



# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

January 16, 2015-AR

Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) Chaplain Keith Blackburn participated in a panel discussion on the Indiana Youth Institute's (IYI) Kids Count Radio Show, hosted by IYI President and CEO Bill Stanczkiewics. Kids Count Radio Show is a 30-minute public affairs program that brings a compelling look at issues affecting Hoosier kids and families. Chaplain Blackburn, along with Rachel Halleck, Director of Behavioral Services at Volunteers of America: Healing Families, and David Powel, Executive Director for the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, were part of the discussion about the issues of Hoosier children with parents behind bars. The program is slated to air on March 8, 2015 at 7:00 a.m. on WIBC Radio locally. (photo right)



Quinn Fox, daughter of Corizon nurse Sally Fox at Westville Correctional Facility (WCC), is the inaugural recipient of the Correctional Professional Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI) Rose Vaisvilas Public Service Scholarship for \$2000. Since Quinn had already left to start her spring semester at Indiana State University as a

criminology major, her mother gratefully accept the check from Commissioner Bruce Lemmon on her behalf. (photo left)



South Bend Community Reentry Facility Administrative Assistant Larry Dickens was awarded the Commissioner's Scholarship. The \$5000 CPAFI Scholarship was presented to Mr. Dickens by IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. Mr. Dickens is currently completing a PhD in Global Leadership at Indiana Tech in Ft. Wayne.

The Correctional Industrial Facility also received a visit from Commissioner Lemmon who presented two CPAFI Scholarships to Sergeant Pat Gibson for \$3000 and Officer Sammy Mena, accepting on behalf of his daughter, for \$1000. Sergeant Pat Gibson is working toward a Criminal Justice degree, and Officer Mena's daughter is attending school for engineering.

Miami Correctional Facility Recreation Department hosted the Indiana Wesleyan University Basketball Team on New Year's Eve, working with the offender All-Star team on shooting drills. The college team also gave their testimonies and positive encouragement to the offender team. It was a positive experience for everyone. (photo right)



The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) welcomed Senator, Renn, Emma and Oakley as the newest additions to the Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) program. All four puppies will complete their first phase of training to becoming assistance dogs for individuals with disabilities throughout the State of Indiana. The ICAN program not only benefits those persons who are placed with an ICAN

dog, but also has a tremendous impact on the offenders who train the dogs. (Renn pictured left)



Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Superintendent Alison Yancey is pleased to announce the promotion of Eric Courtney to Assistant Superintendent. Superintendent Yancey stated, "Eric brings a passion for corrections and has already proven to be a leader. I look forward to seeing his growth in this new position."

The Putnamville Correctional Facility and Casework Manager James Bennett hosted a Christmas with Dad event for seven offenders and visitors in the Inside Out Dads program. Children were allowed to play games, eat, and visit with their fathers in a relaxed setting. This was an excellent opportunity for the bonding of the graduated dads and the children

that have been affected by their incarceration!

The Red Cross Bloodmobile visited Camp Summit Boot Camp over the holidays and collected 16 units of blood from employees. According to the American Red Cross the drive has the potential to save 48 lives. The bloodmobile visit, coordinated by Camp Summit staffer Pat Kimmel, was part of the Indiana Department of Correction's Blood Drive Challenge which ended in December.

Since 1997 the staff at Branchville Correctional Facility have collected and donated to Toys for Tots. As a result of the staff's generosity and kindness, this year 35 children from Perry, Crawford and Spencer counties were able to have a much happier holiday season.

Every Christmas for 23 years, Bishop Dale Melczek has celebrated Christmas morning Mass at the Indiana State Prison. At age 76, he retired at the end of the year. This year's mass was well attended by Catholic offenders as well as numerous volunteers from the Northwest Indiana Catholic community.

While working on a heating problem at WCC, one of the steam lines failed. Mark Wilson, Heat and Vent Foreman, pushed fellow engineer Roger Jeffers out of the way from the sudden spray of hot steam, saving Jeffers by placing himself in harm's way. Jeffers then administered first aid for the burns Wilson suffered.



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Indiana Department of Correction

January 30, 2015



On Wednesday, January 28, 2015, Commissioner Lemmon was on-hand at Branchville Correctional Facility to present Captain Lisa Hollowaway with a CAPFI Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00. Captain Hollowaway has been an IDOC employee for 15 years, and she currently attends Liberty University. *(Photo left)*

The Indiana State Prison held its annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's celebration on Monday, January 19, 2015. The keynote speaker for the event was Rev. Ron Gaston, pastor of Temple Worship Center of Michigan City, Indiana. Pastor Gaston delivered an uplifting message of hope and encouragement. Members of Temple Worship Center Praise Team provided musical selections that the ISP residents truly enjoyed. *(Photo right)*



The Pendleton Juvenile held their Quarterly Assembly. Richard Curry, Executive Director of Emergency Response Operations, spoke during the assembly. Mr. Curry shared his IDOC experience and discussed facility culture and our roles in change. Superintendent Alison Yancey recognized staff for perfect attendance, staff that are "Making a Change" and years of service. Superintendent Yancey presented quarterly awards: Youth Development Specialist of the Quarter Jason Bailey, Non-custody Employee of the Quarter Tim Mandeville and Supervisor of the Quarter to Derek Grubbs. Christian Blakey was recognized as Employee of the Year. *(Photo - left)*



CIF volunteers, John Gorman, Major Douglas Rick, and Mike Merten attended special trainings conducted by Chuck Broughton, a Navigators trainer from Colorado, in order to be able to provide the program to offenders. The volunteers held weekly classes for 22 weeks and used Bible study booklets, study aid materials, and Scripture memory aids to teach offenders about the Bible, how to remember scripture, and how to present the Bible to others. The offenders are given the mission to teach others so that in turn those people can go and teach more people in what will become a perpetual cycle of learning about the Bible and bringing people closer to God. Chuck Broughton's message of "start where you are" couldn't be more relevant to these men who will start ministering in the correctional environment. Superintendent Knight told the group, "The rest of the camp is watching you. They are waiting to see if you truly believe in what you are saying, and most importantly acting accordingly. I challenge you to stick to your convictions and walk the walk". *(Photo -right)*



PEN is proud to announce the launch of its Facebook page. Stay connected to PEN by liking us on Facebook utilizing this link *(Photo left)*.



The Rockville Correctional Facility hosted an awards program presented by Oakland City University in honor of 77 graduates on Wednesday, January 28, 2015. Oakland City University (OCU) provides the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) or formerly General Educational Development Diploma (GED), a high school diploma equivalency program. Guest speaker Mr. Ryan

Sowers, an educator and pastor at Wallace Christian Church spoke of his pride in the accomplishments of the graduates and the importance of always remaining grateful and never giving up. *(Photo right)*





# WeeklyViews

Indiana Department of Correction

February 6, 2015



Piper Kerman, who provided the basis for the comedy-drama series Orange is the New Black, toured the Indiana Women's Prison this week. She is seen here visiting the PLUS Unit with Family Services Director, Wendi Middleton. After touring the facility and responding to questions from the offenders Ms. Kerman concluded her visit with thank the staff for hosting and concluded by saying "...it was a very enjoyable trip and I'm looking forward to coming back." (Photo left)

This week Sgt. Megan Carter received the Madison County Law Enforcement (LETR) Torch Run Officer of the Year as well as the Area 6 Law Enforcement Torch Run Officer of the Year for the Correctional Industrial facility (CIF). During the 2014 year the facility raised over \$6,000 by participating in events such as the Polar Plunge, Chicken Food Sale, Madison County Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) 5K, and Plane Pull. CIF received a plaque for becoming a Bronze Medal Agency. This year CIF is gearing up for its 4<sup>th</sup> year as a Special Olympics Indiana Agency led by its resident all-star Sgt. Megan Carter.



As the LETR Coordinator for the facility, Sgt. Carter was asked why she loves Special Olympics and she stated, "It is about being able to make a difference in someone's life, helping to ensure that everyone is able to participate in a sport that they love, and showing support for these exceptional athletes."

It is her dedication to Special Olympics that has helped to raise awareness and funds for 11,000 athletes throughout the state. This is the first time that Madison County has taken all of the Area awards. (Photo right)

Greencastle, IN (February 4, 2015)- The Deputy Commissioner of Operations James Basinger was present at Putnamville Correctional Facility to award Glenna Cheesman, wife of caseworker Robert Cheesman, with one of the CPAFI Fall 2014 Part-Time Scholarships in the amount of \$500!



The Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana is the Indiana Department of Correction's own charity. It provides emergency assistance to IDOC staff, contract staff embedded within IDOC facilities or offices, and their families in times of need. The Fund also provides educational scholarships to staff and family.

The majority of donations to this fund are provided by the Department's staff through payroll deductions and any additional money is raised through SECC (State Employees' Community Campaign) sponsored events such as the annual CPAFI golf outing. Mrs. Cheesman will be graduating with honors from Harrison College in June 2015 receiving a bachelors of applied science in criminal justice. She plans to expand her career in the juvenile court system in Vigo County. Superintendent Stanley Knight and ISF extend their congratulations! (Photo left)

The Indiana State Prison recently held a ceremony to award employees for their contributions to corrections. Approximately 100 staff attended the ceremony in the prison's Chapel. Six staff received seniority awards. Michael Beans, Larry Pietrowski and Thomas Potts were recognized for 20 years of service, and William Buchanan and Sherry Edwards for 25 years of service Dan Bodlovich was recognized for 35 years of Service.



Five staff members received an Extra Mile Award for their outstanding performance to the Indiana State Prison. Staff receiving the Extra-Mile Awards were; Sgt Kirk Zimmerman, Larry McGee, Kevin Davis, Thomas O'Brien, Paul Hegwood and Jennifer Neary-Kluska. (Photo right)



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February 13, 2015



On Thursday, February 5, 2015, the Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) Animals Depending On Prison Time (ADOPT) program presented a check to the Parke-Vermillion County Humane Society (PVCHS) in the amount of \$1,180.77. The money raised was a result of a fundraiser held at RCF in which the population was allowed to purchase higher-end hygiene items such as shampoo, conditioner and body wash that is normally not available for purchase. The ADOPT program raises money to purchase necessary such as such as dog food, leashes, etc..

*(Photo -from left to right: PVCHS board member Steve Sherrill, PVCHS Shelter Manager, Janine Ostrum, PVCHS Board President, Mark Southwick and RCF ADOPT Program Coordinator, Sherry White.)*

Edinburgh Correctional Facility was honored to have three military Officers from the Israel Home Front Command tour the Facility. They have been visiting Indiana this week and are partners with the Indiana National Guard. The officers were very impressed with the staff, cleanliness and all the programming we offer our offenders. They were also very impressed with our location inside Camp Attebury Joint Maneuver Training Center. Prior to their departure they presented Superintendent Osburn with a crystal paper weight that has the Home Front Command symbol carved on the inside and a pen engraved "Israel National Rescue Unit." Superintendent Osburn said, "We are very grateful to have such dignitaries tour our Facility, that they took time out of their schedule to spend time with us."



*(Photo right L-R: LTC Powers, LTC Moshe, Supt Osburn, Colonel Golan and LTC Blitz.)*



To demonstrate their appreciation for her hard work, volunteer Sandy Sidwell was presented with an Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) valentine from Superintendent Dushan Zatecky and Assistant Superintendent of Re-Entry Andrew Cole. Sandy retired from the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) in May of 2014, after 15 years of dedicated service. Having missed her colleagues, Sandy returned in September 2014, to serve as a volunteer and assist staff in the facility's mailroom. *(photo Sandy Sidwell with Cubby)*

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) volunteer fireman, Sergeant John Bolger, got more than he bargained for during a recent fire training session. The Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association (IVFA) presented him with a 25 year pin in honor of his service. Sergeant Bolger said he first started fighting fires when he was 16 years old, volunteering in Clark County with the Vincennes Township Sellersburg Fire Department. He estimates taking part in hundreds of fire runs during his over 25 years of fire fighting. The WVCF Volunteer Fire Department is a member of the Sullivan County Mutual Aid Agreement, assisting area communities in time of need. IVFA District 11A Chairman Ralph Taylor made the surprise presentation, thanking Bolger for his long and valued commitment to fire fighting. Congratulations John!



The Employee Appreciation Planning Committee at the Indiana State Prison held a Chili Cook-off. To our luck it was one of the coldest days in the year, so this was well received by staff. The committee earned approximately \$140.00. In the photo Jacob Michael Abraham won first place and received a gift card. Thanks to all who participated. *(In the photo: Debbie Osos, Pam Pizarek, Mary Hurst, Jacob Michael Abraham, Kathy Chase and Pam Bane.)*



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February 20, 2015



In honor of St. Valentine's Day, the Branchville Employee Appreciation Support Team (BEAST) came up with the idea of rewarding each and every employee with a treat bag. As a result, Superintendent Kathy Alvey and Assistant Superintendent Dan Mitchell personally presented treat bags containing delicious chocolate to every Branchville employee over the course of the week leading up to holiday. The BEAST committee was instituted by Superintendent Alvey for the purpose of rewarding the dedication of Branchville Correctional Facility's hardworking employees.

Effective 02-15-15, Camp Summit Staffer Kenny Watts was promoted to the rank Lieutenant

Commander (Shift Supervisor) at Camp Summit. Superintendent Cecil K. Davis , stated "Mr. Watts brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the supervisor's position and will be a tremendous asset to the facility in his expanded role."

Mr. Watts has 27 years experience in the Indiana Department of Correction in various positions including, Correctional Officer, Correctional Sergeant and Correctional Counselor along with serving as a Correctional Release Coordinator. He worked at the Westville Correctional Facility and Maximum Control Complex before transferring to Camp Summit Boot Camp as a YSI3 in April of 2008. *Photo: L-R Cecil Davis, Kenny Watts, John Galipeau and Tony Hobbs (CO)*



Miami Correctional Facility held a Celebration on Thursday, February 19, 2015 for Black History Month in the recreation building. The MCF band/choir sang some inspiration songs.

Pastor Milton Hall and his brother Lewis Hall spoke to the offender population. After the celebration the offenders were treated to cookies and punch. Also, during the month, the Recreation department is showing movies, and having an art and essay contest pertaining to Black History.



Greencastle, IN (February 18, 2015) Superintendent Stanley Knight and Putnamville Correctional Facility are pleased to announce the promotion of correctional officers Jamie Henry and Vincent Helton to correctional sergeants! "Promoting our officers to leadership positions within the facility not only enhances their job knowledge and strength to supervise, but also makes an impact on our staff!" says superintendent Stanley Knight. Sergeant Henry started as a correctional officer in September of 2012 at Putnamville Correctional Facility, and has a reputation for being a natural leader. Sergeant Helton is known for

being there in times of need within the department and surrounding agencies. He started as an officer in September 2012 at PCF and is from Spencer. *(Pictured Major Harley Crabb and Sergeant Jamie Henry) (Pictured Captain John Steckler and Sergeant Vincent Helton)*



Where in the world can you find an Olympic Gold Medal winner, a Harlem Globetrotter, and a Senior Lay Leader in the United Methodist Church in one place at one time? In celebration of Black History Month, Olympic Gold Medal winner, Dr. Gregory Bell; former Harlem Globetrotter, Hallie Bryant; and Chaplain Ken Loudonbeck addressed residents at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility about the many facets of the African American experience. *(Picture: Superintendent Johnson, Hallie Bryant, and Dr. Gregory Bell.*





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February 27, 2015



On Saturday, ten staff from the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) participated in the Polar Plunge at Ball State University to benefit the Indiana Special Olympics. Dressed in their favorite "Super Hero" costume, staff braved the cold weather and fresh snow to raise money for Special Olympics of Indiana. Kylie Mabe, Event Organizer, stated, "This is our first year "taking the plunge" as a facility and it was a huge success. We had 10 staff members dressed up as superheroes and each helped to raise our goal of \$1500. We are hoping to build a bigger team for next year and raise more awareness within the facility about Special Olympics of Indiana. We are planning on participating in the Plane Pull Challenge, the Law Enforcement Torch Run

and have our own version of a Tip-a-Cop later on this year. I'm incredibly proud of our facility and especially those who were truly freezin' for a reason."

The Rockville Correctional Facility was recognized with the "Silver Level Award" from the State Employees Community Campaign (SECC) final report. This prestigious award is used to recognize facilities where the majority of staff donated to the campaign. At RCF, out of 240 staff, 80 gave to the campaign to the charity of their choice. These donations amounted to \$17,730! Thank you RCF staff!!! *(photo right)*



Pendleton Juvenile students in Mrs. DeHart's 9<sup>th</sup> grade English class attended the showing of the play, *The Giver* at IRT on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Students were selected for the trip based on classroom performance based both on academics and behavior. Attending a live theatre performance was a new experience for the students. They were also able to attend the question and answer session after the performance to learn more about set and costume designers, as well as how actors prepare for their roles. E Complex held a Papa John's fundraiser at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. In all, 30 students participated by ordering Papa John's items. The sale generated a profit of \$200.00. The money will be used to purchase monthly incentive parties for the students, project materials, and unit specific clothing. *(photo left)*



On Saturday, February 21, 2015, offenders at Branchville Correctional Facility were privileged to have had a live comedy performance by nationally acclaimed comedian, Michael Jr. According to his website, Michael Jr. has appeared on The Tonight Show, Comedy Central, TV One, The Late, Late Show, Oprah, BET's ComicView, Jimmy Kimmel Live, SiTV, CNN, The Tom Joyner Show, The Bob and Tom Show, DayBreak USA and Bryon Allen's Comic Unleashed, and ComedyTV.

In addition, he performs at some of the most prestigious comedy clubs across the nation, including The Improv, The Laugh Factory, The Comedy Store, The Punchline, The Comic Strip, and Zanies Comedy Club. And, if that's not enough, Michael's versatility takes him from major universities such as Notre Dame, the University of Massachusetts, and the University of Alabama, to church events ranging from a featured speaker at the Gateway Pastors Conference and the 60,000 member Willow Creek Church in Chicago where he is also the #1 rated speaker at their yearly Global Leadership Summit, to the 17,000 member West Angeles Church in L.A and the 10,000 member New Life Church in Colorado Springs. Michael Jr. was in Evansville to do a show for the Evansville Christian Life Center's Laugh for Life, and he graciously came to Branchville to do a free show for the offenders prior to that event.

Presentation of \$1500 donation to Life After Meth in Vincennes. Faith based recovery program operating in Knox County Jail and providing residential options for recovering addicts. \$750 was raised by Therapeutic Communities across the IDOC and \$375 each from Wabash Valley and Branchville PLUS.





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March 6, 2015



From Thursday, February 26 thru Saturday, February 28, Branchville Correctional Facility, the state's only faith and character facility, held its second annual winter revival. Much like last year's event, this year's revival was a huge success. Over the three day period, seven services were held with an average attendance of 221 offenders per service. In all, 13 guest speakers participated, seven bands performed, 43 volunteers came to help and serve, and 43 offenders were baptized. Superintendent Kathy Alvey stated, *"The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Revival was another success. It was great to see BCF staff and volunteers come together and provide such services to the offender population. To see the look on the faces of the men who accept a new way of life is breathtaking. At one of the sessions we had 350 offenders in attendance, which is almost 25% of the population. That speaks volumes to the environment we have here at the facility."*

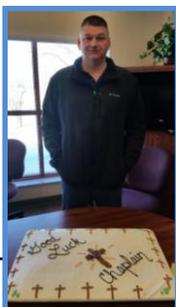


On 3.5.15 Divine Hope Seminary had its ribbon-cutting ceremony and graduation of the seminary's first six students. Divine Hope started the Indiana State Prison study center a little over a year ago. At the present time there are twenty-one students enrolled. The graduates completed fifteen courses in order to earn the Certificate in Christian Studies. *"These students will continue their studies over the next three to four years leading to a bachelor degree."* Stated ISP Chaplain Terry Harman

Indiana Pacers player David West spoke to an audience of approximately 40 students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. West spoke about engaging in behavior that results in positive outcomes. He challenged the students to make a list of family members and friends that are engaging in behavior with positive outcomes. He explained that people going to school, learning a skill, improving themselves are examples of individuals engaging in positive outcome behavior. He also encouraged the students to develop self-value and learn to control their thinking, because actions come from their thoughts. *(photo left)*



Extensive on-the-job experience will pay big dividends for staff and the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF), with the addition of new Training Four Officer Elise McDaniel! She's been a familiar face in training this past year as an adjunct instructor. "I'm thrilled to be moving into the training department full time," McDaniel said, adding, "The best part of my positions since 2010 as an officer, caseworker and member of emergency response (Emergency Squad, Special Emergency Response Team) has been teaching and training my fellow staff members." Assistant Superintendent/Operations Frank Littlejohn said, *"Elise can back up everything she says and teaches and staff respect her mental and physical toughness."* McDaniel graduated from Indiana State University with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. *(photo right)*



The Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) held a reception on Friday, February 27, 2015 to honor two veteran staff: Warehouse Supervisor Bill Bettis *(far left)* and Chaplain Richard Hayes *(near left)*. Mr. Bettis is retiring after 18 years at RCF. He began his career as a Warehouse Foreman at RCF in 1996. He expressed his gratitude to, "a great boss and co-workers" and states he will be busy keeping up with his grandkids' activities. Chaplain Hayes is leaving the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) employment for a job in the private sector. He states, "Out of 19 years, these last three were the best – leaving [RCF] is one of the hardest things I've had to do." Superintendent Julie Stout thanked both Mr. Bettis and Mr. Hayes for their many years of dedicated service to the Indiana Department of Correction, wishing them all the best and noting that they will be greatly missed. Mr. Bettis also received a plaque honoring his years of service with RCF while Mr. Hayes received a fleece blanket embroidered with the RCF logo. As Assistant Superintendent Ferguson stated, *"So you won't forget us."*



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Indiana Department of Correction

March 13, 2015



This week the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility's "Wheel Life Program" students and volunteers work together to restore one of several donated wheel chairs at Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility. Logansport Juvenile has partnered with the Bally Foundation to refurbish hundreds of donated durable medical equipment then giving away to those in need of assistance. The worthwhile collaboration began in 2014 and has every appearance of continuing for years to come. *(photo left)*

The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) facilitated a meeting between members of the Ten Point Coalition and 5 offenders from the Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) unit. The topic of discussion was curbing violence amongst teenagers and young adults in our communities. The PLUS participants put a lot of thought and discussion into ways they could assist the Ten Point Coalition. Among the suggestions were to implement in the community a PLUS program for teens and young adults utilizing parolees who have graduated from the program. "I want to thank Mr. Liebel for bringing the Ten Point Coalition here to the facility. Our PLUS participants know firsthand the repercussion of incarceration. The 30 foot walls surrounding this facility does not limit an incarcerated person from achieving great things and supporting our communities in a positive manner," stated Superintendent Zatecky, *(photo upper right)*.



Strike up a big win for Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) bowlers, knocking down the pins for a good cause! The 2015 Bowl for Kids Sake benefited Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Vigo County. The Wabash Valley PLUS and Fatherhood Programs donated \$1,000 to the cause, with WVCF staff fielding 7 teams. Bowlers led by WVCF Major Dusty Russell won the highest bowling score award out of 80 total teams! This year's event was a perfect 300 with over \$29 thousand dollars

raised for Vigo County youth. Big Brothers Big Sisters' goal is to help all children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with volunteer mentors. *(photo upper left)*

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) is proud to announce the promotion of Sgt. Lucas Hamm to the rank of Correctional Lieutenant. Lt. Hamm was hired on October 20, 2008 at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) and promoted to Sergeant at PCF on November 24, 2010. He then transferred to CIF as a Sergeant in August of 2012. Lt. Hamm has worked in many capacities since joining the CIF team most recently Yard Supervisor. We are excited to watch Lt. Hamm continue to assist CIF in becoming the best facility in the State.



On Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, Edinburgh Correctional Facility acquired building 701 from Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center. Deputy Commander of Camp Atterbury, Colonel Carl Farley, signed the transfer of authority over to Superintendent Osburn for building 701. This building will be used for Edinburgh Correctional Facility Administrative Offices. *(Pictured left to right are (back) Gary Zell, Brianna Newton, John Mather, Stephen Jeter, Bryan Dobbs, Ray Lane, Command Sergeant Major Stephens and Bill Ochsner. (Front) Supt. Osburn and Colonel Farley.*

Are you tired of being 1 out of 6,000 in the IDOC? A bland six digit PeopleSoft number? You can change that by simply joining the [IDOC Employee Highlights](#), a new addition to our Weekly Views online newsletter. Just click [here](#) complete the survey and become an instant **IDOC Idol** to the other 6,000+ IDOC employees. You'll create an immediate fan base and be inundated with numerous paparazzi focused on your every move.





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March 20, 2015



On Saturday, March 14, 2015, the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility hosted an Open House for the custodians and caregivers of the children of the men incarcerated at the facility. The children of residents who have completed the Family Education Department's (FED) Inside Out Dads Program get dropped off by the custodians, who are not permitted to accompany them on grounds. The open house was an opportunity for custodial parents who drop their children off at the facility for special visitation to witness first-hand the types of activities, programs, and fun made available to the children in a safe environment when

they visit. Custodial parents and caregivers watched a presentation that included an overview of the facility, the CVC programs, and past events hosted by the FED. They were also given a tour of the facility, and had the opportunity to participate in the remainder of the special visit between the dads and their children.



The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) hosted an Oakland City University Recognition Ceremony this week in the Pam Cline Memorial Chapel. The students recognized in the graduation earned certificates in Business Technology (30), Cosmetology (5), Culinary Arts (46), High School Equivalency Diploma (19), and Problem Solving (54). There were a total of 154 students recognized. The graduates, their family and friends, shared tasty appetizers and desserts prepared by the Culinary Art's Class in the Jerome Brewer Recreation Center. See picture attached of the graduating culinary class at the cognition.

WESTVILLE - Textbooks, a teacher and lessons on faith and love. Mike Tichenor's weekly parenting class is active with dad's scribbling down ideas and shouting out answers. No two answers are the same but all of these parents have one thing in common: They're serving time at Westville Correctional facility in Westville Indiana. Michael Felker of Lake Station, Indiana is serving time on a six year sentence for attempted robbery. The 34-year-old father of three says there's no better time to be a



better dad. "Most of my life I've been relaxing and doing whatever I wanted and, like he was saying today, put in positive things and you're going to get something good back," he says. "I'm tired of what I've been getting out of life." For more on this story click [here!](#)



Camp Summit employees were joined by State Senator Jim Arnold and State Representative Tom Dermody for their quarterly Staff Recall last Friday. Several employees were recognized for their years of State Service and for outstanding performance. **YEARS**

**of SERVICE** : 10: Christian Bryce, Laura Gorbonosenko, Eduardo Lozano and John McCullum; 15: Patches Culpeper and Robert Post; 20 : Rich Cubberley 25: Chad Cornett Lt. Commander Joe Farley and Youth Service Instructor Lawrence Remkus received Commendations for Outstanding Service for the preceding Quarter. Senator Jim Arnold and Representative Tom Dermody were recognized for their continued support of the students and staff. They also provided an update to employees on the current legislative session. (Photo: CS employees with CAB members Senator Jim Arnold and State Representative Tom Dermody.)

**ICJA Save the Dates: The Northern Region Conference is scheduled for May 14 in Plymouth, IN, and the Southern Region Conference for May 28 in Madison, IN. For more information, visit their website at [www.indianacorrectionalassociation.org](http://www.indianacorrectionalassociation.org)**

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**of SERVICE** : 10: Christian Bryce, Laura Gorbonosenko, Eduardo Lozano and John McCullum; 15: Patches Culpeper and Robert Post; 20 : Rich Cubberley 25: Chad Cornett Lt. Commander Joe Farley and Youth Service Instructor Lawrence Remkus received Commendations for Outstanding Service for the preceding Quarter. Senator Jim Arnold and Representative Tom Dermody were recognized for their continued support of the students and staff. They also provided an update to employees on the current legislative session. (Photo: CS employees with CAB members Senator Jim Arnold and State Representative Tom Dermody.)

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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

March 27, 2015

The Native American Community at the Indiana State Prison held a check presentation and presented two checks for \$1,311.20 to Safe Harbor After-School Program in Michigan City, Indiana. The Native American Community painted and made artwork. The artwork was sold in a local gallery in Michigan City at the First Friday Events in the downtown Art District. The proceeds went to Safe Harbor to assist with their program to have a safe place for children in the community to go to after school. Safe Harbor has been keeping children safe for fifteen years. The donation will allow ten



students to participate in the programs for one year free of charge. Students participating in Safe Harbor Programs have a better attendance in school, their grades improve, and 90% of the students in the graduating class are going to college. Some of the activities available for the children are tutoring, music and dance programs.



The RAW TV production crew, who has been filming a documentary at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) since October of last year, will have their last day this Friday. The editing team back in London plan to finish within the next few weeks. It is projected to be released on Discovery I.D. (International Discovery) this fall.

Last week the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) partnered with Purdue University to provide reproductive habitats for hellbender salamanders. This type of salamander is found throughout the eastern United States and in the past few decades has seen a dramatic decrease in their population. The Williams Lab at Purdue has completed several projects with regard to this particular type of salamander. The current project focuses on the larval life stages of hellbenders. The IDOC and more specifically, Madison Correctional Facility, has aided in the construction of 100 nest boxes. These nest boxes will be placed in the northern section of Blue River, the only river in Indiana that



“These offenders are happy to give back to the community in any way that they can. This project has allowed them to contribute to something larger than themselves and for a cause that may save a species from endangered status and possible extinction.”



Miami Correctional Facility received one of the highest recognitions given to employers recently – the Freedom Award. The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is designed to recognize employers for employment policies and practices that are supportive of their employee's military obligations. This is the highest recognition given to employers whom are nominated by their

military employees. “I didn't even hesitate about it,” Officer Marcus White said of his nomination of MCF for the award. “This facility has always treated me and every other soldier that's passed through here with the respect to need to go and do what we do outside of here.”

Mike Herron, on behalf of Commissioner Lemmon, presented Karen Bates's with a Commissioner's coin and certificates of appreciation at her retirement celebration. Karen was honored for her 37 years of service at ISP and WCC, her professionalism and her commitment to working with offenders.



After 34 years of employment at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF), at his request, Executive Administrative Assistant Jack Binion said goodbye to his fellow co-workers during a small gathering. Although Jack will be sadly missed by many co-workers who consider Jack to be not only a colleague, but a close friend, we all wish him the best of luck as he travels the state and country with his wife, Charlene and their two dogs Lola and Fats camping and canoeing.

Folks, yours truly will be out next week “Griswolding” with my family next week so the Weekly Views will be temporarily suspended until I return on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy your weekend and I'll make sure I bring back photos from my visit to “Wally World”! Also, when I get back prepare yourself for the first ever IDOC Employee Highlight article!



**Idol** Are you tired of being 1 out of 6,000 in the IDOC? A bland six digit PeopleSoft number? You can change that by simply joining the [IDOC Employee Highlights](#), a new addition to our Weekly Views online newsletter. Just click [here](#) complete the survey and become an instant IDOC Idol to the other 6,000+ IDOC employees. You'll create an immediate fan base and be inundated with numerous paparazzi each focused on your every move.



# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

April 10, 2015



Indianapolis, IN (April 8, 2014) – The Indianapolis Department of Correction cemented its agreement with the U.S. Army Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) Program. The U.S. Army Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) Program is a strategic partnership between the US Army and a cross section of corporations, companies, and public sector agencies to reconnect America with its Army. More specifically, PaYS Partners guarantee transitioning soldiers an interview and possible employment after the Army. The signing ceremony conducted in the main auditorium of the Government Center South building included remarks from several dignitaries including the IDOC, U.S. Army and Indiana State Personnel. "This is a special day for me," stated Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. "Two and a half years in

the military prepared me for a successful career with the DOC. It's is an exciting time for the IDOC. Some of the best employees come from a come from a military background."



During a special ceremony at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) members of the Kyle Snyder American Legion Post 398 dedicated a flag pole and monument. The ceremony also marked the one year charter anniversary of the post, re-named after Kyle Snyder. The Sullivan County native died along with three other soldiers in March of 2005 when a land mine exploded under their military vehicle in Afghanistan. The Army Specialist (SPC) was a member of the Indiana National Guard's 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. The incarcerated veterans sponsored a fund raising event to pay for the flag pole monument, located inside the maximum-security complex. At the end of the ceremony members of the post color guard received orders from Post Commander Lee Brown to assume their responsibility to raise and lower the colors each day at the respected time.



On April 2, 2015, the Fuller Center for Housing held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to dedicated two homes in the City of Gary. Speakers at the ceremony included David Snell, President and Co-Founder of the Fuller Center for Housing, Karen Freeman Wilson, Mayor of the City of Gary and a member of the Community Advisory Board and Superintendent Ron Neal. The project was a joint venture between local organizations and the Indiana Department of Correction. IDOC offenders from WCC and ISP provided the labor to

refurnish the homes. April 2, 2015, was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fuller Center and which has homes in 65 U.S. cities. The anniversary was particularly special because the home owners were able to move into the homes.

The Rockville Correctional Facility was recently invited to attend the Indiana State University Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Career Fair in the Hulman Memorial Student Union on the campus of ISU. RCF, along with representatives from multiple law enforcement agencies, were



on hand for the students to ask questions of in order to learn more about the field of criminology and what career options may lay ahead for them. The students were given information about job openings, internship opportunities, training requirements and benefit information. The 2015 ISU Career Fair was a success as many a promising contact was made!



Saturday afternoon's weather was the ideal weather to frolic around an open field chasing after Easter eggs, and that is exactly what almost 65 children of 30 incarcerated fathers confined to Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) did during the facility's Family Education Department's (FED) Easter event. In preparation for the event, the fathers participating in the FED's Inside Outside Dad and Children's Visitation Center (CVC) programs decorated the recreation building in colors of spring and an Easter motif. They then decorated baskets and filled them with candy eggs, jelly beans, chocolates, and other sweet treats to give to each child who registered and attended the event. They also placed hundreds of brightly colored eggs in areas located between the chapel and education building. During the hunt, the children collected all the eggs that were lying in open areas, and uncovered all of the eggs from their places of hiding.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

April 17, 2015



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successful reentry.

PEN hosted the National Correctional Industries Association training conference , April 12-15, in Indianapolis. **Over 400 attendees from 46 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons** participated in the training titled Correctional Industries: Reentry-Focused Performance Excellence. The conference culminated with a tour of PEN operations at the Miami Correctional Facility.

Superintendent Dushan Zatecky reports that the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) was recommended for re-accreditation this week by an audit committee representing the American Correctional Association following a three day audit process at the Facility with a compliance score of **100% on mandatory standards and 98.1% on non-mandatory standards**. "I want to thank each and every staff person, who without their efforts prior to or during the re-accreditation process, our facility would not have succeeded in this immense achievement. Our ACA Coordinator, Renee Bodkin must be commended for not deviating from the challenging goal of achieving re-accreditation while tackling other job responsibilities and surpassing all of my expectations," stated Superintendent Zatecky.



Meet Hope and Chance, the two little beagle dogs which make up Branchville Correctional Facility's Caring Canine Program. The program, which began in February, is designed to increase offenders' self-esteem, and it is overseen by Branchville Mental Health Professional Becca Gardner. Hope and Chance stay in the mental health area many hours during the day and they also spend time in recreation. When they are not in those two areas, they are with the offenders in the dorms. "I believe that the dog handlers as well as the offenders living and spending time in the dorms with Hope and Chance experience a positive benefit," said Ms. Gardner. "The dogs' presence increases positive interaction and offenders' well-being and self-esteem. I believe this creates a better quality of life, which makes for an improved environment for staff to work in and for offenders to live in." Hope and Chance are approximately six months old, and they were donated to the facility by a Branchville staff member's brother.

The Rockville Correctional Facility Building Trades participants recently created a child's rocker in the shape of a hot rod jeep, an assignment in which the entire class had to participate in order to receive credit. The students created the project from design to implementation and finishing. The Building Trades class decided to donate the jeep to the RCF Hope Center so that the children who visit with their mothers can enjoy this unique creation. Building Trades instructor, Don Kuk said, "The offenders did a great job and should be proud of their hard work."



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

April 17, 2015

## IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK



"I had a chance to get on as a cook so I took it and three days later I got a call." That's how the story of Terre Haute native Marva Wickware began eleven years ago.

Now a store clerk at Plainfield facility which she readily admits is better for her health, "Marva the Magnificent keeps things running with the precision of a Swiss watch," gushed one coworker. "Yep! That's her, Marva the Magnificent!" chimed a Custody Officer who had just finished a pat down gazed in awe as Marva worked her special magic. *[Editor's Note: Contrary to evidence observed during this interview Ms. Wickware flatly denies this nickname exists].*

"I like keeping track of parts coming in and out of my store." Marva notes somewhat bashfully as she scurries about her office. When asked what she would do if she was called up to be Commissioner, she paused thoughtfully for a moment before responding, "I would compare an employee's job description with what they really do." Her response was met with spontaneous cheers and a chorus of "Ohs and Ahs!", "Good answer!", and "You go girl!" erupted from the crowd that had started to gather around us. I find out later that at the beginning of each shift dozens of understudies called 'Marva's Mavens' gather at work site where they operate in shifts intently studying her while taking notes on each and every move she makes.

While she expects to be retired in 5 years (that announcement was met with a few several stifled sobs) until then she will continue to do what she is known best for "Helping all the people she possibly can,". Her personal philosophy which, 'Try and get along with everyone you meet' is demonstrated in everything she does. If you're thinking about joining the IDOC here's a little advice from Marva – "Check out the whole field before you take a specific job."

Finally when she's not working 'M the M' likes to attend church, play games on her tablet and take her grandson to fun and interesting places. And what is the fun fact about Ms. Marva? She loves to decorate cakes! What a lucky grandson!

There's bad. There's super bad. Then there's Sgt. JC Jackson. The married father of four reports to duty at Pendleton Reformatory where for the last 13 years he built a reputation for his devastating shakedowns. "We call him 'Volume' 'cause no matter what we hide, he finds a way to turn it up," mumbled a tall lanky offender, with begrudging respect. While money brought him to the IDOC, being a supervisor keeps him here.



As he continued his relentless pursuit of contraband I asked Jonathan what he would do if he was Commissioner, without even looking up he replied "I'd listen to the staff with boots on the ground, because that's what really matters"

"Ah ha!" He announced as he dangled a contraband item he found tucked between two thin pages of a paperback novel. "I quit. It ain't worth my time no more," grumbled another offender his shoulders slumped in defeat. "He ain't human."

"It's a great career opportunity" noted JC as he signed a young visitor's baseball cap. Apparently he's approached constantly with these types of request which he handles in stride. "And in five years I hope to be Lieutenant continuing to keep this facility free of contraband." His pronouncement was met with groans from nearby cells.

"I want to be just like him," said a well known co-worker who secretly admitted to this writer that he has tried for months to figure out the secret to Jackson's success. "He makes it seem so effortless." 'Volume' spends his free time with his kids and motorcycling and believes "What God takes me to, he'll take me through."



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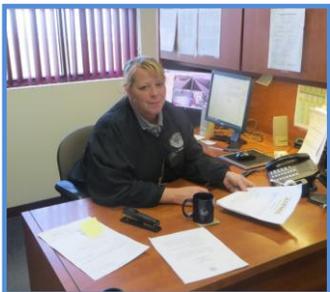
# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

April 10, 2015

## IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Known for "taking care of business" throughout her years of service with the IDOC, Lori Barkas does an amazing job as a Lieutenant at the Miami Correctional Facility. "The place would fall apart without her," confesses one co-worker who spoke on condition of anonymity. The married mother of two, and grandmother of four, resides in Logansport, Indiana. She was already a State employee when she started with the DOC and shared that she was first attracted to the IDOC because the Miami facility was brand new at that time.



When asked what her most memorable moment has been with the Department thus far she replied, "The first day I was in the pod alone...it was overwhelming and to be honest I was ready to walk out!" Of course she's way past that point now.

She was asked what she would do if given the chance to be Commissioner for one day "I'd meet with the Governor and discuss raising salaries and lowering insurance rates." The one thing she likes most about her job is the number and variety of positions available and says that five years from now she'll be close to retirement and will take that extra free time and spend it on the things she loves –her grandkids and her husband. Rumor has it that she makes the world's best meatballs, of course that can't be certified as official until the Commissioner signs off on it. Her advice to new employees is pretty basic, "Just be patient, it'll grow on you." And her philosophy fits the often hard to define experiences you may find in a correction facility, – "It is, what it is."

And just so you don't believe she's all work and no play Lori is....wait for it...a serial Netflix watcher! Lori, before we go I'm sure inquiring minds would like to know – What do you think of the Orange is the New Black series?

The word around Miami Correctional is that there was a huge paradigm shift when Tyanna Snyder, secretary arrived some 12 years ago. The divorced mother of one and grandmother is of two is originally from Marion, IN and joined the IDOC family in part because of the great benefits. When asked 'what was the best thing about the job?' she says, "Without a doubt it's the people I work with." And as if to back up that statement she said that if she was Commissioner for a day – 'she'd give everyone a bonus'. I could live with that. Her caring for others is even expressed in her question to Commissioner Lemmon, wondering if he ever feels stressed in his job.



If you know someone considering a job with the Department tell them that Tyanna says, "Be firm, fair and consistent." Good advice for any job. Of course the real news is that Tyanna is known around the facility for her snack mix, baking and cooking and, according to the grapevine, makes a potato soup so good that "It'll make an E-squad leader stand up in the middle of the Yard and sing 'Let It Go!'" Now that's good.

Five years from now she expects to retire and do what she likes most – spending time with family and friends. For Tyanna every day is memorable in some way, primarily due to the folks she works with. Her philosophy is to be kinder than necessary and honest.

Finally, it should be no surprise to anyone that the fun fact about this woman is loves to cut the rug, waltz, twist, conga, shake her booty, get on down, get on up, boot scoot boogie....in simple terms, the woman loves to dance! Enjoy your weekend everyone!



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

April 17, 2015



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

April 24, 2015

**Believe it or not!** Each month, the Rockville Correctional Facility releases approximately 100 offenders back



to the community. In addition to providing re-entry programming such as education, assisting with resume writing, obtaining birth certificates and locating substance abuse and medical treatment and a place to live and/or work, the facility also provides clothing for the offender's release.

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, Rockville Correctional Facility received a donation of 32 bags, one tote and two boxes of clothing from the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Rockville. The donation amounted to 565 items of clothing such as jackets, slacks, tops and shoes. RCF Community Services Coordinator, Susie Martin stated that thanks to the giving spirit of Reverend Wendy Olson of the

Rockville Presbyterian Church, this annual clothing drive provides much needed resources for the offender population. The clothing drive was sponsored by the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Rockville and donations were also accepted at the Montezuma and Clinton Presbyterian Churches, all are part of the Trinity Parish. Any clothing not suitable for the needs of the offenders leaving RCF will be donated to the Parke County Food Pantry.

**DEEP IN HEART OF HOOSIER COUNTRY:** Purdue freshmen are learning more about the world around them, explored life in maximum-security prison, during a stop at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). The purpose behind the tour was to get the students to think about their place in and how to become contributing members of society. PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) aide, offender Mitch Swallows, showed the class examples of quilts they make for those in need. He told the students that PLUS participants may be separated



from society but it does not stop them, in their maximum-security world, from giving back through community service. Swallows said the faith and character based program teaches them to think about others and to continue being contributing citizens once they go home.



**NO KIDDING!** The Logansport juvenile Correctional Facility recently had Llama's Alpaca's and Goats brought into the facility for a presentation about the history, use and care of these animals. Students were also given the opportunity to pet and feed the animals as well.



**TOOL BOX FOR TOTS!** On April 22, 2015, the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) and Pendleton Correctional Facility joined together and presented a total of \$5,745.50 to Prevent Child Abuse America/Prevent Child Abuse Indiana. The proceeds will go to supporting efforts to break the cycle of abuse, raise awareness, and provide education to families in need. The ceremony was held in the Pam Cline Memorial Chapel at the Indiana Women's Prison. In addition to the monetary contribution; Pendleton Correctional Facility, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, and the Indiana Women's Prison presented Prevent Child Abuse America and Prevent Child Abuse Indiana with "tool boxes" (see 3rd attached picture). The

tool boxes contain resources for families and include tools such as a baby journal, activity book, parenting tips, and baby quilts, which were completed by the 3 facilities. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to such a worthy cause," commented IWP Superintendent Steve McCauley.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

May 1, 2015

**MOTHER'S DAY at IWP!** The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) facilitated a Mother's Day Luncheon in the Jerome Brewer Recreation Center this past Saturday sponsored by Carol Kornas and the Castleton United Methodist Church. They allowed 14 incarcerated mothers to spend a few quality hours with their children. Some of the activities included bingo, making mother's day cards with pictures, constructing paper butterflies and sharing the ICAN (Indiana Canine Assistant Network) program with all 28 children. Castleton United Methodist Church and Angel's Wings provided free family photos.



**BRIDGES TO LIFE Visits IREF!** As part of the Bridges to Life Program, members

Misty Wallace and Chaplain Keith Blackburn (*right*) presented compelling stories surrounding their experience as victim and assailant of violent crimes. The Bridges to Life Program's focus is to bring healing to victims of crime, reduce recidivism among offender graduates of the program, and to help make communities a safer place. The Bridges to Life panel meets at the IREF Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. IDOC staff is invited to attend.



**IDOC Working Hard to Keep Indiana Beautiful!** Custody Officers Michael Sparks and Darren Anderson (*left*) monitor offenders from Putnamville as they take part in the statewide 'Trash Bash' a partnership between IDOC and INDOT to keep Indiana's highways litter free.

**A Pint of Blood Weighs A Pound And Does A Ton of Good!** Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) staffers, like Officer David Gilstrap (*right*), raised their sleeves for a good cause, providing the gift of life! The 2<sup>nd</sup> WVCF blood drive of the



year netted 22 much needed donations (48 in total) for the Indiana Blood Center (IBC). Each pint of blood donated weighs about a pound and the IBC says they will do a ton of good, especially for people with cancer, leukemia or other serious conditions that require transfusions.



**FLYING HIGH!** The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility (*left*) held a Frisbee Dog event at the facility. The program provided to the students as part of the Token Economy Rewards system was held in the facility's outdoor recreation yard. There were four dogs that performed various tricks during the event. After the presentation students who earned the highest level of points were allowed to throw frisbees to the dogs.

**KEEP ON RISING TO THE TOP:** Camp Summit announced the promotion Youth Services Instructor Derek Surowiec, (*right*), to Youth Services Supervisor. Mr. Surowiec began his employment with the Department of Correction in 2000 as a Youth Service Instructor at Camp Summit. Prior to working for the Department of Correction Mr. Surowiec served in the Indiana Army National Guard for 17 years. While in the National Guard he served one tour of duty in Iraq and received a Purple Heart. Congratulations Derek!



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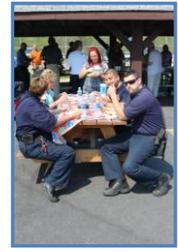


# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

May 8, 2015

## CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES APPRECIATION WEEK Photo Gallery



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

May 15, 2015



**PUTNAMVILLE CAPTURES THE GOLD!** Putnamville Correctional Facility (PCF) was proud to host Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and Deputy Commissioner James Basinger as they presented the institution with the first annual IDOC Golden Trashcan Award! PCF earned this first-ever trophy by committing 115 total hours of

offender work crews that ultimately yielded 3,803 bags of trash while cleaning a total of 44.5 miles of the local motorways in the community last month.



**A FINAL PATROL** for Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility officer Lt. Daryl Deitrich known by his co-workers as a dedicated comrade and friend. Hired in 1993, at this same facility he rose through the ranks serving as Assistant Custody Supervisor, Internal Affairs officer at the combined, Logansport juvenile Facility and North Central Juvenile Correctional Facility. He reported to the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility until his health took a turn for the worse. He passed away on Friday May 8, 2015. He leaves behind 3 children, Ross, Reed and Audrey and his Wife Rhonda.



**NCIA MEMBERS MARVEL AT MIAMI/PEN OPERATION:** More than 75 members of the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) took a trip north from

Indianapolis to tour the Miami Correctional Facility recently during its annual National Training conference. It was the first time the conference was held in Indianapolis. The training conference is an unrivaled event in the field of correctional industries attended by 46 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. This year's conference was hosted by Prison Enterprises Network (PEN). PEN is a division of the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC). Indiana's prison industries manufacture goods and provide services using offender labor. The tour included a opportunities for visitors to hear on how the program works and the benefits their re-entry process.

**KOZIATEK WINS BIG!** Branchville Correctional Facility Sergeant Karl Koziatek was recently awarded the "Sergeant Dave Baylor Memorial Award"--the award presented by the facility for outstanding service, strength of character, attitude and exemplary performance for ERO and Branchville Correctional Facility. Sergeant Koziatek has been an employee of IDOC for 28 years, the last 20 of which have been in service at Branchville. For over 12 years, he has been the team leader for Branchville's honor guard, and he has always been ready at a moment's notice to travel wherever necessary to represent the facility in honoring our fallen brothers and sisters. Named in honor of former Branchville sergeant, Dave Baylor a highly respected member of the Branchville staff, this award was created after his untimely passing in 1997.



**LOGANSPORT JUVENILE OFFENDERS DOING THEIR PART:** A local group is finding a growing demand from families with special needs. Each week, they send out a truck to pick up and deliver goods that might otherwise be thrown out. Instead, other families are able to see the benefit of these refurbished items. With volunteers from the Two Men and a Truck moving company, a group called the Bally Foundation has organized the pickup and delivery resource for those in need. "If you have any durable medical equipment - Over the course of a day, the truck will make several stops around central Indiana. After it's loaded up, it will make the 75-mile trip north to the Logansport juvenile correctional facility. For the complete WTHR 13 story broadcast click [here](#).



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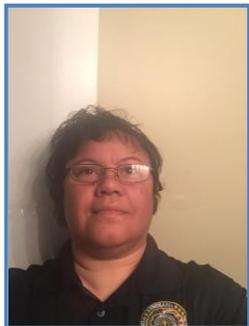
# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

May 15, 2015

## IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

"Place your feet in the right place then stand firm," is Esther Hinton's motto. And her life reflects it. She was drawn to a career in the IDOC because she liked the idea of starting a career so close to home.



Born in Bloomington, Indiana, the divorced mother of 4 and grandmother 2 has notched 17 years with the IDOC and in 5 years will be looking forward to making hardcore plans for retirement "You know – places to go, people to see." Best known for being firm, fair and consistent, Esther realizes that may be sound like a cliché but as she says "Let me tell you it really is the way to go." And I guess based on career journey she should know. Starting as a Custody Officer in 1999 she quickly achieved the rank of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Correctional Police Officer, Program Director II before finally becoming a

Contract Monitor with Medical Services. (I'm worn out just thinking about all that she's be able to master in a relatively short amount of time).

We were suppose to meet in the local library, however it took me at least an hour to navigate the entourage that seem to surround her. I stared in amazement as the crowd gestured and murmured each time she selected a book, read its cover then either tucked it under her arm or placed it back on the shelf. Those times she took the book, onlookers appeared to write down her selection and immediately scurry to the counter to reserve it. Those books that were not selected were yanked from the shelves by one of her fans, tossed to the floor then trampled underfoot as they followed her to the next aisle. I was puzzled until I heard a little old lady curse quietly as she raised her cane and savagely brought it down on the cover, "If Ms. Esther doesn't want to read you, then you are garbage." When I finally caught up with her, I asked what keeps her occupied in her free? He response was classic mom. "My free time is all about my kids. They've been my motivation and the ones that always encourage me to take that next step."

She was about to elaborate when she was bumped by an awkward looking teenager who was trying to read the cover of the book she had in her hand. She directed one of her well-known 'death stare' at him and the crowd around her (if you've met her you know what I mean). As if under a spell, with eyes cast down they dispersed without a word.

"Being a single mom," she continued, "I had a late start on things a lot of people take for granted" she replied thoughtfully. "But while it was hard, it did allow me to have the most memorable day in my career - getting my Bachelor Degree and notification of a promotion on the same day." Her advice to prospective IDOC employees was sound. "Even though this job isn't for everybody, the people who successfully make it past the obstacles of getting in the door find an excellent career opportunity waiting for them with a lot of options." So what would she do if she was Commissioner for a day? "I'd start a day of recognition for frontline staff that never get proper recognition." I asked her what she likes most about the job. "Being available to assist someone else in need, encouraging others, offer a helping hand and not just being part of a team but being part of the *right* team."

So I'm sure by this point you've probably figure out that Esther likes - no LOVES to read. "I don't have a favorite author. If I can envision the story then I'll read it." She laughed. "I just browse, the book covers and pick the ones that I think will hold my attention." She asked me my favorite author and after a few minutes I picked two, James Lee Burke and Elmore Leonard. She nodded in agreement and mentions with no regret that her wild days are behind her. "Just give me a good book and I won't make a sound for hours." I confess, most days that's as wild and crazy as I want to get. **HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!**



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

May 22, 2015



**PEN OFFERS CAREER WORKSHOP IN BRANCHVILLE** Doug Evans and Lisa Martin of PEN facilitated a Career Path Planning workshop for 47 staff and offenders at the Branchville Correctional facility on Thursday. The workshop focused on Self Assessment, Time management, Job Retention and how to build a meaningful career when leaving a period of incarceration.

**LIFE WITHOUT LIMBS:** Yesterday World renowned motivational speaker Nick Vujicic, born with Tetra-Amelia Syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by the absence of arms or legs visited the Correctional Industrial yesterday. His words of inspiration detailed his travels around the globe to prove that every life can have purpose and meaning.



## MADISON JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY BECOMES FIRST PREA COMPLIANT FACILITY IN INDIANA!



A few weeks ago Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility successfully passed the PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) audit for an Indiana correctional facility. MJCF welcomed auditor Pat Sussex from Michigan who is an experienced juvenile auditor and provided excellent guidance throughout the audit. The intensive process to become compliant began in November 2014 with the review of existing procedures, application of the PREA standards, and documentation review. The final result was MJCF was materially compliant with each of the PREA Juvenile Standards.

**VOLUNTEERS MADE THE DIFFERENCE!** In this year's annual Correctional Professional Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI) golf outing at Eagle Creek Golf Club. While the total amount is still being totaled, organizers are pleased with the turnout.



**INDIANA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA DISPELS MYTHS OF CLASSICAL MUSIC:** The Indiana Chamber Orchestra recent performance at the Pam Cline Memorial Chapel at The Indiana Women's Prison not only entertained offenders and staff they also disproved the following myths 1. Classical music is for rich people. 2. Anyone who takes music lessons comes from a wealthy background. 3. Music without lyrics is boring. 4. All classical music sounds the same. Needless to say the staff and offenders left with a deeper understanding and appreciation of classical music.

**Idol** Are you tired of being 1 out of 6,000 in the IDOC? A bland six digit PeopleSoft number? You can change that by simply joining the [IDOC Employee Highlights](#), a new addition to our Weekly Views online newsletter. Just click [here](#) complete the survey and become an instant IDOC Idol to the other 6,000+ IDOC employees. You'll create an immediate fan base and be inundated with numerous paparazzi each focused on your every move.



# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

May 29, 2015



**ROCKVILLE WALKS AWAY FROM THE COMPETITION!** Last Saturday, approximately 13 RCF staff, family and friends participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Zoom Town Covered Bridge 5K Run/Walk. The event, sponsored by the Montezuma Covered Bridge Festival Volunteer Committee raises money Autism Awareness. RCF Superintendent Julie Stout won the plaque and medal for overall female walker and finisher and RCF Intake Classification Supervisor David Manson won the medal for finishing in the Top 3 in the walk.



**EDINBURGH STAFF NOT WINGING IT WHEN IT COMES TO PREPARING FOR SPREAD OF AVIAN FLU:** Edinburgh Correctional Facility partnered with State of Indiana Board of Animal Health to train 51 offenders and four staff members on managing a crisis of Avian Flu. Staff and offenders were trained on euthanizing large populations of fowl if Indiana were to experience an outbreak. The risk from avian influenza is generally low to most people because the viruses do not usually infect humans.

**CHRISTIAN HIP-HOP ARTISTS TURN UP THE BASS TO BRANCHVILLE!**

Last Saturday offenders at the Branchville Correctional Facility were treated to a performance by Christian hip hop artists Charis, Dominique Cosby and Jonathan Boettcher. The artists are a part of Evansville record label, NKOSI. NKOSI's mission is: "To lead the Evansville hip hop community into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. To equip hip hop artists through encouragement, accountability and resourcing; to provide opportunity and a biblical based world



view for those persons desiring to use hip hop culture to reach Evansville for the glory of Jesus Christ." As the State's only Faith and Character facility, events such as this are a fundamental part of Branchville Correctional Facility's mission.

**LOGANSVILLE JUVENILE STAFF TURN PINTS INTO LIVES!** Employees of the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility participate in a Red Cross Blood Drive held at the facility. At the time of this release, there were 19 donors who had

participated with 15 units of blood accepted. **Fun Fact:** One donation can help save the lives of up to three people; if you began donating blood at age 17 and donated every 56 days until you reached 76, you would have donated 48 gallons of blood, potentially helping save more than 1,000 lives; Only 7 percent of people in the U.S. have O-negative blood type. O-negative blood type donors are universal donors as their blood can be given to people of all blood types; Forty-five percent of people in the U.S. have Type O (positive or negative) blood. This percentage is higher among Hispanics – 57 percent, and among African Americans – 51 percent.

**WRTV TOUTS EFFECTIVENESS OF PUTNAMVILLE'S CLIFF PROGRAM:** It's been 10 years since the Indiana Department of Correction began the CLIFF program for meth-addicted offenders. Recently, Indianapolis ABC affiliate WRTV visited Putnamville Correctional Facility to see the program at work. Click [here](#) for the video.

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## IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



Known for his excellent verbal judo, 29-year-old Christopher Boggs backs it up with his 2<sup>nd</sup> degree Black Belt. Originally from Richmond, IN 'Triple B' (Black Belt Boggs) this single father of four does have a soft side, when he's not keeping the peace at the New Castle Facility with his under-the-radar martial arts skills, he may entertain you with a brief opus on his violin – yes this deadly killing machine can leave you totally incapacitated then play Claire De Lune until the ambulance arrives.

As a 12-year veteran of the DOC, Christopher originally joined the IDOC because he needed a job. Now that he's be around for a while he's glad he did. "My co-workers are the best thing about my job." When asked what he would changed if he was Commissioner for a day, "Definitely the uniforms." Sensei Boggs said immediately. As if by magic he produced a set of sketches from his pocket, "Check out these designs." I wonder to myself how many other talents this man is going to spring on me before the interview was over.

As he sat and meditated before his workout, I asked him that as a Sensei, what wise sayings does he share at the dojo. Without opening his eyes he whispered, "A loud mouth is often nothing more than an echo from an empty head." He rose to his feet and began to stretch and practice his Kihon Waza. I continued my questions, this time focusing on his most memorable day on the job. He paused in mid pose, muscles tense, and steely gazed in the distance before replying "The day of... the Disturbance." He didn't go into detail and I didn't ask lest he chop me into tiny whimpering pieces.

Triple B did admit that he's looking forward to asking the Commissioner Lemmon how can we create more opening lines of communication for all staff - beginning with line staff to corporate leaders. In five years, he expects to be up for Lieutenant and according to his co-workers and supervisors, "He'll make a darn good one." He paused then added, "And then maybe he'll share his recipe for his world famous grilled cheese sandwiches."

As he rosined his bow, I asked him my last question - what advice would he give to those thinking about a career in correction. "Talk with your family." He replied as he placed his violin under his chin. "They will be as much a part of your job as you will. If they're like me, it will end up being how they'll like to spend their free time along with friends."

He then performed a Bach piece that made everyone is the Yard pause as if in a trance until he had finished. He seemed to read my face slowly nodded then with a slight smile said. "Yes Grasshopper it is good to be me." He then turned and sauntered back to his post.

**HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!**



# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

June 5, 2015

**OFFENDERS SAVE THE LIFE OF WORKCREW SUPERVISOR:** While working at the Camp Atterbury Campgrounds in the mid morning offenders Mark Goff assigned to work crew 16, found their non-departmental crew supervisor, Chuck Buchanan, lying on the ground unresponsive and without a pulse. Offender Goff notified offender Doug Martin. Offender Martin began performing CPR on their crew supervisor and requested that offender Goff to retrieve the crew supervisor's wife who was at the campground, who contacted 911. Mr. Buchanan became responsive before being transported to the hospital by EMS and reported for work the very next day. Mr. Buchanan visited Superintendent Osburn and said, "If it was not for the actions of the offenders, I would not be sitting here today."



**GRACE COLLEGE CONDUCTS FIRST PACER COMMENCEMENT AT ISP!** A celebration was held at the Indiana State Prison with the first ever PACER Commencement sponsored by Grace College. PACER is the Personal Advancement through Continuing Education for Rehabilitation. Grace College a Theological Seminary which provides the offender population at the Indiana State Prison continuing education for college prep classes. This is the only college prep classes offered at this time in the State of Indiana. Six offenders received their certificates at a luncheon provided by the Culinary Arts Department at the Facility.

**ISU CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS VISIT WVCF PLUS UNITS** The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) was an eye opening learning experience for an Indiana State University (ISU) class. Dr. Shannon Bellessa brought her Correctional Institutions in Indiana students to WVCF for a first-hand look at life in a maximum-security facility. Students took part in question/answer sessions with offenders in the PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) housing unit and the Youth Incarcerated as Adults (YIA) complex. Dr. Bellessa, a WVCF Advisory Board member, also required the summer class to find answers to a page full of prison related questions, thus they did not "escape" doing homework!



**PCF AMERICAN LEGION POST 608 DONATES \$1200 TO INDIANA WARRIOR ALLIANCE!** The Pendleton Correctional Facility's American Legion Post 608 conducted a memorial service to honor military personnel. Special guests included Tamra Rigdon from the Indiana Warrior Alliance (IWA), her daughter Summer Edgell and son, Timothy Senkowski. Summer and Timothy, both Army Veterans, served and were wounded in Afghanistan. Timothy's catastrophic injuries during an IED blast resulted in the loss of both legs and traumatic brain injury. Upon returning to civilian life, the brother and sister team realized the tremendous need for assistance by local Veterans and created what has become IWA. To assist in their efforts, PCF American Legion Post 608 made a donation in the amount of \$1200 and Superintendent Zatecky presented a second check in the amount of \$1000, from the Superintendent's fund, to further assist IWA with future projects.

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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

June 12, 2015



**SMILES AND LAUGHTER FILL THE AIR AT IREF'S FAMILY DAY:** The rain did not deter Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) staff and their family members from taking a well-deserved pause from the rigors that come with working in corrections. On June 8, staff and family members gathered at IREF to enjoy a fun-filled day of food, games, entertainment, and merriment. IREF's Employee Appreciation Committee planned the Family Day event with a dual purpose in mind: to allow staff and their families a day of enjoyment, and to raise

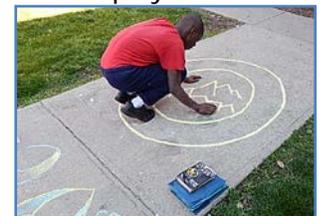
funds for the Indiana Law Enforcement & Firefighters Memorial."

**LOGANSVILLE JUVENILE RAMP UP THEIR CONSTRUCTION SKILLS!** The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility recently constructed a handicap ramp in the neighboring community as part of the facilities community service program. They assisted in prefabricating and site building a handicap ramp for a family in need in Howard County. The Prefabrication took about 3 days and the site build took another 2 day to complete. The family that the Ramp was built for was very appreciative of the efforts of the staff and students. The project that was funded by the SAWS, Servants at Work, it is the first project of the partnership between SAWS and the facility. The students learned some basic construction skills in the process. They did something for a complete stranger for the common good.



**PUNTAMVILLE CORRECTIONAL GRADUATES 3 OFFENDERS FROM THE THOROUGHDRED PROGRAM:** Putnamville Correctional Facility had 3 offenders graduate from Thoroughbred Horse Barn Groom Elite Program. They are the first to complete the new program successfully. After completion of this program (that takes between 6 to 9 months) the offenders receive a Groom Elite Certificate that enhances and enables the possibility for the offender to obtain employment as

beginner grooms at Race Tracks and Show Barns Nationwide upon release and are eligible for a six (6) month time cut. Skills mastered included anatomy and confirmation, height, weight and fitness, behavior, feed and digestive system, legs and bandaging and test barn procedures.



**CAMP SUMMIT ACHIEVES EXCELLENANCE IN PbS CERTIFICATION!** Camp Summit Boot Camp has been awarded Level 4 by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators for PbS (Performance Based Standards). Level 4 is the highest level possible in PbS and represents that the facility staff has a high degree of commitment to improving the lives of the youth we serve. The facility has maintained level 4 since October 2011, which is absolutely phenomenal stated superintendent Davis. "This level of achievement is accomplished by few facilities nationwide and reflects the outstanding work being done at Camp Summit as it works to improve the conditions of confinement for the youth we serve," stated Executive Director for the Division of Youth Services Chris Blessinger. Camp Summit is one of only eleven facilities out of 146 nationwide to be awarded a level 4 designation.

**ROCKVILLE STAFFER WALKS AWAY WITH PROFESSIONALISM AWARD:** Rockville Correctional Facility Maintenance Foreman Ryan Kimbler was the recipient of the Professionalism Award presented at the Pre-Service Academy Graduation Ceremony held at Putnamville Correctional Facility on June 1, 2015. Mr. Kimbler thanked his classmates and the instructors whom he said were instrumental in his selection.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

June 19, 2015



### IREF's Family Education Department (FED) brings Classic Cars to IREF:

The FED goal is to reconnect incarcerated fathers with their children in a safe and positive environment manifested in an Inaugural Father Son Classic Car and Bike Show on Saturday, June 12, 2015. Members of the Unchained Gang Ministry, along with several Indianapolis area car club members, paraded their vehicles onto IREF grounds. Once parked on display, father and son teams judged each vehicle, picking the best in show, first, second, and third place winners. Winners were presented with trophies and car plates embossed with the IREF name.

Other activities included games, a cookout and BBQ spare ribs, burgers, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips, cookies, and drinks provided by Pastor Benny Polin and the Progressive Baptist Church family, and other local neighboring churches.

### SOUTH BEND RE-ENTRY ANNOUNCES ANOTHER GREAT PROMOTION!

The South Bend Community Re-entry Center (SBCRC) congratulates Jon White on his promotion to Correctional Sergeant. Mr. White began his career with the department in September 2010 at South Bend Juvenile. He has performed most duties within the facility and has been an integral part of the transition of South Bend Community Re-Entry Center into a high performance team of correctional professionals. Sergeant White has an exceptional level of integrity and is one of this department's rising stars. "It is great to see Sergeant White grow as a professional and he has proven he is ready for the next level," said SBCRC Superintendent Charles Bowen.



**EDINBURGH OFFENDERS PERFORM LIFESAVING MEASURES:** Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and Chief of Staff Randy Koester visited Edinburgh Correctional Facility to honor offender Mark Goff and Doug Martin for their heroic actions while on work crew 16. The offenders found their non-departmental crew supervisor, Chuck Buchanan, lying on the ground unresponsive and without a pulse. They notified the proper authorities and offender Martin began CPR on Mr. Buchanan. Mr. Buchanan was responsive when EMS arrived to transport him to the hospital. Commissioner Lemmon presented the offenders with letters of accommodation for their quick response that possibly saved Mr. Buchanan's life.

Buchanan was responsive when EMS arrived to transport him to the hospital. Commissioner Lemmon presented the offenders with letters of accommodation for their quick response that possibly saved Mr. Buchanan's life.

**ISP PLUS UNIT GIVES BACK TO GARY INDIANA COMMUNITY:** Superintendent Ron Neal announced with great pleasure the donation by ISP's P.L.U.S. Program to "The Sojourner Truth House" located in Gary, IN. The donation consisted of a check for \$500. The Sojourner Truth House offers [day-shelter services](#) for women in need



**WVCF STAFF, TERRE HAUTE AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF INDIANA TEAM UP ONCE AGAIN!** The just-completed Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games was a huge success again this year! Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) staff did double duty this year, taking part in the Torch Run, which launched the games, and by volunteering to staff the Bocce Ball courts on the ISU campus. Superintendent Richard Brown led the Wabash Torch Run Team in Sullivan County. Special Olympics Athlete Katlin also ran with the Wabash crew. She's pictured receiving a welcoming hand off of the Olympic Torch from Sullivan

Mayor Clint Lamb. She ran at Princeton, Vincennes and Sullivan!



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## IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



Known as "Ms. Betty," by those who know her by name or "That Nice Lady!" by those who don't, eighteen year veteran Betty McCullough makes the job of custody officer look easy. "I wish she would write a book," confided one of her co-workers. "I mean is it the power of her smile? Is it her tone of voice?" Another officer chimed in "Do you think it's because she's a Southern Belle? You do know she's from Mobile, Alabama, don't you?"

I shook my head 'no' in response.

"Anyway, if she tells you, please, please let us know." I could tell that this staffer's desire to know Betty's secret was so overwhelming that she was on the verge of tears. I promised the grateful employee that I would find out if I could.

When asked what drew Ms. Betty to a career at IDOC, the married mother of two and grandmother of two stated that job security was her primary motivation. After a just moment's hesitation, she added, "And I love the people I work with. The folks here at the Correctional Industrial Facility are like a second family to me."

We talked for some time as we toured the facility and I noticed that not only did she have the respect of her peers, the offenders seemed to share the same feelings as well. During our conversation, I discovered her 'fun fact'. She loves to swim and hang out at the beach. And while the nearest beach is over one hundred miles north of our current location, her enthusiasm is not dampened in the least.

Officer McCullough told me that if she was Commissioner for a day she'd give everyone a raise, which made a few suspected eavesdroppers whoop with joy. Taking the hint we moved further away to continue our conversation without an audience. She reminisced on the day she received Officer of the Month. "Best. Day. Ever." She said with a laugh.

As we wrapped up our interview she expected that in five years she would be retired which would allow her to spend more time with her family...and preparing her world famous Turkey and Dressing...a recipe so good it would make you want to celebrate Thanksgiving every single day.

As we wrapped up our interview, she offered this advice to those thinking about a career with the IDOC, "You need to have an open mind as every day is new and exciting. Which is why my personal philosophy is, 'Everything changes so embrace the change.'" **HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND EVERYONE!**



# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

June 26, 2015

**THE STATE POLICE JUNIOR PIONEER CAMPOUT DROPS IN ON BRANCHVILLE:** BCF Superintendent Kathy Alvey recently presented the Indiana State Police with a check in the amount of \$2500.00 to support the



Indiana State Police's worthwhile youth program. The camp is designed specifically for students between 11 and 14 who need a structured program with close supervision. Applicants typically come from group homes, welfare departments, law enforcement agencies, probation departments or school counselors. Superintendent was 100% behind the partnership. "We are proud to sponsor the 25 kids chosen for this special program. Our Unit Team does the leg work through fundraisers so I appreciate their hard work. It's

a great partnership between us and the Indiana State Police."



**IREF CELEBRATES FATHER'S DAY IN A BIG WAY:** Last Saturday smiling faces flooded the IREF campus. In a nutshell they came, they made merry then they conquered the hearts of their dads! This annual event allowed fathers and their children to enjoy a day of games, field events, a barbeque cook out with all the fixings, and talking and most importantly of all interacting with each other.

**MCF PROVIDES AID TO TIPTON COUNTY AFTER SEVERE STORM DAMAGE:**

During the early morning hours of June 21, 2015 a storm came through Tipton County and caused several downed trees and power lines throughout the entire County. Within hours after the storm came through it became evident that the widespread damage had surpassed the town's resources for cleanup. Miami Correctional Facility was able to provide Tipton County with a ten (10) man work crew supervised by two (2) Correctional Officers for the remainder of the week to assist Tipton City Street department in clean up. Mr. Chuck Bell, Director of Emergency Management for Tipton County said "I along with many others cannot express our gratitude enough in the help that has been extended to us from the DOC."



**SELFLESS FOLKS RULE THE DAY AT WVCF!** Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) staff rolled up their

sleeves to donate the gift of life this week. Thirty-seven employees like Correctional Officer Andrea Mason took part in the latest WVCF Blood Drive. Officer Mason, just three months on the job, said she wants to do her part. She plans to be a regular contributor. WVCF teams with the Indiana Blood Center six times a year to provide blood donations. Everyone who gave, or tried to give was treated to a hamburger, chips and soda and names were drawn for several prizes by the WVCF Blood Drive Challenge Committee.



**PARTY ON THE FAR NORTHSIDE!** Indiana State Prison held their annual Family Day. Approximately 500 staff and guests attended the annual event. And although events were eventually moved inside due to the weather, it didn't dampen the spirit of the attendees. Some of the events included horse drawn carriage rides, elephant ears, tours of the facility and local vendors representing from health care to promote healthy lifestyles and a special demonstration were given by the facilities emergency squad.

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## IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



Straight out of Urbana, Illinois he rolled into Central Office a little over a year ago with a singular purpose – to transform Colts Country into Packerville – and gets paid to do it! Lucas “Checkmate” Karr, the married father of two and Financial Analysis for IDOC is not apologetic about his yellow and green fetish. “I’m a huge Packer fan. As a matter of fact much of my time during football season revolves around the Green Bay and fantasy football.”

Now in case you’re wondering why his nickname is “Checkmate” Lucas fancies himself (I use that word because after all he *is* a Green Bay Packer’s fan) a chess player. And according to a few of his co-workers he’s pretty good. “I like him as a friend but I despise him as a chess player,” noted one co-worker who spoke on condition of anonymity. “Now I can take Checkmate’s ruthless ‘take-no-prisoners’ style of play all day long. It’s the trash talk that gets me.” I asked him to give me an example however at that point his eyes welled with tears and he scurried away like a frightened five-year-old.

Donned in his typical emerald and canary-yellow fashion I strolled (he strutted) toward his cubical sanctuary, a not so subtle homage to Aaron Rogers and his ilk. As a financial analysis Lucas is all about all the numbers. While watching him aggressively crunch his with the ferocity of a blacksmith, I asked him what he’s known for around the office. With a sly grin he takes one final stab at the keyboard and replied “I’m not sure which word is best...Thrifty? Scrimping? Frugal?”

“Cheap!” A chorus of responses rose from all around the Karr cubical. Lucas stood quickly his eyes narrowed and barely clearing the top of his cubical wall. “Yes I am! And I’m proud of it!” He replied with more than a hint of smugness. “In my position it’s a great attribute to have.”

He share that his supervisor, Christina Reagle, sold him on the job. The benefits and work schedule were perfect for a young guy with a family. Although it was a hard decision to move from Illinois to Indiana thanks to the job it was also the easiest one. Now he likes the fact that what he does for IDOC actually makes a difference...and the large number of state holidays isn’t bad either. His question for the Commissioner is simple. ‘What trait is necessary for a long productive career with the IDOC?’

Now if he were Commissioner for a day he’d issue a directive for all program mangers be responsible for seeking out and applying for grant funding with the focus on hiring managers and expanding the IDOC footprint and reach in the State. In five years Lucas says he’ll be happy wherever God’s places him although right now he’s happy where he is now.

He likes to spend his free time with his family and kids and touts his breakfast sandwich as the best in the agency considering it was legendary back home in Urbana. Unknown by most outside of Central Office is that in the two corn hole tournaments held in his first year at IDOC he and fellow newbie Grant Knies swept the field –*twice*... and of course a lot of trash talking was involved. Lucas admits his memory is so bad that he doesn’t have a ‘most memorable’ day’, but he’d tell any prospective applicant that if you like great benefits and a chance to make a difference then take the job! **HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND EVERYONE!**



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

July 2, 2015



**MIAMI P.L.U.S. UNIT DONATES 10K to GILEAD HOUSE:** Miami Correctional Facility's PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) Offenders made a \$10,000 donation to the Gilead House in Kokomo. Facility inmates had an opportunity to purchase name brand items such as headphones, tennis shoes, watches, cheese and spices. More than 1500 individual offenders placed orders, with more than 6000 items processed and delivered. In order to deliver items quickly and efficiently, the facility was locked down for about nine hours. An endeavor as large as this takes months of planning and countless man hours. And in this operation. More than 30 PLUS Program participants and 30 administrative and custody staff worked together to deliver everything. "It was good to see how smooth the operation went

with the teamwork of MCF Staff and inmates working side by side," Superintendent Kathy Griffin said.

**IDOC OUTFRONS THE SUN IN RACE AGAINST MELANOMA:** 36 Indiana Department of Correction staff and their families from around the State joined together as Team RCF (Rockville Correctional Facility) at the picturesque Fort Harrison State Park in the heart of Indianapolis for the Outrun the Sun Race against Melanoma 5 mile / 5 kilometer event on June 13, 2015. Team RCF was able to raise \$1,866 for the Race against Melanoma, ranking seventh of the 76 teams in the amount raised.



Racer (?) David Manson said, "I would like to express a huge thank you to all who participated in or otherwise supported this event with their time, effort, support, and dollars. I am so thankful, greatly blessed, and proud to be a part of the RCF and IDOC community."



**ISP OFFENDERS RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT GARY HOMELESS SHELTER:**

Indiana State Prison Superintendent Ron Neal announced with great pleasure the donation to "The Sojourner Truth House" located in Gary, IN. The donation consisted of a check for \$500. Offenders responsible for raising the funds and giving the donation are in the Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) at the Indiana State Prison. "The Sojourner Truth House offers [day-shelter services](#) for women from a nearby homeless shelter, and women and children staying in area shelters or residing with family or friends, who must leave those premises for the day. The Sojourner Truth House, armed with an eye to the mind, body and spirit of each client, provides various support groups, counseling, individualized goal setting, budgeting, health screenings, assistance in obtaining birth certificates and IDs, transportation, legal assistance, meals, laundry facilities, clothing, furniture, household items, food pantry services, computer training, referrals and assistance with job searches, medical care, housing and utilities."



**Division OF YOUTH SERVICES ANNOUNCES THREE CEEAS NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS:**

Three educators from DYS were awarded the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative CEEAS "Lighting the Fire Awards". The "Lighting the Fire Award" is a nationwide competition to recognize outstanding educational professionals working in youth correctional settings and is given to visionary educators that have shown their investment in students, persevere in a challenging environment, communicate high expectations, and maintain a commitment to the education community. The three award recipients are: Jennifer Matson (left), Guidance Counselor at Pendleton Juvenile, "Highest Honors;" and Christopher DeHart (center), social studies teacher at Pendleton Juvenile and Amanda DeHart (right), English teacher at Pendleton Juvenile, "Honorable Mention," for their exceptional work in the classroom.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

July 2, 2015

## IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



She originally joined the IDOC to support herself and her lovely daughter. Nineteen years and four months later Angela McLaughlin, the darling of Linton, IN, is still at Wabash Correctional Facility, knowing she's doing something positive and making a difference. As I talked to her co-workers I discovered that around the facility she was affectionately known as "Sole Sister" because of her love of shoes. I also picked up on the rumor that she had mad culinary skills.

"She was the runner up for the new spokesperson for the new Kentucky Fried Chicken marketing campaign" gushed one of her co-workers. "But when they asked for her recipe she balked, so they went with that creepy guy dressed in white." As a matter of fact even the offenders knew about her cooking.

"Her fried chicken is the reason I asked to be transferred here," chimed in one offender as we strolled across yard.

Angela, the mother of two and grandmother of two, has a very positive outlook on life. "You only live once so enjoy your turn to the fullest." I can dig it. This Sole Sister is very committed to the job, so much so that if she was Commissioner, she'd try and promote legislation mandating that all offenders must be enrolled in education if they do not a diploma or equivalent. You go girl.

If ever given an opportunity to ask Commissioner Lemmon a question she provided the first of its kind, "I'd ask if he'd take me golfing. I've never been before." Anyone who knows the Commissioner knows that she won't be able to find a better instructor.

In five years this exceptional case worker imagines herself working in the Unit Team as a Casework Manager. "I'd be surprise if it takes that long," remarked one of her supervisors who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Perhaps then she'll give up that chicken recipe." I only nodded... based on what I was hearing from others, I doubted that it would come at such a low price.

Caseworker McLaughlin is an outdoor person who loves to spend her free time camping, fishing and gardening with her kids, grandkids, boyfriend and dogs. And it was no surprise when she told me a fun fact about her was that her dream job would be a professional Bass Fisherman! Yep you heard me... A Bass Fisherman! Got to love it!

When asked what was her most memorable day she replied with a big grin "December 6, 2015 when I graduated from Offenders Work Force Development training to become a certified OWDS!" Having been recruited to participate but lacking the fortitude because of the rigorous curriculum and training required I was definitely impressed.

Now if you know someone thinking about a career in corrections, then please share Angela's advice to them "Keep an open mind when it comes to change and above all keep a positive attitude."

Well said Sole Sister #1! **HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND EVERYONE!**

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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

July 10, 2015



**4 PLANE PULL CHALLENGE TEAMS ARE ALREADY ON THE RUNWAY!** Eager to show their supremacy this year, **Miami, Pendleton, Plainfield** and the **Dream Team from Madison** have already registered to compete in this year's competition! Rumor has it that at least two of these teams feel that this year they have a lock on at least 2<sup>nd</sup> if not 1<sup>st</sup> place! Let the trash talking begin! I guess we'll find out on

**Saturday, August 29th.** Think differently? Then register your team [here!](#)

**WVCF E-SQUAD RALLIES TO ASSIST A RESIDENT IN NEED!** This week some members of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Emergency Squad took on a Helping Hands Mission! E-Squad members, on their own time, volunteered at the Breckenridge Commons Assisted Living Facility (Sullivan, Indiana) to help a damsel in distress! Resident Mary Loudermilk wanted to move from one apartment to another, to be closer to the nurses' station. Mary has no family living nearby to help and could not afford to hire a mover. Once E-Squad Field Commander Jonathon Hendrickson of Sullivan heard about her dilemma he and his band of volunteers did the heavy lifting. WVCF Operations Assistant Superintendent Frank Littlejohn said, "Awesome job guys! It is great to see the team volunteer on something like this!" Superintendent Richard Brown added, "This was a very nice gesture and I am proud of you guys!!!!" The moving crew said they got in a good workout but more importantly gave someone in need some peace of mind.



**5 BRANCHVILLE EMPLOYEES GO 'BEAST MODE' IN 2 QUARTER:** The Branchville Employee Appreciation Support Team (BEAST) is proud to announce Branchville Correctional Facility's Employees of the Quarter. They are: Supervisor of the Quarter: Mr. Tommy Overstreet. Mr. Overstreet is a Correctional Sergeant. He began his career at Branchville in 2011. Contractual Employee of the Quarter: Mrs. Laura James. Non-Custody Employee of the Quarter: Mrs. Annette Terry. Custody Employee of the Quarter: Mr. Richard Beard. Volunteer of the Quarter: Brother Zachary Wilberding. Each winner was presented a certificate and special designated parking during the



quarter. Superintendent Alvey stated, "The BEAST committee invited all of the award winners to a luncheon to celebrate their recognition. We have so many great staff and it is a wonderful way of letting them know that their hard work and dedication are noticed and appreciated."



## PUTNAMVILLE HOSTS IMPD/IDOC/INDY MENTORS 'IMPACT'

**MEETING:** 15 soon to be released offenders attended this highly successful meeting attended by Chief Rick Hite along with several other IMPD officers along with Drew Adams, Parole District 3 Supervisor. "We acknowledge that most of our offenders will be released back into society at a future time, so being part of this initiative to curb the return of those offenders and support a successful re-entry is essential," says PCF Superintendent Brian Smith. The offenders involved in this meeting were all from areas of Indianapolis known for high recidivism rates and recurring violence. The offenders were given resources to assist them in retaining employment, family programming, and housing, as well as had their first meeting with parole to set up re-entry plans.



**ROCKVILLE OFFENDERS LEARN CONSTRUCTION FUNDAMENTALS:** The Building Maintenance program instructed by Don Kuk of Oakland City University, goals include the obvious business of teaching carpentry, the basics of plumbing, electrical and framing. However the offenders also learn collaboration, teamwork, pride in their work and job responsibility. Once the offenders complete the 350 hour program which includes 10 hours of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) training, they could earn 90 days of earned credit time. The Building Maintenance projects are creating such a buzz with RCF staff that many requests have been made for more mailboxes and the participants will soon begin assisting with facility improvement woodworking projects that will likely be used to raise money for various community organizations.



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## IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



It was her personal motto "Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding and He shall direct thy path" that led April 'The Smile' Bonomo from the tiny hamlet of Gnaw Bone, IN, nestled in the beautiful hills of Brown County, to Rockville Correctional Facility our most westest (a new word I just made up) facility.

Although she knew nothing of correction, this mother of two and grandmother of 3, was very interested in the Administrative Assistant IV Librarian position and despite those who thought she wouldn't make it, here she is eight years later she still standing, sorting and cataloguing. That might be the reason why getting her 5-year service pin at the Employee Appreciation Recognition Breakfast was her most memorable day on the job. Take that all you Haters! (*My comment not hers*).

As we strolled the yard I asked April what she likes most about her job.

"Three things," she replied as she waved to an approaching offender then counted them off on her hand. "One, working with the Rockville staff. Two the service we provide to the offenders and three, the opportunity to work with books." I know some folks who can't even identify one good thing about their job.

As we enter the library I asked if she could ask the Commissioner one question what would it be. Her reply? 'Could you find a way to convey staff appreciation and acknowledgement of their dedication?' Not necessarily monetary, but rather with sincere affirming words and a verbal "pat on the back"? "Those things can go a long way."

As I watched her catalogue a stack of gently used paperback books I asked her about the position. "It's very interesting. I love books and it was close to home. What else is there to know" She replied with one of her patented smiles. "Besides," she added. "I'm their favorite Librarian."

"But," I asked innocently, "aren't you the *only* Librarian here?" From behind me I hear the loud sound of scuffling chairs from behind me and turned to face six pairs of glaring eyes.

"She's STILL our favorite," barked one offender a hair above 5', who had jostled her way to the front of the pack. Her eyes never left mine. I tried unsuccessfully to scramble behind April, not because I was scared – but she was crowding my personal space. Yeah, yeah that's it – she was crowding my space.

April turned up her dazzling smile to high beams as she gently positioned herself directly in front of me. "That's okay ladies he didn't mean anything thing by it." I watched as her smile caused the group's anger to dissolve like sugar cubes dropped in a glass of water.

As a parting shot one of them muttered. "He'd better not!"

After my heart rate was back under 100, I realized now why she's known for her consistent positive attitude and 'The Smile.' When she's not at work April likes to spend time with her grandbabies or shopping and vacationing with her friends. She says that in five years she hopes to be right where she is now. "I'm on the backside of my vocational life and I have no plans to go anywhere else other than RCF. It's fun and fulfilling calling and I'm blessed to serve." April's advice to someone considering a career with IDOC was simple. "Do it! While it can be stressful and challenging it is always interesting and everyone has the opportunity to make a difference." **HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND EVERYONE!**



# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

July 17, 2015



**4 PLANE PULL CHALLENGE TEAMS ARE ALREADY ON THE RUNWAY!** Eager to show their supremacy this year, **Miami, Pendleton, Plainfield** and the **Dream Team from Madison** have already registered to compete in this year's competition! Rumor has it that at least two of these teams feel that this year they have a lock on at least 2<sup>nd</sup> if not 1<sup>st</sup> place! Let the trash talking begin! I guess we'll find out on **Saturday, August 29th**. Think differently? Then

register your team [here!](#)



## **PUTNAMVILLE CAPTURES PATRIOTIC AWARD!**

Putnamville Correctional facility was proud to accept a Patriotic Employer award in honor of Captain Tony Keith. Clyde Stringer, Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Representative was present to present Captain Keith with the plaque for continually supporting his military personnel during deployments, weekend obligations, and mandatory trainings, as well as understanding that these individuals must be ready at a moment's notice for anything involving the defense of this country. Officer Sweeney sent in an application essay to tell the ESGR how much he and all the other military personnel at ISF appreciate the outstanding devotion and understanding that Captain Keith has for them! Way to go! *(In picture: Officer Chris Sweeney, Cpt. Tony Keith, and Clyde Stringer (ESGR)).*



## **EDINBURGH SALUTES GRAND OPENING OF AMERICAN LEGION POST #480**

Edinburgh, Indiana (July 7, 2015) – Edinburgh Correctional Facility's INVET UNIT celebrated the Grand Opening of American Legion Post #480 with a luncheon featuring special guests. Legion Post 480 was honored by guest speaker General

Mike Osburn, who has been a member of the American Legion for 30 years. General Osburn spoke about the history and origin of the American Legion. He stressed the importance of being a part of something 'greater than oneself'. The American Legion Post is an organization serving the Indiana Veterans Education and Transition Unit (INVET Unit) as well as the community. The INVET Unit was transferred from IREF in November of 2014 and started with 4 members and in less than a year the unit had grown to 37 members.



**IWP HOLDS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FAMILY CAMP:** The Indiana Women's Prison held their annual weekend family camp last Friday and Saturday. This year's theme was Sea World with the weekend filled with a variety of events and competition for the mothers and children. Along with the activities were prizes, breakfast, lunch meals and a sack dinner to go for the children. This year there were a total of 37 mothers/grandmothers and 63 children included in both days.

**EEL COHORTS GROW AS LEADERS THRU COMPETITION AND TEAM-BUILDING:** Indiana Department of Correction was excited to have over 100 participants and volunteers from around the State attend the 3rd Annual Experienced and Emerging Leadership 5K walk/run on July 14, 2015. Congratulations to our first places winners Matt Guyer –Central Office and Ann Hubbard – Miami. After the race the 2015 EEL Cohort headed to the beach for team building and training sessions. Over the 2 days participants gained more knowledge surrounding leadership and their role in building a strong workforce for tomorrow's IDOC.



**VEGGIE TALES FROM SOUTH BEND!** Here at South Bend Community Re-Entry, gardens are in full bloom, with a plethora of fresh produce. Last week, SBWRC donated 29 pounds of fresh vegetables to the Dismas House of South Bend to assist with their mission of providing a safe and healthy transitioning to the community. This week, SBCRC



donated 53 pounds of produce to Dismas House, and Catholic workers' house of South Bend. One of the many job assignment opportunities provided at SBWRC is the tending of the garden. The gentlemen that are assigned to the garden take great pride in tending to its growth. This year we have planted watermelon, green beans, squash, turnips, pumpkins, tomatoes, radish, carrots, corn, cucumbers, and a variety of peppers.

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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

July 24, 2015



**PLANE PULL CHALLENGE NEWS:** In a cocky display of swag **Team Pendleton** has publically claimed the 1<sup>st</sup> Place finish for this year's upcoming event! "After looking over the field of teams signed up, heck it's a walk in the park!" The only voice of disagreement came from **Team Pacers** who replied "We'll give you a run for their money". Not very inspiring but at least they spoke up. Not a very confident statement if you ask me. I guess we'll find out on **Saturday, August 29th**. Think differently? Then register your team [here!](#)



### Ex-Offender Shares His Inspirational Message at the CIF Volunteer

**Appreciation Dinner:** This year volunteers attending the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner heard from guest speaker ex-offender Thomas Lunay. According to Mr. Lunay, "I would not be where I am today without the volunteers who came faithfully to the facility and showed me how to change my life." His message provided remarkable insight into the magnitude of the difference volunteers

make in the lives of those they serve. "These volunteers are astonishing" said Superintendent Wendy Knight. "They come in week after week and although they may never know how many lives they touch by their service, but they keep coming in to be positive role models for our offender population."



**COMMISSIONER LEMMON WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT IDOC** has three teams of the top 10 teams in the **Humana Vitality Steps Challenge!** Way to go Madison Correctional Facility, Pendleton Correctional Facility, and Rockville Correctional Facility. **ALSO:** Applications for the Fall **2015 CPAFI** scholarships are now available! For more information and to download the application, please visit <http://cpafi.org/scholarships/>.

### PENDLETON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ANNOUNCES NEW P.U.P.S.

**PROGRAM** Ike was adopted from the Animal Protection League and now has a new purpose in life. As the first dog in the Pendleton Correctional Facility's P.U.P.S. program (Patriots Utilizing Puppies for Support), he is paired with an American Legion Post 608 Son's of Legion member who will train Ike in basic commands before learning new cues. The ultimate goal is for him to become a companion dog to a local veteran who in this case, suffers from PTSD. The benefits are immeasurable as the veteran experiences unconditional love and the canine gets a new lease on life.



### WVCF GREETS COPS CYCLING FOR SURVIVORS (CCFS) this week.

During day 8 of their 1000 mile, 13 day bicycle tour, CCFS members read the Indiana Department of Correction Officer Down memorial pages. The ceremony hit home for WVCF staff. In 2013, Officer Timothy Betts, who passed away August 26, 2012, was



one of two officers honored by Cops Cycling for Survivors. The 15 year WVCF veteran died of a heart attack while escorting an unruly offender to segregation. Family members took part in the day of remembrance and donated \$500 to the CCFS. Superintendent Richard Brown, on behalf of the facility presented the group with another check for \$500.



**GIVE A BIG CHEER FOR MJCF'S SAMANTHA GOLDSMITH!!** Samantha, a teacher at Promise Jr. /Sr. High School at the Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) won the 2015 **CEEAS Lighting the Fire Teacher and Principal of the Year Award**. The Lighting the Fire

Award is a nationwide competition to recognize outstanding educational professionals working in youth correction settings and is given to visionary educators that have shown their investment in students, persevere in a challenging environment, communicate high expectations and commitment to the education community.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

July 24, 2015

They call him, "The Trainer" because that's what he does – train. "And he's damn good at it too!" complimented a Pendleton Juvenile co-worker, awe clearly in her voice.



Teaching Coordinator David Hardwick rolled into Pendleton from his home town of New Castle one sunny day and nearly thirty years later he still there – training. "We were going to call him 'XXX' because of the amount of time he's been here but didn't think it meshed well with his good guy reputation," remarked a co-worker with a chuckle.

I was surprise to learn that even after 30 years of stellar employment record that he had no motto or philosophy. "I don't have one," Hardwick admitted as we sat down for lunch. "I let my work be my motto."

When I responded that what he just said was in fact a motto, he simply gave me that patented deadpanned stare from behind his wired-rimmed glasses. I decided it was best to change the subject.

The married dad of three, and grandfather of 4, credits his retired brother for his applying joining IDOC. In five years he expects to still be here but seemed unsure if he would change positions although he loves being a Training Coordinator, since training staff to succeed is what he likes most about his job.

If he was Commissioner for a day, he stated that he wouldn't make any changes in one day's time. "I'd tour some of the facilities to see how they are run and then take my time when it comes to making changes." Wise words from a 30 year veteran!

His most memorable day happened in June 2002 when as Shift Supervisor he had to respond to a critical issue at the facility involving an offender. Fortunately there have been more good days than bad for this super-veteran of the Department.

David likes to spend his free time enjoying his 2 year-old daughter, fishing, hunting and raising chickens (*Editor's note: ....Mmmmmm chicken!*). And speaking of chicken there's nothing more delicious than a large platter of fried chicken and his world famous yeast rolls.

Rumor has it they're so light that you can walk fast by them otherwise the breeze you make will make them float right off the plate!

Finally he has some good advice for anyone thinking of making a career with the IDOC, "Look at the whole picture and don't listen to the negativity around you and think before you act" Sounds like philosophy to me - but I'm not going there again. **HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!**



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

July 31, 2015



**PLANE PULL CHALLENGE NEWS/GOSSIP:** Well there's a rumor floating around that this year's top 3 teams are located **SOUTH of US 30 and NORTH of I-70**. "Not only are those teams *not* in our time zone, they're *not* in our league!" Boasted a clearly pumped up team member from a central Indiana facility. "They'll be dragging when they arrive and crushed when they leave." So North and South facilities, what say you? Think differently? Then register your team [here](#)! Competition day is **Saturday, August 29th**.



**VEGGIE TALES from ISP!** Offenders housed in the maximum and minimum security units at the Indiana State Prison donated vegetables to the Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families located in Michigan City, Indiana. The Healthy Living and Wellness class at The Keys to Hope Community Resource Center will teach the residents and participants the benefits of vegetables and how to juice them into rich smoothies. The harvest included approximately sixty (60) pounds of vegetables. The items that were donated included green tomatoes, cabbage, and assorted peppers.



**WESTVILLE OFFENDERS RAISE \$1000 FOR AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY** by participating in the Relay for Life, an American Cancer Society signature activity and the largest non-profit fundraising event in the world. This event involves the whole community: schools, businesses, churches, clubs, and families - young and old. Nearly 200 offenders participated in the mini Relays over a period of three days in three separate areas of the facility. The participants made posters to carry and

walked past luminaries placed in memory or in honor of their loved ones. "This is an opportunity for these offenders to remember those they have lost and to honor those still fighting," said Superintendent Sevier.



**PENDLETON JUVENILE STUDENTS GET TO STEPPIN'** in the Creative Arts Program Unit (CAPS) opening ceremony. After this lively introduction members of the staff were recognized for perfect attendance, employees that are "Making a Change" and years of service. Quarterly awards were presented to the following staff: Youth Development Specialist of the Quarter William Blanchard, Non-custody Employee of the Quarter Mark Clement and Supervisor of the Quarter to Sgt. Sutter. Education Supervisor Derek Grubbs spoke to the graduate regarding continuing education and professional goals.



**BRANCHVILLE STUFF-THE-BUS IN TELL CITY!** Last week members of Branchville Correctional Facility's unit team traveled to Tell City, Indiana, to make a contribution in the amount of \$300.00 to the United Way of Perry County's Stuff the Bus program. The Stuff the Bus program collects and distributes school supplies to underprivileged youth in Perry and Spencer Counties prior to the beginning of each school year. The money for the contribution was raised at Branchville through fundraisers organized by Branchville's

unit team staff. (photo- Branchville Unit Team Manager Tim Jellison presents the check to the United Way of Perry County, far left Caseworkers Valerie Cronin and Michelle Wallace).

**IWP RECEIVES BACK-TO-SCHOOL DONATION FROM CHURCH GROUP!** Carol Kornas and her faith team from the Castleton United Methodist Church donated 75 backpacks with school supplies to the Indiana Women's Prison. Mothers at the conclusion of their Family Preservation visit, will give them to their school age children. (Pictured right is Carol Kornas Castleton UMC representative and Paula Hunter, a family preservation participant).



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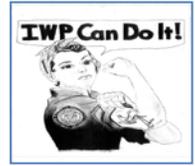
# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

August 7, 2015



**PLANE PULL CHALLENGE NEWS/GOSSIP:** The IWP staff is flexing their muscles in new t-shirts and feels pretty good about their chances in this year's Plane Pull Competition. *"The winner will be the team that pulls like girls"*, predicted one member of their crew. *"And let's be clear there is only one "Indiana Women's Prison". The others are just IWP satellites."* Whoa, tough talk from IWP. Want to accept their challenge? Register your team [here!](#) Competition day is **Saturday, August 29th.**



**CAMP SUMMIT STAFF AND STUDENTS HAD A BUSY SUMMER** helping the local communities with a variety of community service projects in La Porte County. Recent Community Service projects have included assisting the American Red Cross with blood drives in Michigan City and La Porte, the Leprechaun Hunt in Rolling Prairie (clean-up and take down), the First Presbyterian Church in La Porte, and Relay for Life Cancer Survivors dinner at the La Porte County Fairgrounds.



**CIF CONGRATULATES 58 OFFENDERS** for completing the facility's Navigators program. The Navigators is a worldwide Christian organization whose purpose is to train Christians with a particular emphasis on enabling them to share their faith with others. This graduation, the third one for the facility increased their number of graduates by 31 compared to their second graduation which was held in January. Guest speaker and

instructor Chuck Broughton message of "start where you are" couldn't be more relevant to these men who will start ministering in the correctional environment.

**WVCF SUPT. BROWN DOES A LITTLE TIME FOR A BIG CAUSE** as part of the Greene County National Night Out festivities! WVCF Fire Department, K-9 and Emergency Squad members joined 50 vendors in greeting over four thousand Linton area residents at the event. Superintendent Richard Brown helped raise funds in support of National Night Out by going "behind bars!" For a two dollar donation you could send someone to "jail" costing the



"suspect" five dollars to make "bail." National Night Out at Linton's Humphreys Park gave the WVCF team, area police and related agencies a chance to talk to adults and their children about what they do in a fun, relaxed setting.



**ISR SUPPORTS BACK TO SCHOOL EFFORTS FOR ISR FAMILIES** to assist the children and grandchildren of Pendleton Correctional Facility staff members in gathering essential supplies for the new school year. The Employee Appreciation Committee

hosted their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Back to School Fair and along with back packs filled with school supplies, lunch was served and the kids enjoyed watching a demonstration by the facility's K-9 Unit. Both kids and adults took advantage of the great weather by drenching one another with water guns and riding the giant water slide. A special thank you is in order to Holly and Pat Gibson for organizing the annual event.

**ISP SUPT. RON NEAL DEDICATES ED BUILDING** as the "Paul Petroff Educational Complex". Paul Petroff was the Contractual Employee of the Year in 2013 and Indiana Criminal Justice Educator of the year in 2014. He was a member of the facility's Education Department for twenty years. In that time he assisted thousands of students in achieving their educational goals. Mr. Klosowski retired Educational Director with Grace College at the Indiana State Prison stated, "Paul had a great rapport with his students, and they showed him a great deal of respect."



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

August 14, 2015



**PJCF STUDENTS LEARN BY GROWING AND GIVING** Students from the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility harvested and delivered 60 pounds of vegetables to the Emmaus Mission Center. To date the facility has harvested and donated 210 pounds of produce to the Emmaus Mission Center. Ethan a LJCF student had this to say "Working in the garden gave me a sense of self-pride. After all that I have taken from my community it is a blessing to be able to give something back."

**ISR ADDS 5 NEW RECRUITS TO THEIR RANK!** Five new adorable puppies arrived at the Pendleton Correctional Facility to begin their training as service dogs in the facility's ICAN (Indiana Canine Assistant Network) program. As the only accredited service dog training program in Indiana, ICAN has brought together dogs, offenders, and people living with disabilities to provide hope for more enriched and independent living.



**DADS CELEBRATE BEING DADS AT PUTNAMVILLE:** Several offenders and their families got to spend some well-deserved quality time together recently. The fathers spent a few hours with their children in the facility's recreation building playing basketball, pool, board games, and other activities that they normally never get to do with their children. Nine offender participants and 23 family members that visited their loved ones. The day with Dad is only approved for fathers that have completed the Inside Out Dad program. The InsideOut Dad® Program is the nation's only evidence-based fatherhood program designed specifically for incarcerated fathers.



**E-SQUADS CONDUCT TOP SECRET MANEUVERS (And we got a photo!)** members from ISF, IYC, RDC, RCF, and WVCF attended training aimed at maintaining interoperability between squads. Squad members trained on drill and ceremony, physical fitness, conducted a scenario-based training including near the IYC area which included victim extraction, first aid, building assaults, crowd control, and other top secret stuff all with

offender apprehension as the goal. SERT Team members were also present to train with the squads and offer feedback to continue improving their skills.



**GOSHEN TOPS ISP HOOP SQUAD IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> COLLEGIATE/CORRECTIONAL GAME.**

Goshen College came to the Indiana State Prison to play the offender State Basketball Team. This was the first time the students from Goshen College came to the prison for a game. Goshen College won the game 106-96 with hitting many 3 point shots. Coach Young of Goshen College really enjoyed the visit to the Indiana State Prison and said, "This is a great experience for our young men on our basketball team and we look forward to coming back".



**RCF C/O JON DELP NAILS IT FOR EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!** To be selected, an employee must be formally nominated by one or more of their supervisors, peers, or subordinates. Officer Jon Delp began his career with the Department of Correction at RCF in June of 2012 and quickly proved he is a dependable, hardworking, and forthright individual. In addition to his regular duties Officer Delp is also an Adjunct Training Instructor for staff Personal Protection and Quick Response Team Training. Correctional Officer Delp's name will now be added to a plaque at the facility entrance, acknowledging his achievement. He will also receive a week of complimentary meals from the RCF Culinary Arts department.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

August 21, 2015



**PARTICIPANTS OF ROCKVILLE'S Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever (CLIFF)** give back to the community by creating hygiene bags filled with necessities using money raised through their own fundraising effort of selling Subway sandwiches to the open population offenders. The CLIFF participants were able to create and fill 150 bags. The donations will be shared between the Parke and Clay County Food Pantries and a community outreach program through Big Mama's House in Indianapolis, Indiana.



**MCF PRESENTED SEVERAL EMPLOYEE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE AWARDS**, awardees included: Ryan Adkins, Inspire a Shared Vision; Sgt. James Collingsworth, Enabling Others to Act; Ofc. Ronald Kingery, Challenge the Process; Sgt. Wayne Hardy, Encourage the Heart; and Ofc. Jesse Fivecoate, Model the Way. The Leadership Challenge Awards recognize positive leadership practices at the facility. The awards are given quarterly to staff members who demonstrate exemplary leadership. Pictured: from left, back row, Sgt. Kingery, Sgt. Hardy, Ofc. Mygrant, Ofc. Fivecoate; Front row, Ofc. Adkins, Sgt. Lapoint, Sgt. Collingsworth



**GOSPEL ECHOES BRING THEIR TALENTS TO ISP.** Last Saturday, the Gospel Echoes team came to the Indiana State Prison for their annual cookout. Approximately 400 meals were served to the offender population in two different shifts. The special music and motivational messages were received well by all.



**BCF HOLDS ITS 2ND JOINT UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION PROGRAM (JUCP).** This new initiative is intended to improve the level of mutual respect between the staff and offender population, creating a better cultural environment for staff and offenders. Branchville Correctional Facility was chosen to be the first adult male facility to pilot this program. The program covers four modules: Overview of Joint Understanding and Cooperation, Role Models, Redirecting Inappropriate Behavior and Reinforcing Positive Behavior.

**CPAFI DEADLINE EXTENDED** to August 29, 2015, for Fall 2015 CPAFI scholarships. The application is available online at <http://cpafi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Fall-2015-CPAFI-Scholarships.pdf>.



**33-YEAR VETERAN ISR EMPLOYEE FINALLY HANGS UP HIS KEYS** David Barr, Administrative Assistant and Assistant PIO, retires after 33 years of service at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF). With his family present, a retirement celebration was conducted to honor and bid farewell to a beloved friend and co-worker. David began his career at the Pendleton Correctional Facility in 1981 and had exemplary performances in a variety of position. "I have had a good career and made many wonderful friends. I am ready to start the next chapter of my life," stated David Barr.

**LJCF Supt. INTRODUCES ACA ATTENDEES TO WHEEL OF LIFE (Liberation, Independence, Freedom and Empowerment)** This workshop provides adjudicated juveniles at the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility, with the opportunity to not only make a contribution to individuals with special needs in their community by refurbishing used durable medical equipment, but learn a marketable skill for post release employment. The refurbished equipment is then provided free of charge to individuals in need through the Bally Foundation. Moderator: Lori Harshbarger, Superintendent, Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility, Logansport, Indiana Speakers: Christopher Cleveland, Founder and President, The Bally Foundation, Indianapolis, Indiana and Lori Harshbarger, Supt. LJCF.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

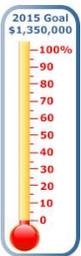
August 28, 2015



**FORMER RCF RESIDENT AMY WILSON** recently spoke to the PLUS members as a Victim Impact speaker. Ms. Wilson is a former resident of RCF who has used her time upon release to not only become successful in her re-entry, but to give back in her own unique way. Ms. Wilson speaks to various organizations and groups about how her criminal history and subsequent incarceration affected not just her life, but the life of her family and friends. This is her second visit to RCF.



**PJCF SHELLY WAGNER PLACES 2<sup>ND</sup> IN STATEWIDE CONTEST!** Back in July, State Personnel promoted The HumanaVitality Biggest Loser Resort Contest. This essay contest asked HumanaVitality members to write an essay describing "How will a trip to the Biggest Loser Resort improve your wellness?" Three state employees have been selected to be among the 30 finalists out of more than 1,000 entries.



**INDIANA STATE EMPLOYEES' COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN (SECC) Kick-Off Is September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015** The State Employees' Community Campaign is the annual charity campaign administered by state employees. The SECC allows state employees to contribute to any charity that has a 501 (c) 3 ruling through either a one-time contribution or the convenience of payroll deductions. Your contribution is needed to help those who are in search of food, shelter, jobs, and medical care. Please consider making a pledge this year or joining the 2015 SECC **Champions** by contributing 1/2 hour pay per pay period. For more info contact Eric Jones at [ERJones@idoc.in.gov](mailto:ERJones@idoc.in.gov)

**ISR RAISES AWARENESS AND FUNDS FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION** Pendleton Correctional Facility Unit Team Manager John Safford and Assistant Superintendent Andrew Cole recently presented a check in the amount of \$500 to Sharon Pierce of the Villages and Prevent Child Abuse of Indiana. Proceeds were raised during the annual PCF Golf Outing, organized by Mr. Safford. "PCF has pledged our on-going support to The Villages and Prevent Child Abuse of Indiana as they expand programs designed to assist and educate new parents and promoting the best interests of children throughout our state." Cole stated.



**WVCF TEAM WOWS VISITORS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE DURING FACILITY REVIEW** led by Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. The Wabash crew illustrated fiscal fitness (under budget by over 1.6 million dollars over the past year) and being only one of three facilities nationwide to convert to brighter, cheaper LED's. Superintendent Richard Brown led a tour of the maximum-security facility, which included a tour of the PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) unit and interaction with PLUS members who touted their community service efforts.



**IYC HOST JOINT MANEUVERS FOR ERO SQUADS:** Plainfield Correctional Facility was proud to host a joint Emergency Squad training. Over 60 squad members from Rockville Correctional Facility, Putnamville Correctional Facility, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility and Plainfield Correctional Facility Regional Team were in attendance for this event. Along with the guidance and support from the Emergency Response Operations (ERO) Department, the training focused on physical fitness, combined support training, and teamwork building. The training ended with a light-hearted Tug of War contest between teams with both Rockville Correctional Facility and Putnamville Correctional Facility squads winning.



**PLANE PULL CHALLENGE TOMORROW!** Come on out and support IDOC with your cheers, tweets and Facebook posts! @soindiana1 @IndianaDOC #PlayUnified #idoc; #IDOCPlanePull2015; #TeamDOC!

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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

September 3, 2015



**FOUR MCF EMPLOYEES AWARDED EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER!** Ann Hubbard, Community Involvement Coordinator and PIO, was named Employee of the Quarter, Sgt. Peter Lapoint was named Supervisor of the Quarter; Ofc. Rodney Mygrant was named Officer of the Quarter and CAN Lauren Siblisk was named Contract Staff of the Quarter. These outstanding staffers set good examples for others, take part in special projects, exercise good judgment, demonstrate enthusiasm for work, demonstrate outstanding achievement, are team-oriented, display dependability and perseverance, have a positive attitude, communicate well with others and display professionalism.



**ISF SMITHEREENS TOPS ALL IN PLANE PULL CHALLENGE!** With a winning time of 5.228 seconds, ISF take the bragging rights for 2015! ISR was a close second with a time of 5.429 followed closely by IWP at 5.621. When it's all said and done the difference between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> was a mere .393 seconds. Special recognition goes to Edinburgh CF, a relatively small facility who secured a very respectable 5<sup>th</sup> place by posting a time of 5.837. Finally, if style matters then NCF takes home the Best Dressed Award.



Marching in single file they made black and hunter green not only look military-esque but, even a bit intimidating.

**IREF'S RRRP RAISE BIG \$\$\$** Reformative Residential Re-entry Program (RRRP) continued its charity efforts by giving two big donations this month. The RRRP donated a combined total of \$2,000 to the Pike Junior Red Devils Inc. and the Mozel Sanders Foundation Inc., helping both programs in their separate efforts to train athletically talented youths or provide meals to Indianapolis' disadvantaged and hungry Hoosiers.



**RCF GRADUATES 3<sup>RD</sup> CLASS FROM PEN/TELEVERDE!** The ceremony included congratulations from RCF Superintendent Julie Stout, Mike Herron, of PEN Product, Jason Cortel, Vince Barsolo, Michelle Cirocco and Karen Fanning of Televerde and a thank you speech from graduate Marlena Bingham. Guests were served a delightful meal of Chinese cuisine including crab Rangoon, egg rolls, fried rice and a dessert of coconut cream filled cupcakes prepared by the RCF Culinary Arts class.



**PROMOTIONS HAPPENING AT CIF!** Superintendent Wendy Knight is pleased to announce the promotion of Sgt. Tim Upchurch to the rank of Lieutenant. Lieutenant Upchurch began his career on October 10, 1994 working virtually every post in the facility until being promoted to Correctional Sergeant in 2011. Lt. Upchurch has years of experience and the drive to make CIF a better facility as well as make staff better officers and supervisors. Congratulations Tim!



**LJCF STUDENTS ARE GROWING UP WHILE GROWING FOOD!** The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility students completed another harvest from their garden. The harvest included 3 varieties of tomatoes, 3 varieties of peppers, cabbage, cucumbers, and zucchini.

Once again the harvest was donated to the Emmaus Mission Homeless shelter. To date, the students have harvested and donated approximately 400 pounds of produce and dozens of ears of sweet corn. The Mission center was very appreciative of the donation and has helped them feed those that they serve.



**WVCF PROVIDES QUILTS FOR LOCAL LIBRARY** Jackie Storm, Wabash Valley PLUS Coordinator, delivered 25 kid's size quilts to the library for the youngsters. Super Hero's was the theme of this year's reading program and Jackie said the quilts will make neat capes for the super readers! The library crew didn't let Storm leave empty handed, donating lots of fabric to the PLUS Program which yearly makes thousands of quilts for those in need!

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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

September 3, 2015

Straight outta' Greenville Mississippi, Rev. Dr. Connie Hedges gives her all for the cause.



Don't believe me? Ask her about the time she broke her right shoulder as a CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) member participating in the stretcher relay race at the ERO Field Day back in 2007. It would turn out to be her most memorable day on the job.

"She was a trooper. Finished the race without a whimper." Remarked one co-worker. "I guess that's how she rolls".

Known for her southern accent and way of talking Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's chaplain loves talking and conducting worship services and special religious services. When I asked her how she ended up at IDOC she gave me a warm smile and replied, "I came to Indiana to attend Anderson University of Theology to obtain a Doctorate of Ministry degree. They didn't have any fellowships so they sent me a list of organizations that hired their doctoral students and guess what, the IDOC was on that list!

Over the last 15 years Rev. Hedges admits that IDOC isn't for everyone. "Silent stress will wreak havoc on your mind and body if you don't find a way to positively handle it on a daily basis," she suggests. And through it all she says her personal motto, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me," gets her through the tough days.

If she was Commissioner for a day she'd change the uniform for students and try to find more money to hire staff so that no one would need to worry about more than one job. It was her belief that this was the primary cause of high turnover rate at juvenile facilities.

Connie spends most of her free time crocheting, reading religious research books and she sings and plays the auto harp (someone needs to encourage her to do a mini concert). But her favorite thing to do is participate to hunt for valuable objects at the thrift and junk stores as one of the Treasure Hunting Divas!

And a fun fact about this week's Employee of the Week is that before she gave her life to Christ she was a practicing Wiccan!

**HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND EVERYONE!**



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

September 11, 2015



**CIF HONORS FALLEN 9/11 VICTIMS:** The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) held a flag raising ceremony to commemorate the events of September 11, 2001. The ceremony started with the raising of the flags to half mast by CIF's offender color guard then a brief history of the events followed by a moment of silence and prayer. The ceremony was attended by approximately 70 offenders and staff members.



**BRANCHVILLE HOLDS FIRST-EVER NATIVE AMERICAN WORSHIP DAY.** Last week, 14 family members came to the facility to join nine offenders in the event, which included a family worship smudging service at the facility's newly completed Native American outside circle area. In addition, Branchville's sawmill operations supplied the group with two birdhouses and participants used small brushes and finger painting to decorate those. "This is our second Native American Family Day and it has doubled in size. I am proud of the work Chaplain Gray has put into facility. He has expanded not only our Religious Services but also our Healthy Family program by offering days like this. It was a great day for all." A time of enhanced visit was had by all along with refreshments and a video presentation of Native American culture. Native American tribes represented included Lakota, Cherokee, Shawnee, and Choctaw.



**ISR STAFF AND OFFENDERS GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE.** Giving blood is simple and could save a life. During a short 3-hour walk in event at the Pendleton Correctional Facility, the Indiana Blood Center conducted a blood drive. With 9 staff donors and 3 staff deferred, the facility assisted the organization in supplying the daily need of 550 units to more than 60 hospitals in Indiana. For their generosity, staff walked away with the knowledge they could help save a life and a free t-shirt.

**ISP OFFENDERS RAISES \$ AND KNIT CAPS FOR MARCH OF DIMES.** The Jaycee's, an offender organization at the Indiana State Prison, sponsored a walk-a-thon and knitted 220 caps for the March of Dimes. The walk-a-thon raised \$6,000.00. Staff



and offenders from the Jaycees, American Legion, and PLUS unit took part and donated to the walk-a-thon. The check and caps were presented to Mr. Victor Garcia from the March of Dimes.

**WVCF INCREASES BLOOD DONATION NUMBERS for 2015.** The need for blood is critical year round and the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) is already making plans for drives in October and December. The most recent WVCF effort produced 37 donations, pushing the 2015 total to nearly 140 units for the Indiana Blood Center (IBC). The IBC said earlier this week they are down to a two-day supply of "A positive" blood, highlighting the ongoing need for donors. WVCF Blood Drive Committee member Starla Perkinson said each donation has the potential to save three lives, plus each donation counts for 50 Vitality Points for those taking part in the Humana Vitality program! That's up to 300 points a year for giving the gift of life!



**MCF REFUSES TO GIVE GROUND IN BLOOD DONATION COMPETITION** The American Red Cross held a blood drive on Wednesday, September 9, at Madison Correctional Facility. The facility projected to donate 15 pints of blood and we exceeded our expectation by donating 17 pints. Superintendent Jan Davis stated, "Madison Correctional Facility is fortunate to have staff that is able to donate to such a worthy cause."

**"Time is passing. Yet, for the United States of America, there will be no forgetting September the 11th. We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children." –George W. Bush**

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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

September 18, 2015



**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING #TEAMPAIGE!** Superintendent Julie Stout's daughter Paige Smith needs your help to fight her battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. One way you can help her is by participating in the Light the Night Walk in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 10, 2015. The walk begins at Victory Field at 5:00 p.m. and will end at White River State Park. The Light the Night Walk is a fundraising campaign benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) and their funding of research to find blood cancer cures. To join, donate, or obtain more information, please click "[JOIN #TEAMPAIGE](#)" or contact David Manson at [bonofarm@netzero.net](mailto:bonofarm@netzero.net).

**IREF RISES EARLY TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY:** While most people were still snuggled under a nice warm blanket, sleeping, and dreaming, Back on My Feet (BoMF) runners and Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) resident runners spent the early hours of the morning mentally preparing for the BoMF&IREF Mini Marathon. The IREF runners, sponsored by IREF staff, will complete a 13.1 mile run along with their friends from BoMF. Resident runners were sponsored by IREF staff and volunteers. Their efforts earned a \$1,000 donation. The money raised will help support BoMF's mission to help the homeless become self sufficient. Before the race resident runners join hands with BoMF runners and recited the serenity prayer together before start of the race.



**THE SPIN IS ON AT PJCF!** Staff and students welcomed Tanya and Caleb Crevier of Spintacular and the Indiana Wesleyan University women's basketball team. They conducted a basketball workshop with approximately 50 students. One student reported that "It was awesome. They taught me how to spin a basketball on my finger," stated one student with excitement. Following the workshop, Tanya and Caleb Crevier performed their Spintacular routine.



**PENDLETON PROMOTES PETERSON!** Superintendent, Dushan Zatecky is pleased to announce the promotion of Walter "Pete" Peterson to the position of Internal Investigations Officer 3. As a 35 year veteran, Pete is a highly regarded employee at PCF. In addition to his long time position as a member of the Honor Guard, Pete has served in the capacity of Correctional Officer, Security Threat Group Coordinator and Internal Investigations Officer 4 prior to his promotion. Congratulations Pete!



**CIF AMERICAN LEGION POST 503 IS UP AND ACTIVE:** American Legion Post 503 recently held a recruitment cookout for all of their current members and invited all of the facility veterans. The attendees were not only treated to hamburgers but also CIF's band that played a beautiful rendition of America the Beautiful. After the facility color guard posted the flags Assistant Superintendent Bill Hyatte addressed the group thanking them for their service and membership to the legion. Since Legion Post 503 received its charter they have donated over \$6000.00 to local charities such as the Green Township food bank, The Legion Child Welfare Fund, Little Red Door, Pendleton Junior Baseball League.



**ISP AND PRISON FELLOWSHIP LAUNCH MENTORING PROGRAM:** Sixty maximum security prisoners housed at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Indiana were given instructions on how to be kinder and gentler toward their fellow prisoners thanks to Prison Fellowship Ministries. This was the first time Prison Fellowship has sponsored this type of mentoring workshop within the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) according to Dawn Buss, Program Coordinator of Faith Based Initiatives for IDOC.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

September 25, 2015



**235 GRADS!** That the number of offenders who turned the tassels at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) and in turned made the grade for re-entry success! Proud family members were on hand for Graduation Day as the Class of 2015 received certificates for high school equivalency, vocational and apprenticeship programs. Each educational offering provides skills and disciplines needed to pass the test in the work world. Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) funded educational programs are important mechanisms in cutting the recidivism rate among released offenders. Featured speaker Jeff Lorick, Terre Haute Human Relations Commission Director, urged the graduates to continue overcoming obstacles to success. He noted success is about trying to make a positive difference in society.

**GIVING THE GIFT OF SIGHT!** The Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) PLUS program provides offenders to work in the Eyeglass Shop as a form of community service. The Eyeglass Shop at RCF receives donations of discarded eyeglasses from local Lions Clubs. In turn, the offenders clean, repair and obtain the prescription for each pair. The glasses are then packed and shipped to organizations around the world to provide much needed vision assistance.



The RCF PLUS offenders recently packed 15,400 Pairs of glasses in a total of 4 days!!!!



**CONGRATS TO PUTNAMVILLE CLIFF GRADUATES!** The Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever (CLIFF) substance abuse program recently held a training seminar for twenty-five willing offenders to become recovery coaches for their CLIFF units. Trainers from the Indiana Counselors Association on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ICAADA), Gina Fears and Stan DeKemper, were in attendance to mentor and guide the event. "A Recovery Coach is anyone interested in promoting recovery by removing barriers and obstacles to recovery and serving as a personal guide and mentor for people seeking or already in recovery," says Denise Sloan, CLIFF Addiction Recovery Specialist. The CLIFF program selected offenders both by their request and through an interview process to participate in this 40 hour training. Recovery Coaches are being utilized at several other facilities in the state, parole/probation, half way houses, hospitals, and even the Department of Children and Family Services.



**PJCF STAFF v STUDENTS COMPETITION WAS A WINNER FOR ALL!** Education staff at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility conducted a very exciting Field Day. Students were eligible to participate in field day based on consistent positive school and unit behavior. The team activities included corn hole, free throw challenge, tug of war and kickball.

**BIG CONGRATS GOES TO IREF** staff, volunteers, and visitors celebrated the accomplishments of 53 IREF graduates who participated in Oakland City University and IREF programs. Never have so many worked so long for so much!



**MCF GRADUATES 58** offenders from the Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever (CLIFF) program recently. Ted Miles, Corizon Regional Director was the guest speaker at the event. "This is just the first step in their process of recovery" said Superintendent Kathy Griffin. "While it's a significant step, I hope that these men will continue to live clean lifestyles and become productive citizens once they are released." Also giving words of encouragement during the ceremony was Indiana Department of Correction Executive Director of Programs Jerry Vance. The event was attended by family members of the offenders and celebrated with cake and punch afterwards.

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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

October 2, 2015

**EDINBURGH (DAVID) SLAYS AN ARMY OF GOLIATHS (Too many to name)!** On Saturday, September 19, Edinburgh Correctional Facility (David) competed in the IDOC Annual Softball tournament. Led by team captain, Justin Butler, Edinburgh won the double elimination tourney, taking home the traveling trophy and bragging rights for 2015. First the demolished Westville 15-1, then shut out Wabash 5-0, edged by Putnamville 9-8, sent Branchville back south scoring 3 unanswered points 3 and in a re-match outslugged Putnamville in the Championship game 21-17! All rise and salute the 2015 Softball Champions - Team Edinburgh!



**WVCF PROMOTES TWO PROVEN VETERANS!** Two longtime staffers at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) are moving on up! Michele Lincoln (*pictured on the left*) is the new WVCF Programs Director. The award winning 22 year IDOC veteran has been an integral part of Programs, most recently serving as Community Service Director. Michele has guided the facility Fatherhood and PREP Programs, recruited/trained volunteers (253), interns AND coordinated countless offender fund raising events to benefit area charities. Ms. Lincoln was honored as the IDOC Distinguished Service Award recipient in 2012. 27-year veteran State Employee Tammy Rehmel (*pictured on the right*) has advanced from Correctional Sergeant to Correctional



Training Officer 3. Tammy brings 15 years of strong Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) credentials to the training table. She is a Master Instructor in both Security Skills and Personal Protection and was a 12 year SITCON team member. Ms. Rehmel spent 12 years with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) before joining the Wabash team.

**RELIGIOUS LEADER BLESSES CIF'S FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS.** The Correctional Industrial Facility held a Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 2. The service commemorates the life of St. Francis of Assisi, who is remembered for his love for all creatures. The dogs and handlers from the FIDO and ICAN program at CIF gathered outside in a circle around Deacon John Utter who after a short prayer went to each pair and blessed them with holy water. Deacon Utter also visited the units where he blessed the cats in the 9-lives program. The bond between the offenders and their animals are like no other relationship, and the love they give to and receive from the pets, has been shown to draw them more deeply into the larger circle of life and help prepare them for re-entry into society.



**BRANCHVILLE UNLEASHES THE BEASTS** Branchville, IN—The Branchville Employee Appreciation Team (BEAST) is proud to announce Branchville Correctional Facility's Employees of the Quarter. The winners are: Supervisor of the Quarter: Mr. John Pyle. Mr. Pyle is a Correctional Sergeant. He began his career at Branchville in 1987. Non-Custody Employee of the Quarter: Mr. Bernie Stallman. Mr. Stallman is the fire chief at the facility. He began his career at Branchville in 1993. Custody Employee of the Quarter: Mr. Dave Coultas. Mr. Coultas is a Correctional Officer at the facility. He began his career at Branchville in 1986. Contractual Employee of the Quarter: Mrs. Janet Drach. Mrs. Drach is employed by Oakland City University as a teacher at the facility. She began her career at Branchville in 1989. Volunteer of the Quarter: Mr. Tom Babbitt. R. Babbitt has been a volunteer at the facility since 2002. He conducts Sunday services once per month, leads a weekly Bible study and he also serves as a mentor. Superintendent Alvey stated, "This is the third time we have rewarded our quarterly winners. It is a great way to show the employees they are appreciated. The employees who were selected this quarter are all veteran employees who are very deserving of the awards.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

October 9, 2015



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Riggs, stated, "Seeing these ladies with their children was empowering itself, it is within relationships that we truly can discover self as we are relational by nature."



**ISP UNDERSTANDS THAT PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT:** The Indiana State Prison held their annual emergency drill. This exercise included a mock fire with injuries in a dormitory setting. This collaborative effort included custody and health care staff, facility offender firefighters and mutual aid from the Michigan City Fire Department.

Excellent communication between the staff at the Indiana State Prison and Michigan City Fire Department ensured a seamless operation.

**RCF APPRECIATES THEIR VOLS!** Superintendent Julie Stout, Chaplain Rick Hayes and Community Involvement Coordinator Susie Martin welcomed 48 community volunteers to a reception in their honor at the Rockville Correctional Facility on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This annual reception is held to thank those volunteers for the hard work and time they put in for the RCF offender population week in and week out year round. In addition to a luncheon prepared by offenders in the Department of Labor Cook Program under the direction of Aramark, attendees were treated to a performance by the RCF Offender Choir, *Redeemed*, that left nary a dry eye in sight.



**AND THE ICJA WINNER ARE...**Employee of the year Award - Keith Vinardi, Commissioner's Supervisor Award - Karl Gast, Professional of the Year Award - Carol Wiggins, Commissioner's Re-Entry Employee Award - Angela Taylor, Chaplain of the Year Award - Steve Green, Commissioner's Administrative Support Award - Sandra Kibby-Brown, Commissioner's Human Resources



Award - Michele Gibson, Physical Plant Employee of the Year Award - Darren Coy, Commissioner's Parole Agent Award - Valentin Covarrubias, Commissioner's Rising Star Award - Brian Snow, Commissioner's Distinguished Service Award - Jim Wynn, Industries Professional of the Year Award - Lisa Martin, and for the Commissioner's Partner of the Year Award - Indiana Parole Board. Congrats to all!



**RCF OFFENDERS SHOWCASE CULINARY SKILLS** in recently held a competition for the best Halloween Gingerbread House. The competition was the culmination of a candy and decorating lab portion of the Culinary Arts curriculum. Staffers were invited to vote on their favorite spooky hamlet which measured approximately 18 inches tall by 18 inches wide. The ingredients were 90% homemade, including the gingerbread and the icing. Carrie Randolph took the win with 19 out of 42 votes with her Halloween House (pictured above).

**IDOC STAFFERS PLACE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> IN NATIONAL CONTEST!** Correctional Officer Jason Parker of the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) and Sergeant Dennis McGill of Edinburgh Correctional Facility were recent winners (McGill – runner-up) in a national contest for correctional employees who go above and beyond the call of duty. Parker was awarded \$1000 and WCC received \$1000 in free clothing from ServiceWear Apparel in Nashville, Tennessee. Sergeant McGill was awarded with \$500 in free clothing and a plaque from ServiceWear Apparel with their home office in Nashville, Tennessee. The award was presented to the winners in the Governor's Office by Governor Michael Pence.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

October 16, 2015



## GUEST SPEAKER WILL FRANKLIN USES POWERLIFTING TO REACH OFFENDERS

**AT ISP:** The World Gym from Highland, Indiana came to the Indiana State Prison for the first ever Power Weight Lifting competition. Will Franklin who is a motivational speaker from the World Gym gave the men a round of encouragement and wanted to share with the guys that are incarcerated, need to be encouraged, to motivate, health, conditioning

the mind, body and soul. Strength conditioning with power lifting releases stresses, and challenges you to work on yourself improvement. *(Winners)he following were the top 3 winners using the Schwartz Formula: 1<sup>st</sup> place Moore, Paul #138652, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Halajcsik, Michael and 3<sup>rd</sup> Lewis, Delbert #904873. Michael Halajcsik, 2<sup>nd</sup> place was a civilian competitor, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place were I.S.P. offenders.)*



**MCF HOME OF THE FIRST CLIFF PROGRAM GRADUATES ANOTHER 58!** Miami Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community (TC) celebrated Wednesday as 58 members of the CLIFF (Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever) unit completed their program and attended a graduation ceremony. The CLIFF program is designed to provide intensive drug rehabilitation for different drug addictions. Indiana founded the CLIFF program because methamphetamine use is rampant in the state. While the participants were celebrated for completing this important step in their lives of admitting they have a problem and trying to come to terms with the choices they have made, many guest speakers reminded them that this is not the end, but the beginning. "This is the start of your recovery. Don't waste what you've learned but keep growing in your efforts to make this a lifelong accomplishment" advised Superintendent Kathy Griffin in her congratulatory remarks.



**THEY STARTED AT THE BOTTOM NOW THEY'RE HERE!** Superintendent Stephen McCauley and Assistant Superintendent LaShelle Turner from the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) are pleased to announce Jessica Jonas has been promoted to Correctional Sergeant, Patricia Peak promoted to Psychiatric Social Services Specialist 3 (PSSS3), Danielle Katterhenry to Correctional Caseworker and Last but not least Big Mike Soriano is now Correctional Sergeant. Congrats to all of you.



**RDC + IYC + ISF = #TEAMPAIGE!** Staff from 3 different facilities teamed up for one great cause by joining the #teampaige, a fund/awareness raising effort by selling t-shirts and wrist bands to raise funds and awareness for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Paige Smith daughter of Superintendent Brian Smith and Superintendent Julie Stout's is currently undergoing treatments for Hodgkin's Lymphoma and this effort will go a long way to help find a cure. Only last week #teampaige members participated in the Light the Night Walk in Indianapolis which began at Victory Field and ended at beautiful White River State Park.

**MCF IS LOOKING FOR A CAPTAIN! ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?** Salary range \$33,904.00-54,730.00. **Preferred Experience:** Four (4) years custody experience in a correctional institution, law enforcement or military law enforcement, plus one (1) year experience as a correctional supervisor or accredited college training in a related field. Possession of a High School Diploma or General Educational Development (GED) certificate. Successful completion of the Correctional Training Institute program or a similar training program acceptable to the Department of Correction. Willingness to undergo a background investigation. **Job Description:** Incumbent serves as the shift leader for a specific shift in a major Department of Correction facility. **Click [here](#) for more information.**

**Starting right about....now I will be on vacation so there won't be a Weekly View, however we all know that absence makes the heart grow fonder. See you in two weeks!**



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

October 30, 2015

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**MCU STAFF GET OFF THE COUCH AND ON THE ROAD** Offenders from the Madison Correctional Facility participated in the Couch to 5K program. Several offenders trained from April through October and 16 offenders finally achieved the goal of running a 5K this week. Finish times ranged from 33 minutes to just over 50 minutes. Unit Team Manager and running organizer, Mark stated, "The runners should be proud of themselves; they have accomplished not only being able to run a 5k, but also a change in attitude and how they view themselves."



**ISP HONORS ITS VOLUNTEERS WITH** a luncheon was held in the Chapel at the facility. Mr. D. McBride and Ms. D. Osos gave a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers. This year we had 290 volunteers which gave 4387 hours of services. Mr. McBride gave a special award to Mike Prendergast a volunteer and a Community Advisory Board Member for ISP/Westville and Camp Summit Boot Camp.

**CIF WALKS AWAY WITH 2 ICJA AWARDS** Two of their staff members were recently recognized for outstanding job performance at the annual Indiana Criminal Justice Association (ICJA) awards luncheon. Grace Community Teacher, Stephanie Todd was awarded Correctional Educator of the Year and Sergeant Pat Gibson was awarded Correctional Officer of the Year. Both nominations were submitted by facility staff at CIF to the (ICJA) Occupational Awards committee. Superintendent Wendy Knight commented "I congratulate our deserving staff on receiving these awards, being nominated by your peers who you work with on a daily basis is a special honor."



**BCF FAIR ASSISTS OFFENDERS IN SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY** The fair organized by Branchville's Pre-Release Coordinator John Godare, affords offenders the opportunity to talk with various organizations in order to gain insight on resources available to them in the community upon their release from prison. Invitations to participate are sent to as many organizations as possible throughout Southwestern Indiana. Some of this year's participating organizations included Crisis Connection, United Way, Churches Embracing Offenders, Disabled Vets, and Oakland City University. Superintendent Kathy Alvey stated, "John Godare does an excellent service to the men who will be getting released. Many of the vendors complimented the offenders who participated in this event." Approximately 250 offenders participated in this year's event.



**NEW CFO KNIES RALLIES BUSINESS OFFICES AROUND FISCAL FITNESS!** Newly appointed CFO Grant Knies hosted a Northern Region Fiscal Team Gathering at Red Mill Park in LaPorte County. Approximately fifty staff from the facilities business offices along with warehouse and commissary staff were in attendance. Executive Director Bill Wilson was the guest speaker and North Region Training Manager Philip Sonnenberg conducted a team building exercise with our group. This event allowed our new CFO to introduce himself to



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Indiana Department of Correction

October 30, 2015

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**WVCF RAISES \$\$\$ BY RAISING THE HAIRS ON YOUR NECK!** Freddy Krueger will greet visitors to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Haunted House come Halloween Night! "Fright Nights in the Valley" continues to be a spine tingling success at WVCF. Now in its second frightening year the haunted house serves a dual purpose, a fun event for Wabash staff, family and friends AND to scare up support for local charities. Admission is free, along with the hot chocolate and cookies, but a donation of canned goods, toys or candy are gladly accepted. Toys will go to the local Christmas For Kids drive and the canned goods will help supply area food banks. Over 350 pounds of food has been collected so far, some toys and over \$30. WVCF staff donated their time and funds to make "Fright Nights in the Valley" possible. The haunted house comes to life each year in the former facility carpenter shop behind the maximum-security facility. Hours are from 7:00p.m. until 11:00p.m. IF YOU DARE!

**CAMP SUMMIT STAFF AND STUDENTS CONDUCT ARMY MANEUVERS!** This week staff and student performed community service at the Salvation Army in LaPorte for the Army's Back Pack Program this past week. The assistance given the Salvation included packing over 388 bags of food for needy students from four elementary schools in the LaPorte area. These bags of food go home with the students on Friday so that they have food to eat over the weekend as they may not eat if the bags are not sent home. The facility has been participating in this community service event every other week since the beginning of the school year. The Salvation Army staff commented that the Camp Summit students are well behaved and the work they do is very helpful to the SA's efforts. John Cosich organizes community service events like this at Camp Summit.



**PJCF QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY SHOWCASES STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS** Pendleton Juvenile held their Quarterly Assembly which started with a dance performance from the Creative Arts Program (CAPS) students. Superintendent Alison Yancey recognized staff for perfect attendance, staff that are "Making a Change" and years of service. Superintendent Yancey presented quarterly awards: Youth Development Specialist of the Quarter Brock Triplett, Non-custody Employee of the Quarter Bridgette Chatot and Supervisor of the Quarter to Sgt. Kirk. Ms. Yancey also announced the promotions of Capt. Robert Runyon and Lt. Justin Kolodziej. TASC graduation was held after the facility assembly. A reception followed the graduation.

**SHOUT OUT TO ISR EDRINGTON FOR BEING 2015 CORIZON NURSE OF THE YEAR!** Putnamville



Correctional Facility is pleased to congratulate Kathy Edrington, Corizon, for being presented at the Corizon Regional Conference with Nurse of the Year award! Kayla McDermit, the Director of Nursing, at ISF nominated Kathy for her hard working attitude, and consistent work ethic! Kathy loves what she does and it shows in her work every day! She has currently been at Putnamville for 7 years and has literally seen some of the walls being built at the health care unit. Ms. McDermit says, "There is no award that adequately summarizes Kathy's work ethic, dedication, and love for her career. She works through it all, taking the good with the bad in stride!"

**LJCF LOVE LOCALS LLAMAS'** Students from LJCF were treated to an animal event at the facility. A big LJCF thank you to Jim and Mollie Miller brought in 2 Llamas, and Alpaca and a Brown Swiss Dairy Steer to show the students who had earned the special reward. The students learned about the animals heritage, origin genetic makeup and what the animals were bred and used for. The students also got the opportunity of interact and pet the animals as well.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

November 6, 2015



## **MCF LOGS A BUSY OCTOBER CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND PARTNERING WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.**

Miami Correctional Facility recently held a Hispanic Celebration to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The guest speaker, Ed Velazquez, spoke on hope and encouragement at the event. Music was also provided by the offender band and refreshments for approximately 30 attendees. At the beginning of the month MCF began partnering with Habitat for Humanity in Logansport, providing an offender work crew to help pour a sidewalk near the home. "I'm so excited that MCF is able to assist in this type of project. There's no better feeling than being able to participate in bringing joy to families who may be on their way to home ownership for the first time. This is the type of hope and caring we want the offenders to witness as they move through their incarceration.

**WVCF PAYS TRIBUTE TO LONGTIME ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER** Belle Kasting this week. The former Vincennes, Indiana Mayor had been part of the facility advisory board since its inception in September of 2002. She recently retired from the position. WVCF Assistant Superintendent's Frank Littlejohn and Kevin Gilmore presented Belle with a custom sea-themed quilt produced by the PLUS unit. She was a strong supporter of the WVCF PLUS program. The quilt featured the first of four commissioned USS Vincennes ships greatly admired by Ms. Kasting. On behalf of Superintendent Richard Brown, Belle was thanked for her wise counsel, thoughtful questions and commitment to the successful re-entry of offenders back into society.



## **ISR HOSTS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL KAIROS 3-DAY WEEKEND**

Gratefulness and being part of a community where men of different faiths come together to worship was a sentiment voiced by many offenders who participated in the recent Kairos 3-Day Weekend at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Finding and giving forgiveness can be a monumental challenge for most, but especially for those individuals who have led a life of crime and found themselves behind the walls of a maximum security prison. Kairos, a Prison Ministry, has brought down that wall of shame and guilt to bring faith and renewal to 30 offenders who participated in the event. Although the event was surrounded in song, food, worship and understanding, the men explored their challenges as offenders and discovered the possibilities that can be found in choosing the right path.



**CIF STAFF GIVING IMPACTS LIVES x400!** The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) recently held their fourth and final blood drive of 2015, bringing totals for the year to 141 whole blood units and 20 double red cell units. This amount donated by staff could benefit over 400 individuals. The Indiana Blood Center brings a special machine that allows for double red cell donation, CIF had twenty staff participate in that procedure for 2015. Double red cell donation is similar to a whole blood donation, except the special machine allows you to safely donate two units of red blood cells during one donation while returning your plasma and platelets to you.



## **THE OH SO SUBTLE ART OF HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS**

Last week Executive Director Richard Curry invited me to Basic SITCON (Situation Control) Academy at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. One of the key aspects of this training was a realistically constructed hostage scenario that forced the hostage negotiating students and SERT Team members to demonstrate their assessment, planning and communication skills in a high-risk environment where each decision could improve or deteriorate the chance for a peaceful resolution. Congrats to the 20+ graduates, IREF Supt. Laurie Johnson and SERT Team Members Major Vanihel, Eric Niccum, Todd Staton, Ron Allen, Marcus Blade, Dennis Reagle, Joshua Roe, Mark Christian and 'Kato' for a job not just well done – but very well done!



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

November 13, 2015



**MCF NAILS ANOTHER POSTIVE ACA ACCREDITATION.** Auditors with the American Correctional Association (ACA) had nothing but good things to say about Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) and Chain of Lakes (COL) Correctional Facility during its three-year Re-accreditation Audit this week. A team of 4 auditors from across the country visited Miami to make sure it was continuing to meet the ACA standards of an accredited facility. The team usually consists of 3 auditors, but because the addition of COL, and the distance between the facilities another auditor was put in place to help. Miami was first accredited in 2004. Superintendent Griffin said she was very proud of the staff at MCF/COL for its continuous support to the facilities. "We passed our 3 year ACA accreditation due to your hard work and dedication. I cannot say enough about how proud I am of you all and how grateful I am to have the opportunity to be your superintendent."

**CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH CLASSIC CARS COME TO BCF!** Last week, Branchville Correctional Facility hosted its first-ever classic car show. Community Involvement Coordinator, Brian Janiga, organized the event for the facility. Mr. Janiga invited four gentlemen from Crossroads Christian Church out of Evansville, Indiana, along with Branchville's own Substance Abuse Counselor Mike Rounds, to bring their classic cars into the facility. The cars included a 1939 Suburban, a 1959 Cadillac, a 1930 Pontiac, a 2015 Mustang and a 1966 Mustang. 250 offenders participated in the car show and 203 of them cast votes for their favorite car, and in the end, Mr. Rounds 1966 Mustang was the winner!



**CIF HONORS VETERANS IN A BIG WAY** Members of Correctional Industrial Facility's (CIF) Color Guard reminded the audience of the meaning of Veterans Day and the significance of the POW/MIA flag. The ceremony continued with remarks from Maintenance Supervisor Frank Whitmore who delivered a speech on the history of the Marine Corps. This was followed with the raising of the flags and CIF's band playing TAPS as well as a beautiful rendition of America the Beautiful. Superintendent Wendy Knight commented "It is humbling to reflect on the countless individuals that have sacrificed their well being and lives for the security of our country. Veterans Day is an important reminder of these sacrifices, it is our simple duty to honor these brave men and women and never forget their allegiance to our country."

**ISR, ICAN AND A LITTLE PUPPY LOVE!** The partnership between the Pendleton Correctional Facility and the Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) has provided a highly celebrated program to the facility's offenders and in a sense brought many staff and offenders together for a common goal. The price of training a puppy to become a service dog is high, but the rewards are never ending for everyone involved. Recently, the staff at PCF presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to ICAN to sponsor a puppy. Money raised by offenders assigned to ICAN through food sales, supplemented by a donation from the Superintendent's Community Involvement fund made the donation possible. "We support ICAN in many facets and we are proud of the accomplishments the ICAN program has achieved at this facility and other facilities," stated Assistant Superintendent Andrew Cole.



**COVENANT CHOIR GIVES INSPIRING PERFORMANCE AT IYC** for approximately 90 offenders last Friday. The group represents many churches in northern Indiana and is made up of both professionals and volunteers comprising about 50 members who sing at weekly worship services, events and concerts throughout the year. The choir sings a wide variety of selections from the renaissance to the modern era. The Covenant Choir is currently in its 14<sup>th</sup> year and performs in correctional facilities throughout the State.

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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

November 20, 2015



**REVIVAL TIME AT BCF!** Branchville Correctional Facility held its monthly revival. Rev. Pete Aldrich, a longtime volunteer at the facility, brought the message to over 170 offenders. At the conclusion of the service, over 20 offenders were baptized. Another highlight of the day was the fact that Mr. Terry Baker – a former Branchville offender and a current Branchville volunteer – made his first trip back to the facility since he was involved in a near-fatal automobile accident in September. As the state’s only faith and character facility, events like the monthly revival are fundamental to Branchville’s mission.

**IREF GIVES TO LOCAL NON-PROFIT A LIFT** The Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility Community & Volunteer Services Department donated \$1,500 to the Martin Center Sickle Cell Initiative Program. Martin Center Program Coordinator Sherry Coleman presented a brief lecture about Sickle Cell Disease and the medical advancements that have been made to combat the disease. Ms. Coleman stated that the donation money will be used to provided services and sickle cell screenings in the Marion County communities.



**HUNTER, ELI AND MASIE JOIN IN THE HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION.** The Indiana Women’s Prison in partnership with the Indiana Canine Assistance Network Offender ICAN handler Mindy Barber #115585 made a cheerleader costume for ICAN dog, Maisie. Other handlers were so impressed, they asked her to make more and Steeler Hunter and Seahawk Eli were big hits. Housekeeping DOL apprentice offender Andrea Hauptert #247761 assisted in the endeavor. Inquiring minds are left wondering where are the Colt’s colors?

**CTI STAFF MAKE PLANS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE** The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) administration recently conducted a Staff Assembly to provide employees with an update of significant events occurring at the facility and around the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) during the last quarter. Updates were given by Major Charlie Fox and Executive Assistant Matthew Worthman. Superintendent Wendy Knight spoke on the importance of dealing with the changing culture of offenders in the department and then welcomed special guest Matthew Bates a Retirement Plan Advisor from Hoosier START. Matthew gave a presentation on deferred compensation then remained after words to meet with staff members on their plans for retirement.



**MCF+USDOL = 218 GRADUATES!** Miami Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for 218 offenders completing U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship programs this week. MCF has the large number of apprenticeship programs behind prison walls, according to Doug Evans, Apprenticeship Program Director. It’s also one of 70 that was recognized by the U.S. DOL this year for the quality of its programs. Three different departments have multiple programs with MCF, including Aramark’s IN2Work Programs; PEN’s programs and the facility’s programs. “It’s more than just coming to work every day. You learn a job and a skill and with that you receive a certificate that is recognized nationally from the DOL, but it takes sometimes up to 6,000 hours to complete that program.” Said Superintendent Kathy Griffin.



**ISR HONOR VETS WITH DONATION** The Pendleton Correctional Facility American Legion Post 608 held a weekend ceremony to honor our Veterans. Special guests included Keynote Speaker, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Osburn, Summer Edgell from Indiana Warrior Alliance and the Salvation Army Donut Girls. As a commitment to their community, Post 608 made donations to the Indiana Warrior Alliance, Salvation Army and Mozel Sanders Foundation totaling \$4,256.00.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

December 4, 2015



**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FIRST EVER WEEKLY VIEWS CARTOON!** Do you like draw? Have you been told you have a great sense of humor? Well here's your chance to be discovered! Beginning next week we're accepting corrections-related cartoons. Content must be workplace appropriate and should not exceed 4 panels. Collaborations and multiple submissions are welcome. Winners will be notified upon selection and their name and drawing will be published in the Weekly Views beginning January 2016. Please submit your illustrations or questions to [irandolph@idoc.in.gov](mailto:irandolph@idoc.in.gov)

**MCF HOME OF WINNERS!!!** Two staffers at Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) were the beneficiaries of scholarships from the Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI) recently. Abygail Waggoner, daughter of MCF Maintenance Supervisor David Waggoner, received Rose Vaisvilas Public Service Scholarship of \$2,000. Abram Stamper, son of MCF Officer James Stamper, received the Supplies Scholarship of \$1,000. The CPAFI, a 501 (c) 3 charitable fund, provides short-term immediate monetary assistance to Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) employees or their immediate family members should they suffer a serious loss as a result of a natural disaster or catastrophic accident, or an employee dies at the workplace or otherwise while on duty. The fund also has allocated monies for scholarships for both staff and their families who are enrolled in college.



**THERE'S NEW EDITIONS AT ISR!** Assistant Superintendent of Re-Entry Andrew Cole and the Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) Team welcomes Alpine and her nine little girls (Rosa, Malala, Gloria, Golda, Maya, Wilma, Amelia, Eleanor, and Florence) which arrived at the Pendleton Correctional Facility a few days ago. The facility and the ICAN handlers are very excited about this new experience. And on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, Commissioner Lemmon presented Sergeant Jason Ernest with the CPAFI Scholarship for Public Safety in the amount of \$3,000. Sergeant Ernest will be graduating in December of 2017 with a Doctorate's Degree in Public Safety/Criminal Justice.

**HOLIDAY SPIRITS BRINGS TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY TO WVCF!** Christmas came early for three Indiana State University (ISU) students, thanks to a special presentation at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon delivered the good news, in the form of CPAFI fall scholarships! WVCF Caseworker Jennifer Walters received the Commissioner's Scholarship totaling \$5,000. Lindsay Vair, daughter of Physical Plant secretary Shawna Vair and Trent Carpenter, son of WVCF Hearing Officer Steve Carpenter each received a \$1,000 Supplies Scholarship. "CPAFI had some tough decisions to make, after considering 94 applications for scholarships," said Commissioner Lemmon.



**RCF/BCF/ISR OFFENDERS MAKES CHRISTMAS 'BEARABLE' FOR INDIANA CHILDREN** The Rockville Correctional Facility's Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) program crocheted 500 teddy bears as part of a state-wide PLUS project for Prevent Child Abuse Indiana. Each bear is going into a "toolbox" that is filled with other items to help new, at-risk parents. The toolboxes were created by Pendleton Correctional Facility PLUS offenders with lumber donated from the Branchville Correctional Facility. Along with the toolboxes, Prevent Child Abuse Indiana will be working with these families to help them learn proper discipline and coping skills. The toolboxes will be presented to this program in April 2016 as a part of Child Abuse Awareness Month. This PLUS project was spearheaded by Pendleton Correctional Facility Assistant Superintendent, Andrew Cole.



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Indiana Department of Correction

December 4, 2015



**ISP VETERAN OFFENDERS RAISE \$\$ FOR LOCAL CHARITIES:** The American Legion Post #130 an offender organization at the Indiana State Prison (ISP), held their annual Veterans Day Meeting and donated a total of \$1,750 to various charity organizations. \$500 was donated to American Legion Post 365 for their annual Children's Christmas Party; \$500 to American Legion Post 363; \$250 to the Boys and Girls Club of Michigan City, IN; \$250.00 to Stepping Stone Women's Shelter; and \$250 to Michigan City High School Junior R.O.T.C. program. Proceeds came from food sales, and donations from the offender population.



**ISR FAMILY GIVES TO NEEDY FAMILIES IN MADISON COUNTY** Over the holiday weekend, as we give thanks for our families and friends, there are those who struggle to provide a basic meal for their family. In the spirit and tradition of Thanksgiving, the staff at the Pendleton Correctional Facility donated 184 non-perishable food and other items for the South Madison Food Bank, who help feed residents in our community throughout the year.

**MCF STAFF COMPETE TO PROVIDE FOR LOCAL FAMILIES** Six "turkeys" competed recently in Miami Correctional Facility's Turkey Rumble Food Drive, racing around the track to see which team could collect the most food for local food pantries. With a whopping 928 items, K-Bracket's turkey came in first place. The winning team was promised a pizza party. All totaled the facility collected nearly 1,700 items, from canned fruits and vegetables to cereal and boxes of Mac & Cheese. The facility split the booty between the Salvation Army in Peru and the Kokomo Rescue Mission. To make the competition more visual, each team was given a turkey and a track that was put up around the facility's sallyport. As teams brought in items, they got to see their turkey move along the track. The facility began collecting items Nov. 4 and delivered everything on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November.



**BIG CONGRATS TO CIF LASTEST CPAFI WINNERS!** The Correctional Industrial Facility is proud to announce that Officer Nyah Vululleh and Taylor Poer, the daughter of CIF Investigator John Poer, recently were each presented \$1,000 CPAFI scholarships from Commissioner Lemmon. Taylor Poer is currently enrolled at Ball State University pursuing a degree in Theater Management, while Officer Vullulleh is currently enrolled in online classes working towards his degree in Criminal Justice. John Poer accepted on behalf of his daughter who was in class at that time and Officer Vululleh accepted personally from Commissioner Lemmon. Officer Vululleh and Investigator Poer were extremely grateful for the scholarships and gave thanks to the Commissioner and the CPAFI Board.

Don't forget this submit your cartoon to [irandolph@idoc.in.gov](mailto:irandolph@idoc.in.gov)

**(Your cartoon could be right here!!)**



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

December 11, 2015

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**THE THINGS YOU CAN FIND AT WALMART!** A chance encounter at a Washington, Missouri, Walmart helped the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) add a new member to the K-9 team. Vacationing WVCF K-9 Officer Jon Sexton was in the sporting goods section and started talking about ammunition with another shopper, Scott Bronnbauer. The talk turned to training dogs with Sexton indicating Wabash Valley needed an aggression dog. Bronnbauer said he owns Sovereign K-9 in Villa Ridge Missouri and had an aggression dog Heidi available, price tag....between 6 and 7 thousand dollars! When Officer Sexton explained the facility could not afford to buy a K-9, only accept donations, Bronnbauer said he would donate the fully trained Belgian Malinois to the facility. Wabash Valley Correctional Facility K-9 staff immediately travelled on their own time to Sovereign K-9 and picked up Heidi!



**MOTIVATED EMPLOYEES LIKE JACKIE KEEPS IDOC STRONG!** Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) is proud of their newest acquisition Jackie Scaife who was recently hired as the new Unit Team Manager at MCF. Ms Scaife started out as a correctional officer 18 years ago at Pendleton Correctional Facility. She transferred to New Castle Correctional Facility where she was promoted to sergeant and later lieutenant. With her goals being met upon obtaining the Unit Team Management position, Scaife has quickly set her sights on becoming an Assistant Superintendent. "Before I got this position, I didn't see that. But now I feel I can."



**CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT ISR!** Lemuel Vega and approximately 58 volunteers delivered Christmas packages filled with snacks and food items to the offenders at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) during the annual Christmas Behind Bars event. Prior to distribution, PCF staff prepared dozens of carts to deliver gifts to the housing units. Additionally, 33 Gospel Echoes volunteers from the Goshen, Indiana area delivered cookie packages to the offenders and staff, bringing extra joy during this holiday season. The volunteers delivered approximately 2600 bags of cookies along with handwritten messages on greeting cards and scripture address booklets. As they passed out their gifts to the offenders, they sang Christmas carols and participated in prayer with many of the offenders. The Christmas Behind Bars program reaches out to offenders throughout Indiana and the United States delivering their message of hope.



**BCF AND HCF HOST HEALTHY FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** Chaplain Tony Gray, director of the Healthy Family program at both facilities, hosted this year's annual family Christmas program. Some of the events' activities included fathers and their children decorating the Christmas tree, and the walls in the facilities' visiting rooms. Creating individualized Christmas ornaments and participating in Christmas-themed coloring contests. The goal of the Healthy Family program is to teach offenders communication and parenting skills so that they can become active, productive participants in the lives of their family members. In order for offenders to participate in the program, they must be conduct-free. In all, 119 individuals (30 offenders and 89 visitors) participated in the events.



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

December 11, 2015

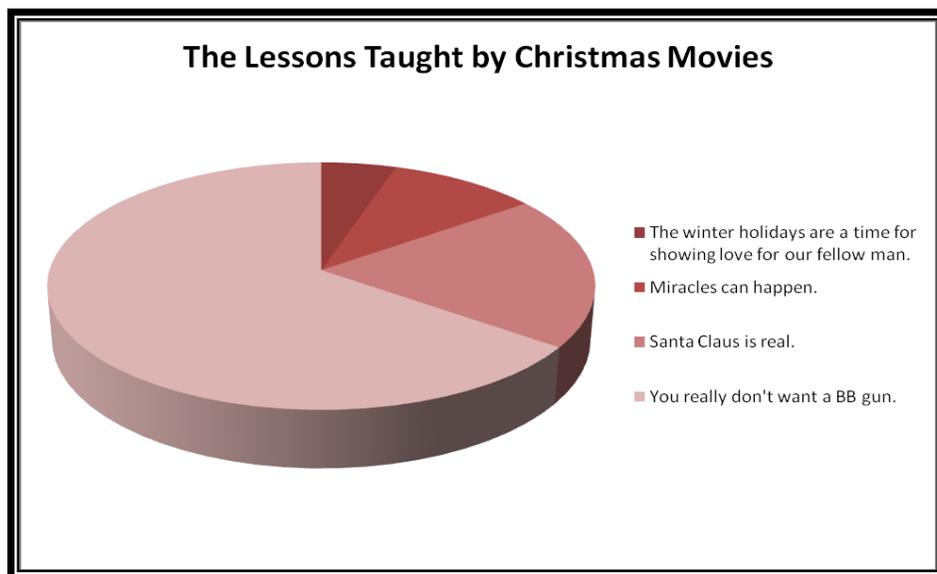


**A RELIEVED KEVIN ORME AND COMMISSIOR LEMMON SAY THANKS!** Facing \$246,000 in fines from United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) over violations accrued during the last fifteen years, Kevin Orme, Executive Director of Construction Services for the IDOC awarded Commissioner Coins to a dedicated group of individuals whose efforts averted a significant negative fiscal impact on the Agency. Over the course of a year this team put in thousands of man-hours to devise and direct the IDOC response, resulting in the acceptance of the SEP (a mitigation plan bringing the IDOC back into compliance). Left to right: *Tim Junk, Indiana Deputy Attorney General Lindsay Parazzo, Senior Staff Geologist, August Mack Environmental, Mike Chapman, Emergency Contracts Manager, IDOA, Jason Tillotson, Compliance Manager, August Mack Environmental, Jennifer Richards, Compliance Manager, August Mack Environmental, Tony Kunkler, Compliance Manager, August Mack Environmental, Greg Lintz, Director of Risk Management, Indiana Department of Correction, Anthony Henley, Compliance Manager, August Mack Environmental, Chuck Staehler, Principal Engineer for Compliance, August Mack Environmental.*



**MCF STAFFER FIRST RECIPIENT OF SD&T AWARD** Miami Correctional Facility Sgt. Mathew Jones recently received the first ever Indiana Department of Correction Staff Development & Training (SD&T) Award for his work as a Field Training Office at the facility. Jones, who was hired at MCF as an officer in January 2005, was one of five individuals across the state recognized as an outstanding Field Training Officer (FTO) by SD&T.

Executive Director Nancy Riley was on hand to personally present the Staff Development and Training Coin. "Jones is frequently mentioned for his professionalism, care and compassion towards new staff and his dedication to the FTO program," stated Mike Minthorn, Northern Regional Training Manager. "Jones ensures that new staff are taught the aspects of the job that will make them successful in corrections."



*Courtesy of the IDOC Research and Planning Division*



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# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

December 18, 2015



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**THIS YEAR ISF CHOIR PERFORMANCE ADDS PLAY!** The offenders from the Chapel Community at Putnamville Correctional Facility have been practicing extra hours since November in preparation for a Christmas pageant! This play was produced by Catholic volunteer, Mrs. Teresa Batto, who has been working on these shows for over five years. The offender actors portray "The Posada," the Mexican tradition of walking through Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph, and being as they are turned away at home after home. The play continues as the story of Christ's birth comes to fruition. Christmas hymns were sung by offenders and the participants from the audience in both English and Spanish.



**SANTA OPENS OUTLET CENTER AT RCF!** For the 11th year running, Rockville Correctional Facility staff played the part of Santa's elves, taking a turn in Santa's Workshop to help brighten the Christmas smiles of some Parke County Indiana youth in need. These elves donated time, money and effort to select, purchase and deliver gifts for 31 children attending the Parke County Elementary Schools of Montezuma, Turkey Run, Rosedale, and Rockville. RCF's Coordinating Elf, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Stacey Milner, expressed her gratitude to the giving staff by remarking, "Thank you all so much. It is rewarding to see the various shifts and departments come together to sponsor these children. They are going to be thrilled."



**ISR RECOGNIZES FASHION CHALLENGED WINTERWEAR CONTEST WINNERS!** Sarah Peckham and Kimberly McClish were the stars of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pendleton Correctional Facility Ugly Sweater Contest. Having the flair for the holiday spirit with a touch of gaudy set them in a class of their own. For their efforts, Ms. Peckham was honored with the first place prize and Mrs. McClish was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place.



**ISF PARTNERSHIP WITH SHIFTING GEARS PROVIDES GIFTS FOR 50 YOUTHS!** The Shifting Gears Program at Putnamville Correctional Facility, under the direct supervision of Program Coordinator Brady Moss and Program Director Kelli Searing, recently donated 50 children's bicycles to the Clover Kids and Cops Toy Drive in Cloverdale, Indiana. Putnamville was proud to be part of this venture with the Cloverdale FFA (Future Farmers of America) and the Putnam County Police departments have teamed up to serve over 500 needy children this holiday season.



**IREF, WISH-TV AND USMC TEAM UP TO ASSIST LOCAL YOUTHS FOR CHRISTMAS** IREF offenders donated more than \$1,000 in toys to the WISH-TV toy drive to benefit the Indiana Marine's Toys for Tots Program. Through the program, hundreds of disadvantaged Hoosier children will have toys to open on Christmas morning. WISH-TV 8 and a couple of marines came to IREF last week to collect the toys, the footage of which was aired live.



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December 30, 2015



**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE WEEKLY VIEWS CARTOON!** Do you like draw? Have you been told you have a great sense of humor? Well here's your chance to be discovered! We are now accepting corrections-related cartoons. Content must be workplace appropriate and should not exceed 4 panels. Collaborations and multiple submissions are welcome. Winners will be notified upon selection and their name and drawing will be published in the Weekly Views beginning January 2016. Please submit your illustrations or questions to [irandolph@idoc.in.gov](mailto:irandolph@idoc.in.gov)

**BCF LOSES TO TWO VETERAN GREAT EMPLOYEES TO RETIREMENT:** On December 29<sup>th</sup>, Officer Maureen Palmer retired, and on December 31<sup>st</sup>, Administrative Assistant Richard Newton retired. Ms. Palmer, who has worked as a Correctional Officer throughout her entire career, began her service at Branchville on November 22, 1993.



Superintendent Kathy Alvey stated, "Officer Palmer has been with the department for 22 years. She has held many different hats throughout her service. The one trait that stands out in my mind is she is always positive. She has a smile on her face and she was the same every day. I wish I could clone her work ethic and loyalty. She will be missed." Mr. Newton began his career at Branchville on November 29, 1982, as a Correctional Officer. Throughout his career he has been promoted numerous times, first to the position of Correctional Sergeant and retired as an Administrative Assistant II. Superintendent Alvey stated, "Rick Newton is like the last man standing and has helped shape and define the culture of Branchville."



### WVCF's VICTOR MANZO A SHINING STAR IN IDOC...AND THERE'S AN ARTICLE

**ABOUT IT!** PEN Plant Manager at WVCF, Victor Manzo, a 20 year veteran was featured in the Winter 2015 Edition of the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) Newsletter as PEN's Shining Star for his work and accomplishments at PEN/IDOC. Victor was very involved in various reentry programs with PENS Print Shop being the first occupation to be registered in the USDOL Apprenticeship program in 2006. Congrats, Victor!

**ISR PROVIDES THE GIFT OF WARMTH TO LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP** Through the generosity of Pendleton Correctional Facility staffers Mary Jo Lee and Jeff King during the annual Tree of Warmth campaign, approximately 65 scarves, hats and gloves were donated to Alternatives, Inc. located in nearby Anderson. Alternatives, Inc. is a shelter that supports women in abusive relationships, and their children, through the initial crisis with the ultimate strategy of helping them achieve an abusive free and financially independent life.



### RCF OFFENDERS COMBINE TWO SKILLS SETS TO CREATE TASTY PROJECTS

The Rockville Correctional Facility Culinary Arts and Building Trades classes have, in a joint venture, created two beautiful Gingerbread Houses which will be on display in the facility Visiting Center through the Holidays. The Building Trades students designed and created the framework for the houses, and the Culinary Arts students baked the gingerbread, made the icing and applied all of the candy and trimmings. The edible edifices are visible to all staff and visitors to view and enjoy.

### MCF OFFENDERS AND STAFF JOIN TOGETHER TO GIVE IN A BIG WAY!

For the second year in a row, Miami Correctional Facility has gotten into the Christmas spirit in a big way! Last year the facility donated more than 450 gifts to 66 children in Miami County. This year, the facility decided to reach a little further by "adopting" 215 children in four counties. While a somewhat daunting task at the beginning, the staff and offender population came through collecting a total of \$1,971 from offenders and purchasing more than 950 gifts. Gifts were donated to the staff at Healthy Families for distribution to the needy children in Cass, Fulton, Miami and Wabash counties. The gifts came from the more than 500 staff at the facility as well as funds were raised by offenders to purchase gifts.



Are you tired of being 1 out of 6,000 in the IDOC? A bland six digit PeopleSoft number? You can change that by simply joining the **IDOC Employee Highlights**, a new addition to our Weekly Views online newsletter. Just click [here](#) complete the survey and become an instant IDOC Idol to the other 6,000+ IDOC employees. You'll create an immediate fan base and be inundated with numerous paparazzi each focused on your every move.