



Correctional Signpost

2011
No. 1



DOC Director Mike Ferriter talks to members of three legislative committees about corrections programs. (Photo by Jon Ebelt)

Subcommittee trims budget

The Department of Corrections' proposed two-year budget contains \$16.6 million less than requested by Gov. Brian Schweitzer following Monday's action by the Joint Subcommittee on Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement and Justice. That represents about a 4 percent reduction.

The budget will go before the House Appropriations Committee next month, after lawmakers return from their mid-session break.

The subcommittee provided funding to maintain existing beds in prerelease centers, treatment programs, contracted prisons and the Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center. This ensured the department's ability to continue using 195 beds in those programs.

The subcommittee also approved \$2.98 million for creation of up to 120 secure beds for the growing prison population. The budget contemplates 20 of the beds for inmates with chronic health problems requiring an "assisted-living" setting.

However, the additional money for prison beds is only about half of the \$5.7 million requested by the department to provide for 164 beds.

The subcommittee approved no increase in beds for community corrections programs; the department had asked for 74, including 40 in a new prerelease center in northwest Montana. The panel also did not fully fund the requested budget for covering medical costs of inmates needing care outside of secure facilities.

"We're concerned about where the budget stands at this point," said DOC Director Mike Ferriter. "We believe we presented a solid rationale for our requests

and that the subcommittee recognizes the necessity and effectiveness of our programs. I feel the committee clearly understands our population projections and needs and has voiced no disagreement with the results of our long and tedious work on population projections.

"However, it's early in the process," he added. "We'll continue to work through the legislative process to obtain the funding necessary to meet the needs of the corrections system."

Ferriter said division administrators did a great job of explaining their programs and budget requests to the subcommittee, and its six members never

What was cut:

(millions of dollars)

Community alternatives (34 beds)...	\$2.1
NW prerelease center (40 beds).....	\$1.2
Prison capacity.....	\$2.7
Outside medical care.....	\$1.1
11 contracts.....	\$0.6
MSP equipment.....	\$0.2
MSP overtime.....	\$0.2
Riverside security cameras.....	\$0.1
Expanded victim notification.....	\$0.05
Total funding cut.....	\$16.6
Total bed shortage.....	at least 138

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Budget

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questioned the necessity or effectiveness of the department's programs or offender population projections.

A lot of steps remain before the budget is finalized by the Legislature.

The major budget measure, House Bill 2, will move next to the House Appropriations Committee in early March when committee members can make further changes. Then it goes to the full House of Representatives for debate, more changes and votes. The budget will be sent to the Senate, where the Finance and Claims Committee will review, make changes and send it to the full Senate for more possible changes.

Finally, in late April – after any House and Senate differences are resolved – the budget will go to the governor who can approve, reject or recommend more changes.

The most critical budget shortages so far are:

- \$2.73 million for secure beds
- \$2.1 million for increased capacity in community corrections programs
- \$2.1 million to pay for expected costs of outside medical care for inmates
- \$200,000 in overtime pay at Montana State Prison
- \$71,760 for maintenance of software used in the collection management system
- \$54,580 to expand the victim notification system

The subcommittee action on Monday included appropriating about \$400,000 to provide an increase in department payments to Corrections Corporation of America, which operates the state's only private prison in Shelby.

Earlier this month, the subcommittee did restore about half of the \$14.4 million reduction it made in the budget

two weeks ago. Those decreases were identified by the department in its legally required plan for cutting 5 percent of the budget.

The subcommittee restored \$1.7 million in funding for education and chemical dependency programs at Montana State Prison, \$2.3 million for 50 beds at the Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby and \$2.1 million for payments to treatment programs at WATCH, Connections Corrections, Nexus and Elkhorn. The panel also restored \$534,258 to maintain a program at the Montana Women's Prison for new arrivals, \$354,408 for a rate increase at the Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center and nearly \$97,000 for placement of youths not appropriate to be in secure juvenile facilities.

But the subcommittee left in place several spending reductions, including:

- \$1.7 million from eliminating dozens of cars assigned to probation and parole staff
- \$628,132 in contracted services affecting six divisions
- \$377,000 for MSP equipment purchases
- \$209,536 in finding for paying utility bills at Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison and Treasure State Correctional Training Center

Montana Department of Corrections Mission

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

Study: diplomas reduce incarceration

Reducing the high school dropout rate in Montana will reduce economic and social costs, including the price of incarceration for the corrections system, a recent study has concluded.

Conducted by the Foundation for Educational Choice, the September 2010 study says fewer dropouts will mean more people earning better wages, greater tax revenue for the state, lower Medicaid spending and reduced corrections costs by incarcerating fewer offenders. The incarceration savings would be \$9.85 million a year if Montana's 36,788 high school dropouts had obtained diplomas.

The report draws the dollars-and cents connection between education and less crime that Montana's corrections officials have long recognized in advocating access to

schooling for offenders as a means of controlling the recidivism rate.

The study by the Indianapolis-organization cites information from the state Office of Public Instruction indicating about 16 percent of high school students drop out each year and the rate among Native American students is more than twice that high.

The report estimates that Montana's high school graduates on average earn 22 percent more than dropouts, while those with at least a bachelor's degree earn 66 percent more than dropouts. That translates into dropouts making \$5,868 less annually than if they had received a diploma, creating a

McKenzie named acting head of youth services



Cindy McKenzie, who has been superintendent at Riverside Youth Correctional Facility since 2002, is acting administrator of the Youth Services Division.

Director Mike Ferriter appointed her in December. She will continue to serve as superintendent while acting administrator.

A Montana native, McKenzie attended schools in Alder, Bozeman, Helena and Columbia Falls before moving with her family to Alabama. She lived in Florida, California, Colorado and Wyoming before returning to Helena in 1988 after obtaining a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of South Alabama-Mobile.

She held a variety of jobs before entering the corrections field, including betting machine operator at a dog racetrack, waitress, restaurant dishwasher, school bus driver, gold leafer, salesperson and motel/cabin manager.

McKenzie began her youth corrections career in 1989 as a cottage life attendant at Mountain View School, the forerunner to Riverside. She worked as housing unit supervisor/weekend supervisor, case manager and correctional treatment specialist during her time at Mountain View.

When the Helena facility closed in 1995, she became program coordinator for the state phase of the state/private joint venture called Montana Youth Alternatives. The program changed in 1997 when the Legislature revived a secure facility for girls in the state and the program became Riverside Youth Correctional Facility.

McKenzie became director of treatment services for that program and took over as superintendent in 2002. At the same time, she obtained a master's degree in social work through Walla Walla College's satellite program in Missoula.

She and husband Jim Karch have a blended family of four adult children and are grandparents of four.

Employee sees reality of 'pay it forward'

**By McKenzie Hannan
Human Resource Specialist**

It was snowing the other day as I drove into work. Really snowing. A winter storm watch was in effect and I was already dreading leaving work at the end of the day – not because I was worried about the roads, not because I was going to have to shovel when I got home – because I did not want to have to brush all of the snow off of my car and scrape the ice off of my windshield.

After I got out of my car, I saw another car with its windshield wipers raised off of the glass. Seemed like an exercise in futility, but I was desperate, so I did the same to my wipers. As the day progressed, I kept looking out the window to see how much snow was accumulating. I looked up where my car was parked and sighed as I saw it blanketed in white, glistening snow.



Hannan

Finally, at about 5:15, I realized I had postponed the inevitable long enough. I trudged bravely out into the freezing cold snowstorm to begin the task of unburying my car. As I was approaching my car, I noticed there was not as much snow on it as I had expected. Maybe the wind blew some of it off, I thought. But as I got closer, I realized there was no snow on my car! And I got closer. No ice on my car either! It was a miracle!

I realized later of course, that it wasn't a miracle. It was the act of some good Samaritan, a fellow co-worker who went out of his or her way to do something nice. And it

Communication Plan

Information Technology

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in a series of division communication plans to be published in the DOC newsletter, as part of an effort emphasizing the importance of improved communications among DOC employees.

1. The administrator and division bureau chiefs will have bi-weekly meetings regarding division activities.
2. The administrator establishes standing bi-weekly meetings with bureau chiefs and direct reports.
3. A division staff meeting will be held at least twice a year to share information on department and division goals, objectives and activities; provide social networking and teamwork; and celebrate employee and department successes.
4. Any staff member is encouraged to "walk in," schedule an individual meeting or call the administrator and/or bureau chiefs to report issues, ask for support or express concerns. Staff "walk-ins" for reporting positive feedback about fellow employees are encouraged.
5. Staff will utilize the department intranet feature to communicate division activities, opportunities and news.
6. The administrator and bureau chiefs will coordinate to ensure at least one article regarding division activities or topics of interest is contributed to the department newsletter, "Correctional Signpost."
7. The administrator will update division bureau chiefs after each DOC management team meeting regarding department activities.
8. The division will request agenda time at other divisions' meetings to provide updates and answer questions relating to all the areas in the division.
9. The administrator will continue a "manage-by-walking-around" practice within the division, visiting with individual employees in their workplace to better understand needs and solicit ideas and suggestions and build relationships. Staff at locations outside central office are encouraged to contact the administrator with any needs, ideas and suggestions.
10. The administrator and bureau chiefs will invite staff from other divisions to scheduled staff meetings to foster teamwork, understanding of interests and needs and relationships.

DOC staffer ends carriage ride business

By Allison Maier
Helena Independent Record

Jiggs and Jess have taken their final winter tromp around the downtown area.

After nearly two decades offering Christmas carriage rides on the walking mall, Leny Mason, Myrna Omholt-Mason and their Clydesdale horses have decided it's time to retire. At age 21, Jiggs has developed a limp, and Jess would prefer not to do too much work, Mason said.

For two hours Wednesday evening, the couple offered final rides to a shivering group of enthusiasts. Among them were Charles Robison and his wife, Rachel, who rode the carriage from St. Peter's Cathedral to the Helena Community Center on their wedding day three years ago. When they heard they'd only get one more chance for another ride, they seized the opportunity.

Robison sometimes sees the carriage go by when he's working late in his office at Gough, Shanahan, Johnson and Waterman law firm, located on Last Chance Gulch. He said it was a good way to attract people to downtown businesses.

Downtown Helena Director Jim McHugh agreed that the carriage's presence added a lot during various events in the area, including Alive @ Five and the Fall Art Walk.

"They'll be sorely missed," he said. "Especially those big boys."

The Masons first acquired big Clydesdales at a show in Sandpoint, Idaho, back in 1992. Their firsts were named Art and Willie and have since passed away, Art most recently.

Aside from the downtown appearances, the couple and their horses offered services for weddings and funerals, under the business name Somewhere in Time.

"It was fun," Mason said. "You get to meet a lot of people."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Myrna Omholt-Mason is executive assistant to DOC Director Mike Ferriter. This article appeared in the Dec. 25 edition of the Helena Independent Record. Reprinted with permission.



Jiggs and Jess pull their carriage for one of the last times. (Photo by Dylan Brown, Helena Independent Record)

Meaning

FROM Page 3

made my day. So I swore to myself to do something nice for another co-worker – just a small gesture that would brighten his or her day.

This idea reminded me of the movie "Pay it Forward", in which a boy develops a plan to "pay it forward," which means the recipient of a favor does a favor for a third person rather than paying the favor back. How does this apply to your job? How does this apply to corrections?

The Human Resources Bureau recently published the results of a staff survey that noted employee satisfaction had decreased overall from the previous year, and had decreased in each of the measured categories – teamwork, communication, our department and personal development.

This report also had an action plan that was presented to management to address some of the concerns and there are plans for change.

But what are employees going to do? How can they make a difference? How can they resolve issues of teamwork within their areas of corrections? I know that when I walked out to my car the other night, that I felt like a

valued member of a team. I knew one of my co-workers cared enough about me to brush off my car. Yes, a small gesture, but I felt valued.

And now, I will look for ways to help my fellow co-workers, whether they are here in Central Office, or across the state in Libby, Deer Lodge or Glendive. I hope my co-workers pay it forward and reach out to more people in our department, who reach out to more people and more people until we all feel like part of the big team that we are.

To my colleagues, I ask, "What are you going to do to change your part of the corrections world?"

Two MSP officers die during shifts



Young

Two staff members, with a combined 34 years working at Montana State Prison, died unexpectedly of natural causes while working their shifts during December.

Sgt. Dell Young, 58, died Dec. 7 after suffering a massive coronary. Sgt. Kevin Stigen, 53, died Dec. 15.

Young worked at the prison for 21 years. He began his employment in July 1989 as a correctional officer. He was promoted to sergeant in January 2001. In this position, Young was responsible for the day-to-day security operation of the unit. He also had extensive knowledge of inmates and their behaviors, and provided leadership and direction to other correctional staff.

“We are heartbroken at the untimely loss of his life,” said Warden Mike Mahoney. He remembered Dell as always “jovial, sincere and always had a good word to say about everyone.”

Capt. Mike Zuber, who worked with Young for the past 18 years, described Dell as “approachable, concerned about his peers and subordinates. He was always willing

to help out and staff benefited from his experience. Dell could always be counted on to take the time to explain what needed to be done. His presence and expertise will be missed.”

Stigen worked at the prison for 13 years. He began his employment in February 1997 as a correctional officer. Before this, he worked at the Montana State Hospital in Warm Springs. Capt. Scott Clark said, “Kevin was a good officer and everyone liked him.”

“We are saddened greatly by the loss of yet another staff member at Montana State Prison,” Deputy Warden Ross Swanson said at the time. “We are a large family at the prison and Kevin was with us for many years.”

DOC Director Mike Ferriter said the deaths touched everyone in corrections.

“We are all part of the same family and the loss of any members of this family affects us all,” he said. “It is a sad reminder of how unpredictable life can be and that we need to support each other. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of Dell and Kevin.”



Stigen

Court finds no violation of inmate's rights

The Department of Corrections did not violate the rights of an inmate by prohibiting his use of one medication for his mental illnesses, the Montana Supreme Court has ruled.

In the 4-1 decision, the court said it found no evidence that the department's actions worsened Colton Wilson's mental illness. The court noted that Wilson's behavior improved and he said he felt better when taking the other two medications prescribed for him by the Montana State Prison psychiatrist.

“The record does not demonstrate that the staff of MSP consciously disregarded a serious risk of substantial harm to Wilson's health,” Justice Brian Morris wrote for the court.

Wilson was convicted of assault for stabbing another man in the neck with a knife. He received a six-year deferred sentence and was required to complete the boot camp program as a condition of that sentence.

Because Wilson had a history of behavioral and mental health issues, he was assessed by a psychiatrist in connection with the sentencing. The doctor prescribed three medications for Wilson and his behavior improved.

However, Wilson showed up at the boot camp without his prescription or medications and, due to behavior problems, he had to leave the program. Wilson was sent to the Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center (MASC) where, in preparation for a return to the boot camp, staff assessed his mental illness and tried to stabilize him on his prescribed medications.

Wilson failed at MASC due to behavior problems and the court, citing his numerous opportunities and failures in rehabilitation programs, revoked his deferred sentence and committed him to the Corrections Department for 20 years

Court

FROM Page 6

with 15 years suspended. Wilson was placed in the state prison where he was seen by psychiatrist David Schaefer.

Prison policy prohibited Wilson from taking one of three medications that had been prescribed for him earlier. The drug is a stimulant that is highly abused in a prison setting and was inappropriate for Wilson because it was likely to worsen or contribute to his manic behavior, Schaefer said.

Schaefer prescribed two new medications for Wilson and his behavior improved.

Wilson filed a "petition for post-conviction relief" in 2009, claiming the denial of a medication that had been prescribed for him earlier violated his right to be free of cruel and unusual punishment and his right to individual dignity.

District Judge Kim Christopher rejected Wilson's claims, saying the issues had been decided during a hearing on revocation of his original sentence.

On the claims of his constitutional rights being violated by the prison, the high court concluded that Wilson received "continued and consistent medical visits" from psychiatric staff at the prison. The medications prescribed by the prison psychiatrist resulted in Wilson's behavior improving and Wilson indicating the medications made him feel better, the court said.

Wilson failed to show that anything done by the prison greatly worsened his mental illness.

"Dr. Schaefer's decision to prescribe different medication did not deny Wilson the basic necessities of life," Justice Morris wrote. "The record does not reflect that the department disregarded a substantial risk of harm to Wilson's mental health. The department's actions did not greatly exacerbate Wilson's mental illness."

From the Director

Mike Perita



Sometimes in corrections, we can't help but feel a little powerless. We have a variety of programs designed to address specific needs of offenders and to give them the opportunity to reverse the criminal trends in their lives. These programs are effective.

Only 8 percent of those completing the WATCH program for felony DUI offenders get another drunken-driving conviction. Just 1 percent of offenders completing the Nexus and Elkhorn treatment centers return to prison. Eighty-seven percent of those inmates who have spent time in the Work and Re-entry Center do not return to prison within a year after leaving.

The Passages Assessment, Sanction and Revocation Center for women diverts 92 percent of its offenders from prison and the similar program for men has diverted 78 percent.

Montana's recidivism rate is lower than the average among the states using comparable definitions of this measurement.

But even with all that achievement, much of what happens to the corrections system in Montana is beyond the control of those of us working in the system.

The work we do in this department is driven by the decisions and behaviors of human beings and the response to those decisions and actions by Montana's courts and the Montana Legislature.

The willingness of people to act contrary to the law and insert themselves into the criminal justice system through such actions is a matter of choice that is driven by any number of factors, but most commonly drugs and alcohol. We do what we can to manage and influence those under our community supervision to stay on the right side of the law, but decisions on whether to remain law-abiding are ultimately those of individuals.

We not only don't control how many offenders come to corrections, we also have no say over the degree to which they are afflicted with mental illness, health problems and drug addiction.

The courts are an independent branch of government with the sole responsibility for sentencing those convicted of crimes. The lengths of those sentences, while sometimes defined in law, are still the product of judicial discretion.

If someone is sentenced to 20 years in prison, we know they will serve at least a fourth of that time before becoming eligible for parole and may be incarcerated longer than that until actually paroled. If someone gets a 20-year suspended sentence, we recognize corrections will be supervising that person for two decades.

COLUMN, Page 10

Legislators tour...



LEFT: Trainees at the boot camp line up for a graduation ceremony.

RIGHT: Greg Budd, boot camp superintendent, welcomes legislators.



LEFT: Inmate Tony Leyba talks to legislators about the benefits of working in the Montana Correctional Enterprises' lumber processing plant.

RIGHT: Rep. Dan Skatnum, R-Livingston, reads a fact sheet about Montana Correctional Enterprises.



RIGHT: Legislators stand in the recreation area of the maximum-security unit.
BELOW: Rep. Virginia Court, D-Billings, listens to a presentation about Montana Correctional Enterprises.



ABOVE RIGHT: Close II Unit Manager Tricia Robles (second from left) talks about operation of the unit.

RIGHT: Cindy Hiner, director of nursing at the state prison, introduces lawmakers to the infirmary.



...boot camp, Montana State Prison, Riverside, treatment, prerelease



LEFT: Reps. Cleve Loney (left) and Jesse O'Hara (center), both Great Falls Republicans listen to an offender at Elkhorn Treatment Center explain the program.



RIGHT: Corrections Director Mike Ferriter (center) discusses the culinary program at Riverside Youth Correctional Facility to Rep. Cleve Loney (left) and Rep. Virginia Court, D-Billings.



ABOVE: Shawn Sonsteng, unit manager at Riverside Youth Correctional Facility, shows the room used for religious services.



ABOVE: Amy Tenney, director of the Helena Prerelease Center, introduces legislators to the administrative wing of the center.



LEFT: Sue Carroll, chief operating officer for Boyd Andrew Community Services, talks to lawmakers about the company's Elkhorn Treatment Center in Boulder. Pam Bunke, community corrections administrator, listens.



BELOW: Mike Ruppert, chief executive officer for Boyd Andrew Community Services, thanks legislators for visiting the Boulder facility.

Accountability letters program

Making amends to victims

By Sally Hilander
Victim Programs Manager

The Department of Corrections invites offenders under its supervision to write “accountability letters” to their victims if they are sincere about making amends and taking responsibility for their criminal actions.

However, the program that allows these letters has strings attached.

Offenders must not mail letters directly to their victims because doing so can resurrect disturbing memories about the crime and cause lasting harm. Few victims want to find a letter in their mailbox from the person who committed a crime against them.



Instead, offenders may use the DOC Offender Accountability Letter Program guidelines to decide what to write and then submit the letter to their case manager, unit manager, chaplain, victim information officer or other DOC staff for review. The goal is to offer the victim a sincere letter written from the heart, but does not add to the victim’s angst.

The victim programs manager approves the letters and informs the victims about the program. Victims decide whether to receive the letters or respond. However, if a sentencing judgment prohibits contact between the offender and victim, the victim must obtain the judge’s permission to receive the letter.

Even if a victim refuses a letter, the offender can benefit from writing it. Treatment professionals at many DOC and contracted facilities know that the exercise can help offenders develop empathy and identify thinking errors such as denial and blame.

Few letters have been delivered to victims since the Offender Accountability Letter Program Policy 1.8.3 was adopted two years ago. However, DOC legal staff recently cleared up procedural concerns, opening the door for delivery of more letters to victims.

A revised sentencing recommendation under Adult Probation and Parole Procedure 30-1 for pre-sentence investigations (PSIs) also allows the letters. New language reads: “The defendant shall not knowingly have any contact, oral, written, electronic or through a third party, with the victim(s) unless such contact is voluntarily initiated by the victim(s) through the Department of Corrections. DOC staff may notify victims about the availability of opportunities for facilitated contact with their offenders without being considered ‘third parties.’”

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

Column

FROM Page 7

If someone needs the concentrated drug treatment regimen of the nine-month Nexus program or the focused attention of the six-month WATCH program to combat drunken driving, they will get it.

Our limited controls over the flow of the offenders into the corrections system makes the budget process challenging. Stemming that flow is impossible, projecting offender populations is difficult and creating a corrections system

where costs and populations actually decline is what we have struggled to achieve.

We try to create, and maintain funding for, programs that hold offenders accountable and strive to reduce the rate at which offenders commit new crimes or violate conditions of their community placement. We try to develop and maintain programs that, in the long run, save taxpayers money by keeping offenders out of prison and discourage them from staying in or returning to the corrections system.

Corrections doesn’t want “return business.” We want a safe Montana and better outcomes for offenders and victims while spending a proper amount of money to achieve these goals.

Scott Meyer, 1981-2011

Snowboard mishap claims P&P officer

Scott Meyer, a Department of Corrections probation and parole officer in Kalispell for 2½ years, died Jan. 8 while snowboarding on Big Mountain near Whitefish.

According to news reports, Meyer, 29, was last seen about 1:30 p.m. when he was snowboarding alone. He failed to meet friends as planned and they became concerned. A search-and-rescue operation began about 5:30 p.m. and Meyer was found about two hours later, authorities said. He apparently had went into a tree well, the area that usually has deeper snow than the surrounding slope.

Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.

The following obituary appeared in the Kalispell Daily Inter Lake.

The day Scott Allen Meyer passed away, on Jan. 8, on Big Mountain at Whitefish Mountain Resort, he was smiling and right where he wanted to be, surrounded by friends and snowboarding his favorite section of the mountain.

Scott was born Oct. 12, 1981, to Valerie Maginnis and Mike Meyer in Ridgecrest, Calif.

From Ridgecrest, his family moved around the West coinciding with his father's career with the National Parks Service. Scott's lifelong love of the outdoors was born during these early years as the family lived afield in Grand Canyon National Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park and Death Valley National Park before settling in Palm Desert, Calif. Scott attended high school and graduated there in 1999.

His adventurous spirit led him to Big Sky Country and the University of Montana in Missoula. This is when Montana and the great outdoors became his home.

Scott became a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity and made a group of lifelong friends whom he stayed close with well after graduation. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in American history in 2003, and anyone who came in contact with Scott would certainly agree he earned his place as a dean's list and honors list student, thanks to his encyclopedic knowledge and great storytelling skills.

The outdoors was where Scott loved being. He spent four summers fighting fires for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, working at the Dillon Unit and the Clearwater Unit, where he became an engine boss, incident commander and "Clearwater All Star."



Meyer

In between seasons as a firefighter he was a substitute teacher throughout the Coachella Valley back in California. He worked as a deputy corrections officer for the Riverside Sheriff's Office in Riverside before being drawn back to Montana, where he became a probation and parole officer in Kalispell in July 2008.

Scott loved being active in the outdoors, whether it was fishing, hiking, rafting, snowboarding or hunting. If he had to pick one, and the San Diego Chargers weren't playing, Scott would probably choose a summer day standing in the river with his fly rod. Wearing that blue Chargers hat, Scott would leave work in the early evening, find a fishing hole and stay until twilight. Anyone who ever went with him will never forget his patient passion as he waited for a trout to rise above water and go after his homemade fly. He especially loved and looked forward to his annual float trip down the Madison River with his father.

When he wasn't working or spending quality time with friends and family, Scott was reading, another passion of his passed along by his librarian mother. He too was a librarian and was always passing along books to his friends to read. "Read it and pass along."

He lives on through those who knew him. He is as unforgettable as the history he knew at heart.

Scott is survived by his mother, Valeria, of Mission Viejo, Calif.; his father, Mike, of Palm Desert, Calif.; his stepfather, John Maginnis, of Mission Viejo, Calif.; his grandparents, Allen and Marion Wesson, of San Diego; his uncles, Thomas Wesson of Moab, Utah, and Jack Wesson of Telluride, Colo.; and cousins, Lucy, Mia and Chase Wesson.

(Related story on page 29)

MSP RENOVATION



The refurbished exterior of the Security Support Center at Montana State Prison



ABOVE: A crane moves a generator into place outside the newly renovated Security Support Center at Montana State Prison.



ABOVE and BELOW: The new visiting room in the Security Support Center was created out of an old building once filled with cells and gutted to the bare walls last year. The renovated building also houses the transportation and property departments at the prison, along with a satellite infirmary.

Photos by Linda Moodry

BELOW: Construction continues on installing a new entrance and elevator at the Rothe Low-support Building.



ASCA scholarship deadline March 31

The Association of State Correctional Administrators is again offering college scholarships to children of current or former corrections employees.

The deadline to apply for a Susan M. Hunter Scholarship is March 31.

To be eligible, a student must be the child of a current full-time, retired or deceased employee of an ASCA-member department of corrections. Correctional employees, their siblings, spouses and grandchildren are not eligible. Students must be enrolled full time in an accredited two- or four-year college or university, or in an accredited graduate program.

Incoming first-time freshmen, along with enrolled full-time college and graduate students, must have a minimum high school grade-point average of 3.0. Graduate students' field of study must be corrections/criminal justice.

In prior years the scholarships have been \$1,000 for undergraduate students, \$1,500 for graduate students and \$500 for previous award recipients.

Scholarship applications, including all required documentation, must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2011. The Scholarship Review Committee, comprised of members of ASCA Past Presidents Committee, will review all qualified applications and make its decisions by June. The total number and amounts of scholarship awards distributed in 2011 will depend upon contributions received.

Winners will be notified by phone. All other applicants will be notified via e-mail, and scholarship recipients will be announced at the ASCA Summer Business Meeting in Kissimmee, Fla.

Andi Lambert, daughter of Gayle Lambert, Montana Correctional Enterprises administrator, won one of the scholarships in 2010.

More information on the scholarship application process can be found at the ASCA website: <http://collaboration.asca.net/projects/20/pages/149>.

Applications can be made at the following website: <http://collaboration.asca.net/projects/20/pages/153>.

Information also is available by contacting the ASCA office at (860) 704-6410.



MSP involvement aids toys campaign

The 2010 Toys for Tots campaign, which historically receives strong support from Montana State Prison, had another successful year with more than 470 children in Powell and Granite counties receiving an average of four toys apiece and local schools receiving books.

"Many individuals and businesses in the surrounding area are very generous in contributing to the program," said Raymond Worthey, a sergeant at the prison and coordinator of the project. "We are very grateful for the support we receive."

Staff at Montana State Prison donated toys and money, while inmates gave \$5,300 for the cause. The prison also

donated the use of a vehicle to purchase and pick up the donated toys from Toys R Us in Billings.

The city of Deer Lodge donated the use of the old fire station in December as headquarters for Toys for Tots and

local businesses supported the program by donating space for collection boxes and financial donations. Powell County Foundation and Walmart donated money, the national Toys for Tots organization sent a large allotment of toys, many residents of the two counties donated money and valuable

time to the program, and the Granite County Sheriff's Department was instrumental in getting that county involved in the project.



Health & Wellness

by April Grady



Quarterly Quote: Our greatest happiness does not depend on the condition of life in which chance has placed us, but is always the result of a good conscience, good health, occupation, and freedom in all just pursuits.

[Thomas Jefferson](#)

Eco Tip:

Reuse- Instead of throwing plastic containers (deli containers, yogurt cartons, etc.) in the recycling box, why not wash them out and use them for leftovers instead of buying new plastic for the same purpose? The plastic will end up in the recycling box eventually but it does mean buying and discarding less plastic overall.

(www.naturallifemagazine.com)



Exercise: Get Your Back in Action

By Natalie Gingerich, a freelance writer and former fitness editor for *Prevention* magazine.

Now that spring is approaching, it is time to undo the inevitable effects of winter. Sitting, long-term, indoors, staring at a computer screen in a maybe not so ergonomically friendly desk set up, can wreak havoc on our backs. Do 3 sets of each move daily to strengthen your back and surrounding muscles so you'll feel stronger in as little as 3 weeks.

Main Move Raised kicks

Also tones: shoulders, abs, hips

Begin face down on mat with legs extended, feet flexed, hands under forehead and elbows bent to sides. Lift upper body and bend right knee to 90 degrees, pointing toes. Pulse lifted leg gently, squeezing glutes to kick foot toward butt twice. Lower and switch legs. Continue, alternating legs to complete 6 to 8 reps.

Main move Swimming

Also tones: shoulders, butt, thighs

Lie face down, arms extended to front, legs extended behind. Inhale, simultaneously lifting arms and legs. Exhale, and "clap" by moving hands and feet together and apart, engaging abs to stabilize torso. Continue to clap for 6 to 8 beats, then lower.

Low-Cal Romantic Dinner:

Low-Cal Mini Cheesecakes (Fitness Magazine)

Makes: 12 servings

Ingredients

12 reduced-fat vanilla wafers
 8 ounces reduced-fat cream cheese, softened
 4 ounces fat-free cream cheese, softened
 3 ounces white chocolate baking squares, melted and cooled
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/4 cup fat-free milk
 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
 1 egg white, lightly beaten
 Chocolate curls (optional)
 Sliced strawberries (optional)
 Sliced kiwifruit (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a muffin pan with twelve 2-1/2-inch foil or paper baking cups. Place one vanilla wafer on the bottom of each cup. Set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, beat cream cheeses with an electric mixer on medium speed 30 seconds. Beat in white chocolate, sugar, milk, and vanilla until well combined. Stir in egg white. Spoon mixture into muffin cups until each is about three-quarters full.
3. Bake about 20 minutes or until set, then set pan on a wire rack to cool 10 minutes. Remove cheesecakes from

Wellness

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pan; cool on wire rack 1 hour. Cover and chill 3 to 24 hours.

4. Before serving, remove baking cups. If desired, garnish with chocolate curls, strawberries, and/or kiwifruit.

Nutrition facts per cheesecake: 153 calories, 4g protein, 17g carbohydrate, 7g fat (4g saturated), 0g fiber

MISO-GLAZED SEA BASS WITH ASPARAGUS

SERVES 4

- ACTIVE TIME: 10 MIN
- START TO FINISH: 25 MIN

GOURMET JUNE 2007

Delicate, sophisticated flavors come together almost effortlessly with the help of miso, a Japanese staple.

- 2 tablespoons white miso (fermented soybean paste sold at Safeway in vegetarian aisle)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon water
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 lb medium asparagus, trimmed
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 4 (5- to 6-oz) sea bass fillets with skin (1 inch thick)
- **GARNISH:** lemon wedges
- Preheat broiler. Lightly oil a 17- by 12-inch shallow baking pan.
- Whisk together miso, sugar, lemon juice, water, and pepper in a bowl.
- Toss together asparagus, oil, and a pinch of salt in a large bowl.
- Arrange fish, skin sides down, in baking pan and spread miso mixture evenly on top. Arrange asparagus in 1 layer around fish and broil 5 to 6 inches from heat until fish is just cooked through and asparagus is crisp-tender, 8 to 12 minutes.

SPINACH AND CITRUS SALAD WITH SWEET AND SPICY PECANS (foodnetwork.com)

- 3 cups fresh spinach, washed and dried and chopped
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1 orange, segmented with skin removed, then halve segments
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 cup pecan halves
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Citrus Dressing, recipe follows

Directions:

Put the spinach and green onions in large salad bowl and sprinkle with the halved citrus supremes. In a small saute

pan over medium heat, add the butter and sugar and stir until the butter is melted. Add the pecans and toss until the pecans begin to brown. Stir in the rosemary and cayenne and stir just a few seconds to release the aroma. Remove from the heat and season with salt and pepper, to taste. Sprinkle the pecans on the salad while still warm. Drizzle the dressing over salad and serve.

Citrus Dressing:

- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons orange or grapefruit juice (or a combination)
- 3 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

In a small bowl, add all the ingredients and whisk until emulsified

Budget-Wise:

Financial Resolutions for 2011 (San Francisco Chronicle)

1. Take a look at last year's budget, identify the good and bad money moves you made last year and resolve to make the necessary improvements for the upcoming year.

2. Putting yourself on an automatic savings plan to debit even \$50 per month from your account is a good way to save without feeling the pinch. If you don't see the money, you won't miss it and before you know it, that \$50 per month in savings will be \$600 at the end of the year.



3. Next, create a budget listing your net income per month and where you plan to spend your money in each category.

4. Once your budget is done and you know what you have to work with, make a separate plan to get out of debt. Start by listing all of your debts, their interest rates and minimum monthly payments. Now minus the total amount of minimum debt repayment you'll have to make each month, and whatever is leftover should be applied to either the lowest debt balance you have or on the debt with the highest interest rate.

5. As you clear each debt, take the amount you used to pay towards that debt and apply it to the next debt in line until you're debt-free.

6. Don't rob your savings category in the beginning to pay down your debt. You should save a minimum of \$1,000 for emergencies before adjusting your savings.



Healthy For Life

Your State of Montana Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program (SOMHELP) is pleased to present your Wellness Program Benefits – FREE to plan members!

The Healthy For Life Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is an add-on benefit for all members of the State Employee Benefit Plan, active employees, retirees, spouses, and dependents. These benefits are FREE! To learn more about any of these programs, just visit the Health Care and Benefits Division web site:

www.benefits.mt.gov/wellness.mcpx or call (866) 287-8266

More Benefits

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Employees, spouses, retirees, and dependents on the State of Montana health plan the age of 18 or over are eligible for one free health screening per plan year. The full schedule and instructions for registering for a screening are available on the web site or by calling 866-932-6467.

TAKE CONTROL DIABETES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Living well with diabetes is within everyone's reach. Take Control is a FREE benefit that offers comprehensive, confidential education and support.

TOBACCO CESSATION PROGRAM

If you're ready to quit tobacco, we can help! The plan works in conjunction with the Quit Line, which is available anytime. Check out the details on our web site!

SPRING FITNESS & HUNTERS CHALLENGE

If your health is your priority, then make sure to take part in our fun activity programs! Prizes, motivation, team building and more...

Even More...

Health Coaching

Have you been thinking about losing weight or quitting smoking for good? Do you have questions about your health screening results? Are you just looking for ways to cut the stress in your life? A health coach can provide the support you need to achieve your goals. All State plan members and dependents 18 or over have access to free, confidential health coaching. This benefit offers members the opportunity to communicate with friendly, experienced health coaches at their own pace, by phone or email depending on the participant's preference. To get started, contact Health Care and Benefits Division.

Counseling Services

Simple, Easy, Confidential.

Members are provided up to four counseling visits at a participating or in-network provider FREE.

Just choose an in-network provider (*administrators - BCBS/New West - can provide a list*), then call your chosen provider to make an appointment.

Regular benefits (pg. 12-13 of your annual change booklet) will apply after four visits.

Prenatal Program

Members have free prenatal services to help achieve a healthier pregnancy!

- Access to a Registered Nurse and Dietitian
- Free Prenatal Vitamins
- Maternity Health Screening
- Breastfeeding Support

As an enhanced benefit, members who enroll in their first trimester and participate in screenings and follow-ups will have many deductibles and copayments waived.

Enroll by contacting Health Care and Benefits today!

Weight Management

This is not your average weight loss program! Aimed at results, the Healthy For Life Weight Management Program is a once-in-a-lifetime, one-year intensive program designed for members who are ready to become Healthy For Life!

- Individual Sessions with a Dietitian and Nurse Case Manager
- Group Webinars
- Coverage of Medical Weight Management Expenses
- Motivational Incentives.

Please visit our web site to review program details.

Montana Crisis Line: FREE, 24/7. Just dial 2-1-1

Visit us online at www.benefits.mt.gov/wellness.mcpx

State of Montana Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program (SOMHELP)
PO Box 200130, Helena, MT 59620

E-mail: benefitsquestions@mt.gov - Telephone: (800) 287-8266 - Fax: (406) 444-0080



MSP honors employees of the quarter



Deputy Warden Ross Swanson presents plaques to (left to right) Joe Mavrincac, Dana Eldredge and Todd Boese. (Photos by Linda Moody)

Montana State Prison and Montana Correctional Enterprises announced their employees of the quarter for the first three months of 2011.

Correctional Officer Joe Mavrincac was selected among the security staff, Dana Eldredge, administrative assistant, was honored among the support staff and Todd Boese, acting nursing director, is the management selection.

In October, the off-duty Mavrincac assisted another off-duty MSP staff member during a family emergency, spending many hours with the staff member and family. He has the ability to provide empathy while providing firm, clear direction. This is one area of Mavrincac's expertise on which the prison relies regularly. He is very compassionate and cares about his co-workers.

Mavrincac's skills exemplify the qualities that the prison desires in its correctional officers. In charge of key control, he is motivated, gives 100 percent and runs an orderly operation at the facility. The prison appreciates the job that Mavrincac does and the skills, abilities and professionalism that he employs in the carrying out his duties.

Eldredge, assistant to Associate Warden Myron Beeson and Security Maj. Tom Wood, has a variety of duties and does a great job managing two offices and two schedules. She takes on tasks beyond her regular assignments in an effort to assist the team in enhancing efficiency and continual security program improvement.

Because of her organizational skills, she is also utilized by other department heads for special projects and meetings and does an excellent job balancing all of this.

One of Eldredge's major responsibilities is the collection of information from critical incident fact-finding reviews. After an incident at the prison, she works closely with shift commanders and other staff to ensure follow up on these reviews, formats action plans based on recommendations and monitors deadlines to ensure proper closeout on identified issues.

Eldredge deserves this recognition due to her dedication to strong teamwork and her commitment to a safe and secure facility for all staff. She is a true asset to the Department of Corrections and to the security program of the prison.

Boese was recognized for his efforts in leadership of the infirmary staff through the process of applying for accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

He used patience, guidance and organizational skills in emerging as a leader in the effort. Boese kept the process moving forward and encouraged other staff participating in the process. He worked with the infirmary, mental health, dental, custody, maintenance and warden's staffs to bring everything together.

Boese also kept up with all of his regular duties, such as providing nursing care and managing staff schedules, during this very hectic time. He works hard and is committed to improving the operations and procedures in the infirmary. His management skills and leadership are key to the infirmary's progress.

To be honored as employee of the quarter, a staff member must meet specific criteria and be reviewed by a selection committee. The honorees receive a plaque, a certificate of appreciation, a special parking space during the quarter, have their photograph posted in the lobby area of the administration building and will be automatically eligible for the employee of the year award.

Riverside student wins logo competition

A student at Riverside Youth Correctional Facility has won the statewide contest for designing a logo for the annual Montana Alternative Schools Conference.

The teen worked three weeks with Angela Maurer, resource room teacher at the Boulder facility's accredited high school, in developing the artwork and theme. The winner received a T-shirt and certificate for her effort.

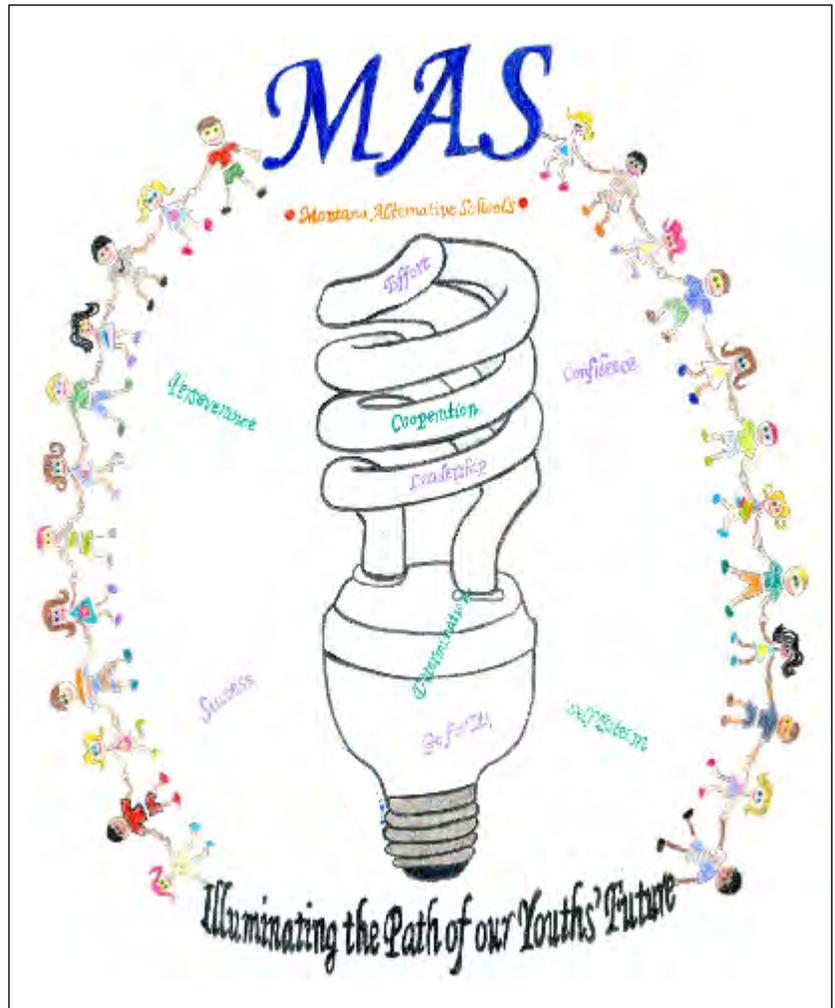
The drawing is centered around a light bulb and entitled "Illuminating the path for our youths' future." The light is encircled by drawings of children holding hands and shouting the ideas of Montana Alternative Schools: success, perseverance, effort, confidence, cooperation, leadership, determination, self-esteem and "go for it."

The light is a compact fluorescent bulb, which uses less energy and lasts longer. Maurer said that choice is meant to convey an environmentally friendly message.

Cindy McKenzie, Riverside supervisor and acting administrator of the Youth Services Division, said the student's involvement is important and serves a greater purpose than entering a contest.

"Encouraging the students at both youth secure facilities to participate in these type of contests helps the youths think about social issues they most likely haven't given much thought to up to this point," she said. "It also encourages them to engage and express their views and ideas in a variety of formats.

"I would like to congratulate both the student and teacher at RYCF High School for taking the time and putting forth the level of effort it took to win this contest," McKenzie added. "It speaks to both the attention to thought and detail of the student, and the dedication of the teacher. Good job."



New documentary spotlights Pathways program

Montana State University-Billings in 2009 began providing workforce training and post-secondary education to incarcerated women through a federal grant-funded program "Pathways to Self Sufficiency."

A newly released documentary, "The Next Chapter," follows one group of Pathways students as they participate in a joint book club/service learning course with MSU-Billings freshmen.

In the book club, the Pathways women at Passages prerelease center and the MSU-B students read Thomas Mullen's novel, *The Last Town on Earth*. They discussed together the themes of community and

citizenship, the qualities that strengthen or challenge a community, and the solutions that can improve community well-being.

The class ended with a visit to Passages by the author, where he spent an afternoon visiting with the women.

"The Next Chapter" documentary illustrates the power of education as, in a mutually respectful environment, these two unlikely groups break down stereotypes and learn from one another. The documentary can be viewed at: [A Service Learning Project: Pathways to Self-sufficiency at Passages a video by MSU - Billings for the Billings Area Reentry Task Force.](#)

56 percent decrease in rates

New inmate phone system due

By Tia Snyder
DOC Purchasing Agent

For the second time in about five years, the price of phone calls placed by hundreds of Montana prison inmates and juvenile offenders will drop drastically.

The Department of Corrections has signed a contract with a new phone service provider called Telmate. The Oregon-based company is expected to begin providing service around Feb. 26.

Telmate's proposal offered a rate that is 56 percent lower than the current one. The cost of a 30-minute phone call, collect or pre-paid, to any place in the United States will be \$3.84. That compares with \$30.65 charged by Qwest before Public Communications Service (PCS) took over in 2006 and charged just \$8.75 for a half-hour call.

The new system provides a rate that is 88 percent lower than it was under Qwest.

In July 2010, the Contracts Management Bureau, with the assistance of the State Procurement Bureau, released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an inmate telephone system provider. The RFP was written with the help of staff at Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility, Riverside Youth Correctional Facility, Montana Women's Prison, Montana State Prison and the Information Technology Division.

The department received eight responses in September and four of those qualified for vendor demonstrations.

When the RFP was written, it required that all respondents waive any fees related to prepaid accounts. The PCS system charged families and friends of inmates up to \$8 per transaction to fund a prepaid account. Telmate agreed to waive a variety of fees, including those for prepaid account setup, prepaid account funding, refunds, account maintenance, inactive accounts, regulatory cost recovery and universal service fund administration. Telmate is a customer service-driven company that views inmates, friends, families and the department as its customers.

The RFP also was written with a clause regarding the commission collected from the phone calls. By statute, all commissions must be deposited directly into the inmate welfare fund. The department determined that \$23,000 per month is necessary to keep the inmate welfare fund sufficiently supported.

Keeping with the theme of lower costs to inmate friends and families, the RFP required the commissions generate only enough to maintain the fund. This allowed the vendors responding to the RFP to focus on the rate of the call and not how much money could be generated by commissions. However, if total commissions exceed \$23,000, the department will receive an appropriate percentage of money beyond the \$23,000 guarantee.

Telmate also provides a platform for the Investigative Unit that allows call monitoring and call detail reports. This feature is significantly advanced from the system currently used and will be able to track the inmates' call history with recordings available for playback and download.

The new system will save staff time. Inmates will be able to report inmate telephone-related problems directly to Telmate using inmate voicemail, eliminating the need for use of written notes to correctional staff. An inmate can dial 211 and leave a voicemail for Telmate's customer service. Telmate will use a scripted response back to the inmate using the voicemail system. These voicemails are recorded and can be blocked if inmates abuse the feature.

Inmates will have their own telephone account to hold money instead of making payments to an individual destination number (called number).

The Telmate system also has the ability to integrate with an inmate's trust account. This will save staff time by eliminating kites requesting a fund transfer for prepaid minutes. An inmate will be able to dial 411 from the inmate phone and follow voice prompts to request the transfer. This technology is new to both the department and Telmate and is planned for implementation at the time of system installation or shortly after.

Friends and families will be able to post payments to inmates' telephone account using a portal on the Telmate website. More information will be released to friends and families closer to system installation. Monetary deposits for phone time become available instantly on an inmate telephone account or a destination number prepaid account.

Installation of the new system at the two state prisons and both juvenile facilities is scheduled for Feb. 21-25. Training for staff will be conducted in coordination with the installation.





Legislature and budget

EDITOR'S NOTE: Although each legislative session deals with hundreds of bills, the only constitutional obligation that the Legislature has is to pass a balanced budget for the next two years. The process is long and complicated. Here's some answers to common questions about the process.

How does the budget process start?

It begins in the executive branch when agencies work with the governor's budget office to develop a proposed two-year budget. State law spells out deadlines for this procedure in the months leading up to each session, ending with submission of the preliminary spending plan to the legislative staff by Nov. 12.

What does the legislative staff do with the budget?

The Legislative Fiscal Division staff conducts an analysis of the budget for the Legislature to convene on the first Monday in January of each odd-numbered year.

What is the purpose of the analysis?

The analysis, contained in multiple volumes, identifies the major elements of the budget, concerns with proposed spending and revenue projections, and alternatives that legislators may wish to consider.

What happens when the Legislature convenes?

Portions of the budget, traditionally contained in House Bill 2, are allocated for review by various subcommittees composed of senators and representatives from the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. The majority party in each house has more members on each six-member subcommittee than does the minority party.

How is the budget divided for review?

There are six subcommittees: Education; General Government; Health and Human Services; Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement and Justice; Long-range Planning; and Natural Resources and Transportation.

What is the subcommittees' job?

They hold hearings to listen to representatives of each agency explain the details, reasoning and needs behind the various elements of their budget requests and then ask questions to learn more about the proposals. The subcom-

mittee members eventually decide what level of funding and budget initiatives to approve.

How long does this subcommittee process take?

It usually lasts throughout the first half of the 90-day session.

How much of the work is done in public?

While the hearings and votes are public, much of the decision-making is done behind the scenes by the majority party, sometimes in consultations with members of the minority party. Trade-offs and deals are sometimes struck among lawmakers. The final votes come after decisions already have been made in private, are carefully orchestrated and seldom involve any public debate or discussions.

What happens after the subcommittees finish their work?

The legislative staff updates the budget to reflect the actions and the chairman of each subcommittee presents their section of the budget to the full Appropriations Committee shortly after the Legislature returns from its mid-session break (Feb. 25-March 1 this year).

What does the Appropriations Committee do?

The committee goes through the budget one subcommittee section at a time. Because only some of the committee members served on each subcommittee, all have the opportunity to ask questions about what the subcommittees did and why. They also have a chance to ask budget questions of department officials. The committee has the ability to make changes in the budget before sending the bill to the House of Representatives. The legislative staff updates its analysis of the budget before it reaches the House.

What does the House do with the budget?

The same procedure used in the Appropriations Committee is used in the House. The budget is presented a section at a time, questions are asked and House members can propose changes in the budget. The House must complete work on the budget and send it to the Senate by a March 25 deadline.

What happens in the Senate?

The process is similar to that in the House. The budget goes

Gail Boese wins national award

Gail Boese, administrative officer for Montana Correctional Enterprises, is the winner of the 2011 National Staff Award presented by the National Correctional Industries Association.

A 24-year Department of Corrections employee, Boese competed against 35 other candidates nominated by other states. She won the west region Staff Award and then competed with the four other regional winners for the nation's top honor.

The Maryland-based association's board of directors selected Boese for the award.

"This is a prestigious national-level achievement and NCIA is proud to recognize it as such," said Gina Honeycutt, executive director of the association.

Boese will be presented with both the regional and national awards at the NCIA awards banquet on Mar. 27 in Baltimore.

"I feel very humbled," Boese said of the honor. "I didn't even know that I was being put in for it. It was complete shock. I love what I am doing; I love helping people. I can see the potential in everybody. Anybody can be successful. I just do my job."

Boese said part of what makes her job so satisfying is her colleagues.

"It's a terrific place to work because we all work as a team," she said. "We are proud of the programs we have."

Boese began working in corrections in 1986 at the Montana State Prison records department. She later worked in the wood processing plant and the Contract Placement Bureau before taking her current job at MCE in 2002.

Gayle Lambert, MCE administrator, calls Boese dedicated and versatile, positive, knowledgeable and an asset to the department.

"Her passion and commitment has made a difference in many offenders' lives as she has taken the time to teach and train on a curriculum that she knows will have benefits for years and generations to come," she said. "She is the cornerstone of our division. Her enthusiasm is contagious. There is no job that she doesn't handle with a smile and the utmost of professionalism."

The NCIA Staff Award was established in 1980 to recognize the quality of correctional industries staff personnel. The award recognizes superior performance of a correctional industries staff member, other than the industries director or administrator, who has made a significant and sustained contribution to a correctional industries program.

In Boese's nomination, Lambert cited Boese for commitment to the Investment in Excellence program developed and offered for inmates at the prison.

After 40 weeks of training, "she worked tirelessly to build a program to bring the curriculum to the offender population in Montana," Lambert recalled. "She fully believed if offenders embraced this cognitive-based program they could truly believe they have the ability to become anything they wish, regardless of criminal past or family history."

Boese was responsible for organizing staff to facilitate Investment in Excellence training that had been modified for offenders. She worked with the DOC's training department to prepare staff as facilitators, and she adjusted her work schedule to facilitate many of these classes on her own. She worked evenings and weekends to bring this important service to the offender population.



Boese

'It's a terrific place to work because we all work as a team. We are proud of the programs we have.'

-Gail Boese

Regional Roundup



EDITOR'S NOTE: Items in the roundup are contributed by regional probation and parole staffs.

Region 1

We recently celebrated the anniversary of an excellent, respected officer who has been a rock for the Missoula office, as well a mentor and a key resource for all staff for two decades. Barb Schmitz was crowned and given her 20-year sash by fellow officers. Another icon and amazing officer, Landee Holloway, received a 15-year sash. During the same procession, Officer Kim Lahiff, our extremely knowledgeable and valued mental health specialist, was given a 10-year sash. Of course all pageant contestants received their year pins and certificates. Thanks for the service all. We're lucky to have you on our team.

We have two new additions to the region. Jared Poole recently transferred from Bozeman and has joined our intensive supervision program (ISP) team. We are thankful to have him and his experience, and know he will be a great member of the team. The other addition is Officer Allison Wilson's beautiful baby girl, Ayla, who was born on Dec. 28. Wilson is our mental health specialist in Hamilton, and mom and baby are healthy and doing great. Sadly, we are also losing one of our fantastic institutional probation and parole officers (IPPOs) from Montana State Prison. Candice Anderson will be transferring to the Bozeman office and will be greatly missed. She was an excellent asset for IPPO Ed Foley and his crew. We wish her the best in her new endeavor – and are hoping she won't convert into a MSU Bobcat fan. We know you're a Griz at heart, Candice, so stay strong. In other news, Hamilton Officer Brad Engebretson has a son D.J. who is on active duty with the National Guard, Bravo Company, 163rd Infantry and 163rd Task Force and recently deployed to Iraq. We send our thoughts and prayers out to him and the family, and know Brad is very proud.

Recently the fugitive task force was revived in the Missoula area and Lahiff was chosen to represent our department. She has been actively working cases since early January and was officially sworn in Feb. 10. She and the local Deputy U.S. Marshal Randy Martinez have apprehended numerous absconders, as well as one offender taken into custody with assistance from Kalispell probation and parole officers (thanks guys). Martinez is well-connected with law enforcement agencies and will continue to be a huge asset to the region and statewide. He has assisted in

finding some of our offenders in other states, and has the added bonus of having access to U.S. marshals across the nation. The rekindling of the task force is already proving to be beneficial and suspect the statistics likely will support the venture, as they more than certainly do in the Billings area.

Thanks to POII

Chris Evans and Regional Administrator John Williams from Billings for their assistance and support in establishing the task force in our region.

Although our ISP team has been dealing with some challenges recently, we are striving to become a model for the rest of the state with innovative and functional ideas to track and hold offenders accountable. Recently ISP Officer Andrea Bethel played a strategic role (along with the fugitive task force, local law enforcement agencies, and other P&P officers) in a case that resulted in the surrender of an ISP absconder believed to have fled the state. The collaborative efforts were impressive and we feel very fortunate to have such good relations between local law enforcement agencies and our officers.

And lastly, regarding our local chemical dependency case-load, one of Officer Valerie Chesnut's offenders was under the influence of an illegal substance and ended up calling law enforcement to report he was in possession of eight pounds of marijuana. Law enforcement arrested him, confiscated the bounty and the rest is history. These are the days of our lives.



Missoula Probation and Parole Officer Kim Lahiff is sworn in as a member of the fugitive task force by U.S. Marshall Darryl Bell. (Photo by Randy Martinez)

Roundup

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Region 2

Butte Probation and Parole Officers Dan Blando, Roland Smathers and Andy Larson received recognition for their work from the Department of Corrections, the governor's office and Butte-Silver Bow law enforcement. The department and Butte-Silver Bow honored Smathers and Blando for their willingness to go the extra mile to assist others in accomplishing the agencies' mission and work in keeping the community safe. These officers went above and beyond on two occasions in the last month where their assistance was essential in preventing the trafficking of weapons and a substantial amount of methamphetamine. Their assistance allowed law enforcement to break up a drug ring that had been transporting the drug to Butte and other communities in Montana.

On another occasion, these officers helped accommodate the family of an injured offender wishing to spend time with the hospitalized man. To accomplish this, these officers stepped up and sacrificed their weekends and a holiday, so that distraught parents could be with their son while he was in the hospital. These actions show how diverse and varied the skills of our officers need to be. In both cases, the officers handled themselves with exceptional decorum, compassion and knowledge of the requirements that were necessary in this situation. They did not look for accolades or recognition; they just did their job and did it in an exceptional manner.

Officer Andy Larson received a note and personal card directly from the governor, recognizing his skill and ability in changing the direction of an offender's life. Larson, through his communication skills and personal touch with an offender, had a significant impact on the woman's life. She wrote to the governor and thanked him for having a probation and parole officer like Larson, and acknowledged that it was his work and diligence that helped change the direction of her life. Skills such as Larson demonstrated with this offender are a common trait among officers and are what all officers work to achieve.

Region 3

Region 3 would like to bid farewell and good luck to Lewistown Probation and Parole Officer Heather Moore. She has accepted a transfer to the Bozeman office and will take her considerable talents to Region 2. Thank you Heather for the time and dedication you have demonstrated to the Lewistown area. We would also like to welcome back Probation and Parole Officer II Kay Anderson following her maternity leave. She and husband Emil welcomed a

new baby girl to the Anderson family. Congratulations Kay! Lisa Fetters recently joined the Cut Bank crew as a technician, filling the shoes of Erin O'Brien who accepted the grant position there. Welcome Lisa!

The Havre team is anxiously awaiting the completion of their new office. Over the past several months they have endured quite a disruption after learning they had to vacate the old office due to a mold problem. The staff's patience and understanding over the last several months has been greatly appreciated. We hope to have them moved in and settled around March 1. Along with a new home, the Havre office will be welcoming a new officer to fill a vacancy. A big thank you to Debe, Janet, Mike, Holly and Scott for making the best of their temporary quarters. Recently, recognition went to several members of the Great Falls office for their work in assisting with the hospital guard duty and family visitation for an inmate who was injured in a car accident. POII Eric Tadlock, the Great Falls intensive supervision team (Scott Foster, Jim Clancy and Cory Purves), Officer Sonya Mahlum and others were instrumental and their teamwork is much appreciated. The offender's family was grateful to the department, as was demonstrated by a letter to Director Mike Ferriter in this regard. This incident is just one example of the difference we can make to the community, the offenders, and our co-workers if we work together as a team.

Region 4

Congratulations to Officer Tammi Reimer for being selected the region's employee of the quarter for the first three months of 2011. She has not only made a significant impact on the region, but also has worked tirelessly to help make the regional DUI program highly effective and widely recognized throughout the state. In addition, Reimer was instrumental in helping to secure federal grant dollars and developing a memorandum of understanding with the local DUI task force to increase monitoring of DUI offenders through increased home contacts and bar checks to prevent them from committing additional offenses. Her dedication to improving the lives of offenders is further demonstrated in the men's relationship group that she developed and facilitates. Reimer has consistently demonstrated a high level of professionalism with both the offenders she supervises and her fellow officers. She always has a can-do attitude and makes herself available whether it be to review a report, go out in the field or give advice regarding offenders. Reimer provides a wealth of information regarding offender resources, and goes out of her way to ensure her supervisor and fellow officers are aware of and familiar with DUI offender programs, to include coordinating site visits to WATCH West and WATCH East treatment programs. It is this type of hard

ADMINISTRATOR'S
CORNER



Jo Acton
Warden
Montana Women's Prison

Nearly 200 years ago, a Quaker named Elizabeth Fry visited the women's section of the Newgate prison in London. Conditions there horrified her. Women and children were crowded together, she saw women stripping clothes off a dead child to provide for another. The women did their own cooking and washing in small cells where they slept on straw.

Fry handed out warm clothes and returned the next day with more clothes and food. That began her 20-year crusade to improve conditions of women's prisons in Britain. She sometimes stayed overnight in the prisons, she founded a school for children of inmates and emphasized the importance of useful employment for the women. She began a system of supervision and required the women to sew and to read the Bible. In 1817, she helped found the Association for the Reformation of the Female Prisoners in Newgate, which led to the eventual creation of the British Ladies' Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners.

Female prisons have come a long way in the past two centuries and Montana Women's Prison is part of that evolution.

Many people who visit the Billings facility don't consider it a "prison." It's not what they expect. It's not as dramatic as Montana State Prison. It's not isolated from the community, marked by piles of razor wire or guard towers. It's a different feeling, more relaxed, and the tension level isn't as high as typical in a men's prison.

Also, people generally don't view women inmates the same as their male counterparts; the women aren't seen to be as violent and dangerous as men can be. While that is true in a broad sense, the women's prison does have inmates who pose a danger to the community.

The characteristics of women inmates are different from men in many ways. Women are more likely to have been victims of abuse and tend to use far more drugs than do men. Although men are identified as drug users sooner than women, that's only because women are more apt to be able to hide their addictions.

While in prison, women like to fill their time and very few refuse to be involved in offered activities. Their motivation is not that participation will offer them a better shot at parole; rather they recognize that "I need to do this for myself" or "I am interested in that."

CORNER

FROM Page 24

I recall one new arrival writing to her family with excitement about having a chance to obtain her GED and the opportunity to be part of the prison's parenting program. She was an example of women who, for one reason or another, don't know how to access those kinds of programs in the community and welcome the exposure to them in prison.

Incarcerated women are more relationship-oriented and often personalize incidents that occur with staff. They also are more willing to express emotions and to question why rules or procedures are what they are.

Women's prisons have always focused on treatment and skill development by offering a variety of programs, such as those providing chemical dependency treatment,

The characteristics of women inmates are different from men in many ways. Women are more likely to have been victims of abuse and tend to use far more drugs than do men.

counseling for histories of abuse, life skills, parenting, job skills and enhancing self-esteem.

Even Elizabeth Fry recognized that, when the groups she helped found in the early 1800s advocated habilitation, treatment, education and work skills for women inmates. She and Quakers of her time were interested in doing something different, something better.

That desire continues today at the Montana Women's Prison where we are constantly looking for new ways to improve the chances for women to restore their lives and capture a brighter future for themselves and their families.

MASC staff rises to challenge posed by youthful offenders in program

By Lisa Navarro
Administrative Assistant
Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center

When people think of the Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center, they tend to think that we deal only with adult male offenders. But that mindset is incorrect.

Since 2008, we have housed 12 youthful offenders, a term that refers to those in their late teens and early 20s who are changing so fast – developmentally, emotionally, neurologically and psychologically – that, even in non-correctional settings, these young men offer multiple challenges.

Our youthful offenders typically come from troubled backgrounds. They are trying to navigate the effects of their troubled histories and are not well equipped for the task. These young men cannot recognize the “need to change.”

While the number of these offenders at MASC is relatively small, MASC's goal is to work with probation and parole officers to develop community placements for them rather than sending them to prison.

Working with the youthful offender population presents some unique challenges not seen as often in the adult offender population. Mary Helen Kassel, a licensed addic-

tions counselor at MASC, describes this group of offenders as men who:

- typically haven't experienced consequences, as have the older offenders
- don't generally have the coping skills that the older offenders have
- lack impulse control
- are not afraid for their own mortality
- expect from the adult system the same multiple opportunities for rehabilitation that were offered by Youth Court
- are rebellious by nature and constantly “testing the boundaries,” but the adult system isn't well equipped to handle these issues
- don't handle boredom well
- often are “adrenaline junkies” who crave constant stimulation

MASC is privileged to have Paul Sells, a licensed clinical social worker and licensed addictions counselor, working these offenders on a case-by-case basis. He says these young adults benefit greatly from physical activity due to their instinctive need to release the pent-up energies within their minds and bodies.

Employee growth trails offender growth

The Jan. 31 edition of several Montana daily newspapers contained a story about the increase in the number of full-time state employees since 2004. The article noted that the Department of Corrections had a 19.2 percent growth in employees during that time.

But what the article didn't point out is that the corrections system experienced a 25 percent increase in the number of offenders being supervised in that six years.

A Feb. 4 Billings Gazette editorial tried to put the matter into perspective. It correctly said the department added 51 employees in probation and parole (including 41 probation and parole officers), but missed the mark when it said more than 56 employees were hired to staff a revocation center intended to help offenders violating conditions of their community supervision without sending them to prison.

That center, called the Sanction, Treatment, Assessment, Revocation and Transition program, is not staffed with state employees. It is operated by a private, non-profit under contract with the department.

But the editorial appropriately attempted to explain why the number of corrections employees grew.

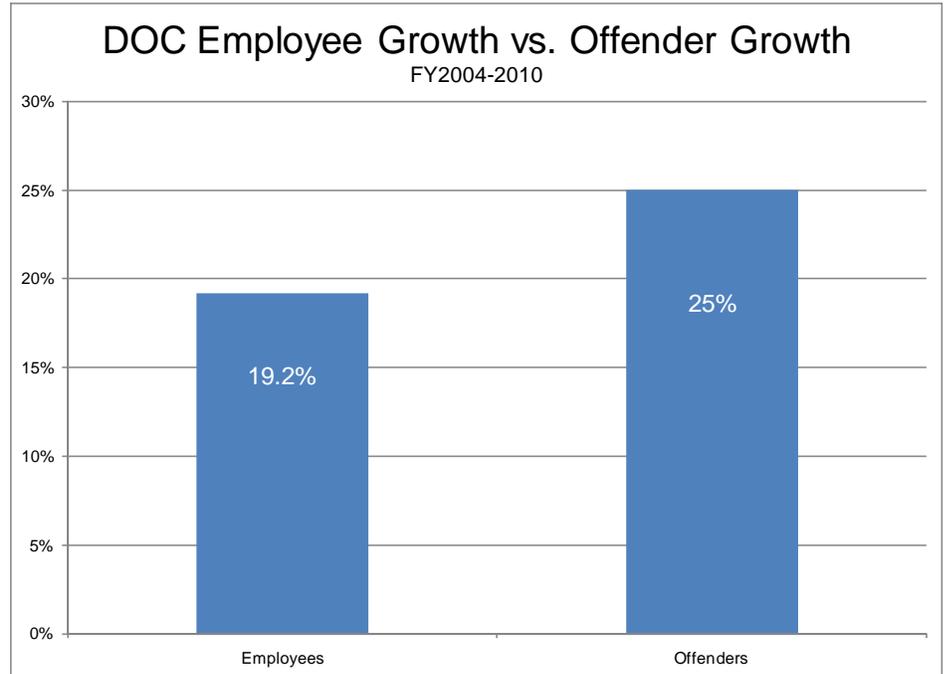
The 56.6 employees the editorial referred actually were needed to staff the Martz Diagnostic Intake Unit at Montana State Prison, which opened in 2005. The facility is the reception unit for offenders arriving at the prison.

The department also had to hire 34 employees to properly staff the expanded Work and Re-entry Center at the prison after it more than doubled its capacity in 2009. In 2010, the prison added 12 correctional officers to bring staffing for the facility to the appropriate level for the first time in many years. The cost of those added officers was more than offset by a reduction in overtime.

Beyond the increase in probation and parole officers working in the field, the department hired four institutional P&P officers to work inside the growing number of correctional facilities, including START, a second felony DUI treatment center and two drug treatment programs.

Montana State Prison, confronted with a steep increase in inmates with mental illnesses, added nine employees to its mental health staff. By the middle of 2010, three out of every 10 inmates at the prison were on prescribed psychotropic medications.

While the bulk of the additional employees are in positions dealing directly with offenders, Central Office



added five staff in the collections unit to cope with the responsibility of collecting court-ordered restitution and supervision fees. Those staffers are paid from administrative fees collected as part of the payments.

The point is that the growth in employees is necessary because of the rise in the number of offenders under supervision and increasing demands for services and programs that are effective in addressing the needs of offenders and keeping recidivism down. And even then, offender growth has outstripped employee growth.

MASC

FROM Page 25

Despite the many challenges of working with youthful offenders, MASC has a team of caring, dedicated people who have a genuine desire to help give these young men an opportunity to develop and mature during their time in our program.

This commitment is found in all the staff – from Administrator Dan Maloughney, who reviews and pays particularly close attention to these cases, and Amy Abendroth, unit manager and boot camp coordinator at MASC, to Mike Norvelle, the institutional probation and parole officer who conducts the intake interviews and directs offenders to the appropriate counselors, and the counselors themselves. Kassel, Sells, Michael Nile and Sandy Heaton each works hard to provide our young charges with the best treatment possible.



Blasch

DOC fills grants manager job

Carolyn Blasch, the Department of Corrections new federal grants coordinator, brings nearly 11 years of experience in the field of grant writing and management.

Blasch replaces Donci Bardash, who left last year to work for another state agency.

A Wisconsin native, Blasch began her career with the University of Wisconsin Extension Service in Waukesha and worked there for four years. She moved to Minnesota where she joined a local economic development project before becoming marketing coordinator for an insurance company for a year.

In April 2005, Blasch moved back to Wisconsin to work for Agape Community Center in Milwaukee, where she developed community center education programs addressing health, safety, parenting, financial literacy, volunteer education and youth education programs.

She came to Montana in May 2006 to work as a planner, grant writer and program manager for Montana Business Assistance Connection and Gateway Economic Development District

in Helena. In that position, she managed the economic development program for a three-county region. Blasch also applied for, leveraged and managed almost \$1 million in economic and community development projects.

At the same time, she operated her own part-time grant writing services business for two years.

Blasch joined the Corrections Department on Feb. 7, saying she is looking forward to concentrating solely on grant development and management, rather than mixing such work with other obligations.

“Grant writing will be the focus of my work,” she says. “I won’t be a jack of all trades.”

Blasch says she enjoys the challenge of following the kind of strict rules and regulations involved in the world of federal grants, using her writing skills to develop grant applications and seeing the benefits of grants awarded to the department.

“Grants are able to fill niches” not filled with general fund appropriations, she says. “There’s grants for training and programs for education and youth issues.”

She says she is excited not only to learn about the new world of corrections, but also to handle the challenge of working with a large number of employees.

Blasch, 34, said she moved to Montana because she wanted a change from the stress of living in large metropolitan areas and was looking for a “quiet, peaceful place to live.” A friend who moved here convinced her Montana is that place.

An avid triathlon competitor, Blasch earned a bachelor’s degree in community leadership and development from Alverno College in Milwaukee in 1999 and obtained a master’s degree in urban studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2003.

She and husband Kyle married last August.

No need for full audit of offender lookup program

The Legislative Audit Division recently explored the possibility of conducting a full-system audit of The Department of Corrections’ offender lookup website and concluded one is not necessary.

The month-long assessment process reviewed the Correctional Offender Network (CON) program, including system inputs, outputs and processing functions. The audit staff also talked with various department personnel regarding the system’s operation.

“We do not believe a full-system audit is warranted at this time,” Angie Grove, deputy legislative auditor, wrote in a letter to Director Mike Ferriter.

“This means that the auditors did not find anything of concern that warranted a full, comprehensive audit of CON,” said John Daugherty, administrator of the Information Technology Division. “This conclusion is a testament to the hard work of everyone who maintains CON and all the field staff that inputs data to ensure the accuracy of information in the program.

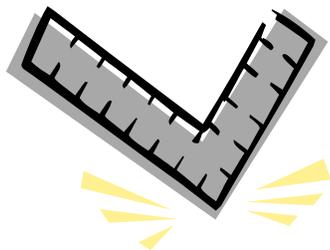
“CON is a useful tool to the public and in fulfilling our mission of public safety,” he added. “That commitment is clear from community corrections staff that inputs data used on the CON site to the person that ensures that information is put on the server that operates the program.”

College and women's prison

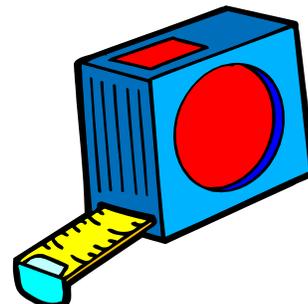
Building experience



ABOVE: Inmates Samantha Murfitt (left) and Jamie Crowther, right, work with Cheri Chevalier, a Habitat for Humanity volunteer, on a renovation project at the Montana Women's Prison. (Photos by MSU-Billings and Pamela Elliott)



As part of a work skills training program at the Montana Women's Prison, Montana State University-Billings is assisting the prison with reconfiguring an area of the Billings facility to provide more functional classroom space. The project involves removing a wall in order to create a larger meeting room while still allowing outdoor access for a dog-training program. The larger room will have the capability of being divided into two rooms when the need arises. The project started Feb. 1 and is expected to continue for three weeks. Inmates are working on the project under the guidance of two officials from the Habitat for Humanity program. The MSU-B program, called Pathways to Self Sufficiency, has taught inmates how to design floor plans and built scale-model houses from the plans, and built a concrete pad for the basketball court.



Roundup

FROM Page 23

work, dedication and initiative that makes her a valuable asset to the team in region 4.

A couple of caseload changes to note: Lea Werhonig has stepped up and taken on the position of sex offender specialist, allowing Laura McKee to return to a standard caseload. We appreciate her willingness to take on this challenge.

Our firearms instructors are taking a proactive approach against the nationwide increase in violence against law enforcement officers. They are offering a simunitions training with different scenarios at the Northern Hotel in Billings during the last week of February. Officer safety is of utmost importance when out in the field. Simunitions training offers the most reality-based situations and is definitely a necessity in order for officers to keep their edge when encountering dangerous situations.

We would like to congratulate Officer Debbie Willis on her retirement and we wish her the best of luck in her next endeavor. Her retirement party was very enjoyable for all those that were able to attend. Thank you for all of the e-mails wishing her well; she greatly appreciates the thoughtfulness.

Region 5

On Jan. 8, Region 5 lost one of its finest officers to an unfortunate skiing accident. Scott Allen Meyer was an officer that any boss would covet. He was one of the first to greet you in the morning, would offer any assistance needed and always had a positive outlook. He came in as gangly 26-year-old from Southern California. But within a year, he proved he was much more than a competent officer. Scott was very interested in the education and training of new officers. Scott joined with fellow officer Rick Jones to approach the higher-ups with concrete ideas and plans on how to improve basic training for probation and parole. Not only did they succeed in convincing everyone that there was merit to their thinking, they changed the whole structure for the four-week program.

Scott did not stop there. Local law enforcement asked for assistance in providing information to their officers and deputies on the specifics duties and powers of P&P officers. Scott not only volunteered to assist, but also created a PowerPoint presentation and presented it to local agencies. To Scott there was no such thing as a generation gap. He was comfortable talking training theory, sports and politics with his colleagues. Thursday court day will just not be the

same without Scott pronouncing, "Today we get to meet some new friends!" in reference to additions to caseloads. It is amazing to realize what he accomplished in the short 2½ years he was with us. There was no limit to how far he could have gone. He will be missed by all here in Kalispell. We will be retiring his badge, #167, and will have a gathering later in the year to celebrate and honor our memories of him. (*Obituary on page 11*)

Region 6

In mid-January, PO II Sue Drivdahl attended the "Nuts and Bolts of Supervision" training via VisionNet at Pine Hills. Numerous Pine Hills staff and two newly promoted Dawson County Correctional Facility officers also attended. This gave the group activities a different twist for Drivdahl, who got a lesson in how the facilities operate and handle discipline and other supervisory issues. The staff at Pine Hills was very gracious and supplied excellent snacks for the attendees. Despite ominous weather forecasts of freezing rain, the roads remained clear the entire week and travel was a breeze.

December was the first tribal relations program experienced by Jim Anderson, one of the newest probation and parole officers working closely with Native Americans and tribal agencies to promote the success of Native Americans on community supervision. The day-long event included speakers, presenters, awards, recognitions, and challenges. One of the highlights of particular interest to Anderson was the welcome presentation by Gov. Brian Schweitzer in which he recognized achievements by various individuals who promoted successful programs of Native Americans in Montana. Anderson also noted the governor has recruited more American Indians into state employment than previous governors to represent the population of Montana citizens serving Montana. The displays by the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, "Native Words, Native Warriors" showed Native Americans serving in the previous wars and was enlightening. Special recognition was given to the Navajo code talkers who used their native language to communicate combat information. The language could not be translated or understood by the Japanese. Acknowledgement that the Native Americans represented the largest minority group serving World War II demonstrated American Indians were willing to fight for freedom.

Throughout the day, presentations recognized the contributions of so many individuals who had helped move the state and the tribes forward together. Attendees were encouraged to listen and apply what was learned to help create a strong state-tribal relations in the interest of all Montanans. Anderson was grateful for the opportunity to

Statistics & Data Quality: It's all about the numbers



Hall

By Dewey Hall
Statistics and Data Quality Bureau Chief

Much of what the Department of Corrections does is based on numbers related to the flow of offenders, the success rate of treatment programs, the length of stay in correctional programs and offender population projections.

Those numbers mostly come from the Statistics and Data Quality Bureau, where the staff develops statistical information on behalf of the department and produces reports for the governor, the Legislature, courts, attorneys, federal agencies and individual citizens.

The four-member staff maintains the department's population management projection information and meets with the population management team quarterly, maintains the department's Internet and intranet sites, and responds to national surveys requesting offender demographics and statistics.

Staffers also coordinate with other state and federal agencies on data-sharing initiatives with the goal of increasing data integrity, decreasing repetitive data entry and supporting the enhancement of public safety.

Working with Bureau Chief Dewey Hall are Mark Johnson, Kurt Lewis and Dean Smail.

The bureau is playing a key role during the 2011 legislative session in compiling statistics that provide the foundation used to develop fiscal notes that identify the impact of altering drunken-driving laws and other possible statutory changes. The bureau provided information to the Legislative Fiscal Division as it helped lawmakers reviewing the department's proposed budget and to the legislative auditor's office as it conducted an audit of the public information reported on the Correctional Offender Network (CON).

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service uses information requested from the bureau to identify fraudulent tax returns. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement uses bureau data to track aliens and formulate deportation plans.

At the beginning of each month, the bureau sends an electronic list of inmates to the Social Security Administration, which uses the names to check the validity of Social Security numbers reported by inmates in the Montana correctional system.

The bureau also maintains and provides data for CON, the Internet-based offender information program. The CON information is electronically transferred to Montana Interactive (host of the website) each Thursday afternoon. When the CON data files are transferred, an inmate data file is also sent to the secretary of state's office, which compares the inmate roster against voter registration files.

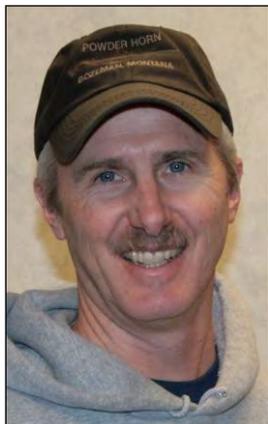
The bureau sends information on alien offenders to the Helena office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and shares offender drug conviction data with the Federal Aviation Administration for comparison against active pilot licenses.

Another major consumer of department data is the U.S. Justice Department. The bureau completes an inmate population survey each January and every July that records inmate populations by admissions, releases, gender, HIV status, tuberculosis status and race. Each February, the bureau completes for the federal agency probation and parole surveys about admissions, types of release, gender and race of offenders. Each quarter, the office is required to submit a report to the Justice Department about all deaths in secure facilities, including gender, cause of death and length of time in custody.

Normally, the bureau can answer a request within 24 hours or less. Occasionally, more com-



Smail



Lewis



Johnson

Legal assistant hired at MSP



Gilman

The Legal Services Bureau has a new part-time legal assistant at Montana State Prison.

Dayna Gilman, a 34-year veteran of state government, began working at the Deer Lodge facility Feb. 8. She replaces Anita Larner, who left a couple of years ago.

Gilman began working for the state in 1977 as an administrative assistant in the Liquor Control Division at the Revenue Department. After 10 years, she became administrative assistant in the Child Support Enforcement Division at what was then called the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. She became a child support technician in the division two years later and moved on to an investigator in the division in 1991. She retired from that job in December.

Gilman, who lives in Garrison, grew up in Helena and graduated from Capital High School. She has advanced legal secretary training as well as training in mediation.

MSP education program increases GEDs 50%

The education department at Montana State Prison has reached its goal of awarding 60 GEDs in 2010, an increase of 50 percent over the 40 awarded in 2009, said Greg Hergott, education program chief.

“We have changed many procedures to improve accountability and progress,” he said. “Our teachers have stepped up to the plate and have done a wonderful job.”

He thanked teachers Mike Kallas, Jolene Footitt, Tina West, Diana Zbinden, Tiffany Morrison, Monte Lambert and Mark Morrison. Hergott cited the work of Val Ericson, who does much to everyone tested and keep all our data straight with the state Office of Public Instruction; the life skills and college correspondence

course teachers, Andrew Badgero and Allen Cain; and librarians Desiree Dramstad, George Smith and Linda Murphy.

Hergott also mentioned the efforts of Chris McKee, the office manager who helps everyone do their job as well as doing the adult basic education testing at the Martz Diagnostic Intake Unit.

“They all are assisting the inmates in their educational goals,” he said. “This was a team effort and the unit management team, case managers, and security personnel have all been helpful in our department reaching its goal. This is a MSP success story and thanks for helping make this happen.”

Roundup

FROM Page 29

attend, and along with his colleagues, was introduced during the panel discussions. The introduction included what was being achieved through a federal grant allowing the hiring of probation and parole officers to specialize in supervision of Native American offenders.

Region 6 will be conducting simulations training Feb. 16. This is always a valuable learning experience. Regional Administrator Emery Brelje does an excellent job of creating scenarios for this training and all staffers take away new information concerning officer safety.

Bureau

FROM Page 30

plicated reports involve extensive computer programming and may take up to six weeks to write the program and ensure it accurately provides the necessary information.

During fiscal year 2010, the bureau processed 282 statistical reports in response to requests for information.

Topics of interest often include questions about sentences, offender ages, race and current location of the department's offenders. Some questions ask about frequency of offenses, length of stay in prison for certain offenses, roommates of a current or former inmates, gang affiliation and movement of offenders.

Lewis continues to spend more than 30 hours a week working on Youth Information Management System (YMS) databases to ensure data quality and on designing reports to extract information from the databases.

The staff finds and repairs faulty data entries while working with development staff to design and implement fixes to data entry issues as they arise or staff learns of them from co-workers. The bureau also works closely with the Offender Management Information System development team to correct and develop new features.

Q&A

FROM Page 20

to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee for review and possible changes. Then the full Senate gets the opportunity to review and make changes in the spending plan. The Senate must finish its work and send the budget bill back to the House by April 9.

What does the House do after getting the budget back?

House members have to decide whether to approve the changes made by the Senate. Historically, the House always rejects the changes, a move that requires the budget be sent to a joint conference committee made up of an equal number of the senators and representatives. This committee must resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget.

How does the conference committee work?

It's usually composed of six members, three from each house. Once again, the majority party in each house (Republicans in this session) has more members on the conference committee than does the minority. The members must decide which Senate changes will remain. This is usually done during the final three weeks of the session. Although the committee's meetings are public, much of the negotiations goes on behind closed doors in informal discussions among House and Senate leaders. Sometimes the governor's office may be consulted in an effort to ensure that the final adjustments will produce a budget acceptable to the governor.

What's the next step after the joint conference committee finishes its work?

Study

FROM Page 2

\$216 million total reduction in yearly taxable earnings.

Because almost 30 percent of high school dropouts in Montana meet the federal definition of low-income residents, dropping out of high school results in more demand for Medicaid funding to provide health care coverage for them. The study estimates a \$23 million annual impact on the Medicaid program due to coverage of dropouts.

On the subject of incarceration, the study's authors conclude that because more-educated people earn higher wages and, therefore, have less economic incentive to commit crimes. They refer to another study that found high school dropouts are 63 times more likely to become institutionalized than are young four-year college graduates.

"Reducing dropout rates presents great opportunity to reduce public expenditures on crime," authors of the Montana study said.

They focus only on incarceration costs, stating that some of the growth in such costs in Montana is a result of

The budget changes made by the committee go back to the House and the Senate for final approval. If the two chambers agree on the budget, it goes to the governor for signature. If the committee work is rejected by either or both houses, the committee must resume efforts to find agreement.

When the Legislature takes final action on the budget, what happens?

The bill goes to the governor for a decision. He has several choices. He can sign it into law, allow it to become law without his signature, veto it or return it with suggested changes.

If the governor vetoes the budget, what does the Legislature do?

If still in session, legislators vote on whether to uphold the veto. Two-thirds or more of each house (67 representatives and 34 senators) are required to overturn a veto. If the Legislature has adjourned, members are polled by the secretary of state. If the veto is upheld, the Legislature must resume work on the budget by continuing the regular session or convening in special session, with the goal of developing a spending plan acceptable to the governor or enough legislators to overturn another veto.

If the governor suggests changes in the budget bill, what happens?

The Legislature must vote on whether to accept the changes, but a simple majority of each house is all that's needed.

What if there's an impasse?

The two branches of government eventually must agree on a new budget before the start of the new fiscal year July 1 or government will not have authority to spend money.

high school dropouts. The report estimates that one out of every 30 dropouts is incarcerated, a rate that is more than eight times higher than for high school graduates.

Based on findings in another study, the report says that high school graduation leads to a three-quarters of 1 percentage point drop in Montana's incarceration rate.

Overall, the Montana study concludes, cutting the state's high school dropout rate in half for each graduating class would yield more than \$32 million in total economic benefit to the state.

The Training Times



DOC expands online training

Training for Department of Corrections employees has become easier, more convenient and less costly thanks to a new online learning management system launched in February.

Department staff has access to more than over 40 hours of free on-line training and more than 2,500 business and technical courses through expansion of the Corrections Distance Education Program (CDEP).

Until now, this program was accessible only by those on the state network and state had to submit a self-study report to receive credit. CDEP now gives employees, with a supervisor's approval, access to training anytime and anywhere. All that's needed is a computer with Internet access.

Employees can undertake training from the convenience of their own homes and not have to be in the office. Staff members can resume a course at any time if interrupted. The improved access to a wider array of courses may reduce the time and expense of employees having to travel to obtain training.

The new system provides capability to automatically track employees who sign on for a course and monitor current and completed courses. So employees will no longer need to fill out an independent study form to receive credit for online training. When finished with a course, individuals can download and print a certificate of completion.

By working with WestNet Learning, the learning management system provider, the department's Professional Development Bureau Training Specialist Ted Ward has created access to thousands of courses at an unprecedented low cost to the agency. Courses are provided in packages starting at just \$36 for five months of access to non-technical courses.

There will be business skills development courses available which improve your communication techniques and other key business skills such as project management and team building.

The department also is using federal grant funding to create new courses for sex offender management.

Ward said he plans to develop a program to train employees on how to access and use the new service.

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Online

FROM Page 33

Training is a significant commitment within the department. From fiscal year 2005 through fiscal year 2010, the agency has seen a 120 percent increase in the number of training hours logged by staff, from 523 to 1,152. At the same time, the number of employees engaged in training has grown even more, from 168 to 1,125. That represents a 570 percent increase in five years.

The Online Training Center can be accessed at

<http://www.cor.mt.gov/cdep.mcp>

LEFT: A screen-shot showing the website providing access to the online training courses.



Training Schedule

(For more information, contact Geri Miller: gerimiller@mt.gov)

FEBRUARY	TIME	COURSE TITLE	SITE LOCATION	COST	HOURS
16	11am-2pm	Cell Extraction	DOC Training Center-Deer Lodge	Free	3
16	2pm-5pm	Cell Extraction	DOC Training Center-Deer Lodge	Free	3
22	10pm-2pm	Drug Identification	DOC Training Center-Deer Lodge	Free	4
22	2pm-10pm	Knife Defense	DOC Training Center-Deer Lodge	Free	7
MARCH					
8	2pm-5:30pm	Mental Health Issues & Suicide Intervention	DOC Training Center-Deer Lodge	Free	3.5
14-18	8am-5pm	Advanced Instructor Development	Montana Women's Prison-Billings	\$30.00	40
23	8am-12pm	Drug ID	DOC Training Center-Deer Lodge	Free	4
30	2pm-10pm	Defensive Tactics/Officer Safety	DOC Training Center-Deer Lodge	Free	7
APRIL					
5-7	8am-5pm	Investment in Excellence-Phase I	DOC Training Center - Deer Lodge	\$241+s&H	24
15	12pm-3:30pm	Mental Health Issues & Suicide Intervention	DOC Training Center - Deer Lodge	Free	3.5
19-20	8am-5pm	Investment in Excellence-Phase II	DOC Training Center - Deer Lodge		16
21	8am-4pm	Knife Defense	DOC Training Center - Deer Lodge	Free	7

NIC initiative offers regional training

The National Institute of Corrections has developed a program designed to make training more available and affordable to correctional professionals and it was the subject of a recent meeting of regional field coordinators in Denver.

Lisa Hunter, organization development manager in the Department of Corrections Professional Development Bureau, was one of 35 coordinators attending that meeting.

The Regional Training Initiative provides assistance and funding for regional training through an organized group of volunteer trainers called regional field coordinators.

In an era of rapidly increasing numbers of juvenile and adult correctional employees and trainers who must be trained quickly, the NIC program enables both juvenile and adult correctional agencies at the state and local level to bring more correctional training online without significant budget increases. It is a cost-effective means of increasing training resources, training capacity and information dissemination among training professionals from jails, prisons, community corrections, juvenile justice agencies and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The initiative is supported by the NIC Academy Division and relies on volunteer juvenile and adult correctional trainers to provide professional development, resource sharing and networking opportunities to their peers in local, state, and federal correctional agencies throughout the nation.

The purpose of the program is to build networks across traditional boundaries among juvenile and adult correctional agencies in order to share training resources and information, and to participate in joint training efforts.

This provides opportunities for more juvenile and adult correctional staff to participate in training programs and access training resources, while offering relevant training based on input around regional needs and interests. The program also promotes the sharing of information, training and other resources across traditional boundaries among juvenile and adult disciplines, and local, state, and federal correctional agencies.

The result is an increase in dissemination, use and impact of juvenile and adult correctional curriculum packages and training technologies developed among agencies throughout the country, and maximum use of federal funding available for correctional training for local, state and federal prisons, jails, community corrections and juvenile justice agencies.

The program organizes states and territories into four regions. Each region has 10 regional field coordinators, drawn from prisons, jails, community corrections, juvenile justice agencies, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Each year, with NIC support, coordinators come together to plan and organize correctional training and capacity-building initiatives within their respective regions.

Coordinators and academy staff coordinate communication within each region, between regions, and between all regions and the NIC Academy in order to carry out projects, training programs, and resource sharing throughout an activity year.

Ideally, coordinators are juvenile or adult agency training directors, administrators, coordinators or senior trainers with experience in developing, delivering, and/or coordinating training in their home agency. They are selected through an an-



Western regional field coordinators gather in Denver. Front row, left to right: Lisa Hunter, Montana; Lynn Oliver, Oregon; Naomi Phillips, New Mexico; and Vivian Baltierra, Arizona. Back row, left to right: Brent Parker, Colorado; Thomas Rossler, Wyoming; Matthew A. Dumont, Utah; Richard Suey, Nevada; William Payne, Wyoming; Denis Porter, New Mexico; and Dan Traxinger, Alaska.



Comings

These lists of new and departing employees are for the period from Dec. 4, 2010, through Jan. 28, 2011. If you notice errors or omissions, please call the *Signpost* editor at banez@mt.gov.

Central Office

Carolyn Blasch
Tammy Cooper

Montana State Prison

Zach Anderson

Erin Bernhardt
Robert Cirolia
Michele Dotson
David Faulk
Keri Ferguson
Wendi Larson
Jeffrey Loomis
Kimberly Malcomb
Amanda Millan
Richard Pasha
Robin Porter
Paul Price

Ronald Slauson
Gayle Tominson
Grant Wheat

Montana Women's Prison

Gabrielle Denio

Probation and Parole

Lisa Fetters, Cut Bank
Paula Gill, Libby

Goings

James Barrington
Lanny Bingham
Leland Blazer-R
Dana Brurud-R
Colter Coker
David Cozby-R
Dean Eman
Charles Ewan-R
Brian Gray

Daniel Highley
Patrick Kross
Julie Massey
Leslie Meagher
Tyler Miller
Michael Naatjes
Dawn Naatjes
Carol Nelson
Lauren Nissen

Karen Nunley
Jeff Ritow-R
Jennifer Slaughtner
Diana Snyder
Kristopher Studeny
Deborah Willis-R
Craig Winter-R

R=retired

Regional

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nual application process that includes endorsement by their chief administrators to assure they will have agency support in carrying out their duties as a coordinator.

These volunteers are essential to the success of the training initiative. Within each region's team are trainers representing state, local, and federal agencies and the disciplines of community corrections, jails, prisons, and juvenile justice.

The west region represents the Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and Marianas Islands.

The region will host several training courses throughout 2011: unleash your leadership competency training for supervisors and mid-managers, mindful supervisor: cognitive principle in staff supervision, ethics for corrections supervisor/management level, essential skills for new supervisors, Mexican cartel training and active shooter.

Hunter, the coordinator representing Montana, will facilitate the "unleash your leadership competencies" and "the essential skills for new supervisors" courses in Montana.

For more information about these training courses please call her at 406-846-1320 ext 2483 or send an email message to lihunter@mt.gov.

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