

July 25, 2014

Weekly Views

Aggression tactics and narcotic, tobacco and cell phone detection skills were demonstrated by members of the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) K-9 Unit and their canines during the annual Indiana State Police Summer Youth Camp at Anderson University. During the demonstration 53 kids in grades 7 and 8 looked on as K-9 handlers showcased their canine's abilities to search for contraband enclosed in offender property boxes and other receptacles masked by other scents such as coffee and clothing. The highlight of the demonstration was canine Kasey's ability to defend her K-9 Handler and subdue the aggressor into submission. "We would like to thank Sergeant Slocum of the Indiana State Police for giving

us the opportunity to perform at the Indiana State Police Summer Youth Camp. We enjoy participating in demonstrations like this in the community and with other agencies," stated K-9 Field Commander Donald Mockler. (photo right)

Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) volunteer Dr. Bliss leads a weekly movie documentary at the IWP library for approximately 10 offenders. Each documentary revolves around relevant social issues and includes a follow-up discussion. The most recent documentary shown was "Born into Brothels". The film is about a photographer who worked with the children in the Calcutta brothels.



Pendleton Juvenile students participating in the Future Soldiers Program were invited to post the colors for the opening ceremony of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) conference. The four students were presented with certificates of appreciation for coming and presenting the colors. Representatives at the JDAI conference stated that this was a great way to start of the activities. (photo left)



Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) staff are hosting several events to raise money for the FedEx Plane Pull Challenge to benefit Special Olympics Indiana. So far through pledges and online donations, IREF has raised more than \$823 of a \$1,200 goal, \$100 of which was raised during a pulled-pork cook-off competition between several staff members. The competition will culminate in a team effort with IREF, Corizon Health, and PEN staff at the Plane Pull on September 6.

Cops Cycling for Survivors (CCFS) made a memorable stop at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). Wabash Valley casework manager Tammy Mark joined the ride this year, cycling nearly 300 miles from Mishawaka, IN to the facility in Carlisle, IN. A ceremony took place at Wabash with the names of Indiana Department of Correction Fallen Hero's read. The list included that of WVCF Correctional Officer Tim Betts. Officer Betts died of a heart attack on August 26, 2012 while escorting an unruly offender to segregation. His family presented a \$500 check to Cops Cycling for Survivors and WVCF Superintendent Richard Brown also made a \$500 donation on behalf of the facility Inside Out Dads & PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) programs. CCFS president Rich Crawford said the Wabash welcome was the largest they had encountered during their 13 day, 1,000 mile bicycle tour of Indiana.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) celebrated the life of a former Corizon Nurse Karen Cummings, RN, who worked at MCF from October 2002 to August 2013. Cummings was killed in a car accident while on her way to lead a training event for Corizon. A plaque will be placed outside of MCF's Infirmary dedicating it as the Karen Cummings Health Services Unit. The plaque states: "Let all who work here endeavor to reach the levels of dedication, professionalism and compassion that Karen demonstrated during her too short time with the Indiana Department of Correction and Corizon." (photo right: Superintendent Mark Sevier, Cumming's daughter Amber Cassidy, and Christopher Duffy, Corizon Vice President of Operations.)



Correctional Industrial Facilities (CIF) American Legion Post 503 was joined by a special guest. Walter Lengel, the father of one of the offenders housed at CIF

joined them to talk with the 34 offenders in attendance about his experience in Europe during World War II. Mr. Lengel, who is now 92 years old, was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five Bronze Stars for his service. Everyone enjoyed his story telling and sense of humor. (photo left)



The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility CLIFF unit presented its Students Talking About Recovery (STAR) program, to a group of visiting Ivy Tech Nursing students. The program has been an ongoing collaboration with Ivy Tech Community College.

Nineteen members of the 2014 Commissioner's Experienced and Emerging Leadership Program (EEL) were given a tour of the oldest prison in Indiana. The members came to the Indiana State Prison on a beautiful evening after spending the day completing team building activities at the Michigan City Beach.

Camp Summit Boot Camp Program Director Laura Gorbonosenko hosted a "Family Ties Workshop" which was attended by 18 student families, totaling 66 participants over all. Family members were treated to lunch, a healthy families workshop conducted by Mental Health Professional Kenneth Hicks and a Why Try informational session provided by Counselor Erin Viou and Teacher Lynette Collins. Facility tours were also included as part of the program. The goal is to engage and collaborate with families as much as possible while the students are incarcerated to enhance transition back into their homes and communities.



The Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility conducted a ceremony to recognize the facility's most recent graduates of the Thinking for Change (T4C) program. Nine offenders were honored during the event for successful completion. The graduates received certificates along with cake and ice cream. Sergeant Yolanda Jones, T4C Instructor held classes twice a week for thirteen weeks. (photo left)

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a blood drive where 33 donors volunteered. This is the facilities second blood drive of the year. (photo below: Psychiatric Social Service Specialists Sally Stevenson and Heather Tucker and Youth Development Specialists Rick Rottet and Craig Rottet.

Miami Correctional Staff held its annual Family Fun Day. More than 200 staff and family gathered for hotdogs, hamburgers, snow cones, nachos and fun in the sun. There was a dunk tank, a K-9 demonstration with the facility's Emergency Squad and a corn hole tournament. Children enjoyed several bouncy houses and obstacle courses. It was a fun day for all! (photo below)



Putnamville Correctional Facility (ISF) is pleased to introduce three new supervisors that have been hired! Farrah Bunch has joined the facility from Plainfield Correctional Facility and will be the Director of Nursing at ISF! Rick Brown has come from the federal system to join the facility as the Safety Hazard Manager. Another addition coming from Plainfield is the new Physical Plant Director Dennis Taylor! The facility is pleased to welcome them!



Westville Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for 40 offenders who completed their PLUS programming. Kellie Bittorf, Director of Lake County Community Corrections, and perennial board member of the Indiana Criminal Justice Association was the guest speaker.

A film crew from Three Angels Broadcasting Network finished up filming at Miami Correctional Facility. The network has included Miami in its program called "Free Indeed" which focuses on Indiana prisons and the changes offenders make while in prison. A large crew came in to filming a Christian service along with the praise team. Then a two-person crew returned to film "B-roll" footage, including shots of the praise team singing in the Recreation Building and the prison yard, interviews of offenders and "beauty shots" of these offenders at different locations in the prison. (photo right)



Volunteers from the Pendleton Artists Society (PAS) held a gourd birdhouse painting class for the offenders at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF). Once completed, the offenders will send the birdhouses home as gifts to their families. "The gourd birdhouse painting class is an ongoing partnership between PAS and the facility that will benefit both the offenders and PAS," stated Lisa Ash, Recreation Coordinator. PCF has been working with PAS volunteers since March on various projects. Additional classes such as watercolor, oil and acrylic painting as well as drawing and sketching classes will be taught in the future by volunteers from the PAS.

Madison County 4H came to Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) to judge the Pendleton Clever Clovers, the facility's new 4H club, on their cupcake decorating. Fourteen students presented to the Madison County judges. The students were judged on creativeness, what their cupcake represented for them and presentation. The cupcakes will be displayed at the Madison County Fair in Alexandria, Indiana during the 4H week. PNJCF Aramark Food Service Director Belinda Stamper, Pendleton Correctional Facility Secretary Tina Gibson and Correctional Industrial Facility Unit Team Manager Delana Ritchie are the group leaders for the Pendleton Clever Clovers and are proud to be a part of a wonderful 4H group and to be given the opportunity to educate these young men.



Congratulations to Officer Kirk Shuppert and Recreation Leader Lisa Ash who were recognized as the Employee of the Quarter and Supervisor of the Quarter during the Pendleton Correctional Facility's (PCF) Quarterly Staff Assembly. In addition to the Quarterly Awards, staff were recognized for their Years of Service and completion of the Certified Specialists Training.