

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 the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island by **Ray Closson**, a corrections officer at Parnall Correctional Facility. 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.



New partnership helps give prisoners gateway to union membership

Last year, Phyllis Loudermill was visiting the Vocational Village at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility and couldn't help but notice the numbers stenciled on prisoners' shirts and coats.

Loudermill, founder of a U.S. Department of Labor-certified construction and development company called HERCO, asked what the numbers meant. When she learned they were used to help identify inmates, it gave her an idea.

What if prisoners could trade the number connected

with their incarceration, to one connected with employment?

"I thought, wouldn't it be awesome ... if I could take one number that you have and trade it in," Loudermill told prisoners at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility earlier this month.

The idea is part of a new initiative that aims to help give paroling prisoners in the building trades an additional avenue for access to well-paying jobs and a network of support in the community.

Through Trading Places, a partnership between the Michigan Department of Corrections, HERCO, Laborers' Local 1191 and the U.S. Department of Labor, prisoners in the building trades can earn credit hours toward their journeyman's card for the time they spend in the classroom honing their skills. Here's how it works.

The department's skilled-trades curriculum in carpentry, electrical and plumbing allows prisoners to earn at least 600 credit hours toward the 4,000 they will need to qualify for their journeyman's card.



Michael Aaron, business manager for Laborers' Local Union 1191, and Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility Warden Dewayne Burton answer questions from prisoners about the Trading Places initiative.

HERCO serves as the employer of record to certify the hours as meeting the laborers' union standards, as they become a full apprentice with the union. The union can then help connect prisoners with jobs following release and provide support and benefits.

The hope is that offenders will be able to trade their prison number for one that will appear on their journeyman's card and allow them to land work that pays well.

About 35 prisoners in the building trades at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility and 30 prisoners at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility began earning credit hours toward their journeyman's card on April 1. The initiative is expected to expand to include prisoners at other facilities as well, including Parnall Correctional Facility, which is the site of the department's newest Vocational

Village.

This is the first initiative of its kind for the Michigan Department of Corrections, said Director Heidi Washington. "We are all working together to make a positive change," Washington told prisoners during a kickoff of the initiative

at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility that included Trading Places partners. "It's about providing opportunities for you to earn, and to help you become successful, contributing, taxpaying members of society." The goal is not only to provide prisoners with training that can qualify them for jobs, but to also ease

the pathway into the workforce, Washington said.

"We are all working together to make a positive change"

The credits prisoners earn toward their journeyman's card by participating in training while incarcerated will help open up opportunities for gainful and stable employment, she said. "The work you're doing now is going to count toward becoming a full apprentice in the state of Michigan with the laborers' union," Washington said. "That is a credential that you can be proud of."

Michael Aaron, business manager of Laborers' Local 1191, said he was excited about the possibilities the initiative offered.

"The talent that I see in this place is tremendous," he said of prisoners' work in the building trades. "We want to tap into that talent to offer you opportunity and that opportunity comes with some sacrifice. That sacrifice can mean the difference in your life." Loudermill said prisoners' participation in the initiative connected them to a statewide network of support that also included social service groups in addition to the union.

"We're going to work 200 percent and I want you to give the same 200 percent," Loudermill said. "The laborers, we're the best training ground in the world, so you're going to get everything you deserve and need."



Phyllis Loudermill, founder of HERCO, speaks to prisoners at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility.

Candice Dunn named 2017 Agent of the Year

It's clear Oakland County Probation Agent Candice Dunn has drive.

She juggles a caseload that includes the Urban Drug Court



Agent Candice Dunn

and Sobriety Court, helps train colleagues and looks for ways to give back to the community. It is for these efforts and others that Dunn has been named the Michigan Department of Corrections' 2017 Parole/Probation Agent of the Year.

"Agent Candice Dunn's stellar record of service and drive to guide offenders to crime-free lives exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding MDOC employee," Director Heidi Washington said. "She is well-respected by her colleagues and the community, and she is an invaluable member of our team."

Dunn has worked for the MDOC for about 12 years and started her career at the Eastern District Probation Office. She was a Drug Court agent in Wayne County and transferred to Troy Probation Office in 2012, before moving to the Oakland County Probation

Office in Pontiac.

In addition to her work with the Urban Drug Court and Sobriety Court, Dunn helps train her colleagues in collaborative case management and is a criminal justice instructor at South University in Novi.

Dunn said working with the treatment courts allows her to provide many resources to offenders that can help them. Dunn also leads efforts to give back to the community and has organized drives to help feed hungry families and provide gifts to those in need during the holidays.

"I'm really honored and I feel very humbled by this," Dunn said of earning the award. "I think I have a great team here and I'm really appreciative of the recognition." Dunn will be honored as Agent of the Year during the Employee Appreciation Banquet in May. Other nominees for Parole/Probation Agent of the Year included: Cheryl Evans, of the Jackson County Parole Office; Kawana Keys, of the Detroit Metro Parole Office; Theresa Krzyzak, of the Detroit Metro Parole Office; Brian Mays, of the Eastern District Probation Office; Brianne McGill, of the Chrysler District Probation Office; Gene McKinstry, of the Genesee County Parole Office; Matthew O'Brien, of the Berrien County Parole Office; Jacob Poindexter, of the Isabella County Parole and Probation Office; Jessica Reuschel, of the Electronic Monitoring Center; Travis Rosema, of the Muskegon County Parole Office; and Russell Rynanen, of the Houghton County Parole and Probation Office.

Recidivism rate falls to 29.8 percent

The number of Michigan offenders who relapse into criminal behavior after being released from prison has fallen to its second lowest level since the state began recording three-year re-incarceration rates.

Michigan's recidivism rate, which measures the percentage of offenders who return to prison within three years, has dropped to 29.8 percent. This places Michigan among the top 10 states in the nation with the lowest recidivism rates.

Offenders can be returned to prison for committing new crimes, or for violating the conditions of their parole.

The current figures represent individuals who were released from prison in 2013.

It is a decline from the previous recidivism rate of 31 percent, which represented prisoners who paroled in 2012.

Recidivism hit its lowest point of 29 percent in 2014. Those prisoners were released in 2010. Recidivism in Michigan has hovered around 30 percent in recent years and it reflects a sharp drop from 1998 when the rate was 45.7 percent.

The recidivism rate is one important indicator that the Michigan Department of Corrections is meeting its mission to prepare prisoners to reenter the community as law-abiding citizens, said Director Heidi Washington.

"When we give offenders the skills they need to lead crime-free lives as productive members of society, it makes Michigan a safer place to live," Washington said. "These figures show our efforts have been effective and we look forward to building upon that success."

Governor signs criminal justice reform bills into law

Gov. Rick Snyder in March signed a bi-partisan package of bills that aim to make changes to the state's criminal justice system.

Snyder said signing the bills into law represented a focus on smart justice.

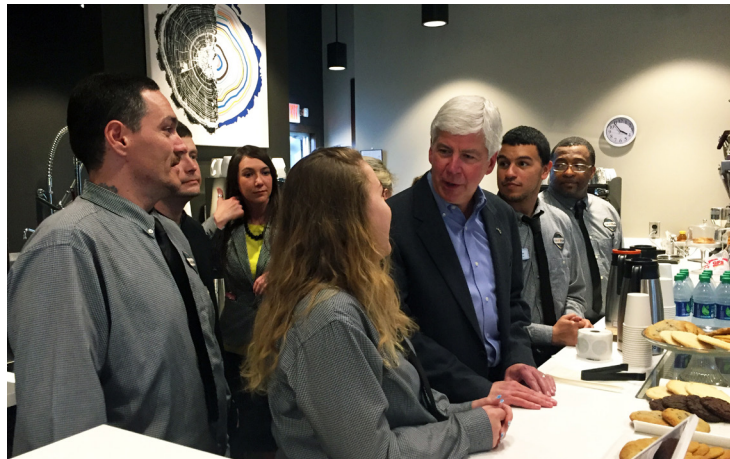
"This legislation is a good step forward to build on the work we've already done to improve reentry and I hope to see more work done this term on measures that will send fewer people to prison and allocate more resources to

process for those with medical conditions. The maximum length of this process would be 235 days shorter than the maximum length currently allowed by law.

- Establishes the Supervising Region Incentive Program, allowing participating MDOC regions to access additional funding for parole and probation supervision if they can bring down the revocation rate for both populations on a quarter-by-quarter basis.
- Limiting the maximum incarceration sanction for a technical probation violation to 30 days for the first three violations, subject to certain exemptions. Courts are not prohibited from revoking probation and sentencing an offender to jail or prison on a technical violation.
- Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to remove parole absconders from cash assistance and food assistance programs.
- Requiring the MDOC to develop plans for prisoners between the ages of 18 and 22, and provide age-appropriate programming to aid in rehabilitation.
- Establishing the Swift and Sure Court program as a permanent specialty court. Changes were also made to ensure adequate funding for the program and increase the number of eligible probationers who can participate.

[Click here](#) for the full summary.

The bills were signed at the Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program's Walnut & Park Coffee Shop. The nonprofit helps rehabilitate state and federal offenders, and the shop is staffed by offenders in its culinary arts program.



address the root causes of criminal behavior," Snyder said. The 18-bill package would make a number of changes, including:

- Creating a Parole Sanction Certainty program that would target high risk parolees within at least the state's five largest counties. The program would utilize concepts similar to the Swift and Sure program for probationers and would leave most of the key aspects of the program design to the MDOC.
- Establishing a new statutory definition for the term "recidivism" intended to create three separate measures of recidivism (re-arrest recidivism, re-conviction recidivism, and re-incarceration recidivism) to better estimate the impact on different parts of the criminal justice system.
- Creating a new act requiring parole and probation populations to be supervised using evidence-based practices.
- Establishes a new expedited commutation



It's not too late

Submit your favorite recipes for the MDOC employee cookbook

Don't forget to share your favorite recipes.

The MDOC EPIC Wellness Team is collecting recipes for a new cookbook that will feature staff-submitted dishes.

The cookbook is expected to be part of a fundraiser to support future Employee Recreation Day events, the State Employees Charitable Campaign and Harvest Gathering.

To send in your recipe, [click here](#) to fill out the recipe form and email it to MDOC-Wellness@michigan.gov by May 1.

Department earns awards for Field Days Podcast, Vocational Village

The Michigan Department of Corrections received high honors for its Field Days Podcast and efforts to promote the Vocational Village during the 2017 mid-Michigan PACE Awards.



The department earned a Pinnacle Award — the highest possible honor offered — for the podcast for excellence in innovative communications tactics.

The MDOC was also recognized for achievement in community relations campaigns for promoting the Vocational Village.

Both the Field Days Podcast and the Vocational Village earned “People’s Choice” awards, after attendees at the PACE Awards voted for them as the best entries of 2017.

The awards are the highest offered by the Central Michigan chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

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

Entries are judged by national public relations professionals. Field Days is the department’s weekly podcast that shares positive stories and important updates.

It is hosted by Chris Gautz, the department’s spokesman and Greg Straub, administrative assistant to the FOA deputy director, as well as on occasion by Noah Nagy, deputy warden at the Detroit Reentry Center.

It is produced by social media and website coordinator Camara Lewis. The podcast airs every Tuesday and is available on the [iTunes](#) podcast app, [SoundCloud](#), [Stitcher](#) and on the department website.

It has covered a range of topics including the Absconder Recovery Unit, legislation impacting the department and reentry initiatives. It has also featured discussions with Director Heidi Washington on her goals for the department. The Vocational Village is a first-of-its-kind skilled trades training program for prisoners. The first Vocational Village opened at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia and a second Vocational Village site at Parnall Correctional Facility will be fully operational soon.



ARU sharpens skills during training

Fugitive apprehension is a very dangerous mission.

The U.S. Marshals Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team, along with the Grand Rapids Fugitive Task Force, have taken great steps to assist Deputy U.S. Marshals and Task Force Officers in handling the many inherent dangers that come along with the job.

Each year, with the assistance of the U.S. Marshals, law enforcement teams collaborate and conduct annual tactical training in an effort to build their skills in fugitive apprehension and reduce the risks involved with the job.

All deputized U.S. Marshals Task Force Officers with the MDOC as well as several other department employees were invited to take part in the training at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Facility, Air National Guard Base.

This five-day long tactical training seminar consisted of classroom lectures as well as use of force and practical scenarios.

One of the topics covered was tactical medical training, focusing on self-aid and downed officer drills. This instruction provided deputies and task force officers with an essential understanding of the medical gear issued to them and how to apply it effectively in a stressful situation.

The medical training included several examples of deputies and task force officers that were able to utilize their medical tools and training to remain in the fight. Participants also took part in a helicopter extraction drill involving down officers.

“Our partnership with the U.S.

Marshals

Continued on [Page 8](#)

Macomb parolee honored for saving young boy's life

While bystanders watched as a young boy struggled after falling into the Clinton River, parolee Ron Elko took action.

Elko was at the riverside fishing

Another man, Joshua Traylor, who was with the boy's mother, drowned after he also jumped in to try to save the boy.

Elko said he doesn't consider himself a hero, and felt that he just did what needed to be done.

On April 13, the Macomb County Parole Office and Macomb County Sheriff's Office honored Elko for his heroic efforts to save the boy's life.

Elko received a certificate of recognition from the parole office and a round of applause from law enforcement officials.



Ron Elko shakes hands with Agent Hope Hunter following a recognition ceremony at the Macomb County Parole Office.

on April 9, when he heard a commotion and saw a child go underwater.

Elko, who said he does not know how to swim, jumped in and was able to grab the child and bring him back to shore.

Macomb County Parole staff commended him for jumping in to save the boy without hesitation.

Read more about Elko's efforts in [The Detroit News](#) and the [Macomb Daily](#).

Continued from [Page 7](#)

Service has been crucial to the success of the Absconder Recovery Unit over the past seven years," said Absconder Recovery Unit Lt. Charles Levens. "The training and collaboration has made the entire ARU a much safer and more tactically efficient unit."



Staff who attend the training also bring the skills they learn back to the MDOC, to pass on what they learn to non-deputized ARU investigators, parole agents and Emergency Response Team members. The MDOC currently has 14 ARU Investigators assigned to USMS Fugitive Task Forces across the state.



Around the MDOC

Michigan State Industries holds charity golf scramble

Michigan State Industries will hold its annual charity golf scramble on June 23 at Wolf Creek Golf Course.

The scramble will begin at 8 a.m. and will include four-person teams.

Two-person teams will be randomly paired with another two-person team.

The entry fee is \$45 per person, and \$5 of that will be donated to the Lenawee County Humane Society. The entry fee includes 18 holes of golf with a cart and dinner at Frickers.

Awards will go to the first and second place teams, as well as to participants with the longest drive, longest putt and those closest to the pin.

Participants must register and pay by June 8, and provide their name, address, phone number and partners' names.

Participants should also indicate their preferred t-time.

Preferred t-times are 8-9 a.m., 9-10 a.m. and 10-11 a.m.

For more information, or to register, contact Will Rondeau at RondeauW@michigan.gov.

Employee Appreciation bowling event set for May 13 in East Lansing

The department will hold an Employee Engagement Bowling Event from 6-10 p.m. May 13 at City Limits, 2120 E. Saginaw in East Lansing.

The event is open to all employees statewide.

Sign up is limited to the first 120 individuals to register.

The cost to attend is \$12.50 per person and includes bowling, bowling shoes and pizza.

If you choose to pre-register, payment must be made to Kathy Keiffer by May 10. City Limits will be donating half the money received to the Employee Engagement Committee to be used for Employee Recreation Day.

For more information or to arrange payment, contact Kathy Keiffer at KeifferK@michigan.gov.

Member of MSU championship team reclaims piece of sports history

In 1979, Gerald Gilkie took to the court with the Michigan State University men's basketball team for the NCAA national championship game against Indiana State.

After the Spartans topped the Sycamores, Gilkie and his teammates signed the floor they had played on to mark their victory.



At the time, Gilkie didn't give a second thought to signing the floor.

But the piece of hardwood unexpectedly returned to him 38 years later, when a coworker at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility surprised him with it as a gift.

"This piece of memory, I knew it existed," Gilkie said, holding the square of floorboard on a recent afternoon, while surrounded by other NCAA championship memorabilia. "I never imaged it would wind up in my lap. It's a memory I'll never forget."

Gilkie, an Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor at Handlon, is well known at the facility for being a member of MSU's 1979 championship team and playing with basketball great Earvin "Magic" Johnson. Though Gilkie is used to the recognition as a member of MSU's championship basketball team, he was surprised a colleague would go through the trouble to

track down an item he signed so many years earlier.

The coworker wished to remain anonymous, he said.

"I couldn't believe it surfaced 38 years later," Gilkie said. "It was such a big surprise. It was really nice that someone would think of you in that regard. It was something I didn't expect and I appreciate it."

Since the memento resurfaced, Gilkie said he has enjoyed re-visiting his days at MSU and telling the story of the university's basketball championship. He recalled the band playing to the "10th degree" to energize a green-and-white clad crowd at Jenison Fieldhouse that intimidated competitors with the volume of their cheers and passionate support for MSU. "It's nice to have memories like that," Gilkie said. He called his coworker a thoughtful, caring and outstanding person for tracking down the keepsake for him. At the time he signed it, Gilkie said he didn't know how important that piece of floorboard would be. Now it is an invaluable reminder of his time as a college basketball champion.

"This was really a gift of love, support, and of being a great friend," Gilkie said. "It's nice for it to be back home where it belongs."

Check out these stories about the keepsake's return:
[1979 NCAA Champion reunited with timeless piece of sports history](#) — FOX 17

[Championship team member receives hardwood 38 years later](#) — Ionia Sentinel-Standard

[Michigan State magical '79 season remembered with friend's gift](#) — MLive

[Piece of Michigan State basketball history returned to former player](#) — WWMT TV 3

[Man from MSU's star team surprised with priceless memento](#) — WOOD TV 8

[Spartan champ gets a piece of history back](#) — WZZM 13

[Member of 1979 championship team reunited with piece of floor he signed](#) — The State News

Employee Appreciation Banquet is May 9

The Michigan Department of Corrections will hold its annual Employee Appreciation Banquet on May 9 at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center, 219 S. Harrison Road in East Lansing.

The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and award presentations. The cost to attend is \$25 per person and registration must be received by April 26.

The ceremony will recognize the department's Corrections Officer of the Year and nominees, Parole/Probation Agent of the Year and nominees, Professional Excellence Award recipients and a Director's Award winner.

Those interested in attending can contact Christine Navarro at NavarroC@michigan.gov.

Project SIGMA rollout to begin soon

In the next six months, the State of Michigan will be upgrading computer systems that include time collection for employees.

The effort, called Project SIGMA, will impact every employee, so we'd like to address some of the common questions about it.

What is SIGMA?

SIGMA stands for Statewide Integrated Governmental Management Applications and will become the state's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) business process software replacing several existing systems. SIGMA will affect every employee involved in Michigan's financial process.

By improving processes and making government more efficient, SIGMA will save the state money and improve state services.

The implementation of SIGMA Financial will result in the replacement of the Michigan Administrative Information Network (MAIN), Data Collection and Distribution System (DCDS), Mi Time and Expense (MiTES), Buy4Michigan, and many other state agency specific systems.

Besides financial staff, how will SIGMA impact most employees?

SIGMA will bring a new standardized time, attendance, and leave system. Every employee who enters or approves time and leave in DCDS will be impacted by this change.

When will SIGMA "Go-Live"?

Part of SIGMA (SIGMA Budget) already went live last summer. Procurement functionality will go-live on July 31st with SIGMA Financial going-live on October 1st and Time, Expense Reimbursement, and Leave and Labor Distribution going-live later in October 2017.

What is the functionality of SIGMA?

SIGMA will provide the state improved functionality in the following areas:

- Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Treasury
- Budget Development
- Procurement
- Vendor Self Service
- Cost Accounting, including project and grant tracking, grant management, and cost allocation.
- Inventory Management
- Asset Management
- Time, Expense Reimbursement, Leave and Labor Distribution
- Business Intelligence Query and Reporting.

When will MDOC employees be trained?

The system is currently preparing to conduct User Acceptance Testing and there are roughly two dozen MDOC staff training to be part of a statewide team of testers. Full-scale employee training will take place later this summer just in time for the system to go-live.

Stay tuned for more updates in the Corrections Connection.

Story by Shannon Pike, administrator of the Budget and Projections Division.



Fallen Officers Memorial dedication planned

A memorial to honor corrections officers killed in the line of duty will be unveiled during a dedication ceremony May 7 at the Michigan Corrections Organization headquarters, 421 W. Kalamazoo in Lansing. A reception and open house, featuring exhibits on corrections work, will follow the dedication ceremony, which begins at 1 p.m.

Attendees will also receive a [commemorative coin](#).

[Click here](#) to RSVP for the event.

The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



In February 2016, Detroit Reentry Center Corrections Officer Jeremy Warner was conducting rounds when he noticed a parolee who was attempting to hang himself. Warner quickly called for assistance and then intervened to prevent the parolee from attempting suicide. With the assistance of a colleague, he was able to restrain the individual until additional staff arrived to help. His observation and quick assessment of the situation earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

Corrections Officer Antrice Bradford was making her rounds at the Detroit Detention Center in October, when she noticed a detainee laying in her cell. After entering the cell to check on the detainee, Bradford realized she was unresponsive and immediately called for assistance.

Acting Sgt. Rochelle Phipps and Registered Nurse Terry Johnson responded to help, and staff called for an ambulance and began to perform cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Additional staff arrived to help, including Officers Steven Canty, Jemile Green, Sonja Howell and Julie Palmer, and brought a defibrillator in addition to assisting with rescue breaths and chest compressions.

The detainee was transferred to the hospital for evaluation and treatment.

Bradford, Phipps, Johnson, Canty, Green, Howell and Palmer received the department's Lifesaving Award for their efforts to help the detainee.



Dianne Koskinen, trades instructor at Baraga Correctional Facility, received the Symbol of Teamwork Coin for her assistance with EPIC Teams, and her efforts to help prepare hundreds of prisoners for the workforce with mock job interviews. Koskinen is involved with both the Baraga EPIC Team and the EPIC Employee Engagement

Team, and is assisting with Employee Recreation Day. She helped design flyers for the 2017 Employee Engagement Survey and has proved to be patient and creative, with a great eye for detail.

Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility Sgt. Traci Sanders and Lt. Darryl Lane were presented with the Symbol of Leadership

Coin by Warden Shirlee Harry for their efforts to help resolve issues with prisoners and de-escalate stressful situations.



Agents earn SCRAM Awards for excellence in case management

Michigan field agents were honored for excellence in caseload management during the seventh annual SCRAM Awards.

The awards recognized agents based on small, medium and large caseloads, as well as average days monitored and offender compliance. SCRAM, or Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor, devices are worn by some offenders to monitor alcohol use.

Winning agents included:

Sandro Filippetti, of Kalamazoo County Probation
Kalea Sanders-Wright, Oakland County Probation
Rebecca Beard, Detroit Metro Parole
Laticia Grant, Oakland County Probation
Brian Harmon, Macomb County Probation
Heidi Zarka, Macomb County Probation
Edward Heard, Detroit Metro Parole
Rebecca Milstone, Pontiac Parole
Susan Perilloux, Pontiac Parole
Jaylene Nostrandt, Detroit Metro Parole
Timothy Prendergast, Washtenaw County Probation

Samantha Johnson, Ionia County Probation
Terrell Atterberry, Berrien County Parole and Probation
Chad Spencer, Calhoun County Probation
Alicia Durham, Detroit Metro Parole
Melissa Thompson, Detroit Metro Parole
Thomas Schummer, Oceana County Parole and Probation
Cynthia Patrick, Newaygo County Parole and Probation
Leonard Junious, Detroit Metro Parole
Benjamin Schultz, Mason County Parole and Probation
Michael Haney, Berrien County (St. Joseph) Probation
Craig Simon, Calhoun County Parole
Matthew Clayton, Berrien County Parole
Michelle Scigliano, Genesee County Probation
David Hovis, Shiawassee County Parole and Probation
Randy Dockins, Kent County Probation
Cheryl Evans, Jackson County Parole
Donna Ball, Mecosta County Parole and Probation
Leslie Willson, Kalamazoo County Probation
Carrie Dye, Sanilac County Parole and Probation
Brigitte Avolio, Lapeer County Parole and Probation
Jenny Wyly, Berrien County Parole



Winning agents with the Field Operations Administration Metro (right) and Outstate (left) territories during the SCRAM Awards.

Corrections Quiz

The Michigan Department of Corrections has been contributing items to the Children's Trust Fund auction for how many years?

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

March Quiz Recap

Question: When did the Special Alternative Incarceration program begin?

Answer: 1988

Congratulations to **Rick O'Connell**, Reentry Facility Coordinator at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility, for being the first to answer the March Corrections Quiz. Great job!

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

Snapshots

A look at life around the MDOC



New field agents joined the Michigan Department of Corrections in March following the completion of their courses.

Agents were addressed by Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan during their swearing in ceremony.



Detroit Reentry Center Deputy Warden Noah Nagy, Parole Supervisor Sarah Valade and Detroit Detention Center Deputy Warden Terry Tellez were recognized for being great sports for participating in "Dunk the Deputy" to celebrate the completion of the Employee Engagement Survey.

Corrections in the News

[MDOC: 'Trading Places'](#) — Ionia Sentinel-Standard

[Vocational Village provides prisoners trade job training, path to employment](#) — MLive

[Michigan recidivism rate falls to 29.8 percent, among lowest in the nation](#) — WJMN TV 3

[Michigan's Recovery](#) — U.S. News & World Report
(The Vocational Village is discussed at the four-minute mark)

[MDOC agents recognized for work with alcohol-involved offenders](#) — Yahoo

[Education behind bars works, but it can be hard to come by](#) — Livingston Daily

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

Seen on Facebook...



Michigan Department of Corrections

April 14 at 3:48pm · 🌐

Governor Rick Snyder gives a huge nod to the Vocational Village [4:06-minute mark] for being an educational program that proactively fights against an increase in Michigan's crime rate.



Michigan's Recovery

More than auto-making is involved in Michigan's recovery since the last Great Recession, Gov. Snyder says.

USNEWS.COM

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

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

February New Hires

Andersen, Brandon
Bemiss, Kayla
Berlanga, Christina
Boutell, Lori
Cannarile, Hannah
Corbin, Deborah
Curtis, Alline
Efting, Amy
France, Cole
Gerlach, Hayley
Hall, Amy
Hitchingham, Amy
Houston, Nina
Howard, Lanisha
Howland, Patricia
Keller, Diane
Kendall, Brian
Long, Kylie
McMillan, Maria
Minnick, Emily
Okonowski, Erich
Patterson, Tonya
Pawlaczyk, Cynthia
Peplinski, Lauren
Piecuch, Michelle
Pope, Amanda
Richards, Kathryn
Rodriguez, Patricia
Savoie, Jessica
Scott-Dubose, Crystal
Shabayta, Jamil
Stone, Lisa
Suchey, Sara
Tigere, Opportunity
Wade, Amanda

Trades Instructor, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Departmental Technician, Macomb Correctional Facility
Resident Care Aide, Woodand Center Correctional Facility
Licensed Practical Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Word Processing Assistant, Kent County Probation Office
General Office Assistant, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Registered Nurse, Oaks Correctional Facility
Word Processing Assistant, Calhoun County Probation Office
Psychologist, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Registered Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility
General Office Assistant, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Library Technician, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Psychologist, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Clinical Social Worker, Carson City Correctional Facility
Registered Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Clinical Social Worker, Macomb Correctional Facility
Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Licensed Practical Nurse, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Clinical Social Worker, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Psychologist, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Registered Nurse, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Licensed Practical Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility
Employment Counselor, Newberry Correctional Facility
Employment Counselor, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Licensed Practical Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Accountant, Correctional Facilities Administration Northern Region
Resident Care Aide, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Registered Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Pharmacy Assistant, Marquette Branch Prison
Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Departmental Analyst, Office of Research and Planning
Word Processing Assistant, Saginaw County Probation

February Retirements

Ball, Raymond	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Boucher, Ruth	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Bradford, John	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Briggs, Marilyn	Departmental Supervisor, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Chisolm, Kelvin	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Doss, James	Licensed Master Electrician, Correctional Facilities Administration Jackson Region
Flood, Gregory	School Teacher, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Garbinski, Glenn	Storekeeper, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Haataja, Leslie	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Baraga Correctional Facility
Hale, Carol	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Holtz, Robert	Corrections Shift Supervisor, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Hursh-Smith, Beatrice	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Alger Correctional Facility
Kemp, Kenneth	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Ludman, Kirk	Corrections Transportation Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Maki, William	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
McKinley, Jeanette	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Meatte, Albert	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Nienstedt, Michael	Trades Instructor, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Powers, Danny	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Richards, Robin	Maintenance Mechanic, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Rodda, Edward	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Thelen, Tim	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Ufer, John	Trades Instructor, Oaks Correctional Facility
Wethy, Kevin	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility