

## Quarterly Update | Spring Edition 2024

Creating A Safer Montana Through Accountability, Rehabilitation & Empowerment

# DOC returned citizen group provides “Hope Inside the Walls” to incarcerated people

When the metal doors at Montana Department of Corrections’ secure facilities slide shut, it’s a daunting experience for anyone visiting the facility. Just imagine how it would feel if you were a former inmate returning to the facility where you spent years of your life behind bars.

That’s exactly what members of the Citizen’s Advisory Council to the Montana Department of Corrections (CAC) are doing at prisons throughout Montana - except they aren’t returning because of any wrongdoing. Instead, CAC members are talking to inmates about their success in the community since their release and providing “Hope Inside the Walls.”



CAC member Bryan German speaks to inmates sharing his story.

“

*“I am filled with inspiration from their testimonies and also I was able to see that there is still a life of possibility and opportunity out there for me as a felon.”*

**~Attendee from Montana State Prison**

“If we can help give people some hope, something to latch onto, something to see themselves in a different light, then I think we’ll be doing something positive,” said CAC member Bryan German.

The CAC is comprised of 21 successful, returned citizens who have been meeting since the summer of 2023. The focus of the group continues to morph but CAC

members agree that finding hope was a key factor in their success. Their first initiative — Hope Inside the Walls — involves visiting inmates in Montana prisons and sharing their stories. So far, the group has presented to more than 300 inmates at Montana State Prison, Montana Women’s Prison, and Pine Hills Correctional Facility and about 40 staff members.

**Hope Inside the Walls, Page 10**



## DOC Restitution Unit: Helping victims of crime

If you are a victim of a felony crime, you may be eligible to receive restitution payments from your offender.

In a felony case, a sentencing judge may order an offender to pay restitution. This obligation remains with the offender (or, should the offender die, with their estate) until the full amount is paid. Under Montana law, payment of restitution is a condition of any probation or parole.

“Nothing can repair the damage done to victims of crime, but having assistance with bills they may have acquired during their case can help ease a bit of the mental strain,” Montana Department of Corrections Director Brian Gootkin said. “Our Victim Services team has numerous programs they offer to help victims and connecting them with our

restitution department is one of those. The restitution team works hard to provide some level of relief in this area.”

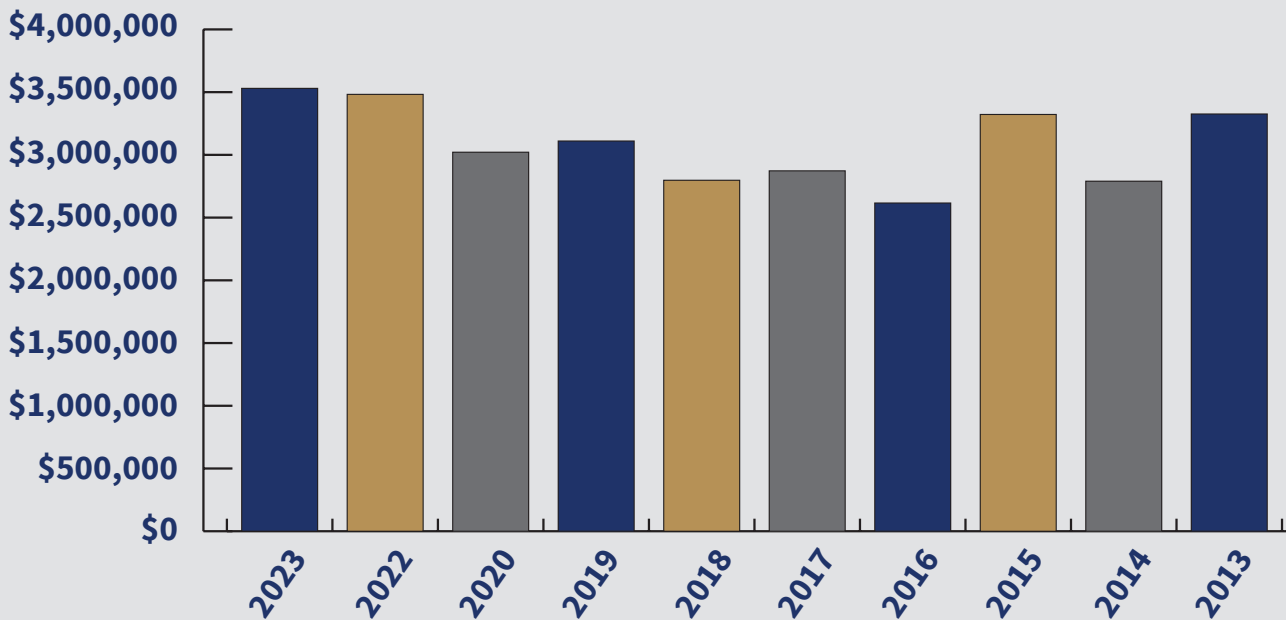
Restitution is the offender’s debt to the victim for the losses they suffered because of a crime. Montana law entitles victims to full restitution for expenses resulting from the crime that may include medical and dental bills, mental health counseling, stolen or damaged property, lost wages, travel and relocation costs, future expenses related to the crime, or funeral costs for homicide victims. It’s recommended that as a victim incurs these expenses, to give copies of receipts to the county attorney in charge of their case or a county victim advocate.

The DOC then works with offenders to develop payment schedules; payments may even be made while offenders are in secure facilities. Possible sources of money from offenders for victim restitution include earned income, prison inmate trust accounts, state income refunds and profits

**Restitution, Page 11**

“Our Victim Services team has numerous programs they offer to help victims and connecting them with our restitution department is one of those. The restitution team works hard to provide some level of relief in this area.”  
 ~Director Brian Gootkin

### DOC Restitution Disbursed



Since Fiscal Year 2004, the unit has collected more than \$42 million in restitution from offenders and returned it to victims.



## Art museum partnership inspires female offenders at MWP

A group of women sit in the visitation room at the Montana Women’s Prison concentrating intently on their linocut pieces. It’s the second day of the Yellowstone Art Museum’s (YAM) linocut class, and the women are continuing to perfect their pieces.

DesaRae Azure said she signs up for every class offered by the museum.

“I sign up for every YAM class because it’s an opportunity to learn more,” she said. “I love art. Especially in a place like this, it’s good to have a little bit of escape and it helps with stress. When I’m in here I’m not thinking about my problems, I’m just really happy when I’m in here.”

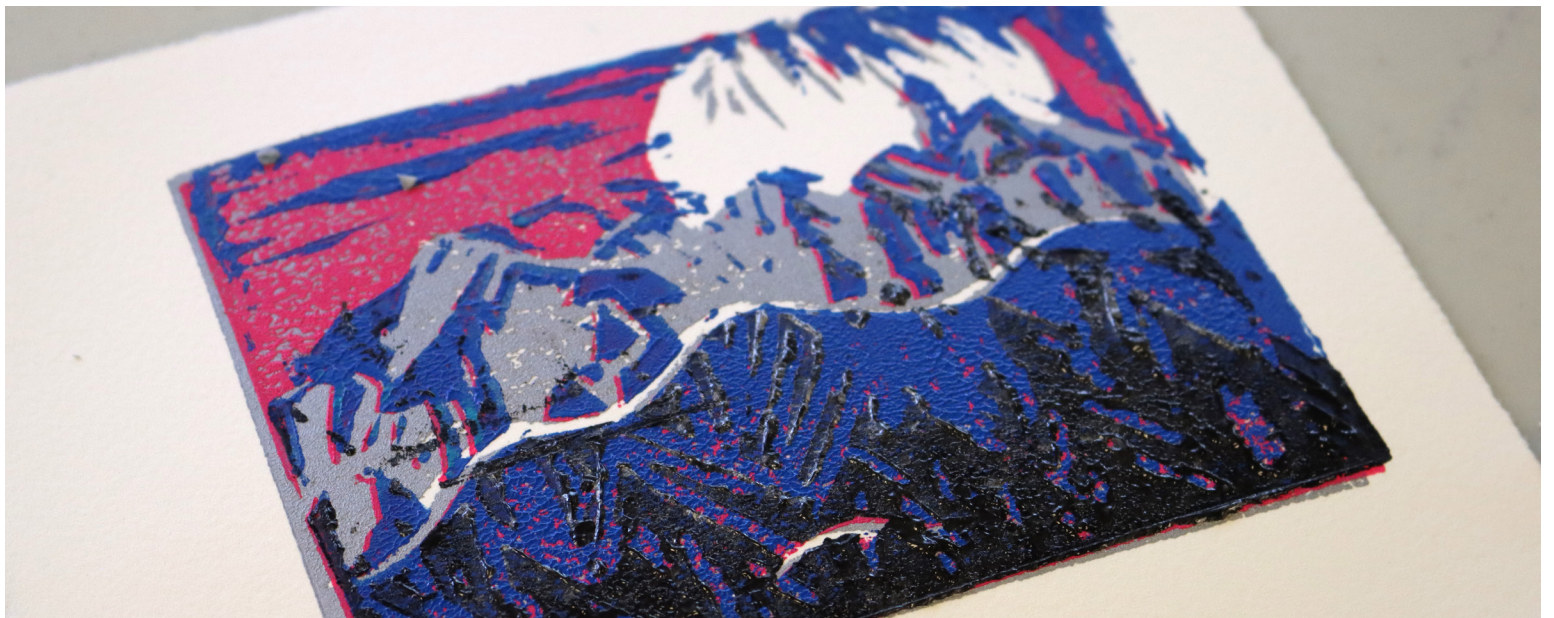
Over the years, the museum has brought different programs into MWP. The current iteration started in 2013 when a Billings student proposed a community project bringing art into the facility. Today, the program is supported through grants from the Tippet Rise Fund of the Sidney E. Frank Foundation and Puffin Foundation West, Ltd.

While inmates can pursue artistic endeavors through the hobby program, the YAM classes offer students the chance to explore art at a higher level. It also pushes students to think outside of their traditional classroom settings.

**Yellowstone Art Museum, Page 8**



*An inmate at the Montana Women’s Prison works on a linocut project with the Yellowstone Art Museum in January.*





The MSP maintenance team was recently recognized for its hard work during the January cold snap by Governor Greg Gianforte. Pictured (l-r) Governor Gianforte, Myron Beeson, David Martin, Steven Lunceford, and Dan Calcaterra.

## Mother Nature tests DOC emergency response skills

Mother Nature threw the Montana Department of Corrections some serious challenges at two of its secure facilities in January, but thanks to the dedication of the DOC team and its community partners, disruption of operations was minimal.

Over the Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend, sub-zero temperatures caused one of two boilers at the Work and Reentry Center at Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge to malfunction and a seal in the boiler system at Pine Hills Correctional Facility in Miles City to fail.

“Winter weather is always a challenge for our aged infrastructure,” said DOC Director Brian Gootkin. “It’s one thing to talk about and plan for these situations, but managing the uniqueness of each emergency event – in this case, two at a time – is a challenge. Fortunately, the DOC has a phenomenal team and our folks from throughout the state responded without hesitation.”

Maintenance staff responded immediately to both facilities to ensure repairs were made, and later, that the boilers continued working. In fact, the department’s new maintenance supervisor at PHCF showed up

even though he wasn’t scheduled to start working for the DOC for several days.

The department activated its Incident

“...the DOC has a phenomenal team and our folks from throughout the state responded without hesitation.”  
 ~Director Brian Gootkin

**DOC Emergency Response Skills, Page 10**



# DOC's OMS modernization project hits milestone

The Montana Department of Corrections hit another milestone in its offender management system (OMS) modernization project last month by selecting vendor Mi-Case to develop and bring the new system online.

The selection followed a competitive bidding process including intensive review of multiple proposals and in-person demonstrations.

“The selection committee was extremely impressed with what its members saw and heard from Mi-Case,” said John Daugherty, the DOC’s Central Services Division chief. “Mi-Case has specialized knowledge for the ever-evolving correctional landscape. We’re confident this is the right team to take our offender management system to the next level allowing for numerous efficiencies, greater accuracy of data, and more.”

Mi-Case works with the Indiana Department of Correction, Arizona Department of Corrections Rehabilitation and Reentry, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The Maine Department of Corrections recently awarded their OMS project to Mi-Case as well.



*“Mi-Case has specialized knowledge for the ever-evolving correctional landscape. We’re confident this is the right team to take our offender management system to the next level allowing for numerous efficiencies, greater accuracy of data, and more.”*

**~John Daugherty, the DOC’s Central Services Division Chief.**

The recent RFP process resulted from a decision by the 2023 Montana Legislature to allocate \$17.7 million in House Bill 5 to allow the DOC to procure and implement a new OMS.

The department’s existing OMS was developed in house and has been in use since 2008. While it served the department well for almost two decades, its technology is antiquated.

“In an assessment of our current OMS, a third-party vendor identified 115 challenges related to the system,” Daugherty said.

“Plus, it requires specialized staff members to maintain it (which aren’t easy to find and retain), and constant vigilance to ensure compliance with ever-changing state and federal regulations.”

He continued: “We are incredibly thankful for the support of Governor Gianforte and Montana legislators in dedicating the funds to modernize this important system.”

The next step in the process is contract negotiation.



## Fun Fact:

The DOC held a friendly competition to name the new OMS. The landslide winner was “Compass” suggested by Matt Hanvold, who works at Pine Hills Correctional Facility. Hanvold explained in his submission: “A compass is a tool used for helping people navigate on a mission. Naming the new OMS “Compass” would symbolize the new system serving as a centralized navigation resource for employees to access information needed to propel One DOC on its mission of “Creating a safer Montana through Accountability, Rehabilitation and Empowerment.” Compass imagery was also used in the newly designed DOC logo, which ties things together nicely.”



## DOC rolls out new inmate programming

After years of research and preparation, implementation of the Integrated Correctional Programming Model (ICPM) is underway at two Montana secure facilities, Montana State Prison and Crossroads Correctional Center.

When an offender is sentenced, part of their sentence may include completing specialized programming aimed at addressing a variety of issues. These programs – ranging from anger management to substance abuse - help offenders learn skills to be successful when they return to Montana communities.

Previously, the department used separate programming to address a variety of areas. Now, the ICPM for male offenders, and the Women Offender Correctional Program (WOCP) for female offenders, address substance use problems, criminal thinking,

anger management, and more at the same time in one program.

Both of these programs were developed by Correctional Service of Canada.

“We’re excited to offer this new approach to programming at our secure facilities,” DOC Deputy Director Cynthia Wolken said. “These are two programs that take a holistic approach to rehabilitative evidence-based programming. This will make a great impact

as offenders prepare to return to Montana communities and will hopefully not create any more victims.”

As part of 2017’s Montana’s Justice Reinvestment Initiative, the DOC began the shift to evidence-based programming. Research of that type of programming led the department to Correctional Service of Canada’s programs.

**New inmate program, Page 11**



*“It takes a real systematic approach to treating an individual and working with them on their unique pattern of needs and lifestyle. So, it’s been really amazing to dive in as deep as we have to assist every single person that we come into contact with.”*

**~Erika Wimmer, Quality Assurance of Evidence-Based Practices and Programs Bureau Chief**



*In December 2023, this group of DOC and Crossroads Correctional Center employees participated in ICPM training with representatives from Correctional Service Canada.*





## Pine Hills principal named 2024 Outstanding Building Leadership Award winner

Teagan Stanley, principal at Pine Hills Correctional Facility, was named the 2024 Outstanding Building Leadership Award winner by the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders (MSLBD).

The MSLBD promotes leadership that advances equitable education opportunities for students with behavioral needs and supports the professionals who work with them.

“It was an honor to be recognized, and I’m incredibly proud of our team,” Stanley said. “I’m grateful for the ongoing support and dedication of all parties involved in this collective achievement.”

For her colleagues at Pine Hills, the award for Stanley doesn’t come as a surprise.

“Teagan is an exceptional leader that is respected by her colleagues on a national level. It’s even more meaningful in that her staff nominated her for this award,” Pine Hills Superintendent Steve Ray said. “This award really recognizes the impact Teagen and her team have had in taking kids with very little educational success and creating an environment where they thrive. It’s a great opportunity for us to celebrate her and her team for the work they do.”

In their nomination of Stanley, staff members at Pine Hills cited several of the educator’s strengths. They highlighted how Stanley, who has been the principal since 2015, creates a collaborative environment and supports professional development for staff

members. The nomination also discussed Stanley’s implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), which has created a positive and supportive climate for all students at PHCF.

“Teagan is passionate about helping rehabilitate folks under DOC supervision,” DOC Director Brian Gootkin said. “She works hard for the youth and adults that benefit from her skills as an educator as they take their HiSET courses. As a department, we’re always excited when one of our own gets recognition outside of Montana on a national level.”



# Wanted Wednesdays: Asking the public to watch for absconders

Since January, the Montana Department of Corrections has been posting its “most wanted” absconders on its social media pages every week on “Wanted Wednesdays” in hope of receiving tips from community members.


“We know this isn’t a magic bullet,” said the DOC’s Public Safety Chief Jim Anderson. “But it doesn’t hurt to get these absconders’ faces out in front of a wider audience. We’re thankful for any help we receive from members of the public.”

Each month, DOC representatives from the Probation and Parole and Investigations bureaus meet to select absconders to feature in the Wanted Wednesdays posts. They consider factors including offenders’ risk to the community (violent and sexual offenders), length of time they have been absconded, and more.

In addition, as part of its daily business, the department works closely with local law enforcement, the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, and others to bring absconders back into custody.

Since the DOC began its Wanted Wednesday efforts, four featured absconders have been taken into custody.

If you have any information about the whereabouts of any absconder, contact your local law enforcement office or call (406) 444-0910.




**DOC's MOST WANTED**

If you have any information please contact LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT or call

(406) 444-0910

**Darrell Dwayne Smith**  
DOC#3017541

Escaped Butte PRC



Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs, Solicitation to Commit Tampering With Witnesses and Informants, Burglary, and Theft (X3).



**DOC's MOST WANTED**

If you have any information please contact LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT or call

(406) 444-0910

**Travis Fairbanks**  
DOC#3034340

Absconded from Great Falls P&P



Assault with a weapon.  
Possibly in California.



**DOC's MOST WANTED**

If you have any information please contact LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT or call

(406) 444-0910

**Sophia Lynn Demontiney**  
DOC#3000106

Escaped from Passages PRC



Current offenses: Forgery, Attempted Theft, and Deceptive Practices.  
Possibly on the Rocky Boy Reservation.



**DOC's MOST WANTED**

If you have any information please contact LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT or call

(406) 444-0910

**Derek Loporto**  
DOC#3027209

Absconded from Great Falls P&P



Strangulation of a Partner or Family Member.  
Possibly in the Great Falls or Helena area.

## Yellowstone Art Museum, Page 3

“The other subjects they study are so regimented, and you know they have questions and answers and answers are always right or wrong,” said Diana Arnold, an MWP inmate who participates in the YAM classes. “And in art, it develops more free thinking. Using your imagination and getting people that aren’t comfortable with thinking outside the box to start thinking it might be fun to think outside the box.”

Under the direction of Marilu Metherell, the adult education coordinator at YAM, the museum brings quarterly classes to MWP

that range from ceramics to linocut featuring Montana artists teaching their medium to the students. Metherell said the artists have been excited to teach this unique group of students.

“I think they like the time that they’re allowed to be in visiting and engrossed in something that takes them away from what they’re struggling with and maybe the troubles that have gotten them there. So I think it’s therapeutic and it leaves a lasting impression,” she said. “I get a lot of the same ladies wanting to come back every time because it’s something they look forward to.”





## Plunging for a cause

Brrr! Montana Department of Corrections Probation and Parole Officers from Butte and Missoula, and correctional officers from Montana Women's Prison took a dip for a good cause earlier this year during the Special Olympics Polar Plunge events throughout Montana. Butte POs raised \$1,600, Missoula POs raised \$1,681, and Montana Women's Prison CO's raised \$857. A total of \$4,138 was raised for the Special Olympics Montana. Way to go!

### Missoula Probation and Parole



### Montana Women's Prison



### Butte Probation and Parole



**Hope Inside the Walls, Page 1**

“I am filled with inspiration from their testimonies and also I was able to see that there is still a life of possibility and opportunity out there for me as a felon,” said one attendee from MSP.

In addition, members of the group provide input to department working groups examining various subjects including supervision conditions and more.

“I wanted to get a group of people together who have been in the criminal justice system and have persevered,” Gootkin said. “We want this group in our facilities meeting offenders and providing real-life feedback to our executive team on current and new programs. The CAC members have a collective 200 years of experience in the judicial system, and more than 240 years of success after the judicial system.”



*CAC member Stacy Limberhand speaks with an inmate after presenting at Montana State Prison last December.*



*CAC members presenting at Pine Hills Correctional Facility in March 2024.*

**DOC Emergency Response Skills, Page 4**

Command System (ICS) at both facilities to help ensure the situations were addressed as effectively and efficiently as possible. Shift commanders served as incident commanders; emergency preparedness team members located and coordinated resources; and facility staff worked hard to keep inmates calm and comfortable.

Inmates were provided with extra blankets, and fortunately, temperatures in the affected areas of the facilities didn’t dip below 60 degrees.

To be prepared for the worst-case scenario, Probation and Parole officers hopped in their vehicles and headed for Pine Hills in case the department needed to move inmates to a different location. Other officers remained at the ready across the state in case their services were needed.

“I would also like to express the department’s gratitude to members of both communities who leapt into service to help fix boilers, deliver industrial and space heaters, and more to help the department,” Gootkin said.

If those two events weren’t enough, a pipe burst in one of MSP’s low-security housing units later that week, forcing the relocation of 159 inmates to the gymnasium for a couple of hours. That was followed by another burst pipe in another low-security unit, leaking water on hardware used to supply Wi-Fi and telephone service to inmates. That also was quickly restored.

The units affected by burst pipes are scheduled to be replaced by 2027 thanks to the allocation of funds by the 2023 Montana Legislature to address the aging infrastructure at the facility.



**New inmate program, Page 6**

In 2023, the DOC invited trainers from Canada to instruct staff members on how to implement ICPM in Montana. The training included a two-week, 10-day, in-person training. There was also a five-day training for sex offender programming.

The ICPM includes an indigenous track which offers more spiritual and cultural elements for offenders.

At the Montana Women’s Prison, female offenders will transition to the WOCP, a trauma-informed program specifically designed for female offenders.

“This program is different than in any other state in the US,” said Erika Wimmer, the Quality Assurance of Evidence-Based Practices and Programs Bureau Chief. “It takes a real systematic approach to treating an individual and working with them on their unique pattern of needs and lifestyle. So, it’s been really amazing to dive in as deep as we have to assist every single person that we come into contact with.”



*Beverley Pitcher, left, works with Stephanie Salois from Crossroads Correctional Facility during an Integrated Correctional Programming Model training exercise in Helena.*

**Restitution, Page 2**

from the sale of crafts and artwork. Money is sent to victims either quarterly or when there is at least \$22.50 to send.

Annually on July 1, the department returns restitution money that hasn’t been claimed to the Montana Department of Revenue’s abandoned property unit. Once the money is transferred to DOR, victims will have to work with that department to claim the money.

The DOC has been collecting and distributing restitution for felony adult crimes since October 2003. Since fiscal year 2004, the collections and restitution unit has collected more than \$42 million in restitution from offenders and returned it to victims. It has also collected \$5.5 million in court-ordered fees.

If you would like to know if you are owed restitution, contact the DOC’s restitution unit at 1-800-801-3478 or 406-444-6872.

**How to get restitution payments**

- **Contact the DOC’s restitution unit at 1-800-801-3478 or 406-444-6872 to see if you are owed restitution payments.**
- **Provide your name, the county in which the crime occurred, and the name of the offender.**
- **If you are owed restitution, you will be required to provide the department with a completed W9 form. All state agencies must submit a W9 form for anyone who is paid from the state.**
- **Restitution payments are not taxed.**
- **If you were receiving payments, but moved and didn’t update your address with the DOC, contact the restitution department.**



420 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$1.943 per copy, for a total cost of \$816.16 for printing. Mailing and distribution costs total \$217.40. Total cost \$1035.56.

