

# Corrections Briefings

Fall 2000

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## Penitentiary Becomes Movie Set

For five days in September and October, Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem was transformed into a movie set for the upcoming MGM feature film currently called "Bandits."

The romantic comedy is directed by Barry Levinson and stars Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton and Cate Blanchett.

"Our understanding is that this film would not have come to Oregon without the participation of the penitentiary," observed DOC Director Dave Cook. "We are pleased that it worked out and that the department is responsible for bringing millions of dollars to our state's economy."

Without spoiling the plot, Dave did reveal that Bruce Willis and Billy Bob Thornton, dressed in authentic Prison Blues, break out of the penitentiary in a construction



vehicle. "I can't imagine this sequence of events happening in real life, so it is kind of amusing to hear the movie folks talk about the scenario," Dave said.

"They are the first ones to look you straight in the eye and say, 'Don't worry, it's the movies!'"

The production is using approximately 170 inmates and 30 staff as extras. About 650 and 60 people, respectively, applied for the limited spots. Inmates' backgrounds were carefully

screened before they were allowed to audition. Selection was made by a casting director. Inmates will receive cash awards of \$25 a day for participating. Staff extras will be on their own time while on camera.

The penitentiary is taking extraordinary security precautions to ensure that the filming runs smoothly. All of the expenses are being covered by MGM in addition to a generous donation to the Inmate Welfare Fund.

## Inmates Work to Reduce Forest Fire Risk in Central Oregon

Over the summer, Oregon Department of Corrections inmates once again lived and worked in the Deschutes National Forest.

In partnership with the US Forest Service, 90 inmates spent more than two months on projects to improve the health of the Deschutes National Forest and reduce the risk of forest fires to the communities of Bend, Sunriver, and Black Butte.

Working 10-hour days, six days a week, the inmates hand-cleared dead timber and other combustibles from 2,700 acres of forest land. Among other projects, they cleared 300 acres of noxious weeds, maintained 600 acres of new tree plantings, and repaired miles of hiking trails.

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



"We are working to not only meet the needs of the Forest Service, but to develop specific skill sets in our inmate workers," said DOC Inmate Work Program Manager Debra Slater.

"Inmates were trained as certified sawyers, and we used these and other skilled inmates to build a chimney for a historic building, and a foundation for a new warehouse."

Inmates lived in the WWII-era Army-surplus tents purchased in 1999 for the inaugural year of the camp. A new addition this year was the department's mobile kitchen, which enabled inmates to prepare all camp meals on site. These inmates were supervised by DOC Food Services staff.

Negotiations are expected to begin in October to develop long-term agreements between the US Forest Service and the Department of Corrections to continue the camp in future years. A key component of the discussions will be how the two agencies can partner to best use Oregon's share of \$1.6 billion recently appropriated for fire prevention in Western states.

## Prison Construction Moves Forward

The Oregon Supreme Court opinion rejecting challenges to the construction of Coffee Creek Correctional Facility near Wilsonville was welcome news to the Department of Corrections.

"In effect the court confirmed our interpretation of prison siting laws," explained DOC Director Dave Cook. "Although construction has been moving right along and is on schedule, it's good to know that potential legal obstacles have been officially removed."

The 1600-bed prison will initially hold up to 820 women, 324 of whom may be minimum custody. It also includes beds for up to 432

men who are going through the prison intake and evaluation process.

Work to date on the prison includes extensive earth preparation including construction of landscaping berms and retention ponds. Also in place is on-site buried infrastructure such as sanitary sewer pipes, storm drains, water lines and electrical and mechanical chases.

Construction has begun on the minimum security buildings including the work force building.

The women's minimum security facility will open in October 2001. The medium security facility is on track for opening in April 2002.

## CURE Annual Meeting

Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, November 11, from 3 - 5:30 p.m., at Salem Library. The topic is transition, and Tonya Ruscoe, Transition Project manager, is the invited speaker followed by a panel discussion regarding successful transitions. The meeting is open to family/friends of inmates and others interested in inmate issues. "We would like to inform people about transition planning, and talk about the important role that they play," noted CURE President Dana Anderson. For more information, contact Ms. Anderson via e-mail at [danderso@pcc.edu](mailto:danderso@pcc.edu).

## State Senator Participates in Pathfinders Class

Senator Peter Courtney visited Oregon State Penitentiary over the summer to talk with students in a Pathfinders class session. He spoke to a group of inmates and encouraged them to be involved in community activities when they are released from prison. The inmates were quite interested in the presentation and participated well in discussions.



## Oregonian Wins ACA Journalism Award

DOC's nomination of The Oregonian won the American Correctional Association's 2001 Outstanding Journalism Award. This is the top journalism honor in the field of corrections.

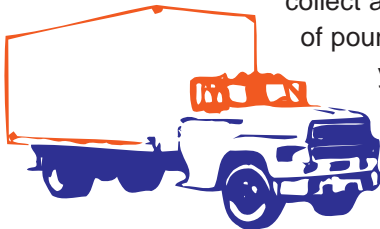
Director Dave Cook nominated Crime Team Leader Susan Gage and the paper on the basis of their trailblazing efforts to provide coverage of the criminal justice arena that spurns sensationalism in favor of stories with depth and context.

The award will be presented in January at ACA's winter conference in Nashville.

## From Farm to Family: TRCI Aids Oregon Food Bank

Two Rivers Correctional Institution is working with the Oregon Food Bank and Umatilla-area vegetable producers and processing plants to repackage excess products to be donated for the use of needy families throughout Oregon.

The Oregon Food Bank (OFB) is a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to offer assistance to disadvantaged and hungry men, women, and children statewide. They



collect and distribute millions of pounds of food each year. They collect and move food from a variety of sources through two warehouses to

a network of regional food banks and local hunger relief agencies.

South Basin Packing Company in Umatilla, Oregon, and a local onion producer are currently donating onions and potatoes. The vegetables are delivered to TRCI in bulk and minimum custody inmate work crews repackage the food into 15-30 pound bags and stack them onto pallets.

The Department of Corrections transports the repackaged products to the OFB warehouse and distribution center in Portland. The pallets are "back-hauled" in (otherwise empty) DOC trucks returning to the valley after delivering supplies to Eastern Oregon prisons from the central distribution center in Salem.

"The effort involved in making a project of this magnitude a viable one is enormous," said Director Dave Cook. "All of the people who contributed to this project are to be commended for following through with such a worthy cause."

Over 65,000 lbs. of product have been repackaged and delivered to date. The possibility of handling other products, such as carrots, is under discussion.

## CRCI's Ted Long is "Boss Lifted" to Bosnia

CRCI Assistant Superintendent Ted Long celebrated Independence Day with some of Oregon's finest citizen soldiers, NATO peace-keeping forces, and the First Russian Separate Airborne Brigade in Bosnia. Ted was a guest of the National Guard Association of Texas on a "bosslift" to Eagle Base near Tuzla.

Included among the National Guard soldiers serving in Bosnia are two DOC employees in Oregon's 1042nd Medevac Co. (Air Ambulance).

Activities during the week in Bosnia included visiting sites that had been infamous during the Serb-Bosnian war; interacting with staff who have given up this year at home in the interests of peacekeeping; and learning about the important work our citizen soldiers are doing.

The training and experience, our staff is receiving, including leadership and organization skills, will benefit the department when they return.



Ted was recently interviewed for the Lehrer Newshour about the issue of Guard and Reserve activation and deployment. Among other things, he reflected that the National Guard and the department shared a common mission: public safety.

## October 1 Prison Population Forecast

The total prison population was 9,945 on July 1, 2000. It is forecast to grow by eight percent to 10,757 by July 2001, the end of the current biennium. It is forecast to grow by 18 percent to 11,701 by July 2003. The July 2010 population is forecast to be 14,956. This is 5,011 beds or 50 percent higher than July 2000.

Half of the total growth is directly or indirectly due to the passage of Ballot Measure 11. Measure 11 mandates minimum sentences for any of 21 violent crimes. The sentences range from 70 to 300 months.

The current forecast is 155 beds higher than the April 2000 forecast as of July 2001. It is 133 beds lower than the April 1, 2000 forecast as of July 2003.

### ***Risks to the forecast***

The forecast assumes that current policies and practices continue over the next decade. During the past decade, Oregon's criminal justice system has changed markedly. Since 1989, Oregon has enacted Sentencing Guidelines, Ballot Measure 11, Senate Bill 1145 and the Repeat Property Offender law. All of these laws had major impacts on the prison population.

Several measures that will go before the voters in November 2000 would also have a major impact on the forecast, including Measure 94 and Measure 3.

## Factoids

- On July 1, 2000, women accounted for 26.4 percent of the probation population, 15.3 percent of the local control population, 5.5 percent of the prison population, and 12.5 percent of the parole/post-prison supervision population.
- DMV marked its 13th anniversary at Oregon Women's Correctional Center by bringing in two former inmates who now work in DMV offices on the outside. They talked about the transition from prison to living and working in the community.
- Approximately 2,813 inmates, or 28.7 percent of the prison population, will be released in 2000.
- Oregon's recidivism rate is currently 29.6 percent. This reflects the number of offenders who are convicted of a new felony within three years of release from prison.
- Over half of the Inmate Welfare Fund is spent on alcohol and drug programs. Another 22 percent goes to education programs.
- Measure 17 (1994) requires all inmates to work full time; half of that time may be in job preparation, training or other specific programs. In August, 85 percent of Oregon's inmates were in compliance with the mandates of Measure 17.
- Five inmates from Oregon Women's Correctional Center work at Oregon State Correctional Institution in the engineering support unit and the computer refurbishing program. One inmate goes to Oregon State Penitentiary to work in the metal shop.

### **Corrections Briefings**

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# FAQ's About OCE

A Special Supplement to Corrections Briefings  
(keep this handy!)

Oregon Corrections Enterprises was formed as a result of a ballot initiative approved in November 1999. Since then, several questions have been asked about OCE's role, its relationship to DOC, and the overall strategy regarding inmate work programs. Here are some of those questions and answers:

1. What is the OCE/DOC reporting structure?

OCE is a semi-independent state agency separate and apart from the Department of Corrections. The Director of Corrections has authority to assign or appoint the administrator of OCE. Michael Taaffe was appointed administrator of OCE and is directly accountable to Dave Cook, director of Corrections. The employees of OCE are under the control and direction of the administrator of OCE.
2. How are the two agencies connected?

There is a clear nexus between the OCE and DOC. OCE has a statutory mandate to engage eligible inmates in state correctional institutions in work or on-the-job training. OCE is subject to the authority of the director of the Department of Corrections regarding the care, custody and control of inmates.

This is a mutually beneficial relationship for both agencies. DOC allows OCE to use inmate labor from its institutions, and, in return, DOC gains compliance towards Measure 17 from inmates OCE puts to work.
3. What products and services can be purchased through DOC? Who do we contact?

DOC still manages inmate work crews and work-based education and training. To hire an outside work crew of minimum custody inmates, please contact Debra Slater at 503-945-9232. To buy custom wood furniture, intarsia wood art, or other products made by inmates in education programs, contact Larry Herring at 503-947-1040.
4. As a state agency, are we mandated to buy products and services from OCE in support of Measure 17?

The Oregon Constitution requires that, "every state agency shall cooperate with the Corrections director in establishing inmate work programs."

In keeping with the spirit of the Constitution, the governor mandated that state agencies purchase inmate products and services whenever possible.

As a practical matter, if you haven't considered OCE products, then you may have missed a great opportunity.

OCE has a convenient showroom at 3691 State Street SE, in Salem (just east of I-5) to display many manufactured items. The professional sales staff is ready to assist you with your project needs. The sales office can be reached at (503) 378-2449.



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5. What products or services can be purchased from OCE? Who do we contact?

**Agri-Services**

*Nursery Stock*

Contact: Richard Wright  
(503)378-6402 x 241

**Laundry Division**

*Laundry Cleaning*

Linens and other items, large cloth flour and sugar sacks and totes

Western Oregon Contact:  
Ted Durst  
(503)373-7604

Eastern Oregon Contact:  
Bob Pace  
(541)278-3628

**Services Division**

*Engineering Support Services*

Computer-aided mapping and other digital services

Contact: Chris Shaeffer  
(503)373-7154

*Web Design*

Contact: Dona Russel  
(503)373-7641

*Telecommunications*

Phone answering services, out-bound calling

Contact: Bobbie Barott  
(503)373-7604

*Office Support Services*

Telephone referral, data entry and order fulfillment

Contact: Bobbie Barott  
(503)373-7604

*Mail Room Services*

Hand stuffing, sorting and mailing services

Contact: Ron West  
(503)378-2764

*Print Shop*

Contact: Scott Willis  
(503)373-7812

**Goods Division**

*Wood Products*

Desks, wood office furniture, advanced ergonomic office chairs, state-of-the-art office panel system, modular/adjustable desks and tables, and credenzas.

Reception, dormitory and bedroom furniture

Contact: Jerry Morfitt, Sales Office  
(503)-378-2449

*Fabricated Metal Products*

Picnic tables, fire rings, safes, tool boxes, heavy equipment

Contact: Don Moritz  
(503)373-7604x230

*Miscellaneous*

Concrete embeds and kiosks, boat docks, and yurt foundations and furniture

Contact: Don Moritz  
(503)373-7604x230

*Sign Shop*

Reflective, routed wood, metal and plastic signage products.

Contact: Mike Reagan  
(541)881-5449

