

THE ECHO

Created by incarcerated people

NEWS
FROM
THE
INSIDE



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EASTERN OREGON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

2500 WESTGATE

PENDLETON, OR 97801

FAMILY TIME AT EOCI

**EOCI Holds First Outdoor
Family Event of 2025**

Written by Kurtis Thompson
with Shahid Baskerville



Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo

Beau Wilcox's children jump into his arms during EOCI's family barbecue on June 14, 2025. More than 180 residents and their families attended the first of two events scheduled for the year.

A child gleefully squeals as their father chases them across a grassy lawn. The sizzling, smoky scent of barbecued burgers and bratwursts wafts across picnic tables under the shade of tents. Kids with snow cone stained

faces and sticky cotton candy hands clamber through a bouncy house. Live music plays as people mingle about. It's a good ol' community barbecue – except for the guard tower, fences and razor wire, that is.

On June 14, Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution held a family barbecue in the multi-purpose building and west yard. From 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., more than 400 people attended the

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The Echo Team

Phillip Luna | Editor in Chief

Chris Ainsworth | Staff Writer

Kurtis Thompson | Staff Writer

Shahid Baskerville | Correspondent

Logan Gimbel | Correspondent

Brian Bement | Correspondent

Seth Mathews | Illustrator

ODOC Staff Support

Ray Peters | Supervising Editor

Jaylene Stewart | Research and Support

Advisor

Berit Thorson | East Oregonian, Journalist

The Echo - Mission Statement

To serve the incarcerated community by providing monthly news and other important information, while highlighting the human experience in the carceral setting.

Friends can receive a digital version of The Echo by texting the word "CORRECTIONS" to the phone number 22828.

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A NEW TRANSITION PROGRAM OPENS

Pathways: A Wraparound Program Helping People Before and After Their Release

Written by Kurtis Thompson

A new transition program has opened its doors at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution.

In collaboration with the Oregon Department of Corrections, Worksource Oregon started a program called Pathways, which helps prepare adults in custody for release and continues to assist them after they return to the community.

Worksource Oregon has set up offices in all Oregon prisons beginning in 2024. Through their services and program, they hope to reduce state costs and mitigate recidivism. They believe offering special job training and employment seeking services will prevent people from returning to prison.

According to estimates by the ODOC, the cost of incarceration to the state of Oregon for a single person to be in prison is \$173.88 per day. In one year, just one individual costs the state over \$63,000. With an approximate population size of 1,350 people at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, the cost equates to approximately \$234,000 per day, \$7 million per month and around \$85.7 million each year.

Inside Pathways to Success

At EOIC, the Worksource Oregon office operates part-time and is open to residents within 90 days of release. Residents can participate in Pathways after completing a core employment class administered by Transition Services Coordinator Sue Robson.

The employment class is part of the Roads to Success transition program and teaches residents how to create effective resumes, give strong interviews, how to communicate

criminal history and more.

Once residents complete Robson's class, they can be referred to the Worksource Oregon department.

Paul Shively, of the Worksource Oregon Training and Employment Consortium, is the programs manager who works with AICs participating in the Pathways program. He helps the transitioning persons register on the job-seeking website IMatch, perfect cover letters and resumes, and make professional connections in the community prior to release.

In addition, Worksource also provides access to a community-based career manager.

According to Shively, the CBCM is a Worksource employee and primary point of contact for the transitioning person. This specialist helps connect people with training, employers, work clothes and more. They typically meet this professional within 48 hours of release.

While a participant is still incarcerated, Shively sets up video calls with the CBCM to discuss the resident's post-prison needs and goals.

According to Shively, this often alleviates some anxiety for participants who have concerns about returning to the community. He said residents often visibly relax during video calls with the CBCM because "there's a real person who cares about their success who they'll meet face to face once they're out."

EOCI resident Dominic Manson is participating in the Pathways program. He said Shively helped make his resume look more professional, assisted in goal setting, and plans to

“You’d have to be stupid not to take a swing at the program. They’re taking every aspect of my release and making it positive.”

- Dominic Manson,
participant in Pathways program

connect him with college funding.

“Before I met with [Shively], I was going to take whatever first job I could find after I got out,” Manson said. “I’ve always bounced around between menial jobs, but this program is helping people break that cycle.”

Manson said he believes Pathways opens people’s eyes to opportunities they may have missed.

“Worksource is giving away opportunities and you’d have to be stupid not to take a swing at the program,” he said. “They’re taking every aspect of my release and making it positive.”

Outside Pathways to Success

Once released, additional services are available. Shively said Worksource typically assists with funding vocational or two-year degrees related to a host of sectors such as welding, culinary training, phlebotomy, drone operation and more.

Participants may be eligible for free interview clothes, work boots and even career-specific tools such as hammers and measuring tapes. For those who need a new or renewed driver’s license, Shively said Worksource will cover the costs and even drive the person to the DMV. Newly-returned citizens will



Shutterstock/Minsk Design

also continue working with their CBCM until they find a job.

Worksource is collecting data on the impact of their program and expect to have a detailed analysis in the future. Shively predicts the Pathways program will have a noticeable effect on recidivism.

“We see success stories almost every week,” he said.

A Fair Chance

“I think there’s this stigma,” Shively said. “You serve your time and now you think you’re destined to have a survival-level job the rest of your life just because you have a felony record.”

Having a criminal record causes apprehension among people transitioning to the community. People in this position are often discouraged from seeking employment outside of “survival-level” jobs, such as minimum-wage employment.

Shively said this fear is common, but that does not have to be the case for people utilizing Worksource Oregon’s many resources.

Worksource partners with organizations who compile databases of “fair-chance” employers, which means businesses willing to give people with fel-

ony records a chance to work for them.

“When we’re out in the community talking to employers,” Shively said, “we really try to focus on telling them why they should give returning citizens a good chance at a job.”

Shively said Worksource’s goal is to help people acquire long-term employment which “they can look towards the future with.”

“It is up to the returning citizen to take the initiative,” said Shively. “We make the process easier by helping navigate the difficulties of finding that first job or gaining new vocational certification.”

There are incentives for both businesses and the state when hiring people with a criminal background.

With the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, a business can receive between \$2,400 to \$9,200 for each post-prison person hired. Shively said Worksource has resources available which allows them to pay an employer 50% of a new -hire’s wages for the first 90 days of that person’s employment.

For more information, residents at EOCI can contact Transition Services Coordinator Sue Robson. | **ECHO**

AROUND EOCI

EXPANDING PROGRAM SUPPORTS SOUTH FORK

Beekeeping Program Donates Two Hives to South Fork Fire Camp in June

Written by Logan Gimbel



Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo

Incarcerated beekeepers at EOCI working with hives in May. The beekeeping program donated two hives to South Fork Forest Camp on June 4, 2025.

South Fork Forest Camp expanded its beekeeping program in June.

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution is helping to expand the beekeeping program at South Fork by donating 20,000 honey bees, or roughly six pounds of the buzzing insects.

The Donation to South Fork

While six pounds of bees may seem like a lot, it is enough to establish two new hives. The donation included two queen bees.

The donated bees were separated into two nucleus hives. Each hive contained an egg producing queen – commonly called a laying queen – 10,000 bees, and five frames of brood and resources.

The frames are what the honey bees build their respective hives on, each

frame is 18 inches long by 9 inches high and contains a single sheet of beeswax foundation. The frames allow the beekeepers to inspect the hive and to extract honey easier. The resources – water, pollen and nectar – are everything a queen and her hive need to eat and grow.

Expanding South Fork's Beekeeping Program

Chad Powell, the Institution Work Program coordinator at South Fork came to EOCI on June 4 to collect the donation.

The nucleus hives were sealed and then placed in mesh bags that were zipped shut. The bags ensured the honey bees could be transported by vehicle without escaping.

Prior to the pandemic South Fork had a successful beekeeping program,

with four hives that was ran by a “heavily invested” employee, said Powell.

During the pandemic, that staff member left the Department of Corrections, leaving the bee program without its proverbial queen.

Residents at South Fork wanted to restart the program and in February 2024 Powell made that happen.

The new head of the bee program is Alexander Lane, a corrections officer at South Fork. Lane is currently working on getting the certifications needed to proctor classes. However, there was not enough hives to go around – that is until Powell came to EOCI to collect the hives.

Powell’s goal for the program is to provide residents with access to more knowledge and skills, increasing career opportunities upon release. The fresh honey for the fire camp kitchens is a nice perk of the program.

Students attending beekeeping classes earn both the beginner and apprenticeship certifications after a one-year course.

To earn the journeyman certification, students must become facilitators and mentor new students for two years, then take a test.

The beekeeping program offers certification through the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

Students looking to pursue beekeeping as a career can expect to earn \$24 an hour with opportunities to earn more based on skill level, location and experience, according to ZipRecruiter.

“To hear how many gallons or pounds of honey that is produced here [EOCI] is absolutely fascinating and phenomenal,” said Powell.

According to Brett Lloyd, a bee program facilitator at EOCI, about five gallons of honey was extracted from the six hives in 2024.

How Beekeepers Help Colonies

While the bees provide delicious honey, beekeepers provide colonies a safe location to live and build hives. Honeybees and other pollinators are extremely important to the world’s ecosystem. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about 35% of the world’s crops depend on animal pollinators with honeybees pollinating fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, cocoa and vanilla.

“Honeybees are the most commercially important pollinator across the world, not just in the U.S.,” said Washington State University researcher Dr. Priya Chakrabarti Basu in an interview with KXLY, a Spokane and Coeur d’Alene Washington news station.

With the bee population on the de-



Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo

A queen bee, marked with a blue dot on her thorax, has the attention of worker bees on a frame in one of EOCI’s hives.

cline, beekeeping has become extremely helpful to overall health of the bee population. Beekeepers help the colonies and hives to stay healthy by preventing such things as varroa mite infestations. The varroa mites spread diseases throughout the hive, potentially destroying it.

Beekeepers also protect the hives

against animals and pests such as raccoons, bears, badgers and wasps, which see the colonies as possible food.

Beekeepers assist colonies to prepare for winter, a possibly deadly season to honeybees. Bee colonies suffer losses during the cold season and beekeepers mitigate those losses by insulating the hive against moisture and cold. | **ECHO**

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY COURSE REACHES TO DSU

Roots of Success Program Begins Classes in Segregation

Written by Logan Gimbel

Roots of Success, an peer-led environmental literacy course, reached a new audience in June.

Incarcerated people in the disciplinary segregation unit can take Roots of Success; a first since the program started at EOCI in November 2020.

Roots of Success facilitator and resident Brett Lloyd taught the first DSU class on June 27.

Roots of Success is a course developed by Dr. Raquel Pinderhughes, a professor of Urban Studies and Plan-

ning at San Francisco State University.

The course teaches environmental literacy and essential work skills, giving participants the knowledge to become more employable in green jobs.

According to research done by Dr. Pinderhughes, green jobs are the fastest growing sector of the economy.

A classroom with secure seating inside the DSU building will be used for the course, offering residents the opportunity to leave their cell – something rare in disciplinary segregation.

Participants will be able to start and potentially complete module one of 10 while in segregation, then automatically be scheduled to continue the modules with general population once they have been released from DSU.

“If I can just help one of these guys to think positively,” said Lloyd. “I think I can make a bigger impact than a class of 20 outside of here.”

Lloyd said he feels like Roots of Success is now reaching the demographic who needs the course the most. | **ECHO**

JLAD

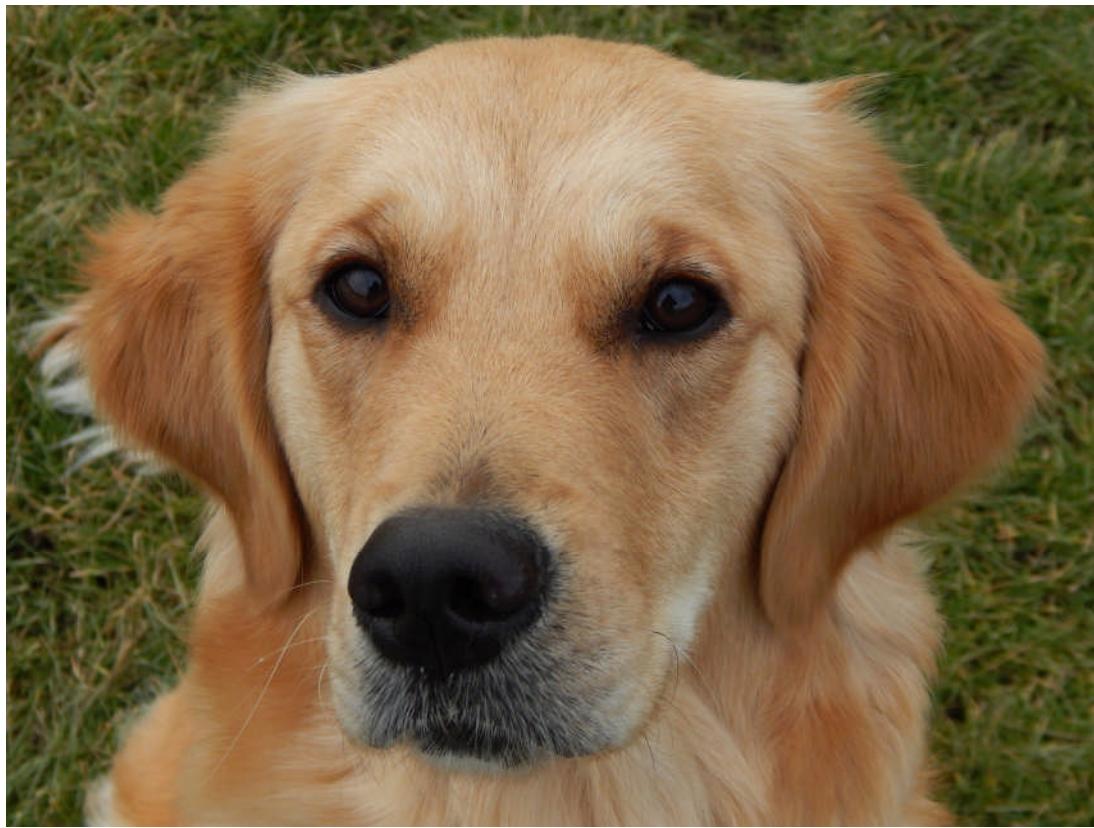


Photo provided by JLAD

Moxie, a service animal with the JLAD program, passed away on June 20, 2025. Moxie had two litters, 15 pups in total, during her time with the program.

THE PASSING OF MOXIE'S TORCH

Service Canine in EOCl's Training Program Passes Away

Written by Chris Ainsworth

The Joys of Living Assistance Dogs training program lost a valuable member of their team on June 20. Service animal Moxie passed away.

Moxie, one of the most widely known canines in the program, gave birth to her second litter in April. She had a difficult pregnancy and pain issues that specialists were unable to treat.

JLAD starts training puppies to be service animals at just a few months old. They are often born by parents who are part of the program.

Moxie began her training in August 2022 as a puppy. She spent two years training in Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution's JLAD program. During that time, she received the same train-

ing for a career as a service or emotional support animal.

Dogs trained in the program learn over 90 cues which includes anything from finding medicine or a mobile phone to retrieving items from a refrigerator and paying for items in a grocery store.

The service animals are also trained in assisting with stress, anxiety and PTSD attacks their owner might be experiencing.

Moxie was no different.

"When I first worked with Moxie she was about five months old and I was pretty new to training. She made me look good," facilitator Larry Wilt said. "She took a piece of me with her, and I will always carry a piece of her

"She took a piece of me with her, and I will always carry a piece of her with me."

- Larry Wilt,
JLAD Service Dog Trainer

with me. It is bittersweet that today I am working with Moxie's daughter, Ellie."

Following genetic testing, it was determined Moxie would be selected as a breeding dog. Breeding dogs are chosen based on their intelligence and temperament, traits they pass to their offspring.

Moxie's first litter was delivered Aug. 5, 2024.

"She had her first litter just after I was assigned to the [JLAD housing] unit and her second litter right after I left, but I still went up and visited her," said corrections officer Taylor, who spent a year around Moxie. "Every time she walked by the officer station she would look up at me like she wanted me to pet her. She will be missed immensely."

Late in her second pregnancy, Moxie started showing signs of pain when moving around. In April a specialist decided her puppies would be delivered via cesarean section to alleviate some of the stress on her spine.

By end of May, it was apparent the pain in her back was not improving and was impacting her quality of life.

Despite pain medication, her pain

continued to increase until she was unable to move.

Moxie was spared the experience of living with pain and passed away in the arms of Joy St. Peter, the program's founder.

"Moxie was the only dog I got approval to have on my bed. She would lay her head on my shoulder and we would watch TV together," said Jesus Villarreal, a handler who played a big role in her training. "She taught me a lot about dog training and myself."

In the JLAD program, the service animals live with their incarcerated trainer, in the cell. Generally, canines sleep in a kennel.

Moxie's influence on the JLAD program, residents and staff are clear from their stories. Her legacy continues on in 15 offspring that will be trained to follow in their mother's paw prints. | **ECHO**



Above: A proud Moxie waits patiently while her litter eats. Moxie had two litters, 15 pups in total, in her lifetime.

Right: Moxie poses for a selfie-like photo. She was selected as a breeding dog for her temperament and intelligence.

DIGITAL VISITING APPLICATIONS

The Oregon Department of Corrections recently opened digital visiting applications through state-issued tablets.

An unattributed digital flyer was posted to the notices section of tablets, which read in part:

"Effective immediately, AICs can submit visiting applications electronically via the tablets. With this simplified option available, visiting services will no longer accept applications submitted by counselors and support staff on behalf of an AIC."

Every visitor must be approved prior to visiting someone in the correctional setting. Incarcerated people can now submit a digital application for their visitor or may continue to use paper applications, which are available on housing units. Potential visitors may also complete the application themselves, which is available on the ODOC website. | **ECHO**

NOTICES

TABLET SURVEY FOLLOW UP

Recently, adults in custody were asked to complete a survey that speculated about electronic mail and issuing tablets to all AICs. Stephen Cook, Strategic Initiatives Project Manager from ODOC's office of communications said the following:

"The survey was exploring various options that are available to DOC and to you as the users of the system. Friends and Family were asked to complete a similar survey. All options are on the table, and DOC desired to know how everybody felt about the option of tablets. This survey is an attempt to get feedback from AICs, friends and family to include them in improving the situation and making the process better. Results of the survey, while not an end-all vote, will be communicated."

Cook added that infrastructure changes would be required to implement electronic mail and this would take significant time, if that is the decision. | **ECHO**

RECREATION

OPEN MIC NIGHT WITH AN AUDIENCE

Recreation Department Allows Spectators to Attend for First Time in 2025

Written by Chris Ainsworth and Brian Bement



Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo

The Recreation Department holds open mic night in the multi-purpose building on June 26, 2025. The monthly event allowed for spectators for the first time this year.

Residents of Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution shuffled into the multi-purpose building where dimmed lighting and chairs in front of an intimate stage greeted them. Guitars, drums, microphones and a piano faced the waiting audience.

June 26 marked the first open mic night in 2025 that allowed spectators. This was the third event of the year.

Seventeen acts were scheduled to perform over 20 pieces during the two-hour show.

The night started with James Coonrod performing a cover of a Barbra Streisand song.

The event showcased original pieces including spoken word set to music, collaborations and even some poetic verse.

“The thing that stuck out to me the most was the support. In an environment like [prison] you expect people to be getting on each other a little more,” said Johannis Hunter, a performer at the event. “But that’s not what’s happening. It makes people comfortable enough to get up and perform. It’s good for people. It’s good for morale.”

For a short time, the attendees were transported outside the walls of a prison and into a dimly lit café as they took in performances. Hands clapped

and fingers snapped signaling approval at the end of each piece.

“Being able to attend an event like this is a little like being out [of prison],” Herb Wood said, who has been incarcerated for 18 years. “I am getting out in November and am looking forward to attending events like this, going to places and listening to live music.”

The EOIC choir made its first appearance and performed a few patriotic songs which had members of the audience quietly singing along.

“There is a lot of talent, and they were all really great,” said first time performer Phillip Barron following his

“Being able to attend and event like this is a little like being out of prison.”

- Herb Wood
Open mic night audience member

cover of “Ripple” by Grateful Dead. “People told me I should perform. It was peer pressure.”

Recreation specialist Jerrad Templin said he hopes to have another open mic night in July. Musicians will have a month to work on their act.

Templin said open mic nights are available to anyone who wants to perform or attend as a spectator.



Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo

On June 26, 2025 two musicians play for an audience in the multi-purpose building. Over 20 musicians performed during the two-hour show.

When another event is confirmed, flyers will be posted on housing unit bulletin boards.

The Recreation Department recorded the event, which will play on an institution channel in the near future. | **ECHO**

DUAL JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR OCE AND KITCHEN WORKERS

Earn An Extra \$60 Per Month In Addition to Regular PRAS

Written by Kurtis Thompson

Double duty may earn extra pay for call center and Food Services workers.

Beginning July 8, Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution’s Food Services and Oregon Corrections Enterprise’s call center will begin offering an opportunity for additional awards for some adults in custody.

OCE call center participants will be allowed to engage in a part-time opportunity in Food Services and vice versa.

Participants who engage in at least 15 hours per week in their second program can earn up to \$15 in Special Meritorious Awards each week, in addition to their regular programming awards.

This dual programming opportunity is a pilot program, rolled out in stages,

and is subject to change. It is available only to Food Services and call center program participants.

Participating residents must engage in a minimum of 15 hours per week in their second program to earn the SMA for that week.

The maximum SMA which can be earned each week is \$15, which will be distributed around the 20th of each month.

Food Services workers may qualify for additional performance-based awards and incentives. For details about call center awards and incentives, contact OCE Production Manager Patrick Potts or OCE Production Coordinator Randy Fishman via communication form.

Scheduling and Shift Information

Sign-ups for dual programming will be available weekly. Food Services and call center participants may select shifts for the following week which do not interfere with their primary work assignments.

For call center participants, weekday kitchen shifts begin after 4 p.m. Weekend shifts are from 3:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Food Services participants signing up for call center shifts may only work weekdays when the call center is open. Morning shifts begin at 8 a.m. and end at 12:20 p.m. Afternoon shifts will be from 12:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Participants who do not meet the 15-hour weekly minimum will not be eligible for that week’s award. | **ECHO**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAKING CONNECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

EOCI Prepares for Second Annual Career Fair in August

Written by Logan Gimbel



Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo

Adult in custody interacting with felon-friendly employers at the EOCI career fair in August, 2024. The career fair will return on Aug. 1, 2025 and dozens of felon-friendly employers have already signed up to attend.

It can be difficult for a person with a felony record to find employment, but some adults in custody are getting a head start.

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in cooperation with Opportunity Oregon will be having a career fair Aug. 1, 2025.

The fair will be open to everyone, but preference will be given to residents with five years or less remaining, if needed.

The event will start at 8:30 a.m. with the east and west side attending at separate times. The fair will open again at 1 p.m. for physical plant and Oregon Corrections Enterprises workers.

Nancy Pance, co-founder of Opportunity Oregon, in her May 21 seminar at EOCI, said that career fairs are helping reduce recidivism rates and residents are able to “make connections while still inside.”

“The employers were coming in and they were giving interviews on the spot,” said Pance referring to a work program based in San Quentin. “It was like a 2% recidivism rate. This program, along with another in the Texas Department of Corrections, was a key inspiration for our career fairs, highlighting the importance of connections before release.”

Mark Berg and Beth Huebner, researchers for Justice Quarterly, found employment is one of the largest reducers of recidivism by providing economic stability after release. Justice-impacted people face some of the biggest barriers to employment, often being viewed as a liability, despite being skilled workers.

Like EOCI, many prisons across the nation have work or trade programs which provide opportunities for residents to develop employable skills and gain experience in different trades.

“It takes the average formerly incarcerated person more than six months to find employment.”

- Prison Policy Initiative

Some programs such as electrical, welding and plumbing allow residents to earn journeyman certifications.

Programs such as OCE, call center and laundry services provide experience in professional work environments.

Prison career fairs are professional events which afford potential employers the opportunity to view the incarcerated environment from inside, demystifying life in incarceration and humanizing incarcerated workers; helping to break down one of the barriers justice-involved workers face.

According to data collected in 2022 by Leah Wang and Wanda Bertram with Prison Policy Initiative, it takes formerly incarcerated people an average of more than six months to find their first job after release, despite being more active in the job market than others.

By helping job-seeking residents with resumes, cover letters, interview experience and networking, career fairs are helping attendees find jobs quicker. Depending on the company some attendees can potentially have a job upon release, helping formerly incarcerated people to successfully integrate back into society. | ECHO

SIGN-UP OPPORTUNITY OREGON

Event Scheduled July 14, 2025

Opportunity Oregon is a program making a difference in the lives of those formerly incarcerated in Oregon through education, job training and job placement assistance.

The program provides employment opportunities to individuals who have been released and are looking to rebuild their lives outside prison walls. Opportunity Oregon works towards raising awareness among employers about the benefit of hiring the previously incarcerated.

Through partnerships with businesses throughout Oregon willing to hire those with a criminal record, providing ongoing support to ensure program participants maintain employment and thrive in their new path. Their mission is to break the cycle of recidivism, remove barriers to employment and provide participants tools they need to succeed.

Residents of Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution who are interested in learning more about Opportunity Ore-



Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo

Opportunity Oregon co-founder Nancy Pance leads a workshop in May, 2025. Pance will be returning to EOCl for a July workshop and a career fair in August.

gon can attend a workshop on July 14, 2025

To attend, adults in custody should send a communication to S. Robson, Transition Services.

The communication must be received before July 7 to attend.

Due to volume, communications will not be returned; approved AICs will be placed on a callout. | **ECHO**

CAREER FAIR SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST OF AUGUST

Send a Communication to IWP to Sign Up; OCE and Physical Plant Workers Automatically Scheduled

The annual career fair is scheduled for Aug. 1, 2025 in EOCl's multi-purpose building.

This event will include outside employers and organizations that help formerly incarcerated people obtain employment, housing, or work clothing or access to other resources during and after their incarceration.

The fair will be open at 8:30 a.m. and reopen at 1 p.m., closing only for count.

Oregon Corrections Enterprise and Physical Plant workers will be scheduled for the career fair automatically. All other adults in custody wishing to attend must send a communication to IWP prior to July 25, 2025.

The fair is open to all incentive levels.

Felon-friendly employers in attendance will be: Opportunity Oregon; Ironworkers Local 29; Sheet Metal Institute; All Star Staffing; 211.org; Tyree Oil; Newly Weds Foods; Oregon and Southern Idaho Laborers & Employers Training Trust; Union Pacific Railroad; Eastern Oregon Recovery Center; and Oregon Corrections Enterprises, to name a few. | **ECHO**

AROUND EOCI

FAMILY DAY continued from page 1

event; 180 were facility residents.

Family and friends of incarcerated people paid hundreds of dollars in travel expenses to enjoy barbequed food, outdoor games, live music and freedom of movement not normally available during regular visitations.

Normalization and The Oregon Way

Physical contact is limited during regular visitation to reduce inappropriate conduct and the passing of contraband. Family and friends are limited to a brief hug and kiss at the beginning and end. In addition, facility residents and visitors must sit in designated chairs and keep their hands above the table in plain view.

In the case of special events like a family barbeque, however, most restrictions are lifted. In fact, the only regulations noticeable are to avoid restricted areas and to keep contact with spouses family-friendly.

“It’s not specifically The Oregon Way, but it’s like that,” said Assistant Superintendent of Special Housing Bryan Clark. “It’s about normalizing and humanizing,”

The Oregon Way Clark referred to is the state’s effort to imitate the Norwegian prison system. In the 1990s, their country experienced similar recidivism rates to the United States – approximately 70% of offenders returned to prison within two years. Norway im-

plemented reforms which made prison less about punishment and more about treatment and rehabilitation, and as a result their recidivism rates eventually dropped to 20%.

Clark believes hosting family events work towards The Oregon Way, and by treating adults in custody like people, recidivism can be reduced.

“It’s like the car show we did a month ago and other upcoming family events,” Clark said. “If we can come in and do something towards normalizing, we will.”

At the family barbeque visitors and residents played games such as corn-hole, ladder ball and frisbee; enjoyed popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones;



Jeremy Adams, a trainer for EOCI's service dog training program, brings a canine to greet his sister and niece during the June 14, 2025 family picnic on the west yard.

listened to live music played by the facilities in house band, which is made up of incarcerated musicians; and there was even a pirate ship bounce house for children.

Facility resident and event worker Myron Moore said, "It's just so normal. It's just nice, it's like a big family barbecue ... it makes you forget about [prison] for the time being."

"You get to see the kids running around like a family event," said resident Richard Hibbert, whose family traveled from Eugene. "You forget you're locked up for an afternoon."

Many visitors said they were pleased with the freedom this event afforded compared to normal visitation.

"You forget you're locked up for an afternoon."

- Richard Hibbert

During regular visits, visitors only interact with the person they are at the facility to see. That is not the case for family events, where all visitors and residents may interact with each other.

"I really like the fact that you can intermingle with everyone," said Pamela Clark, visitor of Nickolas Vega. "It's nothing like regular visitation."

The Hidden Cost of Connection

While the opinion of event attendees was overwhelmingly positive, there were some drawbacks for visitors – financial costs.

Jackie Leonard, mother of resident Jacob Harper-Leonard, said, "From [my house] to Pendleton, it's about 356 miles ... When I come for a visit and spend two nights, the trip costs \$350 with gas and staying at Motel 6. If I spend one night, it's about \$250."

Multiple people at this event were asked how much their trip cost them, which they reported to be between \$250 to \$400 for fuel and lodging. One person said they paid \$2,500 for a

Continued on next page...

Dan Gajhabuka embraces his sister Dative while siblings Aline and Clemance look on in the west yard during the June 14, 2025 family picnic.



AROUND EOCI

plane ticket to fly from Australia.

In addition to upfront costs, many people took time off work to travel a day or more prior to the event, using up paid leave time or giving up work hours.

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, 63.1% of incarcerated people in the United States are over 100 miles away from their families. Due to great distances and travel expenses, almost 70% of people in prison do not receive monthly visits, research shows.

However, people like Leonard are visiting monthly. Depending on fuel prices and hotel rates, she will likely spend more than \$3,000 each year to visit her son.

Assistant Superintendent of Special Housing Bryan Clark said he had occa-

sionally heard from families about the high costs of travel in general, but those conversations were sporadic. However, after learning about how much families are paying to attend a visit, Clark said EOCI administration would discuss the matter.

“Somebody told me that some hotels offered discounted rates for visitors of people at the prison, but I haven’t had any direct conversations with any of the [lodging owners],” said Clark. “We’ll definitely add this to our list of things to discuss in our debrief after the event … all we can do is ask – the hotels have to agree or think about it.”

Wildfires Force Detours

Aside from travel expenses, sometimes forces of nature add their own costs. Prior to the barbecue, wildfires

had sprung up along Interstate 84.

According to a report by U.S. News, the Wasco County Sheriff’s Office stated residents of more than 700 homes were evacuated from northwest of The Dalles and the fire forced a closure of Interstate 84.

“They’re still dealing with one fire on 84 and one on highway 30,” said Leonard. “It added somewhere between 30 and 50 extra miles to this trip.”

Visitor Doreatha Ellis, who came to visit resident and library clerk Michael Giroux, was also impacted by the wild fires.

“The fire had shut down interstate 84, so we weren’t willing to risk it,” Ellis, who traveled from Wilsonville, said. “We had to go farther around, turning a three-and-a-half hour drive into a six-hour drive.”



In a candid moment, Gerry Cunningham dances with his daughter at the EOCI family event on June 14, 2025.

Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo



Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo

Augustine Lara-Lopez, right, eats with his son and his wife at the June family event. Correctional staff and incarcerated workers barbequed burgers and bratwursts for the event.

Despite costs and travel complications, she said she was happy to participate in the barbecue and hoped events would be offered more often.

“I like these kinds of visits,” said Ellis. “It makes it better because it’s all day and makes it even more worth the drive.”

Visitor Kenneth Clark, who was visiting resident Nickolas Vega, said, “The whole event was really good. They’ve got music, popcorn, snow cones – it’s really cool and was very worth the trip.”

A Pleasant Disruption to Routine

Family barbeques are atypical of day-to-day prison life. Prisons in the United States are designed like fortresses, intended to contain people and control movement.

Events such as the barbecue disrupt normal routines.

“It makes security a little nervous,

and I get it,” Clark said. “I mean, when do you have this many visitors in the facility? It’s only at these events.”

However, since the family barbecue



Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo

Visitors at the family event line the track of the west yard as they wait to exit. The barbecue ended at 2 p.m.

“Providing opportunities for laid-back interaction and relaxation is good. It’s about family.

- Bryan Clark, Asst. Superintendent of Special Housing

has been a success for the institution, residents and visitors, Clark said they will continue and, hopefully, increase in frequency.

“There are concerns because it’s not what we do in our normal routine, and [these events] take us out of that,” Clark said.

“But providing opportunities for laid-back interaction and relaxation is good. It’s about family.”

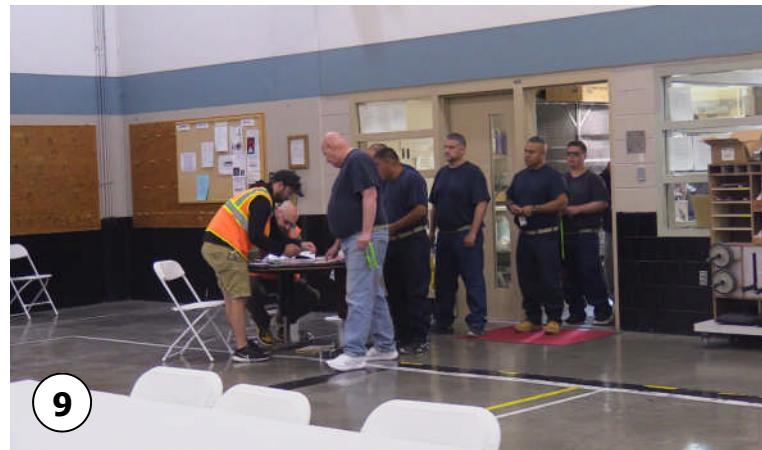
EOCI’s next family barbecue is scheduled for Aug 23. | **ECHO**

AROUND EOCI

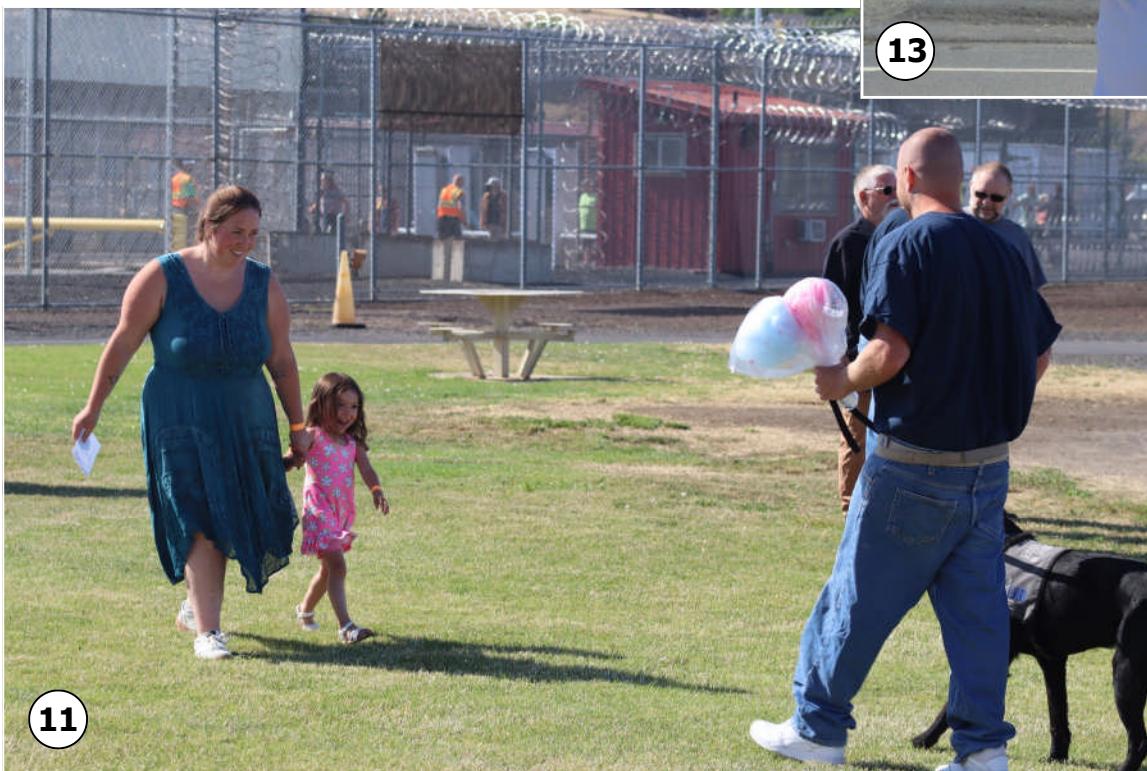
Memorable Moments from the June 14, 2025 Family Barbeque

1. Oscar Zurita embraces his brother at the start of the event.
2. The house band performs in the music room, but guests can hear the music in the west yard over loud speakers.
3. Ryan Huebner hugs family member.
4. Kevin Simonsen talks with his folks on the west yard.
5. Augustine Lara-Lopez poses for a photo with his son and wife. Lara-Lopez had not seen his son in 11 years prior to the event.
6. Staff and adult in custody workers pose for a photo.
7. Benjamin Jones embraces his tired daughter in this special moment. "She has never fallen asleep in my arms before," said Jones.
8. Joel Alfaro and Maycos Xiap made popcorn for event attendees.
9. Recreation Specialists Hall and Templin check residents in for the family barbecue.





AROUND EOCI





15



16



17

Memorable Moments from the June 14, 2025 Family Barbeque

10. Fredy Diaz hugs his son.
11. Jeremy Adams, not one to arrive empty-handed, greets his sister and niece with bags of cotton candy and a JLAD dog.
12. Travis Freniere takes some time to enjoy a game of Jenga with Sgt. Reddick before the event ended.
13. Carmen Escamilla poses with his nephew who came from Portland to visit him.
14. Brian Depriest hugs a friend's mom at the end of the event.
15. Trevor Trollope poses with his girlfriend, April Hawkins, who traveled eight hours to see him.
16. Gerry Cunningham runs on the track with his child.
17. Chris Ainsworth poses with his mom and stepfather, who he hasn't seen in almost three years.

BUY A PHOTO

The Echo photographers take hundreds of candid photos at EOCI's family events. Residents who attended the event can review and purchase photos by contacting the Recreation Department.

SOUTH FORK

THE FREEDOM OF SOUTH FORK FOREST CAMP

Incarcerated Firefighters; A Rewarding Experience for Some

Written by Kurtis Thompson with Logan Gimbel

People in prison have considerably less freedoms than the average U.S. citizen. For the incarcerated person, sometimes simply using the restroom requires permission from a correctional officer. Small choices about what to wear or places to go are intangible luxuries for these adults in custody.

However, there are some incarcerated people who might get to experience near-freedom while still in Oregon Department of Corrections' custody. There is a fenceless, minimum-security facility called South Fork Forest Camp in the wooded outdoors of Tillamook, Oregon.

When an incarcerated person meets certain requirements, they can apply for transfer to this program where stepping outside to breathe in the elements of nature is a morning routine.

Chad Powell, the Institution Worker Program coordinator for South Fork, spoke about the forestry program during a visit to Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution on June 8.

"[An adult in custody] was at Two Rivers Correctional Institution for 14 years and then came to South Fork," Powell said, "There's a bench outside each cabin. He was sitting there with his cup of coffee and just watched the sun rise ... it was that moment he realized, 'Wow, ok, this is what it's about.'"

Powell said the freedoms of a fenceless facility are one part of why many incarcerated people like South Fork. Other reasons include camaraderie and support between workers, and a slow but steady culture change to mutual respect between staff and residents. But the benefits go beyond daily incarcerated life – residents have even been transitioning into jobs with the Oregon



Photo by provided by ODOC

AIC firefighter crew poses at South Fork Forest Camp. In addition to fighting wildfires, the crews also provides treatment each year for about 10,000 acres of young tree stands, builds and maintain about 105 miles of hiking trails and maintains public campgrounds.

Department of Forestry upon release.

"We've had two guys that've released in the last year, year and a half, who've gotten jobs with the Department of Forestry," Powell said. "It's unheard of that a state agency is picking up somebody immediately after release because they saw how hard-working they are."

And work hard the residents do.

South Fork participants work 10-hour days Monday through Thursday and engage in behavioral programs on Fridays.

While out in the field, workers perform reforestation activities such as vegetation control and tree planting. During wildland firefighting, they sometimes dig containment lines feet away from flames higher than a person.

Despite the challenges and health risks, Powell said residents are happy at South Fork. He said one facility resident called it the most rewarding program he had ever participated in.

"Money associated with what South Fork does goes back into the county, the schools," Powell said. "All the trees and the lumber, everything that gets sold goes back to the towns."

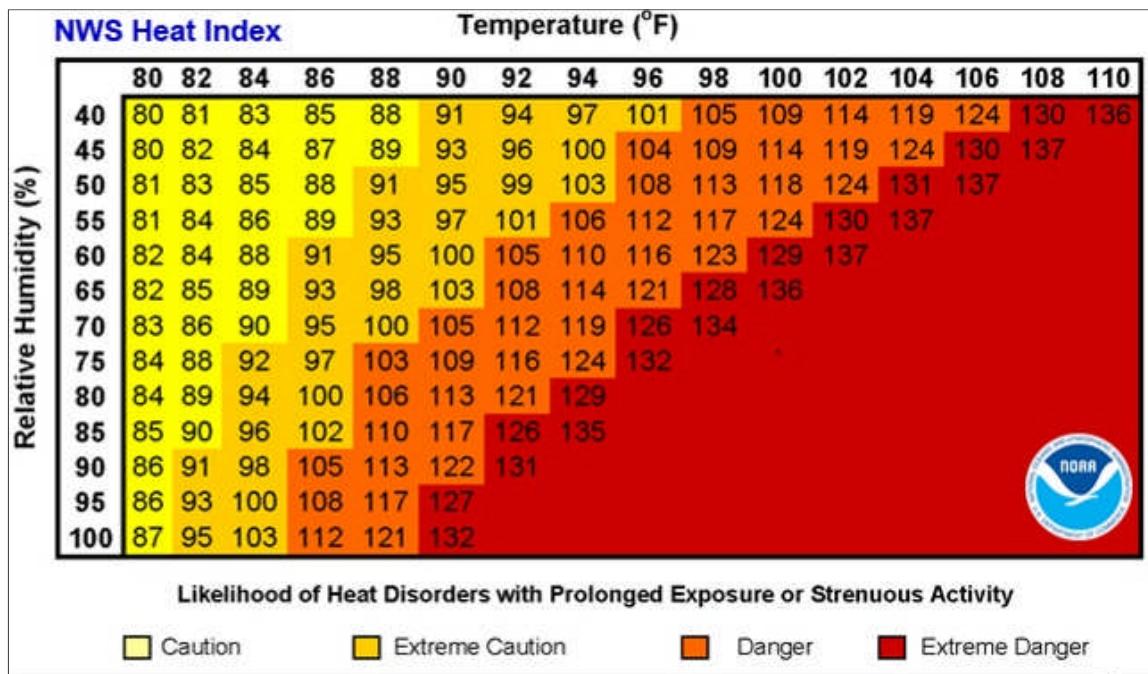
AICs interested in applying for the program must be eligible for minimum security facilities, within five years of release, must not have been convicted of sex crimes or arson, have no attempted escapes, must have a record of good behavior, and be cleared by behavioral health services, medical services and security.

For information on how to apply, AICs may contact their counselor via communication form. | **ECHO**

THE SUMMER HEAT

Heat Waves Creates Challenges for Incarcerated People and Service Animals at EOCI

Written by Brian Bement



To use the heat index: 1) Find out the temperature; 2) Write down the relative humidity; 3) Use the National Weather Service data chart above; 4) Trace the relative humidity horizontally until it meets the temperature line. The intersecting point is the heat index.

Oregon is hot as Hades in the summertime and Oregonians must protect themselves from being blindsided by heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution is home to about 1,400 incarcerated people and one of the state's service animal training programs, Joys of Living Assistance Dogs. Heat-related illness is a threat to incarcerated people and canines alike.

Residents and JLAD trainers must be mindful of the heat index, which includes temperature and humidity. The moist air feels hotter to people because it slows sweat evaporation.

Dogs, however, do not have sweat glands and their coats act like thermal insulators.

Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke

When the heat index is high, heat exhaustion can occur if the body loses

too much water and sodium through sweat. With heat exhaustion the body has trouble cooling itself down and core temperature rises. Symptoms include muscle cramps, headaches, dizziness, fast heart rate and nausea.

The key difference between heat exhaustion and heat stroke are signs of brain dysfunction.

Heat stroke happens when the body cannot cool off. A lack of fluids causes dehydration, which occurs when water in the body dilutes the electrolytes so much that the cells begin to swell.

The symptoms of heat stroke are nausea, vomiting and dizziness. A person with heat stroke may feel confused and have trouble thinking.

Staying Cool and Hydrated

An average adult male needs to drink one and a half, two-liter pitchers of water per day.

Heat illness can be prevented by drinking water, resting, sitting in the shade and dressing lightly.

During the summer months, cool water, ice and showers are available to all adults in custody at recreation yards.

"I stay cool on the yard with a cooling towel, water pitcher with ice and keeping my hat wet," said west side yard orderly Gustin Stephens.

Yard orderlies help maintain and clean the outdoor recreation areas.

They spend the majority of the day in the sun.

Keeping Canines Cool

During hot months, dogs are also at risk of heat illness.

"We pour cold water on a towel first, then place a cold towel on their back so not to shock them and make sure they have clean water to drink," said JLAD clerk Jesus Villarreal.

If temperatures reach 85 degrees, the dog trainers dress their animals in boots — a cloth material that covers their paws when on hot surfaces. At 95 degrees and above, outdoor activity for dogs is prohibited for JLAD.

"At JLAD, we are really aware of the heat and how it effects our dogs," said Villarreal.

The summer can be hard on humans and dogs, but staying hydrated and being mindful of the heat can help avoid any serious conditions. | **ECHO**

AROUND EOCI



Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo

A floating bowl made from wood pieces and epoxy is labeled with an \$88.00 price tag for the creative arts sale on June 12 and 13. The bowl was made by incarcerated workers in EOCI's carpentry shop.

HANDCRAFTED ARTS SOLD

Two-day Sale Raises Over \$10,000; Funds Creative Arts Programs

Written by Chris Ainsworth

The creative arts program, which features crafts from incarcerated workers, sold over \$10,000.

Throughout the year workers from Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution's metal and carpentry shops craft items that are sold to the public. Usually the items are custom orders. Once or twice a year, however, the institution holds a creative arts sale featuring designs and pieces created by the incarcerated workers.

On June 12 and 13, items were sold behind the facility at the year's first sale. The two-day sale earned the creative arts program \$10,206. The most expensive item sold was a wood bench with built in cooler for \$450.

“The entire [creative arts] project is to give the men experience for when

they get released. It also builds a connection between the community and the facility,” said Physical Plant Supervisor A. Catron. “The money raised goes directly back into the program. It either pays for supplies or specialty equipment needed for future projects.”

According to Steve Cox, the facility’s physical plant manager, there are no consistent dates for the sale. He determines when to have the event based on available inventory.

The physical plant is responsible for the trades that operate within the facility. In addition to the metal and carpentry shop, the physical plant oversees the operation of the auto, paint, plumbing and electrical shops.

“When I first started here an [adult in custody] could make pretty much any

item, no matter how strange,” said Cox. “I have stopped that practice and only let AICs produce items we feel will sell.”

Cox created a work Pinterest account and bases many of the decisions on what to create by items found on the Pinterest, or other online sources.

Some of the items sold at the event included wooden bowls crafted with epoxy. The “floating bowls” were created by organizing various cuts of wood in a pattern and pouring epoxy around the design. After drying, the piece was placed on a wood lathe and carved into a bowl.

The carpentry shop also made cutting boards, outdoor and indoor furniture, bookshelves, rocking chairs and children’s toys.

“I enjoy wood working. All wood has a different feel and I pick out wood with different colors and patterns,” Marion Sanders said, who’s favorite build during his 12 years at the carpentry shop was a slant-back bookcase. “I made it out of poplar that had been seasoned for a long time. It had purples, pinks, greens and light blues. I loved the colors.”

Workers in the metal shop use skills learned in apprenticeship programs to create functional and ornamental art alike. They have made detailed realistic metal roses using welds learned in the program. The elaborate barbeques and fire pits have an artful twist and have been decorated with horses and other designs. Even the custom mailboxes include ornate animal accents for a one-of-a-kind look.



Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo



Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo

Left: A wooden bench with a built-in cooler that sold for \$450 at the creative arts sale on June 12 and 13. Above: One of many toys designed and created in EOCI's woodshop by incarcerated laborers.

"I really like building the wood stoves and I can't wait to build a flatbed for my vehicle. Of course, it's a lot better to build stuff you would like to personally have," said Christopher Vasey, a five-year worker in the metal shop. Vasey recently helped build a custom flatbed. "I wish we could do more custom orders. With [custom orders] we know people are interested

without having to wait until a sale to find out."

The ideas are near endless and the incarcerated workers often take on projects without instructions.

"Working on the creative arts projects is one of the things I love doing. It calms me down," said James Haggart, who drew up the plans for the wooden

excavators, trucks, tractors and other heavy equipment toys he builds.

Haggart has Parkinson's disease, which effects motor functions causing the person to shake. "When I focus on the details it calms my shakes down," he said.

The next art sale has not been set, but projects have already begun. | **ECHO**

NOW HIRING BARISTAS FOR PRISON BREWS

NOW HIRING

Positions Now Open to Incentive Level 2 AICs

EOCI's Food Service Department is accepting applications for baristas in Prison Brews.

Hired AICs will receive on-the-job training and experience as a barista.

AIC workers will work closely with staff, make pastries daily, and work with food and drinks.

Applicants must be incentive level 2 or 3, with no convictions for arson, no staff assaults and no escape charges on their record.

Job duties will include:

- Making coffee
- Making smoothies
- Making pastries in the bakery
- Working closely with staff
- Working with job specific equipment, such as blenders, dishwashers and an espresso machine
- Taking coffee and food orders in-person and over the phone
- Cleaning and organizing

Requirements:

- Level 2, with at least 6 months clear conduct
- Experience would be nice, but not required
- Kitchen experience is preferred
- Must be able to work without direct supervision
- Able to follow directions

Interested AICs should send an application to IWP.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

OPENING THE DOOR TO OPEN CHAPEL

Religious Service Offers Orientation to Those New to Faith

Written by Chris Ainsworth



Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo

Chapel clerk Luis Trybom leads a religious service orientation on June 26, 2025. The orientation is a new opportunity provided by the chapel to help incarcerated people better understand services available to them.

A new religious service orientation is available to adults in custody, and participants may be able to bypass certain incentive level restrictions.

Meditative music plays in the background while a few men scattered around the room participate in open chapel — a weekly event where incarcerated people can watch movies, draw, meditate and even read in a calm environment away from their unit.

But this tranquility is only available to residents who are incentive level 3, meaning they have at least 12 months of good conduct.

Starting in July, however, the chapel looks to make some changes to the availability of open chapel, special events and activities.

Residents new to Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution or those new to exploring faith, who may not be eligible

ble to attend based on their incentive level, can go through an orientation which will make them eligible regardless of incentive level.

The 45-minute orientation is slated to be held the first Friday of each month.

“I benefited greatly from my experience meeting the chapel librarian my first week here, being able to get so much information about what to expect,” said Luis Trybom, the chapel’s newest clerk. “I remember how helpful, kind and welcoming the clerk and chaplains were. I credit that experience to being able to acclimate so quickly.”

In the past, the chapel gave a brief orientation to people using the chapel library. The orientation was limited to explaining the services offered by the library. Now, anytime a resident signs up for a religious service, special event or open chapel for the first time they

are scheduled for an in-depth orientation.

The orientation is facilitated by one of the chapel clerks

“Knowledge is power. It is good to have those tools of understanding and know how to access information,” said Chaplain DiSalvo. “If they have that knowledge and information I think it would help them grow as a person, no matter what denomination or religion they are.”

The orientation introduces people to the chaplains and explains their role and the roles of the clerks.

“When I transferred from Snake River Correctional Institution I was immediately able to take advantage of the open chapel,” Trybom said. “My heart went out to other new arrivals who wouldn’t be able to experience this valuable resource until they became a level th3. Everyone needs a safe, calm space where they can thrive.”

Trybom petitioned the chaplains. He explained the spiritual, physical and emotional benefits for new arrivals if the chapel’s services were made available to a wider range of incarcerated people.

“I go out to the units and see how things are. A lot of guys are not terribly happy,” said DiSalvo. “Then I come back here and realize how peaceful it is. If we can add that to their lives I think that would help their wellbeing overall.”

In the future the chapel hopes to introduce new activities and expanded opportunities. Currently, open chapel is limited to five at a time, but will soon be available for up to 20.

As the library expands, more DVDs and CDs will be available during open chapel hours. Additionally, the chaplains hope to offer grief and trauma support groups, guest speakers, concerts from community members, and a meditation class with watercolor art. | **ECHO**

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

An Untold History

Written by Brian Bement and Shahid Baskerville

“The ending of slavery plays a big part in who I am today as a Black man,” said Woods.

Earl Woods, an African American at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, said he was not taught all of Black history in grade school. Now, he said holidays like Juneteenth help him understand his history.

Juneteenth was first a celebration of a military victory, recognizing the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas in 1865.

A dry heat pierced the day as Major Gen. Gordon Granger and some 2,000 federal troops went to Galveston, Texas to ensure freedom was given to 250,000 African Americans.

The southern state had not adhered to President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation “that all persons held as slaves are, and henceforward shall be free.” The proclamation was made an act of Congress and became the Thirteenth Amendment in January 1863.

For two years after the Civil War ended and slavery was abolished, Texas continued to enslave people.

Granger and his troops went to Galveston as enforcers. Granger’s declaration, which was posted in public places, stated in part: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of person rights and rights of property between former master and slave’s, and then connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor.”

The longstanding belief is that the declaration was read by Granger at Ashton Villa, Texas. However, there is no evidence it was read aloud. History does indicate, however, that the decla-



Shutterstock

Serving something red with a meal is tradition for Juneteenth. At Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, red velvet cake is served with the lunch meal.

ration was posted in public places.

Granger’s declaration also informed former slaves that they were to remain at their homes, were barred from joining the military and should not be idle. Some former slaves demanded wages through sharecropping – to work for the share of the crop as a tenant farmer. However, most formerly enslaved people left Texas. The widespread migration after June 19 became known as “the scatter.”

Juneteenth was first observed in the 1890s, and was often celebrated as the U.S. Army’s birthday as well.

But, the African American community first celebrated Juneteenth in 1866. Annual celebrations continued for more than a century and early events were political rallies and voting instructions for the newly free.

Later, communities celebrated with a reading Emancipation Proclamation, playing traditional songs and reading works by famous Black authors.

Marvin Harley, a Black man who grew up in California, said he participated in celebrations at universities in his area in the ‘70s and ‘80s.

“There were big concerts with music and food,” said Harley, who is currently a resident at EOCI. “Maya Angelou was there and observed Black students speak and share poetry.”

Oddly enough, Texas became the first state to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday in 1980.

More than 40 years later, President Biden made it a federal holiday.

Many Americans consider this day the country’s second independence day. But for some, Juneteenth is about understanding a history that is seldom written in textbooks.

“I feel it’s up to older Black folks to pass down our knowledge of our history to younger generations,” said Woods. “It was never taught in text books. Black history needs to be written.” | **ECHO**

AROUND EOCI



Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo

GROUNDS CREW WORKERS

A Tough Job, But Perfect For Some

Written by Shahid Baskerville

Landscaping, shoveling snow and maintaining sprinkler systems—at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution the grounds are cared for by incarcerated workers.

One of the most labor-intensive jobs in the facility, grounds crew workers perform many landscaping services, including tilling and mowing grass, weeding, maintaining sprinkler irrigation, shoveling snow and assisting with harvesting vegetation. They work throughout the year, often during inclement weather.

Finding Workers

Often the crew experiences high turnover because of how difficult the job is and because the work can be in all types of weather.

“I wish there was more work and more people who know what it takes to do the job,” said Joshua Curphey, a grounds crew worker.

Curphey started working for the grounds crew in autumn 2024. He said there has been a vast turnover of incarcerated

workers and the grounds crew has seen a spike in applicants this season. According to Curphey, most new hires underestimate their work and the year-round difficulty.

Curphey said even though winter and autumn are typically slower than other seasons, they are still shoveling snow during cold weather and de-icing east and west side compounds regularly.

Officer Jorge Morfin, the current grounds crew supervisor said, “My guys are hard workers and take on a lot of responsibilities.”

Morfin said temperatures peaked at 100 degrees in June. For some, the weather reduces their interest in the work assignment. But Curphey said the weather doesn’t bother him.

“I’ve worked in 120-degree weather so I am used to heat,” said Curphey. “This does not bother me one bit.”

Curphey spent many summer years in scorching California heat doing field work. He has also worked in temperatures below 10 degrees in a colder state prior to his incarceration.

“I do not consider this work, because I love what I do,” said Curphey.

The main projects for the grounds crew during spring and summer are repairing east yard sprinklers and weeding and hoeing behind F and G buildings.

Kevin Crook, a recent addition to the grounds crew, has been acclimating to his new duties since May.

“Though I just started, I’ve built connections with people I didn’t know,” said Crook.

Crook, 22, will release in 2029. He said he wants to pick up different skills before he returns to society, which will help him find employment.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics from 2023 reported landscaping and grounds keeping workers reach a \$24.66 hourly wage.

But Crook said he hopes working the grounds crew will increase his chances of getting in the paint shop. His hope is that staff and other workers will see his work ethic, which will lead to another job where he can develop more skills.

Training Day

Joseph Tuttle is the greenhouse and grounds crew trainer. He educates new-hires on grounds-maintenance duties and proper use of hula hoes, push and gas-powered mowers, saws, edging clippers and leaf and garden rakes.

Training is hands-on and begins on a trainee’s first day with what Tuttle calls a “learn as you go” method. He instructs classes which entwines grounds crew work with vegetation management.

“It’s hard to train someone up because most do not last very long,” said Tuttle. “Grounds crew is the hardest physical labor in the whole institution.”

For several years, Tuttle has endured 110-degree summers at EOCI.

“Even if yard is cancelled, we con-

tinue to work," said Tuttle.

The grounds crew is the only job which labors in outdoor high temperatures.

According to Tuttle, EOCI's administration has tried to mitigate the impact of weather-related issues by creating a new rule.

Grounds crew workers are required to take 15-minute breaks when the temperature is above 90 degrees.

But, the cold can also be a challenge for new workers.

Tuttle said he remembered a winter night where the temperature was below zero with a heavy windchill and the crew still worked. He said they were de-icing east and west compounds past midnight.

Still, Tuttle said benefits of being on crew are included gaining the ability to maintain large grounds and developing

a "green thumb" from working with plants. He also finds the work relaxing and therapeutic, despite the difficulty.

"I found a calming place within the work," said Tuttle. "The job has given me more than I'd asked for."

The PRAS award for grounds crew workers starts at 10 and reaches 14.

The crew has 12 to 14 workers and is open to incentive level two and three. Interested residents should send a work application to IWP. | **ECHO**



Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo

On June 25, 2025, the grounds crew mows the grass on the east side of the institution. Workers from several other jobs can be seen going about their duties in the background.

NOW HIRING SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR FOR WFD

NOW HIRING

EOCI's Work Force Development is seeking to hire a sewing machine mechanic as soon as possible.

Successfully applicants will receive on-the-job training and experience in repairing and maintaining WFD's multitude of sewing machines along with gaining experience as a tailor.

Sewing machine mechanics will work closely with the sewing machine operators in order to learn what repairs are needed. Having the patience to work with the different sewing machines is a must.

Applicants must be incentive level 2 or 3 and be eligible for a gate pass. PRAS points will start at 12 with opportunity to advance to 14 then 16.

Job duties will include:

- Repairing and Maintaining WFD's sewing machines
- Learning to tailor
- Working closely with other AICs
- Helping with tailor projects
- Taking directions

Requirements:

- Level 2 and eligible for a gate pass
- Attention to detail
- Patience
- Mechanical aptitude
- Able to work with the small intricate pieces of the sewing machines
- Sewing experience preferred but not required

Interested AICs should send an application to IWP.

THE ECHO INTERVIEWS



WE ASKED EHR

Electronic Health Records—Answers to Questions

Interview by Kurtis Thompson

Echo: When was it decided to move to electronic records?

ASK EHR: There have been previous attempts to implement an electronic health record over the past 20 years. The current project business case for health services to procure an electronic health record was written in July of 2020.

Echo: This probably sounds silly, but let's assume that everything goes perfectly – what's the soonest you expect the transition to be complete?

ASK EHR: The timeline has been adjusted, as needed over the course of the project, so the current timeline noted below is accurate. The project will be completed by the end of the year, 2025.

Echo: Can you describe to me the procedure your department uses in moving records?

ASK EHR: Records are scanned via large capacity, high speed, scanners to move the information from paper to a digital format. The digital records are currently securely stored in the DOC network and will be uploaded into the electronic health record environment once configuration of the system is complete.

Echo: Can you give me some examples of how moving to digital records will help your department?

ASK EHR: Moving to an electronic record will give providers access to patient healthcare information at their fingertips. The transition to electronic records will streamline health services workflows. An example of this is that staff will no longer spend hours every day pulling and filing charts. Another example, multiple HS staff members can be in the same patient chart at one time.

With the EHR, providers will no longer need to wait weeks or months to

receive information from outside providers. By using the health information exchanges (HIEs) connected to the EHR, providers will be able to easily access information from consultant and other outside providers. These exchanges are extremely secure meeting federal and state regulations for exchange of protected health information.

Echo: Will the digitization of records be beneficial to AICs as well?

The transition to an electronic health record will benefit AICs in many ways. An example of this benefit is, that upon release, electronic records will be available to participating health care providers through the health information exchange. Another example is that health services staff will be able to run reports to see when AICs are due for routine care.

Echo: When an AIC requests copies of medical records, will there be a new process to follow?

ASK EHR: At this time, the process for requesting records will not change. There is a change when receiving the requested records, the patient will now be required to digitally sign they have received the records.

Echo: Are there any other upcoming changes AICs should know?

ASK EHR: While we implement the EHR this will mean a reduced number of appointments available for AICs. This reduction is due to the need for staff to get comfortable with the new systems that are in place.

Once the transition period is complete, 6 to 8 weeks, we anticipate returning to normal capacity.

It is important to note, all urgent and emergent needs will be met as needed.

| ECHO



With Daniel Shoemaker

Interview by Logan Gimbel

W H A T
I ' V E
L E A R N E D

Photo by Philip Luna/The Echo

One thing that surprised me about prison was...

Honestly, I didn't think it would be quite structured as it is. I wasn't expecting announcements over the radio or intercom system telling people where to go and when. It's very much like military time.

One thing I wish I had never wasted money on is...

The little handheld video game systems they had before the Nintendo Switch. I was promised something that was not there.

The food I'm looking forward to eating the most is...

Going back to Seattle and eating at Anthony's, a seafood restaurant. It's going to be salmon, king crab and a baked potato all day. Anthony's also has the best Long Islands.

I wish I had spent less time doing...

Honestly, just sitting around. A lot of my earlier years here [EOCI] were just sitting around. I am in a cell and I am doing nothing, nothing at all. I have a pair of 2XL blue shorts that used to fit me. I have lost a bit. There used to be a point where I couldn't even reach my own foot to put on my socks.

The program that helped me the most...

The dog program, but attending Baker Technical Institute and Roots to Success really helped. I want to give a shout out to [counselor] Chase from BHS in helping me find the correct medication that I should have been on since I was probably 15.

Before coming to prison, I would consider myself....

Introverted. I have always been able to deal with people in

small amounts. I was definitely lazier, there was a lot less motivation.

Now I consider myself...

Still introverted, but I have a much easier time dealing with people. I give tours for the dog program now, like a tour group of 30 people shows up. I talk to them – here's what we do and how we do it.

The change I'd like to see the most in prison...

I'd like to see slightly more fluidity in things and a little more laxity on the smaller stuff.

What I've learned....

There's a lot, but the biggest would be learning to be introspective. I took a look at myself and figured out what I was doing wrong and what I could make better, what could I actually have done differently in those situations. How do I avoid making the same mistakes.

I am looking forward to...

Seeing my family back in Seattle again. I haven't met my brother's or sister's kids, they're all younger than the time I've done in prison. Also seeing my friends again, I've been friends with them since back in the military in 2003.

A piece of advice I could give to someone new to prison...

Use your time the way you want to use it. It is a punishment, but it gives you a lot of free time to actually fix stuff. Don't let other people tell you how to do your time, figure out what you want to do and plan to do it. | **ECHO**

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo

Michael Ledbetter draws at a table in his unit dayroom in March, 2025. Ledbetter was introduced to art by his grandmother at around 10 years old. Now, he draws every day as a way of coping with the stress of incarceration.

PUZZLING OUT THE ART

Michael Ledbetter Shares His Experience as an Artist

Written by Chris Ainsworth

“Art is like a puzzle,” said lifelong artist Michael Ledbetter. “You want to be in a constant state of uncomfortable. I love just sitting there and stressing out.”

Ledbetter is one of the many artists housed within the fences at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. He views art as a way to communicate to others without using words. While he tends to create most of his art in his cell, he doesn’t confine his creativity to his shared 6-by-10-foot space.

Growing up in Central Point, Ore-

gon with his grandmother and grandfather, Ledbetter was introduced to art at the age of 10. His grandmother set up an art studio in the basement of one of the homes she owned. She was very engaged in the art scene and would often hold banquets and charity benefit dinners.

He explained how his grandmother would take a blank canvas and turn it into something beautiful.

“I couldn’t help but to be intrigued,” he added.

Her art style leaned towards abstract,

an art style Ledbetter was not a fan of until he was older. That basement art studio is where young Ledbetter would get his start. She helped him with his first painting. Living in the mountains, the family was surrounded by trees and snow – his original inspiration.

“That was what I ended up painting and it was something she hung up in one of her houses,” Ledbetter said. “My family would always ask about it. It was a good moment.”

In 2010, Ledbetter was incarcerated and was serving time at Snake River Correctional Institution. During his time at Snake River he met a few artists sentenced to life, men who would spend thousands of hours on single art pieces.

“I looked at [the art] and could tell

there is thousands of hours in it. I was shocked," said Ledbetter. "Shocked and saddened, but it was inspiring. They were lifers, but they spent that time honing their craft, creating their skill."

Inspiration he found in those incarcerated artists became the driving force behind instilling himself in his artwork. This has propelled him into seeking a connection between himself and the viewer through emotion.

"Art should evoke emotion, and I want mine to evoke emotion," Ledbetter said. "I want you to look at it and feel what I was feeling when I was drawing."

He believes it can be easy to see mistakes as a failure. That is something new artists and experienced artists struggle with alike. He sees people often throw work away after making a mistake. But he says they could just "pivot and make the art work for them."

Ledbetter believes in sharing his knowledge with others, whether they are new to the craft or trying to further develop their skills.

"Humble yourself, surround yourself with people that are going to give you constructive criticism," he said when asked about offering advice to new artists. "If somebody is going to sit there and berate something you have put time into, you don't want that somebody in your life. Period."

Ledbetter discussed how it can sometimes be difficult to connect with your family while in prison. He said it is easy to tell them something, but those words can

often get lost. Sending artwork home is a way he connects to his family, although he wishes he could do more.

"When I care about someone and I am giving them a piece of my art, what I am really giving them a piece of my time," he said. "I want it to be done right. I don't want to rush anything and give them something that doesn't have my heart in it."

A perfect example of this is a card he recently sent his youngest son. His 3-year-old son has autism and is nonverbal. However, like most children he has things he has become obsessed with. For his son's last birthday, Ledbetter drew him a card with characters from his favorite TV show, Puffin Rock. His wife laminated the card before giving to their son.

"I can get on the phone and tell him how much I love him but it doesn't translate. I turned something he was passionate about into a card," said Ledbetter. "Now he runs around the

"Humble yourself. Surround yourself with people that are going to give you constructive criticism."

- Michael Ledbetter

house all day with it. It is glued to his hip and he carries it everywhere he goes. And that's like a piece of me with him."

While he wishes he was able to do more work for his family, he is currently working on a project he believes is larger than himself. Working with his wife he is in the process of creating a collection of his art to turn into a

Continued on next page...

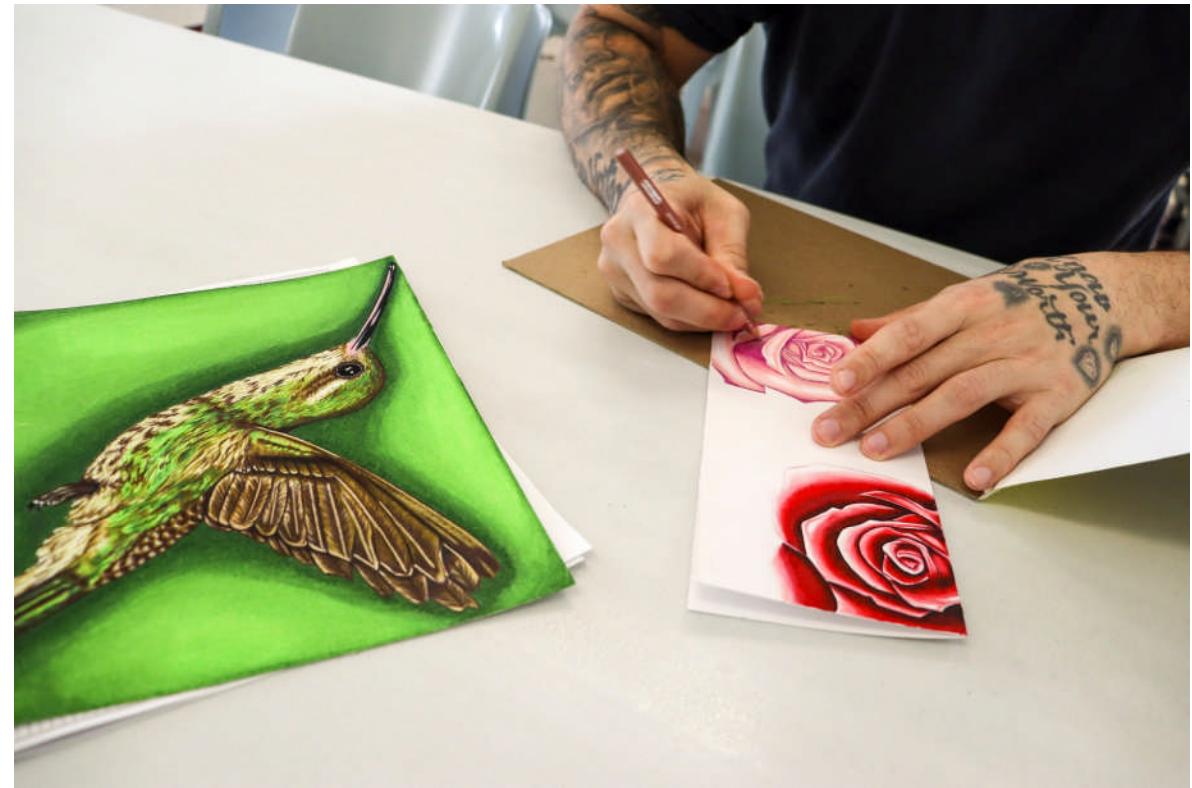


Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo

In March, 2025, Ledbetter works on a rose in pinks and reds. Near by his completed work, a hummingbird with a bright green backdrop, sits on the table.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

(...continued from previous page)

book. They plan to partner with a victim advocacy group to donate a portion of the proceeds.

“The book was inspired by me feeling I wasn’t doing enough, like I wasn’t being constructive with my time,” Ledbetter said. “I want this book to

communicate to people who I am and where I am coming from right now. That there are a million people like me, looking for a second chance.”

Ledbetter is hoping to get other artists involved with this project but collecting art can sometimes prove difficult. Cur-

rently this is in its concept phase as he builds his profile and his wife looks into publishing and working with a specific, or multiple, victim advocacy groups. But for now, he is just working on putting new lines on paper as often as he can. | ECHO



Top left: Two tigers, one in blue and one in orange, made as a gift.

Top right: A blue rose with blue hearts.

Below: Tainted Vision is the Bob Ross of Ledbetter's collection, a happy little accident. It was supposed to be something different.

Bottom left: The phoenix is one of Ledbetter's favorite pieces and one of his most visually appealing. Over 30 hours went into this work.

Bottom right: The humming bird was drawn as a culturally significant gift for a friend.



STOCK TRADING WHILE INCARCERATED

How to Pick Companies to Invest With, From AICs

Written by Kurtis Thompson



Shutterstock/Jr Images

In June, Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution residents Charles Frost and James Gulley gave their first-hand experience and knowledge on stock market trade. Some recommendations they made for the safe investor included buying shares from companies involved with technology, health-care, utilities and consumer staples. But how does a person figure out who to invest in without losing money?

There is no method to investing that guarantees a person will not lose money. However, both Frost and Gulley said there are ways to decrease the likelihood of loss.

Researching a company's current market performance, how they have fared over time and how big they are financially are three details they say make for safer investing decisions.

One example Frost gave was his investment into Boeing, an aerospace company, even though tariffs had negatively impacted their share value. Investing when the market is unstable might seem counterintuitive to some,

but with research he reaped profits during volatility.

“The market being down was my opportunity to get in,” he said. “The share price was cheaper. Just because the stock market is in the red doesn’t mean it’s always bad for investors... I bought stocks low knowing they were likely going to bounce back.”

From previous research, he knew Boeing had been a growing company for many years. Frost also found out Boeing recently secured a contract with the United States government to produce new aircrafts. To him, these details indicated future growth because new contracts mean new profits and, ultimately, share value growth.

This is a buy-low-sell-high tactic used with shares in dependable companies. The more knowledge a person has on a business' metrics, the more capable they become of making safe investments like these. Both Frost and Gulley advocate for this kind of knowledgeable investing.

Some of the ways they perform research is by watching Dish channel 96,

reading publications such as the Wall Street Journal and by asking people to look things up for them over the phone.

Gulley said researching the quality of a company, its debts, how much they pay shareholders compared to their profits, what their cash flow looks like, who they are working with and other metrics are all things to consider when making an investment. Also paying attention to a business' research and development can help determine a company's future plans.

However, buying stocks in a business because they might come up with something new is not a safe investment.

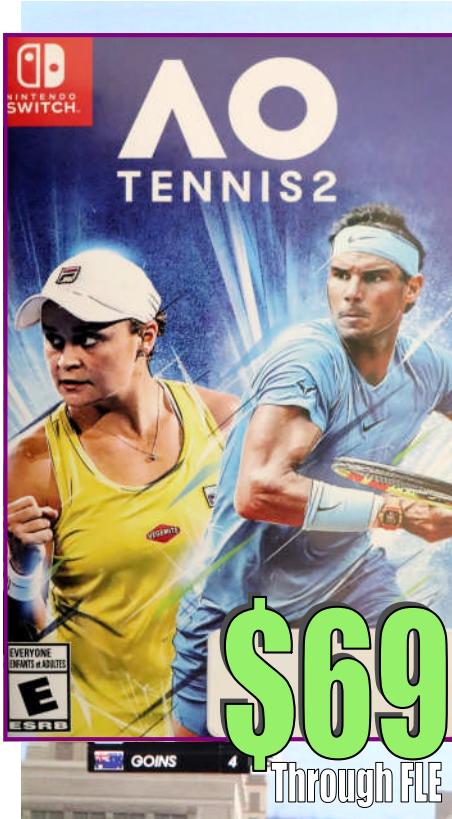
“It is not an investment when I invest in some new pharmaceutical company working on cancer research hoping they’re going to come up with a medical formula and that gets approved by the FDA,” Gulley said. “That’s not an investment, that’s a bet.”

For new investors, people with little or fragile finances and those over 40, both Frost and Gulley recommend stable investments in essential industries owned by the ultra-successful.

“If you want to invest, I would start with a utility company,” Gulley said. “They’re going to pay the best dividend. Utilities are everywhere, they’re very stable and they open the investment door in a very safe way.” | **ECHO**

Disclaimer: The information contained in this article are the opinions of those interviewed and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Echo, ODOC or their staff. The Echo does not give stock trading advice.

GAME KEEPER



AO Tennis 2 is available from Fully Loaded Electronics for \$69.

A WORTHY SPORTS GAME—AO TENNIS 2

A Review of One of the Few Sports Games Available Through FLE

Written by Kurtis Thompson with Shane Goins

AO Tennis 2 is definitely a sport enthusiast's game, but even non-sporty gamers might be surprised to find they like this title. People who enjoy rich, thorough character creation with in-depth stat and skill-building will find this game engaging. Released January 2020 by Big Ant Studios, this Australian Open tennis title is available from Fully Loaded Electronics for \$69.

For those not familiar with sports games, think of AO Tennis 2 as a career simulator with bonus level-building and scenario-creating content. Between gameplay settings and customizable options, there are too many choices to list. The character creation, career management and arena making selections are enormous.

Whether for free-play or career mode, gamers can select from the many pre-existing professional athletes or

may create their own player from scratch. There are multiple customization options to choose from when creating an athlete, from basic traits such as physical leanness to small details of nostril size and depth.

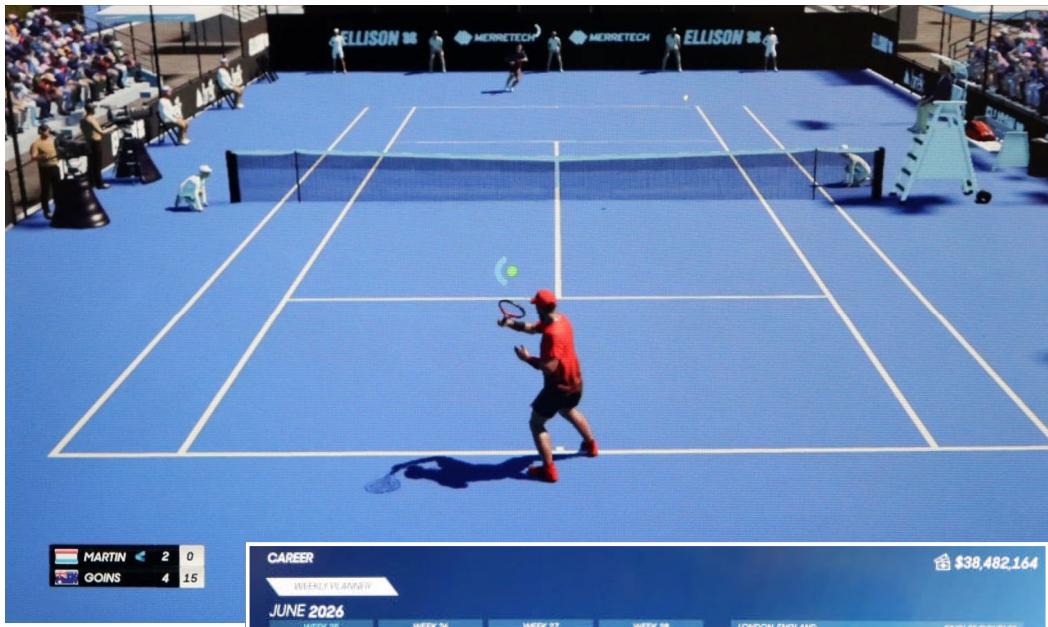
Gamers will also have options to create a logo, select from different clothes and accessories, deck out their equipment bags, and customize their tennis rackets. Other great simulation options include setting a player's nationality, where they live, their date of birth, the date they became professional tennis players and even what currency they get paid in. Aside from vital statistics, the athlete's playstyle, stroke technique, being left or right handed, serving style, reactions to points being scored and more can be customized.

One of the great features of this title is it uses realistic character skeleton mod-

els, giving a lifelike look to motions and gestures. This technology gives gamers the immersive experience of seeing their characters come to life. But imagery is only part of the package.

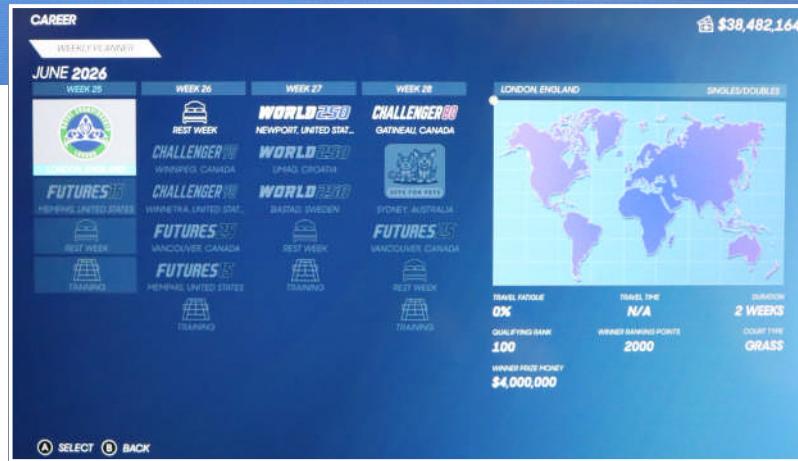
Once gameplay starts, players will begin managing their athlete's career over full calendar years. Not only will they choose what matches to play or skip, gamers must also manage their player's down time, training, support team members, sponsorships and more.

Athletes earn income from sponsorships and match victories, and that money is used to hire and manage coaches, nutritionists, photographers, sport scientists and doctors. Players must travel all over the world, so travel and lodging expenses must be managed as well. Proper management of these elements keep the athlete's fatigue down and prevent injuries.



Above: Game play from AO Tennis 2

Right: Selection and sponsorship screen from AO Tennis 2.



During matches, gamers will be running their characters all over different courts trying to score against their opponents. When points are scored, pressing a direction on the D-pad will key player reactions which match spectators respond to. Depending on the reaction, fan opinion of an athlete will go up or down.

Each match is rated, and players will gain experience, funds and reputation after each one. There are two general categories of athlete growth: stats and skills.

Stat points are acquired by leveling up and can be invested in multiple categories, such as strength and speed. Gamers should be careful how these are spent, however, because once invested those points are permanent.

Skills can be increased up to 99. These affect things such as serves and techniques. Each skill category can be increased using training exercises.

AO Tennis 2 comes with eight different difficulty settings, from Rookie to Grand Slam. Athletes will play at locations around the world, including the United States, Australia, France and more. The game keeps track of how well players do during the calendar year and lists rankings.

For those who enjoy watching tennis, the game can be set up to play scenario matches where the gamer can just watch the athletes compete. Trophies can be earned at various competitions and added to the player's collection.

There are many options for gamers in AO Tennis 2, more than some of the most popular fighting and role-playing games out there. Sport lovers will very likely be satisfied with this title, but this game could easily be enjoyed by others.

Estimated play time: approximately 22+ hours for speed run, 91+ hours for 100% completion | **ECHO**

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. AICs family can report on their behalf by contacting the Inspector General's public hotline at: (877) 678-4222.

El Abuso sexual y el acoso sexual nunca son aceptables. Avisele 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

RECIPES

MARSHMALLOW FRUITY DYN BITE MACH

New Canteen Items Sparks AICs to Create Treats

Written by Shahid Baskerville



Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo

Canteen recently added two promotional items—mini marshmallows and Fruity Dyno Bites cereal—and adults in custody have found a creative way to mix the two.

Combining margarine, marshmallows and Fruity Dyno Bites, AICs are dubbing the creation “cereal bars.”

Lance Wood has been incarcerated for three decades and feels satisfied by this new snack.

“It is one of the better combinations I have tasted here in years,” said Wood. “I have a sweet tooth and I know sweets.”

The cereal bars are topic of conversation on east and west side housing units alike.

Robert Wyller a G3 housing unit resident, said small batches are a teaser and large portions are never enough.

But he has perfected his recipe.

“I melt down the margarine and marshmallows then mix it in the cereal,” said Wyller. He prefers a one bag of cereal to a one bag of marshmallows ratio.

AIC Cosmo Seal, Wyller’s partner in this culinary concoction, said, “After trying two marshmallows and one bag of cereal, we decided less marshmallow was needed.”

“Rob and I make a bunch of deserts. They all turn out good,” said Seal. “Half a bag of Fruit Roll cereal and half Fruity Dyno Bites cereal is a good mix too, for a small batch.”

Incentive units have microwaves which allows Wyller and Seal to melt three servings of margarine and marshmallows.

After melting the two, the mixture is poured in a bowl of Fruity Dyno Bites before mixing.

Lastly, the mix is molded into cereal bars and allowed to cool.

Non-incentive units do not have microwaves, but this has not stopped residents from making cereal bars.

Residents are adding the margarine and marshmallows to a plastic bag and submerging the bag in near boiling water.

Wood, who has been both a non-incentive and incentive unit resident, said, “Hot water or the microwave does not change the taste.” | **ECHO**

I SCREAM CHEESE CAKE

Popular Cheese Cake Recipe

Written by Brain Bement

This is the “top-secret” ice cream cheesecake recipe people bank on. Total time to make and allow to set is 14 hours.

Ingredients:

- 1 bag instant powdered milk
- 6 cream cheese packages
- 1 vanilla cream cookies
- 1 pint of ice cream
- 2 plain M&M’s
- 2 Hershey milk chocolate bars
- 1 reusable plastic bowl
- 1 pitcher
- 1 tumbler
- 1 ruler
- 1 spoon

Process:

Remove vanilla cookies from package. Use spoon to scrape off cookie filling, put filling in pitcher, put empty cookies in bowl.

Smash cookies in the bowl until powder.

Add spoonfuls of water on cookie powder (dryer is better) mix by hand, press down and around the edges of the bowl making crust. Sit out for two hours to dry (approximately 1½ small protein powder scooper of water).

Fill hot water in tumbler, put Hershey milk chocolate bar in tumbler

Take melted pint of ice cream, put in pitcher. Add 1 milk instant nonfat to pitcher and 6 cream cheese to pitcher.

Use ruler to mix contents in pitcher, and stir thoroughly like a crazy person

Pour mixture from pitcher into bowl and take each M&M package and spread them on top of cake. Take each Hershey milk chocolate bar out of tumbler.

Open small corner of Hershey package and squeeze and drizzle chocolate on top of cake. Set bowl out with lose lid for approximately 12 hours. | **ECHO**

African American Program

Our mission is to provide culturally-specific services to assist in the successful transition of African Americans from prison to the community.

Program Objectives

- **Stop:** Parole violations, criminal activities, domestic violence, drug and alcohol use, cycle of self-defeat.
- **Increase:** Education, vocational training, employment, family stability and community connection.
- **Provide:** Culturally-specific programs and services, HEAT (Habilitation, Empowerment, Accountability, Therapy) for men, and HER (Habilitation Empowerment and Recovery) for women.



To Be Considered

- **Eligibility restrictions:** will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- **No:** Sex offenses, clear and persistent mental health diagnosis, or active gang involvement/affiliation.
- Must be supervised in Multnomah County.

How to Get Started

- **Inmate:** Write a detailed letter of interest expressing why you would like to be considered for participation.
Males: Send your letter with a kytic to: CRCI/AAP/Bruce Douglas
Females: Submit your letter of interest to your respective counselor
- **Counselor:** Email inmate's full name, SID#, and recommendation to
bruce.w.douglas@multco.us

**Dept. of Community Justice/AAP,
 1245 SE 122nd Ave., Portland, OR 97233
 503.310.0054 | bruce.w.douglas@multco.us**



**DEPARTMENT OF
 COMMUNITY JUSTICE**
Community Safety Through Positive Change

PUZZLES

SCRABBLE CHALLENGE

See how many points
you can score in one word!

Scrabble Board: July, 2025Scrabble Basic Rules

No proper nouns like names or places

No contractions like “it’s” or “that’s”

No abbreviations like “app” or “spec”

Board Scores

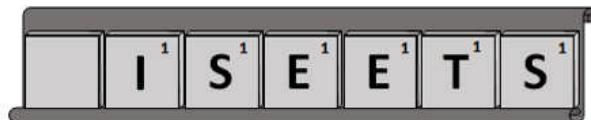
TW = Triple Word Score

DW = Double Word Score

TL = Triple Letter Score

DL = Double Letter Score

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PLAYER 1**PLAYER 2****COMICS FOR JULY**

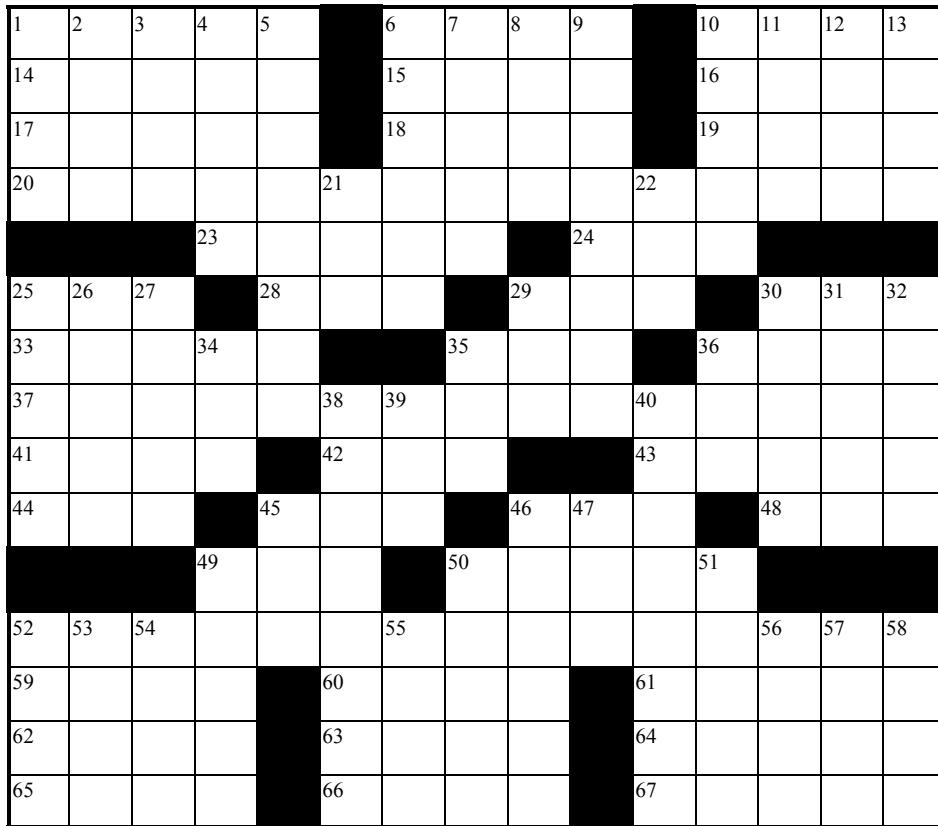
Comic by Seth Lester



Comic by Seth Mathews

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Theme: In The Army



ACROSS

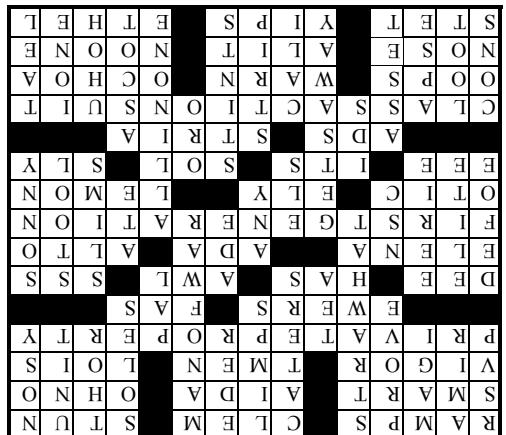
1 They go on and off highways
 6 Red played him
 10 Bedazzle
 14 Nobody's fool
 15 Verdi heroine
 16 Exclamation of disappointment
 17 Good physical health
 18 Bootleggers' bane
 19 Clark's beloved
 20 Trespasser's domain
 23 Ablutionary Vessels
 24 Mi followers
 25 Balmoral Castle's river
 28 "Every dog ___ its..."
 29 Piercing tool
 30 Serpentine sound
 33 Turgenev heroine
 35 This org. has a lot of pull
 36 Choral category
 37 Like a naturalized citizen

41 Involving the ear
 42 Cambridge shire cathedral town
 43 Certain citrus fruit
 44 Evidence of big foot?
 45 Start of Mr. Rogers' song
 46 Fa-la linkup
 48 Full of tricks
 49 They may be classified or personal
 50 Narrow groove
 52 Lawyer's apparel
 59 Butterfingers' exclamation
 60 Sound the tocsin
 61 1959 Nobelist Severo
 62 Facial part
 63 Landed
 64 Opposite of everybody
 65 Let it stand, to an editor
 66 Puppies' plaints
 67 Lucy's landlady

DOWN

1 Invitation's request, for short
 2 Old song "Abdul Abubull ___"
 3 Yuletide visitors
 4 Establish as valid
 5 Boater
 6 Supplies the victuals
 7 Walks lamely
 8 Fulda River tributary
 9 Warship
 10 Parts of tennis shoes
 11 Hammer-wielding god
 12 The U in BTU
 13 Overly curious
 21 Herbal brew
 22 Close friend
 25 Moll Flanders' creator
 26 Upper crust
 27 Likely to creep you out
 29 Stock or block attachment
 30 Slenderizes
 31 Seat without a back
 32 "I Got You Babe" singer
 34 Defense advisory grp.
 35 "Pick a card, ___ card"
 36 Did some noshing
 38 Escapes
 39 Ernie of the PGA
 40 Comprehensive
 45 Some may have photos
 46 Tenures
 47 Guadalajara gold
 49 Rainy day need
 50 Las Vegas feature
 51 English racetrack
 52 Bamboozles
 53 Swag
 54 Domed or vaulted recess
 55 Colombian city
 56 "Here comes trouble!"
 57 "The Last Days of Pompeii" heroine
 58 Oriental unit of weight

ANSWER KEY



SEEKING ARTISTS

NOTICES

The Echo is seeking incarcerated artists to feature in the next artist spotlight. Art from all genres is welcome, including, but not limited to: pencil, graphite, pen, paint, origami, and any other medium. If you are interested in being featured in the next artist spotlight, send a communication to IWP.

Interested artists will be placed on a call out to IWP.

COME AND WORK FOR THE ECHO

The Echo is accepting applicants for future positions. This position starts at 11 PRAS points with the opportunity to go up to 15 PRAS over time.

Criteria:

- Must be **NCI level 2 or 3**
- Must work well with staff and AICs of many different backgrounds

Duties include:

- Article writing, conducting interviews, and researching various topics
- Incorporating writing feedback and taking direction
- Attending training sessions with outside journalists and other field experts
- Completing weekly homework assignments on AP style writing, news article structure and grammar and punctuation
- Working within the guidelines of ethical journalism, as set by the Society of Professional Journalists
- Being impartial and looking at a topic from multiple angles
- Having a positive attitude and outlook. The Echo does not publish articles that are unnecessarily disparaging to the institution, the Department of Corrections or other incarcerated people

Hours of Work:

Correspondents are scheduled on weekdays. They may also be sent on assignment during evenings and weekends (covering sporting events, multi activity nights, religious service events, etc...).

To Apply:

Send a communication form (kyte) [and a job application](#) to IWP.

If you have not completed an application in the last three months, please resubmit.

WHERE TO FIND THE ECHO AND 1664

Online:

The Echo and 1664 are available online at www.pollenpress.org.

On Edovo:

The Echo and 1664 are available on the Edovo app at more than 1,200 prisons in the U.S.

Incarcerated people on Edovo can type the publication name into the search field to access current and previous editions.

On Tablets at all 12 of Oregon's correctional facilities:

1664 is available in the free section of state-issued tablets at every Oregon prison. Incarcerated people can access the publication by selecting the "notices" icon on tablets.

In Print:

1664 is available in limited print copies at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution and Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

The Echo and 1664 are publications of Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution.

Direct questions and comments to EOCI Institution Work Programs (IWP). All views and opinions expressed are those of the contributing writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Corrections.

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