

# THE ECHO



**Labor Day  
Relay Race  
Ends in  
Spectacular  
Photo Finish**

*The Echo*  
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TALK OF THE TOWN

# Changes to Food Services Operations

Provided by the Department of Corrections



**D**ue to continuous AIC worker shortages in the Food Services area, it has become necessary for EOCI administration to implement some changes. EOCI currently has about half of the needed Food Services positions filled with voluntary workers. In order to allow the limited number of workers to prepare food for the entire facility, the following temporary measures will go into effect on September 21:

- Breakfast will be prepared by a limited crew and will consist of a simplified menu. This will not impact the dining room and scullery operation. Noon and Evening meals will be served with the normally scheduled menu items
- The bulk of the Food Services workers will be scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. to prepare the noon and evening meals
- Work-eligible AICs (Workpool) will be expected to work in some capacity in order to maintain case plan compliance. They may be assigned to Food Services without having requested the assignment
- Incentive activities will be taking place specific to Food Services workers

When asked what the changes will mean for the people living at EOCI, IWP Coordinator Ray Peters said, *“For the average guy who already has a work assignment, there won’t be a big impact. Breakfasts will change to some different items for a while, then when this gets sorted out we’ll go back to business as usual.*

*“For people who are not currently in a work program assignment, they may find themselves assigned to work in the Food Services area. Some of these people may have medical issues, security issues, or other situations that make those assignments unsuitable. They will need to verify with the responsible departments that their restrictions are still in place and communicated to IWP. For those that are assigned to work, if they refuse, they will be considered non-compliant with their case plans. We’ll try to have conversations and encourage people to do their fair share. But if someone outright refuses, a Program Fail is likely to be issued. Program Fails mean a reduced incentive level, and can affect earned time.*

*“The most impacted group should be the workers in the kitchen. They’re currently having to do two or even three jobs when they report to work. Getting other workers trained and in place will make their jobs easier and the food better. Ms. Emory has committed to making the Food Services area more worker-friendly, and administration is discussing ways to reward those workers that are doing their part. Lots of things are on the table. The Physical Plant has even stated that they will begin requiring six months in Food Service for new hires. So now working in the kitchen will be a step toward getting into a vocational path that people are often interested in. Hopefully these changes will generate enough volunteers that we don’t have to start issuing program fails, and will let the Kitchen workers know that we appreciate the work they do.*



TALK OF THE TOWN

## EOCI Pow-Wow 2023

Native American AICs Celebrate a Long Awaited Return

*Written by Phillip Luna*

**P**ow-wows, by definition, are Native American gatherings in which American Indians sing, dance, reconnect with old friends and celebrate their rich ancestral histories. Often accompanied by a conference or meeting, pow-wows are one of the best ways to experience traditional Native American culture. EOCI held such an event on August 25 of this year, with dozens of Native American AICs and some of their families in attendance.

Pow-wows today allow Indigenous people to socialize, dance, sing, and honor their cultures. They may be private or public, indoors or outdoors. Dancing events can be competitive with monetary prizes. Pow-wows vary in length from single-day to week-long events. There are several different stories of

how the gathering was started. Some believe that the pow-wow originated with the War dance Societies of the Ponca and other Southern Plains Tribes.

In mainstream American culture however, the term pow-wow is used to refer to any type of meeting. This usage is now considered by Indigenous Americans to be an offensive case of appropriation because of the cultural significance pow-wows hold.

The EOCI pow-wow session began with the Grand Entry and a prayer. The processional was led by flag bearers as well as a volunteer from outside of EOCI. A drum circle was held by several Native American AICs.

Historically, there may be many drums at a pow-wow, especially weekend or week long events, but

generally each pow-wow features a *host drum* which is accorded great respect. At EOCI there is only one drum available, which serves as the host drum.

It is traditional that the members of drum groups are often family, extended family, or friends. Groups are then often named for families, geographic locations, tribal societies, or more colorful names. Many groups display their names on jackets, caps, vehicles, and chairs. Traditionally only men would drum and women would sit behind the men singing high harmonies. Beginning in the mid-1970s, women began drumming with men and *seconding*, or singing, an octave higher, the song. Today, there are mixed-gender and all-female drum groups.

As the Grand Entry at EOCI came to a conclusion a prayer was held. Several volunteers took the podium to speak on Native American cultures and customs. One speaker who was introduced as Sister Shawna, spoke about the origins and importance of their sacred, traditional foods - sometimes called first foods. *“The salmon stood themselves up because they wanted to be the food for the people, they knew the people needed to be fed,”* stated Shawna. She further explains the origins of deer, buffalo, roots and berries. *“Roots are known as our big sister foods. They are there when you can’t find anything else. They call out to you.”*

Food plays a significant cultural role for Native American peoples. While fry bread, salmon, and buffalo are considered delicious, they offer value in terms of culture and heritage as well.

The pow-wow was a welcome event, even with many of the traditional elements of a pow-wow absent. The wonderful staff, outside volunteers, families, and delicious food made the day memorable.



Grand Entry.



Native AICs hold drum circle.



A flag salute during Grand Entry.



TALK OF THE TOWN

## Breakfast Meal Completed

The Enrichment Club Holds Third Fundraiser of the Year

Written by Phillip Luna

**O**n August 29, 2023 the Enrichment Club held their Breakfast Meal Fundraiser - a platter of crispy bacon, sausage, cheesy eggs, and golden fried hashbrowns. And don't forget the buttermilk chocolate chip pancakes with strawberry topping! The breakfast meal was one of the more extravagant fundraisers held by the club, with several different types of food and various equipment used. But the effort yielded great results according to one fundraiser participant who stated, *"This is my favorite meal they've done so far."*

Preparing 400 lbs of pancakes, 300 lbs of eggs, and more than 4,000 bacon and sausage strips was no easy feat. *"Dozens of man-hours go into putting a fundraiser event together,"* stated Club Secretary Patrick Gazeley-Romney. *"Ordering products, monitoring inventories, communicating with club members and volunteers and scheduling them for the event are just a handful of the tasks and considerations involved in the planning process. The final*

*product is the assembly of many separate but important tasks.*

But for some the \$34.00 price tag was too much to bear. *"I didn't buy the meal,"* stated one AIC, *"I do regret it now, but I didn't have enough money at the time. Just too spendy."*

Many may wonder, where does the money go? Meals provided by the Enrichment Club are sold at an additional cost. Funds raised are then donated to various charitable causes and organizations. Most recently the Enrichment Club was approved to purchase backpacks and school supplies for all of the school-aged children attending the EOCI family event on September 30. *"We are very excited about this opportunity. We were approved to spend money on AICs kids and we are always excited for something like that,"* stated the Club President. While this event only effects AICs who are in attendance, it is the hope of the club that AICs will see the overall benefit of such an event. *"Maybe I'm not going to the event, but my friend is,"* said Club Treasurer Kalig Mansor. *"His kid gets a backpack and I helped*

raise money for that because I bought the Breakfast Meal.” Children with an incarcerated parent are statistically more likely to become incarcerated as adults and education and positive family interactions are considered a deterrent to criminal behavior and recidivism. The club pursued this donation because this activity promotes positive family interaction while also encouraging education in high risk youths.

Additionally, the club was able to hold various activities such as the Murph Challenge, a basketball tournament, and the EOCI Labor Day Games. These events will result more than \$7,000 in donations to six different 501(c)3 organizations.

“

**By the end of 2023 the  
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”

The Enrichment Club was started in April of 2021. In the two and half years since its inception the Club has donated to dozens of charities and organizations all over the world. By the end of 2023 the Enrichment Club will have made more than \$45,000 in charitable donations since it began less than 3 years ago. *“I am very proud to say that every dollar of each donation comes from an incarcerated person,”* stated Club President Phillip Luna. *“But we don’t do this alone. It’s the Enrichment Club, the AICs who participate, and all of the staff who help this club function. It’s not that the Enrichment Club will have donated \$45,000, it’s that EOCI will have donated \$45,000. The club is just the mechanism.”*



Member Gonzalo Barbosa checks in participants.



Fried hashbrowns.



Paul Ropp and Troy Kirk fry over 1500 hashbrown patties.



Kaliq Mansor makes 300 lbs of eggs while James Renfro stays “hard at work.”



Fullbright Challenge Eastside Winner Christian Igo and Enrichment Club Member/Timer Mel Arcinas.

#### TALK OF THE TOWN

## Labor Day Games

A Welcome Return after a Six Year Gap

Written by Phillip Luna

**L**abor Day – A federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday in September. For some the day simply marks a 3-day weekend and the unofficial end of summer. Many plan a two week vacation ending on Labor Day. For others, Fall activities such as school and sports (football in particular) begin about this time. At EOCI, the 2023 Labor Day games were the center of attention, sponsored by the institution’s Enrichment Club.

Many remember the Labor and Memorial Day events from years previous – a series of activities with monetary prizes for the top 3 finishers in each event. These events ended in 2017. *“Monetary prizes for these events ended per DOC directive. There were budgetary concerns at the time,”* stated Work Programs Coordinator Ray Peters. *“It’s very unlikely it will ever come back.”*

This summer, the Enrichment Club brought some of the events back after a six year hiatus, with a slight

twist. Instead of AICs earning prize money, funds were donated to charities on behalf of the participant. The Enrichment Club sponsored AICs to raise funds for the charity of their choice: Pendleton Animal Welfare Shelter (PAWS), the Cancer Research Institute, or Constructing Hope. *“It was important to give a variety of charities, so people have different options,”* stated Enrichment Club Member James Renfro.

Each event, and how well (or how poorly) the AIC performed, helped determine the donation amount. An AIC that completed a 5K was sponsored for a \$5 donation with faster times corresponding to an additional donation amount. Similarly, participants of the free throw contest could earn between \$1 and \$15 for their charity, depending on how many shots they made out of 10 attempts. However, someone who made zero out of ten attempted shots would earn an additional \$5 towards their cause - as long as they were willing to have their name featured on the “Wall of Shame.” Overall, the purpose of these





Jonathan Holt and Ryan Huebner run 5K Race.

events was to have fun, foster a sense of community, and see who can generate the biggest donation for their charity.

On the Eastside, there were nearly 30 total participants of the 5K race. Bruce Rodriguez and Chris Bickford tied for second place with a time of 21:51. F4's Michael Mallory barely edged out the competition with 21:43 earning his charity an additional \$15. On the Westside, the 5K race was not nearly as popular. B4's Jacob Nebeker, who proposed a 5K challenge earlier this year, ran a 24:40.

The Fullbright Challenge was absent a Keith Fullbright – but still competitive nonetheless. The Westside's Camden McSorley posted a time of 23:19 with Shawn Wiesner coming in second at 26:01. Christian Igo took first place on the Eastside with a time of 30:02



Broussard tied for first in the Free Throw Contest with 8 of 10.

One of the more popular events was the softball throw – an event designed to bring out the inner machismo (let's take this ball and huck it as far as we can!) H1's Carter Bell took the East's first place spot coming in at very long 243 feet. For the West, Shawn Hartley of B4 barely edged out Bell with a distance of 244 feet.

The 100 burpee challenge was one of the least popular events with less than 15 participants in the institution. Camden McSorley took the grand prize here as well with a time of 4:25, earning a \$20 donation to his charity. Eastside's Anthony Mathis took second place overall with a time of 5:37.



Michael Mallory, overall 5K Race Winner with a time 21:43.

The most exciting event was the Four Man Relay Race. Teams of four competed, each running a lap and passing the "baton" to their teammate in transition. On the Westside team Pearson, Pierson, Baney, and Miller easily won the relay with a four lap time of 3:36.

On the Eastside the event was more interesting. There were only two teams competing – H1 versus H2. H1's Carlos Ramirez faced off against H2's Robert Dixon at the starting line. Dixon took the lead early, passing the baton to teammate Paul Reyes with a decent gap on their competition. But with remarkable effort, H1's Tariq Knapper made up the difference and passed Reyes putting his team in first place.

(Continued on next page...)



Three participants: Mauer, Bonsignore, and Weaver embrace their "Wall of Shame" status.



Jones and Dixon in 100 Meter Race.



Rodriguez chases Bell in epic comeback for Eastside Relay Race.

In the third leg, a sprightly Patrick Gazeley-Romney from H1 stymied Ryan Huebner's attempt to put H2 back in front. Gazeley-Romney passed off a sizeable lead to Carter Bell for the final sprint. H2's Bruce Rodriguez had about a 30 yard gap to make up in a single lap – which appeared to be impossible. But with both team's runners of the final leg having just completed a 5K race that finished mere minutes before the start of the relay, anything is possible. Rodriguez made up the difference, giving the spectators a spectacular photo finish. With each team being clocked at 3:18 – the only option was to review the photographs to determine the outcome.

H2 won by half of a single step (see cover photo).

*"These events went much better than expected,"* stated Club Vice-President Ben Edwards. *"When the Relay was running, everyone stopped to watch – even the staff. What this brings back is camaraderie."* All told nearly 250 AICs competed in various events throughout day. When asked what he thought about the event, participant Paul Weaver stated, *"Really glad to do stuff like this. This is what I think that Oregon Way is. I hope they bring back*

*stuff like the plaques for sports championships. I hope there is more stuff like this."*

While some may focus on the leader board for each event, the real winner of the day were the three charities which will receive a significant donations.

Pioneer Humane Society/PAWS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and will receive a \$680.00 donation from the Enrichment Club as a result of the Labor Day Games. PAWS operates almost entirely from grants and donations from the public. PAWS is people helping and rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife, sheltering and adopting homeless cats and dogs, and educating the community to inspire compassionate action for animals.

The Cancer Research Institute (CRI) will receive a \$695.00 donation from the Enrichment Club as a result of this event. CRI identifies and fund the brightest and most promising cancer immunotherapy scientists worldwide while promoting awareness, sharing up-to-date immunotherapy information, and inspiring lifelong advocacy for the cause.



Bruce Rodriguez was the largest single donor for the Labor Day Games - competing in all events and helping his charity reach \$433.00 total.

Constructing Hope will receive a \$433.00 donation from the Enrichment Club as a result of the Labor Day Games. The mission of Constructing Hope is to rebuild the lives of people in communities by encouraging self-sufficiency through skills training and education in the construction industry. They serve people of color, people coming from incarceration, and low-income adults.

Some participants may have won the free throw contest, the Fullbright Challenge, or the 5K race, but the biggest winner was H2's Bruce Rodriguez who generated the largest donation of any AIC. Rodriguez competed in every single event, placed in the top 5 for the Fullbright Challenge, the 5K, and the 100 meters dash, and his team won the Four Man Relay. Congratulations Bruce!

Overall the event was a success for the AIC population and the Enrichment Club. "It's a lot of planning. We had about 35 volunteers – the Enrichment Club, multi workers, and just general volunteers. And we have to coordinate everything,"

stated the Enrichment Club President Phillip Luna. "Some might think we just show up with a few clip boards and a couple softballs and go nuts. No, there are ten steps that our Staff Liaison takes before we can start planning. Each event is reviewed by the Activities Committee and approved months before it occurs. Items like batons are photographed and sent to the Operations Captain for approval, which is then provided to the sergeants and yard staff. Also, we should all thank Keith Fullbright and Jacob Nebeker for originally proposing events that led to these Labor Day games. Their proposals were approved by the Activities Committee and we were asked to help facilitate that, combining with our own ideas.

One of the only hiccups of the event was the delayed wrist bands, "Wrist bands were delayed by the vendor until the 15<sup>th</sup>," stated President Luna, "But don't worry, I will make sure everyone who turned in a ticket gets a wrist band. I really appreciate that not one person complained about the wrist bands, at least not to me."

## Event Winners:

### *Fullbright Challenge*

West: Camden McSorley, A2 | Time: 23:19

East: Christian Igo, E2 | Time: 30:32

### *5K Race*

West: Jacob Nebeker, B2 | Time 24.40

East: Micheal Mallory, F4 | Time 21:43

*Honorable Mention: Brian Anthony Mauro, the oldest 5K participant at 54 years of age.*

### *100 Burpee Challenge*

West: Camden McSorley, B2 | Time: 4:25

East: Anthony Mathis, G4 | Time: 5:37



Relay race Westside.



Anthony Hill takes shot.



Camden McSorley wins Fullbright Challenge

### *Softball Toss*

West: Shawn Hartley, B4 | Distance: 244 ft

East: Carter Bell, H1 | Distance: 243 ft

### *HulaHoop Toss*

West: Justin Waldrip, B1 | Distance: 111 ft

East: Chris Ainsworth, G2 | Distance: 75 ft

### *Cornhole Bag Toss*

Blaine Silversmith | 8 of 10

### *Free Throws*

West: Christian Galindo, B3 and Shawn Hartley, B4 | 7 of 10

East: Ethan Harrison, F2 and Elnando Broussard, G4 | 8 of 10

### *Three Point Shot*

West: Christian Galindo, B3 | 7 of 10

East: Casey Hoyle, G4 | 6 of 10

### *4-Man Relay*

West: Pearson, Pierson, Baney, and Miller (B3) | Time 3:36

East: Dixon, Huebner, Reyes, and Rodriguez (H2) | Time: 3:18

## Funds Generated for Charity

Total: \$1,892.00

Eastside: \$1,264.00

Westside: \$592.00

**Donation to Cancer Research Institute: \$695.00**

**Donation to PAWS: \$680.00**

**Donation to Constructing Hope: \$433.00**



TALK OF THE TOWN

## The Wall of Shame

AICs Sacrifice Dignity for the Sake of Charity

*Written by Phillip Luna*

**T**his year's Labor Day games gave AICs the option to raise money for charity. The free throw contest, three point contest, and cornhole bag toss offered an extra bonus to AICs who missed every single shot - with one caveat - their name would be posted on the "Wall of Shame." The following AICs sacrificed their dignity in the name of charity, boasting a goose egg on one of the three events (names are as written on the ticket):

Justin Waldrip, Hansen Martinez, Edward Miglavs, Irving Hernandez, Shawn Oleary, Bryan Hernandez, Martino Tlatelpa, Lamberto Soto, Leonel Diaz, Harvey Gonzales, Basukumbi Wamulumba, Aury Moreno, John Herriges, Rafael Sonanes, Luis Del Rio, Roberto Santiago, Tomas De Leon, Maciel Munoz, Anwar Adams, David Derrick, Ken G, Manuel Lona, Demecio Cardenas, Dakota House, Jorge Bravo-Capado, Gabriel Munoz, Stephen Gon-

zalez, Javier Munoz Jr., Giovanni Cruz, Fidel Torres, Christian Pena, Travis Sprague, Efrain Martinez-Gonzalez, Patrick Dills, Katz, William Hargrove, Kaleb Villarreal, Jesse Anderson, Edward Collicott, Travis Young, David Buchanan, Daniel Shoemaker, Jackie Weeks, Heath Trotter, Esteban Ordaz, Justin Jameson, Richard Fay, Walter Thomas, Michael Ezell, Jacob Harper, Edward Makarenko, Serrano, Daniel Huerta, Michael Martinez, Duane Corbetter, Gutierrez-Alvarez, Freniere, Fetcher, Ganzden, Salas, Blocker, Anderson, Pierce, Jonathon Ott, Joseph Teters, Justin Valente, Antoine Williams, Christian Reyes, Cavallaro, Jeremiah Mauer, Seth Milton, Jeremy Bonsignore, Donald McLaughlin, Smith, Jamison, Sasso, Justin Webert, Colton, Andrew webb, Brooks, Antony Tassez, Piccolott, Michael Lytsell, Juan, Saint Lewis, Vasey, Luis Rodriguez, Christopher Ainsworth, Mathis, Chris Morris, Harrison, Russell Taylor, Eli Martinez, Hibbert, Vincent, Hill, Michael Mallory, Christian Igo, Vidales, Cosmo Seal, Johnny Ramirez, Librado Pena, Richard Smith, and Phillip Luna.



TALK OF THE TOWN

## Next Generation Education

Baker Technical Institute Provides Heavy Equipment Operator Training to AICs

Written by Phillip Luna

**A** new five-week certification program was recently offered at EOIC. Baker Technical Institute (BTI) has contracted with ODOC to provide a Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Certification program across the state. Many may have noticed the training trailer located on the compound, which contains heavy equipment training simulators. Students split their time between the classroom and the simulation trailer. According to BTI their goal is to, “...provide next-generation education for the future of Oregonians... partner with regional employers and industry experts to provide an innovative education in hands-on fields.”

The training simulators are just one component of the program BTI offers. Students also complete Traffic Control and Flagger certification through the Oregon Department of Transportation, Forklift certification, and CPR/First Aid/AED certification through the American Heart Association. Addition-

ally, the program concludes with a series of mock interviews, helping prepare the participants for real life scenarios upon release.

*“There was a great sense of camaraderie in this group of guys and with the instructors,”* stated class participant Patrick Dills. *“The instructors were extremely patient and skilled at meeting each participant exactly where they were at. The environment felt very supportive and I don’t think anyone felt left behind.”*

Students were selected through an application process. Flyers were posted on housing unit bulletin boards with applications sent to Correctional Rehabilitation. The application process included a one page essay explaining the candidate’s reason for applying to the program. Student selection was limited to incentive level 3 AICs who are gate pass eligible and have less than 3 years remaining on their sentence. Additionally, applicants must have already obtained a GED or High School Diploma.

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***The instructors were extremely patient and skilled at meeting each participant exactly where they were at. The environment felt very supportive and I don't think anyone felt left behind.***

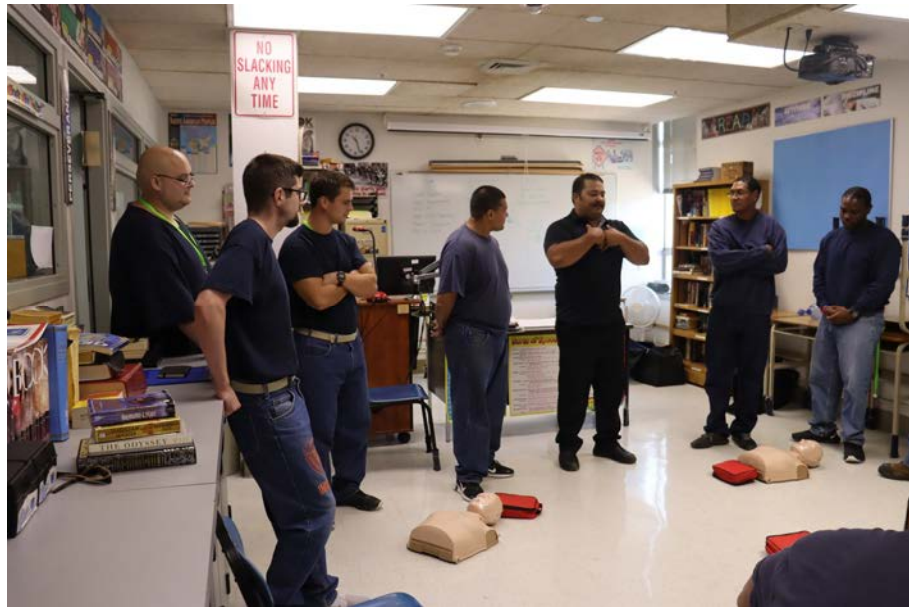
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*“The class was excellent and left me feeling extremely prepared to work with most types of heavy equipment. I encourage anyone who has no experience or who is nervous or hesitant about this opportunity to get involved,”* stated class participant Chris Costa.

Upon completing the program, students receive certification as Heavy Equipment Operators, Traffic Control/Flagger Certification, Forklift Certification, and CPR/First Aid/AED Certification. Qualityinfo.org lists forklift and heavy equipment operators on a pay scale of \$18.99 to \$24.24 per hour, with other sources indicating much more. According to Captain Walker, the Oregon Department of Corrections has a contract with BTI to offer the Heavy Equipment Operator training program at all facilities. *“It's a great program. I've seen some jobs in that field that pay \$50 to \$70 per hour, depending on which certifications you have,”* stated Walker.



Students get real life practice and certification as a Forklift Operator.



Students learn CPR and First Aid.



Joshua Robertson practices CPR.

# Q & A



THE ECHO INTERVIEWS

## Q&A with Captain Walker

### Captain Walker Discusses New Contact Officer Program

*Interview by Phillip Luna*

Captain Walker has worked in the Department of Corrections for over 23 years. He is currently the Amend Program Manager, which is the catalyst for the new Contact Officer Program. Walker agreed to an interview with *The Echo* regarding the new program.

***The Echo:*** Can you give me a basic overview of the Amend Program and the Oregon Way Initiative?

**Walker:** The Oregon Way is about humanizing AICs and normalizing the prison environment as much as we can, so that what you see and experience here is as close to what you experience on the outside as possible. The Amend Program comes from the Oregon Way and is where our new Contact Officer Program originated.

***The Echo:*** What is a Contact Officer?

**Walker:** A Contact Officer is a staff member identified to receive additional training and be a point of contact for AICs coming into the facility. Right now, I might have developed a relationship with an AIC over 15 years. I might have had to do a cell extraction with him 15 years ago, but over time we have interacted, we have both gotten older and built a professional relationship. Now he might approach me and ask for help navigating some situation. There is a mutual respect that has developed. It's time and experience with that person that allows that relationship to develop. We are looking at identifying AICs during the admissions and orientation class as they come into the facility. This is a voluntary program. AICs we identify, if they choose, can be paired with a Contact Officer.

The Contact Officer provides the AIC with information and



resources so they can make decisions about how they spend their time and what their goals are. They help the AIC network and get to their goals. They are not providing the AIC with a job or putting them into a program – they are guiding them and providing insight. Relationships take knowledge and experience and we are going to build the relationship from the get go. The Officers we selected have demonstrated an ability to interact well with AICs and build relationships.

***The Echo:*** What additional training do the Contact Officers receive?

**Walker:** There are three days of training – Active listening, problem solving strategies, and navigating individuals. Our partners from Norway hold training sessions here with our staff.

***The Echo:*** What is the end-goal for the Contact Officers? How are you measuring success?

**Walker:** We measure success by the interest of people – the number of people involved. We have talked about the timeframe for success. When does an AIC complete their program? These are items we are still identifying that are difficult to determine.

***The Echo:*** What does that mean for me, the AIC? What changes can I expect to see in the future?

**Walker:** Hopefully, real changes. More opportunities to build trade skills so AICs have access to better paying jobs when they release. The Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) program is one example and we are looking at getting more programs like that - programs that provide AICs with a decent wage after release. But the goal is really to look at somebody, their goals and interest, and help them achieve their goals. Maybe their goal is to get a GED and not use drugs again and that has nothing to do with learning a trade. A Contact Officer can help them network to achieve their goals.

You can expect to see more programs in the future. Hopefully more HEO and more programs for trades.

***The Echo:*** What is the roll out process? Are there stages to the Amend Program/Contact Officers?

**Walker:** We are looking to roll out in mid-September. There are still some challenges and processes being developed. The goal would be to eventually have all officers trained as Contact Officers with each officer having a group designated as their caseload. There are some other facilities, minimum facilities, that have Contact Officers. There are challenges we have that they don't because of the way we are set up.

***The Echo:*** The Contact Officers selected seem to be those who already have an aptitude for working positively with AICs. What training or information is provided to staff that are not Contact Officers?

**Walker:** We have communicated with all staff. I have had a number of officers contact me about being a Contact Officer – more than the number of Contact Officers we currently have - because they see the good in it. We are rolling out a limited version in mid-September. AICs do not sign up for this program starting out as we will be focusing on new, low ACRS AICs coming through A&O. Again this is a voluntary program, they have to want to do it. It's their choice. They have to want to change. Saying and doing are two different things - show me, don't tell me.

I've already received kytes about the program, even before it started. We are going to be overwhelmed at first. There will not initially be a sign up.

***The Echo:*** What do you want people to know about the program?

**Walker:** Fifteen years ago at an in-service we were doing a skit where we were playing AICs. They gave us, I think \$20 or \$40 on an Oregon Trail Card and then dropped us off at a store. We had to try and survive and set up for reentry. Most of us went back to prison because we couldn't survive. That skit has always stuck with me.

This program is about real change - about giving people opportunities if they want to change. This is a developing program that is going to get bigger.



THE WORLD OF SPORTS

## 2023 Softball Recap

### H2 Sweeps Cinderella B4 Team for EOCI Championship

Written by Kaliq Mansor

**L**et's start from the beginning... On the Westside most expected the four seed, B4, to win their first game against A3, but no one expected what happened next. In their second match against the 26-1-1 B1 team, B4 shocked the Westside with a 16-15 victory over the top seed.

Early in the game, B1 looked poised for an easy win, jumping out to an 8-3 lead after two innings. Then their bats went quiet as B4 crept back into contention. B1 came alive once more with a four-run fifth inning, but B4 answered with seven runs in the sixth and seventh innings to put them one run ahead. In B1's final chance at bat, B4 quickly took down the first two batters before a 2-out double put a runner in scoring position. The next batter, a substitute for an injured starter, deftly drove a ground

ball past the third baseman into left field. As B1's runner rounded third to score the tying run, B4's defense got the ball into the glove of their waiting catcher, who made the tag at home for the last out of the game.

B4 then went on to face number three B2 (who had earlier upset two seed B3 15-5) for the Westside championship in a best-of-three series. B4 again beat the higher seeded team, with back-to-back wins (15-12 and 10-8) for the Westside championship. B4 would have to wait three days to find out who they would play for the overall championship.

On the Eastside, the early round games saw six seed G2 upset three seed G3 14-12, two seed G4 slide easily past seven seed F2, and four seed H1 win a hotly contested game against five seed F4 6-5. In the



Eastside semifinals, G2 could not recreate the magic that pushed them past G3, as G4 easily dispatched them 24-10 for their berth in the Eastside finals.

H1 and H2 continued their regular season battles into their playoff meeting on the other half of the Eastside semifinals. Both teams fought hard late into the evening, trading leads with each at bat. In the top of the seventh, with the lights threatening to end night yard, H1 scored a flurry of runs to take a one run lead. In H2's final at bat, H1 quickly retired the first two batters before a double put the tying run in scoring position. The next batter would put the game in H1's hands – literally. A ground ball down the third base side was cleanly fielded by the third baseman, who threw the third out off the mark, allowing the tying run to score and the batter to advance to second. Any hopes of H1 holding out for extra innings were squashed when the H2 short-stop hit the next pitch to the gate for a walk-off homerun. Final score H2 26-24 over H1.

The Eastside championships promised exciting games, and game one did not disappoint. G4 held off the home team H2 in the late innings to win the

first game 12-9. But H2 made a few adjustments to their line up and never looked back, winning the next two games over G4 easily by double-digit margins.

The H2 machine kept chugging away. They faced Westside champion B4 for the overall championship. Limited-flight balls and abysmal batter's boxes on the Westside field could not slow H2 down as they cruised to a 19-9 win in game one. The next game, on the familiar Eastside field, was won in even more impressive fashion as H2 left little doubt which team deserved the EOCI overall championship. Congratulations to the H2 softball team!

The softball season was capped off as the all-stars from the East and West sides played for bragging rights. Both teams came loaded with talent, but the Eastside team proved too much for the Westside. The Eastside put on offensive and defensive showcases, scoring over twenty runs while holding the Westside to single digits in both games.

Thanks to all the participants in this year's softball season. A special thanks goes out to the umpires for their work on behalf of the EOCI sports program.

# H2 - Institution Softball



Hartford waits at first while referee Villarreal watches.



H2's Costa makes uncharacteristic left-handed throw to second.



Referees pose for a photo.



Correa with a swing and a miss.



Two B4 outfielders attempt to catch a fly ball.



Dixon tagged out at 3rd.

# Champions 2023!



B4's outfielder catches a fly ball.



B4's Hartley attempts to make a narrow escape.



Game 2 of the series.



Players withstand the elements.



Rauch swings at a high pitch.



Rodriguez tagged out at third base.

opportunity  
oregon

*Everyone deserves a chance*



*I used to be doing time just like you.  
When I got out, someone gave me a  
chance to prove myself and do better.  
Now, I want to do the same for you.  
Have you done what it takes?*

**Nancy Pance – Co-Founder**

Opportunity Oregon is a new business that helps pair AICs who are close to release and have demonstrated a change in their lifestyle with a job upon release.

Informational Session: October 24

Sign Up Now!

### What you do in here DOES matter!

We are looking for people who have demonstrated that they have turned their lives around and want the chance to prove it when they are released.

Does this describe you? If so, **you** are the one we want!

Opportunity Oregon is a program making a difference in the lives of the formerly incarcerated in Oregon through education, job training and job placement assistance. The program provides employment opportunities to individuals who have been released from incarceration and are looking to rebuild their lives outside prison walls. Opportunity Oregon is working towards raising awareness among Oregon employers about the benefits of hiring individuals who have been incarcerated. Through partnership with local businesses willing to hire individuals with a criminal record, they provide ongoing support to ensure participants maintain their employment and thrive in their new path. Opportunity Oregon's mission is to break the cycle of recidivism, remove barriers to employment and provide program participants tools they need to succeed.

Nancy Pance of Opportunity Oregon is hosting an informational session Tuesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> to help you learn more about this program. If you are interested in attending and are 2 years or less to release, send a communication to S. Robson, Transition Coordinator no later than September 21, 2023.

NOTE: Space is limited, and preference will be given to those closest to release.

**ADVERTISEMENT - OPPORTUNITY**



# Opportunity Here!

## ? Are you interested in attending a flagging certification class?

Class is taught by an ODOT supervisor with 25 years' experience instructing AICs and assisting with job placement. You will receive:

- Certification good for three years in four states: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.
- 3 reference manuals
- Employer contact information



## ? What is the cost?

\$100.00. Full payment must be received by October 5<sup>th</sup> to attend. Payment can be through your trust account via a CD-28, or cashier's check mailed in from the community.

If you are interested, send a communication to Transition Services no later than September 15<sup>th</sup> to confirm your seat and receive payment instructions.

**Note:** Class requires a minimum of 10/ maximum of 30 participants (preference will be given to those closest to release).

## ? Is flagging for you?

Flagging job opportunities are numerous, do not limit you to live in one place/area, and can pay well. Flagging requires stamina (long hours on your feet in adverse weather conditions), the ability to travel to remote worksites, and often an initial investment in your own gear. Certification **does not** guarantee employment.

## ? How to apply?

If you are interested or have questions, Send a communication to **Transition Services**.

# OCE Open Position Announcement - Statewide

## OSCI Print Shop Programming Specialist

The **OCE Print Shop** is recruiting to fill **multiple** open position for a **Programming Specialist**, to support the OCE Print Shop. Applicants must be able to adhere to a high standard of quality in a fast paced environment while meeting deadlines. The OCE Print Shop is located at OSCI in Salem. This position awards 10 -16 PRAS points, with the opportunity to earn a matching Team Goal Award.

### Duties include:

Identify, document, and provide training to use software that supports industrial Print shop workflows.

### Preferred knowledge, skills, and abilities include:

- Implementation and support of web based interfaces.
- Practical experience in MS Office Suite, HTML, Javascript, SQL, XML, Adobe Suite and Xpath.
- Development experience using Python is a plus.

**Please list previous experience as a programming specialist in a production environment. Please include the software used and previous employers.**

### Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Must have a valid social security number or equivalent.
- Have at least 6 months' time incarcerated with clear conduct.
- Must have a release date after September, 2027 (4 years).
- Cannot be in any programs/activities which would conflict with the assigned shift.
- Be willing to sign an eighteen (18) month retention agreement – anyone leaving the assignment either by termination or resignation before serving the full retention period will be returned to the sending institution with a program failure.

### Essential functions of the position include:

- Move and/or or lift up to 40 lbs. with or without assistive devices.
- Communicate respectfully with staff, AICs and clients.
- Ability to read, write, and communicate proficiently in English.
- Work in a production setting subject to potential interruptions and background noises.
- Receive training and quality-control advice and corrections from other AICs and staff.

**If you are interested in becoming highly marketable upon release, utilizing modern software, and making a difference within OCE, DOC, and the community, this position may be what you've been looking for. All applicants will need to pass a DOC/OCE security screening and interview before being considered for the position.**

### Application submission process:

If interested in applying, please complete a DOC AIC Work Application referencing OSCI Print Shop Program Specialist position.

**Submit application no later than September 29, 2023** to:

Jerry James – Production Manager @ OSCI Print Shop  
3405 Deer Park Dr. SE  
Salem, OR 97301

***NOTE: Any transfer is subject to safety protocols and may delay the process. Applications will be reviewed and screened as they are received. Any applications received after the September 29<sup>th</sup> deadline will not be considered for this position.***



# Learn it. Earn it. Share it.

The ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) is an industry-recognized, evidence-based credential that certifies achievement of foundation skills essential for workplace success. The NCRC system measures job skills that are valuable for any occupation - skilled or professional - at any level and in any industry. And these assessments, along with a prep course, are now available to you at EOCI.

A National Career Readiness Certificate is earned by achieving a level score of 3 or better on three assessments.



## What are the three assessments for the NCRC Certificate?

### What can an NCRC Certification do for you?



Add to your resume and help you obtain the job you really want.



Demonstrate to thousands of Oregon employers that you have the foundational skills needed for numerous jobs in the market.



Potentially earn college credits in the process.

### Who will notice?



Employers



Industry Associations



Apprenticeship



Higher Education



Peers



#### Applied Mathematics:

This assessment measures the skills people use when they apply mathematical reasoning and problem solving techniques to work-related problems.



#### Graphic Literacy:

This assessment is designed to assess individuals' skills to find, summarize, compare and analyze information to make decisions using graphic resources.



#### Workplace Documents:

This assessment is designed to measure the reading skills required for succeeding in a wide range of jobs. The documents – which include emails, letters, directions, signs, notices, bulletins, policies, contracts, and regulations – are based on material that reflects the actual workplace reading demands.

Criteria for applicants: Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must be able to attend classes on weekday afternoons. To apply, send a communication form to IWP. Include a brief description of why you want to earn an NCRC certificate and how that would benefit you in the future. No all applicants will be accepted. This program is a prep course for the NCRC assessments. AICs must complete the prep course to be eligible to have the assessment proctored. For questions, contact IWP.

# Notices You May Have Missed

From Your Housing Unit Bulletin Board and Brief Announcements

Provided by ODOC and Various Sources

## Print Shop Programming Specialist:

The **OCE Print Shop** is recruiting to fill **multiple** open position for a **Programming Specialist**, to support the OCE Print Shop. Applicants must be able to adhere to a high standard of quality in a fast paced environment while meeting deadlines. The OCE Print Shop is located at OSCI in Salem. This position awards 10 -16 PRAS points, with the opportunity to earn a matching Team Goal Award.

For a full list of duties and applicant criteria, please see page 24.

## EDOVO App:

To obtain an email PDF of certifications completed on the EDOVO App have a friend or family member do the following:

Go to [Edovo.com](http://Edovo.com)

Click the menu

Click "Who We Serve"

Click "Justice Impact Learners"

Click "Request Transcript"

There is a form to fill out that will require the first and last name of the learner, SID number, facility, and date of birth.

## Administrative Rule Change:

PROPOSED RULES:

### **291-145 Group Activities (AIC)**

Amends rule to provide clarification for AICs and staff, align with audit recommendations and policy decisions on fundraising, and change the term "inmate" to "adult in custody".

Last day of comment period: 9/27/23 5:00 PM

## **291-156 Adult in Custody Welfare Fund**

Amends rule to update business strategies, reflect changes in department philosophy like changing "inmate" to "adult in custody", and to clarify the rules.

Last day of comment period: 9/27/23 5:00 PM

## Law Library Notice:

The Law Library will be closed from October 9-October 11, 2023. To help offset this closure, Priority Legal Users with an imminent deadline will be given additional scheduling priority during the weeks of October 2 and October 16. Please be sure to provide proof of your deadline to the Library Coordinators in advance. You will need to submit CD1714 Law Library Request Forms for your requests. Be sure to complete all required information on your Law Library Request Forms.

## T-Mobile and Boost Mobile:

The Department of Corrections is aware that T-Mobile and Boost Mobile customers may be experiencing difficulties with receiving calls from AICs due to T-Mobile's spam filters. T-Mobile is investigating the issue.

## **There are currently two workarounds:**

You can call T-Mobile customer service and request the number associated with the prison is removed from the spam blocked list. For general help, dial 611 from your T-Mobile phone, or call 1-800-937-8997.

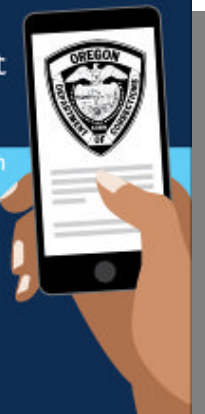
You can also download the "**Scam Shield App**" which should be a T-Mobile application. From the application, you can add the number yourself you want allowed.

# CONTRIBUTORS

Join our Friends & Family email list for the inside scoop!

Get emails about institution news and events

**TO SIGN UP:  
TEXT CORRECTIONS  
TO 22828 TODAY!**



September 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Labor Day				PRAS	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Meet *The Echo* Team

**Mr. Peters** IWP Coordinator, *The Echo* Supervisor

Mr. Peters has worked in the Department of Corrections for 25 years. He has worked in Security, Inspections, and Correctional Rehabilitation. In 2016 he became the IWP Coordinator.



**Phillip Luna**  
Editor  
Copywriter  
Photographer

Luna is the editor of *The Echo* and a contributing writer for the Coffee Creek Newsletter. He is also a Certified *Roots of Success* Facilitator, a Beekeeping Program Facilitator, the facilitator for the NCRC Prep Course, and the mentor for the Clerk Internship Program. In his spare time he is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree and is the current President of the Enrichment Club.



**Patrick Gazeley-Romney**  
Writer-at-Large  
Photographer

Gazeley is a Staff Writer for *The Echo* and a certified facilitator for the Gardening, *Roots of Success*, and *Mindfulness* programs. He is a Journeyman Beekeeper and facilitates the Beekeeping Program. He was also the first person in the nation to complete the *Roots of Success* Apprenticeship. Gazeley has a Bachelor's Degree from Portland State University. In his spare time he is the Secretary for the Enrichment Club.



**Juan Sanchez**  
Proofreader  
Contributing Writer

A veteran of the US Marine Corps, Sanchez served as a tanker on M1A1 battle tanks. He is the proofreader for *The Echo*, manages the EOCI Institution Channel (channel 53), and runs the videogram program. He is a newly certified *Roots of Success* facilitator and occasionally writes articles for *The Echo*.

**Kaliq Mansor**  
Contributing Writer

Kaliq is a contributing columnist, a Music Instructor, and a EOCI sports referee.

**Paul Ropp**  
Contributing Writer

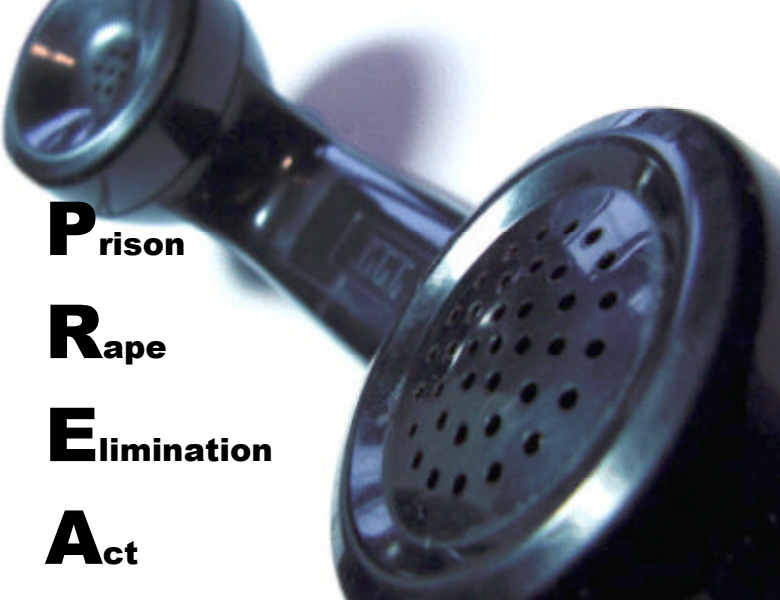
Paul is an occasional contributing writer and part of the GOGI leadership team.

**Warren Doescher**  
Contributing Writer

Doescher holds a degree from the Technical University of Life in the Philosophy of Basket Weaving. He currently holds three Guinness World Records and occasionally writes satire and comedic articles for the newsletter.

A publication of Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton, Oregon.

Direct questions and comments to EOCI Institution Work Programs (IWP).



**P**rison  
**R**ape  
**E**limination  
**A**ct

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. Your family can report on your 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 línea del Inspector General al 877-678-4222.

**PREA Advocate:**

You may write the PREA advocate at:

ODOC PREA Advocate  
2575 Center Street NE,  
Salem, OR 97301

# Fun with Horoscopes

Written by Warren Doescher

## Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Let me talk to you!

Leo's live their lives by the adage, 'fortune favors the bold.' But did you know that is not the complete idea? The complete, mostly unknown saying is, 'fortune favors the bold who can balance common sense with ambition.'

Too wordy right? Doesn't quite roll off the tongue and too long to fit on a bumper sticker. So it was shortened and the message was jumbled and lost. Leos will be Leos, so try and remember all of it - when the situation calls for it. Going on a safari to see wildlife? you were bold enough to make the trip. Going on a safari because you want to hug a lion? I hope you remember it all. By no means am I saying you're not tough enough to do it, but it is a 500 lb killing machine, and my money is on the lion.

Lucky number: 2, 3, 14.5, and -22.

## Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Pluto and the sun keep each other in check. With Mercury in retrograde, Saturn is playing stronger with dreams. The moon will give you higher tides on the blue moon. The last time this happened it benefited you. This leads to two questions:

1 - What was the benefit? A new love? Did a question finally get answered?

2 - What the heck does the first paragraph even mean? If you answered question 1, please help explain!

Virgos like details and they like rules. This means they can adapt well to many situations. Also means they are not fun to play games with. Sure, some may not know what retrograde means, but they'll explain in three different ways how it was your fault you took the extra bag in a game of Spades.

So Virgos, continue to learn the rules and details, but present calmly. No need to yell at me... I mean whomever you may be playing with Spades with.

Lucky numbers: 6, not 7 and 8, and wheels