The Maine Department of Corrections Loses One of Their Own

Robert Bachelder, a Corrections Officer since October 2000 passed away May 22, 2011 following a tragic home accident. Rob had worked throughout the facility in many different posts and assignments. He most recently worked in the facility’s Reception Center, handling well over 1000 new prisoner intakes a year. Rob was a good friend and helped anyone that he could. He leaves behind his wonderful wife Denise and daughter Libbie.

Members of the Two Bridges Regional Jail Honor Guard pay their respects

MCC Honor Guard member Troy Roma presents the National Colors to Denise Bachelder and their daughter Libbie.
The number of adults in the correctional population has been increasing.

Direct expenditure for each of the major criminal justice functions (police, corrections, judicial) has been increasing.
The Department of Corrections Victim Advisory Group met on Monday, May 2. Associate Commissioners Jody Breton, Cindy Brann, and Barry Stoodley were introduced to the Group and explained their individual roles and responsibilities. The Advisory Group continued their discussion of LD 1500, a bill which proposes to reintroduce parole, and the ramifications such an act would have on victims.

The Advisory Group also discussed H.R. 1416 which is federal legislation to allow the states to levy federal income tax returns to satisfy restitution obligations. The Advisory Group recommended that permission from the Administration for a letter to the members of the congressional team urging their support of the legislation be requested by Victim Services on behalf of the Advisory Group.

A pilot to implement positive re-entry planning for "LONGTIMERS" began with multidisciplinary team meetings regarding the release next year of two prisoners who have been incarcerated since 1976 and 1988 respectively. The plans include a five week intensive substance abuse program at a county jail for one and the beginning of exposure to the community and the obtaining of a driver's license for the other. The ultimate goal for both is to begin with community work release jobs to earn enough money to obtain an apartment of their own. They will then be eligible to be placed on supervised community confinement for a number of months to allow their return to the community to be a supervised one, rather than out the gate with no supervision. The multidisciplinary teams include facility caseworkers and supervisors, probation officers and supervisors as well as Victim Services and others as identified on a case by case basis. The teams will meet to follow up at each phase of the re-entry planning. The goal is for the offender to be successful upon release and for victims and the community to be safer and to believe they are safer upon the release.

The Department of Corrections Victim Advisory Group met on Monday June 6 to discuss changes to the inmate phone system. Chris Oberg IT Program Specialist explained that the change would delete the restriction of 20 permitted phone numbers on a prisoners phone list and allow unlimited access to call phone numbers. The ability to block phone numbers will still be available and is most frequently used by Victim Services for the benefit of victims of crimes and citizens who are being harassed by inmate calls. Although members were initially very concerned as Chris explained the process of verification of the 20 permitted numbers is not actually occurring now due to resources and the prisoners have the ability to change the numbers anytime and frequently do. The Victim Advisory Group agreed that if there is an increase in the number of complaints from victims or others due to harassing phone calls they will request a review of the change.

The Department of Corrections Victim Services staff participated in the accelerated course in Victim Advocacy at the University of Southern Maine’s summer Social Worker program. Mary Farrar participated in the panel presentation on the differing roles of Victim Advocates in the Criminal Justice system and the community based agencies. She also presented the Homicide/OUI Manslaughter module. Denise Giles presented the module on Post Conviction Victim Services. The Department of Corrections Victim Services has participated in this University of Southern Maine summer course for the past four years.

The Department of Corrections Victim Services and Juvenile Services conducted a facilitator training for community conferencing at the Old Orchard Police Department on June 29. Twenty-one people attended from the Town of Old Orchard, Youth Alternatives, and Learning Works. Community conferencing is a response to a juvenile offender that brings the juvenile together with the victim and the community in a facilitated meeting. The goal of the meeting is to focus on the harm done to the victim and the community and discuss with the juvenile what needs to be done to repair the harm. Community conferencing is a restorative justice practice that emphasizes victim participation.

The Office of Victim Services is interested in whether victims feel informed, use the Office of Victim Services as an information resource and believe the information provided to be satisfactory. A survey was first conducted in 1998 with victims whose offenders were released during the previous fiscal year. The survey is administered annually through a written instrument. Although not a statistically valid sample, it provides an indicator of performance. 2011 marks our fourteenth survey, which was sent out on July 1.
Cynthia Brann, Associate Commissioner of Adult Community Corrections

Cynthia Brann, began her career in law enforcement as a police officer in 1980 and graduating from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in 1981. She came to Department of Corrections in 1989 and has held the positions of Probation Officer, Juvenile Community Corrections Officer, Resource Coordinator, and Regional Correctional Administrator. She has an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's degree in the Administration of Justice.

Cynthia currently oversee Bolduc Correctional Facility, Charleston Correctional Facility, Central Maine Pre-Release Center, the Women's Reentry Center, Adult Community Corrections, Classification and Statewide Training.

Jody L. Breton, Associate Commissioner of Legislative and Policy Services

Jody L. Breton is a Certified Government Financial Manager, CGFM. Jody came back to Corrections after a six year leave. Many of you remember her from the decade she spent before as our finance director then service center director. While she was gone, she was the Natural Service Center Director then took on the Transportation Service Center before being deployed to the Department of Health & Human Services as their service center director. Jody then went on to be the Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Protection before returning to the Department of Corrections.

Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision Appointed

Congratulations goes to the Director of Classification, Scott McCaffery as he has been appointed, by Governor Paul R. LePage, to the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision.

The mission of Interstate Commission is, The Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision will guide the transfer of offenders in a manner that promotes effective supervision strategies consistent with public safety, offender accountability, and victim's rights.

For Your Information

Where Do “Domestic Violence” Statistics Come From and Why Do They Vary So Much?

Domestic violence advocates and family violence researchers often appear to contradict each other when they describe and report on the extent and nature of intimate partner violence. Although the term “domestic violence” has a very clear specific meaning to advocates working in the domestic violence field, it is used in other ways in other contexts to cover many different types of couple conflict. This paper helps to clarify some of the misunderstandings, errors, and apparent contradictions that derive in part from these differences in language use, in part from not understanding where the statistics come from, and what the strengths and limitations of the data are, and in part from wrongly treating "domestic violence" as a single phenomenon. For more information concerning this topic visit http://nicic.gov/Library/025110
Maine Correctional Institution - Warren

The photo in this article shows the construction of the main entrance of the Maine Correctional Institution (MCI) in Warren, Maine. The photo was taken on May 3, 1991. MCI was established by a 1986 Bond Issue, as a 100-bed maximum-security facility. The facility began receiving prisoners October 19, 1992. Prisoners housed at the MCI-Warren were required to meet established classification and placement criteria. The facility was designed to house Maine’s most dangerous criminals. At that time, the Maine State Prison segregation unit was also located at MCI-Warren. The entire MCI facility was incorporated into the new Maine State Prison complex that was built in 2002. Nelson Riley (See front cover of the March – April issue of the DOC TALK) was the Correctional Administrator of the MCI throughout its existence.

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. Once the photographs are published they will certainly be returned to the sender.

Did You Know?

Voting Behind Bars: An Argument for Voting by Prisoners
by Mqarc Mauer

Maine is one of only two States in the U.S. that allows inmates to vote – Read on....

Felony disenfranchisement laws are established by the states, each with its own determination of circumstances under which people with felony convictions lose their right to vote. As of 2010, incarcerated felons in forty-eight states (all but Maine and Vermont) and the District of Columbia are ineligible to vote; in thirty-five of these states, persons on probation and/or parole are also ineligible, and in twelve states even people who have completed their felony sentence may be ineligible to vote and are subject to lifetime disenfranchisement in four of those states. In the four most restrictive states— Iowa, Florida, Kentucky, and Virginia—all persons with a felony conviction permanently lose their voting rights, even if they never spend a day in prison. The only means by which their rights can be restored is through a pardon from the governor, a process which has generally been little known and cumbersome, and benefits only a relative handful of disenfranchised persons. For more information concerning this topic visit http://nicic.gov/Library/025113
Maine State Prison Conducts a Shakedown

The Maine State Prison was put on lock down status on Tuesday, July 12, at 0400 hours to conduct a semi-annual search (Shakedown) of the entire MSP complex and inmates. The shakedown was completed by Thursday evening, July 14, thanks to the tireless efforts of staff, at which time MSP returned to normal operations. This operation was being conducted as a joint operation between Central Office, Maine State Police k-9 Unit, Maine State Prison, Bolduc Correctional Facility, and the Maine State Prison’s and Maine Correctional Center’s CERT teams.

Simultaneous with this search, three training sessions were being conducted surrounding communication with prisoners and strategies to enhance working with prisoners. This training kicks off the continuing efforts at educating our staff in improving the way we communicate and interact with prisoners.

To say all hands were on deck is a cliché but only begins to illuminate the teamwork effort that was going on in every area of this facility from the kitchen, to the laundry, to the housing units, to the command post. Figuratively speaking—all shirt colors were the same as the work was being done by all. This effort was a success. Many key staff could be named but it was the effort of all that ultimately got it done.

Much excess property was removed as well as other contraband items. The many piles of confiscated property could be viewed either in the warehouse or the property room. The true success of this operation can best be retold to you through the hands on information gained by the staff that worked at this facility for the past three days.

Special Thanks to the CERT Teams from both facilities. Your professionalism was exemplary.

Thank You and Kudos to all!

CERT Team

The first round of CERT team physical fitness testing was held today. Participants included: CERT Team Commander Clevette, Captain Drake, Sergeant Doyle, Sergeant Stewart, Officer Ames, Officer Baker, Officer Benner, Officer Sleaster, Officer Sylvester, Officer Keach, Officer Davidson, Officer Staples, Officer King. High score out of 13 participants was earned by Officer Staples. Testing consists of push ups, sit ups, bench press, pull ups, 1 mile run, standing broad jump, running broad jump, and squat thrusts. These staff are to be commended for the extra effort they put in and dedication to the job. Congratulations to all CERT team members who participated. Looking forward to the next round of testing in July. Thanks to those who were able to come out and cheer on the participants. Great job team!!

Invocation at the Maine Legislature Given

Chaplain Walter Foster, Maine State Prison and Bolduc Correctional Facility received a thank you letter from Joseph Carleton Jr., Secretary on the Maine Senate. Chaplain Foster recently visited the Senate and offered the invocation on June 6, 2011.

Since the original convention on the Maine Legislature in 1820, local clergy have player an integral role in the legislative process by offering a blessing to both the house and the senate. Chaplain Foster felt privileged and honored to take part in the session and plans to return again whenever called upon to do so.

In part, the opening prayer asked the Lord to come upon the Senate as they deliberate and decide what is best for the people. Ask the Lord’s hand to guide each of them, in all that you do for Him and the State of Maine. That same gratitude and thanksgiving, that we thank Him for, may be returned to the citizen of our State, in all your deliberations and in your decision making…. 
Make A Wish Playhouse
by Bob Walden

The Maine State Prison Industries Program began a special project in April to build a whimsical playhouse to be raffled off state-wide in benefit of the Make A Wish Foundation of Maine. The playhouse was completed in mid-July and is temporarily on display in front on the prison lobby entrance but will soon be moving to the Prison Showroom when the raffle officially gets underway for at least a few weeks in August before it moves on to other sites around the state.

The playhouse features a solar panel for the porch lighting, 110 volt power plug in for interior lighting, 2 outlets, and has been insulated for 3 seasons.

The average wish granted in Maine costs approximately $6,000 and with the Make A Wish foundation promoting the auction at all of their upcoming scheduled events our goal is that they can raise enough from this raffle to be able to grant 3 or more wishes.

One of Our Own is a Published Author

Kurt Dyer, Jr. is the author of this captivating series, among a few others to his credit. Kurt has worked at the Maine State Prison in the capacities of Correctional Officer, Cook, and now as a Correctional Care and Treatment Worker. All of his books can be purchased online. He also has his own web site to where readers can read summaries of each of the books he currently has published along with information and links in order to purchase copies.

His web page is www.maineauthorkurtdyerjr.com.
The Substance Abuse Department at the Bolduc Correctional Facility is a two-man (one licensed counselor, one inmate clerk) operation serving the facility with a variety of programs. Rick Horton, Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC), has been with the Department of Corrections for almost fourteen years, coming to the position from a background of teaching, counseling, training forensic professionals in the handling of violent behavior and its potential, and other related and non-related experience. With a Masters Degree in Counseling, he is suited to the position of working with the wide variety of personalities the prison population provides.

The Substance Abuse Department offers as divers a program as possible with only one counselor, covering as much of the spectrum of usage-levels as possible. The initial program is a mandatory one for all new inmates: called Bottom Line, it introduces men to the programs available at BCF, including educational and vocational, and challenges them to use their time incarcerated to look at their lives on the outside and see how they'd like to re-enter society.

Paul Quijano, veteran substance abuse counselor from Maine State Prison, comes down on Thursday evenings to run Film and Discussion, showing recovery-related videos followed by discussions of each film. This is particularly valuable for men who work in the community during the day and thus have limited access to daytime programs.

Drop-In group is simply that – a once-weekly group which provides a time for men to discuss whatever issues they may bring to the session. It’s open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Return to Self, phase one of A Journey Toward Recovery, is a twelve-session program which begins the exploration of the sources of behaviors and decision-making habits which led to incarceration, and how to begin to change for the better. Its topics include Boundaries, Shame, Spirituality, Assertiveness, Decision-Making, and other relapse-prevention issues and depends on cognitive-behavioral techniques.

Focus on Change is the second phase of Journey, developed thirteen years ago at the request of the first class to complete Return to Self. It goes into further detail of topics covered in Return but depends much more on input from participants. Where Return may be mandated, Focus is strictly voluntary; like Return, Film and Discussion, and Bottom Line, it is a certificate program.

Moving Forward, the third phase of the Journey, is a voluntary, open-ended program developed for those men nearing the end of their sentences who want to continue in the recovery process, may be getting nervous about getting out, or have arrived to the facility with too little time to enter other formal programs. This program is facilitated by participants; Rick sits in as a member, but also as the counselor, adding information when needed. This is not a certificate program; thus, participants join because they're serious about what happens during the sessions.

Like other facilities throughout the State, Bolduc also offers the DSAT Program (Differential Substance Abuse Treatment), aiming treatment at the appropriate levels of use of its participants. At BCF, the highest two levels of usage are addressed, offering the program to the top fifteenth percentile of risk usage. This is a best-practices program offering an intensive opportunity for participants.
The Journey Toward Recovery Program utilizes a tool unique to this facility. Twelve years ago, Rick invented a game, *Con Game™*, which uses role-play to explore attitudes, values, and behaviors around substance use and criminality. It proved to be so successful that another edition was formed, *Men’s Group*, now used in Phase two and three of Journey. Originally designed to add discussion topics to groups, it turns out to be a success in breaking down boundaries and allowing growth in an increasingly safe recovery environment.

Bolduc’s Substance Abuse Department and its programs are just a small part in the mission to protect Society while providing opportunity for men to rehabilitate themselves and prepare once again for life on the streets.

**New Employee at Bolduc**

*Margaret Morin* is our newest employee here at Bolduc. Margaret has worked for Corrections for 13 years and is now half time at Bolduc and half at Maine State Prison. Her position here is as Unit Clerk and Deputy Warden’s clerk. We are all pleased to have her down here helping us out.

**Restitution Crews**

Bolduc Correctional Facility Community Service hours for the months of May and June total 6,294.25 hours

**New Hires for Maine State Prison/Bolduc Correctional Facility**


This graduation class was named after the late *Deputy Warden Nelson Riley* and keynote speaker was *Unit Manager Russell Worcester*.

**Retired from Maine State Prison/Bolduc Correctional Facility**

On May 31st, Correctional Care and Treatment Worker *Ron Hastings* retired after 38 years and 11 months of service. See March April DOCTalk for the article on Ron’s retirement.

On June 30th the following retired:

- Food Services Manager *Spencer Smith* retired after 16 years of service.
- Captain *Robert Pease* retired after 28 years and 9 months of service.
- Correctional Officer *Lee Poland* took a Disability Retirement after 7 years and 3 months of service

Thank you for your dedicated service to the Department of Corrections.
Palmyra Man Pulls Woman from Burning Vehicle

The hero featured in this article below is Captain Chad Curtis of the Charleston Correctional Facility. This incident occurred on his way to work. Please thank Chad for his courage and representing this Department in such a profound way. We have all witnessed exceptional behavior from our staff, both on and off duty, and that is what makes this Department and its staff truly special. Thank you to everyone who goes above and beyond the call and places themselves in harms way so that others will be safe, we should all be very proud of the organization we work for and the people we call our friends and coworkers.

Nice work Chad we are all very proud!
Director Jeff Morin

Palmyra man pulls woman from burning vehicle

By Christopher Cousins, Bangor Daily News Staff
Posted July 07, 2011, at 2:38 p.m.

PALMYRA, Maine — A Palmyra man saved a woman’s life when he pulled her badly injured body from her burning car Thursday morning after she lost control and hit a tree, according to police.

Laura Morgan of Hartland was recovering at Eastern Maine Medical Center on Thursday, according to Somerset County Sheriff’s Deputy Don Avery, but the outcome could have been much worse if not for the heroics of Chad Curtis of Palmyra, who cut Morgan’s seat belt and pulled her away from the fire.

“If he hadn’t cut her out, she would have died,” said Avery. “She would have burned up in the vehicle.”

Curtis said he arrived at his parents’ home at 84 Estes Ave. in Palmyra at about 6:30 a.m. to drop his son off for a day of fishing with the boy’s grandfather. The house was dark when Curtis arrived and his father, Norman Curtis, told him he’d just heard a pop and that the electricity went out.

“I could hear gasping and gurgling,” said Curtis. “It was a pretty bad sound.”

He found Morgan hanging out the driver’s side door against her seat belt, which was making it hard for her to breathe. There was smoke coming from the ruined front of the car, but no flames yet. Curtis unfastened the lower portion of the seat belt, but the upper portion, which operates separately from the lower belt, was still tangled around Morgan.

“She was in and out of consciousness,” he said. “I was focusing on trying to support her head and neck and talking with her. Then flames started bursting out of the hood.”

By that time, which was only a minute or two from when Curtis first reached the car, others had gathered on the road some 20 feet above the wreck. Curtis said someone — he doesn’t remember who — threw him a knife, which he used to cut the upper seat belt. He pulled Morgan from the car, which is when he saw her terribly injured legs.

“I knew it was bad and that she was in a lot of pain from being moved, but I knew that was the lesser of the two evils,” he said. Curtis lowered Morgan from the burning car and dragged her about 75 feet away. Others jumped in to help move Morgan, cover her with a blanket and comfort her until an ambulance arrived. Within a couple of minutes the car was engulfed in flames.

“I’ve never been around a vehicle that got engulfed that quickly,” Curtis said. “I’ll be thinking about that for a long time.”

Because of the extent of Morgan’s injuries, a LifeFlight helicopter flew her to Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor. Deputy Avery said Morgan’s tire tracks indicate that she drifted left across the oncoming lane and went off the road more than 300 feet before her car reached the tree. There was no evidence that Morgan touched either her brake or accelerator.

“At this point it’s unknown if she had a medical issue or if there was some other cause,” said Avery. “Alcohol, drugs and speed were not factors.” Avery said Morgan was in stable condition early Thursday afternoon.

An ambulance from Sebasticook Valley Hospital in Pittsfield and a crew from the Hartland Volunteer Fire Department responded to the scene. Central Maine Power restored electricity in the area, which was cut when Morgan’s car struck an anchor wire on a telephone pole.

Curtis, 35, a former policeman in Pittsfield who has worked for the Department of Corrections for the past 10 years, said he doesn’t see himself as a hero even though this wasn’t the first time he’s stood between life and death for someone.

“When it’s going on you’re not looking at that,” he said. “You’re just being human. You’re doing what the next guy would do.”
Curtis said he was grateful to the Department of Corrections, which put him through first-responder emergency medical training. “I’m very glad to have had that training, especially today,” he said Thursday afternoon. “I just hope she’s all right. That’s all I can think about right now.”

Central Maine Pre-Release Center

Classes/Programs at CMPRC

In cooperation with Augusta Adult probation and parole, Central Maine Pre-Release Center offered 2 new courses in June. Introduction to Computers was presented to ten men, 5 from the facility and 5 from probation. There they learned about the basics of using both a computer and the internet to search for work during four 2 hour classes with instructor Tim Nevins.

Financial Literacy was presented by Pam Crate from Finance Authority of Maine. She went over topics such as saving money, budgeting, and handling credit. The class was well attended, and all participants stated it was a valuable course.

Another successful collaboration was the graduation of the first DOC inmate from Kennebec County Jail’s Kennebec Criminogenic Addiction Recovery Academy (CARA). This five week intensive addictions program is designed to help the participants recognize and avoid pathways to crime and early risk factors while promoting attitudes and relationships to help break the criminal cycle.

The garden at Central Maine Pre Release is already producing fresh vegetables. The inmates in charge of weeding and watering daily have already harvested 4.5 pounds of fresh radishes, with cucumbers and squash soon to follow!

Retirement

After 31 years of serving the State of Maine, we are somewhat conflicted to announce the impending retirement of Sergeant Cliff Blakeslee. Conflicted in the sense that the facility and the Department will unfortunately be losing a very valuable member of our extended family; yet happy in the knowledge that he will now have many more years ahead to enjoy spending quality time with his family. Sergeant Blakeslee was hired as a corrections officer at the Maine State Prison in June of 1980, where he remained for approximately 4 years. He then transferred to CMPRC at that time and was later promoted to Sergeant in 1987. Sergeant Blakeslee has performed various duties while at the facility including but not limited to: supervisor, classification officer, grievance officer, community programs, furlough coordinator, and acting Director to name but a few. Unless we can talk him out of leaving, he plans to retire on September 1, 2011. Sergeant Blakeslee's wealth of institutional knowledge and experience will be sorely missed and his replacement will have some mighty big shoes to fill. Good luck Sergeant Blakeslee, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication both to the department and this facility over these past three decades. We hope you enjoy at least as many years of a blessed and healthy retirement.

A Passing

It is also with great sadness that we recognize the passing of a valued former member of our Transitional Recovery Academy (TRA) program, Curtis Belton. Curtis worked for Spectrum Health Systems as a supervisor for 7 years before retiring in February 2011 at the age of 66. He had recently returned to work at the facility for a short period of time to assist his former coworker's while a TRA substance abuse counselor was out on medical leave. During his short retirement Curtis was able to do a bit of traveling, visit with friends and family, and even make a few stops back to CMPRC for coffee and to catch up with the staff. Curtis will be remembered for his humor, intelligence, compassion, and his ability to cut to the chase on a variety of issues. He believed in the Correctional Recovery Academy/ Transitional Recovery Academy (CRA/TRA) program and more importantly he also believed that with the appropriate blend of treatment, guidance, and mentoring some of our residents could actually change their behavior. Curtis leaves behind his wife Karen, his children and grandchildren.
The Maine Correctional Center Says Good By to Three Valued Employees:

Robert Bachelder see front cover.

Dave Laframboise retired July 1st. Dave was originally hired in 1992 as an Officer at Maine State Prison. He transferred to Maine Correctional Center in 1994 and was laid off in December 1995. Dave rejoined Maine Correction Center in 1998 after working at Cumberland County Jail during the layoff period. Dave has worked on the line, as the commissary officer, as a recreation officer, and as a member of the CERT Team. Not only did Dave perform as a dedicated employee to the Maine Correctional Center, but previously retired from the United States Navy. Dave, a dedicated family man and will be spending time with his wife and family. Our best to Dave!

Christine Kelley retires after 29 years at Maine Correctional Center. Stating in October 1982, Chris worked as a Correctional Officer, a Correctional Sergeant, and Correctional Captain and in 2000 was appointed as the first Unit Manager at Maine Correctional Center. She faced an uphill task in that she would be in charge of the Women’s Unit and programs. Chris toured other women’s correctional facilities around the country. Chris and her team developed a program and model that has become known throughout the nation and visited several times by administrators from other states and the National Institute of Corrections. Chris was also instrumental in helping get the Women’s Program at the Women’s Reentry Center, in Bangor, off the ground just a few years ago. Chris will be joining Bob in retirement traveling and taking care of the horses.

Welcome Aboard

Maine Correctional Center welcomes its new class of Correctional Officers: John Frenette, Christopher Britting, Anthony Vance, Stefan Black, Carol Cleveland, Kelly Lavigne, James Shanks, Michael Hussey, Kevin Curtis, and Elsie Martinolich.

Serving the Community:

Corrections Officer Curtis Brooks is a firefighter with the Town of Jay. Curtis recently organized an unexpected, out of classroom lesson in early June for students at Jay High School. Local emergency first responders, police, and some of the Jay High School students staged an elaborate mock accident. The event was planned to coincide with Jay’s graduation and the celebrations that sometime accompany the event. The event was a head on car collision involving six students. Hopefully the students would have something to think about before they graduated. Following the event a ‘debriefing’ was held in the cafeteria where students were presented information relating to the dangers of drinking and driving. Officer Brooks also gave students a glimpse into what jail and prison involved for those who were convicted on OUI. Good Job Curtis! (Based on a story in the Jay Daily Bulldog)
An Award Given

Probation Officer Jeff Furlong attended the International Fugitive Investigators Conference in Toronto, Canada, to receive an award for his investigation of fugitive Mike Beaulieu. Beaulieu’s arrest took place in New Brunswick, Canada in August 2010. Jeff was on a short list of recipients who were intricate in providing timely intelligence that was directly related to the fugitive’s arrest. The 13th annual conference was co-hosted by the Toronto Police Service and U.S. Marshals, and took place June 7 – 9, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Toronto. The U.S. Marshals Service honored Jeff and the other investigators on the evening of June 9th at the event’s banquet dinner. The United States Marshall Service paid for Jeff to travel to Toronto to receive his award.

Commissioner Ponte met with Officer Furlong to congratulate him on his award and thank him for his outstanding service.

Personnel

April Gross will be retiring at the end of June after more than 10 years of State service. April began her career at Downeast Correctional Facility in 2001 as a Correctional Cook/Officer and was promoted to Correctional Cook Supervisor in 2002. April was a reliable and dedicated employee. She worked within her capacity under both budgetary and dietician restrictions and requirements to maintain food costs without jeopardizing the quality and nutritional value of the meals. We wish her the best in all of her new adventure.

Downeast Correctional Facility welcomes our newest correctional officer::

Carl Nelson 06/20/2011

Region 2, Adult Community Corrections

The Community Restitution Crews have been very busy this spring. Work continues to progress on the Holmes Bay Community Church remodeling project. Mowing continues for six local cemeteries and signs are under construction for local municipalities.

The welding program under Craig Smith’s direction has been busy designing and fabricating aluminum water tanks for large and small application for Maine Forestry. Craig and his crew designed, built, and installed aluminum tanks for a Humvee and the J-5 Bombardier track vehicle. The crew also built a trailer for Maine Forestry’s all-terrain vehicle. See photo of trailer being transported by Forestry’s helicopter.

Congratulations to the Moose permit/sub permittee winners from DCF.
OUTDOOR TRACK TEAM

We had our first outdoor track team in over 25 years participating in the Maine Principal’s Association (MPA). We had a huge interest with 26 students wanting to participate on the team. Only those eligible for off grounds privileges were able to travel to the meets. We had 7 meets this season, which is the average for any high school. We had 5 boys and 1 girl qualify to complete the season. We qualified for the State Track Meet in the Boys Discus, Boys 400 meter dash, and the Boys 4x100 meter relay. The team traveled to the State Meet on June 4th, which was held in Bath. It was a great experience for them. An awards banquet took place in July for the athletes and their families. The BEARS were coached by our science teacher April Berry, Juvenile Programs Supervisor David Grant, and Juvenile Program Worker Justin Madore. They did a wonderful job supporting the kids in achieving their goals.

ULTIMATE LEAGUE TEAM

Long Creek/AR Gould School competed in the Maine High School Ultimate League this spring. This sport is unique and is perfect for our population. There are no referees. Rule infractions are discussed and resolved by the players on the field. Disagreements are solved by appropriate communication and coming to a mutual agreement. It is a custom for each team to come up with a “cheer” for the opposing team following the games. It is also common practice for players to acknowledge opposing players and teams for something well done. It is all called “The Spirit of the Game”. It was nice to see our players show these skills.

We had 27 students interested in this program. The season consisted of daily practices during the week, some scrimmages on the weekends, and league games at the Cumberland Fair Grounds. The BEARS had a 7 game schedule against other high school club teams. This league gained local news coverage as a possible future MPA sanctioned sport since there are over 17 schools participating. Cedar Program Manager, Scott Janosik, coached the team. He was a member of the Portland Red Tide Ultimate team and loves to play. He can often be seen “laying out” for discs and showing how intense the game can be. He does a great job with the kids on and off the field.

UP & RUNNING

The “Up & Running” program has started for the summer. This is a running group where students set short and long term goals and work towards them each session. This group runs at least 3 times a week. Students learn about all the benefits this lifelong leisure activity has on mental and physical health. Over 40 students have asked to sign up for the program. It is a goal of the program to get back into the community races for eligible students and participate in the Beach to Beacon 10k race as we have done in years past. This year, Day One has sponsored a program in which for every $500 donated, a resident at Long Creek will be able to enter the highly regarded Beach to Beacon 10k race in August. Our goal is to get at least 4 eligible students to this years race.
The Four week Summer Basketball Camp finished up in early July. We started with 56 students joining the camp. We had 42 students complete the program. The program is highly regarded by students and staff at Long Creek. It gives students of all ability level the chance to see success by acquiring stars in various areas. These stars are tallied at the end of each day. If students work hard and acquire enough stars, they can make the All Star team. This camp is comparable to public camps in Maine with top notch coaches and skills being taught. The camp ended with an awards ceremony to recognize all the students for their participation and special acknowledgements. We had an All Star game and a game between Long Creek Staff and the All Stars.

This camp could not be done without the hard work and dedication of Juvenile Program Supervisor David Grant (Camp Coach), Juvenile Program Supervisor Tom Profenno (Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach and Camp Coach), and Juvenile Program Worker Chad Sturgis (Head Varsity Basketball Head Coach, Camp Creator, and Camp Coach). These guys are amazing basketball players, coaches, and role models. Long Creek is lucky to have them to share their interest and knowledge.

I would like to say a special thanks to the Friends of Long Creek and the individual volunteers who have made these programs possible with their support.
Successful Collaboration

Mountain View Youth Development Center and Inland Fish and Wildlife Team Up for Education.

Fisheries Biologist Brian Campbell and Science Teacher Larry Casey co-taught a field science lesson at the pond adjacent to the MVYDC facility in Charleston. The lesson included: seining (a way of catching trout in a net) from a canoe, using the tools of a Biologist to test water, and dissecting several great northern pike specimens (an invasive species removed from an area pond). Campbell said," I want to make a difference".

Casey said the success of the lesson was evident in the faces of his students. DOC security officers Paul Moulton, Terry Gaudet, and John Lilly used their cold water rescue training to assist students using canoes in the netting operation. All of Casey’s science classes participated in the day long event. The event had facility wide implications and therefore illustrated the ability of the MVYDC staff to work as a team to produce exceptional learning opportunities for science students.

The willingness of Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife to use their expertise to motivate and engage students to learn science concepts was much appreciated. The pond was recently stocked with trout. It is hoped that more cooperative activities can be done in the future.

Another Collaboration that Works!

Mountain View Youth Development Center and Jobs for Maine’s Graduates Team Up for Summer Training Programs at United Technologies Center

Pat Gillis, JMG Program Manager at MVYD

Electrical Wiring

What’s one of the best ways to promote a successful transition from incarceration to community? The answer is simple, provide job training for inmates. This is what’s being done this summer in the first ever career and technical training program for Mountain View Youth Development Center residents. Through a Carl Perkins Educational Grant, the Mountain View Education Department, and Jobs for Maine’s Graduates program are offering Basic Structural Welding and Basic Electrical Wiring courses to selected residents. United Technologies Center (UTC), Maine’s vocational high school in Region IV, has graciously offered its shop space, equipment, and instructors for this “first of its kind” training program for incarcerated youth. Cheryl Quinn, Principal at MVYDC, says “This is huge for us. This program gives residents a chance to learn skills in the trades where they may one day make their livings.” Pat Gillis, Program Manager for JMG, agrees, “Career and Technical
Education (CTE) exploration like this is critical for youth who are just starting out – they need to experience these opportunities before they leave the Center so they are capable of making more informed decisions about their futures. This can change lives."

Welding

In a pilot program at United Technologies Center this spring, two Mountain View Youth Development Center residents, pictured above, participated in a Basic Structural Welding I course. This program, also funded by the Carl Perkins Grant, paved the way for the larger, more comprehensive vocational training being offered this summer at UTC where residents are participating in Welding and Electrical courses. Upon successful completion of the courses students will earn high school credit and receive a certificate to add to their educational and/or employment portfolios.

The two residents who were responsible for kicking off this new training program at UTC wanted to give something back to MVYDC. They decided to design and construct a welding project they could donate to the Center. The photo on the right shows that completed project, a plant stand made out of sheet metal and steel rods with some personal design touches added. Superintendent Eric Hansen and Principal Cheryl Quinn accepted the gift from the residents. The stand is now on display in the lobby of the Youth Center.

Mountain View Youth Development Center and Charleston Correctional Facility

The National Employee Health and Fitness Walk was held on May 18, 2011, jointly by MVYDC and CCF. The event was held to help support physical and mental well being for our employees. More employees registered than actually entered, but, despite the rainy weather we had fifty-eight staff members, the largest number of walkers for any site in the state, completed the walk. T-shirts were given to all who participated. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience and there was much discussion about hosting the walk again next year.

Thank you to Tiz Beaulieu, Tammy Cooper and Judy Horton for organizing this event. We definitely look forward to it next year!
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Region 1, Adult

To show she cared, Probation and Parole Officer Tamson Ross participated in the Relay for Life in York County on Saturday June 11 and Sunday June 12. Tamson proudly wore a T-shirt as shown with the names of those she was honoring including survivors Carol Carlow, Susan (Mrs. Tom) McLeod and three other close friends who are currently waging their own personal battle against cancer at this time: Jackie Tierney, Ruth Donavan and Kevin Roirdan. It seemed so appropriate that the team’s name was “Breast Friends” and the enthusiasm exhibited by this group earned them the “Rising Star” award for their first time participation.

Cancer seems to touch the lives of all of us in one way or another, but the good news is that there are survivors who make it and live to be honored in an event such as this. Thank you, Tamson, for giving your support, time and energy to this most worthwhile cause.

Region 1, Juvenile

Amanda Woolford Juvenile Community Corrections Officer, in Region 1, nominated Paine “Max” Jennings for the 2011 Keeping Maine Children Connected Award. After the nomination process was completed Paine was selected to receive the award. Paine and Amanda attended the ceremony at the Blaine House.

Great Job to Paine and Amanda!

Paine Jennings, left and Amanda Woolford Juvenile Community Corrections Officer at Keeping Maine Children Connected Awards presentation
Months

5 Years
Norman Turner   Long Creek Youth Development Center
Jessica Kline   Maine Correctional Center
Walter Foster   Maine State Prison
William Van Orman   Maine State Prison
Dawn Dean   Maine Correctional Center

10 Years
Mary LaRoche   Maine Correctional Center
Kenneth Reed   Maine Correctional Center
Jason Mason   Downeast Correctional Facility
Carol Poulin   Maine State Prison
Douglas Boyd   Mountain View Youth Development Center
Diane Stults   Long Creek Youth Development Center
George Mele   Region 3 Adult Community Corrections
Pamela Jelley   Mountain View Youth Development Center
James Simeone   Maine State Prison
Jesse Davis   Downeast Correctional Facility
Tessa Mosher   Central Office
Scott Dugre   Maine Correctional Center
Rebecca Swendsen   Maine Correctional Center

15 Years
Patricia Mullen   Downeast Correctional Facility
Nicholas Forest   Maine State Prison
Kathryn McGloin   Central Office

20 Years
Paul Quijano   Maine State Prison

25 Years
Craig Smith   Downeast Correctional Facility
Paul Lech   Long Creek Youth Development Center
Susan Carr   Region 3 Juvenile Community Corrections
James Breckenridge   Mountain View Youth Development Center

30 Years
Christine Ross   Region 3 Juvenile Community Corrections

40 Years
Maurice Benner Jr.   Maine State Prison
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