

# Hotline

November 16-22  
Restorative Justice  
Week



## NEWS IN CORRECTIONS

On October 27, the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Department of Public Safety unveiled a new **cold case initiative** to solve 52 homicide, missing person, and unidentified remains cases. Each case is featured in a cold case playing card deck of unsolved Minnesota crimes over the past 50 years. Decks have been distributed to inmates in Minnesota prisons and county jails to solicit leads and bring closure to the victims' families. To see the cards, visit [www.bca.state.mn.us/ColdCase/UnsolvedCards.asp](http://www.bca.state.mn.us/ColdCase/UnsolvedCards.asp). A toll-free tipline allows anyone to provide information to law enforcement about the unsolved cases.

The Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) **Fall Institute** was held in Duluth October 29-31. This year, MCA celebrated its 75-year anniversary. The three-day training event also recognized individuals and programs for their contributions to Minnesota corrections:

- **Connie Roehrich**, Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Faribault warden, was named *Corrections Person of the Year*. This award recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of corrections in Minnesota by an individual in any employment. Roehrich is currently overseeing a prison expansion project to double the facility's capacity. Roehrich also works with officials from Uruguay to improve corrections and create a probation system in that country. Her mentoring, leadership skills, and contributions to corrections have spanned beyond the state and nation.
- *Professional Achievement Awards* are presented to two correctional staff persons, in a correctional facility and in the community, who have demonstrated achievement over a period of time. The facility recipient was **Joyce Knowlton**, special investigator with the DOC fugitive apprehension unit, for her work with law enforcement and corrections staff to investigate the whereabouts of and apprehend fugitives. Knowlton has also developed an intelligence database that greatly aids in these efforts. The community recipient is **Joe Arvidson**, Ramsey County Community Corrections probation officer, for his work to identify and combat gang activity. Arvidson devel-

oped a caseload specific to the rising community gang problems and is recognized as an expert in his field and as a mentor to troubled youth.

- *President's Awards* are given to programs, resources or facilities working in the broad field of corrections and criminal justice that demonstrate creativity, resourcefulness, effectiveness, and innovation. MINNCOR Industries' **EMPLOY** program provides employment readiness, job search techniques, and resumé enhancement to individuals serving time in Minnesota prisons. By seeking relationships with employers willing to hire individuals with a criminal record, EMPLOY is able to provide job leads that are relevant to an offender's work history. **Jim and Roxanne Trombley** were also recognized with a *President's Award* for their work with young men, ages 12-20, at the Bridge group home in Itasca County. Since 1988, the Trombleys have worked with more than 270 children in their group home who have multiple issues and a variety of crimes. The Trombleys have served as role models, surrogate parents, and teachers for the youth in their charge.
- **Dan Kempf**, Hennepin County Community Corrections probation officer, was presented the *Board of Directors' Award* for exemplary service to MCA members through participation in association activities. Kempf has been an active member since 1998, chairing the membership committee since 2002. He has been a guiding voice on board activities and worked diligently to improve the organization as a whole.

In October, a ribbon cutting was held at Red Wing's first **universal playground**. Built by the Institution/Community Work Crew (ICWC) of the MCF-Red Wing and community volunteers, the playground is designed to be accessible to all children, including those with disabilities. ICWC offenders spent about three weeks building the playground, with materials and labor donated by the city and residents. The ICWC program puts carefully-selected, minimum-security inmates to work in the community under supervision.



**Lieutenant Tom Miller**, MCF-Lino Lakes, has been selected to participate in the *Special Olympics World Winter Games Torch Run*. The 2009 games will be held in Boise, Idaho. Miller and other law enforcement representatives will run 3-5 miles twice a day, carrying the *Flame of Hope* through scores of cities, towns and communities on the way to the opening ceremonies on February 9. The torch run is the Special Olympic's largest grass-roots fundraiser. More information on the torch run can be found online at [www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/English/Support/Law\\_Enforcement\\_Torch\\_Run/default.htm](http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/English/Support/Law_Enforcement_Torch_Run/default.htm).

November 16-22 marks **Restorative Justice (RJ) Week**. Events and speakers are scheduled at each DOC facility and central office to raise staff and offender awareness of RJ. The RJ program is a framework for responding to crime that focuses on repairing the harm caused by the offense. To learn more about RJ, visit [www.doc.state.mn.us/rj/Default.htm](http://www.doc.state.mn.us/rj/Default.htm).

In August, a **picnic shelter** in Maplewood State Park was dedicated in memory of a fallen American soldier. Ten days before the dedication, MINNCOR, the department's prison industries program, received an order for 34 picnic tables to be placed in the shelter – which would typically take 12 weeks. When MINNCOR staff heard about the special circumstances of the order, they rose to the challenge and were able to make a partial delivery so that the dedication could occur.

The MCF-Lino Lakes held a **celebration of excellence** in October to recognize educational achievements. Approximately 75 offenders received a GED, high school diploma or vocational certificate. Two offenders were also inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society at the event.

A **Mental Health Screening with Youth in the Justice System primer** is now available on the DOC's website. The document, part of the department's Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Initiative, includes eligibility requirements and definitions for juvenile justice screenings. To view the primer, visit [www.doc.state.mn.us/juvenileserv/documents/10-08JuvenileMentalHealthScreenPrimer.pdf](http://www.doc.state.mn.us/juvenileserv/documents/10-08JuvenileMentalHealthScreenPrimer.pdf).

**Probation and Parole in the United States, 2006** is now available from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. At the end of 2006, over 5 million adult men and women were on probation or parole in the United States, up

from 3.76 million in 1995. According to the report, the number of adults on probation in Minnesota increased by 7.1 percent in 2006. The full report is available at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ppus06.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ppus06.htm).

## DOC STAFF CHANGES

**Kathy Halvorson** has accepted the associate warden of operations position at the MCF-Faribault. Halvorson previously served as acting associate warden of administration at the facility. She succeeds Tracy Beltz who was appointed warden at the MCF-Shakopee.

**Bruce Reiser** returned to his position as associate warden of administration at the MCF-Faribault. Reiser spent several months working as a project manager, overseeing the facility's expansion project, and will continue working on this project.

## OPENINGS

MCA is seeking an individual/s to fill the part-time position of **association manager**. Duties include but are not limited to membership services, public relations, developing reports and plans, speaking on behalf of the association, and monitoring legislation. Apply by November 10. See full job description at [www.mn-ca.org](http://www.mn-ca.org). Questions should be directed to Terryl Arola at 320/591-1547.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The fifth annual **Minnesota Conference on Women Offenders** will be held November 12, 2008. The conference, *Moving From Shame & Blame to Compassion & Accountability*, will feature a presentation from Brené Brown, University of Houston. Check [www.mnmcca.com/Events.html](http://www.mnmcca.com/Events.html) for more information as it becomes available.

A two-day seminar, **Controlling Jail Costs & Crowding Through Innovation**, will be held November 13-14 at the Holiday Inn, St. Cloud. Presented by the National Institute of Corrections and the Association of Minnesota Counties, the event will feature national experts and local officials who have had success controlling jail costs and crowding. The registration fee is \$30. For more information on the conference, visit [www.maccac.org/controllingjailcosts.htm](http://www.maccac.org/controllingjailcosts.htm).