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### Strong Partnerships Help Spokane Officers in Drug Bust

Members of the Spokane DOC Gang Unit recently uncovered thousands of dollars in drugs and stolen items while working with the Spokane Police Department’s Gang Enforcement Team.

Community Corrections Officers Monroe Hartung, Jack Durkin, John Hernandez and members of the SPD Gang Enforcement teamed up for home visits on a number of offenders currently being supervised by the Spokane DOC gang unit.

During one of the routine visits, Durkin and Hernandez noticed several people running away from the home as they arrived. The offender was questioned and temporarily detained while other officers interviewed the people caught running from the home.



Spokane Officers  
 Jack Durkin, John Hernandez and Monroe Hartung

Inside the home a ladder to the attic was down, and the lights in the attic were on. The officers investigated further and found almost 5 ounces of Crystal Methamphetamine valued at \$5,000, several thousand dollars cash, and a stolen pistol.

The pistol, which was loaded with hollow-point ammunition was also recovered, and was determined to be one of the firearms stolen earlier in the year during a Sportsman’s Warehouse burglary.

“Our DOC Gang Unit CCOs and the Spokane Police/Sheriff Gang Enforcement Team work to prevent crimes before they happen by sharing information and assisting each other,” said community corrections supervisor Todd Wiggs, “This is a good example of an effective and successful partnership.” [HOME](#)



## Clallam Bay Corrections Center Food Manager Brings Friends to Agency

When Amber Miller wanted to get out of the retail field she followed a friend into a maximum security prison.

“I had a friend who told me there was an opening in the law library and I wanted to get out of retail so it worked out great,” said Miller.

Miller, a former University of Washington student, came to Washington from Kodiak, Alaska and has called Forks her home since 1989.

She came to Clallam Bay Corrections Center as an administrative assistant in March of 2006 and promoted to food manager 1 in June 2007. Now she is a food manager 4 and will moved to corrections officer in September.



**Back row from left to right:** Mary Findley, David White, Amber Miller, Elizabeth Stubbs, and Merle Earls

**Front row from left to right:** Alexandria DeAngelo, Nadine Partridge, and Tracy Saunders

Miller says she loves the people she works with and even though the transition from a job in the private sector to the Department of Corrections was something to get used to, she wouldn't go back. “I love the staff. I couldn't do it without them. Without the AC Cooks I wouldn't have made it here.”

When asked about the challenges of working with the budget of the kitchen she replied, “It's a challenge to balance the needs of the community with the needs of offenders. And compared to retail, things in corrections move a bit slower, but it's nice because everything isn't about making money all the time,” Miller added.

Miller says that like any other person she likes to shop, go hiking, and hang out with her friends and boyfriend when she isn't behind the walls of Clallam Bay Corrections Center. In fact, she also said that her pool of friends outside the facility is getting smaller because she is recruiting most of them to work with her.

“I'm a pretty good salesman,” she joked. “I've recruited quite a few of my close friends and former coworkers to come work here even at the kitchen.”

She said one of her favorite things about working for DOC is getting to hear stories from coworkers. “You get a lot of different points of view working here and I'm generally interested with the people I work with.” **HOME**



## Sex Offender Treatment Program Hosts Visitors from the Republic of Korea

DOC's Sex Offender Treatment Program at Monroe Correctional Complex recently hosted three Republic of Korea officials interested in learning more about its prison and community operations.

Korea recently passed laws similar to Washington's sex offender statutes and its Ministry of Prisons and Justice is required to start a treatment program this year.

Program Director Sally Neiland said, "The visitors chose the Washington SOTP because of its longevity and reputation as one of the premier Sex Offender Treatment Programs in the United States."

She noted the program is associated with the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers and adheres to best practice standards. It also has 25 years of experience in which it developed a reputation for success.

DOC Correctional Officer Young Kwak helped to ensure the success of the visit by interpreting, Neiland said. In addition to meeting with her, the Korean officials met with Dr. Gerald Hover, CCS, and Dr. Robert Hossack, Psychiatrist, to review the program's best practices. The Korean officials also discussed the program with program staff members during their Aug. 28 visit.

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## 'The Little Bus that Could' Carries Families to Pine Lodge for Big Event

More than 200 family members of inmates at Pine Lodge Corrections Center for Women attended last month's annual back to school event at the Inmate Services Center. Families were able to share a meal and do crafts while participating in an extended visit in the school-themed Inmate Services Center.

"The event was well attended by families and ran smoothly," said Patricia Gaimari, Corrections Specialist. "Without the hard work of offender work crews and staff from the recreation, custody and kitchen departments these events simply couldn't happen, and we're lucky to have a great team."

Families from western Washington were able to avoid the cost of traveling across the state to see an incarcerated family member through a program called "The Little Bus That Could."

The program, which runs on private donations, is sponsored by Rebuilding Families Inc., a non-profit whose purpose is to prepare female offenders for reentry. Rebuilding Families also donated backpacks and school supplies for every child who attended.

"The family unit is critical for a positive reentry," Gaimari added. "Rebuilding Families recognizes this important link and has extended its mission to provide free transportation for children in western Washington so that they can visit their incarcerated mothers at Pine Lodge or Eleanor Chase Work Release in Spokane."

The Little Bus That Could will make another visit to Pine Lodge in December for a holiday event.

**HOME**



**Offender Amber Newton and her mother help choose a book for her son**



## Morocco Native at Stafford Creek Says Diversity Has Opened his Eyes, Too

When Hicham Lamsouguer won the lottery in college, he didn't become rich or famous. In fact, he won something that is hard to come by even with money: a chance to immigrate to the United States.

Lamsouguer is originally from Casablanca, Morocco. He stayed there through college and in his second year at the University of Hassan II he was selected by the Diversity Visa Lottery, a program sponsored by the federal government. According to the program, applicants must meet strict standards that include passing health and psychiatric evaluations, a background check and must also possess a high school diploma or equivalent.

Since receiving his green card in 1998, Lamsouguer gained permanent citizenship in 2003 and started working for the Department of Corrections in 2005. He also added English to one of the five languages he speaks which include Arabic, French, Egyptian and Moroccan.



**Officer Hicham Lamsouguer**

Now Lamsouguer is working in H-6 at Stafford Creek Corrections Center near Aberdeen. "I work with really great staff out here and they've made me feel comfortable. A lot of people here know each other and are connected outside of work but they've stepped up to make feel accepted," said Lamsouguer.

When asked about the tensions between the Middle East and the United States and how it has affected his experience in the U.S, Lamsouguer says he is as eager to educate others as he is to learn from them. "You can't take anything personally when people have questions about that sort of thing. People want to know what's going on in the world around them and I feel like I can give them answers about Islam and different culture. I like the diversity that I am getting, too. It goes both ways."

Lamsouguer is also using his knowledge to help serve the diverse inmate population at Stafford Creek. He serves as a translator when working with Arabic-speaking inmates and helps with the Hallah Diet during Ramadan.

"I just want the public to know that we're trying," says Lamsouguer of DOC. "This isn't an easy job and we're trying to create an environment for offenders to change but it's up to them to actually change."

When Lamsouguer is not working behind bars at Stafford Creek you can find him playing goalkeeper on the soccer pitch, and traveling with his girlfriend.