

THE ECHO

Created by incarcerated people

NEWS
FROM
THE
INSIDE

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**RAIN OR SHINE,
IT'S FAMILY TIME!**

**EOCI Has First Family Barbeque
on a Rainy Day in Late June**

Written by Alex Dewhurst

Photo by Phillip Luna/The Echo

Xabien Riley takes his daughter fishing in a mock fishing game, one of many activities at the June 26, 2026 family barbeque. Riley's son and the children's mother look on.

On June 26, the west yard and gymnasium at EOCI turned into something like a community park. It was the annual family barbeque and around 80 incarcerated people and their families

attended the event, despite the rain. About 300 people in total attended.

From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., incarcerated and staff volunteers served icy snowcones, buttery popcorn, pink and blue

cotton candy, beverages and fresh fruit. Outside there was a long white tent for covered outdoor seating, but most attendees stayed inside due to the

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The Echo Mission Statement

To serve the incarcerated community by providing monthly news and other important information, while highlighting the human experience in the carceral setting.

Direct questions and comments to Journalism Department, IWP. All views and opinions expressed are those of the contributing writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Oregon Department of Corrections.

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AROUND EOCI

FUNDRAISERS LIMITED TO LEVEL 3 STATUS AICS; WORK ASSIGNMENT LAW ENFORCED

Written by Phillip Luna and Chris Ainsworth

Fundraiser participation was recently limited to adults in custody with Level 3 status, joining family barbecues and other activities as incentivized events. But earning the status may be more difficult as EOCI has begun enforcing a law from the mid-‘90s.

Oregon Ballot Measure 17 was an amendment to the Oregon constitution in 1994. The law makes work and education programming compulsory for people in state custody, but it has rarely been enforced at EOCI.

Bryan Clark, assistant superintendent for EOCI, said the about-face stems from vacancies in the kitchen, among other areas.

“We have a vast amount of jobs open in the kitchen,” said Clark. “There is about a 40% vacancy.”

Ray Peters, work programs coordinator, said his department has been drafting AICs without a work assignment – Oregon Department of Corrections’ term for a prison job – into the vacancies.

AICs are drafted from work pool, the group of work-eligible AICs without an assignment. If a drafted person declines or quits the assignment, they can receive a program fail that reduces their incentive level, Peters said.

“We are taking whoever has been in the work pool the longest,” he said.

Peters said the problems with kitchen vacancies stem from a dwindling population. In recent years, EOCI housed around 1,750 people. The average population has shrunk since 2020, dropping to around 1,300. As a result, work vacancies have increased.

“We’ve never needed to enforce Measure 17 before, because it hasn’t been a problem,” he said.

Clark said there is a “decent population of individuals that could work, but choose not to.”

The facility had more than 300 people in work pool in May. That dropped to around 250 as they started assigning people to work.

The goal, Clark said, is to incentivize Level 3 status.

“We don’t force people to work,” said Clark. “But to be a Level 3, to earn that incentive, you have to be case plan compliant. In most cases, that means you need a job.”

However, of the 300 people who were in work pool in May, less than 10 were Level 3.

Clark said the change – limiting fundraisers by incentive level and enforcing work assignment policies – are part of broader efforts to engage AICs in programming.

“We are trying to find ways to motivate,” he said. “There are only so many reasons to be Level 3.”

The tiered-level system includes increased spending limits and available items at commissary, the prison general store, as well as additional recreation time and an increase in in-person visits available each month.

While the focus is on Level 3 AICs, program fails are issued at every level to people unwilling to work.

Program fails have additional consequences. After a program fail, an AIC must earn 30 daily passes, department jargon for unpaid work. While a typical kitchen job earns a \$40-60 award per month, after a program fail an AIC must complete 30 workdays without a monetary award before they are eligible for compensation from their work assignment. | **ECHO**

FIRST GRADUATION FOR FINE DINING PROGRAM

Nine Complete the Culinary Program in June

Written by Kurtis Thompson



Photo by Kurtis Thompson/The Echo

Nine fine dining graduates pose for a photo with Food Services staff and facility administrators on June 9, 2026.

Graduates from left to right: William Alexander, Neil Watford, Ben Lundberg, Michael Morris, Fabian Solis, Marcos Vildozala-Aguirre, Nickolas Vega, Jose Rodriguez-Ramos and Gareth Hall.

Food Services and facility staff from left to right: acting Food Service Administrator Liza Emory, Asst. Superintendent Andrea Niestadt, Food Services Coordinator Kurtis Dodson, Office Specialist Tami Clark, Superintendent Dave Pedro, and Asst. Superintendents Tye Stewart and Bryan Clark.

EOCI staff and adults in custody celebrated the Fine Dining Program's first graduation on June 9.

Nine incarcerated graduates in blue chef uniforms accepted certificates of completion and audience accolades. But certificates were not the only things presented – the EOCI Food Services Department also received a plaque at the state-wide Oregon Department of Corrections awards ceremony in part for the culinary course.

"I am incredibly proud of the work every single one of you guys have done," said program founder Liza Emory, acting food service administrator for the Oregon Department of Corrections. "It got better, and you guys have done an amazing job with this. So, thank you so much for partaking in this. Thank you for having faith in this program."

One graduate, Neil Watford, worked in EOCI's bakery under Emory for several years before the program started. He said he was uninterested in the class at first. Emory, however, was adamant he join.

"I cannot thank you enough for that," Watford said, during his speech at the ceremony. "This class has been amazing ... I think all of us should be proud of the things that we've created and the things that we can do in the future now with what we've been given."

And while the graduates did learn many skills, the class started without curriculum. Staff and students were undeterred, however, and created their own. They pieced together knowledge from Emory's culinary schooling and two decades of executive pastry chef experience, Food Service Coordinator

Kurtis Dodson's kitchen service education, Office Specialist Tami Clark's front-of-house research and other sources to make their training books.

"The books are like all the handouts we had in class, the things we've learned and what staff knew," said graduate Michael Morris, who put the training books together. "I just put it all into a textbook format. I also did some research and added more stuff that would help expand the class training."

They learned food safety and sanitation, basic culinary, baking and pastry skills, knife safety and proper cuts, front-of-house service, and classical and international cuisines. Each graduate received a copy of the book along with their certificates.

"I am proud of the skills that we've

(Continued on next page...)

AROUND EOCI

(...continued from previous page)



Photo by Kurtis Thompson/The Echo

Fine dining graduate Ben Lundberg shakes Office Specialist Tami Clark's hand after receiving his certificate on June 9, 2026. Clark helped train the participants in wait service during the first year of the program.

been able to learn from this class," said graduate William Alexander. "I hope that everybody else that has been in this class has been able to learn some skills that help them in the future."

The class had slowly evolved since its inception in 2024. Alexander said this made the class similar to one of the sample foods presented at the graduation – risotto, a type of Italian rice dish. There are many varieties of this dish, but each requires constant attention.

"Like this class, it's a dish made very slowly with ingredients thrown in throughout the process," Alexander said.

But culinary skills were not the only thing he said students were learning.

"Not everybody got along with each other in the class, but everybody got the opportunity to learn how to set that aside," Alexander said. "With the patience I learned in that class, now I step back and think about how my actions will affect others."

But while some of the class' devel-

opment was trial and error, the slow risotto-style of building it may have prevented students without cooking skills from falling behind.

"At the start of the class, I knew how to make a glass of water," said graduate Nickolas Vega. "I was the least experienced in the class – everyone else had a background in culinary."

But after four months, he was making Potato Pavé. It is a complex potato dish with peeled russet potatoes sliced paper-thin, soaked in cream and layered with seasonings and butter. The "1,000-layered potato," as it's sometimes called, can take three days to make.

"Now I'm closer to my classmates' level," he said. "We started off making a lot of stuff on our own, but at the end we were working like an assembly line. Everything flowed perfectly between my classmates and I."

He also said Fine Dining was one of the best additions to EOCI since the coronavirus pandemic shut most other programs down.

You're turning minds on to what can be accomplished [in prison].

— EOCI Superintendent
Dave Pedro

"These are things people can take straight to the streets and be successful," Vega said. "Probably one of the best ideas I've seen in a while."

And while the program's pilot began in 2024, the idea for it was born much earlier. According to Emory, she wanted fine dining training for AICs in 2011 when she started with the ODOC. She believes these skills will help people exiting prison find high-wage restaurant work.

"With the skills training offered in a program like this, any AIC getting out of prison can automatically find a job in a restaurant like Shari's," Emory said. "The real glitz and glamor is in your fine dining area. So, to be able to give them this skillset for when they get out, and they can automatically jump to that next level – that's going to be huge for them."

And thanks to the globally-applicable skills the graduates acquired, they could find work anywhere. This may be particularly important for people who might be deported after exiting prison. Graduate Fabian Solis said if that's his situation, these skills will help him thrive.

"Having this skillset, I can go to a

resort or any kind of fine dining restaurant and touristy kind of place,” he said. “I’m prepared for that, and not just to start as a dishwasher, but I can show up with some skills and get a better paying job.”

Solis said he is grateful for the opportunity and hopes the program continues.

“We don’t know the future of it,” he said.

The program’s future is uncertain because Emory is relocating to ODOC headquarters in Salem for her new position as the acting food service administrator. While all staff involved are important for the Fine Dining Program, it depends on Emory’s formal culinary education and experience.

“There’s a lot of things in the works right now,” she said. “But the hope is we can keep this program up and running ... it’s just we have to get some things worked out.”

She said acting Food Services Manager Sallie Roberts and Assistant Food Service Manager Joshua Endersby will be taking over the Fine Dining Program.

“You’re turning minds on to what can be accomplished [in prison],” said EOCI Superintendent David Pedro. “You folks are skilled. You are representing yourselves and the department and the facility very positively. It’s that change – that’s what I love.” | **ECHO**



Photo by Kurtis Thompson/The Echo



Photo by Kurtis Thompson/The Echo

Top: Assistant Food Services Manager Joshua Endersby, Assistant Superintendent Bryan Clark and acting Food Services Manager Sallie Roberts enjoy food made by the program’s graduates on June 9, 2026.

Middle: A puff pastry with goat cheese, Habanero peach jam topped with thyme sits on a stylized white and blue plate.

Bottom: Graduate Neil Watford speaks at the podium during the graduation ceremony.



Photo by Kurtis Thompson/The Echo

AROUND EOCI

FAMILY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

weather. Inside, four dozen white fold-out tables sprawled the gym.

A live band made up entirely of incarcerated people played music throughout the event. They were a jazz ensemble and played songs like those heard on A.M. gold radio.

Towards the front of the gym, families took photos with a variety of murals and paintings – incarcerated people had painted some of them. The facility provided each family with five free photos. In the past, photo tickets had to be purchased.

“It’s about normalizing and humanizing,” said Assistant Superintendent Bryan Clark, who helped organize the event.

Lunch was classic Americana cooked on two giant propane grills. The meal was barbequed bratwursts and burgers, as well as chips, cookies

and potato salad. Attendees snaked up and down the west yard waiting in line for their meal.

After lunch, the morning showers faded. Some families took the opportunity to play outside. There was basketball, jumbo Connect Four, ladder toss and the track to walk on.

“It makes you feel like you are still human,” said adult in custody Joe Vonntae Sanders. “I can be joking and laughing with my family – goofy with my kid.”

Taylor Greene, an executive support specialist who helped set up the event, said she has attended several family barbeques.

“Sharing a meal, laughing over small stories and simply sitting side by side creates moments of normalcy that cut through the strain of life in prison,” she said. “Meeting families and sharing in

small moments of celebration lets staff see the people behind the SID number.”

The barbeque is an event people at EOCI look forward to each year. In 2026, however, it almost did not happen.

Budget Crisis

The Oregon Department of Corrections is in a budget crisis. In Sept. 2025, Gov. Tina Kotek ordered all state agencies to reduce costs because of a forecasted \$327 million deficit.

The department implemented several cost-cutting measures this year, such as reducing visiting hours for incarcerated people and decreasing funding for prison programming. One change was reducing overtime hours for security staff – which the family barbeque and other large events often rely on.

Jeremy Bonsignore hugs his niece and nephew after they ran across the field to greet him during the June 26, 2026, family barbeque.



Meeting and sharing small moments of celebration lets staff see the people behind the SID number

— Taylor Greene,
Executive Support Specialist

Early in 2026, EOCI's annual car show was cut and the family barbeque was next on the chopping block.

"EOCI managed to keep these events with a large amount of support from Assistant Superintendent, Bryan Clark," said Greene.

To make the cost of the barbeque work for the department, Clark made major changes to the event. First, the barbeque was moved from Saturday to Friday.

"It's not ideal and may be harder for a lot of families, but it saves us money

when you look at overtime," he said.

According to Prison Policy Initiative, more than 63% of incarcerated people in the United States are housed 100 miles more away from their families. The distance contributes to another statistic – almost 70% of incarcerated people do not receive monthly visits. Weekday events may make travel more difficult.

Having strong familial ties is linked to a reduced likelihood of returning to prison. Monthly in-person visits reduce misconduct by 14%, according to the

Prison Policy Initiative. The barbeque has a cyclical effect – it takes staying out of trouble to attend the barbeque and family visits statistically help people avoid prison misconduct.

The barbeque cost \$11 per person and each admission cost is paid by the incarcerated person. If someone had three visitors, it would cost \$44 – a significant portion of an incarcerated person's monthly wage.

In addition, the length of the event and the number of attendees was reduced.

In recent years, the barbeque had around 130 incarcerated attendees, plus their visitors, which amounted to around 400 people. This year the barbeque was limited to 80 AICs.

EOCI's next barbeque is tentatively scheduled for August. | **ECHO**

Matthew Gilbert poses with his father and step-mother for a photo during the family barbeque.



Carl Sehy watches his daughter as she demonstrates a backflip in the field of the facility's west yard, the site of the family barbeque.



AROUND EOCI

More PHOTOS from the Family Barbeque Event in June



Gerry Cunningham and family take a mock fishing trip.



The Story Behind the Photo: Most of the AICs helping during family events are volunteers from other departments. Even some of the photographers are volunteers.

The Story Behind the Photo: Superintendent Dave Pedro rearranges some of the artwork on display during the June family event. The recreation department had displayed several AIC paintings of NFL teams and logos. Pedro redirected the Seattle Seahawks pieces towards the bleachers and placed the Las Vegas Raider painting front and center.





AROUND EOCI

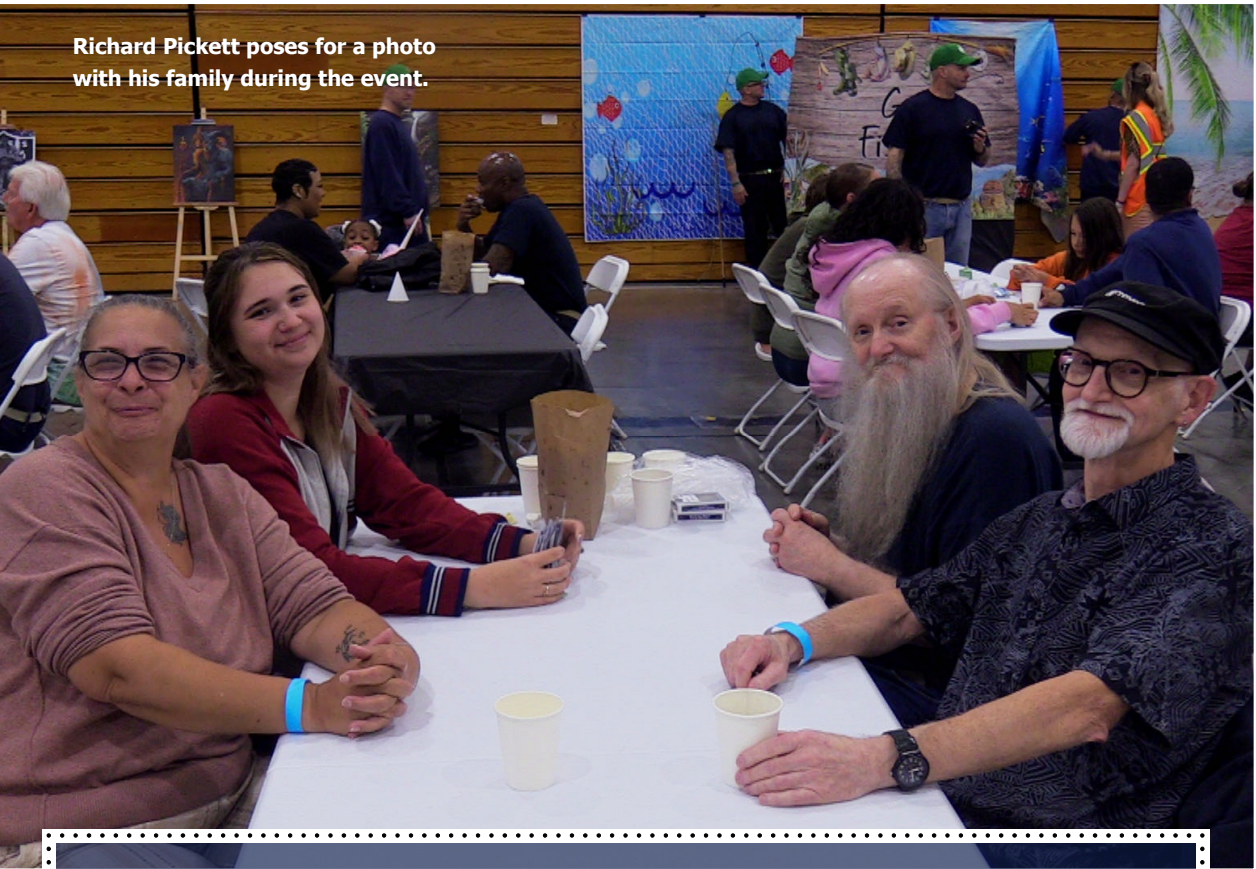
More PHOTOS from the Family Barbeque Event in June



Correctional Rehabilitation Manager Dray Williams shakes hands with AIC families.



Volunteers Justin Lugo make popcorn for the event.



Richard Pickett poses for a photo with his family during the event.



Notice from The Echo:
The Echo partners with multi to provide AICs the opportunity to purchase candid and other photos from the family event. Photos from the event will be available for purchase after July 15. Contact multi to review their photo book after July 15.



Donald McLaughlin and family pose for a photo at the event.



Chris Ainsworth poses for a photo with his mom during the family event.



Keaton Stephens, and Izrael Correa goofing around.



Trevor Standfill and family pose for a photo.

AROUND EOCI

UNIT G4 MAINTAINS LEAD IN THE EOCI CUP

Other Units Look to Close the Gap After G4 is Temporarily Relocated

Written by Alex Dewhurst



Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo

On June 15, 2026, residents of G4 carry their belongings to their temporary housing unit. Unit G4 was cleared so maintenance workers could repair the showers.

At the beginning of June, housing unit G4 led in the EOCI cup – a prison-wide sports and games competition. However, residents of the unit were moved so the facility could repair the showers. Due to the move, some residents expected G4’s lead to be impacted.

“There’s still time, and they lost a quarter of their unit,” said resident and sports commissioner Ben Edwards.

On June 1, G4 had almost double the points of the next highest unit. During the relocation, G4’s points followed to their temporary unit, F4. However, only around three-quarters of G4 residents moved to F4, a vacant unit.

F4 is smaller, so about a fourth of G4 residents were sent to other units.

This presented an opportunity for other teams to close the gap.

According to resident Joseph Martinez, people on G3 were ready to take advantage of the move. He said G3 held a meeting to recruit people into the games.

“I found a teammate and now I am waiting for my first cornhole match,” Martinez said. “The EOCI cup is bringing together people that usually do not engage in any events.”

But, G4 residents reported the move was insignificant to the cup standings.

“Our main core of teams is still on the unit,” said resident Kyle Dascher when he moved to F4. “We [only] lost probably about two or three teams from cornhole and basketball.”

Before the move, G4 had 14 cornhole teams. H2, the unit with the next highest amount of points at the time of the move, had four.

Also, the relocation did not last long: about 15 days.

When G4 residents moved out, physical plant workers resurfaced and resealed the showers. Repairs finished on June 16 and most of the team moved back to G4 with their lead intact.

By the end of June, G4 maintained a significant lead with 123 points. A1 is in second with 62 points. But, other units still have hope.

“We are going to put on such a clinic that ESPN is going to call EOCI and ask for the footage,” said resident Philip Gurule. “It is never too late for G3 to come back and win.”

For other residents, however, the competition is about more than winning.

“I’m happy to participate,” said Rodney Rodriguez, on H1’s only cornhole team. “I don’t feel like we really have a chance at winning, but it gives me another reason to get out to yard.”

Games to Come

Edwards said there is still time for units to catch up because there are several cup events to come. The recreation department is considering football and

We are going to put on such a clinic that ESPN is going to call EOCI and ask for the footage. It is never too late for G3 to come back and win.

- Philip Gurule, G3 resident

Frisbee throwing competitions, running events and a weight lifting competition.

So far, the recreation department has offered 4-on-4 basketball, cornhole, Magic: The Gathering, ping pong and 3-point tournaments.

The department wants to organize throwing events before the fields are

replaced in August. EOCI recently accepted a bid to replace the east and west fields, which canceled the 2026 sports season. The cup is meant to substitute the staple summer softball and soccer tournaments, Edwards said.

At the end of the summer-long competition, the unit with the most points wins a prize. | **ECHO**

EOCI Cup Point Totals

The standings were recorded on June 26, and are as follows:

G4 – 123
A1 – 62
H2 – 60
B1 – 58
G3 – 32
A3 – 29
B3 – 27
E3 – 18
B2 – 15
F3 – 13
H1 – 11
C1 – 10
F2 – 8
E2 – 7
A2 – 6
E4 – 2

KITCHEN REPLACES FLAT-TOP GRILLS

Physical Plant Workers Learn New Skills with Uncommon Project

Written by Chris Ainsworth

Incarcerated workers from EOCI's physical plant worked throughout the morning to replace old flat-top grills in the facility's prep kitchen on May 27. The replacement grills cost more than \$5,000.

"They have been here since before I got here," acting Food Services Administrator Liza Emory said. "They are really old and needed to be replaced."

Emory was EOCI's food service manager for about nine years, before accepting her current role in April.

James Renfro and Brandon Rychard, incarcerated workers from the facility's plumbing shop, shut off the gas so the grills could be disconnected safely. With the help of maintenance shop worker Brian Depriest, they pushed the grills out of the kitchen so they could be removed from the carts and the new

grills could take their place. Renfro and Rychard replaced gas regulators and grill connection piping.

Rychard has been in EOCI's apprenticeship program working towards his journeymen plumbing certification since October 2025.

"Having a variety of skills or experience plumbing and piping different things will definitely take us further than being glorified custodians, unclogging urinals and toilets," said Rychard.

Jobs such as this prepare him for work following release because it gives him specialized experience, he said.

"This work helps teach us mechanical skills and gives us the opportunity to work with our hands," Depriest said. "Not only for chances at various jobs, but to know how to care for our own houses, property and machines we may

own in our personal lives."

The facility's maintenance workers are responsible for the mechanical upkeep of kitchen and bakery food equipment. They provide preventative maintenance on kitchen machines and replace parts or machines when needed.

The wheels on the carts had locked up rollers and rusted casters needed to be replaced. The casters are what allow the wheels to turn. Because the new grills were narrower, the splash guards had to be removed, cut and welded back together. Then, they had to be remounted on the grills.

"I always enjoy and welcome any new experience that helps expand my knowledge and skillset. The new grills will likely be here for 15 to 20 years," said Depriest. "It is not a normal event, but does happen when old equipment wears out." | **ECHO**

AROUND EOCI

THIRD ANNUAL CAREER FAIR

Sixteen Vendors
Confirmed; Event
Scheduled for August

Written by Kurtis Thompson

The **Second Chance** Career Fair is returning to EOCI Aug. 7.

So far, 16 of more than 30 employers and transitional resource providers have confirmed they will be at the fair. Felon-friendly businesses, such as the Grocery Outlet and All-Star Staffing, have attended previous events.

This year’s fair will present commercial painting and manufacturing as well.

The third-annual career fair will have two time slots adults in custody may sign up for – 8:30-9:30 a.m. for the east compound and 9:45-10:45 a.m. for the west.

Those in OCE positions, physical plant and A-shift kitchen workers will be placed on afternoon callouts automatically, but are not required to attend.

“If you have a completed resumé, bring it,” said Work Programs Coordinator Ray Peters. “There will be pamphlets and other things AICs can pick up at the event as well. This is the time to network for your futures, so be prepared.”

According to Nancy Pance, Opportunity Oregon co-founder and creator of the Second Chance Career Fairs, the events have reached thousands of incarcerated people since they began in 2023.

AICs interested in attending the Second Chance Career Fair on Aug. 7 can contact IWP. |ECHO

OBTAINING STATUS LETTERS

Factual Information About AIC’s Time in Custody

Written by Kurtis Thompson

Personal references are like written witnesses of someone’s character or behavior. These types of references may sound helpful for some legal proceedings, but Oregon Department of Corrections staff and non-volunteer service providers are prohibited from giving them for incarcerated people. ODOC does, however, offer Status Letters useable for clemency applications and parole board hearings.

The Status Letter lists factual information about a person’s time in Oregon custody. This includes conduct history, work program performance, programming history, education participation, religious participation, apprenticeship programs and current status. The policy says letters “will not indicate support for early release, speculate or predict future success after release, or include character-evaluation statements.”

In other words, a person’s listed history must speak for itself.

The governor’s office, attorneys of

incarcerated people, ODOC employees and department contractors may request the letters on behalf of people in prison. They are obtained by contacting the Status Letter Point of Contact at ODOC headquarters. An incarcerated person may ask staff or contractors to initiate a letter request, but policy also states those who provide input for the letters will not be identified in its content.

In most situations, adults in custody should have at least two years of clear conduct before seeking a letter. Policy states if a person has less than two years clear, the letter request must be approved by the Office of the Inspector General and the Assistant Director of Correctional Services.

For more information on Status Letters, contact AIC Status Letter Point of Contact Kelly Hodney at ODOC headquarters. The letter regulation can be found under “Status Letters for Adults in Custody” in ODOC Policy 40.2.15. |ECHO

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WICCAN EVENT PLANNED, BUT CANCELED

Technical Difficulties Stymie Meeting

Written by Alex Dewhurst

Four incarcerated people at EOCI attended a virtual meeting with Wiccan volunteer Lady CrowMoon on May 28. However, after more than 40 minutes of technical difficulties, the meeting was canceled.

“Normally we don’t get to communicate with religious volunteers like this,” said adult in custody Phillip Nelson before the event. “This is a really big deal for us today because this is ‘our person.’”

Nelson described CrowMoon as the Wiccan equivalent to a pastor at a church – someone who can answer spiritual questions. He said advocating for a Wiccan spiritual advisor has been nearly impossible because volunteers are few and far between. CrowMoon’s ministry is in South Carolina.

Chaplain Carmelo DiSalvo said a challenge for religious services is to find volunteers who are qualified in minority religions and willing to drive long distances. Pendleton is about a 4-hour drive east from the majority of Oregon’s population.

“That said, our director for religious services, Daryl Borello, is trying to position us to have more services and contact with qualified volunteers via live connection,” DiSalvo said. “I don’t think we are far along, but at least moving in that direction.”

Attendees expressed gratitude for getting a step closer towards meeting with a spiritual advisor, despite their initial disappointment.

“What I liked about it is that we tried,” Nelson said.

DiSalvo said Nelson and other Wiccans at EOCI have been planning a virtual meeting for months. Another meeting with CrowMoon was scheduled in April, but was also canceled due to a clerical error. Previously, multiple prisons in Oregon were invited to the scheduled meetings with CrowMoon which led to complications.

Nelson said he is working with religious services to organize another meeting with CrowMoon, but with only EOCI attendees.

“I appreciate we have the opportunity to do something,” Nelson said. “Are we allowed to do enough – I don’t believe so.”

CrowMoon is the founder of Crow Gleann Prison Ministry. DiSalvo said the Oregon Department of Corrections takes advice from the ministry to standardize Wiccan practice in prison. The ministry can be reached by mail at PO Box 81214, Simpsonville, SC 29680.

| ECHO

CHAPEL TO HOST MEMORIAL SERVICES

Service Planned for Chris Sartin, James Parker and Jacob Harper-Leonard

Written by Logan Gimbel

The institution recently approved memorial services for people who died while in custody. Memorial services may be held twice a year, as needed.

“It doesn’t matter what you had done

in the past,” said Nondier Zuletta, a chaplain for EOCI. “What matters is we celebrate the life.”

A memorial service will be held on July 25 from 1 to 2 p.m. in the institu-

tion’s chapel. The service will be for James Parker, Chris Sartin and Jacob Harper-Leonard, who died earlier this year. Both Parker and Sartin lived on B1 and were 60 years old when they passed away. Harper was 40 and from G3.

The services are open to everyone. Those interested in attending can send a communication form to the chaplains.

The services will be centered around celebrating the life and accomplishments of the individuals with each service being separated into two parts, Zuletta said. There will be a time of silence and meditation to honor those who passed. Following the silence will be time for sharing and reflection.

Zuletta wants the service to focus on the people who passed away and the service is nondenominational.

“I really want to emphasize the humanity of you guys who live on the units,” said Zuletta. **| ECHO**

AROUND EOCI

STAIRWELL RENOVATION BEGINS AGAIN

C3 Appendage and D3 Chapel Stairwells Stripped, Spot Repaired and Painted

Written by Kurtis Thompson



Photo by Kurtis Thompson/The Echo

Paint shop workers use a lift to prepare the C3 appendage stairwell to be stripped, repaired and repainted on June 15, 2026.

EOCI's stairwell renovation project, which began June 2024, is scheduled to finish this year. The final two stairwells to be stripped, spot-repaired and painted are C3 appendage and D3-Chapel.

"It'll take about a month each to finish," said paint shop worker James

McNeil. "We're not doing scaffolding this time, though."

Previous stairwells had scaffolding for work outside the safety cages. For these last two stairwells, however, workers are using a lift. McNeil also said there is less sandblasting, so they should finish quicker.

Sandblasting is a process where a pressurized sprayer is used to blast surfaces with abrasive particles, such as sand. It can be used for engraving, cutting, or – in this case – cleaning surfaces of paint and rust.

"We'll be spot-sandblasting these last two stairwells," he said. "They're in pretty good condition already."

However, until the repainting is finished, facility residents will have to move around the work areas.

Both stairwells have high-traffic daily – C3 appendage for west compound's medication line and D3-Chapel is for everyone's religious services. The medication line moved to education on C3. Once work begins on D3's stairwell, residents will go up the D2 stairwell, up the elevator to medical and through their wing's adjoining chapel doors.

But while these will be the final two stairwells to be painted, McNeil said more projects are planned for summer.

"As we have time, we'll be painting the faces of buildings," said McNeil. "By the end of summer, we'll probably do the front doors of units." | **ECHO**

ADVERTISEMENT



Narcotics Anonymous
meetings available

Weekly meetings

Westside morning group: 8 a.m. Mondays in D2

Westside evening group: 6 p.m. Tuesday in D2

Eastside group: 6 p.m. Thursday in D2

H unit group: 10:15 a.m. Sunday on unit



Alcoholics Anonymous
meetings available

Weekly meetings

English group: Sunday at 1 p.m. in D2

Spanish group: Tuesday at 7.p.m. in D2

Send a communication form to Narcotics Anonymous or Alcoholic Anonymous to sign up.

OREGON EXPERIENCES DROUGHT

EOCI Reduces Water Usage on Grounds

Written by Chris Ainsworth



Photo by Droneandy/Shutterstock

Driven by one of the warmest winters on record and historically low snow pack, more than 80% of Oregon is experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions. The Governor's office has issued emergency declarations for nine counties, including Umatilla County, due to the dry winter.

According to the Tualatin Valley Irrigation District, officials are urging residents and businesses to limit water usage to help address shortages.

The grounds crew at EOCI turned off sprinklers for the east and west recreation yards, but reducing water usage was not the reason. The fields on both yards will be torn up and leveled out as part of a renovation project, so it is unnecessary to water the grass.

With those sprinklers shut off, the facility is saving more than 250,000 gallons each week. According to the grounds crew, that equates to almost \$25,000 each month. Grounds crew workers have also relocated grass from the fields and planted it in parts of the

facility where grass was needed.

Sod from the west yard was removed and planted in a plot between housing units A and B. Before the grass was relocated, the plot was leveled out by adults in custody who work at the facility's greenhouse and orderlies from the multipurpose building.

"Repurposing the sod from areas that don't need it allows us to fix areas that were affected by the roof and stairwell renovations without using our budget," said AIC Larry Sahm, lead for the grounds crew. "We're unable to get grass seed due to budget cuts, so redoing the fields really worked out."

In hopes of helping vegetables during the drought, the grounds crew limited watering at the start of the season. By limiting the supply of water, plants push roots deeper into the ground to find water. This makes plants more drought tolerant as the season gets hotter and soil dries quicker.

"If the plant's roots are shallow they can dry out which can kill the plant if it

doesn't have a chance to adjust," incarcerated greenhouse worker Joseph Tuttle said. "You can trick a plant into thinking it's in a drought by holding back water. They will adjust by forcing their roots deeper."

Impacts of the dry winter will be felt locally. The three eastern Oregon reservoirs, Thief Valley, Pilcher Creek and Wolf Creek, are at risk of running dry by late summer.

While mandatory shutoffs have not been implemented, state officials are encouraging conservation to reduce wildfire risks and extend drinking water supplies. | **ECHO**

ADVERTISEMENT

NOW HIRING

Infirmiry Orderlies

Two positions for infirmiry orderly are available – one a.m. and one p.m. The position starts at 11 PRAS points with the opportunity to go up to 13.

Minimum Requirements:

- Preferred Level 3. Will accept Level 2 with no recent disciplinary reports and recommendations from staff.
- Ability to maintain strict confidentiality.

Duties Include:

- Assisting patients housed in the infirmiry.
- Taking direction from nurses.
- Cleaning and maintaining the infirmiry.

Experience desired, but not required. Training will be provided if hired.

Send a communication form and job application to IWP.

MINDFULNESS

MINDFULNESS CLASS MAKES STRESS MANAGEABLE

Courses Available In and Out of Segregation

Written by Brian Daniel Bement



Pixel-Shot/Shutterstock

The Mindfulness Stress Management Program has made positive changes to some residents' behavior at EOCI. Group therapy sessions can help people understand emotions and their reactions to them.

When Julian Gallardo left segregation in May, he felt ready to return to mainline. But, he was sanctioned with two more weeks of cell time. The tools he learned in the program helped him stay calm.

"I wanted to get high or do something dumb," said Gallardo. "I was ready to go back to segregation."

During his segregation time, however, Gallardo graduated from a 4-week stress resiliency course referred to as the mindfulness program.

The program taught Gallardo how to communicate with people without acting on negative emotions. It also taught him what happens to the mind and body when stressed; how to cope with

stress using sleep, physical activity and mental and nutritional balance; how stress is accumulated and eliminating it; and active listening, self-awareness and self-management.

“When I walked out of segregation with a mind full of mindfulness, I knew the tools I learned would help me live a better life”

— David Vaughters

David Vaughters, another graduate, said the program taught him tools that impacted his life.

“When I walked out of segregation with a mind full of mindfulness, I knew the tools I learned would help me live a better life,” said Vaughters.

One of his biggest takeaways from the program is a cognitive technique

called “pause, process and proceed,” which Vaughters uses with another cognitive behavioral tool called “belly breathing”, the act of breathing deeply during stressful situations.

Vaughters said these techniques gave him the knowledge and confidence to feel comfortable making decisions in stressful situations.

The program was originally designed for prison staff who deal with stressful situations. In 2018, Lt. Jason Ducheck challenged segregation staff to find a reason for adults in custody to spend more time outside their cell. The staff came up with the idea to start a program based on the class they took.

The program has since made its way to general population. Segregation has a 4-week course and general population has a 10-week course.

The program has also transitioned to a peer-led format.

GROUP THERAPY

Division of Psychological Medicine and Clinical Neurosciences studies show peer-led therapy sessions have effectively alleviated the symptoms of traumatic stress. The mindfulness program is facilitated by incarcerated people.

“All of the mindfulness facilitators have done a horrific amount of time in segregation,” said Branch Niehouse, a program facilitator for general population. “They have lived experience and, through their own adversity, have gained tools to help people struggling from trauma.”

Gallardo said before taking the program, his life was full of trauma. If he

was not fighting he was getting high, he said.

The facilitators' experience made Gallardo feel comfortable to share his trauma.

"They talked about real stuff that I related to," said Gallardo. "I would have never changed in any other way."

Vaughters said he used to avoid uncomfortable emotions, but the program taught him to manage them.

"I've broken lives because I didn't know how to process stress," said Vaughters.

Niehouse said the program is tailored for people in segregation and those returning to general population. He also said some people turn to old habits such as using drugs and violent behavior which brings them further stress and back to segregation where mindfulness can help.

Gerry Cunningham, a program facilitator for segregation classes, said when people come to class, they are at rock bottom. The program prepares them for a successful release from segregation to mainline and beyond.

He said the program has hundreds of graduates a year. When they get released from segregation, facilitators help them find jobs and sign up for other programs.

The program in segregation meets on Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. The 10-week program for general population has 10 spots available twice a year. The class meets Wednesday at 6 p.m.

The general population curriculum delves deeper into stress resiliency with videos on mental health, cognitive reasoning and coping with childhood trauma. Due to limited spots, the course may be unavailable for everyone exiting segregation. People can contact the Recreation Department to get on the waiting list. | **ECHO**

ANGEL TREE VISITS EOCI

Program Assists Incarcerated Parents During Holidays

Written by Alex Dewhurst

"**You still have** the right to be a father," said Janice Smith, a coordinator for Angel Tree, sitting with around 20 incarcerated people in EOCI's chapel. She said having a state identification number should not stop parenthood.

On June 13, Smith gave presentations about the benefits of the Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program. They send gifts to children of incarcerated people during the holidays at no charge. Smith said each eligible child will receive a gift from the incarcerated parent, provided by Angel Tree.

Jacob Andersen, an incarcerated father of two, said although he is new to being a parent with Angel Tree, he received gifts from them when he was growing up in the foster care system.

He said the program is important because his incarceration is less about himself and more about how it affects other people – especially his children.

On his participation form to send a gift to his children, he said he wrote an inspirational message to his children and signed it "love dad."

To qualify, children must be 18 or younger and live in the United States, according to Angel Tree's participation form. Also, the incarcerated person must be their parent or guardian and they cannot have any court orders restricting contact with their child. Angel

Tree does not require the child to be on the incarcerated person's visiting list and, according to Chaplain Nondier Zuleta, neither does the prison.

Smith said Angel Tree offers what they call a "caregivers brunch," where parents outside prison are pampered for the day while their child is at camp. They also provide family resources such as virtual support groups, a monthly newsletter and print materials including Bibles and devotionals.

Although the Prison Fellowship is a Christian organization, Smith said, families of any denominations are accepted.

Smith said she was inspired to work with Angel Tree because her father was serving a prison sentence when she was young. She said she hopes incarcerated parents realize their value, despite the separation from their children.

Smith said she has worked with Angel Tree for nine years and each year travels to 18 states across the country to help incarcerated people build relationships with their families.

Families on the outside can contact the Prison Fellowship and Angel Tree if they have questions. The number to contact the Prison Fellowship is 800-552-6435 and their website is prison-fellowship.org. The deadline for sign up is Sept. 26. | **ECHO**



We are on Edovo

The Echo and 1664 are available on Edovo. Locate either by typing the publication name into the search box. More than 1,000 prisons in the United States have access to Edovo. In many cases, readers can access these publications and others regardless of what prison they are held in.

IN HISTORY

UNITED STATES CELEBRATES 250 YEARS

But The U.S. Constitution Almost Failed

Written by Logan Gimbel



Mehaniq/Shutterstock

“We the people of the United States,” are perhaps the most famous words that just about every American knows. These words are from the introduction of the U.S. Constitution.

In the United States, the Constitution is the supreme law of the nation. It lays out the functions and powers of the three branches of government, rights of U.S. citizens and the relationship between the federal government and the states. What most people may not know, however, is the Constitution came close to never being ratified, confirmed or validated by the states.

Following the Revolutionary War, the 13 colonies were hesitant to give governmental power to one person or entity. They feared their new hard-won rights may be infringed upon. The colonies came together and formed the Articles of Confederation, which treated each state as an independent nation.

Many of the founding fathers, such as George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, agreed that a more central form of government was needed.

On May 25, 1787, the Philadelphia Convention convened, comprised of 55

delegates, and representatives from 12 of the 13 states – Rhode Island refused to attend. The goal of the convention was to reform the Articles of Confederation, but after 115 days the Constitution was created.

During the convention, there were two proposed plans. The Virginia Plan called for a consolidated government based on proportional representation among states by population. Many of the smaller states feared this would lead to more populated states controlling everything. In response to the Virginia Plan, the New Jersey plan was created calling for equal representation among the states.

Elements from both plans were adopted in what was called the Great Connecticut Compromise. This created the Senate used today, which gives each state an equal vote. The power of the people is in the House of Representatives.

Once the debate over state representation in the senate finished, the Framers needed to lay out who would lead the U.S., leading to the creation of the executive branch – the president. When the vote for a one-man presidency was called for, it carried seven to three –

New York, Delaware and Maryland disagreed. Next came the establishment of the judiciary branch, which created the current court system.

Following the creation of the three branches, limits were needed to prevent any branch from becoming too powerful. A system of checks and balances was created. This balance system prevented sweeping changes from being made in a short amount of time. Two of the three branches of government would need to agree in order for change.

On Sept. 8, 1787, the Constitution was finished and now it was up to the states to ratify. According to article seven of the Constitution,

nine of the 13 states needed to agree. Of those 13, only Delaware, New Jersey and Georgia unanimously agreed to ratify. North Carolina and Rhode Island would only vote ratify after amendments were made. In several states, the vote barely passed.

Eleven states agreed by July 1788 and by September 1788, the Congress of the Confederation certified the ratification. New York would be the temporary seat of government.

On March 4, 1789, the new government took place with the first convening of Congress. By April 30, 1789, George Washington was unanimously elected president, with John Adams his vice president.

On Dec. 15, 1791, the first 10 amendments, the Bill of Rights, were added to the Constitution. Since then only 17 other amendments have been added. The 27th amendment, which limits congressional pay raises, was originally part of the Bill of Rights, but was rejected. It took until May 1992 — almost 203 years later — to ratify.

This year, the United States of America turns 250, but without the brilliance of the Framers the nation may never have been. | **ECHO**

MENTOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Justin Denney, 34, has spent nearly 14 years in prison. More than 70% of that time has been in segregation. In the last few years, Denney has cut ties with negative influences in his life, found God and began training service dogs.

Interview by
Chris Ainsworth



Photo by Chris Ainsworth/The Echo

Before prison, I was... the scum of the earth.

In 2021, I went to the hole on a drug possession and got 120 days in segregation. While I was in the hole, the girl I was with, my wife, started using drugs. I needed to be there to support her, show her there was a different way. I had to evolve.

I felt the call to be a mentor when... I saw Mychael Lee going and doing mentor stuff. I have so much life experience, lived experience here in prison, that I felt like I had an opportunity to give back to my community.

I want to give back by working with at-risk youth, maybe kids going into juvenile facilities and show them there is a different way. I came to prison when I was 18. If I show others the path they are heading down and where it could lead that I could potentially steer them away from that path.

Since becoming a mentor... I am working with people in the facility I never thought I would work with. People I typically wouldn't have associated with, not because of anything to do with them, more to do with me. I had a closed bubble.

You don't get hurt by people you don't associate with. I have been able to come out of myself and start helping push

people in the right direction, people I have never spoken with before.

This is new but... anytime our mentees need to talk to us they can take a piece of paper to their unit officer. The paper has all my information on it. It basically says, "Hey, I need to talk to my mentor. I'm having an issue or there is something going on in my life that I need to get resolved through my mentor."

The unit officer can contact the sergeant and set up a good time for use to meet. We can meet in medical, the clothing room, the chapel, inside the rooms on D2, we can meet at yard or spin laps on the compound.

Mentors are people... who show the prison population, staff included, that we hold ourselves to a higher standard.

Our mentees may be fresh to prison and don't know what path to travel. We have been through that, we have already made the mistakes. How we fix the underlying issues prison presents is coming together as a team and helping guide each other down the right path. | **ECHO**

Interested in the mentor program?
Send a communication, a kyte, to the mentor program.

VIDEO GAMES



Photo by Logan Gimbel/The Echo

A goose annoys a citizen in the **Untitled Goose Game**, available from Fully Loaded Electronics for \$40.

GAME REVIEW: UNTITLED GOOSE GAME

A Puzzle Game About Causing Mischief While Being a Goose

Written by Logan Gimbel

Steal vegetables for a picnic, untie a child's shoes and sneak into a pub, all as a goose.

The *Untitled Goose Game* has players complete various puzzles, all centered around causing mischief and living their best goose life.

The majority of the puzzles are simple, but most require the player to strategize. Players are limited to six actions – walking, running, honking, spreading the goose's wings, grabbing things with the beak and ducking.

Players will need to collect items spread out in various areas and interact with objects to distract NPCs. Some items, such as a radio, hose or bucket can be used to draw attention, aiding players in the quest to annoy.

When moving around the town, most of the town's members will only

watch the goose until the player causes mischief. Once the player is spotted with an item, one of the townsfolk finds an item out of place or the goose is found in a restricted area, the nearby people will react. They will retrieve missing items or attempt to chase the pesky goose away.

Players can lose progress on puzzles if any of the items they are required to collect gets taken back. Some areas, such as the pub, will have a guard to block the player and chase the goose away. Players will need to be sneaky in order to complete some puzzles.

Each area has themed challenges. The first area is a small farm outside the town, where players will need to collect items for a picnic, acquire the farmer's hat and trick him into opening a gate.

Other challenges include filling a

shopping cart, setting a table for dinner and getting a woman to place a bow on the goose.

Players must complete a certain number of puzzles in order to progress to the next area. Each area has a set number of challenges on a checklist along with a number of hidden challenges.

Once the player completes the minimum requirement of challenges, a new challenge will appear. Once finished, the player will progress to the next area in town.

progress to the next area in town.

Once in a new area, players are free to return to any previous section and complete any challenges they missed. With no loading screens, transitioning between areas is seamless. Shortcuts can be unlocked that allow players to move around town with ease.

Players who enjoy puzzle games or have fantasized about being a goose will enjoy the *Untitled Goose Game*. It is available from Fully Loaded Electronics for \$40, making it one of the cheapest games on the list.

Estimated play time: approximately three hours for a normal run, 10+ for 100% completion. **|ECHO**

LET US KNOW!

Have gaming stories you want to share or tips and tricks for difficult games?

Build anything cool in Minecraft, No Man's Sky or Ark?

Send a communication form to the IWP Journalism Department and let us know.

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER GIL

Tips For Saving Money In Video Games

Contributed by Nickolas Vega

We've all been there: we see an item we really want, either in reality or a video game, but we're flat broke. There's no chance of getting this thing we're dying for, and in some cases, we wonder how anyone could ever afford such a thing.

I've been playing video games for quite some time and I've spent plenty of time trying my best to scrimp and save up to the ultimate items, so I have experience in what it's like to be constantly broke.

Most of us at some point have had an influential figure in our lives to try to explain how important it is to save money, but I never thought for me it would be through videogame characters.

For example, in "Ni No Kuni 2," there is a bank in which the character pools funds for the kingdom, but the return-on-investment is high. The more you spend on things that matter, such

as weapon research rather than shiny new weapons, the more wealth is built while adventuring.

Another cool system is in "Sword Art Online: Fatal Bullet" where your companion acts as a bank which not only can automatically deposit percentages of money for you, but does investigating for you to have safe, average, or risky options for money returns.

Being on the frugal side, I always choose to withdraw the max from the money I earn and invest using the safe option. I attribute this to being able to have several billion dollars in that game's currency, which I promptly waste on the next shiny toy.

Just as in video games, recognizing what's important in life to spend on – versus what's not – is critical for financial success.

A rule of thumb I use in any game is that if I want an expensive item, I make sure to have two to ten times the

amount needed to purchase it. Farming for money works, but so does forging items, then selling the rarest of them over and over. These things take time, but as the old saying goes, "good things come to those who wait."

Another method which worked surprisingly well was rounding up. If an item's cost is anywhere from one to 100 of a currency, I make sure to have 100; if it costs anywhere from 100 to 499, I make sure to have 500; if it costs 500 to 999, I save up to 1000.

After doing this in games, I started applying it to my canteen orders, rounding up the costs of everything. What ended up happening was I ordered a list full of items I really needed, and my receipt showed a huge savings on top of it. I do this for every order now.

Many professionals – Jane McGonigal being one of them – are starting to teach that videogames offer skills which easily transfer into real life. I didn't fully comprehend this until I started saving lots of money. Hopefully they can help you too. | **ECHO**

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SEEKING

ARTISTS

FOR QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT

The Echo will be featuring artwork from several artists in a quarterly spotlight. All forms of art are welcome, such as painting, pencil art, woodworking, metalworking and even photography.

If you are interested in sharing your most recent work, contact the IVP: Journalism Department.

PUZZLES

See how many points
you can score in one word!

Scrabble Board: July, 2026

Scrabble Basic Rules

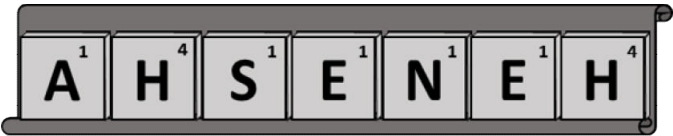
- No proper nouns like names or places
- No contractions like “it’s” or “that’s”
- No abbreviations like “app” or “spec”

Board Scores

- TW = Triple Word Score
- DW = Double Word Score
- TL = Triple Letter Score
- DL = Double Letter Score

TW			DL					TW				DL			TW
	DW				TL				TL				DW		
		I ¹				DL		DL				DW			
T ¹	I ¹	D ²	E ¹				DL					DW			DL
		E ¹		DW						DW					
	TL	A ¹			TL				TL					TL	
		L ¹				DL		DL					DL		
TW		S ¹	I ¹	M ³	P ³	L ¹	E ¹					DL			TW
		DL				DL	A ¹	DL				DL			
	TL				TL		S ¹	I ¹	N ¹	G ²	U ¹	L ¹	A ¹	R ¹	
				DW			E ¹			DW					
DL			DW				DL				DW				DL
		DW				DL		DL				DW			
	DW				TL				TL				DW		
TW			DL									DL			TW

PLAYER 1

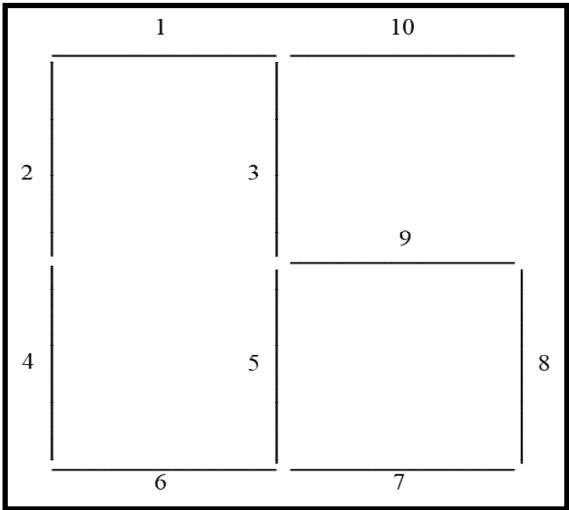


PLAYER 2

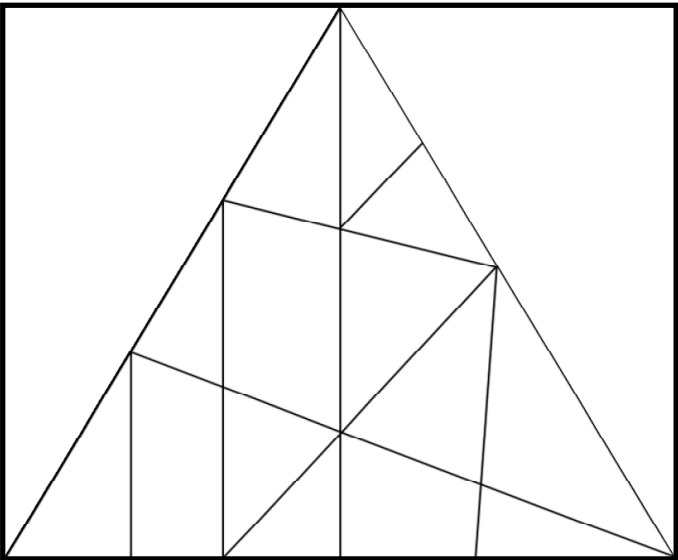


The Big Book of Mind-Bending Puzzles by Terry Stickels

Below are 10 matchsticks of equal length. By moving two and only two matchsticks, can you create two squares with no left-over matchsticks?



How many triangles of any size are in the figure below?



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Theme: The Fight Game

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20				21						22				
			23						24					
25	26	27					28	29					30	31
32						33						34		
35				36	37			38			39			
40				41			42				43			
44			45						46	47				
		48					49	50						
51	52					53					54	55	56	
57						58					59			
60						61				62				
63						64				65				

From USAtoday.com

Puzzle created by: Fran & Lou Sabin

ACROSS

- 1 Megalomaniac’s desire
- 6 Pirates or Buccaneers, e.g.
- 10 Regarding
- 14 Santa ____
- 15 Comfort
- 16 Do the deck
- 17 Hitting the time clock
- 19 Round Table address
- 20 Propose marriage, e.g.
- 21 Pink wines
- 22 Happy as a lark
- 23 Wickerwork specialist
- 24 Town
- 25 Scrolls read at bar mitzvahs
- 28 Philanthropy
- 32 Nero’s bird
- 33 Nation abutting Jordan
- 34 Replacement for that guy
- 35 Mosque tower
- 38 Unwelcome houseguest
- 40 Chang’s twin
- 41 Obliterate
- 43 Off in the distance
- 44 Apropos
- 46 Guardian at the gate
- 48 Some signatures
- 49 Word with level or form
- 51 Goal of a certain quest
- 53 Cousin of 50-down

- 54 ____-mo replay
- 57 Rhode Island fowls
- 58 Oblong vegetable
- 60 Sanction misdeeds
- 61 Avid about
- 62 A criminal may be caught in one
- 63 Word with monkey or parallel
- 64 Author Noel or Aphra
- 64 Moth-eaten

DOWN

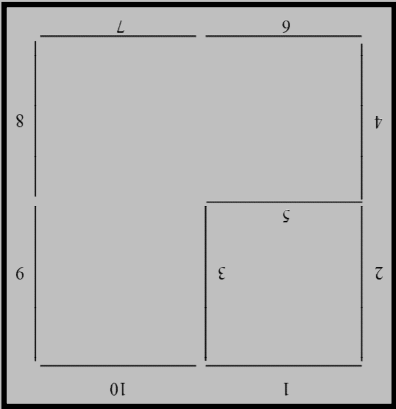
- 1 Famous bear
- 2 Worrisome thing
- 3 Playful signal
- 4 And so on, briefly
- 5 Gung-ho
- 6 Pluperfect, e.g.
- 7 With anticipation
- 8 With defects and all
- 9 Woman’s exasperated comment?
- 10 Give one’s backing
- 11 Factory work assignment
- 12 Mountain lake
- 13 Follow instructions
- 18 Charged particles
- 22 Monroe in “Some Like It Hot”
- 23 Hidalgo’s house
- 24 Soft, white cheese
- 25 Lion follower

DOWN CONT.

- 26 Sheeplike
- 27 Chief instigator
- 29 Commedia dell’ ____
- 30 It’s played with a plectrum
- 31 Manicurist’s board
- 33 First name in slapstick
- 36 Have a ball
- 37 Memorable periods
- 39 Gobs and gobs
- 42 Burglar’s forte
- 45 Isn’t imaginary
- 46 “Enough, already!”
- 47 Jim Varney role
- 50 Hose fabric
- 51 Seize forcibly
- 52 Country singer McEntire
- 53 Court legend Lacoste
- 54 Barbecue rod
- 55 Advanced, as cash
- 56 Bacchanalian event
- 58 Lobster catcher?
- 59 “Harper Valley ____”

ANSWER KEYS

A	L	L	V	L	N	H	E	B		S	R	V	B	
G	N	I	L	S	O	J	N	I		L	E	B	V	
R	E	P	P	E	P	T	L	E	B		S	D	R	
O	T	S		N	O	A	V	R		L	I	V	G	
			Y	R	T	N	E	S		X	E			
A	R	L	N	E	S		T	N	A	V	E	L	E	R
R	A	F	A			E	S	A	R	E	G	E	N	E
T	E	M	R	E	T	E	R	T	E	A	R	E	M	I
M	I	H	V	I	R	A	S		S	I	A	V		
E	S	S	E	S	G	R	A	L	V	R		S	H	A
		G	R	B				E	R	N	A	C		
A	N	N	U	S		S	E	S	O	R	K	S	V	
R	E	I	S		N	I	G	N	I	H	C	N	I	
B	V	W	S		E	S	A	V	E	T	I	N	V	
S	T	O	A		S	A	M		T	E	R		P	O



There are a total of 31 hidden triangles.

NEWS BRIEFS

NEWS BRIEFS

Time-Served Credit Calculation Under ORS 137.370(4)

— Offender Information and Sentence Computation Unit

The Oregon Supreme Court's decision in *Torres-Lopez v. Fahrion* has significantly changed how the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) calculates Time Served Credit (TSC) under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 137.370(4).

In July 2025, the Offender Information and Sentence Computation (OISC) unit began reviewing sentences imposed on or after August 1, 2015, to determine potential impacts from *Torres-Lopez v. Fahrion*. OISC worked closely with the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) to refine and establish DOC's policies regarding TSC calculations, ensuring they align with the Court's intent.

Key Points About This Review

Prioritization: Reviews will be prioritized based on projected release dates.

Eligibility: Only sentences imposed on or after August 1, 2015, will be reviewed.

Re-Review: Sentences reviewed under former TSC policies will be re-reviewed to ensure compliance with current policies.

Notification: If an Adult in Custody (AIC)'s projected release date changes, the AIC will be notified through written communication delivered via institutional mail to the AIC's housing unit. The notice will include:

- Updated projected release date
- An explanation of the change

AICs may submit an AIC Communication Form (CD214) to their Prison Term Analyst (PTA). The PTA can provide a detailed breakdown of the sentence calculation, explain the application of TSC, and address any other

questions related to the sentence.

If an AIC believes they are entitled to additional TSC under ORS 137.370(4) or that their calculation is incorrect, options include:

- Working with legal counsel to obtain a corrected judgment
- Consult with a Legal Assistant in the facility's Legal Library
- Write to the sentencing court for the affected case(s)

Due to the volume and complexity of reviews, this process will take time, and not all reviews will result in a change to projected release dates.

SRCI DATA Breach

— provided by ODOC

We would like to inform you of an authorized extraction of DOC data by a former employee. The following information was shared publicly this afternoon. Notification impacted individuals will be done by first class mail as soon as possible.

What Happened: On or about Jan. 5, 2026, the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) discovered that a former Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI) employee improperly acquired records between July 7, 2025, and early January 2026. DOC became aware of this data extraction because of an investigation into allegations of serious misconduct by this employee.

This data extraction resulted in unauthorized access to personal information. Staff, vendors, adults in custody, and visitors may be affected.

DOC Director Michael Reese made the following statement:

"The actions taken by this employee violated the professional and ethical standards expected of every person who works in our agency. They have been terminated, and we are working

with our law enforcement partners to hold them accountable for this data extraction, as well as other serious misconduct. Our employees, adults in custody, and others whose data may have been illegally removed deserve transparency and responsible stewardship of sensitive information, and we are committed to delivering both."

What Information Was Involved:

The records contained over 7.5 GB of data, consisting of more than 33,000 files or various types.

What DOC Is Doing: DOC has contracted with data forensics company to identify those impacted by this data extraction. Notification to these individuals will be done by first class mail. Due to the size of the data extraction and types of files involved, the data forensics work may take several weeks.

DOC is also working closely with public safety partners to ensure former employee is held accountable.

Your Rights and Recommendations: While the data forensics work is being completed, it is recommended you remain vigilant and consider the following steps:

- Monitor your personal records for any unusual activity.
- If you are a DOC employee, review your employment records for unusual activity.
- Report suspicious identify theft or fraud to your financial institution or employer immediately.
- Consider placing a security freeze or fraud alert with credit reporting agencies if you believe you have been harmed.

For More Information: Information about this data extraction will be updated on a dedicated webpage as more becomes known.

Please go to <https://engage.doc.oregon.gov/scri-data-extraction> to sign up for updates and ask questions.

Notification to Authorities: DOC continues to work closely with the Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon State Police, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, and local law enforcement agencies relating to the criminal investigation for unauthorized access of personal data. DOC is grateful for their hard work and partnership.

**Informational Briefing:
Trust Accounts**

— Business Services

Protected Spending Reserve Account

- This is a spending account established for AICs who receive protected money. (Examples: Disability benefits for veterans. Moneys received from Native American or tribal government, railroad retirement benefits, OCE Prison Industry Enhancement (PIE) Awards).
- AICs use the green Request for Withdrawal of Fund from Protected Reserve form (CD28P) to facilitate financial transactions from the Protected Reserve Trust Account.
- Funds in the Protected Reserve Trust Account are protected from debt/obligation collection or garnishment.

Transitional Savings Account

- Established per SB844/ORS 423.105 as a means for AICs to save funds for release from ODOC custody.
- 5% of each eligible deposit is received into the AICs Transitional Savings Trust Account until the account reaches \$500.
- AICs may elect to transfer funds into this account by submitting a transfer request form (CD1832, available electronically and in paper) up to \$500.
- AICs may continue a 5% deduction of their eligible deposits be-

yond \$500 if court-ordered financial obligations (COFOs) are satisfied.

- Funds in the Transitional Savings Account are protected from debt/obligation collection or garnishment, but this is not the same thing as the Protected Spending Reserve Account.

General Savings Account

- Established as a means for AICs to save fund outside the Transitional Savings Trust Account.
- AICs may elect to transfer funds into the General Savings Trust Account by submitting a transfer request form (CF1831, available electronically and in paper).
- Funds in this account are not available until the AIC releases from ODOC custody; an exception may be granted by the CFO or designee per OAR 291 Div. 158.
- Funds in the General Savings Trust Account are not protected from debt/obligation collection or garnishment.
- Obligated Reserve Accounts
- Medical, Optical, Dental, Trip, Education, Religious, and Programming are accounts AICs use when there is a need to reserve funds for a good or service that meets specific criteria.
- AOCs may receive deposits directly into of these accounts from an external source.
- AICs must be approved to place in an Obligated Reserve Account.
- Funds in Obligated Reserve Accounts are deemed spent and therefore are not subject to debt/obligation collection.

AICs may submit an AIC Communication Form to Business Services (electronic communication option preferred & available on the tablet). Friends and Family may submit questions to dldoctrustinfo@doc.state.or.us.

PREA INFORMATION

Sexual abuse and harassment are never okay. Tell Someone. GET HELP.

Call the Inspector General's Hotline:

1. Pick up a handset
2. Press *999 to leave a message

All PREA Calls are confidential.

Send a letter to the Governor:

Governor's Office, State Capitol, Room 160, 900 Court St., Salem, OR 97301

The Oregon Department of Corrections has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse and harassment. AICs' family can report on their behalf by contacting the Inspector General's public hotline at: (877) 678-4222.

El Abuso sexual y el acoso sexual nunca son aceptables. Avisele a alguien. CONSIGA AYUDA.

Llame al Inspector General:

1. Al numero de ayuda:
2. Levante el teléfono, marque *999.

Todas las llamadas a 'PREA' son gratis y confidenciales.

También puede reportar a la oficina del Gobernador por escrito.

Governor's Office, State Capitol, Room 160, 900 Court St., Salem, OR 97301

Sus amigos o familiares pueden hacer un reporte llamando a la linea del Inspector General al 877-678-4222.

PREA Advocate:

You may write the PREA advocate at:
ODOC PREA Advocate
3601 State St.,
Salem, OR 97301

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WHERE TO FIND THE ECHO AND 1664

ON EDOVO

The Echo and 1664 can be found on the Edovo application.

Readers can find the publications by typing “The Echo” or “1664” into the search bar.

ONLINE

Readers outside the correctional setting can find The Echo and 1664 at www.pollenpress.org or on the Oregon Department of Correction’s webpage under the newsletter directory. Check out www.pollenpress.org/the-echo/



Scanning the QR code will take readers to the ODOC directory of newsletters where The Echo and 1664 are available.

ON UNITS

Print copies of The Echo is available on housing units at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. 1664 is available in limited quantities at select locations.

For EOCI, each housing unit has a magazine rack dedicated for The Echo and 1664.

ON TABLETS

The Echo and 1664 can be found in the free section on tablets under “notices.”

The Echo is available at EOCI. 1664 is available at all Oregon prisons.



The Pollen Initiative is dedicated to cultivating media centers inside prisons to shed light on the justice system. Through hands-on multimedia training, as well as leadership programs that facilitate personal growth and transferable skills, our team contributes to more balanced narratives about incarceration.

We support existing prison newsrooms, like the historic San Quentin News, and emerging newsrooms and media projects across the country.

HOW TO DONATE

Support The Echo and 1664 by making a donation to Pollen Initiative.

Donations can be made at www.polleninitiative.org.

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