

# 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](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov). Like MDOC on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The image on the cover of the schooner Appledore IV was taken on the Saginaw Bay by **Absconder Recovery Unit Investigator Ray DeMaertelure**. For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email a high-resolution version of the image and a description of where it was taken to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).



# Breaking New Ground

## MDOC's newest Vocational Village site is the state's first for women

**W**ith shovels in hand, Michigan Department of Corrections leaders and Gov. Rick Snyder plunged into the dark ground in front of them.

They lifted shovels full of soil that will soon sit beneath the state's first Vocational Village for women.

It was a symbolic start to construction on the 27,000-square-foot site, which is expected to be completed next year.

"The majority of those in prison will be paroled and they need stable jobs in order to succeed in their

communities," Gov. Rick Snyder said. "The expansion of the successful Vocational Village program will help us prepare more of our returning citizens for high-demand careers and a better life in the community, while reducing the risk of returning to prison."

The Vocational Village is a first-of-its-kind skilled trades training program that prepares prisoners for careers in high-demand fields.

It offers a positive learning community for prisoners who live, work and attend classes alongside one another, and share the common goal of improving their lives through education and training.

"We're excited to expand this important program to include skilled trades training for incarcerated women who will be returning to our communities," MDOC Director Heidi Washington said. "When these prisoners obtain the education and skills they need to secure work in growing fields, they have better chances for long-term success. That means our communities are safer and the lives of prisoners and their families are improved."

The new Vocational Village at Women's Huron Valley

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success



Pictured: A rendering of the completed Vocational Village site at Women's Huron Valley.

Correctional Facility will have the capacity to train up to 180 prisoners in fields that will include computer coding, carpentry, cosmetology, 3D printing and graphic design. Trades offered at the facility were selected after the department surveyed prisoners on their interests and conducted research on employment prospects in a variety of fields.

The new trades also fit with the MDOC's goal to diversify the types of training offered across its Vocational Village programs, in order to best reflect Michigan's future economy.

Participants must meet measurable goals and will receive nationally-recognized certifications in their trade upon successful completion of their courses.

More than 70 percent of prisoners who have completed training at a Vocational Village have secured and maintained employment, and about 30 percent are offered jobs prior to release.

The Vocational Village at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility will be the state's third site for the program overall.

"This is an extremely exciting time for facility staff," said Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility Warden Shawn Brewer.

The MDOC opened its first Vocational Village at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in 2016 and a second site opened at Parnall Correctional Facility in 2017. "To be able to come today and bring the third Vocational Village and an opportunity for you to learn skills that will help you go out into the world and reunite with your families and lead productive, successful lives brings me so much pride," Director Washington told prisoners during the Nov. 19 groundbreaking ceremony. "I'm so grateful to be able to do that."

Work on the site, which includes renovations to 10,000 square feet of existing building space, will also help establish a new production facility for the Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund.

About 24 prisoners at the facility are currently training to produce braille through the program, which

will eventually include as many as 45 female prisoners.

The Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund already operates a production site at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in Jackson.

It produces approximately one million pages of braille per year and transforms textbooks and other printed materials into braille.

Prisoners have not yet been selected for participation in the new Vocational Village, but women incarcerated at the facility expressed excitement about the program.

"A project like this is a village, it takes a village of people to make something like this happen," Gov. Snyder said. "This is something that is important. I step back and wonder why we haven't been doing this for 50 or 100 years in our country. We're leading our nation in thinking about how to address issues around helping people reenter society in a better fashion."

See [Corrections in the News](#) for more coverage of the Vocational Village groundbreaking ceremony.



Pictured: A prisoner speaks with news media about the new Vocational Village site following a groundbreaking ceremony on Nov. 19.

## Director Heidi Washington earns 2018 Tom Clements Award for vision and innovation in corrections

Director Heidi Washington has been named the recipient of the 2018 Tom Clements Award for her vision and innovation in the corrections field.

“I am honored and humbled to receive this award,” Washington said. “The department’s focus on



offender success has allowed us to make great strides in Michigan, and I’m grateful for the dedication of MDOC staff and their commitment to our mission. Our recidivism rate is now at a historic low, parolee employment is up, and our prisoner population is on the decline.”

Washington was recognized for her work to expand vocational training and educational opportunities for prisoners, particularly through the establishment of the department’s Vocational Village program. The Vocational Village is a first-of-its-kind skilled trades training program and immersive learning community, where prisoners can complete career and technical education in a number of high-demand fields including welding, CNC machining, robotics, automotive technology, building trades, and commercial truck driving.

“Director Washington’s work within the department has led to Michigan’s lowest-ever recidivism rate. And her passion for rehabilitating returning citizens is the reason why the Vocational Village program has been such a success,” Gov. Rick Snyder said. “She has been a true leader for Michigan and this award is well deserved.”

The MDOC created new opportunities for training and professional development for staff, and enhanced employee inclusion in the department’s decision-making processes. In addition, it has launched new programs to divert high-risk probation violators from a path to prison and introduced new technology, including tablets, to help prisoners further their education.

The Tom Clements Award is presented annually by the Association of State Correctional Administrators, a group comprised of corrections leaders from across the country.

It was named for former Colorado Department of Corrections Director Tom Clements, who was killed in March 2013 and it recognizes corrections leaders who demonstrate innovation, as well as a commitment to the well-being of prisoners and correctional staff.

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out the latest episodes of the Field Days podcast

- [Listen in to this episode as Labor Relations Manager Jared Warner and Human Resources Director Jonathan Patterson discuss changes to annual leave scheduling.](#)
- [In this special Election Day episode, the Field Days podcast crew talks to MDOC employees serving as mayor in their hometowns.](#)



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# Going for Gold

## Parole Board student assistant competes for a spot on U.S. Olympic Team

What started out as a lesson in self defense turned into a passion that Zoe Glass hopes will lead her to the Olympics.

Glass, a student assistant with



Parole Board Student Assistant Zoe Glass

the Parole Board, has been a competitive boxer for about eight years.

In October, she solidified her position as a candidate for the 2020 U.S. Olympic Boxing Team following a successful performance at the Eastern Elite Qualifiers and Regional Open Championship in Chattanooga, Tenn.

It is her first time participating in Olympic qualifiers.

Team USA will select the top eight women in each weight class following an additional four qualifying competitions, the first of which will be held in December. The top eight will compete in a final match and the winner and runner up from each weight class will represent Team USA in Tokyo for the 2020 Summer Olympics.

“It is an honor to have the

opportunity to compete and put forth my skills for not only myself, but also my country,” Glass said.

Glass said she started boxing when she was about 10 years old.

Initially, the techniques she learned were meant to help teach her to defend herself, but Glass developed a love for the sport and continued to pursue boxing.

Her father, a former boxer himself, is her coach and she trains at his gym.

Glass has traveled around the country to compete. She said she enjoys that boxing has helped her stay fit and also land scholarships with Jackson College, where she is currently in her junior year studying medical science.

She said competing at a high level requires hours of practice and sacrificing weekends or time spent with friends in order to train.

Glass, who is also the daughter of EPIC Section staff member Yolanda Perez, said she knows other competitors work hard, so she has to match or exceed that.

“Someone is always working,” Glass said. “You don’t want to be outworked, so you have to practice every day.”

Glass said making it to the Olympics was not always her goal, but as her skills improved, her goals expanded.

“Now that it is on my list it soon should be not a goal, but reality,” Glass said.

## Portion of I-94 renamed for fallen corrections officers

On Nov. 20, Gov. Rick Snyder signed legislation naming a stretch of I-94 in Jackson County in memory of fallen Corrections Officers Jack Budd and Josephine McCallum.

“This legislation is a positive way to honor Officers Budd’s and McCallum’s service and commitment to the Michigan Department of Corrections,” Snyder said.

The “Corrections Officers Jack Budd and Josephine McCallum Memorial Highway” would run from exit 139 to exit 141 along I-94. The bill to rename the stretch of highway was sponsored by state Rep. Julie Alexander.

“Our corrections officers and correctional staff work hard every day to keep Michigan’s citizens safe, and these two brave officers gave their lives protecting our state,” Director Heidi Washington said. “Designating a portion of this frequently-traveled highway in their memory is a great way to remind others of the sacrifice they made and honor their service.”

Both Josephine McCallum and Jack Budd were murdered by prisoners at the State Prison of Southern Michigan in 1987.

McCallum, a new corrections officer, was sexually assaulted and strangled to death by a prisoner on March 24, 1987, and Officer Budd was stabbed to death by a prisoner on Dec. 27. Their deaths led to major changes to the department, including increased training, more staff and breaking up the prison into smaller and more manageable facilities.

At each new corrections officer academy, awards are given out by the department to the top performing recruits in McCallum’s and Budd’s names.

## Deputy Director Jeri-Ann Sherry announces retirement from department

**B**udget and Operations Administration Deputy Director Jeri-Ann Sherry announced her retirement after more than 30 years of service to the Michigan Department of Corrections. Her retirement will be effective at the end of the year.



Jeri-Ann Sherry

She started her career with the MDOC as an assistant business manager for the Kinross and Hiawatha correctional facilities. She went on to serve as an administrative officer and deputy warden for Newberry Correctional Facility and Camp Manistique. She was later named warden of Newberry Correctional Facility and as a regional prison

administrator.

Sherry has served as a deputy director for the department for six years, taking on the role as its chief financial officer. She served as a tireless advocate for the department and its staff during her time with the MDOC and earned a Professional Excellence Award in 2000 for the successful development of an agri-business at Newberry Correctional Facility.

Lia Gulick, administrator for the Bureau of Health Care Services, will serve as acting deputy director for the Budget and Operations Administration following Sherry's retirement.

## Assistant Deputy Director Denise Allsberry retires from MDOC

**D**enise Allsberry, Assistant Deputy Director of the Office of Parole and Probation Services, retired from the department with more than 41 years of service on Oct. 5.

Allsberry began her career with the department



Denise Allsberry

as a corrections officer at what was then the Michigan Training Unit. She later transferred to the Kent County Parole Office, where she worked as the only female parole agent for a number of years. She went on to serve as a field supervisor, region manager and

operations administrator in the Field Operations Administration, before being named assistant deputy director.

Her insight and expertise resulted in significant improvements within the department and enhanced public safety in Michigan.

Allsberry said she plans to spend time travelling in retirement.

Warren Wilson, who was an operations administrator for the Field Operations Administration's Outstate Territory, is now serving as acting Assistant Deputy Director for the Office of Parole and Probation Services.

# Thumb Correctional Facility hosts annual prisoner art exhibition



**T**humb Correctional Facility hosted visitors from the University of Michigan for its 24th Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners.

The event, which included 38 prisoners, was sponsored by the Prisoner Creative Art project, which holds an art show for Michigan prisoners in the spring of each year. The Prisoner Creative Art Project collects art pieces from prisons across the state. Prisoner art is sold during the show and prisoners can choose to donate art to support the project.

*Submitted by Jessica France, administrative assistant at Thumb Correctional Facility.*

# Celebrating our Veterans

## MDOC honors men and women of the Armed Forces during Veterans Appreciation Week

The Michigan Department of Corrections recognized veterans at correctional facilities, field offices and work sites across the state for their service and sacrifice during Veterans Appreciation Week.



There are nearly 2,000 veterans working for the MDOC statewide and they were honored with more than 200 special presentations and recognition activities throughout the week of Nov. 12-16. Work sites across the

department also donated more than \$12,000 to organizations that support veterans. MDOC Director Heidi Washington created Veterans Appreciation Week in 2017 to show appreciation for department employees who have served in the Armed Forces. The department also has presented employees who are veterans with tokens of recognition for past military service. In addition, the MDOC has recognized active duty employees when they are called to serve and is extending a helping hand to families of deployed employees.

In 2017, the department received the Pro Patria Award for its efforts to support employees serving in the National Guard and Reserves. The award is presented annually by the Department of Defense's Employer Support

of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program and is the highest honor an organization can receive from the program.

During this year's Veterans Appreciation Week, work sites across the department honored employees with backgrounds in military service through a variety of special events.

Parnall Correctional Facility took time to honor its 60 veterans with several events, including a fundraising chili cookoff, a Veterans Helping Veterans Organization Ruck March, and a special lunch. The chili cookoff raised more than \$600 for the Veterans Helping Veterans Organization. Staff members participating in the ruck march provided the donation to the organization, along with several personal care items. Each of the staff members that marched carried 22 items in recognition of Mission 22, which raises awareness about mental health for veterans.

Staff also visited the VA hospital in Ann Arbor where they handed out military appreciation coins and donated 200 snack bags for homeless veterans. The facility's Vocational Village donated wall décor bearing U.S. Armed Forces seals and a decorated chair. In addition, the American Legion came to the facility to conduct a flag raising ceremony, and staff with military service were presented with a token of appreciation.

Veterans at Central Office were honored with a special lunch and a weeklong display recognizing those who have served. A 50/50 raffle was also held benefitting the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans and raised more than \$1,500.

Each of St. Louis Correctional Facility's 65 veterans





# Celebrating our Veterans

received a U.S. flag, lapel pin and information on resources available to veterans. The flags were donated by the Alma Elks National Veterans Services Commission. The facility also held a number of activities during the week including drawings for gift cards and recognized veterans with cake and cookies. Litigation Coordinator Mary Jo Houlden, Warden's Secretary Christy Cotter, Record Office Supervisor Ann Hull and Office Assistant Ruth Hall coordinated the activities and donation.

Gus Harrison Correctional Facility honored its veterans with cake, cupcakes and engraved mugs, as well as a presentation on resources for veterans. Plaques were also made by Michigan State Industries and hung at the facility to recognize those who have served.

G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility staff held a cookout and fundraising raffle to support efforts to

send care packages to members of the Armed Forces on active duty. The event raised nearly \$2,000. Veterans at MDOC field offices across the state, including those in Allegan, Genesee, Kent, Oakland and Wayne counties, were also recognized with special luncheons and events.

[Click here to see more photos from Veterans Appreciation Week Events.](#)

Click on the image on the right to listen to a special episode of the Field Days Podcast where MDOC veteran liaison Darrick Alvarez discusses the department's support, recruitment and inclusion initiatives for veterans.



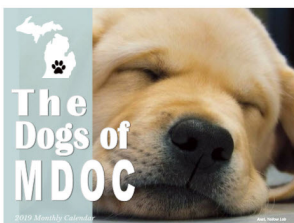
## Dogs of MDOC 2019 calendar

The Dogs of MDOC 2019 monthly calendar features dogs involved in training programs at correctional facilities across the state. Calendars are \$10 each and are available to MDOC employees, retirees and their friends and family.

Proceeds from the calendar support the MDOC Employee Engagement Committee.

No tax dollars were used in the creation of the calendar. To purchase a calendar, contact Kathy

Keiffer ([KeifferK@michigan.gov](mailto:KeifferK@michigan.gov)), Yolanda Perez ([PerezY@michigan.gov](mailto:PerezY@michigan.gov)) or Cheryl Groves ([GrovesC@michigan.gov](mailto:GrovesC@michigan.gov)).



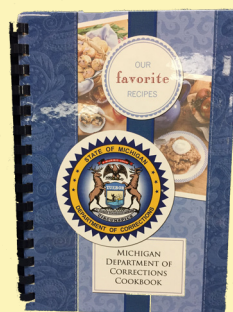
## Try a new recipe

### MDOC Cookbooks available for order

A compilation of favorite recipes from department staff is now available to employees statewide.

The Michigan Department of Corrections Cookbook is complete and ready to order.

We hope you will enjoy making these recipes and are able to find a new favorite to share with your family and friends.



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

# MDOC to launch Staff Wellness Survey in December

The MDOC has partnered with Desert Waters Correctional Outreach (DWCO; [desertwaters.com](http://desertwaters.com)) to conduct a survey of MDOC employees' wellness: The Staff Wellness Survey. Desert Waters is a Colorado-based, non-profit corporation which specializes in the health and well-being of



corrections professionals. The purpose of the Survey is to improve MDOC's ability to support employees by learning more about your: physical health, mental health, family health, work health, and social relationships. For this study to be a success, and for the Department to develop meaningful training and programs specifically designed for our staff, we need your input!

## Who is it for?

MDOC leadership is inviting ALL MDOC EMPLOYEES to participate in this survey. Participation is VOLUNTARY and ANONYMOUS. We highly encourage you to participate because only you can help us understand employee wellness. The survey platform used in this study does not capture any uniquely identifying information about you, such as your name, email address, or IP address, so it is impossible for the researchers to identify you as the author of your answers.

## What happens to my answers?

DWCO will provide the MDOC with a detailed report and a de-identified version of the survey data. The report will include only information on summary data. No identifying information will be included in the report.

To further ensure the anonymity of the data set, we will follow data de-identification guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ([HHS.gov](http://HHS.gov): Methods for de-identification of PHI), the National Institutes of Health ([NIH.gov](http://NIH.gov):

NICHD DASH data and biospecimen inventory de-identification guidance), and recent research on data de-identification methods. These guidelines help to ensure that data sets are so non-descriptive that the people using the data cannot even make reasonable guesses about who might have provided a particular response. Thus, in addition to not including any uniquely identifying information about you in the data set (name, email address, IP address), we will also remove or re-code quasi-identifiers (such as age or where you work) so that the data cannot be reverse-identified to create reasonable guesses about who you might be.

## How do I participate?

In the next few days, you will receive a department-wide email that will include a link to the survey document. You will need about 25-30 minutes to answer all the survey items. You can skip items and quit at any time. If you need to stop and continue later, you will need to restart the survey. To preserve your anonymity, we cannot use survey methods that allow you to stop and restart from where you left off. Although the survey will ask questions about your mental health, traumatic exposure, physical health, and substance use, the Staff Wellness survey cannot be used for the diagnosis of any condition. Some of these items ask about difficult experiences you may have had. It is not unusual for people to feel distressed when reflecting on those topics. At any time, you can talk to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255, Safe Call Now at 206-459-3020, or the Employee Service Program at 800-521-1377 ([www.michigan.gov/esp](http://www.michigan.gov/esp)).

The survey will be open during the month of December. Specific dates will be provided to you in the department-wide email that will be sent out in December with the survey link. MDOC will arrange for employees to be able to take the survey during their shift, although you can take the survey at home if you choose. Those without internet access will not be able to take the Staff Wellness Survey at home.

## Thank you!

For this study to be a success, and for the Department to develop meaningful training and programs specifically designed for our staff, we need your input! Please take the Staff Wellness Survey and tell us about your wellness. We thank you in advance for your participation in this very important study!

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

# Automotive history on display at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility

About three years ago automotive technology instructors at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility’s Vocational Village made a discovery that linked them to automotive history.

As they were preparing and cleaning the auto shop to prepare for the launch of the Vocational Village, they found an old car engine on a crate. It appeared beat up, damaged and had an intake full of rust.



Pictured: An early image of the Shelby Cobra after it was donated to Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility’s auto tech program.

“When we opened the Vocational Village, we found it, set it up on a stand and started to play around with it,” said Anthony Wohlscheid, an automotive technology instructor at the facility’s Vocational Village.

It was no run-of-the-mill car engine. It had come from a Shelby Cobra sports car, and as Wohlscheid began to research its origins he found the engine once powered a 1967 Cobra prototype that was

Pictured below: (Left) Automotive enthusiast Ken Ferguson, Shelby owner Lowell Otter and former Handlon auto tech instructor George Ranger look at the Shelby engine. (Right) Prisoners in the auto tech program fire up the engine.



donated to the facility in 1968.

He also learned the vehicle was featured in promotional photos and ads for Shelby before it was donated to the facility.

When the auto tech program at the facility was later shut down, the vehicle was taken to a junkyard, while the engine remained behind.

That’s where car enthusiast Lowell Otter found the vehicle in 2000.

When he took the car home, it was little more than a rolling shell, Otter said.

But as he began to restore it, he noticed unusual details that would later identify the car as the Shelby Cobra prototype.

Wohlscheid later connected with Otter after learning he was now the owner of the vehicle the facility’s Cobra engine came from and invited him to visit the facility to take a look at it.

Other car enthusiasts connected to the Shelby Cobra, the facility’s former auto tech instructor and members of the Ionia Historical Society were also invited to see the engine firsthand.

Today the engine is a regular highlight on tours of the facility’s Vocational Village as prisoners fire it up to show off its power.

Otter has also temporarily donated the refurbished vehicle to the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Mich., where it is currently on display.

[Click here to see more images from the tour showcasing Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility’s Cobra engine.](#)



## Generous donations allow State Employees Charitable Campaign to cap off successful year

Staff across Michigan contributed generously to this year's State Employees Charitable Campaign, supporting more than 1,000 charities.

This year's campaign raised a total of \$740,000, with about \$82,000 of that coming from the MDOC. The support will go a long way



toward helping individuals in need in communities across Michigan and nationwide.

The campaign gives state employees an efficient and consistent avenue for annual giving.

Donations made through payroll deduction will begin in January. Official online enrollment ended Oct. 12, however, employees can still sign up to make donations by payroll deduction, or change their donation at anytime by calling the MI HR Service Center at 877-766-6447.

## MDOC Honor Guard to hold annual fundraising banquet

The MDOC Honor Guard will hold its annual holiday celebration and fundraiser on Dec. 7 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. The event, which will be held from 6 p.m.-12 a.m., will include dinner, dessert, an awards presentation, entertainment and a silent auction. All proceeds will support the Honor Guard and its commitment to honor fallen corrections and law enforcement officers.

The MDOC Honor Guard was formed in 1987 following the death of Corrections Officer Josephine McCallum. Since then, nearly 100 members have served in the unit. Those interested in attending should RSVP by Dec. 1 to Shelly Lawson at [LawsonM2@michigan.gov](mailto:LawsonM2@michigan.gov) or by mailing payment and information below to her at:

Correctional Facilities Administration  
206 E. Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

Invitation RSVP: (Please remove and return with payment):

Name of Attendee(s) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Attendees x \$35 per Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Donation

<input type="checkbox"/> Check payable to "MDOC Honor Guard Fund"
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit/Debit Card
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash

Dinner Choices Include:

- Roasted Lemon and Rosemary Chicken Breast served with Brown Rice Pilaf, fresh Broccoli Spears, and a creamy Roasted Garlic Glace De Poulet
- Grilled Flat Iron Beef Steak served with steamed Parsley Redskin Potatoes, Asparagus and a Smoky Bacon Bourbon sauce
- Roasted Barley Risotto with peas, mushrooms, asparagus tips, parmesan cheese cream, and herb-crusted roasted tomato wedges (Vegetarian)

## Remembering Antonio James

Antonio James, a departmental technician at the Electronic Monitoring Center passed away with family by his side on Oct. 31, after a short, but aggressive, battle with lung cancer.



He was a dedicated operator with the EMC for more than nine years and recently moved to Little Rock,

Ark. to be closer to family while he battled his illness.

James received his Bachelor's Degree in criminal justice from Western Michigan University in 2004 and worked as a deputy for the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office and volunteer court crier in Louisiana before joining the MDOC.

His strong-minded personality, quick wit and compassion will be missed by his colleagues and all who knew him.

Private services were held for family in Arkansas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or Humane Society.

*Submitted by Quenton Pannell, departmental supervisor at the Electronic Monitoring Center*

### Wondering where to go for state employee discounts?

State of Michigan employees are eligible for discounts on a number of services and items from area companies. [To find out what discounts are available, click here.](#)

# Facilities donate fresh produce to feed those in need statewide

Michigan Department of Corrections facilities are giving back to their communities by the bushel in big ways.

This year, facilities donated more than 82,000 pounds of fresh food grown in prison gardens back to the community.

Lakeland Correctional Facility donated more than 18,000 pounds of food to the Branch County Food Pantry during the 2018 growing season. Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility’s horticulture program donated about 13,500 pounds.

Cooper Street Correctional Facility provided nearly 12,000 pounds of produce to the Jackson-area community. The facility also donated 125 pumpkins to the YMCA, Salvation Army and Jackson Family Service and Children’s Aid.

Gus Harrison Correctional Facility donated about 9,400 pounds of fresh food to the community, including more than 100 flats of seedlings that were provided to the HOPE Center, LISD Adult Transition Home, Magnumcare of Adrian and a local community garden.

Muskegon Correctional Facility donated more than 9,000 pounds of food. It was delivered to the Loaves and Fishes pantry, Muskegon Kids Food Basket, Muskegon Men’s

Rescue Mission, Camp Courage and Mission for Area People.

The total donation from Kinross Correctional Facility tipped the scales at nearly 9,600 pounds with donations going to the Salvation Army, Hospice House and Kinross New Hope Food Pantry.

Central Michigan Correctional Facility donated more than 6,200 pounds of food to a local soup kitchen and also delivered 39 packages of trees to Habitat for Humanity. Alger, Chippewa, Ionia, G. Robert Cotton, Macomb, Newberry and Thumb correctional facilities, and Marquette Branch Prison donated more than 15,000 pounds of food combined.



## Corrections Officer of the Year visits correctional facilities to thank colleagues for their service



In early November, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility received a special visit from 2018 Corrections Officer of the Year Elwanda Ray.

The visit was part of Officer Ray’s effort to tour every correctional facility in Michigan to recognize her fellow corrections officers for their service. She chose to visit facilities on her own time and Brooks Correctional Facility was the 20th she has visited.

“This has truly been a humbling experience,” she said of being selected as Officer of the Year. “I just wanted to meet all the wonderful staff that I represent as the 2018 Corrections Officer of the Year. I realize every facility is unique and every facility has amazing staff.” Warden Shane Jackson presented her with a Warden’s Coin to recognize her efforts to acknowledge her colleagues in corrections across the state.

# The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Corrections Officer Juan Contero has been a strong supporter of military personnel and veterans.

When the department designated a week in November as Veterans Appreciation Week, Officer Contero stepped up and was instrumental in the development of Veterans Day programs for staff at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility. He also launched outreach efforts involving both the community and department staff.

His efforts included collecting and sending candy to troops in cooperation with the American Legion and he and his coworkers organized a cookout, raffles and drawings to raise money to ensure

deployed troops were remembered during the holiday season.

His enthusiasm and hard work to support those in the Armed Forces earned him the department's Citizenship Award.

Corrections Officer Aaron Lashley was working at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in August 2017 when he noticed a prisoner sitting at a picnic table with his head hanging down. Officer Lashley checked on the prisoner and discovered he was breathing, but unresponsive. He immediately called for assistance and when health care staff arrived, they called for an ambulance. Emergency medical staff provided Narcan as treatment for a possible drug overdose on arrival and transported the prisoner to the hospital for further care.

Officer Lashley's quick assessment of the situation and response earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.



In September 2017, Corrections Officer Mario Cantu was talking with two fellow officers when one of the officers began choking on his food.

The officer could not breathe and began pointing to his throat. Officer Cantu pushed the officer upright in his chair and delivered a quick thrust with the palm of his hand to the officer's chest. After a second thrust, the food was dislodged, allowing the officer to breathe freely again.

His quick and decisive actions earned Officer Cantu the department's Lifesaving Award.

# Corrections Quiz

## October Quiz Recap

What annual charitable event pairs children in need with corrections and law enforcement officers to help with holiday gifts?

Send your answer to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov). The first person to answer correctly will receive a congratulatory shout out on MDOC social media, and the answer and winner will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

What correctional facilities have grown larger-than-life pumpkins?

**Answer: There were many possible correct answers for this one as a number of facilities including Gus Harrison, Thumb and Muskegon correctional facilities have grown impressively-large pumpkins.**

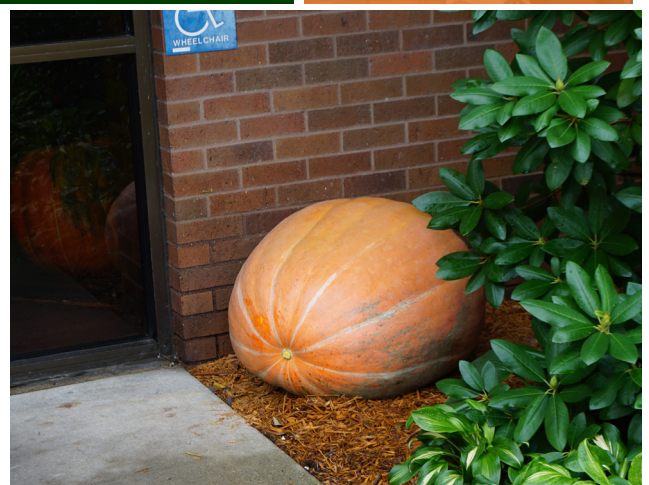
Congratulations to **Randy Coyne**, record supervisor at Alger Correctional Facility, for being the first to answer the Corrections Quiz. Great job!

# Facilities master growing massive pumpkins

It's safe to say correctional facility horticulture programs and gardens have mastered the art of growing monstrous pumpkins. Each year, a few facilities will take on the challenge of growing the largest-possible pumpkin. Gus Harrison Correctional Facility has developed a reputation for growing pumpkins that are particularly large. In 2014, the facility grew a pumpkin that weighed nearly 800 pounds. This year, the facility's largest pumpkins weighed in at 150 and 148 pounds. The facility's pumpkin-growing prowess started off as a challenge between Gus Harrison and Chippewa correctional facilities, said Tim Buis, a corrections program coordinator at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility. This year, the horticulture program at Muskegon

Correctional Facility grew a pumpkin weighing 153 pounds. The pumpkin was on display at the facility in October. Though Alger Correctional Facility didn't have giant pumpkins on display, they did have some that were impressively painted, and later sold to raise money for U.P. Honor Flight. [Click here to see more photos of pumpkins painted by prisoners at Alger Correctional Facility.](#)

Click the image on the right to hear tips and tricks to growing the best and biggest pumpkins on the Field Days podcast.



# SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



Muskegon Correctional Facility staff donated snacks and raised \$250 to help support local students in need. The money and food was intended to help sustain students over the Thanksgiving holiday when they were not receiving meals at school.



Oaks Correctional Facility staff donated a number of nonperishable items during the annual Harvest Gathering Campaign.



Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn, who is a U.S. Army veteran, participated in an assembly honoring veterans at Arrowwood Elementary in Saginaw Township.



Michigan Reformatory staff aren't strangers to giving back, particularly to students at Ionia's Emerson Elementary School. The facility has donated writing supplies and backpacks to students at the school in the past, but wanted to make a larger contribution this year. The facility's Prisoner Benefit Fund contributed a donation to the effort, allowing Michigan Reformatory to provide nearly \$1,500 in board games, sports equipment and other items intended to help address sensory processing issues. The donated items were selected after Warden Gregory Skipper and Assistant Deputy Warden Christopher King spoke to the school's principal about student's needs and learned about the school's efforts to help students with sensory processing disorders.

## Corrections in the News

[Department of Corrections breaks ground on newest Vocational Village](#) — Michigan Radio

[Rick Snyder, MDOC break ground on prison training site for women](#) — MLive

[Michigan Department of Corrections breaks ground on first Vocational Village site for women](#) — FOX 47

[State of Michigan names portion of I-94 in honor of corrections officers killed on duty](#) — WDIV Detroit

[Slain corrections officers honored with renaming of I-94 stretch](#) — MLive

[Detroit rock legend brings guitars to inmates](#) — WDIV Detroit

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 @MichiganDOC · Nov 7  
Griffin is a canine with a purpose! He was trained in a prisoner dog program at Chippewa Corr. and he's now been assigned to work for Ottawa County. 🐕



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



# September New Hires

Abuls, Kristine	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Addi, Amber	Departmental Analyst, Corrections Central Office
Brown-Simmons, Barbara	Departmental Analyst, Corrections Central Office
Brueckner, Erica	General Office Assistant, Thumb Correctional Facility
Carll, Elizabeth	Food Services Supervisor, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Coutts, Shawn	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Crandell, Jason	Maintenance Mechanic, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Dabney, Lori	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Delagarza, Christopher	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Ervin, Reva	Cook, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Gillean, Ashley	Corrections Program Coordinator, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Hadley, Sherr	Cook, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Harrison, Paul	General Office Assistant, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Hilding, Lindy	Registered Nurse, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Hirth, Brandon	Cook, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Johnson, Amy	Cook, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Ludwig, Casey	Licensed Electrician, Marquette Branch Prison
Lyons, Andria	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Maier, Kandyce	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Mallon, Daniel	Plumber, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
McDougall, John	Licensed Electrician, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
McIntyre, Denee	Word Processing Assistant, Field Operations Administration Region III
McMullen, Shawn	Departmental Analyst Trainee, Corrections Central Office
McUmbert, Ellen	Cook, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Menghini, Jean	Cook, Baraga Correctional Facility
Montero, Jamie	Cook, Ionia Correctional Facility
Mure, Suzanne	Departmental Technician, Corrections Central Office
Ray, Todd	Maintenance Mechanic, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Tarnowski, Todd	Departmental Analyst, Corrections Central Office
Tossounian, Arev	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Vanharn, Kristie	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Whitten, Dylan	Corrections Program Coordinator, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Wilson, Dionne	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Young, Kurt	Cook, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility

# September Retirements

Amble, Raymond	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Antes, David	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Barnes-Keith, Teresa	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Carpenter, Deborah	Secretary, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Chapman, William	Dentist, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Deary, Dik	Psychologist, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Deboever, William	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Derooy, Lorne	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Donahue, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Ertel, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Evans, Maurice	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Goodrich, Franklin	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Hamaker, William	Corrections Transportation Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Hill, Bonnie	Word Processing Assistant, FOA Region III
Hines, Linda	Field Agent, FOA Region I
Hull, Michael	Maintenance Mechanic, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Joboulian, John	Dentist, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Jondreau, William	Resident Unit Manager, Baraga Correctional Facility
Kanady, Lorie	Accounting Assistant, Corrections Central Office
Keith, Dennis	Maintenance Mechanic, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Kelsey, Dan	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Kimmel, Kathleen	Industries Production Leader, Michigan State Industries
Lawson, Trent	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Leeman, Keith	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Lucynski, Brian	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Martin, Larry	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
McAllister, Anthony	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Mesh, Michael	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Miller, Patricia	Industries Supervisor, Michigan State Industries
Neuenfeldt, John	Maintenance Mechanic, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Peralez, Jose	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Putnam, William	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Schriber, James	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Stahly, Carlana	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Tabor, Troy	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Tallio, Cason	Resident Unit Manager, Marquette Branch Prison
Taylor, Irene	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Thibault, John	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Wiborn, Ted	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Woodrow, Raymond	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility