

A report by COMMISSIONER JOE SCHMIDT
Alaska Department of Corrections
July 13, 2007

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@correct.state.ak.us or call 465 4640.

GOVERNOR PALIN VISITS ANCHORAGE CENTRAL OFFICE:

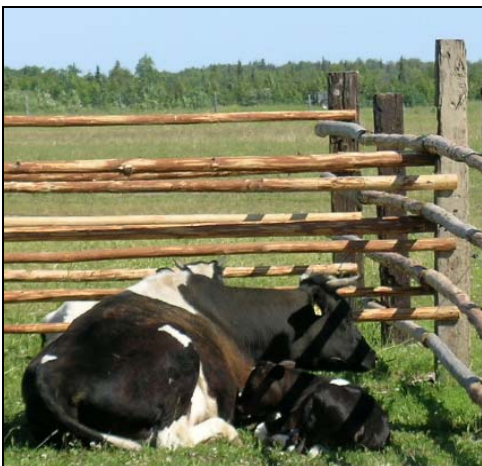


[Governor Sarah Palin](#) visited the Anchorage Central Office on May 29. The Governor met with Commissioner Schmidt, Deputy Commissioner Sam Edwards, and Directors Donna White and Garland Armstrong to discuss some ongoing issues. After the meeting, the Governor and spent some time visiting with staff members. Pictured above:



Governor Palin chats with the Commissioner and staff from the Inmate Medical Unit (L-R) Joyce DeGroot, Natasha Cruz, Ajolla Nwani and Shelly Roth. Right: The Commissioner and Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan monitor the grill at the annual Governor's Picnic in Fairbanks.

POINT MAC HOSTS NEIGHBORS, STAFF FOR ANNUAL BAR-B-Q:



More than a hundred neighbors, DOC staff and Mat-Su legislators visited Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm for its annual Bar-B-Q. Inmates prepared salads, baked beans and desserts and grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, beef short ribs, pork and chicken. Visitors toured the correctional farm's barns, greenhouses, gardens, corrals and food processing operations. In the fields, Mat-Su vintage tractor owners (photo above) put their restored farm equipment to the test as they prepared a large field for planting. (photo left: cow and her new calf rest in the farm's calf pen.)

HILAND MTN. CC INMATES 'QUILT FROM THE HEART':



Inmates at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center continue to give back to the community through the donation of hand-made quilts to [Project Linus](#), which provides blankets to accident and fire victims, and adults and children in need. Retired Superintendent Ole Larson (above right) is continuing his support of the positive efforts made by prisoners to give back to the community as part of their rehabilitative process. (Community volunteer David Johnston is on the left.) The HMCC Inmate Council has supported 'Quilters from the Heart' with donations exceeding \$1,900 in materials and notions. Several places in the last few days have benefited from their generous work with ten quilts going to the Linus Project and 12 to the Wasilla Red Cross. Eleven 'quillows' (photo, center) were donated to the Alaska State Troopers. (A 'quillow' is a quilt designed to fold up into an attached pouch in order to serve as a pillow.)



REP. ANDREA DOLL TOURS HILAND MOUNTAIN, PALMER CC:



L to R: RSAT counselor Sherry Bodin explains program aspects to Commissioner Schmidt, Sarah Williams and Rep Andrea Doll (D-Juneau). Rep. Doll spent a day touring Hiland Mountain and Palmer Correctional Centers.

24 GRADUATE FROM YOP PROGRAM AT SPRING CREEK: The Young Offenders Program at Spring Creek Correctional Center celebrated a record graduating class of 24 at a graduation ceremony on June 22. Previous classes have graduated an average of 10-12 inmates according to Principal Wayne Young. Keys to the program's success include building a team attitude and "developing a positive attitude toward the value of education," Young said. The YOP program is unique in that it provides a full high school diploma to graduates; staff are employed by the Kenai Peninsula School District. In the photo below, Principal Young addresses the graduates and their invited guests.

