the Detroit Reentry Center Dental Clinic, and Debra Wright of Saginaw Correctional Facility.

Snapshots

A look at life around the MDOC



Staff at Saginaw Correctional Facility cleaned a 3-mile stretch of Midland Road in July as part of Adopt-A-Highway.



On Aug. 3, Muskegon Parole Agent Greg Balcom met with prisoners at West Shoreline Correctional Facility who are paroling next month with a condition to wear electronic monitoring equipment upon release. He provided information regarding the guidelines, rules and use of the department's electronic monitoring equipment; GPS, tether and scam. The prisoners appreciated the opportunity to ask him questions and learn more about this equipment as they safely transition into the community.



You've heard about Woodland Center Correctional Facility's Sadie, but how about Roscoe? Roscoe, the therapy dog at Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, was certified as a compassionate care service animal in May.

Corrections in the News

[Legacy Award given to former MI corrections director](#) — WILX-TV

[Former Michigan Department of Corrections director to receive Legacy Award](#) — WWMT-TV

[Detour from law career puts Heidi Washington at center of Michigan prison reform](#) — Toledo Blade

[Michigan lawmakers need to get serious about guns and prisons](#) — Metro Times

[Iron Paws: Dog training helping prisoners](#) — WNEM-TV

[Iron Paws: Program pairs shelter dogs with convicts](#) — WNEM-TV

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

Seen on Facebook...

Michigan Department of Corrections
3 hrs · 🌐

Michigan is one of seven states nationwide to deliver significant results in efforts to reduce recidivism and violent crime, according to a new report by the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

photo credit: Governor Snyder's communications staff

REDUCING MICHIGAN'S RECIDIVISM AND VIOLENT CRIME

Michigan had the second-largest decline nationally in re-incarceration, with a **43 percent drop** between 2006 and 2015. In 2006, 2,019 parolees returned to prison on new convictions, compared to **1,159** in 2015.

csgjusticecenter.org

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

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

June New Hires

Arevalo, Julio	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Asakrieh, Rana	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Ashley, Richard	Teacher Aide, Thumb Correctional Facility
Avanesov, Mikhail	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Badder, Dustin	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Baier, Paul	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Baldwin, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Barnes, Shelby	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Bell, Janet	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Bell, Matthew	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Bennett, Jerrad	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Bigler, Anthony	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Blanton, Wendy	Licensed Practical Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Bond, Jeffery	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Boog, Mitchell	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Bradley-Hyter, Darnishia	Word Processing Assistant, Field Operations Administration Special Services Unit
Brown, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Burgess, Aaron	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Butler, Chantae	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Canfield, Tyler	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Chang, Winston	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Chupailo, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Clay, Thomas	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Coburn, Marquis	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Collins, Christian	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Collinson, David	Registered Nurse, Michigan Reformatory
Conley, Eric	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Corravo, Michael	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Crawford, Scott	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Cross, Jeffrey	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Diakite, Abdouramane	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Doesburg, Hunter	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Doosey, Michael	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Dreyer, Greg	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Elema, Joshua	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Fredericks, Erin	Registered Nurse, Corrections Central Office
Gehringer, Luke	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Geroux, Steven	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Glazer, Michelle	Field Agent, Troy Probation Office
Goebel, Spencer	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Goudeaux, David	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Green, Keyandra	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Gross, James	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Guffey, Michael	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Hamilton, Brandy K.	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Hascall, Jonah	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Hassan, Ali	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Heller, Lesley	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Helsel, Robert	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Hill, Kyle	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Hillier, Paige	Registered Nurse, Saginaw Correctional Facility

June New Hires

Hobbs, Arnie	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Horton, Andrew	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Houston, Khadija	Word Processing Assistant, Field Operations Administration Court Services Unit
Houtz, Cynthia	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Hunter, Shelby	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Johnson, Bobby	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Jones, Matthew	Storekeeper, Earnest C. Brooks/West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Jonkman, Anna	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Joseph, Jacob	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Kausch, Ashley	Recreational Therapist, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Kelly, Tammy	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Knight, Jamela	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Lancaster, Tracey	Word Processing Assistant, Field Operations Administration Court Services Unit
Larson, Neal	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Leech, Michael	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Leys, William	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Malloy, Jalen	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Mangus, Michelle	General Office Assistant, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Maples, Jeffrey	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Provider, Parnall Correctional Facility
Martin, Marquetta	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Mattila, Justin	Licensed Electrician, Ionia Correctional Facility
Maye, Lynn	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Provider, Parnall Correctional Facility
McKinney, Shavon	Word Processing Assistant, Field Operations Administration Court Services Unit
Merrill, Matthew	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Merriweather, Darnell	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Miles, Tyrone	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Mills, Brandon	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Morgan, Jason	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Mueller, Michael	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Murphy, Adam	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Nelson, Andrae	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Nelson-Wright, Kristy	General Office Assistant, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Nichols, Marjorie	General Office Assistant, Saginaw Correctional Facility
O'Brien, Jonathan	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Ockert, Ryan	Storekeeper, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Parent, Bethany	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Parr, James	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Passmore, Kevin	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Payne, Brandon	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Peacock, Kimberly	Word Processing Assistant, Eaton County Parole and Probation Office
Peterson, Thomas	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Pifer, Lori	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Pitcel, Dustin	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Price, Shaketra	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Rentsman, Hallie	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Richardson, Dianne	School Teacher, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Richmond, Julayne	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Rickett, Erica	Field Agent, Troy Probation Office
Rolison, Tucker	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Rushford, Brett	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Sabec, Justin	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility

June New Hires

Santimaw, Sharon	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Schultz, Cheyenne	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Macomb Correctional Facility
Shaffer, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Sheehan, Nicole	Secretary, Gladwin County Parole and Probation Office
Siewiorek, Zack	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Sims, Cedric	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Slocum, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Smith, Andrea	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration Court Services Unit
Smith, Evan	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Smith, Shawn	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Soeltner, Jaykob	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Spence, Tyler	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Spilker, Tracy	Employment Counselor, Thumb Correctional Facility
Spitzley, Zachary	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Stafford, Neal	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Stenback, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Stevens, Bethany	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Taylor, Kimberley	Secretary, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Thomas, Aarron	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Thomas, Jonathan	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Thompson, Tyler	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Torp, Rebecca	Accounting Assistant, Northern Region Correctional Facilities Administration
Treadeau, Thore	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Vallejo, Angelo	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Vulaj, Gina	Registered Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Waagen, Torstein	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Wahr, Brittany	Field Agent, Ingham County Parole Office
Walker, Brielle	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Warren, Kendrick	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Waskiewicz, Matthew	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Webbert, Hope	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks/West Shoreline Correctional Facilities
Welch, Brandon	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Wells, Kelsi	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Wielfaert, Sarah	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Willea, Lisa	Registered Nurse, Earnest C. Brooks/West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Williams, Jasmine	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Wilson, Devon	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Wood, Paul	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Zielinski, Janelle	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility

June Retirements

Barker, Todd	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Blair, Kathryn	Secretary, Delta County Parole and Probation Office
Brown, Steven	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Bull, Douglas	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Carlson, Steven	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Cottrell, Jack	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks/West Shoreline Correctional Facilities
Creery, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Crosby, Barbara	Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Derusha, Leon	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Dickinson, Charles	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Fedon, Philip	Building Trades Crew Leader, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Gandini, Alan	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration Court Services Unit
Haase, Linda	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Haefele, Dennis	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Harris, Ronald	Resident Unit Manager, Alger Correctional Facility
Harwood, Jerry	Deputy Warden, Kinross Correctional Facility
Herring, Carl	Psychologist, St. Louis Correctional Facility
June, Claire	X-Ray Technician, Thumb Correctional Facility
Kangas, Jon	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Kulchinski, Melinda	Accounting Assistant, Jackson Central Region
Lovette, Michael	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
McBride, Ava	Departmental Supervisor, Detroit Reentry Center
McMahon, Deborah	Medical Record Supervisor, Parnall Correctional Facility
Miller, Martin	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Minnerick, Jeffrey	Corrections Resident Representative, Earnest C. Brooks/West Shoreline Correctional Facilities
Moreno, Thomas	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Nash, Stewart	Groundskeeper, Jackson Central Region
Parr, Roy	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Peller, Michael	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Peterson, Keith	School Teacher, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Pokley, Mark	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Marquette Branch Prison
Popoff, Patricia	Administrative Manager, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Prentice, Deborah	Field Agent, Jackson County Probation Office
Rademacher, Russell	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Ribby, James	Field Agent, Grand Traverse County Probation Office
Riggs, Darlene	Field Agent, Lenawee County Parole and Probation Office
Russell, Kimberly	Executive Secretary, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Schlehuber, Ivan	Corrections Transportation Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Schulte, Thomas	Accounting Technician, Macomb Correctional Facility
Shaw, Kelly	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Sparks, Michael	Field Agent, Detroit Metro Parole Office
Stevens, Douglas	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Taylor, Billy	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Terrill, Willis	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Townsend, James	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Trouten, Michael	Corrections Resident Representative, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Tuimala, Vincent	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Weeks, David	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Wilcox, Rodney	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Williams, Ursula	Parole and Probation Manager, Detroit Reentry Center
Wink, Gregory	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Yarbrough, Bryan	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility