



JANUARY 1, 2019

VOLUME X

LEMON CREEK JOURNAL

INSIGHTS & IMAGES OF CORRECTIONS ON THE LAST FRONTIER

LEMON CREEK CORRECTIONAL CENTER, JUNEAU ALASKA

HEROES EDITION



In this Issue:

A Message from the Superintendent	1	The Ties that Bind	13
Employee of the Year	2	Same World, Different Day	17
Employee of the Quarter	3	Recruitment	18
Lemon Creek Holiday & Awards Banquet	4		

To our readers:

The Lemon Creek Journal is a quarterly e-Publication of Lemon Creek Correctional Center, Juneau, Alaska. The Journal's mission is to inform, engage, and challenge Corrections professionals and the public to think critically about the challenges facing Alaska's correctional system. So that we can be more responsive to our readers, please share with us your impressions and suggestions by emailing the Editor at daryl.webster@alaska.gov.

Photographs by Bonnie Webster & Kris Weixelman

Cover Photograph: Officer Fred Dugdale receives his Lifesaving Award. Photograph by Bonnie Webster



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As we stepped into 2019 I took a bit of time to reflect on the events from 2018 that impacted my life. Most were good.

My happiest moments and memories from last year centered around my family but many also came from my interactions with staff here at the Creek.

Working in a prison has its unique share of challenges but it is our individual attitudes that determine whether or not we are happy at work. Because we are in a “people business,” our daily schedules are often filled with constant interruptions that require us to adjust and reprioritize even though it is sometimes extremely inconvenient to do so.

It tends to be human nature to fixate on bad news or focus on the negative around us. Negative experiences often create stronger feelings in us than positive ones because we sometimes expect more out of our fellow man or we are inclined to be too hard on ourselves because of our shortcomings.

We all experience bad days and sometimes we can let them get the best of us and that’s okay, we are all human. It is just important to remember that when negative events happen in our lives, we mustn’t unpack, set up camp, and live there. Learning to recognize the positive around us is a safe way to ensure that the negative doesn’t encroach on us too much.

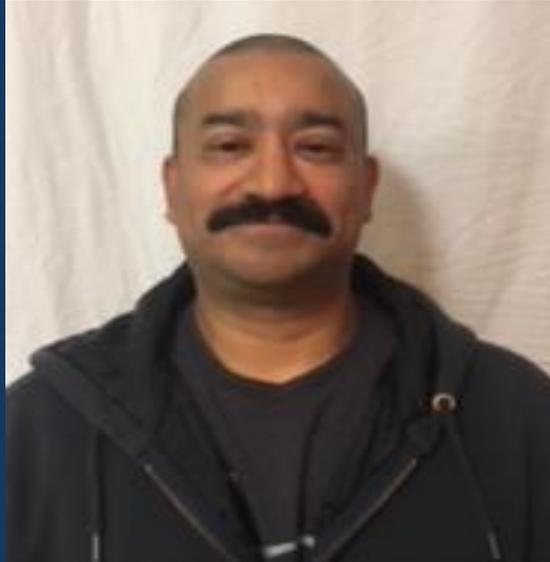
So many of you inspire me to try harder, do better, and have gratitude for the good things in life. I appreciate the unity that has been created here by staff and for the teamwork that is shared by all.

That unity is strengthened and added upon when we, as individuals, realize that we are working toward something bigger than ourselves. When we recognize that we are working toward the shared common goal, to help others succeed, the big picture becomes clearer.

Thank you for all you do and best wishes in the year to come.

Stay safe

Bob Cordle



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Officer Bobby Montez

Officer Bobby Montez joined the Department of Corrections in December 2013 and in a short time, he has become a mainstay of his shift. Officer Montez became Post 1 certified within his first two years with DOC and followed up by becoming a CPR Instructor and a Field Training Officer. He was recently certified as a DOC Institutional Investigator and is working on joining the PTO program. Officer Montez is respected by his peers, who describe him as knowledgeable, capable and always willing to pitch in and help. We are proud to recognize Officer Bobby Montez as the 2018 Employee of the Year.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Officer Eric Blevins

Officer Blevins was nominated by his colleagues on account of his boundless positive energy. In addition to working his assigned shifts, he can be counted on to arrive on his days off to fill vacancies on other shifts. He is cheerful, reliable, and professional. In the words of his supervisor, Sergeant Pavageau, “I am extremely grateful he is on my shift and he will be an asset to the department for many years to come.” Congratulations, Officer Blevins. We are fortunate to have you on our team.

2018

Lemon Creek Correctional Center

Holiday & Awards Banquet



The Second Annual Lemon Creek Holiday & Awards Banquet has come and gone, but what a great success! Months of planning and fundraising culminated in a glittering evening in beautiful Peratrovich Hall with great food, a festive atmosphere, and a roomful of Lemon Creek families and guests.



Menu:

Dinner Rolls & Sweet Butter
Green Salad & Ceasar Salad
Garlic Smashed Potatoes & Gravy
Scalloped Potatoes
Vegetable Medley
Roasted Pork Leg
Roasted Turkey & Cranberry Sauce
New York Style Cheesecake
Strawberries & Whip Cream
Apple Cobbler



Guest of Honor

Rear Admiral Matthew T. Bell, United States Coast Guard

We were honored this year to host an honored guest, Rear Admiral Matthew T. Bell, commander of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout Alaska, the North Pacific Ocean, the Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea. The Admiral's message of heroism and commitment to duty paid compliment to the dedicated officers and staff of Lemon Creek.



L-R: Superintendent Daryl Webster, Rear Admiral Matthew T. Bell, & Superintendent Bob Cordle

2018 Award Winners

Lifesaving Award: Officers Fred Dugdale, Chris Bennett, & Larry Jackson

Employee of the Year: Educational Coordinator Kris Weixelman

Field Training Officers: Mike Behrends, Yvonne Harris, Andy Kerr, Gary Locke, Robert Montez, Chris Bennett, Via Kivalu, Lt. Ed Irizarry, & PO III Scott Marnon



L-R: PO Scott Marnon, Lt. Ed Irizarry, Ofc. Bobby Montez, Ofc. Chris Bennett, Officer Fred Dugdale, & Ofc. Larry Jackson



Supt. Cordle Presents Lifesaving Awards- L-R: Officers Dugdale, Bennett, White



L-R: FTO pin recipient Lt. Irizarry, Supt. Cordle, & Deputy Commissioner Dan Carothers.

The evening was dedicated to families, friends, and heroes and there were plenty to choose from. Santa put in an appearance and brought gifts for 27 children. A number of former Lemon Creek staff attended, including former Superintendent and current Deputy DOC Commissioner Dan Carothers.



L-R: Sgt. Jessie Behrends & Sgt. Tricen Headings



L-R: Sgt. Behrends, Ofc. Montez, & Lt. Irizarry at the silent auction



PO III Scott Marnon & Chef Stef



Sgt. Ken Patten (DOC Ret.) & Mrs. Patten

Superintendent Cordle and I wish to thank the staff of Lemon Creek Correctional Center. From the volunteers and fund-raisers to all of you who braved a chilly and windy evening to join us at Peratrovich Hall, this banquet was a tribute to you. You deserve it.



Officer Gamulo

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to the 25 corporate and individual sponsors who generously provided merchandise, services and gift certificates for the event's door prizes and silent auction and to the Lemon Creek Auxiliary for coordinating donations. We were overwhelmed by the community support that permitted us to give away 17 door prizes and auction 30 outstanding items, including a guided fly-out fly fishing trip (courtesy of Bear Creek Outfitters); Lodging and dinner for two at the Prospector; Round trip airfare to Sitka (courtesy of Alaska Seaplanes); and a beautiful 9mm pistol (courtesy of Juneau Mercantile & Armory).

Sponsors

- Alaska Brewery
- Alaska Industrial Hardware
- Alaska Correctional Officers Association
- Amalga Distillery
- Alaska Seaplanes
- Annie Kaill's Fine Arts & Crafts
- Bear Creek Outfitters
- Sgt. Billy Bonn (DOC Ret.)
- Bonnie Webster
- Brick's Electronics
- Sgt. Cathy Mahnke (DOC Ret.)
- Daryl Webster
- El Sombrero
- Gross-Alaska Theatres
- Heritage Coffee
- Juneau Mercantile & Armory
- Juneau Pizza
- Nugget Alaskan Outfitters
- Office Plus
- Prospector Hotel
- Safeway
- Tonya Lobaugh
- Western Auto
- Checkmate Pawn
- Shelly Patten

The Ties That Bind

Respecting Ourselves & Each Other

By Daryl Webster

Back when dinosaurs roamed the earth and I was a young police officer, our sergeant, more red-faced and wrathful than normal, issued an ultimatum. Stop driving patrol cars over fire department hoses,” he said, “and stop blocking fire/rescue vehicles by parking all around them on narrow residential streets!” My young squad mates and I earned the reprimand because in our eagerness to take part in whatever spectacle was unfolding, we thumped over all intervening obstacles, abandoned our rides wherever space allowed and dashed off on foot to get into the action. We wasted little time worrying about how anyone might wend their way past our haphazardly-parked cars. For our part, we half-jokingly referred to our fire department brethren as the “Evidence Eradication Team,” for their tendency to drive their trucks through outdoor crime scenes, crushing shell casings and tracking through blood spatter evidence, or administering CPR to homicide victims so thoroughly dead that they were beginning to liquefy. Police, Fire/Rescue - we all hurried to the same crises, we all had roles to play, and no one intended to make anyone else’s job more difficult, but we operated with different priorities, not always with the best judgment, and we sometimes didn’t play well together. As communication and interagency cooperation improved, things got better but the unease never entirely dissipated.

The thin blue line, of which you are a part, extends beyond our little corner of Alaska’s Department of Corrections. Corrections, Police and Fire/Rescue personnel all walk uncertain

paths of risk and service. Many give their lives in that service. The line may never grow thicker than your depleted ranks, but it is stretched needlessly tight by the perpetual tension endemic to the Public Safety business. Agencies at all levels of government compete for money, personnel, public attention, and influence. For the most part, they follow their own orbits, but where those orbits intersect, there is opportunity for friction. Fire/Rescue personnel rely on Police to provide traffic control and security while they perform their life and property-saving roles. Police encourage Fire/Rescue personnel to exercise care to avoid disturbing crime scenes and compromising evidence. Arresting officers look to Correctional Officers to streamline the booking process so patrol personnel can return to the call queue, and Correctional Officers depend on the patience and flexibility of Police to follow evolving booking guidelines, put in place to maintain security, safeguard the health of arrestees, and address liability concerns.

Most of the time, these interactions run smoothly and no one gives them much thought because that is the way things are supposed to work. But sometimes the gears grind and then those awkward moments are remembered as the rule, rather than the exception. Some strain and misunderstanding is inevitable because no matter that the missions are similar, you all approach those missions from entirely different directions and never really walk in each other’s shoes. Sometimes those misunderstandings and resentments can creep into your interactions with other shifts within our institution and even within your shifts. But the Public Safety

*You do what you do
from the belief that you
and your colleagues lead
lives of significance by
protecting, saving and
serving others.*

mission that challenges you as Corrections professionals and as members of the larger Public Safety service is just too important to let professional relationships suffer. We can make things better.

Interagency and intra-team relationships require constant tending but they're worth the investment. Tolerance begins with recognizing the important qualities you share. Picture Correctional Officers, Police Officers, and Firefighters as diverse members of a rowdy family. You may occasionally step on your brother's toes, but you won't stand idly by while someone else tries it. Your brother or sister in Public Safety service will likely do the same for you. You won't always agree on the little things, but where it really matters, there is very little daylight between those blue uniforms.

Safeguarding communities, with your lives if need be.

Every year, around the country, members of Public Safety agencies are injured or killed in the line of duty. You may have never had to attend the funeral of a co-worker who lost his life on the job but even at Lemon Creek that is always a possibility. Plenty of you have spent your share of time getting patched up after some on-duty incident, so you know what it's like to bleed for the cause. But you keep showing up for work and it isn't just for love of the paycheck. You do what you do for a variety of reasons, pay and job security among them, but also from the belief that you and your colleagues lead lives of significance by protecting, saving and serving others. You reject the temptation to

rationalize or look the other way; you "ride to the sound of the guns," contrary to self-preservation; and as a group, you don't buy into the seductive heresy that, "*Your number one priority is to go home safely at the end of the shift.*" You know, better than most, that going home safely is high on everyone's to-do list, so you train, prepare, suit up and mentally renew your oath at the start of each shift in order to be accounted among the precious few who live by a higher code. You move mountains to assure that you and your colleagues survive your careers, but you also put yourselves at risk nearly every day and prepare to offer up your lives, if necessary, to protect your brothers and sisters and the public you serve. Regardless of the Public Safety agency you represent, you are all numbered among the same band of brothers and sisters.

Respecting the professionalism and sacrifice of fellow Public Safety professionals.

Sure, Public Safety professionals don't all break up fights in prison dorms full of career criminals, or run into burning buildings or search for suspects in dark alleys. Within our Public Safety community, you don't have to be all-knowing to understand that you all perform dangerous and selfless feats with uncommon professionalism and that it sometimes hurts. On the fatal hazard scale, how do your services stack up against commercial fishermen or high-wire artists? Who cares? None of them count assault or murder among the daily risks of doing business, but you and most of your professional siblings do. You all encounter volatile people and circumstances, you work your share of nasty shifts and long hours, you spend more than your share of holidays on post in a prison, in a patrol car, or at a fire station and your professional routines are not always conducive to healthy living. You have all, at one time or another, taken significant risks. Your sacrifices are worthy of respect and that begins by respecting

Your sacrifices are worthy of respect and that begins by respecting each other.

each other.

Committing to integrity.

It is not uncommon for Public Safety agencies to have internal disciplinary actions overturned somewhere in the appeals process, particularly when appeals are reviewed by civilian authorities. You may be tempted to discount it, but people outside your professional circle feel far more inherent respect for you as a Public Safety professional than you sometimes give them credit for. In the eyes of non-practitioners, an individual officer, bruised by the enforcement of a rule of conduct may be a more sympathetic figure than the agency head who must argue for impersonal enforcement of that rule.

Regardless of where you stand on the Labor-Management continuum or what you feel about policies, procedures or the disciplinary process, you know, and should endeavor to educate the public that one of the demands that makes Public Safety personnel so unique is the imperative that they live at the narrow apex of uncompromised integrity. No exceptions. No special breaks. Public Safety professionals are not members of the general public. You are the cream of the crop and that is nothing to be modest about or to even dream of reducing to a lower common denominator. People need to believe in your courage and honesty, not because they know you personally but because they recognize the significance of the uniform you wear. That makes you different and it elevates the level of conduct you must demand of yourselves and your professional family. In a world where norms erode and the foundations of

integrity tremble, you must stand above the crowd, exceptional and unshakable.

Determining that your careers should not only provide for your families, but inspire your children with a sense of honor, courage, and service to others.

Not long ago, Lemon Creek Correctional Center staff, their families and special guests attended the second annual Lemon Creek Holiday & Awards Banquet at Peratrovich Hall. What made the event special wasn't just that you turned out in such numbers but that you celebrated with your families, including your professional family. You shared a priceless gift

One of the demands that makes public safety personnel so unique is the imperative that they live at the narrow apex of uncompromised integrity.

with your children and those of your colleagues by letting them in on the love and respect you feel for your fellow professionals, feelings that cross the boundaries of shifts or even agencies because they are based on shared values. Little tribe that you are, you know that it isn't enough to be honorable or courageous or to make a career serving other people, unless in the process of doing so, you instill those values in the little ones who look up to you. Even on those days when you don't feel particularly heroic, you are a hero in the eyes of your children as long as you continue to believe in the oath you have sworn and the duties you perform.

So, the next time you are annoyed by a colleague or a member of another agency, no matter the cause or how heated the disagreement, take a moment to look at yourself. Don't walk away in anger. Don't excuse poor

behavior with the rationale that we are all equally flawed and we all make mistakes. Deal with the problem but as you do, look closely at that Public Safety professional, your professional brother or sister, and remind yourself that there are precious few people in the world with whom you share so much in common. That Correctional Officer, Police Officer, Trooper, or Fire/Rescue professional is noble and worthy of respect precisely because he or she is a lot like you.

It isn't enough to be honorable or courageous or to make a career serving other people, unless in the process of doing so, you instill those values in the little ones who look up to you.

SAME WORLD, DIFFERENT DAY

Seen through the eyes of Steve Pilny

Steve recently transferred from Lemon Creek to Goose Creek Correctional Center. Our loss is definitely their gain. Happily, Steve's humor will still appear in the Lemon Creek Journal.

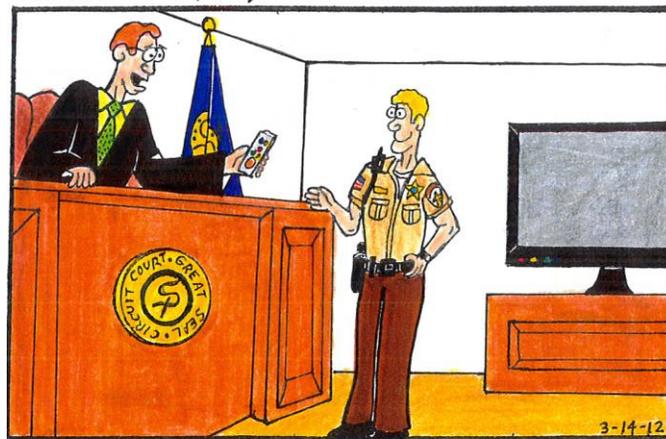


SAME WORLD, DIFFERENT DAY



"UH, YOU MIGHT WANNA CONSIDER EATIN' MORE THAN JUST VEGETARIANS."

SAME WORLD, DIFFERENT DAY



"NOW THAT OUR INITIAL HEARINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA VIDEO... YOUR DUTY, AS THE BAILIFF, WILL BE TO OPERATE THE REMOTE."

Lemon Creek Correctional Center wants

YOU!!



Lemon Creek Correctional Center in Juneau, Alaska is currently recruiting Correctional Officers. To apply go to Governmentjobs.com/careers/Alaska/ and look for the Correctional Officer I position in Juneau, AK.

Why be a Correctional Officer at LCCC:

- Great Pay/Benefits
- Career advancement opportunities
 - Premium schedule (7 days on/ 7 days off)
 - Generous vacation leave
 - Excellent training
 - Great community to raise a family



If you have any questions contact Lt. Hoff at (907)465-6288 or Sgt. Headings at (907)465-6205. We are looking forward to talking to you.

