



Montana Department of Corrections Correctional Signpost



2014
No. 1

“Booters” groups offer continued support

by Tom Fulton, Probation Officer, Miles City

In recent months, Probation Officer Wally Peter of the Glendive P&P office has started a “booters” group for individuals who have graduated from the Treasure State Correctional Training Center, or boot camp. The group has at least one community service and one recreational event each month. The Glendive booters have mowed yards and done maintenance for elderly or disabled people, picked up trash in the downtown area, and collected clothing and other items for the needy. The group has gone bowling several times, and is looking forward to more outdoor activities like fishing, picnics and horseshoes as soon as the weather permits.

Peter and Sidney PO Darrin Moser are looking at combining the Sidney and Glendive groups.

“Both groups want to go back to the boot camp in the near future,” Peter said. “The guys know how hard it is to make it through the class, so they want to offer their support and help another class make it to graduation.”



Front from left: Todd Bodeen, Leith Bunn, Chris Miller and David Lorenz
Back from left: Skylar Seigle, Austin Hajek, Heath Grimes, Tyler Graham and Kyle Dean.
Photo by PO Wally Peter

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Both groups also plan to attend a meeting with the Billings booters.

Attendance so far has been good. The meetings are balanced, offering the young men the opportunity to discuss any problems they are having and to report positive experiences.

“When they screw up, the other booters hold them more accountable than anyone else probably could. They don’t hesitate to tell each other what they really think,” Peter said. “But when one of them starts to struggle, it’s nice to see the others call that person and offer to support him in any way they can.”

Great Falls Pre-Release Center helps get people on solid ground for 30 years

by *Kristen Cates, Tribune Staff Writer*

First published in the Great Falls Tribune March 27; reprinted with permission.

Ray Schneider just needed a second chance, a wake-up call and then a third chance to get his life back on track.

He found that first in 1987, then again in 1997, when he was accepted into the Great Falls Pre-Release Service's center as an inmate from the Montana Department of Corrections, sober and ready to begin the next chapter of life. So he was only happy to come back to this place of hope and help celebrate the Great Falls Pre-Release Center's 30 years of providing support and new beginnings for convicted criminals transitioning out of incarceration.

"I was ready to do something different with my life," said Schneider, who was originally sent to prison on burglary charges. "My life is not perfect, but it's so much better than it's ever been."

Schneider, along with Montana Attorney General Tim Fox, Department of Corrections Director Mike Batista and several other dignitaries on Wednesday celebrated the pre-release center's successful mission to help offenders re-enter the world and become successful, law-abiding citizens and the low-cost benefit to taxpayers of such facilities.

Fox said it's not easy for a community to consider allowing convicted criminals to be their neighbors, but Great Falls' acceptance of the program, which now houses more than 200

women and men, has made it one of the more successful pre-release centers in the state.

"Great Falls has embraced the concept of a second chance and the value in human beings," Fox said.

Paul Cory, executive director of the Great Falls Pre-Release Center, said the pre-release model is successful on multiple fronts. In Great Falls, partnerships with local businesses as well as organizations such as Our Savior's Lutheran Church have helped provide support and opportunity to offenders who are trying to pay their debt and re-enter the community.

The Great Falls Pre-Release Center at 1019 15th St. N. has also been successful, Cory said, because of a staff that challenges offenders' way of thinking, holds them accountable and helps them change their behaviors.

"It's a practical program," Cory said.

It's also the most cost-effective for offenders who have the potential to re-enter a community, Batista said.



Ray Schneider, left, a former resident of the Great Falls Pre-Release Services, speaks with Bob Bailey, who served as his pre-release counselor in 1997, during the 30th anniversary celebration of the pre-release center Wednesday afternoon. Tribune photo, Rion Sanders

It costs \$92 to \$98 per day to house inmates within the Montana State Prison system. At pre-release centers around the state, it costs between \$53 to \$63 per day. Of the 15,000 offenders in the state, Batista said 20 percent are housed in prisons. The other 80 percent are participating in what he described as "community corrections" centers such as a pre-release facility, a treatment center or are on probation and parole.

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Treasure State's Cameron receives *Patriotic Employer* Award

by Heather M. King, Administrative Assistant
Treasure State Correctional Training Center

Major Wayne Cameron of Treasure State Correctional Training Center was honored with an "Employer Support of The National Guard and Reserve" award from the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He was nominated for the award by Army Reservist Sgt. 1st Class Edward Krause.

The award recognized Cameron's support for the many reservists employed at the facility who are required to take time from their work duties to meet their responsibilities as members of the National Guard and Reserve.



Great Falls Pre-Release Center, continued...

The recidivism rate for offenders in Montana is roughly 40 percent, in the middle of the national average, Batista said. But there is another 60 percent who once released, re-enter society without repeated problems, a sign to him that pre-release facilities are working.

With a lifelong career in law enforcement, Batista said he used to not consider corrections a part of reducing crime rates. But after meeting offenders like Schneider who are paying their dues for the crimes they've committed, but also trying to prevent themselves from doing it again, he's learned how critical it is to work with the Department of Corrections on fighting crime.

"Rather than getting tough on crime, we need to get smart on crime," Batista said.

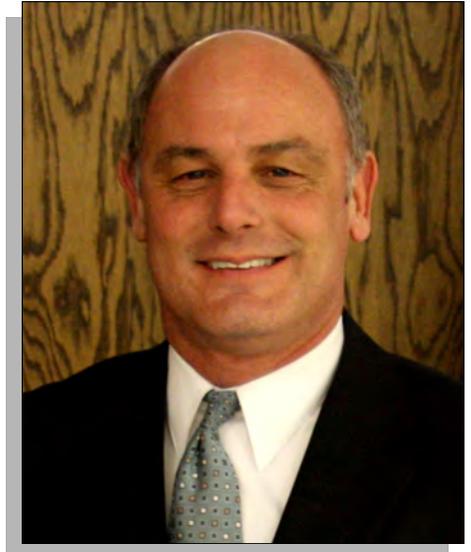
Schneider is confident he wouldn't have succeeded

the second time at the Great Falls Pre-Release Center if he hadn't finally decided to get sober. Because of that, he paid attention when counselors talked to him about money management and setting goals for himself. He now owns his own business, has a family, has provided counsel to other offenders and will be 20-years sober next month.

For several years after leaving the Great Falls Pre-Release Center, Schneider said he would come back once a month to visit counselors. As the years have gone by, he's done that less and less, but he still remembers this place being part of his journey — a journey that requires him to work every day to be the person his counselors at the Pre-Release Center knew he could be.

"I never want to forget where I came from," Schneider said. "I've been an active participant in my own recovery."

From the Director



Looking ahead to the next few years, it's clear that the department is again facing challenges in population management. Our prisons are operating at capacity, and the community corrections programs developed over the past decade under the 80/20 philosophy are reaching their capacities as well. The commitment to supervise 80 percent of DOC offenders in the community has put Montana in the enviable position of having an array of community-based treatment and prerelease options. But today, these community-based programs are full and a number of offenders are cycling through these programs multiple times without success.

In line with best practices from around the nation, it's time Montana shifted gears and moved toward a philosophy that emphasizes evidence-based practices and programs that reduce recidivism and support successful offender reentry.

Rather than basing our placement decisions on percentages, we need to consider what works for the types of offenders coming our way. That requires sound, consistent offender assessment and placement in the most effective programs – programs that hold offenders accountable and help them integrate back into the community. Fully implementing the Montana Offender Risk Reentry Assessment (MORRA) and the Women's Risk and Needs Assessment (WRNA) throughout the corrections system is an important first step in changing offender behavior.

We have our work cut out for us because today, in Montana and nationally, violent and property crimes are on the upswing.

The Bakken effect is responsible for a good chunk of the increase. According to the Dawson County District Court Clerk, at this time last year, 23 felony cases had been filed in Dawson County. This year, 47 cases have been filed in the same period, a 100 percent increase.

Likewise, the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office filed 1,044 felony cases in Yellowstone County District Court last year, up from 771 cases in 2012, a 35 percent increase.

- ◆ Aggravated assault jumped 25 percent, from 259 to 324.
- ◆ Sex offenses were up 18 percent, from 96 to 113.
- ◆ Weapons violations shot up 47 percent, jumping from 44 in 2012 to 65 in 2013.
- ◆ And property crimes, including burglary and theft from a vehicle, hit a high of 6,206 – nearly 1,000 more than two years ago.

Western Montana and communities on the I-90 corridor are not immune from these trends. As Missoula Detective Sgt. Ed McLean told the *Missoulian*, "There's an increased demand in the Northwest for methamphetamine that's infectious. When you end up having shipments coming through, it increases the supply in our area."

Meth-related felony charges in Missoula jumped by 30 percent in 2012 and the Missoula Drug Task Force said 213 cases were expected to continue the upward trend.

Challenges are headed our way. But while this situation is not unique to Montana, we are in a better position to deal with these challenges than many other states because of the substantial investment we've made in community corrections over the past decade.

Continued on page 5

From the Director...continued

I often quote Yogi Berra's famous line: "If you come to a fork in the road, take it." We at the Montana Department of Corrections have come to a fork and, as Berra advised, we should take it. This particular fork has three prongs:

1. We need to make sure that the offenders who belong in prison due to the seriousness of their crime, serve their time.
2. We need adequate services for the offenders who can benefit from community corrections.
3. And we need Probation and Parole (P&P) offices that are adequately staffed and equipped to effectively help offenders make the transition from secure care back into the community. Swift and certain sanctions are a vital part of this transition. Offenders need to know that, if they violate the conditions of their placement in the community, they will face immediate, consistent consequences.

With Probation & Parole officers in every region routinely juggling unwieldy caseloads, it's in this third area that we are facing a significant lack of resources. Despite increases in the number of offenders, the number of P&P officers in Montana has not increased since 2009.

This year, the department's community-based P&P officers have an average caseload of 75 offenders. And we can expect the number of offenders in the community to grow with increases in the crime rates, and as the department's emphasis on reentry and more intensive case management places more offenders on community supervision. Success in making this shift isn't guaranteed, but we have a number of correctional best practices working in our favor.

Over the next few years, the department will be working hard to build partnerships with others in the criminal justice system and with the growing number of local organizations that are rallying around the reentry initiative. Ultimately, our success with reentry isn't just corrections' problem – it is a public safety issue. Local law enforcement, the courts and community leaders statewide all have a stake in the outcome and need to have skin in the game.

As we prepare for the next legislative session, we will analyze our offender and program data, use the growing body of research into what works, and create the coalition we need to build an even stronger and more effective Montana Department of Corrections.




Prayer rocks made by Women's Prison inmates are arranged along a walking trail. See story on page 7.

Top 10 issues for Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) Members:

1. Population management, increasing inmate population
2. Turnover of correctional staff/staff recruitment and retention
3. Budget
4. Managing mental health populations
5. Cost of inmate medical care
6. Contraband cell phones
7. Lowering recidivism rates, reentry funding, coordinating reentry services
8. PREA compliance
9. Administrative Segregation
10. Gangs, Security Threat Groups

American Indian Liaison Bulletin

by Harlan Trombley,
American Indian Liaison

Throughout February, HR Specialist Charles Geary and I attended tribal college career fairs, handing out brochures and other information on the various employment opportunities within the Department of Corrections. While talking with people at the fairs, we discovered a misconception about working in corrections; when I asked what people thought of when I said “corrections,” the majority stated “Prison, correctional officers.” By letting people know about the other employment fields within the Department of Corrections – like mental health, medical and dental services, legal services, youth services, probation & parole, teachers and administrative support – we were able to give them a much broader perspective of corrections.



I also attended a community management meeting for the **Blackfeet Manpower One Stop Center** in Browning. The program is a good resource for employment and vocational training, and is certified by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry. Staff from the Center and from the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) expressed their willingness to find resources for Native American offenders.

In recent months, I traveled to all of the reservations with the Governor’s Director of Indian Affairs Jason Smith, and Program Manager for the State Tribal Economic Development Commission Casey Lozar. At the meetings with tribal council members, I discussed my role within corrections and encouraged the tribes to support the mentoring program at Montana State Prison.

In the past quarter, I have also:

- ◆ set up regular monthly meetings with Alpha House, Passages, Montana Women’s Prison and Riverside Youth Correctional Facility
- ◆ requested meetings with all of the contract treatment programs
- ◆ introduced myself via e-mail to Montana’s Urban Indian Centers. The Helena Indian Alliance Center offers chemical dependency counseling at a low cost to American Indian offenders living at the Helena Prerelease Center. The Alliance is in the midst of renovations but plans to set up a sweat lodge in the near future.



Prayer rocks placed in the community as part of a class by artist Tana Patterson. The class was offered to inmates at the Montana Women’s Prison in conjunction with the Yellowstone Art Museum.

The women wrote a prayer or note on paper that was then placed in the clay rock they created. The rocks were fired, turning the notes to ash inside the clay. The rocks were then placed along walking trails in the community.

See full story on page 7

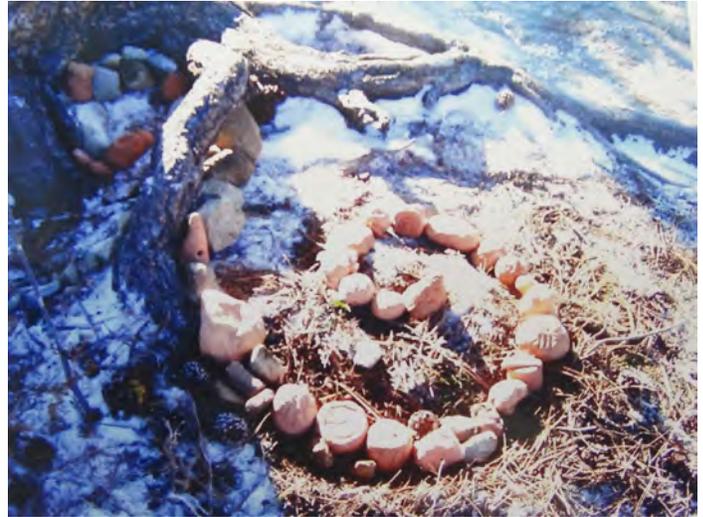
Yellowstone Art Museum offers art education to inmates at Women's Prison

by Annamae Siegfried-Derrick
Community Relations Manager, Montana Women's Prison

Through a privately funded grant, the Yellowstone Art Museum and local artists are offering a variety of art classes to Montana Women's Prison inmates. The classes are divided into two sessions: one discusses works of art, art expression and art techniques, styles and colors; a second allows women to explore art through individualized expression.

But art is more than expressive – it teaches transferable skills that can help women during the reentry process. Contact with the arts is a positive stimulus that empowers women by improving mood, behavior and socialization, and by increasing their “internal locus of control,” the extent to which they believe that they can control the events that affect them.

The art classes have presented several mediums, including flower arranging, sketching, watercolor, acrylic oils and clay. Women new to art who felt they were incapable of creating anything have discovered that, under the right tutelage, they can produce pieces they are proud of. This new belief in themselves can be powerful. Their art is placed in the Billings community,



Prayer rocks made by Women's Prison inmates are arranged along a walking trail in the community.



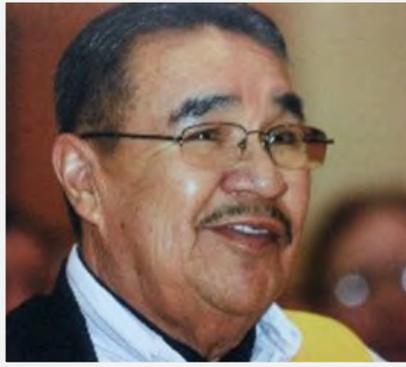
Watercolor by inmate Melissa Cole

donated to other agencies for display, or inmates may give it to someone outside of the prison.

A quarterly inmate magazine created by the incarcerated women called *@Large* features topics of interest, prison happenings, poetry, photos, recipes, puzzles and trivia. The magazine articles are designed to inform the inmates about classes, programs, activities, opportunities and events. Articles, art and poetry can be submitted by the inmates; the inmate editors work with the Education Computer Lab instructor to select, edit and lay out features.

PINE HILLS REMEMBERS ELDER CHARLES LITTLE OLDMAN, 67

FEBRUARY 28, 1946 – JANUARY 14, 2014



Charles Little OldMan of Ashland was born to Fern Little OldMan and Francis Wolfchum on February 28, 1946, on the banks of the Tongue River. He grew up in the Birney Community amongst the Suhtai people on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Charles and his sister Mamie were raised in the traditional Cheyenne way by his mother, grandmother Josie Limpy and great-grandfather Charles Headswift, who was a Sacred Hat Keeper.

He attended Birney Day School, Busby, and Chilloco Boarding School in Oklahoma. From his grandmother, he learned the traditional medicine that would later become his life. “All prayers are good,” Charles would say. Through his strong and humble faith, Charles strengthened not only his family, but his tribe and anyone who was open to his prayers. He was a member of the Blessed Sacrament Church in Lame Deer, a Headsman of the Kit Fox Society and a former Sacred Hat Keeper.

Charles loved to sing and was a member of the Birney Singers, the Tongue River Singers and several other drum groups. In passing down songs, he taught their meanings and when it was appropriate to sing them.

Charles believed in encouraging young people and was involved in various activities including Native American Week, trips to Lake DeSmet, Bear Butte and Cody, Wyoming. He mentored and was a board member with Second Seasons. He also worked with the young men from Pine Hills as a mentor. He ran sweats with the Prayer Warriors MSP, for healing.

Charles was a kind, genuine and modest man with a great sense of humor. He was a hopeful and uplifting person to be around. In his eyes everyone was equal, no one was above another, and he always helped anyone who asked.

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Charles was a great man with a great amount of wisdom. The couple times I got to spend time with him he taught me a lot, not only about the Northern Cheyenne tribe but also about my family from the Chippewa Cree Turtle Mountain tribe in North Dakota. He knew my great grandpa William Peltier and my great uncle Lenard Peltier.

Charles will be forever in my thoughts and prayers and will be missed by everyone who knew him. It's sad to see him go but he is with the Great Spirit and free of pain, it is now Charles' time to continue the great journey of life.

By a youth from Pine Hills

New faces at Central Office

Quality Assurance Director Kurt Aughney – Aughney has worked for the department for nearly three years, most recently as a policy specialist and drug testing coordinator. Prior to taking the position in Helena, he worked in the Classification & Placement Office at Montana State Prison.

In his new position within the Director's Office, Aughney oversees a staff of four and is responsible for department-wide internal controls, contract compliance, policy management, safety and risk management, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) program management and youth detention facility licensure. Aughney has a Masters of Public Administration and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Montana.



Quality Assurance Director
Kurt Aughney

Human Resources Director Kila Shepherd – After more than a decade working in the human resources field for Fortune 500 companies in Michigan and California, Shepherd joined state government in 2006 as a human resources (HR) specialist with the Montana Department of Transportation.

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NIEDGE RECALLS FIRST MEETING WITH LITTLE OLDMAN

by Shawn Niedge, Restitution Supervisor & Native American Liaison, Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility

I first met Charles and his wife, Marcelline ShoulderBlade, in 1995 when they came to Pine Hills to facilitate sweats for the youth. Agreeing to help was one of the best decisions I ever made and gave me an opportunity I will always cherish.

As our Elder for the past 19 years, Charles conducted sweats, Wellness Days and talking circles, and guided us in building tepees. On many occasions, I was able to go on trips with Charles to cut down diamond willows to build new sweat lodges. Charles showed me the places where he grew up and that were sacred. He talked of the traditions that came along with taking an old lodge down and building a new one.

Charles had such a way with words, whether he was just joking around or passing along his knowledge of

the Northern Cheyenne way. When I was having my own troubles in life and sought help from him, Charles would always talk about the power of healing, prayer and faith, and how family and friends

would get me back on the right path. Charles was constantly passing down knowledge and was a great mentor to me and to the youth at Pine Hills. I am so grateful that Charles was a part of my life; it is hard to express the loss we all feel.

We at Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility were so sorry to hear of Charles' passing. He truly was an inspirational leader to staff and youth.

He touched the lives of many young men during our sweats and Wellness Days. It was such an honor watching and listening to Charles, whether he was praying or just talking with us during arts and crafts as part of our Wellness Days. We will never forget Charles Little OldMan.



Young men help assemble the sweat lodge on the Pine Hills campus.



Spotlight

Associate Warden “Stein” part of team that plans to move Montana Women’s Prison forward

by Judy Beck, Director of Communications

Montana Women’s Prison Warden Joan Daly describes Associate Warden Alex Schroeckenstein as “very security minded.”

That’s a good thing in a prison security chief and, on the home front, it may help explain his weekly shopping trips to pick up 40 pounds of dog food. The Schroeckensteins’ home is guarded by no less than three Mastiffs – Titus, who weighs in at 212 pounds, Caesar at 130 pounds and Thor, the lightweight of the trio, at a mere 120 pounds.

As a dog lover, Schroeckenstein supports the work MWP inmates do in the “dog pod,” where they train, care for and adopt out dogs large and small.



Thor, Schroeckenstein’s Neapolitan Mastiff, is the smallest of his three dogs.

After Schroeckenstein graduated from Flathead High School, he attended Carroll College in Helena. In his freshman year at Carroll, he developed an interest in criminal justice, which led him to graduate in the Class of 1999 with a Sociology degree.

After a brief internship with U.S. Probation in Helena, in 2000, Schroeckenstein signed on as a correctional officer at the Montana Women’s Prison and made the move to Billings. At the time, he didn’t realize he was beginning a career that would still find him at the Women’s Prison 15 years later. He credits past supervisors with helping him dispel preconceived notions and inspiring him to move up within the prison rather than moving on to a different career path.

Throughout that time, Schroeckenstein says he has “seen nothing but change.” He describes the old prison building he first worked in as more like a dorm room, with wooden furniture and 80 inmates housed in either the high or low security unit. When they moved into the new MWP facility in 2002, the atmosphere became more prison like. They also tend to have more mental health issues, so the services available in this area have expanded, with more clinicians and a psychiatrist on staff.

Continued on next page...

Spotlight on Associate Warden Schroeckenstein, continued...

Based on his experience, Schroeckenstein believes it's important that all staff, including security, be trained to de-escalate potentially dangerous situations involving inmates with mental health problems. "Regardless of which department we work in, we're all dealing with the same offender behaviors, so training in critical incident stress management and emergency response helps everyone on the team."

Schroeckenstein served as a lieutenant in security for eight years, giving him the experience and strong skills Warden Daly needed when the position of associate warden for security opened up late last year.

"We refer to him as 'Stein' because that's easier for all of us," Daly said. "He has a very balanced, no-nonsense way of looking at issues that is very refreshing. I'm confident his approach and experience will enhance the safety and security at the prison."

"Regardless of which department we work in, we're all dealing with the same offender behaviors, so training in critical incident stress management and emergency response helps everyone on the team."

Like teenagers who take advantage of differing responses from their parents, Schroeckenstein notes that offenders need to hear consistent answers from medical and security staff. For that reason, he is committed to building on the existing teamwork between departments. "If security routinely communicates with other departments and we sit down together to discuss issues and find joint solutions, we can all do our jobs better."

Schroeckenstein believes that the prison's small size helps make it such a good place to work, because it allows more interaction with inmates.

"Rather than just doing their time, we have the opportunity to make it *productive* time," he



Alex Schroeckenstein became the new associate warden for security for the Montana Women's Prison on December 28, 2013, after 13 years with the department.

said. "At MWP, we do a good job of giving offenders as many opportunities as possible to help them turn their lives around and not come back."

In his relatively new role as associate warden, Schroeckenstein is looking forward to supporting the professional growth of MWP staff by offering more courses and upgraded training opportunities.

"At MWP, we have a great team made up of really outstanding people who want to move forward," he said. "And the reentry initiative is an important part of that. It's given offenders more hope and a greater buy-in."

While the staff who work with him appreciate his sense of humor, there are weeks when even he finds working in a prison setting especially tough. At those times, he tries to stay positive. For Schroeckenstein, that might mean loading up the minivan with his young kids and dogs, and heading out to camp in the mountains or go fishing. (He is an experienced hand with tackle, but is still working on his fly-fishing skills.)

While Schroeckenstein admits that becoming a flatlander took "a little getting used to," he has come to enjoy Billings, the team he works with, and a corrections career in which there is always something new.



Titus, Schroeckenstein's 212 pound Mastiff.

Training News: Corrections Expands The Pacific Institute's Programs to CCC in Shelby

By Gail Boese, MCE Administrative Officer, and Lisa Hunter, Professional Development Bureau Chief

Over the past six months, trainers from the Department of Corrections (DOC) and The Pacific Institute (TPI) have expanded the reach of the Institute's motivational programs by making them available to staff at the Crossroads Correctional Center (CCC) in Shelby.

This March, four CCC staff and six DOC staff completed the training at the training center in Deer Lodge to become facilitators for the *Investment in Excellence* and *STEPS* programs. The new facilitators will not be fully certified until they have viewed three sessions and co-facilitated three additional sessions.

Congratulations to new CCC facilitators:

- ◆ **Tamara Bowman**
- ◆ **Brandy Sherrard**
- ◆ **Jane Svalstad**
- ◆ **Rick Wells**

and to the DOC staff who successfully completed the facilitator training:

- ◆ Investment in Excellence: **Dave Garcia**
- ◆ STEPS and New Directions: **Don Gerstein**
- ◆ STEPS: **Peggy Kerr-Sheets, Jim Pagels, Teresa Pierson, and Tammy Stidham**

Two employee groups from CCC took part in the initial training conducted in Shelby last fall by the Institute's John McNeil and Mark Schlosser, with DOC's **Gail Boese, Sam Casey and Lisa Hunter.**

Both groups were excited to learn how to fulfill their potential and make a positive difference in the world around them.

CCC staff trained included **Tamara Bowman, Cathy Christiaens, Elaine Dirkes, Alicia Elliott, John Hoyt, Tom Jacobsen, Gerald Kulpas, Todd Mellinger, Bill Moulton, Brandy Sherrard, Jennifer Smith, Jamie Stiffler, Jane Svalstad, Camille Wandler and Rick Wells.**

Former CCC Warden Martin Frink and Chief of Unit Management William Moulton requested the training for the Correctional Corporation of America (CCA) facility in Shelby.

"Warden Frink is very excited about the expansion of TPI at his facility, and wants to empower his staff to embrace the Investment in Excellence principles and move forward with the STEPS program at their facility," Hunter said.

CCC and the department are developing a pilot STEPS schedule that will allow the trainers to become fully certified. Once that is accomplished, the course will routinely be available to inmates at the Shelby prison.

The Pacific Institute's Programs

The Pacific Institute, based in Seattle, is a nationally recognized motivational institute that works with government and private corporations to improve performance and encourage professional growth of employees, change management and develop leaders.

The Institute's "**Investment in Excellence**" curriculum has been the cornerstone of the department's professional development program since **2004**. To date, more than 721 DOC employees have benefited from the course, which encourages staff to assess the choices they make and set new personal and professional goals.

A similar program – "**Steps to Economic and Personal Success**" (**STEPS**) – has also been available to Montana State Prison inmates since 2009. STEPS teaches offenders how to change their way of thinking about themselves, their lives and their criminal background. MSP inmates who show a commitment to the program are trained to become mentors for other offenders in the program.

The ultimate goal is make the STEPS program consistent and transportable between Montana State Prison and CCC — so that an inmate who is transferred from one facility to the other can join a group and continue his STEPS education.



Investment in Excellence Training

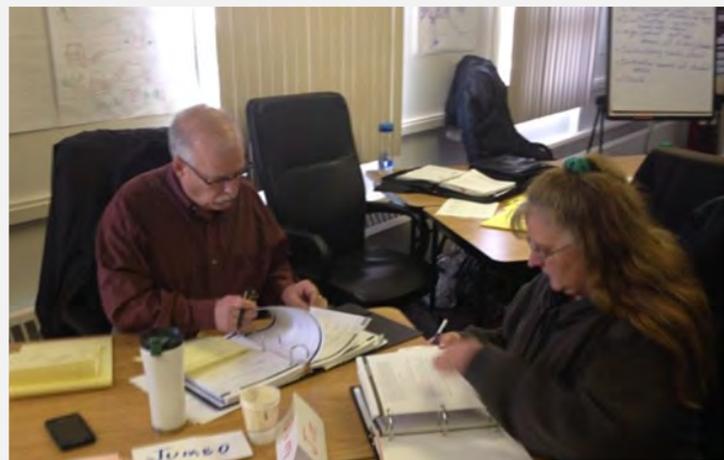
Initial training at Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby, October 2013:

From left: DOC trainer Lisa Hunter, Jamie Stiffler, The Pacific Institute's John McNeil, Bill Moulton, TPI's Mark Schlosser, MCE staff Gail Boese and Sam Casey, and Domingo Stewart

The Pacific Institute's Facilitator Training

At right, DOC reentry case manager Jim Pagels and CCC's Tamara Bowman prepare to present a unit from the STEPs program as part of the facilitator training.

Photo by Lisa Hunter



DOC and CCC staff participate in joint facilitator training in Deer Lodge, March 2014

Back, from left: Don Gerstein, Rick Wells, Jim Pagels, Dave Garcia and Lisa Hunter (instructor). Front, from left: Jane Svalstad, Tamara Bowman, Tammy Stidham, Teresa Pierson, Brandy Sherrard and Peggy Kerr-Sheets

Photo by Jackie Bock

SPRING WELLNESS

by April Grady



QUARTERLY READ

“Pequot Landing—I’m sure you know what that’s like, a typical Connecticut river town, small, unpretentious, elderly. Splendid elms forming shady aisles over the streets-before the Dutch Blight this was-spacious, well-kept lawns, promising in June, scorched by September...”

Thomas Tryon, The Other, 1971

The Other is a beautifully haunting favorite, a story about the mesmerizingly opposite personalities of twin boys growing up in a small northeastern town after their father’s untimely death. This book ends with an insane twist and although 43 years have passed since the



initial publishing, it is a must read!

ECO TIP: GROW A ROW FOR THOSE IN NEED

Spring is just around the corner signifying the time for garden planning and starting seeds. This year plan to grow an additional row of basic vegetables like lettuce, carrots, onions, and tomatoes and donate everything that row produces throughout the summer to your local food pantry.

QUICK FITNESS:

Torch 225 calories and get firm in a flash with this no-gear plan from Shape.com:

- 0-3 min. Warm up — March in place, skip, and do jumping jacks for one minute each.
- 3-4 min. Squats
- 4-5 min. Side kicks-squat, then kick right leg out to the side as you rise up, switch sides after 30 seconds.
- 5-6 min. Jump squat-squat with feet hip-width apart. Power up into the air, landing back into the squat.
- 6-7 min. March in place.
- 7-9 min. Lunges with right leg forward. Switch legs after one minute.
- 9-10 min. Jumping jacks
- 10-11 min. Burpees — squat, place hands on ground in front of feet. Kick feet back into plank or push-up position. Jump feet back up to hands, return to stand and repeat.
- 11-12 min. Walk outs — stand with feet hip-width apart, bend forward from hips and place hands on floor in front of feet. Walk hands forward until you’re in plank position. Walk feet toward hands until you are in a forward bend again. Reverse the motion walking feet back to plank position, then walk hands back toward feet to a forward bend.
- 12-13 min. March in place.
- 13-23 min. Repeat minutes 3-13
- 23-25 min. Cool down — march in place while circling arms forward for one minute, then backward for one minute.

Yesterday you said tomorrow.

SPRING DAILY EATING PLAN

Try this example of a daily 1650 calorie diet to help shed pounds and create energy.

BREAKFAST:

HONEY-MUSTARD HAM STEAK

Brush a 3 oz. pan-grilled ham steak with 1 tsp. honey mustard. Add 1 slice of whole grain toast topped with 1 tsp. butter, and $\frac{3}{4}$ c. lowfat cottage cheese topped with 1 sliced apricot.

(370 calories)

SNACK

1 oz. almonds (about 24 almonds)

(200 calories)



LUNCH:

CHILI STUFFED POTATO

Split one medium baked potato and top with 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. low fat/low sodium chili, $\frac{1}{3}$ c. diced green bell pepper, 3 TBS chopped onion, and fresh cilantro and pepper to taste.

(420 calories)



SNACK

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. dried fruit like plums, apricots, peaches, or apples (200 calories)

DINNER:

BLACK BEAN AND MANGO QUESADILLA

- ◆ Top an 8" whole wheat tortilla with $\frac{1}{4}$ c. rinsed black beans, $\frac{1}{4}$ c. diced mango, $\frac{1}{4}$ c. shredded Monterey Jack cheese, and 1 oz. smoked deli turkey. Top with another whole wheat tortilla.
- ◆ Heat cooking spray in a frying pan and cook quesadilla until cheese melts.
- ◆ Cut into wedges and serve with jarred salsa verde. (460 calories)



WHITE FISH FILLETS AMANDINE



INGREDIENTS:

2 pounds white fish fillets cod, halibut, tilapia, perch
(I used ocean perch for this recipe)

$\frac{1}{4}$ c. all-purpose flour

1 tsp. Cajun seasoning

1 tsp salt

1 tsp paprika

$\frac{1}{4}$ c. melted butter

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. sliced almonds

2 TBS freshly squeezed lemon juice

5 drops hot pepper sauce

DIRECTIONS:

- ◆ Set broiler to low. Cut fillets in to six portions.
- ◆ Combine flour, Cajun seasoning, salt, and paprika. Roll fish in flour mixture.
- ◆ Place fish in a single layer, skin side down, in a well-greased 15x10 baking pan. Drizzle 2 TBS of melted butter over fish.
- ◆ Broil 4 inches from heat source for about 7 minutes. Turn the broiler up to high and broil for 3 more minutes, watching carefully, until coating is crisp and fish flakes with a fork.
- ◆ While fish is broiling, sauté almonds in a frying pan in remaining 2 TBS butter. Stir occasionally and allow almonds to turn golden brown.
- ◆ Remove pan from heat and add lemon juice and hot pepper sauce. Pour over fish and serve at once.

PISTACHIO GUACAMOLE

This fresh dip weighs in at only 134 calories, 12 g. of heart healthy fat, 5 grams of fiber and 2 grams of protein.

- ◆ In a bowl, mash 2 avocados, $\frac{1}{4}$ c. chopped onion, and 3TBS lime juice.
- ◆ Stir in 3 TBS chopped pistachios and season with salt.
- ◆ Top with 3 TBS sliced radishes and serve with vegetables.

Regional Roundup



Contributed by the regional probation and parole offices.

Region 1

by Heather Smith, PO II, Missoula

Region 1 welcomed **Josh Green** to the Missoula P&P team as the new sex offender specialist, replacing **Katie Burton**, who took a federal probation job in Idaho. Green formerly worked in the Great Falls P&P office from 2009 to 2012.

The Missoula office also welcomed **Craig Robertson**, who transferred from Hamilton P&P, as the new Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) specialist.

PO **Tucker Hood** has accepted a federal probation position in Missoula.

Reentry PO **Landee Holloway** is diligently working with the public to get services set up for offenders reentering the community. This is a never-ending undertaking that demands lots of time and energy. Holloway's efforts do not go unnoticed!

Both the Missoula and Hamilton offices are in the process of filling positions and we look forward to being fully staffed once again.

Region 4

by Brooke Risa, Administrative Assistant, Billings

All Region IV officers have now completed training in the new Montana Offender Risk and Reentry Assessment (MORRA), the Women's Risk and Needs Assessment (WRNA) and Motivational Interviewing. POII **Jennie Hansen** and PO **Darren Zent** facilitated the March training. Region IV officers also attended the Street Survival 2014 training in Helena in March, after which POIIs Evans and Ostwalt completed training for firearms instructors.



Recent changes to caseloads in Region IV include:

- ◆ **Jennie Hansen** accepted the POII position following **Marj Nash**'s retirement.
- ◆ **Mike Price** has taken on the sex offender caseload and **Lea Werhonig** has transitioned back to a standard caseload.
- ◆ **Brad Pinnick** has taken on the mental health caseload.
- ◆ **John Frost** took over the Carbon County caseload.

Please join us in welcoming three new P&P officers:

- ◆ **Heather Edwards** joined the Hardin P&P office.
- ◆ **John Lamb** and **Joe Dompier** have joined the Billings office.

We also extend our best wishes to three staff who are leaving the department. **Jim Brilz** and **Jennifer Welling** have retired, and **Jeremiah Adams** has accepted a new position with the Billings Police Department.

A new addition to the Region IV family is **Katie Weston**'s baby girl, Rory Sheehan Weston, born January 11. Rory weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21" long.

Region 5

by David Dowell, PO II, Kalispell

Region V recently completed simulator training at Northwest Shooter in Kalispell. All officers in the region completed target practice and simulated home visits on a 300-degree screen display. Officers **Jim Brenden** and **Rick Jones** noted that each officer did well in assessing the scenarios and responding appropriately. Thanks to **Officers Brenden, Scott Brotnov, Dave Edwards** and **Cynthia Ault** for conducting this training, which is designed to allow officers to expand their awareness and put their prior training to use in a realistic situation.

Region 5, continued

We welcome Kalispell administrative support staffer **Christine Boles** to the team. And lastly, PO **Joe Gaxiola** left the Polson office to work in probation on the east coast.

Region 6

by Tom Fulton, PO, Miles City

The officers and staff of Region VI have been struggling to stay warm the last few months as this year's winter drags on and on. Despite the steady subzero temperatures, we have been staying busy.

We recently hired **John Olsen** as an officer with the Sidney P&P office. Olsen is a Montana native who graduated from Montana State University in 2000, majoring in History and Sociology. He has over 10 years of criminal justice experience, most recently as a state probation officer in Colorado Springs. Olsen is an avid hiker and mountain biker.

In training news, **Bill Barker** traveled to Glendive in February to provide training in first aid and blood borne pathogens. We appreciated him and "Annie" making the long trip so the Glendive staff could all be trained at the same time.

In recent months, Glendive PO **Wally Peter** has started a Booters group for individuals who have graduated from the Treasure State Correctional Training Center (boot camp). (See related story on page 1.)

Last December, Region VI recognized two individuals for their service to the department:

- ◆ **20 years** – Miles City P&P's administrative support staff **Patty Washington** is the heart and soul of the office. While Patty would say that she "doesn't do all that much for us," everyone who works with her appreciates her great sense of humor and that she takes exceptionally good care of her officers. We couldn't ask for a better person to help us through the day-to-day processes that keep this office operating at its best.

As a staff sergeant in the Army National Guard, Lloyd Sundby (left) supervised a young man by the name of Emery Brelje...now regional administrator for Region 6.



Administrative support staff Patty Washington, shown with PO Tom Fulton, celebrates 20 years with the Miles City P&P office.

- ◆ **Five years** – PO Tech **Lloyd Sundby** also takes very good care of his folks at the Glasgow P&P office. Before coming to work for the department, Sundby had a long career in the military and law enforcement. He served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1971, before becoming the chief of law enforcement and fire at the Glasgow Air Force base. He then worked as an investigator for the Valley County Sheriff's Office for about six years. Sundby retired after 22 years with the Army National Guard as a training NCO and supply sergeant.

We are grateful to have Patty Washington and Lloyd Sundby on our team.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCIES TAKE PART IN MOCK FIRE EXERCISE AT PINE HILLS

by David J. Vaught, MEP
Emergency Preparedness Planning Manager

Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility staff continued to improve upon the facility's emergency preparedness by hosting a January 15 table-top exercise centered around a mock fire situation involving numerous casualties. The exercise focused on assessing the situation, establishing a unified command and conducting triage operations in a correctional setting.

Participants quickly identified critical information that should be communicated to ensure unified command has an accurate, common operating picture on which to base decisions. Staff also realized that establishing a unified command results in a well-coordinated response.

Agencies that participated in the exercise included the Miles City Police Department, Custer County Sheriff's Department, Miles City Fire Rescue, Custer County Disaster and Emergency Services, Custer County Public Health, Montana Women's Prison and Montana State Prison Infirmery.

Participant reviews of the exercise emphasized how valuable it was to meet with and discuss emergency response with responders from outside the facility. As one participant said, "These are the people and faces we'll see when an incident occurs."

Montana State Prison's Director of Nursing **Cindy Hiner** and RN **Anita Thorpe** presented the prison's triage protocol. Pine Hills Medical Director **Sandra Fogle** and her staff plan to collaborate with MSP Infirmery staff to develop a similar protocol for their facility.



Emergency response personnel from Miles City and Custer County join Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility staff in planning their response to a mock fire at the facility.

Staff also identified specific improvements that can be made relating to staff and visitor verification and accountability protocols.

"Pine Hills is to be commended for drawing outside agencies into the exercise," Emergency Preparedness Planning Manager **David Vaught** said. "It was a success because everyone

took a team approach."

Montana Women's Prison Associate Warden **Bob Paul** served as an evaluator and Pine Hills emergency management coordinators Lt. **Erv Bohlman** and Correctional Supervisor **Bill Marsh** assisted in planning the exercise.

Watch for reports in future Signposts about several other training exercises:

- ◆ April 16 – Montana Women's Prison
- ◆ April 30 – Treasure State Correctional Training Center (TSCTC)
- ◆ Department Emergency Operations Center (DEOC) activation training for DEOC command and general staff.

From [*10 Facts About Women in Jails*](#):

"The negative impact that involvement with the criminal justice system has—besides the direct cost of incarceration—is generational in that the children of female offenders are also five times more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system (Petersilia, 2003)."

New faces at Central Office...continued from page 9

Human Resources Director Kila Shepherd, continued. Four years later, Shepherd became HR director for the UM Helena College of Technology. Prior to joining corrections, she served as the HR bureau chief for the Montana Department of Justice. Shepherd has a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from California State University.



HR Director Kila Shepherd



*Clinical Services Administrator
Connie Winner*

Clinical Services Administrator Connie Winner – Winner has a master’s degree in Health Care Administration from MSU-Billings, and most recently served as a Clinical Research Manager with Benefis Hospital and the Great Falls Clinic. She began her career in the legal field, working at the city, county, state and federal levels. Prior to entering the medical field, she worked as a civil investigator for the Montana Attorney General’s office.

Winner’s legal and medical background has enabled a smooth transition to her new responsibilities overseeing all medical, dental, vision and mental health services provided in Department of Corrections’ facilities and those contracting with the department. She started her new position in February.

NATIONAL GUARD RECOGNIZES MONTANA STATE PRISON’S CAPT. MCNEIL



MSP Warden Kirkegard presents the Patriot Award to Capt. Scott McNeil at a staff meeting.

Captain **Scott McNeil** received the “*Patriot Award*” for his support of the Guard and Reserve members he supervises. The nomination, submitted by **SSgt. Jay Wood**, read:

“Without supervisors like you, our men and women of the Guard and Reserve would not be able to serve our nation as they do. The ease and cooperation shown by you to the service members you oversee is greatly appreciated.”

The award was presented on behalf of Chris Hindoen, chairman of the Montana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

MSP MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

*by Linda Moodry, Public/Victims Information Officer
Montana State Prison*

Food Service Supervisor **Danny Riddle** routinely goes above and beyond in his duties. The Warden’s office often relies on him for last minute food and beverages when outside guests come to the institution. We can always count on Mr. Riddle to provide our guests with a great display of fruits and cookies, or a special snack that food service has been working on. We appreciate the humor he brings to his job and his patience when he already works in a very busy environment.



Food Service Supervisor Danny Riddle (left) accepts the Management Employee of the Quarter from Warden Kirkegard.

Special Olympics Honors “Unsung Hero”

Lisa Hunter

The Special Olympics recently recognized Corrections Professional Development bureau chief **Lisa Hunter** as an “Unsung Hero” for her outstanding support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Lt. Jack Allen of the Great Falls Police Department and the torch run’s state director presented the award at the group’s annual kick-off banquet in Missoula.

“As a member of the executive council, Lisa Hunter offers suggestions that are well thought out and for the betterment of the entire Torch Run program,” Allen said. “In true unsung fashion, she doesn’t seek recognition for the things she does. She just rolls up her sleeves and kindly says, ‘Let’s do it.’”

Continued on page 19



From left: Jena Lawson, LETR Athlete Ambassador from Great Falls; Lt. Jack Allen, Great Falls PD, Montana LETR State Director; Chris Zier, LETR Athlete Ambassador from Missoula; Lisa Hunter, Department of Corrections; Jason Johnson, Missoula County Sheriff’s Office, Western Montana LETR Assistant Director; and Cheree Miller, US Border Patrol, Eastern Montana LETR Assistant Director

ePass service gives victims new way to register for offender information

by Sally K. Hilander, Victim programs manager

Victim notification has become the fifth Department of Corrections public service accessible via the MONTANA.GOV website. DOC information technology staff partnered with the state e-government service provider to design an easy way for victims to register for information about parole hearings, offender custody status and location changes, releases, escapes and more. MT.GOV also manages the Correctional Offender Network (CON) site and provides a list of DOC parole violators at large. Probationers and parolees can pay their restitution and offender families can deposit money into prison inmate welfare accounts.

The new ePass victim notification service complements, rather than duplicates, the automated and anonymous Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE) system. Victims and other members of the public register a phone number or email address only on VINE. DOC often needs victim names and addresses in order to discuss offender placement decisions, explain the parole hearing attendance process or offer case-specific information.

When a victim registers with DOC at the ePass site, the information is kept confidential, a critical aspect of any victim program. Victim names and addresses transfer into OMIS along with the associated offender. The information is accessible to those who need to contact victims directly, including prison records, community corrections and victim services staff.

MT.GOV is managed by the state Department of Administration and provides state agencies a way to interact electronically with the public. MT.GOV collects public questions and comments about state government and emails them to the appropriate agency for a response. MT.GOV is not to be confused with the Governor’s website <http://governor.mt.gov/>. Access the ePass website at <https://app.mt.gov/victimnotification>.

Special Olympics, continued

Hunter has been involved with the torch run since 2002, taking part in fundraising and the relay of law enforcement personnel who carry the “Flame of Hope” across Montana to the Special Olympics opening ceremony.

In 2007, Hunter raised the most money in the Polar Plunge, diving into the icy waters of Spring Meadow Lake as part of Helena’s *Sweetheart Passion Plunge*. Since 2010, she has coordinated the torch run from Drummond to Deer Lodge, and Deer Lodge to Opportunity, and has served as the DOC representative on the torch run’s executive council.



COMING

These lists of new and departing employees cover the period from Dec. 27 through March 21. If you notice errors or omissions, please contact the *Signpost* editor, jbeck@mt.gov.

Central Office

Meridith McWilliams
Dennis Murphy
Kila Shepherd
Connie Winner

MT Correctional Enterprises

Sandra Butler
Brittany Smith

Montana State Prison

David August

Michael Bailey
Andrew Bewley
Eunice Cole
Joan Curtis
Jennifer Dale
Garry Dobbs
Wesley Eastis
William Goode
Christopher Graham
Lloyd Lesperance
Andrew Martin
Joseph Mello
Heather Rasmussen
Rachel Reich
Royce Sanchez
Joel Scheett
Courtney Severeid

Thomas Snowden
Maria Stoppler

Montana Women’s Prison

John Goodnight
Andee Hill
Jennifer Keller
David Rudolph
Jerome Stewart

Pine Hills

Harold Howman
Gregory Huber
Jeremiah Jeffreys
Jan Ronning
Elaine Roufley
Joy Schmitt-Lane
Angela Therrian

Carressa Yearby

Probation and Parole

Christine Boles, Kalispell
John Lamb, Billings
Craig Robertson, Missoula
Kim Sayre, Great Falls

Riverside

Jill Jackson

TSCTC

Darci Coffman
Teresa Johnson
Jacob Nelson
Adam Romkema
Robert Tretter

GOING

Michael Aldrich
Leo Arvish
Nicole Bullock
Ted Bury
Michelle Camper
Thomas Chvilicek
Steve Collins
Zachary Cook
Janet Cox
Robert Cremer
Daniel Curran
Ava Farrington
Lori Fjermestad

Ron Fuller
James Garcia
James Gaskell
Joe Gaxiola
Laurie Hafla
Jeanie Hall
Rodney Harding
Katie Hedrick (Burton)
Tucker Hood
Christine Lansford
Pete Lemelin
Guthrie Lewis
Jennifer Marti

Devin McGee
Jason Miller
Buddy Myotte
Allen Pankovich
Anita Pisarsky
Richard Randall
Heather Rasmussen
Michael Rickman
Donna Schlotter
William Schwab
Sara Simmons
Angela Stone
Jennifer Stubb

Shirley Sweetser
Frank Truex
Debra VandenBoom
Pamela Ward
Ryan Wellnitz
David White
Amos Williams
Hugh Wilson
Kimberly Winkle
Brandon Yockim
Leland Zuber

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