On August 16, 2005, First Lady Baldacci toured the Maine State Prison with Commissioner Magnusson and Rebecca Dyer, the Executive Director of Maine Adult and Community Education. The First Lady was interested in how the Seeds of Change program was developed by the MSP Education Dept. and its community collaborators with a $25,000 award from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. She learned from MSP Principal Polly Black that the program provides vocational, academic and parenting training for incarcerated fathers at MSP and BCF. This program helps prisoners recognize positive family values and learn realistic ways to connect with their families. It includes a horticulture component that gives prisoners an opportunity to work on the established “alphabet garden” where each plant represents a letter in the alphabet. At MSP, there is a mirror garden outside the facility entrance that replicates the same garden inside the facility. Visiting families can see the same plants as the prisoner which affords an opportunity for discussion. A Seeds of Change Alphabet Garden Activity Book was recently created for the children of prisoners involved in the parenting group. In addition, a Mentoring program for families has been created with VOA and the Words Travel Program.
Food for Thought

Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.  

Theodore Roosevelt

CENTRAL OFFICE

PERSONNEL

GOODBYE

Marietta Crocker is leaving her position as the MDOC Life Skills Grant Coordinator to assume the new position of Programs Manager for the new Two Bridges Regional Jail in Wiscasset, Maine. This new state-of-the-jail that is being constructed will incarcerate the county jail populations of Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties and is the State’s only bi-county jail facility.

Marietta will be responsible for all aspects of correctional programming, classification, and case management. Marietta will begin her new job in early September 2005.

We are all sorry to see Marietta leave the MDOC but we wish her the best of luck in her new position.

WELCOME HOME DYANA!!

Dyana White, Administrative Secretary to the Juvenile Division of Central Office, should be back in the United States from a long year in Iraq.

She will be spending time with her family and then is planning to start back at Central Office around the 3rd week in September.

We would like to wish her a nice welcoming home and want to thank her very much for her service to our country.
LIFE SKILLS GRANT
“Money Smart, Train-the-Trainer”
By Marietta Crocker

On July 27th, Marietta Crocker, Coordinator of the MDOC Life Skills Grant Program hosted a training session provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) which was titled “Money Smart, Train-the-Trainer”. The program is comprised of ten stand alone modules which cover topics pertinent to good personal financial management. Topics include information on credit reports, basic budgeting, home buying options, checking and current banking practices just to name a few and all training materials are available in a variety of languages. This training provided all instruction materials for the course and taught attendees how to present the individual modules or the entire program to people in need of financial education. This is the second time the Life Skills Grant Program and the FDIC have presented this program in Maine and many corrections personnel have attended. Trained staff is now in place at the Maine State Prison, Bolduc Correctional Facility, Charleston Correctional Facility, Downeast Correctional Facility, and the Central Office of Corrections. The MDOC Life Skills Grant Program is funded by the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools which is a division of the U.S. Department of Education to provide inmates with the life skills necessary for a successful reentry back into the communities of Maine.

Many of our community partners have taken advantage of the materials and training for use with community corrections and county facilities. The latest session included numerous school adult education teachers, Literacy Volunteers, Goodwill Industries, and a variety of other agencies. If you are interested in obtaining free copies of the curriculum, e-mail Tim Delessio at TDeLessio@fdic.gov. You may also call Tim Delessio, the FDIC Community Affairs Officer @ 781-794-5632.

The training was held at the Good Shepherd Food Bank in Auburn, ME. The Good Shepherd Food Bank is an amazing food distribution network that serves the entire state of Maine distributing food and non-perishables to shelters, food cupboards and other not for profit agencies. Their distribution center is located at 3121 Hotel Rd., Auburn, ME and visitors are encouraged to stop in for a tour. Upon release, many inmates perform community service at this facility and are eligible for food and other services. The GSFB is in the process of developing a committee to oversee the opening of another huge distribution center in the Bangor area. They are looking for community involvement at all levels. If you are interested, call them at 207-782-3554 or go to their Website at gsfb.org.

IMPROVING ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE
By Denise Lord

The department has received notice from the National Institute of Corrections that Maine is one of two states selected for a capacity building initiative in improving organizational culture. The Maine State Prison has recently completed an intensive three day workshop on identifying ways to improve the institutional culture; this approach will be expanded to the entire department and will become an integral part of our leadership development training. A five day train the trainers will be conducted during the first week of August at which 10-12 departmental employees will be trained to facilitate similar workshops for other parts of the department.

IMPLEMENTING EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICES
By Becky Booher

The Maine Reentry Network has just submitted its latest annual report to the U.S. Department of Justice. Currently, over 300 persons are enrolled in the program, exceeding the program’s original plan to serve 200 over the grant’s three years. Of the 173 who have transitioned from the state correctional facilities back into communities, only 18% have...
recidivated. That includes 9 persons who were referred after release and did not receive Reentry Planning services. The recidivism rate for those who actually received Reentry services is only 13%.

Also, 60 mentors have now been recruited and trained to assist with reentry support. The Victim Services Office has contacted 171 victims of Reentry clients and works closely with the Reentry program to prepare victims for the offender’s return. New agreements between the Department of Corrections and the Department of Labor and Maine State Housing Authority provide significant supports for persons transitioning to the community and becoming productive citizens.

The Maine Reentry Network also has worked with the Social Security Administration to streamline the process of early SSI determination prior to release for all prisoners, and set up an agreement with DHHS to determine eligibility for Maine Care, Food Stamps, and other services prior to release.

As part of the pre-release planning process, a team of DOC facility and community staff, community providers, and natural supports (families, friends) meet with the offender often via videoconferencing equipment to plan a comprehensive Reentry Plan which addresses recidivism risks, responsivity needs and strengths, and 12 life domains. During this reporting period, 94% (or 392) persons attended 59 reentry teams. Over the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative grant period, the following team activity has occurred:

<table>
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<td>88%</td>
<td>94%</td>
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Currently, an additional Reentry Specialist is being hired so the program can expand to serve persons transitioning to or from Cumberland and Kennebec Counties, in addition to the original four counties of Knox, Penobscot, Washington, and Androscoggin.

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**Basic Economics about Crime and Education**

*By Stephen J. Steurer, Ph.D., Executive Director, Correctional Education Association*

Crime is not partisan. Felons are opportunistic. They attack Republicans and Democrats indiscriminately. All of us want to be safe and secure. Public policy on crime and punishment should be determined by the most effective crime prevention and reduction technique available through proven research.

Unfortunately there is a political debate about education in the Michigan state prisons. The most highly regarded studies on correctional education programs over the last 10 years have consistently shown that quality education for prisoners reduces crime after release. And the percentage of crime reduction does not have to be very high to pay back the public investment in the education programs. Only 3% reduction in future crime is enough to break even. Anything higher than 3% gives the state a net return on the investment, to say nothing of the reduction in crime.

In 2001 the Correctional Education Association released the highly regarded *Three State Recidivism Study* that demonstrated education program participation by inmates significantly reduces recidivism. It did not matter if inmates received a GED, a vocational certificate, or simply became more literate. Simply going to school behind bars was enough to cause a significant reduction in criminal behavior. Three years after release the likelihood of educational participants returning to prison was 20% less than those who did not attend school while incarcerated. More than 3,000 inmates were studied for three years after release.

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- OVER-
in Maryland, Minnesota, and Ohio. A few years later the School of Public Policy and Social Research in the Department of Policy Studies at UCLA reviewed studies on correctional education impact and chose the CEA study as one of several examples of excellent research. The UCLA researchers studied the economic implications of education for the incarcerated, comparing education to previous studies on the effect of building more prison capacity in reducing future crime.

In order to be conservative they used a 10% reduction in recidivism instead of the 20% in the CEA study. The results of the UCLA study are very interesting. The study compares the cost-effectiveness of two crime control methods – educating prisoners and expanding prisons. The researchers concluded, “One million dollars spend on correctional education prevents about 600 crimes, while the same money invested in incarceration prevents 350 crimes.” So, even at a discounted rate of 10% drop in recidivism, education is almost twice as effective as building more prison space.

Michigan correctional education programs produce about 2,000 GEDs per year. With almost 48,000 inmates in the system that may not sound like a lot of graduates. But there are thousands of functionally illiterate inmates and it takes at least couple of years of education per inmate to make up for the years of failure in public schools. 2000 GEDs per year mean that there are 2000 more people ready to get jobs or go on to higher education. Think of the implications for crime reduction if the state invested more funds in education. How many more illiterate inmates would be able get their GED?

The state of Michigan is considering cutting the current $37,000,000 prison education budget. 20% of the inmates (10,000) are in education programs and that works out to about $3700 per year per inmate. Yet it costs Michigan about $30,000 per year to house and feed each inmate. If education reduces recidivism by 20% (2,000 of the 10,000 students) the future savings is about $60,000,000 per year! This should be a no brainer.

Education reduces recidivism for all who participate, even those who do not reach a GED. Why not increase funding so that more inmates can obtain vocational certificates, become functionally literate, or obtain a GED?

If the Michigan Legislature cuts prison education funding, the Parole Board will be forced to release offenders who are unprepared for successful re-entry into society. Without education for the incarcerated the result will be more crime and higher recidivism. What do the Democratic and Republican citizens of Michigan want? They have a choice. Pay now or pay more later.

Note: Steve Steurer was the keynote speaker at the Maine Adult Correctional Education Association 17th Annual Conference that was held in Waterville in May, 2005.

The first recipient of the Pascal Poe Memorial Scholarship Fund was Eric Hart for a class he took in the fall of 2004. The scholarship award was for $136. The goal of the scholarship is to provide a $150 scholarship once a year, but award amounts are based on the amount of interest earned on the endowment.

--OVER--
Pascal Poe started his career with the MDOC when he took a position as Librarian at the MSP and later became the Principal at the Bolduc Correctional Facility, a position he held until retiring from this position in 2001.

Pascal was a person of wisdom, integrity, compassion, and honor. He shared these gifts freely with prisoners and colleagues alike. People who knew him recognized the goodness of the man.

Pascal died of cancer on April 19, 2003 at the home that he designed and built in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom. Pascal is missed and remembered by all who knew him. The Pascal Poe Memorial Scholarship Fund ensures that his legacy with the MDOC correctional education programs will live on forever.

The following paragraph provides some background information on the Pascal Poe Memorial Scholarship Fund.

An endowment of over $3000 was established through donations made by individuals after Pascal’s death in April of 2003. Lorrayne Carroll and Eleanor Morse were both very instrumental in the establishment of this fund. Lorrayne and Eleanor knew Pascal through their involvement with educational programs they ran at the Bolduc Correctional Facility.

Only inmates at BCF in Warren enrolled in an Interactive Television (ITV) course at any of the University of Maine campuses are eligible to apply.

The selection of the scholarship candidate will be made by the University of Maine System in consultation with the Center Director at UM of Thomaston and the Education Director at BCF.

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From the MDOC Archives

The archive photograph in this article shows a group of ladies that participated in the MDOC “Secretary’s Day” celebration that was held in the visiting room of the Charleston Correctional Facility in May of 1986. The, then current, MDOC Commissioner Don Allen and CCF Director Jeff Merrill were among the speakers that recognized the tremendous work that these ladies performed every day.

PHOTO

From left to right: Deedra Kelley (MYC), Eloise Peaslee (P&P), June Hill (MCC), Kim Ellis (CO), Esther Riley (MSP), and Cindy Hanscom (CCF)

If anyone has any old MDOC photographs that they would like to submit to the DOC TALK, please contact Ellis King at 287-4342. The photographs may be published but will certainly be returned to the sender.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON THIS ARTICLE: I have almost depleted my existing supply of old MDOC photographs so I will have difficulty developing future articles. I will develop future “From the MDOC Archives” articles as old photographs are submitted to me.

Thank You!! Ellis
Did You Know?

* Over half of the increase in the prison population since 1995 is due to an increase in the prisoners convicted of violent offenses.

* After sharp increases in the 1980s and 1990s, the incarceration rate has recently grown at a slower pace.

* The number of prisoners under sentence of death at year-end 2003 decreased for the third consecutive year.

* Since the death penalty was reinstated by the Supreme Court in 1976, more than half of those under sentence of death have been white.

* In 2004, 59 inmates were executed, 6 fewer than in 2003.

* Direct expenditure for each of the major criminal justice functions (police, corrections, judicial) has been increasing.

* The number of adults convicted of a felony in State courts has been increasing.

* Violent crime rates declined for both males and females since 1994. Rates for males and females have been getting closer in recent years.

* The percentage of crimes reported to the police has been increasing.

For more data visit this web-site: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/glance.htm#Corrections

MDOC Performance Measures

The MDOC has had the capability to identify certain demographic information on the entire adult inmate population for quite some time. Tom Furman, MDOC Management Analyst has recently expanded the capability to get the demographic information of the inmate populations at each of the specific MDOC adult correctional Facilities. The MDOC has plans to extend the offender demographic information capability to the juvenile and community corrections populations if the future.

The demographic information that is now available for each adult correctional facility or the total inmate population includes the following:

* Ages of inmates
* Education level - last grade completed
* Gender breakdown (MCC)
* Ethnic origin & Race
* Religious preference
* Marital status

For more information on the demographics of the adult inmate population contact Ellis King at 287-4342 or Ellis.King@maine.gov
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
An update, by Pierrette Ayotte, Staff Development Coordinator

“Do your part to help create an upbeat environment at work. A positive and cheerful workplace is important to productivity.”
Ernest Shackleton’s way of developing leadership skills.

We have been very busy over the summer with the development of the seven modules that are part of the Leadership Development Program’s CORE training. Those modules are:

- Ethics – Module 1
- Organizational Culture – Module 2
- The Organization as a System & Managing Change – Module 3
- Communication Style and Theory; Having Meaningful Conversations – Module 4
- Managing Conflict and Managing Difficult People – Module 5
- Coaching & Motivating – Module 6
- Collaborative Decision-Making & Effective Meetings – Module 7

Each of the modules will be offered at our four selected sites (MSP, MCC, LC, MV) at least twice between now and June of 2006. Since the training time for each module is 3 ½ hours, there will be a morning session and an afternoon session each day that the module is offered. Before you may attend any of the modules, there is a prerequisite that you attend the Day 1 & 2 training. So far, 232 staff has completed the Day 1 & 2 training, and more sessions are planned as follows:

- September 7 & 8 @ Mountain View
- October 11 & 12 @ Maine Correctional Center
- November 9 & 10 @ Maine State Prison
- December 13 & 14 @ Long Creek

In May, June, and July, 2005, 165 staff participated in Ethics – Module 1.

UPCOMING EVENT
Maine Adult Correctional Education Association Meeting
Maine State Prison in Warren, Maine
September 23, 2005—9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Guest Speakers will be the following:

Lars Olsen
MDOC Programs Director

Charles Buchal
Correctional Education Association

The Maine Adult Correctional Education Association is a statewide organization formed in 1986 with the following mission statement:

“We believe that incarcerated individuals can benefit from education in terms of vocational, personal advancement, and increased self-worth. We further believe that Correctional Institutions benefit from educational programming through provision for a constructive use of time. The citizens of Maine benefit from an improved correctional system that provides incarcerated individuals with improved resources to copy with life.”

All correctional educators from State and County correctional facilities and anyone else that is interested in correctional education programs in Maine is welcome to attend the meeting.

Please contact Bob Aubrey, Coordinator of the Maine Adult Correctional Education Association for additional information at 474-6086 or at esi@somtel.com.
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

VICTIM SERVICES

VICTIM ADVISORY GROUP

The Victim Advisory Group met in the Tyson conference room on August 2, 2005.

Following the presentation made by Gerald Daly and Bob Lamoreau at the May meeting the Advisory Group had the following Recommendations:

1. DOC to request a copy of the Riverview victim notification policy.
2. Confirmation from Riverview administration that Daly/Lamoreau is point of contact – including correct address and contact numbers.
3. Riverview staff should become familiar with 17-A MRSA. section 1175 and all its requirements including those for the incompetent to stand trial population.
4. Continue to exploration of proposal for DOC to do Riverview victim notifications.
5. Compile information for an informational booklet/pamphlet to be provided to victims.
6. 4/8 hour passes – without hearing may be on grounds, unsupervised-notification similar to the DOC furlough pass should be provided to victims.
7. There needs to be a commitment from the Commissioner at DHHS as well as the Superintendent at Riverview focus on rights of victims as well as the patients.

These recommendations were responded to by Brenda Harvey, Associate Commissioner DHHS. Her response was handed out to members and discussed. Victims continued to be concerned with the lack of information provided by Riverview such as: what happens when someone is committed to Riverview; what does treatment consist of; what needs to happen in order to be released; what are the release criteria; are there conditions imposed as part of a modified release plan (i.e. no contact requirements); what is the average length of stay; what is a partial release; what is the purpose of the release hearings. There continues to be a need for services for victims whose offenders are in Riverview. DG to request an informational sheet from Bob Lamoreau. Continued discussions will occur with the Attorney General’s Office, victims, legislators and DHHS at an upcoming meeting hosted by the Attorney General’s office. An update will be provided at the next Victim Advisory Group meeting on November 1 at 1:00 p.m., Tyson Conference Room, Augusta.

Lars Olsen did a presentation on the new good time law and the programs that will permit the prisoners who are eligible to earn the additional days authorized by the legislation. A draft matrix was distributed.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

The Office of Victim Services sponsored a Batterer Intervention Program Workshop on August 24 at the Department of Public Safety. The morning session was attended by Batterer Intervention Program staff and monitors from the family violence projects. The recent revisions to the program standards were reviewed and issues of program monitoring were discussed.

Barbara Hart, a nationally known expert in the field of domestic violence lead the afternoon training on Coordinated Community Responses. Participants were particularly interested in Barbara’s description of the concept of context.
MAINE STATE PRISON PROMOTION

Maine State Prison is proud to announce that Sgt. Brooks has been promoted to Captain on Second Shift. Captain Brooks was employed in Canada for the Department of Corrections and was involved with adult female offenders, male offenders and juvenile offenders before coming to MSP.

Captain Brooks started at Maine State Prison in Thomaston as an officer in April of 1999. He was promoted to Sergeant in July of 2001 and on July 3, 2005 was promoted to Captain.

Captain Brooks was pinned during the second shift briefing with staff, his wife, mother in-law and two daughters. His family played a very big part in his promotion, they helped him study and prepare for his oral board and have been a great source of support throughout his entire career. Mrs. Karen Brooks was given the honor of pinning the Captain Bars on her husband. The Bars that were pinned on Captain Brooks holds a lot of tradition and history behind them.

In 1990 Captain Ames started a tradition of passing the same Captain Bars down to all Shift Commanders on the second shift. After Captain Ames the Bars went to U. M. Starbird when he became Captain, Captain Struck, Captain Rackliffe, Captain George, Captain Pease, Captain Abbott, and now Captain Brooks. A well honored tradition and I hope that you will join me in congratulating Captain Brooks in his new position.
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

CHARLESTON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

PERSONNEL

Rick Hughes, Correctional Officer has been on military leave for an 18 month assignment in Iraq.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HIRES
Patrick Lockhart, Correctional Officer

RETIREMENTS:
Congratulations on retirements to Phil Blake on his retirement as Plant Maintenance Engineer, with 25 years of service; also to Ray Mountain, Correctional Trades Instructor, 25 years and to George Simmons, Correctional Officer, with 18 years.

Dover Old Home Days

For Dover’s Annual Homecoming-Shiretown Festival 2005 Parade held on August 6, 2005, the winner of the Chairman’s Award (overall best in parade) went to the Dover-Foxcroft Town Office with its entry of “The Bridge Uniting Two Towns”. The “Bridge” is a replica of the old covered bridge craftily constructed by the Charleston Correctional Facility several years ago for the KIWANIS Club for use in the park. This year the CCF Industries crew reconditioned the bridge for the town office to use as float in the parade. As you can see, it drew a lot of praise.

Congratulations also go K-9 Team Members Kevin Mayo, Joe Riitano and K-9 Kado with the K-9 vehicle for their participation which won them the prestige of the “Best Law Enforcement Group” in the parade.
Summer is here and the Downeast Correctional Facility is back in the community service business. With projects at the historical Gates House, various Cemeteries and Churches our prisoner crews are helping throughout the local community. This is all part of how this facility benefits the local taxpayers. Mowing grass, painting, repairing windows the work goes on and on. The work done for our local communities and the facility by our crew bosses Toby Sawtelle, J. J. Tibbetts, Paul Johnson, Steve Davis and Gary Magee usually are done without a thank you. This is the time to thank them for the valuable work they do.

We’ve repainted our Segregation Unit with all walls and some of the floors receiving a new coat of primer and paint, making the whole unit look new. A lot of work is going on in our housing areas keeping the dorms looking clean even though they are far from new.

Our industries program is doing a great job of refinishing all kinds of projects from upholstery to furniture. The work turned out by this small shop under the guidance of John Gilmore is amazing with all the crew learning a trade they can use for the rest of their lives to make a living or for their own use.

Learning one of the trades, welding and working metal in the welding shop with Craig Smith, the use of the many wood working tools under Tony Jans, automotive repairs and routine maintenance from Kevin Millay could be the difference of staying out of trouble or life on the installment plan for the prisoners that come through the doors at the Downeast Correctional Facility.

-personnel-

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<td>J.J. Tibbetts</td>
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Chapel Update at Long Creek

There are some exciting new initiatives here at the Chapel at Long Creek that I am excited to tell you about. First of all, I wanted to talk about our latest guest to the facility, Urban D, a youth hip-hop pastor and national Christian rap artist who joined us on the weekend of the 24th of June. Urban D preached at Friday Chapel and offered a full concert Friday evening. He also offered a message and a few more "beats" at Saturday Chapel on the 25th. His message was very inspirational and revolved around acceptance of all our kids in the eyes of God, if we would only place our lives in His hands.

The new initiatives I am happy to share with all of you would include the: "Kick-it" program on Sunday evenings. Kick-it is an off-shoot of the "The Most Excellent Way" program for adults and offers a Christian-based substance abuse program and Bible Study. Straight Ahead Ministries out of Massachusetts has been training numerous new volunteers for bible discussion groups in the Fall. Finally, "Kairos" has begun meeting to offer Long Creek a "Torch" weekend retreat and follow-up mentor program. We expect 30 new mentors to be fully trained an on board by the retreat weekend which is scheduled for October 7, 8, & 9. Kairos is a national organization that offers support and new life for incarcerated adults and juveniles. They have served the inmates at Warren for the past ten years.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Higgins, Chaplain

LCYDC recently had it's summer vacation filled with activities by the skillful scheduling of Kim Deering, our Recreation Supervisor. The vacation period required daily activities for 14 straight days and Kim did a fine job filling the days with fun. Karaoke, softball games, and basketball games were just a few of the activities scheduled. The kitchen helped out tremendously with unit B-B-Q's and even a "Make Your Own Sundae" day in the dining room. All had a great time and Superintendent Rod Bouffard and LCYDC would like to thank all those involved and, most especially, Kim and the line staff who assisted everyday with the activities. They did a great job!

PERSONNEL

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HIRES:
JPWs: Timothy Harmon; Michael Holcomb;
Daniel Townsend, Jr; Gregory Varner;
and Sarah Withee
Health/Phys Ed Teacher: Robert Seccareccia

PROMOTIONS:
Ryan Dearborn, JPW to Recreation Supervisor

RETIREMENTS:
Congratulations to Bill Wilkins, Food Services Manager on his retirement, with 25 years of service. Bill’s Kitchen staff invited old friends Guy Lombardo and Spencer Smith, Food Services Managers of Bolduc and MSP, to say “so-long” at a small gathering. These three men began their careers together in the same culinary arts school program and have experienced 42 years together in the food services business, with all three eventually working in corrections. OK, now the clock starts ticking for the other two. Good luck Bill!

-See picture next page-
A representative of NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) conducted a one day MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Administration training for all educational staff members on July 27th. This program of online computerized adaptive tests will enable us to diagnose and track educational progress of our residents based on the Standards. This will enable this facility to meet the testing requirements of NCLB. Our test proctors already completed training on July 19th.

**GED GRADUATION**

MV held graduation ceremonies on July 22nd for 18 students completing the required courses. A highlight of this graduation was the message given by a prior resident that returned to participate in the ceremony. Speaking with ease, he spoke of the very essence of what juvenile corrections is all about. I have included some excerpts of this speech:

“... In my time at Mountain View, I learned some things about myself that I take with me wherever I go. Being here was the first opportunity I took advantage of to start from scratch. I was new… and I could make a name for myself. Only until now, I realize what kind of name I want that to be; I want it to be a name everyone, including myself, can respect and accept. I know what’s important in my life, that’s education, goals, choices and healthy relationships between friends and family……but the main thing out of anything I learned is choices. My choices are an element of my everyday life that affects me more than anything. No matter what we do, good or bad, as we embark a path, first we have to make that choice.

Everyday, they shoved it down our throats; hoping we’d understand and start to make more responsible choices in our lives. In this case, I’d say you’ve succeeded! I know this isn’t paradise; but for me, it was the best that ever happened to my mental development …my character.”

**GOODBYE**:

We also said goodbye to Suzanne Cyr, PSWII, who will be joining a local school district in the special education department.

**EDUCATION**:

The members of the State Board of Education held their July 13th meeting at MVYDC School. A tour of the school was provided and a multimedia presentation summarizing the high points of our educational program was presented. The school’s culinary program prepared and served a light luncheon under the direction of Chef Mark Spahr and his assistant, Sherry Welts-Murphy. Principal Cheryl Quinn organized a teacher and resident panel that was interviewed by the Board members.

On July 25th and 26th, Jim Chiavacci and Gail Garthwait from the University of Maine at Orono’s Instructional Technology program conducted a two-day workshop on electronic portfolios and other related technology skills for educational staff at MVYDC.
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

**Another great Educational Project!**
MVYDC Agriculture Program expected to complete their first year strong:

With the growing season beginning to peak and the local county fairs in full swing, Mountain View Youth Development Centers agricultural students are preparing for their final push into harvest season and winter preparation.

The new agriculture course is designed to introduce students of every background and level of academic success to agriculture/horticulture sciences. Emphasizing technical skills, entrepreneurship, and occupational opportunities, our focus is to provide students opportunities to explore occupations and opportunities they may not otherwise receive back in their communities.

Earlier this year "Perry Jordan" encouraged students to get their hands dirty.

Anyone who has experienced working in their garden from planting to harvest understands the high level of satisfaction one gets from their own labor. This sense of pride and accomplishment has now been experienced by our students and shows in their increasing ownership of the program.

Students takes the initiative in the program with little need for direction.

Even more important to this program was an opportunity for students to experience a high degree of satisfaction over an extended period of time and effort. Their accomplishments set the groundwork for the next group of students.

Numerous learning opportunities are provided in the Agriculture program.

Diverse student experiences and a variety of learning opportunities developed around the agriculture program provided a summer of education for students.

Working through the Special Education Director, "Lori Hasenfus" the school was able to align the program around the Maine Learning Results and successfully provided a program that allowed individuals with learning disabilities and recent graduates to build an exciting and highly successful program with unlimited potential.

The hard work ethic and unselfishness shown by all in this group of students will truly benefit the facility and set the standard for following classes.

From nothing to a beautiful garden built by our kids.
A time to say farewell

He passed in his cuffs, took off his pager and retired from the Department of Corrections after 32 years of service. Regional Correctional Administrator Michael K. Roach officially retired July 29, ending a long and successful career in corrections.

Mike began his tenure with the department on Feb. 24, 1974 as a CO at MCC. In January of 1987 he made the move from his CO position at MCC to Probation beginning as an ISP officer. Later he moved from ISP to the supervision of a Falmouth, Cumberland and Portland caseload. On January 1, 2000, Mike moved up the ladder with his promotion to Regional Correctional Administrator of Region One that spans both Cumberland and York Counties. During his years as an RCA, Mike’s leadership qualities were easily recognizable as he led by quiet example, took time to listen and, most importantly, took time to care. Mike will be greatly missed by all of us here in Region One. It is said that for everything there is a season and so it is that we bid farewell to Michael K. Roach, a supervisor, fellow PPO and a friend. May his years of retirement be filled with many days of happiness and good health and roads that lead to new golf courses and happy times.

Staff members, family members and friends gathered around the grill at the retirement cookout party held August 13th honoring Mike and celebrating his retirement.

He was presented with a number of fun gifts and serious gifts as well, which included a new Titlist golf driver which is sure to get a lot of use in the days ahead.

Proud parents

PPO Mike Lyon and his wife Gretchen welcomed their brand new baby daughter into their lives and into their hearts this month. Savannah Grace Lyon came into the world at 4:24 AM, Thursday June 16 weighing in at 7 lbs, 6 oz. Rumor has it; she was the most beautiful baby in the maternity ward at Maine Medical Center. All reports indicate that Mom, Dad and baby daughter Savannah are doing fine.

Congratulations and Best Wishes from all of us here at Region 1.

Pomp & Circumstance

Among the graduates in the Class of 2005 of Thornton Academy in Saco was Katherine Onacki, daughter of PPO Steve Onacki and wife Diane. Katherine will continue her education this fall by attending USM in Gorham. Her immediate plans are to major in biology and pursue a career in a related field.

Congratulations on a job well done, Katherine, and our best wishes go out to you for success in the next four years.