

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction

# P.R.I.D.E.



Remember Our Troops

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

# AT WORK

## A Promise to Protect - A Life Saved

Most often the graduation of another class of correctional professionals from the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development is a proud and joyous occasion. But on November 2, 2004, the day was nearly marked by tragedy, averted only by the quick and highly trained response of three members of the staff of the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center. In a heartfelt letter to Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz, Captain Stephen Faucher reports that while eating lunch after the ceremony, his airway had suddenly become obstructed. "Captain Faucher began to have difficulty breathing," said Major Anthony Coletti. "He was apparently choking." Captain Faucher reports that instantly Lieutenant Robert Martin and Lieutenant Craig Plante reacted to his need for help. Lieutenant Martin initiated the Heimlich maneuver and administered four or five thrusts which proved unsuccessful.



(L-R) Craig Plante, Stephen Faucher and Robert Martin

Continued on Page 2, *Saved*

## Worst case Scenario at Garner CI

Imagine your worst day in the Department of Correction. You have a major inmate disturbance in the gym in which several staff members are injured. The C.E.R.T. unit is contacted to assist with gaining control of the situation. One of the injured staff members requires that Life Star be flown in to immediately transport him to a nearby hospital. This scenario may seem far-fetched, but this is what happened during the mock simulation drill at Garner CI on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. The Department of Correction, Newtown Police Department, Connecticut State Police, K-9 Units from the DOC and the Connecticut State Police, the Department of Correction Correctional Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) and the DOC Situation Control (SITCON) unit along with local media representatives all converged on the facility to work through this scenario.

Continued on Page 2, *Scenario*

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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

Nov. 21-  
Dec. 4, 2004

# Saved, Cont'd

Despite being moments from losing consciousness, Captain Faucher was kept calm by his three fellow staff. Lieutenant Plante then took over, pulling Captain Faucher to his feet and again applying Heimlich thrusts which thankfully cleared the obstruction and finally allowed him to breath again. "Without the immediate reaction, caring attitude and professionalism from Lieutenants Martin, Plante and Major Coletti, I may not be here typing this letter to you," Captain Faucher told the Commissioner. "I thank Rob and Craig with all my heart in my time of need, basically saving my life."

# Scenario, Cont'd

Warden Gomez of Garner CI stated "We train our staff proactively so that they are prepared to react appropriately. If we fail to plan, we plan to fail. We felt this type of simulation was necessary." Just when the staff thought they had the situation under control, they were notified that in another area of the facility a staff member has been taken hostage as the SITCON notification system was being activated to gain control of that situation. During all the "confusion", a group of inmates decided to use this as their opportunity to escape. K-9 units from the Department of Correction and the Connecticut State Police responded to the facility to assist with the tracking and capture of these inmates. Just when the staff thought that it simply could not get any worse, they were notified that a group of hostile protesters had stormed the perimeter and breached the security in the front lobby demanding that a high profile inmate be released or else.

Many questioned why we would plan for such a disaster. Mark Strange, South District Administrator responded, "The Department of Correction wanted to create a scenario to train staff how to react and to familiarize themselves with the procedures they must follow in a crisis situation. We are committed to ensuring that our staff



members are properly trained in the event of an emergency. The Connecticut Department of Correction has become a national model in training and staff development." Warden Giovanni Gomez added "It is crucial that we coordinate and communicate with outside agencies and other law enforcement professionals to keep our staff trained and focused.

Continued on Page 3, Scenario

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

for  
Nov. 21 - Dec 4,  
2004

Distributed  
bi-weekly to 7,000  
staff and via the  
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# Agency good neighbor

Deborah Austin, of the Offender Programs and Treatment Unit at Central Office organized a drive to raise funds for the Network Against Domestic Violence Abuse Shelter. Funds were raised through Dress Down Fridays



(L-R) Director Patrick Hynes, Deborah Austin, Pat Settembrino and Commissioner Theresa Lantz

and monetary donations. A check for \$500 was presented to Pat Settembrino, Executive Director of the Agency. Staff at Central Office also donated a van load of paper goods, which was on the Shelter's wish list of needed items.

## Calendar

**December 9** - The Cheshire CI Holiday Party will be held at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville from 6:30-12:00. Tickets are \$45. For info call Rec. Supervisor. Flosser 203.250.2600 x 2057 or Lt. Barnes/Lt Freeman 203.250.2665

**December 10** - The Hartford Correctional Center will host their Holiday Gathering at Jacqueline's in Plainville. Tickets are \$25. Tickets may be purchased by calling C/O Green or C/O Baker (1st shift) at 860.240.1800.

**December 10** - DOC Holiday Party at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development from 2:00 - 8:00 PM.

Continued on Page 5, *Calendar*

## Scenario, Cont'd

The event was an exercise in decision-making. The interaction and support of all the agencies involved proved to be a crucial aspect of the drills' success. The inter-agency collaboration allowed all the involved parties to see where their individual strengths and weaknesses lie as well as what tasks their respective agency will be responsible for in the event that this scenario were to actually happen. Training for the scenario began a month prior and details were not revealed until the day of the actual event. Newtown Police Chief Michael Kehoe and State Police Major Pete Warren both helped plan the event along with key DOC personnel



Life star landing during the mock scenario



K-9 Officer James Kabusk and Ivar search for escapees during a mock exercise

# Kicks for a Cause

Pride at Work, Nov. 21 - Dec. 4 , p.4

Correctional Officer Myron Levy of Enfield CI, owner of Elite Martial Arts, hosted a Kick-A-Thon Drive on October 16, 2004 to raise funds for disadvantaged children in the Thompsonville area of Enfield. CO Levy and 11 of his students threw a total of 14,352 kicks in a one hour period in an effort to break the combined world record of 5,842,033 and combat juvenile crime across the nation. On hand was Enfield Councilwoman Cynthia Mangini to present



Myron Levy with members of his Martial Arts Class who participated in the fundraiser

Officer Levy with a proclamation from Governor M. Jodi Rell and Enfield Mayor Tallerita, naming October 16th “ National MartialArts Day.” Officer Levy extends thanks to those Correction Officers whose assistance made this fundraiser possible. Levy is already planning an event in January to assist the American Diabetes Association .



(L-R) Councilwoman Cynthia Mangini and Officer Myron Levy

## 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 Rick Hamel who can be reached at 860-692-7566. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860-692-7554.*



**With the Christmas season upon us here are some safety tips for those who choose to use natural trees.**

1. Before natural trees are set up, the trunk should be sawed off above the original cut, set in a stand and tap water added. This initial fresh cut opens up the sap channels in the tree so that it can take up water. Keep your tree stand water level above the cut in the trunk to prevent the tree from forming a sap seal. A sap sealed tree trunk will not draw water, which is needed for it to remain fresh.
2. All trees should be held upright in sturdy stands having a base that is sufficiently broad enough to effectively support the tree. Guy wires may be needed to steady oversized trees.

## Around the cell block

**Washington-** Inmates at the state penitentiary have created the Convict Cookbook which includes a recipe for a dope fiend sandwich.

**Kentucky-** More than \$377-thousand dollars, the proceeds from inmate produced goods and services, was found squirreled away in a prison desk drawer.

**Georgia-** Officials hope a new program that trains inmates to assist nurses will help in keeping medical costs down.

**Indiana-** An inmate has sued claiming he had to go without clothing for five days because of a lack of uniforms.

Continued on Page 6, Did you know?

# More than Thanks

To my Dear Friends and colleagues of the DOC family:

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The concept that the Department of Correction is like a family is one that, through my years of service, I came to view as mystical. I knew it was very palpable and real to some, however, other than giving unto others in need, I seldom had the opportunity to actually feel it or see it at its fullest. It is with a great sense of modesty and respect that I write this letter in an attempt to put into words how your actions made this concept real for me and what it has meant to my loved ones over the past few months.

I am happy to report that in spite of the odds, I was able to overcome a number of medical obstacles and am now recuperating at home in the company and care of my loved ones. It is my hope to soon rejoin all of you as I attempt to return to duty.

My accomplishment would never have been possible without the immense moral support of those colleagues who know me personally, the Commissioner, and her management staff. To those who do not know me personally, I thank you for lending a friendly ear to and/or sharing a caring conversation or thought with those who were concerned for me.

Words do not exist to convey my gratitude to those of you who phoned, sent cards, visited and emailed me. Above all I am grateful to those who took the time to phone and reassure my family that everything would turn out alright. It meant the world to them and to me.

Your deeds, support, and prayers stood by me like the two unyielding sentinels who watched and defended me during the deepest and darkest of times; times filled with the worst of fears and self doubts. Conversely, as I recovered, they helped me up, comforted me and helped make the healing less painful and swifter.

I will never be able to fully express in writing, or otherwise, how grateful I am to my DOC family for all you have done for my family and me.

Sincerely  
Major Nelson Garcia



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## Calendar, Cont'd

**December 10** - Retirement party for Correction Officers Mario Fontaine and Carl Dzienkiewicz of Webster CI will be held at Cugino's in Cheshire. For information contact C/O Faiella or C/O Pierce at 203.271.5933.

**December 11-** MacDougall-Walker CI Holiday Party will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Enfield from 6:00 p.m. until Midnight. Tickets are \$25 per person. For tickets and additional information please contact Irene Kotiadis at 860.627.2289 or Tracy Hartshorn at 860.292.3462.

## Searching for the Best

Director Richard Miele of the Tactical Operations Unit has announced the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) is recruiting new members to fill current vacancies.

Candidates should be familiar with Administrative Directive 7.4, Emergency Response Units, and should be discipline free for the past 12 months.

Interested candidates must submit a copy of the previous year's attendance, last evaluation, three letters of recommendation and a one or two paragraph letter explaining the reason for applying for this position.

Applications must be forwarded to the employee's Warden for signature no later than December 24, 2004. Wardens will then forward the application to the CERT District Executive Officers accordingly (Lieutenant Greg Harding, North District or Lieutenant Robert Martin, South District).

If there are any questions, you may contact the CERT Statewide Executive Officer, Captain Joseph Carlone at 203-250-2609

We are searching for the Department's finest to join this critical, elite team.

# The Big Winner

The final weights have been recorded, the scale is ready to be surplusd and Café 24 reports a huge up swing in profits after the winner of the Security Division weight loss competition was finally tallied showing that Officer Joseph “Security Slim” Morales is the big winner. Now a mere shadow of his former self, Slim lost a total of 29.5 pounds. Director Dennis Jones had initiated the competition in August as a means of improving the wellness of his considerable staff. For three months the Penthouse Pudgy Posse and the Downstairs Doughboys battled it out losing a combined total of 157.5 pounds. While several staff members are looking for a rematch with Slim Morales, it is hoped the health benefits will far outlast the competition.



Joe Morales in a photo showing off the 29 pounds he shed.

## MVP's:

Alahverdian, Edward	CO	YCI
Ames, Robert	Lt	NCI
Annino, Joseph	CO	NCI
Atwood, Brian	CO	CCI
Baremore, Tracy	GMO	GCI
Beetham, Howard	Plumber	GCI
Bell, Judith	CO	YCI
Boccio, Rachel	SST	MYI
Carnes, Kenley	Lt	WCI
Chambers, Steve	CO	NCI
Daigle, Timothy	CO	NCI
Dixon, Mary	SST	MYI
Gardner, Dale	CO	BCI
Gause, Kevin	Capt	MYI
Gooden, Courtney	Voc Inst	GCI
Guido, Elizabeth	CC	GCI
Guillet, Richard	GMO	GCI
Harris, Paul	CO	MYI
Hurlburt, Ellen	CCS	YCI
Jenkins, John	GMO	CCI
Korch, James	Lt	YCI
Kulp, Henry	CO	GCI
Lane, Darryl	CO	GCI
Little, Darryl	Capt	NCI
Lorenzi, Sylvia	CO	NCI
Malozzi, Diane	CO	BCI
McCarthy, Mike	PO	GCI
Messier, David	CO	NCI
Morin, Karl	CO	NCI
Nierenburg, Barbara	SST	MYI
Pagliano, Francesco	CO	NCI
Parker, Lynette	SST	MYI
Phillips, Russell	Electrician	GCI
Piascik, Alan	CC	GCI
Rogers, Thomas	GMO	CCI
Royster, Willie	CO	NCI
Saunders, Michael	GMO	GCI
Sistare, Jim	GMO	GCI
Smith, Terrence	Lt	CCI
Svelyns, Wilma	Corr Cmry Op	CO
Tkacz, William	CMS	GCI
Walters, Ronald	CO	GCI
Wawrzyk, Jerry	CO	NCI
Zegarzewski, Jeff	CC	GCI

## Did you know?, Cont'd

3. Natural trees having root balls should be moistened daily. Cut natural trees should be placed in containers of water sufficient to provide at least a one-day supply. A container holding at least 1 quart per inch in stem diameter is recommended.
4. Natural trees should remain indoors only for as long a period of time as they are fresh. Cut trees are thirsty! Depending on tree size, they may use from two pints to one and one half gallons or more per day – so make sure to check the water level daily and supply fresh water as needed. Remove any tree that shows evidence of drying or severe shedding.
5. All trees and decorations should be located a safe distance from sources of heat such as heaters, fireplaces, stoves, television sets, candles and the like. **Never decorate your tree with candles!!!**
6. Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday related accidents. Worn out electrical cords and plugs should be replaced. Avoid too many plugs in one outlet. Use multi-outlet power strips when running many applications or decorative light screens.
7. All sources of electric lighting, both direct and indirect, should be in good condition and consist of equipment that has been tested and labeled or listed for the specific purpose by a recognized testing laboratory (i.e., UL). All lighting should be turned off or better yet, disconnected, when the area is unattended. This is especially important in residences when the occupants are asleep.

# Preparing for the Holidays

Pride at Work, Nov. 21 - Dec. 4, p.7



CFSS2 Carl Vaughn of Café 24 North delighted the staff at Central Office with his culinary expertise during his 3rd Annual Turkey Carving Demonstration.

Carl Vaughn shares tips on how to prepare your holiday turkey

## Condolences



Warden Moises Gonzalez and the staff of Manson Youth Institution are saddened to announce the passing of Correction Officer Douglas Bernier. Officer Bernier had Nineteen years with the agency.

## Congrats



Warden Charles Lee and staff of Hartford CC offer congratulations to Officer Errol Goodison and his wife on the birth of their son, Matthew, who was born on 11/14/04.



Director Robert Gillis and staff of Pardons and Parole announce the birth of Timothy James, son of Chairman Gregory Everett and his wife Margie. Timothy was born on November 29, 2004 weighing 8 lbs. 14 ozs.

## Years of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of Service as of November 2004

Richard Anania	Lieutenant	Robinson CI
Jose Berrios	Lieutenant	Robinson CI
Richard Blais	Food Service Supervisor II	Northern CI
Richard Brzozowski	Counselor	Central Office
Michael Cahill	Lieutenant	Robinson CI
Edna Desormiers	Personnel Officer II	Central Office
Debra Ford	Correction Officer	Webster CI
Rayshell Green	Correction Officer	York CI
David Parent	Correction Officer	Manson YI
Kenneth Wargo	Volunteer Programs Mgr.	Webster CI
Debra Young	Correction Officer	York CI

### Employees with 25 Years of Service as of November 2004

Dennis Callaghan	Captain	Manson YI
Linda Fowler	Personnel Officer II	Central Office

### Employees with 30 Years of Service as of November 2004

Debra Rubba	Record Specialist II	MacDougall/WRSMU
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## Staff Rallies to Support Family

On Saturday November 27, 2004, a benefit function was held at Cugino's restaurant in Cheshire to aid the family of Officer Brian Martin. The function was extremely successful, and was attended by over 140 people. Sizable support was raised to benefit Brian and his children in the wake of the passing of his wife Diane. Warden Gonzalez was pleased with the showing of support from all of the Department of Correction family and is proud to be a member of this correctional family. Brian Martin expressed his deepest gratitude to the massive outpouring of love and assistance he has received during this trying time, and has asked that all who are willing, to please keep he and his children in their prayers.