

Correctional Newsfront

The official newsletter of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections



2015 News ~ July to September

Week of Sept. 28...

SCI Rockview Celebrates 100 Years of Operation



Recently, SCI Rockview current and former employees celebrated the 100th anniversary of the prison's opening with a barbeque.

Retirees of the prison (pictured above) returned to the prison to help celebrate.

The celebration included cake (left), chicken barbeque and all the fixings and was sponsored by the prison's Empowerment Committee and Employees Association.

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Rockview's History

(From "Two Centuries of Corrections in Pennsylvania: A Commemorative History" By John C. McWilliams, 2002 – Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. The project was supported in part by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the Federal-State Partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.)

A "New" Western at Rockview

The idea of a prison centrally located within the state was put into effect with legislation enacted in 1878. The plan languished for over three decades until Governor John K. Tener signed a law authorizing the construction of a third prison called Rockview, five miles north of State College in Centre County. This was because:

"The Western Penitentiary is greatly overcrowded as well as otherwise inadequate . . . and so unsanitary that numerous cases of tuberculosis exist among the prisoners confined therein, as a direct result of the imprisonment. . . . It is desirable [the new prison] be of modern design and so constructed in a rural district, so that prisoners may be provided with useful employment in tilling the soil."

Construction began in 1912 and included solitary cells for condemned murderers and an execution chamber. In 1915, when Rockview opened on a tract of five thousand acres, the legislature adopted plans to enlarge the new prison so it would serve as the state's sole maximum-security prison. Once completed, prisoners formerly received at Eastern and Western would be sent to Rockview. The first cellblock was designed for maximum-security purposes, but during construction, when Warden John Francies sent only prisoners with the best records to Rockview, the prison was redesignated as a medium-security institution that would operate as a "branch" or prison farm of Western.



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SCI Retreat Names Employee of the Quarter



Corrections Officer 1 T. Davis was recently named Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter. Davis was nominated for this recognition because of his "quick reaction without hesitation, he provided comfort and safety to an officer in distress." Superintendent Theresa DelBalso said his calm, demeaning manor during the emergency situations epitomizes the duty of a corrections professional.

Davis started his career with the DOC in 2000 as a corrections officer trainee at SCI Coal Twp. He transferred to the Training Academy in 2008 and came to Retreat in 2012.

He was a member of the Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) team for eight years at Coal Twp. Because of his time spent at the Training Academy, Davis is certified to instruct just about every DOC course.

Davis also served 15 years with the Army National Guard and served one deployment from 2006-2008.

Please join us in congratulating CO Davis as Employee of the Quarter.

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Inmates Participate in Annual Run-a-thon



SCI Cambridge Springs held its 23rd Annual Run-a-thon on Saturday, September 26, 2015. A total of 179 inmates participated in this event, with a total of 24 successful marathon finishers. Proceeds from this event will benefit Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Crawford County.



Supplying School Supplies

During September 2015, residents at Harrisburg Community Corrections Center (CCC) collected and donated 946 school supplies to a local elementary school, the Scott School.

The Scott School opened on January 2, 2000. It houses approximately 550 students in preschool through fourth grade in Harrisburg. Since 2013, Harrisburg CCC has proudly donated school supplies to the Scott School each September to assist students in succeeding in their education.



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Expanding Reentry Work

DOC officials are furthering their work in the area of reentry through the creation of regional reentry administrators (RRAs) – one for the east and one for the west. This is in addition to the already-existing reentry coordinators already working at each of our state prisons.

The primary focus of RRAs will be on providing a bridge between institutions and community corrections to facilitate transition to the community via parole to an approved release plan. They will coordinate systemic and tangible reentry practices within the Department to advance the returning citizen's opportunity for success; thereby reducing recidivism and increasing public safety.

Lacosta Mussoline will serve as the Eastern RRA. This region includes SCIs Benner Township, Camp Hill, Chester, Coal Township, Dallas, Frackville, Graterford, Huntingdon, Mahanoy, Muncy, Retreat, Rockview, Smithfield and Waymart.

Janeen Christ will serve as the Western RRA. This region includes SCIs Albion, Cambridge Springs, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Houtzdale, Laurel Highlands, Mercer, Quehanna, Pine Grove, Pittsburgh and Somerset.

The primary focus of the RRAs will be on providing a bridge between institutions and community corrections to facilitate transition to the community via parole to an approved release plan, i.e., CCC, CCF or home plan. Initial responsibilities include:

- Focus on standardization of existing Transitional Housing Units (THUs) and formulation of THU expansion plan
- Assist with identification and approval of speakers for THUs
- Be available as a resource for implementation of inmate internet
- Administer the driver's license program for acquisition of IDs
- Work with facility staff to increase number of releases with identification
- Maximize available reentry resources, i.e., reentry services contracts
- Work with local facility reentry coordinators, CJABs and serve as liaisons w/PCCD's Reentry Division

The RRAs will coordinate systemic and tangible reentry practices within the Department to advance the returning citizen's opportunity for success; thereby reducing recidivism and increasing public safety.

DOC officials also would like to take this opportunity to thank Mary Finck, who served as the department's reentry coordinator for many years and who worked to lay the foundation for many of the DOC's reentry efforts. Ms. Finck has accepted a different position at one of our prisons, but she remains passionately committed to the DOC's reentry efforts.

Week of Sept. 21...

Secretary John Wetzel Presented with AWEC Legacy Award

DOC Secretary John Wetzel recently was presented with the Association of Women Executives in Corrections' (AWEC) Legacy Award for his work in the area of furthering and fostering women's achievements in the field of corrections.

Presented during AWEC's 19th Annual Training Conference in New Orleans, La., on Sept. 20, Wetzel joins the ranks of Arkansas Department of Correction Director Ray Hobbs and Dr. Diane Schlachter, who provides management and organizational development services through her Atlanta-based business.

"I am honored to receive this award on behalf of our executive team at the PA DOC," Secretary Wetzel said. "In a traditionally male dominated field, we find diversity to be an essential part of the fabric of our organization. I am not only proud of our staff... I am also proud of the fact that all our staff, male and female, have a real opportunity to progress professionally. Many of our female staff are not only leaders in this state, but leaders nationally."

From his executive deputy secretary to his special assistants, Wetzel's senior staff team is comprised mostly of women. Several of the department's bureaus and offices also are led by women, and one third of his 27 state prison facilities is headed by a female superintendent. Twenty-five percent of the DOC overall workforce is comprised of women.

Since Wetzel began his term at the DOC, he has made the development of female employees a priority. This first came to light through the continuation of the DOC's annual empowerment symposiums and through his holding of an Executive Leadership Development Institute for Women - a one-day seminar focusing on women in corrections.

Wetzel has a cooperative relationship with AWEC officials and has volunteered resources to assist them in their mission of providing leadership development for women in corrections.

Since 1996, AWEC has operated to offer opportunities and support to top female executives and senior managers in corrections and to mentor emerging leaders, consistent with its "each one . . . teach one" philosophy. AWEC is over 200 members strong, with members throughout the country in public and private, institutional and community correctional facilities.

AWEC's mission is to provide leadership development for executive women, support the career advancement of women in corrections, and promote informed discussion of correctional issues in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

To learn more about AWEC, visit www.awec.us.



Present at the conference and in support of Secretary Wetzel were, from left to right: Superintendents Cynthia Link, Marirosa Lamas and Laurel Harry; Secretary John Wetzel; Wetzel's Special Assistant Deb Sahd; Superintendent Tammy Ferguson; and DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal.

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Also at the AWEC conference, EDS Shirley Moore Smeal was sworn into executive offices of AWEC. She is now vice president and will be president in September 2016.

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New Regional Deputy Secretaries

Earlier this year two prison superintendents were appointed DOC regional deputy secretaries. They are Michael Wenerowicz and Steven Glunt.

Michael Wenerowicz

"I have known Mike for several years now, and I continue to be impressed by his corrections expertise and leadership skills," Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said. "I have confidence that his experience, which includes the successful operation of the DOC's largest prison, will greatly assist the superintendents in his region and be a great resource to them."

Since May 2010, Wenerowicz has been superintendent of the State Correctional Institution at Graterford, a facility located in Montgomery County that houses more than 3,400 inmates and employs more than 1,200 individuals.

As regional deputy secretary, he oversees facilities in the eastern region of the state: Chester, Coal Township, Dallas, Frackville, Graterford, Mahanoy, Retreat and Waymart.

Wenerowicz began his corrections career as a counselor at SCI Dallas in 1993. From 1990 to 2000, he served as a parole agent with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. In June 2000, he returned to the DOC as a unit manager at SCI Graterford, where he later served as classification and program manager. He was named staff assistant to the eastern regional deputy secretary in 2005, and in 2006 he was appointed director of the DOC's Bureau of Treatment Services. In the same year, Wenerowicz was named deputy superintendent for centralized services at SCI Frackville.

Wenerowicz earned a BA in criminal justice from Mansfield University and is a member of Pennsylvania Prison Warden Association, North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents and Mid-Atlantic States Correction Association.



STEVEN GLUNT

“Steve has demonstrated his exceptional leadership skills by diligently encouraging employees to be the best they can be and to give 100 percent every day. He leads with determination and is dedicated in moving the department into the future,” stated Secretary John Wetzel.

Since 2013, Glunt has been superintendent at the State Correctional Institution at Rockview, Centre County, which houses more than 2,400 offenders and employs approximately 725 staff.

As regional deputy secretary, he oversees facilities in the western region of the state, including: Albion, Cambridge Springs, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Laurel Highlands, Mercer, Pittsburgh and Somerset.



Glunt began his career in 1988 as a corrections officer at SCI Smithfield. While at Smithfield, he promoted through the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, unit manager and captain. In June 2005, he accepted a transfer to SCI Huntingdon as major. In January 2008, he transferred to the Department of Corrections Central Office, serving as chief of security. The following year, he advanced to the rank of deputy superintendent at SCI Somerset. In June 2010, Glunt was promoted to superintendent at SCI Houtzdale and the Quehanna Boot Camp. Three years later Glunt was named superintendent at SCI Rockview.

Glunt is a 1982 graduate of the Mount Union Area High School. He continued his education while employed by the Department of Corrections at Shippensburg University, graduating in 1991 with a B.S. degree in criminal justice.

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Oppman Named Acting Deputy Secretary

Earlier this year, Christopher Oppman was named DOC acting deputy secretary for administration. He replaced Tim Ringer, who retired with more than 35 years of service. As deputy secretary, Oppman is responsible for Correctional Industries, Equal Opportunity Office, the DOC's Bureaus of Administration, Operation and Health Care.

Oppman began working for the Department of Corrections in January 2010 as the health care administrator at SCI Pittsburgh. In April 2013, he was named director of the DOC's Bureau of Health Care Services. Prior to working for the DOC, he worked for the private sector as practice manager, center administrator, controller, contracts manager and human resource manager. He was named acting deputy secretary of administration in May 2015.

Oppman received his bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He also obtained a Master of Business Administration and Master of Health Administration from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh.



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School Supplies for Families of Veterans

SCI Graterford employees recently donated school supplies for the children of veterans. These supplies were collected during the summer and dropped off at the Coatesville VA Medical Center in August... just in time for school.

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Farewell to Mercer CHCA

This week, SCI Mercer employees said goodbye to their health care administrator, Kim Boal, who retired on Sept. 25th.

Kim and her coworkers shared cake and many memories on her last day.

The prison's Morale Committee presented Kim with an SCI Mercer challenge coin and a certificate in honor of her retirement.



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Waymart Gets New Superintendent

John (Jack) Sommers, a 28- year corrections veteran, has been appointed superintendent at the State Correctional Institution at Waymart, Wayne County. The appointment was effective August 10, 2015.

Sommers began his corrections career at SCI Frackville in 1987 as a mental health unit program specialist and then transitioned in 1990 to a corrections activities specialist and to corrections counselor at the same institution. In 1993, Sommers moved to SCI Coal Township as a corrections counselor. The following year he was promoted to a unit manager at the same facility. Remaining at SCI Coal Township, he was promoted to corrections classification and program manager. He also served in a temporary capacity as deputy superintendent for centralized services.

In 2002, Sommers promoted to deputy superintendent for facilities management at SCI Retreat, Luzerne County. He periodically served as deputy superintendent for centralized services while at SCI Retreat. In 2010, Sommers was promoted to director of bureau of community corrections at the DOC's Central Office, Mechanicsburg.

Sommers has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Leisure Services Management, East Stroudsburg University and a Master of Science Degree in Leisure Studies, Pennsylvania State University.

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Academy Achieves Accreditation

The DOC's Training Academy recently passed its American Correctional Association (ACA) audit with a score of 100% on the mandatory standards and a 100% score on the non-mandatory standards.

"There is no question that this could not have been done without the incredible commitment, dedication and teamwork on the part of all staff at the Academy," said Academy Director Michael Dooley. "A special thanks goes to Associate Director Joanne Gallo for her lead role in getting the Academy through the process. Great job, and a big thanks and congratulations to all Training Academy staff."

Pictured are ACA auditors with the Training Academy's director and associate directors.



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Houtzdale Inmates Graduate

SCI Houtzdale held its annual graduation ceremony in the visiting room on Sept. 2.

Thirty-four inmates attended, with 11 receiving the Commonwealth Secondary Diploma and 23 receiving the Adult Commonwealth Secondary Diploma.

Also in attendance were 20 family members and friends of the inmates, education faculty and several prison employees.



Speaking at graduation was School Principal Cynthia Kechisen.

Over the course of the 2015, SCI Houtzdale had 19 students complete the Commonwealth Secondary Diploma Program, 41 Adults complete the Adult Commonwealth Secondary Diploma Program, and 4 students complete the GED Program.

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DOC Employee Presents at National SMART Recovery Conference

E. Renea Snyder, drug and alcohol program manager for the DOC's Bureau of Treatment Services recently presented information via the web for the National SMART (Self-Management and Recovery Training) that was being held in Cincinnati, OH.

The presentation was about Substance Use Disorder treatment in the PA DOC and how self-help programming is implemented.

The key to this presentation is that PA DOC has taken an initiative to implement SMART Recovery which is a secular program in all facilities, SMART does not have a 12 step/spiritual focus.

SMART History:

- Court Rulings determined it is a violation of First Amendment Rights to require offenders to attend 12 Step meetings - Kerr v. Farrey, Griffen v. Coughlin, and Warner v. Orange County Department of Probation
- Originated in 1994
- Secular Program for Addictive Substances and Addictive Behaviors
- Does not require a label "alcoholic or addict"
- Uses the 4 Point Program: Enhancing and Maintaining Motivation, Coping with Urges, Problem Solving and Lifestyle Balance

"The benefits for our offenders is the fact that it has a cognitive based foundation as do our treatment programs, can be used for any addictive behaviors, it is accessible anytime and anywhere (meetings can be in person or via the web) and they have 24 chat line," Snyder said.

Snyder said the DOC also is implementing a program called InsideOut by SMART for offenders in our recovery programs.

More information can be accessed at www.smartrecovery.org

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Week of Sept. 14...

Pittsburgh Employee's Daughter Receives Scholarship

Madeline King, whose father is SCI Pittsburgh Corrections Officer 1 A. King, has received a \$1,000 Susan M. Hunter Scholarship. Madeline attends Point Park University, Pittsburgh.



Pictured are DSFM David Zetwo, Superintendent Mark Capozza, Madeline King and her father Officer A. King and DSCS William Cole.

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Accreditation Kudos!

Congratulations to the employees of the **Harrisburg CCC** for passing their American Correctional Association (ACA) audit with 100% compliance of the mandatory standards and 100% of the non-mandatory standards! Kudos!

We also send congratulations to **York CCC** employees for passing their recent ACA audit. They achieved 100% compliance with the mandatory standards and 99.5% on non-mandatory standards! Kudos!

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Helping to Raise Awareness about Hunger

Fourteen inmates from SCI Pine Grove and three of the prison's educational employees placed 15,000 flyers in grocery bags that will be distributed to Indiana County residents via the local newspaper. The residents fill the bags with food items and then drop them off at designated collection areas.

Through 18 volunteer-operated food pantries in the county, the Indiana County Community Action Program provides food to more than 5,000 residents who are less fortunate. Annually they distribution of $\frac{3}{4}$ million pounds of food.

Here's the flyer that inmates and employees placed into the grocery bags:

28th Annual Care & Share Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015

A project of ICCAP and The Indiana Gazette



Don't Let Them Go to Bed
HUNGRY. See reverse side for details.

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Chamber of Commerce Visits/Tours SCI Coal Township

On Sept. 15, members of the Brush Valley Chamber of Commerce held their monthly luncheon/meeting at SCI Coal Township.

While at the prison, members were provided a tour that included access to the Northumberland County Prison, which has been operating inside the state prison since the county prison was destroyed by fire earlier this year.

The Shamokin News-Item is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and attended the meeting/tour. Their coverage can be found at www.newsitem.com "Brush Valley C of C members tour state prison" by Mike Staugaitis.

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Re-Entry Coalition Meets at Graterford



On Sept. 15, officials from the Philadelphia Re-Entry Coalition held their annual summit meeting at SCI Graterford.

Community partners -- who offer services and support to offenders returning home after prison -- met with Graterford and Central Office employees at the summit and discussed the work they do in the area of re-entry.

Representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office and the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) also attended and provided information about their exciting initiatives taking place in the Strawberry Mansion section of Philadelphia.

The community partners then discussed their initiatives and were given the opportunity to speak with a small group of offenders about their re-entry needs and concerns.

In this picture, Superintendent Cynthia Link addresses the group.



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DOC Files Annual Prison Rape Elimination Act Report

The Department of Corrections recently submitted its Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report for 2014 to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

"The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has a zero tolerance for institutional sexual abuse," Secretary John Wetzel said. "DOC employees strive to maintain a safe and secure environment for all who are in our custody. Policy and procedures and educational materials for both employees and inmates have been developed in accordance with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards."

According to the DOC's report:

-Of the 257 total inmate-on-inmate allegations of nonconsensual acts, abusive sexual contacts or sexual harassment at PA DOC facilities in 2014, only 36 were substantiated. It should be noted that four additional allegations are involved in ongoing investigations. In 2013, there were 121 such allegations, with only 8 being substantiated.

-Of the 500 total staff-on-inmate allegations of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment at PA DOC facilities in 2014, only 20 were substantiated. It should be noted that three additional allegations are involved in ongoing investigations. In 2013, there were 345 such allegations, with only 9 being substantiated.

DOC officials believe that its continued work to educate inmates and staff about PREA has resulted in a higher awareness and thus increased numbers of allegations. PREA information for 2013 was the first report submitted by the DOC.

DOC employees and family/friends of DOC inmates may submit reports of sexual assault or sexual harassment to a third party via the internet at www.tipsubmit.com or by sending information to BCI/PREA Coordinator, 1800 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

Note: When using www.tipsubmit.com, users are redirected to www.tipsoft.com. There, users should click on the appropriate button under the "For Citizens" category. Users can complete submit a tip based upon the type of device they use, computer, smart phone or text.

The DOC's 2014 PREA Annual Report can be viewed on the DOC's website at www.cor.pa.gov.

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Riverside CCC Continues Monthly Donations

During the month of August 2015, Riverside Community Corrections Center (CCC) residents and employees collected school supplies to donate to Calvary United Methodist Church. Riverside CCC has partnered with Calvary United Methodist church for several years.

Calvary Methodist will distribute Riverside CCC's donations to a couple of different elementary schools in need within the City of Pittsburgh.

As you can see from the picture, the residents of Riverside CCC really take an interest in this community service project. They didn't just limit themselves to pencils and folders. They also bought book bags and large boxes of crayons, all while on their free time.

"We here at Riverside CCC continue to enjoy the relationship with Calvary United Methodist Church and will maintain this association for the greater good of the citizens of Pittsburgh and for the successful reintegration of our residents," Center Counselor 2 Dan Coulehan said.



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Administrative Segregation / Violence Reduction Initiative

On Sept. 14, DOC officials gathered around the Central Office conference table and via videoconference equipment to participate in Secretary John Wetzel's first "Chalk Talk," or in other words, employees solving problems as a group.

Problem Solving

Wetzel told the participants that the DOC needs to get better at working together to solve problems. We shouldn't think that we have to solve our problems isolated in our own offices or facilities using our own staff or limited resources... we can open up the issue to a bigger, broader group and get better options and outcomes.

Changes in Administrative Segregation are Coming

Today's "Chalk Talk" focused on an issue that's on the horizon for all corrections agencies – how and why administrative segregation is used. In the PA DOC, we refer to administrative segregation as restricted housing, restricted release list, disciplinary custody and/or administrative custody.

Wetzel said that the corrections field nationally is changing and rather than be reactive we need to be proactive. Or, Wetzel said, as Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal often says, "Be the author of your own change."

In January 2016 the American Correctional Association is expected to issue and use new accreditation standards regarding restrictive housing, Wetzel said.

In the meantime, Wetzel said, we need to explore how we use restricted housing and how we can do that while also reducing violence (inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff assaults) at the same time.

"We need to see improved behaviors and see less incidences of violence," Wetzel said. "We need to use restricted housing with more precision and improve outcomes."

VERA's Segregation Reduction Project

At the meeting, EDS Moore Smeal discussed the fact that the DOC partnered with the VERA Institute of Justice on their Segregation Reduction Project to examine the department's use of segregation, developing strategies to safely reduce the use of segregation through training, and making significant policy modifications.

In 2014, the VERA group visited several of our prisons, including the restricted housing units, and made a number of recommendations. The information was shared with the superintendents, who in turn were asked to prioritize the recommendations.

DOC officials also asked VERA to provide additional detailed information specific to each facility. That information is expected by next month.

Reviewing RHU Cases

With respect to administrative segregation changes that will affect corrections nationally, the regional deputy secretaries have been reviewing restricted housing cases to get a more accurate picture of why offenders are housed there.

What are the issues that put people in our RHUs?

Throughout the "Chalk Talk" it was made clear that officials want input from all employee levels throughout the system.

We either make the changes, or changes will be made for us through litigation.

Violence Reduction Initiative

"For decades, this agency has regularly tracked and analyzed inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff assaults, along with a myriad of other information, in an effort to determine the 'pulse' of this system," Wetzel said. "Recently, however, we have seen an uptick in assaults."

Wetzel said that the increase in assaults prompted his recent creation of an employee working group that will be tasked with further review and discuss about how to reduce the number of assaults. The objective is to make our prisons safer for staff as well as offenders. This effort will be known throughout the DOC as the ***Violence Reduction Initiative***.

As part of this continued review, and using a recently-released report, the group also will continue to examine the department's use of administrative segregation housing.

The report, aptly titled *Time-In-Cell: The Liman-ASCA 2014 National Survey of Administrative Segregation in Prison*, was released earlier today by the Association of State Correctional Administrators. It brings together updated information on the conditions and numbers symptomatic of restricted housing practices through the fall of 2014. Providing the springboard from which changes can be measured, the report uses data-driven criteria to establish methods and programs for reducing and eliminating prolonged isolation practices nationwide.

Policies and issues addressed in the report include those associated with time-in-cell versus time-out-of-cell, psychological impacts of prolonged isolation, staff rotation, flexible staff scheduling, training needs, mental health, social visits/phone calls, mental illness, juvenile populations, and individuals with disabilities. In the end, the objective is to create

psychologically and physically safe environments for all offenders and staff, and correctional leaders are increasingly committed to fulfilling it.

"Our Violence Reduction Initiative and our continued review of administrative segregation housing use will ensure the safety of our prisons through fewer assaults," Wetzel said. "Administrative Segregation does have an important role in corrections and helps us to manage our prisons. I have no plans to eliminate its use, but we should continue to examine how and when it is best used."

Wetzel said that when it comes to violence, prison officials need to be proactive rather than reactive.

"Even though we are exceptional at reacting to an incident, we need to concentrate on collecting the right intelligence and security information and using that information wisely in order to prevent assaults from happening in the first place ... using our data to be proactive," Wetzel said.

Other states also have practices in place that will be considered, such as gang reduction theories, swift and certain sanctions for violence and group-based approaches to thwart incidents.

"The improvements and enhancements we have made over the last few years is testament to the fact that we are committed to doing what is right ... and that includes continued review of violence statistics and the use of administrative segregation," Wetzel said.

We Can Change AND Reduce Violence

Next, the director of the Office of Planning, Research & Statistics, Dr. Bret Bucklen, discussed various strategies to address and reduce violence.

With the changes made in the delivery of mental health services and the out-of-cell time required for certain offenders, the DOC already is experiencing a reduction in RHU use, but we also have seen an uptick in assaults.

Our goal is to use less segregation AND at the same time to see less assaults.

The group went on to discuss deterrence and the use of swift and sure sanctions where misconducts are concerned. Bucklen said that research shows that what works is a swift and sure sanctioning rather than brute force or simply locking up someone randomly. Sanctions should be clearly tied to the inmate's behavior so that it is perceived as fair rather than random. This is why this general approach to deterrence and offender management is referred to as the "Swift, Certain and Fair" (SCF) approach.

This same concept was applied to the State Intermediate Punishment program and has showed good results, such as a reduction in positive drug

tests. The individuals are given clear direction of expectations and if not met, swift and graduated sanctions that meet the infraction are issued.

Definition of Long-Term Restricted Housing

Wetzel discussed what the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) have listed as being the definition of long-term restricted housing. They are:

- Anything longer than 14 days
- Offenders who are confined 22 hours per day, or more, in their cell
- And of those same offenders, the ones who are also confined five days a week or more.

He said that it is possible we may see a capping of time an individual can be housed in restricted housing.

He also said, "An inmate should NEVER go from restricted housing directly to the street." These are people what could end up living next to your mother.

The discussion touched on several other issues, including the DOC's restricted release list, in-cell programming, special facilities for higher-risk inmates, among others.

He outlined the themes that he heard discussed, which were:

- Classifying and identifying offenders upon reception to determine, if possible, those with a propensity for being assaultive or to receive multiple misconducts throughout their incarceration.
- The need to look at in-cell, group programs and how to keep offenders productively occupied.
- Conditions of confinement in restricted housing, including out-of-cell time, access to visits, telephones and use of technology.
- The possibility that DC-ADM 801 needs to be revised.
- Consider sanctioning options, such as an ARD-type of program for use when an offender gets his first misconduct that could result in DC time.
- Strive for accountability, legitimacy and justice in our system
- A cultural change from the attitude, "this is the way we've always done things." For too long, whenever an inmate did something wrong, we would put them in the RHU.

What's Next?

While this 90-minute group problem solving meeting afforded individuals to share a number of concepts and ideas, the next step of this "Chalk Talk" is to take the various concepts and turn them into actual working sessions involving all levels of employees.

For meaningful change to take place, Wetzel believes that employees on the front line need to be involved. And that's the next step.

Institutional staff will be asked to identify front line employees who can help continue the problem-solving discussions in this specific area of reducing violence while reducing the use of administrative segregation.

Wetzel is hopeful that this first "Chalk Talk" will show that we can all work together to solve issues no matter what they may be.

Stay tuned for great changes in the area of Administrative Segregation (aka restricted housing) and other areas.

Where Can You Learn More about Administrative Segregation?

To learn more about the issue of Administrative Segregation, please review:

**"Segregation Reduction Project Findings and Recommendations:
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Use of Segregation"**
VERA Institute of Justice
January 30, 2015

"Time-In-Cell: The Liman-ASCA 2014 National Survey of Administrative Segregation in Prison"
The Liman Program, Yale Law School
Association of State Correctional Administrators
August 2015

Both of these reports are available on the DOC's website.

How Can You Help?

If you are a DOC employee of any level of employment and you are interested in assisting in this specific Chalk Talk group, please send an e-mail to ra-contactdoc@pa.gov and make sure to put "Chalk Talk - Admin Seg" in the subject.

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Changing the Face of Offender Contacts

On Sept. 11, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) kicked off a new training program for 120 state parole agents, county probation officers and community corrections personnel that will better help them identify criminal thinking and behaviors of high risk offenders. That program is called "Effective Practices in Community Supervision" (EPICS).

Held at the DOC's Training Academy in Elizabethtown, the kick-off included a video message from DOC Secretary John Wetzel:

"Congratulations on being first group to complete this training, which is important for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the corrections system.

We have a great criminal justice system, but we always can be better. This initiative takes the huge body of research that shows what works and applies it to the day-to-day work that you all do.

I want to congratulate you for taking the time and effort to go through this training and for recognizing the important role we play and why it is our responsibility to do all we can to stay updated on the research and to translate that research to field supervision.

At the end of the day our job is public safety, and public safety doesn't just mean that we keep people incarcerated that need to be incarcerated, but it also means that once people have contact with the criminal justice system that they are less likely to commit a crime.

We have a responsibility, and you in particular have a responsibility, to ensure that people are doing the right thing. We also have an opportunity to impact the individuals we supervise and work within a manner that makes them better from their interaction with us.

Thank you so much for going through this training and completing it. Thank you, more importantly, for the job you do on a daily basis and the impact that has. But finally, thank you on behalf of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

You make an impact every day – not only on the people you interact with but on the lives of everyone who lives in Pennsylvania."

What is EPICS?

Effective Practices for Community Supervision – aka EPICS -- is a program, developed by University of Cincinnati (UC) criminal justice researchers, that strives to strengthen the working relationship between probation officers and parole agents and offenders to help offenders stay on track toward building a life away from crime.

"Probation, parole and community supervision typically has focused on electronic monitoring, drug testing, house arrest and making referrals, but these interactions between the officers/agents and offenders haven't necessarily made full use of their

face-to-face interaction," explains Paula Smith, UC assistant professor, School of Criminal Justice.

"EPICS adds that element by providing the structure for officers to identify high-risk thinking and anti-social attitudes that lead to criminal behavior. Those behavior predictors have not been targeted in the past."

UC researchers first launched EPICS in Indiana in 2008, with Smith and other UC criminal justice staff and students leading the training of the probation and parole officers.

Under EPICS, individuals are trained to work four key components into their meetings with offenders:

- Check-in - A time to build rapport, discuss compliance and determine if the offender is encountering any crises situations that could lead to criminal behavior
- Review - Discussing the prior session and building on skills to success
- Intervention - The probation officer/parole agent identifies continued areas of need and trends in problems that the offender experiences. This part of the session is also a time to examine skill-building and target the thinking that can lead to criminal behavior.
- Homework and Rehearsal - The offender is given opportunities for role playing as well as instructions to follow before the next visit.

Research demonstrates that offenders under the supervision of EPICS-trained staff reoffend at markedly lower rates than offenders supervised by non-trained staff.

According to PBPP officials, eventually all existing field agents and supervisors will be trained in EPICS over a three- to five-year period. This timeframe will allow for additional coaches to be developed and for evaluation.

All newly hired agents will receive EPICS training during the PBPP's eight-week basic training academy, and two of its current employees will be the trainer and coaches for these individuals.

Learn more here:

<http://www.pbpp.pa.gov/Information/news/Pages/Enews.aspx#.Vfh9XaTD99A>

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Highlighting Hiring and Training

On Sept. 15, WHP-TV reporter Joel Smith visited the DOC's Training Academy for a segment the news station does to highlight jobs of interest. The segment, which will air in a few weeks, will showcase corrections officers and the process of being hired and trained. WHP-TV news airs in the Harrisburg area.



Academy Director Mike Dooley is interviewed by the reporter.

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Muncy Holds Retiree Luncheon

On September 9, 2015, SCI Muncy staff hosted a Retiree Luncheon and Tour for past employees. Response to invitations was good, and nearly 40 individuals attended the function which was held in the institution's visiting room.

Current employees actively participated in preparing a program regarding recent changes and historical facts about SCI Muncy.

Superintendent Robert Smith, administrative staff

and committee members were available to welcome and talk with past employees.

Lunch was served and a tour of the institution was given. At the conclusion of the event, current and past employees were provided with an opportunity to reflect on the past and look toward the future.

It was a great way to kick off a new tradition, as SCI Muncy has not, in the past, hosted such an event. Past and current employees greatly enjoyed the opportunity and all are looking forward to making the Retiree's Luncheon/Tour an annual event.

Those present included: Lila Snyder, Sharon Barto, Eleanor Reardon, Gail Miller, Tomma Nuss, Carolyn Girard, Sharon McCarty, Jeff Karschner, Frank Welsh, Karen Kemp, Nancy Kneeder, Steve Campbell, Ed Pickett, Dick Shuler Randy Kemp, Carla Shipman, Steve Ellis, Ed Fritz, Ron Robenolt, Bret Sipe, Garman Zehner, Sally Zehner, Leslee Bennett, Kay Burgett, Chris Mann, Paula Sayman, Rick Brittain, Ken Mitstifer, Ginny Rooker, Shirley Kinley, Todd Bogenrief, Denny Calehuff, Kathy Carson. Missing from the photo: Lane Sones, Diane Paroli.

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Somerset Borough Mayor Visits Laurel Highlands' THU

On Friday, September 11, 2015, Somerset Borough Mayor Scott Walker, Esq., visited SCI Laurel Highlands.

During his visit, he toured various areas of the institution and spoke with the participants in the Transitional Housing Unit (THU).



Mayor Walker stated that he was “blown away” by all that the offenders were doing to increase their success upon reentry. It was an encouraging and impactful experience, one that will likely expand the field of available resources in the community to offer to the program.



Pictured left to right: Reentry Specialist Rebecca Witt, Mayor Scott Walker, Superintendent Jamey Luther and Training Coordinator Christine Grimm.



The mayor also addressed the THU population.

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Inmate Run-a-thons Continue

The 21st Annual SCI Coal Township Run-a-thon was held on Saturday, September 12, 2015. This year's event was sponsored by Triumph, the inmate social service organization, with all proceeds being donated to the Northumberland County Children and Youth Services.

The following categories were offered: Under 40 Runners, Over 40 Runners, Walkers and Assistive Devices. Runners had to complete a distance of 6.25 miles; walkers had to complete five miles; and assistive devices had to complete 3 miles.

There were 46 inmates that signed up to participate with 36 inmates taking part in this year's run-a-thon.

In the Under 40 category, the top inmate completed 6.25 miles in 46 minutes and 12 seconds. In the Over 40 category, the top inmate finished 6.25 miles in 42 minutes and 27 seconds. The lead inmate in the Assistive Device category completed three miles in 37 minutes and 42 seconds.

This year's oldest participant was a 52-year-old who competed in the walkers category and finished with a time of 70 minutes and 21 seconds. The top finisher for this category completed five miles in 56 minutes and 46 seconds.



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Week of Sept. 7...

Remembering 9/11

Today, in recognition of the September 11th tragedy of 2001, SCI Graterford staff took time to reflect and remember the significance of the events of that day, as well as the victims.

During roll call at 0600, 0800 and 1400 hours, SCI Graterford staff were called for a moment of silence and playing of TAPS by Corrections Officer 1 A. Calpino. Officer Calpino played for the Marine Corps band during his service.



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Several connections to the Red Land Little League Baseball Team

For those of you who followed the Little League World Series, did you know we have a DOC connection to the Red Land/Mid-Atlantic team? It's true. Two of the team's players have parents who work for the DOC.

Ethan Phillips (#19) is the son of Central Office's HR Assistant Cathleen (Cat) Gildea and SCI Camp Hill's Lt. R. Gildea.

And Bailey Wirt (#9) is the son of SCI Camp Hill's HR Clerical Supervisor Shari Baer.



Ethan

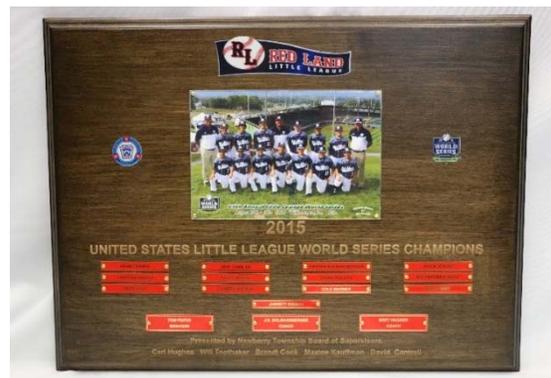


Bailey

But the connection does not stop there. Correctional Industries was honored to be selected to make individual plaques for each player. They were presented at the parade held in the team's honor on Saturday, Sept. 5.



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“Thank you!”

Branden S. Diehl, public information officer for the Saxton Volunteer fire Department, Saxton, Pa., recently sent a letter to SCI Huntingdon’s Correctional Industries Print Shop:

“The Saxton Volunteer Fire Department would like to extend a heartfelt ‘thank you’ for your support of our convention activities. Your assistance in printing our booklets helped us bring our ideas and vision to light. We received many compliments on the printing, and we certainly appreciated your efforts in ensuring we met our deadlines.

Please thank all of those involved on a job well done!”

In addition to a print shop, Correctional Industries at SCI Huntingdon operates garment, soap, detergent, signs and license plate related – temporary registration permits, temporary (cardboard) registration plates and license validation stickers – factories/shops. To learn more about Pennsylvania Correctional Industries, visit www.cor.pa.gov/pci

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Week of Aug. 31...

Drug & Alcohol Manager Presents at Addiction Therapy Conference

In August, E. Renea Snyder, drug and alcohol program manager for the DOC’s Bureau of Treatment services, presented information about services the DOC provides to its inmates. Snyder’s presentation was given at the 4th International Conference and Exhibition on Addiction Research & Therapy.

Held in Florida August 3 – 5, 2015, the theme of the conference was intended to “accentuate knowledge and explore new treatment regimen for addiction.” Bringing together eminent scientists from more than 10 countries, many critical issues were discussed. At this conference, Snyder presented a workshop about alcohol and other drug recovery units in correctional institutions.



The annual event is coordinated by OMICS International, which is an amalgamation of open access publications and worldwide international science conferences and events. It was established in 2007 with the aim of making information on the sciences and technology open access. The organization publishes 700 online open access scholarly journals in all aspects of science, engineering, management and technology journals.

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Veterans on the Potomac

DOC Basic Training Class #725 donated \$1,697 to help fund "Veterans on the Potomac."

A special event is scheduled for September 26, 2015, on the Potomac River at Pohick State Regional Park in Lorton, Va. It will provide a once-in-a-lifetime chance for veterans to



spend a day fishing for trophy fish at no cost. Training Academy Lt. B. Kubic and Sgt. M. Scaife will volunteer at this event.

The purpose of "Veterans on the Potomac" is to support the organization 22 Needs a Face, which brings awareness, education and focuses on prevention of service members' suicides. On average, 22 veterans take their own life each day.

At the end of each basic training class, class groups presents the academy with plaques that are displayed at the facility. Group 725C presented a plaque like no other. This plaque contains an American flag that was flown in Afghanistan. SCI Pine Grove Corrections Officer Trainee (COT) T. Miller had it flown again, stateside, in honor of 22 Needs a Face, and she then had the flag donated to the Training Academy on behalf of Group 725C.

Group 725C did not stop there.

SCI Huntingdon COT S. Long and SCI Pine Grove COT R. Klingensmith led a group donation of \$1,180 contributing to the total class donation from more than 220 trainees.

Individuals with questions about the upcoming event or wishing to learn more about the organization can e-mail Sgt. Scaife at mscaife@pa.gov.

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Culinary Arts Graduation

On Sept. 4, a group of eight inmates completed the Inmate Culinary Arts class at the DOC's training academy. Since the course was begun, 153 inmates have graduated from the course.

Each course, which runs nine weeks, consists of up to 10 inmates who learn about more advance food preparation, cooking and serving and achieve ServSafe certification.

This particular class has averaged 94 percent and is the second highest of 20 classes to complete the course.

As part of this recent graduation, the inmates prepared a meal for DOC employee attendees including flounder, stuffed chicken, Italian pulled pork and much more.

Since July 2011, the class has been instructed by Chef Todd Lewis.

Now that inmates have completed the course, some will return to their home state prisons (during the course they were housed at SCI Camp Hill) where they may continue working for the food service department. Others may remain at Camp Hill to continue to provide food service work for the Academy.

The goal of the program is to provide inmates with skills they can use to successfully gain employment upon their release from prison.



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PCCD Announces Receipt of Federal Grant to Study Impact of Diversion Programs

(Sept. 3) — The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) announced the receipt of competitive grant funds from the Department of Justice to study the impact of alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders with a drug and alcohol dependency.

“We at PCCD are entrusted with ensuring that our programs and those we fund are effective and results-oriented,” said Chairman Josh Shapiro. “This funding will allow us to measure the impact that these programs are having so we can continue working to improve the criminal justice system.”

Fifty-six counties throughout Pennsylvania, receive PCCD funding in support of County Intermediate Punishment Programs that address alcohol and drug dependency among non-violent offenders. These programs support treatment as well as assessment, evaluation, case management, and supervision services for offenders. The goal of these programs is to provide offenders with treatment to reduce recidivism rates.

On average, PCCD supports the diversion of approximately 1,600 offenders annually from incarceration to Intermediate Punishment Programs, which equates to thousands of total jail days averted. An initial study of the Intermediate Punishment Program also indicates a low recidivism rate for the participants (22%), demonstrating that the program has a positive impact on future behaviors.

The Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics has awarded PCCD \$100,995 which will allow for a comprehensive study comparing offenders who participated in Intermediate Punishment Programs versus similar offenders who received incarceration sentences. The study seeks to measure the impact of diversionary programs on recidivism in the Commonwealth against a control group. In addition, funds will be used for GIS-mapping projects to allow for greater accessibility for the public and decision makers.

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Award Title: Pennsylvania State Justice Statistics Program	
Award Description: The State Justice Statistics (SJS) Program is designed to maintain and enhance each state's capacity to address criminal justice issues through collection and analysis of data. The SJS Program provides support to each state to coordinate and conduct statistical activities within the state, conduct research to estimate impacts of legislative and policy changes, and serve as a liaison in assisting BJS to gather data from respondent agencies within their states. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) is the State Administrative Agency (SAA) which also houses the state's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). The SAC is proposing two projects: one core capacity building project (GIS-Mapping) and one special emphasis project (Evaluation of the County Intermediate Punishment, Drug and Alcohol Restrictive Intermediate Punishment (CIP/D&A RIP)). The SAC is proposing to use GIS-mapping to enhance their visual representation of data, which will build upon the current PCCD's digital dashboards (previously SJS funded). The SAC hosts a wide range of publicly available criminal justice statistics and trends, but the information is typically presented in graphs, spreadsheets and tables. Mapping the available data is the next step for PCCD to take visualization to the next level to assist key decision-makers throughout the state. The PA SAC will conduct spatial analysis of the data to compare and identify gaps in service and assist in strategic developments of solutions in those areas of need. The SAC has already begun a list of potential GIS-mapping projects that would be of benefit to the PCCD, other state agencies, county agencies and the public. The SAC intends to build the GIS-maps and the applications developed around them to be platform independent, available on both web site and mobile devices. This would allow the information to be more accessible to their intended audience. Towards the end of the project, PCCD will evaluate the quality of the maps and assess their usefulness and if the in-house GIS-mapping is valuable and needed, the SAC will explore the use of funding from other avenues to continue the GIS-mapping process. Pennsylvania is actively exploring alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders with a drug and alcohol dependency. One such program is PCCD's CIP/D&A RIP, a diversionary treatment program for nonviolent, medium risk offenders, clinically diagnosed to have a drug and/or alcohol dependency. Because of this, PCCD is proposing to use SJS funding to perform an in-house multi-variant outcome study on CIP/D&A RIP offenders versus eligible offender receiving an incarceration sentence. The purpose of this study will be to utilize state criminal history records to answer the research question of whether diversionary treatment programming or incarceration has a greater impact on reducing recidivism among nonviolent, medium-risk, drug and alcohol dependent offenders? Understanding the results of the study will provide the primary benefit of informing the Pennsylvania Justice Reinvestment Initiative policy conversation and impacting future program decision-making. Another benefit of the study will be to move the CIP/D&A RIP program more towards a valid evidence-based program, since the program will be evaluated using both a treatment and control group of similar characteristic offenders. CA/NCF	
Awardee Name: Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency	Award Number: 2015-BJ-CX-K009
Solicitation Title: BJS FY 15 State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers, 2015	Fiscal Year: 2015
Supplement Number: 00	Amount: \$100,995
Earmark: No	Recovery: No
State/Territory: PA	County: Dauphin
Congressional District: 04	Award Status: Open

Somerset Employee's Daughter Receives Scholarship

Katelyn Yachere, whose parent is SCI Somerset Sergeant R. Yachere, has received a \$1,000 Susan M. Hunter Scholarship. Katelyn is a graduate of Somerset Area Senior High School, where she graduated as co-salutatorian of her class.

While attending high school, Katelyn was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, FBLA, co-editor of the school's newspaper, captain of the varsity swim team and a Life Guard.

Katelyn will attend Liberty University as a freshman this fall, and is undecided on her major at this time.



Pictured are Sgt. Yachere and his daughter, Katelyn, Major Barry Grubb and Superintendent Trevor Wingard.

Who was Susan M. Hunter?

The Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship is named in honor of Susan M. Hunter, former Director of the Prisons Division at the National Institute of Corrections, as a lasting tribute to her commitment to the field of corrections. Susan was 53 when she passed away March 14, 2004. Go here to learn more: <http://www.asca.net/projects/20/pages/148>

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Neiderhiser Named Chaplain of the Year

Earlier this week, SCI Graterford's Facility Chaplaincy Program Director Rev. Edward A. Neiderhiser was named Chaplain of the Year by the PA Prison Chaplains Association (PPCA).

Rev. Neiderhiser has served the diverse congregation at SCI Graterford for more than 25 years and plans to retire later this month.

Ordained in 1997 through the Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Rev. Neiderhiser was called to serve as facility chaplain at SCI Graterford in 1989. After just two years, he was promoted to serve as the facility chaplaincy program director. Prior to his correctional career, he served either as the pastor or as an associate pastor of four different Lutheran congregations in North Wales, Havertown and Philadelphia, Pa.



Rev. Neiderhiser earned a B.A. from Thiel College, Greenville, Pa., in 1969; a M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa. in 1973; and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Dropsie University, Philadelphia, Pa. in 1978. He is an accomplished musician, playing the trumpet, flugelhorn and piccolo trumpet, as well as a composer and arranger in classical jazz, liturgical and blues venues.

Founded in 1976, the PPCA seeks to be a resource to all county, state and federal correctional chaplains who serve in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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Fair Housing Act Workshop

Recently, 89 SCI Pine Grove inmates completed a workshop held at the prison about the Fair Housing Act. This week, the inmates attended a workshop on the importance of securing health insurance and navigating the health insurance marketplace.

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Personal Hygiene Items Donated

During August 2015, Harrisburg Community Corrections Center (CCC) collected and donated 662 personal hygiene items to the local rape crisis center – the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg.



The YWCA of Greater Harrisburg provides comprehensive crisis and counseling services to the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, including a crisis hotline, individual and group counseling and medical and court accompaniments. Services are available to victims and non-offending family members of all ages and genders, and are free and confidential.

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Week of Aug. 24...

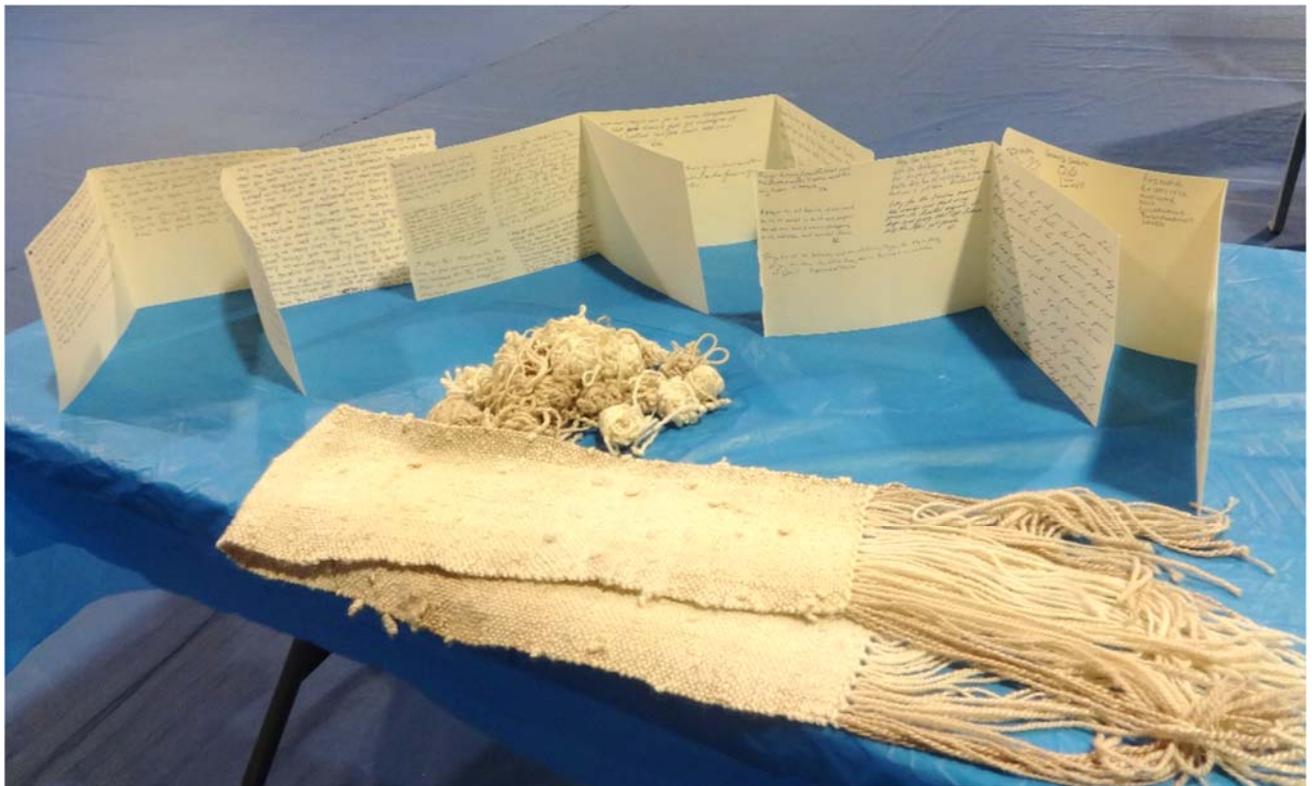
Knots Representing Struggles

In anticipation of Pope Francis' September 2015 visit to Philadelphia, Lori Lasher, who is a volunteer with Project Homes, is working with a variety of faith and non-denominational organizations that provide services to the areas men, women and children to create a special gift for the pope.

Because one of the pope's favorite paintings is called "Mary, Undoer of Knots," the group is going to present the pope with a stole woven with knots representing struggles of each individual person tying a knot or someone they know who is facing difficulties.

Lasher has collected knots and journal entries/prayer requests from hundreds of people at homeless shelters and soup kitchens as well. As part of this project, she sought and received permission to have interested SCI Chester inmates and employees participate by tying knots and writing in the journal.

Learn more about Project Home at <https://projecthome.org/>



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Link Named Superintendent of SCI Graterford

Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel has announced that Cynthia Link has been named superintendent at SCI Graterford. Her appointment was effective August 25, 2015. She replaces Michael Wenerowicz who now serving as acting regional deputy secretary at the DOC's Central Office.

"As the head of a state agency, I have the responsibility of making sure that our employees are used to the best of their skills and abilities, and I have the task of ensuring that we are grooming our current employees to be tomorrow's leaders," Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said. "Cynthia has proven time and time again that her dedication and experiences have made her an exceptional leader. I have complete faith in her ability to lead Graterford and am looking forward to great things from her."

Link began her corrections career as a corrections officer in 1987 at SCI Graterford. Over the years she rose through the officer ranks having served as sergeant, lieutenant and captain, again all while at SCI Graterford. She left the DOC for a few years – during which she owned/operated her own business, served as deputy state constable and as director of security for a local brewing company.

She returned to SCI Graterford in August 2007 as a unit manager. In 2011, she was named major of the guard at SCI Chester. In January 2014, she returned to SCI Graterford as acting deputy superintendent for centralized services. She officially was appointed to serve in that capacity in August 2014.

Link is a graduate of Council Rock High School and has attended Bucks County Community College. In addition to her DOC duties, she serves as a police firearms instructor and a defensive tactics instructor. It should be noted that Link was the first female instructor for these two courses at Graterford. She is a 2013 graduate of the Pennsylvania Leadership Development Institute and has presented workshops in a number of areas related to interpersonal communications, team building and empowerment.

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Coal Township Receives PREA Compliance Certificate



Pictured with Regional Deputy Secretary Michael Wenerowicz and Superintendent Vince Mooney (holding the framed certificate) is the prison's administrative staff and PREA committee members.

SCI Coal Township underwent its first Prison Rape Elimination Act audit June 18-19, 2015. The purpose of the audit was to determine compliance with the law's standards, which became effective in August 2012.

"This was a team effort," said SCI Coal Township Superintendent Vince Mooney. "Every employee should be commended for a job well done."

Coal Township's PREA compliance manager is Classification and Program Manager Linda Chismar.

The audit consisted of a facility tour of general population housing units, the restricted housing unit, educational/vocational buildings, administration buildings, control rooms, visiting areas, inmate, medical, commissary, recreation, the chapel, barber shop, warehouse, kitchen, laundry and utility plant. During the tour, several interview with inmates and employees took place throughout the prison. In fact, 28 employees were interviewed, and 19 inmates – one from each interview category – also were interviewed.

This audit resulted in the following findings:

Number of standards exceeded – 4

Number of standards met – 37

Number of standards not met – 0

Not applicable – 2

Other state prisons that have undergone and successfully completed a PREA audit include SCIs Pittsburgh, Houtzdale, Mahanoy, Muncy, Dallas and Retreat. Facilities that have had or will have PREA audits this year are SCIs Camp Hill, Fayette, Huntingdon, Mercer, Pine Grove, Rockview, Smithfield and Somerset. In 2016, the following facilities are scheduled for an audit: Albion, Benner Township, Cambridge Springs, Chester, Frackville, Forest, Graterford, Greene, Quehanna and Waymart.

The standards that the auditors are reviewing cover the following areas:

- Zero tolerance of sexual abuse and sexual harassment; PREA coordinator.
- Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates
- Supervision and Monitoring
- Youthful Inmates
- Limits to Cross-Gender Viewing and Searches
- Inmates with Disabilities and Inmates who are Limited English Proficient
- Hiring and Promotion Decisions
- Upgrades to Facilities and Technology
- Evidence Protocol and Forensic Medical Examinations
- Policies to Ensure Referrals of Allegations for Investigations
- Employee Training
- Volunteer and Contractor Training
- Inmate Education
- Specialized Training: Investigations
- Specialized training: Medical and mental health care
- Screening for Risk of Victimization and Abusiveness
- Use of Screening Information
- Protective Custody
- Inmate Reporting
- Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies
- Inmate Access to Outside Confidential Support Services
- Third-Party Reporting
- Staff and Agency Reporting Duties
- Agency Protection Duties
- Reporting to Other Confinement Facilities
- Staff First Responder Duties
- Coordinated Response
- Preservation of ability to protect inmates from contact with abusers
- Agency protection against retaliation
- Post-Allegation Protective Custody
- Criminal and Administrative Agency Investigations
- Evidentiary Standard for Administrative Investigations
- Reporting to Inmate
- Disciplinary sanctions for staff
- Corrective action for contractors and volunteers
- Disciplinary sanctions for inmates
- Medical and mental health screenings; history of sexual abuse
- Access to emergency medical and mental health services
- Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims and abusers
- Sexual abuse incident reviews
- Data Collection
- Data Review for Corrective Action
- Data Storage, Publication, and Destruction

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Performance-Based Contracts Continue to Positively Affect Recidivism

(Aug. 25) – Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel, today, released information about the performance of community corrections center contractors.

“For the most recent marking period, which covers July 2014 to June 2015, overall recidivism for our contracted community corrections centers is down 11.3 percent,” Wetzel said. “It is estimated that this prevented approximately 122 potential victims of crime in Pennsylvania during this second marking period.”

Officials also report that six of the 42 centers (14 percent) qualified to receive an incentive of a one percent increase in the per diem rate that the DOC pays them per client.

Only one center entered into warning status. A center is placed into warning status if its recidivism rate during any one period of the contract exceeds the established baseline range, which is the range of recidivism rates that is considered an acceptable average based on historical rates. If a center exceeds the baseline a second consecutive period, after already being placed in a warning status, the DOC can cancel that center’s contract.

The results of this marking period show a second consecutive period of reduction in the recidivism rate and continued acceptance and work toward improvement by the contractors.

“The results are very encouraging and show that our performance-based contracting continues to work to reduce recidivism, improve our community corrections system and increase public safety,” Wetzel said.

Contractors are required to maintain baseline recidivism rates against which their performance is evaluated. This “performance incentive funding” contract model was developed as a result of a partnership between the DOC and the University of Maryland and is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation.

As a result of this performance-based contracting work, the DOC, along with other non-profit community groups and law enforcement agencies from across the U.S., were recognized in June at the Pioneer Institute’s “Better Government Competition” Awards dinner, which is an annual citizens’ ideas contest that rewards some of the nation’s most innovative public policy proposals.

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SCI Houtzdale to Begin Dog Training Program

Officials at the State Correctional Institution at Houtzdale, beginning in December 2015, will begin a partnership with United Disabilities Services (UDS) in Lancaster, Pa., to train service dogs at the prison called Relying on Furry Friends (R.U.F.F.)

“We decided to partner with United Disability Services, which is a non-profit organization that is committed to helping people with disabilities, including veterans and the elderly, lead more independent and fulfilling lives,” SCI Houtzdale Superintendent Ken Cameron said. “They service more than 30 counties throughout Pennsylvania. Most of their dogs assist persons with mobility issues; however, they also have had success placing service dogs for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.”

UDS was chosen for several important reasons. They proposed using a “trainer of trainers” model in which SCI Houtzdale employees will learn to be service dog trainers and then will teach those skills to the inmates. Secondly, UDS is unique in that it places service dogs in Pennsylvania only; this enables them to do annual follow-ups with every dog placed to make certain that the team is functioning well. Third, UDS specializes in service dogs for persons with mobility issues and SCI Houtzdale staff members—many of whom served in the military—sought to provide support to Pennsylvania’s wounded veterans.

The program will begin in December with four Labrador Retriever puppies ranging from 8 weeks of age until they reach 15 to 18 months old. Tyrone Veterinary Associates have graciously agreed to provide medical care for the dogs, with Dr. John Walter DVM being the primary veterinarian. Central PA Veterinarian Treatment Services Emergency Services Chief of Staff Dr. Parks will handle all of the emergency cases as they arise.

The program will use 12 inmate trainers from Houtzdale’s adult male prison population. Working with the dogs is a privilege reserved for model inmates with an excellent work and behavioral history. There will be three dog trainers assigned to each of the four puppies - a primary, secondary and alternate handler for each puppy. The dogs will reside with the men in their cells, two inmates to a cell. Houtzdale staff will be diligently working with the inmates throughout the first phase of service dog training.

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Recognizing Volunteers

On Saturday, August 22, 2015, officials gathered to recognize citizens that volunteer their time to work with state prison inmates. Here is a group photo of all of those who were recognized.



Facility	Volunteer(s) of the Year	Program Type
SCI Albion	Ford & Irene Shreve	Bill Glass Ministry & L.I.F.E.
SCI Benner Township	Eileen Bohensky	Prison Christian Growth Group
SCI Cambridge Springs	James L. Kingsley	Jehovah's Witnesses
SCI Camp Hill	John Donald Gleichman Jr.	Practical Christianity for Catholics
SCI Chester	Mario David Johnson	End Violence Project
SCI Coal Township	Steven R.	Alcoholics Anonymous

SCI Dallas	Rev. Jerome Smith	New Life Mission Prison Ministry
SCI Fayette	Robert B.	Twelve-Step Program
SCI Forest	Troy A. Tudor	Jehovah's Witnesses
SCI Frackville	Gloria Upanvage	Catholic Rosary Group
SCI Graterford	Beverly Cohen	Prison Literacy Project
SCI Greene	Anthony Pesuti	Jehovah's Witnesses
SCI Houtzdale	Timothy H.	Alcoholics Anonymous.
SCI Huntingdon	Edwin Mansberger	Yokefellowship
SCI Laurel Highlands	Robert S.	Alcoholics Anonymous
SCI Mahanoy	Allen Mantz	Life & Preparing For Release
SCI Mercer	Alan W. Rice	Bill Glass Ministry
SCI Muncy	Cheryl M. Weller	Kairos Prison Ministry
SCI Pine Grove	Kristy Smith	United Disability Service
SCI Pittsburgh	Min. H. Vernon Taylor, Jr.	Music Ministry
Quehanna Boot Camp	Kathy Snavely	Pa Business Basics
SCI Retreat	William S. Birch	Gideon's International
SCI Rockview	Jesse W. Burkholder	L.I.F.E
SCI Smithfield	John & Judy Mierley	Christ Shares Ministry Group
SCI Somerset	Brandon Hutzell	Praise & Worship Ministry
SCI Waymart	Edward Perry Facciani	Know Faith & R.C.I.A.
Community Corrections	Ken Kanode	Bible Study
Victim Advocate	Deborah Borza	Impact of Crime

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Fire Fighting Symposium Held at Prison

SCI Coal Township sponsored a Fire Fighting in Corrections Symposium on Saturday, August 22, 2015.

The free, one-day event was aimed at EMS and fire personnel who would respond to prison emergencies.

Superintendent Vincent Mooney welcomed and presented opening remarks to the group of state, county, federal corrections staff and local fire and EMS personnel.

The program speakers included:

- Tim Solobay, PA State Fire Commissioner
- Ed Mikulski, SCI Mahanoy safety manager
- Bruce Kovach, Northumberland County Prison warden
- J. Ferrari, SCI Coal Township sergeant
- John Gregorowicz, SCI Coal Township training coordinator
- C. Stetler, SCI Coal Township captain
- N. Goretski, SCI Coal Township lieutenant
- A. Masser, SCI Coal Township lieutenant

PA State Fire Commissioner Tim Solobay discussed the status of volunteer fire service and the diminishing number of volunteers across the state. He spoke about the importance of local fire departments working closely with the in-house fire emergency response teams (FERT) at all facilities. He stated fighting fires in a correctional facility presents a unique set of concerns that local fire departments may not encounter on a regular basis, such as security concerns when entering the facility (i.e., what do you carry on your person, is all equipment in your vehicles inventoried for purpose of accountability when leaving inside the perimeter). Commissioner Solobay also spoke of projects his office is responsible for, such as state fire grants for local fire departments and the PENNFIRS reporting system. He also discussed how the PA State Fire Academy in Lewistown works with the Department of Corrections in training institutional FERT members.

State Fire Suppression Instructor Ed Mikulski, an enthusiastic trainer, instructed a class on the goals of fire safety in corrections.

Warden Kovach offered a slide presentation of the January 14, 2015, Northumberland County Prison fire. He spoke of the response by the DOC that day and thanked SCI Coal Township employees for their continued assistance. He stated that it is a pleasure to work with the PA DOC within the confines of SCI Coal Township.

Sergeant Ferrari spoke about the history of fire in corrections using statistics and photos.

John Gregorowicz, a survivor of the 9/11 attack of the U.S. Pentagon, spoke of his experiences that day, along with a touching slide presentation, which brought tears to eyes of all in attendance. He thanked EMS/firefighter personnel for their services.

Captain Stetler, Lieutenant Goretski and Lieutenant Masser presented an informational session about security concerns when entering a correctional facility.

Following the symposium, the 75 attendees were given a tour of the prison.

Mr. Fabrizio, SCI Coal Township's safety manager, did an outstanding job organizing this symposium and hopes it will become an annual event.



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Inmate Runathon

SCI Laurel Highlands inmates participated in an annual inmate run-a-thon on Aug. 22. Each year inmates raise money by running and/or walking for a local charity. This year a donation of \$500 will be given to Wounded Warriors.



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Houtzdale to Begin Dog Training Program

SCI Houtzdale officials have decided to partner with United Disabilities Services (UDS) in Lancaster, Pa., to introduce a service dog training program to the institution.

United Disability Services is a non-profit organization that is committed to helping people with disabilities, including veterans and the elderly, lead more independent and fulfilling lives. They service more than 30 counties throughout Pennsylvania. Most of their dogs assist persons with mobility issues; however, they also have had

success placing service dogs for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. UDS was chosen for several important reasons.

First, they proposed using a “trainer of trainers” model in which SCI Houtzdale staff members have learned to be service dog trainers and then will teach those skills to the inmates. Secondly, UDS is unique in that it places service dogs in Pennsylvania only; this enables them to do annual follow-ups with every dog placed to make certain that the team is functioning well. Third, UDS specializes in service dogs for persons with mobility issues and SCI Houtzdale staff members—many of whom served in the military—sought to provide support to Pennsylvania’s wounded veterans. The program coordinators are Lori Breece, manager of the Service Dogs Program at UDS; and Beth Bailey, team leader of the Relying on Furry Friends (R.U.F.F.) Program at SCI Houtzdale.

This is a prison-based service dog training program that will be launched in December 2015. We will be working with four Labrador Retriever puppies from 8 weeks of age until they reach 15 to 18 months old. Tyrone Veterinary Associates have graciously agreed to provide medical care for the dogs, with Dr. John Walter DVM being the primary veterinarian. Central PA Veterinarian Treatment Services Emergency Services Chief of Staff Dr. Parks will handle all of the emergency cases as they arise.

SCI Houtzdale’s team consists of a diverse staff including Unit Manager Beth Bailey, Corrections Counselor Darren Ginter, Correctional Officers M. Crumly, M. Snyder, J. LaRue and C. Glass, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist Lovie Cates, Registered Nurse Deborah Askey, Superintendent Assistant Rebecca Reifer, Corrections Facility Maintenance Manager Lewis Boone, Therapeutic Activities Service Worker Matthew Mathias, Safety Manager Tracey Hoy, Nurse Deb Askey and Clerk Typist Renee Anderson.

Houtzdale’s program will start with 12 inmate trainers from Houtzdale’s adult male prison population. Working with the dogs is a privilege reserved for model inmates with an excellent work and behavioral history. There will be three dog trainers assigned to each of the four puppies - a primary, secondary and alternate handler for each puppy. The dogs will reside with the men in their cells, two inmates to a cell. Houtzdale staff will be diligently working with the inmates throughout the first phase of service dog training.

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30 Years of Service Recognized

By Theresa DelBalso, Superintendent, SCI Retreat

Sometimes in our careers, if we are really fortunate, we have the pleasure and privilege to work with a fellow employee who comes to work each day with a bounce in her step and happily gives whatever the day demands of her. This exceptional employee anticipates the questions and requirements of those around her, demonstrates a consistently positive attitude, remains undistracted by any workplace drama, and executes her duties with a smile that doesn't quit.

Marilyn Semanski, superintendent's secretary at SCI Retreat, is one such employee who not only frequently says, "I love my job!" but shows it in everything she does. Humble and unassuming, she capably manages the

Superintendent's Complex "behind the scenes" and puts it all together for those who take the bow. Marilyn is a true "Secretary" in every sense of the word. Beyond the scope of her responsibilities, she offers her seasoned observations and input, full of the rich history that is SCI Retreat as well as decades of job knowledge and best practices. Marilyn's loyalty and dedication to SCI Retreat and the Department of Corrections is long-standing, has been proven faithful and is above reproach.

Marilyn has reached the lofty milestone of celebrating her 30th anniversary working for the Commonwealth (28 years in the DOC) on August 31, 2015. At a time in her career when most folks start to slow down, Marilyn continues to outpace us all with an energy and drive that is nowhere near done. It is truly a privilege to work with Marilyn!

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Accreditation Certificates Received

At the recent American Correctional Association's conference in Indianapolis, ACA officials presented DOC official with accreditation certificates for Allentown and Scranton Community Corrections Centers and Quehanna Boot Camp.



Pictured along with Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal and Special Assistant to the Secretary Deb Sahd (center), are Chairperson Steve Andraschko, Kelly Harrington, Marina Cadreche and Richard Reigel.

Congratulations to employees of Allentown and Scranton CCCs and Quehanna Boot Camp on this exceptional accomplishment!

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Riverside CCC Continues Donations

During July 2015, Riverside Community Corrections Center residents and staff collected donations for Pittsburgh Public School's Summer Dreamers Academy. The Summer Dreamers Academy is a free, premier summer learning camp where campers spend 5 weeks with friends, reading great books and participating in unique, fun activities. Approximately 1,800 students in grades K-7, participated in activities provided through partnerships with some of the best organizations the city of Pittsburgh has to offer. At the end of the summer, campers showcase the development of their individual interests and their



strengthened literacy skills through a culminating project, demonstration or presentation.

Riverside CCC's donations were used as rewards for the students' hard work and accomplishments during camp, to provide something to keep them busy and to help them be ready for the upcoming school year. Donations included school supplies, bubbles and a variety of sports equipment.

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Life Without Bars

On July 30, 2015, several DOC employees attended and presented at the 2015 Life Without Bars SPARC Conference held in Homestead at Mon Valley Initiative.

Service providers from the surrounding area, ex-offenders and employers/vendors were all in attendance at this event which is focused on reentry in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Pictures include DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore-Smeal who participated in panel discussions.



A presentation and panel discussion was conducted by Laurel Highlands' Reentry Staff as well and included Reentry Parole Agent Timothy Ross, Corrections Officer V. Burgos, Unit Manager Susan Shoff, Reentry Specialist Rebecca Witt.



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Week of Aug. 10...

Norris Named Acting Director of Health Care Services

On Aug. 18, Andrea Norris will begin serving as acting director of the Bureau of Health Care Services. She replaces Christopher Oppman, who was named acting deputy secretary for administration.

Norris began her corrections career as a staff nurse at SCI Mahanoy in April 2005. She was promoted to registered nurse supervisor at the Training Academy in January 2006. She is a graduate of Harrisburg High School and has a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Norris also has a master's degree in nursing (MSN) from the University of Phoenix, and she spearheaded the Mental Health First Aid training initiative for all DOC employees.



Norris served 15 years in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps and achieved the rank of major/flight commander and nurse manager for the Flight Medicine Flight for two years at Yokota Air Base in Japan. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, the Pennsylvania Nurses Association and the Academy of Correctional Health Care Professionals. She volunteers in her community by serving as an instructor for the American Red Cross, Bible study and Sunday school teacher, an instructor for church nurses' workshop and is an assistant for church youth activities.

Norris also is a two-time DOC Medal of Valor recipient – for providing emergency medical assistance to an employee attending training at the DOC's Training Academy in 2011 and again in 2006, when an individual taking the DOC's employment agility test collapsed requiring emergency medical services. In each instance, Norris was assisted by others at the Academy who, along with her, jumped into action to perform life-saving measures.

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Introducing Our Newest DIU Officer

Corrections Officer 1 C. Grove, the newest member of the DOC's Drug Interdiction Unit, graduated the 11-week drug detector dog training course at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Training Academy on July 17, 2015. Her partner, "Gaston," is a 2-year-old Vizsla that was imported from Europe. Sgt. C. Holland (far left) was the assistant trainer for the 11-week course. Also pictured at far right is Capt. D. VanGorder.



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Kennel Construction Progresses

Construction of the DOC's new K-9 kennel is progressing. We anticipate the building being under roof by mid-September.

Interior work will continue throughout the winter months. When completed the kennel will have 24 kennels with 12 of them being indoor-outdoor, three isolation kennels, a grooming station, washers and dryers for training materials, a dog food storage room and a vet office. The kennels also will have heated floors.

The state-of-the-art construction project is being completed by DOC inmate and staff labor.



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General Photos of SCI Huntingdon



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New Leash on Life-USA Donation Drive

Starting June 16, 2015, and ending July 31, 2015, SCI Graterford employees held a donation drive for the start of the prison's eighth class of pups from New Leash on Life – USA.

Since the drive turned out better than expected, employees are planning to hold a drive for the start of each new class. Even though the drive has ended, the pups can always use items. Donations are always accepted and can be sent to the superintendent's office.

Donated items:
 10, 25lb bags of Wild Calling! dog food of different varieties
 10 boxes of wet dog food pouches used to assist in administering medicine to the pups
 5, 25oz bags of pup-peroni
 6, 5.6oz bags of pup-peroni
 2 bags of pup-peroni training treats
 8 bags of various treat bags
 2 boxes of various bone treats
 2 red barn stuffed hooves
 Various squeaky toys, chewy toys, ropes and tennis balls.



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Informing Citizens of Services

SCI Chester employees attended State Representative Jordan A. Harris, 186th Legislative District Third Annual Summer Street Festival on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015.

This event is held annually to provide services to families in the community.

SCI Chester's HR Analyst David Brooks and Corrections Officer Wanda Manson-Johnson attended the fair.



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Sharon CCC Community Works Program

The Sharon Community Corrections Center (CCC) has partnered with the City of Sharon to have center residents work to make alley ways safer for pedestrian and vehicle traffic. They also are helping maintain abandoned lots.

The city is very focused on public safety, and the partnership with Sharon CCC allows city public works employees to focus on more specialized tasks and duties.

Officials are optimistic that this relationship between the CCC and the city can turn into a year-round service project.

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Chester Mayor visits Transitional Housing Unit

City of Chester Mayor John Linder recently visited SCI Chester to speak to inmates in the Transitional Housing Unit (THU) about re-entry services in the community.

Alongside Mayor Linder was Community Liaison Jonathan King and the Director of Community Liaison and Bereavement Project Lisa Dennis.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Unit Manager Rachel Williams, Lisa Dennis, Mayor John Linder, Superintendent John Thomas, Jonathan King and Deputy Superintendent Denise Campbell.



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Week of Aug. 3...

Spartan Super

By John Eichenberg, Captain, SCI Camp Hill

On Saturday, July 11, 2015, several DOC employees joined forces to compete in the Spartan Super, which consisted of an 8.2 mile course which was held on the Blue Mountain Ski Resort in Palmerton, Pa.

It was 85 degrees and sunny, which took down many competitors due to dehydration. However, "Team DOC" competitors all finished this grueling course, which included 25 obstacles ranging from walls and cargo nets to rope climbs and crawling under barbed wire. It tested everyone's physical abilities as well as their determination and spirit.

Team members finish times varied, but all did extremely well and most plan on completing the trifecta which includes a 3- to 5-mile Spartan Sprint and the 13- to 15-mile Spartan Beast, which is set for Nov. 14, 2015, in South Carolina.



Pictured, are:

Front row L to R: Andrew Barnes, Stacey O'Neill, John Eichenberg, Zachary Moslak and Theron Perez.

Back row L to R: Sean Young (friend of Stacey O'Neill), Nicolette Bell, Susan Bensinger, Carrie Amann, Scott Bowman, Cindy Rowe, Justine Bauer, Steven Glunt and Scott Pasquale.

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Inside SCI Dallas

We visited SCI Dallas, Luzerne County, recently. Not many people get to see inside the fences, so here are a few pics of the compound.



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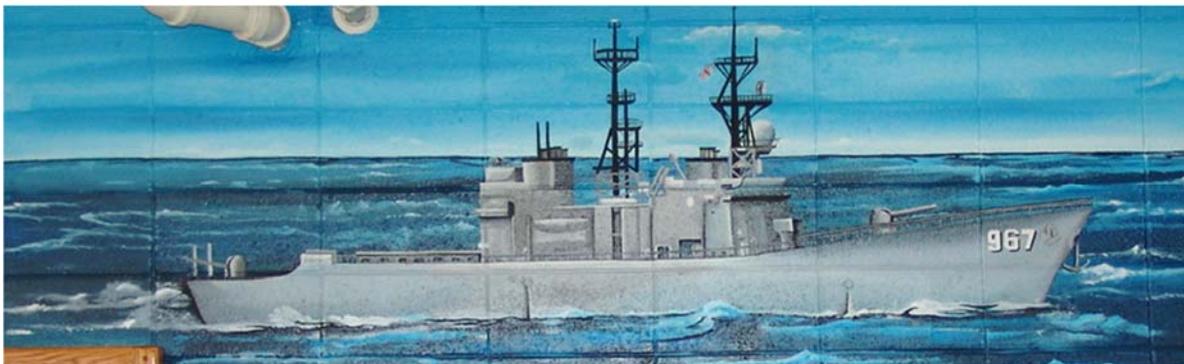
Veterans Unit at SCI Dallas

Officials at SCI Dallas operate a housing unit specific for offenders who previously served in the U.S. military.

In addition to this unit, a Veterans Unit operates at SCI Pittsburgh.

Special programs are provided to these inmates to help them prepare for return to society after incarceration. Read more below.

In the area where programming and group sessions are held, the inmates painted these military-themed images:



PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN NEWSFRONT:

Overview of the DOC's Veterans Initiatives

By Christopher Reed, Veterans Coordinator, SCI Houtzdale

The Department of Corrections currently tracks approximately 3,722 incarcerated veterans within its 26 facilities.

"We regularly submit all of the names, dates of birth and social security numbers of our veteran inmates to the Department of Defense and they run our list through the Veteran Reentry Search Service (VRSS) to identify a list of our eligible veterans," Reed said. The purpose of doing this is to make sure we can match our veterans, a majority of whom will one day return home, with benefits for which they are or will return to being eligible for upon release from prison.

Reed said that the list isn't always accurate due to the fact that inmates provide falsified information during reception into the prison system.

"We take the VRSS list and use this as a guide to identify and verify our veterans," Reed added. "The only way to truly identify a veteran is by the DD-214. We have been educating our incarcerated veterans and our staff about how to obtain a copy of the DD-214 by using the SF180 or the online process."

As for specialized housing units, we have a Veteran Service Units (VSU) at SCI's Dallas and Pittsburgh. The VSU at SCI Pittsburgh has 48 beds and houses 44 veterans, and the one at SCI Dallas has 156 beds and houses 112 veterans. In 2014, 37 veterans paroled or completed their sentence while from the VSU's.

These units prepare veterans for successful release back into society through a variety of programming, such as addressing life skills, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, anxiety disorders, depression, substance abuse issues and homelessness. The following needs also are addressed: vocational, financial, family-related, medical, educational, veteran's services, peer support/mentoring and connecting to community resources. Specialized treatment programming for inmates who test moderate to high risk for reoffending also is offered.

VSU staff assist veterans in obtaining vital documents needed for re-entry such as: birth certificates, Social Security cards and DD-214s. Veterans are aided with the enrollment for VA benefits, as well as connecting with Veteran Service Organizations such as The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). VSU social workers support veterans by collaborating with VA Health Care for Re-entry Veterans (HCRV) staff to facilitate the ability of veterans to effectively connect with VA resources.

The majority of VSU staff are veterans and, for the most part, are drawn from the existing institutional complement. Each VSU consists of a unit manager, a case manager, a drug and alcohol treatment specialist, a psychological services specialist/associate, reentry parole agent, certified peer support specialist and a social worker. Corrections officers, preferably ones who have served in the Armed Forces, make up the majority of the security staff on the units.

The Department of Corrections also has contracted community corrections facilities that specifically house this special veteran population as they transition from the institution back into their community.

Through our work in this area, our DOC has helped the Delaware Department of Corrections establish a VSU at Sussex Correctional Institution, and the Connecticut DOC is interested in our program and has already made a trip down to see our VSU.

Garman Named Rockview's Superintendent

He replaces Glunt, who became regional deputy secretary at Central Office

Mark Garman, a 25-year corrections veteran, has been appointed superintendent at the State Correctional Institution at Rockview, Centre County, Secretary of Corrections John E. Wetzel announced today.

"Mark has been on a multitude of committees and special projects in his 25 years with the department. He always goes that extra step to learn so he can mentor and lead his staff to provide a safe and secure environment," Wetzel said.

Garman's appointment was effective July 27, 2015.

Garman began his corrections career as a corrections counselor at SCI Huntingdon in June 1990. He transferred to SCI Houtzdale as a corrections unit manager in 1996. Garman was named staff assistant for the regional deputy secretary of the central region in 2007. He returned to SCI Houtzdale as a unit manager 2009. In 2010, he was named major of unit management at SCI Huntingdon, where he was named deputy superintendent for centralized services in 2011. In 2013, he transferred to SCI Rockview to serve in the same capacity.

Garman has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Administration of Justice from Shippensburg University.



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Scholarship Winners Announced

The Association of State Correctional Administrators has announced the 2015 Susan M. Hunter Scholarship Winners. Those from Pennsylvania, with ties to our state prisons, are:

Samantha Cook, whose parent is SCI Coal Township Plumbing Trades Instructor K. Cook - \$500 renewal. A two-year Susan M. Hunter Award recipient, Samantha is entering her junior year at Misericordia University, pursuing her degree in Sport Management. Samantha spent the summer working as a Game Day Intern with the Williamsport Crosscutters. She hopes to one day hold an executive position with the Boston Red Sox.



Gavin Koratich, whose parent is SCI Greene's Human Resource Officer Tammy Koratich - \$1,000. Gavin will attend Washington and Jefferson College this fall with a dual major in History and Communications. His aspirations are to attend Law School to become an attorney.



Edward Custer, Jr., whose parent is SCI Laurel Highlands' Activities Manager 2 Edward Custer, Sr. - \$1,000. Edward attained a 4.0 and was on the President's List for both the fall and spring terms of his freshman year at West Virginia University. He is working towards a dual degree – Bachelors of Science in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Mountaineer Maniacs.



Caitlynn Shiring, whose parent is SCI Pine Grove Labor Foreman W. Shiring - \$1,000. Shiring graduated from Homer Center Jr. Sr. High School in 2015 and will attend Duquense University and major in Pharmacy.



Madeline King, whose parent is SCI Pittsburgh Corrections Officer A. King - \$1,000

Alanna Ottenberg, whose parent is SCI Pittsburgh Corrections Officer 1 S. Ottenberg - \$500 renewal

Kimberly Boyd, whose parent is SCI Somerset Sergeant M. Boyd - \$1,000

Katelyn Yachere, whose parent is SCI Somerset Sergeant R. Yachere - \$1,000

To see all of this year's recipients, visit <http://www.asca.net/articles/3643>

Who was Susan M. Hunter?

The Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship is named in honor of Susan M. Hunter, former Director of the Prisons Division at the National Institute of Corrections, as a lasting tribute to her commitment to the field of corrections. Susan was 53 when she passed away March 14, 2004. Go here to learn more: <http://www.asca.net/projects/20/pages/148>

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VICE Films at SCI Graterford

DOC officials provided unprecedented access to a producer and film crew from VICE on July 31, Aug. 1 and Aug. 2, at SCI Graterford.

VICE is producing a documentary on prison reform that will air on HBO in September. Included in this documentary will be footage from President Obama's visit to a federal prison.

At SCI Graterford, the crew interviewed DOC Secretary John Wetzel and several inmates about life in prison and sentencing for drug offenses and non-violent offenses. The crew was provided a tour of one of the prison's original cell blocks, an inmate dining hall, the prison's intake/reception area, the visiting room and the outside service unit (which houses inmates with outside clearance to work on the property, in the community and that train dogs at the prison).



These guys usually are the ones taking pictures of others, but we captured them as they were taking footage of the prison's exterior.

We would like to thank the officials at SCI Graterford for accommodating this media request.



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PREA Discussion at the Superintendents' Meeting: Innovative Practices for Providing Rape Crisis Services

By: Kayla Houser, Outreach Coordinator at the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

Implementing a culture of zero tolerance for sexual assault in state correctional institutions is no easy task. Part of building that culture involves effectively responding to a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) allegation when it happens and ensuring community rape crisis services are offered. These services will mitigate trauma and provide emotional support.

The Department of Corrections and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) have a long history of working together to end sexual violence in a correctional setting and providing services to survivors who are incarcerated. PCAR works to eliminate all forms of sexual violence, advocates for the rights and needs of victims of sexual assault, and partners with a network of 50 rape crisis centers in PA.

As a result of the on-going collaboration with the DOC, PCAR presented ways to collaborate with local rape crisis centers to build effective responses to sexual assault at the regional superintendent's meetings at SCI Muncy, SCI Graterford and SCI Laurel Highlands in July.

Superintendents shared "best practices" on how to create confidential space for rape crisis counseling as defined by PREA standards. Many institutions use attorney-client rooms or counseling rooms for in-person counseling sessions. If the counseling is conducted by phone, many SCI's use a phone that isn't recorded and is in a private setting.



Employees and inmates' families may report sexual assault/sexual harassment online at www.tipsubmit.com

Individuals may submit written reports to:

BCI/PREA Coordinator
1800 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Superintendents discussed innovative ways to build relationships with the local rape crisis centers, such as inviting a center representative to Days of Responsibility, contacting them for victim speakers, asking them to facilitate a survivor's group, and including them on an institutional Sexual Assault Response Team.

All 27 SCI's in Pennsylvania have entered into Memorandums of Understanding with their local rape crisis programs to provide community level of services to inmates who have been sexually assaulted. These services include supportive counseling by phone or in person, medical accompaniment, and advocacy.

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Assisting those with Mental Health Needs

DOC Mental Health Advocate Lynn Patrone helps an offender complete DOC paperwork. Patrone began working for the DOC in May 2015. She is charged with ensuring offenders receive the treatment they should while they are in prison and that they are connected with benefits and services to help them transition home after incarceration. Her work complements the already-existing checks and balances used in the DOC's mental health system.



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Mahanoy Hosts Regional Employee Safety Fair

SCI Mahanoy hosted a Safety Fair on July 28th & 29th for the employees of the DOC's Eastern Region facilities and all other state agencies working in this part of the state.

Opening remarks were made by Superintendent Jack Kerestes and DOC Regional Deputy Secretary Michael Wenerowicz. The fair was one of three that will be held each year, with one facility chosen in each region to host the event. The fair was established as part of the DOC's Safety Initiatives with the hope of emphasizing the importance of safety in our facilities and changing the culture of safety to a positive one.

Approximately 25 vendors were in attendance, displaying everyday safety items as they pertained to security, maintenance and medical. The total attendance for the two-day fair was 185 individuals.

Thanks to SCI Mahanoy's employees for their continued support and proactive attitude as in pertains to safety.



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Therapeutic Garden Blooms at Mahanoy

This Spring SCI Mahanoy created a therapeutic garden, which has been maintained by inmates residing in the facility's residential treatment unit (RTU).

This venture has been an overwhelming success, and residents have expressed their enthusiasm.

Early harvests have included a variety of salad greens that were processed in the food service department and served to all RTU residents.

In addition, pickles have been produced using dill from the garden. Tomatoes are now beginning to ripen, and the fall will bring sunflower seeds that will be roasted and enjoyed by RTU residents.

Due to the initial success of the garden, the program is expected to continue and hopefully grow next season.



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Waymart Recognizes Employees' Years of Service



Jim McElroy



Joe Vinansky

Years of service awards were distributed.



Tim Remus



John Kasheta



Joe Martines

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Albion Hosts Blood Drive

On July 31, 2015, SCI Albion hosted a blood drive with the Community Blood Bank of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Albion employees joined together to donate blood for the community. The Community Blood Bank brought their Bloodmobile to accommodate the institution and staff members. Thank you to all who donated.



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Heartz of Gold

In July, Harrisburg Community Corrections Center collected and donated 496 skeins of yarn to Heartz of Gold. Heartz of Gold is a non-profit company that began by loom knitting hats for cancer patients, both young and old. The organization has distributed to many local and distant cancer centers in the United States. Since the creation of Heartz of Gold, they have covered heads and provided scarves and blankets. It is the goal of Heartz of Gold to show others that they are loved and cared for in their time of need.



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Many Years of Service Recognized

Regional Deputy Secretary Tabb Bickell was at SCI Smithfield for a quarterly visit on July 31, and presented two certificates of service to staff.

He presented a 25-year certificate of service to Superintendent Kevin Kauffman who began his career in April 1990 as a corrections officer trainee at SCI Huntingdon. He also presented a 30-year certificate of service to John Neumann, mailroom supervisor, who began his career in April 1985 as a mailroom inspector at SCI Huntingdon.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Major Rodney Chism; Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services Jay Whitesel; Superintendent Kevin Kauffman; Mailroom Supervisor Jon Neumann; and Regional Deputy Secretary Tabb Bickell.

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Facility Tour for Employees' Families

On the evening of July 30th, SCI Somerset held a facility tour. More than 200 family members of employees came to the facility and were treated to an extensive tour. Areas shown included the visiting room, Medical, Dietary, the inmate dining halls, the maintenance shops, CI Laundry, Chapel, Library, Education, Gym, Barber Shop, and an inmate yard. The families also got to visit the puppies in the new Service Pup/Dog program. There were 10 separate tour groups, each escorted by at least two staff members, who volunteered to stay and assist with the event. Other employees volunteered to process each guest into the institution. After the tour, all family members were treated to snacks and beverages in the staff dining hall.

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Offenders Giving Back to the Community

In June, Allentown Community Corrections Center residents donated the following items to the 6th Street Shelter in Allentown:

- 1 can of SPAM
- 1 bag of sugar
- 1 box of easy mac
- 1 box of stuffing
- 2 large powdered drinks
- 3 cans of instant coffee
- 3 regular size creamer
- 4 boxes of cereal
- 4 large creamer
- 5 cans of tuna
- 5 cans of beans
- 6 cans of soup
- 7 cans of beef pasta
- 9 can openers
- 9 jars/cans of spaghetti sauce
- 11 jars/containers of jelly
- 11 regular size peanut butter
- 12 large cans of coffee
- 16 large peanut butter
- 17 boxes/bags of pasta
- 21 rolls of toilet paper
- 26 regular size cans of coffee

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Waymart Achieves Reaccreditation

SCI Waymart recently achieved 100 percent of mandatory standards and 99 percent of non-mandatory standards during an American Correctional Association audit.



Left to right: Major Edward Kosciuk, Acting Supt. Paul DelRosso, Supt. Secretary Christine Altemier, ACA Auditors: Jeffrey Noble, Barbara Skeen, Gerald Ellsworth; Deputy Supt. Ronda Ellett, Health Care Administrator Joe Silva, Classification Program manager Laura Banta and Supt. Asst. Joseph Vinansky.

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Helping to Set Up the Fair

Recently, SCI Rockview's community work project crews put up campers' tents in preparation for the upcoming county fair. To help put it into perspective, inmates helped erect more than 280 tents during their first two days of work. There are more than 1,000 tents.



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SCI Albion Hosts First Annual RTU Community Day

On July 24, 2015, SCI Albion employees hosted a Community Day for the inmates housed in the Residential Treatment Unit (RTU). Community day was developed to demonstrate a healthy sense of respect for social situations and to establish a sense of belonging among the inmates.

"This was the beginning of becoming a true community amongst the inmates in the RTU," Unit Manager Kevin Lantz said.

According to Lantz and Psychological Services Associate Christine Herman, the inmates took a sense of pride and belonging from Community Day.

"They found a new respect for the members of their community. For the first time in some of their lives, they felt like part of a family," said Herman. It was a day of activities, good food and good times. Many inmates for the first time participated in an activity, opened up and felt comfortable, which is important in a treatment unit."

Every RTU inmate that participated in Community Day signed a Community Pledge. The Community Pledge, written by the inmates, has 11 actions, values and/or tools that the inmates pledged to honor.

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Some of the pledges include:

- respecting myself, peers and staff members;
- to actively participate in my treatment;
- to hold myself accountable for my actions and do my very best to help others;
- to encourage others to carry themselves with dignity and respect;
- to utilize the tools and resources I have learned or are available to maintain a safer environment for a better quality of life;
- my actions are ones that I can build on to strengthen relationships and today is an opportunity to move past the stumbling blocks of yesterday as I head towards a place of change.



Week of July 27...

Success after Prison

Cynthia Link, deputy superintendent for centralized services at SCI Graterford, recently received a phone call from a former offender. He called to share his success story with her.

While at SCI Graterford, he participated in the New Leash on Life USA Program that trains dogs. Since his release from prison, he has begun working for animal control, rescuing animals in Philadelphia.

"He used his time here wisely and now has a full time job in an area of his interest," Link said. "It does not get any better than that."

New Leash on Life USA is a 12-week training program that began in early 2013. It is designed to engage inmates in training abandoned and homeless dogs in basic obedience and socialization skills.

In addition to increasing the dogs' chances for adoption, the inmates learn to train and care for the dogs while building skills that improve their future employability for grooming and training once they are released from prison.

Some of the dogs in the program have been put to work herding and controlling the wild geese that flock on the grounds of Graterford. Other dogs have been found to have the special personality and skills to become companion dogs for veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq who may have post-traumatic stress disorder.

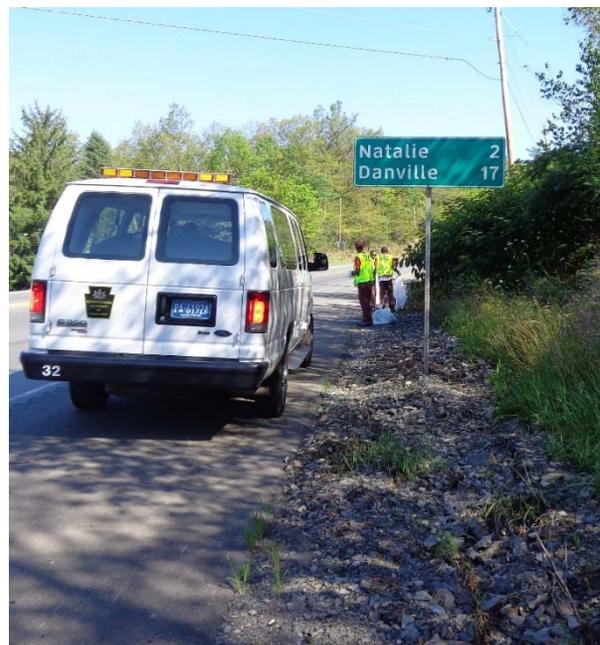
To learn more, go here: <http://newleashonlife-usa.org/about-us/>

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Picking Up Litter

Recently, SCI Coal Township's Community Work Crew, as part of the Adopt A Highway Program, collected 19 bags of trash from alongside Rt 54.

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He's a Gadget Guy

Something people may notice about Secretary John Wetzel when they meet him is that he is "connected." And by "connected" we mean to technology.

Wetzel carries several smart phones. He tweets and posts to social media and now he's begun using Periscope, which is an application that lets him broadcast video.

Here, Secretary Wetzel is conducting his first Periscope video while participating in a phone interview with WHYY radio.



If there's one thing for sure, it's the fact that Secretary Wetzel embraces technology and he's bringing that technology to the DOC. We're confident you'll be seeing more of him as he uses Periscope to capture his public speaking events.

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2015 DOC Softball Tournament Champs

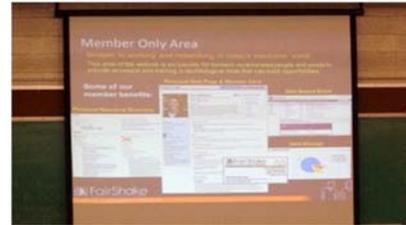
Each year softball teams from several PA state prison compete at an annual DOC Softball Tournament. This year the 40th Annual PA DOC Softball Invitational was held July 25th in Williamsport. Thirteen teams participated, with SCI Greene taking home the first-place win. The competition was fierce, but ultimately the GREENE team never relinquished a lead or lost a single game. Congratulations GREENE Team and to everyone who participated.



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Giving Inmates a “Fair Shake”

Recently, 75 SCI Dallas inmates attended a presentation held at the prison by “Fair Shake.” Fair Shake is a reentry resource center, developed by Sue Kastensen, that provides offenders with an interactive blend of electronic tools that are combined with reentry, education and employment resources. The goal is to help inmates develop their reentry plans so they experience a successful and lasting return home from prison.



To learn more about Fair Shake, visit <https://www.fairshake.net/>

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Mental Health CCC Set to Open

On Aug. 3, the DOC will begin operating a 32-bed Mental Health Community Corrections Center (CCC) at the Wernersville CCC. Eligible parolees from Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Northampton or Schuylkill counties who require mental health services in order to have a successful reentry will be paroled to the Wernersville Community Corrections Center.

While at the center, the parolees will be assisted by mental health staff who will connect them to services in their home communities. This is the first DOC-operated center to offer such services, which are important to ensure a continuity of care where their mental health is concerned. Parolees also will be provided with a number of programs that cover issues such as basic hygiene, medications, healthy eating, exercise, understanding and accepting mental illness, stress, substance abuse, basic computer skills and more.

Ninety percent of DOC inmates go home one day. Providing them with the tools they need to be successful makes our communities safer.

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Week of July 20...

Improving Efficiencies – Inmate Transportation

Each year, on average, the DOC coordinates 37,000 inmate transfers between its 26 institutions.

Simply explained, inmates are moved for a variety of reasons, such as:

- moving from a reception center to a “home” prison
- moving from one prison to another in order to participate in educational and/or treatment programs
- for disciplinary reasons
- because inmates must be separated from inmates or staff at a specific prison
- due to a change in security level (higher or lower)
- being moved closer to home just prior to release from prison
- for medical procedures or to be closer to community facilities that provide medical services



Whatever the reason for the move, the moves only happen due to work conducted by a small office located in the DOC's Central Office. This office is called the Office of Population Management (OPM).

When a prison seeks to have an inmate moved, officials there must submit what is called a transfer petition OPM. The information is reviewed, approved and prioritized for a scheduled transfer based on the needs of the inmate and the available bed space throughout the department.

And, as you can imagine, if there is an incident at one prison that requires the removal of an inmate to another prison for security reasons, that one incident and the need to move the inmate can bump one or more inmates that had previously been approved and scheduled for transfer.

It's a careful balancing act that must work smoothly to ensure security, safety, inmate program compliance, etc.

And you would think that such a system – one that is critical to the operation of the agency – would be top notch. However, it hasn't been. In fact, to facilitate inmate transfer requests, OPM staff had been using several computer generated reports, various applications and a large number of manually generated spreadsheets.

To increase productivity, OPM staff has been working with the DOC's Bureau of Information Technology to implement 21 "productivity enhancements" to the current Inmate Transfer System (ITS) and Transfer Petition System (TPS). As a result, they will be able to compile all of this various data into valuable reports and tools automatically, alleviating approximately 25-35 staff hours each week. Several of these enhancements are now in production with an anticipated August 2015 date for overall completion.



While the general public won't see or notice any changes, DOC employees will see a great improvement in the system that uses fewer reports – some which took six hours alone to prepare.

This is an excellent example of employees really looking at their duties and determining ways to improve what they do and to increase efficiency at the same time.

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Laurel Highlands Hosts Day of Responsibility

On June 15, SCI Laurel Highlands' 3rd Annual Day of Responsibility was held in the chapel. Approximately, 120 employees and inmates attend the function. The objective of this event is to focus on taking responsibility for our actions and really understanding and developing empathy as it relates to victims. Superintendent Jamey Luther opened the day with welcoming and inspiring remarks.

As the day began, several speakers made presentations including inmates who provided information on some of the prison's specialty programs, such as Inside Out Dads, Transitional Housing Unit and Impact of Crime Class.



Additionally, outside guests spoke to participants. They included Office of Victim Services Director Karen Laird; Debra Borza, whose daughter, Diona, was the youngest victim in the Flight 93 crash; and an ex-offender who now is the program director for a non-profit recovery house.

Dietary staff assisted in the day's activities by providing refreshments, beverages and prison-made pizza.

The day concluded with staff-facilitated break out groups discussing the way crimes impact others, especially victims. Closing remarks were given by the prison's classification and program manager, Michelle Houser; and a \$500 donation from the Inmate General Welfare Fund was presented to Somerset County's director of Victim Services Michael Oliver.

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Daily American 5/10K Walk/Run

On June 13, several SCI Laurel Highlands employees, along with some friends and family, woke up bright and early and eager to hit the pavement! The Annual Daily American 5/10K Walk/Run was held and, luckily, given the recent rain, the weather cooperated!

This year's benefactors of the monies raised were Sipesville Volunteer Fire Department, Special Olympics and the Weekend Backpack Program.

This is the fourth year that Laurel Highlands' "Gatekeepers" have participated as a team. Among those participating from Laurel Highlands, a few won awards. Donna Platt won second place in her age group for the 5K Walk. Mike Borosky placed second in his age group for the 5K Run and Bryon Gephart (Rebecca Gephart's son) placed first in his age group!

Congratulations to everyone that placed, and great job to all who participated!



Pictured, from left to right, are: Phil Hinebaugh, Tim Pleacher, Gina Hinebaugh, Barbara Yaros, Donna Platt, Becky Gephart, Lorrie Earnesty, Bryon Gephart, Joyce Shaulis, Michelle Houser, Morris Houser, Bill Mailman and Mike Borosky

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SCI Coal Township to Host “Firefighting in Corrections” Symposium

On Saturday, Aug. 22, beginning at 8 a.m., SCI Coal Township will host a free, one-day symposium about firefighting in a prison setting.

Aimed at EMS and fire personnel that respond to prison emergencies, the event begins with a 7:30 a.m. registration and will include a 9 a.m. presentation by Northumberland County Prison Warden Bruce Kovach.

Presentations about the history of fire in corrections; fire safety goals; events at the Pentagon on 9/11 and information about security when entering a prison will be provided. Following the symposium, a tour of the prison will take place.

Individuals interested in attending must pre-register by Aug. 7, by calling Greg Fabrizio at 570-644-7890 ext 2622, or email gfabrizio@pa.gov

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Central Office has a New Bureau

Effective July 20, 2015, Carole Mattis will be the director for the **Bureau of Standards, Audits and Accreditation**. This bureau is responsible for several related areas that now will come under the responsibility of one office -- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance, County Inspections and Services, and Standards, Policies and Internal Audits Division.

The mission of the new bureau is to direct, manage and implement statewide policies and procedures designed to maintain appropriate accreditation, monitor compliance of county facilities with Title 37, and ensure departmental compliance with PREA. Director Mattis brings to this position more than nine years of experience with the DOC. She previously was a criminal investigator supervisor with the Office of Special Investigation and Intelligence, prior to becoming a staff assistant. She has been instrumental in developing and shaping the PREA policy, is a certified PREA auditor and brings with her an attitude and ability to get the job done.

Also effective on July 20, 2015, Jennifer Feicht becomes a full-time DOC employee and will fill the role of PREA coordinator. Ms. Feicht has served as the subject matter expert for PREA, is responsible for development of the PREA policy and related trainings. She previously was a contractor, and that has allowed many DOC employees to become familiar with Ms. Feicht through preparation for PREA audits and completion of administrative reviews for allegations of sexual abuse. She has participated in numerous conferences and workshops to provide education on PREA and is also a certified PREA auditor.

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Wernersville CCC EOQ

Corrections Counselor Thomas Bolton has been selected as Employee of the 2nd Quarter of 2015 at the Wernersville Community Corrections Center. This recognition was due to his positive attitude, commitment to excellence and willingness to lead by example.

Bolton began his corrections career in 1996 as a corrections officer at SCI Graterford. He has worked at the CCC since November 2012.



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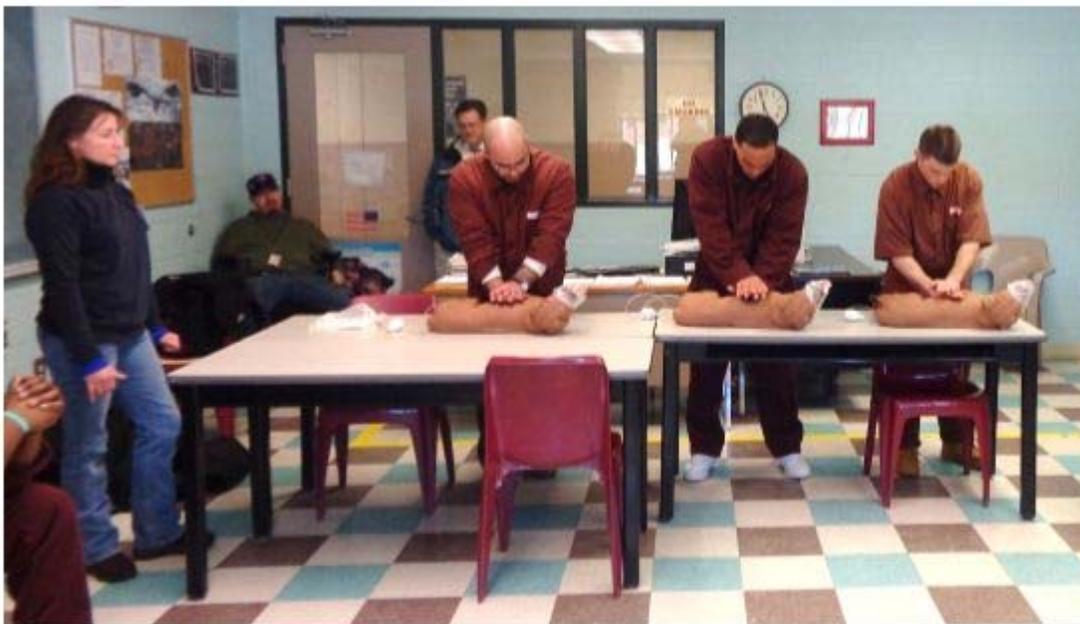
Dog Training at SCI Coal Township

By Press Secretary Susan McNaughton

During our recent visit to SCI Coal Township, we stopped by the dog training program. The program allows inmates to work with shelter dogs who have been severely abused or neglected and are literally minutes away from being euthanized. Inmates spend their days training the dogs to be adoptable, and employees help by also working with the dogs. Some employees have adopted dogs as well.

The dog program, called FIDOS, will celebrate its one year anniversary this month. In that one-year timeframe, the program has worked with 30 dogs, all of which have been adopted. Today, they have six dogs. They constantly rotate in and out of the program. As part of the program, a volunteer dog trainer comes to the prison twice weekly to provide inmate dog trainers with new concepts. The inmates spend the week helping the dogs to hone these and other skills until the time when the dog is deemed ready for adoption.

What do the inmates get out of the program? They learn about dog training and care, grooming and have been certified in dog CPR.



SCI Coal Township inmates, who work in the dog training program, are certified in dog CPR.

Several of the dog trainers will see the parole board in the next five years. They are hopeful the program will help them achieve parole. And once on parole, the offenders are planning to continue working in this line of work. Some want to be dog groomers, while others want to be dog trainers, perhaps even operating their own business in the future.

The inmates say that the program has taught them a lot about themselves, including caring about something or someone other than themselves.

One employee shared a story about an inmate dog trainer who when he first began working in the program, had pretty strong gang affiliations. Today, while he still has some gang affiliations, they are not as noticeable or dramatic as they had been a year ago when he first started.

When speaking with the inmates, other than them wearing inmate uniforms, you would have no idea they were inmates. They were enthusiastic about the program and very well spoken.



What do employees get out of the program?

Working in a prison can be very mundane. The same things are done at the same time, every day. Dogs break up the monotony. Everyone loves a dog. They provide a break in the routine.

Another benefit for the employees, although indirectly, is the calming affect the dogs have on the inmates. If the inmates are calm, the prison is calm.

Employees also have benefitted directly through adoptions of many of the dogs. Both the superintendent and one of the deputy superintendents each adopted a dog.

And those who haven't adopted dogs provide donations that are used in the program, such as treats, food and even paper towels that are used to clean up doggy messes that may happen from time to time. Employees help to take the dogs to the vets for regular check-ups or care that may be needed.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can assist the dog program, or if you seek information so you can start your own at your prison, please contact Unit Manager John Dunn.

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Week of July 13...

It's Official (again)!

On July 15, 2015, John E. Wetzel was sworn in as secretary of the Department of Corrections by Gov. Tom Wolf and Secretary of State Pedro Cortes. He was joined at the signing by his four daughters.

Wetzel has served as secretary of the DOC since his initial appointment under former governor Tom Corbett.



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Employee of the Quarter

SCI Coal Township's Maintenance Repairman R. Howerter was recently recognized as the prison's employee of the second quarter of 2015.

He was nominated by his co-workers for his exceptional performance and for doing above and beyond what is expected of him.

According to Superintendent Vince Mooney, Howerter always does an outstanding job and is always willing to help out when and where needed without any hesitation.

"His can-do attitude and willingness to help out in any situation makes him one of the Maintenance Department's (and SCICT's) most valuable assets and deserving of recognition for his efforts," Mooney said.

Congratulations, Mr. Howerter!



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Achieving LEED Certification

SCI Benner Township has achieved LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Certification! LEED certified buildings save money and resources and have a positive impact on the health of occupants, while promoting renewable, clean energy.

By meeting this goal, we are reducing environmental impact and operating costs. Here are some highlights of the accomplishments:



- Controlling stormwater runoff to not exceed pre-developed conditions, and treating that runoff to remove at least 85% of pollutants prior to discharge.
- Installing low-flow plumbing fixtures to reduce water use by almost 40% compared to standard fixtures. This is estimated to save more than 500,000 gallons of water each year.
- Reducing energy costs by 18% compared to a minimally code-compliant building. This is estimated to save over 28,000,000,000 BTUs each year. That's enough to power 300 average US homes.
- Recycling 3,637 tons of construction waste instead of landfilling.
- Constructing the building with materials that contain 26% recycled content, and 32% of which were regionally sourced and manufactured.
- Selecting 97% of solid wood materials that come from FSC-certified forests.
- Protecting indoor air quality by using all low-emitting adhesives, sealants, paints, carpet, and composite wood.

To learn more, visit the U.S. Green Building Council at <http://www.usgbc.org/>

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A County Prison Operating Within a State Prison

A major change that has taken place at SCI Coal Township within the last six months is the fact that the county's prison is now operating out of several of the state prison's buildings.



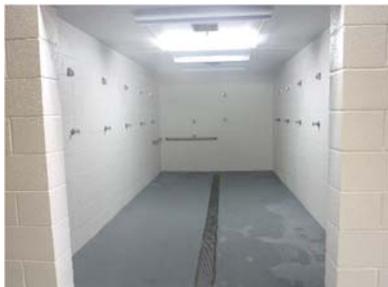
In January 2015, the Northumberland County Prison, located in Sunbury, Pa., burned to the ground. The DOC is providing assistance to the county by allowing it to operate a male county prison out of SCI Coal Township, where there are about 120 inmates. There are about 20 female inmates housed at SCI Muncy, in Lycoming County.

Northumberland County Prison Warden Bruce Kovach said that the SCI Coal Township employees have been extremely helpful. "If I ever need anything, employees are ready to assist upon a moment's notice," Kovach said. He said SCI Coal Township employees are always making their rounds and checking in with him, and if he has an unruly inmate, the state prison helps by accepting the inmate into the state prison custody.

How was SCI Coal Township able to so quickly help the county prison?

Staff dedication. Within hours of the fire at the county prison, county prison inmates were accepted at SCI Coal Township. The prison worked – using employees and inmates – to change a manufacturing plant into a housing unit.

In only a matter of weeks, they were able to build showers, toilet and sink facilities in the new housing unit.





SCI Coal Township and Northumberland County Prison will remain partners like this for several years to come. To co-exist, providing food, medical and treatment services are done in a way that prevents inmates from co-mingling.

County prison inmates are fed in their housing units – they don't interact or mix with state prison inmates. Their visits are held in the prison's visiting room on days when it is closed for state prison inmate visits.

Overall the transition has been seamless.

Warden Kovach says that through having his prison in the state prison, he has learned about ways to improve treatment programs. While the prison is expected to operate within the state prison for several years until a new county prison can be built and opened, Bruce said he has plans to take a lot of what he's learned at SCI Coal Township back to the county prison.

The DOC has a page on its website designated for the Northumberland County Prison. Go to the www.cor.pa.gov, select the "Facilities" drop down menu and select "Northumberland County Prison."

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Week of July 6...

Deploying with Children in Mind

In our June 22 update, we provided information about two SCI Cambridge Springs employees – Facility Maintenance Manager 2 Nicolia and Corrections Officer Ryden – who would be deploying to Latvia.

Here's an update...



Members of the 171st Air Refueling Wing's Civil Engineer Squadron with the Pennsylvania Air National Guard had the opportunity to hand-deliver glasses, clothes, books and toys to children at the Naujene Orphanage, near Daugavpils, Latvia, on June 29, 2015.

Senior Master Sergeant Mark Nicolia and Technical Sergeant Robert Ryden, members of a military team that is working on a Humanitarian Civic Assistance project in Latvia, along with their co-workers at SCI Cambridge Springs, collected many of the items that were delivered to the children.



The items donated by the correctional institution, combined with donations from members of the 171 CES, were enough to fill an entire nine-passenger van. Aircrew members joined CE in a joint effort to deliver the toys, ensuring that there was enough room for every donated item on the KC-135 aircraft that flew the 171 CES to Latvia.

Members working on the project were able to go into the orphanage to deliver the donated items and visit with the children. Some of the smaller children played with the toys while two teen girls picked out their glasses. Their joy at receiving the glasses was apparent - their smile beamed as their friends took pictures, and remarked on how nice the glasses looked on them.

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Waymart's Employee of the Month

While Acting Regional Deputy Secretary Michael Wenerowicz was visiting SCI Waymart today, Acting Superintendent Paul DelRosso presented Corrections Officer P. Smith with the Employee of the Month Award for July.



Pictured are, left to right: Captain J. Schariest, Control Secretary Kathy Millard, Acting Superintendent DelRosso, Officer Smith, Deputy Secretary Wenerowicz and Major E. Kosciukp.

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5K/10K Walk-Run

Recently SCI Somerset employees participated in the Somerset Daily American 5K/10K Walk-Run challenge in Somerset Borough.

Although the weather was not cooperating, several employees and their family members came out to help raise monies for local charities.



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Education is the Key to Success!

While we often recognize inmates for their educational accomplishments, this year we need to recognize the valedictorian and salutatorian of this year's graduating class at Shamokin Area High School. Why? Because they are the children of SCI Coal Township employees!

Casey Wilson was named class valedictorian, and salutatorian was Jacob Snyder.

Wilson is a daughter of Business Manager Nancy Wilson. She is vice-president of the chemistry club, secretary of the key club and treasurer of the environmental club. Her activities include orchestra, National Honor Society, varsity soccer, varsity club, key club, string ensemble, musical pit, district orchestra, math club, prom committee, baccalaureate committee, yearbook, powder puff football and dual enrollment. She will be attending Bucknell University to major in engineering.



Snyder is a son of Food Service Manager John Snyder. He was the vice-president of the National Honor Society and a member of the math club, Student Council, chemistry club, Science Olympiad, environmental club, 700 Club for SAT and dual enrollment. He will be attending Bucknell University and has not yet declared a major.

The SCI Coal Township family is proud of both Casey and Jacob and congratulates both graduates on their accomplishments and wish them good luck in their promising futures.

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Prison Operates Master Gardener Program



From January through May each year at SCI Cambridge Springs, eligible inmates can participate in the Master Gardener Program. During this time the inmates learn gardening science and techniques through lectures, classroom instruction and hands-on practices.

Here's what one inmate had to say about the program...

"Those of us at SCI Cambridge Springs who have been lucky enough to be students of the Crawford County Penn State Master Gardeners are always anxious to share information about this valuable educational experience.

This year marks our third beginner's gardening class and our second year for the advanced class. The ladies and gentleman who donate their time to teach us about gardening, plants, bugs, environmental factors and so much more, are always encouraging and enthusiastic. It seems that they enjoy the classes as much as we do.

The knowledge that we glean from the Master Gardeners is put to very good use. The Progressive Unit at SCI Cambridge Springs has an annual vegetable garden that is worked and cultivated by the inmates who live in that unit. This unit houses 135 women, and our garden manages to provide fresh produce to every lady in the building for the entire summer. This is the fifth year for this garden.

Last year was a banner year for our garden, producing greens, lettuces, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, carrots, radishes, beets, herbs and other goodies until well into the fall. We have high hopes for the 2015 garden. All of the plants, which were grown in our greenhouse under the watchful eyes and sage advice of our Master Gardener mentors, have been

carefully nestled into our garden beds and we anxiously await our first opportunity to harvest the 'fruits' of our labors.

These classes are about more than just benefitting a specific housing unit. The skills we have acquired and the seedlings we nurture in the greenhouse contribute to a greater good by positively impacting the community that lies outside of the gates of this prison.

Some of the plants are used by the Master Gardeners for their annual plant sale. They raised almost \$400 by selling vegetable plants that we started from seeds! The Master Gardeners also donate some of the plants we raised to charitable organizations like Hospice House (for terminally ill patients), The Green House (for abused women), Liberty House (transitional housing for homeless persons), the Immigrant Community Garden in Erie, The Soup Kitchen (Meadville), and at the prison we are charged to productively contribute to our community as well as the surrounding outside community. The Penn State Master Gardeners provide us with the opportunity to give back to society while bringing an education to this prison that only can be described as priceless.

Than you, Master Gardeners, for your time and talents. We look forward to everything you have yet to teach us. A special thanks to Ms. Cerami, our unit manager, who initiated this program and continues to support our garden project. Thank you also to Superintendent Torma, the prison administration and all of the officers and employees who take the time to encourage our efforts and to provide us with the access we need to tend our garden.

We give all of you two 'green' thumbs up!"



The Master Gardeners

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CPOF Project 2000 XXV

In June, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections officials, including several facility Honor Guards, participated in the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation's Project 2000 XXV, which was held in Jacksonville, Fl., June 18-21, 2015.

Overall more than 800 corrections professionals participated in the annual event.

Honor guards from SCIs Huntingdon, Mahanoy and Pittsburgh endured temperatures of over 102 degrees while participating at the memorial held at Metropolitan Park in Jacksonville.



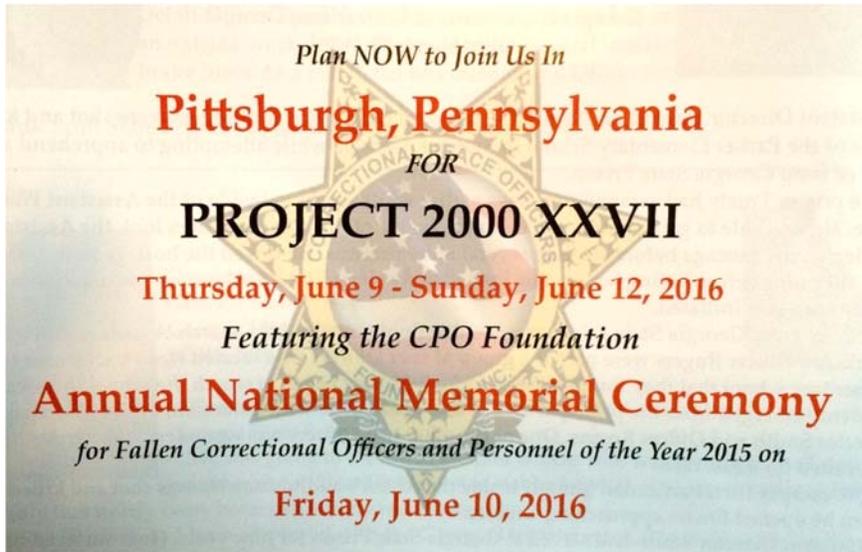
Individuals from SCIs Mahanoy, Huntingdon and Pittsburgh Honor Guard teams participated in the project.

The annual event recognizes assault victims and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their profession at the hands of a convicted felon.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania DOC, Captain James Giles presented a seminar on home grown gangs and homeland security. Training Academy Unit Manager Susan Satterlee and SCI Dallas' Lt. Cynthia Sandly assisted event organizers in many areas. At the event, three SCI Forest corrections officers were recognized as assault survivors following an inmate's assault of them in August 2014.

Next year's event, Project 2000 XXVII, will be held in Pittsburgh June 9-12, 2016, and is expected to exceed 900 corrections professionals from the US and Canada being in attendance.

ABOUT CPO FOUNDATION



The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation is a national, non-profit charitable organization created in 1984. Its primary function is to preserve and support the surviving families of correctional officers who lose their lives in pursuit of their chosen profession of protecting the public from those remanded to correctional custody and supervision in the

nation's prisons and jails.

The CPO Foundation is not a political action group or committee of any kind, nor is it affiliated with any political action group or committee of any kind, nor is it involved in any collective bargaining issues with any employee groups, associations and/or administrations.

CPO FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, Inc. is to operate and maintain a general fund for the perpetuation of the memory of those Correctional Peace Officers killed in the line of duty; to provide for their spouses, children or other beneficiaries; and to promote and project a positive image of the Corrections profession, both internally and to the general public.

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Gardening at Riverside CCC

As of June 30, 2015, Riverside Community Corrections Center (CCC) will be growing fruits and vegetables. A generous grant from the Sprout Foundation, coupled with the organization and dedication of Renee Rosensteel and the Manchester Citizens Corporation, allowed this courtyard garden to become a reality.

The organic garden built within five raised beds will allow Riverside CCC residents to learn about harvesting produce. The presence of a garden will also promote healthy eating, self-reliance, commitment and responsibility.

Gardening is a transferable skill that is beneficial to successful reintegration.

Residents will have the opportunity to grow vegetables and fruits such as cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, zucchini and watermelon.

The resident's reaction to building and maintaining the garden has been exceedingly positive thus far, and officials expect more and more residents will become interested and involved as they experience the beauty and abundance of a garden in their own backyard (courtyard).

These pictures show the teamwork between Riverside CCC residents, staff and the community. All three factions united to accomplish a common goal, which is what community corrections is all about.

Planting
vegetables in the
raised garden
beds.



A special thank you to SCI Pittsburgh for allowing Riverside CCC to use some of their tools and space.



The finished product.

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