



**A report by COMMISSIONER JOE SCHMIDT
Alaska Department of Corrections**

WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONER'S CORNER:

Thanks for continuing to check in with this column. If you have ideas, issues or suggestions from institutions or field offices for the Commissioner's Corner, please submit them to richard.schmitz@alaska.gov

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2010

HILAND MTN. GRADUATION CEREMONY SET FOR SEPT. 9: The first Alaska Native athlete to compete in the Olympics will be keynote speaker at the semi-annual Graduation Ceremony at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center at 11 am Sept. 9. Callan Chythlook-Sifsof grew up in rural Alaska, and in 2006 she earned a spot in the United States Snowboard Team. The ceremony is designed to recognize the accomplishments of inmates who have earned GED, Building Trades, College Prep and Career Readiness certificates.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PEEPLES TO STEP DOWN OCT. 1:

Deputy Commissioner Dwayne Peeples has informed me he will be leaving state service as of October 1. After 30 years of service to the State of Alaska, he is finally going to address all those chores around the house that have been waiting his attention. Dwayne brought extensive experience in state government when he joined our team in December, 2006. His expertise, dedication and work ethic has proven invaluable in advancing the construction of Goose Creek Correctional Center. Dwayne's attention to detail and skillful tact proved key to successfully presenting department budgets to legislative committees, while his background in healthcare management was put to daily use in overseeing the department's medical services. Until a replacement is selected, Dwayne's duties will be shared between Administrative Services Director Leslie Houston and Deputy Commissioner Sam Edwards.



MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2010

POINT MAC WORK CREWS PREP GIRL SCOUT CAMP FOR SEASON:

Community Work Service crews from Point Mac Correctional Farm took a key role in preparing the Girl Scouts' Camp Togowoods for the summer season. With just two weeks between the last snow melting and the start of the season, the work crews set up 35 wall tents with 140 cots, put in fire rings, cut trees and brush, cut firewood, connected the camp's water stations, built tent platforms and an outhouse, made and set up new signs and cleared a heli-pad to be used in case a medi-vac becomes necessary. The inmate roustabouts were led by maintenance foreman Brian Campbell, Correctional Officers Ken Crews, Bret Corkill and Tom English.



ABOVE: Maintenance Foreman Brian Campbell, right, supervises installation of trail signage directing campers to tent areas. ABOVE RIGHT: Campbell stands in front of one of the privies built by prisoner workers.

‘FRESH FROM THE FARM’ THEME OF POINT MAC OPEN HOUSE:

Just under 200 guests turned out for the annual picnic at Point Mac Correctional Farm. “The food theme was ‘fresh from the farm’ featuring produce and products grown or raised at Point Mac,” said Superintendent Amy Rabeau. The menu included homemade brauts, sausage, pulled pork, breads and salads. Guests included neighboring farmers, DOC staff, and staff from partnering agencies such as Food Bank of Alaska. Guests were given a tour of the farm including expanded greenhouses, animal pens and hay storage facilities.



2010 FARM PRODUCTION AT POINT MAC CORRECTIONAL FARM:

PLANTED FROM SEEDLINGS:

Broccoli – 90,350	Pumpkins – 90	Celery – 9050
Green Cabbage – 17,700	Red Cabbage – 8200	Lettuce – 52,000
Onions – 1350	Cauliflower – 12,650	Tomatoes – 4720
Hydroponic Tomatoes – 160	Cucumbers – 770	Yellow Squash – 13,410
Green Squash – 18,000		

SEEDED:

Turnips – 4 acres	Radishes – 3 acres	Potatoes – 40 acres
-------------------	--------------------	---------------------

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION:

Cattle – 31 head
Hogs – 85
Chickens – 450 (200 are producing eggs currently @ 5,300 per month)

SHARON FRASCATI ENDS 22 YEARS AT DOC:

Accepting a promotion at the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, long-time DOC procurement specialist Sharon Frascati was honored during her last day at the Anchorage Central Office. “Her extensive knowledge and helpful disposition will be greatly missed,” said coworker Linda Ess.



HILAND MOUNTAIN HANDS OFF SHA-REN TO WOUNDED SOLDIER:

Sha-Ren (pictured, right) became the third specially-trained service dog trained by volunteer staff and inmates at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center. In a ceremony led by Lt.

Governor Craig Campbell, Sha-Ren was given to PFC Landon Garrett, 19. Garrett arrived in Alaska in February and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment at Fort Richardson. On March 19 PFC Garrett sustained a neck injury while snowboarding, and was treated at Providence Alaska Medical Center. He is assigned to the A Company of the Warrior



Transition Unit at Fort Richardson. Garrett was selected as Sha-Ren’s recipient by rehabilitation specialists assigned to Landon’s unit. The service dog program is an ongoing collaboration between the department and the Mat-Su Borough animal care facility, which was represented at the ceremony by its Chief, Robert Haskell. Service dogs were selected from among the dogs brought to HMCC for more limited ‘basic training.’ The SPOT program has returned over 200 dogs to the shelter where they are readily adopted. Chief Haskell thanked the program for allowing the shelter to adopt a ‘no kill’ policy.