



Montana Department of Corrections Correctional Signpost



2013
No. 3

Governor Bullock’s Welcome at initial HB 68 Reentry Task Force Meeting

Gov. Steve Bullock addressed new task force members, Corrections staff and members of the public in Helena on August 28. His remarks follow.

As attorney general, I learned a valuable lesson when we first introduced a new Google mapping feature for the Sexual or Violent Offender Registry. To get ready for the announcement, I searched within a mile of my home address – you could barely see the star symbol for my home for all the flags representing offenders.

Like it or not, offenders are our neighbors. When they have served their sentences, or satisfied the requirements to enter prerelease, probation or parole, most inmates eventually return to their home communities.

Last year, 1,173 inmates walked through the doors into Montana’s prison system, and 1,177 walked out. The charge to all of you here today who have agreed to support the state’s Reentry initiative, is to make sure that when those inmates walk out the prison gates, they are ready – and our communities are ready – for a safe and successful transition.

That is no easy task. And the legislature has raised the bar even higher, charging you with helping develop and implement effective reentry programs that target inmates who are at the greatest risk of recidivism. That’s a bit like asking a coach to take on the Kansas City Chiefs (who finished 2-14 last year), and expecting them to make it the Super Bowl.

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MSP / MCE Staff Raise Funds for Victim’s Mom

In early July, three-year-old Brody Cramer was found murdered east of Anaconda. To help his mother meet all of the expenses involved, MSP Public/Victims Information Officer Linda Moodry asked staff at the prison and Montana Correctional Enterprises to contribute to a fund for the family.



In just a few days, MSP and MCE staff donated \$425, which was sent directly to Brody’s mother, Natalya Cramer, of Lacey, Washington.

“I cannot thank staff enough for their support and love for this little boy, his mom and family,” Moodry said. “I am so proud of our community of correctional professionals.”

Bullock

From Page 1

Tough, yes, but as I look around this room, I'm encouraged by the folks I see at the table –

Dr. Mihelish, Moe Wosepka, Derek VanLunchene, Matt Dale, John Strandell, Jason Smith, Rep. Schreiner, and a few faces I don't yet know. This is an impressive group. And with the combined experience and wisdom you bring to this undertaking, I have every confidence that you will accomplish something worthwhile, something that truly makes a difference in the lives of others.

The charge to all of you here today who have agreed to support the state's Reentry initiative, is to make sure that when those inmates walk out the prison gates, they are ready – and our communities are ready – for a safe and successful transition.

-Governor Steve Bullock

The reality is, not every inmate we release will reintegrate successfully into the community. But we can – and with your guidance, we will – put improved strategies in place to increase their likelihood of success.

As I said, the reality is offenders are going to be our neighbors. But that's not the only factor we need to consider, or the only reason to get behind the reentry initiative.

It's also a reality that every successful reentry we achieve reduces the number of new victims. Everything we can do to disrupt the cycle of reoffending prevents a whole new wave of crimes and victims.

Mike's experience in his first year as Corrections director speaks to another important fact: Inmates are more than their crimes – they are individuals with their own stories, their own families, and with the potential to turn their lives around.

And then there's a combination that too rarely comes packaged together – by strengthening our reentry efforts, we can potentially save money by doing what is simply the right thing to do.

The piece of legislation that created this task force acknowledges another reality: Corrections can't

do this alone. We need the active participation of educators, our university system, Labor and Industry, Commerce, Justice, Public Health & Human Services and the legislature. We need advocates who understand the special challenges faces by Native Americans and people with mental illnesses. We need law enforcement's public safety perspective and the faith community's compassion. And we need voices that will remind us of the victims' perspective.

And today, you're all here at the table.

A lot of people would prefer not to think about prison inmates at all – the more invisible, the better. The harsh reality is that the vast majority of these men and women have faced lives that few of us could comprehend. Many have never experienced success. The people in this room this morning can help change that. My thanks for your interest in supporting the Department of Corrections in their efforts. I truly appreciate your willingness to serve on Montana's Reentry task force.

Montana Department of Corrections Mission

*The Montana
Department of
Corrections enhances
public safety, supports
victims of crime,
promotes positive
offender behavior, and
reintegrates offenders
into the community.*



MSP Infirmary Staff Earn Professional Certification

By Linda Moodry
Public/Victims Information Officer
Montana State Prison

Five health staff at Montana State Prison recently earned their professional certification in the field of correctional health care.

- Pat Berkram, RN, Director of Nursing
- Cindy Hiner, RN,
- Cathy Redfern, Health Services Manager
- Donna Sebastian, RN
- Anita Thorpe, RN, Assistant Director of Nursing

They all achieved Certified Correctional Health Professional (CCHP) standing from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). This required completing an application, meeting the program's eligibility requirements and passing a national examination. The program is governed by the CCHP Board of Trustees, comprised of correctional health care experts from a variety of health professions.

Montana State Prison's medical, dental and mental health programs received national accreditation from NCCHC in 2011. NCCHC is a not-for-profit organization working to improve the quality of care in the nation's jails, prisons and juvenile detention and confinement facilities. The organization establishes standards for health services in correctional facilities and provides training and resources to help correctional health care systems provide efficient, high-quality health care.

"This was not an easy task and I appreciate the tremendous dedication and commitment of our infirmary staff,"
-MSP Warden Leroy Kirkegard



Cathy Redfern
Health Services
Manager



Cindy Hiner
RN



Anita Thorpe
RN, Asst. Direc-
tor of Nursing



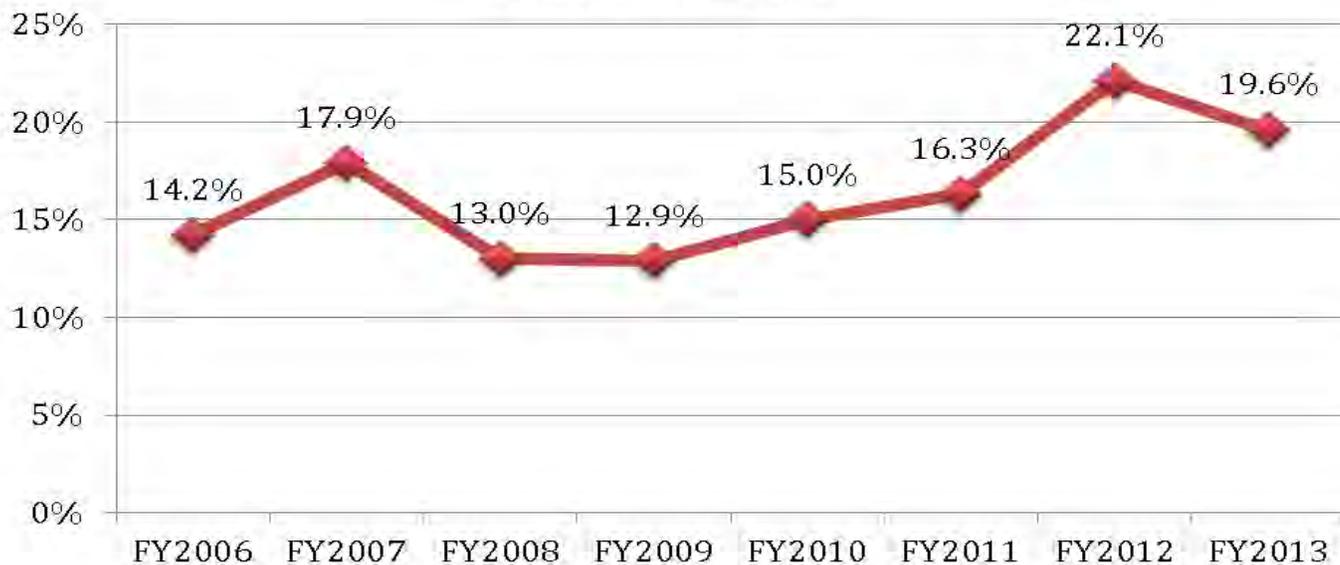
Pat Berkram
RN, Director of
Nursing



**Donna
Sebastian**
RN

Turnover Rate Dips in FY 2013

Turnover Rate



**By Adrienne Slaughter
Government Relations Director**

A preview of trends within the department shows that, last year, the number of employees leaving corrections declined slightly from the previous year, but is still hovering around 20 percent. This is the second highest turnover rate experienced in reporting history.

“As more Baby Boomers retire, we don’t expect to see the turnover rate go much lower in the coming years,” deputy director Loraine Wodnik said. “In exit interviews, the two most common reasons people gave for leaving were personal reasons and dissatisfaction with pay. We’re very aware of the department’s pay issues and I’m leading an effort to make progress in addressing the most pressing of those issues.”

The Human Resources Bureau’s full annual report will be released later this year.

Cascade County Law Enforcement Recognizes P&P Officer Nichole Anderson

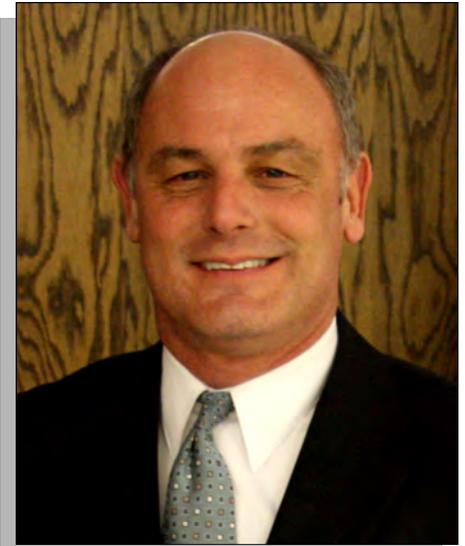
**By Judy Wagner
Regional Administrative Assistant
Great Falls Probation and Parole**

Last May, the 12th Annual Reception Ceremony for the Cascade County DUI Task Force honored P&P Officer Nichole Anderson for her supervision of DUI offenders.

DUI task force coordinator Al Recke presented Anderson with a plaque, as well as several gift certificates from Great Falls businesses. Anderson’s parents, former Libby Sheriff Daryl Anderson and his wife, Theresa, made the trip to Great Falls to show their support for, and pride in, their daughter.

ANDERSON, PAGE 25

From the Director



Mike Patista

In early August, it was my pleasure to welcome more than 70 people to Helena for the kickoff of the department's expanded Reentry Task Force. All in all, it was a great group of people and a day well spent.

Governor Steve Bullock stopped by to speak to the new task force after he'd dropped his kids off for their first morning of the new school year. His remarks are reprinted on page 1.

The morning also included a presentation by Dr. Ed Latessa from the University of Cincinnati's School of Criminal Justice. With an incredible depth of knowledge and some great stories, Latessa walked everyone through his assessment of what works (providing intensive treatment to high-risk offenders) and what doesn't work (acupuncture and "getting back to nature") in reducing recidivism.

From my perspective, one of the highlights of the day was hearing from Reentry Program Manager Sam Casey. As someone who has championed and worked on this initiative for the past four years, Sam sat at the table with the 12 individuals representing other agencies and organizations, shook his head and said, "I never thought I'd see this day."

There was a lot of excitement in the room about the opportunity to take our reentry efforts to the next level. And while we recognized that there are many, many challenges, there was also a lot of hope.

Nine months at corrections has taught me a thing or two. Working in this profession, you're surrounded by people who know the offenders as individuals, who know their backgrounds – know about the child abuse, the poverty, the severe drinking that has made their lives run off the rails. You don't have to spend long with Tom Wilson, associate warden for programs at Montana State Prison, or Sam and Gayle Lambert on the Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) side, or Joan Daly, warden at the Montana Women's Prison, before you discover that their commitment to helping these men and women turn their lives around is nothing short of inspiring.

You can do a lot of things in a career, but when you rebuild a life, that's really something.

On my first visit to MCE, I toured the dairy, the furniture shop, the license plate factory, the prison ranch, a lumber mill and a vocational training program. You can see the sense of purpose in the inmates' faces. Like most people, they respond well to doing worthwhile work.

That day, I also met the woman who runs the lumber mill for MCE. Clara Morrison has worked in mills her entire life, 11 of those years at the prison mill. It's pretty clear from how orderly and efficient the mill is that Clara has the respect of the inmates she oversees. Her program is very successful because it allows inmates to earn the highest level of certification in the industry, certifications that aren't that easy to come by. Because of that, the program places a number of inmates in well-paying jobs in the Flathead area.

Clara told me about an inmate who had decided she didn't like him. He confronted her with, "You don't like me because I'm black." And all five feet of her came back with, "No, I don't like you because you're lazy." Clara's word inspired the inmate to work harder and, by the time he left the prison, he had earned the highest mill certification available. And he still writes to Clara.

There are lots of good reasons to care about preparing inmates for reentry. The potential cost savings in terms of prison space are obvious. But reentry is about a lot more than the dollars. It's about public safety and making sure offenders don't hurt more victims. And it's about changing people's lives – about the bigger story behind each person.

House Bill 68's Reentry Task Force Members....

While the Department of Corrections began its reentry initiative in 2008, the new task force was created by the 2013 Legislature and recognizes that an effective reentry network requires a partnership that includes a number of other agencies. The bill authorizing the task force specifically requires members representing education, the university system, and the departments of Labor and Industry, Commerce, Justice, and Public Health & Human Services.

A list of task force members, and the agencies and interests they represent, follows:

Name	Agency/Organization
Director Mike Batista, Chairman	Department of Corrections
Nancy <u>Coopersmith</u>	Office of Public Instruction
Kelly Lynch	Department of Commerce
Tom Nielson	Department of Public Health & Human Services
Steve Olson	Department of Labor and Industry
Dr. Mark Pagano	University System
John Strandell	Department of Justice
Matt Dale	Department of Justice, restorative justice rep.
Derek <u>VanLuchene</u>	Ryan United, crime victim rep.
Dr. Gary <u>Mihelish</u>	NAMI, mental health advocate
Casey Schreiner	State Representative (HD22)
Jason Smith	Governor's Office, Director of Indian Affairs
Moe <u>Wosepka</u>	Montana Catholic Conference, faith-based rep.

....HB 68's Charge to the Task Force

During the 2013 Legislature, Rep. Margie MacDonald, D-Billings, sponsored HB 68 at the request of the Law and Justice Interim Committee. In an effort to enhance public safety and save the state money, the legislation directed the task force to target inmates at the greatest risk of returning to the correctional system. The bill charged the department and the reentry task force with four major tasks:

“The department, in consultation with the reentry task force, shall:

1. examine and implement programs that will help bring community resources into prisons to support inmate reentry planning and preparation;
2. develop partnerships with and contract with community-based organizations that provide needed services to released inmates in areas such as mental health, chemical dependency, employment, housing, health care, faith-based services, parenting, relationship services, and victim impact panels;
3. coordinate with community restorative justice programs to ensure victim concerns and opportunities for restorative justice practices, including restitution, are considered during an offender's reentry; and
4. collect data, conduct program evaluation, and develop findings and any recommendations about reentry and recidivism and include this information in an annual report to be made available to the law and justice interim committee.”

Video Visitation is coming to Montana!

By Mike Raczkowski
IT Communications Infrastructure Manager

A cross-division team is working on an effort to bring videoconference-based visitation to inmates at all Montana Department of Corrections facilities. This technology allows visitors to have face-to-face visits with offenders without the time and expense involved in traveling to the facility. This system is meant to give additional opportunities for visiting and will not replace in-person visiting.

Video kiosks may be installed at strategic locations within correctional facilities and can connect with any properly equipped computer, laptop and, in some cases, tablet or smartphone anywhere in the world for scheduled, regulated visits.

The systems work in a similar fashion to the inmate telephone system: the fee users pay for using the system funds the service. Usage rates will be set as low as is feasible to support the operating costs of the system yet still provide affordability for visitors.

Visitors log in to the vendor's website to:

- ◆ make financial arrangements
- ◆ verify that the device they plan to use for the visit is compatible with the system
- ◆ schedule visits
- ◆ access technical support
- ◆ lodge complaints or seek refunds for failed video sessions

Offenders log in to the kiosks to see calendar requests for visits. When the scheduled time approaches, the offender logs on to the system and waits for the session to connect. Prior to the session being connected, the system will inform or remind both parties about the rules for using the system.

During visits, department staff will have the ability to monitor the sessions. These visits are also recorded for future review, just as they are when offenders use the telephone system. The staff members monitoring the visits are able to break into a visitation session and disconnect any session they deem to have violated the rules: sanctions for violations will be clearly defined and will be enforced by the hearings officer.

We hope that certain department staff will also be able to take advantage of the system. For instance, reentry parole officers may be able to do planning with offenders prior to release without traveling to the facility housing the inmate.

The committee responsible for the project is composed of staff from the secure facilities, Contract Management Bureau, Contract Placement, Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center (MASC), Adult Community Corrections, Information Technology Division, Youth Services and the Treasure State Correctional Training Center. Representatives from the regional and private prisons are also involved. The group hopes to have a Request for Proposal on the street by the end of this year.

Those involved in the project expect the technology to decrease recidivism by helping offenders reconnect with their communities prior to release.



MSP Conducts Medical Emergency Drill



**By Linda Moodry
Public/Victims Information Officer
Montana State Prison**

On August 27, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Tom Blaz staged a life-threatening medical emergency in the industries compound as part of the prison's health care accreditation requirements.

"The scenario presented was challenging, but everyone involved in the drill performed admirably," MSP Warden Leroy Kirkegard said. "And the evaluation that followed identified some excellent suggestions that we will put into our planning for future emergencies."

The Emergency Scenario

At 9:30 a.m., the command post received a phone call from the maintenance/industries office that a maintenance supervisor and four inmates had been found unconscious or semiconscious on the floor in the welding shop. Initial information was that the maintenance department was conducting a salvage operation of old cooling coils from surplus refrigeration units. These large refrigeration units used Freon type R-12, which had to be removed. When exposed to heat or an open flame, this Freon can regenerate into phosgene gas, which is similar to a choking agent found in a gas used in chemical warfare.

The MSP shift/incident commander successfully dispatched all emergency responders, including the MSP Fire Brigade, the Inner Perimeter Security (IPS) team and emergency medical responders.

National Standards

To meet National Commission on Correctional Healthcare (NCCHC) accreditation standards, the Montana State Prison must conduct at least one medical mass disaster drill each year, and each shift must participate in a drill over a three-year period.

The intent of the NCCHC standard is to ensure health care staff are prepared to implement the health-related aspects of the facility's emergency response plan and to protect the health, safety and welfare of inmates, staff and visitors during emergencies. Montana State Prison was first accredited by the NCCHC in 2011. Accreditation requires a facility to meet more than 60 standards NCCHC considers essential to providing health care in a correctional setting. MSP is due for re-accreditation in the spring of 2014.

Above right: Dan Calcaterra and Dusty Skocilich, MSP Maintenance

Below left: Agriculture Director Ross Wagner, his wife Dawn and daughter Codee

Deer Lodge Territorial Parade



**By Linda Moody
Public/Victims Information Officer
Montana State Prison**

This June, Montana State Prison and Montana Correctional Enterprise entered three vehicles in the Deer Lodge Territorial Parade. Participation in the annual parade was the idea of the CORE Team – Communicating Optimism, Respect and Enthusiasm – which includes staff from MCE, MSP, the Board of Pardons and Parole, and the Treasure State Correctional Training Center.

Since 2002, the CORE Team has worked to improve communication within the facility and throughout the department and community. As just a few examples of its accomplishments, the team has worked on the following initiatives:

- a video of MSP
- Positive Action employee of the quarter and employee of the year awards
- the first ever Employee Health Fair held in 2013, and a yearly Communication Fair
- development of a staff survey. One CORE survey asked staff what the prison’s greatest strengths were. The answer? “The number one strength is our people!”





Spotlight

Holloway: Belief that people can change is the key

Landee Holloway



Missoula Reentry Probation Officer Landee Holloway keeps a file of thank you notes in her desk drawer. And, while the folder isn't brimming over with letters, the ability to effect change in offenders' lives is what Holloway enjoys most about her career in corrections.

"I enjoy the relationships that develop and working to find a way to connect with offenders," Holloway said. "If I ever stop believing that people can change, it will be time to find a new job."

While notes from offenders are few and far between, Holloway recalls one from a young woman, "a little ball of fire" who had been convicted of attempted homicide for trying to kill her husband. While she was on probation, the young woman admitted to having a few cranberry vodkas at a bar, so Holloway explained that she had to write up the violation. From jail, the young woman wrote to Holloway, thanking her for listening and explaining how much it meant to her to be heard. That experience had a lasting impact on Holloway, and she still invests a significant amount of time and energy listening to the offenders on her caseload.

Holloway grew up in Merrill, Oregon, a rural town of about 800 people that hosts an annual Potato Festival. She wasn't aware of potential careers in corrections until she took a criminology class in college and found the topic "so real and interesting." She ultimately graduated from Southern Oregon State College with a major in criminology and a minor in psychology. At first, Holloway thought she would work with youth, but after moving to Montana and completing an internship with youth court in Polson, in 1993 she took a job with the Department of Corrections at the Missoula Prerelease Center.

In 1995, Holloway became a probation and parole officer, and over the past 18 years, she has worn a number of hats – including a stint with the intensive supervision program and as a first-line supervisor, and now as a reentry specialist. But in a recent job-shadowing situation, it was all the other hats that Holloway wore that impressed the Job Service employee who spent a day with her. After observing a 45-minute meeting with an offender, Job Service employee Cheryl Sabol was surprised by the intensity of the conversation as well as the offender's obvious trust in Holloway. Sabol was also intrigued that Holloway's role was part counselor, part investigator, and part mom.

The job shadowing was part of a reentry pilot program with the Missoula Job Service that aims to open communication about offender needs. Holloway hopes that her office will learn more about how offenders are coping, and that Job Service staff will be more likely to work with offenders who can benefit from mock interviews and other support.

Holloway

From Page 10

“Saying that Landee wants to make a difference might sound clichéd, but she does that very naturally,” Probation and Parole Bureau Chief Ron Alsbury said. “She offers to train others and is willing to take on innovative approaches, all while promoting and sustaining a healthy work environment.”

Over the past year, Holloway has been certified as a trainer in the Montana Offender Reentry/Risk Assessment (MORRA), a tool that helps gauge an offender’s likelihood of success. Holloway believes the MORRA provides a realistic approach to predicting risk and helps identify the areas in an offender’s life that most need to be focused on.

“Introducing MORRA has been a very long, involved and, at times, confusing process and there’s still more work to be done,” Region I administrator Kim Lahiff said. “Landee has waded through all that stress and provided the Missoula region and others the training and help they needed to understand the new assessment tool. Her hard work, dedication and leadership are wonderful and a great example of what people in this field can do when they don’t limit themselves.”

Holloway’s skill in motivating offenders to build an identity beyond the criminal justice system is important in her reentry position. To help offenders reintegrate successfully, she believes P&P officers have to work with the whole person, not just their criminal history. For many on Holloway’s caseload, building a positive support group is often at the top of the list.

“So many offenders don’t have someone who is invested in them,” Holloway said, “so I encourage them to develop their own community, whether that’s through a support group, a church, or school or volunteering.”

Holloway recalled a sex offender who had recently been released from the state prison who had no family and was stigmatized by his crime, but she knew he would likely fail if he never stepped beyond the path from his house to his job and back again. Holloway encouraged him to volunteer at the Missoula Humane Society, and to further broaden his community involvement. She described the glow on his face as he told her that someone at a book reading he’d attended at the local library recognized him from the Humane Society and said “Hello.”

The involvement of other agencies in reentry is equally important. One idea she is pursuing is building connections with realtors, many of whom own rental properties. Holloway is also helping organize an October 15 public meeting with the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative. The meeting will focus on reducing homelessness and building a mentoring program to support for offenders.

But Holloway sees the biggest challenge as getting offenders to believe in themselves. She talks passionately about the need to meet offenders where they are. She recognizes that some are not ready to be accountable or are still mired in chemical dependency issues, and so are not ready or motivated to change.

Ed Foley, who supervises the P&P officers within the prison, appreciates her steady influence and her ability to get things done. “Landee’s one of those individuals who really puts other people at ease,” Foley said.

“She’s very adaptable and the sense of humor she brings to her work helps lighten the load and keep things in perspective.”

Holloway thought back to her first aid classes from Corrections training manager Bill Barker, laid the child over her arm and hit him three times on the back.

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Holloway

From Page 11

In late June of this year, Holloway was at a friend's house for a child's birthday party. As they visited on the back patio, the friend realized that her two-year-old son was choking on a Dum Dum sucker. Holloway thought back to her first aid classes from Corrections training manager Bill Barker, laid the child over her arm and hit him three times on the back. The sucker dislodged and a situation that could have ended in tragedy was over within seconds. The grateful mom told Holloway, "I knew you'd know what to do."

A self-described "domestic diva," Holloway loves to cook and entertain, as well as go camping and hiking with her family. During garage sale season, Saturday mornings are likely to find Holloway and her 4-year-old son Jackson out looking for treasures, including the antique book she bought for 50 cents that turned out to be worth \$300, and a 25-cent bread knife that was still selling in stores for \$80. However, Holloway says that her best find ever was her husband of 10 years, Nick, who was a "friend of a friend" at a garage sale. Nick works for the Department of Emergency Services in Missoula County.

While Jackson is happy to accompany his mom garage-saling and learn the value of money, Holloway reciprocates by spending hours helping him on his quest for the elusive "totally awesome" bug. Their family also includes Baxter, the hyperactive Flat-Coated Retriever, and Lolli, the perfect Benji mutt.



**By John Daugherty, IT Administrator, and
Judy Beck, Communications Director**

Last year, the department's management team decided that offenders who have completed their sentences and not returned to the corrections system for three years should be removed from the CON website. This change applies only to offenders whose crimes were not sexual or violent; sexual or violent offenders will continue to remain on the website indefinitely.

Previously, offenders remained on the CON website indefinitely, unless:

- ◆ they successfully completed a deferred sentence
- ◆ their conviction was overturned by a court
- ◆ they were deemed a confidential offender, or
- ◆ they died.

Under the new procedure, non-sexual and non-violent offenders are also automatically removed when they complete their sentence and do not come back into the system for three years, which coincides with the national standard used to calculate recidivism rates.

Information about any convictions remains public and is still available in response to specific inquiries and criminal background checks, but it is no longer available through a search of the CON website.

Montana Interactive, the company that manages the website, rolled out this and a number of other updates in mid-September.

Other recent changes to CON include:

- ◆ Making it "mobile device aware," to provide a better experience when someone accesses the page from a phone or tablet.
- ◆ More frequent updates. While CON was updated only once each week, the new interface allows for one or more updates daily.
- ◆ Cosmetic changes to bring the site into alignment with other E-government applications.

Changes to CON Web Offender Information

Pine Hills Bravo Unit Staff and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCi) Team win awards

**By Steve Ray Jr.
Superintendent, Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility**

Until recently, Unit Charlie staff – Bill Pulse, Fred Willard, Jim Powell, Brandon Duffy, Chris Taylor, Brian Purdie, Aaron Bass and Abby Jesfield – were responsible for the high security unit at Pine Hills. National best practices and research have shown a successful trend away from lock down units in youth corrections, so the unit’s staff were challenged with closing down their unit and opening a revocation/reentry program. The staff packed up their unit and moved to Unit Bravo, where they developed a token economy and a positive behavior reinforcement program.

The new program includes groups that focus on money management, life skills and reentry planning. The results have been astounding. Where Unit Charlie historically had high staff burnout and injury rates, and almost daily uses of force, Unit Bravo went over three months without a use of force.

Pine Hills was also dealing with a high rate of staff injury related to use of force. To address this, the facility asked for staff volunteers to retrain staff in safer methods. Fred Willard, Casey Strub, Lisa Malloy, Simon Niece and Erv Bohlman stepped forward and became trainers in the use of non-violent crisis intervention.

The NVCi team has:

- ◆ retrained all facility staff to use the approved techniques
- ◆ held monthly refresher courses
- ◆ reviewed all use of force incidents to ensure the approved techniques are used
- ◆ provided additional coaching and retraining for staff who were not using the approved techniques

These work of these teams and the many hardworking staff at Pine Hills has resulted in an 85 percent decrease in staff injuries over the last year, as well as a 50 percent decrease in youth injuries.



As staff have developed programs to more effectively deal with youth behaviors, major write-ups in the facility have decreased by 50 percent in the same period. Both of these teams have made Pine Hills a safer, more enjoyable place to work.



**MCA Award winners:
Unit Charlie: Back row
L-R Casey Strub, Erv
Bohlman, Simon Niece;
Front Row L-R Fred
Willard, Lisa Malloy;
not pictured Mark
Lingg**

**Governor’s Award winners: Back row L-R
Brandon Duffy, James Powell, Aaron Bass,
Bill Pulse; Front Row– L-R Chris Taylor,
Fred Willard, Brian Purdie**

“...in prison and you visited me”

Matthew 25, 36

By Moe Wosepka

Executive Director, Montana Catholic Conference, and Reentry Task Force member

Reprinted with permission from The Montana Catholic — Volume 29, No. 8, August 16, 2013

A recent study conducted by the PEW Center on the States concluded that longer prison sentences are not the best way to decrease crime and keep our communities safe. However, that was not the sense 20 years ago. Society was convinced that the best way to keep our communities safe was to put more people in prison. Longer terms and mandatory minimum sentences were established, and prison populations doubled to over 1.5 million inmates.

Those who harm society must be held accountable for their actions, and it is imperative for some violent offenders to be separated from society, but many inmates are in prison for property and other non-violent offenses. Recent studies have shown that, at some point, additional time in prison for non-violent offenders is not beneficial to changing the inmate's behavior.

Another way to reduce prison populations while enhancing community safety is by reducing recidivism. A study by the Minnesota Department of Corrections revealed the effect that visitation has on recidivism. The findings showed increased visitation resulted in a 13% reduction in recidivism for felony convictions and 25% for those who were sent back to prison for a technical violation. The most beneficial visits were those from siblings, in-laws, fathers and clergy. The study also discovered a startling fact that nearly 40% of those in the prison system received no visits the entire time they were there. It suggested that prisons should develop policies that encourage visitation for those who have no visits.



“...in prison and you visited me” Matthew 25, 36. Catholic social teaching calls us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit those who are sick or in prison. We are called to respect the dignity of those who are incarcerated, to acknowledge that they too are Children of God, and show them they have value. It is what we do in prison ministry. It is of interest to note that current studies show our ministry may also make our communities safer.

A number of men and women in Montana volunteer to visit inmates in our prisons and jails. Through scripture readings, music, sharing and fellowship they become the visitors that many inmates never have. When inmates are released from prison, other volunteers assist them in finding jobs, church communities, apartments, clothing, and other basic needs. They become like uncles and aunts, those trusted mentors that many of these men and women didn't have as they grew up.

St. Dismas Ministry in Great Falls and Billings is an arm of the St Vincent de'Paul Society. They visit the county jails every week. The First Step Ministries in Helena is under the umbrella of Good Samaritan Ministries. Most of their work is with former inmates who have returned to Helena. Other individuals and groups work in jails throughout the state. Several times each year approximately 25 volunteers from Billings, Helena, Great Falls, Missoula, Belfry, Toston, Belgrade, Three Forks, Polson, Conrad, and St. Labre come together to host three day retreats (Discovery Weekends) at Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, CCA prison in Shelby, and Yellowstone County Detention Center in Billings. These are life changing events for many inmates.

A former Director of the Department of Corrections used to say “We can't build our way out of this mess” referring to the thought that building more prisons will solve the problem of overcrowding. His focus was getting nonviolent offenders back into their communities where they have jobs and family support. Our prison ministry group can be a critical piece of helping inmates find a better way of living while they are in prison and after they get back on the street. If you would like to get more information on how you could join this powerful ministry please contact us at the MCC.

Free Mobile App Now Available to VINE Users



By Sally Hilander
Victim Programs Manager

The Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system, which tracks the location and custody status of all offenders under DOC supervision, has a new way for victims to receive information – a free mobile app for iPhone and Android devices.

This high-tech feature for smart phone and tablet owners complements VINE's ongoing commitment to provide information and notification to all who ask. A victim living in the most rural corner of Montana can dial up the VINE system on a rotary phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and talk to a live operator in Louisville, Ky.

Most VINE users access by touch-tone telephone, email, or text messaging. The Montana DOC VINE number is (800) 456-3076 or users can find VINE on the Internet at www.vineline.com. Registration is anonymous and secure. VINE is designed to protect victims, but Montana allows unrestricted access.

Appriss Inc., inventor of the VINE system, launched VINEmobile in mid-May of this year. Users may download the app to their smart phones or tablets (mobile computers) from the DOC website or through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#) links.

Training in VINE coming Oct. 29-31

Probation and parole officers, victim services staff and others responsible for notifying victims about offender custody status and location changes have an opportunity in October to learn how the DOC's newly expanded VINE system can make their jobs easier.

VINE company representatives from Kentucky will return to Montana October 29-31 to conduct basic and advanced training via video conferencing from Billings.

The first round of training for Montana DOC's expanded Victim Information and Notification (VINE) system was cut short last November 5 when an early season snowstorm prevented the visiting VINE team from traveling. Despite the blizzard, more than 150 DOC staff and victim service providers participated in Helena-based training, mostly at video-conferencing sites from Hamilton to Glendive.

Since DOC expanded VINE in January to add probation and parole, more than 1,400 victims and other inter-

ested persons have registered for VINE notification via telephone, email, text messaging and a new mobile app since January.

“In today's society, people expect the information they need to be right at their fingertips,” said Appriss CEO and co-inventor Mike Davis. “VINE gives victims peace of mind and it's vital they have easy access to the service no matter where they are.” Appriss reported more than 16,000 VINEmobile downloads in the first month.

Since the Department of Corrections purchased VINE in 1998, notification capacity has grown to include all DOC-supervised offenders. A 2011 state general fund appropriation, coupled with a federal Bureau of Justice

Appriss reported more than 16,000 VINE-mobile downloads in the first month

Assistance (BJA) grant, allowed DOC to add probation, parole and conditional re-

lease offenders to VINE in January of this year.

VINE was developed in Louisville in 1994 in response to community outrage over the murder of Mary Byron by an ex-boyfriend. He had become violent during their relationship and was jailed on rape charges. Mary was not notified that he posted bond, so he was able to locate and shoot her to death as she left work to celebrate her 21st birthday. Currently, 48 states utilize VINE to monitor the whereabouts of incarcerated offenders.

For more information, please contact victim programs manager Sally Hilander at (406) 444-7461 or email shilander@mt.gov.

VINE downloads offender data from the Offender Management Information System (OMIS) in near real-time. Each change in an offender location or custody status triggers a VINE notification. The VINE trainers will explain the importance of OMIS data entry and how VINE saves time and takes pressure off DOC staff to identify and notify victims about prison and alternative secure releases, transfers, parole hearings, escapes and other moves that could affect their safety and peace of mind.

Probation and parole offices, prisons, DOC contract facilities, law enforcement, courts, and victim/witness advocacy programs interested in the October VINE staff training may call Sally Hilander, victim programs manager, at (406) 444-7461 or email shilander@mt.gov.

Fall Wellness

By April Grady



Quarterly Quote:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover." Mark Twain

Eco Tip: Garden with scraps: In 2010, more than 34 million tons of food waste was generated, and only three percent of that waste was diverted from landfills for composting, according to the EPA. Instead of tossing everything in the trash, take an inventory of the food items you are throwing away. Some fruits and vegetables can be regrown from scraps, which means you can grow your own food without starting it from seeds. You won't need to buy as much produce either, and in the meantime, you may have some interesting houseplants.

- Placing food scraps in water will cause roots to form.
- After chopping a green onion, place the white end with roots into a container of water and place in a windowsill. Once the onion roots grow to two to three inches long, transfer to a pot of soil and watch the onion regrow. You can use the green tops in recipes and the base of the plant will continue to grow.
- This process also works with the base of a celery bunch, romaine hearts, leftover pieces of ginger root, potatoes that have grown eyes, garlic cloves that have sprouted, and mushroom stalks. Just place the stalk in dirt with the top exposed and a new cap will appear!



For more ideas, visit www.earth911.com.

Fall Health Tip: "Fall Into Healthy Eating Habits" (active.com)

Perhaps we eat more simply because bathing suit season is over, and we can start hiding excess calories beneath our winter clothes. Whatever the reason, it's important to realize that fall foods (soups, stews, breads, sweet potatoes, butternut squash, apples, pumpkins and all types of

greens) can actually be healthier than foods of other seasons.

They are typically packed with great nutrients, such as fiber, protein, beta carotene and vitamin C. Here are a few healthy tips:

1. Soups are great for you if they're not made with cream or cheese. Just watch serving sizes – we tend to eat whatever's in our bowls.
2. Stews can be hearty and fattening. Use loads of fresh vegetables, and go light on the meat and potatoes.
3. Avoid unconscious eating while watching football and the new fall TV lineup. Never bring the whole bag or bowl of anything to the couch or coffee table – pre-measure it in the kitchen beforehand. When it comes to chips, make sure they're baked, not fried.
4. For pizza, watch the toppings – they can double the calories.
5. Celebrate the fall harvest in other ways besides making pies. Apples are low in calories when they're off the tree, not in a pie.
6. If it's gotta be pie, try making pumpkin pie with artificial sweetener, egg whites and low-fat milk. And of course, just have one piece. Keep in mind that pumpkin seeds have about 300 calories per 1/4 cup.
7. Turkey is healthy, as long as you keep it lean and white.
8. Get out and enjoy the fall weather. The air is cooler, the leaves are turning and the countryside becomes more scenic. It's the perfect time to go outdoors and do something: Go for a hike or take walks by the lake; go to the park; or ride a bike.
9. Keep in mind that once we set the clocks back, it gets darker earlier, so there are fewer outdoor options for physical activities in the evening. Make adjustments by joining a gym, planning evening walks at the mall or becoming an early riser.



Eat Smart:**Apple-Date Cake**

Less than 200 calories per serving, this fall dessert takes the cake. Sweet sticky dates mingle with tender apple chunks under a crumbly pecan topping.

Ingredients

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2/3 c. fat-free milk
- 2/3 c. chopped pitted dates
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 3/4 c. peeled and shredded apple
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 TBS vegetable oil
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans
- 1/4 c. packed brown sugar
- 1 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 TBS butter
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat an 8x8x2 inch baking pan with cooking spray.
2. In a small saucepan combine milk, dates and salt: Heat until steaming. Remove from heat, stir in apple and vanilla extract, let cool. Add egg and oil, stir until combined and set aside.
3. In a small bowl stir together pecans, brown sugar, butter, 1 tsp. flour, and cinnamon.
4. In a medium bowl whisk together 1 1/2 c. flour, baking powder, and baking soda. Add milk mixture all at once to flour mixture. Stir until just combined. Spoon batter into baking pan. Sprinkle evenly with pecan mixture.
5. Bake for 25 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool slightly and serve warm.

Quick Fitness:**What is a tabata workout?**

A high intensity interval training (HIIT) style workout that combines 20 seconds of hard work with 10 seconds of recovery for four minutes.

Reasons to love HIIT workouts?

Burn more calories both during and after workout
Shorter workouts, so you have more time for other things.



Loved by researchers and fitness pros for its fat-torching abilities and simplicity

1. **Weighted Skater Jumps:** 8 Rounds 20 sec. on/10 sec. rest-holding a 5 lb. weight, start on left leg on far end of a mat. Jump to the right, landing on right leg on opposite end of mat.
2. **Mountain Climbers:** 8 Rounds 20 sec. on/10 sec. rest -from plank position, quickly alternate bringing knees toward chest.
3. **Side Plank Pulses:** 8 Rounds 20 sec. on/10 sec. rest-in side plank position, on elbow, raise and lower hips for 20 seconds. Switch sides after each 20 second interval.
4. **Alternating Jump Lunges:** 8 Rounds 20 sec. on/10 sec. rest-start in lunge position with left knee bent and right leg back. Jump up switching legs and landing with right knee bent and left leg back. Repeat for the entire 20 second interval.
5. **Single Leg Hops:** 8 Rounds 20 sec. on/10 sec. rest-starting on left leg, raise right knee and jump as high as possible, repeat jumping on left leg for 20 sec. Switch legs after each 20 second interval.



Regional Roundup



Contributed by the regional probation and parole offices.

Region 1

It has been a busy time for Region I Probation and Parole this summer, both personally and professionally. Melissa Strecker left her position as Vice President of the Local after being elected union president, succeeding Charlie Martin. Michael Birnbaum left us to pursue his dream of being a firefighter, opening the door for Cheryl "Rock Star" Mustain to transfer from Helena and become the newest member of the Missoula intensive supervision program (ISP) team.

Missoula Probation and Parole (P&P) and our Billings counterparts are taking part in a Smart Grant that focuses on reducing the recidivism rates of 18- to 25-year-old first-time felony offenders. Shawn Heidrick from Child and Family Services and a former intern in Missoula, was hired to be the lead. He will be joined by juvenile parole officers Brett Gordon and Tommy Pinsonneault. PO II Michelle Verbance is taking part in a pilot project to assist Adult Probation and Parole with its Smart Grant effort.

The Hamilton office has seen its usual share of change. New Probation and Parole Officer Craig Robertson brings law enforcement and field experience, a nice addition to the office and region. Following Sharon Banda's retirement, we hired Krystal Stevenson, who recently completed an internship with the Missoula office.

Institutional Probation and Parole Officer, Ed Foley and his invisible army – Jenny Stevens, Tim Krum, Heather Moore, Jennifer Tymofichuk, Jim Cameron and Rick Krantz – continue to work hard to make the reentry initiative a success for offenders and field officers.

Good news on the personal side for the Region 1 family includes the birth of two children, an engagement, two weddings – Matt Moore in Hamilton and Chris Helms in Missoula – and a college-bound teen.

Region 3

With a full staff, Region 3 has hit the ground running. Sonya Mahlum has moved to the DUI specialist position and Bob Cummings took her spot in ISP. Danny Williams moved to a traditional caseload and is now helping Susan Carroll with the sex offender caseload.

Congratulations are due to the following staff:

- * Nichole Anderson, who received the Officer of the Year award from the Cascade County DUI Task Force. Anderson is teamed up with Mahlum in supervising the DUI Caseload. See related story on page 4.
- * Jeremy Lizotte from our Lewistown Office, who recently achieved his certification as a firearms instructor for the Department of Corrections.
- * Janet Haas and Wendy Calvi, who received their certifications for treatment court and will be taking part in that program on the Hi-Line.
- * Kenny LaMere, who recently completed a week-long training to become certified as a facilitator in "Thinking for Change." LaMere also completed his MORRA training and will soon be ready to train the rest of us on how to use this assessment tool.



Two of our officers were recently involved in a critical incident but, thankfully, were not injured. As a result, we are looking at ways to improve our critical incident response. Please, be careful out there and take care of one another.

Region 5

This summer, we saw the addition in Kalispell of Juanita Nelson, who provides in-house chemical dependency treatment. Nelson is not new to chemical dependency or working with offenders because she worked for years at the Flathead Valley Chemical Dependency Clinic. In the Polson office, Cole Brilz left to join the U.S. probation team in Missoula and Boris Karasch went to work for the Job Service.

Roundup

From Page 18

In July, the region met for training and a question-and-answer session with district judge Deborah “Kim” Christopher at the Polson Office. Judge Christopher was entertaining and forthright in answering some of our most pressing questions. In August, with the assistance of the Missoula office, we met our goal of having the entire

region complete Montana Offender Risk/Reentry Assessment (MORRA) training.

In late August, Kris Studeny started as a new officer with the Polson office. Studeny previously has worked as a drill instructor and grievance coordinator at the state prison.

2013 MCA Conference Presents Annual Awards



The Montana Correctional Association recently held its 61st Annual Training Conference in Helena. The theme of the three-day conference was “Formula 4 Success.”

The MCA recognized the outstanding contributions made by the following Department of Corrections staff at an evening banquet August 22.

Adult Probation & Parole: Jennie Hansen, former Institutional Probation and Parole Officer (IPPO), Montana Women’s Prison

As an IPPO at the Women’s Prison, Jennie Hansen had the best ‘can-do’ attitude and worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between the facility and the community, and to bring probation and parole officers into the prison to build trust with offenders prior to their release. She set the standard for IPPOs in reentry planning and helped complete the offender management plans that lay the groundwork for a successful transition back into the community.

Earlier this summer, Officer Hansen took over the specialized mental health caseload at the Billings P&P field office, where she continues to work hard every day to engage offenders in their recovery and to

encourage them to successfully complete their supervision.

Adult Facilities: Lt. Saajid Muhammad, Senior Drill Instructor, Treasure State Correctional Training Center (TSCTC)

Many TSCTC graduates have said that they didn’t believe they would have made it through the program successfully without Lt. Muhammad’s influence. He may be one of the most intense drill instructors, but Lt. Muhammad is able to sense when offenders are struggling to believe in themselves and find a way to motivate them through their darkest periods. See full story on page 22.

Juvenile Facilities: Pamela Norman, Director, Lincoln County Juvenile Detention Center

In her first year as director, Norman has worked relentlessly to bring the facility into compliance with state and federal standards. For the first time in its history, the center received a perfect score on its annual licensing audit.

Administration: Gloria Soja, Deputy Compact Administrator and Native American Liaison, Youth

Services Division, Helena

Gloria Soja is a team player who is always willing to help wherever there is a need. Over the past several months, she has assisted the Adult Interstate Compact Bureau with its large case load and, with her help, the bureau has received the highest score in the nation for its audit.

Soja also has taken on the role of coordinating the administrative rules process. Her continuing effort to serve the Department of Corrections, the state and the people of Montana is truly an inspiration to those who work with and know her.

**Significant Contribution: Adult Interstate Bureau, Helena
Members: Cathy Gordon, Jamie DeLappe-Gibson, Janet Erb and Sheronda Vaughn**

The dedication of Montana’s Adult Interstate Bureau was evident during the compliance audit conducted by the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision in June. The bureau ranked first in the nation on the nine standards audited. See full story on page 30.

Parolee: Lumber Processing Certification about more than a Job

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Montana State Prison inmate Robert Smith began work in the Food Factory in 2009 and moved to Lumber Processing in July 2010. While there, he earned his lumber grader's certification. Smith walked out the prison door in late June, and began work the next week with a lumber firm in Kalispell. MSP and Montana Correctional Enterprises gave Smith the tools and the opportunity to succeed and, as his unedited letter reprinted here recognizes, his success is now up to him.*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to express my sincere gratitude and support for the opportunities presented through the MCE programs.

I came to prison as a result of a horrendous act I committed during a black out drunk. I do not use drinking as an excuse for what I did but instead as an example of the self destructive cycle I lived my life on. Throughout my life I have gone on about a 5 yr cycle, I do great and have the world at my fingertips and then something deep down inside would tell me that I don't deserve to be doing that well. Once that happens I am destined for a crash. This cycle has repeated itself over and over again. 5 yrs into the USMC it went downhill, divorced twice at approximately the 5 yr mark, clean and sober and managing multimillion \$ contracts at 5 yrs and drank and pulled it all down on me again. These continued highs and lows have hurt anyone and everyone around me, I have put them all through untold amounts of pain and anguish, in some cases leaving lifelong scars.

When a man comes to prison I have discovered that there are two paths you can follow. You can either go downhill or you can be determined to better yourself and be a better man than the one that came in. The first is easy; there is always someone willing to help you slide to their level. The second takes a little more work and determination.

MCE is a stepping stone to follow the path to a better you. It gives you a purpose each day and keeps your hands from becoming idle. I have had the opportunity to learn all about mass food production, shipping, and tracking as clerk for the Food Factory for 1 ½ yrs. Currently I

am involved in the program at Lumber Processing where I am currently the clerk. I handle most facets of shipping, receiving, and billing which is a new opportunity for me. While employed here I was also given the opportunity and received my internationally recognized Stud Grading Certificate (Awarded by Timber Products Inspection). This has opened up many doors for me on the outside once I leave MSP; doors that I never even knew existed until MCE showed me the way.

Skipping back, I have to admit that the self loathing and hatred were playing a role in my self pity that prevented me from making the positive changes I needed to become available for myself and others. Several Key Groups have played a role in opening my eyes to the fact that I am a good man that has done some bad things vs a

Bad man that has done some good things. There is a huge difference and now I realize that thanks to CD & SOP ITU, and Steps [Chemical Dependency; Sex Offender Program, Intensive Treatment Unit; Steps to Economic and Personal Success, a cognitive-based program to assist in changing thought processes]. Steps taught me that I am worth saving and that I can

be someone to be proud of again. The principles taught in these three programs combined with the 12 step program have helped me to realize that I can make it and more importantly that I AM WORTH making it.

My current supervisor Clara Morrison is an instrumental part of my daily recognition that I am somebody to be proud of. She leads through example that Steps will make a difference if you believe in the principles and yourself. She makes me proud to be part of her team and pride in something I have done has been a long time coming.

So in closing, Thank You for the opportunities you have presented and all you have done for me in my life and my growth. Thanks to you I now believe I can make it and I DESERVE to make it once I leave MSP.

Sincerely,
Robert Dewain Smith
MCE Lumber Processing Clerk

“On the day Mr. Smith left the prison, his inmate account monies and reentry savings were paid out to him,” MCE administrator Gayle Lambert said. “Thanks to the MCE accounting staff and Diane Cocergine in inmate accounts, Mr. Smith didn't have to wait until the end of the month for his money.”

Service Recognition Barbecue

By Linda Moodry
Public/Victims Information Officer
Montana State Prison

In August, Montana State Prison hosted its annual barbecue to recognize the achievement, professionalism and service of prison and Montana Correctional Enterprises employees.

This year, 88 employees were recognized for service milestones that ranged from five to 35 years:

- ◆ **35 years** – Janet Cox, Records Supervisor
- ◆ **30 years** – Nick Cook, Correctional Case Manager
- ◆ **25 years** – Allen John, Ranch Supervisor; Mike Kallas, ABE Teacher; Irl Lambertson, Correctional Case Manager; Bruce Miller, IPS Sergeant; James Milligan, Correctional Officer; Robby Roe, IPS Officer; and Joseph Smith, Maintenance Supervisor

Staff received certificates, along with their choice of service pins, a plaque or a gift certificate.

The event also recognized the prison's Employee of the Year, who is selected from the previous year's employee of the quarter recipients. Human resource officer Cynthia Davenport was selected for this honor.



L-R: MSP Warden Leroy Kirkegard; Employee of the Year, Cynthia Davenport; Director Mike Batista



Jerome "Jerry" Smith, 1942-2013

Jerome "Jerry" Smith, 70, a former Probation and Parole Officer II in Havre, passed away on Aug. 1, 2013, at Benefis Medical Center in Great Falls of natural causes. Jerry's coworkers remember him for his friendly, easy going nature.

Jerry was born to Joseph and Marie (Savage) Smith on Oct. 28, 1942, in Livingston, Mont. He graduated from Park High School and joined the Air Force. After his time in the service ended, he attended Montana State University, where he majored in English and theater arts. It was there that he met Diana Feltmann, whom he married in August 1967.

Jerry was a loyal Bobcat fan. He worked at a variety of jobs from English teacher to bar owner before starting a career in law enforcement, going from a part-time jailer to joining the Montana Department of Corrections.

Jerry is survived by his wife Diana Smith of Havre, his daughters, Sarah (Mark) Erickson of New Brighton, Minn. and Jessica (Jay) McDuffie of Wilsall, and his five grandchildren.

20th Anniversary of Boot Camp

By Heather M. King
Administrative Assistant
Treasure State Correctional Training Center

On July 14, the Treasure State Correctional Training Center (AKA Boot Camp) celebrated 20 years of service. For two decades, its drill instructors have been telling trainees to “hit the deck.” Boot camp staff have helped young men – and for a few short years, young women – see beyond who they were used to being and realize who they should be. The range of programming provided has helped hundreds of trainees discover their potential and acquire the courage to change.

“At TSCTC, we emphasize both the mind and the body,” superintendent Michael Buckley said. “We



direct, encourage and support change. This mind-and-body approach provides an opportunity for each individual to go back to the community with a new sense of self, a new awareness of what they can accomplish, and a new purpose in life.”

Montana’s first Boot Camp started at the Swan River Forestry Camp in 1993. The program moved to its current location on Montana State Prison property in 1997.

The staff at the Treasure State Correctional Training Center would like to thank everyone who has had a hand in supporting the program over the past 20 years. We appreciate the continued support for many more years to come!

Lt. Muhammad receives MCA Award

This year, Treasure State Correctional Training Center senior drill instructor Lt. Saajid Muhammad was chosen to receive the Montana Correctional Association award for the Adult Community Corrections Division. Lt. Muhammad came to TSCTC in August 2003 after retiring honorably from the US Marine Corps as a gunnery sergeant. As a senior drill instructor, he leads the trainees by example, embodying the “Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort” (PRIDE) he encourages trainees to adopt.

“Lt. Muhammad stands as a positive example of the impact we can have when we support and encourage the offenders in our charge to be the very best they can be,” Superintendent Michael Buckley.

Some trainees have noted that Lt. Muhammad has an uncanny ability to know when they are about to give up. They credit his intervention with helping them find the motivation to continue on and finish the program.

2013 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Performance

Restitution Collection Unit:

The unit is responsible for collecting and disbursing court-ordered restitution from adult felony offenders. Since taking over this function in 2003, the unit has collected and disbursed over \$16 million in restitution for crime victims. In the 2012/2013 biennium, the unit successfully implemented a more efficient system that allows restitution payments to be paid online using a credit card. Victims can now have those payments deposited directly in their accounts rather than having to wait for a check to be issued.

Top: Gov. Bullock, Shawna Stallings, Edie Shreves, Serenity Osborn-Loomis, Trevor Isles, Lt. Gov. Walsh

Bottom: Kiela Harris, Lisa Grady, Michele Cook, Tamyra Blackburn

Governor's Awards, Page 26



MCA

From Page 19

Correctional Officer of the Year: Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility Unit Bravo Staff, Miles City

Members: Fred Willard, Chris Taylor, Bill Pulse, Jim Powell, Brian Purdie, Branden Duffy, Abbie (Phillips) Jesfjeld and Aaron Bass

Pine Hills Unit Charlie team ran a maximum security unit that housed some very difficult youth. Staff injuries and burn out were very high. The staff moved to Unit Bravo with the same kids and launched a token economy. See full story on page 13.



MCA Member of the Year: Rae Forseth, Professional Development Specialist, Helena

Forseth has been an MCA member since 1991 and on the board since 1997. She has served as president three times, as well as vice president and treasurer. She strives to ensure a successful, fun and informative conference. She is a spark that gets the fire going, scheduling monthly meetings, managing the budget, maintaining contacts within various organizations, and researching new and creative presentations relevant to the profession.

2013 MCA \$500 Scholarship Winners:

Sam Jovanovich – Unit Manager, Montana State Prison
Val Smith – Case Worker, Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility

Years of Service to MCA:

Betty Ann Roan – 25 years as an MCA member

Top L-R: Scholarship winner Val Smith with Sarita Fenner, Juvenile Probation

Bottom L-R: Chris Jones, MCA President; Lt. Saajid Muhammad; Michael Buckley, TSCTC Superintendent



Montana Women's Prison had full Summer Calendar

**June
15**

MWP's annual family day allows family members to spend several hours in the prison to visit with inmates. This encourages inmates to open or expand a dialog, building positive memories and maintaining contact with loved ones. For some inmates, this event may be the only opportunity to see a family member during the year. Family day includes special activities, a meal, dessert and entertainment by the Eagle Spirit Drum Group and the Women of Praise Choir. If inmates prefer, they can spend a quiet moment of reflection with a loved one who was affected by their incarceration.

**June
30**

The prison's "Women of Conviction" team hosted its sixth annual Relay for Life. The event is more than a fund-raiser; it is a way for the women to give back to the community while they celebrate those who have battled cancer successfully and remember those who have died. As part of the event, MWP inmates raise money for the American Cancer Society (ACS) through a barbecue, balloon release, and arts and craft sale that features craft items made by inmates and volunteers.

**July
31**

This year, the Region 4 P&P office was invited to join MWP for its annual staff barbecue, generating some friendly competition at the Rose Park horseshoe pit. For the first time, one staff member, Correctional Officer Timothy Hosa, won both the barbecue, non-beef sandwich and pie bake-off competitions. Warden Joan Daly presented certificates for employee excellence and years-of-service milestones, including awards to:

- ◆ Correctional Officer Trevor Sherman for his exceptional interpersonal skills
- ◆ Maintenance staff Ron Himmelspach and Dennis Wolff, who face routine maintenance challenges daily, as well as special projects that require considerable expertise and professionalism to manage.
- ◆ Lieutenant Al Hust for 15 years of service

Other staff also completed service milestones but were not present because of coverage needs at the facility.



Anderson

From Page 4

With her former partner P&P Officer Danny Williams, Officer Anderson supervises over 140 DUI offenders and is a member of the electronic monitoring team. Anderson and Officer Williams (a past recipient of the same award) successfully submitted a proposal to the county's DUI Task Force to purchase Portable Breathalyzer Testers (PBTs) for the Great Falls P&P Office. Based on their success, POII Mike Barthel from the Havre P&P office also obtained new PBTs from the Havre DUI Task Force.

"Officer Anderson has earned the respect of her peers and the criminal justice community of Great Falls," regional administrator Dawn Handa said. "She truly represents all the *Investment in Excellence* training program has taught us – leadership, teamwork, an excellent

work ethic and a commitment to others."

Officer Anderson came to the Great Falls P&P Office from the Great Falls Pre-Release Center. She interned with the Libby P&P Office and credits Officers Steve Watson and Dave Castro with providing her the foundation on which to build her career. Anderson has been with Corrections since November 2009 and worked as Officer Williams' partner the summer of 2012. Officer Williams is a member of the Montana Army National Guard, which requires him to be away from his duties at the Great Falls P&P Office. In his absence, Anderson has covered both case-loads for extended periods.

In addition to her work duties, for the past two years Officer Anderson and her significant other have been building their own home, and she has helped care for her extended family. Even with such a full plate, she remains a "go-to" person, not only in her duties as a P&P Officer, but as someone who is always willing to babysit or pet sit.



Above L-R: Officer Nichole Anderson and former partner Danny Williams
Below: Anderson and family



Calendar

From Page 24

Aug
22

The prison held its first annual Master Gardener graduation. Just over a year ago, MWP cleared ground and started construction on a hoop house through a governor's Feed Montana Initiative grant. The Yellowstone County extension office provided level three master gardeners to introduce the master gardener curriculum to 25 inmates. Thirteen women completed the eight-week, level one master gardener classroom curriculum and passed the required exam. Of those, 12 went on to complete an additional eight weeks and passed the level two exam. Five inmates met the 24-hour volunteer service requirement to achieve full level one certification and three of those completed an additional 30 hours (for a total of 50 volunteer hours) to achieve level two certification.

Correctional Officers Hosa and Curtiss monitor the women in the garden. The next class began Sept. 18.

**"The Master Gardener program requires a genuine team effort for each and every class, but it's been worth it. My thanks to everyone who has provided donations, adjusted schedules, covered floors, filled in to take inmates outside, volunteered, answered questions and supported the inmates."
-MWP Warden Joan Daly**

Montana's Adult Interstate Bureau Takes First Place in Nation

By Judy Beck
Director of Communications

When it comes to measuring up, Cathy Gordon and the other staff in the department's Adult Interstate Bureau set the bar high. Thanks to their hard work and the efforts of the field officers they work with, the compliance audit conducted this June by the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) ranked Montana first in the nation.

The average grades for the 50 states and three territories on the nine standards audited were 2.23 A's, 6.51 B's and 3.26 C's. Montana's Interstate Bureau scored 5 A's and 4 B's.

"We got the award, but we couldn't have done such a good job without the great work of all the people in the field," Gordon noted. "Sometimes sticking with the Compact's rules can seem like a pain, but basically, I think everyone recognizes that the standards are there for valid public safety reasons."

The bureau monitors and supervises approximately 1,500 offenders, so it takes diligence to consistently get things right and meet the Compact's timelines for completing each step in the process.

"The general public probably wouldn't see this as a huge deal, but it is," ACCD division administrator Pam Bunke said. "When an offender asks to transfer to another state, the timely communication of where the offender is going, when he or she leaves one state and arrives in another, and who has supervision is critical."

In addition to deputy compact administrator

Cathy Gordon, the bureau includes interstate agents Jamie DeLappe-Gibson, Janet Erb and Sheronda Vaughn. Cathy also extended a special thank you to Gloria Soja, juvenile interstate.

"Gloria has been a tremendous help to the unit over the past nine months," Gordon said. "She has been a welcome addition to our team."



L-R: Chris Jones, MCA President; MCA Award Winners: Sheronda Vaughn, Jamie DeLappe-Gibson, Cathy Gordon, Janet Erb

Governor's Awards

From Page 23

Darlene McCracken has been a correctional officer at the Montana Women's Prison since 2002. She was nominated for this award by two division administrators from Corrections – neither of whom she works for – because both were so impressed by her commitment, professionalism and understanding of the importance of her role. As the entrance security officer, she greets everyone entering the facility with a smile and enthusiasm. Regardless of their position or status, she consistently treats each person she runs through the entry security process with respect. Security is essential at the point of entry into a prison, and it takes a special person to han-



Governor's Award of Excellence in Performance 2013

dle the stress of the constant stream of people, and perform all the security functions. Throughout it all, Ms. McCracken maintains a wonderful sense of humor.

Non-Violent Crisis Intervention

Team: Pine Hills was dealing with a high rate of staff injury in situations that involved use of force. To address this, the facility asked for staff volunteers to help retrain staff in safer methods. **Fred Willard, Casey Strub, Lisa Malloy, Simon Niece and Erv Bohlman** stepped forward

and became trainers in the use of non-violent crisis intervention. See full story on page 13.

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Governor's Awards

From Page 26

Linda Moodry, Public Relations Specialist, Montana State Prison

As the state prison's public relations specialist, Linda's daily duties range from public and victim information officer to serving as the contact for the families of incarcerated offenders. Linda has the unique ability to easily switch hats and deal with each encounter with compassion and professionalism.



Award winner Linda Moodry (right) celebrates at Central Office after the ceremony with her mom

This dedication was apparent in the recent return of an offender to MSP; Linda coordinated a multitude of interviews, minimizing the impact on resources while ensuring that the news media had access to the offender.

COMING

These lists of new and departing employees cover the period from June 1 through Sept. 30. If you notice errors or omissions, please contact the *Signpost* editor at jbeck@mt.gov.

Central Office
Charles Ramsey
Darla Cole

Montana Correctional Enterprises
Jacob Bartholomew

Montana State Prison
Shelly Barnes
Matthew Brady
Robert Briggs
Jeffrey Buck
Kristie Mannix
Mark Messer
Lisa Minnehan

Nysia Noll
Sara Simmons

Montana Women's Prison
Patrick Dickinson

Pine Hills
Renee Conley
Christian Killingsworth
Antonio Navarro
Ricky Newby
Ben VanDyke

Probation and Parole
Krystal Stevenson
Kristopher Studeny

Riverside
Amy Dubois

Youth Transition Center
Joshua Bailly YTC

GOING

Amy Abenroth
Candice Anderson
Gerald Arneson
David August
Edward Bailey
Megan Benn
Lanny Bingham
Steve Brant
Keith Carpenter
Andrew Catey
Robert Corbell IV

Robyn Cotton
Tonya DeHaven
Christopher Fetty
Mary Flanner
Toni Flaskey
Jake Henry
Joseph Herring
Jeffrey Hyatt
Barry Ivanoff
Abbie Jesfjeld
Mark Job

Linda Larson
Paul Christian Law
Andrew Leigland
Jamie Lowery
Brittney McNamara
Alyssa McNary
Melanee Melia
Jeremy Moon
Austin Phillips
Gary Phillips
Rebecca Schmidt

Alaina Schroeder
Dawn Smith
Amador Solis
Lucy Stokes
Ann Thurber
Shanda Walker
Stefany Westbrook
Mary Ann Zeisler

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