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# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

*“A problem is a chance for you to do your best.”*

*Duke Ellington (US jazz bandleader, musician & songwriter; 1899-1974)*

Friday, February 15, 2008

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility was featured on MSNBC's "Lockup" series. The show featured the day-to-day challenges of a maximum security juvenile facility. The show will air again on February 22 at 9:00 p.m. CST.

Approximately 70 members of the Young Presidents' Organization visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Participants toured the facility and then partook in a meal served in the Offender Services Building. Superintendent Stanley Knight presented an overview of the facility. Two offenders discussed the incarceration experience from their perspective. The YPO is comprised of Presidents and CEO's of various Indiana companies and corporations.

Madison Correctional Facility graduated their first class for the pilot project of Master Student/Master Employee. The class of 13 took the WORK ONE WorkKeys test with a 92 percent pass rate, whereas the general population pass rate was only 59 percent. Graduates received a three-month time cut in addition to the WorkOne certificates they received to help them find good jobs upon re-entry.

Thursday was graduation day for 60 Wabash Valley Correctional Facility offenders from the CLIFF program. Family and friends joined the celebration. Over 467 offenders have completed the WVCF program since its June 2005 launch.

Superintendent Jan Davis of the Madison Correctional Facility was arrested for the Muscular Dystrophy "Lock-Up" fundraising event. Her bail was \$1,300 and she raised a total of \$1,400! Staff and offenders from Madison donated \$1,220 and her former staff from Henryville Correctional Facility came up with the rest.

In recognition of Black History Month, renowned author Father Jerome Sanderson of the Greek Orthodox Church presented a lecture at the Putnamville Correctional Facility for the offender population. Father Sanderson highlighted the significant contributions of the "Saints of Africa" in the Greek Orthodox religion.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted the second in a series of programs celebrating Black History Month. The featured speaker for the program was the Rev. William McGhee, Pastor of the Ark of Deliverance Holiness Tabernacle Church in Anderson. In addition, the facility offender choir performed. Some offenders presented selected biographical readings. Approximately 100 offenders attended the program.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility was recognized by Gleaners Food Bank for the recent charitable donation. The \$200.50 donation was raised by the residents of PREF to assist with feeding the hungry of Indiana.

Madison Correctional Facility started the curriculum for their first Therapeutic Community. The GRIP unit (Growth, Responsibility, Integrity, and Purpose) opened last week with moving an initial 30 women into an existing building after minor renovations were completed. The unit will eventually hold up to 72 participants.

Offenders in the vocational program at the Indiana State Prison made 191 pine wood derby kits for the Boy Scouts of America.

The Employee Appreciation Committee at the Correctional Industrial Facility gave out over one thousand Candy Grams for Valentines Day collecting over \$700.00. Proceeds were donated to the employee appreciation fund. CIF is hosting a Coney dog/Nacho sale Thursday and Friday with the donations also going to the employee appreciation fund.