

PENDLETON

Classic cars, pizza at prison helps students

By KATE WHITTLE
East Oregonian

Money to help young athletes in need is coming from an unlikely place: the nearby prison.

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, a men's medium-security prison at 2500 Westgate, Pendleton, sponsors programs to help inmates make positive change in the community. Organizers expect a prison fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 27, to raise about \$3,000 to help Pendleton schools purchase athletic gear for low-income kids.

At the private fundraiser at the prison, inmates will be able to inspect vintage cars and chow down on Domino's pizza. EOCI public information officer Andrea Neistadt said inmates can buy pizza and photos of themselves with the cars, and the profits go toward buying athletic equipment for needy Pendleton schoolkids. An inmate came up with the fundraiser idea four years ago.

"A lot of these men want to give back, but they're not necessarily able to give back to their own community," Neistadt said.

Since about 99 percent of EOCI's prisoners will be released after serving their sentences, it's a "fantastic thing" that they can be involved in good works, Neistadt said. The prison tries to sponsor programs to encourage inmates to come up with ideas.

"I'm very proud of our staff and what they do to facilitate these type of events and help children in need," she said.

She's also impressed with the auto aficionados who take the time to bring their cars for the show.

In previous years, similar

fundraisers brought about \$1,000 per year to the school. This year, she anticipates about \$3,000. The inmates' money comes from accounts set up by their families or their pay for working in the facility.

The school district keeps the money for students who can't afford gear, said Pendleton school business services director Michelle Jones. Coaches or counselors usually identify those students, she said.

"It helps students who maybe couldn't afford to participate otherwise," she said.

http://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local_news/classic-cars-pizza-at-eoci-helps-students/article_61483c8a-ca9c-11e0-9c78-001cc4c03286.html?success=9

THE ARGUS OBSERVER

Local news you need, information you want.
Your community-involved newspaper.



PREP FOOTBALL:
Payette hosts Nyssa, Fruitland on the road **A9**



Sunny
High: 90, Low: 55
Tomorrow: Sunny | High 90, Low 54

THE NATION:
Texas has hottest summer ever **A5**



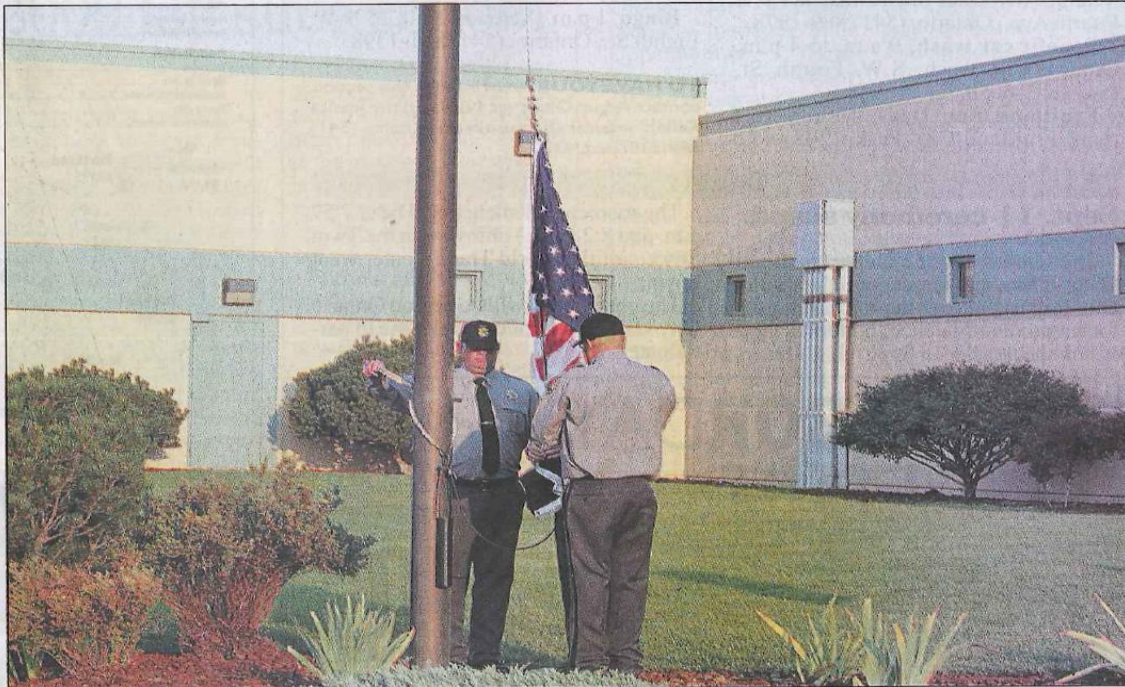
www.argusobserver.com

115th YEAR, NO. 180, 3 SECTIONS | 16 PAGES

September 9, 2011

FRIDAY

50 CENTS



LARRY MEYER | ARGUS OBSERVER

A color guard, made up of Snake River Correctional Institution officers, raise the flag in front of the SRCI Administration Building this morning, at the start of a ceremony honoring those killed in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. A small choir of SRCI staff sang the National Anthem, and Ontario Police Chief Mark Alexander and SRCI Superintendent Mark Nooth provided remarks. Alexander spoke of the need for people to remain vigilant.

Canby coffee shop will display quilts made by incarcerated women

Published: 8/4/2011 4:09:34 PM



Photo By: Courtesy of Coffee Creek Quilters *Coffee Creek Quilters is a group of dedicated volunteers who work with incarcerated women at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville. The quilts will be on display in Canby during August.*

Quilts crafted by women incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility will be on display in August at The Place to Be Cafe in Canby. Quilts made by [Coffee Creek Quilters](#) instructors also will be exhibited and offered for sale.

"Having their work included in a quilt show is a new experience for women in the Coffee Creek program," said CCQ President Mary Ann McCammon. "Many of the women have experienced domestic violence, homelessness, substance abuse and mental health issues."

CCQ teaches skills that prepare women for living in the community after release from prison, including perseverance when a project takes a long time, problem solving when a student makes a mistake, generosity when there's a shortage of equipment or supplies, and working with others when there's an opportunity for joint projects, she said.

While normally closed on Sundays, The Place to Be Cafe will open on Aug. 21 for a special event for Coffee Creek Quilters. In addition to the quilt show, CCQ volunteers will be on hand that day to sell raffle tickets for two quilts they've made for fundraising.

"We hope to lure sports fans that day because the quilts we're raffling are stadium quilts with Oregon Ducks and Beavers fabrics," McCammon said.

Coffee Creek Quilters is a dedicated group of volunteers who teach classes at the Oregon women's prison. Each student in the program makes three quilts in weekly two-hour classes. The first two quilts are donated to a variety of organizations that serve seniors in nursing homes, hospitalized children, terminally ill adults, and foster children. Each year approximately 150 quilts are donated to these organizations. Students may keep the third quilt or give it to a loved one.

The CCQ exhibit is part of The Place to Be Cafe's Mission Possible initiative to support local nonprofits. The Cafe is located at 190 NW 2nd Ave, Canby. It's open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday to Saturday.

On Aug. 21, open hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On that day, 40 percent of sales and tips will be donated to Coffee Creek Quilters.

Coffee Creek Quilters also recently donated quilts to 17 kids attending a special summer camp for grieving children.

CCQ members challenged themselves to make the quilts for Camp Erin, where young people learn to cope with the loss of a loved one.

The Camp Erin Quilt Challenge was unusual for CCQ, said McCammon. "This project gave our instructors the opportunity to practice what we teach."

Camp Erin, scheduled for Aug. 26-28 at Camp Kuralti in Boring, is a national program funded by the Moyer Foundation

<http://www.wilsonvillespokesman.com/news/2011/August/04/Community/canby.coffee.shop.will.display.quilts.made.by.incarcerated.women/news.aspx>

Inmates Organize Veterans Group in Ontario

VETS NEWS September / October 2011



Corrections Officer Steve Farrow places a wreath on behalf of incarcerated Snake River Correctional Institution veterans at a veteran's monument in Ontario on Memorial Day

ONTARIO –

Steve Farrow has one of the most stressful jobs in Oregon. As a corrections officer at the Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI), Farrow spends his days with convicts who have committed crimes ranging from property crimes to murder.

The Vietnam veteran has spent nearly 14 years patrolling the grounds of SRCI, and in that time, he knew that there was one thing missing: An Incarcerated Veterans Association. As a veteran, Farrow understood the need of veterans to be around other veterans and advocated for a way for incarcerated veterans to interact. SCRI Superintendent Mark Nooth agreed and tasked Farrow to organize the group.

“I was happy to take on this project, but the members would have to meet certain criteria,” Farrow explained. “All veterans applying for membership had to be honorably discharged and prove it by providing a DD-214. As of August, membership is at 63 veterans and we expect more as the word gets around as to what the group is about.” Farrow said.

The goal of the Snake River Veterans Association (SRVA) is to bring incarcerated veterans together to help one another. Farrow also has encouraged the veterans to work on projects that benefit veterans and their families outside the prison walls. An artist within the group drew a sketch of a proposed veterans monument in Ontario. That sketch was later displayed in public to show what the monument would look like.

This past Memorial Day, Farrow laid a wreath at the base of the now

completed monument on behalf of the inmates.

SRVA members also signed a large drawing of a Yellow Ribbon that was taken to Walter Reed Hospital as part of the Wounded Warrior program as a way of reaching out to fellow veterans. “The association just wants to be involved with providing support for veterans and their families as a way of giving back to the community,” Farrow said. “They feel left behind and they “They asked me to do it because they wanted to do something to honor fallen veterans, so I was proud to make the presentation for them.” want to matter.”

The Association also works to help its members. Milton McCarthy joined the group early on. The 100 percent service-connected disabled Vietnam War veteran had previously worked for 19 years with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs before being incarcerated. He uses his VA expertise behind the wall in Ontario to help his fellow veterans with their veteran’s issues.

While many may think SRVA is full of older Vietnam veterans, Farrow says there is a definite increase of young incarcerated Iraq and Afghanistan veterans at Snake River. “These new veterans often respond to civilian situations with their combat training and are having a hard time reintegrating after their combat tours and end up here.”

Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) do get help from a local counselor who visits the prison weekly to talk with the inmates.

However, VA medical and mental health services remain unavailable to incarcerated veterans

and VA financial benefits are significantly reduced for veterans incarcerated for more than 61 days.

While nearly 10 percent of Oregon’s population is veterans, the veteran inmate population may be less, according to prison officials.

However, Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) Salem Claims and Counseling Manager Mitch Sparks said the Oregon State Prisons and Oregon State Correctional Institute (OSCI) have thriving in-house veteran associations to support these inmates. Farrow agrees that his association will only grow in the future.

ODVA and County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) routinely do outreach to incarcerated veterans.

“We want our incarcerated veterans to know they are not a forgotten group,” said Tom Mann, administrator of ODVA’s Veterans’ Services Division. “It’s important that we help these veterans and their families while they are incarcerated and even more important that we help them when they are released.”

With the reduction of VA benefits after more than 61 days in jail, some of those benefits may be transferrable to family members on the outside. The veteran does not lose the benefit; the benefits are just on hold during the incarceration. When a veteran is scheduled to be released, ODVA and the CVSOs work with these veterans to reestablish their veteran benefits.

“We are very happy to see veteran associations within the jails,” Mann said. “It is important that they support each other while incarcerated and work with us as they plan their re-entry into society.

Looking back

Officials, supporters recall 20 years at SRCI

By William Anderson
Argus Observer
Wednesday, September 14, 2011 11:16 AM PDT

ONTARIO — After traveling the world with his work, Bill Prindle made his way back to Ontario and the 20th anniversary celebration of Snake River Correctional Institute Tuesday.

Part of what brought Prindle back to Ontario from his current position in Dallas, Texas, was to see what he helped create. Another part of his reason for coming back to Ontario was because of the people.

"This was a fantastic job, probably my favorite after 30 years on the job," Prindle said. "I have worked all around the world, and nothing is better than the people I worked with on this job."

Prindle worked on both phases of building Oregon's largest-capacity prison as an architect who specializes in jails, prison, law enforcement businesses and court houses.

Prindle was one of many who were on hand Tuesday afternoon at the visitor's center at SRCI to celebrate the opening of SRCI more than 20 years ago.

Those who were gathered were those who have worked at the prison through the years, the current employees, those who were instrumental in bringing the prison to the area and community members who just wanted to see a part of the history of the prison.

Retired Malheur County Circuit Court Judge Frank Yraguen was the keynote speaker for the celebration and gave a glimpse into some of the challenges that SRCI faced before it became SRCI.

Yraguen explained how the entire process began back in the 1970s, when he and other judges for the state noticed issues with how Oregon's prison and justice system were being run.

Yraguen touched on the fact that Oregon's prisons seemed to be a "revolving door" as inmates would be sent to prison for violating a law and others were released so to make room, even if their sentence was not complete.

Through the years, a system was created that kept inmates in prison for their entire sentence, which created another challenge: not enough prisons.

In February of 1988, Yraguen said the Malheur County Court took an idea to the public about trying to bring a prison to Malheur County.

"It wasn't taken too seriously about putting a prison here," Yraguen said in his address. "Most people scoffed at the idea that Salem would ever locate anything of significance in Malheur County."

The next year, in October of 1989, Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt came to visit the site that had been selected for the new facility, along with another facility in Boardman.



Eastside Institution's Administrator Sharon Blacketter (right) and Mitch Morrow, deputy director for the Oregon Department of Corrections (center), present a shadowbox to commemorate 20 years of service in the Oregon Corrections to Snake River Correctional Institution Superintendent Mark Nooth Tuesday afternoon during the 20th anniversary celebration of SRCI.

On Oct. 13, 1989, Goldschmidt announced the location just north of Ontario to be the location of the new state prison.

Yraguen then remarked about the May 30, 1990, ground-breaking at the facility and some of the issues the prison faced early on.

Following Yraguen, Professional Development Unit's Mike Marostica told a brief story about what it was like during training before the prison opened and some of the challenges it faced after opening, including going over a month since the dedication until inmates were brought to the facility.

He mentioned during the early days of the expansion at SRCI, there were 300 contractors and 150 inmates working on the prison at any given time and the difficulty staff had in making sure the inmates were where they said they were going to be. At the peak of the expansion construction, Marostica said more than 28,000 vehicles entered and exited every month.

Sharon Blacketter, the Eastside Institution's administrator, presented SRCI Superintendent Mark Nooth with a shadowbox to commemorate 20 years of service in the Oregon Corrections. A tour was then given to those who were interested.

"It looks as good today as when it was opened," Prindle said of the facility.

<http://www.argusobserver.com/articles/2011/09/14/news/doc4e70ead06f745033375964.txt>