

Corrections Connection



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

The image on the cover was taken at Dow Gardens in Midland by **Kerri Huizar**, Bay County Circuit Court Probation Supervisor. 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.



An Alternative Path

Special Alternative Incarceration program closes in on 30 years of operation

The sun was just beginning to rise over the trees in rural southeast Michigan as a group of young men stood at attention facing a small crowd of friends and family.

The stillness of the morning would be punctuated by celebration as nine of them completed the first phase of the Michigan Department of Corrections' Special Alternative Incarceration program.

"Today we have nine grads going home to their families," Corporal David Bell told the soon-to-be graduates and other trainees assembled on the

drill and ceremony field, who responded with an enthusiastic "Oorah!"

For 30 years, the program has offered intensive military-style discipline, programming and service work designed to help offenders set their lives in a positive direction.

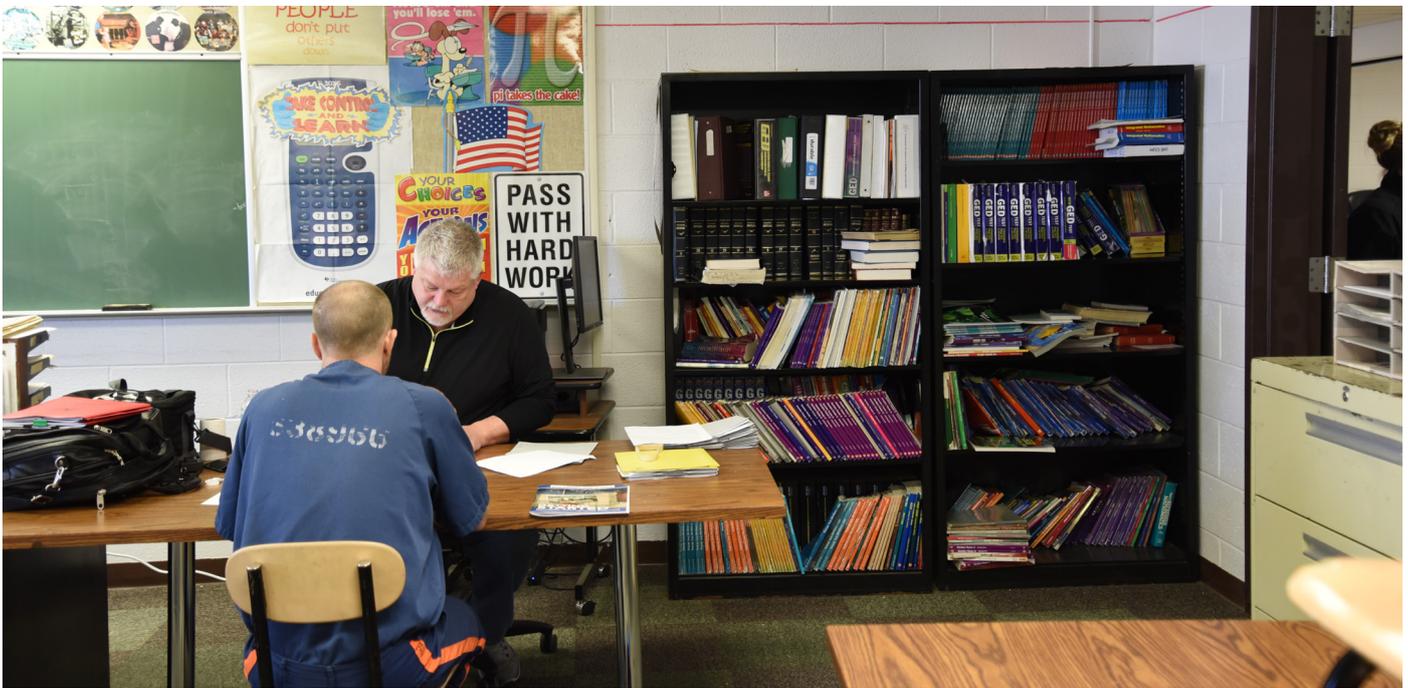
It aims to instill positive values and a sense of respect for oneself and others. Trainees are held to high standards and have strictly regimented days that include work assignments, physical training and time in the classroom.

"It has increased the amount of discipline I have in my life, showed me the inner strength I have and taught me the value of integrity," said Jacob Steele, who was among the nine graduates. "I believe it has changed me in a really positive manner."

Setting Out

The program is meant to be intense.

New trainees are greeted at the facility with the shouts of staff who closely direct their every move from the moment they arrive and demand that they respond



Pictured: An SAI trainee meets with Dudley Campfield, a substance abuse counselor at the facility.

with “sir” or “ma’am.” Stripping away tough, antisocial attitudes and conveying the need for immediate compliance is a major component of the program, and especially, the intake process. At the facility in Chelsea, incoming offenders are directed to sit in a chair that faces a mirror. As another trainee shaves their head, facility staff ask them about their crime, its victims and the people in their own life who care about them. It is intended to make offenders confront their actions, realize that their past behavior is unacceptable and understand who they are hurting, said Capt. Dann Walling. New trainees later meet with a corrections program coordinator who will go over educational and cognitive-behavioral programming they will need during their 90-day stay at the facility that is broken into segments spent with Alpha Company and Bravo Company. In Alpha Company, trainees learn the rules and practices of life at SAI. Every action, including making their bunk, organizing their footlocker and getting dressed is tightly controlled, highly disciplined, and meant to reinforce listening

and following directions. In Bravo Company, trainees have the opportunity to participate in work assignments that can help give them a sense of purpose and build soft skills. “The trainees can see their goals happening,” Walling said. “They see progress and they see themselves doing things they never thought they could.”

Early Days

The program began in 1988 when legislation to start a Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI) program in Michigan was enacted and existing laws were amended to allow judges to sentence probationers 17 to 24 years old to

the program. The first site was Camp Sauble in northwestern Michigan, which had a capacity to house 120 offenders. Sentencing judges were supportive of the program and as many saw it as a viable alternative to prison, legislation was introduced to expand eligibility to include prisoners, female offenders and offenders older than 25. In 1991, the Cassidy Lake Technical School, a minimum-security facility for men, was converted to the newest and only site for the program. At one time, both male and female offenders were housed at the facility – though in separate units. The SAI program for female



Pictured: SAI Capt. Dann Walling congratulates a trainee graduating from the program.

offenders is now housed at Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility. To participate, offenders must meet eligibility requirements which include having no previous prison sentences.

Walling, who has worked at SAI for 26 years, said the program once had a larger focus on physical training and discipline. That focus shifted over the years to place more emphasis on programs that can help offenders succeed in the community.

“In the early days it was extremely physically intense,” Walling said.

“We increased evidence-based programs and we had to look at the end result: Do we want guys to be able to run five miles, or do we want them to be able to make good decisions?”

Going Home

What is most important is that offenders leave the facility with the

education, skills, and discipline they need to achieve a successful and stable life.

In 2017, 90 percent of participating offenders successfully completed the program.

“They realize they don’t have to be what they have always been,” Walling said. “It’s hard. They learn they can overcome an obstacle and have success.”

Sgt. Tyrone Sims often sees trainees on their first day of the program and on their last and said the change they experience is noticeable, including in their handshake.

“They’ll shake your hand and look you in the eye,” Sims said. “If you respect yourself, you’ll respect everyone else.”

After completing the first phase of the program at the facility, offenders move on to a period of intensive supervision in the community.

Jacob Grosvenor, a graduate of

the program, said the structure it brought to his life would be helpful when he went home, as would the advice of corporals.

“One of the corporals told me throughout your entire life you have to take baby steps,” Grosvenor said. “I always wanted to take giant leaps and get somewhere fast, but now I know it takes time and effort to get to where you need to be.”

[Click the image below to listen to an episode of the Field Days podcast about Special Alternative Incarceration program.](#)



HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out these episodes of the Field Days podcast



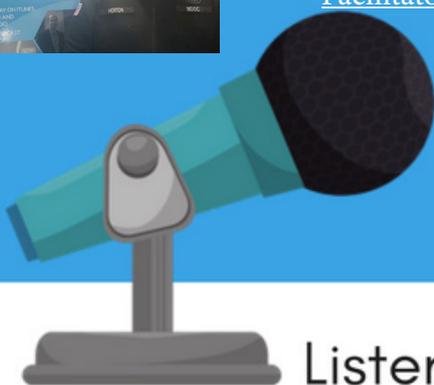
- [MDOC Health Care Administrator Lia Gulick and Douglas Skrzyaniarz, Associate Vice President of Government Health Affairs for Wayne State University, discuss the department’s new partnership with Wayne State.](#)



- [The week of March 11 was Sunshine Week, which draws awareness to access to public records and information. Hear FOIA Manager Andy Phelps talk about the MDOC’s transparency and efforts to fill Freedom of Information Act Requests.](#)



- [Corrections Officer Jererro Horton has a passion for being a positive role model. Hear about how he exercises that passion as a Thinking for a Change Facilitator.](#)



Listen to us on



Department ramping up hiring and efforts to fill vacancies statewide

Michigan Department of Corrections employees work hard every day to keep our communities safe and change the lives of offenders under our supervision for the better.



Pictured: New corrections officer graduates in the 2017 Bruce Curtis Academy

Our work to protect the public does not stop on weekends, holidays or after the sun goes down. The need is constant, and our work is critical to the law

enforcement and criminal justice community. Today, many of you are working harder than ever. There are hundreds of vacancies department-wide, and many of these positions were held open to prepare for staff movements related to the closure of West Shoreline Correctional Facility.

On March 24, the facility will officially shut down after continued declines in the prisoner population brought us to a point where we could safely close a facility.

We know closures are a challenging time for staff across the department. Employees at impacted facilities can feel a sense of uncertainty until staff placements are determined, and overtime hours can increase for others statewide until vacancies are filled.

The process of closing a facility is complex, and there are many logistics and details involved. In an effort to retain as many affected employees as we could and minimize the impact on staff as much as possible, vacancies across the department were held open so there were positions available for staff to move into. Of 281 employees impacted by the closure of West Shoreline, 33 were laid off and 21 of those were offered positions within the department but declined to take them.

We are grateful for the hard work of staff at West Shoreline and staff across the department, who

ensured the closure process went as smoothly as possible.

Now that this process is complete, we can ramp up efforts to fill remaining positions and relieve the burden of added work on other staff.

Current funding will allow the department to bring on about 550 new corrections officers this fiscal year. Gov. Rick Snyder's executive budget recommendation for the next fiscal year includes a funding request that would allow the department to hire and train a total of 759 new officers.

Three training academies have started or are scheduled and are expected to include nearly 200 new corrections officer recruits. A training class that included 23 new recruits for Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility began March 12, a training class in Lansing that will include 106 new recruits will begin March 26 and a training class in the Upper Peninsula that is expected to include 43 recruits will begin April 9.

These classes are expected to bring 18 new officers to Michigan Reformatory, 12 to G. Robert Correctional Facility, 12 to Carson City Correctional Facility, 12 to Alger Correctional Facility, 11 to Parnall Correctional Facility, 11 to Macomb Correctional Facility, 10 to Chippewa Correctional Facility, 10 to Baraga Correctional Facility, eight to Lakeland Correctional Facility, eight to the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, seven to Woodland Center Correctional Facility, six to Newberry Correctional Facility, six to Central Michigan Correctional Facility, five to Kinross Correctional Facility, three to Cooper Street Correctional Facility, three to Gus Harrison Correctional Facility, three to St. Louis Correctional Facility, two to the Detroit Reentry Center and two to SAI.

We will be continuing to hire more officers throughout the year and additional academies are planned to be held in June, July, August and September.

We appreciate all of your hard work and efforts to mentor and guide these new staff members as they begin their careers with the department at your facilities.

West Shoreline Correctional Facility closes its doors for March 24 shut down

The coming closure of West Shoreline Correctional Facility has not dampened the drive and commitment of facility staff, who have worked hard to ensure prisoner transfers and other actions were completed as smoothly as possible.

Warden Shane Jackson and former acting Warden Jack Kowalski recognized staff for their contributions and collective effort to help meet needs as the facility started to wind down operations.

Nearly a dozen corrections officers volunteered to assist with packing all prisoner property for transfers to other facilities. They wanted to make sure the facilities receiving West Shoreline prisoners were receiving the correct property prisoners are authorized to have.



Pictured: The last prisoners housed at West Shoreline Correctional Facility are transferred.

School staff also organized school records for prisoners and records office staff, housing staff and counselors and health care staff screened hundreds of prisoners to properly place them and ensure all filing was caught up. Transportation staff assisted in moving all West Shoreline prisoners and the Earnest C. Brooks and West Shoreline employee clubs held special luncheons for staff.

At about 9:30 a.m. on March 23, the last prisoner at West Shoreline exited the facility. When the closure was announced on January 29, the facility had 1,272 prisoners. The facility, which was built in 1987, was expected to close its doors on March 24 to account for continued declines in the state's prisoner population.

The department also made every attempt to absorb as many employees as possible into vacancies throughout the system.

Of 281 impacted employees, 33 were laid off and 21 of those were offered positions elsewhere in the department but declined to take them.

The Rapid Response Team, which includes representatives from state Civil Service, the Employee Service Program and Michigan Works!, visited the facility to meet with staff on March 8.

All options were considered to minimize the impact on staff and the department partnered with other agencies to leverage their ability to assist workers.

Last year, the population fell below 40,000 for the first time since 1993.

Women's History Month offers time to recognize women in corrections

March is Women's History Month and serves as an opportunity to recognize the important contributions of female leaders in corrections.

Women were at one time barred from working in custody positions at correctional facilities housing men and from supervising male parolees and probationers. They held few leadership roles. That began to change in the 1970s. Today, the department includes many influential women and is led by Director Heidi Washington.



“Many states still have not had a female director lead their corrections department,” Washington said. “I am proud that Michigan has now had two and even prouder that by serving in this role, it can inspire other women to see for themselves a career in this profession that has no limits.”

Pictured in this graphic from International Women's Day on March 8: Health Care Administrator Lia Gulick, former Director Patricia Caruso, departmental technician Jeanette Cox, Probation Supervisor Lisa Hendricks, ICAC Agent Danelle Pigott, Probation Sentencing Specialist Kathy Arnold, Warden Jodi DeAngelo, Parole Agent Annegret Remmert, Region Manager Janella Robinson, Warden Melinda Braman, Corrections Officer Cary Johnson, Parole and Probation Agent Heidi McMurphy, Director Heidi Washington, Probation Agent Angel Lucas, Warden Catherine Bauman, Education Manager Heather Gay, Executive Assistant Miffier Griffin, Parole Board member Melissa Brandt, Training Specialist Teresa Chandler and Parole and Probation Agent Lennie Alcorn.

Parole supervisor makes history, hits the court for girls basketball championships

Doing what she loves has allowed Parole Supervisor Delonda Little to make history twice in the last three years. In 2015, she became the first female official to work a Public



Delonda Little

School League title game in basketball when she was a referee in the close match between Detroit Western and Renaissance high schools. Then on March 17, she hit the hardwood for another big game. She was selected by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) to be among 12 female referees for the Girls Basketball State Finals held at Calvin College. It was the first time in Michigan high school athletics history that the games were officiated by an all-female crew. Little said it was nice to be part of the history-making team of referees. "It was an awesome day," said Little, who was a referee in the Class A game between Saginaw's Heritage High School

and East Lansing High School. Officials are selected for championship games based on a number of factors including ratings from coaches during regular-season games, recommendations from schools and leagues and their tournament history, according to the MHSAA. The female officials in the finals games were ranked among the top 25 percent of all officials. Only about 200 of the 4,000 registered Michigan officials are women. "Delonda Little is strong and takes charge," said MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl, who coordinates officials. "She's a great role model, and especially for young women who are getting their start and gaining experience in officiating. She does a great job." Little, a supervisor at metro Detroit's Lawton Parole Office, was an All American when she played forward for Wayne State University and was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. Little said she enjoys officiating and it keeps her involved in the sport. Little began officiating about 14 years ago after she was approached by a friend who mentioned a Division I official was looking for more African-American women to referee women's basketball games. Little said her experiences with leadership, diversity and teamwork in basketball have translated well into her work at the Department of Corrections.

MDOC names new wardens

The Michigan Department of Corrections has named seven new wardens to lead correctional facilities across the state.

Willis Chapman, who was serving as acting



Warden Willis Chapman

warden of Thumb Correctional Facility is now warden of the facility. Chapman began his 31-year career with the department as a corrections officer and later held a number of leadership positions including sergeant, lieutenant

and captain. He was deputy warden at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility and Detroit Reentry Center, where he oversaw a youth deterrent program.

Shane Jackson, former deputy warden at Muskegon



Warden Shane Jackson

Correctional Facility, was named warden of Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility. Jackson has worked for the MDOC for more than 24 years and has served as an assistant deputy warden, captain,

inspector, reentry coordinator and sergeant. He is a former quarterback, pitcher and catcher for Eastern Michigan University.

Noah Nagy, former deputy warden



Warden Noah Nagy

at the Detroit Reentry Center, was appointed warden of Lakeland Correctional Facility. Nagy was hired in 1995 as a corrections athletic director for Western Wayne Correctional Facility. He later worked as a corrections officer,

field service assistant, parole agent, parole supervisor and parole board manager. He is a member of the Western School District School Board and Grand Valley State University Alumni Board of Directors.

Jack Kowalski, who is currently serving

Continued on Page 8

Recognized Recruit

Macomb Correctional Facility ARUS receives New Recruit Award for supporting Special Olympics

Three years ago, Frank Sgambati wouldn't have expected that a simple invitation to a meeting would change his life.



Frank Sgambati

But when a friend at Macomb Correctional Facility asked him to join her at a Law Enforcement Torch Run gathering, it ignited a passion for supporting the Special Olympics. "The people I met, their motivation and how involved they were in it got me interested," said Sgambati, an assistant resident unit supervisor at Macomb Correctional Facility. Then, while volunteering at his first Special Olympics Summer Games, he unexpectedly reconnected with a cousin who was competing at the event. It inspired him to go further in pouring his time and energy into supporting

Special Olympics athletes. In January, he earned the New Recruit Award for his efforts to give back through the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics Michigan. Sgambati has participated in Polar Plunge events across the state, as well as the Law Enforcement Torch Run, and has helped organize facility fundraisers.

Sgambati said he isn't sure how much he has raised or donated since he began supporting Special Olympics.

"I don't track it, I just give," Sgambati said.

He has also volunteered at Special Olympics summer, fall and winter games, and has had the opportunity to present medals to his cousin.

He said he enjoys seeing the pride and excitement of athletes participating in the games, and likes having the opportunity to connect with all of them.

"For my cousin, it's a big event for him," Sgambati said. "Seeing that and being a part of that, it's a great feeling."



Pictured left: Sgambati presents a medal to his cousin. Pictured right: Sgambati prepares for the Muskegon Polar Plunge.



new wardens cont...

as acting warden at Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility, will become warden of Newberry Correctional Facility.

Kowalski is a veteran of the U.S. Army



Warden Jack Kowalski

and joined the MDOC in 1992 as a corrections officer. He has also served as a sergeant, lieutenant, captain and deputy warden.

Les Parish, former deputy warden at Woodland Center Correctional

Facility, was named warden of Oaks Correctional Facility.



Warden Les Parish

His career with the department began in 1995.

He has been active with the Emergency Response Team and has also served as a sergeant, lieutenant, inspector, and master firearms instructor.

Randee Rewerts, who was serving

as acting warden of Cooper Street Correctional



Warden Randee Rewerts

Facility, is now warden of Carson City Correctional Facility. Rewerts is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and began his career with the MDOC in 1996

as a food service leader. He later held positions as food

service director, facility manager, business manager and deputy warden.



Warden Pat Warren

Pat Warren, who was deputy warden at Saginaw Correctional Facility, was named warden of Macomb Correctional Facility. He has also served as an inspector and captain and is a graduate of Eastern

Michigan University.

Retirement of MDOC leaders announced

A number of long-time Michigan Department of Corrections leaders have closed out their careers and headed for retirement.

Michigan State Industries Administrator Teri Cline retired March 1 following more than 34



Deputy Director Jeri-Ann Sherry, Teri Cline and Director Heidi Washington

years of service to the State of Michigan.

She took over leadership of MSI in 2014 and helped stabilize its



Carmen Palmer

finances. Cline also was known for helping to launch the department's dog training programs. Michigan

Reformatory Warden Carmen Palmer retired February 28 after spending 37 years working for the department.

She joined the department in 1981 as a corrections officer and later held a number of leadership roles,

including assistant resident unit manager, resident unit manager, inspector, assistant deputy warden and deputy warden, before being named warden.

The department's Office of Legal Affairs Administrator Melody Wallace will retire March 30 after spending more than 30 years with the department.

Wallace joined the department in 1985 as a litigation coordinator. She went on to work as an administrative law examiner and manager of the policy section. She was named manager of the litigation section in 2013 and became administrator of the Office of Legal Affairs in 2017.

Lisa Geminick will take over as the new legal affairs administrator. Macomb



Randall Haas

Correctional Facility Warden Randall Hass retired

February 1. He began working for the department in 1988 as a corrections officer and also served as assistant resident unit supervisor, resident unit supervisor, assistant deputy warden and deputy warden.

Remembering Agent Dana Taylor

Court Services Agent Dana Taylor was killed February 27 in Southfield. Taylor worked for the Michigan



Department of Corrections for 20 years and started her career as a corrections officer at Western Wayne Correctional Facility. She later worked as a resident unit officer

and assistant resident unit supervisor at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility. She transferred to the Eastern District Probation Office in 2010, and also served as an embedded agent for the Detroit Police Department.

Services were held March 8 at Greater Grace Temple in Detroit.

Want to see what else is happening in corrections across the country?

The Association of State Correctional Administrators has a goal to reach 100,000 followers on social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. ASCA is committed to spotlighting the great work of corrections professionals. You can also share your stories through these channels, which will be seen by hundreds of thousands of your corrections colleagues across the country.

Just search Twitter, Facebook or Instagram for @ascaleadership.

Law Enforcement Torch Run holds Fire Truck Pull Challenge

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Michigan is challenging 10-member teams to see if they are strong enough to pull a fire truck. Teams will be raising money for a good cause while they showcase their strength.

The Fire Truck Pull event will be held April 21 at Applied Fitness Solutions, 1136 Rochester Road, Rochester Hills.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the pull will start at 9:30 a.m. All male, all female or co-ed teams are welcome. The cost to enter is \$500 per team or \$50 per person. For more information, or to register, visit <https://www.firegiving.com/event/miletr/RHtruckpull18>



Legislative Update: House passes bills on medically-frail prisoners and penalties for dress-out assaults

On March 7, the Michigan House of Representatives passed a package of bills (HB 4101, HB 4102 and HB 4103) that would allow prisoners who



Photo by Jennifer Keller

are defined as “medically frail” to be eligible for a medical parole prior to their earliest release date. Prisoners convicted of first degree murder or first degree criminal sexual conduct would not be eligible for medical parole under the current bills. The bills maintain the ability of prosecutors and victims to object to the Parole Board’s decision by filing a motion in the circuit court in the county of conviction. The department is generally supportive of this legislation, as it moves offenders to a more appropriate setting for medical care outside of a prison facility, but we continue to work with stakeholders to ensure that public safety remains a priority. The Michigan House passed a package of bills earlier this year (HB 4585, HB 4590 and HB 4591) that would increase penalties for anyone who targets a victim based on their perceived employment duties. Under the package of bills, a person who committed a violent felony in which the

victim was targeted because he or she was perceived to be a firefighter or EMS personnel or a law enforcement or corrections officer would be guilty of a felony punishable for up to two years in prison. The original drafts of the bills did not include corrections officers as targeted victims, but the department worked with the bill sponsors to include our officers at the request of Director Washington.

In late January, the House of Representatives voted to pass two bills (HB 4118 and HB 4119) that would provide penalties for prisoners who intentionally throw bodily material at any Michigan Department of Corrections employee or volunteer. While it is currently against the law to assault any MDOC employee or volunteer, the legislation provides specific penalties for this type of prisoner conduct. The bills include that a prisoner in a state correctional facility could be found guilty of a felony punishable by up to four years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$2,000. Prisoners who were determined to have committed the offense due to serious mental illnesses could not be charged under the law.

The department continues to work with Michigan lawmakers on legislation that would help protect correctional facilities from interference due to the use of drones. The MDOC is taking the approach that everything should be on the table as we seek to address this problem, and that the safety and security of our facilities is paramount.

Story by MDOC Legislative Assistant Joel Everett

Midwest Battle of the Badges to be held March 23

Teams of first responders and military personnel will compete in the 2018 Midwest Battle of the Badges Charity Basketball and Tug-of-War tournament.

The event, hosted by First Responders for Fitness, begins with preliminary rounds of competition at 1 p.m. March 23 at Lawrence Technological University’s Ridler Field House. The finals will be held March 24 for First Responders Night at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit. Basketball finals will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the Tug-of-War finals will begin at 6:30 p.m. A friends and family reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Teams must include 10 members and a \$30 donation per competitor is required. For more information, or to register, visit <https://fr4f.ticketbud.com/2018battle>

He’s got THE VOICE

Gary Edwards II, son of Detroit Reentry Center Agent Gary Edwards, showcased his singing skills on NBC’s The Voice.

He impressed the judges and selected a spot on the team of Maroon 5 singer Adam Levine. To continue following him on the show, tune in to NBC Mondays and Tuesdays at 8 p.m.



The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Last fall, the St. Louis Correctional Facility, city of St. Louis and surrounding area experienced a massive power outage. Without being called, Maintenance Mechanic Timothy Clark reported to the facility to check on its status and discovered the back-up generator did not start on its own. Clark was able to get the back-up generator started, avoiding the potential that the facility would be without power for an extensive amount of time. His dedication during the September 2017 outage ensured the safety and security of the facility, staff and prisoners and earned him the department's Meritorious Service Award.

In April 2017, Corrections Officer Jeffrey Biddinger was supervising lunch lines in one of the housing units at St. Louis Correctional Facility when he noticed a prisoner was waving his arms to get his attention and pointing at his throat. Biddinger realized the prisoner was in distress and was choking and raced to help him. After delivering two abdominal thrusts, the obstruction was dislodged and the prisoner was able to breathe again. Biddinger's quick assessment of the situation and immediate action to help the prisoner earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.



In March 2017, Saginaw Correctional Facility received a package addressed to a prisoner from an approved art supplies vendor that was found to contain a number of controlled substances. Facility Inspector Todd Massick was able to use the package tracking number to determine where and when the item was shipped and worked with FedEx and Michigan State Police personnel to successfully locate the sender. Through additional investigative work, he was also able to find additional evidence that connected another prisoner as a conspirator. Inspector Massick's persistence and professionalism in this situation earned him the department's Meritorious Service Award.

The Extra Mile continued...

In December 2017, Corrections Officers William Putnam and Aaron O’Keeffe found a prisoner face down and unresponsive in his cell at the Saginaw Correctional Facility. They called for additional assistance



and started to administer aid. Sgt. Michael Smith arrived and instructed Officer Putnam to begin CPR. Corrections Officers Paul Wood and Kevin Datzko also arrived on the scene and relieved Putnam by taking over CPR. Shortly after, Registered Nurse Curtina Jones came and administered Narcan. The officers continued CPR until the prisoner became alert and was able to breath on his own. Their quick response, outstanding professionalism and integrity saved the life of the prisoner and earned them the department’s Lifesaving Award.



In January 2018, five Saginaw Correctional Facility staff members including Lt. Roland Price, Sgt. Randy VanSumeren and Corrections Officers John Klapish, Bobby Karl and William Putnam, were traveling on Freeland Road when they noticed a vehicle stuck in a 10-12-foot snow-covered ditch.

They all quickly pulled over and attempted to make contact with the driver, who was trapped in the vehicle. After attempts to get a response from the driver were unsuccessful, they worked to get the doors open and were able to pull the driver from her car.

For their immense professionalism, quick response and teamwork, Price, VanSumeren, Klapish, Karl and Putnam received the department’s Citizenship Award. Their heroic actions were also featured on [WNEM TV 5 News](#).

Absconder Recovery Unit Investigators Bud Barnett and Carlos Cook noticed a distraught young woman standing in the median on M-39 in September 2015.

They stopped to assist her, but she ran. Barnett followed her on foot and Cook attempted to slow down traffic with his vehicle. Barnett kept running after her until he caught up and was able to stop her. They learned the woman had recently been assaulted and she continued to repeat that she wanted to die. They both worked to help calm her down and waited with the young woman until law enforcement arrived.

Barnett and Cook’s dedication to stopping the young woman, outstanding professionalism and sincere compassion saved her life and earned them the department’s Lifesaving Award.



The Extra Mile continued...



Bridget Ball, a licensed practical nurse at Oaks Correctional Facility, heard the engine of a plane sputtering in April 2017 and knew something was wrong. She saw it get closer and closer to the ground before it finally crashed. She was the first person on the [scene of the crash site](#) and immediately alerted authorities and began aiding the victims who included the 39-year-old pilot, a 71-year-old man and two 12-year-old boys. She remained with the crash victims until emergency responders arrived.

Her concern for the victims and efforts to provide immediate aid earned her the department's Lifesaving Award.

In July 2016, Sheryl Swidorski, a dental aide at Oaks Correctional Facility, was in the employee breakroom when a coworker began to choke on her food.

Realizing her colleague was in distress, Swidorski quickly went to her aid and performed abdominal thrusts to dislodge the obstruction.

Her ability to remain calm and use her training to help her coworker earned her the department's Lifesaving Award.



In the early-morning hours in May 2017, Corrections Officer Randy Boerema was conducting count in a housing unit at Oaks Correctional Facility when he heard a call for help from Corrections Officer Mark Miehle.

Boerema responded and saw a prisoner attempting to hang himself with a sheet. Corrections Officer Erik Hallberg also responded and helped Boerema lift the prisoner to relieve the pressure on his neck. Miehle retrieved scissors and cut the sheet so the prisoner could be lowered to the floor, and Hallberg and corrections officers Scott Peterson and Kenneth Powell began administering CPR.

Sgt. Ryan Mihalek arrived with a defibrillator and placed it on the prisoner's chest then waited as the prisoner's heart rhythm was analyzed to see if a shock should be administered. Capt. Michael Shelley helped provide direction and support as staff continued to make every effort render aid to the prisoner.

Their actions earned them the department's Meritorious Service Award.

The Extra Mile continued...

While conducting rounds at Oaks Correctional Facility in December 2016, Corrections Officer Michael Taylor saw a large amount of blood in a prisoner’s cell and immediately called for assistance. The prisoner had severely cut his arm and was bleeding profusely. Corrections officers Matthew Brown and Benjamin Shembarger responded and helped apply pressure to the wound and provided first aid.

Corrections Officer Ronald Forward called for medical assistance and the prisoner was transported to a local hospital. Their professionalism and efforts to help the prisoner earned them the department’s Lifesaving Award.

Oaks Correctional Facility Warden Les Parish said he is proud of all staff at the facility, including all of those recently recognized by Director Heidi Washington with awards for outstanding actions. “Staff at ECF have always gone above and beyond,” Parish said. “This holds true for both working within the facility or activities they are involved with in their communities. The staff that were recognized by the Director is a small sampling of the type of people we have working at ECF, and I am honored to say that I work alongside some of the best in the state.”



Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director James R. Redford presented Tracey Raquepaw, reentry facility coordinator at Saginaw Correctional Facility with a Director’s Coin for her work with the agency in helping file service-connected disability claims for incarcerated veterans.

Woodland Center Correctional Facility Warden Jodi DeAngelo presented a Warden’s Coin to Officer William Dible for saving a prisoner’s life. Dible successfully performed abdominal thrusts on a choking prisoner at the facility.



Corrections Quiz

How many FOIA requests did the department process last year?

*Hint - Listen to the Field Days podcast episode featuring Andy Phelps to find out.

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.

February Quiz Recap

When and where will the 2018 Employee Recreation Day take place?

Answer: August 10, 2018 at Royal Scot in Lansing

Congratulations to **Laci Grembowski**, record's office supervisor at Carson City Correctional Facility, for being the first to answer the February Corrections Quiz. Great job!



The department held its first Employee Recreation Day in more than a decade in 2017. More than 200 employees from around the state attended the event in Mount Pleasant to participate in a day of games and camaraderie with their colleagues.

The event was organized by the EPIC Employee Engagement Team and it featured a number of activities, including golf, bowling, canvas painting, bubble ball, bag toss, bingo, bocce ball, corrections Jeopardy, dinner and a silent auction.

Employees, retirees and their adult guests were welcome to join.

Employee Recreation Day was first held in 1987 to give department employees a chance to relax and unwind together.

SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



Oaks Correctional Facility's Quilting for a Cause program, under the direction of Corrections Program Coordinator Ken Bowen, has donated six quilts to the Lighthouse Pregnancy Care Center. The Level II prisoners participating in the program use donated materials to make the quilts.



Director Heidi Washington, Deputy Director Ken McKee, Assistant Deputy Director Robert Napel and Marquette Branch Prison Warden Erica Huss participated in Coast Guard Ice Breaker cruise on the Straits of Mackinac hosted by the Michigan Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. The MDOC was recognized with a Pro Patria Award from the organization in 2017.

Corrections in the News

[Medically Frail Inmates Could Be Paroled Under Michigan House Bill](#) — WEMU

[GreenLight Fund Detroit invests in jobs for Detroiters returning from incarceration](#) — Crain's Detroit Business

[Firefighters face MDOC in hockey game to benefit scorekeeper with cancer](#) — MLive

[Prison build program donates to VFW Post 4090](#) — Ionia Sentinel-Standard

[Michigan prisons short 740 officers, paying \\$70M in overtime](#) — MLive

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

Governor Rick Snyder @onetoughnerd · Feb 20

Thank you to @HeidiWashington and everyone at @MichiganDOC for your incredible work. The parolee employment rate is up and our state's recidivism rate is at a historic low!

Column: State's prison recidivism rate is improving
The percentage of parolees who return to prison within three years of release is down to 28.1 percent
detroitnews.com

2 18 58

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

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

January New Hires

Bracken, Katharine	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Parnall Correctional Facility
Gardner, Artraneen	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Harris, Artissa	Word Processing Assistant, Pontiac Probation Office
Lett, Christin	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
McClain, Jason	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Mercer, Amanda	Word Processing Assistant, Pontiac Probation Office
Samaroo, Roland	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Parnall Correctional Facility
Schantz, Levi	Dentist, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Smith, Janee	Word Processing Assistant, Wayne County Parole Office
Tanner, Tammy	Registered Nurse, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Turner, Brittany	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Waybrant, Robyn	Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Weipert, Melissa	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Winberg, Tonya	Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility

January Retirements

Alexander, Brian	Corrections Resident Representative, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Andrew, Mark	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Blaine, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Brautigam, Thomas	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Brydon, Robert	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Buck, Eric	Corrections Officer, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Clement, Gregory	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Ehnis, William	Human Resources Developer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
England, Darlene	Field Agent, Kalamazoo County Parole and Probation Office
Fierek, Michael	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Funches, Rennia	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Golembiewski, Paul	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Gould, Todd	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Green, Linda	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Griffin, Paul	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Haas, Randall	Warden, Macomb Correctional Facility
Haines, Steve	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Hall, Delmar	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Heikkinen, Brian	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Helt, Dennis	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Hengesbach, Diana	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Hietikko, Dana	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Hufnagel, Danny	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Isaacson, Pete	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Kamp, John	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
King-Edwards, Earnestine	Human Resources Developer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Kinnunen, Gerald	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Lancour, Darla	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
LeClaire, James	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Baraga Correctional Facility
Melson, James	Dentist, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Mertaugh, Jacqueline	General Office Assistant, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Miller, Kyle	Storekeeper, Carson City Correctional Facility
Morgan, Matthew	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Nardi, Gregory	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Marquette Branch Prison
Obradovich, Thomas	Resident Unit Manager, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Olson, Lynn	Resident Unit Manager, Newberry Correctional Facility
Pace, Delores	General Office Assistant, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Patrick, Mark	Maintenance Mechanic, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Peiffer, Donna	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Purdy, James	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Parnall Correctional Facility
Remelts, Jerry	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Rexstrew, Michael	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Roston, Margie	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Samulak, Edward	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Schneider, Russel	Corrections Transportation Officer, Ionia Regional Facilities
Shirton, Terry	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Sioma, Michael	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Smith, Lawrence	Corrections Shift Supervisor, West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Stevens, Phillip	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Stewart, Vaughn	State Administrative Manager, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
VanBuren, Julie	Secretary, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
VonLienen, Eric	Maintenance Mechanic, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Weberg, Merrienne	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Macomb Correctional Facility
Williams, Laura	Resident Unit Manager, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Withrow, Lisa	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Ziegler, James	Corrections Program Coordinator, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility