MCC DOES IT AGAIN!

Maine Correctional Center was the first State Correctional Facility in DOC history to undergo and pass an initial ACA accreditation audit. They have done it again! The week of October 19 the ACA Commission for Accreditation returned to MCC to conduct a more rigorous audit than that conducted three years ago. On Wednesday October 22nd Audit Team Chair Joseph Rion announced that MCC has scored 100% on Mandatory required standards, and an unprecedented 99.6% on all other applicable standards. Age of the facility and construction done over fifty years ago prevented only two standards from not being met. MCC improved its rating by 3% over 2005’s inspection. The actual accreditation will be presented in January 2009 when MCC submits correction plans for the two standards it did not meet.

Auditors, Joseph Rion, James Bailey and Bobby King were quick to realize that MCC has a professional staff. Unlike three years ago when many new procedures were being implemented for the first time, staff were now familiar and comfortable with those procedures. Policy and procedures were and are being followed, and staff when questioned about emergency procedures, tool and key control, chemical control and post orders demonstrated a high level of knowledge and understanding.

Earlier in the year, even with the budget being what it was, MCC Administrators requested of the Commissioner to go forward with the ACA re-accreditation process and the Commissioner gave the go-ahead. The teamwork MCC staff has shown since that decision was made; and since the decision made three years ago to seek accreditation, has been above reproach.

MCC Continued on page 10

MCC Facility tour with ACA Auditor Joseph Rion, Barbara Robertshaw-Director of Support Services, Bruce McGahey-Boiler Engineer, and Scott Burnheimer-MCC Superintendent

Celebrating with ice cream sundaes are Barbara Robertshaw, Gary LaPlante-MCC Chief of Security, Scott Burnheimer, and CO Travis Hon.
REPORT IDENTIFIES FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF “PROBLEM PARENTS”

“Although virtually all mothers and fathers are concerned about the challenges of raising their kids in today’s world, many fail to take essential actions to prevent their kids from smoking, drinking or using drugs,” according to a report from the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA).

Using data from a telephone survey of teens and parents, CASA defines “problem parents” as those who fail to:

1) monitor their children’s school night activities
2) safeguard prescription drugs in the home
3) address the problem of drugs in schools
4) set a good example

Failure to Monitor School Night Socializing

• Nearly one-half (46%) of teens say that they typically go out with friends on school nights, while only 14% of parents say that their teens do so.

• Once out, 53% of teens come home between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. and 15% come home later.

• The later teens stay out, the more likely they are to use alcohol or other drugs—even among older teens. Nearly one-third (29%) of those who come home between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. and 50% of those who come home after 10:00 p.m. say there’s alcohol or drug use among the kids they are with.

Failure to Safeguard Prescription Drugs

• One-third of teens who know someone who abuses prescription drugs say that person gets the drugs from parents, home, or medicine cabinets.
Failure to Address Drugs in School

• One-third of parents think that the presence of drugs in school does not make it more likely that their child will use drugs. Yet previous CASA surveys have found that teens attending schools where drugs are used, kept, or sold are 5 times more likely to use marijuana, 15 times more likely to use prescription drugs, and 16 times more likely to use an illegal drug (other than marijuana or prescription drugs).

Failure to Set a Good Example

• One-fourth of all teens know a parent of a classmate or friend who uses marijuana—and 10% say that this parent smokes with people the teens’ age.

According to CASA, “by identifying the characteristics of these problem parents, we hope to identify actions that parents can take—and avoid—in order to raise healthy, drug-free children and become part of the solution.”

From the MDOC Archives

The photo in this article shows the main employee bulletin board at the “Old” Maine State Prison in Thomaston. The exact date of this photo is undetermined but the best estimate is the mid-1970’s.

The sections on the MSP bulletin board include the following:

- Names and photos of the new employees;
- Names, photos, and critical information on each of the new inmates;
- Photos of Correctional Officers showing the correct wear of each of the various MSP uniforms;
- Permanent informational notices and information, and
- Current informational notices and information.

This photo was included in a collection that was provided by Gary LaPlante.

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 may be published and will certainly be returned to the sender.

Thank You!! Ellis

Decide How to Decide

The ending of a crucial conversation can be just as important as the first few minutes—it’s now time to make decisions based on the conversation and then act on those decisions. To make sure people are on board with what will happen, and that they won’t be disappointed with final decisions, specify up front how they will be made. Is it:

- **Consensus?** “Everyone must be on board.”
- **Consultation?** “Thanks for the ideas; we’ll let you know what we’ve decided.”
- **Command?** “I’ll decide.”
- **Or vote?** “We’ll let the majority decide which idea we’ll all support.”
Victim Advisory Group Meeting

November 18, 2008

Guest speakers were Tom Rhoton from Appriss and Amy Halloway the Director of Victim Services VT DOC.

Amy introduced herself as a Social Worker who now is a Vermont Victim Services Director.

In 1999, Vermont began working towards automation. They realized that they needed something victim centered and victim friendly.

They received a BJA grant and will go live April 6, 2009. VINE or in Vermont’s case VANS – Vermont’s Automated Notification System, has the ability to be confidential, accessible, and collaborative.

The survivors/victims initial phone call to register will be to a live person. There are automatic notices that they will receive from VINE which will give them the option to be able to speak with a live person. (Once registered the s/v information will follow the offender from court to release.)

VTDOC wanted to be able to tailor the system to best meet the needs of victims rather than fitting the victims around the service.

The annual ongoing cost is $50,000. However when the grant concludes they estimate the yearly cost to be $100,000 per year. They didn’t include the cost of a staff person in the initial funding request.

What about PFA, SO registry, or pre-sentencing notifications?

VINE can tailor their program to meet the needs of the State of Maine. VT enhancement design will include PFA, SO registry and pre-sentencing notifications.

What can Appriss do?

VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) The VINE program was created after an offender in the state of Kentucky was released on bail without notification to the victim, and ended up murdering her.

Appriss is a nation-wide company serving all but 4 states with automated victim notification.

As soon as an offender is arrested for a misdemeanor or felony, victims can be registered to be notified. It calls the victim through automation or live voice for up to 48 hours, and then the information gets turned over to the police. Appriss would call and request, “We’ve been trying to inform a victim of an offender’s release, could you check on this person to make sure they are alright?” To stop the notification within 48 hours the victim would enter their PIN to acknowledge they had received the notification. Commissioner Anne Jordan posed a question to Tom if VINE could be set up to notify victims of PFA service. Commissioner Jordan discussed some present issues with the current PFA system and the frustration of clerks receiving multiple calls from victims inquiring on the status of service, as well as the frustration of victims not knowing if service had been made.

According to Tom PFA can be available. The VINE has a front-end and a back-end. The victim accesses the front-end and administrators work with the back-end of the system (VINE watch).

According to Amy, VTDOC plans on a large advertising campaign to make the community aware of the program service. One of the possibilities includes including notice through consumers electric bills. Victims only need to register to receive services. There are victim in VT currently registered for notification through DOC.
The Victim Advisory Group discussed September 20th Stakeholders conference after the SAVIN presentation. There was a consensus that the meeting was productive and that we would be moving forward on the recommendations made at the meeting.

The Maine Department of Corrections Victim Services and Probation Officer attended Sexual Assault Response Team quarterly meeting in Augusta on December 4. Attendees included persons from the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the statewide Sexual Assault Centers.

Denise Giles, Victim Services Coordinator, presented an overview of the Prison Rape Elimination Act and the Maine Department of Corrections policy regarding PREA. Once staff becomes aware that a sexual assault has occurred in the facility either by another inmate or staff the victim is given information on their rights as a victim and is given the opportunity to speak to DOC victim services or an advocate from the local Sexual Assault Center. She discussed two pending cases resulting from sexual assaults at the facility and the prosecution of these crimes.

Tessa Mosher, Victim Advocate, explained victim notification and the safety plan meetings offered by Victim Services to victims of sexual assault. Victim Services takes a pro-active approach in notifying victims/survivors of sexual assault 60 – 90 days prior to a sex offenders release from incarceration regardless of victim notification being filed according to statute. Included in the initial letter to victims is a Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault brochure. Victims are advised of the offenders projected release date and release address, if known, and are offered a safety plan meeting.

If accepted, the safety plan meeting would allow the victim to meet with a team of support including the Probation Officer, Victim Advocate, Law Enforcement, Sexual Assault Center Advocate, Victim Supporter, Therapist, District Attorney’s Office Victim Witness Advocate and anyone else deemed appropriate.

At the safety plan meeting the victim has the opportunity to address his/her concerns about safety and security, review and understand the Conditions of Probation and meet the supervising Probation Officer. After the safety plan meeting the victim is advised about a number of different resources available and handouts are given regarding community notification of a sex offenders release, sex offender registry, victims rights, DOC brochure, Victims’ Compensation Fund and a survey. The DOC compiles the survey results for quality assurance.

Adam Silberman, Probation Officer, presented information on the sex offender containment model. The containment model is a collaborative supervision approach that includes several stakeholders in the supervision of the sex offenders. This model increases communication between the Probation Officer, Victim Advocates, Courts, Prosecutors, Sex offender Treatment providers, police, paleographer, community and others. The containment team meets with offenders face to face with all stakeholders. After the initial meeting the team reviews several cases at a time discussing the status of the offenders. The Maine Department of Corrections policy outlines that any offender scored by the LSI and/or Static 99 as high or maximum risk to recidivate must be supervised by the containment team approach.

The Department of Corrections takes a victim centered approach in all PREA issues, safety planning and containment team meetings.
The Office of Victim Services, in conjunction with Chris Oberg from OIT, will be submitting the names of all current probationers who owe restitution, to Maine Revenue Service to garnish any eligible State income tax returns for the 2008 tax year. This will be an automatic process. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact Jessica Pooler or Denise Giles at Victim Services.

For Your Info

WOW, HAVE THE PAST FEW MONTHS BROUGHT A HOST OF CHANGES TO CMPRC

Congratulations are in order to our former nurse Kim Robbins who accepted a promotion to her new position in Central Office. We sure are going to miss her professionalism and zany character too; good luck Kim.

CMS hired a new facility nurse for us, Barbara Sawyer and by all accounts she is fitting in nicely. CO Charles Beaver retired (from his second career, ex-navy man you know) after approximately 20 years with the DOC; enjoy your leisure time Chuck.

CENTRAL MAINE PRE-RELEASE CENTER

On the flip side, we also welcomed several new staff members to the facility. Jeremy Reed a former C.O. at Knox County jail and Jason Boulanger, a former Minot patrolman and Androscoggin County Jail C.O. joined the security team at the facility. The kitchen staff also underwent some changes. C.O./Cook Rodger Cordes transferred back to MSP, while Steve Gilbert and Derek Crommett were hired as new facility Cooks. Welcome to the family guys!!!

PROGRAMS

Staff at CMPRC have been working with HealthReach RSVP to facilitate the Thresholds Decision Making class to prisoners here; twelve of the men completed the month long course.

CMPRC and Women Unlimited in a collaborative effort implemented a 75-hour Construction Boot Camp course with funding obtained through the Re-entry grant. Twelve men took classes in job readiness, hand and power tools, blueprint reading, construction math and OSHA 10 safety and graduated on 12/05/08. Not only did they receive certificates that are recognized throughout the construction industry, but they will also qualify for continued training opportunities and job
Effective November 23, 2008 the following personnel were promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Mark Slivinski (right) has served the department for 7 years in a variety of positions as a Correctional Officer. He comes to his new position with a lot of enthusiasm and a great deal of knowledge. Sgt. Slivinski is a veteran of the US Army, Maine Army National Guard and a current member of the Maine State Prison Ceremonial Honor Guard.

Matt Barnett (left) has served the department for 5 years. His prior public service includes working for the Knox County Sheriffs office as a patrol deputy and in the Maine Army National Guard. Sgt. Barnett is very experienced officer and is an excellent role model. He is also a current member of the Honor Guard contingent.
Sgt. Slivinski and Sgt. Barnet were officially pinned by Captains George and Spearing with Captains Black, Cutler and Ruel in attendance.

Holly Eastman (pictured during a pinning ceremony with Deputy Warden James O'Farrell and Captain Richard Brooks) was also promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Eastman has served as an acting Sergeant on the second shift prior to her permanent promotion. Sergeant Eastman is a highly regarded supervisor who displays a “can do attitude”.

Sgt. Eastman has worked for the department since August of 2005. She also served with the Vermont Department of Corrections for a short period of time and is a former member of the Maine State Prison Ceremonial Honor Guard...

Congratulations to all.

VETERAN’S DAY SERVICE HELD AT MAINE STATE PRISON

On Sunday November 9th, 2008 a special Veteran’s Day celebration was held in the Maine State Prison multi-purpose room / chapel. Captain Jacob Clements, a Chaplin with Maine Army National Guard, was the guest speaker. He shared some of his own personal experiences while serving in Iraq. It was both an honor and a privilege to have Captain Clements come to MSP.

There were approximately 30 prisoners in attendance. Prisoners were given an opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences about Veteran’s Day. There are a number of veterans who are currently incarcerated at the Maine State Prison and this service helped to honor the sacrifices made by all veterans past and present. Hopefully this will turnout to be an annual event.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICER BOBBY MOORE

A memorial service was held at the MSP Chapel on December 18, 2008, at 1pm, for Correctional Officer Bobby Moore. The service was sponsored by the “Healing After Loss Group” and the Chaplain Service at the prison. It was a time for all present to remember Bobby’s life and the lasting memories that will remain with us. There were a number of inmates in attendance who knew Bobby from the “old prison” in Thomaston as well as those currently housed at Warren.

A very unusual occurrence happened at the service; inmates were giving thanks for Bobby, for his years of dedicated service, his kindness, compassion, caring, and especially his sense of humor. Also in attendance were: Diane Schetky, volunteer for Healing After Loss Group; Al Bernier, CCTW and Chaplain Water Foster.

“We thank you Bobby for your dedicated service to the Department of Corrections, at Maine State Prison. You are a special person and dedicated Correctional Officer who knew what was going on at the prison at any given time. You had a special gift when dealing with your fellow correctional officers or inmates that you were in contact with at the prison.

May God grant you rest and his eternal peace!”
In 2002 the Maine State Prison at Thomaston was demolished and its remnants were buried in its historic quarry. The last vestige of MSP's existence are some artifacts, some pictures and a lot of memories. Current and former staff of the Maine State Prison and members of the Thomaston Historical Society collaborated on an historical publication documenting MSP-Thomaston’s one hundred and seventy-eight year history. The creation and publication of “Images of America Maine State Prison 1824-2002” was a way to memorialize the former landmark and an opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed so much in keeping the citizens of Maine safe.

The publication of this book offers a glimpse into a reality that most people don’t have the opportunity to experience or observe.

“Images of America Maine State Prison 1824-2002” went to the publishers on November 18. All indications are the publishers were very impressed, calling some of the pictures stunning. The retail cost of the book will be $21.99 and will be available though “Barnes & Noble” book stores and the Maine State Prison Showroom. There is no definitive release date but we will keep you updated.
February 12, 2002, round-the-clock operations moved Maine’s most violent and dangerous prisoners, leaving behind unlocked doors and darkened cells. By June of that year, the old prison was demolished and buried in the ancient abandoned limestone quarry, although its memory continues to live on in the minds of those who knew it firsthand. Jeffrey D. Merrill Sr., the last warden of the old prison, currently serves as warden at the new facility in Warren. He produced Maine State Prison: 1824-2002 with photographs from the site’s archives, as well as research assistance from current and former employees, town residents, the Town of Thomaston, and the Thomaston Historical Society. The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today. Arcadia is proud to play a part in the preservation of local heritage, making history available to all.

BOLDUC CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

K-9 CORRECTIONS

Our newest dog is Chloe and she is an Akita. She was used for breeding only and had never learned to play or be around people. Since coming to Bolduc and living with her inmate handler, she has learned to fetch and many commands including: sit, stay, rollover, shake paw, and she even has learned to wave. She loves people and has a wonderful temperament. She will be leaving us soon but will have left a lasting impression on both staff and prisoners. We have trained and sent to new loving homes a total of 7 dogs since the program started. This is such a rewarding program knowing we can help reintegrate these dogs to new families.
MCC Continued

accurate. Staff has accomplished a goal that they can be proud of, one that sets an example for others to follow.

MCC looks forward to helping other facilities meet this same goal in whatever way they can.

Commissioner Magnusson misses his budget meeting with the Governor to address the Audit team and congratulate MCC – Again!

DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Requests for Public Restitution projects continue to flow in well into the fall and winter months. In the Downeast economic environment the benefits are immeasurable to many of the agencies we assist and during these challenging times the need has never been greater. The majority of the Public Restitution work is overseen by Correctional Officers/CTIs, J.J. Tibbetts and Toby Sawtelle who often have multiple ongoing projects. When necessary particularly during the busy summer months a few of our Correctional Maintenance Mechanics, Gary Magee, Jesse Davis and Paul Johnson will take crews out to help satisfy the demand. Those projects that are only suitable to be done during warmer weather which our crews were unable to attend to this season have been rescheduled for next season.

The local towns of Columbia Falls, Cutler, Jonesboro, Kennebec, Lubec, Machias, Machiasport, Roque Bluffs, and Whitneyville have all made good use of our prisoner work force this year. Our crews have also done work for the Department of Conservation Parks and Land Division preparing parks and recreation areas for the summer season and then preparing the same areas for the winter months. The Department of Transportation has a dedicated and consistent year around crew assisting them with various tasks. In addition, our crews have helped numerous not-for-profit organizations, churches and local schools throughout Washington County with various tasks and projects many of which would other wise go undone or cost these organizations precious resources.

Recently a prisoner crew assisted the Public Works Department of Machias decorate the town for the Christmas season while another crew was busy back at the facility making assorted wooden toys to be passed out to the children during the town’s annual tree lighting ceremony. Apparently the toy makers will have to make more of the small baby doll carriages as they were an unexpected hit. Small trucks and cars with functioning wheels, sail boats (which may or may not be sea worthy), and little planes with props made up the other assorted toys. The Officer who orchestrated the toy manufacturing notably took great pride in maintaining quality control right down to the painting details. In all several hundred wooden toys are made each year for this event. The town of Machias also utilizes a prisoner work crew on a routine basis to assist them at their recycling center. As is customary, the upholstery/garment shop under John Gilmore’s direction has been busy making quilts from the jean scraps (see photo on page 12). Some quilts were donated to local charities.
The Department of Corrections Public Restitution program offers a unique three-way symbiotic relationship between the DOC, the prisoners and the organizations assisted by the program. The Downeast Correctional Facility is proud of its participation in the program and of the many benefits it has and continues to provide.

**WELDING**

The DCF welding program under Craig Smith’s direction has been converting an Army Hemet all terrain cargo carrier into a 3000 gallon fire tanker for the Maine Forest Service.

The students took a 5000 gallon aluminum fuel tank and reduced it down to 3000 gallon using the removed section to reinforce and install baffles in the tank to allow for off-road use. The aluminum project is an excellent training opportunity for the class and is a huge cost savings for the MFS. The students also just completed silhouette targets for the Washington County Sheriffs Department and 8 road gates for Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The agencies are very grateful to have these projects done at a low cost in these tight budget times and it allows the program to operate at a low cost to the Department of Corrections.

The Culinary Art’s students have been busy this holiday season. The class, with help from our Chief of Volunteer Services, Maria Dorn, successfully accomplished Culinary’s first off-grounds catering job. This fairly sizable undertaking was commissioned by a local insurance company. Some of the employees currently had sampled culinary creations at a recent volunteer event. The student’s filled the order for baked goods, carried the goodies to the insurance office, (where the student’s were...
Congratulations also go out to JPW Francois Bouchard for being chosen as the November LCYDC employee of the month. Mr. Bouchard, affectionately known as, “Bouch” has been at the LCYDC for twenty-eight months. He was recently promoted to the position of JPS and is a valuable member of the Elm staff team.

LCYDC Employee’s of the Month
by JPW William H. Brown

Congratulations to Ms. Diane Stults, who was chosen as the December LCYDC employee of the month. Ms. Stults’ has been with the LCYDC for eight years, three as a JPW, and five in her current position as teacher / education evaluator. In the process of her work, Diane does educational evaluations and interest inventories with students. The results of which are used to develop students’ individual educational plans, as well as assisting in developing residents’ individual case plans. Ms. Stults work is an intricate and important piece of the multi-systemic approach to care here at the LCYDC. We appreciate her and

THE BEARS ARE BACK!
By JPW William H. Brown

C. 1988
According to LCYDC Athletic Director Kim Deering, it’s been over twenty-two years since a competitive interscholastic sporting event has taken place at LCYDC. After much time and effort behind the scenes, by Athletic Director Kim Deering, JPW Chad Sturgis, and many of the staff and students, the Bears are back in action. LCYDC is an official participant in class D athletics under

warmly welcomed), and served the appreciative employees. All proceeds went to the Residents Benefit Fund. It was a rewarding experience for all involved. Culinary was busy baking over 80 pumpkin breads and pies before Thanksgiving. For over 5 years, the culinary students have contributed their skills and efforts to Project Grace, a charitable project that fills and gives Thanksgiving baskets to local needy families. Volunteer extraordinaire, Emmy Brown, along with the Friends of Long Creek, helped create the funding needed for this project.

The Culinary students also have been busy preparing and serving traditional holiday dinners for Long Creek residents and their families. Funded by the Friends, residents of all units are able to enjoy a meal and spend some festive time with family this holiday season.
Good-bye to Juvenile Program Worker Jessica Masse who will be moving to the big state of Texas. She will be missed.

SMALL ENGINES

John Simmons’s Small Engines class has been busy the last two months getting ready for winter. One of the projects his students have been working on during November and December is the restoration of this Classic 1973 Ski-doo Olympique. It was not running and it needed many cosmetics done when it was brought in at the beginning of November. By the middle of December, it has been totally stripped down and cleaned, welded, and painted; and now runs like new. This restoration has put the sled back into its original condition.

THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON WHAT WE DO IN THE PRESENT.
MAHATMA GANDHI

WELCOME TO Colleen Hurley, Psychotherapist who joins the team for the Charlotte White Center contract.
DO YOU KNOW THE SCORE?
JPW Tom Kirlin recently brought in “trophy” moose antlers to demonstrate to a class on how to properly score a set of moose antlers. JPW Kirlin had eight residents attend his group that were eager to learn and participate in the activities. Two residents came within two inches of the actual score after taking several measurements which included; widest spread, length and width of each palm, total number of points on each side longer than one inch in length, and circumference of each antler base. Thanks to Mr. Kirlin for teaching young men the skills he has learned, and providing the enthusiasm of examining a moose trophy. Everyone had a great time.

HOLIDAY GATHERING
PPO Barbara Nichols opened her home for the annual staff Christmas Party on December 13th. It was a post-ice storm evening but staff members braved the elements to get together for some fun time together. Everyone brought their favorite culinary creation to share as well as a gift for the laugh-filled “Yankee Swap” which followed our time of sampling all the various dishes there before us. Gifts were opened, gifts were swapped, and fun and laughter reigned throughout the room. The whole evening was a welcome change for all of us after a day of chipping ice and sanding driveways. A special thanks to Barbara for having us all and for being a very gracious welcoming hostess.

INTERNS IN PORTLAND OFFICE
We’re very pleased to have Kara Maxsimic working with us as an intern for the next month. Kara is the daughter of the late Roman Maxsimic a much loved probation officer who we lost very suddenly in October of 2002. Kara will get an inside view of Probation and Parole as she participates in our day-to-day operation of how cases are handled when received from court and what information is required before being moved on to the supervising officer. Beside the paperwork flow, Kara will also be tagging along with the court officer for a look at how court functions as well as sitting in on a report day with a PO. Kara is currently attending Endicott College enrolled in their Criminal Justice Program. It is a pleasure to have Kara with us for the next four weeks and we hope she will gain knowledge and insight that will be of great value to her in her future career goals.

PUBLISHES SECOND BOOK
My (Carol Carlow) second book rolled off the presses in October and has been very well received by all who have seen it and purchased a first run copy. This year’s book is entitled “Wee Tales for Wee Folks” and is a collection of three short stories featuring various animal characters that were created solely in my imagination. Illustrated by Sue Clukey of North Yarmouth, the characters come to life through her artwork in a truly delightful way. The easy to follow story line can be enjoyed by youngsters of all ages. Seeing my stories in print has been a major accomplishment to me and one of which I am very proud.

CONGRATULATIONS GOES TOO:
Kelli and Rick Rogers’ son, Richard, was married in June to Courtney, and are expecting their first child, Neleh Renee Rogers. This is Kelli and Rick’s third grandchild.
Kathy Pressley’s son, Dr. Mark Matthews and his wife, Panudda are expecting their second child in early June.
**John Coyne** has been elected to the city council in Portland, Maine. He was sworn in on 12/1/08. We are all very proud of him. Congratulations to all.

**AN AWARD**
The Biddeford Probation Officers got an award from Biddeford Drug Court team and Judge Foster at the “Day One Annual Celebration Dinner and Fundraiser” at the Marriot Hotel, on November 20, 2008. One of Dana Fournier’s drug court kids, Mike W, was one of guest speakers; he is currently in Drug Court and doing great. He did well speaking to all the guests. Judy Collins was the guest speaker and was magnificent.

**CHRISTMAS**
We had a very nice Christmas party and Yankee swap at Andrew Moore’s house on 12/19 following a staff meeting. Karen, Andy’s wife, did all the cooking and it was marvelous.

Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season and a wonderful ‘09.

**JUVENILE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**
**Region 4**

**THE HOLIDAYS ARE BEHIND US AND THE NEW YEAR HAS BEGUN.**
Our fall seemed more like winter this year with all the snow. Aroostook folks said they had over 50 inches of snow prior to the first day of winter! Good thing they like outside snow activities. Bill Francis said the snowmobile trails are in excellent condition and he invites all outdoor enthusiasts to come north! In Ft. Kent there is a biathlon competition. Bill gave us the website for details: http://www.10thmtskiclub.org/.

We had our annual Christmas party on Dec. 21st. As always, Shawn Nelson and Josh Ash provided us all with a lot of laughs and antics. Shawn wanted his Yankee swap gift so bad that he made sure no one else would take it from him. You’ll have to ask Shawn what he did… (!! : ) We all received our fleece DOC jackets at the party. Sue Colson’s daughter, Danielle and MacKenzie, were nice enough to wrap each and everyone prior to the party. Thank you girls!

Chris Ross and her husband Glenn, recently returned from a trip to Aruba. (My second home!). They both went parasailing and loved every minute of it. Chris did agree that the international cuisine offered in Aruba is truly gourmet, with so many choices. The Argentine beef and local fish were their top choices.

Dave and Nancy Barrett had a full house for Christmas. Their daughter Lisa and her husband Brian and granddaughter Amanda flew in from Louisiana to spend the holidays. Their granddaughter was thrilled with all the snow as they don’t see the “white stuff” in Louisiana. Amanda took all kinds of pictures to show her friends what “real” snow looks like.

Tom Pailes and his wife Mary flew to Georgia to spend the holidays with their family. Tom reports all went well and they had a great time at their family reunion. Tom and Mary can fly stand by most of the time as their son, Barry, works for the airlines. Tom is always hopping on a plane to check on his second home in Florida. How fortunate are they?!

Laurie Aldrich’s daughter, Shawna, recently completed the Air Force’s basic training in Texas. She made it home just in time for Christmas. John Bennoch’s daughter, Crystal, is presently at the same Air Force basic training center and is scheduled to graduate on Jan. 18, 2008. Good job girls!

**THAT IS ALL FROM REGION IV HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.**