



Corrections News

The Alabama Department of Corrections

In This Issue:

SEPT. 2003

- 1 ▶ What Would Jesus Do?
▶ Bronner For Riley Plan

- 2 ▶ CCA in Mississippi

- 3 ▶ Private Prisons Merely Stop Gaps
▶ Rave Reviews At CCA Prison

- 4 ▶ Two Miss. Jails Getting Ala. Prisoners
▶ Comparison of Alabama's Budget to Other States

- 5 ▶ Alabama Prisons Struggle with Overcrowding, Underfunding

- 6 ▶ Non-Violent Felons Get New Chance

- 7 ▶ Tomatoes, Tomatoes, Tomatoes

- 8 ▶ Inmates Capture Suspects
▶ The Box—Story of Interest

- 9 ▶ Around the State—Facility News

- 13 ▶ Drug Treatment in Corrections Works—Elmore Corr. Center

- 16 ▶ In These Pages: Aug 1990

The New York Times What Would Jesus Do? Sock It to Alabama's Corporate Landowners

ADAM COHEN/MONTGOMERY, ALA. 06/11/03—

If the religious right had called up Central Casting last year to fill the part of governor, it could hardly have done better than the teetotaling, Bible-quoting businessman from rural central Alabama who now heads up the state. As a Republican congressman, Bob Riley had a nearly perfect record of opposing any legislation supported by the liberal Americans for Democratic Action. But Governor Riley has stunned many of his conservative supporters, and enraged the state's powerful farm and timber lobbies, by pushing a tax reform plan through the Alabama Legislature that shifts a significant amount of the state's tax burden from the poor to wealthy individuals and corporations. And

he has framed the issue in starkly moral terms, arguing that the current Alabama tax system violates biblical teachings because Christians are prohibited from oppressing the poor.

If Governor Riley's tax plan becomes law — the voters still need to ratify it in September — it will be a major victory for poor people, a rare thing in the current political climate. But win or lose, Alabama's tax-reform crusade is posing a pointed question to the Christian Coalition, Focus on the Family and other groups that seek to import Christian values into national policy: If Jesus were active in politics today, wouldn't he be lobbying for the poor?

Alabama's tax system has long been brutally weighted against the least fortunate. The

▶ Continued on Page 14

"How much is Caesar's?"

—John Giles, Pres., Christian Coalition of Alabama

Bronner Urges People To Vote For Riley Plan Says Proposal Can Change State's Future, Help Poor

ERIC VELASCO/NEWS STAFF WRITER 06/11/03 —

David Bronner, head of the state's retirement system, called Tuesday for Alabama voters to approve Gov. Bob Riley's tax package this fall and touted it as the best proposal to improve the state.

"His plan probably is the most dynamic thing this state could ever wish for," the chief executive officer of the Retirement Systems of Alabama said in Hoover. "He's doing what I never thought I'd see, trying to make the tax system fair."

Riley's proposed \$1.2 billion increase in property and income taxes, designed to increase funding for education and other services, goes to voters Sept. 9.

Support from opinion leaders like Bronner will be necessary to win voter approval, said a spokesman for Riley.

"Dr. Bronner is uniquely positioned to understand what can be accomplished when we make smart, sensible and conservative investments," said

Pepper Bryars. "Gov. Riley sees this as reforming government to ultimately yield a better educational and economic environment for the citizens."

Bronner spoke to about 400 business and civic leaders at an annual brunch hosted by Mayor Barbara McCollum.

He said he believed the state was long overdue for a more equitable tax system that hits hardest on upper-income residents like himself.

"You and I in this room have a responsibility to treat our fellow Alabamians fairly," he said. "We have not done this in the last 100 years. Low taxes are good, but the lowest taxes in America is just damned dumb."

Bronner head of the pension plan for state workers and many county, city and school employees

singled out Riley for praise. When Riley took office, Bronner said he didn't expect him to be much different than the other governors he'd seen.

"...the lowest taxes in America is just damned dumb."

—David Bronner, CEO-RSA

▶ Continued on Page 14



Corrections Corporation Of America Partners With Alabama To Provide Emergency Housing Of State's Inmates At CCA Prison In Mississippi

NASHVILLE, TENN., JUNE 26, 2003 – Corrections Corporation of America (NYSE: CXW) has secured its first-ever inmate management contract with the State of Alabama to aid the state's corrections agency in relieving its overcrowded system that is under court order.

Through an emergency contract authorized by Governor Bob Riley and the Alabama Department of Corrections, CCA will manage approximately 1,400 medium-security, male inmates at the CCA owned Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility, located in Tutwiler, Mississippi. The facility expects to begin receiving inmates on a structured, steady schedule over the next several weeks, with eventual expected employment of up to 275 correctional staff.

The contract is intended to be short-term in nature while Alabama prepares a longer term Request for Proposal for this inmate population. Given the expected short-term nature of the contract the Company does not expect this contract to have a material impact on previously issued EBITDA guidance.

"State budget constraints and over-capacity have led the Department of Corrections and the Governor's office to seek both immediate and long-term solutions," said John Ferguson, CCA president and CEO.

"We are obviously pleased to be in a position to assist Alabama in meeting its immediate correctional needs and further believe we are well-positioned to be a long-term partner for their corrections system. Given its close proximity to Alabama, we believe our virtually new Tallahatchie prison represents an ideal long-term solution in meeting Alabama's growing demand for prison capacity."

CCA completed construction of the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility in 2000. The facility has no current state or federal customer and presently serves approximately 40 county inmates, who will remain at the facility.

About CCA

Corrections Corporation of America is the nation's largest owner and operator of privatized correctional and detention facilities and one of the largest prison operators in the United States, behind only the federal government and four states. CCA currently operates 59 facilities, including 38 company-owned facilities, with a total design capacity of approximately 59,000 beds in 20 states and the District of Columbia. CCA specializes in owning, operating and managing prisons and other correctional facilities and providing inmate residential and prisoner transportation services for governmental agencies. In addition to providing the fundamental residential services relating to inmates, CCA facilities offer a variety of rehabilitation and educational programs, including basic education,

religious services, life skills and employment training and substance abuse treatment. These services are intended to reduce recidivism and to prepare inmates for their successful re-entry into society upon their release. CCA also provides health care (including medical, dental and psychiatric services), food services and work and recreational programs.

CCA takes no responsibility for updating the information contained in this press release

following the date hereof to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date hereof or the occurrence of unanticipated events or for any changes or modifications made to this press release or the information contained herein by any third-parties, including, but not limited to, any wire or internet services. ■



Private Prisons Merely Stop Gaps

MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER EDITORIAL 07/17/03—

It takes some looking to find Tutwiler, Miss., on a map. (Let us save you a little time; it's in northwest Mississippi, not far from the Arkansas border.) In this small place, however, lie some lessons for Alabama as our state wrestles with the long-running problems of its prison system.

Tutwiler is the site of the privately operated prison to which Alabama has sent 300 of its inmates and will send hundreds more. Prison Commissioner Donal Campbell, faced with an enormously overcrowded system and court orders to do something about it, has chosen to transfer inmates to private facilities out of state. He earlier sent some female inmates to a private prison in Louisiana.

Campbell, to his credit, has made it clear that he does not like this approach and would not choose it if he had some other options. But he doesn't, at least not in the short term.

The scale of the problem Campbell has is huge and is the product of years of neglect and inaction by previous administrations. The numbers are stark. Alabama has close to 28,000 inmates in its custody. Its prisons are designed to house about 14,000.

Despite a common public misconception, prison overcrowding is not merely a matter of inconvenience or discomfort for prisoners. It creates dangerous situations -- for prisoners, but also for corrections officers and other prison personnel and, potentially, for the citizenry. It creates legal

problems for the state, which has an obligation to conduct incarceration in a manner consistent with constitutional requirements.

Let anyone think the private prisons are a bargain, it should be noted that the per-inmate price Alabama is paying the Mississippi facility

 *Continued on Page 14*



Tallahatchie County CCA Central Control

Air Conditioning, Food Draw Rave Reviews At Out-of-State Prison

STAN BAILEY/NEWS STAFF WRITER BIRMINGHAM NEWS 07/12/03 —

TUTWILER, Miss. The 300 convicts who arrived by busloads last week from hot, crowded prisons in Alabama couldn't stop bragging Friday about improvements they found in the air-conditioned, privately run prison here.

As Alabama Prison Commissioner Donal Campbell made his second tour of the prison operated by Corrections Corporation of America, inmates told him they liked it so much he should run Alabama prisons this way.

"This prison right here, it's like a dream prison to prisoners," said inmate Keaunta McGrue, who was at Kilby Correctional Facility before his transfer last week. "The people treat you better. ... It's cleaner. It's not as crowded. Everything is up to par."

Like many inmates, John Lowery, who transferred from Staton Correctional Facility, praised the food at Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility. Thursday night they were given rice and chili beans. "It was delicious ... like home food," he said.

But not all inmates were happy. "Some of us weren't able to bring some of our religious materials," said inmate David Welsh, an American Indian who transferred from Staton and misses his prayer pipe and feathers. But, he said, "I think we're going to be able to work things out."

Inmate Gary Collins, who had been at Staton, said sending inmates out of state is "crazy" because it separates them from their families. His wife doesn't have a place to stay if she visits him, he said.

Visitors to Tutwiler, a delta town with a few gas stations and stores and a lot of boarded-up buildings, are welcomed by a message on the water tower: "Where the blues was born."

Across thousands of acres of corn, soybeans, grain sorghum and cotton sits the shiny new CCA prison. Designed for about 1,100 inmates,



Tallahatchie County CCA Mess Hall

it houses only about 40 local jail inmates and the 300 Alabama convicts.

After touring the prison Friday, Campbell said he saw what he expected to see: a well-run prison with far fewer inmates than it was designed to hold and a full staff to manage them.

A return visit in a few weeks, when the population hits 1,400, will produce a different report from inmates, Campbell said. If his state prisons were fully staffed and filled to capacity instead of double capacity, Campbell said, the inmates might have a different report on them.

Campbell said he expects to use private prisons for at least 12-18 months, when he hopes more prison space can be provided in Alabama. But that depends on passage of the governor's tax and accountability plan, he said.

Continued on Page 10



Two Miss. Jails Getting Ala. Prisoners

Move Will Employ 240 Delta Workers, Relieve Alabama Prison Crowding

CLAY HARDEN, JACKSON CLARION LEDGER 06/27/03 —

Many workers who lost their jobs at two Mississippi private prisons are going back to work, thanks to a neighboring state. Alabama, faced with prison overcrowding, is sending 1,400 medium-security male inmates to the Tallahatchie Correctional Facility in Tutwiler at a cost of \$27.50 a day per inmate. Payroll for 270 workers should reach \$6 million.

"It is great news and could not come at a better time," said Tallahatchie County Administrator Marvin Doss. "We just lost 135 jobs with the closure of Rosewood Manufacturing in Charleston."

Carolyn McAdams, spokeswoman for the prison operated by Nashville-based Corrections Corporation of America, said staffing will increase from 30 to 270 before prisoners begin to arrive Monday.

"We are hiring people who worked here before and some who were at Delta Correctional Facility," McAdams said. "We are grateful to Alabama for this partnership."

Tallahatchie, built to hold 1,100, held 322 inmates from Wisconsin and employed 208 people before those inmates were moved to Minnesota in 2001, forcing layoffs. It has since held 30-40 Tallahatchie County inmates.

Delta Correctional Facility in Greenwood, closed by the state in October 2002, held 800 state inmates and employed 200 workers with a \$5 million annual payroll.

"It is good for the economy of the state," said Mississippi Corrections Commissioner Chris Epps, who said CCA's contract with Alabama is for three years.

Alabama, which has no private prisons, is under two court orders to end overcrowding. One calls for the state to reduce the number of female inmates at a Wetumpka, Ala., facility and another demands the state remove state prisoners from county jails.

"Our capacity is 13,500 prisoners, but we have 28,406," said Brian Corbett, spokesman for the Alabama Department of Corrections. "We are growing at 1,000 inmates a year and have not built a new facility since the Bibb County facility in 1997, which holds 900."

Alabama DOC has asked for a budget increase of \$60 million to build new prisons.

"But the state is facing a \$675 million deficit and we may get an 18 percent reduction in our budget," Corbett said.

Corbett said the possibility of having a private company build facilities and lease them back to the state has been discussed.

"They could do it quicker and cheaper than the state," Corbett said.

Steve Owens, spokesman for Corrections Corporation of America, said his company will help Alabama.

"We are always happy to step up and serve states when they need our help," Owens said. "I always knew we would find someone who could use the Tallahatchie facility."

Epps said Mississippi has 1,240 empty prison beds, not counting 762 beds at Delta, where Leflore County has converted 238 beds of the 1,000-bed facility for a county jail.

"They are in a lot of trouble in Alabama," Epps said. "We are not in that situation in Mississippi." ■

—The Associated Press contributed to this report. Harold Gater/The Clarion-Ledger

Comparison of Alabama's Correctional Budget to Other States

*Information extracted from the 2002 American Correctional Association Directory

States	Population of Inmates	Dollars Budgeted per Inmate	2001 Correction Budget	More \$ than Alabama's Budget (per Inmate)
Alabama	26,728	\$9,581	\$256,077,533	
Arizona	24,336	\$24,539	\$597,171,500	+\$14,958
Florida	72,210	\$26,915	\$1,943,537,117	+\$17,334
Georgia	45,616	\$22,863	\$1,042,900,770	+\$13,282
Maryland	22,969	\$24,637	\$565,886,445	+\$15,056
Mississippi	19,996	\$12,912	\$258,187,522	+\$3,331
South Carolina	22,056	\$16,405	\$361,818,639	+\$6,824
Tennessee	29,482	\$16,511	\$486,789,850	+\$6,931
Alaska	4,577	\$39,039	\$178,680,700	+\$29,458
Arkansas	12,429	\$18,432	\$229,088,955	+\$8,851
California	158,759	\$31,689	\$5,030,955,000	+\$22,108
Colorado	16,791	\$36,275	\$609,094,798	+\$26,694
Connecticut	18,206	\$28,802	\$524,365,770	+\$19,221
Delaware	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hawaii	3,647	\$37,020	\$135,012,545	+\$27,439
Idaho	5,405	\$23,531	\$127,182,900	+\$13,950
Illinois	45,629	\$28,561	\$1,303,219,800	+\$18,980
Indiana	20,509	\$30,964	\$635,045,346	+\$21,383
Iowa	8,049	\$31,419	\$252,894,524	+\$21,839
Kansas	8,544	\$28,630	\$244,611,157	+\$19,049
Kentucky	15,964	\$26,837	\$428,424,300	+\$17,256
Louisiana	18,139	\$37,361	\$677,689,398	+\$27,780
Maine	1,740	\$69,912	\$121,646,922	+\$45,373
Massachusetts	8,991	\$50,253	\$451,826,768	+\$40,672
Michigan	48,699	\$34,554	\$1,682,767,100	+\$24,974
Minnesota	6,521	\$67,996	\$443,399,018	+\$58,415
Missouri	27,926	\$20,306	\$567,076,501	+\$10,726
Montana	2,181	\$45,869	\$100,040,205	+\$36,288
Nebraska	4,055	\$35,346	\$143,329,585	+\$25,766
Nevada	10,282	\$19,373	\$199,191,981	+\$9,792
New Hampshire	2,282	\$30,062	\$68,602,589	+\$20,482
New Jersey	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Mexico	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New York	68,232	\$37,509	\$2,559,297,217	+\$27,928
North Carolina	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Dakota	1,051	\$37,888	\$39,820,100	+\$28,307
Oklahoma	22,582	\$19,186	\$433,259,630	+\$9,605
Ohio	45,244	\$37,170	\$1,681,702,684	+\$27,589
Oregon	10,722	\$77,887	\$835,106,614	+\$68,306
Pennsylvania	37,407	\$33,792	\$1,264,064,000	+\$24,211
Rhode Island	1,909	\$69,771	\$133,193,116	+\$60,190
South Dakota	2,716	\$14,456	\$39,262,487	+\$4,875
Texas	144,810	\$17,062	\$2,470,789,653	+\$7,481
Utah	5,526	\$36,464	\$201,497,500	+\$26,883
Vermont	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Virginia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Washington	15,219	\$80,247	\$1,221,272,999	+\$70,666
West Virginia	3,313	\$26,046	\$86,288,772	+\$16,465
Wisconsin	21,042	\$45,634	\$960,229,797	+\$36,053
Wyoming	1,740	\$95,774	\$166,645,944	+\$71,235
Total	1,094,231	\$1,555,478	\$31,758,945,751	+\$1,104,005
Averages	24,869	\$35,351.78	\$721,794,221.61	+\$25,675

States with Like Number of Inmates

	Number of Inmates	\$ per Inmate	Budget
Average of Seven Highlighted States	33,809	\$22,210	\$750,898,835
Alabama	26,728	\$9,581	\$256,077,533
Difference	(7,081)	(\$12,629)	(\$494,821,302)



Alabama Prisons Struggle With Overcrowding, Underfunding

THOMAS SPENCER/NEWS STAFF WRITER BIRMINGHAM NEWS 08/17/03—

After 16 hours in the unair-conditioned maximum-security prison, as one of three officers circulating through and herding 288 of the most dangerous criminals in the Alabama penal system, Marcus Atchison drove an hour to his home, made it to bed after midnight, and was up at 4 a.m. to be back on duty at William E. Donaldson Correctional Facility at 6.

Atchison and 178 other corrections officers keep watch over 1,735 inmates at the west Jefferson County prison designed to hold 992 prisoners.

According to Warden Stephen Bullard, the prison should have 288 officers. Lacking money to hire, train and retain enough officers, Bullard has made overtime mandatory.



COI Marcus Atchison—
Donaldson Corr. Facility

Most officers are working two overtime shifts a week.

"I can't not have this place staffed because of the danger to the other staff and to the public," Bullard said.

The situation at Donaldson is not unique. Alabama's prison system holds twice as many inmates as it was designed to hold. According to U.S. Department of Justice statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau, Alabama spends less per inmate than any other state.

And according to 2002 statistics from the American Corrections Association, Alabama had the highest ratio of inmates to corrections officers among 45 states surveyed. Ten years ago, Alabama had the same number of officers guarding 7,000 fewer inmates.

A federal court has ordered the state to relieve crowding at Tutwiler Prison for Women and a state court has ordered the state to take in its inmates who are clogging county jails. To cope, the state is lodging prisoners at private prisons in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Gov. Bob Riley has promised to address the corrections problem if his \$1.2 billion tax and accountability package passes. But if the proposal fails, the governor's budget calls for an 18 percent to 20 percent cut to corrections. At that level, the state would be spending \$3 million

less on corrections than it spent in 1997, when the state had 6,000 fewer prisoners.

Bullard can't imagine further cuts. The roof at Donaldson, in need of a \$2.5 million repair job, leaks and each rain does more damage. Two of the six towers are closed and the staff is stretched as thin as possible.

"I can't ask the staff to do any more," Bullard said.

Heat and Headaches:

Atchison, 32, was in the Navy and worked at rock quarries and a lime plant before becoming a corrections officer. He's used to hard work, but not the level of mental and emotional stress he's facing now.

The men Atchison greets in the morning have slept through the hot Alabama night closed behind a solid metal door. They're packed in - three to a 7-by-10 cinder block cell that was designed for two. Prison officials welded an extra bunk in each to handle the crowding.

Day in, day out, the men behave like insolent teenage boys. Atchison has to get them up, usher them to classes, see they take their pills, herd them to the dining hall.

There is noise. And the heat. There's prostitution, drugs and drinking. And there is always the threat of violence. Fights are a daily occurrence. Officers confiscate weapons constantly.

In January, Atchison and two fellow officers were attacked by 15 inmates. The other two officers had to go to the hospital. But they held the inmates off until help arrived.

"Every day when I go in to that block, I think about it," Atchison said.

Add to that the two and sometimes three extra shifts a week, and you get a recipe for stress and burnout. "I never used to have headaches. I have those a lot now," Atchison said.

It doesn't help that the governor has frozen merit raises. Or that a trained officer, starting at \$25,000 a year, can earn more at a city jail in the suburbs.

"People say they want to lock these men up and throw away the key. Well, the keys are in our pockets. I don't think people really think about that," Atchison said. "We get put in a lot of dangerous situations to protect the public." ■

CCA TRANSFER UPDATE

As of August 29, 2003 a total of 1,734 Alabama DOC inmates have been transferred to privately run prisons.

- 1,424 men have been transferred to a CCA facility in Mississippi
- 310 women transferred to an LCS facility in Basile, Louisiana.



Nonviolent Felons Get New Chance Through Community Corrections



STAN BAILEY/NEWS STAFF WRITER BIRMINGHAM NEWS 06/29/03—

Norman Askew remembers the code of street justice he used to live by: "If somebody violates you, you're supposed to take his head off." That was before the recovering addict and hustler from Birmingham's Southside went to prison on a 40-year sentence for killing a man in Indiana in a drug deal gone bad.

Now he works to keep other people from going down the same path in their lives. He directs the outreach program for addicts at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and heads the community restitution division of Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime.

That group falls under the umbrella of Jefferson County Community Corrections, one of 19 such programs that serve about 1,200 nonviolent convicts in 21 Alabama counties.

Gov. Bob Riley and the state Sentencing Commission are pushing to expand community corrections programs to all 67 counties as a way to ease jail and prison crowding, to punish nonviolent convicts somewhere other than prisons, and to reserve secure lockups for violent criminals. More than 1,000 inmates in state prisons qualify as nonviolent felons for purposes of the programs, according to David Horn, a state research analyst.

As Ralph Hendrix, program manager of TASC, puts it, "Community corrections is separating the folks you are scared of from those you are simply mad at."

The idea is that people who steal lawn mowers and credit cards should be treated differently from those who shoot people, he said. "You save hospital beds for heart attacks," said Hendrix. "That's what we've got to do with prisons and community corrections."

Programs can include work release, victim restitution, community service, electronic monitoring, drug testing and treatment, educational services and misdemeanor probation, said Foster Cook, director of Jefferson County Community Corrections and an associate professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The state prison system pays programs a subsidy of \$5 to \$15 a day for diverting nonviolent felons from prisons, said Steve Hayes, executive assistant to Prison Commissioner Donal Campbell.

Inmates pay 25 percent of their gross wages toward costs of the program, 10 percent to pay court costs and 10 percent as restitution to victims.

Outreach Ministry:

Askew said he traveled a long way through drugs, alcohol and violence before he found his way to Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where he now heads the Wall Builder outreach ministry to recovering addicts. In his job as community restitution director of TASC, he places many recovering drug and alcohol addicts and other nonviolent offenders in business, community service and other jobs throughout Birmingham.

"...separating the folks you are scared of from those you are simply mad at."

—Ralf Hendrix, TASC Prog. Manager

He sends some offenders to Sixteenth Street and other churches for community service, "but while they're doing that, the pastor talks with them," he said.

Reginald Green got a job, with Askew's help, at a PrecisionTune on Valley Avenue. Green had been in and out of prison twice for drug and property crimes when Askew told him he needed to get his life in order, and Green decided to try.

"Today I'm buying a house. I'm married. I got a little girl. She's 5. Everything's going better," Green said.

"I come to work every day. I work 10 hours a day, six days ... I feel a whole lot different. ... I really don't have to look over my shoulder and worry."

Rick Martin, a supervisor at PrecisionTune, said he knows the streets and might have gone down the same road as Green except for the help of people who cared about him. So he's glad to hire offenders Askew says

are trying to go straight.

"I kind of feel like it's the right thing to do, to reach out to people that are just like I was," Martin said.

The Rev. James A. Gibson Jr., pastor of Greater Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Elyton Village, two blocks from Legion Field, said reaching out to offenders has been good for his community, too.

"They've helped me do everything from tend the yard to paint classrooms to change light bulbs and ceiling tiles to even doing some secretarial work," said Gibson.

"This area here was a place where drugs were sold. It was an area where prostitutes walked the street," he said. "You will notice that there is no graffiti on this building. There are no broken windows. There is very little trash. What I'm getting at is that the community has embraced the church, and these people tend to see the church as their church."

Drug, Mental Court:

In Jefferson County, nonviolent offenders are directed to report to the community corrections program for an assessment as a condition of bond. Programs under the community corrections umbrella include Judge Pete Johnson's drug court, Judge Virginia Vinson's mental health court and a battery of educational, training and treatment services.

During a recent session in Johnson's court, a man in jail clothes stood before the judge.

"Here's what you're going to do," Johnson told him sternly. "You're going to get out of jail at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow and you're going to stay at Shepherd's Fold. You've got to stay there and do what they say. You've got to make this work." Shepherd's Fold is a residential facility that provides food, shelter and clothing for up to 36 male offenders trying to get back on their feet. Later, as Johnson waited to cross the street for lunch, a woman ran up to him, called him "Mr. Johnson," and thanked him for helping her get off drugs.

"Prison doesn't make people better," Johnson said later. "Most of

Continued on Page 15



Tomatoes, Tomatoes, Tomatoes...

GARY MITCHELL/MOBILE, ALA. (AP) —

One of Alabama's largest farming operations is run by the state prison system.

Inmates raise crops and catfish and tend livestock, generating about \$2 million in revenue last year for running prisons and paying salaries. The inmates are paid 25 cents an hour.

About \$190,000 in revenue came from the prison system's tomato crop last year. About 17,000 pounds of tomatoes per acre were produced on 24 acres of prison land in Elmore County, Department of Corrections spokesman Brian Corbett said.

This year, they've expanded to 40 acres, adding acreage near the prison in Limestone County.

Chu Farms of Wimauma, Fla., near Tampa, has a contract with the prison system for the tomatoes, Corbett said. He said the contract is based on productivity and the wholesale value of the tomatoes, which changes daily. Chu buys the entire crop, Corbett said.

"The tomatoes are brokered at wholesale value and Chu Farm gets 10 percent of that," Corbett said.

Minimum-security inmates work a 12-hour shift in the fields, getting an hour for lunch and 15-minute breaks in the morning and afternoon, according to prison policy.

Corbett said some inmates voluntarily work longer hours just to stay out of the cell and earn extra money. If they work longer hours, he said, they are paid for it.

Lucia Penland, director of the Montgomery-based Alabama Prison Project, said her organization has not received any complaints about inmate labor abuses. She said complaints are more about medical care.

Andy Farquhar, director of Alabama Correctional Industries, said he contacts farming companies about prison crops when he meets them at agricultural conferences and other events. For example, he said he met the head of Chu Farms while in Tennessee at a conference.

The prison system is interested in expanding its "moneymaking options, mainly in the service area," while staying away from interstate commerce, Corbett said.

"Agricultural goods are not considered manufactured goods under federal law," Corbett said. That makes it's legal for the prison system to sell and ship the crops.

Nationwide, prison industries have taken different approaches to the private sector when it comes to prison labor services.

Farming is the type program that draws the most criticism from both inmates and inmate advocates, prison labor expert L. Paul Sutton said.

"It is, indeed, a source of cheap labor, and may easily involve programs that unfairly exploit inmate labor," said Sutton, a criminal justice professor at San Diego State University in California.

He said in some state programs inmates may be paid nothing for sweeping halls, washing windows or mowing the lawn. In others, they

may be paid 10 to 20 cents an hour for kitchen work, clerical or farming.

There are state or federally financed prison industries programs for jobs comparable to factory work.

"These would include things like making chairs, desks, lockers, and beds and creating eyeglasses and dentures for prison inmates," Sutton said.

These jobs are more likely to pay 50 cents to \$1.25 per hour. Gaining in popularity are jobs created by a private company that sets up shop within a state prison and produces goods to be sold on the outside, Sutton said.

"Inmates jump at the chance to earn what is usually minimum wage or better in such arrangements," Sutton said.

In 1997, Oregon voters passed a ballot measure that required that state to put all eligible inmates to work. Prisoner-made denim clothing products in Oregon are now sold worldwide through its "PrisonBlues" Web site and mail orders.

In Alabama, inmates also are required by state law to work. Still, the type of work and product produced is more sensitive in some states than others.

In Pennsylvania, AFL-CIO opposition has not allowed inmates to produce goods or provide services that are produced by private companies, despite efforts in previous years by state officials who favor such partnerships, said Scott Thornsley, an assistant professor of criminal justice at Mansfield University and former legislative affair director for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

"A lot of jobs in production and manufacturing are now leaving the United States and going overseas. It's these very jobs that could be performed by prison inmates," said Thornsley, who toured Alabama prisons with his students when he taught at Troy State University in the state.

Having a confined work force in a prison setting is attractive to some industries, who otherwise may not be able to attract and retain employees on a regular basis, he said.

In North Carolina, female state inmates answer tourist inquiries by phone and e-mail from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. daily, mailing out brochures.

"They have access to a computer, but they don't have access to the Internet because of a special software," said Pam Walker, a spokesman for the North Carolina Department of Corrections.

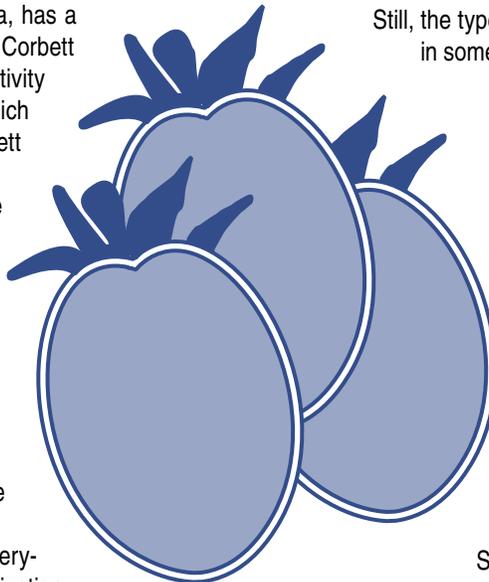
North Carolina has many programs putting inmates to work, including a farm that produces crops for use in the prison system. "They are not sold," Walker said.

Last year was the first year for the Alabama prison system to sell its tomato crop to a private vendor, Corbett said, but he said the prison system has long been in the business of selling its harvest of peas, corn, squash, cattle, hogs, catfish and various other crops.

Corrections made about \$190,000 on its tomatoes last year, but had about \$165,000 of costs involved.

Usually, agriculture overall is a break-even deal for Alabama prisons, Corbett said.

The crops don't always make it to the inmates' dining table. "A lot of people think we grow our own food," Corbett said. "We do supplement our menus with this food. We're not out to grow our own food." ■



Inmates Capture Suspects !

Work-release Crew At Decatur Country Club Chases Down Alleged Car Dealership Burglars

ERIC FLEISCHAUER/ DECATUR DAILY STAFF WRITER—

Perhaps expecting white-haired patrons, golf carts and martinis, two alleged thieves probably thought Decatur Country Club made an ideal escape route after they allegedly stole equipment from a car dealer adjoining the club.

They might have been wise to check out the employee roster first.

Three state work-release inmates employed at the golf course — all sentenced for buying and receiving stolen goods — were not quite what Seth Adam Bond and Charles Joseph Wilson, both 23, expected. After losing a footrace, Bond and Wilson are behind bars.

Sunday at 9 a.m., work-release inmate Calvin Matsey, 41, said he saw two white males who “just didn’t seem like they belonged here.” He found a clue to their presence when he saw hubcaps and stereo equipment lying next to a hole in a fence that separates the golf course from Lynn Layton Chevrolet.

“I asked them what they was doing here, and they kept saying they was waiting for their uncle to finish some golf. But there wasn’t anybody playing golf,” said Matsey, who is up for parole in September.

“They told me they were here to pick up girls,” said another work-release inmate, Donald Harris, who is eligible for parole in July.

“They weren’t that smart,” said the third work-release inmate, Barry Hall.

Chris West, a supervisor at the club, asked Matsey, Harris and Hall to lead the two suspects to the clubhouse to wait for police. Not happy with the impending encounter, the suspects took off running.

West, Matsey, Hall, Harris and employee Jeff Froschello took off after them in a footrace that ended on Apache Lane Southeast.

“They finally just quit running,” said Hall, puffing on a cigarette. “One of them was pretty fat.”

When the suspects stopped running, West went to find police. Before leaving, he told Harris in a loud voice, “If they try to run again, tackle them and sit on them.”

The threat was enough to keep the sus-

“THE BOX”

Something to make you go hmmm.

A young man learns what’s most important in life from the guy next door. It had been some time since Jack had seen the old man. College, girls, career, and life itself got in the way. In fact, Jack moved clear across the country in pursuit of his dreams. There, in the rush of his busy life, Jack had little time to think about the past and often no time to spend with his wife and son. He was working on his future, and nothing could stop him. Over the phone, his mother told him, “Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday.” Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days.

“Jack, did you hear me?”

“Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It’s been so long since I thought of him. I’m sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago,” Jack said. “Well, he didn’t forget you. Every time I saw him he’d ask how you were doing. He’d reminisce about the many days you spent over ‘his side of the fence’ as he put it,” Mom told him.

“I loved that old house he lived in,” Jack said.

“You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man’s influence in your life,” she said.

“He’s the one who taught me carpentry,” he said. “I wouldn’t be in this business if it weren’t for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important...Mom, I’ll be there for the funeral,” Jack said.

As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser’s funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away. The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time. Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture....Jack stopped suddenly.

“What’s wrong, Jack?” his Mom asked.

“The box is gone,” he said.

“What box?” Mom asked.

“There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he’d ever tell me was ‘the thing I value most,’” Jack said. It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it.

“Now I’ll never know what was so valuable to him,” Jack said. “I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom.”

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox. “*Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days,*” the note read. Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention.

“Mr. Harold Belser” it read.

Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack’s hands shook as he read the note inside.

“*Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It’s the thing I valued most in my life.*” A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch. Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved:

“*Jack, Thanks for your time! Harold Belser.*”

“The thing he valued most...was...my time.”

Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days.

“Why?” Janet, his assistant asked.

“I need some time to spend with my son,” he said.

“Oh, by the way, Janet...thanks for your time!”

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.”

Have a great day and thank you for your time...■

Around the State Bulletin Board News

Bullock County

•The Mental Health project is going well. The construction of the Mental Health Unit at Bullock is about fifty percent (50%) complete. It is projected that the Segregation Unit for Mental Health will be in place by the last week in August.

•Congratulations to the First Shift on winning the Best of the Best competition for the second consecutive quarter.

•Radio Operator Tom King has been selected as the Bullock County ASEA chapter nominee for the 2003 ASEA Public Service Award for District #5. Mr. King also attended a two (2) day seminar in July 2003 held in Montgomery, Al, sponsored by the Federal Emergency management Association (FEMA). Congratulations, Mr. King for your outstanding community services in Bullock and Lee counties, helping others live safer, happier, and better.

•Congratulations to COII Michael Smith on his promotion from COI to COII at Ventress Correctional Facility.

•Bullock County Correctional Facility hosted the statewide Wardens' meeting on August 15, 2003. All institutions, work releases, and some divisions were represented. We were honored to have Commissioner Donal Campbell and his executive staff in attendance.

Alabama Corrections Academy

The Alabama Corrections Academy graduated Class 2003-03 on July 24, 2003. A total of 30 new Correctional Officers entered our profession. Class 2003-04 currently has 45 Cadets and is scheduled to graduate on September 18, 2003. Class 2003-05 is scheduled to report to the ACA on August 31, 2003 and graduate on November 13, 2003. The first class in 2004, Class 2004-01, will report to the ACA on January 18, 2004.

The ACA Lateral Entry Program is scheduled for October 20-30 for those qualified former Police and Correctional officers seeking APOSTC certification. The ACA has graduated 133 Correctional Officers and 10 Lateral Entry Correctional Officers as of August 13, 2003.

A curriculum change to the 12-week Basic Correctional Officer Training was approved by APOSTC (Alabama Peace Officers Standards

and Training Commission) in May of this year. OC/CS Chemical Aerosol Sprays replaced the Stun Tech (ERD) block of instruction. Cadets will now receive chemical spray training and certification at the ACA. Another course was added that focuses on Professional Employee Conduct with Offenders.

Draper

•DCC had two candidates to complete the academy, Joshua Boyd and Edmund Cooper who was selected as squad leader; also leadership and dedication on fire arms.

•Chaplain Whiting, Officer Griggs and Class Specialist Tuck are well on the way with another Fatherhood Initiative Program.

•Draper was also host for on-site testing for Correctional Officers I.

•Congratulations to our retiree, "Sgt. Jep Graham."

•We were host to Statewide Mental Health Personnel Training on August 14 & 15.

Easterling

•Our "Officer's Appreciation/Tribute to Activated Employees Day" (June 6, 2003) was a great success. Administrative Employees, NaphCare, Wallace Community College, ASEA, and the CPO Foundation sponsored the event.

•In July, Easterling employees sent "Care Packages" to our fellow colleagues serving in "Operation Iraqi Freedom". We continue to keep those serving in "Operation Enduring Freedom" or in "Iraqi Freedom" in our prayers. It is so easy to take our freedoms for granted as we enjoy the comforts and security of our homes and work places while others make sacrifices to preserve these liberties.

•Easterling staff welcomes our new Business Manager, Vivian Miller, to our team. We look forward to working with her.

We also welcome COI's Kenneth Drake, William F. Davis, and Jason Ivey, who recently graduated from the Academy; Eric Giles and Lester Grimsley, presently at the Academy; and Rondell Dennis, Demetrius Williams, and Willie Gosha, Pre-Academy Cadets.

Congratulations to employees selected as Employees of the Quarter:

•Correctional Officer I	Mitchell Borders, COI
•Supervisor	Kenneth Sconyers, COSI
•Support	Linda Teal, ASAIII

Fountain

•This summer Fountain Farm planted purple hull peas. The peas are being sold to a contractor. The staff also has an opportunity to purchase the excess peas. We have been able to employ 250 to 300 inmates in the operation. Inmates have been paid to harvest the peas. To date over 4,000 bushels of peas have been harvested. The farm officers and the inmates have worked long hot hours in getting the peas harvested. The program has been profitable for both ACI and the inmates here at Fountain. We hope this type program will create future opportunities to provide inmates with meaningful work.

•G.K. Fountain/J.O. Davis has two retirements for the month of August; Capt. Walter Allen is retiring after 27 plus years of service. COI Roy Baggett has retired after 37yrs. of service. We wish these retirees success and happiness in their retirements.

•The staff of Fountain would like to thank those who have assisted us during the absence of Business Manager Patrick McKay. Mr. McKay is doing much better and we expect him to return on a limited basis August 18th. Those who have been instrumental in keeping us afloat are Ms. Ruth Bantley from Atmore W.R., Ms. Patricia Chastain from Holman Prison, Mr. Tom Seibert and a host of employees from Accounting.

•G.K. Fountain would also like to recognize Mr. Bill Haynes for his personal dedication and effort in getting our communications up and operational after lightning strikes on two different occasions within two weeks time. Mr. Haynes put in many hours and worked in adverse conditions and basically rebuilt our system after it had been totally destroyed. Much of this work was done after hours and on the weekend. Fountain Staff can verify that Mr. Haynes will answer the call for help when you need him. We certainly appreciate his dedication.

•While the staff has done an excellent job in maintaining a peaceful and secure facility this summer, we have also experienced our share of good luck. On two occasions J.O. Davis inmates were involved in two major vehicle accidents while traveling to and from their respective jobs. In both incidents there were only minor bruises and bumps.

We are in the process of trying to fill our drug counselor vacancy. If successful, We hope

(Fountain Cont'd)

to have a SAP Class up and running within 30 to 60 days.

Frank Lee Youth Center

•Sgt. Vivian Jackson lost her son in a fatal automobile accident in July. We offer our condolence to Sgt. Jackson and her family.

•Mr. Bill Evans reported to Frank Lee Youth Center on June 23, 2003, as a Drug Treatment Counselor. Mr. Evans is a welcomed addition to our staff.

•Ms. Kimberly Higgins is a welcomed addition to Frank Lee Youth Center's Classification staff. Ms. Higgins joined us as an ASA I on June 14, 2003.

•Frank Lee Youth Center welcomes Officer Windom McGhee to our security staff. Officer McGhee transferred from Bullock County Correctional Facility on May 31, 2003.

•Officer William Flanary was assigned to Frank Lee Youth Center on May 31, 2003, after having completed the DOC Academy in Selma, Alabama.

•Officer Jamal Sewell was assigned to Frank Lee Youth Center as an Officer on May 31, 2003.

•Officer Sewell had previously been a Steward at Frank Lee Youth Center.

•Officer Thomas Huggins completed the Apost requirements at the DOC Academy in Selma, Alabama, which allowed him to be assigned as an Officer at Frank Lee Youth Center.

•Congratulations Lt. Earsley Lyons for your 25 years of dedicated service with the Alabama Department of Corrections. Lt. Lyons reached his milestone on July 17, 2003. He is pictured with Warden John Cummins II receiving his 25-year service pin at the Frank Lee Youth Center in Deatsville.



Lt. Earsley Lyons (right)— 25 Years Dedicated service.

Holman

•We congratulate the following personnel for their recent promotions at Holman Correctional Facility.

- David Craft promoted to Captain
- John Crow promoted to Lieutenant
- Christopher Massey promoted to Sergeant

•We look forward to working with them in their new positions.

•Congratulations are also due to the following employees for being recognized by their peers for outstanding work:

- Willie Lewis Supervisor of the Quarter
- Donna Barlow Employee of the Month - May
- Willie Harris Employee of the Month - June
- Landon Bodley Employee of the Month - July

•The Browder Ministries Faith Crusade was at Holman July 25-26 to bring their message to the inmates. The Crusaders brought in food and cooked out for all the inmates. The inmates were fed barbeque chicken, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, doughnuts, M&M's, and ice cream. The cooking was done outside at Holman and the population inmates were served on the exercise yard in a picnic atmosphere while listening to the message of the Browder Ministries Faith Crusaders. Trays were prepared and served to all the inmates in segregation and death row.

Investigations & Intelligence Division

•Robert G. (Pete) Holtam has been selected as the Interim Director of the Investigations & Intelligence Division. Pete has thirty-seven years of continuous Alabama law enforcement experience, including thirty years as a criminal investigator, thirteen years as a law enforcement supervisor, Senior Investigator Birmingham I & I Office, Supervisor Uniform Patrol Division for Birmingham P.D., Supervisor Undercover Vice for Birmingham P.D., Supervisor Tractical Unit and Supervisor K-9 Unit also for Birmingham P.D. Pete has an Associate Degree in Applied Science and Criminal Justice from Jefferson State Junior College. As you can see he is well-qualified for this interim position and I am certain he will do an outstanding job.

Kilby

Promotions at KCF:

- COI Gus White was promoted to Sgt. at KCF
- COI Valencia Pettitway was promoted to Sgt. at KCF
- COII John Crow was promoted to Lt. at Holman

The following personnel recieved service pens:

- Sgt. Carl Clay - 15 years
- COI William Frye - 25 years
- COI Robert Nation - 20 years
- Ms. Maxine Moore - 20 years

Congratulations to each of these employees for their years of outstanding service with the Department.

Thanks to all the Receiving personnel and other officers who have processed and assisted with moving at least 900 inmates from ADOC to Mississippi.

Limestone

•Limestone Correctional Facility Farm Supervisors Leo Orr and Scott Pepper made a significant profit for ACI at the cattle sale. Limestone sold 162 head of cattle for \$92,989.01.

•Congratulations to Dorothy Goode who was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain. Congratulations to Mark Pelzer who was promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant.

•On March 03, 2003 Limestone Correctional Facility, under the direction of Warden Billy Mitchem, re-acquired the Visitation Yard photos from the Department of Rehabilitation vendor. Under the guidance of Administrative Lieutenant Richard Frasier, the procedure has been a profitable success. As of August 02, 2003, the pictures have grossed \$10,029.50.

•Limestone Correctional Facility is mourning the loss of eighteen-year veteran COI Michael Garrett. Officer Garrett completed his earthly journey July 01, 2003.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Garrett; three daughters, Felecia, Alycia, and Keisha. In addition to these survivors, his LCF family survives Officer Garrett.

Officer Garrett began his career with the Department of Corrections June 03, 1985 and quickly gained the respect of his fellow officers and employees as he performed his duties in an admirable manner. At the time of his death, Officer Garrett served in the Special Unit where he was regarded as a true professional, showing firmness and fairness in his dealings with each person with whom he came in contact.



(Limestone Cont'd)

Officer Garrett will be missed by his many friends and family.

Loxley Work Release Center/ Loxley Community Based Facility

- David Kirby, Plant Maintenance Supervisor, was presented a 20 year service pin.
- Received a clear audit during June – State and Department Inventory Audit.
- Received a clear audit during May for a one year accounting audit at Loxley CBF.
- Congratulations to Officers Joseph Bonner, Dewayne Bradshaw, Brian Jenkins, and Kenneth Tyus for their successful completion of the A.D.O.C. Training Academy and assignments to Loxley CBF.
- Ms. Taylor, Drug Counselor, attended the Alabama Adult Education Summer Conference in Birmingham, AL on June 24 – 26, 2003 and the Alabama Alcohol Recovery Conference in Montgomery on August 12, 2003.
- Loxley has maintained the lowest raw foods cost for the previous twelve months under the leadership of Chief Steward Richard Green.

•During visitation in June, Officers implemented a contraband interdiction operation utilizing K-9 units from Easterling C.F. The successful interdiction identified numerous items of contraband which were confiscated.

Mobile Work Release

- Mobile Work Release has a new Warden. We welcome Warden Derrick Carter, who comes from the Decatur Work Release Facility. Warden Derrick Carter, who is also a citizen soldier, was selected for promotion to the rank of Major in the U.S. Army Reserves. Warden Carter serves as a Transportation Officer for the Deputy Chief of Staff 64 in Birmingham, AL. Warden Carter's office handles transportation and other logistical issues for units in eight southeastern states with over 30,000 soldiers.
- We have a volunteer from the community to teach the G.E.D. Program. Thanks Ms. Hall for your dedication. We had one inmate to complete the G.E.D. Program and pass the test. We have two inmates attending Bishop State Jr. College.
- Congratulations to Mrs. Brenda Smith, our secretary, for graduating from Bishop State Jr. College in May, '03, with a degree in Manufacturing Technology. Mrs. Smith's daughter, Natasha Smith, recently earned a degree in Pharmacy from Xazier University.
- Mobile Drug Treatment Counselors are

working with the Council on Substance Abuse (NCADD). September 2003 celebrates their 14th annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. The month is set aside to highlight the strides made in substance abuse treatment and to educate the public. An inservice is scheduled with various departments (Parole Board, Judges and the Salvation Army). The inservice will be held September 19, 2003, in Mobile, AL, at the Bay Hass Building.

•Chaplain Tommy Waites from the Montgomery, AL, Red Eagle Honor Camp spoke to our inmates on July 11, 2003. Chaplain Waites spoke about his recovery and the 17 years he's been out of prison.

•Thanks to Bill Founds for our Long Distance Dads Program.

•We welcome our newest employee Donna Braswell. She is our ASAI.

•We would also like to welcome Lt. Steve Cureton back to the Mobile Work Release Facility.

•Congratulations to COI Officer Michael Stallworth for becoming a new dad. This was the first child for the Stallworths. They had a healthy baby boy, weighing 6lbs.

•Congratulations to COI Jessie James and his wife on the birth of a healthy 7lb baby boy.

•Congratulations to COI William Powell for his continuous high achievements. Officer Powell is currently training in Deaf Interpretation at Bishop State Jr. College.

Red Eagle Honor Farm

- Red Eagle has noteworthy employee advancement and achievements:
- Captain Willie Moore received his 25 year service pin.
- Lt. Donnie Brown received his 20 year service pin.
- Officer Jerry Redic received his 5 year service pin.
- Steward Julia Johnson was promoted from Radio Operator to Steward I.
- Ms. Debra Scott celebrated a birthday August 13.
- Red Eagle has lost another officer, however congratulations are in order for Officer Gus White who was selected for promotion to Sergeant at Kilby Correctional Facility. Red Eagle welcomes Ms. Julia Johnson as Steward I filling a vacancy in our kitchen. We are also excited to have Sergeant Charles Wilcutt who has returned to duty after a lengthy fight with cancer.



Service Pins Awarded at Red Eagle.



Birthday Girl, Debra Scott, Aug 13.—Red Eagle

Staton

Staton Celebrates 25 Years Of Service To Alabama!

Staton Correctional Facility opened June 25, 1978. The facility is named in honor of Dr. Thomas Staton, a former member and chairman of the Board of Corrections. Dr. Staton greatly influenced the modern design and efficient management of today's Department of Corrections. It is with great pride that current employees of Staton Correctional Facility carry on this tradition of loyalty and service. All DOC facilities are responsible for upholding the laws of the State of Alabama, maintaining security, custody and control of assigned inmates, while also protecting staff and the public. The Alabama Department of Corrections is also dedicated to providing meaningful and productive jobs, as well as educational opportunities and treatment programs for self-improvement.

Pictured: Present and former staff members at Staton enjoy food, fellowship and old photographs from the last quarter century during the anniversary celebration.

(see photos, next page)





Staton's 25th year anniversary celebration.



Photo album browsing at Staton's 25th anniversary.

St. Clair Correctional Facility

St. Clair Correctional Facility's community squads have been extremely busy this summer. They have worked at several schools in the area painting, building concession stands/field houses and minor bricking maintenance for schools. They were actively involved in moving an entire high school to their new building. Many letters of appreciation/commendations were received from area principals.

The St. Clair personnel have kept our officer recruiting drive in force. We have went from 58 officer short approximately two years ago to only six short after we receive our new cadets. We are working towards our goal of 100% authorized staffing.

Congratulations to our staff receiving service pins:

Captain Julian Varner	30 Years
Lt. Carl Sanders	20 Years
Sgt. Sam Howard	20 Years
CO Richard Banks	20 Years
CO Juan Barber	20 Years

CO Greg Bevel	20 Years
CO Jeff Bishop	20 Years
CO Norman Culliver	20 Years
CO Charles Garner	20 Years
CO Robert Gibson	20 Years
CO Ralph Miller	20 Years
CO Gregory Moore	20 Years
CO Thomas Sorrow	20 Years
CO Ples Wilkins	20 Years
CO Gerald McMillan	15 Years
CO David Thomas	5 Years
CO Winford Wooten	5 Years
Tom Cornish, Maint.	20 Years
Horace Shear, Maint.	20 Years

- Congratulations to our Employees of the Quarter. Support EOQ - Ms. Shawana Young, ASA1 was selected for her outstanding administrative support and her excellent rapport with both security and support staff.

- Security EOQ - CO1 Jimmy Carter was selected for his outstanding security work and his development of the "Rookie Manual" for St. Clair Correctional Facility.

- The "New Outlook" Program celebrated their 15 year anniversary. The Program continues to flourish. The Program welcomes staff member, Karla Reed who transferred from Limestone CF.

- St. Clair recently purchased hand held metal detectors and placed them with officers at strategic points to locate contraband, weapons and to prevent their passage through the facility.

- St. Clair salutes our 17 activated military personnel.

- St. Clair had its 20th anniversary on 6-1-03.

Tutwiler Prison for Women

- June 3-5- Warden Gladys Deese attended a seminar in San Diego, CA, with the National Institute of Corrections. Warden Deese has always been accused of Utilizing and putting into effect, upon returning, the skills learned at these seminars. The title of the seminar was: "Developing Coaches for Newly Appointed Wardens."

- July 9th- The CPO (Correctional Peace Officers) Foundation had a Membership Drive in the lobby of Tutwiler Prison. It was a BIG SUCCESS!! The following are the Foundations newest members: Lt. LaHue, Lt. Hawthorne, (COI'S): Nazarean Loyd, Teresa Buckner, Glenda Lacey, June Mason, Dennis Maxwell, Linda Smith, Annetta Smith, Accuannta Hunter, Wanda Lewis, Salley Russell, (Radio Opera-

tors): Frank Longeill, Christopher Royal, (Support Personnel): Alesha Womble, Holly Boyd, Marilyn Williams, (Maintenance Supervisor): Tommy Swearengin, (Drug Counselor Supervisor): Angela Villali, and (Cadet): Gregory Garrett. We want to thank each and every one of you. Ms. Taunton (Warden Frank Albright's Secretary) is the Volunteer Representative for this area. If you need Assistance, report to Ms. Taunton, or call 1-800-800-CPOF.

- On July 22, Tutwiler Staff threw a surprise Birthday party for Warden Deese. Among those present were; Warden Deese's Husband, Glynn, Deputy Commissioners; Lovelace, Murray, and Jones, Regional Coordinator: Hightower, Wardens; Deloach, Watson, Cummings, and Jiles, Deputy Warden Huntley, Retired Warden; Kathleen Holt. Lt. Ethridge from Bullcock Correctional Facility, From Personnel; Dora Jackson, Nadine Tyson, Debra Free, Carolyn Lewis, and many more friends and Staff Members were present to celebrate Warden Deese's (?th) Birthday.

- On July 26th, Officer G. Lacey's ONLY child, Walter Lacey, married Pamela Lewis. Congratulations to the newlyweds.

- On August 12, Warden Deese and the Staff Celebrated, at Ruby Tuesdays in Wetumpka, the birthday of Alesha Womble, Secretary to Warden Deese. Happy Birthday Alesha!!

- At the June 18th Tutwiler Staff Meeting, the following employees received service pins: Lt. Allen (20 years), Ms. Ledyard (20 years), COI B. Croskey (10 years), COI A. Givens (10 years), COI A. Mitchell (10 years), COI F. Smith (10 years), COI M. Corbin (10 years), and Ms. B. Lewis (5years). Our thanks to them for all their hard work and dedication to DOC.

- The Staff Moral has really been uplifted since Officer Harvey initiated "Your Secret Pal" The staff that participated in the drawing of a secret pal name, send a gift once a month, birthdays, or just whenever they fell their secret pal needs an uplifting. The response has been great. We will all get together the first of the year and reveal who our secret pal was.

Ventress

- With great sadness, we announce the death of Dimario Simmons, the son of Officer Linder Cowart-Foster (Second Shift).

- The South Central Cert Team members participated in the 2nd Annual Cert Team Picnic. It was great family fun.



William E. Donaldson

•Sgt. Michael Reynolds was promoted to Lt. Michael Reynolds on May 19, 2003. Congratulations on your promotion.

•Lt. Joe Tew was promoted to Captain Joe Tew on May 31, 2003. Congratulations on your promotion.

•Officers Ryan Warren and Annie Spann were selected as "Officers of the Quarter" for the second quarter (April - June). Congratulations to these employees for a job well done.

•On June 11, 2003 the pipe restoration for William E. Donaldson began. In a coordinated effort with Alabama Power, Donaldson is replacing all pipes used for the heat of the institution with a more energy efficient system. It has been determined that this should save the Department energy/money in the long term. Projective completion of the project should be middle to late October, 2003.

•On June 11, 2003 Donaldson held its facility staff meeting at Donaldson Correctional Facility.

•On June 12, 2003 Warden Stephen Bullard, Deputy Warden Leeposey Daniels and Captain Jimmie Richburg attended the Fifth Annual Open House at Bibb Correctional Facility in the appreciation of the staff and a special

tribute to Raymond Bulger, COII and Larry Wilson, COI.

•On June 27, 2003 Warden Stephen Bullard of Donaldson Correctional Facility accompanied Commissioner Donal Campbell, Deputy Commissioner Greg Lovelace, Steve Hayes Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Warden Willie Thomas, Captain Tony Patterson and Public Information Officer Brian Corbett in a tour of the Tallahatchee State Prison in Mississippi. Warden Bullard stated after touring the facility, "It was awesome!" Warden Bullard stated it was a state of the art facility and very impressive. The Warden of the facility, Jim Cooke sent his regards to all employees and friends.

•Officer Katrina Moore of Tutwiler Prison for Women was transferred and promoted to Sgt. Katrina Moore at Donaldson Correctional Facility. Congratulations on your promotion.

•The July 4th festivities consisted of ice cream issuance to the inmates along with Pepsi Cola drinks. The activities consisted of concerts (i.e. rap, gospel and rhythm and blues), sporting events (i.e. basketball, baseball and volleyball).

•On July 7, 2003 State Representative John Rogers, along with Ms. Yvonne Kenne-

dy, Jerena Webber, Tammy Cameron, Ordrell Smith, Brandon Pedigree and Freeman Webber, toured Donaldson Correctional Facility, accompanied by Warden Stephen Bullard. Fox 6 News crew came to the facility to have a conference with Representative Rogers.

•On July 13, 2003 Ms. Myra Salter, a former employee of William E. Donaldson Correctional Facility passed away. Ms. Salter was assigned as the Chief Steward at Donaldson. Ms. Salter was employed at Donaldson for a total of 16 1/2 years. Ms. Salter retired from her position at Donaldson on September 30, 1999.

•On July 22 through July 25, 2003 Warden Stephen Bullard accompanied Warden Grantt Culliver to the Warden Peer Interaction Training in Texas. Warden Bullard stated that the training program presented the opportunity to talk to Wardens from various states about procedures and/or methods for handling situations. Warden Bullard also stated they attended seminars on various aspects of management. Warden Bullard advised that if the opportunity arises, Wardens need to take advantage of it.

•Sgt. Melvin Wilson was transferred and promoted to Lt. Melvin Wilson at Donaldson Correctional Facility. Congratulations on your promotion. ■



Drug Treatment in Corrections Works!

BY

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Alcohol and other drug abuse and addiction have been directly linked to crime, and by extension, to the explosion in prison populations nationwide. Nowhere is this truer than in the State of Alabama. There is persuasive evidence that effective chemical dependency treatment may be the single biggest factor in reducing recidivism in offenders. Because of this, providing effective drug treatment in the Alabama Department of Corrections is crucial to our meeting the mission of ensuring the safety of the citizens of Alabama.

According to information provided by the Court Referral Program of the Alabama Administrative Office of Courts, approximately 80% of all crimes that are adjudicated in the courts are either directly or indirectly related to substance abuse and chemical dependency issues.

These numbers are backed up by national statistics; analysis of existing research reveals that recidivism among criminal offenders is directly related to continued abuse of alcohol and other drugs. According to Joseph A. Califano, president of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University, while 41% of first-time offenders have a history of alcohol or other drug use, this proportion jumps to 81% percent for those offenders with five or more convictions.

Regardless of the type of crimes committed, offenders that tested positive for alcohol or other drugs at the time of arrest have longer criminal records and have been imprisoned more often than those who did not test positive in urine drug screens.

Drug treatment for incarcerated offenders is cost-effective, as drug treatment within the Department is funded through county and federal grant monies. According to Dr. Ron Cavanaugh, ADOC Director of Treatment, the various substance abuse programs within the Department have funding sources and staffing levels that can expand to meet the growing needs of this caseload.

The potential benefit of effective drug treatment to economic and social welfare of the citizens of Alabama is enormous. CASA's Califano calculates that the annual economic benefit to society, in terms of avoided incarceration, health care costs, wages earned, taxes paid, and overall contribution to the economy, is ten times what it costs to provide alcohol and drug treatment to inmates. He estimates that if only 10% of all inmates who receive treatment stay clean and sober, these programs will pay for themselves. He adds that, even with the difficult inmate population, success rates are likely to reach at least 15% of those who receive such treatment and training.

Has drug treatment, as provided to inmates in the ADOC, achieved these worthy goals? We believe so. However, there is always room for improvement in how we provide drug treatment services in the ADOC.

The good news is that chemical dependency treatment is readily available to addicted inmates in the Alabama Department of Corrections. The challenge that remains is in determining the long-term effectiveness of such treatment. There appear to be several reasons for this:

What Would Jesus Do?: Cont'd from pg 1

state income tax kicks in for families that earn as little as \$4,600, when even Mississippi starts at over \$19,000. Alabama also relies heavily on its sales tax, which runs as high as 11 percent and applies even to groceries and infant formula. The upshot is wildly regressive: Alabamians with incomes under \$13,000 pay 10.9 percent of their incomes in state and local taxes, while those who make over \$229,000 pay just 4.1 percent

A main reason Alabama's poor pay so much is that large timber companies and megafarms pay so little. The state allows big landowners to value their land using "current use" rules, which significantly lowball its worth. Individuals are allowed to fully deduct the federal income taxes they pay from their state taxes, something few states allow, a boon for those in the top brackets.

Governor Riley's plan, which would bring in \$1.2 billion in desperately needed revenue, takes aim at these inequalities. It would raise the income threshold at which families of four start paying taxes to more than \$17,000.

It would scrap the federal income tax deduction and increase exemptions for dependent children. And it would sharply roll back the current-use exemption, a change that could cost companies like Weyerhaeuser and Boise Cascade, which own hundreds of thousands of acres, millions in taxes. Governor Riley says that money is too tight to lift the sales tax on groceries this time, but that he intends to work for that later.

Church and state are not as separate in Alabama as they are in most places. (The chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court was in federal court last week defending his decision to install a 2.5-ton rendering of the Ten Commandments in the state's main judicial building.) Alabamians are used to hearing their politicians make religious arguments, and Governor Riley thinks he can convince the voters that Christian theology calls for a fairer tax system. "I've spent a lot of time studying the New Testament, and it has three philosophies: love God, love each other, and take care of the least among you," he said. "I don't think anyone can justify putting an income tax on someone who makes \$4,600 a year."

The state's progressive voters, including many in the sizable African-American community, have backed tax-law changes like these for years. And reform-minded business leaders, who see such tax changes and improved schools as crucial to the state's economic development, have promised to spend millions of dollars on television ads in support of the September referendum.

But religious groups could provide the margin of victory. Susan Pace Hamill, a University of Alabama tax professor with a theological degree from an evangelical divinity school, caused a stir with a law review article called "An Argument for Tax Reform Based on Judeo-Christian Ethics," which makes an evangelical case for making the tax system fairer. She plans to train speakers this summer to take the theological argument to the grass roots. Kimble Forrister, the state coordinator of Alabama Arise, a coalition that advocates for poor people, expects the 100 church groups that are part of his organization to hold church-basement workshops this summer to get the word out to their congregations.

The Christian Coalition of Alabama has not yet taken a position on the September vote, but it has been speaking out against the plan's tax increases. In an interview yesterday, John Giles, the group's president, had trouble pointing to a biblical passage that directly supported his opposition to new taxes, but he referred to Jesus' statement about rendering unto Caesar what is Caesar's. The key question, he argued, is, "How much is Caesar's?"

As the Bush administration and the religious right fight to put theology more squarely into public policy discussions, they are going to have to be ready for arguments like the ones coming out of Alabama. Many theologians argue that it is far easier to find support in the Bible for policies that help the poor than for, say, a cut in the dividend tax. If Governor Riley's crusade succeeds this summer, Alabama may offer the nation a model for a new kind of tax system: one where the Devil is not in the details. ■

"I don't think anyone can justify putting an income tax on someone who makes \$4,600 a year."

—Gov. Riley

...even Mississippi starts [income tax] at over \$19,000
(Alabama's income tax starts at \$4,600)

Bronner on Riley Plan: Cont'd from pg 1

"I didn't think anybody could go into Montgomery and do anything meaningful, much less change the future course of this state," he said. "I am totally, totally amazed and blown away by what he has accomplished in his first 150 days."

Bronner said the tax plan would help the poor and middle class, as well as children and older residents. He said it's Alabama's best hope to move forward.

"Plan B is horrible wiping out practically every service in the state, followed by that god-awful savior, gambling," he said. "You can sit on your hands and not vote for this, but I don't plan to." ■ Copyright 2003 al.com. All Rights Reserved.



Merely Stop Gaps: Cont'd from pg 3

is about the same as it costs to house the prisoners here -- and the state is getting less for its money. The Mississippi facility provides no programs for inmates other than exercise and recreation. It really does little more than house them, which is why it can be no more than a stopgap measure while Alabama looks for longer-term solutions.

The Mississippi facility is designed for 1,100 inmates. Currently, it holds about 40 local jail inmates and the 300 Alabama prisoners. That's a far cry from the overcrowded facilities from which the Alabama inmates came, but it also is not a realistic prison situation. The real test of the place will come in a few weeks, when it reaches its capacity as more Alabama inmates arrive.

The Mississippi site does bring home, for the zillionth time, the glaring needs of the Alabama prison system -- more funding for more prison space and more corrections officers in the short term and serious sentencing revisions in the long term. ■



Rave Reviews at Out-of-State Prison: Cont'd from pg 3

Emergency Price:

Jimmy Turner, vice president of operations for CCA, said the \$27.50 he's paid per inmate per day which is about what it costs the state to keep them in Alabama is an emergency price that includes no programs for inmates other than exercise, recreation and physical fitness.

"We have a full-time chaplain, and we have a full-time recreation staff. We intend to keep them busy that way until we can come up with a more permanent solution," said Turner. The prison has full-time nurses and doctors and part-time dentists, he said, but any inmates who become seri-



 Continued on Page 15

Rave Reviews at Out-of-State Prison: Cont'd from pg 14
ously ill will be transferred back to Alabama.

Recreation facilities include a gymnasium offering basketball, volleyball and shuffleboard. A softball field and hobby shop for leather work, woodworking and painting will come later. Inmates also have been assigned to kitchen and laundry duty.

CCA prison warden Jim Cooke, who has about 20 years of experience in the Alabama prison system and had been warden at Donaldson Correctional Facility, defended the state's prison officers.

"Alabama has been short of money so long that the staff is actually burned out," Cooke said. "You can't work overtime all the time and come in cheerful."

Campbell said he expected some complaints about moving inmates out of state. But, he said, "In the past, the option has been not to do anything. We've chosen to do something. It's not what everyone agrees with, but we're doing something, and we're doing what we think is best for the state of Alabama." ■

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Inmates Capture Suspects: Cont'd from pg 8
pects in place.

West said it was not difficult to conclude the two suspects were out of place.

"They were dressed shabby, they had tattoos all over and they seemed kind of strung out," West said.

West said he was not surprised that the work-release inmates, who have worked at the country club since September, helped.

"Those guys are fabulous."

Police said they suspect Bond and Wilson of breaking into 18 vehicles at the car dealership. Ten were there for service and repairs.

The police reports show 10 stereos removed, and the vehicles sustained damage to windows, sunroofs, trunks and dashboards.

Detectives Proncey D. Robertson and John Couch investigated the case.

Investigators said they believe the suspects could be involved in as many as 50 other vehicle break-ins in the past six weeks. Both used and new car dealerships in the area of Beltline Road and Sixth Avenue have reported vehicle break-ins. ■

STAFF WRITER PAUL HUGGINS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ARTICLE



Community Corrections: Cont'd from pg 6
the time, I think there's a good chance it'll make them worse."

Since 1996, when Johnson's drug court opened, 1,263 participants have graduated and 323 have gone on to prison. Offenders make routine court appearances, have frequent drug testing, perform community service and meet any other requirements Johnson deems necessary. If all goes well, their charges can be dismissed at the end of the program.

Westley Marshall, 24, a drug offender who pleaded guilty in Johnson's court, said that if not for the program, he would have headed to prison for 10 years. Instead, he works at a recycling center on Second Avenue North, sorting plastic bottles and newspapers.

The program required him to get his GED and driver's license, complete 100 hours of community service, stay employed for a year, pay a fee of \$25 a month and court costs of \$1,500, submit to random urine analysis and stay on the Intensive Outpatient Program at UAB for a year.

Vinson's mental health court, the only one in the state, works much like Johnson's court, except charges aren't dropped at the end of the program and participants are required to stay on medications their doctors prescribe.

"They'll take their medication until they start feeling better, then they think they don't need it anymore," said Vinson. "They go off of it, and then it's just a cycle that keeps on."

TASC workers develop treatment plans for each participant and monitor their progress, Vinson said.

Diverting Felons:

Horn said diverting felons to community corrections in Jefferson County has allowed the county to delay plans for a \$50 million jail.

Jefferson County Commissioner Gary White said money paid toward Foster Cook's community corrections initiatives has been well-spent.

"He is down here getting people out of the

jails ... Without that, we would be in a heck of a mess," White said. The county is considering building a minimum-security jail to house inmates at night and let them work during the day, White said.

In Shelby County, the community corrections program includes a 100-bed residential center and a work-release program that not only is self-supporting, but also has returned thousands of dollars to the county treasury.

Montgomery's new program is tackling a backlog of 450 inmates in a jail designed for 305.

In DeKalb County, the community corrections program goes a step further, not only diverting felons from prison, but removing some from prison and placing them in community corrections assignments.

"We have come to the realization in this circuit that restoration of another human being is very important to all of us," said DeKalb County District Attorney Mike O'Dell.

The DeKalb program has about 100 offenders each on community corrections and drug court programs, and about 2,500 on other court

referrals.

John T. Rice, DeKalb's first community corrections participant, today is a court referral officer in the program.

"The program saved my life," said Rice, who had several drug possession and burglary convictions, and alcohol and drug addictions. "I was drinking every day until I passed out at night," he said. "I started selling drugs to feed the alcohol and drug habit. And I got caught in 1993."

Doug Parker, director of DeKalb's community corrections program, himself a recovering alcoholic and drug addict, decided to give Rice another chance. He took it and succeeded. When Rice had been sober for three years, Parker hired him to work in the community corrections program.

"I knew he knew what he was talking about," Rice said. "The people in this program actually cared about what happened to me." ■

"Prison doesn't make people better. ...I think there's a good chance it'll make them worse."

—Judge Pete Johnson, Drug Cr.
Jefferson County

"...diverting felons to community corrections in Jefferson. Co. has... delay[ed] plans for a \$50 million jail."

Inmates Pay

- 25% of their gross wages toward program
- 10%—court costs
- 10%—restitution to victims.



Drug Treatment ...—Elmore: Cont'd from pg 13

Our first challenge is the fact that no money has been available to conduct follow-up studies to determine effectiveness of the treatment provided. While the ADOC needs the funds currently invested in drug treatment to continue, additional funds must be secured for these studies to gather reliable data that demonstrates the worth of drug treatment in a correctional setting.

In addition, differences in approach often surface in the form of friction between the various disciplines (i.e., drug treatment, classification, medical care, psychological services, and security staff). This is generally due to the different perspectives of each group. While it is challenging to develop a team-based approach, in cases where coordination and support of treatment from each of these areas exists, the effectiveness of drug treatment is remarkable. Having the support of all disciplines within a correctional facility adds to the change inmates can experience in drug treatment and increases the number of treatment advocates for the ADOC as well.

Finally, there has unfortunately been a lack of coordination between the various criminal justice agencies in the Executive Branch, as well as between the Executive, Judicial,

and Legislative Branches of the government. For example, for inmates ordered into treatment by the courts, there is no mechanism in place to ensure communication on an inmate's progress between the drug treatment staff and the judge who placed him/her there. Similarly, there is no avenue for communication between drug treatment staff and parole officers concerning post-incarceration recommendations to ensure recovery. Treatment staff, courts and parole officers are developing informal ways of communicating to bridge this gap. Hopefully, in time, the ADOC can join with these agencies in developing meaningful progress reporting that could ultimately lead to a transition of inmates back into the free world with the resources to help them stay sober.

A step toward this coordination is the long-awaited report on sentencing reform that was presented to the legislature in early 2003, coupled with the current administration's commitment to fix the prison system that is, by our Commissioner's account, "broken". These may well be the harbinger of a new era of cooperation on all levels in State government.

What can we, as corrections professionals, do to make drug treatment work better? Cooperation and collaboration between all dis-

ciplines – drug treatment staff, classification, medical services, psychological services, and security staff – are the keys to the success of this endeavor. The representatives of each discipline play a critical role, and it is important that we remember that this is a "we" thing, and work together for the common good. When drug treatment in corrections works, we all win.

Chemical dependency treatment with incarcerated populations does work, when given the proper support it deserves. Alabama cannot continue to bear the financial burden required to incarcerate its drug dependent citizens at the current rate. Effective drug treatment is an important component for reducing criminal recidivism, and by extension, the unremitting problem of prison overcrowding. Support for drug treatment will bring about tangible benefits to all corrections professionals, the inmates themselves, their families, and will serve to enhance the general welfare and overall public safety for the citizens of the State of Alabama. Drug treatment in the Department of Corrections is a "win-win" situation for all involved. When we support each other, inmates get better and go on to better things. When inmates develop an understanding and commitment to recovery, everyone in corrections wins. We are all part of that important process. ■

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are either directly or
indirectly related to
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—Court Referral Program, AAOC



IN THESE PAGES:

August 1990—Ventress Correctional Facility, located in Clayton, held an open house for the public on August 5th. More than 1500 people attended the opening ceremonies and toured the new facility. Loxley Community Work Center also opened in September of 1990.

Former Governor George Wallace was one of the many well-known officials who attended the Ventress ceremony. Wallace assisted Mrs. Edward Ventress in the ribbon cutting.

Speaker of the House Jimmy Clark, State Senator Danny Corbett, Commissioner Morris Thigpen, and Mrs. Ventress offered words of encouragement to those in attendance.

Prison officials caution that although the new prison will provide much needed bed space, inmates continue to be backed-up in the county jails while state prisons are more than filled to capacity. ■

Articles or suggestions for
Corrections News
are invited.

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