

# THE ECHO

*Created by incarcerated people*

NEWS  
FROM  
THE  
INSIDE



VOLUME VI | MAY ISSUE

EASTERN OREGON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

PENDLETON, OR 97801

EST. 2018

## PURPOSE DRIVING CHANGE

The JLAD Program Impacts People From All Walks of Life

Photograph by Phillip Luna



Larry Wilt works with service dog during training demonstration at the April 8, 2024, Leash Passing Ceremony

**IN 2015, CAPTAIN** Jeff Frazier took the first step of many in developing a program of change in the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC). A team of staff members drafted a proposal that would allow

for the training of rescue dogs inside an eastern Oregon prison. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen issues the proposal was denied.

Later, while stuck in traffic, an adver-

tisement played across the radio for service dogs. The advertisement was pitched to a captive audience and Frazier took the opportunity to pivot from rescue to service canines.

*(Continued on page 10)*



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# HOW TO FIND THE ECHO

## And Other Notes

Written by Phillip Luna, Editor

### REACHING THE BROADEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE

The Echo can be accessed in the free section of the tablet, under the notices icon. Previous editions are published there as well. This digital version of the newsletter can be viewed by any AIC wherever a tablet is available.

Each month more than 400 paper copies are printed, which are distributed to the housing units. Any AIC who is unable to obtain a paper copy, may send an AIC communication to IWP to request one.

The Department of Corrections emails The Echo to friends and family who have signed up for the mailing list. Friends and family can sign up for the email list by texting the word "Corrections" to 22828. Any person with an email can receive a PDF of The Echo for free.

Additionally, The Echo is available through the Prison Journalism Project's (PJP) newsletter directory. PJP is a non-profit organization that supports prison journalism in 39 states and three countries.

Also, The Echo can be found on the OregonCURE website.

When all else fails, a simple Google search will yield results.

### SUBMITTED ARTICLES

We do accept article submissions. Please understand the purpose of

The Echo is not to disparage the Department of Corrections, staff, or other incarcerated people.

We have an obligation to ensure we meet ethical standards of journalism and professionalism. We do not publish unfounded articles, unresearched or unsourced data, and generally avoid anonymous quotes whenever possible.

For staff or residents, if you have something you would like posted in the newsletter, feel free to contact IWP. We will assign a writer to research the potential article.

### MULTIMEDIA DEPARTMENT

Recently, IWP workers have received an increase in questions regarding videography, photography and journalism.

Part of IWP's role is as EOCI's multimedia department. The role of this department is to produce a newsletter and complete photography and videography for the institution.

We do not offer a check out for our cameras, lighting or sound equipments, computers, or video and sound editing software. We have people employed to work in this field and with this equipment.

If you are interested in filming and video editing, writing for a newsletter, or institution photography you are encouraged to apply for a job with IWP. Applications are kept on file for one year.



THE OREGON WAY

# AN UNUSUAL FIELD TRIP

## Walmart, Denny's and Back to EOCI

Written by Phillip Luna, Editor



From left to right: Mike Markle, Seth Mulkey, Geoff Holden and Sue Robson.

**ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26** Mike Markle, Seth Mulkey, Geoff Holden and Sue Robson ate breakfast at Denny's in Hermiston, Oregon after visiting the local Walmart. What might seem like a normal Friday to the unsuspecting eye, was a highly unusual, unprecedented event. What makes it such a rare occurrence? At the time, Mulkey was incarcerated at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI).

Mulkey was released from prison on May 3, after serving a 20-year sentence. As part of his transition, and to help him acclimate back into society, he was taken on a field trip a week before his release.

"I didn't really know they were going to do this. They woke me up in the

morning and told me to get ready for a trip," said Mulkey.

Sergeant Holden and Transition Services Counselors Robson and Markle were chaperones for the day.

"I felt that I stuck out like a sore thumb," Mulkey said. "I had on khakis and a pumpkin orange sweatshirt."

Mulkey was provided with civilian clothing for the outing.

"They showed me around town, where things were that I needed. And to the DMV and the parole office," said Mulkey.

While this type of outing is more common in minimum security facilities, it is unheard of at a medium security facility such as EOCI. Mulkey released directly from EOCI.

The quartet visited Walmart first. Mulkey referred to the store as "really strange" and "weird."

"I'm in this big store ... you see people walking around, you see things that you check out yourself," explained Mulkey (he had never seen a self-check out stand before).

The crew took Mulkey to Denny's for a late breakfast and gave him twenty-five dollars (all one dollar bills) in cash to spend. Mulkey purchased a philly cheese steak omelet.

"I was wanting hamburgers, but you can't have burgers until after 11 am. I had breakfast and that was enough." His meal cost \$17.48, but he didn't get to keep the change. "Still, it was kind of nice being able to dish out the money," said Mulkey.

After twenty years of incarceration, handling money and interacting with a waitress was an unusual experience for Mulkey.

After Mulkey paid for his meal, Counselor Markle showed him how he generally pays - with his phone.

"Mr. Markle, I guess he has all his credit cards and everything on his phone, I thought that was kind of interesting," said Mulkey. "I don't know if I am going to get that far."

The event was arranged by Counselor Markle with the goal of helping the AIC prepare for release. A goal which, by any measure, has been achieved.

"I feel more prepared now. Less stressed," said Mulkey. |ECHO

# MEET A CONTACT TEAM MEMBER

## ~~Sergeant~~ Lieutenant Emma Greene, An Interview

### **I joined the Contact Team because...**

I want to make a difference, not only in my life but my co-workers, family and AICs here.

### **Before working at EOCl I used to...**

Not enjoy my jobs, sure there are days at any job that suck but at my other jobs I didn't feel any purpose.

### **Some things people don't know about me are...**

I was born in Utah, moved around a lot growing up. But I feel Oregon is my home. I played and then coached volleyball & basketball.

I volunteer my time with my family for Community Fellowship Dinner. We feed those in need of fellowshipping during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Helping people has always been part of my DNA. Through church and school I learned to be in service of my fellow man and appreciate that we are all in need at some times in our lives.

### **Whether AICs or Staff, what I expect from people I work with is...**

Be honest with me. I try and look at things from all different perspectives.

### **The one change I would like to see in Oregon correctional facilities is...**

Kindness. Just because we are in a prison doesn't mean you have to be unkind. You can hold AICs accountable and have real conversations without being rude. A quote from a co-worker "What's right is right!" Being nice doesn't mean you are compromised.

### **So far, my experience as a Contact Team Member has been...**

Positive. They sent me to Norway and my experiences there were amazing. I learned about the prison system in Norway and their contact officer program. I enjoy sharing my experiences with everyone! |ECHO



Photograph provided by Greene

Ms. Greene began her career with the Department of Corrections in August of 2013. Over the last ten years, Greene has been a Field Training Officer and worked with many departments and as part of many teams.

Greene's experience earned her an invite to be part of the AMEND Contact Team Program, collaborating with other states and institutions, and eventually job shadowing the Contact Officer Program in Norway.

Greene was recently promoted to Lieutenant.

AROUND EOCI

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND DRUG TREATMENT

## Assistant Administrator Shares New Details on Program

Written by Patrick Gazeley-Romney, Writer-at-Large



**IN RESPONSE TO** last month's article "Addiction Behind the Fence," Meredith Olson-Goldsby, the Assistant Administrator of the Substance Use Disorder program (SUD) from the Oregon DOC, offered some additional and updated information about the SUD programs that are rolling out in select facilities this year.

"The new SUD programs follow in the footsteps of a program called SMART that was piloted at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in 2021," wrote Olson-Goldsby.

The SUD programs provide voluntary treatment for substance use disorders to any AIC with treatment needs throughout their incarceration.

She further wrote that ODOC recently received funding to "... expand addiction treatment to two additional

facilities, Snake River Correctional Institution and the Oregon State Penitentiary."

Olson-Goldsby added that the expansion is based on a chronic disease model, meaning the philosophy of the program is to view addiction through the lens of an ongoing disease, requiring care, attention and maintenance over a lifetime.

Participants in the SUD program work with certified addiction counselors and AICs who are trained as peer recovery mentors to provide individualized approaches to treating addiction.

"One of the things that is unique about this model is that the length of engagement in the program depends on the unique assessed need of the AIC," wrote Olson-Goldsby. "The program is there to support them until they can get established on a recovery pathway."

If an AIC struggles to maintain recovery after leaving the program, they are still eligible to return for more support.

"It is truly a wrap-around approach to managing addiction," she wrote. "The fledgling programs at SRCI and OSP are currently in the process of

recruiting addiction counseling staff and peer recovery mentors."

**“It is truly a wrap-around approach to managing addiction”**

Olson Goldsby elaborated that ODOC expects to be able to fully launch SUD treatment services in these facilities in the spring of 2024.

According to Olson-Goldsby, the vision of ODOC doesn't stop there.

"With additional legislative funding, ODOC hopes to start similar programs at more facilities across the state, with the long-term goal of having the SUD program based on the chronic disease model in every facility," said Olson-Goldsby.

She added, "by offering treatment earlier in an AICs incarceration, ODOC is hopeful that we will be able to create recovery communities with a thriving recovery culture inside our facilities."

Currently there are no signs of movement to bring the SUD program to EOCI; however, if the chronic disease treatment model proves successful at other facilities throughout the state, it is only a matter of time until the program is adopted. |ECHO

# A TRANSIENT GARDEN

## A Creative Idea to Solve an Unexpected Problem

Written by Phillip Luna, Editor

**HUNDREDS OF WHITE** plastic buckets form rows in the garden plots this year – a piece of ingenuity to solve an unexpected problem.

EOCI's roofing renovation project commenced in February of 2023. Several garden plots will become the ground floor for renovations throughout the year, making the plots unavailable at times.

This year the vegetables, typically planted in the plots around the compound, will be contained in buckets. As the renovation moves from building to building, the buckets will be moved to an available open space. |ECHO



# BHS GARDEN MOVES EAST

## Apiary Garden Split to Support the Displaced Garden

Written by Brooklyn Sasso, Staff Writer



**EACH YEAR THE** BHS counselors organize a garden group for people on their caseloads. Generally, the area between F unit and the building appendage is reserved for a BHS garden. However, this section of ground has recently been an access point for the heavy equipment required for the on-going roof repairs.

The BHS garden group has been temporarily moved to the area behind the JLAD training yard, east of H unit. The group will share this space with the bee-keeping program for the remainder of the season.

The benefits to working in a garden are not just fresh vegetables, or a light workout. Gardening has been shown to have many other beneficial elements such as improvement with movement in joints, reducing stress levels and building social connections. |ECHO

## AROUND EOCI

# NEW DIRECTIVE: AN ALL ELECTRIC FUTURE

## Light-Duty Vehicles to Transition to Electric Cars After 2025

Written by Phillip Luna, Editor



Electric vehicle in the EOCI autoshop.

**A MANDATE BY** Oregon Governor Tina Kotek directs that all newly purchased state vehicles after January of 2025 must be fully electric. This mandate only applies to light-duty vehicles.

Currently only one vehicle is electric at EOCI and the mandate only applies to newly purchased vehicles. The change to all electric will be a slow process.

The directive by the Oregon governor mirrors the direction of auto manufacturers across the United States. In recent news, General Motors (GM) and Ford have both made clear their intention to manufacture only electric vehicles in the near future. GM plans to move fully electric by 2030. |ECHO

# SIX GRADUATE ARBORIST PILOT PROGRAM

## Students Complete EOCI's Tree Workers Program

Written by Phillip Luna, Editor

**ON MAY 2, 2024 EOCI** graduated its' first and only six students through the peer-led Tree Workers Arboriculture class: Brett Lloyd, Joseph Tuttle, Nicholas Shatlaw, Kristopher Moe and Keven Cochran (not pictured).

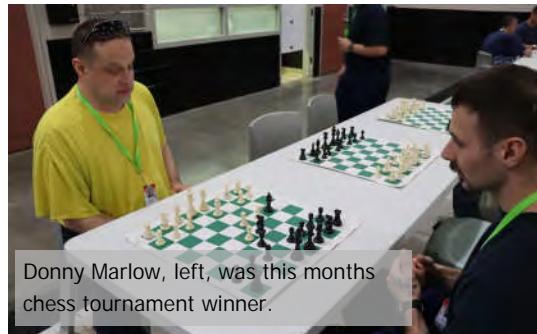
The curriculum was designed by AIC Patrick Gazeley-Romney in 2023 to prepare aspiring Arborists for the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist Certification exam.

The 16-week course uses weekly lectures and homework assignments as well as quizzes and a comprehensive practice exam to introduce participants to topics ranging from basic biology and soil science, to tree pruning techniques and urban forestry. |ECHO



From left to right: Brett Lloyd, Patrick Gazeley-Romney, Kristopher Moe, Nick Shatlaw, and Joe Tuttle.

Photograph by Phillip Luna



## MULTI TOURNAMENTS CONCLUDE FOR APRIL

### ...And New Tournaments Begin

Written by Shane Goins, Sports Writer

**ROOK TAKES PAWN**, but not if you summon an Eldrazi (with any color mana of course) to the board before someone gets wheels. Wait, what?!

EOCI's recreation department offered a plethora of tournaments over the past few months with the most recent five concluding in April. The new champions are as follows: Chuck Edmonds, Magic the Gathering; Keaton Stephens and Anthony Mathis, Spades; Branch Niehouse and Sam Leisure, Pinochle; Jeremy "JJ" Bonsignore and John Benge, Cornhole; and Donald Marlow, in Chess.

Magic the Gathering is a fantasy trading card game. Inaugural champion Chuck Edmonds said, "It's a good outlet for me; a good way to use my imagination ... you have to stay focused."

Edmonds also stated "Not everyone

that plays are nerds. It's a versatile group of people involved. I've been playing 14 years and it's great for a positive social aspect ... makes you think outside the box."

As a wildcard team thrown together last minute, Stephens and Mathis quickly forged familiarity and trust that proved unbeatable as they took the Spades tournament by storm.

When asked how they overcame the unfamiliarity they explained, "We read the board and paid attention to what was played." Their eye for detail has paid off.

The pinochle tournament had the highest number of participants this month.

"The difference in environment is night and day," stated Niehouse, tournament winner. "I feel more inspiration to go down [to multi]

now. I appreciate the community aspect that Multi provides us. I learned to play pinochle in 1989 when I was in county jail. Some older gentlemen taught me. It was a trial by fire. It's complex but once you learn, it gets easier."

Cornhole tournament champion Bonsignore said, "The difference between playing outside as opposed to Multi is huge. The atmosphere in Multi is way better. Plus, I like the live music and sense of community. Seeing people that wouldn't normally talk to each other actually talking to each other is a nice sight."

Participants seem to enjoy all that Recreation Specialists Templin and Garton have been doing these past few months. The AIC population definitely looks forward to each round of tournaments. |ECHO

**MAY TOURNAMENTS** may include Scrabble, Racquetball, Ping Pong, Doubles Foosball, Chess, Magic the Gathering, Team Spades and Team Pinochle.

## FEATURE



Captain Jeff Frazier steps into retirement; Lt. Sina Vaafusuaga takes over.

Eight years later the far-reaching impact of JLAD is undeniable. The program has spread to multiple facilities and dozens of canines have graduated, to reach owners in need across the U.S. and Canada.

JLAD canines have even appeared in local papers, on the news and some become Disney Channel celebrities. Paige, a previous graduate, appeared on Disney Channel's Pup Academy.

### AN IMPACT ON TOURISM

Members of society are sometimes given tours of the prison to better understand what happens inside the razor wire.

Captain Frazier, who often led tour groups, would start off each session asking the participating members how they felt. Anxiety was the most common and often strongest emotion.

Frazier introduced JLAD trainers to members of the tour group and their anxiety and worries melted away. The public saw the human side of the facility and the people who reside within.

"They [JLAD trainers] would talk about why they are here, their growth, what they've learned, how they've changed. It was humanizing," said Frazier. At the end of each tour, perspectives had completely changed. The tour group let go of anxiety.

The program helped to alleviate anxiety and preconceived ideas of how society views prisons and incarcerated people.

## PURPOSE DRIVING CHANGE

### The JLAD Program Impacts People From All Walks of Life

Written by Chris Ainsworth, Staff Writer

*(...continued from cover page)*

"The program spoke to me," Captain Frazier reflected.

Frazier presented a proposal for a service dog training program to ODOC administration in Salem, Oregon. As fortune would have it, the founder of Joys of Living Assistance Dogs (JLAD) had recently pitched a training program to ODOC. The timing was perfect.

According to the Centers for Disease Control there are roughly 500,000 service dogs in the U.S. compared to over 61 million people living with disabilities. The need for service dogs definitely exists.

A radical idea – teach the incarcerated people to train service animals. For the men to live with, feed, groom

and instruct each canine for two years, until the service dog was placed with a person in need.

"We needed to do things differently ...when you talk about programs and change, for me it was important to bring something positive and effect change," Frazier said.

Many were skeptical of a program facilitated by incarcerated people. JLAD is one of the few AIC instructed programs supported by the Department of Corrections.

Frazier enlisted a group of staff who were interested in seeing the program succeed. They worked on guidelines and set the groundwork to start the program at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI).

Photograph by Yasser Martinez/East Oregonian

Frazier has seen the change JLAD has on the AICs and the community, but he couldn't deny the impact the AICs have had on his personal growth. He attributes much of the changes at EOCl over the last ten years to programs like JLAD.

### THE INVISIBLE PART OF IT

As service canines complete their training they are part of a leash passing ceremony - a symbolic process in which the trainers pass the canines leash to their new owner, signaling the completion of training.

"These animals are little miracles. There is something special about JLAD," Victoria Bernard shared from a podium in EOCl's multi-purpose building during the Passing of The Leash ceremony on April 8, 2024.

After receiving service dog Eva two years ago, Bernard has experienced the joys of having a life changing companions trained at EOCl.

Bernard was diagnosed with PTSD about five years prior, but has lived with symptoms for years.

"The most annoying part about having an invisible disease is the invisible part of it," she stated.

Bernard was barely working part-time jobs, and full-time employment would completely exhaust her. Her sleep was often disrupted by nightmares.

Bernard was turning over job after job, unable to support herself and live a normal life.

When she first received her companion, Bernard thought it was an emotional support animal, "I didn't know the difference between an emotional



Victoria Bernard shares her story at the April 8, 2024  
Passing of the Leash ceremony.

support and service animal."

Severe flashbacks and night terrors were a normal part of Bernard's life. She was told Eva could wake her from nightmares.

The first time Bernard had a nightmare after receiving Eva, the service dog woke her up. But Bernard was unaccustomed to being woken up from a nightmare and she thought Eva needed to go to the bathroom.

"I jumped out of bed filled with the adrenaline from the nightmare, and ran down three flights of stairs to take Eva outside," said Bernard.

Eva dutifully followed.

When they got outside Eva sat at Bernard's feet and stared up at her. Assuming it was a false alarm, Bernard returned to bed.

Eva woke Bernard up again, using her teeth to pull the blankets back and her nose to turn on the light switch.

Once more, thinking Eva needed a bathroom she went downstairs.

According to Bernard, Eva stayed at the top of the stairs and stared at her as if to say, "Girl, I was trained for this."

The third time Eva woke her up from a nightmare, the service dog laid on top of her so she couldn't get out of bed, and licked her face.

"The weight of the nightmare hit me and I began to cry. Eva was there for me." For the first time, Bernard felt what it was like to be interrupted from horrific dreams and have support by her side.

With Eva's help, Bernard's sleep improved over time, allowing her to make it through the night.

"Eva has made my life possible, and for the first time I am pursuing my dreams," Bernard proclaimed with an enormous smile.

She used to think life was about survival, but Eva has shown her how to live with joy. Bernard attributes the hope and freedom she has found to the JLAD program and believes the

(continued on next page...)

## FEATURE



Photograph by Phillip Luna



Photograph by Phillip Luna

program didn't just train a service animal, but a life partner.

"She has transformed my life."

### THE CHIP I USED TO CARRY

Fedrico Jimenez was one of the first AICs to be a part of JLAD. He has spent more than eight years in the program and has been a facilitator teaching other trainers for the last year.

During his initial interview, Captain Frazier asked Jimenez why he wanted to join the JLAD program. He recalled stating, "I want to change all my negatives, my anti-social to pro-communication and I hear that is what this program is about."

Jimenez credits Frazier for giving him the opportunity to look inside himself and grow, although he didn't expect staff would take a chance because of his conduct history.

"I remember the chip I used to carry," Jimenez said, referring to his

lifestyle before the program.

When Jimenez first joined JLAD, his family was hesitant to believe that he was actually given the responsibility of a service dog. Eventually, these barriers broke down.

In a recent article for the Eastern Oregonian, Jimenez stated, "All the puppies want to do is make you happy, so it teaches you to have a softer heart. The program teaches you empathy."

It's the empathy he learned that narrowed the divide between himself and his family. He even introduced his first canine to his family over a video visit.

"In the beginning the growth was all about myself," Jimenez recalled. But he soon found that being responsible for another life changed his focus.

Jimenez said, "In a prison environment, it's hard to look at another inmate as a teacher."

As a facilitator, Jimenez considers his

greatest success the achievements of his fellow AICs. The most significant self-growth he has noticed is the pride he experiences from the success of his peers - no longer to carry a chip on his shoulder, but to be the shoulders others can stand upon.

### FINDING PURPOSE AFTER SERVICE

Paul Reyes, a United States Army veteran who spent over two years in Iraq, has been part of the JLAD program for several years. The change he experienced has been profound.

When Reyes first started with the program he was on various medications as part of his treatment for PTSD and mental health conditions - medications he believed he would be on for the rest of his life.

Nightmares and flashbacks were another result of his service in Iraq.

While the nightmares have become less frequent, being part of the JLAD program has allowed Reyes to break



Paul Reyes provides training demonstration at 2023 ceremony.

Photograph by Phillip Luna

free from medications and better address his mental health conditions.

Reyes has found purpose working with service dogs.

As one of a select group of workers who has earned a five-year certificate, Reyes has worked as a clerk and trainer accruing a breadth of experience during that time. He has interacted with many staff and members of the general public during facility tours or other events.

When interacting with tour groups, Reyes has noticed firsthand the shock many people experience as AICs articulate the happiness and love they know from the JLAD program.

"It can be infectious, and being able to see the growth of individuals labeled by society as monsters ... [it] changes people," Reyes said.

Occasionally, service dogs receive specialized training to accommodate the needs of a specific owner.

Reyes was one of many AICs that worked with Ozark, a dog that went through training for a woman missing her right eye.

Ozark was taught to walk on the right side and far enough in front of their owner to be viewed with her left eye. He will be providing services like navigating obstacles that she may not be able to see from her blind side.

Other dogs receive unique training like helping owners get undressed because of partial or full paralysis, getting items off a shelf (like a cell phone or medicine), or placing clothing in a laundry basket.

The canines also learn how to identify and alleviate the stress of a panic attack. These are just a few of the countless cues the dedicated trainers teach their loving learners.

When Reyes contemplates a different line of work, his support system reminds him how much being a part of the program has helped him.

"My friends and family see the positive impact it has had on me," said Reyes.

## A CHANGE THAT REDEFINES

After eight years the JLAD program has successfully graduated dozens of service dogs. During the April 8 event the JLAD program saw 13 service dogs graduate, the largest graduating class to date.

The JLAD program provides purpose for all involved and often leads to personal growth.

For the trainers, they have been given the opportunity to become a part of something bigger than themselves. The program is the catalyst that allows them to leave a lifestyle behind or address their own mental health issues.

For the recipients, these specialized service dogs provide hope and a life they never dreamed of before.

For the staff and members of the community, the program helps foster positive interactions and breaks down barriers and stereotypes of incarceration.

Change often carries a negative connotation. Change means walking towards the unknown, which can be intimidating, daunting and even frustrating. However, change does not always need to be something to fear. Change can redefine how we view ourselves and how others view us. It can drive growth and self-realization, and in rare instances it can go beyond just changing a life and may end up saving it. From AICs, to staff, to members of our communities, these service dogs and the JLAD program are a catalyst for change in the lives of all people it touches. |ECHO

## AROUND EOCI - OPINION

Photograph by Phillip Lutza



Veteran Journeyman Instructor Patrick Gazeley-Romney (right) explains the installation process to the class. New instructor Joe Tuttle assists in the process.



New student Chris Ainsworth (left) the other students learn the process of installing a hive.

## BEEKEEPING CLASS BEGINS FOR 2024 SEASON

### One Student Shares His Personal Experience

Written by Chris Ainsworth, Staff Writer

**I REMEMBER MY** mother saying, "Christopher, I am not going to put a bunch of bees in the backyard to sting me," in that stern voice all mothers have perfected. Last summer we spoke about how I thought she would enjoy starting her own bee hive.

She is an avid gardener, spending hours a day during the summer tending to her countless plants. She frequents farmer's markets and often brings home local honey. I thought introducing pollinators and honey makers would be the next logical step. Her response surprised me, but got me thinking that beekeeping is a skill I would love to learn.

Fast forward nine months, and I anxiously sit in the classroom awaiting

my first day in the beekeeping program.

I came over-prepared; placed in front of me is an empty folder with a notepad stacked on top and I am fidgeting with a pen and eyeballing one of the three pencils I brought to class. I can't help but wonder what the next year has in store.

This anxious energy has been looming in the background ever since I was notified of my acceptance into EOCI's beekeeping program.

The training class lasts 20-weeks and is split into two ten-week courses. During which there is class work, tests, videos, reading assignments and interactions with the hives.

By the end of the course I will have

achieved a beginner and apprentice beekeeping certificate from the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

After completing those certifications EOCI offers a journeyman beekeeper certification that takes around three years to complete.

EOCI staff and AICs are working with Washington State University to develop master and craftsman courses they hope to implement.

As others start to fill the seats I can sense a familiar excitement. Conversations about wearing the bee suits, the potential of dealing with swarms (and stings) pop up across the room. And, of course, getting to taste fresh honey.

I heard the colonies EOCI owned died off last year. Hopefully, the reason why will be explained in class.

There are a number of reasons bee colonies die off prior to winter, from what I have learned. The most common being Varroa mite infestations, but bees can also bring poison back to the colonies after coming in contact with pesticides.

The replacement colonies are set to arrive any day now. A new colony cost around \$150 and includes a queen with around 10,000 worker bees.

Sadly, there are limited spots in the beekeeping program that began back in 2019. There are twelve of us students that will be split into groups of two or three then paired with one of five mentors.

If you didn't get into the program this year, it shouldn't discourage you from applying in the future. Classes begin in April, but applications are accepted year round.

I can't wait to write more articles and share my experiences with everyone over the next year.

"I want updates each week. I bet you are going to love it," my mother told me when I informed her I was accepted into the program. So, it looks like I will be sharing these experiences with EOCI's prison population, plus at least one more. |ECHO

*The beekeeping program recently installed a package of bees in the apiary. The installation was recorded by the EOCI media department and can be viewed on the institution channel.*

# STEAKS FOR COTA

## Enrichment Club Holds First Fundraiser of the Year

Written by Phillip Luna, Editor



Ribeye steaks grilled on the flat top.

Photograph by Patrick Gazeley-Romney

**THE ENRICHMENT** Club held its first fundraiser of the year on April 26, serving up a hearty steak meal with bleu cheese crumbles, mozzarella sticks and a baked potato.

The club's fundraiser was designated to generate a donation to the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). The event was the club's second fundraiser to benefit COTA since the club began.

Anecdotally, the meal was a popular among the participants, as steak is a rarity in mainline meals.

Participant James Renfro called it the, "Best meal ever."

Some participants expressed the desire to contribute an additional donation.

"In the last event, we were able to give more. I don't know why they

didn't do that this time," said David Moles, fundraiser participant.

Moles is referring to the club's August, 2023 COTA fundraiser that allowed an additional straight donation, beyond the meal cost.

By the numbers the fundraiser had 564 participants and sold 979 steaks. Gross intake of funds was \$21,434, which is prior to purchasing the food and beverage items, non-sufficient funds and refunds due to transfer. Total donation amount is expected to be around \$6,000. |ECHO



12 oz ribeye steak, 12 mozzarella sticks, and a baked potato.

## AROUND EOCI

# Dads4Life Promotes Two

## Two AICs Take On Facilitator Roles

Written by Phillip Luna, Editor

**CHILDREN OF AN** incarcerated parent are six times more likely to become incarcerated themselves, according to a study conducted by Temple University. Often referred to as "hidden victims," children of incarcerated parents face threats to their emotional, physical, educational and financial well-being.

Dads4Life is a relatively new program at EOCI, designed to promote family connections and encourage increased communication between families. Recently, two AICs, Trevor Trollope of G2 and Miguel Iniguez of G3, took up the mantle as facilitators of this very impactful program.

In order to be a facilitator for the program, AICs must complete a cycle or two and demonstrate leadership skills. The facilitators started their first classes in April.

The Dads4Life program focuses on helping incarcerated people connect with their children, through varied activities and projects. Previous projects have included making a personalized children's book; making holiday cards; or recording a personal message in a voice recorded card.

Keaton Stephens, program clerk, stated, "I hope the guys will continue to be students and remember what you have to offer." |ECHO

## Attention Staff of EOCI

### Help Shape the Content of The Echo

Is there a question you find yourself answering all the time? Is there something you wish was better understood by the incarcerated population? Do you have a program, group, or class having a graduation or event?

Contact IWP and let us know!

Content in the newsletter is often shaped from the information provided by staff and AICs. If there is something, or someone, you think should be featured in The Echo, let us know. We will assign a writer to work on the story.

# TWELVE-STEP PROGRAMS

## Anonymous Support Groups at EOCI

Written by Phillip Luna, Editor

**NARCOTICS AND** Alcoholics Anonymous are peer-led mutual support groups following twelve-step models developed by people with varied substance use disorders. Both organizations are non-profit.

At EOCI, Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings are offered on the Eastside Thursdays at 6:00 pm. An additional Eastside class may be offered if there is an increase in participation.

On the Westside NA group meetings are available Tuesdays at 8:00 am or in the evening at 6:00 pm.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is available the first Sunday of every month at 1:00 pm. AA offers meetings in English and Spanish.

**The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop using.**

The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop using.

Several studies support twelve-step models as a successful method to reduce dependency.

A study in the 1990s in London, England (*Narcotics Anonymous attendance and six-month outcomes*, via Elsevier Science Directive) concluded a linear relationship between the length of membership and abstinence with reduced anxiety and increased self-esteem. Membership reduced anxiety as well as substance abuse.

In a more recent study, the 2020 Cochrane review (Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews) found that AA and NA twelve-step models were more effective than other established treatments, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy. |ECHO



In one of the first workshops at EOCI, Schlapp listens intently while a student reads.



The PonyXpress writing workshop is currently only available to incentive level 3 AICs. If you are interested in participating, send a communication form to Correctional Rehabilitation.

## A VOICE FOR INCARCERATED WRITERS

### PonyXpress Volunteers Honored; Literary Journal Offers Refuge Behind Bars

Written by Phillip Luna, Editor

**INCARCERATED WRITERS** and journalists face logistical barriers - access to materials, information and a forum to name a few. Two volunteers are slowly breaking down the barriers many writers face.

Volunteers Tracy Schlapp and Danny Wilson work with incarcerated writers at several Oregon prisons as part of a recurring writing workshop. Their workshop networks writers across prisons. Schlapp and Wilson's literary journal, PonyXpress, features essays and poetry written by incarcerated men and women.

On May 6, 2024, Superintendent Dave Pedro and Assistant Superintendent of Correctional Rehabilitation Andrea Neistadt, presented Schlapp and Wilson with the award Volunteers of The Year at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI).

"We are honored to give Daniel and Tracy from PonyXpress the EOCI 2023 Volunteer of the Year award. They take personal time and travel to Pendleton to run classes, not only because of their belief in their work, but also because of the commitment from the AICs who regularly attend," said Neistadt.

Schlapp and Wilson launched PonyXpress, a reference to the 19th-century mail service, in April of 2023. The project is based out of the Oregon State Penitentiary and sponsored by the Lakota Oyate Ki Culture Club.

Currently Schlapp and Wilson travel between six correctional facilities in Oregon, visiting EOCI once per month on average.

Schlapp, a Portland-based graphic designer by trade, often says the long drives are worth it. "They [AICs]

keep showing up, so we keep showing up," she said.

Wilson is also a musician, most well known to EOCI residents for his band Luther's Boots (Folsom 50 Concert).

PonyXpress is featured on the Edovo app, putting the prose and poetry of Oregon's incarcerated writers in the hands of more than 100,000 incarcerated readers across the nation.

Their first issue "Ancestors: The Best of PonyXpress, Issue 1" will be available as a PDF on Edovo, with free educational resources alongside. Writing from AICs across the state, including EOCI, is available in their first issue.

Authors are listed by initials only, as part of Edovo's policy.

Friends and family can visit their website at [ponyexpress.org](http://ponyexpress.org). | ECHO

IN MAY

# FIVE OUT OF EVERY SIX RESIDENTS OF EOCl

## Mental Health Awareness Month a Cause for Conversation

Written by Brooklyn Sasso, Staff Writer

**IN THE OREGON** Department of Corrections (ODOC) more than 10,000 of the approximate 12,800 incarcerated people access services for mental health - nearly five out of every six AICs. Comparatively, only one in five non-incarcerated U.S. citizens suffer from a diagnosed mental illness, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

These numbers provide a clear picture of the disparity between incarcerated and non-incarcerated people. But while it is unclear as to whether a mental health condition increases the likelihood of incarceration or if incarceration is the catalyst for the condition, it is certain that you are not alone. Many people struggle with mental health - inside and out.

May, is National Mental Health Awareness month, and is the perfect time to have an honest conversation about mental health with someone you know.

In 1949, Mental Health America (formally known as National Association for Mental Health) officially began observing May as Mental Health Awareness month.

The second leading cause of death in the U.S. among ages 10 to 34 is suicide, often attributed to an underlying mental health condition. An astounding 1.4 million people attempt suicide every year; 129 people die by suicide every day.

“129 people die by suicide every day”

People who struggle with mental health often feel overlooked, misunderstood, even ignored by those in their community. In the prison setting, our community is the other AICs and staff members that surround us.

Karen Harney, resident of unit F2, called mental health as crippling "... as someone with a physical disability."

Harney, who is a member of the LGBTQ community, has struggled with her mental health throughout her life.

LGBTQ people are five times more likely to attempt suicide.

F2 resident Ian Gilderson called Mental Health Awareness month, "... an opportunity for people to bridge that gap and validate people's humanity ... and being able to do that only strengthens all of us."

Another F2 resident, Rickie Miller, stated that he is still learning about his own mental health. "It's like an AA thing. You're going to have to work at it the rest of your life."

While F2 is the Mental Health Hous-

ing unit and the hub for many mental health service needs, there are people from every unit who struggle with mental health conditions. According to the Oregon Department of Corrections, more than 1,000 of the 1,350 residents at EOCl have accessed mental health services or have had a mental health diagnosis during their incarceration.

According to Officer Coffman, a 20-year veteran with ODOC, staff are no exception to the statistics.

"Everyone needs help, I've needed help in the past. If you need help, please ask," said Coffman.

EOCl has a great team of qualified mental health providers. Please feel free to contact BHS for any mental health concerns. A BHS staff member is available at all times.

Reporting thoughts of harming yourself does not mean you will be placed on suicide watch; suicide watch is a last resort. Counselors will work with you to develop a plan for your health and safety – which may include therapy, counseling and medication.

There are also a countless number of staff and AICs who wear a black silicone bracelets - they are suicide awareness bracelets - that read "Don't Give Up" and "You Matter." These bracelets are intended to indicate a willingness of the wearer to talk about mental health issues. |ECHO

# IN THE AFTERMATH AND 158 YEARS LATER

## The Origins and History of Memorial Day

Written by Brooklyn Sasso, Staff Writer

**THE YEAR IS 1866** and in the city of Columbus, Mississippi a group of women visit a cemetery. It's a calm April morning. The sounds of the city are heard in the distance, but the immediate surroundings are hushed and respectful. Each of the women carries arms full of assorted flowers, as the group travels to the graves of Confederate soldiers who have fallen in the battle of Shiloh.

Looking around, the women noticed only the Confederate soldiers' graves were marked by flowers, leaving the Union ones bare. Disturbed by this the group of women gathered more flowers and decorated the graves of the neglected men. Unknowingly, these women were some of the very few individuals to start the Memorial Day traditions we practice today.

On May 5 1866, a ceremony was held to honor local veterans who fought in the Civil War. Crowds at the first official celebration of Memorial Day at Arlington National

Cemetery were similar in size to what we see today, around 5,000 people. During this event local businesses closed down their shop fronts and flags were flown by residents at half-staff out of respect.

By the end of the 19th century, (throughout the nation) Memorial Day celebrations were being held. As a result, most state legislators designated an official day of observance.

After World War I, the recognition of Memorial Day was expanded to include all fallen U.S. troops, across all wars.

By 1971 the U.S. Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday. That's also when the last Monday in May was made the official day.

The National Moment of Remembrance Act was passed in December of 2000. This Act's charter is to

"encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them... freedom and opportunity." Thus, The National Moment of Remembrance promotes a tradition that at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day, every U.S. citizen takes a moment of silence to remember the millions of fallen soldiers that have served this great nation.

No matter where one may find themselves at 3 p.m. the last Monday of May, please take a few moments to remember the price some brave people made to give us the lives we live today. Reach out to those who have served.

Men and women of the Armed Forces, former and active, often struggle with PTSD. Veterans are at a 20% higher risk than the national average to consider suicide.

Not all fallen soldiers die in war, but may do so in the aftermath. |ECHO

# MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



IN MAY

# THE REAL MVPs

## A Look at Sports Most Valuable Players

Written by Shane Goins, Sports Writer

**FOOTBALL, SOCCER,** basketball and baseball - sports are played all over the world from Pop Warner to the professional level. Sports can build character, pave the way for a college scholarship, or for the very select and talented few provide a lucrative career. From playing catch with dad after school, to a team coach or even a high school history teacher who helped them keep a C average, every athlete has mentors and support along the way.

But there is one figure whose support stands above all the rest. The unsung hero of any and every sport:

### **Mom.**

Mother of NBA superstar Kevin Durant, Wanda "Mama Durant" Pratt, has become a fixture in the NBA. Durant's biggest fan since he started playing sports, she attends nearly every game (home or away).

Pratt was a single mom and raised her two sons on a postal worker's salary. She had no qualms about putting her son's needs before her own.

"My goal wasn't to get my son to the NBA," said Pratt, in an interview with ESPN. "My goal was to push my son towards his dream."

Her compromises helped Durant go from a high school phenom to a future NBA hall of famer.

In 2014, when Durant won his first MVP award, he called his mother the "real MVP."

Former NFL Running Back Marshawn Lynch and his mom, Delisa, share a very close bond but are polar opposites in certain aspects.

While Lynch is a man of few words (noticeably so in postgame interviews) his mom is outspoken and has been known for calling out coaches over bad play calls (see Super Bowl XLIX).

When Lynch was a teenager, around 12 or 13, his mom would give him Skittles before his Pop Warner games calling them "power pellets" to boost his spirits.

He was often seen with Skittles at games throughout his college career at Cal-Berkley and into his NFL career with the Bills, Seahawks and Raiders.

Super Bowl LVII (57) between the Chiefs and the Eagles, was heavy with frequent cut-away shots of "Mama Kelce" cheering for both of her sons who were on opposite teams (Jason Kelce was center for the Eagles and Travis Kelce a tight end with the Chiefs).

Travis and Jason's mom has become a celebrity in her own right, appearing in numerous commercials with her sons.

MLB All-Star third baseman Manny Machado is someone sports fans know all too well from his Mother's Day letter a few years ago.



Machado wrote:

"Mom, thank you for everything you've done for me. I can never repay you for all the sacrifices you made ... to support our family. I'm thankful for who you are and for helping me accomplish my goals. Thank you for reminding me every day to be strong and keep striving. I wouldn't be the man I am today if it wasn't for you."

Moms are the best. I know that first-hand as a two-sport athlete in my younger days. I played baseball (catcher and DH) and football (tight end). My real mom, Teena, supported me during my football days (from Pee-Wee all the way through high school) and was my biggest fan and greatest motivator.

My adoptive mom, Lisa, supported me during my short time playing baseball. Even if I had an off game she gave me nothing but positive affirmations and encouragement.

You know how usually dad plays catch with their kid? My mothers did that for me. I accredit all my success in sports, and in life, to both of them.

To all the moms out there, as Mother's Day approaches, your sacrifices, hard work and dedication should be acknowledged. You have helped create some of the biggest and brightest stars the world has ever seen.

Thank you. |ECHO

# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

## With Seth Mathews

Photograph by Phillip Luna



**"YOU KNOW HOW** you do homework? It's the same thing." Artist Seth Mathews described his variance in styles and art genres as he displayed photographs of hundreds of pieces he has completed over the last nine years. There are stacks of airy water-color art, with opaque black lines and semi-transparent splatters of color. There are life-like photorealistic pieces where every line, light source, and graffiti is thoughtfully placed. There are perspective artwork, with a worm's eye view of regal elk stepping into a clearing. There are abstract art, graffiti, and portraits - all which make for an unusual contrast in styles throughout one artist's portfolio.

Despite his artistic acumen, Mathews wasn't an avid artist before becoming incarcerated. He admitted to taking some cursory art classes in high school, but explained his study was mostly of the culinary field.

While his artwork might seem complex both in its intricacy and in the variety of styles, and although the skill set displayed may seem unattainable to the beginning artist, the path is clear. Like any good chef, Mathews views the process like a recipe - a dash of interest, a pinch of skill, and a spoonful of effort. Slow cook for enough time and you've got yourself some talent. |ECHO

# Softball 2024

**WHEN THE SOFTBALL SEASON** is upon us it seems like the usual story; H1 looks unbeatable (walloping 2023 institution champs, H2, in their first meeting of the season). But it's still early in the year so let's not get too expectant. With a solid roster built on the backs of familiar players, G3 looks like they have the best chance to play spoiler to H1's chances this year.

On the West side of the facility, however, softball has been on hold due to lack of softballs. Their season is expected to start by the end of April, early May. Will B1 be the team to beat like most years? Or is C1 ready to put up a fight? Maybe A1? Who knows?

- Shane Goins, Sports Writer





Referee Goins watches a slide into 3rd base.

“ We are not playing for a good time, sponsorship or pizza parties. We are playing to forget we are in prison for an hour or two.

- Chris Ainsworth, G2

“ We're the underdogs and underestimated. I think G3 is the team to beat.

- Cody Pangelinan, G3 Coach



G4's Ryan Brooks waits in the outfield.

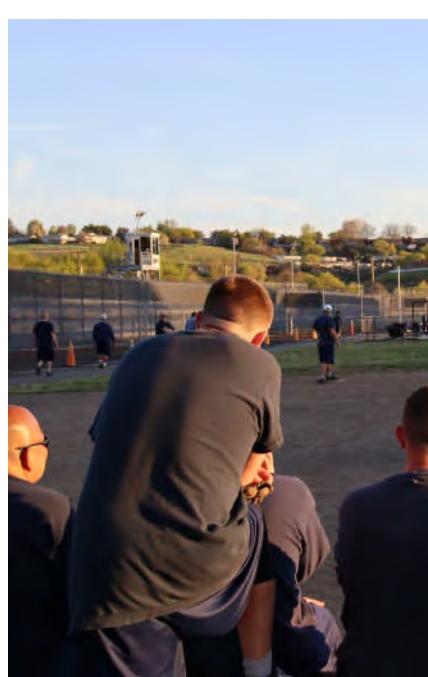


G4's Hamilton at bat.



“ The talent level has evened out this year. Maybe G4 or H2 could beat us. Anything is possible. ”

- Ben Edwards, H1 Asst. Coach



“ It's hard to say who is 2nd best, G4 came close. ”

- James Renfro,  
player from H1



Players wait as referees confer - a common sight this season.



H1's Mike Epperson covers his head while trying to reach first base. Paul Reyes, first basemen for H2, awaits the incoming ball.

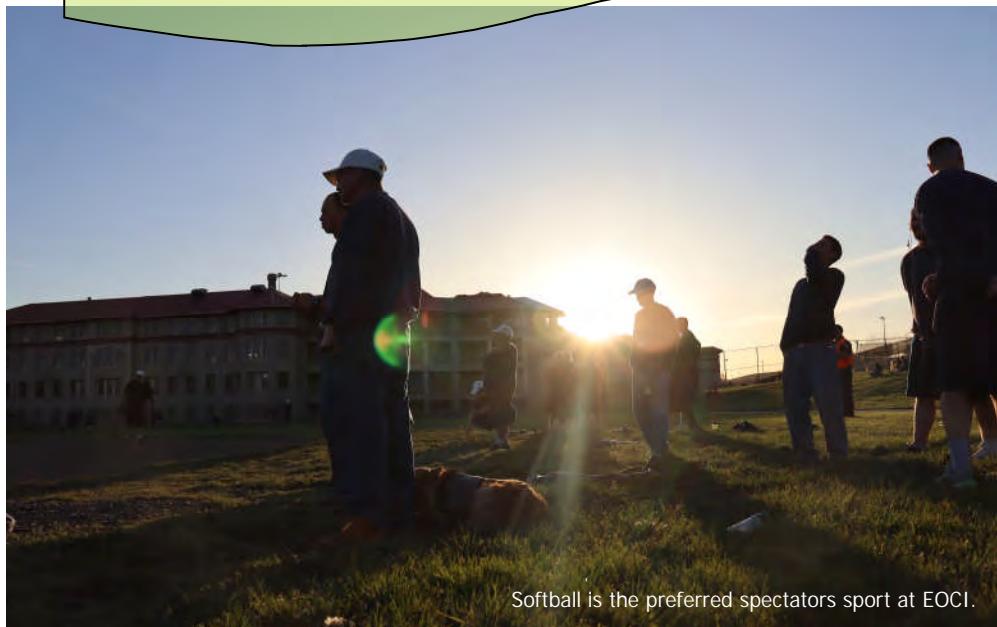


## IN BLACK & WHITE

A look at a commonly misunderstood rule in EOCI sports

### Catch and Carry

A catch and carry occurs when a fielder catches a ball in play carries it out of play. When this happens, the batter is automatically awarded second base and the baserunner(s), if there are any, is awarded the same double.



Softball is the preferred spectators sport at EOCI.

**“** Seeing new people play and to referee the games is something I've missed ...  
It is definitely a huge positive. **”**

- Shane Goins, Referee and Sports Writer

G4 outfielder, Jeremiah Mauer, catches a pop fly.

## CAREERS



Photograph by Phillip Luna

## LONG-TIME MACHINIST HOPES TO FIND AN APPRENTICE

### Seeking Detail-Oriented, Well-Rounded Craftsman

Co-written by Walter Thomas, Contributing Writer and Phillip Luna, Editor

**"IT'S A JOB THAT** requires a lot of different skills," said John Harvey, 67.

Harvey started work as a machinist in 1974 and after 50 years in the field (18 of which were spent working in the EOCI physical plant). He can tell you the role inside and out.

According to Harvey, AICs who come work at the physical plant often hope of find their way into one of the shops (welding, electrical or plumbing, for example). Harvey and his supervisors plan to incorporate a

machinist training program that requires an AIC to meet certain criteria, and focuses their work on developing the skills to train as a machinist.

Most machinists work in machine shops and factories where they produce precision component parts.

It's a demanding occupation that requires extensive knowledge of the tools and processes.

"The successful candidate ... must have a strong math background or the ability and desire to learn, some

mechanical aptitude, the ability to understand and follow safety precautions and the ability to follow directions," said Harvey. "They also need to be a person who can make a commitment to a position and have a desire to succeed."

Working as a machinist requires reading detailed drawings and blueprints; using computer programs (CAD); and computer-numerically controlled (CNC) machines to make tools; and setup, operate and disassemble conventional and manual tools.

Harvey stated, "In the machine shop at EOCl we have a 14" by 30" engine lathe, a 14" by 40" engine lathe, a 22.5" by 48" engine lathe, a 9" by 42" vertical milling machine and a 8" by 29" mill/drill. These are all manual machines. If a person develops and hones the skills needed to proficiently operate these machines, they can excel in any machine shop in the real world."

The most common materials that machinists use are steel, aluminum, brass, copper and various alloys.

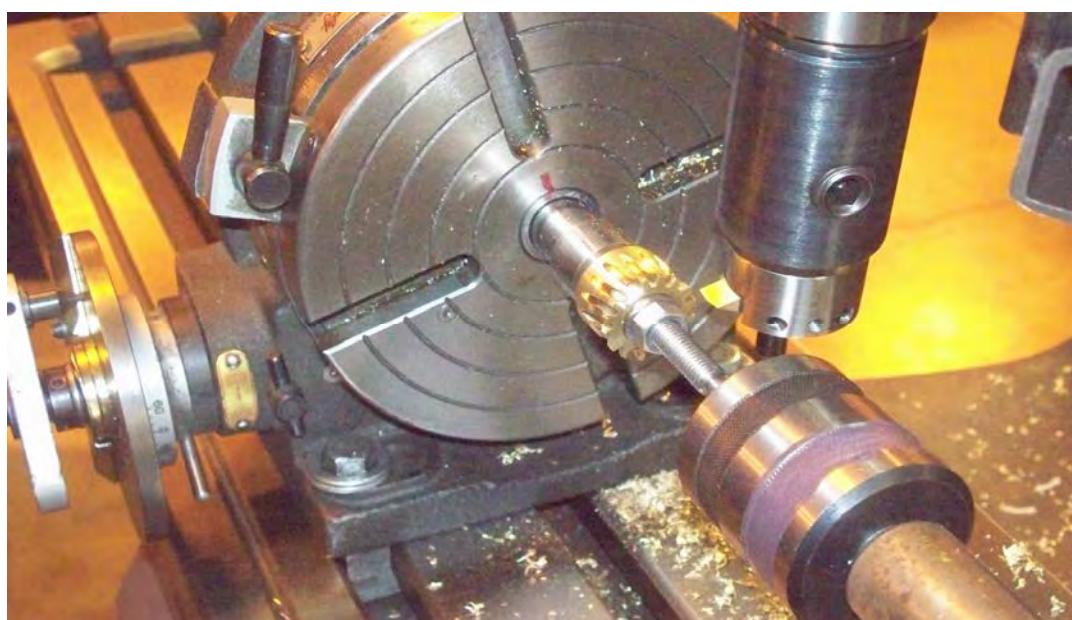
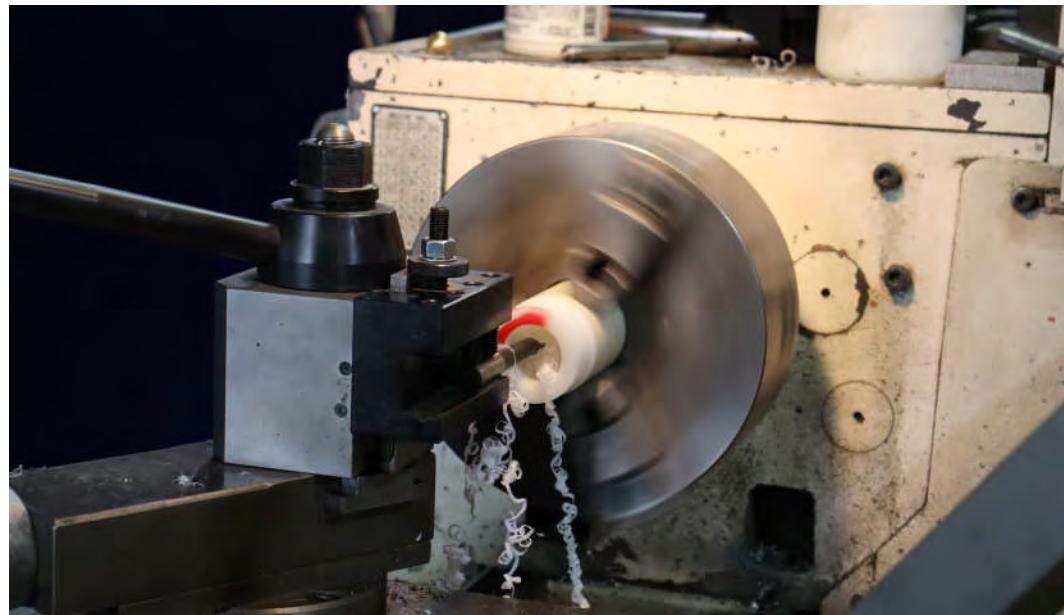
Occasionally they work with plastics, rubber, glass, and wood.

Past jobs for the machinist at EOCl include fabricating: shafts and rollers for door systems; parts for lock systems; motor shafts; wheels for dryers; worm gears for sewing machines; spur gears for lathes; gears and shafts for valve actuators; bushings for exercise bikes; parts for weight equipment; repairs to large motor shafts and many other items.

For those who are detail-oriented and hope to develop well-rounded abilities as a craftsman, this job may be for you.

According to Careers Oregon, employment rates are very high with the average around 3,242 open jobs in the State of Oregon each year. Wages range between \$22.89 and \$31.41 per hour.

Interested applicants should send applications to IWP. Expect to start as a weld-hand and work through several roles before becoming a machinist. |ECHO



## IN THE NEWS

# ONE TOWN'S CRACKDOWN ON HOMELESSNESS

## U.S. Supreme Court Set to Hear Case

Written by Chris Ainsworth, Staff Writer

**AN ANNUAL FEDERAL** count found that more than 250,000 people in the United States live in parks, on the streets or in their vehicles.

Grants Pass, Oregon is currently at the epicenter of attention for this growing issue of homelessness. Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court appeared to side with a small Oregon city's crackdown on sleeping in public, a decision that could have far reaching implications.

Grants Pass lacks in public transient shelters and the number of homeless people has increased at an alarming rate over the past few years. The town has just one overnight, 138 bed shelter for adults – the Gospel Rescue Mission.

Despite inadequate shelter space, a 2013 local law essentially banned people from sleeping with a blanket or pillow on public land, at any time of day.

According to an April, 2024 article by U.S. News, City Council members had discussed how to make it "uncomfortable enough ... in our city so they will want to move on down the road," prior to enacting the law.

From 2013 to 2018 over 500 citations were issued by the city, with fines reaching hundreds of dollars for sleeping in public or in vehicles.

In 2018, a decision made by the 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held that while communities were allowed

to prohibit tents in public spaces, criminal citations for sleeping outside when no other option is available, violated the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

The decision has been appealed and the debate on homelessness reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

The case was heard on April 22 but a decision has not yet been made.

Court Justice Kagan told OPB that sleeping is not a criminal act. "Sleeping is a biological necessity. It's sort of like breathing ... But I wouldn't expect you to criminalize public breathing."

**Sleeping is a biological necessity. It's sort of like breathing ... But I wouldn't expect you to criminalize public breathing.**

Conservative justices question whether or not it is the place of the Supreme Court to weigh in on this debate, seeming to indicate a desire to return the case to the lower courts.

The case in Grants Pass is similar to one from 2019 filed in Boise, Idaho -

a case which the Supreme Court declined to hear and referred back to the lower courts.

In both the Grants Pass and the Boise case, the lower courts have said that under the Eighth Amendment it is cruel and unusual to fine someone sleeping on public land if adequate shelter is not available.

This issue of homelessness is not restricted to Grants Pass. Many states and cities across the US struggle to manage record rates of transient people. Some states have taken a more directed approach with their camping bans.

A law recently signed by Florida's governor seeks to move unhoused people off public property and into government-run encampments.

There is growing concern that a decision in favor of Grants Pass' local law will lead to similar laws and a potential race for communities to push people out of their jurisdiction.

One thing is certain, the number of homeless people has spiked and long -term resolutions don't seem to be on the horizon. While solutions are a necessity for ending homelessness, is imprisonment and a criminal background the precedent we should be seeking? Regardless of the court's decision or laws passed in the near future, the war that has spanned decades to combat homelessness will not be resolved anytime soon. |ECHO

# THE INCARCERATED PROFESSOR

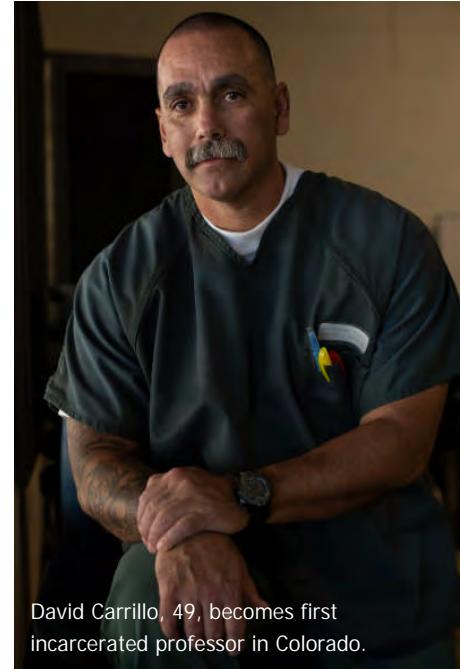
## Colorado Prison Hires First Incarcerated Professor

Written by Phillip Luna, Editor

Photographs from Chalkbeat Colorado



Adjunct Professor David Carrillo.



David Carrillo, 49, becomes first incarcerated professor in Colorado.

**A COLORADO UNIVERSITY** recently became the subject of conversation as they took an innovative approach to address staff shortages post-COVID. Adams State University became one of the first college to employ an incarcerated professor.

David Carrillo, 49, from the Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility was hired as an adjunct professor by Adams State University, teaching as part of the prison's college education program.

The idea was almost unheard of in prison. But with post-COVID teaching vacancies affecting college prison programs, why not fill the gaps with qualified incarcerated people? Students who had completed their MBA with the university where qualified to teach, regardless of whether or not they were incarcerated.

Carrillo earned his MBA from Adams State in 2021 and has been teaching Intro to Macroeconomics.

Carrillo's first students were his peers and neighbors.

In an interview with Chalkbeat Colorado, Carrillo stated, "To be able to help these guys realize that they are capable of doing so much more - that's a reward right there."

Adams State had only one stipulation – that the correctional facility must allow them to pay Carrillo the wage of an adjunct professor. The university is paying Carrillo \$3,600 per class, which is astronomical considering the average incarcerated person in the U.S. works for less than a dollar per day.

The philosophy is that helping an incarcerated person financially pre-

pare for release increases their chance of successful reentry. Poverty is often a driver of recidivism for many formerly incarcerated people.

Carrillo, who was sentenced to life without parole, was granted clemency by Colorado Governor Jared Polis and will walk free after 29 years. He credits his education for his second chance.

Carrillo's story highlights the transformative power of education and serves as an inspiration to incarcerated people everywhere.

Earning an MBA through Adams State University costs around \$12,600, plus textbooks. There is no state or federal funding for incarcerated students to earn an MBA. Students must pay out of pocket. |ECHO

## RECIPE

## GOGI FUNDRAISER

Domino's Pizza  
Coming Soon



**GOGI IS EXPECTED** to have a Domino's Pizza fundraiser with **tentative** delivery dates of April 27 and 28.

**Option 1: \$25**

One large two topping Domino's pizza, two sodas and two ranch packets.

**Option 2: \$34**

One large two topping Domino's pizza, one original cheesy bread, two sodas and two ranch packets.

**Option 3: \$43**

Two large two topping Domino's pizza, two sodas and two ranch packets.

Pizza options are expected to be olive and mushroom or pepperoni and Canadian bacon.

Soda is expected to be Fanta flavors.

One option per AIC.

**All information here is  
subject to change and based  
on vendor availability.**

# ORANGE DREAMSICLE CAKE

## Easy Recipe; Simple Ingredients

Written by Brooklyn Sasso, Staff Writer



Orange Dreamsicle Cake made by Brooklyn Sasso.

**THIS RECIPE IS** pretty straight forward in application. Simple to make and quick. Tastes great with no microwave needed.

**Ingredients:**

2 pkg vanilla crème cookies  
2 pkg cream cheese  
1 pkg Tang  
1 pkg orange slices

First, open both packs of vanilla crème cookies and separate the cookies from the filling into two different containers.

When all cookies have been de-creamed, crush the cookies into a fine powder.

Then take the cream cheese packets and empty them into the cookie fill-

ing. Mix until smooth. this will be your frosting. Once frosting is smooth add Tang drink mix to taste.

At this point make a half a tumbler of Tang in warm water. Slowly add the liquid tang to the now crushed cookie powder mixing it until it forms into a cake-like consistency.

Now form the cookie ball to the bottom of the bowl and let rest until firm.

Place the lid on top and carefully turn bowl upside down. Gently tap bowl so the cake falls onto the lid. Remove the bowl and frost with your Tang-flavored frosting.

For decoration, split four orange slices in half and place equal distance apart. Finally, cut cake and enjoy. |ECHO

# WCCF TELEMARKETING AGENT

## OCE Open Position - Statewide Announcement

Provided by Oregon Corrections Enterprises

**THE OCE WCCF** Contact Center is recruiting for multiple telemarketing agent positions. Applicants must adhere to a high-quality standard in a fast-paced environment while meeting deadlines. Agents must be motivated and able to maintain a professional attitude at all times. Position awards PRAS points, with the opportunity to earn a Team Goal Award and a production-based Individual Meritorious Award. This position has opportunities for reviews, promotions and advancement.

### **Skills that enhance the experience of successful applicants (not required):**

- Personal experience – previous successful work in an OCE shop; a humble and inquisitive work mindset with willingness to learn.
- Computer keyboarding experience.
- Software experience - Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel).

### **Applicants must meet the following qualifications:**

- Must qualify for a Minimum Custody Institution.
- Have a valid social security number or equivalent.
- Have clear conduct and no program failures in the past four (4) months.

- Have no convictions for ID theft, or computer-related crimes.
- Not involved in conflicting programs or activities during the assigned shift including medication line.
- Be willing to sign a twelve (12) month retention agreement – anyone leaving the assignment either by termination or resignation before serving the full retention period will be returned to the sending institution and receive a program failure (unless for release).
- Successful applicants will receive a \$25.00 Special Meritorious Award upon arrival at WCCF, and a \$25.00 retention award after 90 days.

### **Essential functions include ability to:**

- Remain seated at a monitor and operate a computer for extended periods of time throughout the work day.
- Communicate respectfully with staff, AICs and clients.
- Work in an office setting subject to potential interruptions and background noises.
- Receive training and quality-control advice and corrections from other AICs and staff.

- Read proficiently and speak English language clearly.
- Be able to work efficiently and professionally at all times.

If you are interested in becoming highly marketable upon release, utilizing modern software, and making a difference within OCE, DOC, and the community, this position may be what you've been looking for.

All applicants will need to pass a DOC/OCE security screening and OCE interview before being considered for the position.

### **Application submission process:**

If you are interested in applying, please complete a DOC AIC Work Application referencing WCCF Telemarketing agent as the position.

Submit paperwork to:

**S. Murphy OCE C/O  
WCCF PO Box 1500  
Lakeview, OR  
97630**

Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.

### **Application due by June 25, 2024.**

NOTE: Any transfer is subject to safety protocols and may delay the process.

## NOTICES

# OSP BRAILLE TRANSCRIBER - TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

## OCE Open Position - Statewide Announcement

Provided by Oregon Corrections Enterprises

**IN PARTNERSHIP** with ODOC, OCE is offering a Braille Transcription Training and Certification program. This position is location at the Oregon State Penitentiary.

The program is designed to provide an opportunity to obtain the skills and certifications necessary for braille transcription, with a focus on achieving the Unified English Braille (UEB) literary certification. By learning braille transcription, you become a vital link in bridging the gap between the sighted and visually impaired communities, empowering individuals to access literature and education.

Your dedication to this program will not only equip you with highly valuable and marketable skills upon reentry but also ignite a sense of purpose and fulfillment as you contribute to a more inclusive society.

Applicants will participate in a collaborative learning environment. Position awards 10 PRAS points, with the opportunity to earn a matching Team Goal Award.

This position has opportunities for advancement after initial UEB certification is earned and move into producing braille transcriptions while meeting deadlines.

### **Skills that enhance the experience of successful applicants (not required):**

- Passion – a genuine passion for helping others and a strong desire to make a positive impact in

the lives of individuals with visual impairments.

- Attention to detail– braille transcription requires precise attention to detail to accurately transcribe written text into braille symbols.
- Patience and perseverance – learning braille transcription is a gradual process that requires patience and perseverance.
- Collaboration and communication – effective collaboration with instructors and peers is essential for maximizing learning opportunities.

### **Applicants must meet the following qualifications:**

- Must have a valid social security number.
- Have at least 6 months' time incarcerated with clear conduct and no program failures in the past 6 months.
- Must have no convictions for ID Theft, Fraud and/or Computer-related crimes.
- Be willing to sign a 12-month retention agreement.
- A release date after June, 2030.
- Must have a High School Diploma or GED.

### **Essential functions include ability to:**

- Remain seated at a monitor and operate a computer for extended

periods of time throughout the work day.

- Communicate respectfully with staff and AICs.
- Work in an office setting subject to potential interruptions and background noises.
- Receive training and quality-control advice and corrections from other AICs and staff.
- Balance multiple time-sensitive projects with deadlines at the same time.
- Stay on task while working in a team setting and independently, depending on the project.

If you are interested in becoming highly marketable upon release, utilizing modern software, and making a difference within OCE, DOC, and the community, this position may be what you've been looking for.

All applicants will need to pass a DOC/OCE security screening and OCE interview before being considered for the position.

### **Application submission process:**

This is a new recruitment. If you are interested in applying, please complete a DOC Inmate Work Application referencing OCE Braille Program. Submit paperwork **by MAY 17, 2024** to:

**OCE Braille Program,  
3691 State St  
Salem, OR 97301.**

# BLUE CHARTS, GREEN CHARTS, AND SCANNING

## Updates on Electronic Health Records

Provided by Health Services

**NEW PROCESSES** are in place for scanning patient paper healthcare records for ODOC Health Services' upcoming Electronic Health Records (EHR) system. It is important to understand what the new processes mean for your private health information.

**Blue Charts:** Your paper health information is currently being stored in a blue medical chart. Those records will be scanned into electronic files for use in the EHR. It is important to know that some people's blue chart will not be scanned if they are scheduled to release before EHR is turned on.

**Green Charts:** Once your blue chart is scanned, a green medical chart will be created. All new information will be put in your green medical chart.

The green chart always stays with the scanned blue chart, but any new documents will only be added to the green chart.

A few weeks before an institution's EHR is turned on, our scanning partners will return and scan all

documents contained in green charts.

These processes will help make sure your paper health records become part of your electronic health record.

**Scanning Process:** Our scanning partners have lots of experience - over 55 years! They scan thousands of pages every day. When your paper health records are scanned, the electronic files are stored, protected and backed-up on hard drives.

**Privacy Matters:** Your health information belongs to you, and your privacy is important. Throughout the EHR project, patient confidentiality and privacy remain our top priority. Health Services wants to make sure you fully understand that your information is kept safe and only authorized people in Health Services can see those records.

**NOTE:** On the horizon in the near future, watch for a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) education clinic in Multi.

# COMMISSARY

## Year-End Inventory

Provided by Dustin Hoffman, Distribution Services Statewide Operations Manager

Due to year-end inventory, sales of pre-sale items will be suspended May 17, 2024 at the close of business until July 1, 2024.

Any orders submitted for suspended items during this period will be cancelled. Normal sales of these items will resume beginning July 1, 2024.

# LOW ACRS

## Did You Know?

Written by Brooklyn Sasso, Staff Writer

Every AIC has an ACRS score, which stands for Automated Criminal Risk Score. The score is determined by many factors including age, crime committed, and sentence length.

A score of .19 or lower is considered low risk. Meaning you are at a lower risk of coming back to prison, also known as recidivism. Your counselor will most likely be more hands-off, during your incarceration.

# Karaoke Night & Men's Choir

Thursday 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Beginning May 9, 2024



Attention all singers! Karaoke Night and Men's Choir has returned to EOCI. Beginning Wednesday, May 1, all Level 3 AICs are encouraged to attend and sing along as we karaoke our way through a vast library of cover tunes and seek to re-establish the institution's performance choir.

Weekly sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 8:00pm as a combined activity. Group performance opportunities will be available as the choir develops. To enroll, please send a kyle to Multi Recreation specialist Garton, expressing your interest. Apply now, space is limited.

## NOTICES

## PREA INFORMATION

Sexual abuse and harassment are never okay. Tell Someone. GET HELP.

Call the Inspector General's Hotline:

1. Pick up a handset
2. Press \*999 to leave a message

All PREA Calls are confidential.

Send a letter to the Governor:

Governor's Office, State Capitol, Room 160, 900 Court St., Salem, OR 97301

The Oregon Department of Corrections has a zero tolerance policy for sexual abuse and harassment. Your family can report on your behalf by contacting the Inspector General's public hotline at: (877) 678-4222.

El Abuso sexual y el acoso sexual nunca son aceptables. Aviséle a alguien. CONSIGA AYUDA.

Llame al Inspector General:

1. Al numero de ayuda:
2. Levante el teléfono, marque \*999.

Todas las llamadas a 'PREA' son gratis y confidenciales.

También puede reportar a la oficina del Gobernador por escrito.

Governor's Office, State Capitol, Room 160, 900 Court St., Salem, OR 97301

Sus amigos o familiares pueden hacer un reporte llamando a la linea del Inspector General al 877-678-4222.

**PREA Advocate:**

You may write the PREA advocate at:

ODOC PREA Advocate  
3601 State St.,  
Salem, OR 97301

# NOTICE FROM THE MAILROOM

## How to Send Out Mail and Property



**IN FEBUARY OF 2022** a notice was issued to all AICs. The mailroom is no longer processing CD-28s for postage.

**To Send Your Mail:**

When sending out envelopes be sure you are using the appropriate size envelope.

A good question to ask yourself is, does what I am sending out, weigh more than what my envelope allows? If so, you will need to purchase an envelope for the appropriate weight of what you are sending.

If you are unsure if your envelope is sufficient, send a kytic to the property corporal, and they will schedule you on a call out to weigh your envelope with its content.

If the mailroom receives your envelope and it is not sufficient for what you are sending, please be advised, your envelope will be returned to you.

**How to Send Out Property:**

You will need to purchase a box from canteen to mail your property out, several sizes are available.

Then, send a kytic to R&D/Property Corporal and you will be scheduled for a call out.

Bring the ticket for the box purchased from canteen to your callout at R&D.

R&D will give you the size of the box you purchased from canteen.

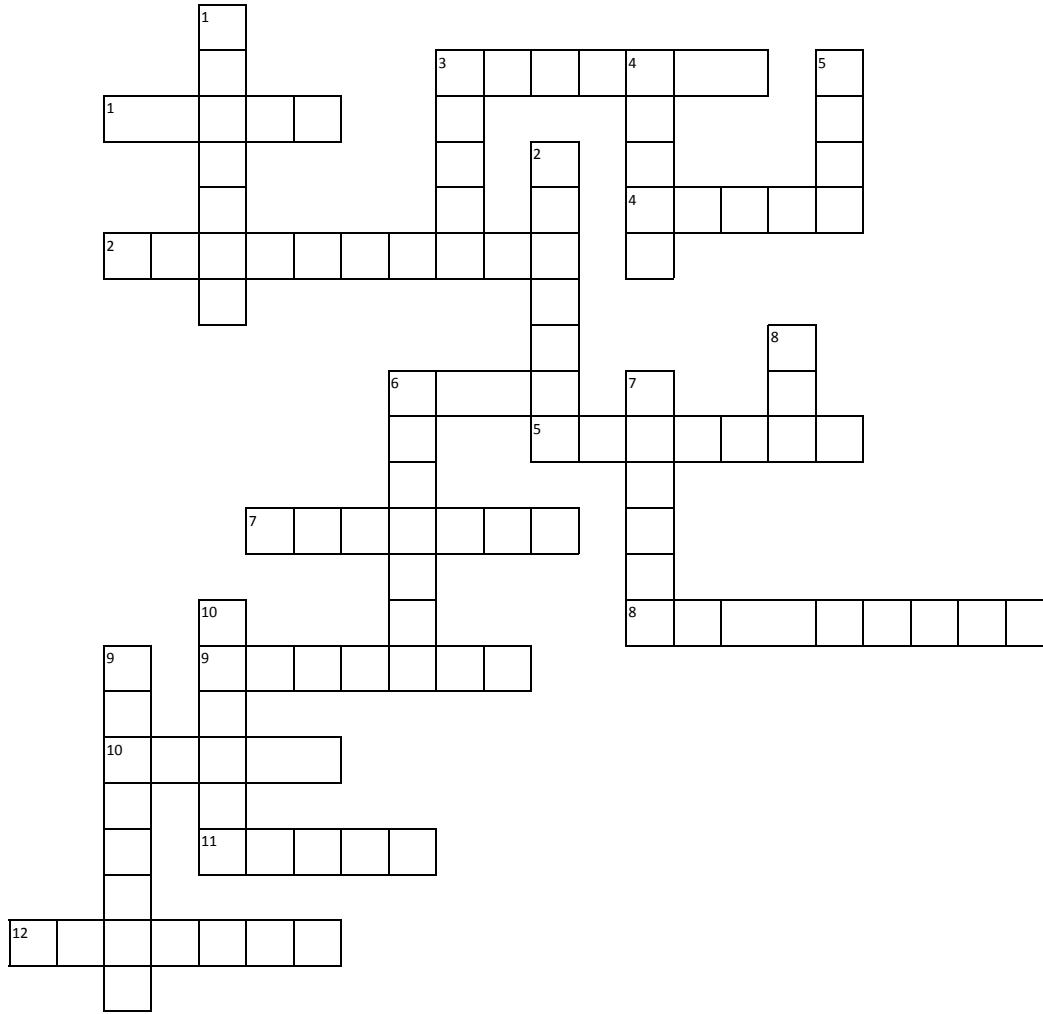
Load the box with the items you are shipping out, in front of the R&D staff. They will deliver the box to the mailroom.

The only approved exceptions are to this process are for keyboards, guitars and items being sent out for repair. Or for legal mail where the law librarian has approved the use of the CD-28.

**Note:** The mailroom does not put stamps on envelopes to mark them for overseas. |ECHO

# MAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Walter Thomas, Contributing Writer



## Down

- When this beam of light hit raindrops on the way down it creates a...
- This floating mass sank the Titanic.
- This is the only country in the world that has an emperor.
- An unexpected ended.
- Elvis lyric - A\_\_\_ of burning love.
- This condiment was once sold as medicine.
- Humans share about half of their DNA with this fruit.
- Feline pet.
- This state produces the most blueberries.
- When you're sitting still, you're actually still\_\_\_\_\_

## Across

- From earth the sun looks yellow. What color is the sun looking from space?
- These ancient stones are in southern England.
- What's the biggest planet in the solar system?
- Rib-eye-e.g.
- You are taller in the morning because\_\_\_\_ squashes your body slightly.
- This Steve played with M. Jordan and coached S. Curry.
- This particular metal is the only one that's liquid at room temp.
- This Neil was the first man on the moon.
- I have three hearts and nine brains. What am I?
- Most populated country in the world.
- This insurance mascot can detach its tail to confuse predators.
- Children's \_\_\_ is better than adults.

