

NEWS IN CORRECTIONS

July 16-22, 2006, is *National Probation, Parole, & Community Supervision Week*. This year's theme *Safety, Solutions, Service* recognizes the positive contributions made by community supervision agents and their impact on public safety.

In conjunction with the recognition week, **Paul Harris** has been selected by the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) as *2006 DOC Corrections Agent of the Year*. Harris began his career in corrections in 1977 working with the Sheriff's Youth Programs. He spent some time as a social worker in Cottonwood County and in 1980 accepted a probation officer position with Watonwan County Court Services. He joined the DOC as a career corrections agent in 1991 when Watonwan County contracted with the state for probation services. He currently supervises a caseload of adult gross misdemeanants and misdemeanants along with supervising adult felons for the local drug court. Harris enjoys tremendous respect from and works effectively with other agents and professionals in the criminal justice field. He is involved with statewide professional organizations and has served as vice president for the Minnesota Corrections Association. He is a past president of the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers, which presented him with the *Al Reker Award*.

Harris is also very active in his community, serving as a member of the City Council, the Economic Development Authority, Community Education Board, and Hospital Foundation Board. He is active in Sertoma (SERVICE TO MANKIND) and his church. In his "spare time," Harris is a beekeeper. ■

Joseph Day has been named DOC Indian Affairs Liaison. His responsibilities will include advising the commissioner on the needs of Indian offenders, training staff in Indian cultural issues, seeking spiritual advisors and resources for Indian offenders, and building bridges between the 11 sovereign Minnesota tribes and the DOC.

Day is an enrolled member of the Leech Lake Band of Chippewa and has served as executive director of the Indian Affairs Council since 1994. He previously was a regional administrator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and served for nine years as liaison between the 11 tribal governments

and the DNR to encourage collaborative resource management. He has also served as director of administration for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. ■

Captain Stan Barber, Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Red Wing, was recently presented with the *Patriot Award* from the United States Navy. Captain Barber was nominated for this award by Greg Cady, an MCF-Red Wing employee who is with the United States Navy Reserve and now serving in Iraq. Cady nominated Captain Barber and the MCF-Red Wing for their support of employees and their families who participate in America's National Guard and Reserve. ■

Sgt. Tim Mathot, MCF-Red Wing, has been named the *Bob Rader Line Staff Worker of the Year*. This annual award by the National Juvenile Detention Association recognizes outstanding staff members in the juvenile detention field. Sgt. Mathot provides consistent and supportive leadership in the Secure Detention Unit at Red Wing. His professionalism, work ethic, and attention to detail serve facility residents well and enhance public and staff safety. ■

Richard J. Gardell has been named President/CEO of 180 Degrees, Inc. Gardell is a retired St. Paul police officer who has also been active in many community programs that help offenders build successful lives. His appointment was effective July 17, 2006.

180 Degrees, Inc. provides transitional housing, electronic monitoring, day-reporting, and other programs for adult offenders in several Minnesota counties. Case management and mentoring are provided to at-risk youth and their families in Ramsey County. ■

Brent D. Wartner has been named DOC Director of Policy & Legal Services. He will oversee all legal activities of the agency, including offender claims, hearings, release plans, and warrants; contracts; policy development; litigation; data practices; interstate agreements and detainers; and provision of legal advice and counsel to the commissioner and her executive staff. This unit also staffs the Sentencing Guidelines Commission and Minnesota Board of Pardons.

Wartner began his legal career in the Ramsey County Attorney's Office in 1994. As an Assistant County Attorney, he managed the South Metro Auto Theft Task

Force in Dakota, Scott, and Carver Counties. In February 2000, he was appointed as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Minnesota, where he was assigned to the Minnesota Gang Strike Force for approximately five years. He joined the DOC in December 2004 as associate legal counsel. ■

Gary Johnson has been named Director of Reentry Services for the DOC and will be responsible for development of a statewide offender reentry program. His duties include oversight of the MCORP (Minnesota Comprehensive Offender Reentry Plan) Steering Committee, charged with developing collaboration between state agencies whose business intersects with DOC offenders reentering society. Johnson will also supervise reentry staff and manage a reentry pilot project involving Hennepin, Ramsey, and Olmsted Counties.

Johnson's corrections career with the DOC began in 1970 as a community supervision agent. He joined the staff of Hennepin County Community Corrections in 1980 where he worked as a probation officer, pretrial unit supervisor, and supervised release unit supervisor. He returned to the DOC in 2005 as housing program manager and will incorporate those duties into his new position. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

The University of North Dakota is offering a **Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology Online Program** that prepares graduates to apply psychology to legal systems. After successful completion of the 34-credit program, graduates are qualified to work as a forensic psychologist in such areas as private practice doing trial consulting or program evaluation, or in city, county, state and federal government agencies and hospitals. Online courses will be offered in fall, spring, and summer semesters. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university with a minimum GPA of 3.20. New applications are accepted every fall semester. Application deadline for the fall 2006 semester is August 1. To start the program in fall 2007 or later, application should be made prior to January 15 of that calendar year. For more information, contact UND Continuing Education at 877/450-1842 or visit www.conted.und.edu/ddp/mafpl. ■

The Minnesota Community Corrections Association and the Minnesota Task Force on Female Offenders will sponsor the Third Annual Conference on Women Offenders September 26, 2006, at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center. **Practical Applications of Gender-Responsive Case Management** will share the National Institute of Corrections' case management model and strategies for implementation; focus on risk and needs assessments and measurements for women offenders; explore motivational strategies consistent with gender-responsive approaches; provide an overview of effective interventions; and more. The conference will feature a full-day of training with lunch and refreshments for \$40. Registration materials are available at www.mnmcca.com or www.forums.doc.state.mn.us/fo/.

The Task Force is seeking nominations for the *Esther Tomljanovich Lifetime Achievement Award*. This award recognizes the contributions and advocacy of a Minnesota individual who, or an organization which, has demonstrated a sustained commitment to improving the lives of women in the criminal justice system and has unfailingly promoted and supported the belief that women need and deserve responsive services. Online nominations should be sent no later than August 25, 2006, to kimberly.greer@mnsu.edu and should include the name of the nominee/organization, address, and phone number as well as examples of this person/agency's commitment toward, and advocacy for, women involved in the criminal justice system. Questions should be directed to 507/389-5612. ■

Dodge/Fillmore/Olmsted Restorative Justice and AMICUS are partnering to offer training for criminal justice personnel interested in training community volunteers to become mentors to juvenile and adult offenders. **Mentoring – Train the Trainers** will be held August 17 and 24 (attendance both days required) in Rochester. Training processes to be used include talking circles, role playing, offender panel, videos with discussion, and discussion groups. Cost is \$160 with registration required by August 4. For more information, contact Gretchen Quisberg at 507/287-2174 or quisberg.gertchen@co.olmsted.mn.us. ■

OTHER NEWS

The **16th Annual Minnesota Corrections Association Golf Tournament** is set for September 18, 2006, at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker, Minnesota. This event is a four-person scramble, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Tournament fee is \$56 per person, which includes green fees, cart, lunch, awards, and prizes. Trophies will be awarded for the foursome with the lowest and second-lowest gross. Prizes will also be awarded to men and women in the following categories: longest putt, longest drive, and closest to the pin in regulation (Par 3). Registration forms are available at www.mncorrections.org under the MCA link. Registration deadline is September 1; teams must be reserved and paid in advance. The tournament is limited to 144 players. Questions should be directed to Chris Jahnke at 763/682-7862 or christopher.jahnke@co.wright.mn.us. Vendors interested in providing prizes for the tournament should contact Todd Gau at 763/682-7723 or todd.gau@co.wright.mn.us by September 1, 2006. ■

Previously posted upcoming golf tournaments include:

- Minnesota Correctional Education Foundation (MCEF) **Golf Open - Best Ball Scramble**, August 18, Majestic Oaks Golf Course, Ham Lake. \$125 per golfer (\$25 tax-deductible); \$30 for awards luncheon and auction only. Proceeds will support offender educational programming. Contact Liz Evensen at 651/642-0285 or liz.evensen@state.mn.us.
- Winona County Restorative Justice (RJ) Program **6th Annual Golf Scramble and Silent Auction**, August 21, Cedar Valley Golf Course, Winona. \$60 per golfer. Proceeds will support RJ programs. Contact Teresa Small at 507/457-6457 or tsmall@co.winona.mn.us. ■