



LaDonna  
Thompson  
Commissioner

# INSIDE CORRECTIONS

Vol. 7, Issue 2 - April 2014

## Senate Honors Probation and Parole Officers

*Four involved in shooting  
recognized for bravery,  
exemplary performance*

By Lisa Lamb  
Director of Communications

Probation and Parole Officers from District 11 were honored during the 2014 General Assembly.

State Sen. Johnny Ray Turner sponsored a resolution commending the officers involved in the Sept. 9, 2013 shooting in Knott County.

Turner's resolution, introduced in the Senate on March 5, paid tribute to Officers Brian Melvin, Olivia Newsome, Sloane Marcum and Joseph Ratliff for their courage and exemplary work performance.

The officers were recognized on the Senate floor while Turner's resolution was read. Several other officers from District 11 also attended the rec-



**Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg (center) sponsored a resolution during the 2014 General Assembly that honored Probation and Parole officers (L-R) Olivia Newsome, Sloane Marcum, Brian Melvin and Joseph Ratliff.**

ognition, including Supervisor Gary Compton. In addition, Commissioner LaDonna Thompson, Deputy Commissioner Paula Holden, Probation and Pa-

role Director Bob Rodriguez, Assistant Director Cortney Shewmaker and family members of the officers attended to

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## On The Inside

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## Recent Staff Assault Highlights Dangers of Corrections Career

The safety of our staff has always been, and remains, the highest of priorities for the Kentucky Department of Corrections.

Corrections is a dangerous career and nothing exemplifies that more than a staff assault, such as the recent attack on a food service worker at Kentucky State Penitentiary. JoAnne Smith was hospitalized after the attack and released a couple of days later. Fundraising efforts are underway to assist the family.

Internal and criminal charges are pending against the inmate

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## *At Luther Lockett Correctional Complex*

# Inmates Create Stuffed Bears for Children

## Department to Distribute Bears to Children in Crisis

Anyone who has worked in Corrections for any length of time knows a portion of the inmate population relishes an opportunity to give back to society in some way.

Luther Lockett Correctional Complex (LLCC) Warden Greg Howard knows this and for years, he had the idea of an inmate program in which stuffed animals could be made to give to children going through a difficult time. He just couldn't find anyone at first to buy into the program.

"Years ago when I was at Central Office, I read a story about a jail in the northwestern United States that was doing this," said Howard. "They were actually making 'raggedy Ann and Andy' dolls for kids of people who were arrested. And I thought, 'we can do this.' I approached some folks but didn't really get much interest."

Then in June 2012 Howard was named warden at LLCC and six months later he started the program.

Howard's vision to provide the bears to local law enforcement, including the department's own Probation and Parole Officers, will become a reality in May. The bears will also be given to local firefighters and Emergency Medical Services.

"It's gone really well now," said Howard. "The Commissioner is supportive of the program and a couple of other wardens are interested in starting it. I think we could do this statewide and be able to provide the bears to agencies across Kentucky."

No state funds are used for the program. It is funded entirely by the inmate population. Donated scraps of material are used to construct the stuffed bears. Great care was also taken to ensure the

bears would be safe for children, regardless of the age.

Howard researched what type of stuffing was safe and also what type of material to use for the bear's eyes.

To keep scissors out of the secure perimeter, the material is cut by workers in Kentucky Correctional Industries at the prison. A small group of inmates are currently involved in the program and as with any other program, must have clear conduct in order to participate.

To kick off the initiative and to raise funds for the program, a 5K walk/run dubbed "Grin and Bear It" has been scheduled for May. The first set of bears will be distributed to the agencies at the event.

"Grin And Bear It," will be held at LLCC on Saturday, May 17

*(See flyer on page 3)*



**Top right:** Warden Greg Howard held up one of the stuffed bears to be distributed at the Grin and Bear It 5K walk/run on Saturday, May 17. **Above:** Donna Haddix supervised one of the inmates as he stitched the bear pieces together. Haddix is an administrative specialist at LLCC and oversees the prison's bear program and canine program.

## Think You Can't Bear Anymore?



We invite you to join us in the Inaugural  
**“GRIN and BEAR IT 5K Walk/Run”**  
for a great cause!

Your chance to run one of the most unique 5k races in Kentucky! Few have ever legally run away from a prison and been able to tell the tale!

Join us to raise proceeds for an amazing program in which inmates are given the opportunity to build handmade stuffed bears that are given to Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Services to distribute to children in time of need or family crisis.

Where: Luther Lockett Correctional Complex, 1612 Dawkins Rd, LaGrange, KY

When: Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.

Packet Pickup: Friday, May 16 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Luther Lockett Correctional Complex  
Saturday, May 17 at 6 a.m. Late Registration and Packet Pickup

Online Registration: \$25 through May 10, 2014; \$30 after May 10, 2014

[Headfirstperformance.com](http://Headfirstperformance.com)

***Come Out & Join Us and Earn Humana Vitality Points!***



## Agency Spotlight

# Office of Legal Services Provides Quality Representation for DOC

### I'm Being Sued!?!

You've just received notice that you were named as a defendant in a lawsuit filed by an inmate or offender. Your first thought is "what do I do now?"

**Never Fear, The Office of Legal Services is here!**

CPP 1.1 gives employees free representation in any civil action against them for actions taken during the legal performance of their duties. With two offices in Frankfort located at DOC Central Office and 125 Holmes Street, the Office of Legal Services fights daily to give the Department of Corrections and its employees the best representation money can't buy.

The staff in the Office of Legal Services provide a multitude of services. Attorneys provide representation for the Department and its employees in lawsuits filed in federal or state court, including adjustment appeals, open record appeals, sentence calculation lawsuits, medical lawsuits, lawsuits alleging failure to protect, retaliation or denial of access to religion, and lawsuits regarding classification.

In addition they represent the Department in cases before the Board of Claims, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Personnel Board. The Office of Legal Services handles approximately 550 new cases each year.

In addition to defending lawsuits the Office of Legal Services assists the Department in promulgating policies and procedures; provides assistance in responding to subpoenas; assists with contract procurement; and reviews proposed legislation that may impact the Department.

The staff also conducts training



The Department of Corrections is fortunate to have a top-notch team of attorneys that provide representation for the agency and its employees in a wide array of legal actions. Above: The team of attorneys located at Central Office includes, front row (L-R) Support staff member Loreen Green, Attorneys John Cummins, Allison Brown and Marcus Jones. Back row (L-R): Attorneys Angela Dunham, Brenn Combs, support staff member Christy Bond and attorney Todd Henning. Below: Several attorneys that provide representation to the Department have offices at the Justice Cabinet. Front row (L-R) Support staff members Sara Pittman, Ann Smith, Elisha Mahoney and attorney Amy Barker. Back row (L-R): Attorneys Stafford Easterling, Chuck Aaron, Linda Keeton and Ed Baylous. Not pictured: Attorneys Vickie Wise, Amber Arnett, Angela Cordery and support staff member Kara Daniel.



## Honors

From Page 1

show their support to the four officers.

Few things demonstrate the dangers associated with working in Corrections like last year's shooting of Officer Melvin.

Melvin was shot and wounded Sept. 9 in Knott County while he and Newsome, Marcum and Ratliff were attempting to arrest a man who had absconded probation supervision. Knott County is in Probation and Parole District 11. The man who shot Melvin and fired at the other officers faces multiple charges in connection with the incident including attempted murder of a police officer and 1st degree wanton endangerment.



Sen. Johnny Ray Turner, D-Prestonsburg, spoke about the officers' bravery during the introduction of the resolution. Standing behind him (L-R) Probation and Parole Officers Brian Melvin, Olivia Newsome, Joseph Ratliff and Sloane Marcum.

*A RESOLUTION honoring Kentucky Department of Corrections' Division of Probation and Parole Officers Brian Melvin, Olivia Newsome, Sloane Marcum, and Joseph Ratliff for their courage and exemplary work performance.*

*WHEREAS, on September 9, 2013, these four officers demonstrated outstanding bravery in the course of their job when they were fired upon by the father of an offender whom the officers were seeking to locate and arrest in Knott County; and*

*WHEREAS, even though Officer Melvin was wounded and on the ground, as the shooter fired numerous shots into the van holding his fellow officers, Officer Melvin was able to return gunfire to*

*prevent further injury; and*

*WHEREAS, Officer Melvin was seriously wounded in this incident, which not only endangered his life, but the lives of Officers Newsome, Marcus, and Ratliff; and*

*WHEREAS, Probation and Parole Officers put their lives on the line every day in an attempt to properly supervise offenders, and through their courage and training provide a safer Commonwealth for all Kentuckians;*

*NOW THEREFORE,*

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

*Section 1. The Senate honors*

*these fine Probation and Parole Officers whose bravery and training were put to the test in the first such incident of its kind in the history of the Kentucky Department of Corrections.*

*Section 2. The Senate applauds these individuals for their commitment first and foremost to public safety, and for their commitment to the Division of Probation and Parole.*

*Section 3. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Probation and Parole Officers Brian Melvin, Olivia Newsome, Sloane Marcum, and Joseph Ratliff, whose bravery during this dangerous and volatile incident is to be commended.*

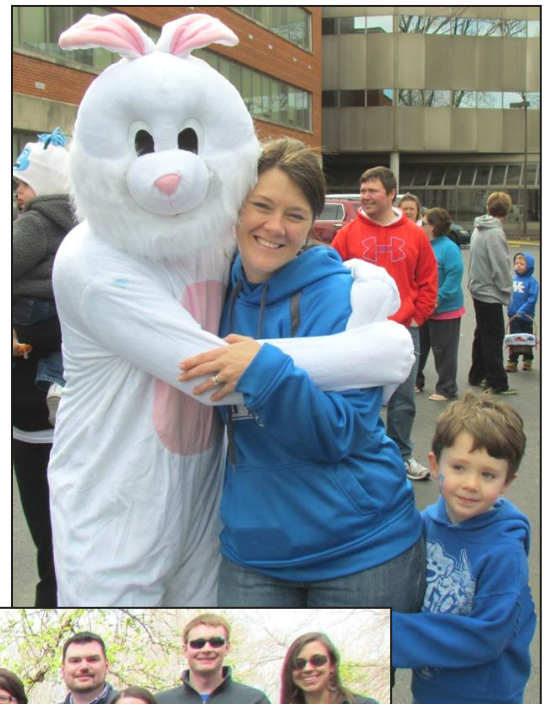
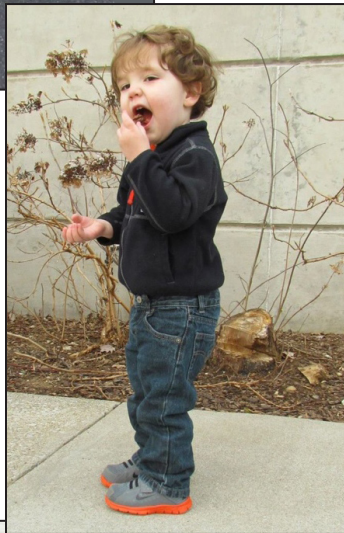


## Agency Spotlight

In the next issue:  
**Critical Incident  
Stress Debriefing Teams**



## KCCD Easter Egg Hunt ... A Hopping Good Time!



The KCCD Easter Egg Hunt proved to be a fun event for the young - and the young at heart! Top left: Julie Mefford and her daughter Liliana explored their baskets. Left center: Zach Schadler diligently hunted for hidden eggs. Center: Liam (son of Michael Meehan, grandson of Becky Meehan) enjoyed a piece of Easter candy. Right center: Easter Bunny (AKA Mike Caudill) gave a hug to Beth Moore and Beth and Rodney's son, Alex. Above: Several DOC employees and family members participated in the event. back row (L-R) Emily Elliott, Mike Caudill, Rachel McCall, Stephanie Hockensmith, Rodney Moore, Ashley Sullivan, Zach Schadler, and Jacke Hayse. Front row (L-R) Tammy Lou Wright, Jessica Wigginton, Beth Moore, Alex Moore, Amanda Scott and Holly Akers.



## We Do LOVE Our Basketball in Kentucky!



DOC Central office staff picked sides and had a little fun leading up to the much anticipated UK vs. U of L basketball game in the recent NCAA tournament. Pictured above: front row (L-R) Abby Swartz, Mary White and Kymber Arvin; middle row (L-R) Amanda Scott, Pat Sudduth, Beth Moore, Annyette Fleming, Stephanie Benassi, Kim Potter-Blair, and Jennifer Tracy; back row (L-R) Chuck Smith, Todd Henson, John Hall, Charlotte Ellis, Lisa Lamb, Kenneth Hobbs, Hilarye Dailey and Alan Long.



### Custom Carvings

LLCC got in on some of the fun. They sold \$5 raffle tickets for a chance to win the two carvings pictured here. The drawing was held March 31st and all proceeds went to the prison's staff canteen fund. David Payton, Fiscal Manager at KSR, won the UK Wildcat carving while Russ Williams, Program Director for Mental Health at KSR, took home the U of L Cardinal.

## INCIDENT COMMAND TRAINING PROVIDED BY NIC



During the first week of March, the Department of Corrections Training Division hosted a training event titled, “Incident Command System for Corrections (ICS-C) Training for Trainers.” The training was conducted by the National Institute of Corrections. Retired wardens Meg and Russ Savage from the Arizona Department of Corrections are nationally recognized and frequently requested to conduct the training for state DOCs after a tragedy. Taking a proactive approach, Kentucky DOC leadership invited the Savages, along with retired Federal Bureau of Prisons Warden and FEMA expert Warden Randy Davis from the Illinois Department of Corrections, to conduct the training to selected staff within the department. Staff in attendance were selected based on leadership abilities within the department, not rank. These individuals will assume the role of manager to direct, oversee, and conduct exercises. They will also provide reports when the program is fully implemented. Using the Operations, Planning, Administrative, and Logistics (OPAL) model, groups are currently at work customizing the program for our staff. Changes to policies, Critical Incident Manuals, and ultimately our responses to emergencies are anticipated with the rollout of the ICS-C program as early as this summer.

## Corrections

From Page 1

who assaulted Smith. Gary Pennington, 38, was serving a sentence of life with parole after 25 years for murder and kidnapping.

We have had several staff assaults over the past year, including the shooting of one of our probation and parole officers, a serious assault at Luther Luckett of an officer monitoring the canteen line, and a dorm officer at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex who was assaulted by an inmate who had fashioned a weapon by placing a lock in a sock.

Our staff performs a critical public safety function, often under challenging circumstances. We are cognizant of the fact we work in an environment that is filled with potential danger. We must remain ever vigilant in order to keep our employees, the general public, and the offenders in our custody or under our supervision safe.

## Several Bills Pass ‘14 Legislative Session, Few That Affect DOC

**By Jennifer Brislin  
Justice & Public Safety Cabinet  
Director of Communications**

More than 800 bills were filed during the 2014 legislative session. As always, only a percentage of these bills made it all the way through the legislative process and were signed into law by the governor. Some high-profile bills, such as the proposal to deal with the growing heroin problem, failed to win final approval by the time the legislature adjourned on April 15. Still, the legislature took action on other significant issues.

Most significantly, the General

Assembly approved a two-year budget for the Commonwealth, which included, for the first time in six years, an annual cost of living increases for state employees. (Raises are between 1 percent and 5 percent the first year, depending on the employees’ current salary. In the second year, all employees will receive a 1 percent increase.)

The approved budget also included language establishing a pilot project to increase the use of medical parole for inmates who are substantially dependent on others for daily living. The program requires

Please See LEGISLATIVE, Page 14



## *Corrections Cares*



### *LSCC Vets Club Makes Donation*

Yearly the LSCC Veterans' Club votes on an organization to receive a donation of 70% of their club funds. For 2014, the Veteran's Club selected the local VFW Post 11428 in Sandy Hook as their primary recipient. As part of the yearlong commitment, the club recently donated \$1,800 to the local post. This donation allowed the post to purchase a storage building for medical supplies. The VFW loans out medical supplies and equipment to not only veterans, but anyone in need throughout the community. Pictured at left: Warden Joe Meeko presented Post 11428 President John Clevenger with the check.

### *WKCC Donates Afghans for Retirement Community Residents*

In February, the S.T.I.T.C.H. Club at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex donated 28 afghans to the residents of Rivers Bend Retirement Community in Kuttawa, Ky. The S.T.I.T.C.H. Club stands for 'Supporting the Innocent Through Crafting Hands.' Inmate members of the S.T.I.T.C.H. Club raised money to buy the materials and then spent their time and talent to make the afghans. Rivers Bend Activity Director Sherry Farris (center) received the donation from Warden Steve Woodward and Club Co-Sponsor Chris Hatton. Hatton said, "The inmates are excited to give back to the community and that they can do it in such a way that their crafts are appreciated."



### *District 2 Probation and Parole Gives Back*

The District 2 Community Service Project was a donation to a local organization, the "Coffee Connection." Totally run with volunteers, Coffee Connection allows local groups to hold meetings there such as 'Jobs For Life,' a job training and support program. District 2 also holds its Veterans Treatment Court meetings there. The probation and parole staff donated 17 cases of water and 10 cans of coffee to the organization. At left:(L-R) Officer Kathy Leslie, Officer Venus Bostick and OSA Scherita Carter.



## *Community Involvement*

Recently, Western Kentucky Correctional Complex took part in the KCTCS Job Fair in Paducah on March 12, 2014. Lt. Jon Tangerose and Unit Administrator Bobbi Butts attended on behalf of the institution to speak with students about the benefits of working in the Department of Corrections. One attendee recently applied for a position at the institution and said the job fair is what led her to seek employment with the department.

District 2 Probation and Parole Officer Dewayne Reid spoke to second graders at the Jody Richards Elementary School in Bowling Green on Career Day. District 2 also showed their community spirit by raising \$108 in the month of March to sponsor the Big Brothers - Big Sisters "Bowl For Kids Sake" held on April 26 in Madisonville.



## PREA Training

### Sessions Focus: Helping States Comply With Federal Standards

The Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) hosted statewide training on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

CEPP partnered with the Moss Group which is a consulting firm working with the PREA Resource Center to help states work toward compliance with the new federal PREA standards.

The training was held at the Brown Hotel in downtown Louisville on January 27th and 28th.

Topics covered at the training included: the Role of Victim Advocates, Professional

Boundaries and Inmate/Staff Interactions, Critical PREA Issues in Jail Administration, Implementing Inmate Screening, Reporting and First Responders and the PREA Audit Process.

The training was attended by employees from Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice, Kentucky jails and contracted facilities. Participants included supervisors, training staff, medical staff, mental health staff and PREA investigators.

Approximately 250 individuals attended the two-day training.

### Employees' Week Proclamation

#### Proclamation

by  
**Steven L. Beshear**  
Governor

of the  
**Commonwealth of Kentucky**



*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*


- WHEREAS, The corrections profession, one of the most difficult and most noble, includes the critical components of custody and supervision of convicted felons and ensures the inherent right of Kentuckians to be protected from those who violate the laws of the Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS, Correctional employees, including staff in our prisons, jails and halfway houses, probation and parole officers, wardens and supervisors, health care professionals, teachers, chaplains, counselors and support staff, serve our citizens admirably and provide a safe, secure and humane environment for staff and offenders while implementing legislative and judicial mandates; and
- WHEREAS, The Department of Corrections recognizes its 4,000 plus correctional employees are its most valuable asset, applauds their commitment to placing public safety first and provides career advancement opportunities to current employees, our future leaders; and
- WHEREAS, Correctional employees work cooperatively with religious and community organizations, local governments and inmate families to facilitate a successful re-entry into society for the approximately 16,000 inmates who are released from the Department's custody each year; and
- WHEREAS, Kentucky commends all correctional employees for performing such perilous and challenging tasks and expresses the appreciation of all the citizens of the Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim May 5-10, 2014 as

#### **CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES' WEEK**

in Kentucky.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fourteen and in the 222<sup>nd</sup> year of the Commonwealth.



STEVEN L. BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR



ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES  
SECRETARY OF STATE

## Legal

From Page 4

during Probation and Parole basic and in-service training on legal issues such as use of force, search and seizure, and peace officer powers; conducts adjustment training for institutional personnel; conducts search and seizure training for CERT teams; and conducts PREA training. Additionally, attorney Allison Brown serves as Kentucky's Administrator for the Interstate Agreement on Detainers.

So the next time you find yourself in an unfamiliar legal situation contact one of the friendly employees of the Office of Legal Services. Just remember, although their services are free, they never turn down doughnuts in exchange for their assistance.

The Office of Legal Services is staffed with a General Counsel, a Special Assistant, two Assistant General Counsels, 11 Staff Attorneys, and five Support Staff. The General Counsel was Vickie Wise, who was recently named Deputy Secretary of the Justice & Public Safety Cabinet. The Special Assistant is Kara Daniel. Brenn Combs is the Assistant General Counsel/DOC General Counsel at Central Office and Amy Barker is the Assistant General Counsel at 125 Holmes Street. Staff Attorneys at Central Office include Allison Brown, Angela Dunham, Todd Henning and Marcus Jones. Attorneys at 125 Holmes Street include Charles Aaron, Amber Arnett, Angela Cordery, Ed Baylous, Stafford Easterling, and Linda Keeton. Attorney John Cummings is also at Central Office and provides representation for the Parole Board. Christy Bond and Loreen Grant serve as support staff at Central Office, while Elisha Mahoney, Sara Pittman, and Ann Smith are the support staff for the Holmes Street location.

## Employee Recognition, News

### Promotions announced throughout Department

#### **Kristin Smith Promoted to Branch Manager for Re-entry, HIP**

Kristin Smith has been promoted to branch manager for the department’s re-entry and home incarceration branch.

Smith began her career in corrections in 2007. She most recently served as program administrator for DOC’s Victim Services Branch where she oversaw operation of Kentucky’s automated victim notification services and advocates who assist victims with requests related to their offender’s incarceration or upcoming release.

Smith serves on the Kentucky Victims Assistance Academy Steering Committee, and DOC’s Re-entry Committee (KARE Team). She served on the initial First Lady’s Shop & Share Committee and she is currently chairing several teams for DOC that are tasked with implementing multiple projects within the department.

A 2012 graduate of the Commissioner’s Executive Leadership program, Smith received the agency’s top award, a “Commissioner’s Award,” in 2010 for the “Project Safety” training initiative offered by the Victim Services Branch.

Smith is a graduate of Western Kentucky University where she received her bachelor’s degree in sociology. Prior to joining the Department of Corrections, she served in Kentucky and Arizona as a pretrial officer, drug court case specialist, and Child Protective Services’ case manager.



**Kristin Smith**

#### **Olivia Newsome Promoted to Assistant Supervisor in Probation and Parole District 11**

Olivia Newsome was promoted to assistant supervisor of District 11 in Prestonsburg. District 11 covers six counties including Floyd, Knott, Letcher, Magoffin, Perry and Pike with satellite offices in Hazard, Pikeville and Whitesburg. She assumed her new duties on Jan. 16.

Newsome began her corrections career in July 2005 as a substance abuse program counselor at the Otter Creek Cor-

rectional Facility in Wheelwright.

In July 2006, she was hired by the Division of Probation and Parole as an officer in District 11’s satellite office in Hazard. In April 2007, she transferred to the Prestonsburg office where she has worked ever since. Newsome is involved in District 11’s re-entry efforts as an EPICS and New Beginnings facilitator. She is also a district safety officer.

Newsome is a 2004 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University where she earned a bachelors degree in adult corrections and juvenile justice.



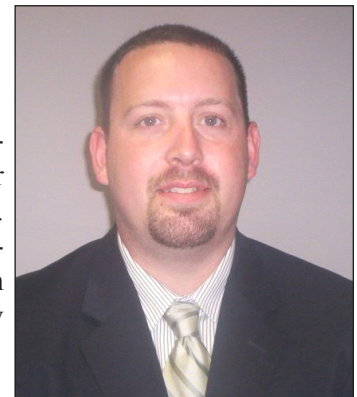
**Olivia Newsome**

#### **Michael Mitchell Promoted to Assistant Supervisor in P&P District 19**

Michael Mitchell was promoted to assistant supervisor of District 19 in Louisville. District 19 is one of four supervision districts in Jefferson County. He assumed his new duties on Feb. 16.

Mitchell began his career with the Department of Corrections in July 2007 supervising a regular felony offender caseload for the Division of Probation and Parole. In 2010, he began supervising a misdemeanor caseload. In 2012, Mitchell participated in the establishment of the SMART court probation pilot project in Jefferson County and currently supervises participants in this program.

Mitchell was named “Officer of the Year” for District 19 in 2009 and also received a Department of Corrections Hero award in 2010. He is a 2006 graduate of the University of Louisville where he earned a bachelors degree in justice administration.



**Michael Mitchell**

## *Employee Recognition, News*

### Four DOC Employees Recognized in KESS Ceremony

The 2014 Kentucky Employee Suggestion System (KESS) award recipients were recognized March 11 at the Governor's Mansion.

KESS provides monetary incentives to those who share ideas to improve the productivity and services offered by the state. Cash awards range from \$100 to \$2,500.

Awards are provided when a suggestion is approved, and results show either a savings or an improvement to a process or program, public relations, or safety.

Here are the award recipients from the Department of Corrections:

- Jenny Noe created an electronic file system to replace a hard copy system for maintaining audit documentation. By storing files electronically in a central collection point, efficiencies are achieved by not having to source files from multiple locations and produce redundant copies for audit reviews.

Annual savings are estimated to be \$10,644 and she was awarded \$1,064.

- Danny Norris and Coleman Morrell created the Staff Training and Retention



Four DOC employees were honored at the KESS Annual Awards presentation. Above: (L-R): are Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary J. Michael Brown; Jenny Noe, KCIW; Coleman Morrell, Central Office; Danny Norris, KCIW; Meredith Sanford, Central Office and Lieutenant Governor Jerry Abramson.

(STAR) program as part of an effort to increase hiring effectiveness of Correctional Officers.

The STAR program institutes a structured, measurable training agenda that utilizes the knowledge of experienced staff and provides new officers with a more complete knowledge of their duties before completing the job probation period. They split a \$100 intangible

award.

- Meredith Sanford's suggestion created a specific electronic drive to store updated institutional policy & procedure information at the DOC central office.

This drive will replace a cumbersome manual process and the most current policies and procedures are now readily accessible. She received a \$100 intangible award for her suggestion.



### Offender Information Launches New Employee Awards Program

*In an effort to highlight individual achievement and express staff appreciation, the Central Office Offender Information Services instituted an Employee of the Quarter award. This award is open to both Offender Information Specialists as well as the support staff employed within the Branch.*

*On April 9th the inaugural OIS Employee of the Quarter award went to Offender Information Specialist Wendy Walrod. Her commitment and dedication to insuring she is accurately performing her duties proves that she is well deserving of this recognition. Walrod has also become a leader within her office that other employees seek out for advice. Walrod is pictured at left accepting the award from OIS Branch Manager Ashley Sullivan.*

## *Employee Recognition, News*

### P&P Officer Brian Patterson Promoted to Colonel



*District 19 Probation and Parole Officer Brian Patterson started with the Kentucky Department of Corrections in 2002. He is currently in the Army Reserves, and has been on active duty since May 2013. In March, he was promoted to Colonel. Brigadier General Ryan Gonsalves, Director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization, and U.S. Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth, 8th Congressional District of Illinois are pictured in the promotional ceremony for Patterson. Also in March, Patterson hosted U.S. Congressman John Yarmuth, 3rd Congressional District of Kentucky, for a tour of the Pentagon and an overview presentation on Army Do-*

## Legislative

From Page 8

the Parole Board to parole inmates who are certified by the Commissioner as physically or mentally debilitated, incapacitated, or infirmed as a result of advanced age, chronic illness or disease. There are limitations: inmates convicted of a capital offense, sex crime, or under a death sentence are not eligible, and inmates must have reached their parole eligibility date or have served one-half of his or her sentence, whichever occurs first.

Inmates paroled under this program are anticipated to be covered under Medicaid, resulting in significant savings for the department, and can be returned to the custody of the Department of Corrections if his or her condition improves.

In other legislation, legislators approved HB 343, which requires sex of-

fender treatment for offenders convicted of possessing or viewing matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor, and allows the Department to award less than 90 days sentence credit for shorter term, evidence-based programs. The new law also specifies that the state pay for convicted offenders from the date of sentencing, to conform to current practice, and include cells phones within the definition of dangerous contraband.

Other bills of interest that were enacted include:

Adult protection - SB 98 will create an adult abuse registry to help employers in the adult care profession determine if a prospective employee has a previous history of substantiated adult abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Child abuse - HB 157 will require more training for doctors on recognizing and preventing abusive head trauma among children.

Concealed weapons - HB 128 will

allow anyone who has been granted an emergency protective or domestic violence order to receive a provisional concealed carry permit in one business day. The petitioners would undergo the same background checks and application requirements as other applicants but would have up to 45 days to complete the necessary training for a full concealed carry license.

Juvenile justice - SB 200 will increase and strengthen evidence-based early intervention programs and services provided to young offenders of certain non-violent crimes, such as truancy. It will also increase education and training of certain employees in the juvenile justice system. The measure calls for data collection and reporting to measure the effectiveness of programs and policies, and would create a committee to oversee implementation, monitor effectiveness and make recommendations for improvements based on outcomes.

## Notes of Thanks, Praise Always Welcomed!

**Caldwell County  
Happy Feet Equals Learning Feet**

April 17, 2014

Western Ky Correctional Complex  
374 New Bethel Road  
Fredonia, KY 42411

Dear Western Ky Correctional Complex,

Of behalf of Caldwell County Happy Feet Equals Learning Feet we would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$726.66.

Last year was Caldwell County Happy Feet Equals Learning Feet inaugural year providing quality athletic shoes for school children in Caldwell county. Through our program we have seen many lives changed for the better.

In particular Caldwell County Happy Feet Equals Learning Feet has enjoyed great success the past year. We exceeded our goal of \$5000 and purchased 160 pairs of shoes for our children.

The goal of Caldwell County Happy Feet Equals Learning Feet is to continue to make a difference in the lives of the children of our community. With the help of donations from supporters such as you we will continue to see improvements in our children's lives.

Thanks again for your generous support of our effort to provide quality athletic shoes for children in need in our school system.

Best wishes and God Bless,

Jill M Lane  
Chair Caldwell County Happy Feet Equals Learning Feet  
270-365-2033

**RECEIVED**  
APR 21 2014  
WKCC  
WARDEN'S OFFICE

**From: Coy-Geeslin, Will (KSP)**  
**Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014**  
**To: Hall, Johnathan (DOC)**  
**Cc: Sayle, Amanda (DOC)**  
**Subject: thanks**

Hi Johnathan,

I wanted to let you know that Amanda did a fantastic job in her presentation today. We appreciate it.

**Will Coy-Geeslin**  
**Intelligence Program Coordinator**  
**Kentucky State Police**

### Still Making Memories

Kentuckiana Girl Scout Council

*Sent to  
WKCC*

*Thank you so much  
for allowing my troops  
to provide Girl Scouts  
cookies for your program.*

*The profits will be  
used for the Lyon County  
Service Unit parties that  
we have every year for  
Halloween and Christmas for  
all the girls in Lyon  
County Girl Scouts.*

**From: Stacer, Melissa**  
**Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014**  
**To: Hart, DeEdra (DOC)**  
**Cc: Lane, Tim (DOC); Butts, Bobbi J**  
**Subject: RE: Tour of WKCC**

Dear Deputy Warden Hart, Mr. Lane, and Ms. Butts,  
Thank you all for arranging and conducting such a wonderful tour for my students yesterday. We found it very educational and informative. We are thankful you allowed us to still come despite the not so nice weather.

I hope I can bring students in the future!

Have a wonderful day.

**Melissa J. Stacer, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Studies**  
**Department of Sociology, Anthropology,**  
**and Criminal Justice Studies**  
**University of Southern Indiana**

**From: Chandler, Melissa (DOC)**  
**Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014**  
**To: Lynn, Michael F (DOC)**  
**Cc: Hall, Johnathan (DOC)**  
**Subject: FW: Question- [REDACTED]**

Way to go Mike!

I am glad that you provided further explanation to the Board Members so that they changed the stipulation to allow the offender to be released to appropriate placement given her mental health status.

*(This case also resulted in a thank you from Parole Board Chair Shannon Jones!)*

AROUND



## LSCC Makes Successful Appeal of Audit

Little Sandy Correctional Complex (LSCC) has received a perfect audit score on their American Correctional Association (ACA) audit.

LSCC filed an appeal on the one ACA standard that was found to be non-compliant on their July 2013 audit.

Following the appeal, the ACA accreditation committee found in favor of LSCC and changed their score from 99.8 to 100 percent. The score change resulting from the appeal makes this the third consecutive 100 percent score achieved by LSCC.

## KSR Officer Provides Help After Wreck in Snowstorm

Louisville and the surrounding area were hit with a crippling snowstorm on January 17 just as the morning commute started.

A young lady who had just left work attempted to drive up a steep, snow-covered entrance ramp onto I-71 North. As she neared the top, her vehicle left the ramp, turned 180 degrees, then rolled over an embankment onto its roof.

Although the highway was full of cars, few drivers took notice enough to stop and provide assistance.

Kentucky State Reformatory Officer John Berger did notice and immediately went to the aid of the young woman. He urged the woman to release her seat belt and crawl out the broken back window of her SUV. He was then able to reach in and pull her to safety with the help of two other motorists who stopped after seeing Berger's actions.

After making sure the young



John Berger

lady was not injured, Officer Berger continued on his original mission to help another Correctional Officer who had run off the road.

Hundreds of cars drove past during that young ladies accident and only a handful of people stopped. Officer Berger showed his true mettle during that time by not hesitating to be of assistance to a very scared young lady in the midst of a very bad situation.

## Promotions

From Page 12

Michelle Blakeman has been promoted to assistant supervisor of District 9 which covers all of Fayette County. She will assume her new duties on May 1.

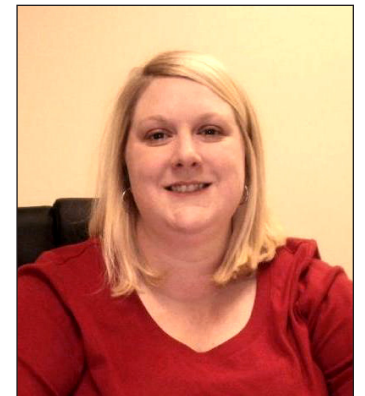
Blakeman began her career with the Department of Corrections in August 2006 as a Probation and Parole Investigator. She was the first pre-sentence investigator in the state and was issued badge number one.

While serving as an investigator she was awarded two commission's coins for her work with the KOMS pilot project as well as for her work the Social Security office to assist offenders with getting identification cards once released from prison.

Blakeman also received the 2010 "Officer of the Year" award for her district. In September 2011, she transitioned to probation and parole officer and began to supervise a caseload with both felony probationers and parolees.

In 2012 she was appointed as a re-entry liaison with certifications in the following programs: Thinking for a Change, 24/7 Dads, EPICS, and New Directions.

Blakeman is a 2004 graduate of Eastern Kentucky University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation Administration with a minor in Psychology.



Michelle Blakeman



## *Commissioner's Executive Leadership Class Nears Graduation*



*The 2013 Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program has been meeting almost monthly. Some of the sessions included visits to two prisons, a jail, a legislative hearing and Kentucky's Supreme Court. Top left: Commissioner LaDonna Thompson poses with Kentucky Jailers who had a panel discussion with the leadership class. (L-R) Laurel County Jailer Jamie Mosley, Hopkins County Jailer Joe Blue, and Henderson County Jailer Ron Herrington. Top right: Rep. John Tilley spoke to the group prior to the start of the House Judiciary Committee meeting which the class attended. Center: The class attentively listened to Deputy Commissioner Paula Holden talk about Local Facilities and Community Services. Left: Fayette County Jail Director Rodney Ballard spoke to the group prior to his command staff giving the group a tour of the facility. The class graduates May 7th, and the 2014 class will begin this fall!*



### *Future Conservationists*

The Youth Board for the Lyon County Conservation District toured the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex in March. One of the stops on the tour was the facility's recycling center. The students had a great tour, despite the cold weather.

## Vickie Wise Promoted to Cabinet's Deputy Secretary

Justice and Public Safety Secretary J. Michael Brown announced on April 23 that Vickie Wise has been appointed deputy secretary for the cabinet effective May 16th, but she will begin transitioning into her responsibilities immediately.

Wise has more than 27 years of law experience and currently serves as general counsel for the cabinet's Office of Legal Services, a position she's held since 2008.

"Vickie has been my most trusted, professional colleague," Secretary Brown said. "Simply put, there is nobody more prepared to do this job."

Prior to her tenure at the Justice Cabinet, Wise worked for the Office of the Kentucky Attorney General, where she served as director of the

Office of Victims Advocacy; chair by proxy of the Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation Prevention Board, which administers the Child Victims' Trust Fund and provides grant funding to regional child sexual abuse prevention programs; and supervised the toll-free Crime Victim Information line and Appellate Notification program.

In addition, she served as director of the General Administration and Support Division, and was an assistant attorney general in the Criminal Appellate Division.

"I'm proud that Secretary Brown has the confidence in me to take on this role, and I'm looking forward to the new challenge," Wise said.

Wise received her juris doctor from the University of Ken-



Vickie Wise

tucky, and bachelors' degrees in political science and economics from Murray State University.