

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction

# P.R.I.D.E.



Remember Our Troops

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

# AT WORK



## York CI First to be Accredited

Commissioner Theresa Lantz congratulated Warden Lori Ricks and the Health Services staff of York Correctional Institution on being the first female correctional facility in the country to receive accreditation for its health care unit. Accreditation is a process of external peer review in which, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC), a private, not-for-profit organization, grants public recognition to correctional

institutions that meet its nationally accepted [Standards for Health Services](#). Through the accreditation process, NCCHC renders a professional judgment regarding health services provided and assists correctional facilities in their continued improvement.

With more than 450 institutions of all shapes and sizes participating, NCCHC's voluntary health services accreditation program is well known and well-respected among the nation's prisons, jails and juvenile detention facilities.



(L-R) Correctional Head Nurse (CHN) Pat Fink and Correctional Nurse (CN) Julia Shibley

Continued on Page 2, *York*

## Commissioner Requests Lawyers' Assistance

A recent gathering of Connecticut criminal defense attorneys and public defenders got more than just the special insight of Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz into the state's correction department that they had expected. They were also asked for their assistance in insuring that correctional staff has all important information available regarding newly admitted offenders. "I ask that you keep us informed if your clients are in distress when they come to us," said Commissioner Lantz. The two-day seminar, sponsored by The Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association gave attorneys an opportunity to understand sentence calculations, classification and the latest initiatives in the Department of Correction.

Continued on Page 4, *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

\* ~ ~ ~ ~ \*

About and for  
correctional  
professionals

April 10 - 23,  
2005

# York, Cont'd

Developed by experts from the professions of health, law and corrections, separate standards exist for health care delivery in jails, prisons, and juvenile detention and confinement facilities. The areas covered by the *Standards* include:

- Facility governance and administration
- Maintaining a safe and healthy environment
- Personnel and training
- Health care services support
- Inmate care and treatment
- Health promotion and disease prevention
- Special inmate needs and services
- Health records
- Medical-legal issues

Health services accreditation confers many benefits. It promotes and documents an efficient, well-managed system of health care delivery. It lends prestige to the facility, increases staff morale, aids recruiting efforts, helps to obtain community support and provides additional justification for budgetary requests. Accreditation can help protect financial assets by minimizing the occurrence of adverse events. In many instances, accreditation reduces liability premiums and protects facilities from lawsuits related to health care. Accreditation also benefits the health of the public, staff and inmates by assuring that those incarcerated and released receive adequate and appropriate health care.

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## Farewell from Brooklyn CI

Warden Daniel Martin and the staff at Brooklyn CI bided farewell to two staff



Major Dan Henry, Warden Dan Martin and Tom Lepine

members, Major Daniel Henry and Maintenance Supervisor Thomas Lepine, during a luncheon on March 24, 2005. Both Major Henry and Maintenance Supervisor Lepine have 21 years of service with the Department.

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

for  
April 10 - 23, 2005

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24 Wolcott Hill Road,  
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M. Jodi Rell, Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,  
Commissioner

Web address:  
[www.ct.gov/doc](http://www.ct.gov/doc)

Public Information  
Office telephone:  
860.692.7780  
fax:  
860.692.7783

# From Our Troops

Pride at Work, April 10 - 23, 2005  
p.3

Hello from Balad,Iraq. I have a couple of pictures to share. The first picture from left to right is myself Sgt. Ryalls, Spc. Creech, CW2 Kimberlain, and Maj. Malee. We flew this flag on mission# 0330C over most of the country for my dad who is a Vietnam Vet. The other picture is of the ancient city of Babylon. We flew over the ruins on our way to Camp Echo. In the background is a palace that Saddam built on a man made hill to over look this historic site. Since I've been in country I've flown over 160 combat hours in three months. I am sure at this rate I will have just over 500 hours by the end of this deployment. I am often asked about getting fired on or about any war stories. Our crews encounter many threats while flying over Iraq. Believe it or not, our biggest threats are bird strikes and high tension wires. I have been fired upon with small arms and have had an RPG rocket aimed at our aircraft before we maneuvered away from it. It was pretty scary looking down at that from 50 feet in the air. We also had

a missile radar lock on us over Bagdad, but our counter measures took care of that threat as well. The missile landed just outside LZ Washington seconds before we landed.



( Left) Sgt. Sean Ryalls



Flying over the ancient city of Babylon

It was the closest call yet. These occurrences are often rare. For the most part the flight missions are “quiet” and not that eventful. I see more threats that the ground troops encounter than we do from the air. I've seen vehicles that blew up and oil pipe lines that were sabotaged, and zones that we can't fly over because there is a firefight between the insurgents and troops. Last week after we landed, a mortar exploded about 100 yards away from us in the middle of the taxi way. I worry about the mortars the most, because they can't be heard while incoming and then they just explode. The temperatures here have been getting warmer. In the past week, we had temps. around 114 in the sun, and about 102 in the shade for a couple of days. It has cooled off a bit since then, yesterday it was only in the mid 90's. Well I hope everyone is doing well. If you would like to write to me, my email address is: [ryalls30@yahoo.com](mailto:ryalls30@yahoo.com) . I would be honored to fly flags for anyone that sends me one. I will include a certificate and mission number for your flag and send it back to you.

## Walk for Fidelco



Join us for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Fidelco. The Department of Correction Central Office Diversity Council is creating a team to participate in this fund-raising event held on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Join our team or create a team of your own. The three-mile walk takes place at Wickham Park in Manchester, Connecticut. The Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation is a non-profit organization which trains guide dogs for the blind. Contact Jan Beauregard at (860) 692-6881 for more information regarding this worthwhile event.

# Commissioner, Cont'd

Commissioner Lantz detailed her "New Day" priorities within the agency, including mental health and medical consolidations and enhanced re-entry assistance. But it was when she outlined the agency's efforts in combating inmate self-harm that she asked the attorneys for their assistance. "We need more than what has traditionally been included on the mittimus," said the Commissioner. If their clients are detoxing, are unstable, or have mental health issues, she asked the lawyers to call the facility their client was sent to and report that information. When the lawyers replied that it is difficult to reach counselors at times, Commissioner Lantz instructed them to call the counselor supervisor and the warden's office, if necessary, to insure the agency has all the assistance available in providing the safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders.



Pride at Work, April 10 - 23, 2005, p.4

## Calendar

**May 1 -7** - National Correctional Officer's Week



**May 7** - A Retirement Party in honor of Maintenance Supervisor Tom Lepine and GMO Brad Demeule of

Brooklyn CI will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2005 at the Valley Springs Sportsman Club on Valley Road in Thompson, CT, beginning at 5 p.m. The \$15.00 donation will include hor d'oeuvres, a steak dinner and entertainment. For tickets call C/O Mike Durand at 779-4500, Capt. M. Murray at 779-4570 or Secretary Louise Downer at 779-4528.

## Honor Guard

Director Richard Miele has announced new members are being sought for the Department's Honor Guard and Bagpipe and Drum Band Unit, specifically for the positions of piper, drummer (snare, tenor and bass) and bugler trumpeter.

Interested employees may contact Honor Guard Commander/Lieutenant Tony Cusano at 203.250.2273 or Director Miele at 860.692.7506 to be placed on an interview/audition list. **The closing date is May 2, 2005.**

## Condolences



Director Richard Miele is saddened to announce the unexpected passing of Adam Cottuli, son of Lieutenant Raymond Cottuli of the Correctional Transportation Unit, on April 15, 2005.



Warden Moises Gonzalez and the staff at MYI are saddened by the death of Vincent J. Goffredo Jr., Father of Correction Officer David Goffredo, who passed away on March 26, 2005, in Hudson, Florida



Warden Lori Ricks and staff of York CI and Warden John Tarascio and staff of Gates CI are saddened by the passing of Susan Denise Chinigo. Born in Norwich on September 29, 1970, she was the daughter of Raymond and Margaret (Zajdel) Chinigo Sr. of Preston. Ms. Chinigo was employed by the Department as a Lieutenant. Besides her parents, she is survived by one brother, Raymond Chinigo Jr., and one sister, Lori Chinigo of Fisherville, VA., several aunts, uncles and cousins and her companion, Martin Pluszynski.

**Employee Assistance Program**  
A Confidential Counseling Service

**888-EAP-8900**

# Garner Gets Diversified



The Diversity Council of Garner Correctional Institution sponsored a trip recently to the Apollo Theatre in New York City for amateur night. The Master of Ceremonies (Top row center) and some of those in attendance are pictured in the theatre's lobby.

## 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 Spring upon us, we will all be spending a lot more time enjoying the outdoors. However, being outdoors in Connecticut can come with some unspoken dangers. "Did you know" that ticks in Connecticut are responsible for transmitting more than one bacteria-ridden disease?

You can become infected with more than one disease with just one tick bite. *Babesiosis* is one example of an emerging tick-borne disease in Connecticut. *Ehrlichiosis* is another emerging tick-borne disease in Connecticut. The deer tick is also responsible for transmitting *Lyme Disease* through its bite. Since its discovery in 1977, Lyme disease has become the most commonly reported vectorborne disease in the United States. In fact, Connecticut has maintained the highest incident report of Lyme disease, of any other state, since 1992.

Continued on Page 6, Did you know?

Pride at Work, April 10 - 23, 2005  
p.5

## Around the cell block



**Wales-** A dozen inmates at Cardiff Prison, are free to explore outer space through a Space Exploration class.



**Oklahoma-** A warden's wife, who disappeared in 1994 during the escape of a convicted killer from the state reformatory, was returned home after the convict was captured.



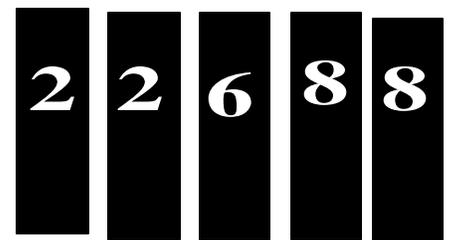
**Indiana-** The state is dedicating an entire prison to the treatment of offenders addicted to methamphetamine.



**England-** A suicidal rapist wants a court to order prison officials to provide him razor blades so he can cut himself to relieve stress.

## Supervised Population

on  
April 20, 2005



On April 20, 2004 the population was 22,704.

# State Representative Visits Hartford CC



(L-R) Evelyn Mantilla and CO  
Carmelo Rodriguez

State Representative Evelyn Mantilla recently spoke to the staff at the Hartford Correctional Center. Ms Mantilla represents the 4th Assembly District in Hartford. She visited the facility as they were hosting an International Luncheon which was sponsored by the Quality of Work Life and Diversity Committees at Hartford CC.

Pride at Work, April 10 - 23, 2005  
p.6

## Parent's Pride

Stephany Torres, daughter of Lt. Richard Torres of the Bridgeport CC and granddaughter of retired CSA Olga Osorio also from Bridgeport CC finished second in a National Weekly Reader speech-writing contest. Weekly Reader magazine wanted to know what its readers would say to the world on January 20th, the date President George W. Bush took the oath of office and gave his second inaugural address. The contest was open to students in grades 3 through 12. There were three grand prize-winners and a first, second and third place winner in each grade. Stephany placed second out of one-thousand sixth grade entries and was featured in an article in the Hartford Courant.

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## Did you know?, Cont'd

To prevent these diseases, you need to reduce your exposure to tick bites. Proper personal protection methods must be used and may include the following precautions:

- When hiking in wooded areas, stay in the middle of trails.
- Consider using insect repellent, according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Tuck pant leg into socks, wear long-sleeved shirts, and wear closed shoes.
- Wear light-colored clothing to make spotting ticks and removal easier.
- When returning indoors, shower using a washcloth or puff to remove any unattached ticks.
- Examine yourself, your children, and pets for ticks when returning indoors.

### Should you find attached ticks:

- It is important to remove a tick as soon as it is discovered.
- Remove the tick using tweezers. Grasp the tick mouth as close to the skin as possible and pull the tick out with steady pressure. Do not yank the tick out. Do not crush the tick's body as it may contain infectious fluids.
- Do not use petroleum jelly, hot matches, nail polish remover, or any other substance to remove a tick. By using these substances, you may actually increase your chance of infection.
- Thoroughly wash the area of the bite with soap and water and put an antiseptic on it.
- Write on the calendar the date you removed the tick and the part of the body from which it was removed
- Contact your physician for recommendations on testing and treatment.

Tick bites that transmit Lyme Disease often present themselves as bulls-eye type rashes.

## Heartfelt Thanks

On behalf of the family members of



K a t h r y n  
M e a c h a m ,  
mother of Mary  
J o h n s o n ,  
Director of  
Programs and  
Treatment, and  
grandmother of

Correction Officers Jason Meacham of Osborn CI and Paul Germond of Northern CI, we would like to extend our most sincere appreciation for the compassionate support given to us during the passing of our loved one. The hugs, prayers, cards, flowers, and kindness have given us the strength we needed to cope. We extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the friends and fellow staff.

The Meacham Family

# Congrats

The entire staff of the Unified School District #1 offer their congratulations to CSA Scott Copida and his wife Gwen on the birth of their daughter Veronica Lucille Copida. Veronica was born on April 4, 2005 weighing in at 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 19 1/2 inches in length. Mother and baby are doing well.



Veronica Lucille Copida



Warden Moises Gonzalez extends congratulations to CFSSII Brian Christiano and his wife on the birth of their baby boy born on April 4, 2005. His name is Nicholas Rocco Christiano, weight 7 lbs, 7 oz. Baby and mother are doing well.

# Attention Golfers

Would you like to purchase Buick Championship tickets this year? If so, we have them at the Academy.... A deal has been worked out with Buick to sell the tickets for 20.00. Regular advance ticket price is \$25.00. Ten dollars from each ticket will be donated to Special Olympics!!!! We can accept cash in person or you can send a check via interdepartmental mail made out to Special Olympics CT. This is a terrific opportunity for us, as a department, to show our support to this great cause!

Please see Lt. Tim Woodcook or O/A Darlene Faryniarz for more information.

# MVP's:

Alicea, Tomas Lt	CCI
Barone, Jay CS	NHCC
Brown, Sharon HAS	HCC
Bush, Kenneth CS	NHCC
Carucci, Ralph CFS III	McWCI
Caulder, Joann LPN	BCI
Davis, Robert CO	NHCC
Erodici, Anthony CO	BCC
Figiela, Ed Maint Supv	HCC
Fontaine, Janet CO	HCC
Galligan, Gavin CC	BCI
Gamble, Jacquelyn CO	NHCC
Glover, Nyles CC	NHCC
Grasso, Rosanne CS	MYI
Gustafson, Ronald CO	YCI
Hobson, Robin CC	NHCC
Jiminez, Jorge CO	HCC
Kapitske, Alan Rec Supv	HCC
Knox, Beverly Lt	NHCC
Lamirand, Gary CO	BCI
Lorch, Richard Lt	UCONN
Mannette, Stephen CFSS II	McWCI
McGrail, Thomas CFSS	HCC
McLaurin, Keith CO	NHCC
Medina, Angel CO	HCC
Maldonado, Jaime CS	ECI
Michael, Sonja CO	WCB
Morgan, Adam CO	WCB
Murray, Melissa Capt	BCI
Nieves, Alba CO	BCC
Parker, Lynette School Principal	NHCC
Perez, Robert CO	HCC
Perry, Robin Capt	CCI
Reese, John CO	NHCC
Rossi, Ralph CFSS II	McWCI
Shabenas, Michael CO	BCI
Soberal, Edgardo CO	BCC
Taylor, Louis Lt	UCONN
Titus, Thomas CO	ECI
Trahan, Linda CC	BCI
Velez, Gregorio CO	HCC
Wilkins, James Lt	HCC
Woodard, Theaophilia CO	HCC
Ziennicki, Toefe CFSS II	McWCI

# From the Commissioner's Desk



An exception to Administrative Directive 2.13, Employee Uniform Personal Appearance and Identification, Sect. 4B (6) is being allowed to permit the wearing of the rubber band style charity bracelets currently in fashion. This is based on receipt of several staff requests regarding a desire to support a number of worthwhile charities, some which will benefit our own correctional family. This exception will allow, while on duty, for the wearing of only one of the bracelets, of the staff member's choice. The wearing of multiple bracelets at one time will not be permitted. I believe this is a reasonable allowance, which will not compromise our uniform standard. This will grant staff the opportunity to display their support and generous contributions to many worthy causes.