



**JOE SCHMIDT**  
COMMISSIONER, DOC

# Commissioner's CORNER

"Enhancing the Safety of Our Communities, Providing Secure Confinement, Reformatory Programs, and a Process of Supervised Community Reintegration"



**A report by COMMISSIONER JOE SCHMIDT**  
**Alaska Department of Corrections**  
**June 30, 2008**

**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)

**DOC, CITY OF SEWARD SIGN MOU FOR SPRING CREEK EXPANSION:**

The Department of Corrections and the [City of Seward](#) have completed an agreement which will result in construction of a 144-bed medium security addition at Spring Creek Correctional Center. It is estimated that 15-20 new positions will be needed when the \$22 million unit opens in late 2010. Construction will begin in 2009.



*Commissioner Joe Schmidt, left, shakes hands with Seward Mayor Clark Corbridge after both signed the MOU on Spring Creek expansion. City Manager Phillip Oates, right, looks on. The MOU was signed at a regular meeting of the Seward City Council on June 23.*

## DESIGN-BUILD FINALISTS MEET FOR PRE-BID CONFERENCE:



Three finalists selected in the competition to become the design-build contractor for the new \$257.5 million prison at Point Mackenzie met on June 23 in Palmer in a key pre-bid conference. Commissioner Joe Schmidt (above, left), and Mat-Su Borough manager John Duffy greeted the engineers, architects and analysts at the Palmer Public Safety building. The three joint venture finalists are: [Neeser Construction](#); [Cornerstone/JE Dunn](#), and Hunt/[Lydig](#)/[Kiewit Pacific](#). Proposals from the finalists are due in September with the contract awarded in November. Following a bond sale in December, construction will begin in the spring of 2009. The project manager is [RISE Alaska](#).

## **INMATE WORKERS HELP CONSTRUCT TEMP HOUSING AT PALMER:**



Inmates at Palmer Correctional Center are practicing construction skills as they prepare for jobs on the outside. In the picture above, selected inmates are pouring concrete for the foundations of a trio of 20-bed temporary housing units at PCC. Upon completion this fall, the units will be used to help alleviate crowding at the Anchorage Correctional Complex and Mat-Su Pretrial.

### **15 DOC STAFF MEMBERS NOMINATED FOR DENALI AWARD:**

The Department of Corrections can proudly report 15 staff members received [Governor's Peak Performance Denali Award](#) nominations. These nominations were made by coworkers or supervisors. Nominees and category are as follows:

- Rebecca Brunger, Leadership
- Laura Lynk, Leadership
- Nancy Ogram, Customer Service
- Daniel Delapina, Customer Service
- Elaine Stiefel, Customer Service
- Cindy Peters, Amber Ingalls, Sharon McIntire, Marie McNamara and Thomas Sharkey, ACC Records, Customer Service Team Excellence
- Christopher McKenzie, Co-worker Recognition
- Patricia Johnson, Co-worker Recognition
- April Wilkerson, Co-worker Recognition
- Jonathan Palomo, Exceptional Performance Individual
- Lucy Matchett, Exceptional Performance Individual



### **SGT. NAMED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AT SPRING CREEK C.C.:**

Sgt. Bob Lockeby has been honored as Employee of the Year at Spring Creek Correctional Center. In a memo announcing the honor, Sgt. Lockeby was cited as “an example of what DOC desires in their leadership,” and for gaining the respect of peers. The memo concluded with commendation for displaying professionalism in “appearance and performance of duties.”



*Sgt. Bob Lockeby, center, with Commissioner Joe Schmidt, left, and SCCC Superintendent Craig Turnbull, right.*

**JCO ORGANIZES ‘BRING YOUR KIDS TO WORK DAY’ ACTIVITIES:**



*April 24<sup>th</sup> was ‘Bring Your Kids to Work Day.’ At the Juneau Central Office, staff marked the occasion with organized activities and a pot luck lunch. Some 13 staff youngsters took part. They are, from left: Brian, Joshua, Isabella, Johnathon (back), Kekoa (front), Erika (in green), Ethan, Mackenzie, Devyn, Christopher, Ashlyn, and Ian.*

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO LEAD 2008 SHARE CAMPAIGN:**

The Department of Corrections will lead the 2008 SHARE CAMPAIGN; Candace Strandberg will be the Department Coordinator. At the request of the commissioner, who is statewide SHARE

Coordinator, some changes are being implemented.

The 2008 campaign will be shorter, for example, wrapping up just before Thanksgiving. Look for updates in the next few months.



## SCHMIDT, EDWARDS MEET WITH BETHEL COMMUNITY LEADERS



The Department of Corrections has been pursuing a 68-bed expansion at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center. In April Commissioner Schmidt and Deputy Commissioner Edwards traveled to Bethel to make a presentation to the City Council, and to meet with YKCC Superintendent Chris Liu and his staff. While in Bethel, Schmidt and Edwards visited the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation and the Tundra Center halfway house, addressed the Chamber of Commerce and meet with reporters from KYUK radio and the Tundra Drums newspaper. No final decision on prison expansion at Bethel has been made; the commissioner expects to make a follow-up visit in the late summer or fall. **Above:** Commissioner Schmidt and YKCC Superintendent Liu stand at the KYUK radio studio entrance.