



# Commissioner's CORNER

"To Protect the Public by Incarcerating and Supervising Offenders"

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**A report by COMMISSIONER JOE SCHMIDT**  
**Alaska Department of Corrections**  
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## **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](mailto:richard.schmitz@alaska.gov)

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TOUR ANCHORAGE COMPLEX:**

A class from Mirror Lake Middle School taught by Todd Gillespie recently took part in a tour of the Anchorage Correctional Complex – an annual event. The tour was conducted by CO III Jimmie Bolgiano with help from acting



PO III Chris Lyou, who explained the court process. Bolgiano's tour included different levels of housing, from max to general population. Last on the agenda was a stop at the court room. "We watched four cases go before a judge. It was a real eye-opener for these kids. You could see it hit home for some of them."

## **PTO WHITWELL NAMED LT. OF THE TRANSPORT UNIT AT ACO:**

Joseph Whitwell has been appointed Lieutenant of the Prisoner Transportation Unit. Lt. Whitwell graduated the Transportation Officer Academy in 1991 and has been assigned to the Central unit since 2006. Lt Whitwell has worked with academy staff as a weapons instructor and has trained new PTOs. Lt. Whitwell will represent the department by managing and scheduling the transportation of offenders inside and outside of the state.

## **INMATE CREWS CLEAN ROADSIDES, TRAILS, CAMPGROUNDS:**

With troops deployed overseas, Fort Richardson was short on soldier volunteers needed for clean-up along the Glenn Highway, where it passes through the base. To help out, the department sent a Community Work Service crew from Palmer Correctional



Center to carry out the needed clean-up duties. “We have a long list of volunteers,” said Superintendent Cindy Betts. “The inmates on the crew are anxious to go out and lend a hand. They recognize the sacrifice made



by our troops, and they are glad to help out.”

Meanwhile, a CWS crew from Point Mac correctional farm provided the skill and labor needed to prepare Togowoods Girl Scout Camp for the summer season. Among the chores completed: setting up tents, chopping firewood, clearing brush, and constructing a

wood walkway. Lead officer was CO II Kenneth Crews. A separate crew, led by maintenance supervisor Dennis DeYoung did rehab work to some of the cabins, including electrical and dry wall replacement. The camp serves Girl Scouts from across Alaska, and opened June 1. In addition, a crew from Hiland Mountain continues its twice a month duties at the Mat-Su Animal shelter.

For the 5th year in a row, the Fairbanks EM Program signed-up with United Way to pick-up trash along the Chena Pump-Ridge circle as part of that city’s annual Clean-Up Day. EM IPOs Ron Winkelman and Michael Ward and 40 EM inmates completed their assigned area, as well as Geist Road, Davis Road, Wilbur Street, and the snow dump near the overpass on the Mitchell Expressway/Airport Road. On the Thursday and Friday preceding the official clean-up day, EM participants picked up trash along the Johansen Expressway, from University Ave to the Steese Highway. Their total efforts covered approximately 20 miles and resulted in 1,000 bags of trash. This project was in addition to the required trash pick-up 3 days each week, where needed, and other Community Work Service at Fairbanks community agencies.

**VICTIM SERVICES UNIT MARKS DECADE OF [VINE](#) WITH NEW PSAs:**

Three new public service announcements (PSAs) – one in Yupik – will be sent to Alaska radio and TV stations to promote VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday). Alaska VINE receives more than 400 new



registrations each month as Alaska continues to be one the top states in use of VINE with more than 10,000 telephone and email notifications annually. The PSAs, which will be distributed to TV and radio stations statewide, feature VINE user Cindy Cashen of Juneau and Commissioner Joe Schmidt. The Yupik spot was translated and spoken by Barbara Liu of Bethel. Photo: from left, David Grove, IT guru; Liu,

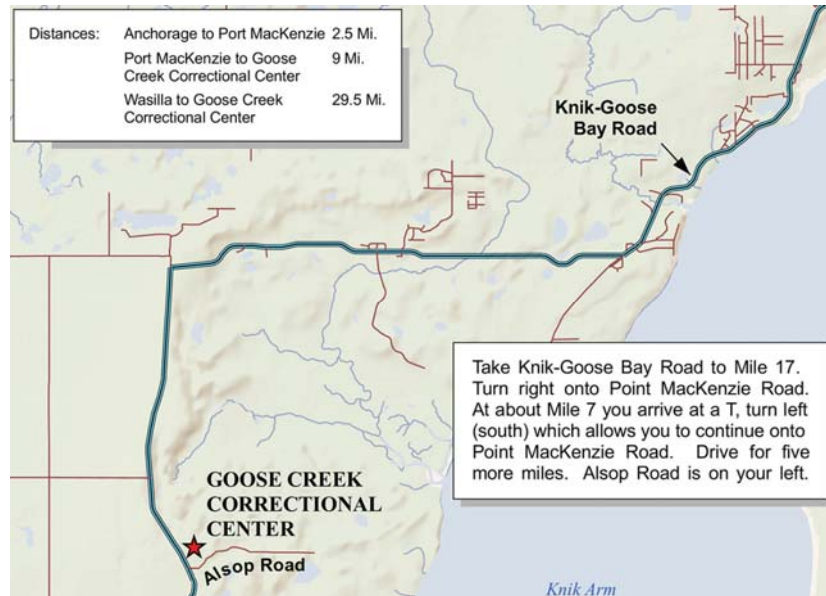
**DUNHAM NAMED SUPERINTENDENT AT ANVIL MOUNTAIN:**

Probation Supervisor Michael Dunham has been promoted to Superintendent at Anvil Mountain Correctional Center in Nome, beginning June 1. Dunham had previously served as Nome District probation supervisor. Dunham began his corrections career at Spring Creek Correctional Center in November 1995 as a Correctional Officer I/II. He transferred to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center in 1998. During his tenure at AMCC, he was promoted twice – in 2004 to Correctional Officer III, and in 2006 to Correctional Officer IV.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON GOOSE CREEK:**

### **GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY SET FOR JUNE 17 AT PRISON SITE:**

Governor Sarah Palin, Commissioner Joe Schmidt and the Mat-Su Borough acting Mayor will conduct the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Goose Creek Correctional Center at 3 pm, Wednesday, June 17 at the prison site, located at Point Mackenzie Road and Alsop Road – approx-



imately 29.5 miles from Wasilla. Department staff and their families are invited to attend. The crew at Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm are preparing a picnic lunch to serve at the event.

### **DOC TEAM PARTICIPATES IN KENAI PENINSULA RELAY FOR LIFE:**

A team from the Department of Corrections was one of 40 to participate in the annual Peninsula Relay for Life May 29-30 in Soldotna. This 20 hour walking event drew 20 current or retired staff members of



Wildwood Correctional Center, and raised over \$100,000 for the local chapter. Team Captain Shannon McCloud (above, with sign) said it was a well attended relay, and staff filled every hour slot available. One of the highlights is the luminaria ceremony, the entire track was filled with bags with names of those who are either fighting cancer or who have lost their battle. “The team at Wildwood has been in existence for at least

eight years now and every year brings something new. We hope to have another fine relay next year,” McCloud said. Also pictured: Jody Hatt, Steve Moffett, retired Kitchen Steward Hal Fimpel, James Milburn and PO Jim Johnson.

**MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL NAMED SCCC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:**



Dorothy Locke, termed “the bedrock of the medical department” by Superintendent Craig Turnbull, has been honored as Employee of the Year at Spring Creek Correctional Center in Seward. “She can always be counted on for quick accurate responses to any questions and works great with security staff in scheduling outside medical appointments for prisoners,” Turnbull said. “Dorothy is a very pleasant and warm person and creates a positive environment for everyone who has contact with her. She is just the all around great employee.” Photo: Locke, center, with Turnbull, right, and Commissioner Joe Schmidt, left.