Maine State Prison and Bolduc Correctional Facility Join The Ranks

Proving again that dedicated efforts can provide tremendous breakthroughs, Maine State Prison and Bolduc in a five day back to back inspection, became the third and fourth facilities in Maine to undergo and pass the initial American Correctional Association Accreditation Audit on Wednesday, January 11th, and Friday, January 13th, 2006.

When the ACA audit committee arrived on January 9th to start the five day inspection, we were ready! In the spring of 2005, Warden Jeffrey Merrill formed an audit team independent of the rest of the accreditation staff. The team reviewed all 492 standard folders; every policy and procedure related to the standard and then entered the facility to determine if operation or practice was in place, just as we believed the ACA visiting audit committee would do. Once a week the independent audit team met with department heads to review findings, and corrective action plans were determined and implemented. Bolduc’s process was different; once the standard review was complete and the folders were built, they proceeded to do regular operational checks and made changes when necessary.

Then as the real audit approached, both facilities were very fortunate to have MCC and Central Office staff, which had successfully gone through and passed the audit in October, to help with the final preparations.

On Wednesday the 11th, a large number of staff attended the out briefing to witness the ACA report that would determine our final score! There was standing room only as the audit committee announced 100% on the mandatory standards and 98.3% on the non-mandatory. We were both thrilled and relieved at the same time! It has been a very long process. During his section of report out, Joe Costello, retired Superintendent of the NY Department of Corrections said, “Its no wonder Maine State Prison is a secure clean facility”. Clay Williams from Angola Prison in Louisiana said, “This is the only facility that I’ve ever been through where an inmate hasn’t told me something ugly. I got no complaints. It’s unheard of! I don’t know where you hid those inmates!”

Commissioner Magnusson thanked prison staff and said, “This is one of the proudest moments of my career”. At Bolduc on Friday when it was announced that they would also be recommended for accreditation, 100% on mandatory and 98% on non-mandatory, staff were also invited to witness the full report.

The facilities will go before the American Association Commission on May 12th or 13th in Indianapolis to show plans to close the 2% gap and with the audit team’s 98%, receive official national accreditation status.
Facility & Region Newsletter
Contributors & Staff

Robert Costigan ................................................. Maine State Prison
Brad Fogg ...................................................... Maine Correctional Center
Gary Tilton ...................................................... Bolduc Correctional Facility
Priscilla McLellan ............................................. Charleston Correctional Facility
Sgt. Sonny Beal Jr ............................................. Downeast Correctional Facility
Ralph Colfer ..................................................... Central Maine Pre-Release Center
Anthony Winslow ............................................. Long Creek Youth Development Center
Priscilla McLellan ............................................. Mountain View Youth Development Center
Carol Carlow .................................................... Region 1 - Adult Community Corrections
Nancy Downs .................................................... Region 2 - Adult Community Corrections
Marsha Booker ................................................... Region 3 - Adult Community Corrections
Laurie J. Scott .................................................... Region 4 - Adult Community Corrections
Kathleen Pressley ............................................. Region 1 - Juvenile Community Corrections
Pauline Ayers ................................................... Region 2 - Juvenile Community Corrections
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If this contributor list is incorrect or changed, please call Ellis King in Central Office at 287-4342 or FAX 287-4370 or E-Mail at Ellis.King@maine.gov

Food for Thought

Your success and happiness lie in you…Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties – Helen Keller

CENTRAL OFFICE

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HIRES:
Denise Costello, Soc. Service Program Specialist who replaced Laurie Pike as part of our reentry staff.

NEWS FLASH

Just in from Greta Clark of the U.S. Census Bureau

Maine is the only state that did NOT have an inmate death in 2005.

NAMI NATIONAL REPORT CARD

NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill)’s national 233 page report, which grades each state on the status of its mental health care system is now available electronically. Maine received a B-, along with just four other states. The national average was D. Pages 90-92 are about Maine. You can see the report at www.nami.org/grades.

ME Spending, Income & Ranking

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Recent Innovations

- Mental health parity law
- Inclusion of full mental health parity for the uninsured in Dirigo Health
- Progress in improving conditions in county jails

Urgent Needs

- Reduce long waitlists for community services
- Relieve crowding in emergency rooms
- Access to crisis and inpatient beds
- Mitigate the too-rapid implementation of managed care
The increase in Volunteer Service Hours is one measure for assessing the progress of the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) in meeting the goals that are outlined in the Department’s Strategic Plan. This measure specifically addresses Objective B-2: To reduce the rate of recidivism of offenders who have been released from the department’s supervision.

Volunteer Services includes any work or service that is performed for the MDOC by a person that is not employed by the MDOC. Examples of Volunteer Services are literacy volunteers, mentors, religious program providers, substance abuse program providers, and education service providers. If the volunteer receives any monetary benefit for his/her labor it is not considered volunteer services.

The total MDOC Volunteer Services performed for 1999 (Baseline Year) thru 2005 and illustrate the volunteer services performed in both juvenile and adult correctional facilities. The financial value of these services can be based on a hourly rate of $10.00/hour which is a low estimate because the professional services that are being provided by the volunteers would cost much more if the services were provided by MDOC staff or contracted services.

The services which are provided by volunteers that offer services to the MDOC can be contrasted to the Community Services (These services will be described in the next issue of the DOC TALK) that are provided to the communities by offenders that are incarcerated in the custody of the MDOC. The MDOC and the local communities of Maine have established a collaboration that exchanges services so that it results in a win-win situation for everyone involved in either the volunteer program or the community service program.

The goal of the MDOC Strategic Plan is continual improvement, each year the department should increase the number of hours that are provided by volunteers. Each adult and juvenile correctional facility has a volunteer coordinator to recruit, train, and schedule volunteers. Continual program evaluation and regular contact with the volunteer ensures that he/she is being used effectively and feels valued for the services that he/she is providing.

For additional information on volunteer services within the Maine Department of Corrections contact the Volunteer Coordinator at the correctional facility in which you are interested, or contact Ellis King in MDOC Central Office at 287-4342 or e-mail at Ellis.King@maine.gov
Did You Know?

Majority of Drinkers and Nondrinkers Support an Increase in National Tax on Alcohol

Nearly three-fourths (71%) of U.S. residents support an increase in the national tax on alcohol of five cents per drink, according to the results of a nationally representative telephone survey. While 80% of nondrinkers supported such an increase, 56% of drinkers also did so (see figure below). Furthermore, when asked whether they prefer raising alcohol taxes or cutting social programs as a way of generating revenues to offset the budget deficit, the majority of drinkers (70%) and nondrinkers (90%) preferred raising alcohol taxes. In the past 55 years, federal taxes have been raised once for beer and wine and twice for liquor. In addition, “federal taxes on alcoholic beverages have effectively fallen dramatically due to inflation because such taxes are typically assessed not as a percentage of the purchase price, but as a flat dollar amount.”

From the MDOC Archives

Shortly after the infamous escape which became known later as The Moody Mountain Man Hunt of 1982 the first Maine State Prison K-9 Team was established. Warden Paul Vestal organized and developed the origination which began with 3 bloodhounds acquired from Warden Vestal’s prior correctional facility in Waycross Georgia. The team went on to make many finds and apprehended several escapes from the Bolduc Correctional Facility in Warren and established search and rescue operations with the Maine Warden Service and the Maine State Police.

Submitted by Wayne Page


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. The photographs will certainly be returned to the sender.
The workshops that are being planned for the conference will be on the following subjects:

- Exploring alternative funding opportunities
- Programs – Security * Working Together
- Job opportunities for felons
- MDOC Reentry / Transitional Program
- Offender testimonies
- Labor / Education Programs and issues
- Principals of adult learning
- Anger management programs
- Stress Management in the workplace

The Outstanding Service Awards, the annual opportunity to recognize individuals for their outstanding service in correctional education, is an important event at the annual conference. Anyone can submit nominations to the awards committee for recognition of outstanding performance in the area of correctional education so begin to think about who you may want to recognize for his/her outstanding performance.

If you are currently on the MACEA list serve, you will receive an information packet, describing the details of the workshops and presenters, and the registration form. If you are not on this list and would like to receive the packet and registration form, or if you would like additional information about the conference and the Outstanding Service Awards nomination process, you may call Bob Aubrey, MACEA Coordinator, at 474-6086, or e-mail at esi@somtel.com.

For more information also contact Bob Aubrey, MACEA Coordinator, at 474-6086, or e-mail at esi@somtel.com

The members of the Maine Adult Correctional Education Association (MACEA) are reactivating the Maine Chapter of the Correctional Education Association (CEA) in March 2006. The two organizations share common goals and interests of educational programs in correctional facilities. Congratulations to Marietta Crocker, Programs Officer at the Two Bridges Regional Jail in Wiscasset who will be our newest Maine Chapter President.

The national organization of the CEA, founded in 1946, serves the educational program needs in corrections on a national basis. The MDOC academic and vocational correctional educators are all current members of the national CEA.

The keynote speaker at last year's 17th Annual Adult Correctional Education Conference was Steve Steurer, Executive Director of the CEA.
Engaging Advocates and Other Victim Service Providers in the Community Management of Sex Offenders

The Office of Victim Services provides support for victims dealing with the criminal justice process after the conviction. Services provided include information about victim’s rights, the corrections system, assistance in receiving restitution, and support during re-entry, referral to services, and providing notification of release. Through the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA), Maine operates nine sexual assault crisis centers. The Sexual Assault Centers provides advocacy for the victim with law enforcement personnel, support for family members and friends, follow up and referrals, support groups, and training and education.

Currently twenty-five percent (25%) of the MDOC prisoner population has victim notification of release requests on file. Two hundred and forty victims were notified of prisoner release from confinement for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. The Office of Victim Services has been concerned with the number of sex offenders who are released without a victim notification of release request ever having been received by DOC. The possibility of a victim learning of the release of a sex offender through the Community Notification that may take place raises a concern of the unnecessary re-traumatization of the victim. Last year, the Office of Victim Services proactively contacted 79 victims of sex offenders who were being released without a notification request ever having been submitted. The victims were located in fifteen of the sixteen counties and the contact was possible only through the assistance and support of the Victim Witness Advocates in the prosecutor’s offices.

Victim safety and well-being must be a priority when convicted sex offenders are released on probation or parole. A pilot project in Androscoggin county will begin on March 1, 2006 based on the “victim safety wraparound”. Advocates, victim service providers and other members of the team which includes the sex offender specialist and community treatment provider will assist victims in many ways through the victim wraparound model by:

- helping victims address their concerns and plan for safety;
- explaining the community supervision and treatment program;
- making sure that victims are informed of changes in offenders’ status in the criminal justice system and the conditions of probation;
- providing victims with ongoing support, information, and referrals;
- communicating with justice system agencies, treatment providers, and other stakeholders;
- facilitating victim input regarding supervision and treatment plans;
- ensuring that offender assessment is routinely repeated to identify risks and that appropriate changes are made to supervision and treatment plans;
- ensuring that treatment providers view their responsibility to the victim as equal to their responsibility to the offender with whom they are working—interventions they utilize must be in the best interest of the victim and the community (recognizing that what is in the best interest of victims and the community is also in the best interests of offenders);
- helping treatment providers develop victim empathy in their programs;
- participating in case review meetings and sharing information (with victims’ consent) to promote informed case decisions that promote victim protection; and assisting victims in intra-familial sexual abuse cases to assess the risks involved in family reunification and, if reunification is to occur, monitoring the process to ensure safety.

By involving advocates and other victim service providers in the day-to-day management of sex offenders, victims whose offenders have been convicted of sex crimes can receive more comprehensive assistance and advocacy.
Phil Newth was selected as Employee of the Month for December 2005.

Congratulations for a job well done!

Douglas Woodman was selected as Employee of the Month for January 2006. His dedication in the Food Service Department and his commitment in complying with ACA standards is commendable. Douglas began his career in March of 1987 as a Correctional Cook and was promoted to Cook Supervisor in June of 2002 (19 years).

Chaplain Matt Kantrowitz

After more than eighteen years of chaplaincy work at the Maine State Prison, Chaplain Matt Kantrowitz has resigned to become the minister of a church in New Hampshire. During his employment, he has provided Protestant worship services and Bible studies to the prisoner population at MSP and the Bolduc Correctional Facility. He has also overseen community volunteers who offer spiritual services to the various faith groups represented in the prison. For many years, Chaplain Kantrowitz has been actively involved in the prison Kairos and Yokefellows programs.

Can you guess who this young officer is; he started at Maine State Prison in Thomaston in the year of 1999 and was recently promoted to Captain.
Officer Bissonnette has been employed by the Maine Department of Corrections for eighteen years. He has served at each of the four local facilities: Maine State Prison, Thomaston; Maine Correctional Institution; Maine State Prison, Warren; and the Bolduc Correctional Facility. He also worked for the Massachusetts Department of Corrections prior to his employment with us.

He has had an exemplary career in MDOC, having received several citations and commendations. “Leo has brought new leadership to our facility”, states Deputy Warden Barlow. “He has helped tremendously in bringing about a change in outlook here at the Bolduc.”

Many thanks to Officer Bissonnette for his loyalty, hard work and dedication to duty over this past year, as well as throughout his career.

Barry Roe was selected as Employee of the Month for December 2005. Barry is the Vocational Trades Instructor for the building and construction trades program at the Bolduc Correctional Facility.” Congratulations for all of your hard work!

Tom Shorey was selected as Employee of the Month for January 2006. He started at MSP in August of 1991, and then transferred to BCF in February of 1992. Tom is well respected by staff, prisoners, and the public. He is the second shift supervisor. This honor is well deserved.

Sergeant Bill Martin was chosen as Employee of the Month for February 2006. Thanks for all your great work! Congratulation.
**BCF ACA Accreditation**

The Bolduc Correctional Facility recently went through ACA accreditation and came out with an overall score of 100% on the mandatory and 98% on the non-mandatory standards. Everyone at Bolduc contributed to the success of this audit. Staff as well as the prisoners contributed in a major facelift of the facility. We continue to maintain these standards as another audit will be due in three years. I would especially like to give credit to several people who had a major responsibility in getting all of the required standards in order. Those are:

**Officer Jeff Conlon**  Tool Control and Inventory  
**Sergeant Dawne George**  Unit Supervision  
**Sergeant Bill Martin**  Key Control  
**Sergeant Farron Sawtelle**  Kitchen & Painting Detail  
**Captain Rackliffe**  Fire and Safety  
**Wendell Atkinson**  Accreditation Manager  
**Officer Walter Robinson**  Unit 1  
**Officer Leo Bissonnette**  Unit 2  
**Unit Manager Ray Felt**  Housing Standards  
**Martha Boynton**  Administrative  
**Barry Roe**  Building Trades

As a general note, I would like to give thanks to **Martha Boynton** for all of her help and all of those late nights that she stayed after hours to get the folders looking professional and presentable. To **Sergeant George** who supervised both Units One and Two. She was responsible for making the Units “Sparkle”. Those first impressions when entering the Units really set the pace for the rest of the audit. It was also noted that our Housing Units were the best looking that the auditors had seen. To **Barry Roe**, for acting as the go between for all the ordering of paint and supplies and supervising the tremendous amount of repairs and work orders that were completed. I would like to note that throughout the whole process **everyone** worked as a team to accomplish this huge task! Due to those efforts I am proud to say that we have a facility that we can all be proud of!

**PERSONNEL**

**Welcome to our New Hires**

Correctional Maintenance Mechanic - **Leon Gerry**.
Mr. Gerry will be joining the new hire class at MV starting on March 20th.

And Welcome back to **Jeff Grant**, Correctional Plumber, on his return to work after a severe injury from a fall that keep him out of work several months. Good to see Jeff back.

**PODIUM**

By Eric Parker

The **Industries Program** at Charleston Correctional Facility made a wonderful donation to the Corrections Classroom at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. They handcrafted a beautiful hardwood podium for the classroom. Upon arrival at the Academy, a plaque was immediately attached so all would know where this beautiful item came from. The Academy staff would like to thank the entire staff and Industries Program at Charleston and especially **Dave Lovejoy** for making it all happen.
Aerosol cans are gone from the Maine Correctional Center in Windham. It’s one of many changes the prison made on its way to becoming the first Maine prison to meet a rigorous set of national standards.

Aerosol spray may seem innocuous, but in the wrong hands a can could become a flamethrower, endangering the prison staff and other inmates.

Keeping both populations safe is an important goal of the national accreditation that was formally awarded to the medium-security prison this week at the American Correctional Association’s winter conference.

National accreditation includes a review of food services, medical care, prisoner programs, staff satisfaction, security measures and even building sanitation.

“That’s an area that’s been of great concern to many people, how our corrections system works. The fact they’ve received this national accreditation is an indicator things are going much better than they may have in the past,” said Diamond, who co-chairs the Legislature’s Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

The state corrections system has been faulted in the past for its treatment of prisoners, quality of medical care and staff safety.

The accreditation is more important than just making sure taxpayers’ money is being spent well, he said.

“We try to get (prisoners) so they can come back to the community, back to society, and not be a burden on society,” Diamond said. An endorsement of the system’s programming suggests that is more likely to happen.

The accreditation is more important than just making sure taxpayers’ money is being spent well, he said.
The Cumberland County Jail was the first corrections facility in the state to win national accreditation when it met the national standards in 2002. At the time, it was one of only 110 adult correctional facilities in the country to be accredited, out of 3,200 that were eligible.

Also in the criminal justice field, a handful of Maine police departments have become accredited by national organizations, including the Portland and Falmouth departments.

Besides making sure taxpayers are getting their money’s worth, the accreditation is designed to limit lawsuits and help organizations defend their practices when they are sued.

The association’s audit panel, made up of corrections officials from across the country, assessed the Maine facilities on hundreds of criteria, including frequency of fire drills, how tools are accounted for, and prisoner and staff satisfaction.

“They have standards for sanitation practices - how the place smells, how the place looks,” Burnheimer said.

The Windham facility spent more than a year bringing its policies and practices in line with the national standards. Burnheimer praised the prison's employees and said the achievement has improved the work atmosphere.

“This process is a grueling one, taking a lot of effort and a lot of work. It’s probably an exercise that has brought the staff closer together than I’ve ever seen it in my 27 years,” he said. The prison’s improvements have even won the endorsement of those it incarcerates, he said.

“The prisoners had some real positive things to say about the way things are going here.”

Staff Writer David Hench can be contacted at 791-6327 or at: dhench@pressherald.com
New Opportunities for Residents at MVYDC  
By Ryan Dearborn, Recreation Supervisor

The week following Christmas this past December marked the beginning of something new for residents and staff at Mountain View Youth Development Center. For the first time since the center opened, eligible residents were given the opportunity to tryout for a facility basketball team that would compete against other schools from the surrounding area. Coached by JPS Chad Cooper, JPS Mike Mullaney, and JPW Jamie Wilkinson, participating residents practiced and trained daily until, on January 21st, they hosted their first interscholastic basketball game with a Bangor area school. And, although they were not the victors in that game (final score 55-48), the event itself was a great success.

In preparation for the January 21 game, residents received instruction in many new skills and drills associated with organized team basketball. In addition to this, the coaching staff placed great emphasis on developing good sportsmanship and teamwork, as well as maintaining positive attitudes. The team responded by working very hard and, to their credit, proved to everyone that they were up to the challenge. As a result of this, the program plans to move forward and pick up additional contests in basketball and other team sports as well. The Recreation Department would like to thank all of those who assisted in this project to make it a success.

A Visit from Team Impact  
By Paul Dunfee, Chaplain

On Monday February 27th 2006, a group called Team Impact came to do a general assembly for our facility. They performed feats of strength such as ripping a phone book in half, snapping a baseball bat in two, and bursting a hot water bottle by blowing into it. After gaining the attention of our residents they went on to give a thought provoking talk about how our life is built on a foundation. That foundation is the result of decisions that we make in life. If you would like a good foundation it is important to make good decisions. Poor decisions will make a poor foundation and set you up for a lot of repair work on your life’s structure. I am certain that many of our residents will remember this group as they make decisions in the future.
**Staff Promotions**

Scott Landry was promoted to Assistant RCA in Region 1 on December 23, 2005.

As a Probation Officer with the department for a number of years, Scott’s leadership qualities were quick to show through with his take charge and get the job done attitude. He has now moved on with department changes and has committed himself to assisting in the implementation of evidence based practices in the weeks ahead. This kind of focus and commitment will make him a great resource in this position.

On January 20 Allen Wright was chosen as Region One’s new Resource Coordinator. Allen is one of the department’s veteran officers and has served in a number of capacities since beginning his career in 1977 with Juvenile Services as a Training School Counselor at the former Maine Youth Center. In 1986 he transferred to adult services as a Probation Officer in the ISP program. Through the years in addition to regular caseload supervision, Allen has been involved a number of the department’s programs from ISP to Drug Court. Allen’s experience and wealth of knowledge will be great assets his new position.

To both Scott and Allen, Congratulations from all of us here at Region 1 (A)

**And the winner is…**

Congratulations to John Wiechman, son of Sue and Ted Wiechman, chosen as this year’s winner of the prestigious James J. Fitzpatrick trophy. This is the first time this award has been won by a Bonny Eagle player and will serve as a reminder of the skill and dedication it took to become Maine’s top senior high school football player. John will continue his academic studies and his love of football at Southern Connecticut State University in the fall.

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Our condolences are being extended to PPO Dave Edwards on the loss of his mother Joyce Rose Edwards whose life on earth came to a close on January 12 after a long and valiant struggle with debilitating arthritis. Joyce will be sadly missed by all who knew her and long remembered for her love and devotion to her family and friends. In addition to being a loving Mom to her own family of six, she had enough love in her heart to care for many foster children through the years and be a Grammy and a great grandmother as well.

To Dave and his family, may it comfort you to know that we share in your sorrow and extend to you and yours our deepest sympathy.

Our deepest sympathies also go out to PPO Wayne Libby on the passing of his mom, Louise Libby on Monday, February 20. Through the years, eighty-five years young Louise always had an enthusiastic love of life and all it had to offer. From Red Sox Baseball to current events, Louise could keep up with the best of them in any conversation. Her warm and welcoming home was the perfect place for loved ones to gather for family celebrations and other occasions during the year. Years will pass but she will always be loved and missed by her family and friends.

To Wayne and his family, our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of sorrow.
Statewide Training

Most of Region One recently attended the annual conference at the Samoset. It was a beautiful setting on the ocean. It is always nice to get the entire state together and put faces to the names we deal with all year long. This conference seemed to be appreciated by most of the staff. They felt the choices they had in selecting sessions very much enhanced the conference. Jay Pennell was on the planning committee and we congratulate him for a job well done.

Mike Mack and Roy Curtis and friends went on their annual winter camping trip on February 9-12th — their 5th time — and they climbed North Traveler Mountain.

Rick Roger’s son graduated in the top percentile of his class as an Army MP and got a marksmanship award for the M16 during the week of the conference, therefore, neither he nor Kelli attended it. His son heads for Germany for three years on Saturday, March 4.

Rick and Kelli will be celebrating the birth of their grandson, Jayden Gage Towns on 6/17/2006 (Rick’s oldest daughter).

There’s no place like home!

Region One office had a mold problem that required many of us to be restricted from the office. After more than a month, it was eradicated and as a result we now have a new heating system for our conference room. We are all now back in our office, thankfully.

February was a particularly rough month for our Region.

Mike Mack lost his grandmother, Alma Riley, just two weeks shy of her 99th birthday.

Scott McDonald lost his mother, Faith McDonald, and

Matt Nee lost his father, Edward Nee, very suddenly on 2/24/06.

Our deepest sympathies go out to each one of them.

One hour after Scott’s mother passed away; Scott got a call that his grandson had been born.

Region One had a CPAI (Corrections Program Assessment Inventory) and we scored a 60.5, the highest score of any program in the State of Maine.

It has been extremely cold lately and I think we all look forward to the warmth of spring, green grass and flowers.