

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction

# P.R.I.D.E.



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

# AT WORK

Remember Our Troops

## Guarding History

They first appeared on the plains of the midwest around 1866, named for their appearance and revered for their fighting skill. To Native-Americans, they looked like Buffalos and



(L-R) C/O Henry Agudelo, C/O Willie Jackson , Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Capt. Ronald Pittman, CC Robert Gray and Chauncey Dunbar (grandson of CC Gray)

acted as warriors. They were the “Buffalo Soldiers”, African-American, Army regulars who engaged in battles against many Native-American tribes including the fierce Apache.

Today, ceremonial groups including members of our own Department of Correction honor the soldiers.

Continued on Page 3  
*History*

\* ~ ~ ~ ~ \*

## Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community re-integration

\* ~ ~ ~ ~ \*

## Alderwoman Speaks at Brooklyn CI

As she stood before a rapt inmate audience, Norwich Alderwoman Jacqueline Caron made it starkly clear that she once had been in their position, a convicted felon serving time with a past that included homelessness, alcoholism, an abusive relationship and her children in the custody of the state. “I’ve done bad things, but I’ve learned from them,” she said. “You can rewrite the story of your life, that’s what I did.” Caron visited the facility as part of the observation of Black History Month, at the invitation of Warden Daniel Martin, with whom she attended college. “Her journey in overcoming adversity is an inspiration for all of us,” said Warden Martin. Caron who was recently in contention for the presidency of the Norwich Board of Alderman told how at one point she’d been employed to dust the desk she now sits at in the City Hall chamber. As a city official, she now oversees the budget of the man for whom she had worked.

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About and for  
correctional  
professionals

February 15 -  
28, 2004

# New Class Pilots Innovative Training

When Pre-Service Class 224 arrived at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development on February 20<sup>th</sup>, some of the assembled cadets learned that their 10 weeks of training would take a far different path than that followed by the scores of correctional professionals who've come before them. Under an innovative new training program the class



will be divided into two groups. One of two groups will not follow the traditional six weeks of academy training followed by four weeks of on the job training. Instead, a pilot group of cadets will on a weekly basis receive classroom instruction at the Academy that they will then have the opportunity to immediately apply during that same week at their assigned facilities. Additionally, their time at those facilities will be guided by an assigned mentor who will work with them and the academy staff in this joint training venture. "The opportunity to translate classroom instruction to real world expectations and circumstances will be invaluable in the training experience," said MCTSD Director Sandra Sawicki. "Our greatest resource is our staff, and this pilot program will enrich this resource by improving the quality of training afforded our entry-level employees." It is anticipated that the experiences gained from this pilot program will be applied to and utilized with future Academy classes.

## V.O.I.C.E.S. Give Back

The Office of Victim Services is \$102 richer thanks to a group of inmates from the Corrigan-Radgowski CC Victim Offender Institutional Correctional Educational Services (VOICES) program. The inmates, under the direction of Correctional Counselor Patricia Brito, held a fundraiser as part of their group requirements for a Community Service Project and then donated the proceeds. Victim Services Supervisor, Linda Johnson was on hand at the VOICES graduation ceremony to receive a check from the participants. The money will go directly to victim compensation



Linda Johnson of the Office of Victim Services and Counselor Patricia Brito of CRCC

Continued on Page 7, *Voices*

# Pride. *AT* Work

for  
February 15 - 28,  
2004

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Submit items by  
Wednesday  
February 25 to be  
published in the  
next edition, and a  
month in advance  
for calendar events.

## Alderwoman, Cont'd

Caron explained that she obtained a pardon on her road to recovery, which now finds her working as a legislative aide to State Senator Edith Prague. But she unabashedly puts her past on display so that others may benefit from it. "If anybody is going to tell on me, I'm going to tell on me," she said. Among the members of the inmate audience was Carson's son, who is serving a sentence for violation of probation. The Alderwoman freely admitted that her choices in life had adversely affected her children. But her son offered that he is now trying to follow his mother's path. Caron's message to the inmates was straightforward. No one owes them anything and they alone are responsible for their actions. As for their term of incarceration, she urged them to use it wisely. "Educate yourself, learn from your time here and try to forgive yourself," Caron said.

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Alderwoman Caron addresses inmates at Brooklyn CI

## History, Cont'd

On February 19, 2004, several members donning historical uniforms mustered at Central Office to display the literature, paintings and weaponry of this historic outfit.

As two soldiers stood guard, guests, including Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz were invited to tour the display, which included rifles, swords, and other memorabilia. Videos and books were available on a number of related topics, but each of the soldiers was knowledgeable in historical fact in addition to looking the part.

The event was one of many scheduled throughout the Department in observance of Black History Month. Robert C. Jackson, Director of Equal Opportunity Assurance toured the exhibit and commended the organizers and participants stating "I truly enjoyed the exhibit. You should be proud of what you have accomplished. It was great."

## Agency good Thank you neighbors

**Webster CI** - Warden James Dzurenda presented a check for \$500.00 during a tour of the Community Solutions, Inc., a residential program for at risk adolescent girls. The money was raised by Webster CI staff through the inmate photo program which allows inmates to purchase pictures of themselves to send to family and friends during the holiday season. Two gingerbread houses, prepared by food service staff, were also donated.

**New Haven CC** - The staff of the New Haven CC completed its season for charitable giving by donating clothes and food to assist 75 families during the holiday season. Major Melvin Wells thanked CC Robin Hobson, C/O Jose Reveron, C/O Wanda Dunmore, Secretary Angela Cook and Major Theresa Kearney for coordinating the event.

**Corrigan-Radgowski CI** - Ann Sloan Devlin, Ph.D., a Professor of Psychology at Connecticut College, sent a letter of thanks to Counselor Kevin Blackburn for his "generous gift of time." Recently CC Blackburn led tours of the Corrigan-Radgowski CC for an Environmental Psychology class. The tours were "thorough, professional and informative." Additional thanks were extended to Warden Tarascio and Secretary Dior Mulholland for their roles in making the tour possible.

**Robinson CI** - Officer Chris Thomas of the Manchester Police Department wrote to Commissioner Lantz commending the administration and staff of Robinson CI for the "thorough and highly informative" tour. Officer Thomas thanked Major Christopher McDonald for arranging the tour which was led by CC Frank Salls, CTO Albert Bonfiglio and C/O Angel Vazquez.

Continued on Page 5, *Neighbors*

# WCCI honors staff

Warden Bruce Cuscovitch honored staff members at a ceremony on February 4, 2004. Correctional Counselor Ruth Jansen and Officer Dorienda Loveless were named the Employees of the Quarter and presented with awards and sports jackets. The 2003 Annual Facility Award recipients were also recognized. Jeffrey Stannard was awarded Officer of the Year for his assistance to a motorist involved in an accident on December 11, 2002.

Officer Stannard approached the heavily damaged



(L-R) CC Jansen, CO Loveless, CC Wahlberg, Warden Cuscovitch, Captain McKinney and CO Williams

vehicle to find the driver disoriented and wandering into oncoming traffic. Officer Stannard, placing his own safety at risk, pulled the driver away from traffic and remained with her until emergency services arrived. Correctional Counselor John Wahlberg was awarded the Circle of Merit Award for his assistance in the apprehension of an inmate on escape status. While completing a background check on a proposed special visit, John discovered a message through the NCIC system which appeared to be an alias for the visitor. Further investigation revealed that the visitor was a DOC inmate who had been on escape status since 1991. CC Wahlberg followed up with custody staff, Community Enforcement and Connecticut State Police. As a result of his diligence and commitment to excellence, the department was able to apprehend this individual and return him to custody.

In addition, Captain Joyce McKinney was awarded Manager of the Year and Velma Williams Employee of the Year.

## Basic Security Concepts

Submitted by: Deputy Commissioner Brian K. Murphy

As you may be aware, there have been several critical incidents in corrections across the country in the last year that have compromised both public and staff safety.

These incidents include escapes, disturbances, areas and staff overtaken, and the introduction of a firearm into a facility. These are some of the most serious events that can transpire in a correctional environment.

In examining these incidents, there is one consistent factor in each of the events – staff deviated from security procedures. Though we have well developed emergency procedures to respond to emergencies, attention to

Continued on Page 6, *Security*

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## MCTSD Staff attend Conference

The International Association of Correctional Training Personnel (IACTP) held their 19<sup>th</sup> annual conference recently in Philadelphia, PA. The conference was hosted by the City of Philadelphia Prison System and the Pennsylvania Department of Correction. IACTP is a professional organization for correctional trainers to support excellence in training and staff development. The organization PRIDES itself on offering an innovative and robust conference focusing on the latest technologies and techniques for correctional training personnel. Philadelphia is recognized as the birthplace of modern day corrections and the “Philadelphia Model” of corrections. This year’s conference included two presenters from the Connecticut Department of Correction. Counselor Supervisor Jerry Wagner of the MCSTD presented workshops on Mentoring as a Staff Development Strategy and Concept Mapping as a Tool for Correctional Trainers. Curriculum Specialist Linda Rubin co-presented with Steve Swisher of NIC, workshops on E-Learning in Corrections. Ms Rubin is President-elect of the IACTP and was active on the conference organizing committee. Next year’s IACTP conference is in Boston, Mass. If you would like information on IACTP please contact Linda or Jerry at (203) 271-5100.

# Did you know?



*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have an idea or question for a future column please contact David Batten, Acting Director at 860-692-7554*

Well, it's that time of year again when we find ourselves turning up the thermostat, loading the woodstove, stoking the fireplace or even using a portable heater in an effort to keep warm. Along with this comfort comes the hidden danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Yes, carbon monoxide poisoning can result from a blocked chimney opening, but believe it or not, there are other potential household hazards. An improperly installed kitchen range or cooktop vent could be a source of carbon monoxide, as well as a gas or wood-burning fireplace; refrigerator or clothes dryer; a corroded or disconnected water heater vent pipe or operating a barbecue grill in an enclosed area such as a garage.

Take a few minutes of your time to use the following checklist to ensure the safety of your family.

- \* Forced air furnaces are frequent sources of carbon monoxide leaks and should be checked carefully for signs of corrosion, rust, gaps and holes.
- \* Check the burner of your natural gas furnace for a flame that is mostly yellow in color. This is often a sign of fuel that is not burning completely.
- \* Oil furnaces that are not burning properly often emit an "oily" smell.

- \* Check all appliances in your home that use flammable fuels such as kerosene, natural gas, oil, wood and propane.
- \* Be sure that space heaters are properly vented.
- \* Check fireplaces for debris, blocked or bent flues, soot and debris.
- \* Check the clothes dryer vent outside the house for lint.
- \* Stovetops or ovens that operate on flammable fuels should not be used to heat a residence.
- \* Barbeque grills should never be used in an enclosed areas such as a garage.

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For maximum protection, two carbon monoxide detectors are recommended per household.

*If you have any questions, please contact Rick Hamel at 860.692.7566.*

## Agency, Cont'd

**Corrigan-Radgowski CC** - Correction Officers Leeartis Nevith and Steven Golas spoke to more than 100 students at Griswold High School



C/O Steven Golas

recently about making poor life choices and the consequences of their actions. Students listened intently and asked many questions following an overview of the daily operations within a facility.



C/O Leeartis Nevith



**Garner CI** - Carl Ruegg, Recreation Supervisor at the Garner CI presented a \$500 donation to the Harambee Center for Youth and Community Services in Danbury. This donation was made possible through the prison's "Photo Project" where inmates pay a fee to have their picture taken for family/

friends. Profits from the Photo Project are then distributed to a charitable organization. Studies have shown that inmates who maintain healthy relationships while incarcerated have been shown to deter their criminal behavior upon release from prison.



(L-R) Recreation Supervisor Carl Ruegg of Garner CI, Executive Director Bill Curtis and Administrative Assistant Julie Barnes of the Harambee Center.

# Security, Cont'd

duty and prevention is of the utmost importance. The day to day, shift to shift performance of our basic duties must not be overlooked. Staff performance of their duties, in accordance with policy and procedures, coupled with the vigilance of monitoring one's environment are paramount to good security and prevention of incidents.

Simple correctional basics, such as security checks, tours, seeing living breathing flesh, and following post orders and directives are mandatory for us to fulfill our mission.

In addition to these basic concepts, there are two additional areas that are critical to good safety and security. We need to assure that we are locking doors that should be locked, and not leaving them open for convenience. Every report on a major incident in corrections always revealed that a basic security concept, such as leaving a door open, which should have been locked, was left open.

Another area that is a major factor in institutional staff safety is accounting for and locking cleaning supplies and utensils. Many times these items are utilized against staff, and inmates, when an incident occurs.

In closing, I ask for your continued assistance in adhering to these basic correctional principles and being proactive in your daily duties. The improved safety of all shall result if we embrace these basic concepts.

## MVP's

Baklavas, John	CFSS	ECI
Barnes, Marie	Lt	CCI
Bazzano, Robert	C/O	ECI
Boyd, Donald	C/O	McWCI
Brighthaupt, Jon	Lt	HCC
Brace, Kevin	C/O	NCI
Bukowski, Andrew	C/O	HCC
Camp, Dennis	C/O	HCC
Camp, George	CC	McWCI
Cardoso, Hilda	Sec I	BCC
Castanguay, Peter	C/O	NCI
Coutant, Christopher	Capt	HCC
DeMaria, Robert	Lt	ECI
Donahue, Mark	Lt	CCI
Ellridge, David	C/O	HCC
Freeman, Patricia	Lt	CCI
Gamache, Scott	C/O	OCI
Groh, Lawrence	C/O	BCI
Haberem, Sonya	C/O	McWCI
Hernandez, Darvin	C/O	BCC
Hine, Tom	C/O	OCI
Jones-Williams, Gail	C/O	ECI
Krob, Jeremiah	C/O	NCI
Lorenzi, Sylvia	C/O	ECI
Mahan, Pauline	Rec Spec	BCI
Mannette, Stephen	CFSS II	HCC
Manley, Kevin	Lt	McWCI
Mularski, Peter	C/O	ECI
Neuendorf, Pamela	Sec II	BCC
O'Connor, Diane	Sec I	McWCI
Rios, Maria	C/O	OCI
Ruggeri, Michael	Lt.	OCI
Santana, Jose	C/O	ECI
Schmidt, Kevin	Lt	BCI
Sutherland, Ross	CC	ECI
Renaud, Gerry	C/O	BCI
Tavernier, Jean	C/O	OCI
Thomas, Brian	GMO	HCC
Trapasso, David	CS	BCC
Wagner, Christopher	C/O	CCI
White, Harry	C/O	ECI
Wiener, Joseph	C/O	ECI
Wojcik, David	C/O	HCC
Vail, Kurt	C/O	OCI
Velazquez, William	C/O	BCC

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## Congrats



CFSSII Steve Mulhall of MYI and his wife Donna Marie Mirabilio are pleased to announce the birth of their second son Nicholas Mirabilio Mulhall. Nicholas was born on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and weighed 5lbs and 15 oz. Nicholas is the grandson of Retired CFSSII Maria Mirabilio and the nephew of Local 1565 President Tom Mulhall of Garner. Nicholas joins his "big Brother" Anthony.

## EOQ's

### Corrigan-Radgowski CC -

Correctional General Maintenance Officer Peter Hodina of the Corrigan-Radgowski CC was honored as Employee of the Quarter for Facilities Management and Engineering – South District.

Nick Costanzo, PFE 1, Chairman of the Committee, made the presentation citing that Mr. Hodina is a versatile employee who always goes the extra mile to complete tasks, troubleshoots problems and helps others. He comes to work with a good attitude and is usually available for overtime call-ins.

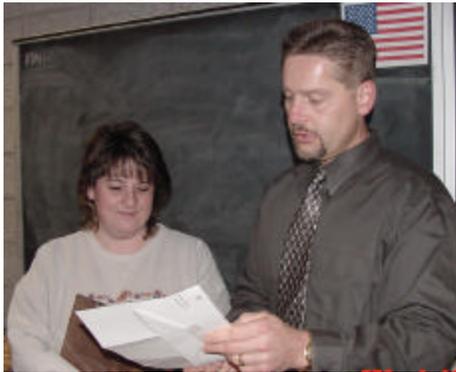


GMO Peter Hodina

Continued on Page 7, EOQ's

# EOQ's Cont'd Calendar

**Northern CI** - Warden Wayne Choinski of Northern CI presented Employee of the Quarter Awards to Record Specialist Tracey Hannan and C/O Dino Cicchetti recognizing their efforts as professional, dedicated employees.



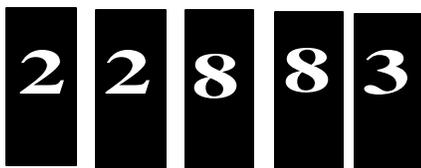
(L-R) Record Specialist Tracey Hannan and Warden Choinski

## Voices, Cont'd

programs that help fund a variety of services such as medical bills and counseling. The VOICES program is designed to help offenders learn about the impact of their crime on victims. Counselor Brito stated that the program has helped change the attitudes of inmates involved. Ms. Johnson also noted that this is the first donation of its kind. All benefit from the effort as the inmates learn about the impact of their crime on victims at the same time as they help.

## Supervised Population

February 25, 2004



On Feb. 25, 2003 the population was 23,140.

### March 7

“Buffalo Soldiers” will host a Lecture and Historical Exhibition at the LP Wilson Community Center in Windsor, CT from 2 PM -4 PM. For more information, contact Captain Ron Pittman at (860) 692-7579.

### March 9



The Joe Bongiorno DOC Golf League will have an organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 9th (weather permitting) for both last year's members and anyone interested in playing during the 2004 season. The meeting will be held at JoAnne's Restaurant on Rte. 190 in Somersville, CT from 4:30 -5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in the league is encouraged to call either Ed Korza at 860.763.7352 or Larry Soine at 860.763.6391. League President Ed Fedorowich looks forward to seeing you at JoAnne's!

### March 13



A Retirement Party for Nick Riccuito and Steve Alspaugh both of the Webster CI will be held at the Brass Tacs Cafe, 175 Freight Street, Waterbury CT on Saturday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m. A \$25.00 donation includes a buffet and gift. For tickets you may contact C/O Palmieri or Lt. Panasci at 203.271.5900.

### March 20

Correction Officer Karl (Kurt) McKinney of the MacDougall-Walker CI will be honored as Worshipful Master by the Prince Hall Masons- Tuscan Lodge #17 at the LaRenaissance in East Windsor from 6:30 p.m. until midnight. Tickets are \$50. Please contact Robert Horn at (860) 614-7941 for additional information.

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### March 27

Correction Officer Lucius Miles of the MacDougall-Walker CI will be honored as Worshipful Master by the Prince Hall Masons- St. Peter's Lodge #20 at the SkyLine Restaurant in Windsor from 7:00 p.m. until midnight. Tickets are \$40. Please contact Stephan Smith at (860) 296-2965 for additional information.

## Condolences

Dave Batten, Acting Director, Facilities Management & Engineering and Warden James Dzurenda are saddened by the passing of:



Azor “Ed” Kelly, Retired Electrical Supervisor at Cheshire CI. Mr. Kelly retired on March 31, 2003 after 13 years of service.



Frieda W. Palmisano, mother of Robert Palmisano, a General Maintenance Officer at Webster CI.



Dave Batten, Acting Director, Facilities Management & Engineering and Dan Callahan, Director of Human Resources extend their condolences to the family of Edward Garner, father of General Maintenance Supervisor Rick Garner and father-in-law of Susan and Kathy Garner.



Robert Foltz and staff of the Fiscal Services Unit are saddened to announce the passing of Jan Beaugard's mother Wilda Beaugard.