Governor John Elias Baldacci appointed Martin A. Magnusson as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Corrections and conducted the swearing-in ceremony that was held on Tuesday, February 4th in the Governor’s Office in the State House. Commissioner Magnusson, who is known by all as “Marty”, has served as the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Corrections for the past six years under the Angus King administration. Governor Baldacci stated during the swearing in ceremony that Marty’s selection and reappointment was one of the easiest decisions that he has made in his selection of new cabinet members.

Marty has almost thirty years experience in corrections and was first named Commissioner by Governor Angus King in May 1998. Marty began his career as a correctional officer at the Maine Correctional Center, has been a Probation and Parole Officer, the Director of Juvenile Services, Warden of the Maine State Prison, which included both the Maine Correctional Institution and the Bolduc Correctional Facility, and Associate Commissioner prior to his appointment as the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Corrections.

Governor Baldacci, when nominating Marty, stated, "Commissioner Magnusson has provided exceptional leadership in a time of great change. Marty's knowledge and experience about the system makes him the best person to retain the stability of the prison system while continuing to work with other departments in a time of a difficult budget shortfall. A new state prison, the establishment of a mental health and substance abuse unit and the use of developing technologies are some of the recent accomplishments of the Department of Corrections. Marty’s institutional knowledge and continued efforts to work closely with DHS, BDS, DOL and DOE will be essential in providing constantly improving programs and services for many but particularly woman and youth."

The staff of the MDOC applaud the Governor’s decision to reappoint Marty as their Commissioner and they know that in the challenging times ahead the Department will have an experienced, knowledgeable, and competent leader.
COMMISSIONER’S CORNER

The Maine Department of Corrections' mission includes holding offender accountable to their victims and communities.

The Department’s Office of Victim Services is committed to assisting and supporting victims of crime. These services include keeping a victim updated on an offender including furloughs and/or release, facilitating restitution payments to eligible victims, providing assistance in cases of harassment, and in many other ways.

The department joins the other Victims of Crime Organizations around the country in celebrating Crime Victim’s Week (April 6 – 12, 2003). A coloring and essay contest is being held for the children of our employees asking that they consider how their parent, who works for the MDOC, makes his/her community a safer place to live and then to express this either in a drawing or an essay.

Another “Impact of Crime” program will be offered to the Women’s Unit at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham and will be beginning this month. The offender enrollment in the program has been very good and the participants finish this program with a much better understanding of the pain and suffering that a victim of a crime endures on a continual basis.

Please join me in honoring crime victims and those who serve them and in joining with them to fulfill the promise of justice for all.

Martin A. Magnusson

Food for Thought

Love is unconditional. If you love someone you accept them despite their faults.

Unknown

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Transition from Prison to the Community

The Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) recently hosted a videoconference that was televised by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) on Transition from Prison to the Community. The videoconference was offered at three sites throughout the State. These sites were at the Maine State Prison in Warren, the Maine Correctional Center in South Windham, and at the Waterville High School. Staff from the MDOC and individuals from various community agencies attended the videoconference.

The MDOC has long realized that the “reentry” or the transitional period in which a person goes from incarceration back into the community is very important. The individual’s decisions that are made during this time period and the level of community support often determine the level of success in the reentry process.

Statistics show that 97% of the 1.3 million inmates now in prison eventually will be released and will return to communities. Many will leave prison with no supervision or services. A strong transition process — through which inmates are prepared for release, leave prison, return to communities, and adjust to free living—is needed to protect the public effectively.

The National Institute of Corrections’ Transition from Prison to the Community Initiative (TPCI) is intended to help states improve their transition processes, thereby increasing public safety, reducing recidivism and new victimization, and making better use of resources in correctional facilities and communities. This initiative uses the Transition Accountability Planning (TAP) model for an enhanced transition process, as detailed in the document, Transition from Prison to Community Initiative.

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) is an international association composed of individuals from the United States and Canada who are actively involved with probation, parole and community-based corrections, in both adult and juvenile sectors. This organization is recognized as a National leader in the area of offender reentry and has recently published the following report on the subject:

By Denise Lord

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Becky Boober as the Executive Director of the Maine’s Reentry Network.

Becky is especially qualified for this new and challenging initiative. She has extensive experience in redesigning and administering new programs, establishing and fostering community collaboratives, using and training others in the Integrated Case Management System approach, and creating and managing systemic changes to meet the needs of young people in Maine.

Becky’s experience includes Regional Executive Manager for Region 3 in the Department of Human Services where she also chaired the Regional Children’s Cabinet and was on the Board of Visitors for Mountain View Youth Development Center. While with DHS Region 3, Becky was instrumental in leading the Youth Who are Homeless Rapid Response program and the Downeast Safe Start grant. She has served as Deputy Commissioner for the Maine Department of Education and facilitated the Task Force on Learning Results for the Maine State Board of Education.

Becky was an involved member of the team that developed Maine’s Reentry Grant application and is a passionate advocate for effective interventions for young people. She will be an energetic and effective leader for this initiative. She assumed the position of Reentry Executive Director on February 10th. Her office is located in Central Office in Augusta, but she expects to spend a fair amount of time in the four pilot counties and in our facilities. Please join me in welcoming Becky.

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The Three "R’s" of Reentry

Currently there is a significant amount of attention focused on the large number of offenders who are being released from prison to communities across the country. Leadership and support from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs have created opportunities to discuss, plan and implement new strategies to more effectively deal with offenders who are going home.

This white paper is intended to be just that: an opportunity to create a dialogue about offender reentry from a victim, family, and harm centered perspective.

- Reparative Justice
- Relationships
- Responsibility

To read the entire white paper on APPA’s website. http://www.appa-net.org/3R.pdf

DID YOU KNOW?

Recidivism Trends in the United States

Two studies come closest to providing "national" recidivism rates for the United States. One tracked 108,580 State prisoners released from prison in 11 States in 1983. The other tracked 272,111 prisoners released from prison in 15 States in 1994. The prisoners tracked in these studies represent two-thirds of all the prisoners released in the United States for that year.

Rearrest within 3 years

- 67.5% of prisoners released in 1994 were rearrested within 3 years, an increase over the 62.5% found for those released in 1983
- The rearrest rate for property offenders, drug offenders, and public-order offenders increased significantly from 1983 to 1994. During that time, the rearrest rate increased:
  - from 68.1% to 73.8% for property offenders
  - from 50.4% to 66.7% for drug offenders
  - from 54.6% to 62.2% for public-order offenders
- The rearrest rate for violent offenders remained relatively stable (59.6% in 1983 compared to 61.7% in 1994).

Reconviction within 3 years

- Overall, reconviction rates did not change significantly from 1983 to 1994. Among prisoners released in 1983, 46.8% were reconvicted within 3 years compared to 46.9% among those released in 1994.
- Among drug offenders, the rate of reconviction increased significantly, going from 35.3% in 1983 to 47.0% in 1994.

Returned to prison within 3 years

- The 1994 recidivism study estimated that within 3 years, 51.8% of prisoners released during the year were back in prison either because of a new crime for which they received another prison sentence, or because of a technical violation of their parole. This rate was not calculated in the 1983 study.

BJS Sources:
Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1983, April, 1989

In Loving Memory of

Allen E. Brann
1943-2003


He was a wonderful husband and father who had a gregarious taste for adventure. Allen’s favorite pastime was his photography and he will best be remembered with a camera in his hand.

He touched many lives by his vivacious love of life and family. He was a great man who will be greatly missed.

Our deepest sympathies go out to his family. We want them to know that we share in their sorrow and hope that the memories of yesterday’s happier times will carry them through their many tomorrows.
PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS WITHIN THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MEASURING COMMUNITY SERVICE

The increase in Community Service Hours is one measure for assessing the department’s progress in meeting the goals outlined in our strategic plan. This measure specifically addresses Goal C. to ensure that offenders are accountable to both their victims and the communities in which they offend.

Community service includes any work that a juvenile or adult offender performs for a nonprofit organization, town, county, or state agency other then the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC). Examples of community service are work crews that work on the restoration of local town buildings, maintain town and State Parks, and perform services for the Department of Transportation. If the offender receives any monetary benefit for his/her labor it is not considered community service.

The total MDOC community services performed for 1998 (Baseline Year) is compared to the 1999 thru 2002 community services, these figures include the community services performed in juvenile and adult correctional facilities as well as the juvenile and adult community corrections. The financial value of these services is based on a minimum wage of $5.15/hour. (Many of the jobs performed require special skills that would increase this labor value).

The 1998 MDOC yearly total was 187,450 hours of community services performed State-wide. The financial value of these services is a minimum of $ 965,367.00.

The 1999 MDOC yearly total was 188,301 hours of community services performed State-wide. The financial value of these services is a minimum of $ 969,750.00.

The 2000 MDOC yearly total was 172,116 hours of community services performed Statewide. The financial value of these services is a minimum of $ 886,397.00.

The 2001 MDOC yearly total was 123,575 hours of community services performed Statewide. The financial value of these services is a minimum of $ 636,411.00.

The 2002 MDOC yearly total was 126,759 hours of community services performed Statewide. The financial value of these services is a minimum of $ 652,809.00.

The goal of the MDOC is consistent improvement and the goal for the year 2003 will be to exceed the annual hourly level for community services that was performed in each of the previous years.
Shortly after I was discharged from the Air Force I returned to Maine from London, England to finish my University studies. After graduating from University, I was offered a teaching position and the Principalship, as well, at the Fort O’Brien School in Machiasport, Maine. The Bucks Harbor Air Force Site was eight (8) miles down the road from the school, and my acquaintance with the USAF was kindled again, but in a different manner. One-third of the student population was from the housing complex and their presence added much to the relatively small school building. In the early 1980's tragically a fire struck the school, it burned to the ground. The personnel at the Air Force site came to our rescue. At the time, they were in the beginning stages of downsizing the facility as a result of technological advancement in radar surveillance, thus, they were able to offer us two buildings on the site. We occupied the buildings for a year and a half.

By the middle 1980's the Air Force was gone, and what should become of the Air Force Site, a PRISON! The prison concept was very much accepted by the local folk because it offered solid employment opportunities for the community. I was one of those individuals who applied for a position with this new employer: CORRECTIONS. I can readily tell you, at the time, I knew nothing, absolutely nothing about Corrections or its clients, but was well versed in the field of Education. The job opportunity looked real challenging and its primary focus was education and treatment programs. I was ready to learn something new. In February of 1986, I was hired by the Department to be the Training Center Manager for the Bucks Harbor Correctional Facility. My boss, C. Mark Caton, also had roots with the U.S. Air Force, so in a sense it was not a very difficult transition for either of us. After two years at Bucks Harbor, in 1988, I was promoted to the MDOC Director of Classification in Central Office in Augusta and I still serve in that capacity to this day.

Now you know the “pyramid relationship” that I have experienced with Bucks Harbor.
From the MDOC Archives

A Brief History Of the Downeast Correctional Facility

In October of 1954, a right-of-way was cut from Route 92 to the future site of the Bucks Harbor Air Force Radar Station and the present site of the Down East Correctional Facility in Machiasport, Maine. The building site was soon excavated and the cement was poured to erect the various buildings which included three Airman’s barracks, an NCO barracks, an administration building, a supply building, a recreation hall/base exchange, a dining hall and a pump house. The U.S. Air Force moved into these units in February 1955. The 27 unit family housing area was built in 1959 to accommodate the families of the U.S. Air Force personnel. The maximum number of servicemen that were stationed at the Bucks Harbor Radar Station was 175 in 1965-66.

In 1968 the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began a joint operation with the Air Force by “borrowing” a small room and one scope in the radar search tower. The U.S. Air Force had vacated the site by 1982, leaving the FAA to run the operations of the radar towers.

In February, 1985 the State of Maine purchased the “on the hill” compound with the seven buildings and the family housing area in order to open the Maine Department of Corrections – Downeast Correctional Facility (DCF). Because all of the buildings and machinery had been ‘moth-balled’ over the past three years, in-house maintenance crews and private contractors were hired to re-activate the ex-Air Force Base. The corrections personnel and cooks came aboard in early May 1985. The administration and education personnel were of 1985 and the first dozen minimum-security inmates were housed at the Downeast Correctional Facility by the last week in May 1985. The administration and education personnel were soon in place and the facility’s inmate capacity of 96 inmates was soon reached. From that point forward the Downeast Correctional Facility has been an integral and important part of the Department’s adult correctional system.

Special Thanks to Bruce Coffin, Supervisor of Grounds and Machinery at the DCF for his knowledge and memory in putting this article together. Bruce’s first involvement with the facility was in 1954, when he was hired to work on building the original road leading to the site, and continues to the present time.

If anyone has any old MDOC photographs that they would like to submit to the DOC TALK to use for this section, please contact Ellis King at 287-4342 or Ellis.King@maine.gov. The photographs may be published in the article and will certainly be returned to the sender.
Denise Giles handed out copies of the Report to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee regarding Restorative Justice.

Team Updates:

Denise Giles reported on Boothbay Harbor – They met a week ago and have 16 board members. They received a referral which was determined to not be appropriate for the team, the offender moved away to another State before the conference could be set. They also decide that the community did not want to handle non-criminal offenses such as skateboarding.

Tessa Mosher reported on Mt. Blue – Kathy Haines has switched jobs and is now working at the District Attorney’s office so they are trying to determine who is going to make the referrals because Kathy always gave them to the team before. Kathy was unable to make it to the meeting because of the workload in her new position at this time.

Brian MacDougal reported on Gorham – They have had a few conferences and they are happy with the new guidelines since they are able to handle the impact of offenses on the community related to substance abuse issues and Brian, being a JCCO, can monitor the juvenile as well. The conferences that they have had were very powerful, but they seem to run into problems with the amount of time and energy that it takes to ensure that all of the conditions of the resolution and community service are met. They are working to establish a policy and guidelines for their Restorative Justice account that is going to be submitted to Denise in order for the Assistant Attorney General, Diane Sleek, to review.

Denise commented that the Assistant Attorney General’s opinion is that restitution accounts, where money is paid as a condition of the conference, should only be used for victims.

Jim Doherty reported on Bath/Brunswick – They are going to kick-off the first of February. They have a lot of community volunteers. They have established their policies and procedures with ideas from other teams. As part of their last meeting they demonstrated role plays to potential new members.

Tessa gave an update on Parkside – They are still working on policies and procedures. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday’s of the month from 6 pm to 8 pm if anyone would like to attend.

Denise commented that Tessa is doing site visits and checking to make sure that all facilitators have been through the DOC Facilitators Training.

Discussion was held regarding a centralized Saturday Facilitators training. It was determined that if we do have a Saturday training that there will be a minimum number of participants that would need to be registered for it to be held.

**The next quarterly CRT meeting will be held on April 25, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in the Tyson Conference Room**

**COLORING & ESSAY CONTEST**

A number of very special prizes have been donated to **The Coloring and Essay Contest** for the children of Maine Department of Corrections employees. The Office of Victim Services would like to thank the donors and feel very fortunate for the recipients of such an outstanding assortment of prizes. The list of prizes include a portable MP3 player donated by US Cellular, a 2 hour kayak lesson donated by Alice Andrenyak, 4 passes to Jokers, 4 passes to the Children’s Discovery Museum, $10.00 gift certificate from Hannaford, stuffed singing bird from the Maine State Museum, and a selection from the Maine State Prison including: 3 children’s Adirondack chairs, 3 large rocking pig banks, 3 cedar wood burned lighthouse boxes, 2 pine carved lighthouse/boat boxes and a four drawer jewelry box, 2 denim back packs from Downeast and 2003-2004 Ski lift tickets from Sugarloaf USA.

Many thanks to you all. Children may enter as many times as they wish through March 28.

**GOOD LUCK!**
Hartwell Dowling, LCSW is leaving the Maine State Prison to become a Community Outreach Coordinator for court ordered substance abuse participants. Hartwell served as the Mental Health Unit Coordinator and Clinical Counselor at the prison for the past one and a half years and was responsible for coordinating assessment, treatment plans and on-going crisis management for the special need population. His dedication to the Mental Health Unit through the transition from Thomaston to Warren is greatly appreciated by Warden Merrill and colleagues. Best of Luck Hartwell!

NEW HIRES continued:
12/02/02 : Brian Pelletier, Corr. Officer
12/16/02 : Benjamin Lurie, Corr. Officer
   David Peterson, Corr. Officer
   Eldon Tardie, Corr. Officer
12/30/02 : Mark D’Angelo, Corr. Officer
   Corey Robinson, Corr. Officer
   Russell Manduca, Clerk Typist II
01/13/03 : Bobby Lee Beard, Corr. Officer
   Patrick Whalen, Corr. Officer
01/15/03 : Maureen Rubano, Psychologist III
01/21/03 : Kenneth Hutchings, Corr. Officer
   Alexis Hooydonk, Corr. Officer
   Deborah Hill, Corr. LPN

PROMOTIONS:
11/03/02 : Millard Rackliffe,
   Luther Thornton,
   Dwight Fowles,
11/18/02 : Pauline Black,
   Teacher to Teacher/Principal
12/08/02 : David Boynton,
   Corr. Officer to Corr. Care & Treatment Worker
   Christopher Gerard,
   Corr. Officer to Corr. Care & Treatment Worker

RETIREMENTS:
12/01/02 : Richard Robidoux,
   Corr. Trades Shop Supervisor
12/31/02 : Stephen Wood,
   Corr. Officer/Asst. Prison Steward
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

BOLDUC CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

ANNUAL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2003

The purpose of the Bolduc Correctional Facility is to promote a safe and healthy work environment for the community, staff and prisoners alike while providing necessary opportunities for change and personal growth that will positively affect an individual’s reintegration to society.

Security:
Vacancies for third shift of security totaled 1,658 hours. This was split between the first and third shifts.

Maintenance:
Our Maintenance Department covered a large area. The local communities such as Warren, Rockland, Thomaston and Union received a lot of help this past year. This ranged from hanging Christmas wreaths to the pick-up of leaves and brush.

Medical:
The statistical data for our Medical Department is very informative. Jo Ann Laggan maintains excellent records and sets a very high standard of care. She attains this level each and every day. Thanks to Jo Ann’s whole body health education that is done during the medical intake process, she had 80% of our population requesting and receiving physical exams.

Mental Health:
Our full-time L.C.S.W., Ralph Ferguson, assessed and screened 241 admissions arriving during the 2002 year. His assessments include a determination of diagnosis for mental health and/or substance use disorders.

Ralph’s Anger Management group is an 8 week psycho-educational offering to help the prisoner arrive at an understanding as to the origins of his anger and to provide him with alternative responses. These responses include problem solving skills, assertiveness skills, meditation skills and stress management skills.

This program was well received for the year 2002.

Craft Room:
Approximately 90 prisoners benefited from the novelty program during the year. The locker turnover rate increased to 40 lockers during 2002.

27,116 items were produced in the Craft room last year while the total items sold were 22,960. This program keeps our prisoner population busy by making their time productive.

Plate Shop:
There were 25 prisoners employed by the Plate Shop last year for approximately 12,000 hours. This year Harold Hodgkins’ crew manufactured 615,000 license plates. These are shipped to Bureau of Motor Vehicle branches from Springvale to Caribou on an as needed basis.

Recreation:
2002 was a very busy year for this Department. To name a few of the on-going tournament offerings: Volleyball, cribbage, spades and 8-ball. The annual winter weight lifting competition was held in February. There were two judges that participated: Mark Clevette, an officer from MCI and Lynn Athearn, state record holder for weight lifting from Union. Basketball and softball are always in the mix. This year we created a third softball team due to the increase in our population.

The gym floor was refinished in November – at the start of our 2002/2003 basketball season. This Department is excited about the prospects and the opportunity to continue to move ahead in a positive direction for 2003.

Social Services:
Our Social Services Department has been very busy this past year. They were very instrumental in the Local Work Release Program, Community Treatment and Victim Impact Program. Scott McCaffery and David Bunion are looking forward to the upcoming year and are committed to improving overall case management techniques and developing additional links to the community that will better serve the prisoners of BCF.
**Community Programs:**

This Department completed 425 furloughs for the year 2002. This included 206 AA sponsored furloughs. There were 129 prisoner applications processed for work release. A total of 66 prisoners transferred to work release programs - 17 to CMPRC and 56 to BCF work release programs.

**Culinary Arts:**

This is a six month open-ended program which has students starting at all times during the program. In 2002 we had 19 students start. A total of 6 completed as Cook II’s; 2 Cook Assistant, 1 was shipped to MSP, 2 were shipped to Windham for the TC program, 1 completed hands-on only, 1 was let go because of tardiness, 1 quit and 4 are still in the program.

This program teaches the basic food preparation along with proper handling and storage of foods. Also, proper temperatures for food cooking and storage are a must. This class also teaches the use of almost all kitchen equipment and the proper use of handling and storage of knives.

**Classification:**

We had a total of 241 admissions to this facility during 2002. We transferred 87 prisoners out and released 130 prisoners (47 to straight release, 81 to probation and 2 to jail). This was a very busy year.

**Education:**

The following is a description of our program participants: Adult Basic Education: 8; Book Discussion Groups: 12; Computer Training: 110; Mindfulness Meditation: 14; GED: 13; Post-GED: 10.

The following is a description of our certificate completions and credits earned: AIDS Awareness: 173; College: 15; Novanet /SMTC: 8; Computer Training: 39; GED: 3.

The following is a description of our vocational certificate completions by trade: Auto Body: 4; Auto Mechanics: 3; Building Trades: 4; Culinary Arts: 8; Electrical Trades: 3; Plumbing: 5; Heating: 4.

Our Education Department was very busy last year and plans about the same for 2003.

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**MAINE CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

**MCC’S COMPUTER FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

By Jim Howard

The Computers for Schools (CFS) program at Maine Correctional Center has proven to be a success. Within the last 18 months, 18 students have graduated from the CFS program, 9 receiving A+ Certification from CompTIA (the only authorized testing center for Computer Certifications) and 2 students receiving their Network + Certification.

Along with the technical training, Instructor Darrell Lee uses the Equipped for the Future (EFF) concept. EFF has four standards areas, Communication Skills, Decision-making Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Lifelong Learning Skills. These skills are transferred to role models as Family, Citizen, and Worker. Implementing the EFF standards has improved the student’s self-esteem and how to deal with and solve everyday problems they will face when returning back to society.

The program enrollment has been structured to ensure his students leave the facility with technological expertise fresh in their mind. Students with 9-12 months remaining who have completed high school or GED are eligible. This enables students to leave and go straight to their community to become gainfully employed. It takes four months for students to complete the formal classroom training. Next, they receive valuable experience rebuilding and repairing computers from donors such as MBNA, Hannaford Brothers, Delorme, and private individuals just to name a few. These computers are then offered to schools that can’t afford technology through the Department of Education.

Darrell has also developed a database tracking system for employment and recidivism purpose. All of his A+ certified students are currently gainfully employed. The Department is proud to have such a dedicated instructor and program that proves to be a success.
MCC PERSONNEL DEPT. REPORT

By Brad Fogg.

NEW HIRES:

CORRECTIONS OFFICERS:
Patrick Gorham  Paul Lyden
David McComish  Cynthia Mitchell
Burnice O’Neal  Travis McEwen

CORRECTIONS OFFICERS/COOKS:
George Curran  Thomas Scanlon

ACCOUNT CLERK I:
Nicole Farwell

MCC would like to welcome all of our new employees!

KUDOS:

Kudos go out to CTI Jim Quinn and his work crew for rebuilding the Correctional Center’s gymnasium staff shower area. Jim replaced the old metal panel dividers between the showers and dressing area as well as adding other partitioning walls with plastic ones obtained at the old Maine Youth Center. Good job Jim, not only on the work performed but in saving money by using perfectly good recycled materials.

STAFF TRAINING - BRAD FOGG

I would like to acknowledge the many officers and other staff members at the Maine Correctional Center who are bringing their years of experience into the forefront.

With our Staff Development Specialist position vacant, our Captains, Sergeants, Officers, Unit Managers, Caseworkers, Classification Officer, Medical Staff and others have stepped up to provide instruction to new employees in their area or expertise and interest. Each one of these staff instructors have been provided copies of the instructional curriculum of the Criminal Justice Academy; and our test results from the Academy continue to be some of the highest of all those tested at levels A and B in both State and County facilities. Many of our officers and staff are regular instructors at the Criminal Justice Academy.

We would also like to recognize staff from Long Creek Youth Development Center and Sergeant Mike Denbow of the Windham Police Department for their contributions in maintaining the quality of our new employee classroom training.

MCC LIBRARY

Francine Bowden, Librarian

Francine Bowden and staff received a grant from Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation that resulted in a $2000 grant for books for the Maine Correctional Library.

The inmates and staff are enjoying the new additions of popular authors, dictionaries, bestsellers and almanacs and are also encouraged to write more suggestions in the library.

In addition to the many books on hand, the MCC library also offers a newly upgraded West Law computer system, and word processors, as well as typing systems for the inmates to use.

Basic computer literacy classes are coordinated by Ms. Bowden and taught by Jan Gove, Windham Adult Education teacher. They are very popular with the inmates, especially those inmates who have never had the opportunity to learn computer use.

Over 200 inmates have completed this four-week class to date.
MCC – SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

The School Department, under the direction of Kay Bouchard, is undertaking the task of developing Career Workshops for the inmates who are preparing for release. The primary goal is to better equip the inmate with knowledge of programs and services. The Career Center of Maine has been involved with providing information and support to inmates so they may be able to access health care, re-training through technical schools and job services.

One of the purposes of the School Department is to try to direct the student to find a path to a career or a field of study through education.

Students can register for college or trade school before they are released from MCC, and qualify for certain student loans or grants.

With that in mind, the School Department offers Typing classes, Adult Education, GED, as well as one-on-one counseling to prepare inmates for the future. The MEOC (Maine Education Opportunity Center) through the MCC School Department has successfully put students on the right track for college, by taking all the guesswork out of a secondary education.

Studies have shown that education cuts recidivism and is the cornerstone to a more productive society.

CHARLESTON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY & MOUNTAIN VIEW YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

CONGRATULATIONS:

Last month we reported that Trey Merrill, son of Jerry Merrill, Investigator, had gained a few titles. He has again made major achievements in his football career by being recruited by Maine and New Hampshire, and being named All-Little Ten Conference on offense and defense. Trey also is a state heavyweight-wrestling champion in Class C.

Congratulations to Dad and Son!

PERSONNEL

ANNIVERSARIES:

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I was notified that Karen Olmsted’s name was omitted in last month's employee anniversaries. She has 5 years of service. Karen has been a valuable employee who is undergoing many changes; in fact, she has "lost herself" in her work so to speak in that she has shed so many pounds in the last few months, we can barely see her now when she turns sideways. She is an encouraging example to the rest of us what positive changes we can make when we set our minds to it. In addition, in her “life outside”, she runs a piano sales/repair business with her husband, raises a family, volunteers in many local school and community events, and continues to serve us with a friendly smile every day in the chow hall.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HIRES:

Archie Curry-JPW;
Colleen Flores-JPW;
John King–JPW
David Coddington-Psychologist III;
Jason Goggin-JPW/Cook

PROMOTIONS/ TRANSFERS:

John Roberts, CCF was transferred from security to maintenance as CTI in October, 2002.
Daniel Delahanty from JPS to Vocational Teacher Instructor for computers in the student classroom.
Jeffrey Vance from JPW to JPS.
John Bennoch, JPS has transferred his state service from Mountain View to the Department of Human Services. We miss him and wish him and his family all the best.
MVYDC RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS
By Rev. James Weathersby

There are great things happening at MVYDC in the Religious Services Department! Last month we took two residents of Native American descent on a trip to the Abbe Museum. Their exhibit "Four Molly's: Women of the Dawn Wolastoquiyik: Portrait of a People" allowed our residents to enjoy their rich heritage and culture. Our two residents celebrated their heritage with the museum's permanent exhibit "Wabanaki: People of the Dawn from Present to Past." Our Native American residents participate in a weekly sacred celebration, involving smudging, drumming and sharing their strengths with one another. This Ceremony is monitored and supervised by our Chaplain, who also shares a connection with Native American People.

During the month of December, we took nine residents to a local church in Dover-Foxcroft to participate in a charismatic worship service. This service had a special meaning for one resident; at his and his family's prior request, he received his believer's baptism from our Chaplain while there!

Our residents continue to share their beliefs and spiritual values through the spiritually creative medium of 'Mural paintings.' The residents submit drawings and pictures with spiritually based themes and representations that tell about their own religious journeys. If their drawings are selected, they are transferred onto 4’ x 8’ sheets of luan for all the residents who participate in the painting. These paintings will be hung throughout the facility, in hopes of inspiring other residents to develop their spirits as well as their minds while at MVYDC. We are grateful for the continued support of our Superintendent and staff in these adventures of 'creative spirituality' as our Chaplain explores ways to support the religious participation of all our residents at MVYDC.

In Loving Memory of Daniel Doore

On a sadder note, our special condolences go to JPW Freeman Doore, who lost his son, Daniel, age 17, in an automobile accident on December 21st, 2002. The accident involved two other youths from the Foxcroft Academy and has deeply affected many in the local area. We continue to offer our full support to Freeman in dealing with this very tragic event.

Mountaineering
By Gary L. Gray

On January 21, 2003 a bitterly cold day, the Mountaineering class from MVYDC had the unique opportunity of visiting our state capitol in Augusta. Our educational goal for the trip was to expose students to Maine’s culture, history, government, and technology. Our personal goal was to stay warm!

Our field trip started off with a tour of the Capitol building. After we met with our tour guide, we were escorted into the Maine House of Representatives, then a short time later into the Senate. At each stop, we were treated to a series of stories and mini history lessons about the State House and its official function. The students were very impressed with the size and beauty of the building and its architecture.

Our next stop was the Blaine House Mansion. At the front entrance, we were met by two enthusiastic tour guides, who gave us a tour of the first-floor accommodations. There, the students were able to get an idea about some of the history behind the Blaine House and of our past governors. The group was encouraged to sit on the antique furniture and to also view rare artifacts relative to Maine’s history. One of the students actually had a chance to sit in the Governor’s chair at the dining table, exactly where the governor only a few hours prior to our arrival had finished his breakfast. Imagine the look on the student’s face after he had pressed the service button, and the Blaine House chef appeared to ask if she could help him.
The Maine State Museum visit was, as the students remarked, totally awesome. Of the many historical program presentations that the museum offers, we chose “Early Maine Logging” for our group. For thirty minutes, the students were totally focused on the words of the presenter. The students learned about Maine logging - it’s history and technology as well as logging’s past and present importance for our economic growth. Students came away from the presentation with a new appreciation of the many early technological innovations that our ancestors were able to devise and incorporate into the logging industry. The Peavey and the Lombard Log Hauler were two inventions from Maine that were used in other logging states around the country. We completed our tour by viewing the Museum’s other major interest areas: shipbuilding, quarrying, natural history, gems and minerals, ice harvesting, agriculture, Paleo-Indian archeology, fishing, Maine-made products, Maine’s struggle for an identity, and glassware.

We felt the trip was a huge success—very educational, and time well spent. It was an opportunity for students to experience Maine culture, history, and government. Transporting and escorting a group of adjudicated youths on a field trip to our State Capitol in Augusta may, for some people, seem risky, unnecessary, and a waste of taxpayer dollars and resources. But after seeing the genuine interest displayed, broad smiles, and positive reactions from our students, it confirmed our belief that this educational experience was rewarding and worthwhile for students and teachers.

LOCAL ARTIST VISITS MVYDC
By Annie St. Germaine

On January 28, 2003, the students in Mountain View Youth Detention Center were treated to a unique experience when a local artist, Peter Eldredge came for a visit. Audrey Noether, a teacher in the Detention Unit, arranged for Mr. Eldredge to demonstrate art techniques to the students. The young students observed while he demonstrated points of interest and then the students illustrated their understanding by drawing pictures of houses using the technique. Some of the students had taken some drafting courses and found the art lesson to be enlightening. Other students were interested in drawing figures and portraits of family members. Mr. Eldredge was besieged with questions as the students found him to be a willing and able teacher. One student exclaimed, “Wow, you have really taught me something, thanks!” It was a pleasurable visit for Mr. Eldredge, the teachers, and the students.

Mr. Peter Eldredge and students

SHARING OF LIFE-LONG WOOD-WORKING KNOWLEDGE:

Philip Speed of Atkinson, a long time woodworker for most of his 88 years, recently offered his years of expertise and resources to the woodworking program at the Charleston Correctional Facility. Mr. Speed became very interested in the program while being the contact person for public restitution work being performed on the Atkinson Church by the CCF inmates. He later visited Tom Sands in the Industries Shop, eager to share his knowledge with Tom and the shop inmates. They soon found that the elder’s tricks of the trade were just a bit sharper than they had expected, and soon learned an appreciation for the older generation’s ways. Through his generosity and desire to pass on what he knows to the younger generation, new skills have been learned in an age-old art, continuing the legacy he has now passed on. The resulting products over
made in the shop are sold through the corrections system, with the profits being put back into the program. Working with members of the community like Mr. Speed helps to reintegrate the inmates back into society, and makes them feel more of an asset to the community rather than a liability. With his positive outlook, training, and simple life lessons, he has contributed much to the lives of the men he has touched. What a wonderful contribution to LIFE!

DCF has been dealing with the sub-zero weather with an upbeat attitude. Work has been going on as usual with crews busy doing various projects. Prizes for the Coloring & Essay Contest is only one of the many projects. CTI Jeff Mason’s crew has made child size bookcases and VTI John Gilmore’s crew has made denim book pack bags for the contest. Other projects include; CTI Toby Sawtelle’s crew working on refinishing a wood floor in the Jonesboro Forestry Station and CTI JJ Tibbetts’ crew working on new trophy cases for Washington Academy’s expanding trophy collection.

Prisoners and staff have been busy with classroom Forest Fire training. Last year, crews were only called a few times and hopefully this will be another fire safe summer. VTI John Gilmore and Storekeeper Jim Mullen have been hard at work outfitting all prisoners with denim jeans and shirts and will be rotating them into the denim jackets as they are replaced.

Our only guardsman, VTI Tony Jans has been called to active duty with the 112th Air Ambulance Company. A few years ago DCF had as many as four guardsmen and two reservists.

Keeping up with the reduced budget we have been making use of the video conferencing system which has been a great asset in saving staff from driving six hours (three each way) to Augusta to attend a two hour meeting. This has saved not only vehicle mileage but labor hours as well. One third of our correctional officers are on the 12 hour shifts (per their choice) and on March 9th the remaining officers will join them. Sergeants will remain on their present schedule. We have had a Staff Accountant vacancy for over a month and are anxiously waiting for word on a waiver to the hiring freeze to bring our four person business office back to full strength. A Thank You to Correction’s Central Office accounting and personnel staff for their understanding during this time.

DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

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CCF/MVYDC continued

WONDERFUL NEWS FROM MARYLAND!

Our dear friend and former Associate Commissioner, MaryAnn Saar, recently corresponded with Superintendent Eric Hansen regarding her new appointment in Maryland: She is the new Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services!! This department has over 12,000 employees and a billion-dollar budget. It includes 30 correctional facilities, with the Probation and Parole agents supervising 98,000 people. And this is all with the state of Maryland also facing a huge budget deficit. Our congratulations and best of wishes to her! She has taken on a huge responsibility, but we all know she is up to it!

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Tom Sands and Philip Speed

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January/February 2003/Page 16
We received many donations from local churches and groups to decorate and furnish the new Chapel. The most significant donations received were the donation of pews from the Diocese of Portland. Deacon Tom Deignon, serving as a representative for the Bishop, presented the Chapel with this gift. Paul Day of the Maine Bible Society presented the Chapel with a New Standard Revised Bible, which replaced the King James version Bible that the Society had given to us in 1918.

The residents made very significant contributions to making the Dedication Ceremony a success. Students in Art Class created banners to hang on the walls, Culinary Arts students made snacks for everyone to enjoy after the ceremony, a Carpentry student made a cross to hang on the wall behind the pulpit, and selected residents did readings and scripture quotes during the ceremony. The residents had a lot of fun helping to prepare for the Dedication Ceremony and felt a great deal of pride in their participation in this dedication.

The new Chapel is an airy and light space, with light walls and skylights that instill a sense of peace and tranquility, truly a sanctuary to all that enter. Jim McManus, Chief of Volunteer Services and head of the Religious Department, did a wonderful job of seeking out and coordinating donations for the new Chapel, as well as being very involved in the process of designing and setting up the new Chapel. Chaplains Tim and Dan, as well as Deacon John have done a wonderful job of decorating and setting up the new Chapel so that it is a very nurturing environment where the residents and staff can feel at home.

On February 9, 2003, LCYDC dedicated its new Chapel with a service that was open to residents, staff, volunteers, Friends, local clergy, benefactors and supporters. Former MYC Chaplains Bill Parsons and Steve Wulfing attended the dedication ceremony and were very impressed with the new Chapel. Matt Kantrowitz, Chaplain for the Maine State Prison, as well as Reverend Norman Towns of the Westbrook Baptist Church and Deacon Dennis Popadak of the Holy Martyrs Church of Falmouth, joined us in dedicating the new Chapel.

The Dedication Ceremony commenced with opening remarks from Chaplain Tim Higgins and then Superintendent Lars Olsen gave a brief speech to welcome everyone to the new Chapel. Later, everyone present sang hymns and selected residents and guests did readings. The ceremony ended with the blessing of the new Chapel and Chaplain Tim Higgins, Associate Chaplain, Dan Mercer, and Deacon John McAuliffe went to each of the residents housing units and blessed each unit.
Student Kristina: “I liked going to the soup kitchen. I felt really bad for a lot of the homeless people that went in there. We had a lot of work to do like get the food ready, serve, and doing the dishes. It was a lot of work, but it was worth it because it made me feel good about myself after I had helped people.”

This is a rich, learning experience for our students. The Culinary Arts program continues to demonstrate what our Learning for Life program is all about.

On February 11, 2003 we received a letter from Commissioner Duke Albanese recognizing the Culinary Arts program as an approved vocational program under Maine law. He indicated that, “It is clear that this program promises to assist Long Creek residents in their post-institutional lives. Best of luck with this endeavor, and we will look upon your model with great interest as it develops.”

Tim Higgins, Chaplain at LCYDC, joined the LCYDC staff in 2001. Tim graduated from Cheverus High School in 1977, St. Michael’s University with a Bachelor of Science in Religious Studies in 1981 and attained his Master of Divinity from St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore in 1987. Tim worked as a Catholic Chaplain at the Maine Medical Center, a Pastor at the Newman Center at University of Maine, Orono, and as a Program Manager for Portland West. Tim has brought new life to the religious program at LCYDC and has developed strong bonds with the residents, staff and the community.

CULINARY ARTS

Students in the Culinary Arts program continue to expand their community service. Each Thursday a group of six students, two teachers and two line staff pack into a van and drive to the Preble Street Resource Center in downtown Portland. Once there, they prepare meals and serve 200 homeless people. Back at LCYDC students reflect on what happened to them while they cooked, cleaned and served and write about the experience.

Student Jessica: “When I went to the soup kitchen I was on the line serving people and I could smell their homelessness and the booze on their breath. I felt really sad about the whole thing. I couldn’t really stay there so I went over to do the dishes with another student. That was fun. I was drenched the whole time. I know we shouldn’t have been messing around in there but why not have fun while working.”

Student Jason: “I thought it was great to be able to help out someone. I was heading down that road. I’m glad that I changed my life around. I saw it as a reality check and I should change my life still, if not I would end up like that. I saw a lot of people that needed help and all I wanted is to help them.”

Student Yasy: “My first experience at the soup kitchen for me was kinda weird - but after everything was done and we were back at the unit, I felt normal once again.”
One of life’s greatest blessings became a reality to PPO Bill Gendron and his wife Jessica with the birth of Ryan William Gendron born at 11:58PM on January 4th at Maine Medical Center in Portland. Ryan’s vital statistics at birth included: Weight: 8 lbs, 14 oz, Length: 21 ½ inches, Eyes: blue, Hair: brown. Ryan was welcomed home by his big sister Katelyn. Heartiest Congratulations to all!!!!

BRAND NEW GRANDPARENTS

PPO Lew Randall and wife Laura are celebrating the birth of their new grandson, Joshua Randall born February 3rd at Maine Medical Center in Portland to proud parents, Nathan and Trish Randall. Joshua weighed in at 8 pounds, 14 ounces and from all reports is doing well in his brand new world. Congratulations all.

NOMINATED FOR A SECOND TERM

PPO Tamson Ross of our Biddeford Office was elected to a second term as Vice Chair of the York County Violent Crime Task Force. One of the goals of the task force is to provide a meeting time and place for local and state law enforcement agencies to gather and share pertinent local crime information that can prove most beneficial to all. Way to go, Tamson!

A LUNCHEON GATHERING

Remembering when we all worked together, JCCO Dana Blackie was our honored guest at a luncheon held Thursday February 6th at the Moose Crossing Restaurant in Falmouth. Dana retired from state service in February but since many of us had worked with him in earlier times, we just couldn’t let him leave without some kind of a send off. After enjoying a delicious lunch together, Dana was presented with a parting gift from all of us wrapped up in a ton of happy retirement wishes.

Subject: DOC TALK: By Carol Carlow

The downside of not being able to get together for a once a year meeting is that we never get to share ideas or comments we as contributors have received throughout the year. So I thought I would take a moment and pass along some comments and compliments that have come my way in the past year.

◊ “The in memory tributes were both heartfelt and compassionate.”
◊ “My daughter was thrilled with the article.”
◊ “My son said what you wrote was awesome.”
◊ “You made serving on that task force sound so important.”
◊ “The new DOC Talk is here-great”
◊ “DOC Talk just keeps looking better and better.”

We just write the articles. You folks decide where they’ll be placed and then make them look special with your extra little touches.

Let’s all hope DOC Talk never becomes a budget cutting victim.

‡ THEY GATHERED TO REMEMBER‡

Word has been received that PPO Sue Wiechman’s dad, John Nemish of Mayfield, Kentucky passed away Tuesday February 11th after a long and courageous battle with cancer. John will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his extended family and all the friends he made through the years. To Sue and all of her family and loved ones, may we extend our sincere condolences to all of you in this time of sorrow.

‡ A FINAL GOOD-BY‡

Deepest sympathies are extended to PPO Scott Landry and his family on the death of Gemma Vachon, Scott’s beloved grandmother who passed away January 8 in Scott Junction located in the Province of Quebec, Canada. Eight-four years young, Gemma will always be remembered by all who knew her for strong devotion to her faith and the pride and joy she took in her family, especially her eleven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. To Scott and all of his extended family, may you find comfort in knowing that we share in your sorrow.
A new year and there are many changes in our Region to begin 2003. Dana Blackie has retired as of February 6th due to physical disabilities. We had a staff meeting on the 31st and gave Dana a surprise party after the meeting. We gave him some gifts and had pizza, allowing time for memories of working with Dana to be shared. Many staff members from Region II drove down for the occasion as well. He will be sorely missed by this Region as he is such a vital, enthusiastic member of our team. Our staff meetings will be very dull and boring without him. David Eldridge and Elizabeth Buxton will also be retiring in the next few months.

Josh Ash will be taking over Dana’s caseload and Tina Vermiglio and Mike Mack will be assisting with Josh’s Portland caseload with intakes. We now have many staff members sharing caseloads due to our vacancies.

Jay Pennell has taken on the new role of decorator. He managed to sneak in and completely transform Josh Ash’s office into a Barbie Doll fantasy. He even managed to wallpaper with Barbie. Josh was ever so pleased to come in and view his new pink office. This seemed to be such a hit that Jay managed once again to put his decorating skills to work in Tina Vermiglio and David Clock’s office. Dave’s office had M&M dolls hanging from the ceiling, and various arrangements, Tina’s was made into a psychodelic 60’s office with love beads, a black light and fluorescent wall decals. Matt Nee’s office was hit last week-end (we believe Stephanie Libby has her hand in some of this as well). Matt should feel safe with the impending war looming, as his office was filled with army men! It surely keeps all officers wondering who is next and I think many are planning on revenge in Jay’s office in Biddeford. Only Jay knows how to boost office morale in these difficult times.

Our staff seems to be shrinking but we are hoping that we can add to our Region as time goes on.

Jen Goan will not be chasing too many of her juveniles around for a time as she has had major knee surgery a few weeks ago and is in the process of a slow recovery. She hopes to make a full recovery in the next few months.

We had a joint staff meeting on Friday, 2/28/03 with Region II at the Gorham PTA building. Tracy Morton Stanford spoke on her sexual counseling services and Erica Hanson from Sweetser also spoke on Integrated Case Management Systems. We were all very impressed with the PTA building that the inmates renovated and we hope to have more staff meetings there. We had a chili and chowder cook off with many salads and desserts. Staff members went all out to ensure our feast was wonderful. The three judges chose John Never's chili and David Eldridge's chowder as the best. The people’s choice award for chili went to Kathy Matthews and the chowder award went again to David Eldridge. We received some nice prizes, provided by Jay Pennell.

We had a surprise retirement party for David Eldridge following the meeting and presented him with a plaque and some gifts as he leaves to join his wife Vanessa in Florida in March. Dana Blackie joined us and it was so nice to see him again as he is very much missed by all of us. Brian MacDougal's wife made a beautiful cake for David, depicting him on a beach in a lounge chair fishing; she did her usual magnificent job. Elizabeth Buxton will be retiring as well in the next few months and our staff seems to shrink a little more with each entry to DOC talk.

Although our particular office morale remains quite high, we are very tired of winter and look so forward to spring.

CORRECTION: Our apology for referring to Dan Harfoush (Region 1-Juvenile RCA) as Dan Ouellette (Region 3-Adult RCA) in the last issue of the newsletter. It was Dan Harfoush that had the shoulder surgery in December 2002. Thanks to Kathy Matthews for bringing the error to our attention. Ellis
Humbled, encouraged and supported; these are the feelings that have brought me back to writing an article for DOC TALK. After writing what I thought was my last contribution, I have had many kind people encourage me to continue to represent Region IV. I want to especially thank Lynn Nelson, Shawn’s wife, who convinced me to continue on with the article. So, after that being said, I’m back!

As I write, it is below zero, and the winds are blowing 20-30 mph. My poor old furnace is pumping, non-stop. These are the days I dream of my time share in Aruba, and look forward to the seed catalogues arriving in my mailbox. Thinking about my gardens, paints a great visual in my mind, and helps me get through this sub-zero weather. Speaking of gardening, Chris Ross and her husband Glen, saved the seeds from last years harvest. So they are all set for this years planting. As I’ve mentioned in previous articles, Chris and Glen’s property is landscaped to perfection. Their home could easily be photographed for “House and Garden” magazine.

Dave and Nancy Barrett had a “Disney” experience, right in their own back yard! There was a small mystery going on at first. Dave would fill his bird-feeders, and the next day they were empty. Perplexed, Dave would get up, in the wee hours of the morning to try and find the culprit, to no avail. Finally, one night, Dave’s son Joel came home around 12:30 am, and he could not believe what he saw. Seven deer, in their backyard!! Mind you, they live in an urban neighborhood where there is only a driveway in between the houses. Dave, Nancy and Joel watched the deer eat out of feeders for over an hour. The deer eventually moved on to the neighbors apple tree. To see seven deer in the middle of a city is quite magical. Only in Maine.....

On another note, a group of us from work decided to invite our spouses out for a belated holiday dinner. Shawn and Lynn Nelson, Roxann and Larry Austin, Galan and Jen Williamson, Sue and Greg Colson, Dick and I got together at Margarita’s Mexican Restaurant, in Orono. We had such a good time that we decided we needed to do that more often. Ask Dave and Larry if the restaurant makes good margarita’s!! :)

That same night, we learned that Galan and his wife Jen will be flying to Switzerland, to attend his brother’s wedding. What a wonderful opportunity to experience another culture, especially for their three children, Lauren, Galen Jr. and Levi. Please bring us back some Swiss chocolate!

Donna Miles and her husband Ron, were back on the road, traveling to Florida. Donna enjoyed the warmer climates with her sister and brother-in-law. Although, it seems even Florida is a lot cooler then normal. I told Donna to bring me back some real estate news. Florida is looking better and better to me all the time....

Tom Pailes and his wife Mary continue to fly to Florida on a monthly basis. Their son Barry works for Delta airlines, so Tom and Mary can fly stand-by, most often for free! How lucky are they.

Speaking of vacations, Renna Hegg enjoyed a week in Cancun, Mexico. While she was there, a part of Mexico had an earthquake: 7.8 on the Richter scale!!! Fortunately is was not near where Renna stayed.

There is “good news” to report on Elaine Sosebee’s health and other challenges this year. She reports she feels so much better now and is back to work. Welcome back Elaine.

Hopefully this Winter “chill” will break soon and I can peel off a couple of the five layers of clothes I have to put on each day. I was talking with Mary Jones, and we agree, palm trees seem wonderfully good to us right now.

Stay warm, and know Spring Day is right around the corner!
Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC)

Coloring & Essay Contest

How does your family member that works for the MDOC make your Community a safer place to live?

The Maine Department of Corrections realizes that our correctional employees have an important role outside of their professional careers. As Victim/Witness Organizations around the Country commemorate National Crime Victims’ Week, they honor the risk that correctional employees take everyday.

How to Enter

1. Draw a picture (ages 3-12) or write an essay (ages 13-15) that describes how your family member that works for the MDOC make your Community a safer place to live?

2. The pictures must be completed on a blank, white piece of 8 ½ X 11 inch paper. Water colors, crayons, markers, pencils may be used.

3. The essays must be limited to 1 page of 8 ½ X 11 inch paper and can be in either readable handwriting, typed, or printed.

4. Be sure to fill out your name, age, your relative’s name and the facility or program where they work.

5. The pictures or essays must be received in MDOC Central Office by March 21, 2003.

Send to: Denise Giles
MDOC Central Office
State House Station 111
Augusta, Maine 04333

Age Categories: Ages 3 – 5
               Ages 6 – 8
               Ages 9 – 12
               Ages 13 – 15

Prizes will be awarded for each category

JUDGING – All entries will be judged on Friday, March 28, 2003 by the Victim Advisory Group. Participants do not need to be present to win. All pictures and essays will be displayed in the MDOC Central Office during the National Crime Victims’ Week (April 6 – 12, 2003)

If you have any questions, please contact Denise Giles at (800) 968-6909 or e-mail at Denise.Giles@maine.gov
INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION PROVIDES GREAT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR OFFENDERS

The Maine Department of Corrections in collaboration with the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation, Maine Department of Education, Maine Department of Labor, the Center for Learning and Literacy, the Maine Adult Correctional Education Association, and the Maine State Library presented the Career & Learning Connections videotape educational programs *GED Connection* and *Workplace Essential Skills* to representatives from every correctional facility in the State of Maine on January 30th at 11 AM in the Department of Human Services Building meeting room located at 442 Civic Center Drive in Augusta, Maine.

The videotaped educational programs were developed by PBS Literacy Link, the Kentucky Educational Network, the National Center for Adult Literacy and the Kentucky Department of Education. The Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation and the State Departments of Education and Labor have acquired the statewide broadcast rights to air these programs and make available the on-line learning opportunity and access to the supporting workbooks in Maine. The education programs consist of over 50 videotapes that will enable a learner to prepare for the GED exam and then learn the skills necessary to find and keep a job. Through this distribution, the educational materials will be provided to incarcerated individuals in every one of Maine's juvenile and adult correctional facilities. The videotaped education programs are supported by student workbooks and Teacher’s Manuals that will be distributed to State correctional facility educators in the near future.

Marty Magnusson, Commissioner and Denise Lord, Associate Commissioner for the MDOC, presented the videotape education programs and the corresponding workbooks to the State adult and juvenile correctional facility administrators and Bob Aubrey, Coordinator of the Maine Adult Correctional Education Association, presented the videotape programs to the Community Adult Education Directors that service the County Jail inmate populations.

This project is a great example of how everyone benefits when State, County, and Community Agencies collaborate on a common goal. The following representatives from each of the collaborating agencies participated in the educational program distribution ceremony:

Bob Aubrey - Maine Adult Correctional Education Association  Patte Bowman - Maine Department of Education
Mary DuRoss - Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation  Alan Fecteau – Maine State Library
Trish Ohler - Maine Department of Labor CareerCenters

*Standing from left:* Bob Aubrey, Denise Lord, Rick Charest, Scott Burnheimer, Mary DuRoss, Trish Ohler, Marcia Cook, Marty Magnusson (Commissioner), Carl McHatten, Jeff Merrill, Lorraine Christensen, Lars Olsen and Eric Hansen.