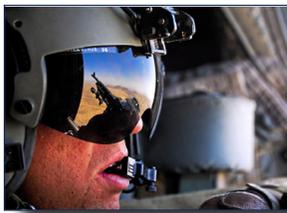




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Have a great story idea?

Send to
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Rutledge State Prison staff cares for their community, feeds the hungry over holiday

Content contributed by Warden Shay Hatcher

The holiday season is a time for celebration, but for those struggling to obtain food and housing it may seem like a season without hope. Staff at Rutledge State Prison worked hard to bring that hope to those less fortunate by hosting a "Feed the Hungry" event on Saturday Dec. 21. Staff members not only cooked meals and distributed them to citizens in the downtown Columbus area, they donated several more plates to The Salvation Army. It was a chance to show their community spirit by bringing a hot meal and some much needed cheer to those in need in the surrounding community.

"Some of the greatest ideas are not always created in the

conference room by top officials," said Rutledge Warden Shay Hatcher. The Feed the Hungry project by Rutledge

State Prison was the idea of Sgt. Shelay Smith and Sgt. Gregory Harris.

(See **RUTLEDGE** pg. 3)



Staff members from Rutledge State Prison show their community spirit as they distribute meals to those in need in downtown Columbus on Dec. 21. The staff cooked and served food to homeless and hungry residents and donated additional meals to the Salvation Army to distribute.

Joint Task Force makes key arrests

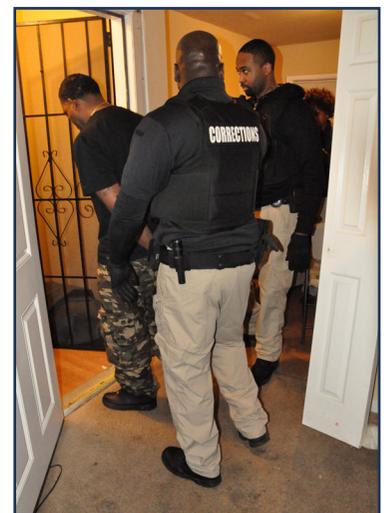
Story and photos by Lisa Rodriguez-Presley

For two men with outstanding murder warrants, and several probationers found in violation of their probation, dreams of a Christmas outside prison were dashed, thanks to the efforts of the Joint Task Force during Operation Snowman Dec. 16-18 in Atlanta.

Nearly 100 GDC Probation Officers, probation tactical team members and Cobra Squad members, working in cooperation with the Atlanta Police Department, Fulton County Sheriff's Office and Pardons and Parole, conduct-

ed compliance checks in an effort to make the streets of Atlanta safer during the holiday season. The additional law enforcement presence drew the attention of residents as columns of probation vehicles made their way through neighborhoods and apartment complexes, with several people approaching to find out what was happening in their area.

Two of Atlanta Police Department's most wanted fugitives, both of whom were wanted for murder and violation of prob- (see **ARRESTS** pg. 2)



A violator is led away in handcuffs after contraband was recovered during a compliance check by JTF.

Calendar Events



Thursday, January 9
Board of Corrections Meeting

Monday, January 13
Legislative Session begins

Monday, January 20
Martin Luther King Jr Day

Tuesday, January 21
Tifton DRC Commencement Ceremony

GDC Roll-Up
"Day in Central Office"

Tuesday, January 28
GDC Quarterly Awards Ceremony

Thursday, January 30
Tommy M. Rouse DRC Commencement Ceremony

GDC seeking veterans at Military Job Fair

Content contributed by Lisa Rodriguez-Presley

Know a servicemember in need of employment? The Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC), in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Defense and Georgia National Guard, will host several law enforcement and public safety agencies for a military personnel job fair on January 16 at 10

a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Benning Club on Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga.

The participating agencies (GDC, Department of Juvenile Justice, State Board of Pardons and Paroles, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Safety, Georgia State Patrol, Georgia Department of Defense, Georgia Army Na-

tional Guard, Mental Health Management, and Georgia Correctional Health Care) have many jobs available for military personnel returning from duty, military spouses and civilians. In addition, the Department of Labor will be in attendance and will provide access to job information and job counseling to applicants. The free event is open to active duty and transitioning military personnel, National Guard personnel, reservists and veterans who register online at: <https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=SioA7OfOE2dy614gEjgWA>

"We are thrilled to assist these brave men and women who selflessly serve and protect our country find employment," said Commissioner Brian Owens. "Military veterans have the values and skills we are looking for so it makes sense to seek them out by hosting events like this."



(ARRESTS from pg. 1)

ation, were apprehended during the operation. In total, the task force helped clear 36 warrants and made a total of 43 arrests. Probation officers made a number of compliance checks on registered sex offenders throughout the city as well.

"We were extremely pleased with the results of the operation," said Marcia McIntyre, Deputy Director of Probation Operations and overall director of the operation. "Officers were able to get some very dangerous individuals off the streets, and we always welcome the opportunity to partner with other law enforcement agencies."

GDC officers utilized the Rapid ID mobile fingerprinting technology to help them confirm people's identities, but put feet to the pavement to locate probationers throughout the city. "Our goals were to help make Atlanta a safer place and have an increased law



Georgia Department of Corrections Probation officers coordinate their next compliance check with officers from the Atlanta Police Department during Operation Snowman held in Atlanta Dec. 16-18.



Probation officers recover contraband from a probationer's residence during a compliance check for Operation Snowman. "We achieved those during this operation."

(RUTLEDGE from pg. 1)

“Sgt. Smith came to me with a brilliant idea and I was inspired by her suggestion that Rutledge State Prison sponsor a Feed the Hungry project,” he said.

The project was funded completely through employee donations and Sgt. Smith assumed full responsibility in putting everything together.

“I asked Sgt. Smith what else could I do to support this wonderful and worthy cause,” said Warden Hatcher, “to which she immediately responded, All I need is your blessing.”

After receiving the go ahead, Sgt. Smith worked with 75 staff members who assisted with donations, cooking, and serving. In total, Rutledge State Prison personnel fed 100 – 150 deserving people a hearty spaghetti dinner.

“This event allowed us to show a different side of who we are, what we do, and to give hope to those that are just going through tough times,” he said. “It was an opportunity to let those who for whatever reason are homeless and/or hungry know they are not forgotten and that we care.”



Rutledge State Prison staff members hand out meals to homeless and hungry people in Columbus, GA

Valdosta State Prison achieves compliance audit excellence

Congratulations to Kenny Haskins. He won an individual award during this audit. He serves as the Maintenance Engineer at Valdosta State Prison. He led his department in completing the hardening project while raising the audit score to the upper nineties with no critical findings.



The Medical Department won the TEAM award for this audit. Their score was in the upper nineties with no critical findings. Valdosta SP has a various missions which can be very labor intensive to the medical department. The longevity of the staff in the medical department contributes to the success of this department. Congratulations to the Medical Team.



Sgt. Terry Brown won an individual award for his work in Searches and Permanent Logs. His auditor was very complimentary of his organizational skills. His documentation on searches and permanent logs is excellent. He was described as a consummate professional and is definitely an asset to the agency and this facility.



Whitworth holds first joint graduation for 80

Content contributed by Mark Martin

It was a proud day for 80 inmates at the Whitworth Women’s Facility Dec. 6, as they received certificates of completion from the Adult Basic Education and On the Job Training Programs. Additionally, 20 of those inmates received their GED. The ceremony was the first combined graduation at Whitworth. Operations, Planning and Training Division Director Arnold Smith was the featured speaker for the event, which was attended by special guests including Chandra Fussell of Risk Reduction,

and Steve Edwards, Uzoma Anado and Steve Smith from Education Services. Education is a key component of the Department of Corrections Offender Re-entry program. The Journal of Correctional Education concluded that education achievement was associated with an 11% decrease in the two-year recidivism rate of offenders released. Providing these services helps achieve the department’s goal of creating a safer Georgia by providing offenders with opportunities for positive change.



Whitworth graduates sport their commencement regalia during a combined ceremony on Dec 6.

Around the Agency..

Employees throughout the Department of Corrections opened their hearts, and their wallets, to help spread some Christmas cheer to children in need. Working with a variety of organizations, employees donated new toys and clothing to various charities and individuals. The generosity was greatly appreciated and thanks to GDC employees the holidays were a little brighter for Georgia's children.



Staff members at Augusta State Medical Prison filled five bins with new toys, purchased eight bicycles and raised an additional \$270 for the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Numerous children received the gifts on their Christmas wish lists thanks to the generosity of ASMP staff.



Warden Antoine Caldwell surrounded by the Christmas donations of staff from Wilcox State Prison. The staff participates in the Wilcox County DFACS Christmas Star Program every year. Employees choose a star from the tree and purchase the item(s) that are requested or recommended. Employees have participated in this program since 1994.



Packed from the ceiling to the floorboards with presents, "Santa's SUV" is ready to head off to make some children's Christmas dreams of toys and new clothes come true.



Staff members at State Offices South at Tift College volunteered to provide gifts for sixteen different children. The gifts were gathered and loaded into Santa's SUV for delivery by a local charity.

MISSION

The Department of Corrections creates a safer Georgia by effectively managing offenders and providing opportunities for positive change.

VISION

To be recognized as the best corrections organization in the nation.



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