



MACPOST

#MACPOST

Summer 2025

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From the President

KEVIN, GLASS, ITASCA COUNTY PROBATION



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer thus far! Summertime is typically a busy time in Minnesota from County Fairs, City events (turtle racing to log rolling), to the Great Minnesota Get Together also known as the Minnesota State Fair. I'm looking forward to trying out some of the new food options like the Uncrusta Burger or Tater Kegs, and I will probably pass on the Dill Pickle Iced Tea. Minnesota is bustling with things to see and do!

Probation in Minnesota is also bustling. The Community Supervision Advisory Committee has been tasked with several duties per MN Statute 401.17 Subd. 3, and I am very happy to announce several of these of these tasks are close to being completed and/or have been completed. The LS/CMI has been agreed to as the Risk and Needs Assessment tool for Adults on Probation and it is currently in the process of being validated in MN. A case planning policy as well as a statewide training, coaching, and quality assurance system policy is close to being finalized. This work could not have been done without dedicated individuals from probation agencies across Minnesota. The collaboration that has been taking place has been awesome to see.

Speaking of collaboration, the first MN Collaborative Trainings/Conferences Meeting took place on 08/11/2025. There was representation from the Department of Corrections, Statewide Training Academy, Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties, the Minnesota Corrections Association, and the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers. We discussed having a safety summit in 2026 and then we discussed what a combined conference might look like in 2027; Training Needed; Barriers to Address; and Other Considerations. Another meeting is scheduled in September to continue the conversation. I greatly appreciate how much collaboration is happening in Minnesota and the dedication to those in the field. Thank you!

Committee Updates



Legislative Committee

NICOLE GRAMS, WASECA COUNTY PROBATION

Work continues with the goal of seeking a reasonable retirement for Minnesota probation officers. The probation officers and 911 telecommunicators pension plans work group met on June 30, July 31, and August 18, 2025. The group has been learning more about pensions and identifying priorities. Pera updated an actuarial study to show a reasonable retirement age of 60 with a 2.2 multiplier as a prospective plan. Prospective means that future years under the new plan will not be subjected to a reduced benefit. Below is an example of an employee that works 15 years before the new plan and 15 years in the new plan with an average high five income of \$100,000 for illustrative purposes:

General plan: $1.7\% \times 15 \times \$100,000 \times .57941 = \$14,775$

New plan: $2.2\% \times 15 \times \$100,000 \times 1 = \$33,000$

Probation representatives advocated for a reasonable retirement age of 60 and developing a plan to account for previous years of service to reduce the impact of a reduced benefit. The group will learn more at the next meeting on September 4, 2025, at 1 p.m. on how an employee may be able to “buy-back” previous years of service and how that may be funded. Once the learning phase is complete, the group will need to define who is included in the new plan, who pays for the increased benefit costs between employee and employer, options for “buying back” years of service, and what funds may be used to assist with the “buy-back” costs. MSRS and PERA wish to have recommendations from this work group before their November board meetings. The work group must submit recommendations, along with proposed legislation that implements recommendations to the chair and executive director of the legislative commission on pensions and retirement by January 15, 2026.

The work group’s recorded meetings, future live meetings and materials are available at <https://www.lcpr.mn.gov/workgroups/probation-911wg.htm>.

We are optimistic that any proposed recommendation will strengthen probation retirement plans.

Communication Committee

JOANNIE GONTAREK (CHAIR), OTTER TAIL COUNTY PROBATION

The Communication Committee has been busy as of late. We are consistently updating our website, updating employment and internship opportunities, and ensuring we have the most recent Juvenile Resource Guide and Community Supervision Map.

We could benefit from additional volunteers. If you would like to volunteer on the Communication Committee, please [Email](#) MACPO.

Membership Committee

EMILY OSTLUND, GOODHUE COUNTY COURT SERVICES

The Academic Memorial Scholarship is open; [Academic Memorial Scholarship 2025](#).

The Membership Committee will represent MACPO and the Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) Conference in October and will be active in future collaboration meetings.

Training and Education Committee

JILL FERRETTI, BROWN COUNTY PROBATION

Summer is nearing an end, school will be back in session and before we know it, the spring conference will be here. The Training and Ed committee has been working on finding speakers for our next conference. Breezy Point Resort has been reserved for May 6 – 8, 2026 for the spring conference. While the location will be the same, we are working on some changes to our conference layout. We are excited for this new change!

Safety Committee

AMY HERTZOG, WRIGHT COUNTY COURT SERVICES (CHAIR)

RACHEL DECK, CASS COUNTY PROBATION (VICE CHAIR)

Happy August, the safety committee has been continuing to work on the Web CSTS incident tab. Some counties have asked for the “script” from STI to work on implementing that function into Web CSTS. This will continue to be a work in progress but definitely making steps in the right direction.

We assisted Otter Tail County with their office and home visit safety training at the end of June. We had a blast with all the staff, and lots of good discussion around safety and planning for the unexpected.

Safety awareness is always at the forefront; please see the following information that has hopefully made it to all of you, but sharing again here:

Here are a couple items to bring to your attention- Safety Awareness!! Things are happening all around us:

- I am sure most of you have seen or heard about the Sherburne County Government Center incident but I thought I would bring this to your attention. I also received information about the Idaho Agent that was stabbed during an office visit, and another Oakland Parole Agent killed.
- [Idaho probation officer stabbed during office visit, expected to recover | ktvb.com](#)
- <https://youtu.be/re27rXr9wGQ>

CPO Director's Committee

JON SCHIRO, WASECA COUNTY COURT SERVICES

The MACPO Directors Group has been actively engaged in collaboration with the Community Supervision Advisory Council (CSAC) to support the development and review of policies that establish consistent, evidence-based standards across the state. Current focus areas include coaching strategies, training and quality assurance protocols, LS/CMI validation and pre-screening procedures, trauma-informed care, and statewide supervision guidelines.

To foster connectivity and collaboration, the Directors Group has been rotating its monthly meetings throughout MACPO counties. Most recently, members convened for a two-day retreat in Itasca County, where they received important updates from STI on web-based CSTS functionality and the upcoming Safety Summit. The retreat also included leadership development training led by Jason Anderson and a session with Commissioner of Corrections Paul Schnell, who shared updates from the Department of Corrections.

Wishing everyone a pleasant end to summer and a vibrant start to the fall season.

MACPO County Spotlight



Waseca County Court Services
Court Services Director – Jonathan J. Schiro
Waseca, MN 56093

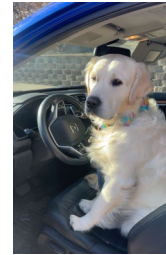


Waseca County is located in the heart of the Southern Lakes Region of south-central Minnesota. As of the 2022 US Census Bureau's estimate, the population was 18,893. The name Waseca is a Dakota word meaning "rich," referring to the fertile soil.

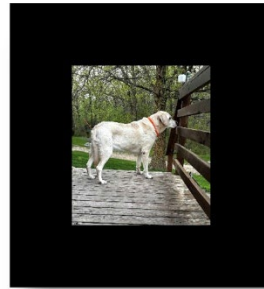
The missions of Waseca County Court Services are to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable, aiding them to achieve positive behavioral changes, and providing for victim and community reparations through the utilization of quality probation services. Some of the services we provide include bail evaluations, mental health screens, risk/need assessments, pre-trial supervision, probation supervision to juvenile, adult misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenders, and pre-dispositional, pre-sentence investigation reports, and probation violation reports to the court. We are lucky enough to have a team made up of fantastic people who are great at what they do, and are invested in the safety, security, and well-being of our community. They are true professionals and I'm proud to call them my coworkers.

- Jonathan Schiro, Director – 9 years with Waseca County Court Services.
- Nicole Kalow, Career Agent – 11 years. Nicole handles our high-risk and group caseloads.
- Landi Dulas, Career Agent – 10 years. Landi works with our gender specific and intimate partner violence clients.
- Merlin Kath, Career Agent – 9 years. Merlin is in charge of our pretrial cases.
- John Frid, Senior Agent – 2 years. John is our juvenile agent.
- Nicole Grams, Drug Court Coordinator – 25 years. Nicole started our Drug Court program in June of 2014.
- Daniel Frenk, Corrections Agent – 1 Year. Dan is our Drug Court agent, working with clients from both Steele and Waseca counties.
- Carrie Deml, Administrative Assistant – 2 years

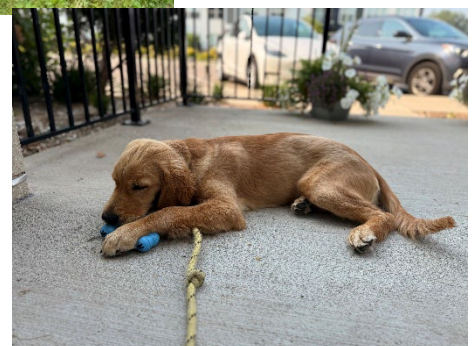
For the Love of Pets



Left: Furnando is working on his certificate to be a therapy dog at PLYP.

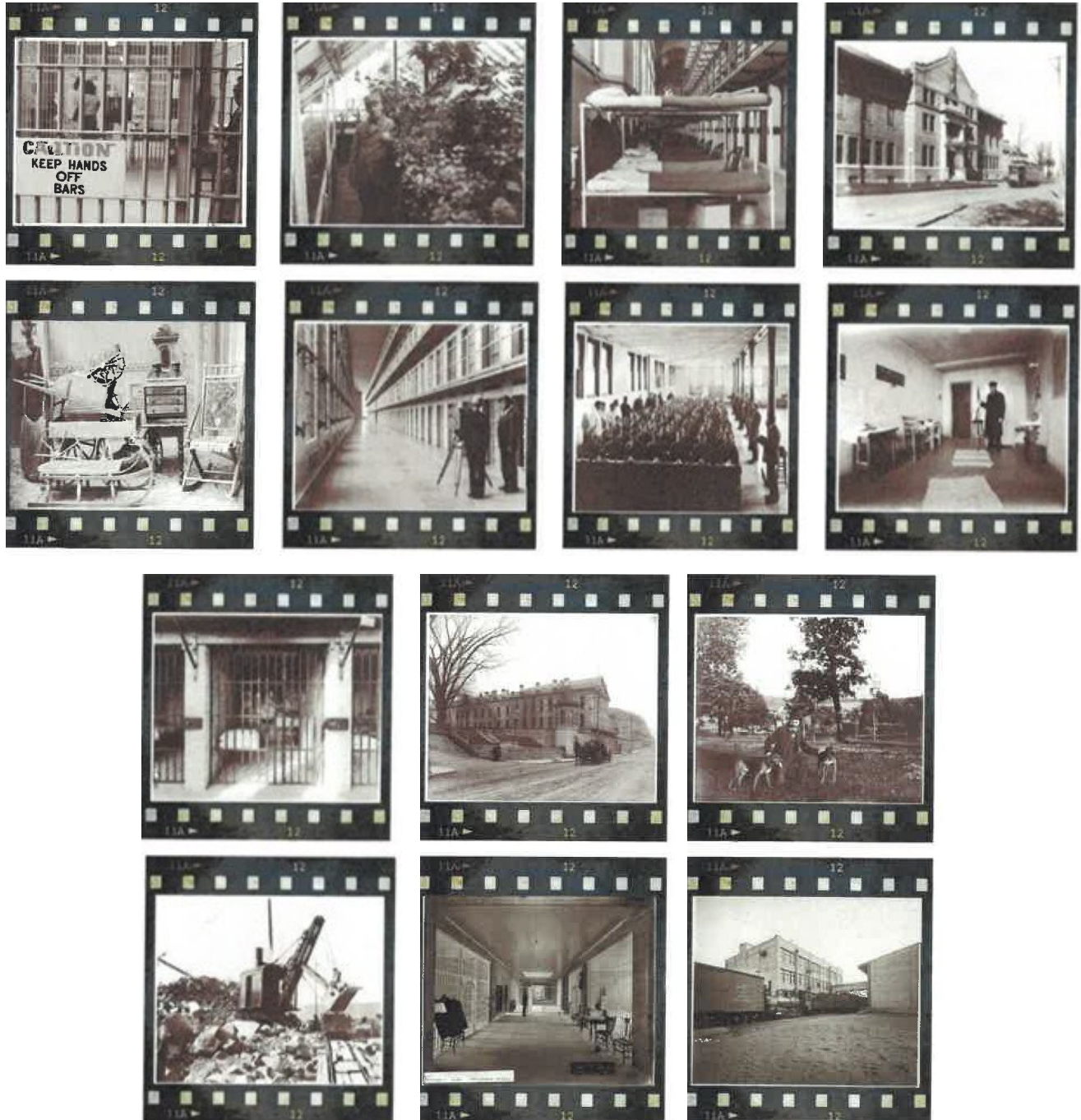


Left: Fernando after a make over at PLYP.



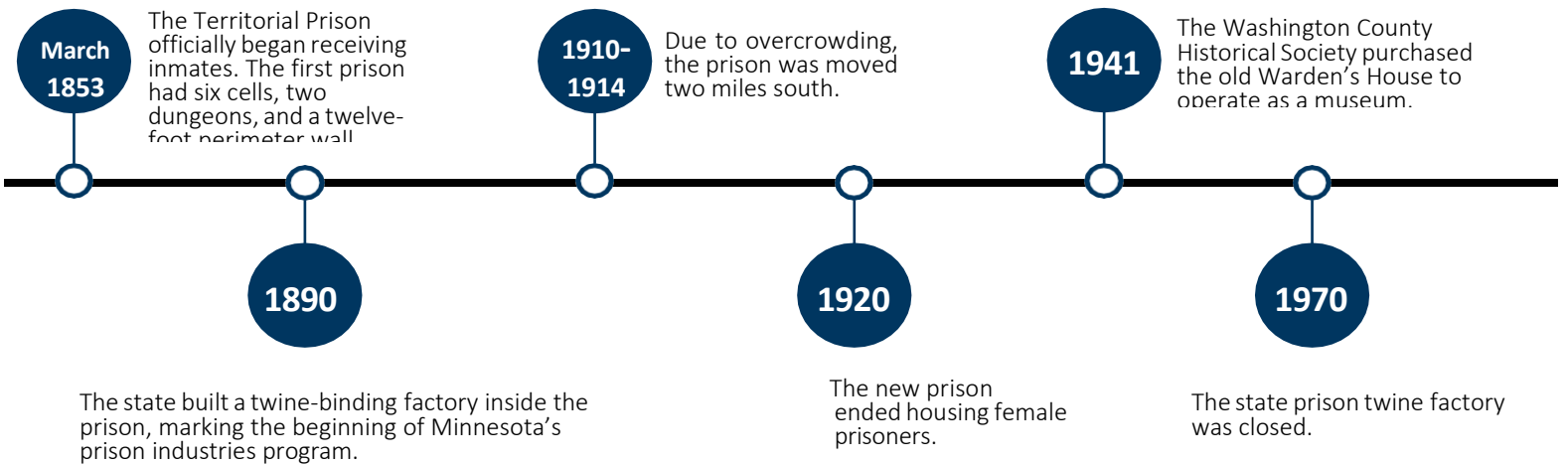
Witness to Time: The History of Stillwater Prison

By MN DOC Hotline – June 2025



STILLWATER

THROUGH THE YEARS



Minnesota's first prison opened in 1853, nestled deep within a ravine on the north side of Stillwater. While the location was picturesque, early conditions were harsh: violence was prevalent, and the damp environment led

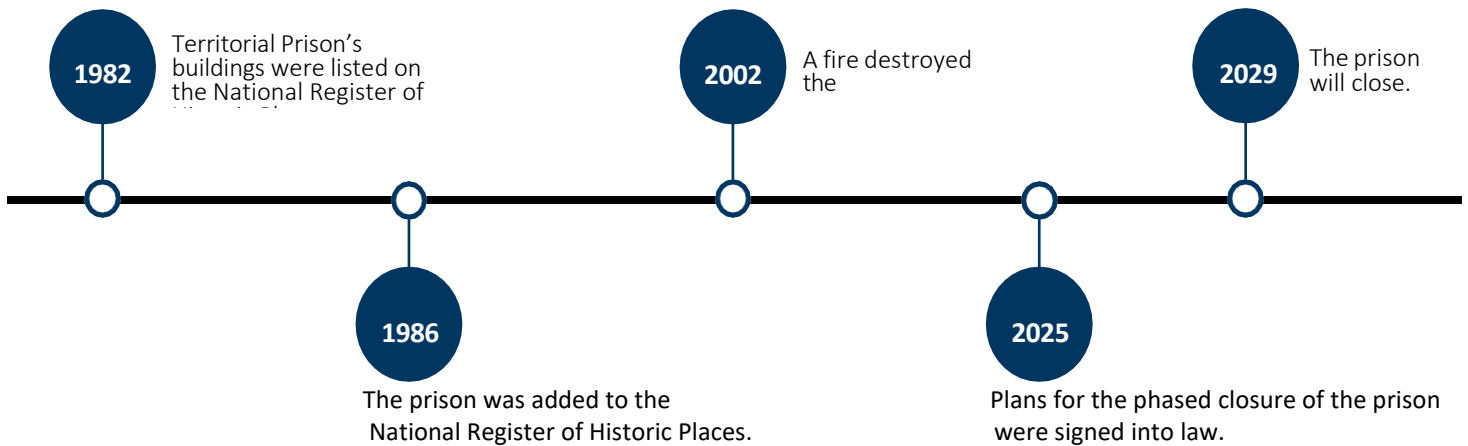
to frequent escape attempts. Hope was scarce until 1892, when a gentle and charismatic warden named Henry Wolfer took charge. He immediately set about transforming the institution, banning all forms of violence and introducing reforms that focused on rehabilitation. Under his leadership, the facility flourished with gardens, classrooms, factories, and a farm. By the early 1900s, the prison had become overcrowded and the legislature agreed to fund a new facility, selecting a location just two and a half miles south in what is now Bayport. The inmate handbook at the time promised:

"...A BEAUTIFUL PLATEAU OVERLOOKING THE ST. CROIX RIVER, AT AN ELEVATION OF 40 FEET...THE GROUND SLOPES ABRUPTLY TO THE RIVER FLATS, AFFORDING A FINE VIEW OF A PICTURESQUE CHARACTER—NOT ONLY TO PRISONERS, BUT TO THOSE OUTSIDE."

The handbook also boasted that construction would take just four to five years—significantly faster than the 15 to 20 years typical for similar facilities at the time. The design was heralded as "in line with the best modern prison architecture," and was projected to be "one of the best and most modern prisons in the United States, if not the world."

The facility was designed with a modern "telephone pole" layout, featuring a central corridor extending through the main building and intersecting the middle of the cell blocks. This configuration facilitated easier classification of prisoners and enabled the establishment of individual security control centers, each dedicated to a specific cell block, while maintaining overall supervision from the central corridor.

Construction of the new facility commenced in 1905, with the first prisoners transferring in January 1909. The primary objective was to integrate as many inmates as possible into the newly established twine factory. By the end of May 1914, the main building was completed at a total cost of \$1.3 million—equivalent to approximately \$35.2 million today.



Warden Wolfer celebrated the new facility's completion with a surprise announcement for inmates that included Sunday baseball games, music by the prison orchestra, and "picture shows" two days a week.

In October 1914, Warden Wolfer, satisfied that his dream of building a new prison was accomplished, announced his retirement. In his final letter to the board of directors, he essentially proclaimed the prison,

"...THE LAST WORD ON ALL PRISONS."



In the 111 years that followed Wolfers retirement, many other wardens left their mark on the facility, most recently: E. T. Swenson, Douglas Rigg, Ralph Tahash, Jack Young, Bruce McManus, Frank Wood, Robert Erickson, Dennis Benson, Erik Skon, David Crist, Dan Ferrise, Lynn Dingle, John King, Michelle Smith, Steve Hammer, Eddie Miles, Guy Bosh, and Bill Bolin.



Bob Erickson, Dan Ferrise, David Crist, Erik Skon, and Michelle Smith

During these decades, policies and philosophies changed and evolved. Some may be surprised to learn the prison was a "silent facility" until the early 1950s, and inmates were permitted to speak only when directly addressed by an official, with the notable exception of Sunday supper. This strict silence was believed to enhance discipline and productivity.



In the late 50s and early 60s, Bayport locals fondly recall the prison as the heart of their community. One woman, who grew up just blocks away, reminisced, “You either worked at Andersen’s or at the prison... that’s just what people did.” She remembers attending inmate talent shows in the old auditorium and being at Bayport beach when the minimum walk-away sirens would sound. “We’d just quickly pack up our things and walk home—it was a normal part of life,” she recalled with a smile.



The late 60s and 70s were a rough time for the prison, with an increase in upheaval and staged rebellions, labor strikes, and cell fires. As these events unfolded, people across Minnesota debated the purpose and culture of the prison. Many leaders contributed to transforming the Minnesota correctional system during this time:

Stillwater Warden

Jack Young, appointed 1968, was instrumental in developing the facility into a more humane and modern institution, focusing on rehabilitation and improved conditions for inmates.



Commissioner David

Fogel, appointed in 1971, improved the delivery of services within the correctional system, aiming to address systemic issues and enhance the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs.



Commissioner Ken

Schoen, appointed 1973, implemented the community corrections approach which addressed correctional issues by integrating inmates back into the community. This method emphasized rehabilitation over punitive measures and aimed to reduce recidivism.



Commissioner Orville

Pung, appointed in 1982, was instrumental in transforming the state’s correctional system into a national model. He championed a rehabilitative approach that emphasized education, vocational training, and the humane treatment of inmates.



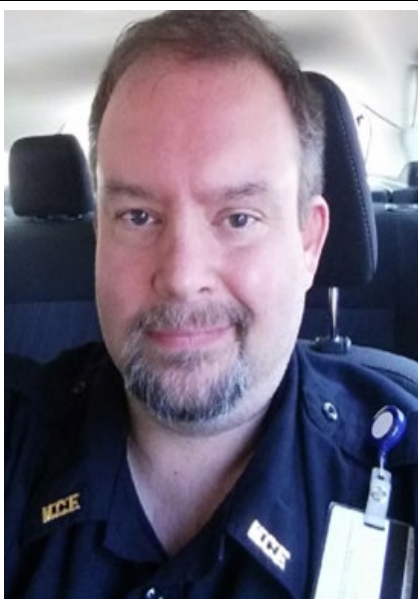
Over the years, the prison witnessed several daring escape attempts. In 1977, four inmates sawed through bars and scaled the fence; in 1979, an inmate placed a dummy in his cell and scaled the wall; and in 1982, two inmates successfully escaped by hiding in cardboard boxes that were loaded onto a truck. In 1997, an escape attempt was thwarted when three inmates hiding in a garbage truck were seen by the truck's driver. Finally, in 2007, four inmates shocked administrators when they dug a 3 x 3 foot, 25-foot-long tunnel from the base of an elevator shaft toward the wall. They were just under halfway to freedom when they were discovered and sent to MCF-Oak Park Heights.



Beginning in the 1980s, the number of people incarcerated in Minnesota steadily increased. In 1999, controlled movement was implemented at Stillwater, restricting the number of inmates moving at one time. Other restrictions included control of inmate movement within each cell block tier. By 1997, the Minnesota Legislature required the Department of Corrections to put more than one inmate in each cell “to the greatest extent possible,” and by 2010, more than five times as many people were locked up as in 1981. American Correctional Association reviews in 2018 and 2019 found that the Stillwater prison was too crowded to meet national standards. By 2020, Stillwater held roughly a sixth of the state’s prisoners.



The *Prison Mirror* is recognized as one of the oldest continuously published prison newspapers in the United States. Before the Shakopee State Reformatory for Women opened in 1920, Stillwater prison housed females, supervised by a matron—often the wife of a warden or senior guard. The most notable was Mary McKinney, who died on prison grounds in 1915. Her funeral was held inside the prison so all could pay their respects.

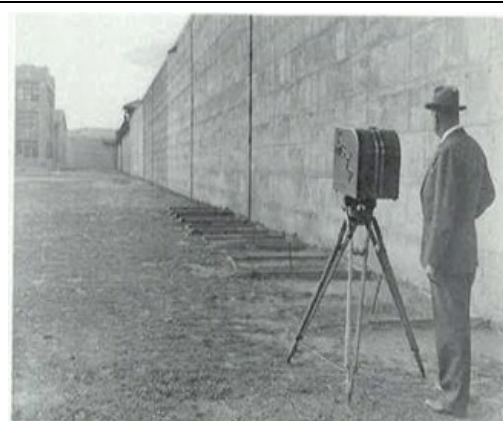
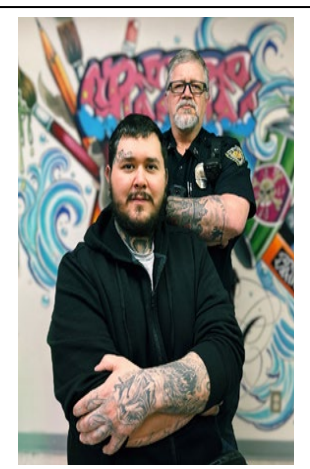


In 2018, the facility Experienced its Darkest hour when Corrections Officer Joseph Gomm was Murdered at the Hands of an inmate. Gomm, who was known for his kindness. His death was profoundly shocking and came as a grim reminder of the risks corrections officers take on every day to serve our communities.

Joe became the first officer to be killed by an inmate in Minnesota prisons. His name is now inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Today, the facility is known for its innovative Programming. The facility houses one of the only Tattoo shops in the country, aimed at reducing The spread of bloodborne pathogens and helping

incarcerated people find jobs once released. MCF-Stillwater is also known for its treatment, education, and art programming; including Art from the Inside, a program created by a Stillwater Corrections Officer to honor his friend Joe Gomm and give incarcerated people and officers a way to come together for a safer facility.



Ghost Guns/3D Print Switches

By: WCCO Staff

June 17, 2025

<https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/ghost-guns-st-paul-teenager-pleads-guilty/>.



An 18-year-old man has pleaded guilty to owning a machine gun after an investigation at a St. Paul home in March recovered a cache of illegally possessed weapons, including a ghost gun.

The teenager was 17 years old when Ramsey County authorities found the "ghost guns, automatic machine guns, multiple extended magazines and enough ammunitions for multiple drive-by shootings."

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, a "[ghost gun](#)" refers to a firearm that has been assembled or completed by someone other than a licensed manufacturer. They do not have a serial number, which often makes them difficult to track.

The teenager was [charged](#) with 12 felony counts all relating to the cache of weapons investigators found during their search. He pleaded guilty Friday in juvenile court to one count of owning a machine gun.

He was placed on electronic home monitoring and house arrest. His sentencing is scheduled for Wednesday.

Court records show that he was previously charged in a 2024 incident where he was alleged to have pulled a gun on someone at a rec center in St. Paul, though the charge was dismissed from the record after he served 180 days probation and a term of community service.

ICOTS COMPLIANCE BREAKDOWN

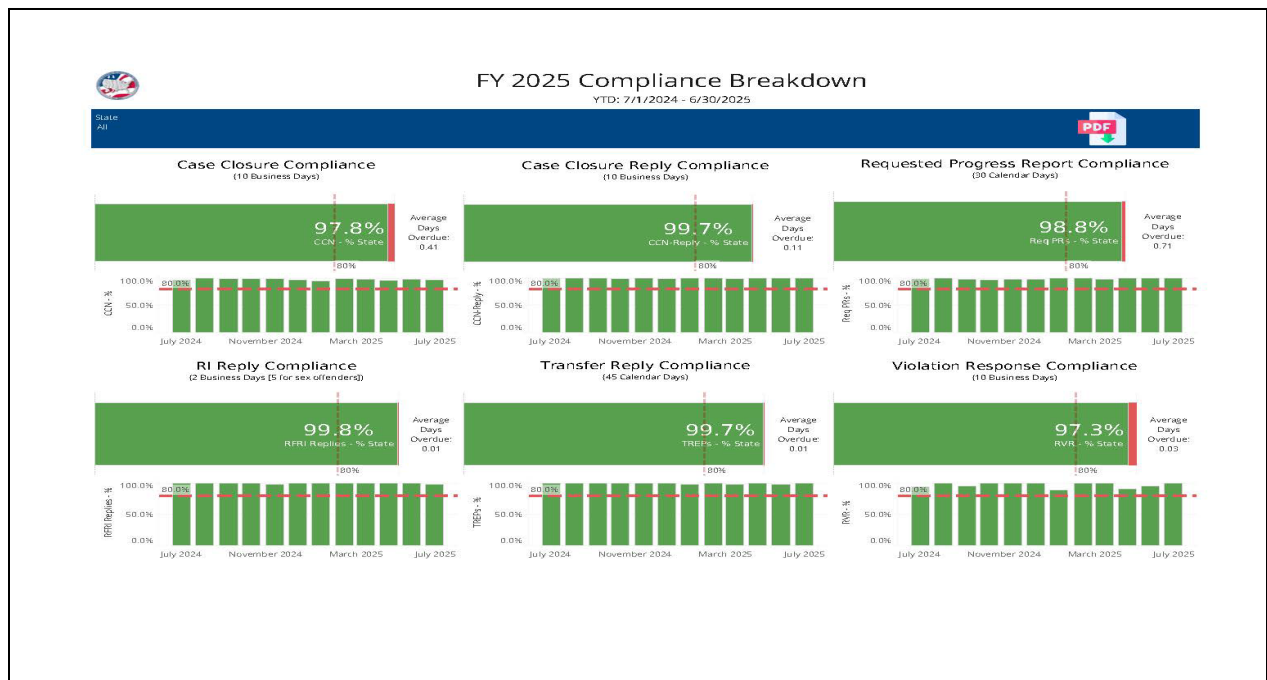
By: Tracy Hudrlik



Ever wonder how we as a state are doing with our ICOTS Work?? Here is a note from our leader, Tracy Hudrlik:

DOC has a “shout out” column on its Ishare page to acknowledge staff. I wrote the below for that and would like to share it with CCA and CPO staff as well. Do you have a way to “shout out” your staff in your systems? If so, would you be willing to share this? Thanks!

Interstate Compact Director Tracy Hudrlik would like to shout out ALL staff, including supervisors, agents and compact staff, who have any interstate compact cases or responsibilities. Thank you for all you do, from promptly addressing issues to responding to and submitting routine compact activities. MN is audited by the national commission and our yearly audit shows MN far surpassing the required 80% compliance rate. MN scored no lower than 97% in any category and scored as high as 99.8%. This is a direct result of your tireless work to ensure timely action, response and your steadfastness and resilience in working to resolve any issues that arise. Additionally, staff have worked exceptionally hard over the last few years to verify plans and submit thorough and sound transfer requests with supporting documentation. I am happy to report that as a result of that, MN now also exceeds the national average in its acceptance of outgoing transfer requests. I am so proud of MN and the example you all set at a national level. I cannot thank you all enough for your hard work. It is much appreciated.



THC Drink Mix Packets:

As we gear up for the upcoming school year, just sending a few newer/trending products that have come up in our MEADA meetings recently to be aware of. Feel free to pass these along to your schools.

THC Drink Mix Packets to add to water bottle:



Thank You to Our Platinum Sponsors



Nexus – [CLICK HERE](#)

We provide short- and long-term treatment programs at our residential facilities for kids who need intensive support and care. Specialize in behavioral and mental health issues like: depression, anxiety, trauma, oppositional behavior, ADHD, borderline personality, bi-polar conditions relational problems, attachment issues, parenting support, family conflict, sexually problematic behaviors, and emotional/physical/sexual abuse.

LifeSafer - [CLICK HERE](#)
[Enroll Here](#)

Ignition Interlock Device - LifeSafer provides accurate, timely, and reliable services to help you successfully complete your ignition interlock program. Our [car breathalyzer costs](#) are some of the most affordable on the market.

Northwestern Minnesota Juvenile Center- [CLICK HERE](#)
(218) 751-3196

Licensed through the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Northwestern Minnesota Juvenile Center incorporates three distinct units (non-secure detention unit, residential treatment unit, and secure detention) within the building, as well as community-based satellite (foster) homes. The Center offers 35 day evaluations, community service and restitution work programs, 30/60/90 day programs, and detention services.

Prairie Lakes Youth Programs - [CLICK HERE](#)
320-231-1729

Prairie Lakes Youth Programs is a children's 'residential facility located in Willmar, Minnesota. Through our non-secure, group home, and secure environments, we provide individualized, trauma-informed, and culturally relevant care and treatment including: substance use disorder addiction recovery, pet therapy, individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, truancy support, CHIPS support, and so much more.

Midwest Monitoring & Surveillance - [CLICK HERE](#)

(952) 435-9310

Serving criminal justice and human service partners by specializing in electronic monitoring, supervision, and alcohol & drug testing. Fully understand the needs of agents and agencies in correctional environments because it is owned and managed by experienced law enforcement and correctional professionals.

RSI Laboratories - [CLICK HERE](#)

612-287-1660

RSI LABORATORIES is a division of [RS EDEN](#). Based in Minneapolis, MN, RS EDEN is a non-profit organization providing recovery, accountability and support services to facilitate individual, family and community movement from non-productive behavior to responsible, self-sufficient lifestyles. Offer K2/Spice Instant test, Oral Testing, EtG Alcohol Instant Cup, and drug screens.

Teamsters Local 320 - [CLICK HERE](#)

612-378-8700

Teamsters Local 320's mission is to provide the benefit of unionism to all workers, and to protect and preserve the benefits obtained for members of this organization. We shall safeguard, advance, and promote the principles of free collective bargaining, citizen organizing, workers' rights, and the security and welfare of all people through political action, education, and other community activities.

Village Ranch - [CLICK HERE](#)

(320) 286-2922

Residential care with Minnesota locations in Annandale (female residents between the ages of 12-18), Cokato (male residents struggling with a range of mental health and behavior issues), Hutchinson (male residents between the ages of 15 & 19), and Rochester (group home for male residents between the ages of 15 & 19).

West Central Regional Juvenile Center - [CLICK HERE](#)

(218) 299-5150

Providing residential services for juveniles with behavioral, protection, dependency, and delinquency issues. Programming includes secure detention, secure residential, non-secure detention/social service emergency placement, 30 day evaluations, sexual therapy, and community living independent programming and skills.

Boys Town - [CLICK HERE](#)

800-217-3700

Boys Town offers a broad spectrum of [child and family services](#), [community programs](#), and [crisis services](#). We also provide [health and medical care through Boys Town National Research Hospital](#) and other resources; conduct cutting-edge [research](#) on child behavior issues; and provide services for children with severe behavioral problems through our Outpatient Behavioral Health programs and [residential care programs](#).

PORT Group Homes- [CLICK HERE](#)

218-829-2123

PORT offers programming for both boys and girls ages 12-18 located in the Brainerd area. PORT partners with Brainerd Public schools for educational needs. Additionally, PORT offers a 30 day evaluation, transitional services, 72-hour hold, group therapy, independent living program, and chemical dependency services.

Intoxalock - [CLICK HERE](#)

(844) 899-6211

Serves multiple locations throughout Minnesota for ignition interlock devices. They make it affordable, easy to use, and convenient to customers while also offering 24/7 customer support.

Nationwide Interlock Minnesota- [CLICK HERE](#)

866-694-6099

Ignition interlock device is the most commonly used technology to prevent drunk driving. A nationwide interlock customer service representative is ready to answer your questions and walk you through the process step by step.

MACPO would like to give a huge thank you to all our sponsors.

Please watch our website and future newsletters for new advertising for our sponsors. Logos and links to all our vendors can be found on our website, www.macpo.net.

MACPO 2025–2026 Elected Officers



Contact MACPO Secretary, Devin Petersen, Pine County Probation, for the location and time of MACPO Board meetings.

Executive Board

President

Kevin Glass, Itasca County Probation
kevin.glass@co.itasca.mn.us

President – Elect

Rhonda VanSchoonhoven, Goodhue County Court Services
rhonda.vanschoonhoven@co.goodhue.mn.us

President – Past

Jonathan Schiro, Waseca County Court Services
jonathan.schiro@wasecacounty.gov

Treasurer

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Member at Large

Traci Green, Wabasha County Probation
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