Institutional Coordinator Gwendolyn Mosley Retires After 40 Years

Alabama Department of Corrections Gwendolyn Mosley retired February 1 after four decades in corrections, nearly 18 years as a warden.

Mosley celebrated her retirement with family, friends and DOC staff at a luncheon remembering her legacy.

“Ms. Mosley dedicated her career to reforming the department,” said Commissioner Jeff Dunn. “Her impeccable work ethic and enthusiasm inspired those she worked with. We will always be in her debt for the dedication and tireless efforts she put into transforming the prison system.

Mosley began her career with the ADOC in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Troy State University in Montgomery. Her first assignment as a Correctional


(See Mosley page 5)

Alabama Prison Birth Project Launches Outreach for Pregnant Inmates at Tutwiler Prison for Women.

When Ashley Brown came to Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women last year, she found out she was eight weeks pregnant. Brown, 26, has a 3-year-old son, but being pregnant in prison was a new and painful experience. The hardest part has been enduring the separation from her little boy.

"I feel like I let everybody down," said Brown. "It's not just you that's getting locked up, everybody is locked up with you. Your children, they need you," she said.

The needs of incarcerated mothers like Brown are getting some long overdue attention at Tutwiler Prison. A new monthly support group for expecting inmates is part of culture change at the prison, born out of a settlement with the Department of Justice (DOJ). WBRC reported on other reforms at the prison this month when we were granted an exclusive tour of the prison. Alabama's Department of Corrections (ADOC) reached an agreement with the DOJ in 2014 after its investigation uncovered decades of inmate abuse and poor conditions.

A monthly support group run by "Alabama Prison Birth Project" was modeled on a similar program in Minnesota. It began 15 months ago at Tutwiler, and even though pregnant inmates only represent about 2% of Tutwiler's population, the program has the blessing of ADOC Deputy Commissioner of women's services, Dr. Wendy Williams.

"The baby didn't ask for their parent to be in this situation, so I think if for no other reason, it's the right thing to do for the baby," said Dr. Williams.
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Corrections News is a publication of the Alabama Department of Corrections. Article submissions are invited and should be sent to Bob Horton, Public Information Officer, via e-mail at bob.horton@doc.alabama.gov, or mailed to: Alabama Department of Corrections ATTN: PIO 301 South Ripley Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Mission Statement

The mission of the Alabama Department of Corrections is to provide for public safety through the safe, secure, humane confinement, and rehabilitation of offenders.
This has been an exciting year so far for the Training Division. The division has just completed the third iteration of the Sergeants Academy, a two-week deep-dive into frontline leadership. In the course, sergeants learn the skills, behaviors, and attributes necessary to effectively lead today’s correctional officers. The curriculum includes effective writing, communication, and formal presentation skills, as well as many other leadership-related classes. Additionally, the students practice small team leadership techniques at the infamous Air Force “Project X” part task trainer, where small teams of six sergeants must navigate through, over, and around real world obstacles to achieve their goal under rigorous time-constraints. Sergeants Academy students also hear from ADOC’s top leaders, including Commissioner Dunn himself, along with other members of the executive staff.

Graduates earn the esteemed shoulder board or lapel pin signifying the completion of the program. This insignia has finally made it through the state approval/purchase process and should be available for distribution to all previous graduates soon, and will be awarded to new graduates at their graduation ceremonies. If you see a sergeant at your instillation wearing one of these shoulder boards soon, you know that they have graduated this demanding course and are a respected frontline leader in the department.

Our next Sergeants Academy will occur in January of 2018. In the meantime, the Training Division is rolling out its first-ever Lieutenants Academy this summer (July 17-28). This fall the Training Division will execute the first Captains Academy, with instructions and application procedures to be sent out this summer. All three of these “academies” will be conducted at the Alabama Training Academy in Selma, and will run for two weeks. We will begin to accept non-security supervisory staff into these academies starting with this summer’s Lieutenants Academy. Stay tuned for future announcements for these professional development opportunities.

We are already two months into our 2017 annual in-service training, with training material covering mental health, use of force, Americans with disabilities, cell extraction and the usual requalification training in combative techniques and firearms.

Unfortunately, our academy graduating classes have been small recently but the numbers attending our hiring on-sites are beginning to trend up again, and the quality of our basic trainees has been excellent. In case you have not heard, there have been a couple of changes to our hiring and training processes. We are now hiring all new correctional officer trainees one week prior to their academy start date. This gives the trainees the opportunity to sign all of the department hiring paperwork, and get basic familiarity with their correctional facility of assignment prior to heading off

(From the Associate Commissioner Matthew Brand)
Correctional officer David Gilbert passed away on Jan. 26 after a short battle with cancer.

Officer Gilbert started his career with the Alabama Department of Corrections in 2005 at Bibb Correctional Facility. In 2013, he was assigned to the Hamilton Work Release Center.

“Officer Gilbert had a contagious lust for life and enjoyed every moment,” said Warden Scarlotte Robinson. After being diagnosed with cancer, Officer Gilbert continued to work in between his chemotherapy treatments.

“He was an example for us all to model during this difficult time”
-Warden Robinson

In the fall of 2016, he was hospitalized with pneumonia and was unable to return to work.

Hamilton staff visited Officer Gilbert frequently and he was able to joined them for the facility’s annual Thanksgiving luncheon.

“During our visits he never spoke of his illness. He wanted an update of the facility and how everyone was doing,” said Robinson.

The funeral service for Officer Gilbert was held at Bowen Funeral Home in Winfield where fellow officers and staff attended to celebrate his life.

Officer Gilbert is survived by his wife Donna, son Dylan, Daughter-in-law Kali, and daughter Dalaina.
Officer Trainee was at Kilby Prison, what is now known as Kilby Correctional Facility.

She became the first female deputy warden in the state of Alabama at Easterling Correctional Facility in 1990. Mosley was later promoted to Warden III after being transferred to Draper Correctional Facility in Elmore. She served as Warden III at Ventress Correctional Facility in 1994, and transferred back to Easterling in 1996.

One of Mosely’s greatest success is establishing the first tobacco-free facility in the state.

“It was a challenge because my colleagues didn’t think we’d be able to do it,” Mosley said in her interview with The Dothan Eagle in 2001. “The response from the inmates was what you expected, but I had more difficulties with the staff rather than the inmates.”

To-date, Easterling Correctional Facility is the only tobacco-free institution in the ADOC.

Those who are close to her and had the opportunity to work with her said Mosley’s determination and professionalism stood out the most.

“Mrs. Mosley taught me to have faith and to understand that it is not just intellectual acceptance, but an act of the entire person as a whole,” said Institutional Coordinator Cheryl Price. “She has been gone 120 days, but left quite an imprint. She taught us all how to enjoy work and work to enjoy life. The memories of working with her will never diminish.”

Institutional Coordinator, Edward Ellington, former Warden at Draper Correctional Facility took over for the Northern Region on June 1. Institutional Coordinator Cheryl Price will represent the department’s Southern Region.

“Teamwork, dedication, and adherence to the ADOC core values in both the classroom and outdoor training activity venues alike, will be the key drivers building the number one training division in the country.”

Matthew Brand
Associate Commissioner
Gov. Ivey Proclaims May 7-13 as Correctional Officers and Employees Week

On May 5, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued Proclamation 5187-National Correctional Officers’ Week, in which he called upon officials of State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe the contributions of correctional officers and employees serving in the corrections profession.

President Reagan was the first president to formally recognize the work of those who serve in corrections and the very difficult, and at times dangerous, nature of the profession. He wrote that correctional officers are “essential to the day-to-day operations of these institutions; without them it would be impossible to achieve the foremost institutional goals of security and control.”

In keeping with the tradition established by President Regan, Governor Kay Ivey honored the state’s correctional officers and corrections employees by proclaiming May 7-13, 2017, as Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Alabama. Governor Ivey presented the proclamation to Corrections Commissioner Jeff Dunn and members of the Alabama Department of Corrections during a ceremony held at the State Capitol on May 3.

In the proclamation, Governor Ivey commended correctional officers and employees currently serving in the ADOC and those who have given their lives in pursuit of an honorable profession.

The Alabama Department of Corrections employs a diverse workforce of more than 3,000 people serving as correctional officers, supervisors, healthcare professionals, chaplains, counselors, educators, and support staff.
When WBRC attended the group in early May, 14 inmates squeezed into a trailer with lavender-painted walls, located behind the main prison. The trailer normally provides housing for juvenile inmates, but while empty, was used as classroom space at the overcrowded prison. Most of the women who attended were pregnant, but some had already given birth and came for community support. Ashley Brown said the group helps calm fears and gives confidence to these women facing an uncertain situation.

"I feel like when I'm here, I'm not in prison," Brown explained. "I like that with us being pregnant, we don't get into it with each other, we try to help each other," she said.

During the 90-minute meeting, doula and registered nurse Erin Brown led discussions on everything from breastfeeding and labor pains, to nutrition and child care. The volunteers also provided a fresh meal for the inmates that included strawberries, raw vegetables with hummus and boiled eggs. Many of the women are receiving prenatal care for the first time, and some are experiencing their first sober pregnancy. Erin Brown said their effort is about honoring the humanity of these women, no matter what they did to end up in prison.

"Every mother deserves to be treated like a mother and that's the biggest thing," said Brown.

"Whatever their past is, they still have their story to tell and they have the opportunity to make change," she said.

The most painful aspect the women face is the inevitable separation from their newborns after they give birth at a Montgomery hospital. Before that happens, the women work with the prison social worker to develop a plan for their babies. Some assign guardianship to relatives, and other babies are cared for at the Adullum House, a ministry that serves incarcerated women and their children in Alabama.

Volunteers try to help the inmates work through the turmoil of emotions that comes with leaving their babies and returning to prison.

"Research says that if you can confront that and say 'today is the day I say goodbye to my baby and this is my farewell,' and give honor to that moment, that can be very healing," said Erin Brown.

Inmate Ashley Brown was on probation for a 2009 robbery conviction when Huntsville Police arrested her in November 2016, for driving under the influence. Her probation was revoked and she was sent to Tutwiler. Now she's hoping to be released before her baby girl is due June 9, 2017. She said her father is keeping her three-year-old son while she completes her sentence and he'll keep her infant daughter if she has to give birth while still incarcerated.

"I plan on never coming back here again," Brown said. "I'm going to focus on what I really need to focus on, which is getting myself together for my children," she said.

ADOC is hoping to allow weekly support meetings in the future and to one day allow doulas to accompany prisoners to the hospital when they give birth. The project receives no state funding and is looking for donors to help them expand their mission to breastfeeding and postpartum support.

This story was contributed by Best Shelburne from WBRC Fox 6 News
The Alabama Corrections Academy opened in 1980 at Craigfield Airforce Base in Selma Ala.

During their 12-week course, correctional officer trainees are required to have six weeks of in-class academic courses. These classes instruct them on the basic principles, policies and procedures. They must maintain a 70 percent average to graduate.

“The course work is designed to give trainees an education in corrections,” said Director of Training Eliott Sanders. “Instructors address specific areas that are necessary to be successful as a correctional officer.”

The toughest aspect of the corrections academy is the intense physical training the officers must complete. They are required to run 1.56 miles in 15 minutes, 25 push-ups, 30 crunches, and complete a grueling obstacle course.

If minimum requirements are not passed on the first day of training, trainees have six weeks to meet the standards.

One week of their training is dedicated to the Vanguard Strategic Self-defense, and Grappling Tactics (SSGT). These defense techniques provide officers with tactics they can use to apprehend and subdue inmates.

“Physical training has two major important factors. The first is the ability to defend themselves and others. The second, and potentially the most important, is being healthy and staying healthy throughout a career.”

-Director Eliott Sanders

Since the academy opened in 1980 they have graduated over 10,000 trainees.

“The Alabama Corrections Academy is one of the most comprehensive correctional officer training programs in the nation,” said Deputy Commissioner of Training Matthew Brand. “This is where our future correctional officers not only learn the ABCs of law enforcement and correctional procedures, but develop an esprit-de-corps and pride for the profession that becomes the cornerstone of their future service to the citizens of our great state.”
Alabama Corrections Captain; Army Guardsman Receives Soldier’s Medal

Alabama Department of Corrections Captain, Kevin J. Bishop, was presented the Soldier’s Medal by Governor Kay Ivey during a ceremony at the State Capitol on Wednesday.

Bishop, who is a staff sergeant in the Alabama Army National Guard, received the award for his heroic actions on March 11, 2016, when inmates gained control of a dorm at the William C. Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore.

The award’s citation credits Bishop for rescuing the prison warden from imminent danger without regard for his own personal safety, and preventing the violence from spreading to other parts of the facility.

At approximately 9:15 p.m. on March 11, 2016, correctional officers at Holman Prison were called to a disturbance in one of the prison dorms. In the process of breaking up a fight among several inmates, a correctional officer was stabbed.

On receiving the report of the stabbing, the warden, Bishop, and a corrections captain entered the dorm. While assessing the situation, a lone inmate attacked and stabbed the warden multiple times in the back and head. Bishop responded to the attack by deflecting the inmate’s follow-on attempts to stab the warden; shielding him and applying pressure to the warden’s wounds. Bishop was able to hold off the inmate and successfully lead the warden and the other officers out of the dorm to safety.

In addition, Bishop assured emergency medical services and the corrections emergency response team were mobilized in response to the incident.
Despite being injured in the attack, Bishop remained on duty and initiated measures to ensure the disturbance was contained.

“It is always a dangerous situation when violence erupts,” said Bishop. “I did not hesitate to respond to the aid of another in this situation. This is not something someone plans on doing when they wake up each day. I would hope my fellow officers would take the same actions in my time of need.”

Bishop added that he was prepared to handle the incident because of his military training and years of experience in corrections.

The Soldier’s Medal is the highest non-combat award for heroism for a member of the United States Army, or Reserve Component who performs a heroic act while not serving in a military duty status.

“With extraordinary courage and selflessness, Captain Bishop safeguarded his warden and fellow officers while taking appropriate action to resolve a very dangerous situation,” said Corrections Commissioner Jeff Dunn. “Captain Bishop is an exceptional leader and we are grateful for his service to the Department of Corrections.”

Bishop said he never set out in his career in the National Guard or Department of Corrections to receive awards or accolades and has always tried to serve his state and country by following the Army values.

“Receiving the Soldier’s Medal is an overwhelming honor, and I accept the award on behalf of all the men and women who place themselves in harm’s way each and every day without reward or recognition,” Bishop said.

Bishop, a 1997 graduate of the Alabama Corrections Academy, rose through the ranks and received a promotion to captain in 2013. He is assigned to the G.K. Fountain Correctional Facility in Atmore where he serves as a senior corrections supervisor.

In 2004, Bishop enlisted in the Alabama Army National Guard and is trained as a combat medic and healthcare NCO with the Medical Detachment – Alabama based in Birmingham. Bishop’s military service includes multiple tours to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Captain Bishop is a fine example of the men and women who serve in the Department of Corrections," Governor Ivey said. "Captain Bishop is a hero for both our country and our state, and I am hon-
Birmingham Women’s Work Release Center Donates Crocheted Gifts

On March 29, the Birmingham Women’s Work Release Center donated nearly 100 colorful creations to women and children in the Birmingham area.

The inmates teamed up with Jessie’s Place and crocheted 60 stuffed animals and 30 blankets for area mothers and their children.

“We chose to give to Jessie’s Place because this is a great group of people that are helping women and children in the local area,” said Warden James Tucker. “With this group, the mission is obtained by allowing the women offenders at our facility to learn the art of crochet and to give back to the community.”

Jessie’s Place is a women and children’s shelter of the Jimmie Hale Mission ministries that began in 1998 for helping women and children overcome lifelong struggles. The ministry provides essential services to women such as daily life skills training, case management counseling, education remediation, and job readiness assistance.

Northern Region Institutional Coordinator Hired

The Alabama Department of Corrections is pleased to announce the promotion of Edward Ellington to Northern Region Institutional Coordinator.

“Warden Edward Ellington has established himself as a progressive thinking, hardworking, professional leader,” said Commissioner Jefferson Dunn. “He puts extensive time into his career, working long hours when necessary to get the job done.”

In his new position, Ellington is responsible for leading the northern region facilities and managing 12 state prisons.

Ellington began his career with the ADOC in 1989 as a Correctional Officer Trainee. Most recently he served as Warden III at Draper Correctional Facility.

“I would like to say that I’m honored to have been selected to fill the vacant Institutional Coordinator’s position for the Northern Region,” said Ellington. “I look forward in working with the Executive Team and all of the wardens. I know that the job will be challenging, but I’m confident that I will make the transition and assisting with moving Operations and the ADOC forward.”

Ellington served 25 years in the United States Army Reserves, retiring as a Sgt. First Class.

Ellington received a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Alabama State University and a master’s degree in justice and public safety from Auburn University.
Seminary in Prison: Alabama Inmates Prepare to Minister to Others Behind Bars

A story of faith and forgiveness is unfolding at the Bibb County Correctional Facility. Thirteen inmates with convictions ranging from rape to murder are now enrolled in a full time seminary. Birmingham Theological Seminary operates the program that’s unlike any other in Alabama’s history.

Four days a week, the men are in the classroom taking a full course load from BTS. In two years, each will have either a Master of Arts and Biblical Studies or a Certificate of Practical Theology.

Wardell is one inmate in the program. He’s been in prison 16 years. He says his turning point for Christ happened once he was behind bars.

“When I was in the county jail crying out for God to save me and not only save me, but save the victim I was trying to hurt,” Wardell explained.

Now he spends his days studying God’s word. He calls prison a place where he is able to give God his full attention.

“I know I've been renewed in my mind spiritually and that's what I've been missing,” said Wardell.

When he finishes this two-year program, Wardell and the other graduates will be sent to prisons across Alabama to minister to those who may relate to their stories.

“I can identify with the hurt of man coming through these prison walls or men who have almost attempted to kill someone and they identify with it because I’m not going to try to hide anything because my past is my past,” said Wardell. “I can’t change it. I can’t erase it. My past has been forgiven by God and that’s what I want men to understand.”

John is also ready to use his story and new knowledge for ministry.

“My plan deals with bible studies,” John told ABC 33/40. “I really want to help the sex offenders and help deal with their treatments.”

Dr. Thad James is Vice President at BTS. He acknowledges some may have concerns about the inmates' reentry into society and plans for life in ministry.

(Seminary in Prison continued on page 13)

The Birmingham Women’s Work Release Center began the Helping Program in January with a goal of building an inmate’s self-awareness and self-accomplishment by helping others in need.

Although the inmates assigned to the center are incarcerated, they are still mothers, daughters, and sisters, and most of them will one day return into the community that they came from.

The inmate’s recent donation of crocheted gifts to Jessie’s Place is the first for the center. It is expected that more inmates will become involved in the partnership with Jessie’s Place as the program grows.

(Imagine beginning with a string of yarn and when you are finished, you have a gift ready to give to a person in need. The end results create a great sense of accomplishment.

If you would like to donate to the Birmingham Women’s Work Release Center’s crochet program, you can do so by contacting Warden Tucker at 205-252-2994.)
ADOC 14th Annual Golf Tournament Raises $5,500 for ACESF

ADOC hosted the 14th Annual Golf Tournament at the Lagoon Golf Course in Montgomery with a field of 18 teams.

The tournament raised over $5,000 for the Alabama Correctional Employee Support Fund that provides financial support and assistance to persons currently employed by, or retired from the Alabama Department of Corrections and their family members, and to members of the public at large in some circumstances.

The tournament was made possible by the players, sponsors and volunteers.

“Sometimes you actually have to pinch yourself to make sure it’s not a dream,” said James. “It’s really a joy. It’s a blessing. It’s an honor.”

“I see the changes of the lives in these men and knowing personally what they’re in here for but also seeing their changed lives,” James said. “You can fake that. You can fool that. But only for so long can you do that. The truth is going to come out.”

James believes in this program and the future of these men.

“It's helped me see there are people who actually care for the prisoner that are willing to help, that all is not lost, that we can change, that we don’t have to go out and commit crimes that we can actually change for the better,” said John.

“I kid with myself at times, I be like, what if they called me and said you can go home today. What would I tell the judge? I would say, well give me time so I can complete my class, then let me out,” Wardell said.

Dr. James says the program was modeled after ones in South Carolina and Louisiana, but the curriculum is very close to what is taught at Birmingham Theological Seminary.

Donations cover all the costs.

Inmates in the program had to apply, interview and be screened. Those chosen had to have at least seven years left on their sentence- two for the program and at least five more years to serve in the prisons.

This first class graduates next summer. Dr. James hopes to have the second class chosen and beginning classes by that same time.

This story was contributed by Lauren Walsh from ABC 33/40
In early May, the Alabama Department of Corrections recognized their employees hard work throughout 2016 with the annual awards ceremony and family picnic.

On May 9, over 300 ADOC employees and family members attended the awards ceremony at the Renaissance hotel in Montgomery.

Twenty-one awards were given out to staff and facility employees who excelled in all department standards.

The ADOC Picnic was held at Sheridan Heights Community Center in Montgomery.

Courtney Castleberry of the Classification Division coordinated the picnic along with a committee consisting of employees from all facilities and divisions.

In addition to fine food, the picnic included competitive sports, games, door prizes and much more.

The Commissioner’s Trophy went to Staton Correctional Facility for winning the softball tournament and Fountain Correctional Facility for placing first in the basketball tournament.
Summer 2017

CORRECTIONS NEWS

Uniformed Officer Awards

**Correctional Senior Supervisor of the Year**
Captain Lanetta Banks, Loxley

**Correctional Supervisor of the Year-Northern Region**
Sgt. Lillie Williford, Hamilton A&I

**Correctional Supervisor of the Year-Central Region**
Lt. John Hudson, Kilby

**Correctional Supervisor of the Year-Southern Region**
Sgt. Crystal Smith, Elba

**Correctional Officer of the Year-Northern Region**
Tracy Stevens, Childersburg

**Correctional Officer of the Year-Central Region**
Terrence Brown, Elmore

**Correctional Officer of the Year-Southern Region**
Phillip Brown, Holman

Institutional Awards

**Administrative Support Assistant of the Year**
Alice Likely, Fountain

**Support Employee of the Year**
Ryan Thompson, Bibb

**Support Supervisor of the Year**
Haley Bull, Hamilton CBF

**Maintenance Employee of the Year**
Donald Griffin, Birmingham

**Chaplain of the Year**
Christopher Summers, Holman

**Steward of the Year**
Wylissa Graham

**Assistant Warden of the Year**
Warden Kenneth Peters, Fountain

**Work Center Warden of the Year**
Warden, James Tucker, Birmingham

**Warden III of the Year**
Warden Leon Bolling, Donaldson

ADOC Division Award

**Administrative Support Assistant of the Year**
Lesley Whitacre, Community Corrections

**Staff Employee of the Year**
David Smith, Accounting

**Staff Supervisor of the Year**
LaShandra Knox, Information Systems

**Investigator of the Year**
Christian Butterbaugh

**Division Director of the Year**
Glen Casey, Research and Planning
This year, the Alabama Department of Corrections graduated 54 correctional officers from the ADOC Corrections Academy. In his remarks about class 2016-03, Class President Erick McGuire concluded the ceremony with a clear direction for success.

"We are all human and mistakes will be made. It is how we handle those mistakes that will distinguish us as professionals. It is now our duty to know and understand the regulations of the department and do our best as correctional officers within those confines."

- 2016-03 Class President Eric McGuire

Twenty-one correctional officers graduated in class 2016-03 and 24 officers in class 2017-01.

The ADOC’s Corrections Academy is a twelve-week course that prepares graduates for their upcoming career in law enforcement.
ACEF Reached $104,000 in Scholarships

The Alabama Corrections Employee Support Fund celebrated an important milestone during its employee scholarship reception when it reached over $104,000 in total scholarships awarded.

“You all have unique gifts that need to be cultivated. The scholarships that each of you receive today will afford you more opportunities to develop those talents, which will ultimately help you achieve the career you strive for.”

- Investigator Mark Fassl

This year there are 16 ADOC scholarship recipients who received award amounts ranging from $500-$2,500.

Kirethia Chambers from Ventress Correctional Facility received the Charles and Doris Farquhar Memorial Scholarship of $2,500.

The Farquhar Memorial Scholarship was established in 2012 in honor of Charles and Doris Farquhar who were killed in the line of duty in 1994. This is the most prestigious ACEF scholarship awarded each year.

This scholarship is funded by the annual Farquhar Memorial Golf Tournament. This year’s tournament was held July 10 in Huntsville.

Opening minds is just as important as locking doors
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