

Promoting public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.

Oregon DOC *May/June 2008*

News & Notes



www.oregon.gov/doc

Director's Message

DOC's Statewide Awards



Lifesaving Award Recipients: Fred Kaup and Steve Farrow of SRCI

The Department honored its employees, contractors and volunteers for their outstanding work at the 2008 Department of Corrections' Statewide Awards Ceremony in Ontario. Every year the Department holds an awards ceremony honoring employees who go above and beyond the expectations of their job descriptions.

We had the honor of acknowledging employees for heroism, life saving efforts and dedication.

Diana Schimschok is this years Employee of the Year. Diana is responsible for creating and maintaining each and every user account on the DOC/400 for all employees, contractors, Community Corrections Partners, and other state, local and federal employees that access our system. Her technical abilities, quality focus and attention to detail are exceptional as she creates the proper configuration, enters them into the correct group and creates menu options for every user.

May/June 2008

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Director's Message (cont'd)

This years Manager of the Year is Ken Jeske who is the Assistant Chief Investigator for the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). He took on projects and provided opportunities for greater customer service by raising the awareness of SIU's value in DOC. Ken becoming an active participant in the Department's Suicide Review Committee.

The annual Director's Award was awarded to Greg Atkin, Jeff Forbes, Sandy Etter, Joe Etter, Don Charlton, Kent Fanger, Cherie Greenwade, John Lewis, Jeri Taylor, Terry Brown, Jennifer Black and Wendy Hatfield. The award is presented to employees, contractors, volunteers or citizens whose accomplishments or service have brought honor or distinction to the Department or have fostered understanding of the Department's mission, vision and values in his/her work assignment and/or in the community. This group was acknowledged for their hard work during the flood relief efforts of last winter.

The annual Amos Reed Award was awarded to Superintendent Sharon Blacketter, Deer Ridge Correctional Institution, for her leadership qualities, creativity, resourcefulness and possessing self-discipline, credibility and expertise in correctional programs and fiscal management.

We know that the awards ceremony is a symbolic gesture recognizing only a small percentage of the staff who deserve recognition. In that regard, we would like to thank all of you for the hard work you do everyday. The most valuable asset in any organization is its staff. Your dedication to professionalism is what makes our Department one to be proud of. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Max Williams
Director

Mitch Morrow
Deputy Director



Award of Valor Recipients: Sheri Wheeler and Ryan Hakola of OSP.



Officer of the Year Randy Allison of SRCI

For a complete list of awards and photos from the event go to:

http://www.oregon.gov/DOC/national_corrections_employees_week.shtml.

National Corrections Employees Week

By Lindsay Cusworth, Public Affairs

National Corrections Employees Week was filled with activities and celebration across the state. This article highlights one of the many activities that staff participated in.

Competition was fierce at the annual Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) Wall Walk when employees walked, hopped and glided through the finish line.

Team “Gold This Year,” made up of Joe Harding, Don Cornthwaite and Marshall Buchholz, made it through the finish line achieving victory and earning the first place title.

“I had my shins surgically removed and replaced with titanium rods,” said Buchholz when asked what his secret was to winning the Wall Walk competition. It is clear that tips for winning the race are top secret.

However, his teammate, Joe Harding, had a bit of advice for future Wall Walk participants. “The best way to perfect the walk is to watch the geese around here and try to imitate their walk,” he said. “Once you've got that down, you're a race-walker.”

Ten teams of three perfected their walk and participated this year in the walking event. Each participant walked nearly a mile around the wall of the OSP.

The competition was only for fun but the winners of the competition obtain bragging rights until next year.

“Winning isn't everything,” said Don Cornthwaite. “The friendly competition is what made each of us winners. The camaraderie built and the new faces to familiar names is awesome. I must admit seeing the gold not go to Superintendent Belleque was rather satisfying though.”

“The best way to perfect the walk is to watch the geese around here and try to imitate their walk. Once you've got that down, you're a race-walker.” Joe Harding

Team “CTS Chocolate Hearts,” Brian Walker, Aaron Baer and Lisa Wagg, won second place. “Two Marines and a Flyboy,” Brandon Kelly, Micha Working and Garry Russell, received medals for third place.



Don Cornthwaite, Marshall Buchholz & Joe Harding



Brian Walker, Lisa Wagg & Aaron Baer



Garry Russell, Brandon Kelly & Micha Working

Deputy Director Throwing Out the First Pitch

Deputy Director Mitch Morrow will throw out the first pitch at Volcanoes ballpark in Keizer. On that date, the Volcanoes are honoring all state employees. Deputy Director Morrow will be throwing out a pitch along with other agency leaders.

The Volcanoes are a class A team affiliated with the San Francisco Giants and they are the defending Northwest League Champions.

Please mark your calendars and come cheer him on!

Tickets are \$9.00 per person. An all-you-can-eat barbeque will be held before the game. A ticket and barbeque will cost \$19.95. Please contact Jennifer Black, in Public Affairs, for the sign-up sheet.



What: Oregon State Employees Night
When: Wednesday, July 16, 2008
Where: Volcanoes Ballpark, 6700 Field of Dreams Way Keizer, OR
Time: Gates open at 5:35 p.m., game time at 6:35 p.m.

Focused Investigation Update

By Jennifer Black, Public Affairs

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is proactively targeting extortion. The Office of Inspector General has instituted focused investigations to, among other things, address this issue.

Mark Nooth, Superintendent of Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI), invited a group to conduct the first focused investigation at SRCI in March. As that institution had already developed a team to look into extortion issues at SRCI. A multidisciplinary team was formed to conduct the investigation. This workgroup consisted of representatives from the institutions, canteen, central trust, research, the Office of Population Management, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), etc. The team conducted searches, which revealed evidence of extortion. The team worked extremely close with representatives from Canteen and Central Trust. They also conducted interviews with suspected inmates and their victims. The team identified two victims and issued several misconduct reports. The overall success sent a message to the inmate population. The Department of Corrections (DOC) is proactively targeting extortion.

Two weeks later, Frank Thompson, Superintendant at SCI, invited a second focused investigation to occur at Santiam. A similar team was assembled. Six inmates were identified from the IPS gang that were extorting an inmate and were held accountable for their actions. All identified inmates were transferred to other facilities and received misconduct reports for Extortion, Assault and/or Contraband. DOC's message, that we don't tolerate extortion, was emphasized again.

The idea behind focused investigations is to target a specific issue, as opposed to subject, in a collaborative team approach.

If you need assistance in organizing a focused investigation, please contact the Office of Inspector General.

DOC Honored for Green Design

By Matt Conens, Public Affairs



The Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF) near Lakeview was honored with one of the first ever State Energy Efficient Design (SEED) awards. SEED awards are given by the Oregon Department of Energy to recognize and encourage energy efficient design in the construction of State facilities.

WCCF, which opened in 2005, was constructed with energy efficiency in mind. Its design saves energy and money, in areas ranging from heating and cooling to lighting and ventilation.

A major “green” component is the heating and hot water system, which uses naturally occurring geothermal heat. This allows the facility to use less propane, saving the State an estimated half-million dollars per biennium.

“Corrections has changed,” says Max Williams, Director for the Oregon Department of Corrections. “How we build prisons and the design of the institution is part of that evolution. The Department of Corrections is honored to be recognized for its innovations. What we’ve learned from the Warner Creek Correctional Facility will be incorporated into future Corrections projects.”

“This award is a well-earned recognition for the design team,” says WCCF Superintendent Chuck Seeley, “and it’s a great tribute to our physical plant staff who have worked closely with the Town of Lakeview to maintain the designed efficiency and operating standards of this system.”

WCCF and two other state facilities received their awards at a ceremony in Salem.

For more information about the Oregon State Energy Efficient Design program,

visit <http://oregon.gov/ENERGY/CONS/SEED/SEEDhome.html>.

Club Honors Officer Shimeles Gessesse

By Jennifer Black, Public Affairs

On April 17, members from public safety agencies in the Mid-Valley were honored at an awards dinner night hosted by the Exchange Clubs of Salem and Keizer. Eleven members of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies were recognized at the annual event.

A posthumous award was given to Department of Corrections' Officer Shimeles "Shimmy" Gessesse, who passed away July 23, 2007. Officer Gessesse worked at the Santiam Correctional institution (SCI) for 21 years. SCI's Institution Security Manager Joe Etter represented the Department and helped present the award to Officer Shimeles' family. Etter said Officer Shimeles, "was extremely passionate about the job and what he believed in."

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Award

By Lindsay Cusworth, Public Affairs

Tom O'Connor, administrator of Religious Services, received the Ecumenist of the Year award at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon annual dinner at the Governor Hotel in Portland earlier this month.

"I find it very rewarding to be part of a state agency and a community that supports people as they grow in each of these traditions and in their individual spiritualities or understandings of life," he says.

The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon began working with O'Connor after an experience in which the board visited with 25 inmates. The experience was an eye-opener for board members as they realized that working relationships should be achieved with inmates.

O'Connor heads a professional team of 30 religious staff members and nearly 1,400 volunteers who work with inmates. They represent a wide variety of religious beliefs, such as Catholicism, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Protestantism, Mormonism, agnostics, atheists and others.

The team of staff and volunteers work hard to teach inmates to think morally. Inmates have the opportunity to learn that dedication to personal belief systems can potentially shape attitude, companionship choices and family life.

O'Connor and his team help inmates improve their lives through dedication to their own spirituality, assist in transition back into the community, and reduce the chance of future criminal behavior.

Safety and Wellness – CRCI’s Nature Trail

By Greg Smith, Safety and Risk Manager CRCI/SFFC

Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI) transformed an unused field into a wetland and wildlife habitat by changing grass into seasonal ponds and waterways, and planting native trees and plants. The area was unveiled during a ceremony in May.

In 1998, the City of Portland Environmental Services Department, and the Superintendent at the time, Mike McGee, worked together to begin the transformation. Over the years, the trees and plants grew rapidly attracting more wildlife to the area.

Many types of animals, tree frogs, salamanders, turtles, deer, fox, coyote, beaver, nutria, carp, raccoons, song birds, mallard ducks, and wood ducks have been observed in the area



The project will continue to grow in phases as time and money allow. CRCI has community support from the City of Portland and a local nursery. Powell Valley Nursery has donated wood chips for the walking path, and CRCI’s maintenance inmates are making a foot bridge over the water.

The next goal is to finish the walking path and build a wildlife observation area where staff can relax, have lunch or a break in a smoke free environment. Future goals include extending the walking path and adding exercise stations. Superintendent Paula Myers says, “My hope is that staff see this as a place to

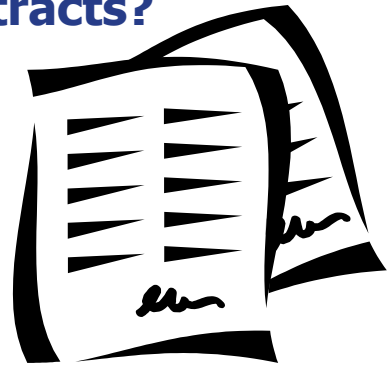


exercise, relax and improve their wellness.”

Why do we have to use statewide contracts?

By Tami Dohrman, Fiscal Services Administrator

The Department of Corrections, like all state agencies, is legally bound (by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 125-247-0296) to use statewide Mandatory Use Contracts and Price Agreements. These contracts were created to minimize paper work, achieve continuity of product, secure a source of supply, reduce inventory, combine Agency requirements for volume discounts, standardize products used among Agencies, ensure quality products and reduce lead time for ordering.



There are many aspects of these contracts, price is just one. DOC must purchase Supplies and Services that are established by these contracts. Statewide contracts cover everything from airfare to office supplies to cement. The two exemptions are:

1. Supplies and Services from another state Agency when the parties have agreed upon a formal written agreement.
2. Emergency purchases.

Not purchasing travel or other Services and Supplies through the state contracted vendors is considered a breach of contract. If at any time, you see issues with vendors or products on a statewide contract (such as quality or service), please contact DOC purchasing staff. They will contact Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for clarification and relay the concerns. DAS maintains files on each contract so that when they are renewed or renegotiated, these issues are reviewed and taken into account. The Purchasing and Contracts Unit and Accounting Unit encourage all staff to let them know about issues with vendors so they can be documented and passed on to DAS.

To contact DOC Contracts and Purchasing refer to the following Web site:

http://www.oregon.gov/DOC/GENSVC/CONTRC/purchcontr_contacts2.shtml



Oregon DOC News & Notes

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