

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction

# P.R.I.D.E.



Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

# AT WORK

Remember Our Troops

## DOC Staff on the Front Lines

The images of war, on the front page and on the nightly news, from the far away conflict in Iraq, have been brought back home to the Connecticut Department of Correction through a recent letter from a member of our staff who is courageously serving her country. Officer Shirley Lambert of the Northern Correctional Institution found herself far too close to the recent massive bombing by the Iraqi resistance that destroyed the United Nations headquarters in that country. Here is her letter.

*I just wanted to say hello to my fellow officers at Northern Correctional. It's been a long six months over here and another six months to go. Officer Howes who is a CO at MacDougall and I are in the same unit and we were also in the same class at the academy.*

Continued on Page 4, *Front Lines*



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## Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and ensure a secure, safe, and humane environment for offenders in a climate that promotes professionalism, respect, integrity, dignity, and excellence.

\* ~ ~ ~ ~ \*

## Bridgeport CC Helps Out

The Community Alliance Committee of Bridgeport Correctional Center has once again assisted two deserving, local teenagers to achieve their dream of continuing their education.



On Friday, August 29, 2003, Shashara Earle and Semone Bennet were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships at a brief ceremony organized by the committee and presented by Warden Walter Ford and Captain Willie Mobley. The awards are named for B.J. Brown, the young boy who was murdered in the city in 1999 while acting as a witness in a murder case.

Both young ladies graduated from Bassick High School in Bridgeport, and were awarded the scholarships based on academic excellence, community service and financial need. Ms. Earle now attends Johnson and Wales College in Rhode Island while Ms. Semone attends Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport. The awards are funded through charitable contributions and other events sponsored by the committee.



About and for  
correctional  
professionals

September 28  
Oct. 11, 2003

# Russian Visitors at Cheshire CI

For many years walls kept apart peoples of the East and West. Today walls are bringing them together. Inside the walls of the Cheshire Correctional Institution, both Russian and American criminal justice systems were discussed by officials from the facility and from the region of Pskov. In an ongoing exchange of ideas, several judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys were the guests of Warden James Dzurenda as he led them on a tour of the level four facility.



The dignitaries met first with the top brass who each gave a brief presentation, through an interpreter, to the attentive and inquisitive guests. "How much does it cost to house an inmate per day," asked one of the prosecutors who also is responsible for administrative prison duties. After the interpreter's translation, the Warden listed a breakdown of cost based on classification and other factors. With a sense of pride and astonishment at the figures, the Russian stated, "It costs us two dollars per day." The comparison and contrast of the systems dominated most of the discussions throughout the morning.

The contingent made note of the cleanliness and order of the institution and the professionalism of its staff on their tour that took them from segregation to the recreation yard. They inspected the cells, talked to the unit officers and witnessed a correctional K-9 demonstration.

The day concluded with the customary exchange of gifts, as is the common protocol for international visits. Personally engraved plaques, correctional carry all bags and the state's correctional patch were received with handshakes and smiles. Members of the facility in attendance received calendars with depictions of the Russian homeland.

With cultural differences set aside and common interests affirmed, the group posed for many photos that will undoubtedly be shown with a sense of pride around the globe.

**Pride.**  
*AT*  
**Work**

for  
September 28 -  
Oct. 11, 2003

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Submit items by  
Wednesday  
October 15 to be  
published in the  
next edition, and a  
month in advance  
for calendar events.



## *Reminder:*

Committee members for the Commissioner's Cup Golf Tournament are in the process of making final arrangements for the event scheduled on October 17th at the Rolling Meadows Country Club. If you are interested in registering or are registered and need to make a payment, please contact Rich Carthon at 860.692.7808, Thomas O'Connor at 860.692.7691 or Kelly Clark at 860.692.7768.



# Jack Serrazina Memorial Golf Tournament

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(L-R) D/C Murphy, Major Semple, C/S Cournoyer and Major Bussiere



Nicholas, Maria and Alex Serrazina



(L-R) Dave Willet, Dennis Willet, Gary Bells and Mark Holmes

It was another successful year for the Jack Serrazina Memorial Golf Tournament which was held on Friday Sept. 5th at the Chicopee Country Club. One hundred sixty four golfers turned out and helped raise over \$3000.00 towards the educational trust fund for Jack's two sons Nicholas and Alex. This was the third tournament held since Jack passed away in May of 2000. D/C Murphy who spoke to the crowd at the Hukelau restaurant during the awards ceremony stated "The DOC is one big family and when one passes away we all step up to support their family." The first place team from Carl Robinson included Dennis Willet, Mark Holmes, Dave Willet and Gary Bells. The second place team from Northern C.I. included Bernie Loubier, Jack Gilligan, Joe Depace, and Tony Trombly.

## Bergin CI Mourns Losses

In little more than three month's time, the tight knit family that is the staff of Bergin CI has had to repeatedly rely upon each other to deal with a trio of losses from its ranks. Most recently, Correctional Officer Richard Reyes, who was just 36, died at the end of September. Reyes was a member of the Quality of Work Life Committee and is remembered as the one who staff often sought out to help them cope with stress and grief. He had recently initiated a program to commemorate those no longer with us from the Bergin Correctional Institution. He had ordered a plaque with the names of the two staff members that had passed away earlier this summer, Correctional Officers Robin DeCarli (July) and John Cratty (August), both were 43 years old. Major Anthony Coletti said that the facility's staff will now add Richard's

name to the plaque that he ordered. Warden Eileen Higgins has asked that departmental staff reach out to their friends and co-workers from Bergin CI to lend their support as they grieve yet another loss. "There is no promise of tomorrow, only the hope that it will come, so remember to appreciate those around you today," said Warden Higgins.

The following poem was submitted to the PRIDE staff anonymously in memory of the fallen staff from Bergin. Our hearts and prayers go out to family and friends.

### COPING

*In this summer and the fall, three so young we have had cause, to helplessly grieve their loss.*

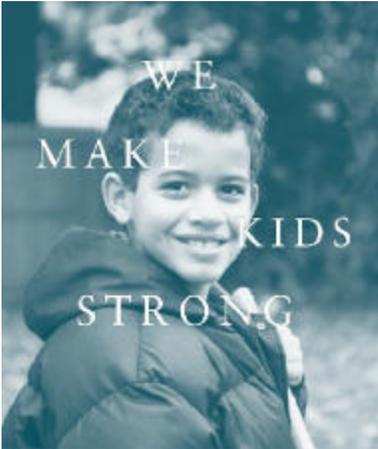
*We must cling to each precious day of our own lives through our struggle but also feel blessed, with memories of their cheerful laughs and dreams, that they can never have again.*

*And we will wonder why we still live and breathe, but, they so young to have to die. They touched our lives through work and play let's not forget them as we pray that maybe in another life we will reunite as friends one day.*

Anonymous  
Sept 2003

# DOC Announces New BBBS Liason

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Director of Security Dennis Jones is pleased to announce the appointment of Mary Dunn, Volunteer Programs Manager at Garner CI, as our Department's new liaison with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS). Both agencies interface as partners in investing in the success of our troubled youth. As the liaison, Ms. Dunn will be working with the 30 facility coordinators to enhance recruitment efforts for BBBS mentors within our agency. Ms. Dunn has been a Department employee for 11 years as a Volunteer Programs Manager and has been Garner CI's BBBS coordinator for 4 years. Under the former liaisons, Captain Heather Ziemba of the Security Division and Principal Personnel Officer Mitch Drabik (recently transferred to the Department of Economic & Community Development), the Department of Correction grew to 68 employees involved in the program, making the DOC the agency with the highest number of participants.

For those interested in becoming a mentor with BBBS please see your facility coordinator, or contact Ms. Dunn at 203-270-2832.

## Front Lines, *Cont'd*

*Our unit is the 411<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs out of Danbury, CT. Our unit was located behind the United Nations building when it was bombed by a car bomb. Officer Howes and I were among the first to respond to the injured. The training we received at the academy and in service training was used to help the injured people. We are very lucky that it wasn't any closer than it was. The windows in our compound were blown in and we thought we were under attack. I thought the department would like a picture to show everyone, the picture was taken approximately 3 minutes after the explosion from the top of our compound. We now have moved to a location that is much safer. We all miss our families and our friends within both facilities.*



C/O Shirley Lambert of Northern CI



C/O Michael Howes of MacDougall-Walker CI

With immense pride, we salute Correction Officers Shirley Lambert and Michael Howes. Their bravery and commitment to our country is an inspiration to us all. On behalf of the Department of Correction, may they safely and swiftly return home to us.

*If you would like to stay in touch with Officer Lambert, she has authorized the release of her e-mail address which is: shirley.lambert@us.army.mil.*

# 35 Years of Serving a Higher Authority

A captive congregation of nearly 21,000 and the oversight of a diversity of religious services far beyond Catholicism is likely not what the Reverend Anthony J. Bruno had in mind when he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Hartford in 1968. But now 35 years later, as Director of Religious Services for the Connecticut Department of Correction, Father Bruno's congregation must rank among the largest in the state of Connecticut.



Director of Programs and Treatment, Mary Johnson has requested that Father Bruno's correctional family join with him in celebrating this milestone anniversary of his ordination. "Through Father Bruno's inspirational direction, the inmate population continues to be provided with the spiritual strength and solace that are essential to their future success," said Director Johnson. "The agency is truly blessed to have him." Ordained in the same year the Department was formed, he began with the agency as an institutional Chaplain in 1987. He then became a Supervising Chaplain and was appointed Director in 1999. He also served as a United States Army Reserve Chaplain from 1975 to 1996. Father Bruno is one of only 69 Chaplains in the country presently certified by the American Correctional Chaplain's Association. Additionally, he has always been involved in community service as a Chaplain to the Enfield Police Department, a member of the town's Juvenile Review Board, Chaplain of the Mt. Carmel Society in Enfield and as a Fire Commissioner in Somers.

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## Congrats



Warden Christine Whidden of the Enfield CI and her husband are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel Elizabeth. The proud parents tell us that the new addition topped the scales at 6 lbs. 15 oz.

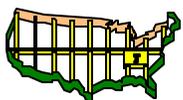


The staff at Northern CI would like to congratulate Correctional Officer James Zuccalo on the birth of their son, Dominic Paolo born August 30, weighing 8lbs. - 10oz. and was 22 inches long.

## MVP-card recipients:

Andrade, Mark	CSS	CO
Bancroft, Constance	Sec II	CRCI
Bernard, Mary	Sec I	CRCI
Brown, Edward,	CC	CEU
Concepcion, Josh	CSS	CO
Crowley, Gerry	C/O	CRCI
Dagenais, James	C/O	CRCI
Demorro-Bobe, Madeline	CC	NHCC
Dugan, Cariann	C/O	MYI
Hoffman, Sandra	C/O	CRCI
Johnson, Bruce	CC	MYI
Kehoe, Charles	C/O	CRCI
Knox, Beverly	Lt.	NHCC
LaPorte, William	CMS	CRCI
LaRosa, Dorigene	Sec I	CEU
Major, Monique	CC	CEU
Oullette, Andrea	Sec II	CEU
Rizzuto, Dawn	CC	CEU
Williams, Christopher	C/O	MCWI

## Around the cell block



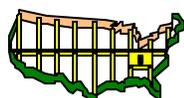
Mississippi- 250 jobs were created in the struggling county where 1,400 inmates were accepted from Alabama's crowded prison system.



Connecticut- Easing voting restrictions for ex-offenders, here and in seven other states has lead to the restoration of voting rights for a half a million former inmates since 1996.



Florida- Twenty-two inmates have sued in federal court to stop what they contend is the "sadistic" use of pepper spray.



Kentucky- A 68-year-old man was sentenced to 15 months for falsely stating that the bakery goods he sold were low fat.

# DOC at the New Britain Rock Cats

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In observance of National Correctional Employee Week, on Friday September 5<sup>th</sup>, The New Britain Rock Cats and the NP4 Labor Management Stress Reduction Committee hosted an exciting evening of professional playoff baseball. The event

featured an all you can eat buffet from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and was attended by 230 DOC “fans.” Commissioner Lantz participated in the activities and threw out the first ceremonial pitch. The night was enjoyed by all that attended despite the 8-1 loss to the New Haven Ravens.

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## Captain Bazin Says Farewell



Vincent Santopietro (Retired)  
Director, Security Division and  
Capt. Cindy Bazin

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Connecticut Department of Correction for making my nearly 9 years in the department a wonderful experience. In August 2003, I relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada to accept a position with Sprint, as a Security Investigator in their Corporate Division. As their Security Investigator, I am conducting Internal Affairs investigations in offices located in Nevada, Arizona and Utah.

During the time I was with the DOC, many great career opportunities became available to me and I met some fantastic people along the way. I will never forget how much experience I gained regarding conducting investigations and the friendships I made throughout the years.

I would like to thank Commissioner Lantz for being so supportive of my decision to pursue this opportunity; your kindness and support is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank all the supervisors that I have worked for.

Throughout our careers there are certain people that make such a positive impact on how we develop as individuals. Although there are so many people that have made good impressions on me, I would like to give special thanks to retired Director of Security Vincent Santopietro for being the greatest mentor and supervisor; I learned so much from you and hope to emulate your qualities throughout my career.

Throughout my life, I have been told to live life without regrets and be willing to take risks to get where you want to be. I am very much enjoying this new chapter of my life and I wish everyone much success and happiness in all you decide to do with your life. Best wishes and thanks for everything!

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Bazin

# Calendar

## Hat & Mitten Drive



The John R. Manson Youth Institution is coordinating a "Hat and Mitten" drive during the month of October. The collected items will be donated to Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury which provides emergency shelter to women and children who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and to Waterbury Youth Services which provides shelter to abused and abandoned children. Anyone wishing to participate in this drive may do so by bringing their donations to Manson Youth Institution or contact OA Carey Milutis @ 203-806-2554 to arrange for pickup.

**October 13**  
Columbus Day -  
State Holiday



**November 7**  
Cheshire CI is hosting a dance at the N.O.W. Auditorium on 232 North Elm Street, Waterbury CT from 8 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. The donation in advance is \$5.00 or \$7.00 at the door- BYOB. Music will be provided by Leonard "Boo the Blacksmith" Jahad.

## Nutmeg Games say Thank You



The executive director of the Nutmeg State Games has written to thank Commissioner Theresa Lantz for the continuing

support and commitment of our agency in assisting with not only the Nutmeg Games but also the Connecticut Senior Games and the State Games of America National Championship. Work details from the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution were provided for the games, under the supervision of Officers Jason Gaudet, Mat Harding, Joe Presz, Jeff Stannard and Doug Healy. Nutmeg State Games Executive Director William Mudano, in his letter of appreciation to Commissioner Lantz said, "Your people were absolutely great".

## Agency good neighbor

### Willard-Cybulski



The Board of Directors of Enfield Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen extended a sincere thanks for the \$500 donation made by the Willard-Cybulski CI photo program fund. This donation contributes to the fight against hunger.

### Willard- Cybulski -



WCCI received an acknowledgement from Tom Baziak, President of the Town of Enfield Fourth of July Celebration Committee thanking the Willard-Cybulski Community Service Program for their support in the preparation and dismantling of the annual Fourth of July celebration. Thanks to the generous support and assistance, the event was an enjoyable, first quality, problem-free community event.

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## DOC/Parole Consolidation Underway

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz is pleased to announce that she has chosen Warden Robert Gillis of the Gates Correctional Institution, to oversee the consolidation of the Board of Parole into the Department of Correction which was recently mandated by the Connecticut Legislature. Gillis is the agency's senior warden, with 33-years of experience within the field of corrections and extensive expertise with the conditional community release of offenders. He will chair a transition committee to be made up of both DOC and Parole personnel. The Commissioner has established a mandate for the committee of seamlessly merging and improving the community supervision function of the two agencies while achieving any cost savings possible through the combining of redundant functions. The Transition Committee's first meeting is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Supervised Population

On Oct. 3

**20876**

On Oct. 3, 2002 the population was 21,102