

# TORRINGTON PRISON NEWS

July 2007

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE WDOC



Equipment is moving and concrete is flowing! Construction of our newest correctional facility in Torrington is underway. As the project moves forward and Torrington begins to prepare for any influx of construction workers and state employees into the community, we want to make sure we continue to maintain open lines

of communication with the residents of Goshen County and that all voices are heard. A great way to do so is to speak to any of the members of the Prison Community Partnership Committee or attend the meetings. Hope to see you there!

Bob Lampert

### FUTURE MEETING DATES

July 18, 2007—10:00 a.m.

Bus Trip to, and lunch meeting and

Tour at, Wyoming Women's Center

October 17, 2007—6:00 p.m.

County Commissioners' Room  
Torrington

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PCPC

The WMCI Prison Community Partnership Committee (PCPC) had a very informative meeting in April and enjoyed hearing the updates from Director Lampert and Layton Construction. The committee has planned a bus trip and tour to the Wyoming Women's Center in Lusk for July 18. We will also be meeting with the PCPC group from Lusk.

I, along with several other people from the community, presented at a business luncheon held in June at the Community Training Center at Eastern Wyoming College. The topics included community impact issues such as housing shortages and

childcare needs that will be occurring because of the new prison.

Father Kevin Koch had to resign from the PCPC because he will be moving to Casper. Thanks to Father Kevin for all of his contributions to our group and to the community over the years. We welcome Pastor Curtis Hill who will be replacing Father Kevin on our committee.

This newsletter features a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Please let us know of any other concerns or questions.

Dee Ludwig

### PCPC MEMBERSHIP

Dee Ludwig

Chairman

Bob Mayor

First Vice Chairman

Rick Patterson

Second Vice Chairman:

Serving September 2005 –  
January 2008

Sue Davis

Susan Ducheneaux

Tim Ellis

Steve Fullmer

Roger Humphrey

Pastor Curtis Hill

Gary Olson

Paul Puebla

Earl Warren

Serving January 2007 –  
January 2009

Don Dungan

Martin Gubbels

Toby Lewis

Chuck Lowry

Don Murphy

Jeff Robertson

Karen Smith

Sam Wagner

Ex-Officio

Bob Lampert

Gordy Lewis

Leroy Schafer

Robert Ward



# WMCI FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will the prison be open?

**It's estimated to be open in January 2010**

Has anyone been hired for our prison yet? If so, how many?

**Currently, WDOC is interviewing for an (1) Administrative Specialist position which will support the Construction Manager and the Prison Division until the facility is open. This position will be located in Cheyenne until the prison is open.**

**Additionally, WDOC is recruiting for two (2) Casework Specialist positions to be located at WSP in Rawlins until WMCI is open.**

How many inmates will our prison house?

**700**

How many people will be employed?

**Around 340**

What kinds of jobs are available at the prison?

- Correctional Security (Correctional Officers, Corporals, Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, and Major)**
- Administrative Specialists and Executive Assistant (Clerical Support)**
- Casework Specialists and Unit Managers (Maintaining case files of inmates)**
- Food Service Workers and Managers**
- Trades Specialists and OSHA Manager (General/Specific Maintenance)**
- Human Resources (Recruiters, Administrators, and Specialists)**
- Business Office – Fiscal Specialists and Manager**
- Information Technology**
- Instructors (for inmates)**
- Recreation Specialists**

Tell us how a person can get a job at one of the other institutions with the promise that they can come back to the Torrington WMCI once it opens?

**Goshen County residents have the option to work now at another institution and transfer when the WMCI is open. To be considered for a position at another institution, submit an official State of Wyoming application for the position you are interested in. Department of Workforce Services is available to assist with the application process.**

**Upon hire, notify your supervisor in writing that you are a Goshen County resident and request a transfer to WMCI when it is open. Transfers will be processed according to priorities: WSP – First priority; staff working at WHF, WHCC and WWC will be considered individually. WDOC will manage transfer requests so as not to jeopardize the safety and security of each institution through the transition.**

Are there construction jobs available? If so, who is doing the hiring?

**Contact Department of Workforce Services for information on and applying for construction jobs.**

What is required to become a Correctional Officer?

**The Minimum Qualifications are High School Diploma or GED, 18 Years old or older, U.S. Citizen, and no felony convictions. Then, WDOC conducts a series of tests to determine suitability for the position. These tests include:**

- **Insight Integrity Test**
- **Correctional Officer Video Test**
- **Oral Interview**
- **Physical Fitness Assessment**
- **Fingerprints**

## WMCI FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

Candidates passing the above tests will receive a Conditional Job Offer pending the results of a Background Investigation, drug screen, physical exam and psychological evaluation. The Background Investigation includes employment verification, personal references, credit report, criminal history, education, and spouse interview to assess the candidate's moral character and suitability for the job.

After all tests and evaluations are complete and have acceptable results, the candidate will then receive a final job offer.

What does a Correctional officer do?

Under supervision, a Correctional Officer performs a variety of tasks to maintain the security and safety of a correctional facility. Tasks could include the following:

- Monitor conduct of prisoners, according to established policies, regulations, and procedures, in order to prevent escape or violence.
- Inspect conditions of locks, window bars, grills, doors, and gates at correctional facilities, in order to ensure that they will prevent escapes.
- Search prisoners, cells, and vehicles for weapons, valuables, or drugs.
- Guard facility entrances to screen visitors.
- Search for the presence of contraband.
- Take prisoners into custody and escort to locations within and outside of facility, such as visiting room, courtroom, or airport.
- Record information, such as prisoner identification, charges, and incidences of inmate disturbance.
- Use weapons, handcuffs, and physical force to maintain discipline and order among prisoners.
- Conduct fire, safety, and sanitation inspections.

Does this position require me to carry a gun?

**No.** Weapons qualification is a separate process and required to work certain posts such as transport and perimeter. It is also a requirement for the Special Operations Response Team (S.O.R.T.).

All Correctional Officers are certified in the use of O.C. spray, a type of pepper spray. This certification is completed during the P.O.S.T. Certified Basic Training Academy.

What type of training or schooling do we have to attend?

All staff attend our P.O.S.T. Certified Basic Training Academy. Non-security personnel attend the first three (3) weeks of training and Security personnel attend nine (9) weeks of intense training including two weeks of job shadowing. Employees are trained on Wyoming case law, WDOC policies and procedures, report writing, ethics, and managing inmate behavior to name a few of the classes. Experienced Correctional Officers may be eligible to attend a shortened training called Mini-Basic. The WDOC pays for the training.

Is all of the training in Rawlins?

The P.O.S.T. Certified Basic Training Academy is in Rawlins. However, the remainder of the training for re-certifications or to maintain P.O.S.T. certification can be completed at the institutions where the employee is assigned.

Why do they need my credit report in the hiring process?

The credit report is part of the background investigation required by P.O.S.T. WDOC reviews the credit report as part of our responsibility to hire Correctional Officers with good moral character. It is one part of the Background Investigation process.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PRISON SITE

As of July 2, 2007:

- The mass excavation is complete (that includes all the dirt work, including the deep dynamic compaction). Did you hear the periodic dull thumping from March 6 through mid-May? That was the DDC. Test results of that compaction have met the engineers' expectations.
- Approximately 60 people are currently on-site and most of them are concrete workers associated with Heggem Construction from Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Tilt panels will be poured on the ground in the next several weeks. Each panel will be from eight to twelve inches thick. When the panels have cured, the on-site crane will lift those panels into place, forming the prison walls.
- Shimmic Seeding from Hawk Springs, Wyoming, has completed the seeding of the site slopes.
- Workers are getting ready to install site utilities. They're receiving pipe and approvals. In another week they'll be laying pipe for storm water, water piping into the prison, and the sewer lines.
- Layton Construction is working on electrical, mechanical and other sub contractors' contracts. Those should be in place in late July and will be announced at that time.
- Staffing on-site should reach 100 by the end of the summer.



Aerial View of WMCI Construction

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WMCI OR PCPC CONTACT:

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Or

Melinda Brazzale, Public Information Officer, WDOC, (307) 777-6085 or e-mail at [mbrazz@wdoc.state.wy.us](mailto:mbrazz@wdoc.state.wy.us)