



Spokane County Detention Services Community Corrections Newsletter

Director John McGrath

Summer 2014

Lt. Joanne Lake



Our Mission:

Providing services for adult offenders to enhance public safety through effective and innovative programs supporting positive choices, constructive behavior and accountability, thereby reducing repeat criminal behavior.

Our Principals:

- We believe change is possible, and it begins internally.
- We believe all people are equal and diverse individuals having intrinsic worth who deserve personal attention, support, humor, empowerment and recognition.
- We believe in creating a challenging environment that emphasizes individual growth, exploration and strength.
- We believe in being proactive participants in societal, environmental, political and individual change to promote a safer community.

Geiger Offenders, Rail Museum Laying New Tracks

One of the more challenging projects Geiger Community Corrections Work Crews have embarked on is assisting with the on-going relocation of the Inland Northwest Rail Museum from the Interstate Fairground complex to a 30-acre site 2 miles west of Reardan.

Geiger Corrections Work Crew Supervisor, Sgt. Jason Robison, likened moving a railroad museum to moving a mountain that comes apart in 100-ton chunks. "Certainly moving a train museum is more involved than moving just about anything else."

To make the job possible, the INRM constructed a rail route to the historical museum from existing spur tracks, and has secured the entire project behind fencing. The INRM expects to complete the move of their railroad collection to the Reardan site by year's end and open the Lincoln county site to the public in 2015. Sanitation facilities, an interpretive center and railroad car restoration exhibit are planned. A well, plumbing, sewer and a building pad have already been completed.

The rail museum was located at the Fairground site since the late '60s, and the big move began in 2002. Spokane County requested INRM vacate the Fairgrounds area as part of its 50-year draft Fairgrounds plan. In January of 2012 Geiger Work Crews assisted INRM members in moving a gigantic turntable by rail from the Fairgrounds to Reardan. This prized feature will facilitate the movement of rail cars through the museum's viewing galleries.



Geiger Work Crew Inmates under the supervision of Corrections Officer Todd Rosengrant position and spike a section of track at the Inland Northwest Rail Museum near Reardan.

Former Geiger Offender Seizes Re-Entry Help, College Dream

Tim Northington, looking to rebuild life with his 4-year old daughter, during his last stay at Geiger immersed himself in pre-release education classes tailored to facilitate a successful transition back into the community.

Tim has parlayed his re-entry education efforts into the opportunity of a lifetime. "I'll be starting Spokane Community College this fall quarter in hotel and restaurant management, and I'm on the waiting list to enter the culinary arts program."



Tim will open a huge door of opportunity this fall, as he begins studying hospitality management at SCC.

At age 29, Tim is working to completely reshape his life. "I wasn't at Geiger long enough to enter the New Horizon Treatment program there, but I was able to take classes that began setting the stage for a return to a stable and productive lifestyle."

At Geiger, Tim completed Fulcrum Institute classes in Job Readiness and Job Skills, Partners In Parenting and Communication Skills. Upon release, he met with counselors at the Fulcrum facility near North Central High School to begin Job Search.

He also entered out-patient Treatment at "Partners With Families & Children" not far from the courthouse. "I'm attending Treatment three times a week and working through CPS to strengthen my relationship with daughter. She's my motivation." (Continued On Page 4)

Geiger Offenders "Giving Back" Through Community Garden

One of the Moral Reconciliation Therapy steps to overcoming addiction is owning up to one's past and learning how crime affects not just victims, but the entire community. This can create a deeper motivation to change those thinking patterns which put the offender and others at risk. One of the ways Treatment providers illustrate that generosity and atonement foster self-esteem is by having offenders give back to the community.

To that end, Geiger has been operating a community garden the past four summers. This year the garden project grew from 12 to 20 individual plots under the direction of Geiger Programs Officers Zach Crawford and Ray Gawenit.



Officer Gawenit was chosen as a Programs Officer earlier this year. He assists Geiger Treatment, pre-release education classes, faith-based worship services and volunteer recovery programs such as AA and Celebrate Recovery. This is the first year he's been involved in the garden, and he quickly became adept at out-smarting ground squirrels, solving irrigation issues and making sure harvested produce is delivered at the peak of ripeness.

Last season the garden produced over a ton of fresh produce to local charities, and there is expectation this year will surpass last year despite a cool May and June weather. As of Sept. 15 the garden still had a big harvest of potatoes and tomatoes yet to ripen.

Veteran's Court Forum Mentoring, Support Showing Great Results

Often times, there's one aspect or element of substance addiction treatment that proves the biggest challenge to abstinence. Some struggle with a lack of confidence or self-esteem. Treatment counselors attribute failed efforts of others to unmanaged stress or anger. Still others find that particular people or occasions trigger the relapse impulse.

For local Armed Forces Veterans finding themselves in the criminal justice system through substance abuse, there's a special Therapeutic Court offering an adjudication process focusing on change that incorporates mentoring, counseling, peer support and progress review. Results have been stellar.



Veterans Forum Coordinator and Geiger Instructor Kathy Haugland.

Kathy Haugland, Geiger education instructor with Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic, was involved in the 2010 formation of the Veterans' Forum through her work with Goodwill. "The Forum is a support organization for all substance offenders in all the Veterans' Court programs in our region, including Spokane Superior, Spokane District and Spokane Municipal, plus

courts in Stevens and Pend Oreille counties. We gather the third Thursday of each month."

For Brian D. of Spokane, the Veteran's Forum has been integral in reshaping his life. He was the guest speaker at the July 3 Geiger Community Corrections 29th Breaking Barriers Graduation ceremony. His challenge was simply realizing, then accepting, he was alcoholic. "I thought I was fine, but I was in denial. Once I took a look at myself and what I was doing to those around me, I saw a big problem."

Brian is not a counselor or mentor. He's not a successful graduate of substance treatment yet. He's a treatment client, and he came to share the story of his journey back to sobriety with graduating inmates.

Brian explained how he maintained a successful career for years despite severe alcoholism. "It was affecting everybody around me, but not until realized that I was alcoholic did I fully commit to stopping. Everybody's experience with treatment seems to be different, and for me quitting was not difficult once I finally understood who I'd become."

Brian's DUI case was moved to Spokane County District Veterans Court and he was referred to alcohol treatment and Moral Reconciliation Therapy. He told the grads that he attributes a large part of his progress to the regional Veteran's Forum, which supports Veterans' courts with volunteer mentor and peer associations. Spokane Veterans Court Presiding Judge Vance Peterson is familiar with the struggles of returning service personnel. He retired from military service in 2003 after 28 years with the National Guard and Army. He was recalled to Afghanistan in 2011 and returned to Spokane in 2012.

Presently about 40 defendants are participating in the Veterans Forum. "We've graduated 65 veterans since we began," Kathy noted, "and the recidivism rate for these grads is six percent. I believe our Veterans' Forum is the largest in the U.S."

Each offender in the Veterans' Forum meets with a volunteer mentor weekly. "Many of the mentors are either veterans themselves or spouses of veterans. These mentors come from every walk of life--attorneys to mechanics to retired motorcycle riders. We're especially indebted to all those who work the Spokane County Veterans Court docket, including District Court Judge Vance Peterson, Deputy Prosecutor Geoff Kristianson and Probation Officer Tom Squires."

New GED Testing, Computer Lab Upgrades Advance Geiger Ed Opportunities

Computers have seeped into just about every facet of life, particularly education. To that end, Geiger Community Corrections continues to expand its computer training capabilities, turning hand-me-down, obsolete desktops into learning labs and testing networks.

GED (General Education Development) preparation and testing have been offered at Geiger since 2006. Since the GED program's inception, a test section passing rate of over 90 percent has been attained by Geiger offenders, more than 2100 individual tests passed and 325 GED certificates earned. However, since Jan. 1, Geiger's GED program has been on hold. That's about ready to change.

A complete overhaul of the U.S. GED testing system took effect on Jan. 1. All GED testing in Washington State is now directed on-line by Pearson-Vue, a private educational and professional certification testing service. In addition to a computerized testing network (no more pen and paper testing; on-line only), the new GED exam sets a higher degree of proficiency for reading, cognition and "common core" skills.

Geiger Maintenance Specialist Tim Houtz and Programs Sergeant Jon Simbler, with assistance from inmate workers, constructed a dedicated 7-station GED testing room in the Geiger education building.

This summer Geiger Education Director Becca Butterfield obtained her Person-Vue proctoring credentials and the required certification to establish a Geiger GED testing center. Becca will start GED test preparation instruction for inmates mid-September.

Improvements have also been made to Geiger's Job Skills computer lab. Five donated stand-alone PCs running freeware have been updated to become a Windows network. Now Geiger computer lab teachers can provide instruction in software applications universally used in today's business world.



Geiger's New Dedicated GED Testing Center

Geiger Responsible Renters Program Focusing On Root Of Homelessness

This summer Geiger Education Director Becca Butterfield has reintroduced the "Responsible Renters" class at Geiger. Participants of this classroom curriculum learn the basic rights and responsibilities of renting a home, with special emphasis on local housing support resources, budget basics, debt management and how to successfully share a residence with a roommate. The ultimate objective of the program is to educate the homeless to the circumstances that led to their situation, and learn the skills needed to achieve stability. Responsible Renters class at Geiger is supported through "Transitions," a Spokane non-profit working to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane. Transitions is supported by several Catholic-based women's communities. Completion of the Responsible Renters class affords Geiger inmates access to public and non-profit housing resource programs.

Sheriff's Grad Speech Touts Candidates Supporting Community Corrections

Geiger Corrections Center honored its 30th Breaking Barriers graduating class on Aug. 14 with at a ceremony at the Geiger Visitor's Center. Spokane County Sheriff Knezovich was in attendance to congratulate the grads, explaining it's imperative they utilize post-release assistance and mentoring services available through Geiger's non-profit and faith-based partners. "I know it's a bit unusual for a cop to come here and celebrate the work you've done," he told the grads. "For me the objective isn't punishment, it's to end victimization and inspire you to make changes benefitting yourselves and your kids. This is what motivates me; it's why I'm a cop. Often we have granddad, dad and son in jail all at the same time. Here is our chance to break this generational cycle."

Sheriff Knezovich shared some observations about the future of Geiger programs and offender rehabilitation in Spokane County. "I just came from a criminal justice meeting with elected officials. We can't solve the problem if offenders don't have a way to make positive change. We can lock them up, but they get out. I've been advocating this since 2007 when we first began planning offender programs at Geiger. With a lot of work from people like Judith Gilmore at Fulcrum, Lt. Lake here at Geiger, Pastor Danny Green, and the Lands Council's Green Sleeves Project, we're making progress. We have a great start, but it can't happen without broad-based community support and commitment from our elected officials."

Becca Butterfield, Geiger Ed Director, awarded certificates of completion to 16 inmates completing the Breaking Barriers curriculum (Gordon Graham's behavioral/cognitive change model, creative conflict resolution, personal finance). Geiger's Celebrate Recovery counselor John Haley (Family of Faith Christian Church) keynoted the graduation for the second time this summer. Fulcrum Institute pre-release education instructor Bob Wise honored 5 offenders and New Horizon Treatment counselor Eileen Jacobson awarded certificates to 5 inmates completing Intensive Outpatient Therapy.

Work Crews Concluding Rigorous Summer Agenda

Geiger Corrections Center Inmate Work Crews are concluding one of their busiest seasons ever. In addition to providing the backbone labor for marquee Spokane events like Hoopfest and Bloomsday, the Work Crews continued their litter detail along county roads and highways. Work Crew Supervisor Sgt. Jason Robison reports the litter and garbage total for Geiger crews from debris and illegal dumping since 2006 has reached 1.375 million pounds. "There's no shortage of garbage. As soon as we clean up one dump site, another one is reported. We also pick up a lot of trash along the roads leading to the Waste To Energy plant and the refuse transfer stations. It's a never-ending cycle."



23rd Annual Spike & Dig Volleyball Setup near Joe Albi Stadium

Geiger Work Crews continue to work the downtown core area to remove refuse and to beautify under I-90 and train overpasses. This downtown project was initiated in 2012 and Sgt. Robison sees it continuing indefinitely. "The freeway on- and off-ramps, all the overpasses and many downtown alleys had become so unsightly that in 2012 the City of Spokane first arranged for our Work Crews to begin a regular regime of cleaning up garbage, blotting out graffiti and making the central core gateways look more inviting. We even have a maintenance routine whereby graffiti is reported and we send a crew out to repaint. This includes the supports under the freeway, right of ways and the downtown skate park."

Geiger Work Crews are assisting again this year with maintenance and upkeep of the **Rockford City Park**. They helped with setup and tear down for the Deer Park **Relay For Life**, benefitting the American Cancer Society. Crews assisted the **Strides For Strong Bones** fun run last month in Medical Lake, benefitting the Washington Osteoporosis Coalition. A group of Work Crew inmates completed forklift training with Spokane County Risk Management for September's **Interstate Fair**, where they kept garbage receptacles empty and the livestock pens clean. Crews also did the court setup and tear down for the 23rd annual **Spike & Dig** volleyball tournament at the Dwight Merkel Complex (Joe Albi Stadium). The event attracted 300 youth and adult teams and over 2500 players. Sgt. Robison noted the crews were especially impressive working through big summer storms at both Hoopfest and Spink & Dig.



One of downtown's more glaring graffiti examples sports new paint and is looking good!

College Dreams

Cont. from page 1—Tim obtained his GED at age 21 before he'd ever been to jail. "I'm fortunate for the opportunity to begin college. The counselors at Fulcrum have been phenomenal in their positive approach and encouragement. They helped me apply for financial assistance through the Basic Food Employment & Training program (DSHS) and assisted with my SCC enrollment."

Law & Justice Council Tackles Blueprint Report

Spokane Regional Criminal Justice Commission's "Blueprint For Reform" report, released Nov. 2013, led County Commissioners this spring to create the Law & Justice Council charged with bringing forth best practices in law enforcement, detention, criminal adjudication and corrections. The new Council brings together elected officials and public agency leaders to collaboratively assess immediate and future needs, identify alternatives to incarceration that are consistent with current laws, provide for public safety, hold offenders accountable, reduce victimization and address recidivism.

The Council (<http://www.spokanecounty.org/scljc/>) has contracted WSU criminology professor, Dr. Jacqueline Van Wormer, as its project manager and facilitator. Meeting times and places will be posted on the Council website. Public input is not taken at meetings, but can be submitted through the Council web site.

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