



Montana Department of Corrections Correctional Signpost



2011
No. 6

New MSP warden *Glad to be home*

Leroy Kirkegard lived more than half his life outside Montana, but he always longed to come home.

"I never liked the big city," he told more than 100 members of the Powell County Chamber of Commerce at their annual banquet. "Whenever anyone asked, I always said I was from Montana. That's how much I wanted to come home."

And come home he did, after being selected to be the new warden at Montana State Prison. He started his new job Nov. 14 and eight days later he stood before a packed house at the chamber event to formally introduce himself to his new neighbors.

A native of Circle – a farming and ranching community perched on Montana's eastern plains between Glendive and Wolf Point – Kirkegard spent 10½ years in the U.S. Air Force before beginning a 20-year career in the detention system for the Las Vegas Police Department.

He told the chamber gathering that he gradually rose through the ranks to oversee the system, which housed 3,400 inmates and had another 500 in contract facilities. By comparison, Montana's male prison population is about 2,300. The Las Vegas detention center admitted about 75,000 offenders a year, or 180 daily.

Kirkegard said the Las Vegas detention center had an annual budget of \$184 million and a work force of 1,200 employees. Those numbers are similar to the total budget and staff for the entire Montana Department of Corrections.

Kirkegard's longing to return to Montana became a realistic possibility when he saw the announcement that Montana was looking for a new prison warden to replace Mike Mahoney, who retired after 16 years in that position.

He said he used the Internet to study the Department of Corrections and Montana State Prison. He liked what he saw in the state's commitment to use prison to help inmates prepare for a return to their communities and the emphasis on community-based treatment programs.

Kirkegard recalled his two children jumping up and down with joy when he learned he had gotten the warden's job.

He remembered visiting the local grocery store on his second day in Deer Lodge and strangers greeting him with the title of warden as he roamed the food aisles.

"I have never felt more welcome in a community than I have felt here," Kirkegard told the chamber members.



Corrections Director Mike Ferriter, left, introduces new Montana State Prison Warden Leroy Kirkegard to the Powell County Chamber of Commerce.

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MSP Warden Leroy Kirkegard addresses the Powell County Chamber of Commerce.

Warden

FROM Page 1

He said neighbors have brought him banana bread and cookies, and he received no fewer than 10 invitations to Thanksgiving dinners.

His first day at the prison began at 7 a.m., when he was met at the front door by Deputy Warden Ross Swanson and other administrative staffers.

Kirkegard said the quality of the prison employees was obvious from day one. "Professionalism, pride and a sense of teamwork is evident there," he said.

He said the goals of Montana State Prison will remain unchanged: community safety and public trust. He also vowed to continue building on the existing outstanding relationship that the prison has with the Deer Lodge community.

"We will be involved in the community," Kirkegard said. "We will involve the staff in decision-making and the community will be involved in decisions that affect the community."

Kirkegard ended his self-introduction to the group of Deer Lodge leaders with a simple message: "I am very proud to call Deer Lodge, Montana, my home."

**Montana
Department of
Corrections
Mission**

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

Restitution: It's about more than just money

**By Sally Hilander
Victim Programs Manager**

Crime victims may feel relief when the judge awards them a few thousand dollars restitution, but hope turns to frustration and anger if they receive nothing for months, years, even decades. Then the first check arrives, \$25 perhaps, a pittance toward the debt the burglar wracked up when he or she stole the flat screen TV along with the family's sense of security.

Still, the \$25 check is something.

Victims call probation and parole officers, the collections unit, victim services staff, contract facilities, and even the director for their restitution. Maybe they received a \$100 check in 2009 but not much since – a small check here and there. For victims struggling to heal from the trauma of crime, this inconsistency adds to the chaos in their lives. It may seem that we at DOC don't know what we're doing or that the offenders are in control.

Victims who receive regular restitution checks tend to be more accepting of the myriad reasons why offenders might be unable to make larger payments for the time being, and those victims are less likely to call the probation office weekly – or the director. A small restitution payment every month demonstrates that the justice system has not forgotten them and sometimes, but not always, this means more to victims than the money.

Victims lose their homes, cars, family heirlooms and other property, suffer injuries requiring medical or psychological care, incur funeral costs when a loved one dies as a result of the crime, and face unexpected expenses to attend court and parole board appearances – so sometimes it truly *is* about the money.

Today's victims are less likely to wait indefinitely for restitution. They seek to garnish the offenders' wages. They may petition courts to enforce monthly payments specified in sentencing orders. And sometimes they sue the offenders.

Inmate first to earn a high school diploma



Left to right: John Hoyt, instructor supervisor, Crossroads Correctional Center; Gerald Kulpas, Education Director/Principal, CCC; Mike White, alternative education director, Shelby schools; Korey Chafin; Matt Genger, superintendent, Shelby schools; John Weaver, chief unit manager; and CCC Warden Martin Frink.

By Judy Little
Prerelease Contract Manager

Korey Chafin entered the room looking like the average offender – in his mid-20s wearing jeans and a T-shirt – but nothing revealed he had accomplished something in the Montana corrections system that no other offender has done.

Chafin is the first and only offender to receive his high school diploma while incarcerated, using a program at Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby. Crossroads, Montana's only privately run prison, has an agreement with Shelby High School and its adult education office to offer offenders the opportunity to obtain a diploma. It is the only on-going program of its kind in the state, according to Crossroads Education Director Principal Gerald Kulpas.

Chafin dropped out of Helena High School as a sophomore in order to work and make money. But he got into trouble when he was 18. He was sentenced in June 2007 for robbery and criminal mischief. After two failed placements at Treasure State Correctional Training Center, Chafin was sent to Montana State Prison and eventually was transferred to Crossroads.

While incarcerated in Crossroads in 2009, he took the tests for adult basic education, which are a diagnostic tool used to determine a person's skill levels and aptitudes, and scored highly. The education staff at Crossroads suggested that he and three other offenders go through the high school program and attempt to attain their diplomas.

Chafin entered the program, realizing that he had made a mistake in dropping out of school before graduating. The program was conducted just like high school with the exception that all his work was done in his cell instead of a classroom. He took a variety of classes: art, science, gym, history, math, English and literature. He wrote essays and book reports. He liked writing opinion essays in which he could express his thoughts on controversial topics such as pit bulls.

His favorite subject was American history, specifically the World War II era.

Chafin also was required to perform 20 hours of volunteer work, but decided to perform 40 hours of volunteer work at the Crossroads Correctional library helping other offenders, putting away books and handling other duties as part of his program.

Although four offenders started the program in late 2009, Chafin was the only one to complete it. He graduated in June, with a cap-and-gown ceremony at the prison attended by Crossroads staff and the superintendent of Shelby schools.

Chafin is now at the Billings Prerelease Center and is scheduled to complete his sentence in April 2012.

Chafin acknowledges his mistakes that landed him in the corrections system and his time in the system has not come without disciplinary issues, but he said he tries to better himself every day and to turn negative energy into positive.

With his high school diploma, he would like to further his education by studying business and becoming an entrepreneur. His long-term goal is to start his own line of clothing and turn his graffiti talents, for which he received a felony charge in 2007, into ideas for silk-screening clothing such as shirts, backpacks and socks.

While Chafin has struggled since his release from Crossroads, he still envisions a future without the Department of Corrections in it.

Restitution

FROM Page 2

One victim, dissatisfied with \$100 a month the probation office required the offender to pay toward the \$7,000 court-ordered restitution, won a \$7,000 civil judgment that doubles the offender's debt to \$14,000.

Collecting monthly restitution from the offender, even if the amount is small, is a win-win. It acknowledges the rights of victims and holds offenders accountable, mirroring our DOC mission statement. For more information, call the Collections Unit at (800) 801-3478.

Gazette editorial

More prison beds needed despite DOC's best efforts

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following editorial appeared in the Nov. 8 edition of the Billings Gazette. Reprinted with permission.

The Montana Department of Corrections has worked hard to hold down the Montana State Prison population even as more people have been sentenced to its supervision.

Over the past several years, the department has invested in more rehabilitation programs, conditional release facilities and inmate chemical dependency treatment centers.

The department is responsible for supervising about 13,000 offenders. Two-thirds are on probation or parole. Only 20 percent are in prison; the rest are in community corrections facilities intended to transition them back to a law abiding life and employment.

The department's biennial report to the 2011 Legislature summarized this trend:

"Since 2005, the number of offenders in community corrections programs — primarily treatment and sanction centers — increased by more than 130 percent, while prerelease center populations grew by 40 percent and probationers and parolees increased more than 18 percent. Meanwhile, the male prison population grew 5 percent and the number of female inmates declined 13 percent."

The most common crimes that bring people into the Montana corrections system are drug possession, felony DUI, criminal endangerment, theft, burglary and bad check writing.

It's been a dozen years since the department added any secure cells to its system. But now the department is looking for up to 120 beds for medium-security male

inmates.

The decision was made last spring when the 2011 Legislature authorized \$3 million in funding for 20 special-needs beds for male inmates and up to 100 other medium-security beds.

Special needs means inmates have illnesses or disabilities. This may be because of advanced age, hard living, mental illness or because they are sex offenders needing treatment.

The types of prisoners who would fill these beds a year from now are currently in Montana State Prison and in regional contract prisons around the state.

Despite efforts to control the growth of prison population, Montana's inmate numbers increased by 4 percent in fiscal 2009, 2 percent in fiscal 2010 and 0.3 percent in fiscal 2011. According to department spokesman Bob Anez, growth of 2 percent this fiscal year and next is projected, which would increase the male inmate numbers by 48 and 49, respectively.

"It's not just the numbers, it's the type of inmates," Anez said.

The department recently has been dealing with a population of young male inmates, ages 18 to 24, who are particularly disruptive. Some of them are gang members, from gangs outside or inside prison. These individuals require separation in prison facilities. Having additional cell space will give the system better capacity to segregate problem inmates.

Six local governments and private prisons responded this fall to the department's request for letters of interest. With multiple potential bidders, the state ought to get competitive proposals that will deliver the service Montana needs at a reasonable price.

The expenditure of \$3 million a year to house more inmates may be necessary, but it's not good news. Prison cells are the most expensive space for corrections. Money spent on effective community treatment and rehabilitation delivers more bang for the buck in public benefits.



MSP, MCE name employees of quarter

Montana State Prison and Montana Correctional Enterprises have named their employees of the quarter for the three months beginning in October.

Correctional Officer John Molendyke was honored among the security staff; Sgt. Robert Turner received the award for management staff; and Laurie Daniels and Travis Jones, food service supervisors, and Food Factory Supervisors Dave McDonald and Pat McNair and Food Factory Administrative Assistant Nicole Chandler received the award for support staff.

Molendyke and Turner were cited for their quick response to an inmate's call for help. An inmate reported on the intercom that he needed assistance because he was being threatened by another inmate.

Both staff members responded and found the two offenders. They restrained both inmates and maintained control of the situation. Their quick response may have prevented the assault of the inmate and maintained the security of the housing unit.

Molendyke and Turner are staff members who put safety and security of the institution first. They have a great attitude and a high standard of professionalism in the performance of their duties.

The food service and food factory staffers worked proficiently to complete individual tasks needed to make sure the barbecue for Staff Appreciation Day went well. The five employees took on a variety of responsibilities to ensure that the barbecue was a success and all were fed.

The employees of the quarter receive a plaque, a certificate of appreciation, a special parking space during the quarter, have their photograph posted in the lobby area of the administration building and are eligible for the employee of the year award.



Nicole Chandler, Pat McNair, Dave McDonald and Myron Beeson



Travis Jones, Myron Beeson and Laurie Daniels



Officer John Molendyke



Sgt. Robert Turner and Myron Beeson

Native inmates meet with tribal leaders

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article aired Oct. 18 on KULR-TV in Billings. Reprinted with permission.

**By Gillette Vaira
KULR-TV**

Angela Roman Nose is serving time for stealing a truck. Her three

children are living with family members while she's staying behind bars.

"It's been really hard because basically through their whole life I've had an alcohol problem, and I've chosen alcohol over my children," she said. "So I have not been a part of their life."

Roman Nose and a dozen other Native Americans at the Montana Women's Prison are hoping to change courses. They are talking to tribal leaders about creating programs to help them transition back into society after prison.

TRIBAL, Page 9

Ross Wagner replaces Dabney as ag director

Ross Wagner knows farming and ranching. He knows cows, the land, crops and irrigations. And he knows the agricultural operations at Montana State Prison.

After 4½ years as ranch supervisor for Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE), Wagner took over as agriculture director Nov. 14. He replaces Bill Dabney, who retired Nov. 30 after three decades on the job.

Wagner, 41, says he sought the position because he recognized it as an opportunity to improve his skills, knowledge and experience.

“I like the lifestyle of being in agriculture, following the markets, keeping costs low and selling high,” he says.

As agriculture director for MCE, Wagner oversees the 36,00-acre prison ranch, the dairy and the lumber processing plant.

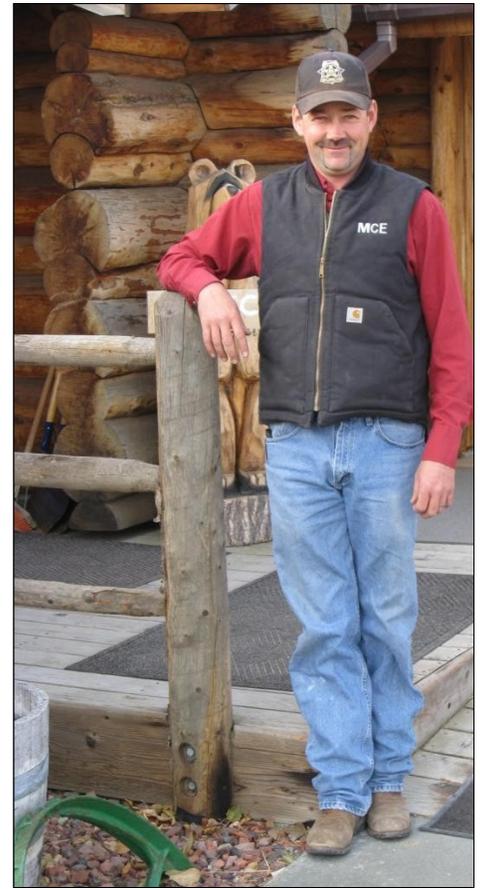
His roots in agriculture run deep; he was raised on his parents ranch near Circle and graduated from Montana State University in 1994 with a bachelor’s degree in animal science. While in college, he worked for and lived at a veterinarian clinic where he duties included working an overnight shift and responding to large animal medical calls.

He also worked for an aerial crop-spraying firm for a time before he moved to Kalispell where he spent 10 years operating a farm on 1,000 acres land leased from his father-in-law and his neighbors.

In 2004, he began working at the ranch as supervisor, but family matters forced him to leave after just six months. He worked as a brand inspector for the state Livestock Department for three years before returning to the prison ranch.

Wagner says his past prepared him well for the new job: “I’m used to the long hours and I look forward to coming to work every day.”

“We are fortunate that Ross accepted the offer to replace Bill Dabney as agriculture director for MCE,” says MCE Administrator Gayle Lambert. “He was the successful candidate over many highly qualified applicants and, with his education and experience, the hiring committee knew that he was the right person for this very complex position.”



Ross Wagner

Stroman retiring from youth services

Walk into Trish Stroman’s office and you will have no problem understanding her personal priorities. The pictures of her six grandchildren line a wall of her office.

When she retires at the end of the year, she intends to devote her free time spending more time with those kids and is clearly unable to talk about those plans without a broad grin invading her face.

But children have been a part of her corrections career as well.

As financial programs services manager, Stroman led the Department of Corrections team that manages about \$6 million a year used to pay for services and placements required by juvenile offenders in the community. The money pays for treatment, counseling, evaluations, in-



Trish Stroman and her wall of grandchildren’s photos

Stroman

FROM Page 6

state and out-of-state placements, and tracking and aftercare services.

Stroman and her staff of five also manage parents' contributions to help offset some of the cost of their children's care and ensure that the judicial districts do not exceed their juvenile placement budgets when youths are ordered into various programs and services.

Stroman says the most satisfying part of her job is knowing that the programs funded under her watchful eye make a significant difference.

"We help the department and we help the entire state," she says. "It's nice to be able to give these kids an opportunity to lead normal lives and not go on to the adult system."

Stroman says her job has had challenges, such as working with a staff dispersed in five cities and coordinating fiscal monitoring efforts with another branch of government. But she has always remembered the goal was to ensure that adequate money was always available so that young offenders would have access to the services they need.

"Trish is capable, loyal, kind hearted and level headed," says her supervisor Karen Duncan, who is chief of the Youth Community Corrections Bureau in the Youth Services Division. "She has been a most valuable connection to the payment system for youth placements and services."

"Trish has been a pleasure to work and her friendly 'good morning' each day will be truly missed," says Cindy McKenzie division administrator. "Working next door to her in the past year, I seen first-hand Trish's level of professionalism and outstanding work ethic. She leaves large shoes to fill."

Stroman has worked for the department since 2003 after spending five years at the Department of Public Health and Human Services where she was the supervisor of financial services. She and her family moved to Montana from California in 1998. Her husband Ray is a Montana native and the couple had long planned to retire here.

Even after moving to Montana, Stroman has continued to work as an accountant for a national franchise restaurant chain, a job she had for 20 years before moving to Montana.

From the director

Trish Stroman



We're all familiar with those phrases about the importance of having unity of purpose: "We need to get on the same page" or "We need to be singing from the same sheet of music."

As those who know me might guess, I am not much of a singer. But recent national meetings I attended in Denver and Washington, D.C., were definitely aimed at improving the voices of correctional agencies across the country. The melody is not too catchy but the words and their message are very clear: "Reentry, reentry, our work needs to be about reentry."

Among the 35 state correctional directors meeting in Denver and the 50 – yes, all 50 directors – who attending a meeting in Washington at the invitation of the U.S. attorney general, there was no doubt in the direction that federal support and resources will take when it comes to corrections. Reentry efforts get top billing.

The term "reentry" is not new to us, although it has had various labels in correctional practice over the years. We have referred to it with such words as transition, aftercare, parole, discharge planning or prerelease. The Montana Department of Corrections' mission statement talks about reintegrating offenders into community and encouraging positive change in offender behavior" – all with a goal of achieving the top priority: public safety.

The meeting in D.C. was a unique experience with several top leaders in corrections and justice spoke at the day-long meeting and at a reception in the Capitol. We also heard from several congressional members in person and by recorded messages. All who spoke had somewhat different lyrics to the reentry song, but all were consistent in saying that corrections programs across the country must become more balanced between incarceration and rehabilitation efforts that prepare offenders for release.

I am optimistic that our continuing and additional emphasis on reentry and diversion will mean we're in harmony with the rest of the country. We will take advantage of the additional resources that may come our way to improve our chorus of public safety.

DIRECTOR, Page 18



Gazebo Gift

Alternatives Inc., which operates the Passages women's correctional center and a pre-release center for male offenders in Billings, donated \$5,000 to the South Side Neighborhood Task Force for rebuilding a gazebo in a city park. The previous structure was torn down due to its age and deteriorating condition. Left to right: Dave Armstrong, Alternatives administrator; Tom Hanel, Alternatives board president; Mike Yakawich, vice-chairman of the task force; and Kathleen Candelaria, task force treasurer.

Policy News

Check out the 2012 Annual DOC Policy Review Schedule on the Policy/Forms Intranet Page!

DOC Forms are now available on the cor.mt.gov Internet page, staff and the public may access forms from any Internet connection in both PDF and Word format

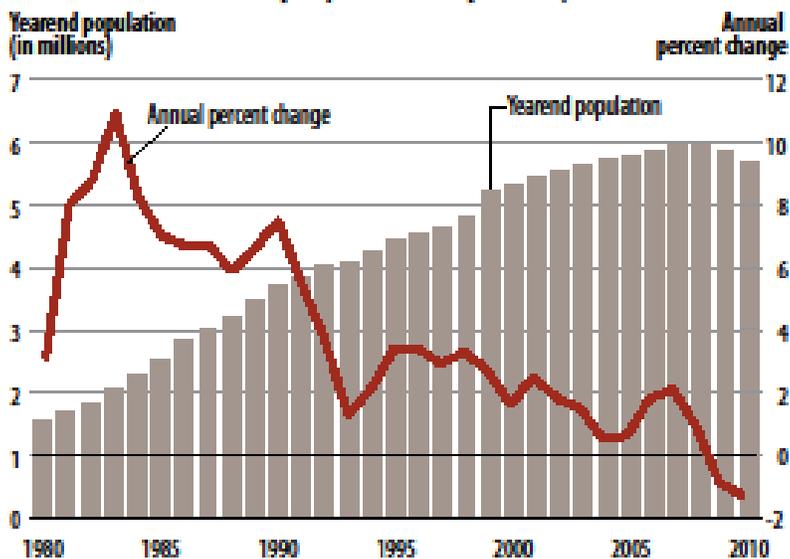
Stay up to date on DOC Policy changes with the Intranet "Policy News" webpage!

1.1.6, Priority Incident Reporting and Acting Director System has been significantly revised and may affect daily operations, please review on the Policy News Intranet page

2.3.1, Staff Housing has been updated to reflect current practice

3.2.7, Emergency Perimeter Security now acknowledges that staff may detain an member of the public attempting to breach a secure perimeter using reasonable force as allowed by statute 46-6-502, MCA

FIGURE 1
Adults under community supervision at yearend, 1980–2010



P&P...
How does Montana stack up nationally?

Montana was one of only two states that saw no change in the number of offenders being supervised on probation or parole last year, according to a new report from the U.S. Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Montana ended the year with 11,100 probationers and parolees, or 1,447 offenders for every 100,000 adult residents in the state. Seventeen states had a lower rate of community supervision; the national average was 2,019 offenders per 100,000 adult citizens.

Montana reported 10,093 offenders on probation on the last day of 2010, unchanged from the start of the year. Nationally, the probation population dropped 1.7 percent to 4.03 million during 2010.

The report said Montana had 1,316 probationers for every 100,000 adult state residents, below the national average of 1,721. Montana’s probation rate ranked 25th in the country.

Montana had 986 offenders on parole at the end of 2010, a decrease of 2.1 percent from the beginning of the year. Only 11 other states saw a decrease in their parole populations during the year.

The report said Montana had 129 offenders on parole for every 100,000 state residents, far below the national average of 312. Twelve states had a lower parole rate.

Nationwide, the number of offenders on states’ probation or parole rolls fell 1.5 percent (71,700) to 4.76 million last year, marking the third consecutive annual decline.

Almost nine out of every 10 offenders (88 percent) on probation or parole were men. White offenders accounted for 42 percent of those offenders, blacks made up 39 percent and Hispanics were 18 percent. Native Americans represent just 1 percent of the national probation and parole population, but in Montana they account for 11.7 percent.

The report showed that use of global positioning system (GPS) devices varies widely among the states. A third of the states (16) did not indicate any use of the devices. Twenty-two states used GPS to track sex offenders.

Tribal

FROM Page 5

“We’re asking the tribal leaders to help, to grow, to do something better than what we are doing,” she said. “I think it’s a big step being that a lot of us have never asked for help, nor have we ever admitted that we needed help.”

More than 30 percent of the 190 women behind the Montana Women’s Prison walls identify themselves as Native American.

“Ultimately the women will go back to their communities, which often can be their reservations,” said Annamae Siegfried-Derrick. “And so we want to start that dialogue and see what resources the women can utilize to make their reentries more successful.”

Roman Nose said she hopes to become a better mom with the help of tribal leaders.

“I want to be there for them to show them that I do want to change. I don’t want to continue walking on the road I was walking on because that’s a lonely road. And I’m just hoping to be there for them.”

Roman Nose hopes to leave prison in October 2012.



Spotlight

After 30 years

Dabney hits the trail

By Gail Boese
MCE Administrative Officer

Montana Correctional Enterprises rounded them up from near and far – family, friends, co-workers and professional acquaintances – to celebrate the retirement of Bill Dabney, MCE’s agriculture director.

A retirement dinner at the Broken Arrow Supper Club in Deer Lodge on Nov. 28 was attended by more than 80 guests to honor Bill and his 30 years of commitment to public service.

Guests enjoyed watching a PowerPoint presentation designed by Ted Ward, the department’s computer wizard and chronicling Bill’s career at MCE. They also heard heartfelt recollections and stories from MCE Administrator Gayle Lambert and Montana State Prison Deputy Warden Ross Swanson. He was also presented with a beautiful sign, fabricated and designed by the motor vehicle maintenance crew as a training exercise, to be hung at the new Dabney ranch.

If anyone is deserving of enjoying retirement, it is Bill. He has devoted much of his professional career to working for the prison ranch. His dedication and tireless energy is reflected in the ranch’s current operations and accomplishments.

Bill was first hired in June 1981 as a correctional officer and a short time later became the ranch foreman for MCE. There he found his niche and love for the ranch, and was eventually promoted to agriculture director in 1999.

Whether he was rounding up cattle in the field, working with engineering firms and Anaconda Job Corps in upgrading high-hazard dams, overseeing the placement and building of bat condos, or worrying about “his girls” at the ranch of-



Bill Dabney among his cows in 2009.

DABNEY, Page 11

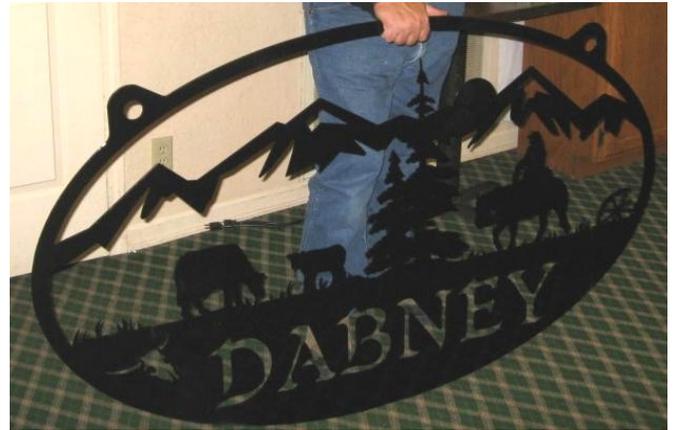
Dabney

FROM Page 10

since when they were out traveling on nasty roads, he was first and foremost a gentleman.

The attendance of those at his retirement party, which included former ranch manager Ron Paige, is evident of the respect and admiration felt by many who know him.

We will miss him every day at the ranch, but we know he is only a radio call away. Enjoy your retirement Bill – you deserve it!!!



A sign for Dabney's ranch was created by the motor vehicle maintenance crew as a training assignment. (Photo by Gail Boese)

A gentleman, a farmer and my friend, Bill Dabney

By Gayle Lambert

He started as a correctional officer, known then as a guard;

He monitored inmates in their cells, in the gym and even the yard.

When Bill started his employment those who worked here called it the Joint or the Pen;

The living units were the honor dorm, A, B and C, 1 and 2 but not 3, and inmates counted less than 800 men.

Bill was only an officer for about one year;

When he transferred to the ranch and after 30 more he is still here.

Ranch 2 was the home to Bill and Enid his wife;

There they raised five children, welcomed grandkids, had many years of joy and hopefully very little strife.

It was a home that was built by the inmates under Bill's watchful eye;

The logs were cut, peeled and notched by hand by some talented guys.

Their love for the home did not stop when it was complete;

As Bill and Enid ensured that the home remained beautiful and neat.

You see when Bill does a job, he only knows to do it right. He always sees that it is perfect all the way to the end.

That is why he has become the man whom so many of us have come to depend.

There is never a job too big or too small;

He is always willing to help people; you just have to give him a call.

Bill is always a leader, a farmer, rancher and a friend;

For those people he cares about, he will go to no end.

Now, if you are a hunter or on the IPS team and hotwired a skidder or drove off the roads where you did not belong;

There was all hell to pay, and Bill ensured that you heard about it loud and strong.

You would soon find out that there are rules that don't bend; **Such** as drive only on roads, work hard, be honest, and follow your assignments to the end.

Don't make excuses; treat your staff and your animals right; **Be** firm fair and consistent and if you have a disagreement, whether you are staff or inmate, for crying out loud, talk it out....don't fist fight.

Bills knowledge is vast; oh he knows so many things; **He** can talk cattle genetics, high-

GENTLEMAN, Page 19



Legislative tour of DOC programs

In late October, one member of the Law and Justice Committee and three legislative staffers toured Montana State Prison, Montana Correctional Enterprises, the boot camp and the WATCH program that treats felony DUI offenders.

ABOVE: The tour participants outside the recently renovated Rothe Hall on the low-security side of MSP.

ABOVE RIGHT: MSP Deputy Warden Ross Dwanson talks with Sen. Terry Murphy, R-Cardwell, about the MCE industry programs.

RIGHT: Joe Mihelic, food factory director at far left, leads the tour through the factory. From left: Sen. Terry Murphy; Greg DeWitt, legislative fiscal analyst staffer; Chris Connell, manager of the maximum-security unit; Amy Carlson, legislative fiscal analyst; and Sheri Scurr, staff member for the committee.



Community Corrections Meeting

Representatives of programs with which the Department of Corrections contracts for treatment, prerelease and other correctional services met with adult community corrections officials in early December to discuss issues and developments of mutual concern. At right are (left to right) Pam Bunke, community corrections administrator; April Grady, budget analyst for the division; and Kelly Speer, Facilities Program Bureau chief.



Firewood bonanza

By Heather King
Administrative Assistant
Treasure State Correctional Training Center

The empty pickup trucks came one after another after another. The line trailed for a mile on that crisp autumn morning. And one after another, each left, filled with free firewood cut, split and loaded by trainees at Treasure State Correctional Training Center.

Eventually 300 pickups were filled with wood, some delivered to those who couldn't come to the Powell County Fairgrounds to pick up the winter heating fuel themselves.

This annual gift to Powell County disabled, senior citizens and other needy residents was six times larger than in the past, producing 300 cords of wood to give away. The event, marking its ninth anniversary, is a joint effort of business, local government, the Department of Corrections and volunteers from the community.

Sun Mountain Logging donated the trees, the boot camp trainees began the wood cutting and splitting by

hand in July. The department's Montana Correctional Enterprises, city of Deer Lodge and Powell County supplied trucks and drivers to haul the wood from the boot camp to the distribution site. The trucks rumbled back and forth for more than eight hours.

Two pickup trucks with volunteers loaded and delivered wood to shut-ins. The waiting pickups of local residents were filled in four hours.

Treasure State officials estimate that 160 households received wood with some filling two or three pickups.

"This is a project that our trainees and staff here at TSCTC are very proud of," says Maj. Wayne Cameron of Treasure State. "We would like to thank everyone who came out and helped in any way that they could. We would not be a success without everyone. This is a good deed that we all can be proud of and look forward to seeing everyone next year, and hopefully some new faces."

"I love this day, it feels like Christmas," says Diana Solle, who coordinated volunteers for the project.

Photos by Kara Sperle



Health & Wellness

By
April Grady



"Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character." – *Author Unknown*
Speaking of challenges.....Along with the new Commit for 30 Days calendar now posted on the department's intranet site, I would like to pose another 30-day challenge to kick off the new year.

What: **Four Week Wellness Challenge beginning Mon. Jan 2, 2012.**

- ∴ 30 minutes of exercise 3 days per week
- ∴ 5 servings of fruit and vegetables every day
- ∴ **NO FAST FOOD!**
- ∴ Eight 8oz. glasses of water every day
- ∴ 2 stress relieving exercises every day



Why:

- ∴ Improve general health and well being
- ∴ Improve morale and attitude
- ∴ Gain strength and confidence
- ∴ Manage stress

How:

- ∴ Track exercises, fruits and veggies, and water consumption on fitness score cards found at **P:\2012 Wellness Challenge Log**
- ∴ Email updated fitness score card to me (agrad@mt.gov) each Monday of Wellness Challenge beginning Jan. 9th.
- ∴ **Weekly prizes will be awarded to the top point earners!**
- ∴ **A GRAND PRIZE will be awarded to the top Wellness Challenge point earner!!!**

Stress Reliever Exercises:

- ∴ 15 minutes of deep breathing before bed (inhale for 4 counts, exhale for 8 counts)
- ∴ 20 minutes of Yoga poses
- ∴ Progressive muscle relaxation. Start by focusing on relaxing toes and feet. Work your way up to neck and shoulders.
- ∴ 15-20 minutes of stretching



Here is a recipe to help give you a quick and delicious jump start on your fruit and vegetable servings:

Warm Apple-Onion Slaw

Preparation Time: 20 minutes

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 2 medium apples, peeled, cored, and thinly sliced
- 1 medium head purple cabbage, shredded
- ¼ cup water
- 2 Tbsp parsley, chopped or ½ tsp celery seed
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Apple cider vinegar to taste

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add sliced onion and cook until softened. Add apple slices and cook for an additional 2 minutes. Add the cabbage along with a splash of cider vinegar and water. Cook until the cabbage is softened but still retains most of its crispness. Stir in the chopped parsley and season to taste with salt and pepper (optional). Serve.

1 ½ Cups of Fruits and Vegetables per Serving

Ruling addresses public employee privacy rights



In a ruling that could affect the privacy rights of state employees facing allegations of misconduct, a divided Montana Supreme Court said results of internal investigation into a Billings Police Department employee must be made public.

The 4-3 ruling said Deanna Anthony, a senior administrative coordinator with the police department, does not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in regard to a report containing information about the investigation into her misuse of a department credit card.

The high court agreed with a district judge's ruling that, as a public employee in a position of public trust, Anthony could not expect the investigation into her abuse of that trust be kept secret.

The court, however, cautioned that the decision should not be construed too broadly.

"We do not say that every public employee with purchasing power can have no expectation of privacy in her personnel matters," Justice Patricia Cotter wrote for the majority. "Rather, we conclude that given the circumstances here – the alleged embezzlement of large sums of money over a protracted period of time – the District Court correctly conducted the requisite balancing test and reached a conclusion we will not disturb."

The dissenting justices warned that the court's decision, by removing privacy protection for public employees in certain situations, could have a chilling effect on government agencies' efforts to investigate wrongdoing by employees.

Anthony was investigated for allegedly using a city credit card to make personal purchases, including nine TVs, a home theater system, two satellite radios, DVD players and a refrigerator.

When city officials interviewed Anthony as part of their investigation, they advised her that information she provided would not be used against her in any criminal prosecution. When the investigation was complete, the city sent Anthony a 16-page letter detailing evidence gathered during the investigation and informing her of her right to a due-process hearing.

Anthony resigned a short time later and the hearing did not occur.

The Billings Gazette sought the letter and, when the request was denied, went to court. The city said the document was protected by Anthony's right to privacy and that its release would jeopardize a criminal investigation under way.

The newspaper argued that the letter was a public document related to a public employee in a position of public trust and, therefore, should be released under the public's right-to-know provision of the Montana Constitution.

When the district judge agreed with the newspaper, the city appealed.

The Supreme Court not only rejected the city's arguments regarding Anthony's privacy, but also said the city failed to provide support for its claim that release of the letter would jeopardize a potential criminal investigation.

The dissent, led by Justice Brian Morris, said Anthony cannot expect privacy in regard to the investigation, but does have a legitimate privacy right in regard to the letter sought by the newspaper. That document informed her of her employer's intended action against her and, in that, Anthony has a right to privacy, the minority said.

It also raised concern that the ruling will discourage employees targeted in investigations from cooperating with an employer because they will lack privacy protection for what they say.

"I cannot condone ... the court's decision to cast aside a public employer's strongest weapon to control wrongdoing in the workplace," Morris wrote. "The promotion of candid conversation between an employer and employee constitutes good public policy ... and serves as a proper foundation to recognize a reasonable expectation of privacy in Anthony's due-process letter.

"The court's refusal to recognize this privacy interest will encourage employees in future cases to remain silent during an internal investigation," he added. "This silence will ... prevent an employer from taking quick action to ensure the integrity of public institutions."

Chief Justice Mike McGrath and Justices James Nelson and Michael Wheat sided with Cotter in the majority. Justices Jim Rice and Beth Baker joined the dissent.

'I cannot condone ... the court's decision to cast aside a public employer's strongest weapon to control wrongdoing in the workplace.'

-Justice Brian Morris

Regional Roundup



Items in the roundup are contributed by the regional probation and parole staffs.

Region 1

The Hamilton probation and parole office will be fully staffed! Hamilton will be getting a new administrative support staffer, Raela Brown, on Dec. 27. She is coming to us from Ravalli County Justice Court where she worked as a clerk. The officer position in Hamilton has been filled by Matt Moore, who is currently a case manager at the Missoula Prerelease Center. He will start Dec. 21. We are very excited to have them joining our region and being part of our awesome team!

The Montana State Prison institutional probation and parole office also has a new staff member. Marla Eccleston started Dec. 5 as administrative support working with Ed Foley's team. Marla comes to us with 10 years of experience working with AWARE Inc., an Anaconda-based non-profit corporation that provides quality community-based services to persons with challenging mental, emotional, and in some cases, physical needs who would otherwise be served in a more restrictive setting. We are very pleased to have Marla joining our regional team.

Region 4

The region acknowledges and thanks the staff members who continue to participate in and support the Billings screening committee for the intensive supervision program (ISP). Without their experience and knowledge regarding

the program and its requirements, the ISP monthly screening process would be much more tedious. We greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment of Probation and Parole Officer Dave Comfort; Billings Police Officer John Schweigert; Dan Taylor, P&P Supervisor and ISP program supervisor; John Moorhouse; and Melanee Melia, ISP officer.

Region 4 has some comings and goings to share. Officer Cotton Secrest resigned at the beginning of November and accepted a position with the Department of Public Health and Human Services in Hardin. We had a very fun and heartfelt farewell for him and we wish him well. Officer Lisa Hjelmstad also has resigned and will pursue a career as a licensed clinical social worker. She will be setting up shop in Laurel and continue her current schedule in her Hardin location as well. You can check out her provider information at the following website: <http://communitywellnesspartnerships.com>. We will have a farewell luncheon for her during the first week of January. Lastly, Jeremiah Adams has accepted the officer position in the Hardin office and his first day was Dec. 5.

Officer Jennifer Welling has completed her chemo treatments and we held another taco Tuesday lunch to celebrate. She's been quite the inspiration in her fight and we are happy to support her any way we can.

For fun and entertainment, we have a few officers who participate in co-ed volleyball during fall and winter leagues. They are currently wrapping up fall league with a tournament.

The region has planned a cookie exchange, a visit from Santa and one of his elves, a holiday potluck luncheon and a gift exchange over the next couple of weeks. Hope you and yours all have a merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season.

Region 5

Up here in the Northwestern Montana corner, we have a



Region 4 ISP screening committee members, left to right: Dave Comfort, John Schweigert, Dan Taylor, John Moorhouse and Melanee Melia.

Roundup

FROM Page 16

new employee. Brock O'Hara, a Carroll College graduate and a U.S. Air Force veteran, started in November as a probation and parole officer. We are looking forward to working with Brock. Darryl Vanderhoef is finally joining the Libby team after serving a year overseas with the 163rd Infantry Regiment of the Montana National Guard. He was called up to serve shortly after he transferred from the Glendive office. Welcome back Darryl.

We will be implementing some new programs. Libby Officer Paula Gill will be starting the "progressive supervision program," which requires daily Monday-Thursday reporting for offenders with substance abuse issues. Gill will have close contact with treatment providers and early-morning reporting to encourage sobriety. In Kalispell we have plans to start a cognitive principles and restructuring (CP&R) program with our contracted employment specialist Jennifer Kelly. She is willing to put on a new hat to run the groups and monitor offender progress in the pro-

gram. The Polson office has plans to start a day reporting program with a treatment accountability program component to target substance abuse issues with a select group of offenders. Amy Rehbein will be the day reporting officer, starting around the end of January.

Sandy VanSkyock put together joint collaborative employment training with the state Job Service. The effort resulted in several offenders having success getting jobs even in the very difficult unemployment times found in Sanders County. Good job Sandy.

Region 6

It has been business as usual in the region. The oil boom has created increased employment opportunities along with increased traffic and competition for housing.

Tara Zody has been hired as the new officer in Glendive and began her duties Nov. 30. Zody is a native of Glendive and has a wide range of experience that will greatly benefit the region. Welcome aboard Tara!

A regional meeting was scheduled for Dec. 13 along with pressure-point contact techniques training.

Myths, misconceptions about corrections

Myths about corrections in Montana abound. They are a product of people's misconceptions about corrections in general, often developed based on inaccurate information; popular culture's image of crime, punishment and prisons; rumor; and inherent biases.

The problem arises when images and criticism of other corrections systems in other eras are assumed to reflect what occurs in Montana. Watch enough prison movies and one would believe that all inmates are locked up all day, every day in tiny cells while wearing black-and-white striped jumpsuits and heavy chains.

Myths also prevail because most citizens know little about the corrections world. They are familiar with their local grocery store because they go there every week. But few citizens have toured an operating prison and talked to inmates and staff, participated in community corrections-based treatment programs or walked in the shoes of a probation and parole officer.

Myth: Most offenders are behind bars.

Fact: Eight out of every 10 Montana offenders under state supervision are managed in programs outside of prison.

Myth: The state provides prison inmates with TV.

Fact: The TV available to inmates is paid for from a fund containing inmate money; the state does not pay for it.

Myth: An inmate's life in prison is easy.

Fact: Prison inherently is a difficult environment because it deprives offenders of freedoms and limits choices, including the ability to travel and to select clothing, food and pastimes. However, inmates who behave and follow the rules have more privileges than those who don't. This incentive system encourages inmates to stay out of trouble in prison, making the facilities safer for inmates and staff.

Myth: Most inmates never get out of prison.

Fact: About 97 percent of Montana inmates eventually are released.

Myth: Inmates spend a long time in prison.

Fact: The average stay for a male inmate is almost 21 months; the average stay for female inmates is 15½ months.

Myth: Most inmates considered for parole by the state Board of Pardons and Parole are denied parole.



Bob McNally had 33-year career

Former corrections staffer dies

Robert "Bob" John McNally, who worked in the Montana corrections system for 33 years, died Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, in Missoula from complications due to a stroke.

The Deer Lodge man was 75.

He was born to John Emmett and Mildred May (Smith) McNally in

Anaconda May 23, 1936. He was raised in Anaconda ("Goosetown") where he graduated from Anaconda High School in 1954. He also completed two years through Montana State University. While in high school, he worked for the Forest Service as a wildland firefighter and fire tower observer. He married Lynne Hursh in June of 1955. They had a son, Russell, and later divorced.

Bob proudly and honorably served his country in the U.S. Navy Reserves 1951-56 and then in the U.S. Air Force 1956-60.

Upon returning from military service, Bob began working for the Montana State Correctional System in 1961, where he served as a security officer, administrative assistant and institutional investigator. His duties and responsibilities required that he be deputized as a Powell County deputy sheriff and Montana fish and game officer. He retired in 1994 after serving 33 years.

Bob married Sharon Alina Rintala in Deer Lodge, Nov. 2, 1963. Born into that union was one daughter, Mary Margaret, who died at birth, and two sons, Shawn Patrick and Mark Emmett. Sharon passed away July 17, 1991, following a brief struggle with cancer. Bob was proud of his boys who were active in Boy Scouts, where all three earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Bob and his boys shared a love of the great outdoors by camping, fishing, cutting

wood, skiing and hunting together, among many other things.

Being an active member of the community has always been a priority in Bob's life. While the boys were growing up, Bob was a Montana Hunter Safety Instructor and was always involved in whatever sport or hobby the boys were interested in. After retirement, he had the time to explore his interest in panning for gold, golfing and was a member of the AOH, a benefactor member of NRA and an active member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

On Sept. 12, 2003, Bob married Kathleen Taggart in Deer Lodge. Together they were active in the Montana Back Country Horsemen Association and competing in the Cowboy Single Action Shooting Society. Bob sat on the board of directors for the Powell County Museum and Art Foundation, where he also volunteered as a tour guide. Bob was very active as a past post commander of the American Legion and his latest and crowning achievement was ensuring the expansion of the Veterans Annex at Hillcrest Cemetery dedicated on Memorial Day of this year.

Bob was loved by his family, friends and community. He was an incredible storyteller and entertained both young and old alike with his numerous tales and will be dearly missed by all.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Sharon; daughter, Mary Margaret; son, Mark; sister, Elena Sbragia and niece, Debbie Sbragia.

Those left to cherish Bob's memory are his wife, Kathleen; son, Russell Rubert (Shaunna) of St. Anthony, Idaho; son, Shawn (Misty) of Page, Ariz.; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and nephew, Steven Sbragia of Oakridge, Ore.

Memorials may be made the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation.

Director

FROM page 7

Hopefully all of us in corrections and within the Montana juvenile and adult criminal justice systems remain focused on the fact that 97 percent of adults in our prisons and all of the juveniles in our facilities are eventually going to be released. As our mission states, we are committed to provide services and opportunities that help offend-

ers to safely and successfully "reintegrate" into our communities, to their families and to the Montana workforce.

It truly was an honor to represent our state and our department at these meetings. It was a pleasure to share some of our efforts and work related to reentry, and to talk about the harmony that we have between our secure facilities and those programs and facilities that we can call reentry. Thanks to all those working in corrections for their commitment to our mission and to understanding the value of working as a team.

Gentleman

FROM Page 11

hazard reservoirs, fertilizer components and sprocket turn rates of every machine.

He has calved; he has irrigated and pulled a plow;
He has taught many men that have come through this prison so that now they too know how.

Bill has given men the chance to earn his respect and a job skill;
So that when they left the prison they could succeed if they just had the will.

And many of the men did succeed, as their letters attest;
They are so thankful to Bill for giving them the chance at success.

Along with hard work there have been many good times when we poked fun at each other or simply had a story to share.
We have missed Ross Swanson who was so serious when we were only having fun, who would often make the statement "just don't go there."

There is Larry Burke's driving if you can call it that, as it is so slow;
But he always comes through and is willing to be part of the show.

Larry may not have money for lunch or even a beer;
But we love to harass him whenever he is near.

Many people may not know this, but Bill is a talented man, he plays the guitar and has a beautiful baritone voice.
He has a strong love for his kids Troy, Deb, Jason, Marie and Joe. The Lord gave them a parent that was a great choice.

Bill is a hard working man of that no one can doubt, he never complained about the long hours he worked, because the ranch was his home.
It may be owned by the State of Montana, but he worked seven days per week and ran it like it was his own.

Bill was taught by the best, by many men who also dedicated their lives to the ranch too.
He had mentors like Donny Smith, Warren Weer and Ron Paige, who is with us tonight too.

Working with the best, dedicated to helping straighten out the lives of the rest;
There have been so many times that Bill and his staff were put to the test.

Tobacco, whiskey and pruno have been found at cow camp, equipment has been rolled and ranch vehicles stolen by inmates to flee;

They have used horses, laundry carts and spray trucks when they wanted so bad to be free.

We have had fires and floods and storms of wind, snow and of rain;
That caused problems for our staff, cattle, horses, well laid out plans and the terrain.

Bill was always there to help solve any problem that came.
His hard work and dedication, and that of his staff who will remain, is leaving the ranch the best it has ever been.

I know that Bill will not be a stranger, as the word relax he does not know.
Getting his truck keys from him on his retirement day will be a challenge before he has to go.

You can be assured that he will continue to listen to the two way radio to make sure all is ok;
And when he thinks there is a problem, he will be here in a minute to make sure things are done the right way.

So Bill, you are a leader and gentleman, and always will be a teacher, mentor and great friend to me.

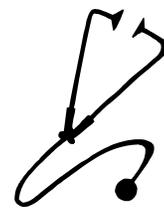
Your friends are here tonight to give you their best wishes and for retirement to bring you the best that life can be.

Good luck my friend,
Love Gayle



Nurses at Montana State Prison participate in a training class dealing with the HIV virus. (Photos by Linda Moodry)

Training on a tight budget



EDITOR'S NOTE: Cindy Hiner, director of nursing at Montana State Prison, has this to say about Anita Thorpe: "Anita was chosen for this position due to her innovation, hard work and dedication to the MSP medical team. Anita is very knowledgeable about correctional health care and is able to pass that knowledge along to other members of the health care team through teaching. Anita is a great example of how individuals can find ways to do more with less. I am honored to have her as a colleague and look forward to working with her for many years to come."

**By Anita Thorpe, RN
Montana State Prison**

I am the new nurse educator and infection control nurse for the Montana State Prison infirmary. Although I have had this position since August, I have worked at the prison since November 2003, and joined the standing training committee in October of this year.

When I started this job, I understood that the budgets had been cut, but I did not really have a clear picture of how it would affect this position or training for MSP nurses.

In addition to the budget reduction, the state Board of Nursing recently mandated, for the first time, that nurses obtain 24 continued education credits as one of the requirements for renewing a nursing license every two years.

I soon realized that we would have very limited training dollars at a time when more training was demanded. So I started making phone calls to determine what options were available for our nurses to fulfill their training obligations.

Arrangements were made for Molly Hale from Riverstone Health in Billings, who provides free HIV education for medical staff through the Ryan White Program (HIV is the virus that causes AIDS and Ryan White was an Indiana teenager who contracted AIDS at age 13 and his fight against discrimination helped educate the nation about the disease.) to come to MSP in October and conducted a two-hour presentation on HIV and rapid HIV screening. She plans to return in the spring to teach another HIV-related, two-hour class.

While contacting St. Patrick Hospital to ask about training opportunities I was put in contact with Megan Hamilton, who



MSP nursing staff practice techniques for immobilizing a patient during a training session at the prison.

Budget

FROM Page 20

is the trauma outreach educator for the Missoula hospital. She agreed to come to the prison and teach two eight-hour trauma classes for the nursing staff at no cost to the Department of Corrections. By offering two classes, she was able to accommodate the entire nursing staff.

Hamilton provided training on trauma assessment, airway management, spinal cord injuries, c-spine immobilization practice, thoracic trauma and musculoskeletal trauma.

She also suggested contacting Juli Yobst, who is the outreach educator for the International Heart Institute at St. Patrick Hospital. Yobst agreed to teach a class on acute coronary syndrome and an EKG interpretation class in the near future, also at no cost. (EKG refers to electrocardiogram, which is a test that checks for problems with the electrical activity of the heart.)

As part of my infection-control duties, I spent the day in Helena with Bonnie Barnard who is the Montana

HAI (hospital-acquired infection) Prevention Initiative Program coordinator in the Communicable Disease and Epidemiology Section at the Department of Public Health and Human Services. She provided me with information on a free class that her program developed in coordination with partners in Great Falls and Billings. We were able to send five nurses to the class in Great Falls and two to the Billings class, incurring only minimal travel expenses.

As the nurse educator, my job is not just to arrange education and training opportunities for staff here, but also to teach some of classes myself. Training needs can arise on a day-by-day basis.

When we learned that an inmate coming to MSP would need a special procedure for administering medications, I researched and obtained the information necessary to put in place a protocol and then provided training on the process for the staff. I also provided in-service training on use of a new skin adhesive to seal wounds that otherwise would require stitches.

In October, a no-cost webinar provided hepatitis C updates for all nurs-

ing staff and providers. An educational bulletin board in the break room at the infirmary supplies information on free education for staff and upcoming training opportunities.

I am preparing training on a new self contained portable system that provides filtered air to the wearer when dealing with patients having active tuberculosis cases and infectious diseases. I am also working on obtaining needed training on a procedure that will allow nursing staff to get intravenous access directly into the bone marrow when it is not possible to get an intravenous site in an arm for drawing of blood, administering of medication and fluids.

Future training plans include developing a class on documentation for correctional nurses, skin assessment and wound care, and tuberculosis education.

My goal is to ensure, as best I can, that a tight budget does not hamper the ability of our nursing staff to provide the most appropriate health care possible for inmates. I believe innovation and imagination are the best tools for reaching that goal.

Myths

FROM Page 17

Fact: Over the past five years, the board has approved parole for 57 percent of those considered.

Myth: The recidivism rate in Montana is high.

Fact: Montana's recidivism rate of 37.6 percent is lower than the national average. In a survey of 20 states with a comparable definition of recidivism, Montana ranks 10th.

Myth: Most offenders supervised in the community get into trouble again because they commit new crimes.

Fact: Only 13 percent of male offenders and about 15 percent of fe-

male offenders return to a correctional program for new crimes. Most return for technical violations of the conditions imposed on their community placement, but only after multiple failures to comply with those requirements.

Myth: Inmates don't work

Fact: About 470 inmates at Montana State Prison and Montana Women's Prison have some kind of job. About two-thirds of inmates in other facilities also work.

Myth: Teaching job skills to inmates in prison makes no difference.

Fact: The recidivism rate among inmates who participating for at least a year in work training programs operated by Montana Correctional Enter-

prises is 26 percent lower than the rate for inmates not working in the programs.

Myth: The Department of Corrections determines how long inmates spend in prison.

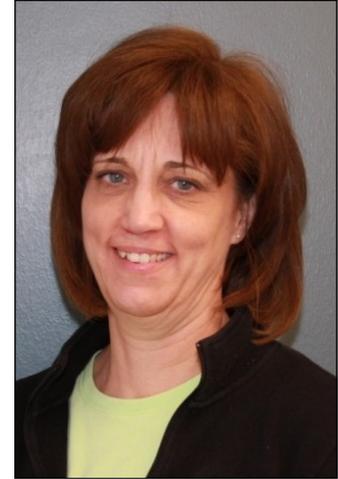
Fact: The courts determine sentence lengths and the Board of Pardons and Parole decides when inmates are paroled.

Myth: Prisons are full of nonviolent drug offenders.

Fact: As of late November, 55 percent of all nonviolent drug offenders were serving suspended or deferred sentences outside of prison. Many of those who are in prison have been offered and failed numerous opportunities to comply with requirements of their community placement.



**By Cynthia Davenport
Human Resource Specialist**



When I was a junior in college, I read a book by Erich Fromm and he noted that one of the problems with modern society was that people did not have unreachable goals. Instead we made goals we felt were achievable, a college degree, a house, two kids and a car, so much money in the bank.

He noted that these goals didn't make the world a better place and if we wanted to make the world a better place we had to manage our lives around what seemed like unreachable goals such as world peace or a clean environment. I decided at that point that my goal in life was to make the world a better place for children and I vowed I would accomplish this through my chosen profession (teacher), through the way I lived my life, and – when and if I became a mother – through being such a great mom that my children would carry forth my dream.

When I was 49 years old, my daughter was the same age I was when I set my “unreachable” goal. Despite changes in careers, from being a junior high teacher to being a stay at home mom to a career in human resources at a correctional facility, I have never lost sight of that goal, though I have added many more.

In my work today in human resources, I still try to make a difference for children. I believe hiring the right people for Montana State Prison who can model, mentor and encourage appropriate behavior and thinking and living skills can continue to make a difference in the lives of children.

Generally I walk around feeling like I am so lucky that I have figured this all out. But there are times when I watch the news, read the paper, and listen to and observe the world around me that I question whether I have made a difference at all. These are the times when I question myself and wonder if indeed I am the crazy one, the one who has wasted her life chasing rainbows.

So when my daughter, then 20 years old, came home from college for a visit, she shared with me her thoughts regarding a friend of hers getting married. My daughter said she felt too “little” to be married. She revealed that, as her junior year was coming to an end, the thoughts of only being a year away from going out in the “real” world was frightening.

She said that while she was afraid she also was extremely excited because, you see, she had a dream. She wanted to make the world a better place for children by being the kind of teacher who made a difference, through how she spent her leisure time and – if she did have kids – by being such a great mom that they would go on to make a difference too!

I guess it's OK to chase rainbows. While doing so, we may get caught up in a thunderstorm or two that whirl us around and drop us in places that are unfamiliar, we'll also be catching raindrops that fall to the earth and nourish seeds.



Institutional probation and parole officers, left to right, Mike Norvell, Rick Krantz, Jennifer Ty-mofichuk, Jim Cameron, Jenny Stephens, Cathy Johnson, Steve Stanford, Bonnie Boettger, Dar-ryl Burditt, Sherill Powell-Balsley, Monty Warrington, Ed Foley, LaVonne Kautsmann, Tim Krum, Jennie Hansen and Jim Jess.

Probation & parole staffers meet

**By Mike Aldrich
Probation and Parole Bureau
Programs Manager**

Saving money on ammunition, change in firearms procedures, conducting case audits, annual training plans and revisions of the Department of Corrections offender management information system (OMIS) were among the issues discussed at a pair of Probation and Parole Bureau meetings in late November.

The meeting of the Probation and Parole Bureau management team brought together Bureau Chief Ron Alsbury; regional administrators Emery Brelje, Dave Castro, Tanner Gentry, Dawn Handa, Monty LeTexier and John Williams; and Bureau Programs Manager Mike Aldrich.

The team discussed standardizing the bureau's method of ordering urinalysis supplies and ammunition in an effort to save more money.

Castro reported the new tool for conducting case audits will be enhanced by the expanding capabilities of OMIS and the offender management plan system. The annual training plan was discussed along with a training tracking document that can help simplify how they monitor the required training for probation and parole officers.

One the second day, the administrators were joined by all the bureau's institutional probation and parole officers (IPPOs). The officers learned

about the future vision for OMIS and heard Fern Osler, executive director of the Board of Pardons and Parole, praise the working relationships between the IPPOs and the board.

The IPPOs also had a chance to have their questions and concerns answered by Rick Deady, treatment contract program manager, and Judy Little, the prerelease contract program manager.

The officers heard an update from Sam Casey, the DOC's reentry manager, on the department's efforts to

develop a statewide reentry plan and on the work of the Billings Area Reentry Task Force. The group discussed its role in the reentry effort.

Ted Ward, professional training specialist, led a session on the new version of OMIS and answered questions about OMIS and OMP entries.



Probation & parole staffers, left to right: Mike Aldrich, Dee Glowacki, Emery Brelje, Monty LeTexier, Cheryl Waits, Tanner Gentry, Ron Alsbury, Dawn Handa, Dave Castro, Mark Johnson, John Williams and Dewey Hall.



Questions and answers about issues affecting corrections in Montana

VINE

What is VINE?

VINE is the acronym for Victim Information & Notification Everyday, an automated phone and email service that provides custody status updates about prison inmates under DOC. VINE also tracks offenders in “alternative secure” facilities – prerelease centers, MASC, Passages, Nexus, WATCH, Elkhorn Treatment Center, START and Connections Corrections.

Why is VINE important to the Department of Corrections?

Part of the department's mission is to support victims of crime and VINE represents a major element of the agency's effort to fulfill that part of its mission. Although much of the department's focus is on managing offenders, society cannot forget that every offender and every crime leaves in its wake at least one victim.

Why is VINE important to victims?

Victims feel safer if they know the current custody status and location of the offender. This knowledge helps them reclaim a sense of control over their own lives and allows them to make safety plans if they know the offender is returning to their community.

How much is VINE used?

VINE has logged more than 19,000 calls and websites visits so far this year, has 3,400 active registrations and delivered more than 15,000 successful notifications this year.

Does VINE cover all offenders?

No. VINE does not track parolees or probationers. Their victims must register directly with DOC if they want victim services or community corrections staff to notify them about offender custody status changes. (A pending VINE expansion project will add probation and parole.)

How do people sign up for VINE?

They call (800) 456-3076 or log onto www.vinelink.com and follow the instructions. We also have a bridge to VINE registration on the CON (Correctional Offenders

Network) offender locator site. Look for the “click here to register” link under the photos of prison inmates. The link does not display under photos of offenders in community placements. Note that registration is not required to check the custody status of an offender.

How do victims hear about VINE?

Ideally, law enforcement, prosecutors and county victim advocates advise victims to register for VINE at the time of sentencing. DOC staff, including those who prepare presentence investigation reports and other probation and parole officers, the collections (restitution) unit, the victim programs manager, and prison victim information officers also spread the word. Victims sometimes access VINE information through an online search or by word of mouth.

Does it cost money to register with VINE?

No. The program is a public service funded by the Legislature within the department's budget.

Who owns VINE?

DOC contracts with Appriss in Louisville, KY, which invented VINE after a rapist bonded out of a county jail and killed his victim in 1994. Mary Byron's request to be notified had fallen through the cracks.

How widespread is VINE?

Most other states have VINE in county jails and/or state prisons.

Do Montana victims receive notifications from Kentucky?

Yes. The VINE call center in Louisville is staffed around the clock by operators who understand crime victim concerns and the unique features of every state's VINE system. These operators are much like 911 operators – calm, collected and trained to handle every crisis imaginable.

How does VINE “know” about our offenders?

VINE downloads custody status updates from the depart-

Q&A

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ment's offender management information system (OMIS) database at least twice daily. Accurate and timely data entry by DOC staff is critical to VINE's success. Inaccurate data results in missed or inaccurate notifications, which could jeopardize a victim's safety. The information technology staff and victim programs manager work closely with Appriss staff to maintain the system.

What events trigger a VINE notification?

Transfer from county jail or court after sentencing to the Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center, Passages women's correctional center in Billings, reception units at Montana State Prison or Montana Women's Prison, transfers from prison to other correctional facilities, parole or sentence review hearings, releases from prison, interstate compact transfers, prison and prerelease escapes, offender deaths, and transfers among community-based corrections programs such as prerelease centers.

Why doesn't VINE include victims of offenders probation and parole?

When DOC purchased the VINE system in 1995, the probation and parole option was not available. Increased data reliability and timeliness with OMIS has made expansion possible. DOC received a federal grant and state funding to pay for expanding the system to probation and parole and to add text messaging as a notification option.

How does VINE know its notifying the right person?

Victims must select their own personal identification number (PIN) when they register for VINE telephone notification.

When VINE delivers offender information, it requires the recipient to enter the PIN to verify that the right person received the message.

What happens if a victim forgets his or her PIN?

The victim programs manager can retrieve a lost PIN if the party calls (888) 223-6332 during regular work hours. But at other times, the victim must either call a VINE operator in Kentucky or be patient because the calls usually stop after 24 hours. The best option is for victims to register for email notification rather than phone – or remember their PINs.

What can victims registered with VINE do to ensure they receive notifications?

Victims must remember to update their contact information (phone numbers and email addresses) when it changes.

Why do VINE calls sometimes go out to people who don't want them?

When victims change their phone numbers and fail to update that information in VINE, the phone company reassigns the number and the new party "inherits" the VINE calls. These people eventually find their way to DOC and should be referred to the victim programs manager who can arrange for the calls to stop. A VINE operator also can stop the calls.

Are victims the only ones who use VINE?

No. Anyone can register for VINE. Offender families and friends, law enforcement, probation and parole officers, judges and prosecutors are among those who use VINE.

Where can I get more information on VINE?

Call Sally Hilander, victim programs manager, at (406) 444-7461 or email shilander@mt.gov.

First-quarter offender total declines slightly

The total number of offenders under Department of Corrections supervision declined slightly during the first quarter of the fiscal year, although increases occurred in some community corrections programs.

The average daily population of total offenders dropped by 75 (0.6 percent) to 12,916, due mostly to a decrease of 1.1 percent in probationers and parolees. Those on probation or parole averaged 8,283 for the three-month period.

The number of offenders in intensive supervision, day reporting and treatment and accountability programs increased by 5.1 percent and the programs offering alternatives to prison (treatment, sanction, assessment and revocation) grew by 2.8 percent. The prerelease center population was down 1.2 percent, the male prison population dipped by 0.8 percent and the women's prison population rose by 2.4 percent.

The department will determine in late January whether adjustments should be made in existing population projections for this and next two fiscal years.

Nationally, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reported the number of offenders under supervision of correctional authorities declined by 1.3 percent, or 91,700, during 2010.

Survey: Most feel safe from crime

Montanans have a very safe view of their lives and seldom fear they will become victims of violent crime, according to a recent survey of more than 2,500 state residents by Board of Crime Control.

Despite those sentiments, few of those polled believe that crime in Montana is decreasing – a perception that contradicts the reality of a continuing drop in crime since 2003.

The findings are contained in the board's 2011 Montana Crime and Victimization and Safety Survey Report, which is available online at:

<http://mbcc.mt.gov/Data/SAC/Victimization/FINAL%20MCVSS.pdf>

The survey asked 31 questions about crime-related attitudes and experiences in the past year.

The project was intended to answer a trio of questions:

- What percentage of Montana's population is directly affected by property crime and violent crime?
- What is the public's perception of crime within Montana?
- What is the public's perception of law enforcement in Montana?

When asked how safe they feel in their communities, about 93 percent of respondents said they always or almost always feel safe. Less than 1 percent indicated they never or almost never feel that way.

Likewise, a strong majority (79.6 percent) said they never or almost never are fearful of becoming a victim of a violent crime. Just 3 percent said they always or almost always fear such a circumstance.

Given those results, it was not surprising that more than 70 percent of those surveyed said they are not afraid of being victimized while walking alone at night within a mile of their homes.

Although most of those responding expressed little or no fear of crime, it apparently wasn't because they believe crime is dropping. Only about 8 percent said they believe that was the case during the previous three years, while 42.3 percent believe crime increased to some degree in that time. About half said they have seen no change.

Slightly more than a third of those polled indicated they had some contact with law enforcement in 2010. The most common reason was a non-specific "other" category, but traffic violations ranked second.

Two-thirds (65 percent) labeled their local law enforcement good or very good, while another 30 percent considered it "acceptable" and 5 percent called the job done by their local law officers bad or very bad. Sixty-five percent also rated their contact with local police or sheriff as positive, almost 12 percent described as negative and about 22 percent said their contact was neither good nor bad.

Three out of every 10 respondents said they experienced a property crime in 2010, with vandalism the most common crime, followed by theft from a motor vehicle and burglary. More than 85 percent of the property crimes were reported to law enforcement.

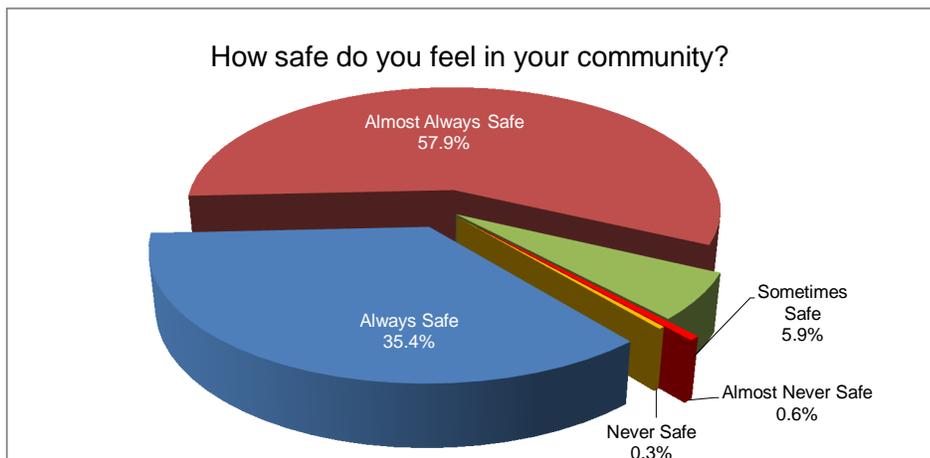
The survey found that 14 percent of those answering the survey has experienced at least one instance of identity theft. While most of those said they reported the incidents to their bank or the issuer of the credit card involved, few notified law enforcement.

One out of every 10 surveyed said they had experienced one or more violent crimes. Sexual assault victims, on average, reported 2½ such incidents during the previous year, but only 38 percent of those were reported to law enforcement. Nearly three-fourths of sexual assault victims knew their assailants.

Most of those identifying themselves as crime victims acknowledged the offense had at least some impact on their lives, although 40 percent said the crime had very little effect.

Only 12.5 percent of crime victims taking the survey said they were told about victim services programs in the community. While 30 percent sought help from family and friends, merely 2 percent requested help from a victim advocate or victim service provider.

Finally, the report found crime victims tend to be younger, and residents 55 and older are less likely to be victimized.



The Training Times



21 new training courses added

By Rae Forseth
Professional Development Specialist

The Professional Development Bureau has announced the addition of 21 new classes for Department of Corrections staff.

The bureau recently added these new workshops to the course offerings at DOC as a result of staff input in our annual training-needs assessment. The courses were purchased through a licensing agreement with HRD Press, a leader in human resources training for more than 30 years. The license allows the bureau to offer unlimited courses and to customize the content to meet our needs. The new courses now available are:

Marquee Workshops

Dealing with Conflict
Strategic Leadership
Complete Mentoring

Professional-Skills-Courseware-Workshops

Building Interpersonal Influence
Adult Learning Principles
Decision Making and Planning Tools
Developing Employees
Preparing the Future Leader
Problem Solving Tools and Techniques
Transforming Workplace Conflict
Surviving Workplace Change

Performance Skills Teams Courseware Workshops

Planning for Team Results
Resolving Team Conflict
Solving Team Problems
Utilizing Team Member's Abilities
Committing to the Team Approach
Communicating Effectively in Teams

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Courses

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Creating a Shared Team Purpose
Evaluating Team Performance
Making Team Meetings Work
Making Team Decisions by Consensus

The courses range from two hours to several days, and can be modified to fit budgets and schedules. The bureau plans to make some of this content available through distance education, utilizing the Online Training Center and webinars for staff.

These programs are not only very affordable, but also offer a lot of flexibility and met specific needs we have in our department. Last year's training needs assessment revealed the most needed professional courses were *team-building, conflict resolution, communication and leadership*. These new courses offer extensive content on all of these issues.

The cost of the curricula also was very important. An analysis revealed the licensing agreement was approximately 25 percent of what it would have cost the bureau to develop these courses ourselves.

If you want to learn more or are interested in hosting any of these courses, please contact the Professional Development Bureau. We look forward to offering these additional programs to our staff.

Supervisor Training

The Department of Corrections hosted the National Institute of Corrections' "Essential Skills for New Supervisors" course at the DOC Training Center in early December. Instructors were Lisa Hunter, Rae Forseth and Dave Garcia. The 16 participants had the opportunity to reflect on their personal position and vision statements and values and compare them with the Department of Corrections' mission and vision statements and values. They learned techniques for effective communication, problem solving, conflict management and encouraging staff performance. (Photo by Lisa Hunter)



Video Training

The Professional Development Bureau used video conferencing to host a three-day training course in cognitive principles and restructuring. Use of the technology allowed participation by 36 students community corrections and from contract programs in five cities, without travel time and expense. The instructor, Rae Forseth, was in Helena and facilitators were in each of the other four locations: Curt Swenson, Miles City; Paul Hauth, Shelby; Anton Geier, Billings; and Howard Lanley, Lewistown. The program had few technical glitches and was well received overall. It was a great beginning in a continuing effort to provide quality, cost-effective training for staff of the Department of Corrections and its contracted programs.

Comings

These lists of new and departing employees cover the period from Sept. 24 through Dec. 2. If you notice errors or omissions, please contact the *Signpost* editor at banez@mt.gov.

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Alan Franklin
Anna Harmon
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Gerry Rossberg
Danel Segovia

Jennifer Sorensen

Montana Women's Prison
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Andrea Aldrecete-Crow
Dana Dotson
Gregory Keebler

Pine Hills
Tanner Anderson
John Caudie
Brett Hellyer
Janet Lassen
Brian Purdie

Lori Raisler
Michelle Vasquez

Probation and Parole
Brian Julian, Kalispell
Brock O'Hara, Kalispell
Bryan Strominger, Great Falls
Tara Zody, Glendive

Riverside
Mark Tollefson

Youth Transition Centers
Melody Wilkes

Goings

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Christopher Bardstad
Errol Bencke-R
Margaret Beyers
Lisa Boynington
Tracy Caudill
Myles Chandler
Kathryn Coey
Bill Dabney-R
Patrick Dickinson
Desiree Dramstad
Mary Dunphy
Logan Earley
Nick Eisele

Renn Ewalt
Erin Feather
Steve Funston
Kenneth Gardner-R
Stewart Garrett
Shelly Griffith
Karla Grimes-Warner
Kraig Heidemann
Gregory Hergott
James Hetrick
Fred Hoffman
Seth Hoffman
Farryl (Lisa) Hunt
Chelsea Jahner

Melissa Kougl
John Moore
Francey Moreni
Justin Morin
Michael Naseath
Raquel Norton
Mark Proxell
Patricia Robles
Scott Reeves
Ciana Roeber
Molly Saksa
Heather Ryan
Arnold Salcido
Dr. David Schaefer

Cody Schelin
Tanner Schweigert
Cotton Secreast
Daniel Smith
Tara Staber
Edward Tharp
Thomas Vauthier
Christopher Wells
Kim Wenger
Julie Weist
Tanya Wilkerson
David Zrowka

R=retired

Offenders

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At the end of 2010, the total supervised U.S. offender population was 7.1 million. The report said 21.5 percent of them were in prison at year's end. Fifty-seven percent were on probation, 12 percent were on parole and 10.6 percent were in jails.

Another BJS report showed that the number prisoners nationally dropped 0.6 percent in 2010, marking the first such decline in that population since 1972. The national incarceration rate at the end of that year was 497 prisoners for every 100,000 U.S. residents.

The report said Montana's "prisoner" population grew by 3.1 percent during 2010, but the federal agency counts more

than just state prison inmates. It includes in its numbers federal and state offenders in any correctional facilities, including prerelease centers and treatment programs.

As a result, the BJS data collection process inflates Montana figures beyond those normally considered to be "prisoners." Therefore, Montana's increased use of community corrections programs as diversions from prison are not reflected in the federal reporting.

Between 2000 and 2009, the average annual increase in Montana's "prisoner" population matched the national rate of 1.7 percent.

Montana's incarceration rate in 2010 remained far below the national average of 497. Montana, at 378 "prison-ers" per 100,000 residents, ranked 24th in the country.

The Correctional Signpost is published by the Montana Department of Corrections at the central office, 5 S. Last Chance Gulch, P.O. Box 201301, Helena, MT 59620-1301.

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