



# F.Y.I.



## Contents:

MDOC Helps Enhance Parks.....2

Need Help Resetting a Password? .....2

Employee Spotlight: Darrel Stinson .....3

LCF Supports Local Little League Team .....5

SMT Recognizes Staff, Raises \$\$ for Local Shelter .....6

Reentry Roundtable .....7

ARU Investigators Thwart "Goat Attack" .....8

Bambi Visits OCF.....8

## OFFICER RECRUIT TRAINING CLASS WILL BE RUN FOR QUALIFIED FOOD SERVICE WORKERS

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) is planning to run a special Officer Recruit Training class for current Food Service employees that meet the Corrections Officer-E8 education and experience requirements. A request to Civil Service to waive the written examination for Food Service employees in satisfactory status and who have at least two years of experience working within a correctional facility has been approved as follows:

- **Corrections Officer Entry Level Examination – 4012 Waiver information:** *In addition to the alternative waivers identified in the Corrections Officer classification specification, Civil Service has agreed to waive the exam for any Food Service employee affected by the competitive bid process that has at least two years of facility food service experience, has the necessary educational credits, and is currently in satisfactory status.*
- **Candidates that meet the necessary requirements will be processed as follows:** *Qualified candidates will contact Recruitment Representative Tim Ball at (517) 241-2573. Recruitment will review each candidate's qualifications to ensure that s/he meets the Corrections Officer education and experience requirements. If deemed qualified, s/he will be referred to Civil Service for placement on the Corrections Officer list. The following requirements will also apply to approved candidates with the exception of those requirements that have been waived as indicated below:*

<p><b>Educational Credits:</b> Required. <i>Note: The Department is seeking authorization for a waiver that would permit affected food service staff up to 18 months to attain the necessary educational requirements.</i></p>	<p><b>Drug Screen:</b> Not Required. <i>Note: All food service staff are/ should be in a Test Designated Position given their level of prisoner interaction.</i></p>
<p><b>LEIN Check:</b> Required.</p>	<p><b>Interview:</b> Not Required.</p>
<p><b>Physical Fitness Test:</b> Required.</p>	<p><b>Regular Physical:</b> Not Required.</p>



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Food Service employees interested in the upcoming Officer Recruit Training class should immediately contact Mr. Ball in Recruitment at (517) 241-2573. The class will likely be scheduled for late summer or early fall. The Department will continue to give special consideration to affected Food Service employees for future schools in fiscal year 2013-2014. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

**MDOC HELPS ENHANCE AREA PARKS AND WILDERNESS****SRF BUILDS TOILET VAULTS FOR AU SABLE RIVER**

The Michigan Department of Corrections and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have collaborated to enhance state parklands along the Au Sable River. Saginaw Correctional Facility recently completed construction of a pair of toilet vaults that will be installed along the Au Sable in Roscommon County.

The collaborative effort between SRF and the Michigan DNR has been very successful. Previous efforts include the fabrication of picnic tables and camp cabins in other state parks and recreation areas.

**OCF HELPS PLANT TREES NEAR TROUT CREEK**

Ojibway Correctional Facility (OCF) recently sent a crew of 6 prisoners to assist the United States Forest Service (USFS) with planting approximately 1,000 cedar and red pine trees in the Trout Creek watershed. This is part of an ongoing rehabilitation effort near the stream. Last year, the facility sent a crew to the same area to help enhance the stream habitat by installing logs along the banks. This year's crew planted the saplings along the stream. The prisoners were very excited to help with the valuable habitat restoration project and they were proud to assist the USFS.

**NEED A LITTLE HELP WITH THAT PASSWORD?**

The Automated Data Systems Section (ADSS) can provide user code assistance for people who need it. Any questions, comments or problems regarding OMNI or other MDOC IT applications should be directed to ADSS support staff as listed below:

- **CFA Staff** - Contact OMNI support staff through [CFA-OMNI-Support@michigan.gov](mailto:CFA-OMNI-Support@michigan.gov)
- **FOA Staff** - Contact OMNI support staff through [CORR\\_OMNI@michigan.gov](mailto:CORR_OMNI@michigan.gov)
- **Central Office Staff** - Contact the Automated Data Systems Section in Central Office

Requests for OMNI password resets, new accounts, account deletions, and/or other account modifications should be sent to the "OMNI User Accounts" mailbox at:

[omni\\_user\\_accounts@michigan.gov](mailto:omni_user_accounts@michigan.gov).

Except for password resets, these requests must include a completed CAJ-930. Users are reminded to indicate in the subject line of their e-mail the request type being made (i.e. "OMNI Password Reset" or "New OMNI Account").





**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Q & A  
CORPORAL DARREL STINSON**



**In the  
Spotlight**

This new FYI feature profiles some of our remarkable staff who have done an outstanding job serving the citizens of Michigan. I absolutely recognize that our employees are the greatest asset to this organization and key to the Department's success. I know from my visits across the state and interactions with many of you that this agency is filled with extraordinary people with inspiring stories to tell. I am hopeful that some of you find these employee showcases meaningful and a worthwhile addition to the FYI.

Thank you,  
Director Heyns

**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:  
DARREL STINSON, 42**



**Current Position:** Corporal, Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI) Program

**Started with the MDOC:** 1996 as a Corrections Officer at the Riverside Correctional Facility

**College:** Central Michigan University – Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design

**Hometown:** Jackson

**Family:** Married with one son

**Q: With a degree in Graphic Design, how did you end up in Corrections?**

**Corporal Stinson:** After I graduated, I was selling furniture part-time when a regular customer came up to me and told me that I had a good attitude and I should apply at the State of Michigan. I thought, why not? So, I gave it a shot. I applied and ended up getting an interview for a Corrections Officer position at Riverside. I was hired and started working at Riverside in 1996.

**Q: What did you think about the job once you started?**

**Corporal Stinson:** Honestly, I was thinking, 'What did I get myself in to?' Every day there were fights, there were prisoners cutting themselves, and urine was being thrown at me. There was blood everywhere. I wasn't exactly sure this was something I wanted to do as a career. But, I met some people there who were talking about SAI, so I went and toured the facility. As soon as I saw SAI, I knew it was for me.

**Q: Why did SAI feel so right to you?**

**Corporal Stinson:** I liked the structure and the physical nature of the program. But, the best part for me was the ability to positively impact people's lives. After getting my year in at Riverside, I requested a transfer to SAI and was accepted.

**Q: New Officers at SAI have to go through a three-week Drill Instructor Academy where Officers are treated exactly like the trainees (offenders) who go through the program. How did you like that?**

**Corporal Stinson:** I didn't. I went into it thinking it would be like another DeMarse Academy, but it wasn't at all. It was a difficult three weeks,

*DARREL STINSON (Continued on page 4)*



**DARREL STINSON** (Continued from page 3)

but the process made me a much better Officer. I got a flavor of what it was like to be on the other side, and it wasn't fun. The experience sticks with you and influences your future behavior.

**Q: You teach classes and/or deliver programming to offenders at SAI. That is somewhat unique for an Officer to do this. How do you like it?**

**Corporal Stinson:** I absolutely love it! It is the best part of my job. I love being able to positively influence offenders. Right now I am teaching "Thinking Matters" and the "Smart Steps" programs. I help out in other areas at the facility as well, but my primary job is teaching classes.

**Q: I have seen you teach classes and you seem to relate very well to the trainees and capture their attention. How do you do that?**

**Corporal Stinson:** I think it is just my communication style. I try to be compassionate and understanding. But it's not like I want to be their friend – because I don't. I try to get each of them to accept responsibility for their actions first. Once they do that, I get them on a positive track and tell them they can do or be anything they want. It's been my experience that when people fail they want to blame somebody or something other than themselves. They want to blame their environment or their family and that just doesn't fly with me. I tell them it all comes down to them and the decisions they make.

**Q: You incorporate a lot of personal stories into your teaching. Why?**

**Corporal Stinson:** I want them to know that they aren't special or unique. I've experienced most of the things trainees try to blame their negative behavior on – living in a bad neighborhood, being poor, having an absent parent, being bullied, etc. I want them to know their excuses won't work with me. I've been there.

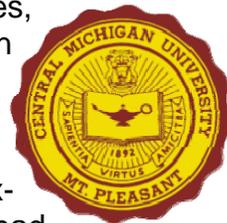
They need to accept responsibility for their actions despite whatever their environment might be. They have choices. They can choose to have a better life.

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

**Corporal Stinson:** Anything sports related. I like golf, horseshoes, darts, bowling, etc. I probably tend to be a bit competitive.

**Q: I hear you played football at CMU and were part of the team that beat MSU....twice.**

**Corporal Stinson:** Yes, I got a full-ride scholarship to play football at CMU. I was starting defensive back during those games, and it was very exciting. When I walked onto the field at Spartan Stadium for the 1991 game with 75,000 people in the stands, I got chills. I was excited to play on T.V. and I had never played football in front of that many people before. We won that game 20-3 against a ranked Spartan team. In the 1992 game, I forced a fumble on MSU running back Tico Duckett at the goal line and we recovered the ball. We won that game 24-20.



**Q: Who is your hero?**

**Corporal Stinson:** Bruce Curtis (laughing). Just kidding. I would say my mom. She made me who I am today, and I am happy with who I am.

**Q: What is your greatest work accomplishment?**

**Corporal Stinson:** Being selected Corrections Officer of the Year for SAI in 2002.

**DARREL STINSON** (Continued on page 5)



**LCF SUPPORTS LOCAL LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM**

This year, Lakeland Correctional Facility's Employee Club sponsored its own Little League team. How cool is that? Prison Counselor John Morrell was a co-coach and Recreation Director Bruce White headed up the project. The youngsters played hard, learned the game and had fun!



The employee club is working to create a process and criteria to request funds for future sponsorships by the club.

**PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

**DARREL STINSON** (Continued from page 4)

**Q: What is your greatest personal accomplishment?**

**Corporal Stinson:** I have two. First, being a single dad and raising my son and nephew. Second, being the first one in my family to graduate from college.

*Editor's Note: Corporal Stinson's son also received a full-ride scholarship to play football at CMU and just graduated. His nephew received a full-ride scholarship to run track at CMU and will graduate soon.*

**Q: What do you want to be doing professionally five years from now?**

**Corporal Stinson:** Finishing up working here at SAI and beginning a job working with computers within the Department. Information technology is an area that really interests me. I went back to school and got an Associate's Degree in Graphic/Web Design. I love helping people at the facility with computer-related issues – it's one of my passions.

**Q: Some would say you work in a pretty negative environment. How do you remain so positive after 17 years with the Department?**

**Corporal Stinson:** I am a positive person. I think it's because of my upbringing. My mom taught me not to dwell on the negatives and I don't. I try to look at the good of everything in life. I'm definitely a glass is half full kind of guy.

**Q: Final thoughts?**

**Corporal Stinson:** I love working at SAI. I like coming to work every day. It's definitely a family atmosphere here – we get together and do a lot of things outside of work. Also, the program is flexible and that keeps it fun.

This place is something special. It's all about helping people and changing lives. I probably wouldn't still be with the Department if I wasn't working here.



**PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

## **PARNALL COOKOUT RECOGNIZES STAFF, RAISES FUNDS FOR LOCAL SHELTER**

Parnall Correctional Facility (SMT) held its third annual cookout on June 26, 2013. Director Dan Heyns, Deputy Director Thomas Finco, Operations Administrator Ed Mize, Regional Prison Administrator Bruce Curtis and Warden Randall Haas were present and provided support through their participation in the facility's activities. The purpose of the annual cookout, orchestrated by Captain James Griffin, is to recognize the value, accomplishments and collaborative efforts of employees in accomplishing departmental and facility goals.

Smoked roasted chicken and pig, cooked by Officer Elvis Rodgers, were among the foods served at the facility buffet with a variety of side dishes for participants to enjoy. Donations of \$5 collected from attendees as well as a sponsorship donation from the Michigan Corrections Organization (MCO) helped raise \$375 for AWARE Inc. The funds were presented to Rebecca Mayor, the Executive Director of AWARE by Warden Randall Haas, Acting Deputy Warden Francine Powell, Captain James Griffin, and Lieutenant Violet Stone. AWARE is a non-profit organization which provides a 30-bed emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence. Moreover, the program provides transitional housing and counseling services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence including services to children who have witnessed violence in their homes. Lastly, the program provides legal advocacy and a supervised visitation center in partnership with the Friend of the Court.



*From Left: Captain James Griffin, Lieutenant Violet Stone, Rebecca Mayor - Executive Director of Aware Inc., Warden Randall Haas and Acting Deputy Warden Francine Powell.*

A one-night stay at the Kalahari Water Park and Resort was raffled off during the cookout and water bottles and mugs, donated by MCOs Brent Kowitz, were also given away to attendees.

For his outstanding leadership efforts, Captain James Griffin was honored as the first recipient of the Good Government Symbol of Excellence Coin. The coin was presented to Captain Griffin by Warden Randall Haas for his continuing efforts to enhance employee morale and for his determined community service. Special thanks were extended to Lieutenant Stone and Officer Steve Wilmoth for their tremendous efforts in organizing and ensuring the event's success again this year.





## **REENTRY ROUNDTABLE**

*Reentry Roundtable* is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes within the prisoner reentry program.

### **Parolee Attributes Success to Life Lessons and Prisoner Reentry Efforts provided by the UP Steering Team**

Aaron began his incarceration with the MDOC in October of 1987, at the age of 15 years old. He was granted a parole in November 2011 after serving more than 24 years in prison. His parole was contingent on the completion of Prisoner Reentry programming, which he was enrolled in at Marquette Branch Prison on November 18, 2011.

During a recent interview with MBP's Facility Coordinator, Ben Mercier, Aaron stated that, "The prisoner reentry program was really helpful for me. I was in prison for a long time. Trying to start over after being in prison for that long is really tough. I learned a lot during Reentry with Ms. Mullen (Charlene Mullen, former Facility Coordinator) about how to take care of some needs once I paroled. I had no credit, no drivers' license and little confidence that I could get a job. I was scared. The meetings that I was able to have with my parole agent while I was enrolled in the reentry program were a great help. The staff at MBP and the community resource specialists really helped me prepare to go home and complete my parole successfully. They made sure that I had myself in order to start over. The Thinking for a Change class that I participated in during reentry programming helped me develop positive and rationale thinking skills. The Fast-Track pre-release classes helped me build job hunting and résumé writing skills. We learned how to apply for work and get a job even though I have a felony record. Ms. Mullen and Reentry helped me to build confidence."

With the assistance of Reentry Resource Specialists in Marquette, Aaron was able to obtain employment at a local restaurant in Marquette.

He began his employment on April 4, 2012 and has since been promoted to the position of Assistant Manager. Aaron's Field Agent, Eric Mason attributes Aaron's successes to compliance to his Parole Board conditions, his work ethic and for his preparedness when he was paroled. "Aaron stepped through my office door on the day that he paroled with a plan. He had an agenda on that day which included visits to DHS for bridge benefits, to the Secretary of State Office to begin work on obtaining a driver's license, to Michigan Works to begin a job search and to Great Lakes Recovery to meet with his Resource Specialist. I was impressed with his organization. He was focused on becoming self-sufficient and employed. His goals were clear. I've been in the parole business since 2000. The prisoners who complete Reentry prior to their parole have noticeably been networking and preparing. They are coming out with a plan".

Aaron attributes his success to his Mother's support, to the programming provided to him while housed with the MDOC and to the guidance and InReach experiences which he received during Reentry programming. He was able to obtain a GED while housed at OCF in 1991 in addition to acquiring kitchen, porter, and laundry skills while housed at various other facilities over the years. During his Reentry programming at MBP, he was provided opportunities that helped him to reintegrate back into the community.

The UP Prisoner Reentry program was established in 2007 and MBP was designated as an InReach facility in 2009. The Steering Committee meets bi-monthly and includes representatives from various agencies that include: MDOC Probation/Parole, Marquette Branch Prison, Michigan Works!, Michigan Rehabilitation Ser-

### **Prisoner Reentry**



**REENTRY**(Continued on page 8)



## ARU INVESTIGATORS FEND OFF ATTACK GOAT

Absconder Recovery Unit Investigators have a difficult job filled with peril. They face armed and combative parolees and probationers who don't want to go back to prison. They protect themselves against vicious dogs and the criminal element. They are prepared for virtually anything the human element can unleash on them - until they met an attack goat.



Investigators Ken Hatfield and Phil Smith were checking for an absconder at a residence in a rural area of Plainwell, MI. They exited the car and Smith approached the house, only to hear Hatfield's plea for assistance, "Phil, there's a goat on your car!!" Smith turned to see that the attack goat was on the hood of his car, a rented

Chrysler. The two investigators coaxed the attack goat off the car and herded him toward the rest of the goats, chickens, ducks and geese on the property. The alleged goat diversion worked, and the investigators failed to find the absconder. The goat was charged with attempted malicious destruction of property and interference with a law enforcement investigation.

In an ironic twist, the goat would have had a more difficult time getting onto the hood of Smith's department-issued vehicle, a Chrysler minivan, but the van was in the shop after running over a pile of bicycles that jumped to their deaths off the back of a truck on I-69.

## BAMBI VISITS OCF

This fawn chose the safest place in the Western U.P. to hide, OCF's front steps. Staff noticed the midnight visitor, hidden in a flower bed along the steps leading into the administration building.



### **REENTRY (Continued from page 7)**

vices, Marquette County Sheriff's Department, Pathways Community Mental Health, Great Lakes Recovery Centers, Western Upper Peninsula Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency, Catholic Social Services, Michigan Department of Social Services and Northern Michigan University. The committee is co-chaired by Warden Robert Napel (CFA), Kevin Ayotte (FOA), Mary Pachmeyer, John Uter and Dr. Tim Hilton (NMU).

Community Coordinator Dave Murray said, "Challenges in providing a successful reentry are substantial. The Steering Team members in collaboration with resource specialists have worked to provide parolees with increased employment, transportation, housing and treatment opportunities by identifying providers and services in local communities across the Upper Peninsula. Aaron's successes provide a gratifying example of the fruits of their labors."

The UP Steering Team provides an example of the MDOC working together with community agencies to provide parolees with opportunities to succeed.