

## FURLOUGH PLAN AND BUDGET UPDATE

By now, most NMCD employees are aware that Governor Bill Richardson has signed an executive order mandating mandatory employee furloughs—five days off without pay. The Governor’s Office has drafted a plan outlining the following possible furlough days:

**Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009**

(Friday, Dec. 25 is a paid holiday)

**Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009**

(Friday, Jan. 1 is a paid holiday)

**Friday, Jan. 15, 2009**

(Monday, Jan. 18 is a paid holiday)

**Friday, April 2, 2009**

(Furlough day would replace 4 hours of administrative leave)

**Friday, May 28, 2009**

(Monday, May 31 is a paid holiday)

Corrections Secretary Joe Williams supports the plan. “It’s workable. You won’t be able to please everybody, but this plan satisfies the furlough requirement in a way that makes sense.” A decision has not yet been made on how the furloughs will affect correctional officers.

The furlough plan will not be effective until the State Personnel Board approves it. The board is expected to review the plan at its Dec. 16, 2009 meeting. Including all executive agencies, the mandatory unpaid furlough is expected to save the state approximately \$10 million. The furlough is just one of many initiatives that will be implemented to help the state make up a projected \$650 million shortage in this year’s budget.

In addition to the furlough, every agency under the governor’s control is also expected to reduce the current year budget by a certain assigned percentage. The Corrections Department will be cutting four percent or \$11.4 million from this year’s budget. That’s on top of an already reduced budget. The department began this fiscal year with \$12.5 million less than it was allocated for fiscal year 2008-2009.

continued on page 2

## WESTERN NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CELEBRATES 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



WNMCF guests and speakers stand while the WNMCF Color Guard posts colors.

When the Western New Mexico Correctional Facility (WNMCF) opened 25 years ago in Grants, it was during a time when good-paying jobs were hard to come by in a small community. Western, as staff and locals know it, helped the small town during the economic ups and downs and gave hundreds of residents a chance at a good life. The town was booming with coal and uranium mines, but needed other jobs to support the families. The population of Grants has reduced drastically and the coal and uranium mines have been steadily declining in productivity and are hiring far fewer employees. The prison has remained a constant source of income and employment in the impoverished town many call home.

WNMCF opened its doors in October 1984 as a multi-custody level, multiple-function facility. It was a Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC) and the department’s correctional center for women. The original cost of construction for the facility was approximately \$19 million. An additional \$1.5 million was appropriated for the construction of an additional 90 female beds in 1986 and another \$160,000 for a chapel in 1988. In 1989, the New Mexico Women’s Correctional Facility, operated by Corrections Corporation of America, opened and the women were moved out and WNMCF became an adult male facility. Western was the hub for all new inmates being evaluated for classification purposes so that they could be sent to various prisons throughout the state. It then maintained a permanent adult male population of medium and minimum level custody inmates, until 1999, when the state Legislature mandated that RDC be relocated to a more central location for the state. RDC was moved to the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility in Los

continued on page 3

## PROBATION AND PAROLE TAKES STRIDES TO ENSURE SAFE HALLOWEEN

Probation and Parole (PPD) played a major role in keeping crime off the streets during Halloween. PPD planned activities for sex offenders and organized community patrols to keep track of sex offenders' whereabouts while children were out trick-or-treating. Districts across the state participated with local law enforcement and the U.S. Marshals Service in special operations. Sex offenders were visited at their homes to ensure compliance with directives set forth for the holiday. The directives included early curfews, porch lights out, no decorations, and no handing out candy. Probation and parole officers patrolled malls and neighborhoods. Two offenders, one in Region II and one in Region III, were found at their homes distributing candy. Offenders were arrested and preliminary violation reports were submitted to the courts. Region IV arranged Halloween gatherings at district offices for all sex offenders, in order to keep them off the streets during trick-or-treating hours.

## NEW REGION MANAGER



Vicki Lounello  
Region II-Special Programs Manager

Victoria "Vicki" Lounello is the new Region II-Special Programs manager. Before accepting the region manager position, she worked in Region I as a roaming probation and parole officer. She has worked for NMCD for close to five years. Lounello replaces Gary Carson who retired in August 2009.

## FURLOUGH/BUDGET PLAN CONTINUED

The four percent \$11.4 million budget reduction will come from the following areas:

Cut private-prison contracts at Lea County Correctional Facility (LCCF) in Hobbs and Guadalupe County Correctional Facility (GCCF) in Santa Rosa (\$4.2 million). Since July 2009, 180 inmates have been moved out of LCCF to state-operated prisons, dropping LCCF inmate population to 1080. At GCCF, 60 inmates were moved to state-operated prisons, dropping GCCF inmate population to 540.

Reduce Inmate Medical Contract (approximately \$4.0 million)

Drug Testing of Probation/Parole Offenders (\$550,000). Rather than contracting with a laboratory collection/testing service, Probation and Parole will limit laboratory services and purchase field-testing supplies for probation and parole officers to perform offender drug testing in-house.

Behavioral Health Contracts (\$400,000). Department reduced treatment contracts for Probation and Parole offenders by 10 percent.

Detention Costs (\$775,000). Probation and Parole fund that pays incarceration costs for parolees housed in county jails statewide.

Private Prisons Contracts/SCAAP Federal Funds Deferred Revenue (\$1.4 million)

Replace general fund expenditures with State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) revenue. SCAAP provides federal payments to state and localities that incurred correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating illegal immigrants.

In January 2010, the Legislature will convene for its regular 30-day legislative session. Depending on the state's financial picture in January, more cuts may be necessary to balance this year's budget. The Legislature will also hammer out next fiscal year's budget, which begins July 1, 2010. Unless the national recession takes a drastic turn for the better, agency budgets probably won't change all that much for fiscal year 2010-2011.

## WNMCF 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONTINUED

Lunas (CNMCF). With all the various changes, the facility maintains 428 adult male offenders at custody Levels II, III, and IV. Today, the operating budget for WNMCF is approximately \$12.5 million with close to 250 staff employed from the local area.

In August 1984, the first staff hired to work at WNMCF went through a three-week academy, in Grants, at the New Mexico State University Branch. After the academy training, the staff commuted to Los Lunas and worked at the Central New Mexico Correctional Facility, until inmates started populating Western, two months later, in October. Commuting to CNMCF, gave staff approximately two months of on-the-job experience, working with the incarcerated adult male offenders. Since then, there have been over 63 employees who have retired from the facility with over 20 years of service. At some point in time, 23 second-generation families have worked at Western. There are also third-generation families carrying on the tradition: Lita Rodarte, grandmother and mother, retired from Western in 2006. Rodarte's daughter, Norma Patterson, works at the facility as the business manager. Patterson's daughter, Chelsea Patterson, is a correctional officer. The Seibert family represents another third-generation family working at Western. Ralph Seibert, was grandfather and father. He was the facility training officer, in 1987, when he passed away. Seibert's daughter, CeCe Burdine, currently works as a nurse at WNMCF. Burdine's daughter, Lia Archuleta is a records clerk.

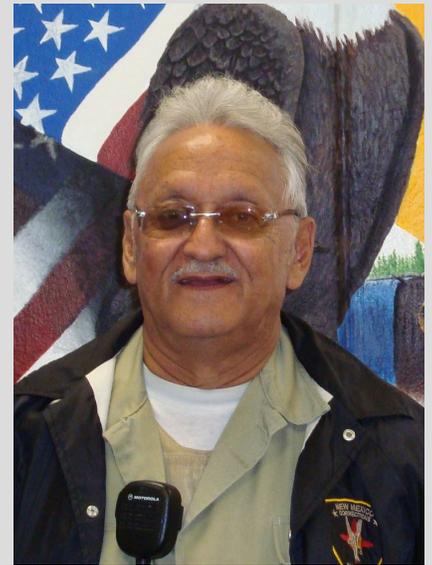
Two employees from the first academy class still work at WNMCF after all these years. Denny Archunde has over 25 years of continuous service. Staff say that he has one of the best attitudes. Co-workers say that the only time that officer Archunde will appear down is when he is not allowed to work a double shift or when he is being sent home before he is ready to leave. John Barela retired as a sergeant in 2005 and returned in 2008 as a correctional officer specialist in maintenance, stating, "This is where my heart is."

WNMCF has had 10 different wardens come and go. One warden, Joe R. Williams, worked his way to the top job in the Corrections Department--Secretary of Corrections. Secretary Williams is known as "Joe Willie" to the staff at Western. He was the keynote speaker for the Oct. 16 ceremony held at WNMCF to celebrate the 25th anniversary. "The Western New Mexico Correctional Facility was my starting point. This is a great place to work with great people. The City of Grants is lucky to have you," he said.

WNMCF has always played a major role in the community. There are several examples of how employees give back to the community. Every year, WNMCF helps with security at the Fire and Ice Bike Rally. Staff assist in the training for the annual Junior Officer Law Enforcement Training (JOLT). The facility allows inmates to help clean local schools when classes aren't in session. In addition to donating their time, employees also give generously out of their pockets. WNMCF has kept the trophy for numerous years for raising the most money for the Walk for Life foundation. The employees have also adopted needy families during the holidays, participating in Koats for Kids, Toys for Tots, and in 2008, they participated in a food drive for Saint Vincent DePaul shelter, where WNMCF employees completely filled the shelter's store room with food.

# 25 YEARS!

## LONGEST-SERVING EMPLOYEES AT WNMCF



**Denny Archunde**  
Correctional Officer



**John Barela**  
Correctional Officer Specialist

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS STILL A PRIORITY

## PNM CONDUCTS DRILL



Pictures clockwise from top to bottom: Lt. John Branch and correctional officer Charles King role-play as inmates; first responders prepare to enter pod; correctional officer Matthew Balliet takes aim at inmate fight with non-lethal rounds; officers end stabbing incident using non-lethal force; security and medical staff render aid to injured parties.

The Penitentiary of New Mexico Level VI conducted emergency use-of-force drills in October. Realistic scenarios were created to assess the action of officers and to provide training in accordance with the use-of-force policy, as it relates to the deployment of lethal force during life threatening situations. First responders, second responders, shift supervisors and on-duty staff received vital practical application training and direction regarding the appropriate use-of-force resources available to stop the action and to preserve life. These drills are essential for training and staff readiness to ensure that they will take decisive action during life-threatening incidents.

Vistula Curry, use-of-force instructor, and Lt. Maj. Jerry Roark and Deputy Warden Lawrence Jaramillo planned the details of the drills and strategically assigned instructors, security supervisors, administrators and safety officers to closely monitor the drills. The drills were fashioned with the deliberate and calculating rationale to test staff readiness and to encourage staff to proactively think about the various potentials of unpredictable and cunning inmate actions. The drills were conceived by “thinking like an inmate” and consisted of complex worst-case scenarios. Staff members were assessed on their preparedness to deal with the worst-case scenarios; they were put to the test on decision-making and effective deployment of available resources to gain control and to stop the action to preserve life with the appropriate level of force.

The three training sessions consisted of inmate-on-inmate stabbings with variances between incidents.

Debriefings occurred after each session to positively critique the actions taken and to effectively enhance the Level VI response to unpredictable inmate actions. It is quite evident from communicating with the officers and supervisors that no one wishes for an opportunity to use lethal force; however, the question is not if appropriate force must be used, but rather, when? As a result of this vital training, the Level VI drill participants are better prepared to react swiftly and decisively with appropriate and reasonable actions. Training will continue to be planned and carried out to enhance staff readiness.

# NMCD Staffing Update

## October 1, 2009 – November 18, 2009

### PROMOTIONS

<i>NAME</i>	DATE	PROMOTED TO	FACILITY/ DIVISION
Michael Baca	10/03/09	Sergeant	PNM
Sheri Ford	10/03/09	Sergeant	PNM
David Gonzales	10/03/09	Sergeant	PNM
Mark Martinez	10/03/09	Sergeant	PNM
Kathleen Ulibarri	10/03/09	Sergeant	PNM
Victoria Lounello	10/31/09	Region Manager	PPD
Phillip Romero	10/31/09	Sergeant	CNMCF
Michael Cormier	10/31/09	Sergeant	CNMCF
Allison Eastman	10/31/09	Sergeant	CNMCF
Armando Gutierrez	10/31/09	Sergeant	CNMCF
Robert Rivera	11/14/09	Sergeant	SCC

### RETIREEES

Hazel Sandoval	10/30/09	Office & Admin Support	EDU
Benjamin Turietta	10/31/09	Correctional Officer	CNMCF
Robert Eastman	10/30/09	Lieutenant	CNMCF
Arthur Armijo	10/30/09	Sergeant	SCC
Thomas Romero	10/31/09	Correctional Officer	PNM

### NEW HIRES

Benjamin Saiz	10/31/09	Transitional Coordinator	PPD
Kenneth Adair	10/31/09	Probation/Parole Officer	PPD
Robert Wieck	10/31/09	Probation/Parole Officer	PPD

### Re-Hires

Adrienne Ames	10/17/09	Probation/Parole Officer	PPD
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### DEATHS

Vincent Ballantine	10/18/09	Correctional Officer	PNM
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