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INSIDE OYA

YWTP facility nearly finished, saves money

Building the 25-bed young women's transitional home adjacent to Oak Creek YCF is saving OYA money while contributing to Oregon's economic recovery.

"We were pleasantly surprised when the bids came in significantly below our estimates," OYA facilities manager Rex Emery told an Albany newspaper reporter who toured the facility in June. Estimated savings are 30 percent below earlier years when construction was booming.

Although move-in to the facility will be delayed by budget reductions, Oak Creek YCF Superintendent Lory Humbert said the building will be used for various program elements in the meantime.

The \$2.4 million project is being financed by state Go Oregon! stimulus funds and certificates of participation. Emery said the project supported 28 new jobs, retention of 63 other jobs, and brought business to 31 Oregon vendors, 11 Oregon subcontractors and two minority, women and emerging small business enterprises. Although a Eugene contractor won the major bid, Albany-area companies did the site-preparation work and surveying, and are providing materials such as interior plumbing, concrete, rock, lumber, pipe, window coverings and rental equipment at the site.

The transition facility will replace the 1913 Corvallis House, which closed a year ago and was put on the market after officials determined it would not be cost-effective to renovate the facility to modern correctional facility standards.

Architect Michael Beaman said the new facility incorporates sustainable features such as day-lighting with skylights, a solar water heater, and energy- and environmentally sound building materials. The facility also will be compliant with the state's energy efficient design program.

"It's not so much about architecture with a capital A," Beaman said. "It's architecture wrapped around the program. The whole purpose of the building is to change people's lives."



COIN AWARD

RECIPIENTS

Bill Bowers

*Parole and Probation
Officer*
Josephine County

Rick Christensen

*Parole and Probation
Assistant*
Coos County

Colynn Elder

Diversion Specialist
Linn County

Jordan Grant

*Parole and Probation
Officer*
Coos County

Jill Hayes

Office Specialist 2
Jackson County

Miguel Herrera

*Parole and Probation
Officer*
Washington County

Steve Huffman

*Parole and Probation
Assistant*
Multnomah County

Jim Hupp

*Parole and Probation
Officer*
Marion County

Ann Kupper

Office Specialist 2
Lane County

Heidi Meier

*Parole and Probation
Officer*
Umatilla County

Tim Olsen

*Parole and Probation
Assistant*
Clackamas County

Director's Column



One of the most exciting things about being Director of this agency is being part of so many positive changes. Every day you are developing new and more

effective and efficient ways to deliver services and improve outcomes for youth offenders.

You can see two examples of that progress in this issue of Inside OYA. We are creating an agency intranet that will save significant time for all of us when we need to find and share information. We also are saving long-term energy costs by using sustainable design and construction techniques for the Young Women's Transition Program facility in Albany.

Everything we can do to become more effective and efficient will help us protect service delivery as we enter a long-term era of reduced funding. And, just as important when delivering services, is ensuring we provide those services in a manner that reflects the core values that guide this agency.

OYA's core values of integrity, professionalism, accountability and respect matter. We must continue to weave those values into our decision-making as we are faced with difficult budget and program choices in the months and years ahead.

Despite the temporary respite Oregon received this month when Congress extended Medicaid funding and provided education funding, we continue to be faced with an economic downturn that shows no signs of ending any time soon. That means we will be

forced to make reductions in service delivery, including bed capacity and staffing.

But by continuing to focus on delivering services efficiently and effectively, and by adhering to our core values, we will make the right decisions for the youth offenders and the public we serve. I encourage you to participate in your local Quality Improvement teams and to continue to raise ideas for improving service delivery.

Our values matter, our ideas matter, and the outcomes we achieve for Oregon matter. I thank you, as always, for the important work you do.

Sincerely,

Colette S. Peters
Director

OYA field staff honored

During the week of July 18-24, barbecues and potluck meals took place in OYA offices across the state in celebration of Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week.

Events were hosted to honor the great work of parole and probation staff. Coin awards were presented to staff who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to public safety and the youth they serve.

"OYA corrections professionals offer compassion and demand accountability to help youth offenders find the promise of productive, crime-free lives," said OYA Director Colette S. Peters. "They play an important role in minimizing the number of OYA youth who reoffend."

Continued on P3

Effective supervision by community corrections professionals helps OYA fulfill its mission to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

OYA strengthens work to curb gang behaviors



Above: Franklin "Ron" Weaver

An increase of gang activity and gang-related incidents in its facilities is prompting OYA to strengthen how it tracks gang activity, places youth in facilities, and assigns gang-related treatment.

OYA has named a Franklin "Ron" Weaver, formerly MaLaren YCF's multicultural services coordinator, as gang management coordinator. OYA also is actively identifying gang-affected youth both at intake and in facilities.

"We've seen an increase in youth-on-youth and youth-on-staff incidents in our facilities," said Lonnie Jackson, Office of Minority Services director. "We are being more proactive about suppressing rival gang behavior, ensuring safe and healthy living and work environments, and identifying youth

who will benefit from gang-related treatment.

"We also know youth who feel safe are more likely to respond positively to treatment," he said.

Weaver will help oversee efforts to identify whether individual offenders have gang affiliations, what those affiliations are, and where gang-affiliated offenders originated and are placed in OYA facilities.

Related actions include:

- Creating a steering committee of staff members knowledgeable about gangs from close custody facilities and parole and probation field offices;
- Using JJIS to track affiliation, placement and activities of gang-affected offenders;
- Supporting more interaction with community groups that monitor gang activity;
- Offering the Street SMARTS curriculum, of which Weaver was the co-author, to residential treatment providers;
- Placing restrictions on offender mail including prohibiting most mail between offenders within a facility or between facilities, as well as with offenders on probation or parole and offenders in Oregon Department of Corrections institutions; and
- Meeting with DOC representatives to learn whether DOC's anti-gang measures are applicable to OYA.

ANNIVERSARIES

TWENTY YEARS

Susan Burton

*Treatment Manager
MaLaren YCF*

Belinda Teague

*Manager
Human Resources*

FIFTEEN YEARS

Joyce Bechtold

*Group Life Coordinator
Oak Creek YCF*

Guy Hamilton

*Parole/Probation Officer
Washington County*

Shanie Hill

*Information Systems
Specialist
Technical Services*

Heidi Olympius

*Program Trainer
Training Academy*

Rolando Ramirez

*Hispanic Affairs
Coordinator
MaLaren YCF*

TEN YEARS

Scott Robarge

*Group Life Coordinator
RiverBend*

Lynda Strom

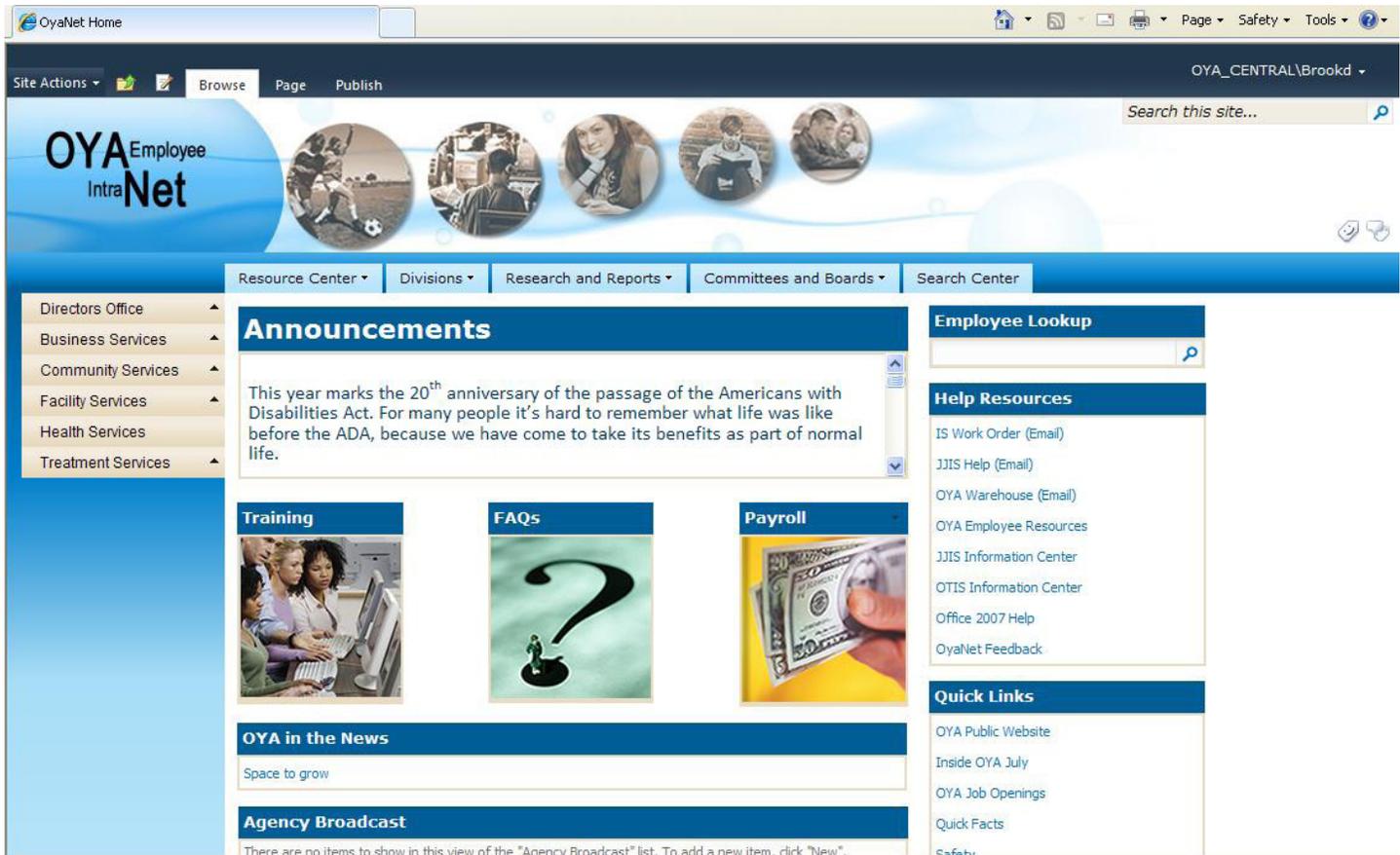
*Maintenance Secretary
MaLaren YCF*

Steven Waibel

*Maintenance
RiverBend*

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Welcome to OYA's first intranet



Here's what OYA's intranet will look like when it goes live next month. The intranet will be for employee use only. You will be able to access OYA Net by clicking on the "Internet Explorer" icon on your computer desktop.

OYA Net will replace the current Outlook folder storage structure and will offer access to additional information and resources. It may take using it a few times to get used to finding items, but in the long run it will provide much faster and easier access to the information you need.

One key feature of OYA Net is the "Resource Center" which you can reach by clicking on the light blue tab just above the "Announcements" box. The Resource Center contains OYA's policies, proce-

dures, forms, administrative rules and similar information. It also holds org charts and an acronyms list.

Another feature on the home page, to the right of the "Announcements" box, is the "Employee Lookup" box, which lets you find an employee's contact information by typing in an employee's first or last name, or a portion of the person's name. You'll see the person's title, work location, phone number and e-mail address. OYA Net also offers the ability to add employee photos to the directory.

You'll also be able to check a calendar of Training Academy events by clicking on the "Training" box. This mini-site also will provide a connection to on-line learn-

ing, training manuals and other training-related information.

The "Payroll" box on the home page offers access to information about closures and furloughs, the Oregon Savings Growth Plan, PEBB benefits, and other financial and pay-related information.

The "OYA in the News" box toward the bottom of the page will contain links to articles mentioning the agency, juvenile justice or related issues. This portion of the intranet will replace the weekly e-mails you receive from the Office of Communications.

Look for more information about what OYA Net will offer in upcoming communications from OYA Deputy Director Fariborz Pakseresht.

Youth + dogs = popular Rogue Valley program



It's a source of black humor among child welfare workers that people sometimes care more about dogs than kids. But when people in southern Oregon show how much they care about dogs, it benefits youth at Rogue Valley YCF.

Every OYA facility with a dog program operates it differently. At Rogue Valley YCF, volunteers bring shelter dogs to the facility two or three times a week for obedience training, bathing, exercise and socialization.

"People love that the kids get access to a positive activity while they're here," said acting treatment manager Angela Sabin-Veek, who manages the "paws" program with acting unit manager Karen Selthon. "People like kids and they like dogs, so it's a popular program."

Costs – such as veterinary care and some kenneling bills – are paid for by PAWSitive Changes Inc., a local non-profit that benefits from a variety of fund-raising activities. "It's a small community with a lot of donors," Sabin-Veek said.

She said the dogs usually are close to being euthanized because the Josephine County animal shelter can't afford to pay for their medical care.

"It's a program where youth can experi-

ence empathy and compassion," she said. "They can invest and care about something, and they can see the huge difference they're making from week to week."

Using American Kennel Club materials, youth also benefit from doing written work. And they attend lectures and participate in Q&A sessions with veterinarians Dan Fiske of Cave Junction and Lorain Abel of Grants Pass, who with other veterinarians provide low-cost canine care.

Participation is an earned privilege 80 percent of Rogue Valley's youth say they would like to have.

With assistance from Joan Dalton of MacLaren YCF's POOCH program, Rogue Valley's began in 2004. Adoptions? So far it has found homes for 70 dogs – including six adopted by Rogue Valley YCF corrections and school staff members.

Foster care helps youth who can't safely go home

It's not only a foster care success story, but also an example of how to help people understand the work and success of OYA professionals and partners. It's a story Kelly Crain, OYA foster care certifier in Lane County, tells people who want to know more about OYA foster care.

Tim was abused, homeless and stole a gun to defend himself on the streets. After the weapon was found in his backpack at school, a juvenile court judge committed him to an OYA facility on weapons and burglary charges (he also had stolen a car).

Continued on P6

ANNIVERSARIES

CONTINUED

FIVE YEARS

Paul Alvarez

*Group Life Coordinator
MacLaren YCF*

Jamie Babb

*Group Life Coordinator
Hillcrest YCF*

Jill Duncan

*Nurse
Rogue Valley YCF*

Joong Kim

*Programmer
Information Systems*

Donna Larson

*Cook
Tillamook YCF*

Artur Majchrzak

*Cook
Hillcrest YCF*

Brian Petersen

*Unit Coordinator
Oak Creek YCF*

Brandon Weber

*Internal Auditor
Director's Office*

STAFF RECOGNITION

HILLCREST

Robert Tully

GLC of the Month

Rod Martin

Support Staff of the Month

MACLAREN

James VanOrden

Employee of the Month

NEW HIRES

CAMP TILLAMOOK

Tyler Rogers

HILLCREST

Lisa Ernst
Manola Kerr
Ivan Laib
Joshua Liner

MACLAREN

Joshua Anguiano
Chris Bauge
Natalie Bobzien
Bladimir Cadena
Clint Corrington
Sean Fillmore
Derek Hines
Mike Howard
John Malone
Michael Malone
Nicholas Tyree
Jeremy Weldon

TILLAMOOK

Justin Mark
William McEldowney

STAFF CHANGES

DEPARTURES

Charlie Blunt
Rogue Valley YCF
Lisa Guthrie
Rogue Valley YCF
Helen Hoang
Director's Office
Sanjaya Khatewoda
Hillcrest YCF
Catherine Rodrigues
MacLaren YCF
Sharie Zipfel
Tillamook YCF

Angry, depressed and disrespectful of authority, Tim would talk to almost no one. But after three months in an OYA facility and a year in a residential program, he began trusting adults, smiling more and planning his future.

But his JPPO thought it unwise to send him back to his dysfunctional family, where his stepfather had abused him. So Tim went to OYA foster care, where he subsequently was diagnosed with a serious medical issue requiring extensive treatment. His foster parents supported Tim through his illness and got him a tutor so he could keep up with schoolwork.

During his year in foster care, Tim attended church regularly, developed healthy friendships, got a part-time job, gained a girlfriend, graduated from high school and completed the terms of his parole. A year later he's a community college student, works nearly full time, dates the same girlfriend, and maintains contact with his former foster parents.

"You can see in this story that his foster parents made a huge difference in his life," Crain said. "But for every success story like this one, there are other youth who did not get the support they needed because of a lack of foster parents willing to step in and change a youth's life for the better."

OYA staff help "extract" boy in crisis

It was a loud shriek that brought silence to the crowded restaurant in Woodburn. A young boy had tried to climb through a small opening in the back of his chair and his head became stuck.

His cries for help were answered by OYA staff Alan Walker, Caleb Brone-mann, Guy Iga, Pohai Olomua and Nick Miller, who were on a lunch break from their cell extraction training. The group used their skills to successfully pull the boy from his entrapment.

Through sniffles and tears, he thanked his rescuers as his grateful mother nodded in agreement.

Tips for a successful news interview



OYA staff members sometimes have an opportunity to do news media interviews. In recent weeks staff members have been interviewed about subjects ranging from new construction and foster care recruitment to commencement, youth school and community projects, and the anti-gang initiative.

Before doing such interviews, please check with your supervisor and contact the Office of Communications. After doing an interview, please report it to oya.communications@oya.state.or.us.

An interview is an opportunity to educate the public about the effective work you do. The Office of Communications is prepared to assist you.

Interview tips include:

- Before an interview, jot down some notes of key points you want to make.

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- During a television interview, talk to the reporter; don't look at the camera.
- Treat the interview as a conversation. If you feel passion for your work, it's OK to show some of that.
- Remembering that you are the expert will boost your confidence. You know virtually everything about the subject; the reporter often knows very little about the topic and is counting on learning enough from you to tell your story.
- If you find yourself in a verbal cul-de-sac, it's OK to say, "let me try that again," and start over.
- Answer with a complete sentence; the broadcast reporter usually needs more than "yes" or "no." If there's more to a subject than the reporter's question suggests, add what you know; this enhances the reporter's understanding of the subject and his or her confidence in you.
- For anything you say, ask yourself, "Do I have an example?" Giving reporters a "for instance" or an illustrative short story helps them understand and tell your story more interestingly and accurately.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, say so and tell the reporter either that you will find out or provide a source who can answer. If you are legally prohibited from answering, cite the law and the reason for it; the reporter will accept that.
- If the reporter asks a negative question, respond with the positive opposite (and never repeat the

negative words from the question in your answer). Example:
 Q.: "Isn't treating most of these youth really waste of tax money?"
 A.: "We use treatment practices that research has shown to work. We're seeing positive outcomes with many youth who change their thinking and behavior and go on to lead productive, crime-free lives in the community. For example...."

- If you are asked a policy question, be sure you have the authority to answer it.
- At the conclusion of an interview, reporters frequently ask if you have anything to add. This is an opportunity to cover something you missed or to summarize your key points. Or both.
- Remember, reporters are pretty much like the rest of us, people doing their jobs who will give you a fair shake. If we help reporters do their jobs, usually they will help us do ours.

INSIDE OYA

Colette S. Peters
Director

Fariborz Pakseresht
Deputy Director

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The deadline for each issue is the last weekday of the previous month. Send your stories for the September issue to Amanda Lowe-Davies by August 31. Articles received after that date will be held for the October newsletter.