

AUGUST  
2011

# INSIDE OYA

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## Clackamas field office enlists community members to help guide youth to productive, crime-free lives

A JPPO might find the youth's story familiar. She moved to a women's transition home after her dad went to jail. She's sad because her roommate there relapsed and had to leave the home. She's looking for a job, but "not that hard." She's making slow progress toward a GED. And she's making no restitution payments.

But she is clean and sober, a difficult achievement that Andrea Rohm describes as awesome. "If you will put that energy into your other goals you will succeed," Rohm tells the youth.

Rohm is a member of one of two Community Accountability boards attached to the Clackamas field office, and she makes the comment during an evening meeting with the youth. Begun in April, these are OYA's first Community Accountability boards and a model that adds a community face, support, and partnership to the juvenile justice system.



*Clackamas Community Accountability Board members (from left) Ed Miller, Andrea Rohm, Lisa Normand and Patricia Zavala, with JPPO Amy Pena (at far end of table), meet with a paroled youth.*

*See Clackamas Community Accountability Board, page 10*

This month's masthead photo is by Ann Snyder. You may submit a photo for use as an *Inside OYA* masthead by e-mailing your photo to [oya.communications@oya.state.or.us](mailto:oya.communications@oya.state.or.us).

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

#### Deanne Baptiste

July Employee of the Month  
MacLaren YCF

#### Michael Jordan

August Employee of the Month  
MacLaren YCF

### COIN AWARD RECIPIENTS

*Awards listed are for January through April.*

#### Jackie Allum

April Coin Award  
Eastern Oregon YCF

#### Tom Anhalt

April Coin Award  
MacLaren YCF

#### Corey Barton

April Coin Award  
MacLaren YCF

#### Charmarie Bradach

April Coin Award  
Eastern Oregon YCF

## Director's column



Colette S. Peters

One of the many things I appreciate about everyone who works here is how you actively strive to improve the lives of the youth we serve by connecting them with volunteers and mentors, and by engaging communities in the reformation process.

This collaboration creates some inspiring results, several of which are highlighted in this issue of *Inside OYA*.

We are coordinating two Community Accountability boards in Clackamas County that help youth find their way and show them their neighbors care about their futures. We also are encouraging our youth to participate with the City of Salem in building the Salem Peace Mosaic, which will be dedicated later this month.

Welcome to the August issue of *Inside OYA*.

Your efforts are recognized and appreciated. An article in this issue talks about how the Bureau of Land Management has featured the Camp Tillamook youth work crews in its summer *Northwest Passage* magazine, and both a former youth and the parent of two former youth talk about their positive experiences with OYA.

I continue to be inspired by your unwavering commitment to helping youth, even during this time of layoffs and staff moves. Despite the current difficult times, you remain focused on teaching youth how to create productive, crime-free futures for themselves.

Please also continue to support each other and take care of yourselves. Seek help and advice if you need it through our Human Resources Office and Employee Assistance Program. These resources are available to help you, just as you help our youth.

Sincerely,

Colette S. Peters  
Director

## 2011 Legislative Assembly passes key bills

Several key bills passed by the 2011 Legislature and signed into law by Governor Kitzhaber deserve notice. These include Senate Bill 5549 (OYA's budget); SB 423, which was OYA's priority bill; and SB 412, which strengthens the authority of tribal police.

SB 5549 added back 275 close-custody beds to OYA from the Governor's Recommended Budget, for a net loss of 150 close-custody beds. The budget also funded an additional 103 community treatment beds that will help address reduced close-custody capacity. Counties continued to receive funding for JCP and Diversion programs, and funding was maintained for Multnomah County gang prevention services.

"While this budget unfortunately still requires a significant reduction in OYA staff, support from the Legislature for OYA's programs helped prevent more extreme cuts to OYA's bed capacity and workforce," said Rem Nivens, OYA's Policy and Government Relations Manager.

# Ten more staffers earn ACCBO certification

An OYA initiative to help facility staff members become state-certified as alcohol and drug counselors is paying dividends.



New CADC1s at North Coast YCF (from left to right in the photo above) are Doug Durham, Yancey Day, Tamera Bowen, Danny McCarley, and Rene Torres. Not pictured are GLC Linda Gardner and QMHP Andy Wyatt.

New CADC1s at MacLaren YCF (from left to right in the photo below) are Matt Griffin, Tom Anhalt, and Corey Barton.



member (*Inside OYA*, February 2010).

The 10 newly certified alcohol and drug counselors are:

- Thomas Anhalt, a Unit Coordinator at MacLaren;
- Corey Barton, an acting Unit Coordinator at MacLaren;
- Tamera Bowen, a GLC at North Coast;
- Yancey Day, a QMHP at North Coast;
- Doug Durham, a GLC at North Coast;
- Linda Gardner, a GLC at North Coast;
- Matt Griffin, a Unit Coordinator at MacLaren;
- Danny McCarley, a GLC at North Coast;
- Rene Torres, a Unit Coordinator at North Coast; and
- Andy Wyatt, a QMHP at North Coast, who will be certified as a CADC III (master's in addiction counseling) pending completion of an oral exam.

"Drug and alcohol abuse and dependency affect about 70 percent of the youth OYA serves and are directly connected to many of the criminogenic factors for which youth receive treatment," Lederer said. "This training helps build a strong foundation for correctional treatment and contributes to a reduction in recidivism." ■

The state has certified seven more staff members at North Coast YCF and three more at MacLaren YCF as Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors, or CADC1s. That brings to 22 the number of OYA staff members who are ACCBO-certified.

"It has helped staff change their roles from being a Group Life Coordinator during treatment to

being drug and alcohol treatment professionals," said Lee Lederer, OYA Treatment Services Coordinator. "It's elevated the work they are doing for the agency."

The certifications are a result of an OYA-sponsored training program that began in March 2010 and was followed up with 1,000 hours of clinical supervision for each staff

## COIN AWARDS, continued

### Kevin Briels

April Coin Award  
Eastern Oregon YCF

### Christie Brosmore

January Coin Award  
Rogue Valley YCF

### Paul Burger

April Coin Award  
Central Office

### Karen Burnett

February Coin Award  
Central Office

### Rhonda Cabalona

April Coin Award  
North Coast YCF

### Louella Campo

April Coin Award  
Eastern Oregon YCF

### Jeff Canfield

April Coin Award  
MacLaren YCF

### Bill Christy

April Coin Award  
Oak Creek YCF

### Shirley

### Chrusoskie

April Coin Award  
RiverBend YTP

### Matt Clarno

April Coin Award  
Oak Creek YCF

**COIN AWARDS,  
continued**

**Tina Crawley**

April Coin Award  
Central Office

**Craig Cutting**

April Coin Award  
MaLaren YCF

**Keith Dunn**

April Coin Award  
Central Office

**Jayson Ellis**

April Coin Award  
MaLaren YCF

**John Fox**

April Coin Award  
Central Office

**Gary Freshour**

March Coin Award  
Camp Florence YTP

**Linda Gesler**

April Coin Award  
Central Office

**Candy Green**

April Coin Award  
North Coast YCF

**Terry Hachtel**

March Coin Award  
Central Office

**Annette Hilton**

March Coin Award  
Central Office

**Mark Hunt**

March Coin Award  
Central Office

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# Hillcrest YCF youth put the pieces together

When the 40-foot-long Salem Peace Mosaic is dedicated in mid-August, artwork by Hillcrest YCF youth will become a lasting part of the project now being completed on an exterior wall of the downtown Salem Family YMCA.

Hillcrest youth worked on what was a two-part assignment: They first wrote essays on subjects such as what peace meant to them, and then worked with mosaic artist Lynn Takata on three-dimensional art of panda, leopard, elephant, dove, and big-horned sheep heads, and of a snake wrapped around a tree branch.

The peace mosaic will feature both visual art and words promoting the fact that Salem means peace. Hillcrest's involvement is part of its continuing partnership with the Salem Art Association, which directs some of its resources for at-risk youth to Hillcrest.

"Each youth got a chunk of clay, and they carved it, molded it, and shaped it into the final project," said Hillcrest Rehabilitation Therapist Rod Martin.

He said participating youth also really liked being able to express themselves in the essays, for which they were given subject cues.



Hillcrest's participation received a photo and favorite mention in a *Statesman Journal* news story.

Martin said a couple of youth who were critical of their own artwork benefited from the observation of a professional. "Lynn was able to tell them it's your art, it's what it means to you, and you're going to be your own worst critics," Martin said. "A couple of guys grew from that, I think." ■

# Tillamook work crews featured by BLM

"It's a silent, misty morning. Majestic elk weave slowly through the forest. Watching them from nearby, a group of young workers headed to their job site waits quietly for the wild animals to pass, enjoying the stillness before the hard work begins."



That scene opens a feature about Camp Tillamook work crews in the summer issue of the Bureau of Land Management's *Northwest Passage* magazine.

The four pages of story and photos – "Restoring the Land, Restoring the Human Spirit" – describe not only the work but also OYA's mission and its goal "to help youth offenders lead crime-free lives and become productive members of their communities."

The story notes that Camp Tillamook's nursery annually produces 15,000 indigenous trees and shrubs, and quotes BLM Botanist Kurt Heckeroth as saying, "If it wasn't for the OYA Youth Study Program, we would never have started a nursery here in Tillamook." The story reports that youth offenders learn about plants, nursery operations, and environmental conservation, and that a number of youth have secured nursery employment after leaving close custody. GLC Brad Keith is quoted about the benefits of learning job skills, performing community service, helping wildlife, and practicing teamwork.

Camp Tillamook's partnership with the BLM, local watershed councils, and soil and water districts began informally in the late 1990s, was formalized in 2003, and has restored more than 400 miles of degraded streambeds and nearby forest.

The story, which begins on page 22 of the magazine, may be viewed by logging on to <http://www.blm.gov/or/nwpassage/index.php>. ■

## Climbing the ladder



*A fear of heights is not an option for Camp Florence youth learning about firefighting. See Inside OYA, July 2011, for more about this training.*

### COIN AWARDS, continued

**Kila Jager**  
March Coin Award  
Central Office

**Ken Jerin**  
February Coin Award  
Rogue Valley YCF

**Dean Jones**  
April Coin Award  
North Coast YCF

**Jason Kost**  
April Coin Award  
North Coast YCF

**Rod Martin**  
April Coin Award  
Hillcrest YCF

**Lori McGovern**  
April Coin Award  
Oak Creek YCF

**Terry McLaren**  
April Coin Award  
Camp Florence YTP

**Matt McLin**  
April Coin Award  
Oak Creek YCF

**Rachel McWilliams**  
April Coin Award  
MaLaren YCF

**Mike Nissen**  
April Coin Award  
Rogue Valley YCF

**Christina Olson**  
April Coin Award  
Oak Creek YCF

**COIN AWARDS,  
continued**

**Dallas Pearce**

April Coin Award  
Hillcrest YCF

**Rolando Ramirez**

April Coin Award  
MaLaren YCF

**Drew Reynolds**

April Coin Award  
Oak Creek YCF

**Darrin Ryckman**

April Coin Award  
Eastern Oregon YCF

**Matt Schulze**

April Coin Award  
Rogue Valley YCF

**Donna Smith**

April Coin Award  
Central Office

**Shawna Smith**

April Coin Award  
Hillcrest YCF

**Stan Stegall**

April Coin Award  
MaLaren YCF

**Kelly Whal**

March Coin Award  
Central Office

**Tristan White**

January Coin Award  
Rogue Valley YCF

**Andy Wyatt**

April Coin Award  
North Coast YCF

## OYA's first credit-based canteen a success

Four months into operation of OYA's first credit-based canteen for visitors, MaLaren YCF reports that the response has been overwhelmingly positive. The cashless canteen was instituted for the Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday visiting hours to reduce contraband cash on the MaLaren campus.

The cashless system is used in the spacious visiting center, which opened last year (*Inside OYA*, April 2010). Previously, visitors could use cash to purchase food at the canteen in the administration building and then take the food to youth living units during visits.

"Rather than visitors bringing snacks to the youth we're bringing the snacks to the visitors," said Perrin Damon, Program Operations and Services Manager for MaLaren. She said the plan for a cash-free canteen was well publicized in advance.



*GLC Tim Sanford rolls a cart of pizzas to the canteen in MaLaren's visiting center. Proceeds from pizza sales go to OYA's youth welfare fund.*

Visitors are given opportunities for photos to be taken for \$2 per print; proceeds from photos and pizza go to OYA's youth welfare fund. In addition, Damon said, the visiting center offers a family-friendly atmosphere with toys and books for children.

She said MaLaren employees appreciated that Accounting staff members Carolina Marquette and Kathryn Nelson made the process easy, obtaining the equipment, training staff, and instituting consumer protections. ■



*The new canteen is stocked with a range of beverages and snack foods.*

Damon said MaLaren considered using a token system or canteen cards, but settled on accepting Visa and MasterCard for visitor convenience. For weekend visiting, staff members Tracy Campbell and Brenda LeBlanc prepare and sell hot food for visitor and youth consumption. On Wednesdays, Hispanic Affairs Coordinator Rolando Ramirez and Damon staff the canteen with pizza, candy, jerky, ice cream, beverages, and other items.

# Artists coach Oak Creek muralists' first project



Walk into the gymnasium at Oak Creek YCF, and you will find it brightened by a huge new mural on the north wall. It's Oak Creek's first mural, and the product of an ongoing partnership with The Arts Center in Corvallis.

"We had one day for planning and everyone had an idea," said Oak Creek Counselor Lori McGovern. "I think the artists did a super job of synthesizing all the ideas."



Poet and visual artist Jennifer Richter and muralist Cheryl French worked with youth on the week-long project, completed during a school break. McGovern said the mural depicts both the hardness of the city and the softness of woods, river, and mountain.

"It's a message of hope and the future, where you came from and where you are going," she said.



Most Oak Creek youth participated in the project. "The project was meant to be for girls at all levels of artistic talent," she said, "whether they were painting figures or painting in the background." Although this is Oak Creek's first mural, McGovern said, it's not expected to be the last. ■

## Legislative update

*Continued from page 2*

SB 423 addressed an issue relating to SB 177 from the 2009 session, which inadvertently limited the ability of the state to certify QMHPs. SB 423 authorizes OYA to certify its QMHPs so they can comply with current state requirements. OYA worked closely with the Department of Corrections and the Board of Licensed Social Workers on this legislation.

SB 412 amends state statute to include tribal police in the definition of peace officer. The new law gives tribal law enforcement officers authority anywhere in the state; previously their authority had been confined to reservation lands. Police Chief Carmen Smith of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, which has land in two counties, said the new law will give the tribal police force the ability to respond rather than waiting for another police agency to arrive.

Tribal police previously did not have authority to intervene in criminal behavior or perform the duties of law enforcement in emergency situations, but were limited to the same authority as a private citizen. ■

**COIN AWARDS,**  
*continued*

**Grover Unit Team**  
April Coin Award  
MacLaren YCF

**Troy Unit Team**  
April Coin Award  
MacLaren YCF

**Zeta Unit Team**  
April Coin Award  
Hillcrest YCF

## SERVICE AWARDS

*The anniversaries listed are for June.*

## TWENTY YEARS

**Jeffrey Gifford**  
MacLaren YCF

## FIFTEEN YEARS

**John Demus**  
Multnomah Parole and Probation

**Julio Garcia**  
MacLaren YCF

# Hillcrest group delivers month of safety lessons

Fifty to 70 Hillcrest YCF staff members attended the June 23 SAIF-sponsored safety fair, which capped a month of activities organized by Hillcrest's 12-member Safety Committee.

The events observing National Safety Month began June 2 at 5 a.m. with Safety Committee Chairman John Cummings and Co-chairman Tim Fannion offering water, soft drinks, and juices to drivers who were wearing their seat belts. The activity continued through the day's final shift change.

The committee's special guest June 9 was Rod Buck of Central Office to discuss 2011 goals, and committee members decided to reward staff for innovative safety suggestions. At the July meeting, Thomas Swift was declared the competition's first winner and was awarded a gift card.

At a June 13 Red Cross blood drive, the committee supplied cold drinks and sponsored a "fastest draw" contest won by Jim White, who took home a gift card. At a June 21 SEIU-sponsored safety-awareness barbecue, SEIU's Joe Schaeffer and GLC Izzy Cavazos prepared hamburgers and bratwursts.

Cummings, Fannion, and Dan Dederer completed the quarterly facility inspections June 22. Besides Cummings, Dederer, and Fannion, Safety Committee members are Savannah Allen, Michael Butler, Bill Conlin, Glenn Cross, Michael Edwards, Nancy Fuller, Nancy Mills, Adrian Simms, and Shawna Smith. Committee members, who meet monthly, conduct job hazard analyses, incident investigations, and quarterly inspections. ■



*Several dozen Hillcrest staff members visited the SAIF-sponsored safety fair during National Safety Month. It was among the events Safety Committee members arranged.*

# Pioneer awards given for work on Web site

Awards were presented to four Central Office employees in July for their participation in the Data.Oregon.gov pilot project. Receiving the Public Data Transparency Pioneer award were Paul Bellatty, Research Manager; Jan Blanshan, IS Specialist; Cherie Lingelbach, JJS Policy and Standards Manager; and Willie Rhodes, Research Analyst.



*Cherie Lingelbach, Jan Blanshan, Willie Rhodes and Paul Bellatty received awards from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for their work to help make government data easily available to the public.*

"These early adopters were recognized for the pioneering spirit exhibited by their active participation in something new that promised neither recognition nor success," said Gene Newton, IT Planning and Policy Analyst for the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, who presented the awards. Juvenile justice data are in the demonstration phase and have not yet been posted.

Among the advantages of the new Web site, Newton said, are to make data readily available to citizens, researchers, analysts, scientists, economists, programmers, and journalists in a broad range of machine-readable formats.

"The data discovery site positions and promotes the State of Oregon nationally as one of the most transparent practitioners of the open government movement," he said. ■

# Sorting, sharing and enjoying a gift of books

*Lord High School Librarian Donna Benson and two MaClaren youth sort 25 boxes of used books donated to OYA by the Oregon State Library. The surplus books range from classic fairy tales to Old West literature. With multiple copies of many titles, MaClaren plans to share the wealth statewide.*



## SERVICE AWARDS

*The anniversaries listed are for June.*

## TEN YEARS

**Alan Humphrey**  
Eastern Oregon YCF

## FIVE YEARS

**Diana Ledbetter**  
Central Office

**Thomas Riel**  
MaClaren YCF

**Ryan Roth**  
Central Office

Mark Hunt  
Central Office

Daniel  
Spreadborough  
MacLaren YCF

## Clackamas Community Accountability Board

*Continued from page 1*

"These kids are going to go back to the community, and the community needs to be sure they have the supports to succeed," said Clackamas Parole and Probation Office Supervisor Vikki Whitmore.

The Community Accountability boards are coordinated by JPPO Amy Pena, who makes the process run smoothly by coordinating with board members, youth, and other JPPOs in the office. The eight members of the two four-member boards are school administrators, business owners, people who work with youth, and others. The boards are part of OYA's re-entry grant initiative (*Inside OYA*, November 2010), although Whitmore said the goal is to sustain the boards beyond the grant's life.

Board members volunteer to attend one 90-minute meeting a month. At this Tuesday-evening session they try to motivate the youth, who believes she is close to getting off parole. There is doubt about that, but the board members tell her that, if she gets off parole, the restitution she owes would be turned over to collection with mounting interest and fees. They lay out options including a 10-week program for earning restitution money in which they encourage her to enroll. "The next 10 weeks are going to pass anyway," board member Ed Miller, Diversion Coordinator for Todos Juntos, tells her. "The only question is what you are going to do with them."

It appears the youth may be reluctant to give up the security of parole. Krista Tidwell, a juvenile court counselor with the Clackamas County Juvenile Department, reassures her: "Once you get a job we're not going to say, 'See ya.' Right now you're just spinning your wheels. If you would just follow through, we've got your back."

Board members also tell her she would benefit from setting goals, encourage her to step up efforts to get a job and GED, and describe the positive personal assets she would bring to a job. The youth signs an agreement to work on the GED and make at least minimal restitution payments in the next 30 days.

Tidwell was recruited to implement OYA's Community Accountability Board in Clackamas County, modeled on diversion boards the county juvenile department has used in 11 Clackamas communities for the past decade. The model has multiple benefits. For one youth who had almost nothing and who rode her bicycle miles to get to a county diversion meeting, Tidwell said, board members obtained donations of clothes and books. "She was held accountable and also saw the community cared about her," Tidwell said.

The youth with whom the Community Accountability Board is meeting this evening has expressed interest in two possible careers, and one of the board members offers to put her in touch with people in these jobs if she makes progress.

The youth tells a visitor she is encouraged by her contact with the board. "The people in this meeting help you see the positives in everything," she said, "and they're there for you." ■



*JPPO Amy Pena, Clackamas County Juvenile Department Juvenile Court Counselor Krista Tidwell, and Clackamas Parole and Probation Office Supervisor Vikki Whitmore helped create the Community Accountability Board system based on Clackamas County's decade-old model.*

# Paroled youth to OYA staff: 'Please be there'

If you work with youth offenders, Antonio Daniels has a message for you: Reaching them is a matter of trust. He says he and other youth have had experience with family members and others saying they would "be there," but they weren't.

"People who work with youth have to know that's one of the key factors in penetrating the barrier that kids usually put up," said Daniels, paroled from OYA close custody last year and now on DOC minimum supervision in Portland. "If you say you're going to be there, you need to be there. That's something we wait for – you're saying you're going to be there and we're waiting for you not to be there.

"It's a defense mechanism. You have to break that down."

He attributes a lot of his own success to OYA Transition Specialist Christina Puentes, whom he said he knew four years before he began trusting her. He said the turning point was learning that she was working with a MaClaren YCF African American group by choice, not because it was a job requirement.

Daniels, who grew up in south-central Los Angeles and knew the gang life by age 14, now has occasional opportunities to speak to youth. "I get a lot of joy from it," he said. "I feel like I'm giving back to kids who are like me." He often focuses on Measure 11 ("that was my affliction," he said with a laugh). He said most youth he encounters have heard of Measure 11, but almost none know its ramifications. He would like to see more Measure 11 education directed at youth.

He said MaClaren had a "huge impact" on him, delivering "treatment that focused on the inner self," examining the path that got him to MaClaren, participating in cognitive behavioral therapy, and putting him in a position to understand what it was like to be his victim. He said he earned enough money working while at Camp Florence to get a good start once he was paroled.



*Antonio Daniels*

Daniels had a GED when he arrived at MaClaren. While at Camp Florence, he walked with his Cheme-keta Community College commencement class to receive his AA degree in general studies with a focus on psychology. He now is enrolled in Kaplan University's online child psychology program and expects to receive his undergraduate degree in 2012. He also works 36 hours a week for a restaurant.

"I would tell kids in my situation to keep a positive outlook on life in general because it can be depressing, like your life's ruined, but that's not the case at all," he said. "As long as you're surrounded by positive people, you'll have a positive outlook. The energy you put out there you get in return."

He has a target for his own future: "Hopefully I'll be working with youth somewhere. I told staff at MaClaren, 'I'm coming back'" — for a positive reason, next time. ■

## DEPARTURES

**Gregory Fox**  
Tillamook YCF

**Dominique Ornelas**  
MaClaren YCF

**Kevin Woodruff**  
MaClaren YCF

**Colette S. Peters**  
Director

**Fariborz Pakseresht**  
Deputy Director

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Send your stories for the September issue by August 31. Articles received after that date will be held for the October newsletter.



## Church members officiate at youth baptism

In a relatively rare sacrament for a youth correctional facility, two Eastern Oregon YCF youth were baptized this summer. Officiating was Cliff Asmussen, an EOYCF volunteer who has served as an elder and deacon at Faith Baptist Church of Harney County.

The two youth are among those who participate in weekly Bible studies led by church members. Asmussen's wife, Peggy, said they ensure the youth understand what baptism means and that they want to receive the Christian sacrament. The church's members regularly volunteer at the facility (*Inside OYA*, July 2011).

"They know why they are doing this, they know it doesn't save them, and that it doesn't change their relationship with Jesus," she said. "They're just showing others that they are following Jesus's example of being baptized. It's their decision, not ours."

Attending besides the Asmusens were three other church volunteers and four other youth who regularly attend the Sunday Bible study. The baptisms were a first for EOYCF. ■



*Volunteers Cliff Asmussen (in back) and Jess Weineck baptize a youth at Eastern Oregon YCF.*

## Parent praises staff for sons' care while at OYA

A parent recently e-mailed Multnomah Parole and Probation Office Supervisor Debbie Hansen with positive comments about the services two sons received while in OYA's care and custody. The parent's comments:

"I had two sons who went through the OYA system. I want to let you know as I look back on a few years of my boys going through your system there are a number of things that I'm grateful for.

"One son spent some time in Hillcrest, Camp Florence and Son Village. The other spent some time in Hillcrest. Both of my boys did Project Payback.

"Their time with OYA was helpful and productive. Most of all as I reflect back I appreciate Rob Morris. Rob spent a lot of time with my boys and myself. Rob was always kind, concerned and knew what was going on. He genuinely tried to help and he did. Overall I'm very impressed with the OYA system that we were exposed to. My boys have benefited from their time, the counseling and the care that they received. I'm heartened to think that some young people in this community who have broken the law have a chance to get help and to change.

"I'm happy to report (my two sons) are doing well and staying out of trouble." ■