

# Corrections Briefings

March/April 2000

Volume 3, Issue 1

## Two Rivers Correctional Institution Opens Its Doors

What holds 2500 people, 11 speakers and the attorney general? TRCI's ribbon cutting ceremony and open house! The turnout for the official opening of Oregon's first new prison in ten years was nothing less than, "remarkable," according to DOC Director Dave Cook.



Director Cook welcomes guests to the ribbon cutting ceremony.



"Inmate" Lynn Roe awaits the okay to leave her cell.



Umatilla Mayor George Hash volunteered to be an "inmate" for an afternoon during TRCI's Cell-In. Part of the experience included hands-on work assignments.

Thirty citizens volunteered to be inmates for an afternoon of prison life. The participants in TRCI's "Cell-In" sampled the realities of incarceration — from sack lunches to cell time to rehabilitation programs. One rambunctious "inmate" even received two misconduct reports and tried to escape; the attempt was thwarted by alert — and good natured — staff.

Citizens electing to tour the prison were treated to glimpses of units and areas normally off-limits to the public: the work force area, housing units, the infirmary, disciplinary segregation, the kitchen — all areas

were open to walk through. Facts about TRCI and Oregon's prisons lined the walls of the institution. The most popular handout was a map, given the institution's 650,000+ square feet.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by approximately 750 people. The contractors and staff most involved in design and construction received well-deserved recognition from the dignitaries on the dais, including Attorney General

Hardy Myers, Senator David Nelson, Representative Bob Jenson, Director Cook, Superintendent (and emcee) Bob Schiedler, Umatilla Mayor George Hash and County Commissioner Dennis Doherty.

Just 12 hours after bidding the last guest farewell, the prison locked its doors, secured its perimeter and began operation as a medium custody facility. It received its first medium custody inmates on March 21.

OREGON DEPARTMENT  
OF CORRECTIONS

DAVID S. COOK  
DIRECTOR

The mission of the Oregon Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.

JOHN A. KITZHABER, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



**TRCI Facts:**

- All windows are tinted to reduce glare and solar gain so that the space being cooled can be cooled at less expense.
- Each housing unit has its own activities yard, increasing safety for staff because fewer inmates are able to congregate in one area.
- The food service operation is decentralized; food is prepared in the kitchen and transported to housing units throughout the institution. Cost savings are achieved through strict portion control. Staff is safer as well, again because inmates are not allowed to congregate in centralized areas.
- All exterior walls are insulated to reduce heat and cooling loss; as a 100-year institution, savings over time will be significant.
- When TRCI is in full operation, the inmate kitchen will produce 4,896 meals a day.
- Ceilings were not added to the main corridor to save money on the project and to provide easier access for maintenance staff.
- The workforce building provides space for industries that will employ up to 750 inmates when in full operation.
- The walls of the workforce building were left unpainted and the floors unsealed. This work will be completed later using inmate labor.
- To save money, floor tile was not installed in the main corridors, housing units dayrooms, or workforce building.
- The institution has a vacuum waste removal system that uses half of the water of a conventional system.
- Most of the grounds and landscaped areas of the institution will be completed with inmate labor after the general contractor leaves to save money on the project.
- The heating and cooling systems in the institution are decentralized direct/indirect evaporative units, designed to operate more efficiently than a central boiler.

**Elizabeth Taylor Funds HIV Awareness Program**

Oregon State Penitentiary's HIV/AIDS Awareness Program (HAAP) received confirmation from the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation (ETAF) of a grant award for \$5,000.

ETAF was established by actress Elizabeth Taylor in March 1992. The foundation was created to help fund worldwide organizations that provide support services for people with AIDS/HIV and offer prevention education. To date, ETAF has distributed almost \$10 million.

HAAP is an inmate-based educational program that provides inmates with valuable health information to increase opportunities for behavior modification, a crucial element in long term HIV/STD/TB prevention. HAAP is unique to the Oregon Department of Corrections and has been successful in providing inmates with the skills necessary to influence behavior change. HAAP also provides information and referrals to inmates living with AIDS to assist with their transition back to the community.

Inmate Charles White, HAAP program coordinator, authored the grant proposal. The money will be used for program expenses such as educational materials, office equipment and supplies, postage, and publication costs for the HAAP newsletter, "Awareness News." This health and wellness newsletter is distributed to inmates and the outside community. A large portion of the grant is earmarked for continuing HIV prevention education through the Willamette Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross teaches HAAP peer-educators to present HIV/AIDS information in a factual and nonjudgmental manner.

HAAP extended its appreciation to ETAF for its commitment to the AIDS crisis and to OSP staff for their support of HAAP's efforts to help address this important issue.



## Gang Members ID'd at Intake

Continuing a successful effort to identify gang members during the intake process, Oregon Corrections Intake Center's security threat group staff review the backgrounds of all incoming inmates. One recent month, the staff conducted secondary investigations on 100 of 301 individuals in intake. Of the 43 inmates identified as gang affiliates and/or suspects, 17 were white supremacists, 17 Hispanics, seven L.A. Style, and two Tagger.

## Work Notes:

- Measure 17 statistics for February were 81 percent in full compliance and 12 percent in partial compliance.
- Two Rivers Correctional Institution, which has been housing minimum custody inmates to work on construction, had the highest compliance rate (97 percent).
- Five prisons' compliance rates were in the mid- to high-90's.
- TRCI inmates worked 160,625 hours between July 1998 and February 1, 2000.
- Five female inmates are transported daily to Oregon State Correctional Institution to work in the engineering support unit, computer refurbishing and wood refinishing programs. One female is transported daily to the Penitentiary's metal shop.
- Powder River Correctional Facility in Baker City was awarded a project from the Oregon Department of Transportation to remove shrubs at the Weatherby rest area. This is the first effort in a new ODOT/DOC pilot project: the department bids on ODOT projects and performs work as a general contractor would, providing technical supervision, supplies and tools. Weatherby was completed in early March and went very well. PRCF has subsequently submitted a bid on a sand shed restoration/painting project due to start in June 2000.

- Two Shutter Creek inmates assigned to work at the North Bend Fire Department assisted two fire fighters stop a citizen who was trying to steal a fire truck.
- South Fork Forest Camp inmates have been repairing boots, shoes and clothing for other institutions and agencies to realize tremendous cost savings. For instance, in February, inmates repaired 31 pairs of SCCI boots, 32 pairs of SFFC boots and miscellaneous clothing items for a total of \$9,565.81.
- Oregon Corrections Enterprises Print Shop has added a second shift of operation.

## New Information Available on Correctional Drug Treatment

In recent months the Institute of Behavioral Research at Texas Christian University has become the leading center of corrections drug treatment research. TCU provides an excellent web site with the most up-to-date information at [www.ibr.tcu.edu](http://www.ibr.tcu.edu). Recent studies conclude:

- Intensive treatment is most cost-effective for high-problem cases
- 6-12 months of treatment is optimal in reducing crime
- Involvement in community aftercare is key to success
- Motivation strategies can improve program completion and success.

## Inmates "Hot Plant" for Forestry

Reforestation prescriptions are always changing based on new research and experience. Western hemlock is a primary species used for reforestation in areas where disease has stricken young Douglas fir plantations.

Based on favorable reports from other forestry concerns, a period of fall or "hot" planting was scheduled in October and early November in the Tillamook District. Unlike winter planting, the trees are not chilled in any manner prior to



outplanting. This gives seedlings a jump start for the first year. There was significant root growth within seven days on sampled trees.

This fall planting effort yielded higher production, lower costs and a re-invention of how tree planting is accomplished for western hemlock.

The South Fork work group came together as a team to produce the following results:

- Initial plant – 492 acres
- Trees planted – 453,000
- Interplant – 623 acres
- Trees per man day – 367

In all, 453,000 trees, with a very limited shelf life and no cold storage, were planted in just one month. Many crews planted 5,000 to 6,000 trees per day. South Fork crew coordinators' efforts and "can do" attitudes made these numbers possible.

## Around the State...

- On February 22, 2000, Shutter Creek Correctional Institution celebrated its 10th anniversary. Staff met for a luncheon and reminisced over the changes that have occurred over the last ten years. Photographs, newspaper articles, and other memorabilia from the last ten years were on display. Also available for staff was an eight page synopsis of major events over the decade.
- Oregon State Penitentiary Food Services is working with its counterpart at the Oregon Youth Authority to help the Youth Authority enhance their security. OSP's Food Services manager toured North Coast OYA facility and made some recommendations. The following week North Coast visited OSP and Oregon Women's Correctional Center. DOC and OYA Food Services sections are starting to build and share information for the benefit of both agencies.

- On April 29, 25 Oregon State Penitentiary inmates will exhibit their art for other inmates and guests from the outside art community. Although not a contest or sale, the exhibit gives inmates an opportunity to see the work of their peers in a professional display.
- EOCI hosted its first Prison Advisory Committee meeting on February 15, 2000.
- On February 15, 2000, the Bassoon Brother from the Oregon Symphony gave a performance at Columbia River.
- The 1999 fire season turned out to be a very busy one for South Fork Forest Camp inmate fire fighters: crews were sent on 31 fires involving 2,121 inmate man days.

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*During the Austa fire, inmates from seven prisons in Oregon and Washington comprised 30 percent of the fire fighting resources.*

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- At the Intake Center, psychological assessment tests identified 83 of 329 inmates admitted in February with the potential for needing mental health services. Following clinician interviews, 41 inmates were referred to Correctional Treatment Services for follow up. Twenty-five inmates had the potential of needing MRDD services and ten were referred for further MRDD services by a clinician. Twenty-seven inmates were referred with possible learning needs. Of those identified, six were referred for further diagnosis. Forty inmates completed the 16-hour alcohol and drug workshop.
- Snake River's Officer Borge saved an inmate's life in February. The officer's quick thinking and knowledge of the Heimlich Maneuver helped him dislodge a piece of meat that was blocking the inmate's airway.

### Corrections Briefings

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