GOVERNOR CEREMONIALLY SIGNS CORRECTIONS SYSTEM LEGISLATION

On August 14, 2009 Governor John E. Baldacci ceremonially signed LD 1224, “An Act Regarding the Operation of County Jails and the State Board of Corrections.” The bill streamlines many programs and services offered by the county jails and the Department of Corrections.

“This bill includes a number of recommendations made by the Board of Corrections,” said Governor Baldacci. “These are important improvements to the operations of Maine’s correctional system.”

The bill expands victim notification requirements, updates and modernizes the county jails’ home release program provisions and clarifies provisions of the Board’s budget review process.

“We all know that there have been challenges in implementing changes to the Maine Correctional system, but we are seeing progress,” said Governor Baldacci. “Jails are now working together as a system and the taxpayers are the beneficiaries. It comes down to high quality services, increased efficiencies, and working together to make this all possible. This bill represents another important step on the road of positive change.”

The Board of Corrections approved county jail budgets last week, and the jails only grew at 0.9 percent for FY10, compared with 9 percent in past years. Three jails have undergone major mission changes in less than a year since the Board has been operating.

Joining the Governor at the signing ceremony was the bill sponsor, Rep. Patsy Crockett (D-Augusta), George Jabar, Commissioner of Kennebec County and member of the Maine Board of Corrections and other supporters.

The bill goes into effect 90 days after the close of the Legislative session, which is Sept. 12.
The following is a list of names and prizes for the benefit raffle:

1st place prize (Garden Shed) – Steve Conner, Charleston Correctional Facility
2nd place prize (Minn Kota trolling motor) – Skip Pennell, Downeast Correctional Facility
3rd place prize (G. Loomis fishing Reel) – Brian Carle

We want to thank everyone for all of their help and support in assisting us to raise just over $2000.00 for the family of the late Dean Tuttle, we know that this will be a tremendous help to the family.
The photo in this article shows a newspaper article from 1967 describing some Referendum Questions that were voted on in the November 1967 elections. The Referendum Questions asked for bonds to be issued to support the following projects:

- Increase mental health services in Maine correctional facilities and mental hospitals.
- Provide additional vocational training programs in the Boy's Training Center in South Portland.
- Move the boiler and emergency power plant that were located within the walls of the Maine State Prison in Thomaston to a location outside of the prison walls as a security measure.

This photo shows an aerial photograph of the proposed MSP moving project and was included in a collection of photos 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.
DID YOU KNOW?

Almost every day we read how the 2009 - 2010 flu season may be more severe and may require multiple immunizations to protect individuals from the different strains of the disease.

You can prepare for an influenza pandemic now. You should know both the magnitude of what can happen during a pandemic outbreak and what actions you can take to help lessen the impact of an influenza pandemic on you and your family. A flu checklist will help you gather the information and resources you may need in case of a flu pandemic.

Two great websites that will provide a wealth of information are flu.gov and the National Center for Disease Control (CDC).

The Maine Center for Disease Control has information on what the State of Maine and local communities are doing to prepare for the upcoming flu season.

SAVE YOUR CARS TRANSMISSION

Once upon a time automatic transmissions lasted pretty much the life of the vehicle, remember the old 2 and 3 speed slush boxes, the 2 speed power glide was even used in drag cars. The secret was tranny temp and line pressure. In the 80s two so called improvements started to come about, first was the development of the lock up torque converter, this was like an extra gear, to help save fuel. Second was the wide spread use of an overdrive 4th gear, again to help fuel economy.

The first real trouble came with 1/2 and 3/4 ton pickups, people would put the gear selector in overdrive (OD) every time they went somewhere. This was fine until a heavy trailer was hauled, transmissions started failing, often at relatively low mileage. What was happening was the slippage of the tranny shifting often between OD and 3rd was heating the transmission 50-90 degrees higher than non overdrive transmissions thus causing premature failure of clutch packs or shift bands. Only after lawsuits did manufacturers offer a tow/haul switch knowing that most people would still just leave the tranny in OD and drive. The lockup converter just increased the transmission temp even more with its constant on/off operation.

Top transmission techs now recommend that you only use the OD on the interstate, all other driving leave the gear selector in the highest gear below the top gear, this will do two major things; your tranny temp will be dramatically cooler due to much less transmission slippage and the slightly lower gear ratio will increase line pressure helping to keep the valve body passages and other areas of the tranny clear of deposits. An additional benefit you will be closer to the optimal power output of whatever engine you have. In ending I checked the mileage in my 2003 Impala; mileage stayed pretty much the same.
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

This fiscal year, all seven (7) modules of the Leadership Development Program are scheduled for presentation. They will be held from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM, at each of the four training sites. The sites are: Maine Correctional Center (MCC), Maine State Prison (MSP), Mountain View Youth Development Center (MVYDC), and Long Creek Youth Development (LCYDC). You do not need to complete a Training Approval Form to attend, and, as always, you must clear it with your supervisor. Please check with your Staff Development Coordinator to confirm that the date has not changed before attending any of the modules. Each facility has their own training coordinator, and Perry Ayotte is the contact for all Probation staff.

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THE VICTIM ADVISORY/FOCUS GROUP MET ON AUGUST 11.

1 Jail Model Policies

Victim Notification of Release on Bail

With no changes to the draft of the Victim Notification of Release on Bail policy the Advisory Group was in agreement that the policy is ready for the Corrections Working Group

Victim Notification for All County Facilities

Procedure A: 2d the addition of the word “or” to By phone and/or mail prior to the inmate’s participation

With this small change to the draft the Advisory Board was in agreement that the Victim Notification for All County Facilities policy is ready for the Corrections Working Group.

There was discussion and much concern about transfers of inmates from 72 hour facilities and where they may ultimately be housed. A victim may be required to make multiple calls to obtain information-a “Where’s Waldo” hunt and search.

If DA’s offices need to issue writs, those will go to the county of jurisdiction and that county will be responsible to locate and bring the inmate to court.
2. Review evaluations from stakeholders meeting

Overall the June 5, 2009 Stakeholders meeting was a success as the evaluation answers and comments demonstrate.

3. Next Steps-Working group update

Denise Giles presented the final drafts of the policies to Working Group of the Board of Corrections (BOC) on Thursday, August 13, 2009. With the presentation of the policies the Working Group will review and revise for presentation to the Board of Corrections for the adoption of the policies.

4. Sentencing Council preliminary discussion

LD 325 “An Act to Authorize the Resentencing of Certain Prisoners Who Have Served Consecutive Sentences of 20 or More Years” was referred to the Sentencing Council. The Sentencing Council will be meeting late summer to plan a forum for stakeholders to discuss the issue. Included in the forum will be a panel which will consist of a prosecutor, judge, victim, and a prisoner’s family member.

5. Pros & cons of expansion of bail notification to include sexual assault & stalking

25 §2803-B Requirements of Law Enforcement Agencies 1:D(1)

The Advisory Group recommended supporting the Sentencing Council preliminary proposal to include Stalking and Sexual Offences for notification of offender’s release on bail.

6. INFOME Inmate Locator

Denise Lord presented the INFOME Inmate Locator by way of showing the Florida version of the program. The Locator would allow law enforcement and county jails to know where an inmate is being housed within DOC, the crime, the project release date, a picture, and a description of the inmate. The introduction for victims who are registered for notification of release to have password access will hopefully be sometime in the near future. The victim password would expire upon release of the offender for whom the victim is registered. The Advisory Group supports victim “Password Access” to the INFOME Inmate Locator.

Follow up information: The announcement of the awards of the Office of Victim Crimes Grant, (OVC Grant) has been pushed back to September 30, which leaves the Maine-NH county jail proposal still in the running.

HAPPY RETIREMENT TOVA AND TOM

Tova Starbird-DeVos and Tom Furman both retired on the last day of August. They will be sorely missed as the “go to” people for computer helps. A party in their honor was enjoyed, accolades and well wishes were given, and wonderful food provided by the staff.

We miss you both already. Best of luck in all your future endeavors.
TRAINING FOR INTERPRETERS

Just as Maine is becoming more and more culturally diverse, the clientele served by the Maine Department of Corrections (DOC) is becoming more diverse. On various occasions when interacting with the client population, it may become necessary to involve interpreters to assist DOC. Subsequently, DOC prepared a training program to help Interpreters become familiar with DOC protocol in both community corrections and correctional facilities.

The program was delivered on July 1, 2009, at the Long Creek Youth Development Center (LCYDC), to thirty (30) participants, and on July 30, 2009, at the Mountain View Youth Development Center (MVYDC), to five (5) participants. The participants were interpreters of sign language, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian, Mandarin and other languages. The training was well received and it will be repeated at MVYDC on October 1, 2009, and at LCYDC on October 15, 2009.

Rebecca Thompson, Director of Classification at LCYDC, and Jay Pennell, Regional Supervisor, Region 1 Juvenile, presented the program at the Long Creek facility. Larry Austin, Manager of Correctional Operations at MVYDC, Sue Carr, Regional Supervisor, Region 3 Juvenile, and Jeff Morin, Director of the Charleston Correctional Facility (CCF), presented the program at the Mountain View facility. Jeff Morin presented the information about CCF and led a tour of that facility.

The program included information on DOC protocol and it helped Interpreters to understand the process a juvenile or offender goes through in the juvenile or criminal justice system, and within DOC.

RETIRING

CO Jeannie Stoddard retires after 23 years of service. Jennie began her career here as a correctional cook in 1986 and transferred to security in 2002. She was always willing to do whatever was necessary to complete her duties. Jennie’s dedication is greatly appreciated.

ANNIVERSARIES

20 Years  James Case  15 Years  Jeremy Mason  JJ Tibbetts
5 Years  Mark Greenlaw

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MAINE STATE PRISON & BOLDUC CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

MAINE STATE PRISON MEMORIAL GARDEN DEDICATED

On Tuesday July 15, 2009 the hard work of many Maine State Prison and Bolduc Correctional Facility staff came to a ceremonial conclusion. The MSP “Circle of Honor Memorial” garden was officially dedicated. The memorial garden was inspired by prisoner staff who wanted to memorialize and recognize fellow employees who served the State of Maine, the Department Of Corrections and their fellow employees with honor and died while employed by the department.

Warden Merrill led the ceremony with a blessing by prison Chaplin Walter Foster. Warden Merrill expressed that this memorial was for staff by staff and this garden was our way of remembering our friends and fellow employees.

Former employees, family members of the deceased as well as Commissioner Magnusson and associate Commissioner Doughty attended the event.

In addition the Maine State Ceremonial Honor Guard participated in recognizing our fellow employees by the playing of “taps” and rendering a last salute.
THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

HONORS THE FOLLOWING WITH A NAME PLAQUE AND DATES OF SERVICE IN THE GARDEN:

☆ Officer Ervin Ewen, who worked at the Maine State Prison and Bolduc Correctional Facility from 1986 to 1999.

☆ Officer Raymond Cote, who worked at the Maine Correctional Institution in Warren from 1994 to 1996.

☆ Capt. Larry Worster, who worked at both the new and the old Maine State Prison and Maine Correctional Institution from 1992 to 2008.

☆ Officer Robert Moore, who worked at the Maine State Prison from 1978 to 2008.

☆ Officer Katherine (Kat) Graves, who worked at the Maine State Prison from 2006 to 2008.

☆ Officer Richard Bartlett, who worked at the Bolduc Correctional Facility and both the old and the new Maine State Prison from 1992 to 2005.


☆ Officer George Furbush, who worked at the Maine State Prison and Bolduc Correctional Facility from 1985 to 2003.

☆ Trades Instructor Timothy Cousins, who worked at the Bolduc Correctional Facility from 1997 to 2007.

☆ Officer William (Bill) Wood, who worked at the Maine State Prison from 1979 to 1996.

☆ Principal Pascal Poe, who worked at the Bolduc Correctional Facility from 1982 to 2002.

☆ Officer Glenn Wakefield, who worked at the Maine State Prison from 2003 to 2005.

The garden also includes a plaque for the department’s only “line of duty death” Warden Richard Tinker. Warden Tinker was killed at the Maine State Prison in Thomaston, May 14, 1863, by an inmate who stabbed him in the neck.
INDUSTRIES DELIVERS RESTORED HEARSE

By Bonnie Johnson

Pictured here are the before and after photos of a restoration project that the Maine State Prison Industries department began work on during November of 2008. It was completed and returned to the Town of Knox on June 17, 2009 just in time for the annual 4th of July Parade.

The Hearse was originally built at the Maine State Prison Thomaston in 1889 and was purchased by the Town of Knox in 1890. When the Knox Historical Society contacted Industries Manager, Bob Walden asking if the prison had done any restoration projects of this size before, his response was “no we haven’t done anything like this before but if you plan to have it restored then we have to be the one to do it”.

He also stated that approximately 600 prisoner man hours went into the project along with a lot of sweat and pride and that he couldn’t be more proud of their efforts and the result.

BOLDUC CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SAYS GOODBYE TO OFFICER DARRELL MARTIN AND BARRY ROE

Officer Darrell Martin has retired after 10 years of dedicated service to the department. Officer Martin has been employed with the Maine State Prison since 1999 and during this time has worked on second shift and night shift at Bolduc. Officer Martin had a great understanding of team work and how to pull things together to get things accomplished. His smiling face and professional attitude towards staff and offenders will be greatly missed at BCF. Congratulations and good luck Darrell on your retirement.

The Building and Trades vocational teacher, Barry Roe retired on July 31. Barry took great pride in teaching prisoners this trade. He worked countless hours helping the local community; just to name a few, Habitat for Humanity, 4-H, and Blueberry Cove. Barry will be greatly missed and we wish him the best!

Rick Horton, Substance Abuse Counselor, was selected as our Employee of the Month for June. He has been working full time at Bolduc since 2000.
WELL WISHES TO CCF STAFF

Staff have started a walking wellness program with 4-7 staff presently taking part in a daily walk of 1.5 miles.

C/O Gabriel Pratt has left CCF for a new career in the Border Patrol, good luck in your new career Gabe.

Sgt. Rob Pinkham with 28 years and Sgt. James A. Chase with 25 years, both senior Sergeants at CCF, they will be retiring at the end of August. Sgt. Pinkham started his career at MSP transferred to Bangor Pre-Release then CCF. Sgt. Chase started his career at MCC transferred to CCF where he became a Sergeant, K-9 Handler, and Unarmed Self-Defense Instructor; both believe it has been a great ride.

Congratulations to Sgt Jim Chase on his 14 years of perfect attendance at CCF.

Congratulations to CO/CTI Leon Gerry on being chosen as CCF employee of the year.

Congratulations to our Assistant Classification Officer Christine Brown on the birth of her daughter Jasmine Faye on June 30th

The industries program managed by Tom Sands built a replica boiler with a plaque to thank the Criminal Justice Committee for their support this past session. Director Jeff Morin asked George Peterson and Leon Gerry to present the boiler as part of recognition of their willingness to switch job functions and schedules

CTI NEWS

Dennis O'Bar has been working at the Dorathea Dix building in Bangor cleaning out empty dorm buildings and filling 4 conex trailers with items to be donated overseas.

Leon Gerry moved the Woman’s Care Center in Dover-Foxcroft from their old building to a new building in one day.

Neal Pinkerton is renovating the maintenance garage for the Maine Forest Service in Old Town. His crew also repaired the belfry and roof on a church in Medford.

Ron Miller and Dan Dugan spent 3 weeks at the Franklin county jail refurbishing the holding facility showers and painting and tiling in the jail.

Dan Dugan is redoing the roof at the Piscataquis County Jail.

Paul Smith is painting more than a hundred hydrant markers for the town of Newport.

INDUSTRIES

We have had a busy spell which is good for a change here in CCF Industries. We completed a large book shelf project for the Town of Newport and also assisted the Maintenance Department. in moving Newport’s library and the Historical Society.

The Millinocket Rotary Club ordered 20 picnic table shelters, 28 picnic tables, and 20 fireplaces; they have been fabricated and shipped. This order is part of a pond restitution project.

We constructed 12 large ocean docks for the Department. of Conservation Parks and Lands to be used by the Town Ferry. The project went well and was finished ahead of schedule.
Our current project is the construction of furniture for Waldo County Jail. The project consists of 16 wooden bunk beds, 16 dresser storage units, and 16 round day room tables. The projects are moving along nicely and we are planning a late August early September completion.

Upcoming projects will consist of more library shelving for the towns of Pittsfield and Appleton. The Sawmill is sprucing up for the upcoming ACA audit, but continue sawing everyday to fill orders for other state agencies as well as local dealers.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER, BUD DOUGHTY AND JENNIFER CHOATE

Probation Officer Jennifer Choate received her badge from Associate Commissioner Bud Doughty at Central Office on July 29, 2009, after a brief swearing in ceremony. Jennifer is assigned to the Region 2 main office in Auburn. Welcome Jennifer!
CONGRATULATIONS TO JPW TERRY GAUDET
FOR BECOMING OUR NEW EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER!

Terry always comes to work with a positive attitude. He interacts well with both staff and residents. He performs his duties and all tasks very well; never complaining and always with a smile. He adapts well to other units when called upon to fill in. His actions and interactions are noticed and complimented by supervisors. Terry is definitely an asset to Mountain View Youth Development Center and its vision.

STAFF BENEFIT FUND: PENNY WARS!

By David Brugger

Many thanks to all; it is apparent that we have competitors here on the hill! This all started with a suggestion from Rosalie to the Staff Benefit Fund. We took it and never imagining what the results would be. There were many big players; and I will leave it up to them to tell their story. Then there were the last minutes moves that made a big difference in the outcome. (And I do mean last minute)

Thanks to all who helped to roll the $974.77 worth of change; Thanks to the Administration for allowing this Penny War to happen. We have had a lot of sorrow lately and we wanted to do something that was positive and it seems it worked; staff really had fun with this. I have attached pictures and the count sheet.

The Winning Team was Security Operations
- Any interest in a Penny War II? -
RENEWABLE BIOMASS FUEL PROJECT

Dave Lovejoy, Deputy Superintendent

This day and age, energy options and efficiencies seem to be a real priority, and we need to do the best that we can. So, we are in the process of finalizing a project with BGS and the Bureau of Purchases with a contract at no expense to us or the state. International WoodFuels would be responsible for all design, fabrication and installation of all wood pellet equipment and service for this project. This renewable energy heating solution will be using wood pellets manufactured at their Burnham plant and from the State of Maine. We are in great hopes that this will go into place sometime in the fall season, if all goes well. The company will have some of their Representatives at our facility in a week or so, to start engineering the system to meet our needs. We will still keep and maintain our current oil boilers, and they will be a back up to the wood pellet boiler. This entire project will save us on average, approximately 15% over oil usage costs. Also, this is a cleaner way for all of us with the environment and doing business.

Sam Bradeen (Maintenance Supervisor) and myself had been discussing potential options for MV during all the discussions about burning more wood at CCF, and what could we do that would make sense and work? So, after a few weeks went by, a company wanted to meet with us to introduce themselves. In the meantime, BGS wanted to do a combined project and asked if we would be interested in wood pellets? What just started out to be a discussion between the two of us, turned out to be this project.

MOUNTAIN VIEW FLOWERS OVER THE SUMMER

Many groups and individuals worked together to spruce up the entrance to Mountain View Youth Development Center. Donations provided funding in these tight economic times.

Residents in Mountain View’s Helping Hands program removed old mulch and shrubbery, tilled the flagpole circle, and planted new donated shrubbery in the circle – this time carefully chosen to stand up to Bull Hill’s legendary wind and cold. The mysterious third flagpole finally has a flag- the ACA flag. The hardworking Helping Hands residents inspired by their hardworking staff leaders Bud Dillon and Tim Kuespert, also pulled up old mulch and landscaping cloth around the trees in front of the Mountain View gymnasium and replaced them with fresh materials. Helping Hands worked mightily to fit this work into their busy pre-Memorial Day schedule without neglecting any of the 5 local cemeteries they beautify each spring.

After Memorial Day, Helping Hands took a trip to an inactive quarry and returned with slate for walkways in the flag circle, edged by granite stones donated by Friends of Mountain View. Beautiful!

Donated concrete urns on pedestals now stand on fresh gravel squares where trees were originally planted, but could not survive the salt needed to keep the front entrance ice free in the winter. The urns have been filled for the summer with bright annuals. The urns will be planted with mums for the fall, and small evergreen shrubs after Thanksgiving, then removed to facilitate snow removal for the winter.

Still full of energy and enthusiasm, Helping Hands then built a flower bed of donated paving stones around the Mountain View/Charleston sign at the entrance to the main parking lot, which has now been planted, partly by flowers grown from seed in the Mountain View agriculture program.

Mountain View’s Principal Cheryl Quinn, a master gardener, is providing the overall vision. Mountain View facility staff, led by Sam Bradeen, has been providing support for every step, including hauling the unwieldy urns and pedestals around! Friends of Mountain View had donated money for the plants and materials. One of the Friends of Mountain View Board members, Jim Davitt, has personally donated hundreds of lily bulbs, some of which have already been planted around the pond near the road.

The improvements have prompted interest from other groups. Mountain View’s agriculture class is
planning to grow more of the annuals, and maybe even the challenging mums for next year. The Mountaineering class will foray out to the woods to bring back small evergreens for the urns for December. Mountain View’s woodworking class is making shrub sheds. In the future staff members may donate trees or shrubs to commemorate loved ones or fellow staff members. Charleston next door has been eying the Mountain View improvements. In advance of their ACA visit in the fall, colorful flowering shrubs and other new plantings have appeared, including a flower bed around a sign near their offices. You never know what will be next!

ADULT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS REGION 3

OTB (OUTSIDE THE BOX) READING GROUP

The OTB (Outside The Box) Reading Group is facilitated by MDOC Probation Officer's Bud Hall and John Lorenzen (Region 3-A in Augusta). The OTB participants read a selection of short stories and then get together, on a weekly basis, to discuss one of the stories. The OTB group is so popular that the group had to be split into two groups in order to fit into the meeting room.

Bud and John pick short stories that are usually based around decision making and the group discussion centers around the pros and cons of these decisions. The reading sessions give the Probation Officers a unique insight into how the clients are succeeding in the reentry process.

The most recent book “Officer Friendly” was written by Lewis Robinson, who happens to live in Maine and teaches at the University of Southern Maine. Bud and John invited Lewis to visit a session of the OTB group. Jim sat in on both groups that met on Monday, July 27th. The men and women who attended the group were very impressed that the author took the time and interest to talk to them. Lewis talked about his experiences in writing the book and answered the many questions about the short stories. Jim autographed and wrote personal comments in many of the individual’s books.

That Lewis Robinson's first story collection, "Officer Friendly and Other Stories," is a collection of 12 stories here all take place around Port Allison, Maine (somewhere near Portland, where Robinson lives, but not explained much beyond that). Lack of employment and shuttered paper mills are the background of some of the stories. Robinson's characters are in their 20s and early 30s, content but often hapless in their casually uncomfortable situations. One of the collection’s best stories, "Punkheads," about a loutish hockey player forced to join the school play, is a rare feat, a coming-of-age tale with originality in place of sentiment. Lewis is continuing his writing with both short stories and a full length novel. that should be available in the near future.

The books for the OTB group are provided by the U.S. Dept of Education’s Youthful Offender Grant that is administered by the Office of Correctional Education.

Note: If any other MDOC adult Probation Officers are interested in starting a reading group and may need funding for books, please contact Ellis King, MDOC Central Office, at 287-4342 or Ellis.King@maine.gov

Left to right: John Lorenzen, Author Lewis Robinson, and Bud Hall.
Circle of Honor Memorial Garden Dedication - July 14, 2009
This garden has been established to memorialize those employees that have died since 1996 while employed at the Maine State Prison. They are as follows:

★ Officer Ervin Ewen
★ Captain Larry Worster
★ Officer Katherine (Kat) Graves
★ Officer George Furbush
★ Officer William (Bill) Wood
★ Officer Glenn Wakefield
★ Officer Raymond Cote
★ Officer Robert Moore
★ Officer Richard Bartlett
★ VTI Timothy Cousins
★ Principal Pascal Poe
★ Maintenance Officer Willis (Bill) Kinney