

The Connecticut
Department
of Correction

P.R.I.D.E.



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

AT WORK

Remember Our Troops

Governor, Commissioner send-off Troops

In a massive Windsor Locks military hanger, framed by two menacing Black Hawk helicopters, the 50 members of the departing 189th Aviation Regiment of the Connecticut Army National Guard stood at attention before their family and friends. The next day, they would be on their way to Oklahoma and then on to Iraq for up to an 18-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Among the assembled troops was Correctional Officer Sean Ryalls, a 12-year veteran of our agency who was last assigned to the Enfield Correctional Institution. Now in the uniform of his country, he serves as a crew chief on one of the Black Hawks. During the ceremony, Governor M. Jodi Rell, Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz and other dignitaries expressed their gratitude to the troops. "As someone who has been to war, let me say this, take care of each other," said Veterans Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz. Commissioner Lantz had come to the ceremony in a continuing expression of support for activated DOC staff.



Governor M. Jodi Rell with C/O Sean Ryalls

Continued on Page 2, *Troop send-off*

From the Commissioner

Without question, the most important day of my week is Monday, when my Executive Team and I are able to tour a facility, witness our continuing success, and meet one-on-one with our staff. These are some of the longest days we put in because my mandate to the warden is that we go to every unit and meet with as many staff as is possible. We also try to be present at second shift roll call as often as we can. Not only does this keep us connected with the tremendous work that is being carried out day in and day out at our facilities, but it also gives us the opportunity to directly discuss with you the latest improvements made in our agency, your suggestions for further advancement and any concerns that you may have, all of which



Continued on Page 2, Commissioner

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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 reintegration

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About and for
correctional
professionals

September
12 - 25, 2004

Troop send-off, Cont'd

“We are so proud of the more than 100 courageous men and women of our agency, such as Sean, who are now serving our country,” said Commissioner Lantz. The Commissioner presented Officer Ryalls with a Commissioner’s award coin to carry with him during his deployment. She is giving the Award to all staff activated for military duty. Commissioner echoed the words of the Governor in pledging to Officer Ryalls family, that their extended correctional family is here to assist them until he safely returns home.



(L-R) Sue Ryalls, C/O Sean Ryalls, Kaleigh Ryall, Phyllis Ryalls, Commissioner Theresa Lantz and Pam Sawyer

Commissioner, Cont'd

are constantly evolving within our Department. It has become clear over the past few months, that one of the major issues of concern for our staff is overtime, especially those shifts that must be mandated. As we are all aware, overtime is a fact of life for our profession. Regardless of the other constraints that outside responsibilities require of us individually, our shifts must still be covered and our facilities must be fully staffed around the clock, throughout the year, without exception. Overtime is obviously also something that staff counts on to boost base pay. It is always a challenge to find that happy medium between too much overtime and too little. I know from talking to many of you that the rate of mandated shifts has now reached the point in some facilities where it is becoming a burden. I have heard this, I understand and I deeply appreciate that you have respectfully shared this concern with me. We as an agency always attempt to avoid the point where our demands on staff overly compromise family requirements or affect staff sharpness and the ability to effectively and safely carry out their duties. To some extent, our power to address staffing shortages is dictated by the fiscal constraints of the state. But please know we are doing all we can to bring some degree of relief to this situation. As you may know from the past issue of PRIDE at Work, we currently have a class in our academy which is one of the largest in some time. Class 226 has a total of 117 cadets, most of whom are correction officers and counselors. They are already at their facilities during training and will be graduating on November 2nd. Our hope is that we will be permitted to hire another class soon after, of similar size. We are also currently reviewing possible staffing

Continued on Page 6, *Commissioner*

Pride.
AT
Work

for
September 12 - 25,
2004

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Wolcott Hill Road,
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06109

M. Jodi Rell,
Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,
Commissioner

Web address:
www.doc.state.ct.us

Public Information
Office telephone:
860.692.7780
fax:
860.692.7783

Annual Cruise Night

Pride at Work, Sept. 12 -25 p.3

The 1st Annual Family Cruise Night sponsored by the Diversity and QWL Committees at Robinson CI was held on September 13th at Rich's Drive-in in Somers. Participants attending the family oriented event viewed vehicles ranging from the 2003 Mustang driven by John Patz of MacDougall-Walker CI to American and imported motorcycles which were bountiful in the crowd. Roaring in on Harley Davidson's were Jose Feliciano on his custom Harley, Jose Berrios on his Road King, and Russell Smith on an Anniversary Road King with sidecar (All from Robinson CI) and Alfonso Reyes of Hartford CC on his 100th Anniversary Harley. Representing the imports were Steve Beaumier of Robinson CI on his Red Rocket, Adam Krevolin of MacDougall Walker CI on his Marauder and Dave Serkosky of Northern CI on his Black Beauty.



Russell Smith with his Anniversary Road King

Besides admiring and talking about their cars or bikes, the crowd enjoyed the gorgeous evening with music provided by DJ Jim Wayne from JPB Entertainment, good food, exceptional ice cream, free raffle prizes (for spectators and drivers alike) and an ongoing trivia game with even more prizes. Warden Whidden, who came with her husband and children, applauded the effort that Mary Kane and the Diversity Committee and Russell Smith from QWL did in putting together the event. A special thanks goes out to the following community sponsors who donations made Cruise Night possible: TSI Harley Davidson of Ellington, Danny's Pizza in Enfield, Avon Products of Springfield, MA., Healthtrax in East Longmeadow, MA., and of course Rich's Drive In. Next summer's Cruise Night is already being discussed.

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. This week's issue was submitted by Greg Fitzpatrick who can be reached at 860-692-7897. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860-692-7554.



Did You Know? – How to dispose of medicines?

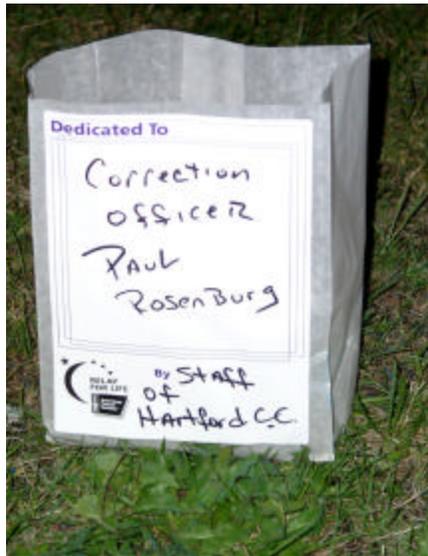
Evidence of many medicines have been found in water supplies throughout the United States. Medicines can enter water from various sources: excretion or disposal into sanitary sewers or, worse, septic systems; or disposal into landfills. The effect on the environment from medicines is not well studied or understood, but it is generally acknowledged that steps to keep these products out of our water should be taken. What you do with medicines that have expired or you no longer need can make a difference.

Before discussing how to dispose of medicines, we need to define what is included. For the purposes of this discussion, medicines include: prescription drugs; over-the counter drugs, including aspirin, cough syrups, wart removal medications; all forms of tablets and capsules; vitamin and mineral preparations; inhalers; and mixed solutions, suspensions, ointments, and creams. And did you know, some medicines and pharmaceutical products are actually hazardous when disposed? Medicines containing epinephrine (e.g., EpiPens) can be characterized as hazardous waste. Many wart removal medications, cough syrups, and inhalers are ignitable. Other products may contain enough silver, barium, or other metals to make them hazardous. When used as directed, of course, these medications can be safe and effective, however, disposal can lead to problems. So what can you do?

Continued on Page 5, *Did you know?*

HCC Supports Walk

Officer Dennis Jalbert of the Hartford Correctional Center has rallied staff to support the American Cancer Society's Walk for Life. He and his family participated in the 24-hour walk in Winsted, Connecticut at Northwest Regional High School. HCC staff stepped forward to support him with donations which totaled \$280, all of which goes towards cancer research.



C/O Dennis Jalbert lights a luminary in memory of C/O Paul Rosenberg

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CT. Hockey Victory



On Wednesday, September 8, 2004 the Connecticut Corrections Hockey Team opened their season with a hard fought 4-3 victory over Riel's Rental Team at the Springfield Olympia in Massachusetts. Jim Gilbert of Osborn CI and John McCormack of MacDougall-Walker CI led the winners with two goals each. Leading the Department's defense to victory were Bernie Loubier of Osborn CI, Steven Poulin of MacDougall-Walker CI and Goalie Kevin Manley. Also contributing to the win was Fred Bogalhus of MacDougall-Walker CI, who played a solid game for the Department.



Condolences



Warden James Dzurenda and the staff of Cheshire CI are saddened by the death of George Hall, father of Major Jonathan Hall, and father-in-law of Administrative Assistant Alisha Hall of Garner CI.



Director Richard Miele and his staff extend their condolences to Captain Nereida (Nellie) Irizzary and her family on the passing of her mother, Felicita Irizzary.



Director Bob Foltz and the staff of Fiscal Services express their condolences to Iris Sanchez and her family on the passing of her husband Victor Sanchez.



Director Dan Callahan and the staff of Human Resources are saddened to announce the passing of Julie Kunic, mother of Personnel Officer Linda Fowler.

DOC Donates Soccer Field

With more than three acres of Kentucky Bluegrass glistening in the background, Commissioner Theresa Lantz and York CI Warden Lori Ricks joined with East Lyme First Selectman Wayne Frasier in unveiling the newly constructed soccer field at Bridebrook Park on September 11, 2004.

The land used for the soccer field was donated by the Department, while the \$300,000 construction cost was paid for by the town. Describing the relationship between the town and the Department as "superior" Frasier said that he does not just want to be on the receiving end, but rather intends to continue to support the local facilities and their needs. Commissioner Lantz



extended her appreciation and congratulations saying that "the field is a credit to the town." The construction of the field took about a year to complete, but had been in the idea stage for some time.

The soccer complex is used by almost 500 children from the local area.

Did you know?, Cont'd

NEVER DISPOSE OF MEDICINES THROUGH THE TOILET OR SINK DRAIN! This is what many of us were taught to ensure that medications were disposed of promptly and minimize consumption by others. Unfortunately, very few really good alternatives are available.

- (1) When possible, keep your unused and expired medicines in a safe place until they can be taken to a household hazardous waste collection site. Many towns in Connecticut operate household hazardous waste collections.
- (2) If this is not possible, keep the medicine in its original container (since these are almost always watertight). Adding water to medicine in a solid form (e.g., tablets or capsules) to dilute them or adding sawdust or flour to liquids (e.g., syrups) can help prevent others from ingesting your unused medicine. The container can then be placed in your household trash.

What you do can make a big difference. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Greg Fitzpatrick in Central Office at (860) 692-7897.

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Calendar

September 25th & 26th - Matthews National Law Enforcement Basketball Tournament to be held at Crosby High School Gym in Waterbury, CT. The event runs from 9-9 both days and the cost is \$5 per day. There will be teams from several states as well as two DOC teams; one from Osborn CI and one from MacDougall-Walker CI. For additional information please call 203.518.2895.

September 25 - Law Enforcement Tournament Party will be held at the Connecticut Grand Hotel from 9 pm-2am. Cost is \$10. Entertainment will be provided by Accention with Lomon Andrews and DJ Dave Chambers. For additional info please call 203.518.2895.

October 2 - DOC Family Day at Maloney CTSD 11am- 5pm

October 17 - 1st Annual Craig P. Clark Memorial Golf Classic to be held at the Tradition Golf Club in Wallingford, CT. Cost is \$110 per golfer or \$50 for dinner only. RSVP by September 30th. For additional information please contact CC Jeff Clark at 203.250.2600 x2008 or CO Bangie Vasquez @ 203.250.2600 x2736.

November 6 - Bus Trip to Franklin Mills Shopping Outlet in Philadelphia. Cost is \$40 per person. The bus will leave the Elks Lodge in New Haven at 7 am and return at 10 pm. For tickets and additional information please contact Officer D. Hudson at 203.250.2690 or 203.589.4292

Commissioner, Cont'd

shifts that may be possible from facility to facility to further impact the rate of overtime. A major concern of mine is the dramatic increase in the rate of sick time usage at some facilities which has resulted in a further burden to the remaining staff who must be counted on to bridge the gap. While we address this issue and as we tour our facilities, it is eminently clear that you have not in any way allowed this to affect the quality of professionalism that you bring to your duties on a daily basis. Our facilities remain safe, secure and orderly even in the face of new challenges such as the mental health consolidation. To paraphrase an old saying, when the going gets tough, our staff is simply the best. You have my deep gratitude and my commitment to provide you with the support you need to continue to excel.

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MVP's:

Arasimowicz, Ed, CO	HCC
Beer, Robert, CO	CRCC
Boyle, Kelly, Sec 1	WCB
Brito, Derick, Co	CRCC
Connelly, Pam, PPO	CO
Calabro, Lori, CC	WCB
Cox, Walter, CO	HCC
Edwards, Walter, CTO	CRCC
Ellerby, Willie, CO	WCI
Farmer, Diana, CO	CRCC
Feo, Ronald, Lt.	CTU
Gasiorek, Henry, CO	District 3 K-9
Geraci, Joseph, Lt.	CRCC
Gendreau, Kevin, Lt.	CRCC
Gooden, Courtney, SST	JBGI
Gordon, Annette, Rec. Spec.	CRCC
Greene, Barry, CO	JBGI
Griswold, Eric, CC	JBGI
Guillot, Greg, CO	CRCC
Gwiazdowski, David, CTO	CRCC
Hanney, Chris, CO	CRCC
Hensch, Patrick, CO	CRCC
Jackson, Debra, CO	WCI
Johnson, Demetrius, CO	CRCC
Johnson, Jesse, CO	HCC
Lesinski, Robin, CS	JBGI
Long, Jesse, CO	CRCC
Maggio, Rusell, Lt.	HCC
Mangual, Frank, CO	CRCC
Massa, Raymond, CC	MWCI
Mayo, Karen, Sec 2	WCB
McCloskey, Betty Ann, FAS	CO
McNair, Steve, Lt.	CRCC
Moseley, Andrew, CC	JBGI
Neigel, Richard, CO	JBGI
OBrien, Anthony, SST	JBGI
Proctor, Christopher, CO	HCC
Rodriquez, Cecelia, Sec. 1	JBGI
Schweighoffer, Kurt, CO	CRCC
Scott, Bill, CC	WCB
Seibert, Paul, CO	JBGI
Semmelrock, Christy, CO	CRCC
Statchen, Mark, Lt.	CRCC
Sweeney, James, CO	CRCC
Willett, Denis, CO	CRCI

Years of Service

Employess with 20 Years of Service as of September 2004

Kevin MacNeal	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI
James Murdoch	Deputy Warden	Corrigan-Radgowski
Patricia Niesyn	Correctional Counselor	Central Office
Francis Perazzella, Jr	Correction Officer	Cheshire CI
Terry Thomas	Correction Officer	Hartford CC

Employess with 25 Years of Service as of September 2004

Richard Lorch	Correctional Lieutenant	Hartford CC
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Correctional Counselor Patricia Niesyn celebrated 20 Years of Service

Pilot Program

One of the first actions taken by Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz after her appointment as the Department's top boss last year was to revise the mission statement to include successful "reintegration" as a priority and goal. That vision has moved closer to reality as the Transitional Services Pilot Program has given way to permanent programs at facilities throughout the state.

Representatives from all points gathered at the MCTSD as the program administrators explained the overall objectives while sharing both successful components and those that will have to be improved. The program allows ex-offenders greater access to the various agencies and organizations which are essential in successful reintegration.

Director of Programs and Treatment, Mary Johnson, shared her own experience of not advertising that she was a "treatment" person. She said that those days are long gone and that each should take PRIDE in what they do.

Counselor Susan Kirwin of Willard -Cybulski CI joined with other staff in explaining the "nuts and bolts" of the transition program and fielding questions and concerns.

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(Center) Counselor Sue Kirwin giving details on the Pilot Program

Military Visit

Sgt Frank Cima, who is serving our country in Iraq, visited Brooklyn CI while home on a short leave. Sgt. Cima is the brother of Correction Officer Rick Cima from BCI. While home, Sgt. Cima was afforded a tour of Brooklyn Correctional Institution, and was welcomed with open arms and hearts from the Brooklyn staff and inmates. Warden Daniel Martin and staff managed to put together an informal ceremony in honor of Sgt. Cima, and presented him with a plaque for all he has done for our country. A thank you note recently received from Sgt. Cima states that the plaque hangs on the wall near his dresser, and his wife looks at it daily. He also noted that the plaque was one of the nicest things he has ever been presented with. In his closing, Sgt. Cima indicated that Department and Brooklyn CI made his short leave home very special and we are all in his thoughts. Staff at Brooklyn send well wishes out to Sgt. Cima during his mission, and look forward to a visit upon his return.



(L-R) C/O Rick Cima, Sgt. Frank Cima and Warden Daniel Martin

Around the cell block

Indiana- Twenty-nine inmates at the State Prison are allowed to own cats which correction officials say have a calming effect on offenders.

Tennessee- Corrections Corporation of America has told investors that they may experience an increase in revenue due to the growing population of male inmates aged 18-24.

California- With a federal judge critical of staff conduct, the Department of Corrections has established a Board of Review to insure discipline is free of improper influence.

Washington- The Justice Department reports that crime rates have remained steady at the lowest rates since the survey of crime victims began in 1973.