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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

Nov. 17, 2009

Missouri Department of Corrections Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

The Missouri Department of Corrections will observe Native American Heritage Month on Tuesday, November 24, 2009, with a presentation by featured speakers Dona and Oran McKinney, members of the Ioway Tribe of Kansas and the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas, respectively. The presentation will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center, 600 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

Dona McKinney's presentation, "The Traditional Native American Family Structure," will explore the Native concept of family, which is somewhat different from the concept of family with which the dominant society is familiar. Her presentation is designed to provide insight into that family structure and an understanding of the impact of the family relationship. Oran McKinney's address, "Identifying and Understanding the Herbs/Plants Used in Traditional Ceremonies," will provide attendees with information needed to correctly identify the herbs and plants used in Native American spiritual practices. In addition to providing information regarding the proper use of these items, a selection of the plants and herbs will be on display.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information or to RSVP, contact Anita Witthaus, Missouri Department of Corrections' Division of Human Services, at 573-526-6472

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