

# DOCS



# TODAY

February 2003

New York State Department of Correctional Services

Vol. 12, No. 2

## Pataki offers bold vision to face challenges



Delivering his ninth State of the State address, Governor Pataki told New Yorkers last month that “We have already demonstrated our strength, our character and our courage in defiance of those who would rob us of our freedom. Now we must rally that same spirit against a crisis that threatens our prosperity.” Applauding during the speech are (from left) Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Lt. Gov. Mary Donohue, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno.

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Making time for sergeants



DOCS aids the needy

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**ON THE COVER:** The masthead brings DOCS|TODAY together with its past via "Copper John," the Colonial soldier who has stood watch atop the front gate of Auburn, the state's oldest prison, since 1821. The American flag was affixed to his bayonet in memory of those who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States. The flag itself was taken from a photograph of it flying above Ground Zero.

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# Pataki clemencies give 4 inmates ‘a second chance’

## *Include Rocky drug offenders, victim of domestic violence*

**G**overnor Pataki on Christmas Eve commuted the sentences of four state prison inmates.

“During the holiday season, we are reminded of the true meaning of compassion, particularly for individuals who take it upon themselves to improve their lives,” Governor Pataki said.

Since 1995, the Governor has commuted the sentences of 30 individuals, including these four. Each inmate granted clemency has excelled in educational, vocational or volunteer programs while in prison.

“These individuals have served long sentences and have used their prison time constructively, dedicating themselves to becoming contributing members of society,” Governor Pataki said. “While I remain firmly committed to continuing our successful efforts to fight crime, these individuals have worked hard to earn a second chance.”

They are not automatically released; rather, the Parole Board will consider them for parole release. Each may be returned to prison for violating the terms of their parole. The individuals whose sentences are being commuted are:

**Linda White**, 55, was sentenced in July 1990 in Queens County for the murder of her boyfriend. Her sentence was 17 years to life; her parole eligibility date is October 14, 2006. Although the jury rejected her claim of self defense, there was evidence – including a court-ordered order of protection against the victim – as well as testimony at trial to support her domestic abuse claims. In prison, Ms. White has had an unblemished disciplinary record, has participated in programs to combat violence and has testified before the Governor’s Commission on Domestic Violence Fatalities. She continues to work toward obtaining a GED, and has developed skills working as a porter, a children’s center aide and a clerk/typist. Before incarceration, Ms. White took care of her mentally retarded brother and has counseled inmates with learning disabilities while in prison.

“While the extent of domestic violence in this case remains in dispute, no degree of domestic violence can ever excuse killing another human being, and I do not question the jury’s verdict,” Governor Pataki said. “However, the extraordinary powers of clemency allow me to exercise compassion and recognize not only that domestic violence was a factor in this case but that Linda White has demonstrated a true commitment to rebuilding her life through her exemplary prison record.”

**Victor Vaughn**, 39, was sentenced on July 24, 1990 in Kings County for first-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, three counts of third-degree criminal sale of a controlled



**Governor George E. Pataki**

substance and third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. His sentence was 15 years to life; his parole eligibility date is March 4, 2004. Mr. Vaughn admits being a long-time drug abuser who started using cocaine while stationed in Korea for the US Army and takes full responsibility for his actions. Prior to his arrest, Mr. Vaughn had no criminal record. While in prison, Mr. Vaughn earned a GED, has maintained an excellent disciplinary record and has successfully participated in various substance abuse treatment programs including the veterans chemical dependency program – where he advanced to Program Aide II – and Narcotics Anonymous. Upon release from prison, Mr. Vaughn wants to be a substance abuse coun-

selor in his community. In prison, Mr. Vaughn developed skills working as a laundry operator, upholstery worker, industrial worker, typist and filer. Mr. Vaughn has served 13 years and nine months of his minimum sentence.

**Eric Marsh**, 46, was sentenced on February 4, 1992 in Nassau County for first-degree criminal sale of a controlled substance. His sentence was 15 years to life; his parole eligibility date is November 10, 2006. Prior to his arrest, Mr. Marsh had no prior criminal history. He has accepted responsibility for his conduct and has had an unblemished disciplinary record in prison. While in prison, Mr. Marsh earned a B.A. degree from Marist College while also making dean’s list. He also became a teacher’s aide in the prison’s pre-GED project and created a program to teach math to inmates. Mr. Marsh has received excellent evaluations in prison and has served 11 years and one month of his minimum sentence.

**Ernesto Melendez**, 48, was sentenced on December 13, 1989 in New York County for first-degree criminal sale and possession of a controlled substance, as well as second-degree conspiracy. His sentence was 20 years to life; his parole eligibility date is October 10, 2009. While in prison, Mr. Melendez earned a B.A. degree from Mercy College as well as an Associate’s Degree from Bronx Community College. Mr. Melendez also earned a Master’s degree from the New York Theological Seminary and generally maintained a 3.6 grade point average while pursuing this degree. While in prison, Mr. Melendez has developed skills working in carpentry, printing, masonry and computer repair. Mr. Melendez also pursued numerous volunteer activities, including working as a peer counselor, a teacher’s aide, an English-as-a-Second Language tutor, and a grievance program aide. Mr. Melendez has served 13 years and two months of his minimum sentence. 

# Staff's effort improves prison safety

**Inmate-on-staff assaults drop 38% since '93; 'throwing' down 45%, gang activity by 12%**

Once again, the professionalism, vigilance and dedication of our employees has contributed to your increased safety and security in state prisons across New York.

Our pivotal weapon in our arsenal of security measures is providing our employees with the tools you need to safeguard yourselves and to control inmate behavior.

Data from 1993 compared to last year document that you have used those tools well over the past decade. We've seen:

- A 38 percent decline in inmate-on-staff assaults between 1993 (997) and last year (621), during a period in which the inmate population increased by 4 percent, from 64,569 in 1993 to 66,928 at the end of last year.
- A 44 percent decrease in inmate-on-inmate assaults since 1993, 1,322 down to 735, often the result of staff intervening to prevent or break up such incidents.
- A 39 percent decline in contraband, from 2,863 incidents to 1,755, meaning our staff is doing an even better job of confiscation and preventing its introduction or manufacture into facilities. (See story on page 22.)
- A 75 percent reduction in inmate escapes, from 16 to four. Most occurred from minimum-security camps or outside crews. The last escape from inside a secure perimeter was in August 1998 from Green Haven.
- A 92 percent decline in temporary release absconders, 4,086 down to 343, contributing to the safety of all New Yorkers
- An 80 percent decline in attempted suicides by inmates, from 102 down to 20, despite the claims by our critics that they are on the rise.
- A 51 percent decline in inmate deaths, from 389 down to 190, mostly due to increased treatment of inmates with HIV-related diseases.

None of these declines happened by accident. They all occurred due to the performance of our employees.

We in Albany are responsible for the safety and security of the system. That requires us to set the rules and provide the tools to protect our employees. I will not apologize that the rules are clearly weighted in favor of protecting our employees.

When our employees come under attack by inmates, my policy is to pursue both Departmental sanctions and criminal charges against inmate offenders.

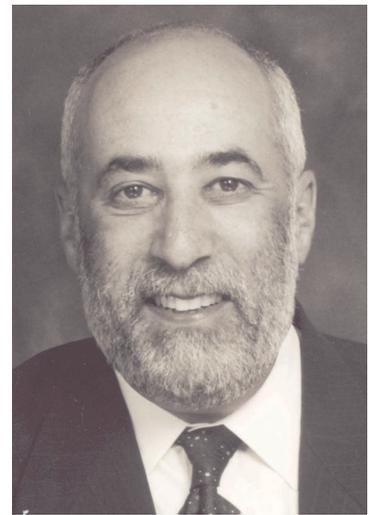
That's because I consider even one assault on our staff to be one too many. We recognize our obligation to provide inmates with safe, secure and constitutional incarceration that offers willing inmates the opportunity to participate in programs that will assist them upon their return to society.

In return, I will not tolerate violence against our staff or inmates. That said, it is the employees in the field who use the tools that we provide to safeguard themselves and our system.

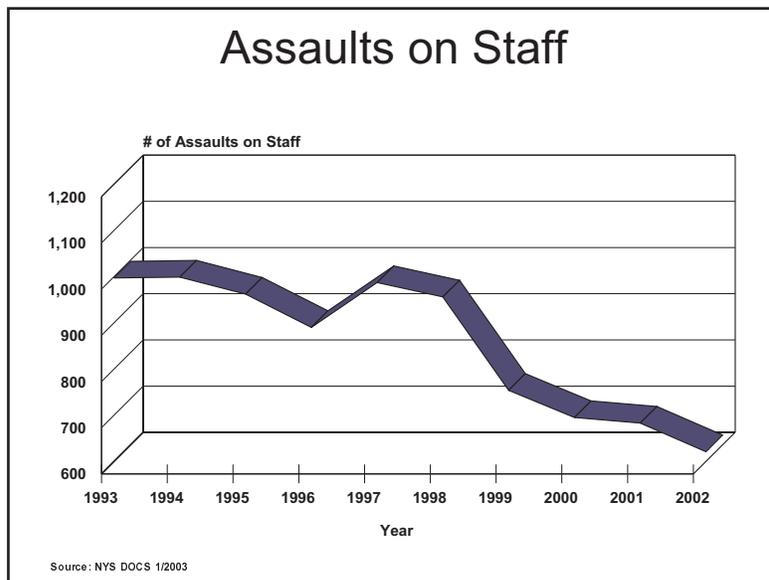
The declines in these major areas of unusual incidents proves that we have the best correctional work force in the nation. You make it safer for yourselves and the inmates for whom we are responsible.

Among the tools that have made our prisons safer are the towers that began opening in 2000 along the perimeters of 33 medium-security prisons.

In the years before their construction, we averaged five major disturbances and one CERT activation annually between 1994-99 among these facilities. Since staff have had the benefit of these towers, there has not been a major incident at any of them.



Commissioner Goord



Inmates also know that when they break facility rules, they face being locked up. Thanks to the 3,000 Special Housing Unit beds that Governor Pataki built, we now have more disciplinary space to house inmates written up by staff for misconduct.

That also allowed us to free up for "state readies" upwards of 2,000 general confinement beds housing inmates in disciplinary status.

In December 1997, there were 5,271 inmates serving disciplinary sentences, only months before those new beds began coming on line. That number rose to 6,348 in January 2000, in the wake of Y2K incidents in the months before.

Please turn to page 10

## Tough times need tough gov

**New York Daily News:**

By George, he's back. Pledging to slash state spending, Gov. Pataki has challenged the Legislature to deal with the crisis at hand – next year's projected \$10 billion budget deficit. So cut away, but use a chain saw, not a butter knife.

Pataki offered few specifics in yesterday's State of the State address. Those will come when he submits his budget to the Legislature on Jan. 29. But he did say that budget would harken back to the days of his first term, when his fiscal prudence revived the state's economy. If he can pull that off again, he could buck the historical trend of weak third terms for governors (and mayors).

Pataki promised that he wouldn't delay planned tax cuts, and even proposed targeted tax incentives to help spur business. All of it would help lift New York out of the financial stew. The trick will be to keep legislators from throwing pork into the pot.

☞

## Solve state budget crisis

**Poughkeepsie Journal:**

Gov. George Pataki certainly has guts. With the state facing a monstrous budget crisis, he's not backing off his policy of reducing state taxes – in fact, in Wednesday's State of the State address he even proposed a new tax break.

You'd think the last thing a state with tight finances should do is give back some of its tax revenues. But Pataki has set the larger picture right, that too-high taxes only hurt residents and drive employers away.

Legislative leaders should accept this larger picture and work with the governor to accomplish it effectively ...

☞

## Pataki is half right

**Schenectady Daily Gazette:**

... Pataki did pledge to cut spending. He ought to propose deep reductions in funding for roads and airports, and try to get the federal government to redirect its highway and airport aid into other parts of the state budget ...

... The governor pledged no new taxes, and no delays in scheduled tax cuts. He even proposed new tax incentives to create good jobs. While the latter may be justified, a tax hike on

wealthier New Yorkers should by no means be ruled out. Spending cuts will likely not be sufficient to balance the budget, especially if the tobacco settlement is left unraided. And while the governor claimed new taxes would kill jobs, new examples of fiscal irresponsibility would do worse damage ...

☞

## Belt-tightening

**Long Island Newsday**

... Pataki wisely emphasized investing in high-tech projects (an impressive number of which are under way), environmental clean-up and counterterrorism efforts. He correctly singled out Medicaid for "reform," but didn't say what he meant by it. He pledged, again, to push for campaign-finance and Rockefeller drug-law reforms, but said nothing about overhauling unfair school-aid formulas.

The lack of specifics means New Yorkers must wait until his proposed budget is released Jan. 29 before learning if his vision is viable. That's when we can see if his numbers add up and make sense; for instance, just how much he will rely on one-shot fiscal gimmicks. And then we can hope he shows the skill to lead this state responsibly through the worst of times.

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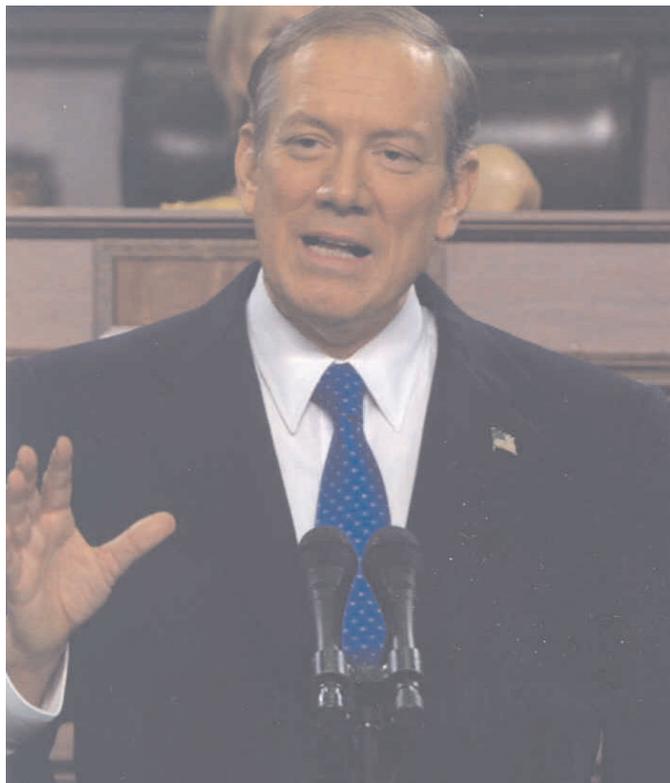
## State of the State

**Buffalo News**

If leadership is about the forthright acknowledgment of difficulties without sacrificing hope for the future, then Gov. George Pataki was in fine form Wednesday when he delivered his ninth State of the State speech, and first of his nascent third term.

Though the address was short on specifics, as such speeches typically are, it set an appropriate tone, one that might be described as optimistic austerity. With an eye fixed on the future that today's youths will inherit, the governor said the budget he proposes in three weeks will reduce spending in all areas except public security, while preserving already enacted tax cuts and even proposing a few more, which he said would be targeted toward economic development.

It marked a re-emergence of the old, fiscal conservative Pataki, the one who held the line or reduced state spending in his first few years in office but had allowed state outlays to rise again, first during the downstate economic boom and then during the last election year ... 



Governor delivers address; editorialists cogitate.

# Pataki offers a bold vision to overcome challenges

*Says that, working together, New Yorkers will secure future rich with hope, promise*

**G**overnor Pataki opened the 2003 Legislative Session on January 8 with his ninth State of the State address. He issued a strong call for unity and non-partisanship, expressing confidence that New Yorkers together can combat terrorism and enhance public security, revitalize the state's economy to create jobs and restore the state to fiscal health in the wake of the terrorist attacks and the national economic downturn.

The Governor urged the Legislature to adhere to the proven policies and principles that have produced tremendous successes for New York, while calling for sweeping reforms, including an overhaul of the state's education bureaucracy, comprehensive campaign finance reform, an initiative and referendum proposal, and criminal justice reforms, including Rockefeller Drug Law reforms.

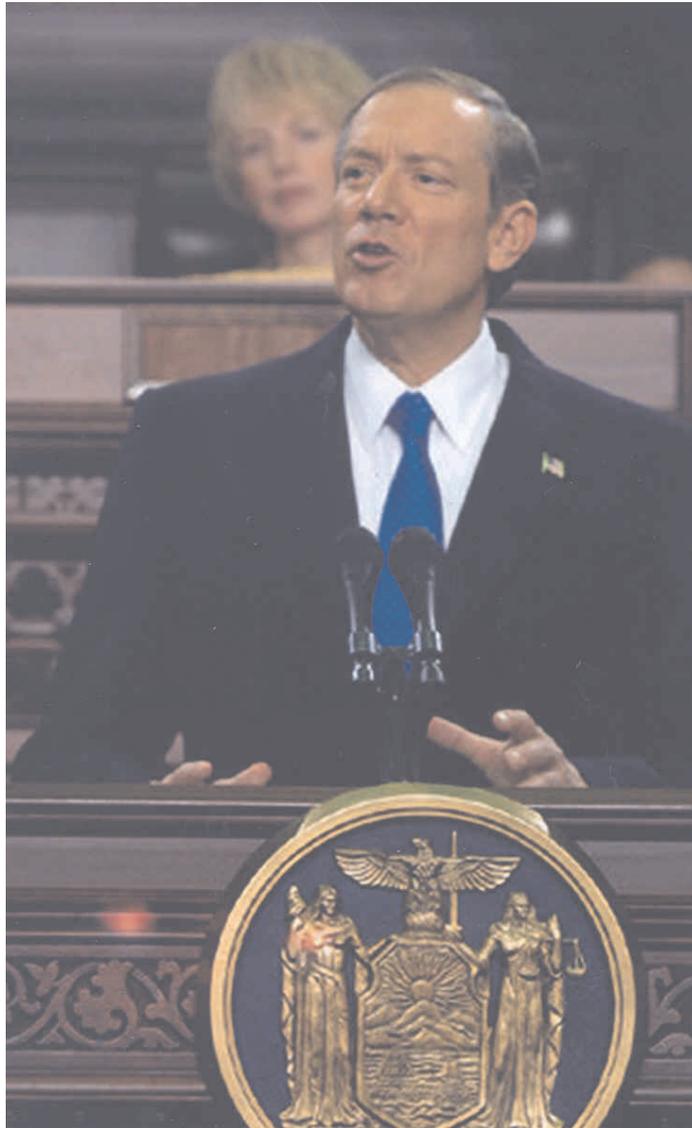
"This generation of New Yorkers has already given us every right to believe that ours is a future rich with hope and promise. We have already demonstrated our strength, our character and our courage in defiance of those who would rob us of our freedom. Now we must rally that same spirit against a crisis that threatens our prosperity.

"We must be frank, honest and clear about the scope of the crisis we now face. We live under the continued threat of terrorist attacks. At the same time, we are coping with the devastating economic fallout from a barbaric assault on New York City. And we are still recovering from a national recession that has cost our state jobs while decimating our state's finances.

"Yet, despite the gravity of these challenges, our greatest asset is the spirit of unity that has guided us in the past. I said it last week, and I'll say it again: '*La union hace la fuerza*' – In unity there is strength.

"Times are tough but our future is bright, because we made

the right decisions during the past eight years – and most importantly – because New Yorkers are strong, united and share a common purpose. We faced extreme adversity in the past and we prevailed. Now, we face challenges that threaten our future – and we will meet those challenges with the same mettle and equal resolve."



**Governor delivers address.**

Among the key issues and priorities identified by Governor Pataki in his State of the State address are the following:

## **Crime initiatives**

The Governor called for the expansion of the DNA database to include all convicted criminals, the abolishment of parole for all convicted felons, and greater protections for victims of domestic violence.

Governor Pataki also pledged to work with the Legislature in reconciling differences that have blocked the reform of the State's failed Rockefeller Drug Laws. He also encouraged the Legislature to begin the process of reforming the state's court system – reforms that the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals has proposed.

In his speech, the Governor said:

"[W]e must continue to pass smart criminal justice reforms.

"Let's start by expanding the DNA database to include all

convicted criminals.

"We already abolished parole for all violent criminals and witnessed crime rates plunge. Let's abolish parole for all convicted felons.

"Let's help women and children by further improving our domestic violence laws by ensuring any history of violence is taken into account when determining bail for accused abusers, by lengthening orders of protection and by extending the domestic violence laws to protect unmarried couples living together.

"And once and for all let's reconcile our differences and reform the failed Rockefeller Drug Laws.

“Let’s begin the process of court reform as Chief Judge Kaye has proposed,” Governor Pataki said.

### **Ensuring public security, strengthening our defense**

Governor Pataki praised the state’s Office of Public Security for its efforts to date in keeping New Yorkers safe. Since the Governor established the office in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks, it has taken a leadership role in coordinating all facets of New York’s aggressive anti-terrorism campaign.

To further protect New Yorkers, Governor Pataki urged the Legislature to pass critical anti-terror measures, developed in conjunction with Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, that will abolish the statute of limitations for all terrorist crimes; change the penalty for anyone caught in possession of chemical or biological weapons to life in prison without parole, and give New York City and state law enforcement the same tools federal officers have in tracking and arresting terrorists.

In addition, to enhance the state’s preparedness in the event of future natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks, the Governor also announced the appointment of James G. Natoli as Director of Disaster Preparedness and Response. This new role, which reflects New York’s ongoing commitment to being pro-active in preparing for potential emergencies, will help to ensure a coordinated approach and strong partnerships among all state agencies and the private sector.

Mr. Natoli has served as the Governor’s Director of State Operations for the past eight years, providing management and oversight over all state departments and agencies. He has also been directly involved in coordinating the state’s emergency response to a wide range of disasters, including the September 11 terrorist attacks, the crash of TWA Flight 800, and the 1998 North Country ice storm. He was also directly responsible for coordinating the state’s extensive Y2K preparations.

### **Following proven strategies to revitalize economy**

In addition to strengthening public security, the Governor also outlined swift and aggressive steps to help strengthen the state’s economy and create new jobs in the wake of the World Trade Center attacks and the national economic downturn.

To address this challenge, the Governor announced he will not return to the failed economic policies of the past and that tax cuts will not be delayed – as they were numerous times under the previous administration. Instead, the Executive Budget will move forward with scheduled tax cuts, and will include new targeted tax incentives to continue increasing New York’s competitiveness and create new jobs.

“The budget I propose will not delay the tax cuts we’ve already passed,” Governor Pataki said. “It will, in fact, add new targeted tax incentives to attract additional investment and

good, high-tech jobs.

“While other states raise taxes, let us out-compete any state and continue to create new jobs by maintaining New York’s eight-year record as the tax-cutting capital of America,” the Governor said.

### **Creating thousands of high-tech jobs for New Yorkers**

The Governor also announced bold new plans to further secure New York’s rapidly growing reputation as an international leader in high-tech and biotechnology research and economic growth by expanding the Empire State High Tech Corridor and his Centers of Excellence initiative.

In addition to the Centers of Excellence now moving forward in Albany, Syracuse, Buffalo, Rochester and Long Island, the Governor proposed the establishment of two new Centers of Excellence, including one in Westchester and one in New York City.

A potential Westchester Center of Excellence was highlighted, which would focus on biotechnology and may include the participation of leading research institutions such as New York Presbyterian Hospital, Cornell University, Columbia University and New York Medical College, as well as private sector leaders like IBM and GE.

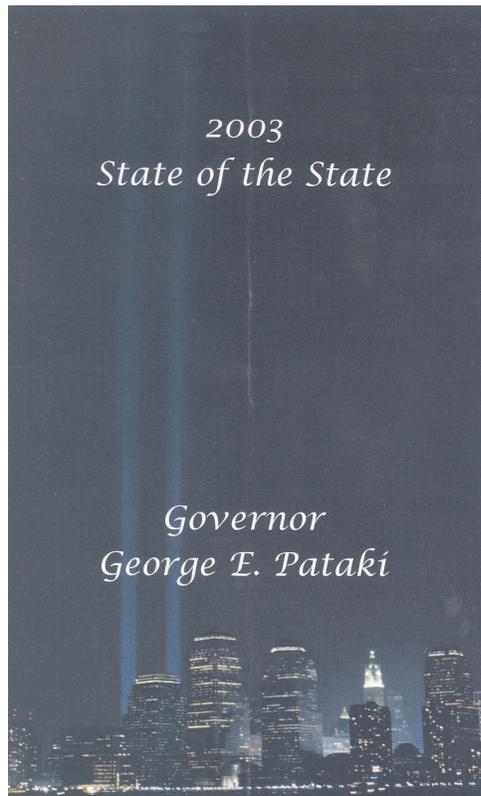
A potential Center of Excellence in New York City was highlighted, which would also focus on biotechnology, and may include the participation of Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Columbia University, NYU and other leading medical research institutions.

New York will also build upon the many other high-tech and biotechnology investments it has made – in its STAR Centers, Advanced Research Centers and its Centers for Advanced

Technology – in places like Alfred, Binghamton, Potsdam and Ithaca, and throughout the Empire High Tech Corridor.

The Governor’s commitment to the future of the state’s high-tech economy has produced tremendous successes. These include International SEMATECH’s decision to launch a new \$400 million Research and Development initiative here in New York, and Tokyo Electron Limited’s decision to establish a new \$300 million R & D center in Albany, its first center outside of Japan.

The Governor also highlighted another major success, by announcing that Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), in partnership with IBM, will establish an advanced chip development initiative in the Hudson Valley region – making an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars and creating good, high-tech jobs for New Yorkers. AMD is one of the world’s leading chip manufacturers, and a Fortune 500 company with sites in the US, Europe, Japan and Asia.



**Two towers of light rise from the Manhattan skyline on the cover of the 28-page booklet containing the Governor’s State of the State address.**



**Governor Pataki attends Mass with his family on January 1, the day of his third inaugural speech, in which he discussed some of the themes from his ninth State of the State message.**

### **Following proven strategies to address fiscal challenges**

Citing the tremendous damage caused to New York's finances by the terrorist attacks and the national economic downturn, the Governor renewed his call for fiscal discipline, perseverance and nonpartisanship in addressing the state's unprecedented fiscal challenges.

The Governor made clear that the state must follow the same fiscally responsible budgeting practices that allowed it to cut taxes, control spending, enact historic debt reforms and build up the highest levels of rainy day reserves in state history. The Governor made clear that it was these proven policies that have helped the state secure its highest credit rating in 24 years.

The Governor noted that the state has suffered billions of dollars in revenue losses, and that nearly 100,000 jobs have been lost due to the terrorist attacks alone. In addition, the national recession has continued far longer than virtually all economists had predicted, dramatically exacerbating the fiscal impact on New York.

This combined impact of 9/11 and the prolonged economic downturn has severely affected tax revenues and contributed to a potential deficit of approximately \$2 billion in the current fiscal year, and a shortfall several times larger in the upcoming fiscal year.

To confront these challenges, Governor Pataki said he will not return to the failed fiscal policies of the past, and that tax cuts will not be delayed as they were numerous times under the previous administration. Instead, the Governor indicated that he will submit a Budget that reduces year-to-year spending; reforms Medicaid and other government programs; proposes the privatization of certain state assets, and reduces debt costs by taking advantage of low interest rates.

In addition, while seeking to avoid layoffs, the Governor an-

nounced that he will work with representatives of the state's public employee unions to reduce the workforce and make government as efficient and cost-effective as possible.

### **Sweeping education reforms**

Governor Pataki pledged to build on the achievements that have been made during the past eight years that are improving the education of New York's children. The Governor cited historic New York City school governance reform; the creation of quality after-school programs; development of the highest learning standards in the nation, and innovative teacher recruitment programs like Teachers of Tomorrow.

This year, the Governor will advance legislation that would give the mayors of the state's other urban centers (in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Albany) more input and a greater voice in their school systems.

At the same time he seeks to make large school systems more accountable, the Governor said he would seek the same accountability from the state's education bureaucracy. He will advance sweeping reforms to governance of schools statewide, by reforming the way the state Board of Regents is chosen. These reforms will make the statewide education system more accountable.

To continue the progress that has been made recruiting new teachers, the Governor called for the creation of new urban centers that would train the next generation of teachers. As part of the plan, the H.H. Richardson complex in Buffalo would be transformed into a premier urban training center for teachers, in partnership with Buffalo State College. This center would be complemented by a similar transformation of Governors Island – with both working to ensure that both students and teachers can reach their full potential.

### **Strengthening New York's democracy**

In his address, the Governor again continued his call to give New Yorkers an even greater voice in democracy, by empowering voters with initiative and referendum. He also said he will again propose a comprehensive campaign finance reform to improve a system in need of reform.

### **Improving health care**

The Governor also called for continuing New York's national leadership in health care by strengthening and renewing the Health Care Reform Act, which supports vital health care programs such as Child and Family Health Plus, the EPIC senior prescription drug program, tobacco prevention programs and other important measures.

### **Protecting the environment**

The Governor called for the creation of new recreational opportunities for the families of New York and, in his address, he announced the addition of a new state park – Gallagher Beach in Buffalo.

# 'We faced adversity in the past, and we prevailed'

“We meet at a pivotal time in New York's history – a time when you and I in this chamber – and collectively, all New Yorkers – have within our grasp the power to consciously determine whether we, as a people who have been tried and tested by great adversity, have the will and courage to transcend that adversity in a way that demonstrates the strength of our collective character.

There is no question in my mind about the direction in which that collective character will lead us.

If you believe that “every trial endured and weathered in the right spirit makes a soul nobler and stronger than it was before,” there can be no doubt about New York's future. ...

We have already demonstrated our strength, our character and our courage in defiance of those who would rob us of our freedom.

Now we must rally that same spirit against a crisis that threatens our prosperity.

And in doing so, we must be frank, honest and clear about the scope of the crisis we now face. ...

Times are tough but our future is bright, because we made the right decisions during the past eight years – and most importantly – because New Yorkers are strong, united and share a common purpose.

Now, we face challenges that threaten our future. We will meet those challenges with the same mettle and equal resolve.

And while we deal with the immediate crisis we must also

look beyond today and focus our sights and our energies toward the bright future that awaits us tomorrow. ...

Our future will be one of unlimited opportunity if we responsibly navigate the rough waters we face today.

The only way we can do it is together. Partisanship must once again be cast aside.

Differences of opinions will exist but they must be worked out in good faith. ...

Partisanship and parochial concerns will only undermine our efforts to overcome the challenges we face.

Protecting New Yorkers from harm must always be our top priority.

[W]e've enacted some of the toughest crime-fighting policies in the nation ... today, neighborhoods across New York state are safer than they've been since 1975.

Since September 11, we've had to face the sobering reality that there are terrorists, both at home and abroad, who want to harm us and who plot against us.

It is a reality I address every day. The threat is real, but so is our resolve. ...

Despite all we've done, we know that a terrorist only has to strike once to wreak havoc.

We must also give New York City and state law enforcement the same tools federal officers have in tracking and arresting terrorists. And we must do it without delay. ...” 

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He also once again called for reform and refinancing of the state's Superfund program and for the adoption of new carbon dioxide emission standards for motor vehicles, which will further reduce “greenhouse” gases.

To help make New York a national leader in renewable energy usage, the Governor announced that the Public Service Commission will implement a Renewable Portfolio Standard. The program will guarantee that, within the next 10 years, at least 25 percent of the electricity bought in New York will come from renewable energy resources like solar or wind power.

## **Bringing the Olympics to New York**

The Governor called for a united effort to bring the 2012 Summer Olympics to New York state, after New York recently beat San Francisco to be America's finalist. He also encouraged New Yorkers to work together to bring the Winter Games once again to the North Country.

The Governor announced that he is working with Premier Bernard Landry of Quebec to put together the first ever bi-national Olympic bid – a bid to have the games hosted jointly by the North Country and Quebec. The Governor further announced that he has appointed former state Senator Ronald B. Stafford of Plattsburgh to head the Winter Olympic effort.

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## **Rebuilding lower Manhattan**

In his speech, the Governor called the Year 2002 the year of recovery, and 2003 the year of renewal. He also noted that New Yorkers will begin 2003 by keeping a promise to remember those we lost on September 11.

The Governor announced that a committee of volunteers – including many family members of September 11th heroes – today released a mission statement that will serve as the guiding principles for design of an appropriate September 11th memorial.

He also described the vision of a memorial that would preserve the footprints of the towers forever, so that even as New York City heals, the memory of what happened on September 11 will never fade from the hearts of New Yorkers.

The Governor also indicated that in the weeks ahead the state, in conjunction with New York City and all other partners, will develop a single plan for the World Trade Center site and its surroundings. This plan will be refined over time, but it will enable an international memorial competition to proceed this Spring, allow for a 21st Century transportation network, and set lower Manhattan on the path to fully reclaim its place as the financial capital of the world. 

## Staff efforts improve safety ...

*Continued from page 4*

In December 2002, there were 4,916 inmates in such status – 355 fewer than before the new beds were added. Inmates are responding to the fact that staff will not tolerate misconduct and will lock up inmates who choose to misbehave.

Inmates are also learning that correcting their behavior reduces disciplinary time. The average time served in such housing has dropped from 184 days in 1998, the year the new disciplinary beds began opening, to 130 days last year.

Staff is also making it clear that we will not tolerate “throwing,” that disgusting and dangerous act that Governor Pataki made a felony in 1996.

Due to staff diligence, the number of throwing incidents has declined by 45 percent since the law was passed, from 130 incidents in 1995 to 71 last year.

That’s because inmates know those who throw feces and/or bodily fluids at our employees now face up to an additional five years in prison for each incident.

A Wende inmate found that out in December of last year. Serving a sentence of 6-12 years for drug possession, he received an additional 7-1/2 years for three throwing convictions. That means his decision to become a “thrower” wound up more than doubling his minimum sentence.

Governor Pataki’s Inmate Prosecution Task Force has also had its impact. In 2000, the last year for which national statistics are available, we prosecuted 121 inmates, compared to a national average of 63 per state prison system.

These prosecutions are only possible because of the diligence of staff in gathering and safeguarding evidence. Without their professionalism and the leadership and assistance of district attorneys, we would not be able to prosecute inmates.

Inmate rule No. 105.12, “Unauthorized Activity or Assembly,” is used by staff to control gang activity. Our policy is that, since each inmate comes to prison alone, they will do their time alone. We will not allow gangs to flourish.

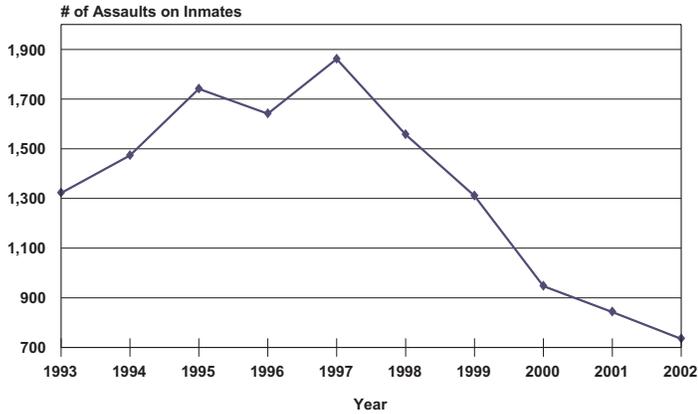
Inmates have learned through staff monitoring that they will be disciplined for such activity. Constant surveillance has led to a reduction in gang sanctions – from a high of 1,896 in 1998 to 1,147 last year, the fewest since 1,015 in 1994.

Governor Pataki in January 1995 barred violent felons from temporary release programs, a decision that immediately reduced the state’s crime rate. There has been more than a 90 percent decrease in the arrest of work release inmates since that year, and more than a 97 percent decrease in the arrest of work release participants for violent crimes.

And, as the graphic at left shows, the total number of all incidents involving temporary release inmates dropped dramatically following the Governor’s action.

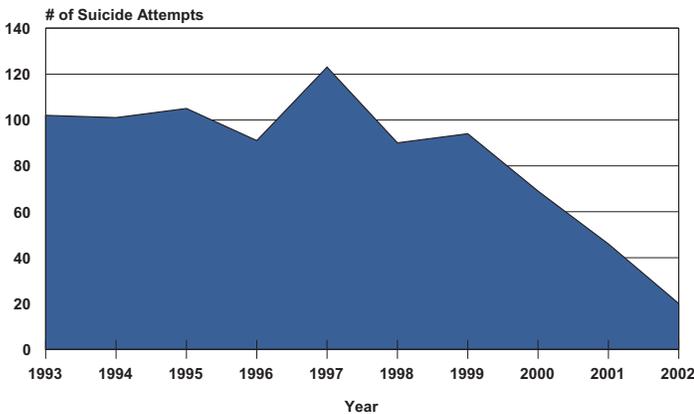
Another tool we use to protect the public is the DNA law proposed by the Governor and amended since at his request. More than 70,000 inmates affected by the law have been tested since it took effect in 1994 and was amended in 1999.

## Inmate Assaults



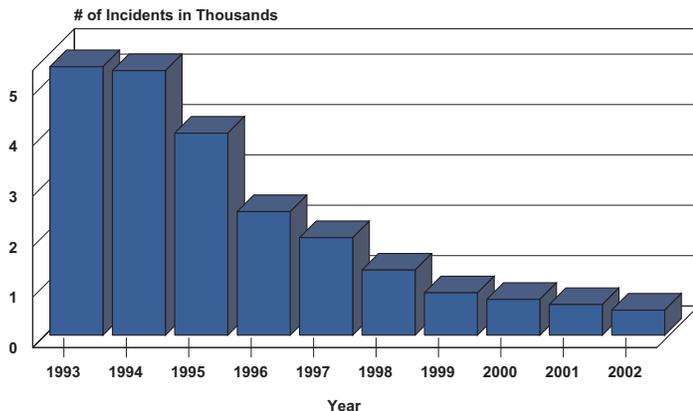
Source: NYS DOCS 1/2003

## Suicide Attempts



Source: NYS DOCS 1/2003

## Temporary Release Incidents



Source: NYS DOCS 1/2003

That has not always been an easy task. Staff in many cases had to convince inmates to submit to giving samples.

Still, some 170 inmates adamantly refused to provide samples. However, by using alternative means to obtain consent, we wound up having to use force only 13 times to obtain the DNA samples needed to safeguard the public.

Initially, the law basically covered those convicted of certain violent crimes. It has since been expanded to virtually all violent crimes as well as to many nonviolent offenders.

Governor Pataki insisted on the amendment that included nonviolent offenders. His reasoning was that, in many states with more experience with DNA testing, it was found that many violent crimes were closed with the testing of offenders with nonviolent records.

The wisdom of that decision was shown once again in December of last year. An inmate at Great Meadow, doing time for burglary, was arrested on a rape charge one day before his scheduled release. The rape occurred in 1993. His DNA had been collected after his incarceration in state prison and came up as a match when run through the state DNA databank.

Now facing charges of rape, sodomy, robbery, burglary and assault, he is one of 55 rape cases solved by the New York Police Department using DNA evidence since 2000.

As Commissioner, I bear the responsibility for the safety and security of our employees, and ensuring that we meet our obligations to the public.

Within our facilities, that means providing staff with the tools that you need to maintain order and safety.

Governor Pataki is committed to this responsibility as well. That's why for eight years he has refused to lay off Correctional employees despite the difficult financial straits in which the state now navigates.

Just as he built the towers and constructed disciplinary housing units, he has enacted legislation protecting our employees. He has signed bills supported by our employees, while also providing cut-resistant gloves, portable defibrillators and other initiatives that protect the health and safety of our work force.

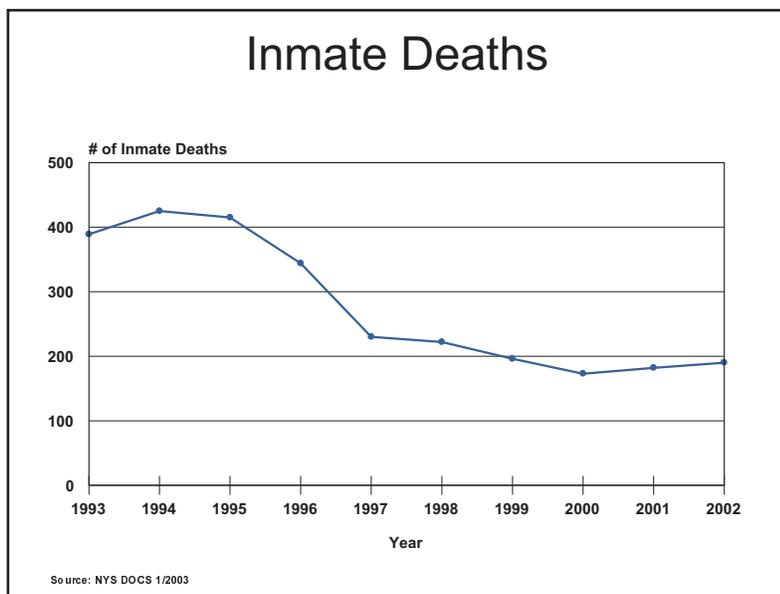
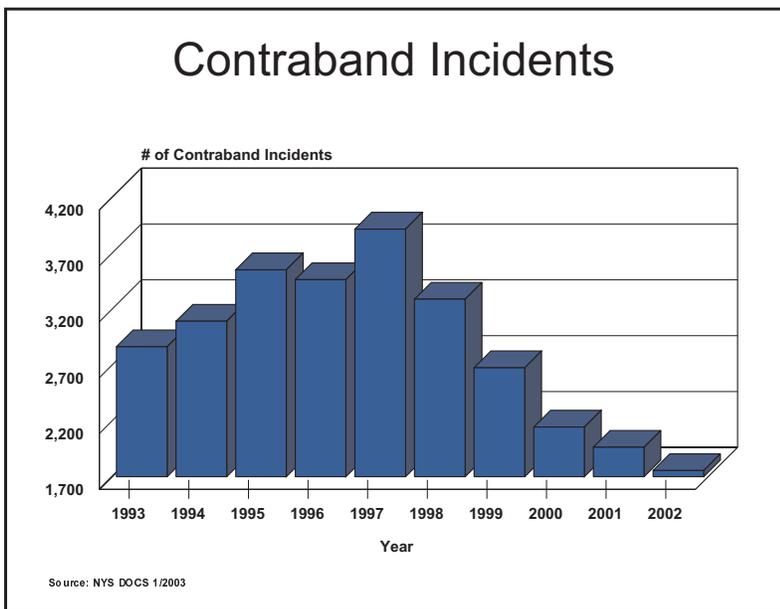
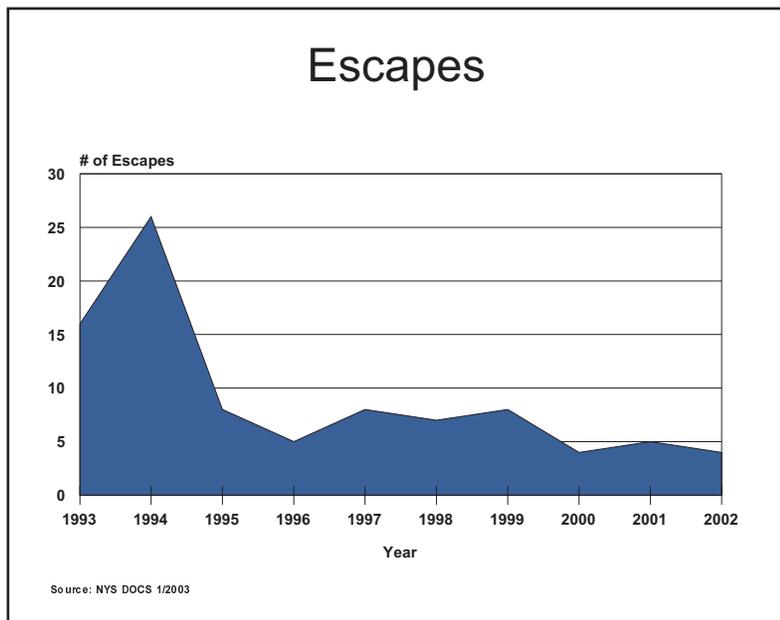
Equally important is our responsibility to the public: through our operation of secure facilities offering inmates meaningful programs, maintaining oversight of our temporary release program and ensuring that appropriate inmates contribute samples to the DNA databank.

The employees of this Department, like the rest of my staff based here in Albany, are in our prisons every day performing the most difficult tasks that the state asks of any of its workers.

You are the people responsible on the front line for the safety and security of our system. You perform your jobs well.

You are the people of whom I am very proud every day. I am equally proud to serve as your Commissioner.

Together, we will continue to operate the most professional correctional system in the nation – ever mindful that your safety, health and security are always our top priorities. 





### *Multi-purpose facility*

# Wende

Wende has been a maximum-security state prison for just 20 years. But this tract in western New York has penal roots that began growing before the Great Depression. Located in the town of Alden in Erie County, Wende was built on land originally purchased from the Holland Land Company by the locally-prominent Otto Wende family. The land was later donated to Erie County as a public park, later abandoned. The land was later operated as a farm to feed inmates in the Erie County Penitentiary on the west side of Buffalo. From those seeds sprouted the Erie County Penitentiary, precursor of today's Wende prison.

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With residential expansion occurring in Buffalo, the decision was made around 1920 to relocate the Erie County Penitentiary from within the city limits.

The Wende parcel was selected, and a new county jail opened there in 1923. By the 1980's, Erie County was looking to construct a new jail while the state sought additional maximum-security space.

An agreement was reached: Erie County would sell its Wende facility to the state, financing in part the county's new jail that would be constructed on the same sprawling parcel in

the town of Alden. The state would renovate and expand the old jail into a state prison, providing much-needed cells in western New York.

The original physical county jail plant in Alden was constructed in 1923-24. It followed a design by William Beardsley, a noted prison architect. Original construction was performed by Morris & Allen, Inc.

A Buffalo *Courier-Express* article from July 13, 1923, reported, correctly, that the first round of inmates would be arriving the following day.

The first building at the new county facility, constructed using inmate labor, was a combination – dormitory, kitchen and work area. In addition to farming, part of the work performed by inmates included making pine coffins that were used to bury the area’s indigent. The building is still in use today, housing the academic school and facility maintenance area.



**CO Ronnie Bunch conducts rounds.**

The architects of the Erie County Penitentiary were subsequently awarded a state contract to construct nearby Attica, which opened in 1931.

The Alden parcel – originally donated by the Wende family – today houses not only the state prison bearing their name, but also the Erie County Home and Infirmary, the Erie County Correctional Facility and the state’s Buffalo Correctional Facility.

**New York state steps in**

With a growing inmate population necessitating an expansion of maximum-security prison beds in the early 1980’s, the state purchased the Erie County Penitentiary in 1983 from Erie County for \$48 million. Erie County continued to share occupancy of the site until 1986, when construction of its new facility on the sprawling Wende grounds was completed.

Beginning in 1983, the state expanded the former Wende penitentiary in phases. Phase I consisted of initial security measures and provisions for support services for the initial round of 185 male inmates. Phase II involved population expansion and associated security support programmatic enhancements. With the ultimate implementation of Phase III, which included new construction and renovation of existing buildings, Wende’s conversion to a state facility was complete.

Today, the physical plant at Wende consists of 49 buildings. The facility encloses 15 acres within its secure perimeter.

The physical plant has changed dramatically. These changes include demolition of the old auditorium to provide space for a recreation/religious services building; demolition of the old power plant building inside the perimeter to allow for construction of a building for the state Office of Mental Health (OMH); construction of a new power plant and storehouse; construction of a new administration building; construction of a new range/training building; construction of a Quality of Work Life building and construction of a Regional Medical Unit (RMU).

Wende houses three distinct inmate populations:

- General confinement, maximum-security inmates.
- Reception center for western New York inmates.
- Special Needs Unit (SNU) inmates, a population comprised of individuals who have various developmental and other learning disabilities.

In addition, OMH also operates one of its 12 prison satellite units at Wende.

The facility was accredited in 1988 by the American Correctional Association, affirming that it meets nationally-acceptable standards in its management and operations. It has been accredited triennially since then.

Like the state prison system overall, Wende is a much safer facility than it was several years ago. Wende has seen a 53 percent decline in the number of all unusual incidents since 1997, down from 329 to 153 in 2001. The number of inmate-on-staff assaults dropped by 63 percent between 1997 and 2001, falling from 57 to 21. Additionally, the number of inmate-on-inmate assaults fell by 61 percent between 1997 and 2001, from 51 to 20.

One of Wende’s claims to fame is that it inaugurated the Department’s in-cell television program, a program which since has been expanded to seven other maximum-security facilities: Attica, Great Meadow, Clinton Main, Elmira, Five Points and the cadre units at Southport and Upstate.

This program involves general population inmates voting to limit package privileges, considered to be a substantial channel for contraband, for the opportunity to purchase for their cells 12-inch, black-and-white television sets equipped with earphones. Inmates at the participating facilities are only allowed to receive packages on their birthdays and one



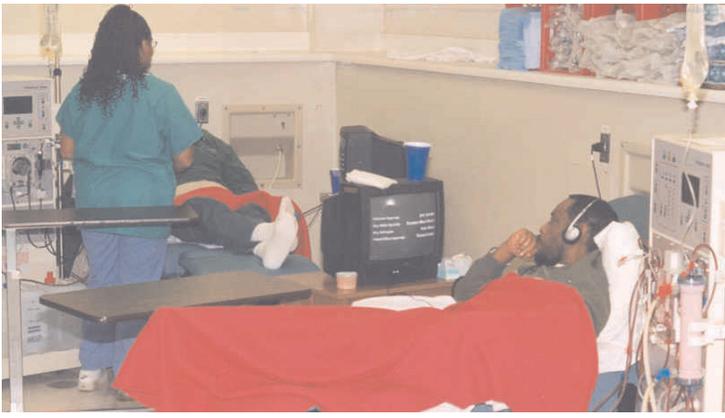
**OMH Rehabilitation Counselor Linda Wopperer conducts an Intermediate Care Program.**

other designated day during the year.

**Unique programming addresses varied needs**

Wende has been empowered with a wide variety of missions over the past two decades. Thanks to the tireless efforts of administrators and dedicated staff members, the facility has consistently been up to the challenges.

The maximum-security RMU, which opened in 1998, is a four-story building located within the secured perimeter. It con-



**Technician Chudney Lopez monitors dialysis equipment.**

tains an 18-bed infirmary for Wende's primary care operation. The RMU also features 80 in-patient beds for those male inmates in western New York who are in need of coordinated speciality or long-term care.

The RMU also includes a dialysis unit plus a physical therapy unit. Its clinical area provides space for on-site procedures as well as inmate evaluation sessions by community specialists versed in no less than 25 medical disciplines.

Over the past several years, the five RMUs around the state have proven to be extremely cost-effective as the number of supervised inmate trips to outside hospitals has been greatly reduced: most inmate medical needs can be handled by community professionals at the RMUs.

Security in hospitals throughout New York state also has been greatly enhanced due to fewer inmate trips and a corresponding decreased likelihood that inmates will act up in public and cause disruptions.

The SNU is necessary to provide appropriate services to certain groups of inmates who exhibit limited intellectual abilities, poor coping skills, emotional problems and other maladies. The goal of the unit is that each inmate achieve a level of intellectual and emotional maturity with sufficient self-esteem and confidence that he no longer needs the shelter and services of the unit and may be mainstreamed to the general population.

Wende's SNU is self-contained except for specific services by medical, dental, religious, vocational, psychological, mental health and other such other services as determined by the Superintendent. The arrangement effectively shelters the client group from inmates in the rest of the facility 24 hours a day. This helps provide for a more secure facility and the establishment of an effective therapeutic environment.

Uniformed and non-uniformed personnel staffing the SNU at Wende are considered an integral and essential part of the program, and they participate in both Admission Screening Team and Treatment Team meetings.

Additional mental health services are provided to Wende inmates under a cooperative agreement with OMH officials. An outpatient satellite unit from the Central New York Psychiatric Center in Marcy runs a mental health unit that features six observation cells, eight dormitory beds and 38 cells at Wende. OMH staff deliver a variety of mental health services (assessment, psychotherapy, psychotropic medicines, etc.) depending on an individual's needs. The mental health unit staff are also responsible for the commitments of mentally ill inmates directly to Central New York.

Wende also meets the needs of hearing impaired inmates. There are approximately 15 deaf and hearing-impaired inmates housed at the facility, and the number has been increasing. A manual communicator is on staff at Wende to provide assistance to these inmates. They use sign language to deal with all confidential information like disciplinary, medical, sick call, psychological services, counselor interviews and other issues.

To further assist inmates with special needs, flashing fire alarms have been installed outside the cells of deaf and hearing-impaired inmates to afford them ample protections. Wende also features amplified phone equipment, personal amplification devices and closed-captioned television equipment.

These reasonable accommodations and rehabilitative services are provided to inmates in need at Wende and other several state prisons pursuant to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

#### **Reception center for region's incoming inmates**

As a designated reception center, Wende is also responsible for inmate transportation within the sprawling Wende hub. The facility has a fleet of 14 vehicles that it uses to transport inmates from facility to facility as needed. With the RMU on the grounds, the transportation staff is also required to transport inmates for medical services at outside hospitals when needed.

In that regard, Wende is also responsible for providing security coverage for the secure ward at the Erie County Medical Center. Inmates from the 12 facilities that comprise the Wende hub may be housed at the downtown Buffalo hospital when needed for surgery and other necessary medical treatment.

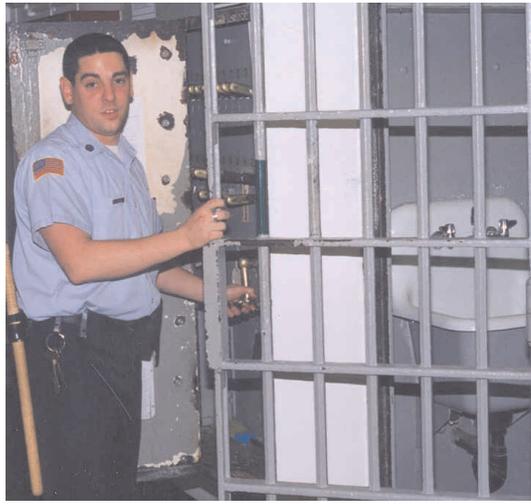
In March of 2002, Wende opened its newly constructed Visitor Process Center. Volunteers from throughout the western New York community provide hospitality services to visitors to Wende during visiting hours on Saturday and Sunday (As a maximum-security prison, Wende inmates can receive visitors seven days a week during authorized visiting hours).

The center is designed to meet the needs of visitors, many of whom have traveled long distances to visit family and other loved ones. The center provides lavatories, a changing area for infants and sufficient and comfortable seating. A microwave, a refrigerator and refreshments also are made available for visitors and their families; there also is a children's play area.



**Wende's training center was once part of the Erie County Penitentiary.**

At the end of 2001, Wende implemented a Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program. RSAT is similar to ASAT (the Department's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment program). However, it has a residential component that enhances the therapeutic effects, whereas participants live and attend psycho-educational classes together. The program is run by the facility's RSAT Treatment Team, which consists of one Counselor and two Program Assistants. The program can service up to 120 inmates at any given time and utilizes trained and seasoned inmate program associates to serve its mission: to help inmates identify and better cope with addictive behavior.



CO Shawn Michalski inspects sink area.

Wende also is a leader in this Department when it comes to aggressive recycling efforts that help save taxpayer dollars and benefit the environment. Approximately 42,000 pounds of recyclable material are hauled to the recycling center at nearby Wyoming every month. The material consists of food, cardboard, tin, paper, plastics, clothes and wood. In 2001, the facility saved state taxpayers a substantial amount of money by recycling 512,110 pounds of waste.

With a staffing complement of just over 800 employees, 527 of whom are security staff, Wende is a vital part of the community. And its employees do not take that responsibility lightly.

### Employees perform outstanding service

As with employees at other facilities throughout New York state, Wende employees are key figures in the western New York community in which they reside. They work as volunteer firefighters and sports coaches, serve on school, town and other local community boards and selflessly donate their time for the needy in the community.

The efforts have not gone unrecognized.

Employees at Wende have always shown exceptional commitment to the Department's annual State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) campaign, which assists the needy in the community. This unwavering commitment was aptly demonstrated when the facility recently was presented with an Award of Excellence from the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County for being one of the Top 100 Supporters of the United Way Community Care Fund.

Each October staff and inmates participate in *Make a Difference Day* activities. This past year, Wende staff and inmates collected loose change and employees held several raffles, raising more than \$500. Most of the money was used to buy new hats and mittens for the



Lt. James Wanke in the chart office.

Harvest House Baby Ministry in Buffalo. And during a previous drive at Wende, employees donated over 200 items – which included toys, clothing, walkman radios and arts and crafts supplies – to children at the Roswell Park Cancer Center in Buffalo.

While distinguishing themselves as a caring and compassionate group, the employees at Wende also have distinguished themselves individually, bringing credit and honor to the entire Department. On June 4, 2002, for example, two Wende employees were honored at the Department's annual Memorial Service and Medals Ceremony at the DOCS Training Academy in Albany for meritorious service.

At that ceremony, Governor Pataki presented the Medal of Honor, the Department's highest honor, to Correction Officer Paul MacNeil. CO MacNeil was honored for the extraordinary action he displayed when responding to an inmate's vicious assault on a fellow Correction Officer. CO MacNeil diverted the attention of the inmate and came under brutal attack himself. Despite his injuries, he was able to activate his personal alarm system and summoned further help. His actions prevented his co-worker from sustaining even more serious injuries.

Also at last June's ceremony, Wende Plant Utilities Engineer Mark Battaglia received a Medal of Merit from Governor Pataki for his exceptional contribution to public service. He and two other civilians risked their lives to assist a local police Sergeant who was being assaulted by a motorist during a routine traffic stop in the village of LeRoy. Mr. Battaglia assisted the Sergeant without any regard for his own personal safety and helped prevent an ugly incident from escalating.

Just as Wende employees are a vital part of the fabric that is the western New York community, the community, in kind, is a vital part of the daily operations at Wende.

There currently are 190 registered volunteers from the local community who provide a wide variety of services at Wende on a regular basis. On average, there are 73 volunteers providing various services to the inmate population per month. Regularly scheduled volunteer groups include Alternatives to Violence (ATV), Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Kairos, Residents Encounter Christ (REC) and various other religious and community organizations. In addition, volunteer basketball and baseball teams from the community come to the facility periodically to play games against the inmates.

In recognition of these ongoing and selfless efforts, the facility each year hosts a typically well-attended volunteer recognition dinner to honor the various community volunteers for their services to the inmate population. 📖

## Stringers

Listed below are the individuals designated as "stringers" — employees who have volunteered to be your contact with DOCS/TODAY.

### **Adirondack**

William S. Burke  
Program Dep

### **Albion**

Michael Morse  
Program Dep

### **Altona**

Lawrence Stearns  
Program Dep

### **Arthur Kill**

Valerie Sullivan  
Program Dep

### **Attica**

Ronald Pikula  
Lieutenant

### **Auburn**

Debbie Clinch  
Industries

### **Bare Hill**

Lynne Kelley  
Senior M&S Clerk

### **Bayview**

Tracy O'Bryan  
Steward

### **Beacon**

David Michael  
Lieutenant

### **Bedford Hills**

Joe Greenfield  
Correction Counselor

### **Buffalo**

Sandy Janes  
Head Account Clerk

### **Butler**

Brian O'Hora  
ASAT PA

### **Cape Vincent**

Donna Pirie  
Administration Dep

### **Cayuga**

Mary Regan  
Volunteer Services

### **Central Office**

Mike Houston  
Public Relations

### **Chateaugay**

William Spellman  
Asst. Program Dep.

# Facility Highlights

Entry deadlines begin on April 15

## Employee Olympics set for June 3-7

Mark your calendars — and start your training.

Although the much-anticipated games are still several months away, planning is well underway for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual DOCS Olympics, which is scheduled to be held from June 3-7.

And Special Subjects Coordinator and Olympic Director David Barringer said that if the interest and enthusiasm of the Facility Olympic Coordinators serve as any gauge, the 2003 Olympics will be very exciting and well-attended with hundreds of Olympians venturing to the Capital Region from facilities throughout the state.

Applications and posters will be mailed to all facilities by March 1 and the application deadline is May 9. All Olympians participating in the ice hockey event should take note that those applications are due well before the May 9 deadline, on April 15, in order to ensure ice time.

The defending Olympics champion is Coxsackie, which last year wrested the crown from Woodbourne in winning its first Commissioner's Trophy.

Once again, some changes are being implemented this year in the ever-continuing efforts by organizers to enhance the games and the number of participants.

Late last year, a series of four one-day seminars was held for Facility Coordinators to familiarize them with a new streamlined application process that will go into effect with this year's games. The 12-page application of the past has been replaced by a sleek and more user-friendly four-page application form, with a simple check-off system replacing the code sheet entry form.

Additionally, all Facility Coordinators have been given new Department e-mail addresses, allowing timely communication between the Olympic Office in Albany and the Coordinators. E-mail access will allow Olympic staff to answer questions quickly, correct errors on individual applications and disseminate upgrades instantly. The Coordinators also will be able to e-mail to assist in recruiting and organizing teams.

Besides their responsibilities in spreading the news about the games, the Facility Coordinators also are being asked this year to review each application for accuracy before it is submitted. The Coordinators will ensure that fees are correct, rosters are full and accurate and all applications are signed. The review will help to eliminate problems on applications before they are filed in the Olympic Office.

The application process for employees absent due to Workers Compensation also has been improved this year. When an applicant is identified as having been absent on Workers Compensation during the previous year, Olympic Office staff will e-mail the Personnel Office at the applicant's facility to ascertain the individuals work status. Remember, applicants who are absent from work on Workers Compensation or personal illness at the time of the

Olympics are not allowed to participate. Individuals assigned to light duty status also are prohibited from participating.

In keeping with Olympic tradition, a new event, indoor soccer, has been added this year. The games will be played at Afrim's in Colonie, a facility featuring four artificial turf fields. Teams will be allowed to field six players at a time, with a roster limit of 12 players.

Changes in events for 2003 include a change in



Coxsackie color guard.

the softball event and switching the schedules day for the golf scramble and the par 3 golf events. The scramble will now be held on Wednesday, June 4, and the par three the following day. A change also has been made in the softball event with individuals no longer allowed to participate in both the open and coed tournaments.

This year's Olympics also will continue a tradition that began three years ago. The games have again been scheduled to coincide with the Department's annual medals and memorial ceremony, which tentatively is set to be held at 4 p.m. June 5 at the employee

memorial located in front of the DOCS Training Academy on New Scotland Road. At that time, Commissioner Goord will present medals to those employees who exhibited "extraordinary performance" in the line of duty last year.

The Color Guard ceremony – arguably one of the most anticipated and widely-attended event of the games – also will be held in conjunction with the medals and memorial ceremony. It should prove to be an even more exciting and competitive event this year as defending champion and perennial powerhouse Green Haven tries to stave off a determined and hungry Wyoming unit that captured the Division A crown from Green Haven in 2001. The Wyoming Color Guard unit did not participate in last year's Color Guard event.

More popular festivities will follow the Color Guard ceremony June 5, including the Olympics picnic, arm wrestling and the tug-of-war competition. The three-point basketball competition also will be held during the picnic.



**Softball and golf remain popular.**

Moon.

Go carts. Every year, following the well-attended miniature golf event at the Fun Plex, eager Olympians scurried to the go cart course at the recreation complex to do spirited battle amongst themselves on the racetrack. This year, for the second year in a row, they can do it for medals after playing miniature golf on June 5.

Because of its annual popularity, Olympics organizers opted to make go cart racing a sanctioned event last year. Once again this year, participants will compete in single-elimination, four-person five-lap runs. The final four competitors will determine the medal winners in a 10-lap final.

Color Guard. For the third consecutive year, there will be two divisions in an attempt to attract more participants, particularly from those smaller facilities. The A Division will consist of Color Guard units with six or more members while the B Division will be reserved for units with five members. Medals will be awarded in two divisions. 📖



"We're hoping to make the 2003 Olympics one of the best of all time and are again expecting a very high level of participation from all facilities," said Commissioner Goord. "I urge all of our employees to compete in the games so they can meet old friends, make new ones and have a good time."

Here's a look at some of the events planned for the 2003 DOCS Olympics:

Golf. Because of ever-increasing participation, the popular 36-hole tournament will again be held at two courses this year, Van Patten Country Club and Fairways at Half

- Clinton**  
Kathy Leary  
Secretary
- Collins**  
Stacey Nagel  
Counselor
- Coxsackie**  
Wendy Bopp  
Teacher
- Downstate**  
William Carmichael  
Correction Counselor
- Eastern**  
Robert Posner  
Correction Counselor
- Edgecombe**  
Loretta Mealy  
Corr. Counselor
- Elmira**  
Sheryl Graubard  
Inmate Griev. Supr.
- Fishkill**  
Marcia Tavano  
Administrative Aide
- Five Points**  
Denise Butler  
Academic Supervisor
- Franklin**  
Larry Sears  
Administration Dep
- Fulton**  
William Sanchez  
Correction Counselor
- Gabriels**  
Debbie LaGree  
Secretary II
- Georgetown**  
Renee Buddie  
Correction Counselor
- Gouverneur**  
Carl Hunt  
Program Dep
- Gowanda**  
Jim Galati  
Volunteer Services
- Great Meadow**  
Susan Hart  
Secretary
- Greene**  
Peter Chmura  
Education Supervisor
- Green Haven**  
Tom Levanduski  
Senior Counselor
- Groveland**  
Robert Blair  
Recreation Leader

# SMART makes fair appearance, IDs kids

**Hale Creek**  
Theresa Young  
Calculations Clerk 2

**Hudson**  
Peter Tenerowicz  
Correction Officer

**Lakeview**  
Michael Mosher  
Program Dep

**Lincoln**  
Joan Taylor  
Senior Counselor

**Livingston**  
Donna Pitt-Hickman  
Correction Counselor

**Lyon Mountain**  
Angie Petrashune  
Counselor Aide

**Marcy**  
Robert Cunningham  
Asst Program Dep

**Mid-Orange**  
Dolores Barnes  
Secretary

**Mid-State**  
Linda Bloser  
Keyboard Specialist

**Mohawk**  
James Mance  
Program Dep

**Monterey**  
Carolyn Colunio  
Secretary II

**Moriah**  
Steven Gagnon  
Correction Officer

**Mt. McGregor**  
Gwen Duncan  
Grievance Supervisor

**Ogdensburg**  
John Crowley  
Program Dep

**Oneida**  
Anthony Labriola  
Correction Captain

**Orleans**  
Jose Reyes  
Correction Counselor

**Otisville**  
Chris Andre  
Recreation Leader

**Pharsalia**  
Cheryl Daughtrey  
Administrative Aide

**Queensboro**  
Carmen Johnson  
Program Dep

**G**ouverneur employees did double duty recently with their participation in the St. Lawrence County Fair.

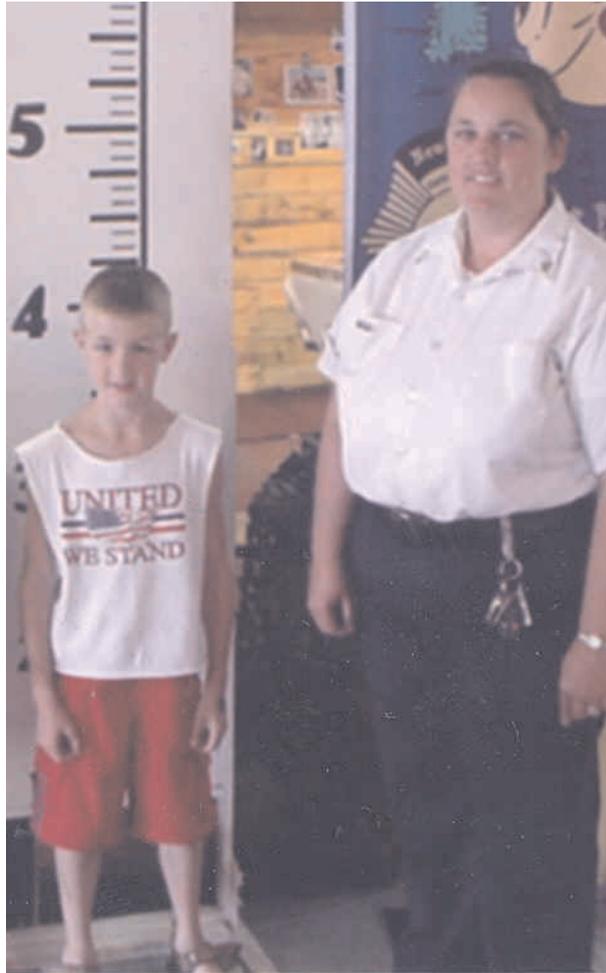
Not only did its exhibit show off the facility, but prison staff used the opportunity to offer the child ID program which is a vital component of NY SCOPBA's SMART program.

"The staff who participated really enjoyed it and the public told us that they appreciated what we did," said Vocational Instructor Doug Cota, who coordinated the event. "There was a lot of interest and a lot of questions from those people who visited our booth. The parents were particularly pleased with the child ID program and I'm glad we were able to offer that for the first time in 2002."

Without question, the child ID program was a big hit. Mr. Cota estimates that the parents of more than 500 children left the fairgrounds with a child ID kit for safe keeping while their smiling children walked away toting large and colorful helium balloons. Included in the ID kit was detailed personal and family information, a photo of the child, their height and weight and a hair sample to be used, if needed, for DNA testing.

Also on hand was Rudy the Fox, part of the union's SMART program designed to teach children tips on ways to avoid being abducted and what to do if an adult grabs hold of them.

Many of the children, particularly the smaller ones, were very pleased to see him, and many stood alongside him wide-eyed and grinning as cameras snapped.



Sgt. Wendy Whitmarsh with a child being photographed for the ID program.

"It's a very good program that was very well received by the children and their parents," Mr. Cota said.

But Gouverneur's appearance at the fair entailed more than just activities to ensure the safety of the area's children. There was an ongoing video that gave the public a virtual walking tour of the inside of the facility, a video that appeared to fascinate many. There also was a huge posterboard with pictures of the facility and accompanying text detailing the history of the facility and some of the uniqueness that is Gouverneur. Security equipment was on display, and there was a map locating all state prisons.

But the exhibit that seemed to attract the most attention was the large wooden box, encased in glass, that displayed some of the crude weapons fashioned by inmates and recovered by staff.

The children were particularly impressed. As for the adults, Mr. Cota said they asked a lot of questions of the facility staff who manned the booth.

"Questions like, 'how could they possibly have the time or get the materials to make this?', and 'are they allowed to have these things in prison?'" said Mr. Cota.

The fair, which was coordinated by the facility's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), was indeed a true success, said Acting Superintendent Carl Hunt. And Gouverneur is planning a return engagement this year.

"We've always been a big proponent of the child ID program as well as the SMART program and of being an active participant in the community," said Mr. Hunt "This event helped us to achieve those objectives. "It was a very successful fair for us and we're looking forward to doing it again later this year and I hope the people are looking forward to coming back." 

# Mothers, children share holidays

It was indeed a very special day for inmates, staff and visitors at Albion last December 14.

It was on that snowy Saturday that the facility held its sixth annual "Christmas With Mom" event, a special time for the inmates, their visiting children, their spouses and other relatives and loved ones. The festivities were held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and once again proved to be a rousing success.

The program was presented by the Kans for Kids inmate organization. In all, a total of 61 inmate mothers participated in the festivities, along with 124 wide-eyed and appreciative children and an additional 122 adult escorts.

Almost half of the visitors were provided bus transportation from the New York City metropolitan area, at no cost to them. The onset of inclement weather prevented some other children and adults from making the trip out west but for those who were able to attend, the snow just added to the spirit of the season.

"'Christmas With Mom' is an extremely important and worthwhile function that enables incarcerated mothers to spend some quality time with their children and other loved ones during the holiday season," said Albion Superintendent Anginell Andrews.

"The holidays can be a stressful time for many, especially for those who are separated from their families, and this helps to fill whatever void someone might be experiencing," continued Ms. Andrews. "Numerous studies also have shown that inmates who maintain close family ties during their incarceration have a better chance of succeeding on the outside than those inmates who do not maintain family ties and programs like this go a long way in helping to achieve that objective."

Last year's event featured children between the

ages of one and 18. The festivities included breakfast, a photo session with mom, a performance by the inmate Maranantha Dancers and, of course, the giving of Christmas gifts to the children.

After each child received their Christmas present, they were then able to pick out a teddy bear from a huge collection of over 200 different varieties that had been donated to the facility by thoughtful contributors from communities throughout the western New York region.

"This seems like all the holidays rolled into one," exclaimed one appreciative and moved in-



Mothers and children share holidays at Albion.

mate mother who was able to spend the day with her husband and three children. "Christmas, New Year's, Valentine's Day and Easter, too."

Accordingly, the visiting area was lavishly decorated, complete with Christmas tree.

"This very meaningful holiday event would not have been possible were it not for the tireless and selfless efforts of numerous security and civilian staff in conjunction with dozens of inmate volunteers," said Ms. Andrews. "And many of the inmate organizations at the facility lent a big assist as well to ensure the day would be a success for all involved."

"The generosity that was displayed by members from the local community also added to the spirit and success of the day. And we're looking forward to an even better 'Christmas With Mom' program later this year," she said. 📖

- Riverview**  
Rebecca Fiacco  
Administrative Dep
  - Rochester**  
Benjamin Taylor  
Assistant Director
  - Shawangunk**  
John Tumminia  
Recreation Leader
  - Sing Sing**  
James Farrell  
Asst. Prgrm. Dep.
  - Southport**  
Paul Sweeney  
Teacher
  - Sullivan**  
Leonard Findling  
Correction Counselor
  - Summit**  
Kathleen Johnson  
Clerk II
  - Taconic**  
Patricia Ennis  
Vocational Instructor
  - Training Academy**  
Charles Koemm  
Sergeant
  - Ulster**  
Robert Krom  
Psychometrist
  - Upstate**  
Kathy DeCelle  
Secretary II
  - Wallkill**  
Michelle Reale  
Inmate Grievance
  - Washington**  
Duff Hildreth  
Volunteer Supervisor
  - Watertown**  
Sarah Campbell  
Volunteer Services
  - Wende**  
Diane Catalfu  
Senior Counselor
  - Willard**  
Helen Bunting  
Librarian
  - Woodbourne**  
Elias Carrillo  
Program Dep
  - Wyoming**  
Barbara Myer  
Counselor
- Employees can contact your "stringer" with ideas for stories and photos for DOCS/TODAY.

# Inmate ingenuity puts an end to Gabriels flooding

**A** long-time and troublesome drainage problem at Camp Gabriels is now a thing of the past, thanks to the ingenuity and crude but effective architectural skills of two of the facility's inmates.

For as long as anyone could remember, the heavy and frequent rains of the North Country would historically flood a good portion of the Camp Gabriels grounds. The main problem was in the vicinity of the Administration Building; the water would just come cascading unimpeded down a large, steeply-sloping hill directly behind the elevated Watch Commander's Building and spill onto various walkways. Not only did that create a safety concern for staff and inmates, it created a real quagmire of silt and other debris for days at a time.

But due to the back-breaking efforts of inmates Clarence Merry and Michael Arsenault and a handful of other inmates, that's not the case anymore.

Using thousands of large smooth boulders and other stones they harvested from the sprawling facility grounds, the inmates last year crafted a huge, visually appealing and highly efficient three-tiered stone terrace wall on the hill that was at the root of the drainage problem.

First they flattened three levels of land on the hillside and surrounded and fortified them with layered stones measuring about two feet in height, stretched hundreds of feet along each tier. That has helped impede the water's flow and provides three large separate tracts for the water to pond and dissipate into the ground. In essence, it's effectively deterred the watery torrents that created the past problems, leading to enhanced safety for staff, inmates and others. The water now has no clear, unimpeded path down the now-layered hill en route to the Administration Building.

The two inmates spent many months working on the massive project, working on their own time evenings and weekends to lay the heavy stones by hand. Other inmates also pitched in to make available the stones needed for the project but it was inmates Merry and Arsenault who were the real movers and shakers, the ones who actually crafted the winding tiers that are lo-



**Gabriels inmates Michael Arsenault (left) and Clarence Merry put the finishing touches on their three-tiered stone retaining wall.**

cated behind the Watch Commander's Building.

Inmate Arsenault recalled that it was no small feat to lay all those stones.

"We went through a pair of suede gloves a week laying all those stones," he said.

But now, they've crafted a useful retaining wall that will provide benefits for generations.

"We each worked about 10 weeks on this, about three hours a night," inmate Arsenault said while proudly perusing his large creation. "It was a lot of work but it was worth it."

The two inmates, who on weekdays are assigned to a supervised community service crew at nearby Sunmount, a state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities facility, also did some drainage work in the area.

"We figured that we'd try to experiment with the stones that are all around here and it worked," said inmate Merry.

While the two inmates were the chief architects, four other inmates also donated a lot of their free time during the evenings to round up the stones needed for the three-tiered retaining wall.

When the inmates picked all the stones they could from the facility grounds, they went into the community with security staff and harvested the rest of the stones they needed from a local stone pile.

"You'd never believe it but we picked these grounds clean of stones," said inmate Merry. "And there were an awful lot of stones here." 

# Localities benefit from inmate vocational talents

Dozens of schools, community organizations, municipalities and not-for-profit groups throughout the North Country are reaping the benefits of the artistic talents of 30 Adirondack inmates who are enrolled in Vocational Instructor Thomas Seymour's carpentry/woodworking class.

Over the past several years, the inmates have fashioned sturdy and elaborate cabinets, desks, chairs, counter tops, signs, benches, toy chests, rockers, Shaker stools, bookcases, night stands and other wooden wares for groups throughout the region.

The facility, which recently dedicated its new inter-faith chapel, has also been a grateful beneficiary of the skills of Mr. Seymour and his inmates. Among other things, they created the door and celebrant chair that grace the chapel; the inmates also crafted desks, oak rockers, signs, bookcases and various other pieces of furniture that are sprinkled in and outside of the buildings.

"We're doing pretty well, considering that we're basically working in a hallway," noted Mr. Seymour in pointing to an elongated work area that measures some 20-by-100 feet. "We have been able to accomplish a lot, not only for this facility but for others in communities throughout the area over the past several years, and they've been very thankful."

A total of 14 inmates work in the carpentry/woodworking shop during the morning programming module while 15 more inmates program in the afternoon. That workforce has enabled Mr. Seymour to cater to the needs of both the facility and the community in a timely fashion; the turnaround becomes even less as the inmates hone their skills on a daily basis and look at ways to do things differently to ensure a better product.

Inmate Joseph Pelletier has been enrolled in the class for over a year. He said he enjoys the daily challenges that the class offers and "I'm learning the skills I need to make it when I return to society.

"When I get on the street I'll be able to build furniture to support myself and hopefully be able to build a safer line of furniture for children and others," said inmate Pelletier.

In that regard, inmate Pelletier said he's been able to build safer furniture, like a child's toy box, by simply taking a little

extra time to round the edges so small children don't run the risk of hurting themselves on a sharp wooden corner. And it's a daily risk that is indeed inherent; consumer statistics show that more than 7 million people go to hospitals each year because they've sustained an injury due to furniture.

"I try to keep up with what's going on in the field," said inmate Pelletier, noting that he also uses the rounded edges technique when fashioning wooden counter tops and other furniture.



Adirondack inmate puts finishing touches on cabinet.

The furniture crafted at Adirondack affords other benefits as well. For instance, the inmates usually use a non-toxic water-based, rather than oil-based, finish, which is much more environmentally safe.

The inmates are not only being trained in woodworking and carpentry. They use a Computer Numerically Controlled, computer program to design their furniture, providing them with yet-another valuable technical skill.

Adirondack's carpentry/woodworking class is a long-time investment. An inmate has to work four years in the shop before he's eligible to obtain a Department of Labor certificate in cabinet-making. Mr. Seymour said one of his inmates was on track to earn that certificate late last year, which would be the first cabinetmaking certificate awarded to an Adirondack inmate. Mr. Seymour said the state certificate greatly enhances the inmate's chances at getting a job.

If you've got the skills and can put them to use, you can make a good living in the carpentry/woodworking field, Mr. Seymour, recalling one inmate who landed a job in Pennsylvania. After one month, the former inmate was being paid \$20 an hour and had full health benefits.

Mr. Seymour said he never ceases to be amazed at the dedication and the keen focus of the inmates.

"What I start out with here is totally different than what I end up with," he said. "I remember one guy who started here a while ago. Used to be in the box every other month. He's so different from what he was that it's scary.

"They tend to stay busy here; I haven't had a problem with an inmate in two or three years, which makes you feel pretty good about what you're doing." 

# Inmate gets additional 3-6 years for possessing 'pot'

Commissioner Goord said the recent felony conviction of an inmate who was sentenced to an additional 3-to-6-year sentence for possessing marijuana while incarcerated at Clinton should send a clear message to all inmates and others seeking to smuggle drugs into prisons.

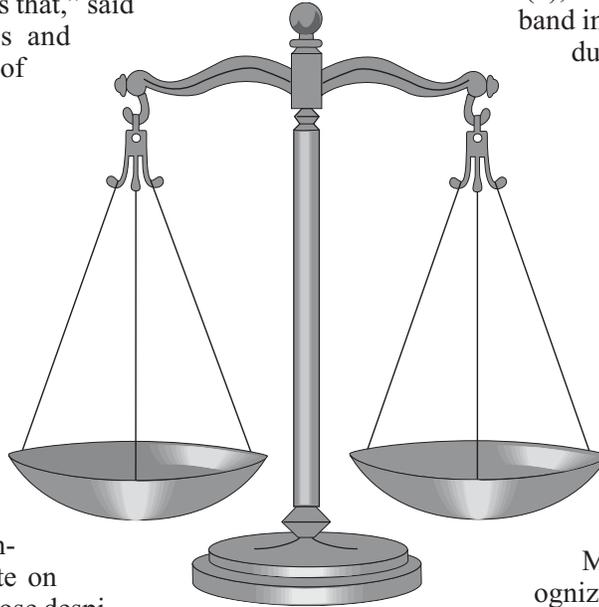
"Any type of drug and other contraband will not be tolerated inside any of our prisons. It's as simple as that," said Commissioner Goord. "Those inmates and visitors found in possession of any type of contraband can be assured that they likely will be facing criminal charges, the consequences of which in some instances could be quite harsh.

"Thanks to the diligence of staff and the cooperation of local prosecutors throughout the entire state, the message is clear: we have always had a 'zero-tolerance' policy with regard to any type of contraband and that will continue to be our policy in the future," the Commissioner said.

As increased felony convictions for inmates accused of throwing human waste on staff have led to a dramatic decrease in those despicable acts, the Department believes that increased felony convictions for marijuana possession will have a similar impact in that it will reduce the amount of drugs inside prisons, leading to a safer environment for all.

On December 12, 1999, then-Clinton inmate Lamale McCrae was found with marijuana on his person after being searched by a Correction Officer in the facility's infirmary. On February 26, 2001, the inmate was sentenced by a Clinton County Court judge to a prison term of 3-to-6 years for first-degree promoting prison contraband and unlawful possession of marijuana. The judge ruled that the new sentence would run consecutive to the 10-to-20-year term that the inmate is serving for second-degree attempted murder and first-degree robbery convictions out of Bronx County in 1998. The judge also sentenced the inmate as a second felony offender.

The inmate appealed, claiming that he should have been convicted of a lesser misdemeanor charge of second-degree promoting prison contraband and not a felony charge of first-degree promoting prison contraband. According to court documents, the inmate argued that "because marijuana is not 'dangerous contraband' within the meaning of Penal Law Section 205.00 (4), the charge of promoting prison contraband in the first degree should have been reduced to promoting prison contraband in the second degree."



In a ruling decided and entered on September 26, 2002, denying the inmate's appeal of his felony conviction, the Appellate Division of state Supreme Court wrote: "We disagree.

"Penal Law Section 205.00 (4) broadly defines dangerous contraband as any item capable of 'endanger(ing) the safety or security of a detention facility or any person within.' More than one appellate court has recognized that the use of illegal drugs by inmates in correctional facilities 'can result in disruptive and dangerous behavior among the inmate population,' thus providing a basis for the charge of promoting prison contraband in the first degree ...

"We have considered defendant's other arguments and find them to be without merit," wrote the court. "Accordingly, we find no error in the denial of the defendant's motion."

The Appellate Division also noted that under Penal Law Section 205.25, "a person is guilty of promoting prison contraband when ... being a person confined in a detention facility, he knowingly and unlawfully makes, obtains or possesses any contraband."

The inmate currently is being held in Lakeview's S-Block. He was found guilty of possession of a weapon last November 2.

The inmate initially was prosecuted by then-Clinton County District Attorney Penelope Clute, who's now a city court judge in Plattsburgh. Arguing against the inmate's subsequent appeal in the Appellate Division was current Clinton County District Attorney Richard Cantwell.

"I applaud the Appellate Division's decision to uphold the sentence of first-degree promoting prison contraband," said Commissioner Goord. "Any contraband of any type inside our prisons creates the potential for a dangerous situation and jeopardizes the safety of our staff and inmates, and the court affirmed that position." 

## On the web ...

Readers with Internet access can obtain information on the world wide web from the offices of both Governor Pataki and Commissioner Goord. Their addresses:

Governor Pataki: <http://www.state.ny.us>

Commissioner Goord: <http://www.docs.state.ny.us/>

# Transitions

December 2002

**Name Title Location**

## Promotions

Lori Martindale . . . . . Health Info Manage Tech 1 . . Albion  
Ann E. Driscoll . . . . . Sr Utilization Review Nurse . . Auburn  
Dorothy S. Chauvin . . . . . Secretary 1 . . . . . Clinton  
Brenda Clark . . . . . Principal Account Clerk . . . . Collins  
Frank Futia . . . . . Cook . . . . . Coxsackie  
Cynthia Gillespie . . . . . Calculations Clerk 2 . . . . . Eastern  
John McAnany . . . . . Dep Supt Admin 3 . . . . . Fishkill  
Mary Dsilva . . . . . Dentist 4 . . . . . Fishkill  
Sarah Swint . . . . . Stores Clerk 2 . . . . . Fishkill  
Leonard W. Reynolds . . . . . General Mechanic . . . . . Five Points  
Barbara Kilmer . . . . . General Mechanic . . . . . Franklin  
Henry R. Venne . . . . . General Mechanic . . . . . Franklin  
Claude Schneider . . . . . Maintenance Supervisor 3 . . Franklin  
Raymond E. Wright . . . . . Plant Superintendent B. . . . . Great Meadow  
Earline Corbitt . . . . . Sr Employee Investigator . . . . Main Office  
Jeffrey S. Sawyer . . . . . Security Tech Services . . . . . Main Office  
Robert F. Baker . . . . . Filter Plant Operator . . . . . Mt. McGregor  
Gerard Jones . . . . . Plant Superintendent C. . . . . Ogdensburg  
Kathleen M. Smith . . . . . Stores Clerk 2 . . . . . Oneida  
Anne M. Carberry . . . . . Institution Steward . . . . . Riverview  
Olga D. Marchese . . . . . Ed Super (General). . . . . Sing Sing  
Lesley A. Hurd . . . . . Ed Super (General). . . . . Sullivan  
Leonard Findling . . . . . Senior Correction Counselor . . Sullivan  
Eva Bruce . . . . . Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . . Taconic  
Robert J. Sciolto . . . . . Ed Supr (General) . . . . . Taconic  
Pamela Guin Washington . . . . . Clerk 2 . . . . . Taconic  
Dean R. Smith . . . . . Recreation Program Leader 2 Taconic  
Sharon A. Bennett . . . . . Mason & Plasterer . . . . . Upstate  
Frank W. Jones . . . . . Wastewater Plant Operator 2. Washington  
Debra J. Fuller . . . . . Teaching Assistant . . . . . Wende  
Brian J. O'Hora . . . . . Correction Counselor ASAT . . Willard  
Walter L. Parks . . . . . Correction Counselor ASAT . . Willard  
Daniel T. Unkrich . . . . . Plant Utilities Engineer 1 . . . . Wyoming  
Theodore P. Horton . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Bayview  
Barbara Marquardt . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Bedford Hills  
Thomas LaPier . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Green Haven

## Retirements

Gail Miller . . . . . Teacher 4 . . . . . Albion  
Walter G. Newman . . . . . Production Control Supervisor Attica  
Ludovic Lalanne . . . . . Plant Utilities Assistant . . . . Bayview  
T. J. Miller . . . . . First Deputy Superintendent . . Bedford Hills  
Maureen O'Donnell . . . . . Nurse 2 . . . . . Cape Vincent  
Cathleen R. McPherson . . . . . Indus Training Super 2 . . . . Clinton  
James A. Klein . . . . . Commissary Clerk 4 . . . . . Collins  
Aida Arevalo . . . . . Clinical Physician 2. . . . . Downstate  
Barbara J. Cox . . . . . Calculations Clerk 2 . . . . . Elmira  
Ellen M. Lagala . . . . . Sr Utilization Review Nurse . . Fishkill  
Gary D. Fetterly . . . . . Dep Supt Admin 3 . . . . . Gouverneur

Richard J. Davidson, Sr. . . . . General Mechanic . . . . . Greene  
Donald G. Miller . . . . . General Mechanic . . . . . Groveland  
Joseph F. Robinson . . . . . Dep Supt Admin 3 . . . . . Livingston  
Martin Freedman . . . . . Super Volunteer Services . . . . Mid-Orange  
Angelo C. Annese . . . . . Motor Vehicle Operator. . . . . Mid-Orange  
Charlene M. Weaver . . . . . Secretary 2. . . . . Mt. McGregor  
Francis A. Scheer . . . . . Vocational Instructor 4 . . . . . Ogdensburg  
Kathryn Brady . . . . . Teacher 4 . . . . . Sing Sing  
Preston E. Witherel . . . . . Plant Utilities Engineer 1 . . . . Wallkill  
Mary Ann Pike . . . . . Nurse 2. . . . . Woodbourne  
Johnetta M. Snyder . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Georgetown  
Terry Cayea . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Franklin  
John Simmons . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . NYC Admin  
Peter T. Brickner . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Sullivan  
James A. Reilly, III . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Green Haven  
David G. Teeter . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Monterey  
Lawrence L. Aabye . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Adirondack  
Richard T. Atwood . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Altona  
Carlton King . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Altona  
Samuel Wheeler . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Arthur Kill  
Hugh A. Steves . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Attica  
Robert R. Barker . . . . . Correctoin Officer. . . . . Georgetown  
Andrew Grozzo, Jr. . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Clinton  
Thomas A. Tucker . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Clinton  
Lucille M. Johnson . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Downstate  
Thomas H. Cassidy . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Gouverneur  
William E. Mantz . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Great Meadow  
Walter C. Caprood . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Great Meadow  
Kathi A. Lawton . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Groveland  
Tyrone Pettiford . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Lincoln  
Harold Jackson . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Queensboro  
Richard Johnson . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Queensboro  
Frederick C. Whitmarsh, Sr. . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Riverview  
James Williams . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Sing Sing  
George E. Ziegler . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Southport  
Harry M. Barrett . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Sullivan  
Alton Travis . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Summit  
Walter I. Alexander . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Wallkill  
Richard J. Roncone . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Wende  
Clifford P. Chitester . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Wende  
David Austin . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Willard

## Deaths

Terry W. Craig . . . . . General Mechanic . . . . . Clinton  
Martin L. Goldberg . . . . . Chaplain . . . . . Gowanda  
David A. Gustas . . . . . Facilities Planner 3 . . . . . Main Office  
James M. Meck . . . . . Super Inmate Grievance . . . . Southport  
Matthew D. Shaul . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Georgetown  
Kenneth L. Granger . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Elmira  
James W. Reynolds, Jr. . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Fishkill  
Daniel Eherts . . . . . Correction Officer. . . . . Mid-Orange 



Fence construction continues (above) while new truck trap is shrouded during work (below).

*The Back Page*

## Mid-Orange gets new perimeter fence, truck trap

Security will soon be greatly enhanced at Mid-Orange thanks to the ongoing construction of a massive new perimeter fence that stretches for almost a mile and the building of a new truck trap.

While surveying the existing two perimeter fences a short time ago as part of a routine security inspection of facilities throughout the state, officials from Facilities Planning out of Central Office noticed that portions of the fences were starting to corrode and deteriorate. That malady was blamed on exposure to the elements over the years and the advanced age of the fences. Rather than wait for a bad situation to get worse, the officials sought and obtained approval to replace both the eight-foot-tall interior fence and the accompanying 16-foot-tall outer fence.

A \$5.2 million contract for the job was awarded October 31, 2001, and by late last year the project was about 75 percent complete. Installation of the new fence, which measures about 5,000 feet in length, is expected to be completed by May 22.

Besides alleviating an existing security problem, the new fencing includes a variety of security enhancements designed to meet new stringent security standards with regard to medium-security perimeter fencing throughout the Department. That includes a mo-

tion system on the eight-foot-high interior fence that will sound an alarm in the facility's arsenal whenever it is touched or shaken. Additionally, the new perimeter fencing features a state-of-the-art, closed-circuit television system that is attached to video monitors in the arsenal and truck trap.

Speaking of the truck trap, that is being enhanced from a security standpoint as well in conjunction with the ongoing fencing project. Specifically, a two-story truck trap is being constructed to replace the existing one-story truck trap.

One of the advantages of the new truck trap, which will be located just inside the perimeter of the facility, is that all controls will be located on the second floor, which only can be accessed by security staff from outside Mid-Orange's secured perimeter. This is a laudable security enhancement that affords not only additional safeguards for security staff and others but for residents in the communities surrounding the facility.

"We are always looking to enhance security measures at facilities throughout the state and the construction of the new fencing and truck trap at Mid-Orange is ample testament to that ongoing mission," said Commissioner Goord. "The more safeguards that we can implement at our facilities translate into enhanced safety for our staff, inmates and others." 

