

# *Correctional Newsfront*

*The official newsletter of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, including the state prisons, reentry services, community corrections and parole supervision*



## **2019 News ~ January to March**

Week of March 25, 2019...

### **Parole Field Services Kicks Off Mentoring Program**

Parole Field Services has been working with the DOC Mentoring Program since the MOU to develop a mentoring program which models the DOC's. The program kicked off officially with the appointment of Regional Training Coordinators Michael Willis, Tammy Makin and Kathy Bolonski. The Regional Training Coordinators nominated Local Mentoring Coordinators for all parole office sites throughout the state and formal training was held at the DOC Training Academy on Feb. 28 and March 1. The training was conducted by AnneMarie Swanlek, the DOC Western Region Chief at the Bureau of Corrections Education, Christiana Smith, DATS at SCI Pine Grove, and Jamey Luther, Superintendent at SCI Smithfield.



The training consisted of a review of the statewide policy to include the necessary forms that need to be filled out by both mentors and mentees; quarterly reports that are due; and the basic 4-hour training for new mentors. This training reviews what makes a good mentor, some "do's" and "don't's" in working with a mentee and who would benefit the most from having a mentor.

The Local Mentoring Coordinators returned to their offices throughout the Commonwealth and immediately began recruiting mentors and organizing trainings.

"Mentoring is a big part of what we already do in the field with new agents. This program will expand upon what we already do, and it will encourage and empower staff to look to their future goals within the criminal justice field," said Deputy Secretary Christian Stephens, who, with Deputy Secretary Kelly Evans, worked to get the mentoring program up and running for parole. "We are so excited to get this up and running, and it appears the parole staff involved are equally as excited."

"Superintendent Luther, Ms. Swanlek and Ms. Smith played a vital role in teaching us about this program and how it should look. They worked with us to shape the program to fit into parole," said Deputy Secretary Kelly Evans, who was a part of initiating the dialogue regarding bringing this program to parole.

Anyone interested in becoming a mentor or mentee can reach out to their Local Mentoring Coordinator.

Philadelphia County Wide Division:  
Lakeisha Cooper

Pittsburgh District Office: Nathan  
Simon

York Sub Office: Lacey Crane

Harrisburg District Office: Shane  
Strohecker

Philadelphia North West Division:  
Latasha Fisher

Scranton District Office: Jason  
Westgate

Reading Sub Office: Natisha Hickson

Erie District Office: James Wright

Central Office: Christine Hoffman

Mercer District Office: Amy Landfair

Lancaster Sub Office: Christopher  
McGrath

Philadelphia Specialized Division:  
Caitlyn McLaughlin

Philadelphia West Division: Michael  
Micciche

Central Office: Belinda Nester

Allentown District Office: Byron Rice

Wernersville Sub Office: Lara Ruesch

If your office does not have a coordinator listed, please feel free to reach out to the Regional Mentoring Coordinators.

Eastern Region: Michael Willis

Central Region: Kathy Bolonski

Western Region: Tammy Makin

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## **New Dog Program Starts at Cambridge Springs**

SCI Cambridge Springs began a new dog training program on March 18 called Canines Achieving Miracles in Prison (CAMP).

The facility, in conjunction with the Erie ANNA Shelter (Association for Neglected and Needy Animals), will offer a public service by training canines in basic obedience and socialization skills to aid in possible adoption. The intent of this program is to instill a sense of responsibility, discipline and social awareness in the inmates involved, in addition to providing beneficial vocational and life skills.





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## **QBC Female SIP Crocheting Project**

Three female State Intermediate Punishment program inmates at Quehanna Boot Camp requested permission to crochet hats for infants. They worked tirelessly over a three-week period to crochet more than 100 hats in various sizes, colors and shapes.

The hats are being donated to a local children's hospital to be used on infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). A NICU is an intensive care unit specializing in the care of ill or premature newborn infants. The hope is that these special children will know someone cares about them.



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## **Coal Township Inmates Donate to Local Charities**

Since its formation in the latter part of 2016, SCI Coal Township's Lifer/Long Term Inmate Organization – Lifeline – has donated \$2,000 to the Mt. Carmel Food Pantry, \$500 to Marley's Mission, \$1,500 to the Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way and \$7,600 to Kaupas Summer Camp (which is a summer camp at Bucknell University and organized in conjunction with Bucknell University), for underprivileged children from the Mt. Carmel Area School District.

Lifeline, in conjunction with the Triumph Organization, conducts fundraising sales throughout each year and then donates to local and national charitable organizations, allowing the inmates to give back to society.

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## **Fire Emergency Response at Its Best**

On Feb. 28, it was discovered by prison maintenance staff that a fire had started in the kitchen at SCI Huntingdon in an area above one of the freezers. Kitchen staff and inmates were evacuated from the area and the prison's Fire Emergency Response Team (FERT) activated and called to the scene. FERT members connected a fire hose to a nearby hydrant that allowed them to flow water onto the fire and extinguish it quickly. Team members then took turns performing fire watch until 6 a.m. the following morning to ensure there was no re-ignition. In recognition of a job well done, SCI Huntingdon FERT members received a letter of appreciation from Superintendent Kevin Kauffman, Deputy Superintendent of Facilities Management

Byron Brumbaugh and Deputy Superintendent of Centralized Services Scott Walters.



SCI Huntingdon's Fire Emergency Response Team

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## A Genealogical Connection to SCI Huntingdon

As individuals search their family genealogy, many individuals wind up calling one of our older state prisons to learn about incarceration of an ancestor.

Recently, SCI Huntingdon's Public Information Officer Connie Green was contacted by a woman who has researched her family for 30 years and has family links dating back to 1766.

The woman was looking for information about her uncle who was incarcerated at Huntingdon in 1889. Green, unfortunately, was not able to help the woman, but the woman did share information that showed another ancestor of hers -- John Worrell, of West Brownsville, Pa. -- was sent to Huntingdon on May 31, 1889, making him the first inmate at the prison from Washington County.

Sheriff Lockhart on Wednesday, took John Worrell of West Brownsville, who was convicted of robbery, to the intermediate penitentiary at Huntingdon. This is the first prisoner from this county to be taken to that institution.

While this woman was hoping to learn information, she actually was the one to provide information to prison staff.

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## Blood Drive Held

Seven DOC/Parole Supervision employees participated in a blood drive on March 13 at Central Office.

As a result, six pints of blood were collected, which will save the lives of 18 local patients.

While 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, less than 10 percent actually do.

Thanks to those who donate!



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## Dallas Assists Local PD

Around 6 p.m. on March 26, a Jackson Township Police Department officer arrived at SCI Dallas' main gate asking if he could detonate a jar filled with an unknown liquid substance he had recovered from a nearby residence. The PD needed a place close by to detonate the substance because they were not sure what it was or how far they could travel with it in a vehicle being bounced around on the rural roads. They didn't know what

might set it off.

The main gate sergeant notified the prison lieutenant and shift commander, who gave the police department permission to use the prison's shooting range. The prison's security office escorted them and the Scranton Haz-mat team to the range, where the unknown liquid substance was detonated and destroyed without incident, and everyone left the prison grounds by 7 p.m.

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## Prison Staff Participate in Local High School's Mock Interviews

Theresa Croll, field human resources officer 3 for SCIs Albion, Cambridge Springs and Mercer, recently spoke to prison staff about the Project Employment mock interview event. She was looking for volunteers to participate at Cochranon High School, specifically a maintenance manager to assist with holding mock interviews for high school students to give them the experience of interviewing. SCI Cambridge Springs' Facility Maintenance Manager 1 Ronald Myers volunteered because he thought it would be interesting and educational.

"I feel that it helped the students experience what it would be like to interview for a professional job," Myers said.

During the mock interviews, volunteers also could critique the students' resumes and give them ideas to help with interviewing.

At the event, volunteers were set up at individual tables, representing their own "business." Students then met one-on-one with the volunteers for their "interviews."



Other organizations that participated include the Meadville Police, Cochranon Fire Department, PennDOT, Crawford Central Education, Edinboro University, Prism Plastics, Mercer County State Bank and many, many more.

"It was a great experience for me as well, and I would love to do it again," Myers added.

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## Parole Agent Serves as DOPE Example

Parole Agent Kelly Davis, who works for the Philadelphia GPS Unit, goes out twice a month with Doing Our Part Eclectically (DOPE) to feed the homeless in the city.

“Kelly is a great example of Parole Board employee working to build ties in our communities and giving back. She also recruits other agents, with success, for this great program,” said Donald McMonagle, Davis’ fellow parole agent.



Parole Agent Evans is the one wearing the Philadelphia Eagles ballcap on the far right.

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**SCI Mercer Retirements**

SCI Mercer's Unit Manager Al Servello and CO1 Frank Bischak retired on March 22, each with 30 years of DOC service.

Both began their careers at SCI Pittsburgh. Frank transferred to Mercer in 2004 when SCI Pittsburgh first closed. Al also transferred to Mercer in 2004, promoted back to Pittsburgh after it reopened, and came back to Mercer 2017 when it closed again.

Al was presented a shadow box by his coworkers with memorabilia.

Congratulations to both and thank you both for a job well done. Mercer staff wish you many years of happiness in your retirement.

**Pictured from left: Unit Manager Al Servello and Corrections Officer 1 Frank Bischak.**



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## Inmates Participate in Mentoring Workshop at Pine Grove

Ten inmates from SCI Pine Grove participated in a mentoring workshop for inmates returning to the Pittsburgh area. Anais Hussian, "Tim" Wibowo and Keith Kondrich of the Foundation of Hope presented the workshop. The program utilized a business plan model to understand and build a mentoring and support system for release.



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## 'Governor's Circle' SECA Donors Honored at Huntingdon

SCI Huntingdon Superintendent Kevin Kauffman presented three staff members with an award from Governor Tom Wolf thanking them for their donation during the 2018 State Employee Combined Appeal (SECA) and joining him as a "Governor's Circle" leadership giver.



**Pictured from left: Beth Linn, Records Specialist, Paula Price, CHCA, Supt. Kauffman and Deb Jadlocki, Business Manager.**

The letter reads: *As a leadership giver, you have taken the campaign theme of "Mission Possible" to heart by accepting the call to support those in need. The hour or more of pay you give each month will help to support organizations working to help people and the environment locally, statewide, nationally and beyond. In addition, you are part of a proud tradition of generosity and caring that has raised more than \$100 million for the hundreds of charities participating in SECA over the past four decades. Once again, thank you for your gift in support of SECA charities.*

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## SCI Coal Township Employee Recognized for Years of DOC Service

Superintendent Tom McGinley presented a certificate and a service pin in recognition of 25 years of DOC service to Corrections Storekeeper Supervisor Steve Moraskie.

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## Forest Superintendent Retires

Michael Overmyer, a 27-year corrections veteran, retired as superintendent at SCI Forest effective March 22, 2019.

He began his corrections career in 1992 as a corrections officer at SCI Mercer. In 1993, Overmyer transitioned to SCI Albion where he rose through the ranks, having served as a corrections officer, sergeant and lieutenant.

When SCI Forest opened in 2004, Overmyer was a Lieutenant on the activation team helping to establish and open the new facility. In 2009, Overmyer was appointed

Deputy Superintendent for Facilities Management and transitioned to Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services in 2010. In 2013, Overmyer was appointed to Superintendent. He was responsible for approximately 650 staff



and more than 2,300 inmates. Overmyer is a U.S. Navy veteran, serving from 1982 to 1986.



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## Cambridge Springs Blood Drive Collects 18 Donations

SCI Cambridge Springs hosted a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross on March 20. A total of 18 donations were collected, benefitting 54 patients.



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## **PBPP Eastern Region, Chester Police Strengthen Bond**

Parole's Eastern Region Leadership Staff met with the Chester Police Department Leadership team on March 21 to discuss the following misunderstanding and to set in place a procedure to ensure the safety of our agents.

On February 14, Chester police were called when Agent Mike Harris and Agent Thomas James were conducting home visits. Neighbors were concerned about the two men with guns, so police responded to the situation. Chester police approached the agents cautiously but as they got closer realized they were wearing Board-issued gear. All staff involved exercised complete professionalism and sound judgement during this incident.

The meeting with the Chester Police resulted in Parole staff being provided with contacts within the Chester police to alert them of our field activity in addition to making arrangements to introduce the Chester Agents to police at their roll call.



**From left: Parole Supervisor Scott Peterson; Major Steven Gretskey, Chester Police; Eastern Regional Director Louis Narvaez; Commissioner Otis Blair, Chester Police; District Director Michelle Rivera; and LT. Nolan, Chester Police.**

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## **Local Parish Thanks Coal Township Inmates**

Mother Cabrini Parish offered thanks to inmates from SCI Coal Township for cleaning up the parish's cemeteries. In a recent church bulletin, the parish highlighted the great work by the inmates, who removed fallen limbs and debris. The entry also thanked Coal Township staff who made the volunteer program possible.

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## **Older Inmates Learn about Medicare at Huntingdon**

SCI Huntingdon welcomed Roslyn Rogers and Zach Valentine from the Pennsylvania Department of Aging into the facility to speak to inmates and answer questions regarding Medicare on March 21.

Recently, inmates over the age of 65 and those turning 65 within 6 months received a letter asking if they wanted to enroll in Medicare. The deadline to enroll is on March 31, 2019, so once we reached out to Rogers and Valentine they quickly scheduled a time to assist and spoke to 43 of our inmates. They spoke on issues regarding what is Medicare and the different types along with answering questions regarding the penalties for not enrolling, late enrollment after the deadline, the penalties for those years over the age of 65, and costs of the premiums if they chose to enroll.

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## EDS Moore Smeal Visits Quehanna Boot Camp

In recognition of Women’s History Month, Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal visited Quehanna Boot Camp on March 20. She spoke to approximately 80 female Boot Camp and State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) inmates, 70 male Boot Camp and SIP inmates and staff.

She spoke about the importance of doing the right thing—even if you stand alone. Know that not everyone will like you, want you or need you but find the strength inside yourself to say you can do it. We all need to help each other, build each other up, not tear each other down. There is power in support and encouragement. There will always be roadblocks—identify them and find a way to break through. Influence your area, don’t let the area influence you. It doesn’t matter where you started from, it matters where you finish. Be willing to give and receive constructive criticism/advice. Be honest with yourself and everyone else. Her final thought to the attendees was to support and be kind to each other—it doesn’t cost you anything to be kind and respectful.

Her message was powerful and well received by the group. We thank EDS Moore Smeal for spending the day with the staff and inmates at Quehanna Boot Camp.



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## Chilcote Honored for 30 Years of DOC Service

Superintendent Jamey Luther presented Peg Chilcote with a certificate to honor 30 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth and to SCI Smithfield. Peg started her career with the Department of Corrections on February 27, 1989, as a Clerk Typist 1 and on April 6, 1997, she was promoted to a purchasing agent position, both at SCI Smithfield.

When asked what the secret is to a long successful career, Peg stated that you need to be a team player, show commitment and perseverance, be dedicated and maintain a strong work ethic.

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## Around the Centers...

### Wernersville CCC Shows Off Progress

Gaudenzia Inc. visited the Wernersville Community Corrections Center to view the enhanced changes that have occurred there. The changes have caused a positive impact on the Wernersville CCC and the reentrants.

Wernersville has experienced zero overdoses since implementing a new entrance and installing a body scanner. The facility has gone from double digit overdoses in 2016 and 2017 to zero in 2018 and zero thus far in 2019. Employment rates have jumped from 32 percent in the beginning of 2018 to 85 percent in 2019 with the additional employment counselor and transportation services being expanded.

Center Directors David Kopinski and Corrie (Anne) Barton took Gaudenzia staff on a tour, and Lt. Somers demonstrated the use of the body scanner.



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## Reentrants Complete Job-Readiness Program

Kintock-Erie CCF female reentrants who took part in "The Lived Experience of Reentry in Philadelphia" graduated on March 7. This event is by Baker Industries, which has a job-readiness program with an intensive curriculum of small group workshops aimed at preparing participants for successful and sustained reentry into the workforce.

The event included poetry, theater, dance and other forms of creative expression on the reentry experience performed by participants in the program.



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Week of March 11, 2019...

## Forest Employees Assist with Welcome Home Surprise

As most of SCI Forest staff are proud supporters of our military, Superintendent Michael Overmyer wanted to share this story.

On Monday Feb 4, Superintendent's Secretary Connie Skibinski received a phone call from Sgt. Josie Stitt requesting her assistance. Stitt explained that she has been deployed in Iraq for almost a year. She was coming home and asked for the prison's help to surprise her mother who is employed at SCI Forest. The proud mother is Tracy Stewart who works in the inmate accounting department.



Supt. Overmyer gladly approved, and so then the secret mission began.

Connie made contact with lobby officers T. Millward and R. Griffin, and of course they were willing to help. On Feb. 7 at 10 a.m., Sgt. Josie Stitt met with Officers Millward and Griffin, and they hid her out of sight. Then the officers called for the assistance of Ms. Stewart. Once at the officer's desk, Stewart was handed some papers "to copy" and when she turned around... surprise! There was her daughter. With the help of accounting assistant Denise Messer, staff was rounded up to observe the surprise as well. There were many tears of joy that day. It was a pleasure to be able to accommodate and take part in such a surprise.

Sgt. Stitt is currently serving in the U. S. Army Reserves under the 665<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment. The group – whose motto is "Small but Mighty" – focused on the Department of Public Works (new construction and maintenance missions) while deployed in Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Welcome home, Sgt. Josie Stitt! We are all happy for your safe return.

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## **Waymart Graduates Additional CPSS'**

On Feb. 25, SCI Waymart held a graduation ceremony for inmates who completed the Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) program, increasing prison's number of CPSS inmates from to 31. Keynote speakers at the ceremony was CPSS program manager Kaitlyn Simon and DOC Mental Health Advocate Lynne Patrone.



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The CPSS program began statewide several years ago to help inmates to deescalate situations that could otherwise get them into trouble or earn them misconducts. Today, statewide, the DOC has approximately 500 inmate CPSS'.



CPSS' are inmates who have had experience with mental health systems and who are now able to complete training to become certified in this area. They are employed in several areas within a facility to help serve the inmate population. In many cases they help to deescalate situations. They also are helpful to staff in the day-to-day operation of the facility and are used in specialized housing units and even infirmaries.

The first group of CPSS' at Waymart graduated on July 20, 2018.

Inmates spend two 40-hour weeks dedicated to learning CPSS skills. The professional certification inmates earn transfers with them to the community upon their release from prison and provides opportunities for competitive employment in the mental health field.

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## **Second Chance Pell Extended through 2019-2020**

On Thursday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) announced its continuation of the Second Chance Pell initiative through the 2019-2020 semesters. The extension of the Second Chance Pell Initiative for its fourth year comes as a relief to those around the country who advocate for access to higher education for the incarcerated population. Since the establishment of the Second Chance Pell initiative in 2016, this initiative has gained a great deal of interest and support. Over 60 higher education institutions have partnered with correctional facilities across the U.S. to create a program with a mission to effectively lower recidivism by providing reliable resources to higher education.

The Pell Grant is designed to provide federal financial support for low-income students seeking to attend college, while also providing increased opportunities for underrepresented groups. Since the creation of the Pell Grant in 1972 post-secondary education opportunities through this style of funding was a consistent resource in correctional facilities across the U.S. Unfortunately, in 1994, The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (crime bill) was enacted, and it prohibited inmates from receiving Pell Grants. The loss of funding caused many higher education institutions to close their doors on partnerships with correctional institutions. Prior to 1994, there were over 350 college programs in prisons, but within ten years of the crime bill being signed less than 15 programs remained. It wasn't until two decades later that the Pell funding was reintroduced to the incarcerated population through the Second Chance initiative.

In 2016, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections created their own program called *The Second Chance Pell Pilot Program* or otherwise known as the Pell program. The pilot was designed as an experiment in order to estimate the true effect exposure to higher education has on recidivism. The DOC's Pell Program is structured as a full randomized controlled trial. Inmates who meet DOC and DOE criteria will be randomly assigned to either the treatment condition; where participants receive the higher education, or control condition; where participants do not receive the higher education.

Both the DOC and the POE have established eligibility criteria in order for inmates to participate in the DOC Pell program. The DOC requires that all applicants must have a high school Diploma or GED; must meet the standards of a high school reading level; and must be within seven years of their minimum release date, but no closer than six months to their minimum release date. Also, applicants cannot be a classified as a sex offender; cannot have any violent misconducts within the past five years; must be in good standing with their institution; and finally, they must be able to meet the requisite requirements set forth by DOE.

In order to receive a Pell grant, applicants must successfully complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is a federal form that is prepared annually by current and prospective college students in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid like the Pell grant. The FAFSA itself is a 10-page application with over 100 questions and can require extra documentation such as proof of selective service registration, tax information, record of finances/ income, and social security information. Obtaining these documents while incarcerated can be challenging because the corrections environment requires the application to be completed on paper and through the U.S. mail system. This process can take several weeks and sometimes months. During this time applicants risk becoming temporarily ineligible, missing out on enrollment periods and potentially losing interest in the program.

The DOC Pell program is currently administered at six State Correctional Institutions (SCI) in collaboration with three postsecondary educational institutions: Bloomsburg University (BU), Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC). Bloomsburg is currently offering coursework for a Certificate in Rehabilitative Justice at SCI Muncy and SCI Mahanoy. Indiana University is currently offering course work for an Associate of the Arts degree in General Studies at SCI Pine Grove and SCI Houtzdale. Lehigh Carbon is currently offering courses for an Associate in Applied Science ("AAS") in Business Management and in Accounting, along with a specialized Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Small Business at SCI Frackville and SCI Mahanoy.

There are 69 active enrolled students in the DOC Pell program with 24 students enrolled with BU, 16 students enrolled with IUP, and 29 students enrolled with LCCC. Since the establishment of the Second Chance Pell program in 2016, the DOC has produced five cohorts and all together 122 students have been actively enrolled in the program. At the end of the 2018 fall semester, Bloomsburg graduated 10 students from its program. Lehigh Carbon will graduate two enrolled cohorts this year. The first cohort will graduate nine students at the end of summer 2019 and the second cohort will graduate nine students at the end of fall 2019. The DOC Pell pilot program is currently in the process of developing its sixth cohort enrollment for the fall college semester of 2019. Classes are conducted in the spring, summer and fall semesters of each year. Students are required to follow all education course policies and standards held by the universities.

Initiatives such as the Second Chance pilot program do more than just lower recidivism. This initiative is working towards improving communities, families and increasing public safety through access to higher education. The DOC prison population has reached record breaking lows and it is a fact that majority of the

prison population will one day be release back into society. It is the responsibility of the state to provide long-term alternatives to crime that will better support our society from a cost perspective, justice perspective and moral perspective. This is done through working to support, secure and improve programs such as the Pell initiative for the long term.

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## **Parole Agent, Daughter Raise \$10,000 for Special Olympics**

Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole agent Donald McMonagle and his daughter, Amanda, recently participated in the Special Olympics Super Plunge in Pittsburgh. Super Plunge is a day-long event in which participants do 24 plunges into the refreshingly 28-degree water and commit to raise a



minimum of \$2,400 for the Special Olympics. This year they joined the team from the Pittsburgh Port Authority, which together raised more than \$70,000. Agent McMonagle and Amanda were able to raise more than \$10,000. Amanda currently attends the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

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## **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Program Being Taught to Dallas VSU Inmates**

Inmates residing in SCI Dallas' Veterans Service Unit (VSU) are being taught a cognitive behavioral therapy program by Eric Darling of Valhalla Veteran Services. The program is being piloted at SCI Dallas, making it the first PA DOC VSU to make this type of programming available.

Of the 130 inmate veterans on the VSU at Dallas, 31 are participating in the program.

Darling, after attending the prison unit's annual Veterans Day program, contacted the VSU's social worker, Jocelyn Hillman, to inform her about the program. Hillman, Darling and the prison's Corrections Classification Program Manager Michael Goynes worked to bring the program to the prison, with each session being monitored by Hillman.

It is a 13-week pilot program that could end up being longer. The purpose of the pilot is to determine what works and to tailor the program for the specific setting of a prison VSU. Sessions are held weekly for two hours and include PowerPoint and videos.

The purpose of this program is to help incarcerated veterans develop an awareness of the transition between military life and civilian life while working on self-awareness to learn the skills needed to have healthy relationships, pro-social behaviors as well as work on their own spiritual development. The concept focuses on successfully transitioning from a "warrior" mindset and finding peace within the veteran themselves.

**About Eric Darling:**

Sergeant First Class (Retired) Eric Darling is the vice president of Valhalla Veteran Services (VVS). He was born in Scranton, PA, and he joined the Army in February 1987. During his tenure as the 55th Brigade Resilience Coordinator Sergeant First Class, Darling developed, managed and delivered the Army's Resilience and Suicide Intervention programs to more than 3,500 soldiers throughout the brigade.

Since 9/11 Darling has lost eight soldiers to suicide, seven in combat and four to combined use of prescription drugs and alcohol. He created Valhalla Veterans Services in 2016 with the goal of helping veterans and their families find connection, purpose and hope.

Readers can learn more about VVS at <http://www.valhallaveterans.com/>

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## Happy St. Patty's from Pine Grove Pups

The puppies of SCI Pine Grove—Wizard, Wrangler, Winston and Watson—wore their St. Patrick's Day best to wish everyone a happy holiday! These five-month-old pups arrived at SCI Pine Grove on Dec. 21, 2018, and they continue training every day with their inmate handlers. They are being trained through New Hope Assistance Dogs to become service dogs for individuals with disabilities.



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## PBPP Support Read Across America

Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole Supervisor India Atkin, Parole Agent Katrina Williams and Chester District Director Michelle Rivera participated in Read Across America 2019. The trio read to 1<sup>st</sup> graders at Chester Community Charter School Innovation Hall. It was the first time the PBPP participated in this event, but it was a very positive experience.

Twenty readers from various careers, including law enforcement, clergy and members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., participated and read to more than 500 students. The event began with the students performing a play called "Misunderstood," where they expressed how they feel adults and parents don't understand them when they express themselves. They highlighted slang and when they're just voicing their opinions yet punished for being "disrespectful."

The group broke up into their classrooms where the adults read Dr. Seuss books—in honor of his birthday being that day—to the kids and answered questions. The students were very interested in Parole and asked about the badges and if the PBPP staff "lock people up."

"I told them our job is to help people," Rivera said.



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## Around the Centers...

### Scranton CCC Donates to McAuley House

Reentrants from the Scranton Community Corrections Center donated more than \$500 worth of needed items to the McAuley House in Plymouth, PA. The house is a shelter for homeless women and families in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, and it aims to help them attain safe, permanent housing.

The reentrants of Scranton CCC take pride in their community service and frequently step up to help others.

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### State Rep. Mullins Visits Scranton CCC

State Rep. Kyle Mullins visited Scranton Community Corrections Center on March 7.

Rep. Mullins learned about the role CCC's play in reentry and toured the facility. Pictured from left: William Davis, chief of staff; Christy Ulrich, regional director; State Rep. Kyle Mullins; and Jeff James, center director.



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# In the News...

## Saving Shelter Dogs

SCI Mahanoy's dog training program was featured in the March 2, 2019, online issue of the Lehigh Times News!

The article by Lisa Price highlights Angel, a dog who was about to be euthanized at an Alabama shelter, but was saved when the Pottsville, Pa., DAWGS program rescued her and other dogs. They were crated, put on a bus and taken to a vet in Tamaqua. At the vet they were examined, treated for ticks, fleas and worms and then vaccinated and spayed or neutered.

The dogs were then sent to three prisons in Schuylkill County – SCIs Frackville and Mahanoy and the Minersville federal prison for training so they could be adopted. Only several weeks into training, Angel now has learned basic commands and walks on a leash.

You can read the entire article online at: <https://www.tnonline.com/spotlight-dawgs-prison-program-benefits-rescue-animals-inmates?sfns=mo>

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Week of March 4, 2019...

## Huntingdon Pups Visit Local School

SCI Huntingdon Canine Partners for Life puppies-in-training, CJ and Able, accompanied by staff handlers Chris and Beth Linn, recently visited the Huntingdon Area Middle School for a working lunch.

Hosted by school guidance counselor Linda Miller, the

working lunch was divided in two sessions and was well-received by students and teachers alike. After visiting several individual classrooms, CJ and Able made surprise visits to the school cafeteria at the beginning of each session to invite the students to bring their lunches and join them in an all-purpose area for their meal period. During each session, the students were given the opportunity to ask



questions about the Canine Partners for Life program and about service dogs in general, while CJ and Able patrolled to ensure that the students were eating all of their fruits and vegetables.

In addition, the students were then given the much-anticipated time to interact individually with the puppies. While many thoughtful questions were asked, and much interesting conversations were shared about the puppies, the time with the puppies was what most of these students really needed and looked forward to. Smiles, giggles and full-belly laughs filled the meeting area. Some students happily sat quietly one-on-one with a puppy, petting him and talking softly to him, content to share a moment of quiet mutual acceptance and love. Other students huddled around a puppy in groups of laughing, talking, hugging joy.

Even the most hesitant of students couldn't resist the lure of a wiggling puppy coming up to say hello.



Miller shared that the time spent with the CPL puppies is the only reason that some of the students have to smile and be happy for those few moments, and she was extremely grateful to SCI Huntington and Canine Partners for Life for giving those moments to those most in need, and all of the students at HAMS.

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## Somerset Honors Sgt. Baserman with Memorial Service

By Christie Schenck,  
Public Information  
Officer

Feb. 26 was a day of commemoration, thanks and fellowship at SCI Somerset. We came together that day in remembrance of the End of Watch



for our hero, Sgt. Mark Baserman, on the one-year anniversary of his death. This day one year ago started out like any other, but this day went on to end unlike any other with Sgt. Baserman succumbing to his injuries from a brutal inmate assault 11 days earlier. This is a stark reminder of the dangers we face day in and day out as corrections officers and corrections professionals.

We welcomed his wife, daughter and grandchild as our honored guests, with plaque presentations from Larry Blackwell, president of the Pennsylvania Correctional Officers Association, as well as SCI Somerset staff at a 9 a.m. ceremony to "Remember our Hero" in the lobby of Somerset. We remembered Sgt. Baserman as a man of service not only within the DOC but to his country in the U.S. Army and his community as an EMT with East End Ambulance Service. We spoke of a friend, a role model and most importantly family.

At 1:45 p.m. we held a tribute in our chapel for our uniformed and non-uniformed staff for fellowship and to reflect on the tragic loss our institution suffered and the



year in between. In his opening remarks at this service, Supt. Eric Tice said, "In this field of corrections, we often see the worst that humanity has to offer... but this tragedy also showed us the best that humanity has to offer."

The support that SCI Somerset received from neighboring SCI's was immense. Tice went on to say "That is what makes the corrections family so special. This love, compassion and respect is what forges the Blue Steel that binds us all together. This Blue Steel is a blend of courage, sacrifice and service to others."

Tice conveyed in his closing remarks that "Sgt. Mark Baserman is a hero, not because of how he died, but he is our hero because of how he lived. A man of service, sacrifice, honor and courage."

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### **Smoking Cessation Information Program Held at Waymart**

In February, Janan Loomis, PA-C, Wellpath, presented a one-hour Smoking Cessation Information Program for seven SCI Waymart inmates. Future classes are in the planning stages.

Many smokers have testified that it is as difficult to quit as heroin or cocaine. And although tobacco use causes multiple, serious health problems, nearly 40 million Americans light up every day. Quitting smoking can be very difficult and often takes multiple attempts. But despite the challenge, more than 1 million Americans quit smoking each year. Beginning in 2002, the number of former smokers surpassed the number of current smokers, proving that although becoming smoke free may be a very difficult challenge, it is not impossible.



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# Notes from the Field: Evidence-Based Practice

## Research as Responsible Practice

By John Wetzel, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Secretary

February 15, 2019

*This article was published on the website for the National Institute of Justice*

It sounds embarrassingly simple: Stop doing things that don't work and do more of the things that do. Yet we blindly pour millions of dollars into corrections programs and practices without demanding improved outcomes like reduced violence or recidivism. When you consider the stakes of corrections work and the sheer volume of the lives we impact, I see basing decisions and policies on research as the only means to go about responsible practice.

At the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, research has become part of the fiber of who we are as an organization. In 2014 we began a long-term partnership with New York University's BetaGov, which supports practitioner-led research in the public sector. This partnership has been key for scaling research within our organization. With BetaGov, we have completed and published more than three dozen trials, with hundreds more studies still in progress.

### Promoting Trial, Celebrating Error

The only way to improve outcomes is to try something, measure it, and scale it if evaluation shows that it is promising. If it's not effective, we figure out why, adjust, and try again. A study that shows absent or negative effects isn't a failure — we learn as much from these studies as we do from studies that show what does work. When we saw mixed outcomes from the research trial of an in-prison swift, certain, and fair (SCF) program, it forced us to look at the policy and design to understand why. We're now adapting a more consistent policy that builds on strengths in areas of the program that showed positive outcomes.

In Pennsylvania we still struggle with drugs coming into our facilities, and we have tested various ways to curb this problem. We experimented with sending letters to family members to warn them of the consequences of bringing drugs into our facilities. It sounded like a good idea and I thought it would work. But when we measured outcomes, the data told us that the letters didn't have a positive impact on drugs in our facilities — we actually saw a slight increase in drugs after this trial. Given this result, we won't waste money on that program. Along a similar vein of experimenting, we tried a new approach to drug interdiction that involved phone monitoring and led to the biggest drug bust in the history of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

### Keeping an Open Mind

In Pennsylvania, we've been willing to study everything. We did a study on aromatherapy in restrictive housing units. I thought this study was ridiculous, but the data told us that aromatherapy does reduce violent incidents, and it's cheap, so this is something we're taking to scale. Another study with results that surprised

me involved providing more colorful bed linens for inmates. We seem to enjoy especially good outcomes in trials where we've introduced additional choice to inmates.

Many of the ideas for studies we carry out come from our line staff. I spent nine years of my career as a corrections officer, but sitting at the top of an 18,000-person agency, it can be difficult to see the on-the-ground implications of policies and protocols. In conducting research, it's been important to find and implement a mechanism to consistently get input from line staff in a way that is meaningful and measurable. If there's a complicated problem that we have to solve as an organization, we involve as many staff as we can in the solution. Directors of departments of correction come and go, but ideas with agency-wide buy-in will stay.

### **Iterate With Inertia**

Our research partnership with BetaGov has taught us the importance of rapid iteration. We need to not only employ measurement and iteration, but do this within as short a timeframe as possible. Beginning in 2011, our department made transformational and expansive policy changes over an 18-month period, sparked by a Department of Justice investigation into our use of restrictive housing. In implementing these rapid changes, we developed a greater sense of urgency around conducting research to inform how we do business. This inertia is important. Long bureaucratic timeframes can kill staff enthusiasm and innovative ideas. Without timely turnaround, we lose momentum and enthusiasm, and a study's results become less relevant.

Corrections isn't a field known for being agile or receptive to change. Directors of state departments of corrections are always going to face resistance to change. But given high rates of violence in our facilities and recidivism after release, I see the status quo as much more dangerous than trying new things. I'm often asked how Pennsylvania has been able to engrain research into the way we do business, but I don't know how we could not do anything without measuring it and adjusting it based on the outcomes. I'm shocked by the notion that we would do anything without trying to maximize efficiency, safety, and effectiveness both within our facilities and as inmates reintegrate into their communities. Within our department, research, evaluation, and rapid iteration have become part of our institutional fabric and how we relate to the world.

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## Mercer Recognizes the 2018 Employees of the Quarter

Superintendent Melinda Adams is pleased to announce those staff who were selected as SCI Mercer's 2018 Employees of the Quarter. These staff members were nominated by their peers and selected as Employees of the Quarter for their outstanding service and commitment to excellence.

Adams presented each employee with a framed certificate of appreciation at the administrative meeting during the quarter that each was selected.

Pictured with the awardees is Adams in addition to their respective supervisors as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter: Lt. Vernice Phillips; 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter: Major Paul Brocklehurst; 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter: Deputy Shane Dady and CCPM Lisa Graves; and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter: Deputy Shane Dady.

Congratulations to all for their exemplary work and contributions to SCI Mercer.



1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018  
Dana Custer, Commissary Clerk



2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2018  
David Fyock, Corrections Officer 2



3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2018  
April Harvey, Activities Manager



4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018  
Joyce Deemer, Barber Manager

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## St. Tikhon's Seminary Continues 32<sup>nd</sup> Year of Work with Waymart Inmates

In February, St. Tikhon's Seminary interns held a service of intercession in the prison's auditorium, ending a full day of visitation with inmates. During the Winter/Spring semester there are eight interns coming to the prison once a week to spend time with the inmates. The targeted inmate population this semester were inmates in the Intermediate Care Units under the guidance of Fr. John Kowalczyk. Deacon Matt Lorent took interns to the medical units and infirmary, and Rabbi Kolakowski took interns to general population. This semester begins the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of formal affiliation with SCI Waymart.



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## Waymart Staff Deliver Pizza to Veterans Shelter

SCI Waymart Superintendent Kevin Ransom, Deputy Bobbie Bassett, CHCA Desiree Hartman, Deputy Joseph Grillo, CCPM David Gorman and CSA Christine Altemier delivered "Little Caesars" pizza and visited St. Francis Commons Veterans Shelter for homeless veterans, in Scranton, February 27. Steve Nocilla, Director of Housing &



Residential, was thrilled to give them a guided tour along with Ryan Pollock, Veteran Program Director. This program has been in existence for 29 years and this is their third location, the new location is a brand-new construction. The shelter houses 30 veterans, one of which is female, and the veterans can have one emotional support pet. Currently three dogs have homes there with a veteran. This is an 18-month program that offers therapy, has recreational facilities and even has a garden where they grow their own vegetables. A spring visit will be planned for a cookout.



**Pictured above are SCI Waymart Supt. Kevin Ransom and St. Francis Commons Director of Housing and Residential Steve Nocilla and staff associate Rich.**

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## Young Earns Albion Key Award

The administration of SCI Albion awarded Amy Young, clerk typist 2, the “Albion Key Award” on Feb. 26. This key is utilized to award an employee for their excellent work ethic, character and demeanor, both inside the institution and out. It recognizes someone’s outstanding acts or achievements in our community in many different aspects such as acts of kindness, heroism or just being a positive role model to others.

On Dec. 19, 2018, Amy Young came upon her brother-in-law, lying on the floor in his residence. Qualified as an EMT, Amy quickly assessed that he was not breathing and was already turning blue. Unable to find a pulse, she called emergency medical services and began CPR. She was able to revive her brother-in-law prior to arrival of EMS and he was transported to Cleveland Clinic where he was diagnosed with a stroke. He was recently released from the hospital, and Amy continues to assist with his recovery at home. Not only has Amy immediately become an outstanding employee for this facility, but her heroic efforts on that day involving her brother-in-law exemplify what the Albion Key Award stands for. Congratulations!



**Pictured from left to right: Mike Edwards, RN supervisor; Michael Clark, superintendent; Amy Young, clerk typist 2; Paul Ennis, deputy superintendent for centralized services; and Bryan Flinchbaugh, deputy superintendent for facility maintenance.**

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## Coal Township Employees Recognized for Years of DOC Service

Superintendent Tom McGinley recently presented certificates and service pins in recognition of DOC service to four staff members for their years of DOC service.

Corrections Labor Foreman Tim Curran and Corrections Labor Foreman John Fellin were each recognized for 25 years of service. Tim and John both started their careers in Corrections at SCI Coal Township. McGinley also presented certificates and service pins to Corrections Officer Scott Feese for 20 years of service and Corrections Officer Jill Whipple for 25 years of service.



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## Mahanoy COT Bachert Earns Image Award

Congratulations to CO Trainee Jennifer Bachert for receiving the Professionalism Image Award during her Basic Training Class 1901 at the Training Academy. Cadets selected for this award demonstrated the highest level of professionalism during Basic Training and are recommended by the instructors.



Pictured: Lt. Joseph Biscoe (training lieutenant) and COT Jennifer Bachert

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## Coal Township Staff Go “Dough” Nuts!

SCI Coal Township staff were treated to fresh homemade doughnuts in recognition of Fat Tuesday, also known as Fastnacht or Doughnut Day. Doughnut Day is the last day before Lent, the 40-day season before Easter, which begins on Ash Wednesday.

A fastnacht is a heavy, yeast raised potato doughnut that is typically prepared on Fat Tuesday. These doughnuts are part of Easter traditions in Pennsylvania Dutch country, which includes Lancaster, York and Berks counties in south-central Pennsylvania.

The term “fastnacht” comes from the German words “fast,” a shortened form of the verb “fasten” meaning “to fast,” and “nacht,” which means “night.” Fastnacht Day is the eve of the Lenten fasting period that many Christian denominations observe. Tradition holds that on this day, households use up all the fat and sugar in the house before Lent begins. This practice also gives Fat Tuesday its name.

Coal Township's employee recreation association provided the doughnuts to all staff on Doughnut Day. The doughnuts were purchased from Hollywood Bakery in Mount Carmel, a favorite local establishment.



Employee Recreation Association members were at the facility early to bag the doughnuts for distribution to staff. Shown are Unit Manager Kathy Biscoe, ERA Secretary; Unit Manager Bryan Toms, ERA Board Member; Captain Jeff Madden, ERA Board Member; Psychological Services Specialist Nicole Tasker, ERA Board Member; and Lieutenant Rick Shippe.

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## **Inmates Receive Fire Safety Training at SCI Coal Township**

At the request of Triumph, SCI Coal Township's inmate organization, Safety Manager Greg Fabrizio and Sergeant John Ferrari presented a fire training to inmates who signed up to attend the class. More than 60 inmates were in



attendance. The presentation took place in the gym and consisted of home fire safety information and recent fire statistics.

Staff and inmates extended their appreciation for the opportunity to attend the training. Inmates claimed that this information would be shared with their families and can be used when they are released from prison.

All inmates who participated received a certificate of completion.

Triumph members requested another fire training class be held in the future.

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## **Smithfield Celebrates Black History Month**

By Reverend S. Morris and Lisa Hollibaugh

SCI Smithfield celebrated Black History Month on Feb. 27 with a program themed "Diversity and Inclusion as it Relates to the Dream." The event began with the singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing", often known as the African American National Anthem, and followed by special music and readings given by several inmate participants. Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal was the keynote speaker at the event.

Black history recognition began in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson who said, "If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated." He and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History launched a "Negro History Week" to bring attention to this mission and help school systems coordinate their focus topics. Woodson chose the second week of February as it encompassed both Frederick Douglass' birthday on February 14 and Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12. A number of mayors had adopted the celebration as a municipal event. President Gerald Ford decreed Black History Month a national observance in

1976 on both the 50th anniversary of the first iteration and America's bicentennial year. Ford said in his message, "We can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishment of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Black History Month held in February then began yearly thereafter nationally.

Moore Smeal delivered her address entitled, "Perseverance Gives Sight to the Things We all Hope For."

Perseverance, she said, is being able to wait and work through difficulties whether they have to do with your mind, body or emotions.

Perseverance means not giving up no matter what. She said you

must have insight and intuition, because everything is relative to sight or the lack thereof, and we must realize that sight is unique to each person's point of view.

One must also have hope. Hope is being able to be optimistic with an expectation of positive outcomes. Hope allows you to expect with confidence. She referred to Frederick Douglass, the well-known African American patriarch mentioned earlier, who said, "Without a struggle, there can be no progress."

Moore Smeal pointed out that Douglass was not referring to the struggle created by bad choices, but instead struggling and persevering for what's right. The struggle and pain is real. The need to persevere is real for without it, there can be no progress.

She quoted a well-known civil rights activist and African American poet, Maya Angelou, who suffered tremendous hardships and wrote about her hardships in poems and novels. She became an example of self-determination through perseverance. She spoke on Jackie Robinson, the famous baseball player, who demonstrated the trait of perseverance by not quitting the team despite being faced with racism and discrimination. He realized the struggle was bigger than he was. Robinson went on to accept the challenge and persevered. She cited many more heroes and heroines including Abraham Lincoln, Albert Einstein, Michael



Jordan, Bill Gates, The Beatles, Oprah Winfrey and more who at first failed but did not give up and persevered.



Moore Smeal encouraged and challenged the audience with the picture of a little boy and his father. The father says, "Son, be careful where you walk." The son replies, "Dad, you be careful where you walk because I am following in your footsteps." She asked the audience whose footsteps they were following in, if they

are being careful where they walk, and if they know who is following in their footsteps. There are 80,000 children who represent the children of incarcerated parents and asked whose footsteps they are following in.

In closing, she told the men that they don't have to let their circumstances define them despite their situations. She told them that they can define their circumstances and have the ability to do so much more than time. She asked the men, "Are you doing time or are you letting time do you?"

One of the program participants read a popular piece entitled "Never Give Up." In the story, a young lad, who was hoping to win a race, slipped and tripped and fell flat on his face. Embarrassed and sad, he wished he could disappear. When on the ground he saw his father's face which said to him, "Get up and win the race." He got up and raced with all his might to bridge the gap but he fell again.

He was embarrassed and disgraced and laid there and thought that he had lost and what is the point in getting up again as he would never win the race.

A low voice echoed inside his head stating, "Get up and take your place. You were not meant to fall. Get up and win the race. You haven't lost at all. For winning is no more than rising each time you fall." He rose once more to complete the race knowing even if he loses, he did not quit. After the race, he said to his dad, "I'm sorry I didn't do too well." His father replied, "To me you won. You rose each time you fell."

A special part of the program was the revealing of a painting done by inmates at Smithfield which depicts Moore Smeal and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

representing justice and Mother Teresa and Malala Yousafzai representing humanitarianism. The painting will be hung and displayed in the education building at SCI Smithfield.

A smaller, framed painting was presented by the inmate population to Moore Smeal of several influential African American leaders such as Malcolm X, Barrack Obama, Frederick Douglas, and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

King best summed up the essence of what Black History Month represents when he stated, "We are not makers of our history. We are made by our History."

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## **Mercer Holds First "Inside-Out" Class In Conjunction With Slippery Rock University**

On March 6, Dr. Sarah Kuehn, assistant professor in the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice at Slippery Rock University (SRU), and 11 of her students taking the Criminology Inside-Out Prison class participated in a tour of SCI Mercer. Corrections Superintendent Assistant Andrea Shiock led the tour with the assistance of Lt. Jon Jarzenske, who both fielded many questions from the group.

The Inside-Out class is structured to bring together "inside" students (incarcerated individuals) with "outside" students (SRU students) to study and collaborate on academic projects. According to the course syllabus, the class is designed to provide students with a broad social psychological understanding of both the effects of crime on community structures and the challenges the criminal justice system faces in responding to crime in our contemporary society.



As part of the class and in an effort to learn more about the institution and the services available to the inmate population, the students toured the facility to see firsthand the prison environment under which the "inside" students live. As students in the Inside-Out course have an interest in working in the criminal justice system, having the opportunity to see the facility, along with the services and programs available to the incarcerated students in the program, is invaluable to their educational experience.

Despite the frigid winter weather, the group had the opportunity to tour the Veterans Service Unit, the Therapeutic Community, in addition to the reception unit, the education department and the library. Staff who work in these areas gave

the students an overview of their work and answered numerous questions posed by the students.



**LEFT:** Pictured with the SRU students in SCI Mercer's atrium are Lt. Jon Jarzenske (back row on left), who assisted with the tour and Dr. Kuehn (back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right).

**RIGHT:** Pictured are the SRU "outside" students and the inmate "inside" students during their first Inside-Out class together held at the facility on March 6<sup>th</sup>.



Schools/colleges interested in touring SCI Mercer as part of their curriculum may contact Ms. Shiock to make arrangements.

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## **Black History Month Events Held at SCI Mercer**

To celebrate Black History Month each year, SCI Mercer's Activities Department coordinates special events weekly throughout the month of February. Some of this year's popular events included:

February 2 - A concert by Blu Pi, a band famous for songs including: Rock With You, Crazy, Superstition, Ribbon in the Sky, 24K, Treasure, Earn it, and Isn't She Lovely.

February 8 - Comedian Michael McDaniel from Detroit had the audience laughing and speaker Mark Weir who spoke on the topic, "We are more alike than different."



February 9 - The Inmate Activities Committee (IAC) raised funds by hosting the 4th Annual Polar Bear Walk. Participating in this event helps the men experience and understand what others go through who may be without shelter in the winter coldness. Once the walk was completed, the men warmed up in the gym and listened to speakers Albert Beinhardt, a current resident at Joshua's Haven, and John Swetz, the director of Joshua's Haven. This year's event raised \$300 for Joshua's Haven, which provides on-site temporary, emergency shelter for homeless men in the community.

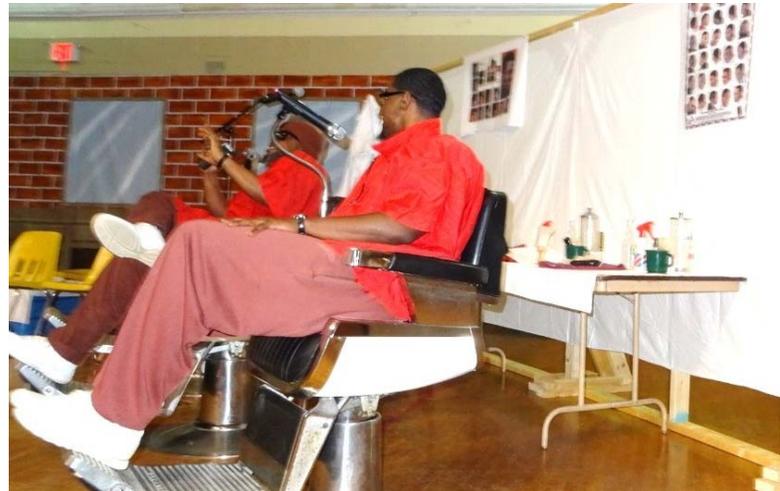
February 15 - Bingo night, which is always a popular activity.

February 20 - Paint night with munchies was held, which is another popular activity.

February 23 - Movie night in the gym, presenting the movies *Venom* and *Night School*.

February 28 - The inmate cast and crew of "The Shop," a three-act play written, produced and directed by SCI Mercer's Pastor Validia Giddens, performed to a crowd of 125. The production gave the audience a historical perspective of African American barbershops in America and was based upon information extrapolated from the book, "Cutting Across the Color Line: Black Barbers and Barbershops in America" by Quincy T. Mills. The purpose of the play was to increase the audience's knowledge of the cultural contributions of African Americans.

March 7 - A rescheduled event was held with 64 men in attendance. Wes Lyons, author and professional motivational



**Inmate actors perform the play "The Shop," which gives a perspective of African American barbershops in America.**



speaker, was guest speaker at this event. Drawing on his athletic background and book, "The Pursuit with Patience: positivity, planning, and persistence," Lyons talked to the group about there being no impossible goals as long as you have the right attitude and tools to achieve them.

During the month, the annual Black History Month Essay and Art Contests were held. Participants could choose from four topics on Black History to write about and



**Pictured with Lyons (center) are Activities Specialists Chad Ford and Stephen Pearson, Activities Manager April Harvey, and Treatment Specialist Banita Howell.**

art submissions had to be related to Black History.

"Voted Best" in each is to be announced.

Educational movies were shown on the institutional TV channel as well, including: Nelson Mandela: Journey to Freedom; America's Black Warriors; Underground Railroad: The William Still Story; A Fighting Force; The Black American Experience: Langston Hughes and Thurgood Marshall, A History of Black Achievement in America; Slavery and the Making of America.

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# Around the Centers...

## BCC Honors Retiring Staff Member

The Bureau of Community Corrections recognized Program Manager Janeen Christ with a Certificate of Appreciation. Janeen is retiring March 8 after 20 years of service to the DOC.

During her career she held various titles, however she always placed the success of the reentrant and department at the forefront of her work.

Janeen will be very missed by all those who know and interacted with her!

**Pictured: Janeen Christ and BCC Director Daniel McIntyre.**

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Week of Feb. 25, 2019...



## Teacher Spotlight: SCI Waymart's James Mitchell

The life of a chef can be tough.

The work is demanding, the hours are long and atmosphere can be intense.

For James Mitchell, it meant moving and working up and down the east coast, including jobs in Florida, Maine and Boston—which was in a 5-star restaurant.

In Sept. 2002, Mitchell took a job in a different kind of kitchen: the kitchen at SCI Waymart. For five years he worked as a food service instructor, and in 2007 he became the Restaurant Trades instructor.

**HEAD OF THE CLASS**

<b>Name:</b>	James Mitchell
<b>Facility:</b>	SCI Waymart
<b>Subject:</b>	Restaurant Trades
<b>Length of Service:</b>	12 years
<b>Why:</b>	"It makes you feel good when you see someone doing well."

A photograph of James Mitchell, a chef in a white uniform and tall hat, standing in a kitchen. Several other staff members in white uniforms with 'DOC' on their backs are visible in the background.

The logo for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, featuring a stylized 'P' and the text 'pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS'.

And it was all for his family.

"I have two boys, and they're my life," Mitchell said. "I'm able to have more of a family life than with the chef life."

Chef Mitch, as he's known to his inmates, teaches three different courses: the 6-week ServSafe class; the 12-week retail commercial baking class; and the intensive 36-week culinary arts cook level 2 class. It all begins with ServSafe, then inmates pick which they want to take if they choose to continue.



"We don't make anything so large," Chef Mitch said. "Just enough for the class to eat. They enjoy it because they're in jail and this is good food. We share to the control center or other teachers."

"They enjoy seeing the outcome and tasting their product."

The biggest hurdle Chef Mitch faces is the education level of his students. Although Waymart boasts some "unbelievable" teachers, he said, a lot of his

students enter the programs struggling with math and measurements.

The complexity of cooking is the biggest surprise to his new classes.

"They think they're just going to cook some food," he said. "Then they realize everything behind it. They don't realize what it's called or how it actually works."

After release, Chef Mitch's students have gone on to make very successful careers in the culinary arts. Some inmates report to counselors that they've found success thanks to Chef Mitch and his class.

But the biggest special moment that drives it home for him happens right in SCI Waymart.

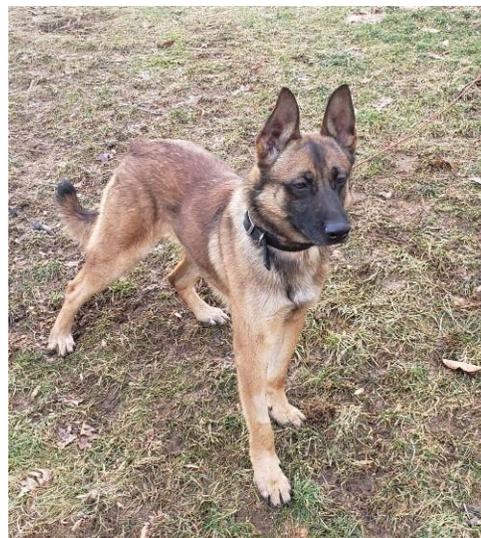
"When we do our graduation ceremony, my class provides the food for it," Chef Mitch said. "The inmates get to perform for this. One guy's family came and saw him graduate and make the food. His parents were very proud of him that he has a successful thing."

"It makes you feel good when you see someone doing well."

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## **New K9 Joins DOC's Drug Interdiction Unit**

Bobi, a nearly three-year-old male Belgian Malinois, is now on duty with the DOC's Drug Interdiction Unit (DIU). Born in Poland, he came to us from U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Front Royal, Va.



Certified on all major drug odors, Bobi is the DOC's first Fentanyl detection dog.

Sergeant Jeff McCusker is currently training with Bobi at the DOC's K9 Academy for three weeks so they can get used to each other. They will certify together in early March and soon will be out in the field finding substances.

In the short period of time Sgt. McCusker and Bobi have been working together, they are working together nicely, making a perfect team. Sgt. McCusker is described as a strong handler, and Bobi needed a handler like Sgt. McCusker. The DOC expects great things from this K9 Team.

"I am extremely grateful that U.S. Customs and Border Protection reached out to the PA DOC K9 Unit to give us the opportunity to work with such an amazing K9," said Daniel G. McMahon, DIU/K9 coordinator.

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## **Department of Corrections and Civil Rights Groups Announce Progress Toward Settlement of Legal Mail Lawsuit**

Corrections Secretary John Wetzel announced in February that substantial progress has been made toward resolving a lawsuit involving legal mail processing in state prisons. The parties are working to finalize the details of the agreement.

The department will implement an enhanced security screening procedure by April 6th that will allow inmates to receive original legal mail documents. The new procedure will protect institutional security concerns and safeguard the confidential delivery of privileged correspondence.

"The DOC respects the right of attorney-client privilege and recognizes the importance of attorney-client relationships," said Secretary Wetzel. "At the same time, the DOC has a responsibility to ensure that prisons are safe for those who work and live in them. We feel the plan agreed to by the parties meets both of those objectives."

The DOC had implemented changes to the legal mail process last September that involved scanning legal mail as part of sweeping new security measures undertaken in order to limit the flow of drugs into its facilities after a significant uptick in the number of staff exposures and inmate overdoses.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit include the Abolitionist Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, Amistad Law Project, the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP) and an inmate named Davon Hayes, who is incarcerated at SCI-Smithfield.

The department will continue to post information on its public website regarding progress resulting from this and other security changes that have been made to combat the introduction of drugs into the prison system.

The department created a "Drug Interdiction Performance Measures" dashboard that contains data about key indicators of drug-related activity within the facilities, including: the rate of inmate drug finds, the rate of inmate drug tests that come back positive, the rate of drug-related misconducts, the rate of inmates overdosing or being sent to emergency rooms for drug exposure, the number of staff taken to emergency rooms for possible drug exposure, and the rate of inmate violence against staff and other inmates. On all of these measures, the average numbers since the changes were made is lower than the average numbers for the one-year period before and leading up to the changes.

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## SCI Muncy Historical Records Head to State Archives

By Tyler Stump, Archivist

Staff at SCI Muncy recently sent an exciting collection of historic records to the State Archives in Harrisburg. Dozens of photographs, scrapbooks, admission books, and other records dating back to the 1910s will now be stored in the archives' state-of-the-art facility and preserved for future generations. All the records can be seen at the State Archives building in Harrisburg.

In 1913, the state legislature passed an act establishing the "Industrial Home for Women at Muncy." The first woman was admitted in 1920 and Muncy's population grew steadily in the following years. Many new buildings were built in the 1930s, several are still standing today. Originally, the institution was built to house first-time female offenders between the ages of 16 and 30, but the maximum age limit was removed when Muncy was transferred from the Department of Welfare to the Department of Justice (now Corrections) in 1953.

By 1955, eleven cottages were built on Muncy's grounds. According to one publication found in the State Archives, "the cottages are homelike in atmosphere with pianos, radios, and record players in the living rooms where each evening, except Sunday, the girls may congregate, play the piano, listen to the radio, sing, play cards, crochet, embroider, and on Saturday nights dance until 8:00 o'clock...the beautiful campus and well-kept, mountain stone buildings compare most favorably with those of the best of our modern American colleges. It is hard to believe that such beauty and freedom could ever be associated with a penal institution." Another record in the archives states that "each girl is encouraged to use nail polish, rouge, and lipstick, and to arrange her hair attractively. Every individual girl is issued three print dresses which she wears to religious services and movies, as well as at all other appropriate times."

Inmates were kept busy working on Muncy's 828-acre farm, cannery, and power sewing shop throughout the year. They were paid two cents an hour for their work.





In the 1950s, Muncy also offered vocational and business classes in the winter months to help women find employment after they were paroled. When an inmate was paroled, she was given \$10, a suitcase with several outfits, a "very stylish hair-do," and a ride to the train or bus station.

The State Archives in Harrisburg collects and preserves historical records and photographs from correctional facilities

to preserve them for future generations of Pennsylvanians. If you have any historical records like ledgers, newsletters, photos, or scrapbooks that tell the history of the Department of Corrections, contact your agency Record Coordinator, Launa Kowalczyk (717) 728-4058 or Archivist Tyler Stump (717) 783-9874.

The Pennsylvania State Archives is home to more than 250 million pages of historical records dating from the 1600s to the present day. To learn more please visit the archives website: [www.phmc.pa.gov/archives](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/archives)

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## Waymart Wrap-Up

- SCI Waymart's Culinary Arts Program now has 13 inmates participating in the program, where they earn their ServSafe Certification and learn the basics of culinary arts, including appetizers, entrees and desserts, all made from scratch. Additional Culinary Arts Programs are operating at SCI Muncy and the DOC's Elizabethtown Training Academy. Plans are under way to start one at SCI Phoenix.
- Inmate artists at the prison recently completed wall murals. Several years ago, the DOC gave approval for prisons to paint encouraging and enlightening murals on walls throughout their prisons. Here are images of some of Waymart's latest murals:



- SCI Waymart has increased its number of inmate Certified Peer Support Specialists from 17 to 31. The Peer Support Specialist Program, which is coordinated by DOC Mental Health Advocate Lynn Patrone, was begun several years ago in an effort to help inmates to deescalate situations that could otherwise get them into trouble or earn a misconduct. Today, statewide, the DOC has approximately 500 inmate Certified Peer Support Specialists.
- The dog training program at SCI Waymart is in the process of training several dogs that will be given special missions. One will help an autistic child; two will be for military veterans; and one previously-trained dog was returned and is doing well in an environment geared more toward his needs. SCI Waymart partners with New Hope Assistance Dogs, Inc., out of Warren, Pa., who sends a trainer to the prison weekly to work with inmate handlers. Unit Manager Jody Smith oversees the Puppy Program, and others on the committee include Joe Karlavige, Karen Obelenus, Kathy Millard, Deb Solomon, Kris Quinn, Jamie Chiampi and Amanda Taylor.



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## Coal Township Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Superintendent Tom McGinley recently presented certificates and service pins in recognition of DOC service to Captain Louis Morris for 25 years of service and Corrections Officer Chris Bauman for 20 years of service.



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## Impact Services Educates Smithfield Inmates

Eric Grimes, mentoring program coordinator from Impact Services, visited SCI Smithfield on Feb. 19 to teach inmates about the services his organization can provide.

Along with Joseph Douglas, a former SCI Smithfield inmate who is now involved in Impact Services, Grimes explained how Impact



Services can offer reentrants mentoring services to include goal-setting and attainment, mindset and motivation, support-seeking skills and behaviors and positive connections. Inmates can also take advantage of networking events,

family/community events, job club sessions and career pathway and life opportunity coaching.

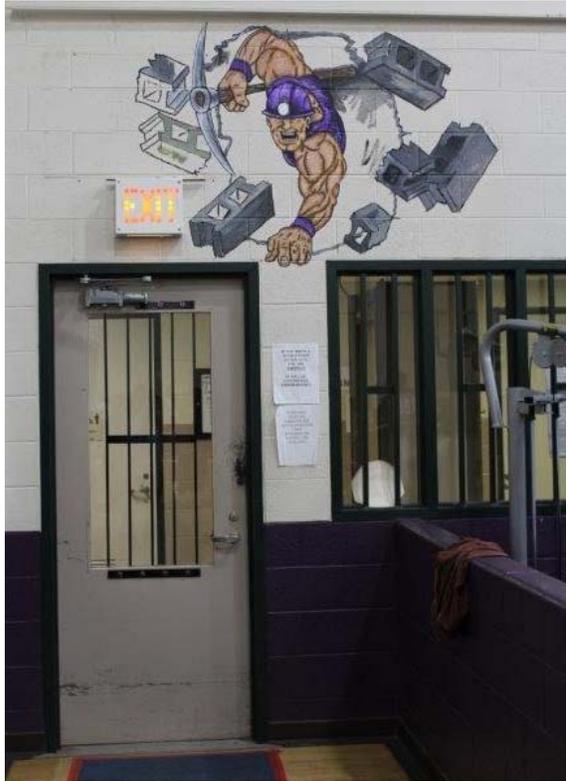
In addition, they can offer housing and workforce services such as rental assistance, housing placement, security deposits, transportation assistance, computer literacy classes and job training/placement. Once an inmate is paired with a mentor, Impact Services will tailor the mentoring to fit that inmate's particular needs. The mentors will then visit the facility and conduct an orientation session and schedule monthly visits with the inmates.

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## **New Artwork Added to Coal Township's Gymnasium**

New murals were recently added to the gym walls at SCI Coal Township. Murals were painted by staff and inmates assigned to the Mural Painting Work Detail. Check out the great work!





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## 'Take-Out Tuesday' a Success at Camp Hill

Psychological Service Specialist Danielle Tedesco has successfully coordinated another "Take-Out Tuesday" at SCI Camp Hill.

Staff were able to purchase pizza from Papa John's Pizza at this event during their lunch breaks. These special treats were available on all shifts, and a variety of foods were offered including specialty pizza as well as breadsticks and desserts. This latest event took place Feb. 19. Previous caterers included Sir D's, Joey's Chicken Shack and Mel's Rock N' BBQ. This event has become a crowd favorite at SCI Camp Hill and is something staff look forward to.



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## Pine Grove Inmates Participate in Black History Month Art Contest

The SCI Pine Grove Activities Department held a Black History Month Art Contest for inmates with the theme "Iconic Figures in African American History." Each inmate was eligible to submit one work of art, with prizes ranging from \$10-3 for the top three finishers. The winning pieces will be displayed on the inmate channel. Take a look at first, second and third place (from left to right):



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## **Snow, Sleet Keep Inmate Workers Busy at Coal Township**

SCI Coal Township's Compound Inmate Work Crews have kept busy lately with snow and sleet clearing, followed by clean-up of anti-slip materials. The work crews have done a nice job keeping the sidewalks cleared which ensures safety of staff and inmates traveling to and from buildings inside the facility.



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## **DOC Boxing Records Preserved at State Archives**

By Tyler Stump,  
Archivist

On a rainy night in 1978 in Lewisburg, Union County, 1,400 men crowded into a boxing arena. In the ring, they watched Clarence Miller take on the reigning 125-pound state champ, Ronald "Bartender" Barr. Of the 10 matches that



Saturday, this was the only championship matchup and the crowd was dazzled by their thrilling fight. Narrowly defeating Miller, Barr came out on top and was voted the outstanding boxer of the night.

These men were no ordinary boxers. They were all members of a new rehabilitative prison boxing program that operated in the 1970s and early 1980s, and the match was the first live sporting entertainment the federal penitentiary in Lewisburg had ever hosted.



The 1970s were difficult times for Pennsylvania's prisons. New laws and sentencing policies were putting Pennsylvanians behind bars at rates higher than ever before. Officers struggled to work with a dangerously disproportionate staff-to-inmate ratio. Prisons were aging and in disrepair, making living conditions difficult and hazardous for most inmates.

Remembering the recent 1971 Attica prison riot in New York and several outbreaks of violence in Pennsylvania

facilities, Department of Corrections officials looked for ways to ease tensions and maintain order among nearly 10,000 inmates and staff.

The boxing program was the brainchild of William Robinson, who had just been appointed Commissioner of Corrections. An amateur boxer in his younger days, Robinson hoped that boxing would provide a physical and emotional outlet and prevent confrontations between frustrated inmates and officers.

In just a few years more than 1,400 inmates across the state took part in the boxing program. The best boxers from each state correctional institution were even invited to travel and compete against each other in exhibition matches held everywhere from the Allentown State Fair to Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

One of the most successful fighters to come out of the state prison boxing program was Bernard Hopkins, who would later win multiple world championships in the middleweight and light heavyweight classes. Incarcerated from 1983 to 1987, the Philadelphia native discovered boxing in his SCI Graterford cellblock. "When I saw a guy murdered for a lousy pack of cigarettes, something in me snapped," he later said, "I knew that I had to be responsible for turning my life around." Hopkins found a trainer and mentor in cellblock neighbor Michael Wilson, a former prison boxing champion himself. Wilson's rigorous training regimen and Hopkins' experience boxing at SCI Graterford prepared him for what would be one of the longest and most successful professional boxing careers of all time.

The boxing program was short lived and quietly ended in the mid-1980s. Even in its heyday boxing could never have solved all of the problems in Pennsylvania's prisons. Overcrowding, dangerous living and working conditions, and budget issues were simply too much for the boxing program to knock out on its own. Nevertheless, officials did believe that it helped keep prison assaults and misconducts down by more than 50 percent.

Equally important, boxing helped restore some dignity to participants. Like other prison superintendents SCI Pittsburgh's James Howard wrote that boxing gave the state's prison community support and exposure. "Most importantly," he said, "this exposure has been in a positive nature. The citizens of the Commonwealth have seen that institutions are not like those portrayed in movies or on TV screens and that our facility houses individuals who are human beings."

Historical records from the DOC Boxing Program were recently found at SCI Camp Hill and were sent to the State Archives in Harrisburg. Items like newspaper clippings, photos, and letters from fans will now be preserved for future generations.

If you have any historical records that tell the story of the Department of Corrections, please contact your agency Record Coordinator, Launa Kowalczyk (717) 728-4058 or Archivist Tyler Stump (717) 783-9874.

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BERKS COUNTY PRISON  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1978

These bouts are sanctioned by the Middle Atlantic Association of the A.A.U. and under the supervision of the State Athletic Commission.  
Nick Santoro is the Deputy in Charge representing the State Athletic Commissioner.  
Any of these bouts are subject to a last minute change.

160 lbs.	Junnie Haggood Graterford	vs.	Arthur "Breeze" Baylis Camp Hill
156 lbs.	Gordan Balestrieri Dallas	vs.	Charles Regina Camp Hill
135 lbs.	Walker Bebe Graterford	vs.	Benjamin Thompson Dallas
156 lbs.	Joseph Lapatina Dallas	vs.	Chip Johnson Camp Hill
125 lbs.	Ronald "Bartender" Berr Dallas	vs.	Grandy Miller Camp Hill
145 lbs.	Jerry Martin Graterford	vs.	Allen Dozier Camp Hill
145 lbs.	Tyrone Moore Dallas	vs.	J.C. Phillips Camp Hill
156 lbs.	Ace Holley Graterford	vs.	Tony Mobley Dallas
160 lbs.	Lonnie Dawson Graterford	vs.	Al Washington Dallas
175 lbs.	Frank Lee Graterford	vs.	Warren Hammond Dallas

Other boxers on hand and ready to box:

#1	Ted Gumby, SCIG	vs.	Ralph Cannon, SCIG
	Robert Wise, SCIG	vs.	Peterson, SCIG
	James Collins, SCIG	vs.	Jowling, Graterford

*Handwritten notes:*  
 - Blue circles around names of winners in the main bouts.  
 - "WON" written in blue ink next to winners.  
 - "#1" through "#10" written in blue ink next to boxers.  
 - "BEST FIGHT - STRUCK BY CRACKING" written in blue ink next to the Berr vs. Miller fight.  
 - "Evan Rubin Reading Eagle" written in blue ink at the bottom left.  
 - "E. Howard Nelson Programing" written in blue ink at the bottom center.  
 - "Nick Santoro" written in blue ink at the bottom right.  
 - "WON" written in blue ink next to the Cannon vs. Peterson fight.  
 - "WON" written in blue ink next to the Jowling vs. Peterson fight.

## IUP Nursing Students Tour Pine Grove

On Feb. 26, students from Indiana University of Pennsylvania's senior nursing program toured SCI Pine Grove. They visited the young adult offender unit, program services building, B Unit—to visit the New Hope puppies—and ended with a medical tour.



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Week of Feb. 18, 2019...

## **Mason Named SCI Retreat Superintendent**



Bernadette Mason, a 21-year DOC veteran, was named superintendent of the State Correctional Institution at Retreat on December 30, 2018. She replaced Superintendent Vincent Mooney, who retired after many years of service to the DOC.

Mason, who earned a bachelor of arts in psychology, with a minor in biology, from Shippensburg University, began her DOC career as a corrections counselor 2 at SCI Mahanoy in January 1998. Over the course of her career she has served as acting unit manager, corrections superintendent assistant/public information officer and unit manager, all at SCI Mahanoy. She transferred to SCI Retreat in January 2014 to serve as corrections classification and program manager, and in April 2016 she returned to SCI Mahanoy to serve as

deputy superintendent for centralized services.

As superintendent of SCI Retreat, Mason is responsible for overseeing operation of a facility that houses approximately 1,060 inmates and employs 405 individuals.

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## **House Members Tour SCI Phoenix, Including Correctional Industries**

The Pennsylvania Correctional Industries management team met three members of the PA House of Representatives and their staff and provided a tour of the correctional industries located within SCI Phoenix. The members of the PA House of Representatives included the Hon. Joseph Ciresi, the Hon. Steven Malagari and the Hon. Joseph Webster, all representing districts in Montgomery County, PA.

The tour of SCI Phoenix was arranged with the institution by the House of Representatives. The representatives were interested in viewing the institution's correctional industries, as well as a variety of other operation centers within the prison including the visiting area, medical, dental and infirmary locations. The reps asked many questions, including the cost of incarceration, educational and vocational programming, inmate pay, rate of recidivism and much more.

All representatives and assistants came away with a better understanding of PCI, our mission and the benefits of "teaching inmates to work in PA."



**Pictured from left: Kristina Owens, SCI Phoenix CSA; Michael Hays, legislative assistant; Rep. Steve Malagari; Bradford Patterson, Correctional Industries sales representative; Heather Hyvarinen, legislative assistant; Rep. Joseph Ciresi; Rep. Joseph Webster; Sarah Calvin, legislative assistant; Alex Teplyakov, legislative assistant; Konteh Khelleh, Correctional Industries director; Tracy McCullough, Correctional Industries sales and marketing manager; Rich Gaul, Correctional Industries assistant director; and Gina Orlando, SCI Phoenix CSA.**

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## **Happy Valentine's Day from SCI Mercer**

For the past 10 years, the Inmate Activities Committee (IAC) purchased flowers for the men to give to their loved ones as they visit on Valentine's Day. This year the men were able to present red and pink long-stemmed carnations to their family member as they came into the visiting room.



This event is popular at the facility, and the men look forward to it each year. They have expressed that being able to give a flower to their loved one as they visit them on Valentine's Day gives them an opportunity to show their gratitude for the continued support they receive from their loved one.



Superintendent Melinda Adams said "Not only is this uplifting for both the men and their loved ones on Valentine's Day, this gesture of thoughtfulness also helps to bond the family together."

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## **Smithfield Holds Lunch and Learn, Fundraiser**

The SCI Smithfield Empowerment Committee held a very successful and well-attended lunch and learn session on Feb. 13.

Ron Probst, a former teacher at Smithfield, presented staff with information on financial

planning and retirement. Lunch for the session was ordered from Domino's Pizza, where a percentage of the day's proceeds were donated to a staff member at SCI Smithfield who is suffering a serious illness and unable to work. In addition, Superintendent Jamey Luther allowed for staff to order from Domino's on all shifts to support.

In total we were able to raise \$660 for our staff member in need.

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## **Central Office Completes Food Drive**

The food drive held at Central Office raised 117 pounds of food for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who participated!

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## History Made in Philadelphia County

Congratulations to Darlene V. Miller, who was sworn in at City Hall in Philadelphia as the new Chief of Philadelphia County Probation and Parole. Darlene made history as she became the first female to ever hold this position.



**Pictured (from left): District Director Michelle Rivera; Deputy Secretary Christian Stephens; Chief Darlene V. Miller; and Regional Director Louis Narvaez.**

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## **Inmates Participate in Day of Responsibility at Camp Hill**

The Day of Responsibility was held at SCI Camp Hill on Feb. 16. This year featured several

guest speakers including Vladimir Beaufile from Sounds Community Solutions; Karen Laird (pictured), the director of outreach and programming from the Office of Victim Advocate; and Derrick James of Helping Individuals Succeed.



Various topics were presented on the day's theme of "From Boys to Men." More than 200 inmates attended the morning session, and approximately 170 participated in the afternoon. In addition to hearing from the guest speakers, participants had the opportunity to hear presentations from the committee members of the Day of Responsibility as well as to ask questions of all the presenters. The day was a true success!

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## **Camp Hill Sells Donuts to Benefit Scholarship Fund**

On Valentine's Day SCI Camp Hill had a donut sale to benefit the Sgt. Mark Baserman Scholarship Fund. More than 1,200 donuts were sold. There were initially 90 dozen donuts purchased to sell in the morning with an additional 10 ½ dozen purchased by mid-afternoon. Every donut was sold!



SCI Camp Hill is pleased to be able to donate \$900.00 to the scholarship fund. Many staff donated their time selling donuts. A special thank you to the ERA for loaning out the money for the initial donut purchase, and to Mary Lou Law for organizing the event.

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## **Waymart Inmates Hold Ceremony, Banquet**



On Feb. 7, SCI Waymart's inmate organization -- WINGS (Waymart Inmates Nurturing Growth and Stability) -- held its third annual banquet to honor inmate members for their hard work and dedication in 2018. Most of the members volunteer to help with various committees and fundraisers held throughout the year.

WINGS donated \$2,553.01 to local charities this past year. One of the donations was made to Marley's Mission, located in Clarks Summit, Pa. The guest speaker at the banquet, April Kemp, is the founder and program director of Marley's Mission. She emphasized how important donations are to her foundation.

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## Around the Centers...

### BCC Partners with PA National Guard on Drug Awareness

The Bureau of Community Corrections had its first training in partnership with the Pennsylvania National Guard on drug awareness, specifically the “Opioid Threat in the Community” and the impact and awareness of Fentanyl.



Forty staff members from several BCC Centers, parole agents and SCI Camp Hill staff were in attendance at the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center on Ft. Indiantown Gap.

These trainings are free of charge, and this partnership will continue throughout the state this year and moving forward. As trainings are scheduled, BCC will reach out to local and state law enforcement, support SCIs and PBPP staff to participate.

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### Bilwin Named BCC Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Lt. Lori Bilwin for being named Bureau of Community Corrections’ Employee of the Quarter for the last quarter of 2018.

Bilwin undertook center and field lieutenant positions and oversaw multiple searches—all while remaining positive. Her professionalism and efforts to improve security through training and by example were also cited as why she was deserving of the honor.

Pictured from left: BCC Deputy Director Teresa Pinard; Lt. Lori Bilwin; and BCC Director Daniel McIntyre.



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## Gannon Students Visit CCC

Erie Community Corrections Center (CCC) hosted two tours from Gannon University. During the tours the students learned of the mission of the DOC's Bureau of Community Corrections and an overview of Erie CCC operations. Students toured the facility and participated in a question-and-answer session after. Students on Feb. 14 were from a criminal justice/intro to corrections class, and students on Feb. 15 were from a social work and services class.



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Week of Feb. 11, 2019...

## Greene Employee Discusses Hostage Negotiations at Recent FBI Course

As part of the FBI Basic Crisis Negotiation Training held at Allegheny Police Academy on Jan. 7-11, Sergeant Cliff Standard, who serves as the Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) assistant team leader at SCI Greene, assisted with scenarios and discussed trainings and challenges of the hostage negotiation team within a prison environment.

This opportunity was made possible when FBI officials asked previous class participants to volunteer in role playing during their training.

Standard stepped up and gave a presentation called "The Challenges of Negotiating in a Prison Environment."



A majority of training attendees are from the FBI, police and sheriff's departments. Officials believe that adding a corrections perspective to the training has provided a wealth of information to attendees.

"Most of the time, in the community, these individuals are dealing with active shooter, hostage and suicidal-type situations. So, when it comes to hostage/crisis situations and negotiations, adding corrections HNT staff to the training was a good enhancement to the course," Standard said.

Greene's HNT is the most-called upon team to use their skills for a variety of prison-related reasons. HNT members never want to be called out due to anybody being held hostage, but if they are called for that, they are prepared.

Standard began his DOC career at SCI Greensburg in 2007 and transferred to SCI Greene after the closing of Greensburg in 2013. He learned about the HNT during his DOC basic training and knew it was something he wanted to do and thought that it would be similar to work he did in the military.

After serving his country and prior to working at the DOC, Standard was a law enforcement instructor with Penn State and assisted in instructing police that respond to schools with active shooter trainings and the constable training

program. When that opportunity ended, he says he “went from Penn State to the state pen.”

Standard’s work in this training area outside of the DOC began in March 2014, when he and several of Greene’s HNT team members gave a presentation for Waynesburg University’s Mock crime scene workshop.

“I am very proud of Sgt. Standard and the entire SCI Greene HNT – and all of our employees and teams for that matter. Our employees’ ability to share their knowledge, skills and expertise with other law enforcement entities is yet another way to give back to our local communities and keep them safe. I couldn’t be prouder of the SCI ‘Greene Team’.”

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## **New Pharmacy Contract Estimated to Save \$1 Million Annually**

The Department of Corrections has entered into a new contract arrangement through the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy (MMCAP) to continue to purchase drugs through Diamond Pharmacy Services, a move that is estimated to save the commonwealth about \$1 million a year.

Under the contract, effective February 1, the DOC is paying a reduced price for each prescription dispensing fee - the charge incurred for each prescription filled – and the agency will not have to pay transmission fee (the costs associated with getting prescription data from pharmacy to electronic health record).

The contract will also provide access to generic drugs whenever possible and offer same day delivery to all prisons to ensure swift commencement of therapies prescribed.

“This agreement is a win-win for the DOC,” said Christopher Oppman, the DOC’s deputy secretary for administration. “It will provide more efficient pharmaceutical distribution services to our facilities, while also achieving cost-savings for the commonwealth.”

The DOC’s budget for prescription drugs for the inmate population is roughly \$48 million a year.

The Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy (MMCAP), created in 1985, is a free voluntary group purchasing organization operated and managed by Minnesota’s Department of Administration for government healthcare institutions.

MMCAP’s mission is to provide, through volume contracting and careful contract management, the best value in pharmaceuticals and related products to its members - eligible governmental health care facilities.

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## **Arboriculture Training: Ohio DRC Officials Follow in Steps of Pennsylvania DOC**

Shea Zwerver, community engagement coordinator for the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, shared with PA DOC staff recently that the arboriculture training program that began at SCI Rockview's Forestry Camp in 2017 is being replicated at Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

"This came to fruition when a manager in the tree care industry who works in Ohio read an article on our work and inquired, then I reached out to my counterpart in Ohio. Then months later, on February 6, I kicked off the first class," Zwerver said.

Correctional Newsfront readers will recall that in April 2018, SCI Rockview opened its Forestry Camp to reporters to cover the arboriculture class there:

### **Teaching Inmate Arboriculture** (from April 11, 2018)

Thanks to a partnership with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), inmates are learning about arboriculture, with the intent of providing inmates with a skill they can use upon release from prison.

At the prison James Savage, who is an instructor of arboriculture at Pennsylvania State University, teaches the inmates at SCI Rockview the same thing he teaches Penn State students. Savage said there is a huge demand for general workers in this field. He said that while it's not a popular field, it is a fun, great job that is physical.

"If you are a good athlete and enjoy a challenge, this is a great job," Savage added.

When asked about how the inmates are reacting to the training, Savage said, "Any time you teach, the first couple of days people are afraid and then they learn to trust the equipment. It's a fun progression to watch."

Savage said the outdoor classroom at the prison is great, and he said the guys are fun.

"Initially I thought, 'What have I done,' but once I got to know the guys, I actually enjoy working with them. It's a good experience for me, and hopefully it's a good experience for them that will lead to them getting jobs once they are released from prison."

Devin, one of the inmates involved in the program and who is afraid of heights, said the program builds confidence. When he's up in a tree, he tries not to think about the height. He believes the hands-on training and repetition helps to make the duties easier and helps to build confidence.

"There are not a lot of trees where I'm from, and I hope to get into this industry upon release from prison," Devin said.

Anthony said it feels awesome to have this opportunity and to be able to start a career upon his release from prison.



"This is an opportunity I wouldn't necessarily have had. This gives me the ability to tell future employers that I've got the skills they are looking for and hope that they would give me a chance."

When asked about the hands-on experience, Anthony said, "Things look completely different and feel different from a tree. You can't get these skills from just a book or classroom, you need to get the hands-on experience of actually being up in a tree."

This is a neat program that gives you the ability to do other things besides climb trees. It's more than just pruning trees. I hear there is a big demand for people who can do this type of work, so you can leave prison with a high chance of being hired upon release from prison.

In November 2018, the DOC announced that the Tree Tenders Program at SCI Huntingdon was continuing, showing that Rockview wasn't the only state prison in Pennsylvania with an arboriculture training program for inmates:

## **Tree Tenders Program Continues at Huntingdon**

A Tree Pruning Workshop was held at SCI Huntingdon on Oct. 19, 2018, the second part of the Tree Tenders Program that was held at the prison in June 2018.



The workshop is a collaborative effort between the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Tree Vitalize and Penn State Extension. Thirty inmate participants and four work supervisors were given classroom training on proper pruning techniques. After the classroom training was completed, the workshop moved outside onto the Huntingdon grounds. All participants were given the opportunity to put their training to use on several trees utilizing a variety of hand tools for pruning, as well as poles saws. Participants will receive a certificate.

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### **4th Annual Polar Bear Walk Held at Mercer**



The Inmate Activities Committee (IAC) at SCI Mercer hosted its 4th annual Polar Bear Walk on Feb. 9. Forty-two participants walked nine laps, which is two miles, around the yard on the brisk 18-degree morning. Once completed, they went to the gym to warm up and listen to a presentation on homelessness from Albert Beinhart, a current resident at Joshua's Haven, and John Swetz, the director of Joshua's Haven.

The purpose of the Polar Bear Walk is to help the men who participate to understand what others who may be without shelter in the winter coldness go through. Those who participate are encouraged (but not required) to underdress for

the weather conditions to get the experience of what it may be like to be out in the cold without warm clothing or shelter.

This year's event raised \$300 for Joshua's Haven, located in Sharon, Pa. This organization provides on-site temporary, emergency shelter for homeless men in the community. Once they have met all clearances, the men are offered a clean, safe environment at the shelter where they can sleep, take a shower, get a hot meal, and take advantage of supportive and spiritual services at the mission. The men's ministry staff and resident assistants are on-site during all the hours of operation. Joshua's Haven also offers the Bread Program that gives free bread and other small items to those in need every Saturday and Sunday.



The IAC donation will go toward providing shelter and food for the homeless men at Joshua's Haven. Swetz and Beinhardt, volunteers from the organization, were present to accept the donation.

Pictured left to right accepting the donation are John Swetz and Albert Beinhardt with Activities Specialist Chad Ford.



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## Waymart Holds Town Hall Meeting for Inmates



SCI Waymart unit managers and administrative staff recently held their first Town Hall Meeting with assigned inmates from each block. Highlighted discussion included temperatures in the institution, mail publications, supplies, capacity in dayrooms, kiosks, phone lists, hand sanitizer throughout the institution and more. The complaints were appropriate and relative to the entire community.

Prison officials plan to hold these meetings each month.

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## Smithfield Hosts Blood Drive

SCI Smithfield, in partnership with its neighboring SCI Huntingdon, hosted an employee blood drive on Feb. 12. Various staff from all disciplines participated, and close to 30 units of blood was collected.



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## **SCI Rockview Hosts Centre County Criminal Justice Day**

By Dwayne Heckert, DOC Legislative Liaison

On Feb. 12, Rockview SCI Superintendent Mark Garman and Corrections Superintendent Assistant Nikki Paul were joined by a few of Rockview's corrections officers and administrators to welcome nearly 50 participants of Leadership Centre County (LCC) for a tour of the prison.

The tour is part of the Centre County Criminal Justice Day which provides the opportunity for program participants to learn how the corrections system works not only in their community but across the Commonwealth and nation. The program is a result of Senator Jake Corman, Representative Kerry Benninghoff, Leadership Centre County and the DOC working together to educate local leaders about criminal justice issues.

The morning began in the visitor waiting room with Superintendent Garman and Thomas Kistler, a retired senior judge from the Centre County Court of Common Pleas, welcoming the participants. They explained the visitor check in process and procedures associated with inmate visitations. They also provided an overview of Rockview's 104-year history and the various services that are provided to inmates. In addition, they highlighted what the participants would see throughout their tour and provided some guidelines to ensure a safe and orderly visit.

Following orientation, participants were assigned to a smaller groups to begin their tour of the facility. After the experience of moving through the sally port, they entered a general population unit, the mental health unit, a special management unit and a therapeutic community unit to learn firsthand from the staff as to how services in each area are provided to the inmates.

One of the highlights was the opportunity to meet "Kugo" a three-year-old St. Bernard and his inmate trainer. The trainer provided an overview of the dog training program and the benefits it not only provides to the inmates but the dog's future owners. Kugo's trainer is a lifer who has been in the state prison system for 50 years. He talked about his experience in the corrections system and how the dog training program provides he and his housing block with a sense of purpose and hope for the future.

After seeing the operations of the SCI, the group gathered in the chapel where they discussed the areas they had toured. Judge Kistler provided a summary of court system in relation to sentencing guidelines and what they mean to an inmate.

An inmate peer support specialist discussed his personal experience of how he came to be an inmate of the DOC. He acknowledged that his alcohol addiction led him early in life to crime in order to support his habits. This resulted in his conviction and sentencing to five to seven years in the state's correctional system. He talked about how he initially resisted any therapeutic programming but after encouragement from SCI staff and some inmates, decided to try and change his life. He acknowledged that without the support of the prison's therapeutic team he probably would not be alive today. As a result of his experience, he joined the Peer Support Specialist Program in the hope of helping other inmates realize their potential to focus their lives on overcoming addiction. LCC participants had the



Items such as energy bars, granola bars, tuna fish, beef jerky, Slim Jim sticks, canned chicken, tea, nuts, baby wipes, cough drops, hard candy, puzzle books and games were sent to troops currently deployed in Afghanistan in care of U.S. Army Sergeant Zachary Fish. Sgt. Fish is the son of QBC's Inmate Records Supervisor Bonnie Fish (pictured above left with QBC's C.O.V.E.R. Chair Jaime Rauch).

Thanks to staff generosity, several care packages will be sent throughout the month of February.

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## **Chester Honors Employees of the Quarter**

SCI Chester recently celebrated its Employees of the Quarter for the final quarter of 2018.

Maintenance managers Michael Selby and Guy Guiliante and Food Service Manager Keith Miller consistently maintain positive attitudes, are well-respected by staff and inmates and continuously go above and beyond to make Chester great!



**Pictured from left: Major Aponte; Maintenance Manager Michael Selby; Food Service Manager Keith Miller; Maintenance Manager Guy Guiliante; and Deputy Superintendent for Facility Management Kenneth Eason.**

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## Chester Staff Supports Souper Bowl

SCI Chester recently participated in the “Souper Bowl of Caring.” Chester staff was asked to join the fight against hunger by donating non-perishable food items to local pantries, such as Cityteam, The Bernadine Center and Chester Eastside. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national event, and last year it collected 35,586 units of food that were delivered to local food pantries.



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## PREA Auditor Field Training Program Completed at Pine Grove

SCI Pine Grove hosted a PREA training audit for the Auditor Field Training Program (FTP) on behalf of the National Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Resource Center (PRC). The training audit was in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice (US DOJ) and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).



The facility’s training audit took place Feb. 3 – 8, and served as a site for six auditor candidates who are required to participate in a FTP training audit as a condition of certification. The FTP provides direct field auditing experience in a supervised and supported environment for US DOJ-certified PREA auditor candidates. The goals of the FTP are to strengthen auditor candidates’ PREA auditing skills, improve understanding of the standards, increase experience with

the PREA auditing process and methodology and allow for hands-on use of the audit instrument.

The training audit followed the course of a typical PREA audit, which includes three phases: pre-audit, onsite audit and post-audit. Auditor candidates performed the work of the audit through all phases, with oversight, mentoring and review provided by an experienced field training auditor. The training audit is not an actual audit that meets the requirement that the facility be audited according to the PREA standards, but it very closely mimics a true audit and the results will be helpful to assess and prepare for the facility's readiness for compliance.

The facility will receive a written interim report and corrective action recommendations from the audit team. This report will not be an actual report for the purposes of complying with the PREA audit standards and is not intended to be published by the facility. The intent of the written report is to provide the facility with thorough and helpful feedback on its compliance with the standards. Once the report is delivered, the PREA Resource Center will provide up to 20 hours of technical assistance to help develop action steps based on report recommendations, and to assist with post-audit implementation. There is no cost to facilities for participating in this unique training.

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### **Juvenile Lifers, Philadelphia DA Celebrate Milestone Decision**

The Youth Sentencing Reentry Project held its 3rd annual celebration of Montgomery vs. Louisiana, which paved the way for new sentences for "juvenile" lifers. Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner was a guest speaker, along with several juvenile lifers and reentrants.



DOC staff helps prepare juvenile lifers for their release using virtual reality technology, teleconferencing and much more. Along with parole agents, DOC staff also keeps track and monitors them after release.

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## Around the Centers...

### Computer Instructor Goes Above and Beyond in Erie

Kintock-Erie Computer Lab Instructor Amar Jones has shown an excellent level of dedication toward assisting reentrants with obtaining employment.



He developed a curriculum for both group home and parole violator reentrants that is geared toward computer literacy, interviewing skills and not only obtaining employment but also skills to help the reentrants retain their employment.

Amar went to each dorm area and promoted his classes directly to the reentrants, who were able to see firsthand his enthusiasm towards assisting them. He has also volunteered to assist the parole violator reentrants with conducting Jumaah services inside of the classroom. Amar donated religious reading material and Islamic attire (kufi) to the reentrants who participated.

In a short period of time, Amar has provided the reentrants with the skills that they need to assist them with their reentry into the community, while also ensuring that the no-movement reentrants (PV) can still participate in religious services while they are confined to the facility.

*Kintock-Erie is a facility that contracts with the DOC's Bureau of Community Corrections to provide reentry services.*

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### Scranton CCC Collects Clothing for Veterans

Throughout January, reentrants at the Scranton Community Corrections Center collected nearly \$400 worth of clothing to donate to the Gino J. Merli Veterans Center. The center is one of six veterans homes operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.



**Pictured: Deputy Commandant Kathleen Ambrose and Counselor Kenny Jordan**

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## In the News...

### Life-long Learning Institute Offers Program on Quehanna Boot Camp

By Gant Team, Gant Daily

<https://gantdaily.com/2019/02/11/life-long-learning-institute-offers-program-on-quehanna-boot-camp/>

CLEARFIELD – Clearfield Community Life-long Learning Institute offered a program on Quehanna Boot Camp at Lock Haven University – Clearfield on Feb. 5 with presenters, Scott Carter, Jim Stover, and Bonnie Fish.

The Quehanna Boot Camp program began in 1991. This program is a Cognitive Restructuring Program based around military concepts.

If inmates successfully complete the six-month program, they are Administratively Paroled (in most cases, prior to their sentence minimum).

The Boot Camp Program accepts both male and female inmates. As of July of 2018, Quehanna has graduated almost 10,000 inmates.

In 2006, Quehanna began accepting inmates into the State Intermediate Punishment Program (SIP), which involves a four-month Therapeutic Community (TC).

As of July of 2018, Quehanna has graduated over 5,000 inmates from SIP. Quehanna has three male and one female TC.

Each TC houses approximately 50 inmates. As part of the SIP program, Quehanna operates a male and a female Opioid TC.

For information about the 2019 upcoming classes, please contact the CCAA at 814-765-2696 or visit [www.ccaa.net](http://www.ccaa.net).

Programs and services of the agency are funded in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging Inc., Mature Resources Foundation and local and consumer contributions.

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Pictured, from left to right, Scott Carter, captain of the guard, Jim Stover, supervisor corrections classification program manager, and Bonnie Fish, records supervisor.

Week of Feb. 4, 2019...

## Highlighting DOC Career and Technical Programs

By Terri Fazio, Director  
DOC Bureau of Correction Education

February is Career and Technical Month, so the DOC is taking this opportunity to highlight three of its programs:

### Culinary Arts Program

The DOC runs three Culinary Arts Programs and plans to add another one over the next few months at SCI Phoenix.

Everyone is most familiar with the program run out of the DOC Training Academy. Inmates interested in participating in that program can express an interest to do so, and if they meet criteria set by the Food Services Division in conjunction with the Bureau of Correction Education, inmates are transferred to SCI Camp Hill to complete the nine-week program. The inmates reside at the prison, but are transported by DOC staff each day to participate. Once complete, the inmates have earned a ServSafe certificate that is nationally recognized. This certificate helps the inmate to be one step ahead of others that may be in line for the same job.

**Training Academy Culinary Arts Chef Todd Lewis teaches inmates how to roll out pie dough.**

The DOC also operates this program at SCIs Muncy and Waymart. They are very similar to the Academy's program, but in addition to ServSafe certification, the inmates also can earn NOCTI certification in baking or cooking (level 1). This is an additional certification that is nationally recognized, and during this portion of the course, inmates learn the basics of being a short order cook or sous chef.



### Flagger Program

In May 2016, each state prison had at least one instructor trained by Pennoni Associates in Flagger certification. This curriculum is written in conjunction with rules and regulations set by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

This is a 20-hour course that any inmate can take. Once completed, the inmate receives a card showing satisfactory completion and certification. The card is recognized by a majority of the companies hiring flaggers for highway construction jobs.



**Ralph Herge, building trades/carpentry instructor at SCI Chester, teaches inmates how to be flaggers.**

Once certified, instructors immediately implemented the class within state prisons and, to date, more than 5,000 inmates have successfully completed the class.

The most exciting part is that reentrants are acquiring jobs in this field and being paid life-sustaining wages. Some success stories have been received from former SCI Cambridge Springs inmates, several of which work with these companies and support their families through the wages earned being a flagger.

## **Construction**

The Bureau of Correction Education has many vocational programs that are seated in the construction field.

One of these is the Construction Cluster Class at SCI Houtzdale. While most of other programs focus on one trade, this program provides entry-level instruction in several areas.



All the construction-related fields within DOC facilities offer a National Center for Construction and Education Research (NCCER) certification that can be confirmed by potential employers via the center's website. While in this class, the inmate students have the opportunity to receive CORE (basic site and tool safety), Level 1 Masonry, Level 1 Carpentry, Your Role in the Green Environment and Roofing Application.

Additionally, each student that goes through the course also is provided OSHA certification. When an inmate completes this course, he is well rounded in entry-level construction skills and OSHA certified, which makes him much more enticing when applying for a job.

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## Creating a Recipe for Success

By Amy Worden, Press Secretary

The DOC's Culinary Arts Program Director Todd Lewis took his chef's toque on the road in late 2018 to pitch food industry employers about the benefits of hiring program graduates.

Working in an informal partnership with the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association (PRLA), Chef Lewis made presentations at chapters in Lancaster, York and Harrisburg. He said attendance ranged from



about 15 to 50 people and employers expressed interest in learning more about the program and its graduates.

"They said we are forgiving places, willing to give people a second chance," said Lewis, who shared his contact information with a number of attendees.

He said employers were interested in what kind of skills the inmates learned in the program and about their criminal backgrounds.

The nine-week program provides training in basic cooking skills and all participants graduate having completed the ServSafe certificate requirements for food handling safety.

The ServSafe certificate alone is worth its weight in gold, said Lewis, noting that one graduate was just hired by a major supermarket chain in Philadelphia as a result of having the certificate in hand.

The DOC's culinary arts programs operate at three institutions. The primary program is located at the Training Academy in Elizabethtown, a second program for men is held at SCI Waymart and the first formal program for female inmates started at SCI Muncy last year. Since the first program started in 2003, hundreds of inmates have mastered basic food service skills that prepare them for future jobs.

Lewis, who is now a member of Lancaster chapter of the PRLA, said he looks forward to conducting more presentations to potential employers in 2019. Representatives of the PRLA will be attending an upcoming program graduation luncheon, too.

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## **Parole Agents Save Unconscious Person's Life**

On Jan. 29, Parole Agents Maria Rosario and Bryan Hess came upon an unconscious individual on the ground between two cars on Norris Street and Marshall Street in Philadelphia. While Agent Rosario called 911 for assistance, Agent Hess administered Narcan to the individual, who was revived as a result. EMS arrived and took over the care of the individual, who ended up refusing medical treatment.

The actions of these two parole agents show the importance of their having a supply of Narcan on hand.

Thanks to Agents Rosario and Hess for their actions that resulted in saving a life!

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## Coal Township Inmate Praises Sergeant

An inmate at SCI Coal Township who recently witnessed staff responding to an unresponsive inmate wrote the following to Superintendent Thomas McGinley:

"On Jan. 26, I watched Sgt. Hayes from my cell in the early morning when he was called to a cell to begin CPR on an unresponsive inmate.

What made me write this and show you my appreciation was that the sergeant continuously tried saving this man's life. He performed CPR on him for at least 45 minutes, and he was one of the last to leave the cell.

I didn't expect that, and it made me look at the sergeant in a different way. I have much respect for Sgt. Hayes for doing this. It was more of his will to try and save the inmate's life than just trying to save his life. So, I just wanted to acknowledge that and give respect where it was due."

--Marquis W.

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## Moore Smeal Addresses Reentrants at BerksConnections

Pennsylvania DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal recently spoke to graduates of Berks Connections/Pretrial Services' Rebuilding Reentrants and Reading (R3) graduation.

Offering words of support and encouragement Moore Smeal addressed 15 participants – nine who are on state parole and six on county parole. In addition, to Moore Smeal three previous graduates addressed the group. Also attending were Commissioner Christian Leinbach, Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt, COO Dan Fogarty, Common Pleas Judge Theresa Johnson and Rob Reed, who is executive deputy attorney general for public engagement.



BCPS/BerksConnections is a 501c-3 non-profit agency that assists individuals and families involved in the Berks County Criminal Justice System. It helps individuals and their families involved in the Berks County Criminal Justice System to successfully reenter the community and provides outreach to their families and children and mentoring/fellowship programs at the Berks County Jail.

Rebuilding Reentrants and Reading (R3), began on October 2, 2017. R3, funded by a U.S. Department of Labor Reentry Projects grant, is an eight-week training that includes evening classroom instruction at Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center (RMCTC), hands-on learning which occurs on site at Habitat for Humanity Berks County (HFHBC) properties and their woodshop, and an employment-focused cognitive curriculum delivered by BCPS staff. R3 site supervisors are responsible for transporting program participants to varied educational and work locations, overseeing the work performed and communicating participants' progress to case managers. Case managers provide job search assistance and work with individuals for one year following their graduation from the training. Participants also have the support of a mentor throughout their participation in the program. This comprehensive training program in the construction trades will allow returning citizens to give back to the community while obtaining marketable skills.

According to BerksConnections, graduates are experiencing much success – more than 80% are stably employed and 96% have not returned to jail or prison.

You can [follow BerksConnections on Facebook](#).

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## **Leadership Centre County Visits SCI Rockview**

On Feb. 6, individuals attending Leadership Centre County's Criminal Justice and Government Day spent several hours at SCI Rockview to learn about and tour the prison. At the end of the visit, a debriefing was held in the chapel, where DOC Secretary John Wetzel, Senior Judge Tom Kistler and an inmate spoke to the group.



Leadership Centre County is a nine-month program that educates participants about the needs, available services, strengths, opportunities and current issues in our community. The overall goal is to increase the leadership pool within the county and to equip these future leaders with the tools and information necessary

to meet the challenges of tomorrow. On Government Day, the committee strives to expose class members to a myriad of topics and issues, adding to their knowledge about governance throughout our county and state.

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## Phoenix Hosts Deer Hunts

In an effort to decrease the deer population on institutional grounds, SCI Phoenix hosted three successful deer hunts, two of which were open to the public.

A lottery was conducted and those individuals who were selected were asked to bring canned goods or non-perishable items on the morning of their scheduled hunt. On behalf of SCI Phoenix and the generosity of the public, more than 2,000 pounds of food was donated to the Philabundance Organization on Jan. 31. The Philabundance Organization provides food to 90,000 individuals each week and is a proud member of Feeding America, a nationwide network of food banks leading the fight against hunger in the United States.



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## Smithfield Leadership Gets Lean

Micah Doggett and Lisa Hollibaugh, co-coordinators of Lean Management for SCI Smithfield, conducted extensive training for the department heads on the governor's Lean Management Initiative. Each department head



will be tasked in the coming weeks with coming up with five areas within their areas that they can apply Lean Management principles and then will be given an implementation date of 90

days to "go live" with their new lean process. SCI Smithfield officials are excited to get this initiative going and improve their processes to better serve their customers.

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## Mercer Hosts Blood Drive

In donating blood, donors change lives. On Feb. 5, SCI Mercer employees participated in a blood drive with the American Red Cross, utilizing their Bloodmobile Donor Bus.

Of the 20 staff who registered, 18 whole units were collected. With three products made from each unit, up to 54 patients will benefit from the generosity of those who donated.

According to Barb Kimbell, account manager from the local Red Cross Chapter, "You may never meet the patients whose lives you have touched, but rest assured they are eternally grateful, as am I."

Thanks to the donors for another successful blood drive! Because of your generosity, lives will be saved.

Pictured are Superintendent Melinda Adams, Clerk Typist 2 Sandra DeWitt, and CO1 Juventino SotoPacheco.



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## Camp Hill MHU Employee Shares Her Love of Music

By Rodney Carberry, Unit Manager

The treatment team on the Mental Health Unit (MHU) at SCI Camp Hill is always striving to improve the overall therapeutic environment on the unit. Activities Therapist Jen Brantner coordinates daily psychoeducational groups and activities provided to the patients, including board games, bingo, ping pong, cards, bowling and trivia baseball, all with the objective of fostering positive social interaction. Recently, the treatment team has added yet another unique way of providing a fulfilling therapeutic environment on the MHU.

Mental health worker Ashley Cooper is not only a compassionate, hard-working member of the treatment

team, but she is a talented musician and vocalist. She puts those talents to good use as Ashley gets out the guitar and sings for the patients on the unit. One patient said, "Ashley is a great singer, and I like when she sings for everybody." Another patient said, "I like when she sings, it cheers me up and you know they care."

Part of the MHU's treatment and management philosophy is taking a strength perspective of all of our patients as well as our staff. It is a person-centered approach in every aspect of the program. Management looks to recognize and validate its staff for all of the talent and positives they bring to the treatment team and ultimately our patients. When staff are feeling good about themselves and good about what they do, it positively affects patient care. Compassion and character go a long way, even behind locks and bars.

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## **Around the Centers...**

### **Patches to be Used to Determine Sobriety**

On Feb. 6, officials will gather at the Harrisburg Community Corrections Center for a training in the application of drug testing sweat patches that will be applied to reentrants. The sweat patches will involve only State Intermediate Punishment non-residents (those who are in a phase of SIP that allows the individual to reside at home). While DOC officials test the use of sweat patches, they will continue to conduct urine tests. Once the pilot test of the patches is concluded, officials will determine their efficacy and whether their use should be expanded to other centers.

#### **How the Sweat Patch Works:**

Trained officials place the tamper-proof patch on the reentrant's shoulder. After a set period of time, the patch is removed and sent to a lab for testing for a variety of drugs, including the extended opioid panel.

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### **ADAPPT Residential Reentry Center Serves Those in Need**

Via [GEO Reentry Services](#)

Staff and reentrants at ADAPPT Residential Reentry Center in Reading spent the holiday season participating in voluntary community service around the city of Reading. It is a longstanding tradition at ADAPPT that supports reentrants' behavioral therapies while servicing less fortunate community members.

"At ADAPPT we are convinced of the importance of community service," ADAPPT Director Michael Critchisin said. "We have seen how giving back at the community level provides reentrants with an opportunity to practice positive behavior and allows an opportunity to give back for wrongs done to society."

Staff and reentrants volunteered together at the Hope of the Nation Church throughout December by serving hot meals to community members seeking support. Church members said they appreciated the help from the many volunteers who came out. ADAPPT team members were eager to express gratitude for the rewarding experience and were quick to endorse the importance of serving the community, claiming helping others helped them.

"This is one of many opportunities that we at ADAPPT continue to seek to participate in giving back to our community," ADAPPT Clinical Supervisor Dawn Martin said. "This is a testament to GEO Care and their mission statement of changing behaviors, that it really does change lives."



**L to R: Reentrant David Wragg, Unit Counselor MS Shirlena Sample, reentrants Teress Michael & Michelle Gibson, Church Assistant Karina Coronado, Pastor Teresa Sarna, reentrant Carl Gamby. Back row reentrant Donald Fitzgerald.**

ADAPPT's mission is to focus on treating the causes of criminal behavior and addiction thus reducing recidivism, and to provide residents with the necessary knowledge and skills to lead a productive lifestyle prior to reintegration into the community.

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Week of Jan. 28, 2019...

## Teacher Spotlight: SCI Forest's Eric O'Rourke

For more than a decade, Eric O'Rourke has taught inmates at SCI Forest the basics of masonry.

And amazingly he's used pretty much the same set of supplies the entire time.

"I don't use cement," O'Rourke said. "It's a clay and sand mixture, so when we tear it down, we clean it up and reuse everything in the next class."

O'Rourke started working in maintenance at Forest three years before the facility opened. He became a carpentry trade instructor for two years before teaching masonry for the past 12.

The program is a six-month course of masonry level 1, and inmates who pass end up with a certification for core and masonry level 1 through National Center for Construction Education and Research. Although the program is basic, O'Rourke also teaches them advanced stuff for fun and even greater experience.

"Fairly quickly they start laying brick and block," he said. "We concentrate on that. There are a few basic projects they must do, but they can get through my books and program in a four-month timeframe. That leaves a few months for advanced stuff, like fireplaces or brick and block structures. For the most part, there's some pretty cool projects."

Working maintenance was "just a job," whereas teaching the inmates is something more. O'Rourke has found the react differently to a teacher than a boss.

Although the course is mostly hands-on, O'Rourke admits a lot of his time is spent on math. Many of the inmates think they won't need math in masonry, but there's quite a bit to do, he said.

O'Rourke teaches 30 students (15 in a morning class and 15 in the afternoon), and he is very candid about their job prospects.

**HEAD OF THE CLASS**

**Name:** Eric O'Rourke

**Facility:** SCI Forest

**Subject:** Masonry  
Vocational  
Teacher

**Length of Service:** 12 years

**Why:** "When I was in maintenance, it was just a job. But working with the inmates is different... I try to get them to go beyond what they know."

pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION

"I make sure they know, they're not going to leave my class and be masons," O'Rourke said. "They're going to be a laborer. But [employers] will know you've done this course and they'll let you work a wall. And they'll tell really quickly if you know what you're doing. It's cheaper to develop a skilled laborer than hire a mason."

Recently O'Rourke did hear through a current student that a former student has worked and earned his way into the mason's union as an apprentice. "That was a nice thing to hear," O'Rourke said.



Although he doesn't hear from former students, the job is still rewarding for O'Rourke just for the hope that he may lead a few guys to a better life.

"You can make a good living at it if you're willing to work," he said. "That's what I stress. When they're done working a day, they're too tired to get into trouble. I tell them that—you're working hard, earning a living, it's a viable living.

"Don't forget what you've learned here as far as the hands-on stuff, because eventually you will be given a chance."



## Beyond Masonry

In addition to masonry, O'Rourke edits and publishes the facility newsletter, as well as teaches a creative writing workshop once a week.

The program has 15 inmates with a huge waiting list, and they bring in work or O'Rourke gives them a prompt to start their writing. The group covers everything from poetry to novels, and participants share their work

in the workshop.

O'Rourke has done this program for nearly two years and it's gone "very well."

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## **A Look at Camp Hill's Mentoring Committee**

Starting a career in corrections can be a daunting, intimidating task—and having a mentor can make all the difference.

Bernie Comiskey is the drug and alcohol treatment manager at Camp Hill, but he is also the facility's mentoring program chair. As a veteran of the DOC—he's nearing his 30-year mark in March—Comiskey knows the value of mentors to new employees. And it benefits the whole facility.



"The program helps with employee retention," Comiskey said. "We have some outstanding staff and it's nice to pass along some of those qualities and help people adjust."

Although he didn't have a formal mentor when he began, he did have an unofficial mentor who helped him learn how to work with inmates and staff and in the security-driven environment.

During National Mentoring Month in January, the mentoring committee holds a "Mentors Corner" in the dining room where members can answer questions and provide information about the program. Mentors establish goals with the mentee and lead as good role models in all aspects of their career.

"The goal is not to clone themselves but develop the skills and talent the mentees have," Comiskey said.

The program is working on improving its mentee numbers, but currently has more than 40 mentors from 21 different disciplines in the facility, including corrections officers, counselors, tradesmen, medical and much more.

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## **SCI Mercer Mentors Hold Annual Training**

On January 24th, SCI Mercer held its annual Mentor Training coordinated by the Mentor Committee. In attendance were 25 mentors, nine of whom are committee members that include Lt. Vernice Phillips, Unit Manager Greg Giddens, Counselor Banita Howell, CO1 Jeff Fink, CO1 Lawanda Green, CO1 Tiffany Grundy, Training

Coordinator Melissa Filer, Mailroom Supervisor Charlene Norris, and Counselor Lisa Foust.



The training day began with icebreaker games and creating a mentoring mural. The mural was a spoof of Paw Patrol called Mentoring "Patrol" - Ready for Action because the members are eager and ready to mentor co-workers to be successful in the Department. Pictured with the completed mural are Lt. Vernice Phillips and Counselor Lisa Foust.



The training included completion of applications and discussing ways to improve the program. Deputy William Woods spoke to the group about the importance of the program and Greg Giddens reviewed the Mentoring policy with the group. The day was rounded out with listening to Rocco Cozza, a motivational speaker and author of the book, "The A.L.P.H.A. Way: 5 Keys to Unlocking Your Greatness and Living Your Best Life."

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## Captain Retires from Greene

SCI Greene celebrated the recent retirement of Captain Steve Durco. Steve began his career at SCI Greene on April 19, 1999. He was promoted to Corrections Officer 2 on August 4, 2002 and achieved Corrections Officer 3 on August 27, 2006. On January 8, 2012, he was promoted to Corrections Officer 4. During his career, he held many difficult and demanding positions and always performed his duties responsibly and admirably. In his most recent assignment as the Intelligence Captain, he established himself as a tremendous asset to the



Security Department by relentlessly gathering critical intelligence and working tirelessly to ensure all the safety and security protocols and measures were intact and proficient. His direct oversight and guidance of the Security Department through the statewide, "War on Drugs" has been inspirational to say the least. There have been many new initiatives that were quickly put into place that required leadership and hard work to initiate. His performance is a reflection of his personal character and commitment to his duties for nearly two decades.

We thank Steve for his dedication and commitment to this facility and to our mission and wish him well on his newest endeavors.

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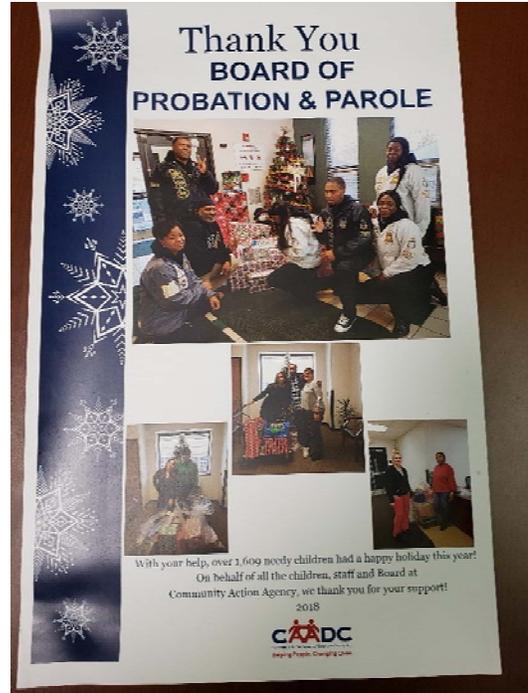
## Chester District Supports Local Toy Drive

Agents Michael Harris, Katrina Williams and Rafequi Rozier represented the Chester District at the CAADC (Community Action Agency of Delaware County) holiday toy drive celebration event. Chester District staff provided gifts to four adopted families, including 13 children, during the holiday season.

Overall the toy drive served 1,609 kids.

CAADC's mission is to assist individuals and families move toward economic self-sufficiency and reduce their dependence on public support through innovative program and services.

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## Muncy VSU Donates to Veterans Center

Inmates at SCI Muncy's Veterans Service Unit showed how they too can give back to their fellow female veterans during this tough time of year. They collected more than 10 bags of donated items of food and hygiene items to the Women Veterans Center (WVC) of Philadelphia.

This is the first Female Veterans Food Drive where the incarcerated female veterans at Muncy organized a food drive to assist their sisters that served in uniform. The demand for the donated items is on the rise, as is the number of female veterans in Pennsylvania, where the numbers are expected to reach more than 60,000 this year.



The VSU Team collected a generous donation of food and hygiene items, which inmates have been buying from commissary for the previous few weeks and donating to the Female Veterans drive event. The VSU ladies did all the advertising for the collection, including creating flyers and posters and writing an article that was announced on in-house inmate TV system to raise awareness.

One of the female veterans said, "The food drive shows that inmates can give back to society at a very critical time of the year. It creates an environment of and fosters gratitude when you can help another female that is homeless, struggling, and needs just a little help."

CO1 Fornwald took time on her day off to deliver all the items to the WVC. The entire VSU Staff was so appreciative of the staff support, inmate donations and overall generosity that made our first event such a success!

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## **Update on the Status of Improved Reentry Education in the PA DOC**

In September 2015, the US Department of Education awarded nine Improved Reentry Education (IRE) grants to various organizations to develop reentry education in their communities. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections received a \$1 million, three-year grant to establish Career Pathways within the department. As part of the IRE grant (aka Career Pathways), the DOC created a framework to help inmates become “job ready” prior to release with education, employment and reentry assistance. In addition to assisting inmates, the DOC wants to make sure the it is a credible partner in the workforce system. Officials continue to meet with Labor & Industry and various workforce partners to collaborate on how best to serve the inmate population.

Jobs for the Future (JFF), as the technical advisors for the IRE grant, publishes a “Voices of Reentry” series to highlight the grantees’ work. The DOC was eager to participate in this series to showcase the work done to date. The article can be found in two locations: the US Department of Education website - [https://lincs.ed.gov/reentryed/files/tools\\_pdf/IRE\\_1\\_Pennsylvania\\_DOCFNL\\_R.pdf](https://lincs.ed.gov/reentryed/files/tools_pdf/IRE_1_Pennsylvania_DOCFNL_R.pdf) and on the JFF website - <https://www.jff.org/resources/2018-voices-reentry/>. The JFF website also has articles about the other grantees.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Career Pathway Program Manager Dorenda Hamarlund at [dhamarlund@pa.gov](mailto:dhamarlund@pa.gov).

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## **PA DOC Facility to Serve as PREA Field Training Program Location**

SCI Pine Grove was selected to serve as a Field Training Audit (FTA) location by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Resource Center in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice. The FTA will occur February 4 – February 8, 2019.

A field training audit is similar to an actual PREA audit except that the audit is conducted as a training experience for newly DOJ-certified PREA auditor candidates. The goal of the FTP is to strengthen auditor candidates’ PREA auditing skills, improve understanding of the standards, increase experience with the PREA auditing process and methodology, and attain hands-on experience with the audit instrument.

In 2018, SCI Pine Grove is one of eight facilities selected out of more than 30 interested facilities nationwide, to be selected as a PREA Audit Field Training location in 2018-2019.

Training audits closely mimic actual PREA audits and are subject to all phases - the pre-audit, onsite audit and post audit. Three teams of auditor candidates will be

onsite during the FTA and will be spending extended periods of time touring common areas, housing units, select areas outside the perimeter and completing staff/inmate interviews.

The win-win component of SCI Pine Grove's FTP audit is the fact that the prison, which is scheduled to have an actual PREA audit in May, can correct any deficiencies identified by newly trained auditors who are directly managed by PREA Resource Officials – the oversight authority of all PREA audits.

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## **Real Colors Workshop Held at Pine Grove**

Parole Manager Larry Powell and Reentry Parole Agent Dana Brahim conducted a Real Colors® Workshop with the Phase 3 Young Adult Offender Program participants at SCI Pine Grove. Real Colors® is a tool reentry staff use to help the participants recognize their own strengths and the strengths of others, to accept and learn to value the differences in others and to increase their understanding, empathy and communication.

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## Law Professor Speaks to Camp Hill Inmates

Thomas M. Place spoke at SCI Camp Hill Jan. 24 to more than 100 general population inmates. A packet of information was provided to each inmate who attended about the Post-Conviction Relief Act. A question-and-answer period was provided after the 60-



minute lecture. During the lecture, Place educated the inmates on options they may have on appealing or overturning their sentences as well as the limitations the law allows for these appeals and the time frames with which they have to act. Several support staff members, who work with these inmates, were also in attendance.

Place is the William Trickett Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law at Penn State Dickinson School of Law where he teaches courses on criminal procedure, constitutional law, free speech and post-conviction remedies. He is the author of *The Post-Conviction Relief Act: Practice and Procedure* (11th ed. 2018). Once he earned his juris doctorate and worked as a public interest attorney, he became director of the law school's prison clinic and worked pro-bono. This very background piqued his interest in post-conviction remedies and helped provide legal advice and representation to those in the community who were underserved by the legal profession. He serves as a federal court mediator and regularly speaks to lawyers and judges on criminal procedure and constitutional law issues. His passion and knowledge of post-conviction relief led him to write over a dozen publications over the past 17 years.

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## **Mahanoy Sergeant Honored by Notre Dame Hockey**

Angie Arnold, of Shamokin, thinks a lot of her husband, John. She thinks so fondly of him that she nominated him in October to be a guest of the Notre Dame hockey team for the Notre Dame vs Michigan State game. For eight years the team has honored military, firefighters and law enforcement in this way. John, who is a corrections officer at SCI Mahanoy, fit into the eligibility criteria filling all categories! So, off to South Bend, Indiana, it was for John as he got to watch his favorite team beat the Spartans 6-3.



For 19 years John has been a firefighter for Shamokin Fire Bureau, and he also is a member of the Liberty Hose Co. Having served as an E-3 in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1994-1996, he's been a corrections officer at SCI Mahanoy for 20 years. He's presently a sergeant.

On Jan. 25, John took the nine-hour drive with Angie and a coworker to South Bend, where he was honored by being on the ice during the National Anthem and was saluted by all in attendance while pictures of him were run over the Jumbo Tron.

You can read more about John's experiences in the Shamokin News Items' "City man honored at Notre Dame hockey game."

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## **Bucknell Magazine Highlights Inside-Out Program**

Since 2006, Bucknell University has participated in the Inside-Out program where colleges hold joint classes for their university students and incarcerated students. Prisons host the classes, and



students from the universities attend them with inmate peers. The latest issue of Bucknell Magazine is dedicated to the school's experience with the program and full of stories from the inside SCI Coal Township, where the latest classes take place.

Visit Bucknell Magazine's website to view all the articles:

<https://www.bucknell.edu/about-bucknell/communications/bucknell-magazine/winter-2019/inside-meets-outside.html>

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## **Central Office Employees Collect for Local Food Bank**

The DOC's Office of Chief Counsel is coordinating a collection of food items for the Central PA Food Bank and has set a collection bin near its main lobby. Only intended for DOC employees to contribute, the food items will go to the needy in a 27-county area. At present those in need include employees who are recovering after not receiving regular paychecks due to the federal government shutdown, including federal correctional institutions.

Until Feb. 7, items asked for include:

- Peanut butter
- Shelf stable fruit juice
- Canned chicken and tuna
- Single serve mac and cheese
- Shelf stable milk
- Almonds
- Individual 4 oz. fruit cups

All items must be new, labeled, factory sealed and in good condition.

To learn more about the Central PA Food Bank, visit [www.centralpafoodbank.org](http://www.centralpafoodbank.org)

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## Around the Centers...

### **BCC Holds Western Region Basic Training for Contract Facility Employees**

Bureau of Community Corrections staff recently completed basic training for contract facility employees working in the western region. The training, which ran from January 21-25, 2019 and was held at BCC Region III office, was attended by 26 contracted facility staff. The training is identical to a regional basic training pilot program that was conducted in December in the eastern region.



Contract facility staff previously had attended basic training at the DOC's training academy along with DOC and parole supervision staff, but a revision of the training called for it to be held regionally for this special group of individuals.

Changing to the basic training to a regional training will now result in the basic training program for contracted staff being:

- reduced from two weeks to one week to be more community corrections specific.
- only for contracted staff so there will no longer be staff removed from scheduled training due to "department needs."
- held regionally.
- conducted twice per year (six total) based on trainer availability.

During the training, employees learn about Use of Force, Security Threat Group Awareness, Suicide Prevention and Awareness; Basic First Aid/CPR/Narcan; Professional Boundaries and a multitude of other areas, including Contraband and

Searches; Report Writing; Fundamentals of Security, Infectious Diseases; IPC; Ethics and Professionalism, Inmate Disciplinary Procedures; Active Threat.



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## In the News...

### Local Partnership Cooks for Charity

By Derek Danneker, Sun-Gazette

<http://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2019/01/local-partnership-cooks-for-charity/>

A mentoring partnership of organizations came to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, Thursday, to kick off a four-week cooking course, the meals from which will be served to other local programs.

The Transitional Living Centers worked with Hope Enterprises to make enough chicken cutlets, Mediterranean pasta and chicken gravy to feed 50



**Abigail Eschbach, agency services coordinator for the food bank, instructs Krista Blake, a woman with the Transitional Learning Center, on the proper cutting of vegetables. (Derek Danneker/Sun-Gazette)**

people at TLC and will later make food for American Rescue Workers, Family Promise and Firetree Place.

"Everyone just jumped in, worked really hard together, they had fun," said Abigail Eschbach, agency services coordinator for the food bank. "There was just a lot of great cohesion between the two groups and we all agreed that they need more recipes to work on next week."

The class also teaches about healthy eating and budgeting for food.

"It can be expensive (to eat healthy) because we've just gotten so relied on processing food and (it's) just not good for us long term," said Mackenzie Howe, director of development for Hope Enterprises.

It was an obvious partnership between the two organizations, said Mackenzie Howe.

"We realized that a lot of the barriers that they're women face in the community are similar to what people with disabilities face," she said. "So if somebody maybe has a behavior or has a bad day, that's difficult to then get a second chance and getting people to kind of open their minds to having them involved in things."

Both Hope Enterprises and TLC struggle against stigmas in the community, said Howe, and in a world where people are short on time and money, a short-term hire isn't what most are looking for.

"Getting these women to work with my clients will teach them patience," said Nicole Miller, executive director of TLC. "Mentoring them and breaking out to see that they're not the only ones trying to fight from a day-to-day basis."

Further, many women in TLC have strong motherly tendencies and some are even trying to get their children back, Nicole Miller, executive director of TLC.

"I just think it makes them, overall, feel good about themselves," she said.

"They made it fun," said Krista Blake, one of the women in TLC. "It's definitely good to cook. It's therapeutic."

Shameka Grey, program coordinator for TLC, said she was glad the women wanted to do it.

"It warms my heart. Cooking is something you do with your family and there's always love and caring involved," she said.

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Week of Jan. 21, 2018...

## Waymart Helping Brothers/Sisters at USP Canaan

Due to the federal shutdown that began, many federal workers across the nation are having to make due whatever way possible. Some federal employees have been furloughed, but others – like the staff at federal prisons – continue to do their jobs daily regardless of pay.

The employees of Pennsylvania's State Correctional Institution at Waymart, led by Lt. Dennis Cush, had their

brothers and sisters at the U.S. Penitentiary Canaan – which is located nearby their grounds – in mind when they began collecting items for the federal prison employees.



“We imagined ourselves being in their shoes and how difficult things must be for them financially,” said Superintendent Kevin Ransom. “We too would continue to work to protect public safety. USP Canaan’s employees, just like us, are dedicated individuals. So, we decided to hold a collection for them.”

Employees are collecting non-perishable items, such as soaps, shampoos, diapers, baby wipes, etc.

According to Waymart’s PIO Christine Altemier, “We delivered items on Jan. 22, and they were so welcoming and thankful.”

On Jan. 23, Warden Bradley from USP Canaan emailed the Canaan staff to inform them that the donated items were received and available for taking on a first-come, first-served method.

“The staff at SCI Waymart have graciously donated items for staff use during the shutdown,” Bradley said.

Items donated were:

- Deodorant (men and women)
- Laundry Detergent
- Dishwasher Pods
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Tissues

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Dental Floss
- Mouth Wash
- Q-Tips
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Socks
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Baby Soap
- Baby Lotion
- Baby Powder
- Wipes
- Girl and Boy Pull-ups (size 3T/4T)
- Newborn Diapers
- Size 1 Diapers
- Size 2 Diapers
- Size 3 Diapers
- Size 4 Diapers
- Size 5 Diapers
- Dry Dog Food
- Cat Food
- Canned Goods
- Pasta

In addition to assistance from SCI Waymart, federal employees also were able to obtain items from the Waymart Fire Department.

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## **Secretary Wetzel Participates in Benjamin Franklin Event Panel on Criminal Justice**

On January 18, Corrections Secretary John Wetzel participated in a panel on criminal justice reform as part of the annual Celebration! Of Benjamin Franklin, Founder.



**Pictured, from left to right, are: Tyrone Werts, Think Tank Coordinator for Inside Out Prison Exchange; Marie Gottschalk, professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania; PA DOC Secretary John Wetzel; and Bruce Western, sociology professor and co-director of the Justice Lab at Columbia University.**

The event was established to bring international attention to the legacy of Benjamin Franklin as a reformer and to promote the relevance of his ideas today.

Franklin, who as early as 1787 recognized the need for reform in the criminal justice system, helped create The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons (now the Pennsylvania Prison Society).

The theme for the panel discussion at the American Philosophical Society was "Liberty and Justice for All, Reforming America's Criminal Justice System."

"The Wolf administration has moved forward with an ambitious reform agenda over the past four years," said Secretary Wetzel. "Whether you are talking about addressing the growing population with mental illness and drug addiction, developing programs for veterans or better preparing individuals for reentry, we believe the DOC agenda embraces the spirit of Benjamin Franklin."

Joining Secretary Wetzel on the panel were Bruce Western, sociology professor and co-director of the Justice Lab at Columbia University, Marie Gottschalk, professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania, and Tyrone Werts, Think Tank Coordinator for Inside Out Prison Exchange.

The 2019 event honored Bill Keller, founding editor-in-chief of The Marshall Project, a nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization that focuses on the U.S. criminal justice system.

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## Reentrant Shares Vision of Success

This is a drawing of the Harrisburg District Office that was created by parolee James Williams.

“I wanted to share this with everyone, because it made my day,” said Lisa Moser, Harrisburg District Director 2. “This reminded me that the work we do each day

does mean something, that we really do make a difference and our day-to-day work doesn't always go unrecognized. It also reiterated the current mindset of my parole agents, who are implementing successful reentry every day. My agents are awesome!”

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## Reaccreditation Awarded by ACA

At the American Correctional Association's (ACA) Winter Conference in New Orleans in January, and following extensive hearing panels, ACA commissioners awarded official reaccreditation status to the following facilities: SCIs Benner Township, Camp Hill, Forest, Muncy, Rockview and Waymart, the Training Academy and Harrisburg and York Community Corrections Centers. Congratulations to employees of all of these facilities for their continued, dedicated work in the area of accreditation!

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## Waymart Hosts Local Students

In January SCI Waymart held a career day for Honesdale High School Students. Individuals from various prison departments, such as the superintendent, school principal and safety manager, spoke to the students about their careers. The presentations ended with a K-9 presentation.

The prison's Culinary School also supplied snacks and water.

"The diverse and enthusiastic representation from our staff showcased that employment with the DOC is not limited to the important jobs of corrections officers. We talked about all employment classifications," said Superintendent Kevin Ransom.



The goal of the career day was to eliminate stereotypes, promote exciting careers and generate future qualified job applicants.

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## DOC Officials Present at ACA Winter Conference

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections PREA Coordinator Dave Radziewicz was a featured speaker at two separate PREA-related workshops at the American Correctional Association's (ACA) Winter Conference in New Orleans in January.

During the first workshop, Radziewicz was joined by co-presenter Joanne Carroll, who is the president of TransCentralPA and is the newly-appointed commissioner of Gov. Tom Wolf's Commission on LGBTQ Affairs. Together, they addressed the PA

DOC's unique approach to providing support group services to transgender inmates department-wide via a virtual platform.

The workshop content mirrored a July/August 2018 Corrections Today article that was co-written by Radziewicz and Carole Mattis (who serves as the director of the DOC's Bureau of Standards, Audits and Accreditation) that was titled "A Best Practice Approach and Model for Providing Community Support Services via Virtual Format to Transgender Inmates."

The key points to establishing effective community partnerships by correctional agencies and the "win-win" for both parties is apparent given that 95 percent of inmates will one day be released from prison. Radziewicz also emphasized the importance of transparency and trust – by identifying government agencies and community resources that can support the agency's mission and participate in an environment that perpetuates a successful delivery of community and reentry services for incarcerated transgender individuals, positive outcomes can be realized.

The Transgender Support Group within the PA DOC was implemented more than two years ago and continues to be a nationally-recognized model for correctional agencies to address the needs of a vulnerable population through an innovative approach. Alder Health Services also helps to facilitate the monthly transgender support groups. To date, various facilities have modeled similar partnerships with local stakeholders.

Radziewicz also was a guest panelist at a workshop conducted by Just Detention International (JDI) - "Keeping Transgender Inmates Safe: A PREA Case Study," during which he elaborated upon and fielded questions about the PA DOC's PREA policy and transgender specific processes.

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## Lantz Named Manager of the Quarter at Albion

SCI Albion Superintendent Michael Clark recently presented Residential Treatment Unit (RTU) Unit Manager Kevin Lantz with a certificate recognizing him as Manager of the First Quarter for 2019.



Clark, pictured on the right, praised Lantz, pictured on the left, for his dedication and always going “above and beyond” what is asked of him. Lantz has played an essential role in managing the SCI Albion RTU since its inception. His skills dealing with inmates with significant mental illness have been a key ingredient to the unit’s success.

Lantz has 20 years of service and has served five years as a corrections counselor and the past 15 years as unit manager of various housing units. Lantz has announced his plans to retire in March and extends his appreciation to his peers and supervisors for a rewarding career in corrections.

Lantz stated he looks forward to spending quality time with his family, which includes his four grandchildren—with two additional grandchildren due to arrive in the next few months.

Supt. Clark also presented certificates for Employee of the Quarter to Sgt. Michael Maluk, Officer Michael Gunther, Officer Chad Bromley and Officer Sarah Maskery for their heroic actions, which assisted in saving the life of an inmate. Their actions during this emergent event were professional, commendable and carried out without hesitation.

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## New Year Begins with Unprecedented Basic Training Program

In 2017 the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole combined certain operational functions, and as a result Training Academy officials hosted the largest basic training class in the history of the program. The Training Academy welcomed 272 students during orientation that took place on Jan 7.



"This is a result of the work and input by many stakeholders at the front-line level and from all around the state who helped decide what and how to consolidate," Training Academy Director Michael Dooley said. "Basic Training Class #1901 is a great example of that effort and a milestone achievement."

DOC Secretary John Wetzel and the Executive Leadership Team representing the consolidated agency took the opportunity to address the new class, sharing the philosophy of **One Team, One Mission**.

"This is awesome to see so many of you here starting a great career in the best department in the country," Wetzel said. With emphasis on integrating services under one agency, Wetzel inspired staff saying, "We are now one team, with one mission, and now will be better able to move the public safety mission forward for Pennsylvanians and our communities."

Made up of individuals from several areas throughout the combined agency, the Executive Leadership Team will continue to welcome and address each basic training class throughout the year.

With Basic Training Class #1901, the beginning of the training period is aligned between DOC and PBPP staff. However, most DOC students complete five weeks of training at the academy while the PBPP students continue for another three weeks.

Dooley was pleased with how the expanded basic training went on its first few days.

"Our staff here at the academy are outstanding," Dooley said. "To have this many students begin their learning here without a hitch is a testament to their hard work and dedication."

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## **Puppy Program Highlighted in Local Newspaper**

SCI Pine Grove's dog training program was the topic of a Jan. 19, 2019, article in the Indiana Gazette. The article, which can be viewed here --

[https://www.indianagazette.com/news/pine-grove-brings-back-puppy-training-program/article\\_58ef4ff6-16e3-11e9-b9c5-efc284b38f3a.html](https://www.indianagazette.com/news/pine-grove-brings-back-puppy-training-program/article_58ef4ff6-16e3-11e9-b9c5-efc284b38f3a.html) -- provides a nice overview of the program and gives info on the prison's newest, eight-week-old pups.

To learn more about this and all other SCI dog training programs, visit the DOC's website at [www.cor.pa.gov](http://www.cor.pa.gov) and go to the newsletter section of the Newsroom.

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## **Greene Staff Support Local Veterans**

Staff at SCI Greene donated a generous number of hats, gloves and socks to the Greene County Veteran's Affairs Office to assist the local military veterans during the winter months. The veterans office accepts a variety of donations daily and expressed a need for these specific items. In addition to assisting a local veteran and her family during the holidays, SCI Greene staff felt it equally important to assist all local veterans as well.



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## PCI Employee of the Quarter

Pennsylvania Correctional Industries named General Industries Foreman Jason Strouse, who works in PCI's laundry division at SCI Frackville, as PCI's Employee of 4th Quarter 2018.

PCI Director Khelleh Konteh and Assistant Director Richard Gaul presented the plaque on Jan. 23.



**Pictured, left to right, are: SCI Frackville Superintendent Kathy Brittain, PCI Director Khelleh Konteh, Jason Strouse and PCI Assistant Director Richard Gaul.**

Jason was honored because he is a valuable asset to the laundry division and has become a reliable and trusted employee. PCI has benefitted from Jason's cost-effective measures thanks to his efforts and abilities.

Due to Jason's educational background in mechanics he has had the opportunity to utilize those skills through fleet equipment upkeep and repairs as well as teaching back some of these skills to the inmates employed in our laundry division.

He works extremely well with inmates teaching them the industrial laundry trade and is consistent with training in maintenance, warehousing and shipping and receiving.

Congratulations, Jason!

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## **PBPP Participates in Martin Luther King Day Event**

The Mu Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. hosted a panel in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

The panel was called "What Do You See... When You See Me?" and was held at the Philadelphia Christian Street YMCA. It was moderated by Dr. Aaron X. Smith of Temple University, and PBPP District Director Michelle Rivera served as a panelist.

The program was held to give the youth a positive view of law enforcement and show how law enforcement is there to serve and protect the community. The panelists answered questions regarding their education, positions and advice on how to interact with law enforcement officers.



**Pictured from left: Director Jesse Reason, Philadelphia County Probation; Sgt. Corrine Mason, Camden County Sheriff's Station; Lt. Jonathon Joseph of the Philadelphia Police Department; Philadelphia Highway Patrol Officer Sergio Diggs; Philadelphia Sheriff Department Malika Rahman; K. Tracey Bell, panel host, Omega Psi Fraternity Inc.; District Director Michelle Rivera, PBPP; District Director Michael Willis, PBPP; and Dr. Aaron X. Smith, Temple University.**

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## **New Female Court Commits from Western PA Accepted at Cambridge Springs**

On Jan. 22, SCI Cambridge Springs began accepting new female court commitments from northwestern PA counties. Previously these counties would drive these individuals to SCI Muncy, which is located in Lycoming County and serves as the diagnostic and classification center for women. The new commitments taken to Cambridge Springs will be from the following 15 counties:

- Allegheny
- Armstrong
- Beaver
- Butler
- Clarion
- Crawford
- Erie
- Forest
- Fayette
- Greene
- Lawrence
- Mercer
- Warren
- Washington
- Westmoreland

Once received, the newly-committed female inmates will remain at the prison for about three days, after which the DOC will transport the inmates to SCI Muncy for classification. It is estimated that up to 28 female inmates are committed to the DOC monthly by these 15 counties.

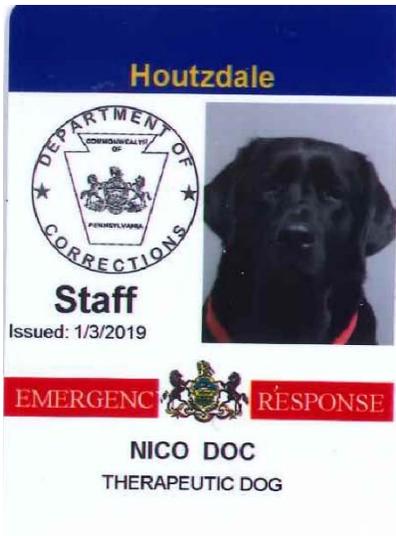
The benefit of this change will be felt by the counties who previously had to drive the individuals to SCI Muncy and incur any associated costs, such as wear and tear on vehicles, gas, possible lodging of transport officials, etc.

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## **Houtzdale Facility Dog Passes Certification Test**

SCI Houtzdale would like to congratulate Nico for passing his Public Access Certification test. We are excited to have him here at Houtzdale to serve as the staff facility dog. He first began his training at Houtzdale in May 2017 as part of the R.U.F.F. Program. United Disabilities Services decided that due to extenuating circumstances, Nico would be better suited to become a facility dog. They felt that the perfect place for Nico to act as a facility dog would be at SCI Houtzdale.

Nico's approval to become the staff facility dog is part of the Staff Morale Initiative. He will be available for any staff member who would like him to visit their offices, units or groups. These visits can vary from an hour to all day.



## 32 Mentors Attend Training at Coal Township

SCI Coal Township recently held its annual Mentor Training. Thirty-two mentors attended, including nine new mentors. Lunch was provided by Coal Township's Employee Recreation Association in honor of Mentoring Month within the DOC.



Superintendent Tom McGinley presented each new mentor with a pin which will identify them as a Coal Township mentor.



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## Forest Holiday Decorating Contest

SCI Forest's activities department, along with the unit teams, held a Holiday Decorating Contest with the theme of "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas."

Each housing unit was given the same packet of materials to decorate with and inmates were not permitted to use any state-purchased resources. Units were judged by activities staff and members of administrative team. Bravo Unit won the contest for best representation of theme. It was a very close vote this year with four units receiving votes!



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## Camp Hill Lifers Raise Money for Disaster Relief

In December 2018, the LIFERS (Lifers Improving for Eventual Release Status) Group at SCI Camp Hill ran a donation drive to raise money for disaster relief efforts towards those impacted by hurricanes Florence and Michael. This is their first fundraising attempt with the group, and they chose the disaster relief after seeing the impact through television and newspaper media coverage. They received 18 donations and raised \$133.00. This group meets again in February and they hope to raise money for education.

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# In the News...

## Event Honors Those Who Finish Program at My Vision 9

By Pat Crossley, Williamsport Sun-Gazette

<http://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2019/01/event-honors-those-who-finish-program-at-my-vision-9/>

"Hope" was the word of the day as nine women from the Transitional Living Center celebrated completion of a program titled "Rewards," which had been offered to the women by Chanelle Johnson as part of the My Vision 9 foundation's outreach.

The foundation began officially in November, but according to Johnson, she has been involved in mentoring and helping others for some time.

"I've always been doing things behind the scenes. I've always been the person who helped," she said.

Now she has a bigger platform, she said, to do her work, such as offering after-school programs or helping mentor youth interested in sports, to name a few. Johnson is the mother of Alize Johnson, who last year signed with the professional basketball team, the Indiana Pacers.

At the Transitional Living Center, Johnson worked with the women in a group setting, helping them to deal with breaking negative cycles and learned behavior from their past. She drew from her personal experience to relate to the women.

In 2005, Johnson, who was a high school dropout, single mother and unemployed, shared how her life changed when federal marshals surrounded her home to arrest the father of her children.



**MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette** Nine women from the Transitional Living Center walk into the Garden Room at the Genetti Hotel for a celebration of their completion of "The Rewards Program" by Chanelle Johnson's My Vision 9 Foundation.

"The marshals started to yell, 'Tell him to come out, take responsibility for his actions,'" she said.

"And that day when they left, I took responsibility for my actions," she continued.

She described how she returned to school, earned her GED and eventually a college degree, and landed a job.

"I promised myself that I would never look back in a negative way and I would do everything to move forward," she said.

The mother of seven shared how she wanted to show her children that if she could do it, they could do it, too.

Kathryn Williams, featured speaker for the event, told the audience of about 70 people, "this is about starting something and completing it."

"I had started a lot of things in my life, but I had never completed any," she said.

Williams first met Johnson at church.

"She brought me into her life and what she woke up in me was perspective because nobody had ever done that," she said.

"When you look at life with one perspective, it influences your ability to make a healthy decision," she added. "You ladies better get prepared," she told the graduates, "because after this, your life is never going to be the same."

"I want you ladies to know that it is possible. I believe in changing the face of what people believe female offenders are," she said.

Ron Frick, president of the Lycoming County United Way, who served as moderator, began the evening by saying, "My job tonight is to make sure that all of you are focused on having fun. This is a celebration, so we want to spend the rest of the evening celebrating the accomplishments of the people sitting up here."

The Transitional Living Center offers services to women who are transitioning from state prison into the community.

Graduating from the "Rewards" program were Rhoda Hancock, Nyema Jordan, Ashley Decriscio, Nicole Craig, Tequila Rueda, Holly Pallone, Alisha Hayward, Jacqueline Lewis and Lindsey Stewart.

Helping Johnson and Frick hand out certificates was Robert Labatch, president of Hope Enterprises, where Johnson is employed.

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Week of Jan. 14, 2018...

## DOC Culinary Arts Program Featured at the Pennsylvania Farm Show

The Pennsylvania Farm Show saved the best for last as the DOC Culinary Arts Program was featured on the final day of the 2019 show.

Chef Todd Lewis, a DOC restaurant trades instructor, who runs the Culinary Arts Program at the Training Academy, led a cooking



demonstration with Martin, an inmate and graduate of the program. The demonstration was part of the prestigious PA Preferred Culinary Connection, which highlights local food products and Pennsylvania chefs throughout the duration of the Farm Show. The duo cooked cheese, leek and mushroom bread pudding for the crowd of more than one hundred people, who enjoyed samples afterward.

The demonstration was well-received and allowed DOC to share information about the important reentry training work the program has provided to hundreds of inmates over the past 15 years.

ABC27 [featured the event on their evening broadcast](#). Additional photos and the complete recipe can be found on the DOC's Facebook page.

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## When is a Basketball Just a Basketball

By Susan McNaughton

(Reprint of 2009 "Newsfront" Article)

The other day, while leaving Central Office to go home, I noticed a basketball lying in a grassy area of our parking lot, which is adjacent to SCI Camp Hill's perimeter and several exercise yards. I didn't think much about it and figured some inmate had probably thrown it over the fence.

When I returned to work the next day, the ball was in the same spot. It remained there when I went to lunch later that same day.

I thought to myself, "What a shame it is that the ball was outside the perimeter and that no one had gotten it yet."

Many times, during my years with the department, I have seen a variety of balls caught in the razor wire, but this was probably the first ball I have seen make it over the fence and so far out into the parking lot.

After returning from lunch, I decided to call Camp Hill to have someone get the ball. The Inmate General Welfare Fund paid for the ball and the inmates should get it back.

I had thought about tossing it back over the fence, but figured that I would hit the fence and set off the alarms (plus, that's not really an appropriate thing to do), but I also wondered... what if the ball had been placed there by someone.

It could have been an alertness drill to see how long it would take for someone to notice it. Or it could have been placed there by someone in the hope that it would be tossed back into the prison without being checked. Believe it or not, the latter has happened in other jurisdictions, and prison officials found that the ball had been stuffed with drugs.

So, knowing that, I reported the ball. Not long after reporting it, the ball had disappeared from its resting place.

But the situation begs a few questions.



What if that ball had been placed there by an outsider who was trying to get drugs into the prison? What if it had been a briefcase or a package? Aren't we all supposed to be alert to such things and report them? What if it had been a bomb?

Perhaps I over think things. I know I do, but sometimes we have to, especially in the line of work we are in.

As it turns out, in this case this basketball was just a basketball, but it could have been something more.

Sometimes in our careers we become comfortable with our routines. Things go smoothly and there are no problems, but that's when we all tend to relax and let our guard down. I could have continued each day to walk by the ball and not give it another thought, but we all play a role in security ... even if it's something that seems so harmless as a stray basketball.

Remember to be vigilant and observant. If you see something out of place, question it. You shouldn't pick it up, but you should report it.

I'm sure facility staff must have thought I was silly for reporting the ball, but in these post-9/11 years and at a time when drug smuggling is becoming too tricky, was I?

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## **Governor Wolf Announces Record Drop in Prison Inmate Population**

Governor Tom Wolf announced this week the largest reduction of inmates in the Pennsylvania state prison system since record keeping began.

In 2018, the total DOC inmate population dropped from 48,438 to 47,370, a decrease of 1,068 inmates or 2.2 percent over 2017. The inmate population has declined six of the past seven years.

"The 2018 calendar year reduction represents the single largest year-over-year decrease of inmate population on record," Gov. Wolf said. "The historic decline demonstrates that common-sense criminal justice reforms work and bolsters the case for expanding reforms while ensuring the safety of all citizens."

"Only a decade ago, Pennsylvania was shipping inmates to other states because of overcrowding," said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. "The work of the Department of Corrections and Board of Probation and Parole along with the reforms under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative made the seemingly impossible possible: Reducing the prison population, while at the same time crime rates are among the lowest in a generation."

A major contributor to the decline was a significant decrease in prison admissions during 2018. New court commitments dropped by 617 inmates from 2017 to 2018

(a 7 percent decrease), while parole violator admissions dropped by 575 from 2017 to 2018 (a 6 percent decrease).

"It is difficult to ascertain why court commitments dropped during 2018, but it may be due to continued crime drops across Pennsylvania or to other efforts by the counties to divert appropriate cases from state sentences," Wetzel said. "The drop in parole violator admissions is likely due to improved efforts, under the DOC/Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole consolidation, to divert technical parole violators from lengthy returns to state prison."

Amid the record decline in prison population, Pennsylvania continues its leadership role in common-sense criminal justice reform. Gov. Wolf [signed the "Clean Slate" bill](#) in June 2018, with some provisions in effect beginning Dec. 26, 2018. The first of its kind in the nation, Clean Slate helps those who have committed low-level offenses and have paid their penalty get back on the path to a blemish-free record, removing potential roadblocks to jobs, housing, health care, and education.

"The introduction of Clean Slate, a model for the nation, is one more step forward in creating effective, bipartisan criminal justice reforms that do not compromise on public safety," Gov. Wolf said. "I have long expressed my support for these reforms and will continue to push to ensure we are doing the right thing when it comes to fixing Pennsylvania's criminal justice system."

The criminal justice reforms Gov. Wolf is calling for include:

- Passage and implementation of JRI 2 to address the high cost of incarceration in the state, to strengthen support for county probation programs, and to fix inadequate sentencing guidelines.
- Reforming the pre-trial system to make certain that those accused of a crime have access to competent legal counsel and a reasonable bail system.
- Reforming the post-trial criminal justice system to ensure work towards rehabilitation of individuals and preparation to reenter society, rather than creating further risks for recidivism.
- Focusing on probation reform to ensure the right individuals have the right level of supervision and technical probation violations do not mean an immediate return to incarceration. This works hand-in-hand with first ensuring sentences are commensurate with the severity of crimes committed.

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## Dormer Named Employee of the Quarter at Coal Township

At a recent administrative staff meeting, SCI Coal Township Supt. Thomas McGinley announced the 4th Quarter Employee of the Quarter award recipient is Masonry Trades Instructor Mike Dormer.



Mike was nominated for his “can do” attitude and willingness to always help in any way—which makes him one of maintenance’s most valuable assets. Mike’s supervisors stated that he consistently goes above and beyond what is expected of him. In the last quarter, Mike has completed three extensive projects at Coal Township: the outside dining area, installation of the RHU penthouse doors and K housing unit construction. Mike also assisted with a large project at the Lewistown State Fire Academy this past year.

Supt. McGinley, when presenting Mike with his award, stated that he appreciates Mike and what he has done for SCI Coal Township. He thanked Mike for his outstanding work and his remarkable work ethics. He concluded by noting Mike always has a positive demeanor accompanied by a welcoming smile, which always reflects on to others.

Congratulations to Mike Dormer!

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## February is Black History Month

For many years our state prisons have celebrated Black History Month with a variety of programs for both staff and inmates, and this year is no different. Celebrations throughout the month will include art and essay contests, special movies played on the inmate TV channel, guest speakers/presenters, trivia contests, programs honoring historic figures, musical performances, bulletin boards depicting African American information and special fundraising events to benefit non-profit organizations.

We will update the newsletter/blog as the celebrations happen.

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## Camp Hill R Block Earns Quarterly Safety Award

The SCI Camp Hill Safety Office has implemented a program for fire safety and sanitation that is designed to recognize a department or person who go above and beyond the call of duty in fire safety and sanitation.

The program selects one person or department quarterly who has shown outstanding performance in maintaining a clean and safe working environment for staff and inmates who work and live at Camp Hill. The program was implemented in January 2017 with the intent to show appreciation for their hard work and true concern for the environment that we all live and work in on a daily basis.



**Pictured from left: Gregory Carbaugh, institutional safety manager; Sgt. C. Gault; and CO K. O’Leary.**

The 4th Quarter Certificate of Excellence for fire safety and sanitation was awarded to R Block.

We would like to thank the R Block staff for a job well done. Your hard work, dedication, and commitment are greatly appreciated. Thank you for being a positive role model at SCI Camp Hill and for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

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## Fayette Staff Raise Money for Local Family

When a family in the community suffered tragedy, three employees at SCI Fayette took action.

HAS Rachel Medlock, CO1 Newhouse and Lt. Burton participated in Cross Fit Uniontown’s fundraiser to help the Weasenforth family, who lost both of their children in a tragic house fire. The mother of the South Union Township family is already battling stage 4 breast cancer.

The fundraiser raised more than \$2,000 and clothing donations for the family.

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## Inmates Reach Out to Local Elementary Schools Volunteering to Provide Snacks

In January, the SCI Smithfield Inmate Organization (SIO), under the supervision of Activities Specialist Shawn Husick and the prison's Activities Department, reached out to 10 schools offering to provide them with snacks for elementary students.

The letter informed officials that inmates are afforded opportunities to conduct fundraisers which allows them to give back to society, and this is one way they hoped to do just that.



The organization's goal was to provide a snack, consisting of store-bought snack items, to every elementary student in Huntingdon County.

Based on each Huntingdon County elementary school's enrollment, the inmates were prepared to provide nearly 2,840 snacks through this one-time donation.

"This idea was very well received by the schools," Husick said. "I contacted the county superintendents/principals to see if their school would be interested in the donation from the SIO and to get their elementary enrollment. Tussey Mountain Elementary even used the donation toward their weekend backpack program."

Smithfield Inmate Organization,  
Thank you for your kindness  
in presenting snacks to our  
elementary students. That was  
very thoughtful of your group.  
We sincerely appreciate it.  
Tussey Mountain Elementary  
School

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## Around the Centers...

### **Pittsburgh Community Corrections Center Hosts Pittsburgh Community Services Inc.**

By Tara Marhefka, Corrections Counselor

Ted Washington, a job developer from Pittsburgh Community Services Inc., met with reentrants at Pittsburgh Community Corrections Center on Nov. 8, 2018.

Washington (pictured, with a Pittsburgh CCC resident) provided an overview of the services that PCSI has to offer but focused on Training and Workforce Development and the Work Ready programs. PCSI offers resume development, job search support, soft skills trainings and career credential courses.



Established in 1983, Pittsburgh Community Services Inc. is recognized as the innovative community action leader in reducing poverty in Pittsburgh through direct service, advocacy, mobilization of resources, sustainable economic empowerment and effective institutional change. PCSI offers case management, training and workforce development, work ready, anti-hunger initiatives and housing services.

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# In The News...

## Ceiling Remodel Looking Up

By Kay Stephens, Altoona Mirror

<http://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2018/12/ceiling-remodel-looking-up/>

HOLLIDAYSBURG — Improvements to the oldest and largest courtroom at the Blair County Courthouse and the neighboring lawyers lobby may be ready for a preview in late January.

In recent weeks, the closed courtroom has been the site of a massive scaffolding set-up that provided workers with close access to the ceiling so they could repair and refinish what has been the

cream-colored top of a large room marred by renovations and water leaks.

By the end of the month, the ceiling work, under direction of Albert Michaels Conservation Inc., is expected to wrap up and the scaffolding will come down.

The ceiling will feature a faux finish that local conservator John Rita describes as a mix of paint and stains with highlights. It should appear very similar, Rita said, to what the ceiling looked like when the courthouse was built in 1875.

Commissioners agreed to the faux finish — at a cost of about \$250,000 — after questions surfaced about the county's ability to afford almost \$500,000 for stripping the paint off the wood-plank ceiling and revarnishing it. A decision on the cheaper option was made in February when commissioners agreed to some courtroom renovations at a time when the county is replacing its aged heating, ventilating and air conditioning system, which includes ceiling vents.



**Commissioner Terry Tomassetti (left) looks on as workers from Albert Michaels Conservation continue the restoration work on the ceiling of the 1875 ceremonial courtroom on Monday at the Blair County Courthouse. Mirror photo by Gary M. Baranec**

Before the scaffolding comes down, the next task will be the removal of the public seating pews from the courtroom. When the scaffolding was put up, three sections of pews at the rear of the courtroom were moved to the front of the room and stacked.

Those pews have typically been filled by potential jurors on jury selection day and by non-incarcerated defendants for court proceedings that would include case reviews and guilty pleas.

Now that commissioners have voted in favor of hiring the Pennsylvania Correctional Industries to refinish the pews for \$15,531, plans are being made to take the pews apart so they can be carried out of the courthouse and put in a truck for delivery to the State Correctional Institution at Rockview.

Director of Public Works Rocky Greenland recently told commissioners that the restoration price offered by the corrections department is significantly below market rate. And because the state set up the program for use by governmental entities, county leaders said there's no obligation to seek bids, so the task can begin as soon as a contract is signed.

Greenland said he would like to see the pews removed from the courtroom before the scaffolding starts coming down.

"I worry about someone dropping something on those pews," Greenland said.

As for additional restoration work to courtroom's wooden chairs and the building of a judicial bench, a 16-seat jury box and related furnishings, those items remain on hold pending further review of prices.

The state Department of Corrections is capable of handling more restoration work, Commissioner Terry Tomassetti advised commissioners Bruce Erb and Ted Beam Jr. on Dec. 11 when they voted in favor of accepting the price for the pew restoration work.

Before voting on additional work, Erb said he wanted to see some prices in addition to those Tomassetti provided.

The remaining prices are forthcoming shortly, Tomassetti told Erb.

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## Mom of Pro Basketball Player Gives Back

By Kristina Papa, WNEP

<https://wnep.com/2019/01/07/mom-of-pro-basketball-player-gives-back/>

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — The Transitional Living Centers in downtown Williamsport is home to several women offenders transitioning back into the community.

Inside TLC, you'll find a small room with green walls and pink fuzzy pillows.

"This room was basically just a storage room. We weren't really allowed to use it," said Nicole Miller, executive director.



The executive director of My Vision 9, Chanelle Johnson, donated paint and furniture to remodel the room.

The mother of 9 recently started the non-profit to help support families who may have loved ones behind bars.

"I changed a cycle of learned behaviors in 2005 and my life has changed from that point. It's not been the same," said Johnson.

Last year, Johnson's son Alize Johnson was drafted by the NBA's Indiana Pacers last year.

"If he was here he would tell you he often calls me and texts me and says 'Mom, I don't know what would have happened if you would have not changed in 2005 had you not rearranged some things in your life and did things differently. I don't know if I'd be playing in the NBA today,'" said Johnson.

Johnson says she's now focused on helping others make those same changes.

This room renovation was part of her first project. A mentoring program called Rewards.

"They came into the room closed and it wasn't long before they were open and it was like we were sitting in my own living room and that's what I wanted to accomplish," said Johnson.

Kathryn Williams used to live at TLC. Thanks to support from people like Johnson, she says she's been able to create a better life for her and her children.

"I'm a mother and I'm now breaking the cycle with my son who is a junior in high school and he's an amazing student," said Kathryn Williams.

"They can transition back into society and they can do this," said Johnson.

As for the group of women who have already completed the Rewards program, they are set to graduate over at the Genetti Hotel on January 15.

Johnson's plans now are to bring the program to more organizations and help more people in the community.

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Week of Jan. 7, 2018...

## **Wolf Administration Highlights Work to Address Opioid Crisis, Vows Continued Effort in Second Term**

On January 7, 2019, Governor Tom Wolf and his administration pledged to continue working tirelessly during his second term to combat the opioid crisis through the areas of prevention, rescue and treatment as they highlighted work completed to fight the crisis over the past four years.

"My administration has worked to assist those people who are struggling with opioid use disorder by increasing access to Medicaid, offering a free hotline for people to get help and providing naloxone to first responders and the public," Governor Wolf said. "We are hopeful the number of opioid deaths is decreasing, and we pledge to continue our efforts to assist people affected by this epidemic."

In February 2015, Governor Wolf expanded Medicaid in Pennsylvania, allowing more than 125,000 to receive

treatment for substance use disorders. Also, in 2015, then-physician general Dr. Rachel Levine signed a standing order for naloxone, the lifesaving opioid overdose reversal medication; the governor began a series of more than 90 opioid roundtable discussions; the Department of Human Services opened 45 Centers of Excellence for opioid use disorder treatment in communities across the commonwealth; and the Department of Drug and Alcohol

Department of Corrections accomplishments include:

- The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) has expanded its Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program and began testing its MAT initiatives in 2018.
- A DOC body scanner pilot project proved successful in reducing overdoses and violent crime in a number of facilities and is currently being expanded to additional facilities.

Programs introduced the warm handoff program to get more people into treatment for opioid use disorder, all leading up to the January 2018 opioid disaster declaration, which has been renewed four times, most recently in December 2018.

Since Governor Wolf first signed the heroin and opioid disaster declaration, 16 state agencies, through the Opioid Command Center (OCC), have continuously worked to fight the opioid epidemic and have made significant progress to help individuals and families dealing with this crisis.

Under the disaster declaration, some accomplishments include waiving birth certificate fees for individuals seeking treatment, using federal Medicaid funding in treatment facilities to provide more than 12,000 individuals access to medically necessary treatment, and providing career services to people who have been impacted by the opioid epidemic and plan to return to work.

"The latest renewal of the disaster declaration, which has covered nearly a year, shows that there is still work to be done to address this crisis," Gov. Wolf said. "Addressing this crisis requires a multi-faceted approach involving a wide range of state agencies, including health-related agencies, public safety and law enforcement, and community partners."

Recently, the Wolf Administration distributed 6,105 kits of naloxone as part of Stop Overdoses in PA: Get Help Now Week, a statewide initiative to get the overdose reversal medication naloxone to Pennsylvanians and get help for residents suffering from the disease of opioid-use disorder. An additional 1,465 people left their name and contact information requesting to receive naloxone.

Governor Wolf's efforts over the past four years, working with state agencies, local, regional and federal officials, have resulted in significant action to address the opioid crisis:

- The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program has reduced the prescription of opioids by more than 20 percent and has virtually eliminated doctor shopping.
- The Opioid Data Dashboard and Data Dashboard 2.0 has provided public-facing data regarding prevention, rescue and treatment.
- Eight PacMAT centers are serving as part of a hub-and-spoke model to provide treatment to people where they live.
- The establishment of the OCC and its capacity to facilitate coordination across agencies has helped to tear down silos and provide solutions to this crisis and discuss areas of work that overlap among several agencies in a streamlined manner.

- The waiver of birth certificate fees for those with opioid use disorder has helped more than 1,100 people gain easier entry into recovery programs.
- A standing order signed by Dr. Rachel Levine in 2018 allowed EMS to leave behind more than 620 doses of naloxone.
- More than 45 Centers of Excellence, administered by the Department of Human Services, are now providing evidence-based treatment to those on Medicaid suffering from a substance use disorder.
- The DART survey referral system was introduced to assist getting those who need treatment in navigating available resources.
- More than 1,500 prescribers in 2018 received education and with funding available to reach another 2,000 additional in 2019.
- More than 22,000 physicians have received training on how to prescribe opioids cautiously and judiciously.
- 811 drug take-back boxes helped properly dispose of 482,000 pounds of unwanted drugs in 2018.
- The Get Help Now Hotline received more than 15,000 calls this year, with 45 percent of callers connected directly to a treatment provider.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) has expanded its Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program and began testing its MAT initiatives in 2018.
- A DOC body scanner pilot project proved successful in reducing overdoses and violent crime in a number of facilities and is currently being expanded to additional facilities.
- More than 100 licensed physicians or prescribers have been disciplined for wrongful practice over the past two years.
- PA schools have received education and training on opioids with plans in place to make opioid education a standard component of school-based training.
- More than 25,000 doses of naloxone have been purchased and distributed through the county entities, leading to 4,501 reversals.
- Announced Medicaid waiver for prior authorization requirements for evidence-based opioid use disorder treatments, with commercial insurers quickly following suit.
- Assisted local partners in developing strategic plans and funding community-based intervention programs through grants such as Cumberland County's opioid court.
- Law enforcement seized heroin, fentanyl among other illicit drugs to help keep them off the street.

Find a link to a complete 2015-2108 timeline of accomplishments  
<https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Pennsylvanias-Opioid-Response-Timeline.pdf>

"The opioid crisis has been and continues to be a priority, and we will continue to work to assist those affected by the disease of addiction, their loved ones, and their communities," Governor Wolf said. "I am committed to continuing this important work in my second term."

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## **PCI Preserving Historic Courthouse Doors**

Huntingdon County Courthouse doors, each made of solid walnut and weighing 400 pounds, are believed to be original to the building's construction in 1882. These doors are in the process of being preserved and renovated thanks to Pennsylvania Correctional Industries. The first set of doors have been finished, and the second set will be worked on soon by inmates at SCI Rockview.



**Renovated doors have been installed on the left.**

Read more about this project in the January 2, 2019, edition of the Huntingdon Daily News.

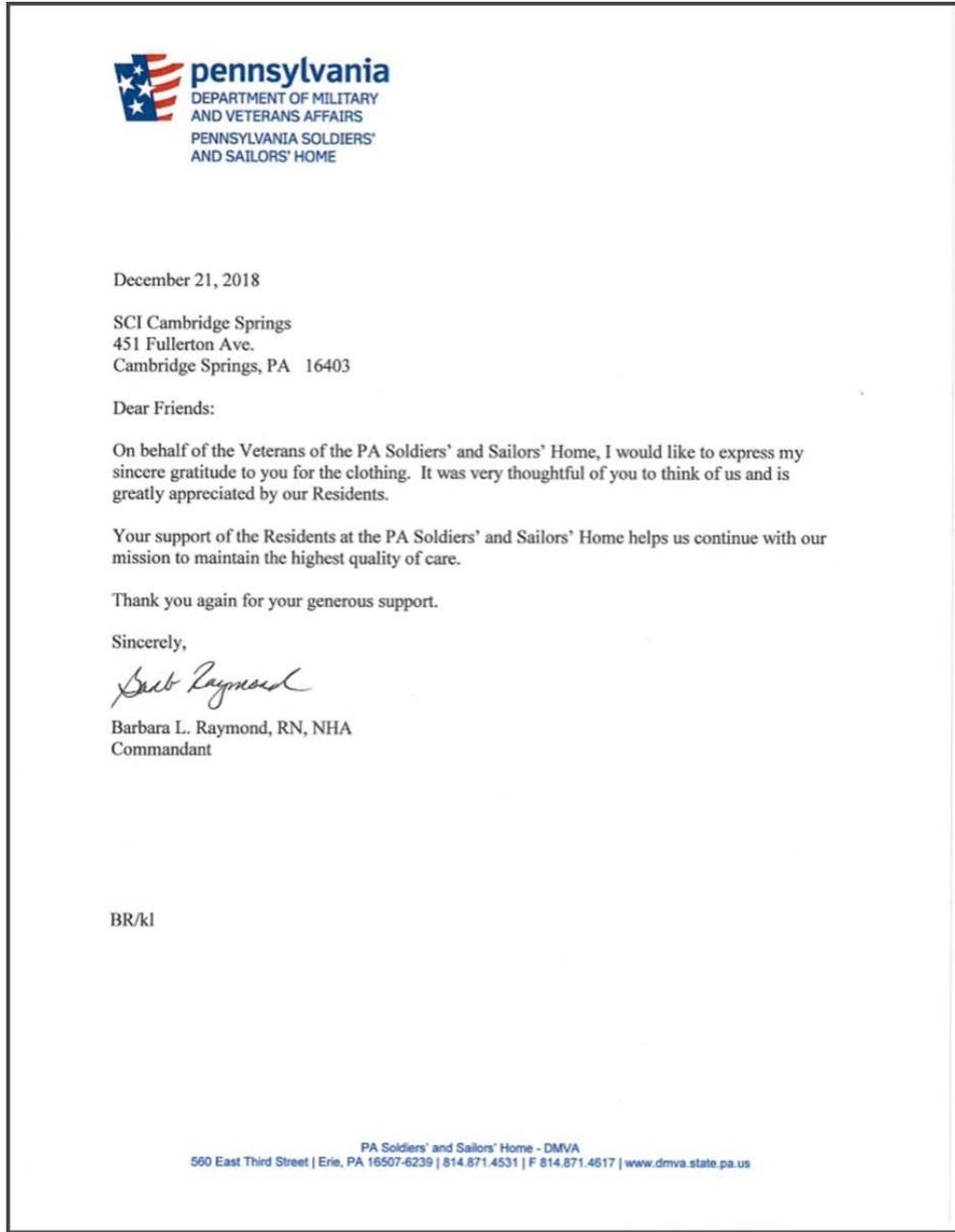
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## **Veterans Home Thanks DOC Staff for Support**

Last week, we reported that SCIs Albion, Cambridge Springs, Forest Mercer worked together to support the residents of Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in

Erie. Staff members collected clothes and personal hygiene items for the veterans in the home.

PSSH Commandant Barbara Raymond wrote the following letter in appreciation for DOC staff:



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## Artists Compete in Mural Contest at Albion

SCI Albion recently completed its 2018 Holiday Mural Contest. Inmate artists on each housing unit used the same material and supplies to create "A Welcoming

Fireplace.” The staff of SCI Albion cast 287 ballots and the winning paintings for each unit are featured below.

Unit A/B



Unit C/A



Unit J/A



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## Retreat Employees Association Hosts Breakfast with Santa

The SCI Retreat Employees Association held its annual Breakfast with Santa at Montage Ski Resort on Dec. 16. Kids and adults had a full course breakfast buffet to enjoy, along with crafts, face painting and pictures with Santa! The Retreat Employee Association also gave each child a stocking with goodies and a gift card. A fun time was had by all! Thank you to those who went.



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## University of Pittsburgh Highlights Somerset Puppy Program

Kathleen Smith Bell, a volunteer for Canine Partners for Life's and the SCI Somerset Prison Puppy Program, and Ella, a 13-month old Labrador retriever service dog were hosted by the University of Pittsburgh's Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law and Public Policy. Inmates at SCI Somerset raise puppies through their initial training stage until they are ready for more advanced training as service dogs to assist adults and children with a variety of medical and emotional conditions, including seizure, cardiac and diabetic conditions.



**Above: Kathleen Smith Bell and Bella of Canine Partners for Life**

**Below (from left): Former Gov. Dick Thornburgh, former First Lady Ginny Thornburgh, Ella, and Kathy Smith Bell.**

This lecture included:

- the mission of Canine Partners for Life and the Somerset Prison Puppy Program;
- the many ways service dogs assist children and adults with disabilities;
- information on how service dogs are bred, raised, and trained;
- information on how service dogs are matched with their partner;
- examples of the spectrum of disabilities these canines serve;
- the difference between a service dog and a therapy dog; and
- information on how the general public should react when in the company of a service dog.

This lecture was sponsored by The Dick Thornburgh Forum for Law & Public Policy. Co-sponsored by Pitt Law, the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The Office of Disability



Resources and Services, PittHonors, and assistance from The Office of the Chancellor.

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## **Training Academy's Angel Tree Project Shares the Holiday Spirit with Local Families**

The season of giving was on full display at the DOC Training Academy in Elizabethtown in December as 25 children in 10 families received presents donated by academy staff and students.



The academy works with the non-profit group West Shore Friends annually to provide for needy families at Elizabethtown Area School District's Bear Creek Elementary, giving youngsters a full set of clothing – including a coat and a pair of shoes, along with a few toys.

The heart-warming yuletide tradition is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year.

"This was our biggest year yet in terms of donations," Training Academy's Empowerment Committee Chair and staff member Sue Bryan said. "Bear Creek Elementary was blown away by our donation this year."

Ms. Bryan coordinates the Angel Tree project each year, a task she is more than delighted to undertake. "Our staff and Basic Training classes are unbelievably generous," she said.

Each year the school sends Ms. Bryan a list of children who are candidates to receive presents. She then creates a paper angel ornament representing each child and hangs them on the Christmas tree on display at the academy. The staff – and students who are there for Basic Training – are encouraged to select an angel and "sponsor" a child by handing the angels back in with wrapped presents. The angels don't stay on the tree very long.

In addition, the annual staff Christmas party holds a raffle where the price of admission is a gift card – these cards are then collected and sent along with the presents to the West Shore Friends. They use the gift cards to not only buy the Bear Creek Elementary kids a few additional presents, but clothing, necessities and toys for other families throughout the region as well.

This year's raffle generated around \$1,100 in gift cards alone.

Other donations and gifts are also accepted, particularly from the Basic Training class. Academy staff then volunteer to help process the gifts, packaging and transporting them to the West Shore Friends.

"It takes special people with a huge heart to volunteer their own time to help our families in our community," Bryan said. "They should all consider themselves angels this holiday season."

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## **Around the Centers...**

### **Changes Being Made to BCC Contract Employee Training**

In December, the DOC's Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC) conducted a week-long pilot Basic Training Academy (BTA) in the Eastern Region, which turned out to be very successful.



As a result, the DOC's BCC, in 2019, will begin holding its own training sessions for CCF employees. Here's a listing of the changes:

- Basic training for contracted staff has been reduced from two weeks to one week to be more community corrections specific.
- Basic training will be only for contracted staff so there will no longer be staff removed from scheduled training due to "department needs."
- Basic training will be held regionally.
- BCC will conduct regional trainings twice per year (six total) based on trainer availability.
- BCC anticipates starting this new Basic Training beginning January 2019 with a schedule soon to follow.

"Obviously these changes will benefit each facility and cut down on overnight stays and time away from the facility," said BCC Director Daniel McIntyre. "We look

forward to the feedback from staff as we continue to improve operations and our commitment to provide this important initial training.”

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## **DOC’s BCC Partners with Task Force**

The DOC is proud to announce that its Bureau of Community Corrections has partnered with the Northeast Counterdrug Joint Task Force. As result of the partnership, task force officials will conduct four six-hour trainings for the DOC, with the first training set for Feb. 15. The free trainings are for corrections and parole supervision employees only and will be held regionally to make trainings accessible for staff across the state.

The training is entitled “Opioid Threat in the Community,” and will provide insight into the challenges faced in the community corrections field, specifically discussing national, statewide and local heroin trends, prescription opioids and other opioid compounds.

We will provide additional information on these trainings in future issues of this newsletter.

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## **BCC Recognizes Bureau of Treatment Services Employee**

The Bureau of Community Corrections recognized Bureau of Treatment Services staff member Steven S. Seitchik for his efforts with providing MAT’s (Medication Assisted Treatment) to reentrants within Community Corrections.

“MAT Coordinator Seitchik has demonstrated a wonderful passion for his mission. His support and tireless efforts are very much appreciated and recognized by the BCC,” said Danny McIntyre, BCC director.



**Pictured (from left): Tracy Smith, director BTS; Steve Seitchik; and BCC Deputy Luis Resto**

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## Senator Tours Scranton CCC

Pennsylvania Senator John P. Blake and his Regional Director, Lawrence D. West, visited the Scranton CCC on Jan. 7. The meeting was productive, and staff could share the positive work, community service projects and reintegration efforts that takes places daily at the CCC. The meeting was successfully and we look forward to continuing to develop a positive relationship during the upcoming year!

**Pictured (from left): BCC Regional Director Christy Ulrich; Senator John P. Blake; and Scranton CCC Director Jeffrey James**



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Week of Dec. 31, 2018...

## Teacher Spotlight: SCI Muncy's Matthew Shively

Matthew Shively is a versatile asset to the SCI Muncy education department.

Shively teaches ESL (language skills), social studies (world geography and U.S. government), and science (biology, chemistry and physical science) at Adult Basic Education and General Education Development levels. But his main subject is one that may surprise people: special education.

**HEAD OF THE CLASS**

**Name:** Matthew Shively

**Facility:** SCI Muncy

**Subject:** Special Education

**Length of Service:** 20 years

**Why:** "I'm trying to set them on a path that they won't be back here, and I'm trying to give them the skills to do that."



"We follow the same state and federal regulations as public schools," Shively said. "We just have to make things adaptable for this environment.

"We have to make the best of the services we have available. We also coordinate occupational or physical therapy."

His special education students are working on their high school diplomas, and his class can range in size from 2-20 students. His students' conditions can be as diverse as in public school, including dual diagnosis developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, severe emotional disabilities and being on the autism spectrum—a condition he sees becoming more prevalent.

They can also be gifted.

"I have one gifted student right now actually," Shively said. "A gifted person gets more challenging questions and more challenging curriculum. Keeping them interested is difficult."

Before Muncy, Shively worked at Selinsgrove Center, an institutional setting for people with severe mental health and developmental disabilities. He came to Muncy to teach special education when the previous teacher was retiring. But when he arrived, the previous teacher changed his mind, so Shively served as a corrections counselor 2 for nearly 3 years. When the position did open, he became the special education teacher fully.

He also has taught ESL from the beginning, since he speaks Spanish.

"I had that inner desire to go somewhere I could truly make a difference," Shively said. "Education in the correctional setting is probably more crucial than public school. In public school, you want them prepared for life, but these ladies need to be prepared for a second try.

"I'm trying to set them on a path that they won't be back here and I'm trying give them the skills to do that."

The biggest hurdles he faces are the lack of access to outside services such as job fairs, community experiences, and internet usage that is available in public schools.

It is also more difficult setting up real-world experience for them. Outside he could have them shadow a nurse or somebody if they're interested in a career, but they can't do that inside the facility.

Instead, Shively uses technology.

"I use a lot of video resources, hands-on projects, just to try to get the experience as real as possible," he said. "For biology, we have virtual dissections. They use a smart board pen that serves as the scalpel. It's improvisation."

When he started, Shively remembers using a chalkboard and safety pens. Now he has students who have never seen a chalkboard, and he uses handheld computers for his lessons to make it easier to ask questions.

"They can push a button on their computer so I know when they need help," he said. "They don't have to speak up and think they're stupid or being called out. I can reiterate what concept I'm on a little more without singling anyone out."

Empowering and enabling his students for a brighter future is a driving motivator for Shively, but unfortunately teachers at DOC facilities rarely see the fruits of their labor. Contact between teacher and student is forbidden when the student is released, so most leave and are never heard from again.

But recently, a chance encounter created a special moment for Shively.

When out in public, "this person comes running up to me saying 'Mr. Shively!' And I knew it was an inmate because nobody calls me that outside of here."

"She's crying and she thanked me," Shively said, "and said after she got her diploma she went to school and got her teacher's certification and minority business woman's loan and started her own salon. Now she owns 5 salons in the area and bought her house. She said, 'I really feel like it was you got me back on track and doing something positive with my life.'

"That was the moment where it all sunk in that maybe I am making a difference. It may be all or half, but some of them are doing well from what knowledge and skills I've given them here."

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## Pressure Mounts to Smuggle Drugs into DOC

Recent drug finds prove that inmates running the prison drug trade are anxious to get their drugs inside PA's state prisons as quickly as possible and especially before the scanners are operational.

A recent drug find at SCI Mahanoy



“When we announced our anti-drug policies several months ago, we knew that people would scramble to get drugs into our prisons. This incident, which is one of many throughout our system, proves that our war on drugs is real,” said Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. “When an inmate uses his own mother as a mule to smuggle drugs into the system, it shows you how desperate they are to keep the drugs flowing.”



**A recent drug/contraband find at SCI Dallas.**

The DOC is in the process of installing inmate body scanners. After every visit, inmates will be scanned for contraband, including drugs.

Wetzel also noted that once the inmate body scanners are operational, so too will be visiting room vending machines, although their use and the items they provide will be limited to clear liquid drinks and cold food items and snacks. No timeframe on the operation of the body scanners is available, as installation is underway across the system.

**And if you don't think this war on drugs is real, check out this latest drug interception!**

On January 2, 2019, SCI Mahanoy officials were called to the prison's mailroom to inspect several packages that had just been delivered. One of the three packages was very different looking from the others.

Security staff x-rayed all the packages and found that the different one appeared to contain multiple balloons. That box was photographed and opened. Inside of the box, laying on top of the package was a children's book which appeared to be soaked with an unknown liquid. Underneath the book were approximately 75 pages of different colored construction paper with a pungent odor. Underneath the construction paper were two manila envelopes with packing tape wrapped around the top.



The first one was opened and found to contain one yellow balloon with a square content inside along with 29 black balloons. The second envelope was opened and found to contain 22 white balloons and three green balloons ... for a total of 55 balloons. Inside of the yellow balloon were 109 full strips of orange film which was tested and found to be Suboxone.

All the balloons were opened. They all contained a green leafy substance, suspected K-2. A test was conducted which produced a positive result for synthetic marijuana. Each balloon was opened, photographed and weighed individually for a total of 735.5 grams or 25.9 ounces of synthetic marijuana.



**SCI Mahanoy's drug find.**

Another recent drug find at SCI Dallas also is evidence of the pressure on inmates to get their drugs into the prison. On December 23, in the prison's visiting room strip search area, officials discovered an inmate attempting to smuggle two small cell phones, 45 strips of suboxone and 16.5 grams of synthetic cannabinoids into the prison.

Recent finds over the past month include, but are not limited to:

- Six full strips and three bundles of suboxone in one cell, and five strips of suboxone found hidden in a dictionary in another cell at SCI Smithfield.
- Inmate mother (visitor) observed passing balloon full of K2 at SCI Mahanoy.
- 96.3 grams of synthetic cannabinoids and 165 strips of suboxone in the women's restroom in SCI Forest's visiting room
- 36 strips of suboxone on an SCI Mercer inmate after a visit

- 69 strips of suboxone on an SCI Albion inmate after a visit
- 136 grams of synthetic cannabinoids found in SCI Benner Township's visiting room lobby
- 338 grams of synthetic cannabinoids, 204 strips of suboxone, 2 cell phones with chargers on the grounds of SCI Benner Township
- 18.6 grams of synthetic cannabinoids, 25 strips of suboxone and 21 oxycodone pills in the visiting room at SCI Coal Township
- 205 small packets of synthetic cannabinoids on an inmate at SCI Greene

Each facility works closely with law enforcement and provides them with information and evidence necessary for them to determine whether charges should be filed.

"We continue to be vigilant in our efforts to keep drugs out of our prisons," Wetzel said. "We expected smuggling to increase once we implemented our new mail policy. Introducing contraband and drugs will become even more difficult for inmates and visitors once our inmate body scanners are operational."

Individuals interested in keeping track of drug interdiction performance measures can do so on the DOC website's Drug Elimination Efforts page at [www.cor.pa.gov](http://www.cor.pa.gov).

Following the performance measures, individuals can review each month's indicators related to drug finds, percent of positive drug tests, inmate on staff assaults, inmate on inmate assaults, drug related misconducts, violence, inmate trips to ER due to drugs, inmate overdoses and staff trips to ER due to drugs.

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## **PSP, DOC Investigate Inmate Death at SCI Pine Grove**

State officials are investigating the death of an inmate at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Pine Grove.

At approximately 10:00 PM on January 1, 2019, officers at SCI Pine Grove found inmate Luis Santiago, 32, unresponsive in his cell. Staff immediately administered CPR, and the inmate was taken to Indiana Regional Medical Center by ambulance at 10:35 PM, where he was pronounced dead at 11:35 PM on January 1.

The Indiana County Coroner's Office, Pennsylvania State Police Troop A, Indiana, and the Department of Corrections are conducting investigations.

Luis Santiago was serving a 2½- to 10-year sentence for aggravated assault with serious bodily injury out of Berks County, had been housed at the prison since July 10, 2018. The inmate's next of kin on file with the Department of Corrections has been notified. Santiago's cellmate is presently being interviewed.

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## Greene Staff Support Local Veteran

A Greene County veteran and her family received what she called a "Christmas Miracle" from staff at SCI Greene.

Field Human Resource Director Tammy Koratich spoke with her after learning of her recent struggles through the Greene County Veteran's Affairs Office. Her two

eldest children, ages 10 and 13, understood that there would not be a Christmas for them as their mother explained the money was needed to pay the bills and the mortgage. Although they were disappointed, they understood.

Koratich reached out to the family and collected a "wish list" from the children. The employees at Greene quickly went into action to ensure the gifts were collected, wrapped and delivered to the family in time for Christmas. Items such as a dishwasher, two laptop computers, a cellular telephone, clothing and toys, including a gift basket for the family's dog, were among some of the items that were donated. The family also received \$1,355 in cash and \$350 in gift cards as well as a visit from Santa. We are extremely blessed to have received the overwhelming support from our staff for this family during the holiday season.

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## **New Puppies Arrive at Pine Grove**

Christmas came early for some of the inmate dog handlers at SCI Pine Grove.

We received four labs from New Hope Assistance Dogs in Warren, PA, on Dec. 21. New Hope is a charitable organization dedicated to enable dogs to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities and to educate the general public. The goal is to provide recipients with an Assistance Dog comprised of the high standards that are expected of Assistance Dogs International Organization (ADIO). The goal of their Assistance Dog is to provide them with more freedom and greater independence in life. To provide stability for those suffering from balance issues, and to provide both children and adults with Assistance Dogs to help in both mental and physical disabilities.



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## **Mercer Staff Donate Time and Non-Perishable Food Items During the Holiday Season**

As part of giving back to the community this year, SCI Mercer staff not only participated in the annual "Treasures for Children" toy drive in conjunction with the Sharon Salvation Army, but also held a food drive and volunteered at a local food warehouse.



Each year during the holiday season, SCI Mercer holds a non-perishable food drive to stock the shelves of the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Mercer. A box is placed in the staff lounge to collect donated items from staff. In

addition, staff attending the Employee Association Christmas party are asked to bring food items to donate to the pantry.

On Dec. 24, more than 200 pounds of non-perishable food items were donated to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, which provides food to those in need in the Mercer County area.

On Dec. 7, administrative staff volunteered their time and energy at the Community Food Warehouse in Sharon. This non-profit organization is a member of Feeding America, the nation's network of food banks who warehouse non-perishable food items for its member agencies. Staff volunteered to sort and box up donated food. According to Lauren Moyer, Program/Volunteer Coordinator at Community Food Warehouse, staff moved and sorted more than 7,000 pounds of food in the couple of hours they were at the warehouse.



The experience not only gave staff the opportunity to give back to the community but fostered teamwork.

Thanks to all who participated in these events that benefit folks from the Mercer County communities.

SCI Mercer extends wishes for a Happy Holiday to all.

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## Toy Drive Held at Mercer for Local Children

Each year at the Holiday Season, the Sharon Salvation Army sponsors a toy drive entitled, "Treasures for Children." Gift tags for young children from Mercer County communities are provided to help in choosing gifts for the children. Each tag indicates the first name, age, and gender of the child, clothing sizes, and several toy items on the child's wish list. SCI Mercer has participated in this program for over ten years.



**Superintendent Melinda Adams (left) and Superintendent's Assistant Andrea Shiock**

Once the tags are received at the facility, they are displayed for SCI Mercer staff to choose a child or more than one if they so choose. This December, staff volunteered to donate gifts for 50 children for them to have a treasure to open for the holiday.

Thanks to all who participated in this annual event to brighten the lives of many from the Mercer County communities.

Officer Jason Ellis and HR Analyst Christi Griffin, along with volunteers from the Salvation Army, helped Andrea Shiock load the truck.

Happy Holidays to all from SCI Mercer.

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## SCI's Work Together to Support Veterans Home

Staff from SCI Cambridge Springs C.O.V.E.R. and SCI Albion C.O.V.E.R. delivered donations from a collaborative effort between them and SCI Forest and SCI Mercer to the Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie. The donations were collected for several weeks and included clothes, personal hygiene items



and books. The staff and residents were very happy to receive these items for the holiday season.

Staff involved in orchestrating this project at each facility included C.O.V.E.R. members: Robert Graves, ALB Counselor 2; Jessica Hotchkiss, CBS Psych Services Specialist; Brea Simmons, CBS Registered Dental Hygienist; Andrew McLaughlin, MER ABE Teacher; and Thomas Rape, FOR DATS Supervisor



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## Camp Hill Inmates Experience Holiday Concerts

The SCI Camp Hill Activities' Department recently hosted five holiday concerts. The artist Suzann kicked off the series with her R&B/Pop concert on Nov. 28. She is the 2012 and 2017 Hip Hop Award Winner for "Best Female R&B/Pop Artist."

Next in the lineup was Familiar Spirit featuring Jackson Duane on Dec. 1. This band performed contemporary rock and roll and featured Motown hits as well as top 40s.



The next of the five to perform was Megan Burt, who performed with her band on Dec. 10 and 11. They played both their own songs as well as a few contemporary rock songs.

Local artist, Ben Gallaher, performed Dec. 17 and showcased his country hits. This show was also featured on the local news as he performed his annual Barbed Tour.

Felix and the Hurricanes finished off the series of concerts on Dec. 18. The bands were much enjoyed by both staff and inmates.



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# Smithfield Staff Donate to Local Nonprofits

SCI Smithfield staff collected \$300 during a recent staff Christmas party to donate to the Huntingdon County Human Society, a food bank in Altoona and a scholarship fund. In addition, numerous items for the Huntingdon County Humane Society and the Blair County Animal Shelter were collected and delivered.



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## Smithfield Staff Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army

On December 17 and December 18, SCI Smithfield staff rung the bell for the Salvation Army's Kettle Campaign to help raise funds during the holiday season. Staff managed the kettle at Walmart in Huntingdon for a period of 12 hours.



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## Waymart Staff Provide Christmas to 13 Children

It brings great joy to say that all the Christmas gifts were delivered to three agencies. The gratitude staff expressed was humbling. We want to pass this news along to all those who donated their time and money to provide for the less fortunate children in our community. Although, this was a late



in the season endeavor, the staff at SCI Waymart have yet again shown selfless acts of kindness by providing 13 children in need this Christmas. The Community Support Committee will continue to help those in need when called upon, and we are thankful for the generous individuals we work with daily.

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## **Lions Club Donation for Upgrades to Cambridge Springs Braille Transcription Program**

On Dec. 10, Gene Shelhamer, Director of the Lions of Pennsylvania Foundation, gave a matching fund donation to the Meadville Lions Foundation for their continued support of the Braillemates Transcription Program at SCI Cambridge Springs.

Since shortly after the institution opened in 1993, the Meadville Lions Club has been working with the women's prison in Cambridge Springs to transcribe reading material into braille for use by blind and visually-impaired citizens across the commonwealth.



Inmates enrolled in this program work through a 3-year transcription course offered by the National Federation of the Blind, and those who successfully complete the course are certified by The Library of Congress. Working with local school districts and Intermediate Units, the primary goal of the program is to provide braille textbooks and other reading material for visually impaired elementary and high school students. However, in addition to local schools, the Braillemates have transcribed public notices, bus schedules, newsletters, and even braille menus for

local non-profit organizations and businesses. The motto of the program is “Bringing Vision to Fingertips and Light to Lives”.

The funds from the Pennsylvania Lions Foundation will be matched by the Meadville Lions Club and used to provide updated transcribing software and related equipment that will expand the program and enable Braillemates to provide services to visually impaired people for years to come.

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## **Chester District Office Honors Staff at Holiday Party**

The PBPP Chester District Office held its annual holiday party on Dec. 19, and it took the opportunity to honor two of its own.

Deputy Secretary Christian Stephens—who was the event’s guest speaker—congratulated ASCRA Reggie Haines on his retirement after 20 years of service with PBPP.



Also recognized was agent Michael Gannon, who was honored for his swift action when he assisted an elderly resident. He received a certificate.



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## Phoenix's Season of Giving

December is a season of giving at SCI Phoenix! Members of the SCI Phoenix Empowerment Committee organized a "giving tree" for children in need from Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties. Staff members selected a child's name from the "giving trees" and donated gifts. The humanitarian effort by SCI Phoenix staff, in connection with the local county Children and Youth Agencies, provided 176 children with holiday gifts.





**Empowerment Committee members pictured from left to right: Nalani Haynes, Juanita Wilcox, Collette Philbin, Dyhna Wylie, Dannette Pressley, and Pamela Sellers.**

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## **PBPP Agents Participate in Shop with a Hero Event**

Four parole agents from the Franklin Sub Office participated in a local program known as Shop with a Hero on Dec. 10.

Approximately 30 children from Venango County were selected by the Pennsylvania State Police to participate in the program. The children were given a \$100 Walmart gift card and paired up with a local "hero" to shop with for their family members. Following their shopping spree, the children were provided a meal at Subway to sit and eat with their hero. The agents who participated were Jim Breth, Deborah Kappeler, Sarah Lind (in photo with her participant) and Laurie Spence.

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## **Albion Inmates Participate in Holiday Talent Show**

The Residential Treatment Unit at SCI Albion held its annual Holiday Talent Show in the Chapel on Dec. 19. Seventeen acts performed which included singing, joke telling, holiday skits, playing the drums, playing guitars, poem reading and "name that tune" to a gentleman who whistled songs.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and was successful in getting everyone in the holiday spirit. The event was organized by TASW Allison Richard, assisted by RTU Counselor Nicole Norton and supervised by RTU Unit Manager Kevin Lantz. Special thanks to SCI Albion Administration as well as staff from throughout the facility, who attended to support this activity.



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## **Legislative Update and What Lies Ahead for the Next Legislative Session**

Dwayne Heckert, DOC Legislative Liaison

On October 18, 2018, the PA General Assembly wrapped up the 2017-2018 Legislative Session. What exactly did the General Assembly accomplish the past two years? In all there were 3949 bills introduced for possible consideration! The House introduced 2688 bills while the Senate offered 1261 pieces of legislation. Out of that number 275 bills became law which accounts to a just a little under 7% which is average for a session. Of these laws, 157 of originated in the PA House while the remaining 118 were sponsored by Senate Members.

Republicans held the majority of the seats in both the House and Senate and thus controlled the voting schedule and what bills were considered for a vote. Of the 275 bills that became law, 248 were Republican sponsored and 27 were sponsored by Democrats. Being the majority party in the General Assembly has its benefits.

On November 6, the General Election was held at which time all 203 PA House seats and 25 of the 50 PA Senate seats, along with the Governor, Congressional Delegation and one of PA's US Senate seats were up for a vote. Governor Wolf was re-elected for a second term as he received an unprecedented nearly 17-point win over his opponent. Democratic Senator Bob Casey was re-elected to another term while Republican Senator Pat Toomey was not up for re-election.

With the recent court ordered re-districting of Pennsylvania's 18 congressional districts, we saw some major changes in representation. PA's Congressional Delegation will now be split 50/50 as 9 Republicans and 9 Democrats will now represent the Commonwealth in the US House of Representatives. The PA Delegation which before this fall was all men, will now welcome four women to its ranks with the election of Madeleine Dean, Mary Scanlon, Christina Houlahan and Susan Wild.

Back at the State Government level, once all the election results were certified, the Republicans will retain control of the General Assembly in the 2019-2020 Legislative Session. However, the election results were mixed and while Democrats gained a number of seats, a few were lost to Republicans. There were many close races in the Commonwealth with some winners not determined until a recount was completed. In the PA 6<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District voters cast a total of 108,690 votes with the winner determined by 74 votes! One PA House race was decided by 11 votes proving that every vote does count. If you are not registered to vote or need to change your address, do so by going to [www.pavoterservices.pa.gov](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov).

In the PA Senate, Republicans will hold 30 of the 50 seats with the Democrats having 20. In the PA House, there are 203 districts with Republicans holding 110 of those seats while Democrats will have 91 seats. There are two vacant House seats as a representative recently passed away and another forced to resign after a criminal conviction. The speaker of the House will determine when a special election will be held to fill these vacant seats.

What else will change as we look to the 2019-2020 Legislative Session? First, any of the nearly 4000 bills that did not become law from this past session will need to be reintroduced as they all ended or what we call "died" at the end of the session. As the members plan for the new session they can circulate what is known as a co-sponsorship memo to their colleagues asking them to "sign on to support a proposal". Once the General Assembly is sworn in we will begin to see bills introduced for possible consideration.

On January 1, 2019, the Members of the General Assembly were sworn in. As a result, we will soon learn who the chairs of the various committees will be. The chairs are crucial as they control what legislative bills will come before the

committee for consideration and a possible vote. Regular voting session will begin on January 15 when Governor Wolf is sworn in for a second term. For more details on the events surrounding inauguration day go to:

<https://www.wolfinauguration.com/>

The new legislative session should prove to be an exciting time with the opportunity to advance various DOC initiatives. Look for an upcoming article in which we will provide an overview of the new Committee Chairs and the policy and legislative initiatives for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session.

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## Mahanoy COTs Earn Merit Awards

Two more Corrections Officer Trainees from SCI Mahanoy received the Training Academy's Professionalism Merit Award during their Basic Training Class 1808.

The officers (pictured) are COT Christopher Bonk and COT Justin St. Clair.



Cadets selected for this award demonstrated the highest level of professionalism during basic training and are recommended by the instructors. The nominees are sent to Academic Services and the names are forward to the American Legion for certificates.

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## **Coal Township's Fostering & Improving Dogs Obedience & Survival (FIDOS) Christmas**

SCI Coal Township's FIDOS program recently held a Christmas celebration. FIDOS participants, their handlers, Coal Township staff, FIDOS trainer Nancy Haupt and Mommy & Me Rescue representatives Tony Kalinowski and Cynthia White, joined for lunch and cake.

All FIDOS participants were given new toys and were treated to fresh, homemade, dog bones. Mommy & Me Rescue presented all handlers with new FIDOS T-shirts. Mommy & Me Rescue has been partnered with SCI Coal's FIDOS Program since 2016.

Superintendent Tom McGinley said the program is running at its best and thanked those who continue to be involved, especially the handlers who take pride in the job they do.

John Dunn, unit/program manager, said "I enjoy being involved in the FIDOS program. These guys work hard to train the dogs the rescue brings us—some even go beyond what's expected. We have a very good success rate in helping save these dogs and assisting in them being adopted into good homes."

Dunn has been involved in FIDOS since the program started in July 2014.

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## **Greene Holds Annual Memorial Basketball Challenge**

The SCI Greene Activities Department held the 13th annual Tim Seibel Memorial "Hot-Shot" Basketball Challenge on Dec. 19 in the facility gymnasium. Tim Seibel was employed at Greene as an activities specialist and passed away from heart complications in 2006. Each year since his passing, the Activities Department has coordinated this fun-filled event.

Employees donate \$5 to participate in the challenge. The Seibel family is also invited and has attended every year. The event includes a Free Throw Challenge



and a 3-Point Shooting Challenge for both men and women. The winners for each category are as follows:

**Men's Free Throw Challenge**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Matt Darr
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mike Smith
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Brian Giachetti/Jamie Reader (tie)

**Men's 3-Point Challenge**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Brian Giachetti
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mike Smith/Matt Darr (tie)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jamie Reader

**Women's Free Throw Challenge**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Kayla Shaner
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Molly Lamp
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Tracy Shawley

**Women's 3-Point Challenge**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Tracy Shawley
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kayla Shaner
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jill Capra/Molly Lamp (tie)

This year's challenge raised \$300 for the American Heart Association. Complimentary gifts, courtesy of the Employees Association, were also raffled off to those who participated.



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## Around the Centers...

### Wernersville Welcomes Visitors for BCC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Wernersville staff welcomed community leaders, service providers, business partners and many others in to tour their centers in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Community Corrections. EDS George Little and BCC Director Daniel McIntyre thanked the staff and attendees for their work and support.



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### Jenkintown BCC Office Celebrates 50 Years

Another office celebrated the Bureau of Community Corrections' 50-year anniversary as Jenkintown Regional office held a party to mark the occasion. Parole and DOC staff, community partners and others joined in to recognize the milestone. BCC has been helping change lives and positively impact reentry for so many individuals for 50 years!

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## Students from York College Visit York CCC

On Nov. 29, 25 York College Criminal Justice students visited York Community Corrections Center with Professor Barbara Hanbury. After touring the facility, the students spoke with three reentrants who were willing to share their life experiences. The students also learned about the reentry side of the criminal justice system and how the Bureau of Community Corrections helps reentrants transition back into the community.



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## **Pittsburgh Community Corrections Center Breast Cancer Awareness Program**

Bonnie DeLozier, the Regional Program Manager for Adagio Health Cancer Screening Program, met with Pittsburgh Community Corrections Center reentrants to discuss Pennsylvania's HealthyWoman Program on Oct. 26.

DeLozier's program discussed breast cancer, cervical cancer, and the importance of routine examinations. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women.

The HealthyWoman Program is a free breast and cervical cancer early detection program of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. It is funded by the Department of Health and through a grant the department receives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Free services for those who meet the eligibility standards include: clinical breast exams, mammograms, Pap and HPV tests, and follow-up diagnostic tests for abnormal screening results. Eligibility varies based on age, residency, income and insurance status. If breast or cervical cancer is detected through the HealthyWoman Program, you may be eligible for free treatment through the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Program (BCCPT).

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**From left: Pittsburgh CCC Corrections Counselor II Tara Marheka and Adagio Health Regional Program Manager Bonnie DeLozier.**